Operation Gift Cards

For our wounded and injured troops in Walter Reed and Bethesda Military Hospitals

Web site:
www.ctveterans.org

Sponsored by CONNECTICUT VETERANS in 27 chapters, posts, and detachments of the:

American Legion: Fairfield Post 74, Shelton Post 16, Fairfield Post 143, Derby Post 24

Disabled American Veterans: Stamford Ch. 13, Fairfield Ch.19, Enfield Ch. 52, Greater New Haven Ch. 2, Derby Ch. 4, Milford Ch. 15, Manchester Ch. 17, Bristol Ch. 5, West Haven Ch.18

Marine Corps League: Stamford Detachment 910

Military Order of the Purple Heart: Shelton/Derby Ch. 1, Greater New Haven Ch. 103, New Britain Ch. 51, Darien Ch. 1932

Veterans of Foreign Wars: Fairfield Post 9427, Derby Post 10585 Ansonia Post 597, Huntington Post 10466

Also sponsored by: Departments of CT: **AMVETS, DAV, and MOPH,** Employees of Sikorsky Aircraft Corporation and Vietnam veteran Gary Plassman

Press Release

January 28, 2008
Contact: See below

Connecticut veterans present $3,000 in Gift Certificates to our wounded and injured troops in Walter Reed and Bethesda Military Hospitals on behalf of four January cosponsors

Photo: Operation Gift Cards

Left to right: Escort Officer LTJG Kinau McCoy, Nancy and Al Meadows represented 4 OGC cosponsors.

Photo: VFW Post 10466

Leaders of Huntington Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 10466

Since October 2005, the Operation Gift Cards' monthly visits have presented 4,250 Thank You Kits which contained $85,000 in military department store gift certificates to our wounded. An additional $41,000 in other gift certificates and special group product donations have been delivered to the Soldier Family Assistance Center, the Fisher Houses, the Malogne House, the Navy Lodge, the Red Cross, and the Bethesda Casualty Affairs Office, along with several thousands of dollars worth items on the "wish list" (listed on the right) for both the wounded troops and their families.

On the last visit, representatives from the Military Order of the Purple Heart (2 units), the Disabled american Veterans and the Veterans of Foreign Wars visited wounded soldiers and personally thanked them for their service to their country and for their sacrifice for freedom. Each patient was presented with 3 "Thank You" kits containing a custom-designed thank you card with a group picture of the sponsoring chapter or post, a $20 gift certificate for the military store ($60 total in gift certificates), and flyers about programs the sponsoring service organization has developed that may be of interest to the patients.

OPERATION GIFT CARDS ALSO DELIVERS ITEMS FROM:

Soldier Family Assistance Center Wish List
(For The Wounded Troops): Movies (VHS and DVD), music CDs (from top 20 cd list), games for Xbox, games for playstation 2, batteries AA, AAA, C and D, portable CD players, portable DVD players, disposable cameras, electric razors, quality magazines, puzzle and crosswoed books, books and paperbacks, flip flops, plain black backpacks, duffle bags, boxer shorts Large & XLarge, sneakers (with Velcro) Male 8-13 Female 6-12.

Fisher House Wish List (For Families Of The Wounded):
Commissary (food purchases) and Exchange (department store) Certif-checks for families (to order-1(877) 770-4438), taxi gift certificates (Taxi Company-Barwood 1-800-831-2323), Metro transportation gift certificates, restaurant cards (in DC), phone cards greater than 60 minutes, Gift Certificates from Staples, Home Depot, Office Depot, CVS, Giant, Target and Safeway. VCR/DVD combination players, umbrellas and rain ponchos. Auto shut off irons and ironing boards. Air mattresses with pumps.
Non-perishable foods and snacks, condiments, ketchup, mustard, peanut butter, coffee, tea, sugar, sweeteners, coffee creamers, cereal bars & pop tarts, single serving sizes of canned goods and convenience foods that do not require refrigeration. Things easy to take on the go to the hospital.
Consumables: toilet paper, Kleenex, laundry detergent, bleach, fabric sheets for dryer, paper towels, napkins, batteries AA, AAA, C and D, light bulbs 60 watts (energy efficient), cleaning supplies, soft scrub, sponges, toilet cleaners, dish washer detergent, liquid soap refills. Tooth brushes, toothpaste, deodorant, disposable razors and shave cream.

Operation Gift Cards was started jointly by the Military Order of the Purple Heart Shelton/Derby Chapter #1 and the Disabled American Veterans Stamford Chapter #13. Twenty-five other veterans units have joined Operation Gift Cards. The goal is to have a different group of veterans units collectively purchase each month between $3,000 and $4,000 in gift certificates in order to present all visited wounded patients in Walter Reed and Bethesda hospitals with at least three "Thank You" kits containing between $60-$120 in gift certificates.

To participate in Operation Gift Cards or to make a corporate or personal donation, contact Al Meadows (203) 929-3357 (e-mail: al.meadows@snet.net) or Tim Kelly (203) 937-3420 (e-mail: kellytmthy@aol.com). Or read the Operation Gift Cards summary page or the Operation Gift Cards press releases (all can be downloaded from the Web site: ctveterans.org). Operation Gift Cards will be an ongoing project; check our Web site (listed at top of page) for future events and our progress reports.