

Class of 2007 Connecticut Veterans Hall of Fame

Michael J. Daly, of Fairfield, CT (Congressional Medal of Honor Recipient)

Mr. Daly is a U.S. **Army** veteran of World War II and recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor for extreme heroism in Nuremberg, Germany in April 1945. Following his distinctive military service, he became very involved in veterans' and community affairs, serving on the Board of Directors of St. Vincent's Hospital and founding the hospital's Daly Foundation. He has also provided decades of volunteer service to handicapped children, the Town of Fairfield and served as a member of the Connecticut Judicial Review Council.

Alfred Faticoni, posthumous induction (formerly of Newington) Represented by his nephew, Barry Faticoni

Mr. Faticoni served in both the U.S. Navy and U.S. **Army**. For over 45 years, he was a tireless veterans advocate, fundraiser and volunteer who co-founded the Disabled American Veterans VA transportation program in 1987 which still provides essential free transportation to Connecticut veterans. He served over 60,500 volunteer hours with the VA Connecticut Healthcare System in Newington assisting hundreds of individual veterans and families and chairing multiple campus projects, including creation of the campus' Commemorative Wall.

Dr. George G. Gentile, posthumous induction (formerly of Newington)
Represented by his wife, Mrs. Winn Gentile

Dr. Gentile served as a U.S. **Marine** in World War II including combat service during the Battle for Iwo Jima. He founded the Iwo Jima Memorial Survivor's Association, Inc. and was the driving force behind the financing and construction of the National Iwo Jima Memorial located in New Britain, CT. Dr. Gentile, a respected dentist, also volunteered on numerous professional boards and associations, including service as treasurer of the Connecticut State Dental Association and chairman of the Canton Police Commission.

Elwood A. D. "Woody" Lechause of Enfield

Mr. Lechause is a U.S. **Army** veteran of the Vietnam War who has been a highly active veterans advocate for 35 years, serving as a life member of eight different veterans organizations. A senior member of the Department of Veterans' Affairs Board of Trustees, he has held multiple national and state leadership positions with the Disabled American Veterans, including service as on the National Executive Committee and as State Commander. He has also chaired and served on numerous federal and state advisory boards and commissions.

Anthony Mammola of Westbrook

Mr. Mammola is a U.S. **Navy** veteran of World War II who served as a naval aviator and was shot down in 1945 over Luzon, Phillipines, earning the Silver Star. For over 42 years he has actively been involved in supporting local and state veterans serving as the local veterans' benefits officer for several organizations and chairing Old Saybrook's Memorial Day Parade and service for almost 30 years. He has organized and provided numerous events for disabled veterans residing at the State Veterans Home and Federal VA hospitals.

Alfred A. Meadows of Huntington

Mr. Meadows is a U.S. **Army** veteran of the Vietnam War who served as a combat infantryman and was wounded in action. He has been very active in state veterans advocacy serving as State Commander of the Disabled American Veterans and as State Vice Commander for the Military Order of the Purple Heart. He is the founder of "Operation Gift Card" which has raised over \$65,000 in gift certificates and donations for wounded service members recovering at national medical centers as well as their families residing in local Fisher Houses.

Robert J. Nearine of Glastonbury

Dr. Nearine is a U.S. **Army** veteran who retired with the rank of colonel. For over 41 years, Dr. Nearine served the interests of school children holding multiple teaching, counseling and administrative positions with the Manchester and Hartford public school systems. He has remained active in issues affecting veterans serving in leadership positions in the Reserve Officers Association, ESGR Committee, American Legion and Governor's Foot Guard. He has also volunteered extensively in his local community with the Mason, Elks and Civitan.

**Robert B. Nett of Columbus, Georgia (originally from New Haven) –
(Congressional Medal of Honor Recipient) Represented by Brigadier General
Retired Daniel J. McHale, former 102d Infantry Commander**

Col. Nett is a U.S. **Army** veteran of World War II and recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor for extreme heroism on the Philippine Islands in December 1944. He enlisted as a private in the 102d Infantry, Connecticut National Guard, in May 1940 while a junior at Hillhouse High School in New Haven. Col. Nett later commanded the Infantry Officer Candidate School at Ft. Benning retiring after 33 years of active service. He then served for 17 years as a public school teacher in Columbus, Georgia earning the system's "Outstanding Teacher of the Year" Award three times. For over two decades, he has assisted local veterans and the VA with benefit claims.

Tony Paul Pia, posthumous induction (formerly of Stamford) Represented by his daughter, Barbara Pia-Malizia

Mr. Pia served as a U.S. **Army** non-commissioned officer during World War II, Korea and Vietnam. Following his active military career, he devoted his efforts to Stamford becoming assistant director of the city's Human Rights Commission where he worked tirelessly to secure housing and employment for the underprivileged. He also was a staunch advocate for veterans' issues chairing Stamford's effort to reconstruct and rededicate Veterans Memorial Park, serving on the Mayor's Veterans Commission, hosting the "Old Sarge" weekly radio program on WSTC and volunteering regularly with high school students.

Darrell D. Stark of Stafford

Mr. Stark is a U.S. **Army** veteran of World War II who became a Japanese Prisoner of War for 3 ½ years. Utilizing his unique experience as a POW, he served for over 20 years as a corrections officer/warden for the Connecticut Department of Correction and helped develop the Department's first inmate transportation program. Following his retirement, he continued to volunteer as a mentor/counselor for individual former inmates working on reintegration. He has also been active as a community volunteer teaching school children about his war experiences, serving as a Little League coach and working with VA staff on support programs for other ex-prisoners of war.