

CONNECTICUT VETERANS HALL OF FAME

History

The Connecticut Veterans Hall of Fame was established to increase the awareness of the lifetime contributions of Veterans after completion of honorable military service. The Connecticut Veterans Hall of Fame is not a military hall of fame. Those selected for the honor of induction are Veterans who honorably served their country through military service and who continue to serve and inspire their fellow man with their deeds and accomplishments throughout their lifetime.

Each year the committee selects inductees from applications received from across the state and nation. These Veterans will be leaders in a variety of areas, such as arts, education, public service, volunteer activities, and community and business leadership to name a few. Most importantly, they will have made significant impacts on the lives of others and their communities.

To be eligible for the Connecticut Veterans Hall of Fame, the nominee must have served their country honorably in a branch of military service and continued to serve their communities, state and nation after discharge. Because so many of America's Veterans continue to give to their communities, state and nation after honorable military service, the Connecticut Veterans Hall of Fame seeks to recognize them for their countless contributions to society.

The Connecticut Veterans Hall of Fame is administered by the Connecticut Department of Veterans Affairs and the Connecticut Military Department on behalf of the Office of the Governor.

The first class of the Connecticut Veterans Hall of Fame was inducted in November 2005 and includes the 41st President of the United States, George Herbert Walker Bush.

In 2015, a plaque was unveiled and placed in the Legislative Office Building with the names of all Inductees of the Connecticut Veterans Hall of Fame since 2005. Each future class of Inductees will be named on this plaque.



ALFRED ADINOLFI

Cheshire

U.S. AIR FORCE

Alfred Adinolfi served during the Korean War with the Tactical Air Command and trained for UAF Air control and Army Artillery from behind enemy lines to direct attacks on enemy sites. Al sustained injuries and spent three months in a military hospital. While recovering, Al realized that although he was suffering from his injuries, there were those with him that suffered much deeper and graver injuries than himself and seeing the courageous spirit of his fellow Veterans inspired him deeply. This experience spurred Al to dedicate himself to give even more to his country for the sake of the freedoms we all enjoy today. He wove devotion to his community and to his country into every level of his life. Al spent 34 years employed at DNE Technologies in Wallingford. During the Vietnam War Al's company was tasked with creating an aircraft mechanism that would allow for a new and safer approach to dangerous rescue missions. This contribution was so significant that the Department of Defense presented DNE Technologies with a commendation. Al served as the Cheshire Wetlands Commissioner, was Cheshire Town Councilor for eight years and a member of the CT State Legislature. The most important roles to Al were his positions as Ranking Member of both the Select Committee on Aging and the Committee of Veterans and Military Affairs. Not only did Al's legislative efforts focus on Veterans and those in the military, he focused on their families as well.

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ROBERT BAILEY

Clinton

U.S. NAVY

Bob Bailey joined the U.S. Navy following in the footsteps of his Father. A member of the VFW for 35 years and a Gold Legacy Life Member, he has worked his way through Post, District and State chairs. During his time as VFW Commander, Bob established a fund to help Veterans and their families with their financial needs and established the Patriot Pen Scholarship. He continues to work on various community committees helping Veterans and also serves as the Service Officer at VFW Post 10153 assisting Veterans with their VA eligibility and acquiring services. He is a key participant in events to remember and honor Connecticut's soldiers through yellow ribbon campaigns, award ceremonies, annual POW and MIA ceremonies and had served on the legislative team for the Washington National Conference. Bob is also active in the Clinton community serving as a mentor and coach for children involved in local sports programs, scouting and other community programs. He is a regular participant in town meetings and gatherings, works with the local food bank and chamber of commerce and also speaks to schoolchildren about his military service and the importance of community involvement.



PHILIP CACCIOLA

Middletown

U.S. ARMY

A Veteran of the Vietnam Era, Phil Cacciola was stationed in Germany with the 3rd Armored Division as a tank platoon leader and reconnaissance platoon leader. Not only is he a proud Veteran of the U.S. Army, he is a friend to so many in his hometown of Middletown and throughout the State. Phil continues to serve his nation and his community through his countless volunteer hours with the VFW, American Legion, AUSA, DAV and others. In addition to his ongoing involvement in and support of these groups, he also served as Co-Chairman of the Major General Maurice Rose Dedication Ceremony in 2003, and was instrumental in the naming of the Army Reserve Center in Middletown for MG Rose in 2011. Phil volunteers his time in support of a host of important community initiatives. He is a valuable member of the Middlesex County Chamber of Commerce where he serves on the Board of Directors, and as Chairman of the Support the Troops & Honor the Veterans Committee and the Sports Events and Conventions Committee. Phil believes that his most important work is done through supporting younger Veterans who are just coming out of the service. He assists active duty, guard and reserve personnel, and recently discharged Veterans as they navigate the process to access the benefits they are entitled to. He has also worked with a variety of local employers from a number of different industries to help bridge the gap between Veterans and employment opportunities in Middlesex County and beyond. He enjoys visiting local schools on Veterans Day and throughout the year to stress to students the importance of patriotism, service, duty and honor. Phil frequently visits nursing homes, convalescent homes and other support facilities to spend time with their residents.

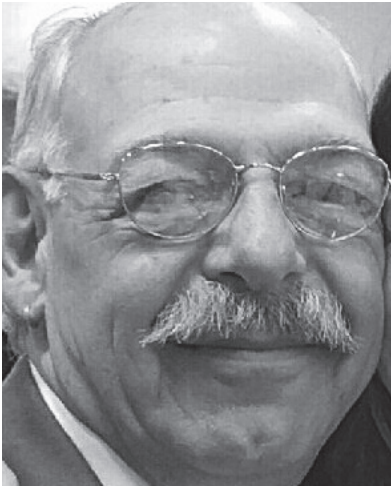


BENJAMIN COOPER

West Hartford

U.S. ARMY

Ben Cooper was drafted into the U.S. Army as a member of the 179th Infantry Division and assigned to the 45th Infantry Division which originated in Oklahoma, primarily consisting of Native Americans. He was assigned to the "Thunderbird Division" and would serve as a combat medic at the height of World War II and would assist in the liberation of Dachau Concentration Camp in Germany. For the last 30 years, Ben has made it his mission to tour the State of Connecticut speaking to thousands of students, Veterans, civic leaders and senior citizens around the region. Many schools have asked Ben to speak as a culmination of their curriculum on the Holocaust; adding a powerful conclusion to such an impactful chapter of world history. On May 6, 2005, Ben was the speaker at the 27th Annual State of Connecticut Holocaust Remembrance in Hartford. In December of 2016 Ben was the guest speaker to the senior leadership of the CT Army National Guard in Hartford. He shared stories, answered questions and offered valuable advice to his fellow service members. He spoke of patriotism and of the powerful struggle to preserve freedom. Ben has spent decades marching in parades and other Veteran celebrations. He is recognized as a leader among the Jewish War Veterans of America and his speaking about his wartime experience with students in schools throughout our region helps them better understand history. For over 20 years, Ben Cooper has attended and marched in the Colchester Memorial Day Parade in recognition of Medal of Honor recipient William J. Johnson. Johnson was a fellow soldier of the 45th Infantry Division during the war. This commitment is another example of Ben's life motto: "No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted." Today Ben has enlisted Veterans at the West Hartford Senior Center to gather and exchange stories of their service. "Roll Call" is a collection of ordinary men and women, military heroes' with great achievement, and community leaders. They speak about how extraordinary times forged the values that made a people and a nation great.



DOMINICK CORTESE

Norwich

U.S. AIR FORCE

Since his retirement from the military, Dominick Cortese has been dedicated to numerous community and Veterans activities. He serves as the Judge Advocate General for the Norwich Area Veterans Council, has made several trips to the Bethesda Naval Hospital to visit Veterans as part of “Operation Gift Card”. Dominick has accompanied WWII Veterans to Washington DC to the WWII Memorial. He frequently visits Veterans who are homebound or in area nursing homes and will drive them to appointments to the VA in West Haven and Newington. Dominick currently serves as a Service Officer with both the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) and the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW). He is a member of the Norwich Vet Center and helped to create an annual Norwich Vietnam Veteran’s Day ceremony of which he has been an active participant since its inception. Dominick has been a guest speaker at many community events honoring Veterans and most recently, keynote speaker at Norwich’s Memorial Day event. Dominick has dedicated his life to assisting, supporting and advocating for fellow Veterans, primarily through his involvement with the Norwich Vet Center of which he has been involved with since 1989. He has earned a reputation both locally and statewide as a caring, knowledgeable and dedicated advocate for Veterans and Veterans issues.



LAWRENCE HERRMANN
Cheshire

U.S. MARINE CORPS

Once a Marine, always a Marine. Most of Larry Herrmann's waking hours are spent in either practicing law or in three distinct volunteer service activities; the free defense of Veterans and Active Military and Reserve personnel accused of crimes; as a CT Officer of the Marine Corps League and its subsidiary; the Military Order of the Devil Dogs and as National General Counsel of the Marine Corps League; and finally as a Member of the Board of Directors and member of the three person Award Committee of the Chapel of Four Chaplains, a 501©3 Non-Profit located in the Chapel of the old Philadelphia Navy York, established by President Truman. Larry volunteered as a Mentor in Veterans Court in Queens Supreme Court, a model effective entity with VA and VSO support, which he has tried to have duplicated in CT. Larry has never charged a Veteran for criminal defense and has yet to have a Veteran with PTS spend a day sentenced to jail. He has successfully represented over ten Veterans accused of crimes in the past 12 months. On any given day, Larry has been instrumental in recognizing so many unsung heroes from across the country for their hard work and dedication in a vast array of Veteran and humanitarian projects. As an attorney he is nationally known for his compassion in helping Veterans who find themselves faced with a variety of legal problems, many due to PTS and he assists on a pro bono basis. Larry is one of those individuals that exemplifies and promotes a feeling of trust and accomplishment in all he says and does.



CONNECTICUT VETERANS HALL OF FAME
CLASS OF 2017 INDUCTION PROGRAM

DECEMBER 4, 2017

PRELUDE

1st Company Governor's Foot Guard Band Ensemble

ENTRANCE OF THE OFFICIAL PARTY

Master of Ceremonies

USMC Veteran Gil Simmons

Morning Meteorologist WTNH/NEWS8

NATIONAL ANTHEM

Hazel Pufahl

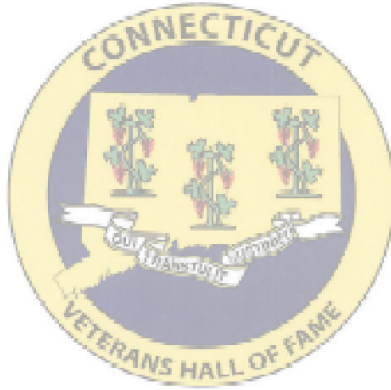
Age 9

4th Grade, Ashford Elementary School

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND
MOMENT OF SILENCE

INVOCATION

Chaplain (Major) Nutt, State Support Chaplain



REMARKS AND INTRODUCTION OF THE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

Thomas J. Saadi

Acting Commissioner, Department of Veterans Affairs

REMARKS

The Honorable Nancy Wyman

Lieutenant Governor

INDUCTION - CLASS OF 2017

Lieutenant Governor Nancy Wyman

CLOSING MUSICAL SELECTION

1st Company Governor's Foot Guard Band Ensemble

*VIP Reception for Inductees and their guests
immediately following the program at the
Officer's Club at Gov. William A. O'Neill State Armory*

CONNECTICUT VETERANS HALL OF FAME



CHESTER MORGAN

Vernon

U.S. ARMY

Chet Morgan not only served honorably in the CT Army National Guard for 30 years, he went on to serve his community in a variety of roles. Chet founded the annual Vernon Memorial Day Parade and served many years as Chairman. He served as Military Volunteer Coordinator for the Rockville Elks where he organized annual events that included Veterans Day luncheons. He partnered with other community volunteers to raise \$30K to have flags representing the armed forces installed in several locations throughout his community. Of his civil service work, Chet's tenure as a State Representative is truly notable due to the lasting impact he had on generations of Connecticut residents. Chet translated his decades of experience in the Army National Guard to meaningful legislation that allows National Guardsmen and Women to qualify for free tuition at Connecticut institutions of higher education. To this day, his efforts provide tangible supports and services for our military in education, job training, and networking opportunities that allow them to move forward in their lives and their careers. The commitment and leadership that Chet brought is deeply meaningful, not simply because it assists members of our National Guard, but also because it sets an example of the work we must continue to do to support our citizens in the Armed Forces.

CONNECTICUT VETERANS HALL OF FAME



THOMAS PANDOLFI

Woodstock

U.S. ARMY

Not a week goes by that Tom is not doing something for Veterans. After Tom was discharged from the service, he moved to Connecticut. Tom is considered a caretaker and has always looked out for family, friends, neighbors and all Veterans. Tom has been an advocate and friend to Veterans since his military involvement in the Vietnam War. In his community of Woodstock/Putnam, in the quiet northeast corner of the state, Tom is recognized as the purveyor and distributor of clothes, toiletries and gifts for the needy and senior citizens. It's said that Tom has a compulsion to help others, whether it is his family or someone in the local area or a soldier in need of heat, good clothes, rent, hearing aids, glasses or funeral arrangements. His patriotism and love of fellow soldiers keeps him involved as a volunteer. He sees a need and does something about it; he's a man of action. He gives freely of his time without reservation and does so in a quiet and humble way. Everything he does is because it's the right thing to do. Tom is an active member and heavily involved with any organizations in which he is a member, some of which are the Employer Support of the Guard & Reserve (ESGR), American Legion, Soldiers, Sailors & Marines Fund, CT Veterans Military Coalition, Military Community Coalition and many more. He is well respected in the Veteran community and is called on constantly for his insight and assistance.



THOMAS QUINN
Fairfield

U.S. ARMY

Tom Quinn is synonymous with all things Veteran in Fairfield. Whether it is leading the American Legion Post Marshalling the annual Memorial Day Parade, advocating with legislators about funeral benefits for deceased Veterans, advocating for the celebration of Veterans Day at schools or leading Veterans Day assemblies at schools throughout Fairfield, Tom is at the helm. He spearheads fundraisers for Veterans each year, coordinates an annual event honoring the “Four Chaplains”, helps to lead all town celebrations with Veterans (Wall of Honor, Memorial Day, 4th of July and Veterans Day) and regularly serves on funeral honor guard duty. Tom is known as a leader in his community on the needs of Veterans and children. His commitment to these two groups has often coincided over the years. As a Post Commander and Vice Commander for a number of years at American Legion Post 143, Tom was the Grand Marshal for the Town of Fairfield Memorial Day Parade on multiple occasions and had ultimate responsibility for coordinating the efforts of town and state officials, police and fire enforcement, all elementary, middle, and high school bands and numerous community groups. Even on the years he was not the final “go to” resource, he could always be found leading one of the divisions and hanging out with the different groups of children marching. Tom has focused for over a decade on protecting and fighting for Veterans rights and to put a voice to the Veterans plights and needs, keeping their issues front and center in the face of federal, state and local budget cuts. He continues to consistently push the envelope to insure the local and state community not only recognizes the needs of our Veterans, but also continues to remind everyone of the sacrifice and selflessly given by these individuals in order to reinforce public respect and deliver simple thanks for these brave men and women.

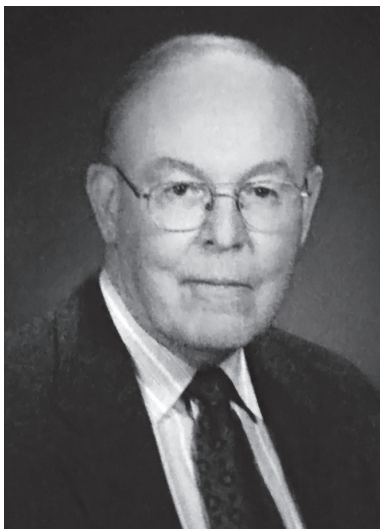


WILLIAM SULLIVAN

Waterbury

U.S. ARMY

After discharging from the Army, William returned to Waterbury where he practiced law. In addition to practicing law, Justice Sullivan served as the Director of the Connecticut Vietnam Veterans Bonus Division from 1967-70. He also served as Civil Service Commissioner of the City of Waterbury from March 1974 to July 1975 and as Corporation Counsel for the City of Waterbury from January 1975 to September 1978. During his years in Waterbury, he served on various boards and commissions and social organizations and endeavors which greatly benefitted the community. He was appointed a CT Superior Court Judge in 1978. He was then appointed as a member of the Appellate Court in 1997. Elevated to the Supreme Court in 1999, he served with distinction. In 2006, William was selected and honored by the City of Waterbury Veterans Memorial Committee for his service to the city, state and nation at the Annual "Support the Troops" Dinner. He was selected for his service in Vietnam as the Field Artillery Unit Commander of the 33rd FA. In 2007, he received the Waterbury Sportsmen Club Patriotism Award. Justice Sullivan has volunteered for many Waterbury service organizations such as the Robert Westberg Scholarship Fund for children of deceased Waterbury Police Officers. He has also served the community as a member of the Connecticut Judges Committee, the Supreme Court Rules Committee, and many more. Chief Justice William Sullivan remains an inspiration to us all.



JOHN TURK

Southbury

U.S. ARMY

John is currently serving his fourth term as Commander of Lt. C. Edward Hine, Post 147 of the American Legion in Southbury. During his tenure, he has initiated visits to Veterans in nursing homes and has also been a member of a ceremonial rifle and honor guard ritual team. He was an organizer of the creation of a Veterans Wall of Honor and responsible for its dedication and rededication. John has been a speaker at many Memorial Day and Veterans Day Ceremonies. John is a life member and supporter of the VFW. He also chaired a committee to study tax relief for Veterans and senior citizens. On the community front, John has served extensively in each municipality in which he lived. His involvement began with a call from the Governor of Delaware when the Governor faced a complicated financial problem. That introduction to the political arena later led him to run for the City Council in Danbury. He won, was reelected and was elected Minority Leader of the council. Upon moving to Southbury, he ran for the Board of Selectmen, won, and was elected President Pro Temp. In addition, John was involved as Master of Ceremonies at a reception for Nancy Reagan. He has served on charter revision commissions in Danbury and Southbury. John has been an active member of the National Association of Accountants for over twenty years and was elected President of the Danbury Chapter and served as Employment Director for many years. John is currently Assistant Treasurer of the Southbury Interfaith Thanksgiving Meal. He has been a supporter of children coaching little league baseball in Dover, DE, junior league baseball in Danbury and catholic youth organization basketball in Danbury.

CT VETERANS HALL OF FAME PAST INDUCTEES

CLASS of 2005

*Nathan George Agostinelli
George Herbert Walker Bush
William Thomas Coffey, Sr.
Dr. Randall Howard Collins
Bruce Hulst Ey
Joseph G. Lombardo
Giacomo "Jack" Mordente II
Lt. James Sedalia Peters II
Ernest Virgil Plantz
Norman Warren VanCor*

CLASS of 2006

*Douglas A. Bora
Robert A. Janicki
Franklin E. Johnson, Sr.
William J. Johnston
Evans Edward Kerrigan
Peter Robert Pardo
Anthony Vito Savino
James S. Tierney
Carl Roderick Venditto
Edward Washburn Whitaker*

CLASS of 2007

*Michael J. Daly
Alfred Faticoni
Dr. George G. Gentile
Elwood A.D. Lechasseur
Anthony Mammola
Alfred A. Meadows
Robert J. Nearine
Col. Robert B. Nett
Tony Paul Pia
Darrell D. Stark*

CLASS of 2008

*Evans H. Daniels, Jr
Valentine David Galasyn
John L. Levitow
Howard Louis Luppi
Barbara Ellen Miller
H. Richard Newell, Jr.
William Atchinson O'Neill
Roger Gene Paulmeno
Frederick Gates Reincke
Robert Rudolph Ritz*

CLASS of 2009

*Richard O. Belden
John "Jack" Dougherty
Robert L. Genovese
Dr. Harvey James Grinsell, Jr.
Brig. Gen. John J. King
Rev. William David McGee
Brig. Gen. Daniel J. McHale
Theodore J. Plamondon, Jr.
Alphonse N. Sabetta
Daniel A. Vece, Jr.
Homer L. Wise*

CLASS of 2010

*Edmund J. Burke
Thomas J. Burke
John J. Carcioppolo
Robert C. Hunt, Jr.
Doris Troth Lippman
William J. McGurk
Robert C. Moeller
Abner Oakes III
Edward V. Sabotka
Robert R. Simmons
Stanley F. Zebzda*

CT VETERANS HALL OF FAME PAST INDUCTEES

CLASS of 2011

*Madelon Baranoski
Samuel K. Beamon, Sr.
George Kenneth Carpenter
Ronald Catania
John Gregory Chiarella
Harold B. Farrington, Jr.
Phillip R. Kraft
Ronald Roland
Perry Richard
Alan Rampone
Burke T. Ross*

CLASS of 2012

*Father Thomas E. Berberich
Manuel Michael Cardoza, Jr.
Paul F. Dillon
Peter Galgano, Jr.
William George Godburn
Norman Hanenbaum
Alan Jepson
Charles Richard Morrissey, Sr.
Herbert Thomas Schacht
Thomas Sheridan
James H. Throwe
Carmine Joseph Vaccaro*

CLASS OF 2013

*John H. Bannan (posthumously)
George H. Breuler
John (Jack) G. Casey Jr.
Miguel A. Escalera, Sr.
Charles P. Gallagher
Robin L. Montgomery
James Milford Mosley
Michael Albert Thomas
William F. Vornkahl III
Robert John Young*

CLASS OF 2014

*Edwin Francis Atkins
Samuel Baez
Edmond Clark
Maurice L. Collin
Theodore Robert Cummings
Frank Esposito (posthumously)
David William Gay
Robert T. Getman (posthumously)
Richard A. Herman
Gerald B. Wright*

CLASS OF 2015

*Glenn Arthur
Peter Beckwith
John DeBisschop
Elliott Donn
Richard Fuller
Thomas Heath
Allen Lawton
PW Louthain
Dan Riccio, Jr.
Michael Skelps
Greg Smith*

CLASS OF 2016

*Robert Burns
Bradford Davis
Francis Conahan
Archie Elam
Richard Iannuci
Paul Wm. Orstad
Linda S. Schwartz
Salvatore Sena
Kjell Tollefsen
Arthur Ward*