



CONNECTICUT VETERANS HALL OF FAME 2014 INDUCTION CLASS

November 19, 2014

Dear Veterans, Families and Friends:

I am privileged to represent the great state of Connecticut tonight as we honor the 2014 Induction Class of the Connecticut Veterans Hall of Fame.

These ten special patriots, like all previous inductees, not only stepped up to defend our nation in uniform, but remained fully committed to improving the lives of others when they returned home. Every one of these men and women is a selfless leader and role model whose service should inspire all of us.

I thank all of tonight's inductees for your dedication to our country, our state, and to your communities. I know I speak for all Connecticut residents when I say you have earned our utmost respect and admiration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Nancy Wyman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being particularly prominent.

Nancy Wyman
Lieutenant Governor

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 will select at least 10 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 and sponsored 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.



EDWIN FRANCIS ATKINS

Oakdale

U.S. NAVY

Edwin Atkins was an inspirational leader with 40 combined years of experience and leadership in the Wisconsin National Guard and the U.S. Navy. Atkins was a key element in establishing ties between USSVI, and the Staff and Students of the Naval Submarine School. He is a key link in this very important relationship. Atkins provides mentorship to the young Students, as well as passing on History and Traditions. Through Atkins, the close ties with Naval Submarine School leadership, SUB-VETS are continually invited to participate in graduations for Basic Submarine School and other technical training courses. Atkins is such a respected leader with the Submarine Force and Command Master Chief Community that for four (4) years, he has been selected to sit on the Selection Panel and participate in the selection of these outstanding Sailors who are the Best of the Best in the Submarine Force.



SAMUEL BÁEZ

Waterford

U.S. Navy

As a Navy Chaplain in Vietnam (1962), Sam conducted the Memorial Service in DaNang for the first operational Marine Corps deaths in that war. Their seven names are listed on the first panel of the Vietnam Memorial Wall in Washington, DC. Báez has served many communities over the years while in the service and long after his discharge. As he traveled the world, he assisted in counseling many peoples of different backgrounds and faiths, helped with orphans, the elderly and communication efforts for local and military personnel. He continues to be active in the community by participating in many veteran events serving in his chaplain role as well as a guest speaker. Báez also serves as a counselor to many veterans in his community. Báez and his wife have also opened their home to Coast Guard Cadets as parental sponsors. This provides a respite from academy life with a high quality environment for the students to help them complete their educational experience.



EDMOND CLARK

Madison

U.S. MARINE CORPS

A Vietnam Veteran, Clark has dedicated his life to honoring and advocating for veterans. After receiving his law degree, he became better positioned and greatly more empowered in his quest to assist veterans. For no payment, Clark worked over the years for individual veterans in an effort to right the wrongs they faced and to assist in dealing with their personal problems (legal and otherwise). Some of the examples of his advocacy for veterans were; pursuing and collecting money due them for work they had performed; resisting home and apartment evictions; opposing vehicle repossession issues; assisting their entry into mental health and substance abuse programs and many other areas. Beyond his work on behalf of veterans, he has been involved in a variety of distinguished community service and advocacy activities such as Board of Directors for the Charter Oak State College Foundation, President of the Connecticut Assoc. of School Business Officials, Executive Director of the Tri-Town Giants Football Club (Middlesex/New Haven Counties), Head Coach for Middle School Girls Interscholastic Basketball, Coach and Mentor of the Middle School Mock Trial and Debate teams and so much more. Clark has been a voice for those unable to fully advocate for themselves.



MAURICE (MOE) L. COLLIN

Coventry

U.S. MARINE CORPS

After the Vietnam War, Collin took it upon himself to do everything in his power to give aid and assistance to his brother and sister veterans. He became a Veteran Service Officer (VSO) and took on the position of Supervisor of the Office of Advocacy and Assistance (OA&A) with the Connecticut Department of Veterans Affairs (CTDVA). In addition to taking care of his own veteran clients, he also trained new VSO's that came into the office of OA&A. As Collin was truly a superb advocate for the veterans, he was asked to be Acting Commissioner of the CTDVA while a permanent candidate was selected. After retiring from state service, Moe volunteered his time at the Newington VA Medical Center's Clothing Room, supervising other volunteers in the distribution of free clothing to needy veterans. He has volunteered as a driver for the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) at the Newington VA Medical Center and has also volunteered as a Veterans Liaison for the DAV at their satellite office at West Haven VA Medical Center.



THEODORE ROBERT CUMMINGS

Manchester

U.S. MARINE CORPS

Serving in the Marine Corps from 1941 to 1945 had instilled in Cummings a strong foundation of love of country and honor of giving oneself to help the lives of others through public service. After discharging from service, Cummings worked numerous jobs and took advantage of the GI Bill to go back to school in the evenings to get his college degree and ultimately owning and operating a successful insurance company. His work ethic following his military service was geared toward ensuring the best life possible for his family. Recognizing all that he was able to achieve through the sacrifices of others, led him to be a strong advocate for veterans, often speaking to youth groups about the war and the honor of service. His humanitarian efforts did not end with being an advocate for just the military; he was also a strong supporter of programs to help those with alcohol and drug dependencies. Serving for eight years on the State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission allowed him to have a platform for encouraging funding and programs geared to address these dependencies.



FRANK ESPOSITO
(POSTHUMOUSLY)

Norwalk

U.S. ARMY

Esposito served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War era. His long and successful career of public service began in 1970 when he was appointed Commissioner of the Norwalk Housing authority as well as being a member of the School Building Committee. He was elected in 1980 to serve in the Connecticut General Assembly representing the 137th District and was elected three additional times serving a total of four terms. In this capacity, Esposito was afforded the opportunity to put forth legislation and “Get Things Done” to better the lives of all Connecticut citizens. In 1987, Esposito was elected Mayor of Norwalk. Of special importance, Esposito continuously supported all veterans in his state. During the post-Vietnam period when support for veterans was conspicuously more restrained than in the past, he was not going to let that deter him from supporting patriotic activities and events that were organized and managed by the Veterans Memorial Committee. He saw to it that funding never lagged and was sufficient to honor these brave men and women returning home.



DAVID WILLIAM GAY

Windsor

U.S. MARINE CORPS

MG (Ret) Gay enlisted into the U.S. Marine Corps Reserves on March 11, 1953 and continued to serve in the military for the next 46 years. During and after his retirement from the military, Gay's commitment to public service never faltered. He has maintained a long relationship of support and membership in the Manchester American Legion, Post 102, and the Army Navy Club of Manchester. In 1994, Gay was requested by then Governor Lowell Weicker to assist in the operations planning and execution of the 1995 Special Olympics World Summer Games. The 9th Special Olympics World Summer Games were held in New Haven, CT July 1-9, 1995. More than 7,000 athletes from 143 countries gathered for competition in 21 sports. He successfully blended his military background, interpersonal relations skills, and Defense Support to Civilian Authorities knowledge to leverage the resources of the CT Military Dept. in support of the event. From 1995 through 2005, Gay held an executive position in The Nutmeg State Games, an organization dedicated to providing a forum that initiates and encourages camaraderie between different ages, socioeconomic and cultural groups through athletic competition and the Olympic spirit. The Nutmeg State Games is the largest amateur multi-sport sporting event in CT. In 2002 he was appointed by then Gov. John Rowland to be a member of the Board of Trustees for Community Colleges, he served for five years on this board. In 2003 Gay served as a member of the Coalition Against Crime. Gay was also deeply interested in the children of our service members. His concern for their involvement, understanding and ability to thrive while their parent served, cannot be overlooked. In 1995, he recognized the emerging computer technology field and developed "Computer Camp for Kids." Gay is credited with a long list of accomplishments, but one of significant notoriety, was his commitment to the National Guard Family Program. He took the time to become personally involved in the joys and sorrows, successes and failures of his National Guard family and in doing so, he earned the respect and loyalty of the entire National Guard.



CONNECTICUT VETERANS HALL OF FAME
CLASS OF 2014 INDUCTION PROGRAM

NOVEMBER 19, 2014

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

1st Company Governor's Foot Guard Band Ensemble

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND

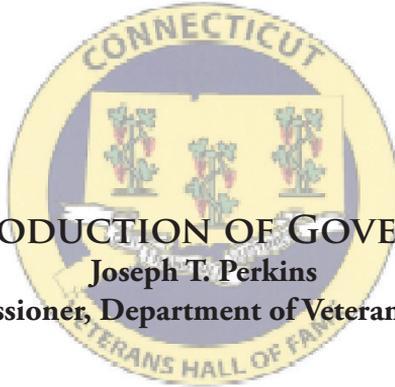
MOMENT OF SILENCE

Senator Carlo Leone

Representative John Hennessy

INVOCATION

Chaplain (Major) David Nutt, State Support Chaplain



**INTRODUCTION OF GOVERNOR
Joseph T. Perkins
Commissioner, Department of Veterans' Affairs**

**REMARKS
The Honorable Dannel Malloy
Governor**

**The Honorable Nancy Wyman
Lieutenant Governor**

**INDUCTION - CLASS OF 2014
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*



ROBERT T. GETMAN
(POSTHUMOUSLY)
Old Lyme

U.S. COAST GUARD

Getman was a U.S. Coast Guard Academy, Class of 1954 graduate where he began a distinguished 30-year career in the U.S. Coast Guard. After retirement in 1984, he continued his legacy of selfless service and taking care of others as he accepted an appointment as Director of the CT Veteran's Home in Rocky Hill, CT where for 10 years, he worked vigorously to rehabilitate, educate and employ more Veterans than all previous administrations. He developed many programs to assist Veterans in getting the help they needed. Getman was passionate about helping others and believed that, like teaching a man to fish, education offered huge dividends in improving the ability of everyone to thrive and give back to the community. To that end, he ran for, and was elected to the Old Lyme Board of Education. He was also a member of the Harbor Management Commissioner, volunteered at the Coast Guard Museum, was a probation aide, and volunteered at the prison in Niantic; providing spiritual ministry and tutoring inmates (reading, writing, GED prep, licenses, etc.) so they could improve their lives.



RICHARD A. HERMAN

Milford

U.S. ARMY

Herman fought for his country during WWII. He served as part of Patton's 3rd Army, traveling across Europe through France, Belgium, Germany and Austria. After the war he and his wife took ownership and began operation of the Seabreeze Hotel in Fort Trumbull Beach. In 1949 Herman started his career as an educator with the Milford Public Schools when he became a History teacher at Milford High School. From 1953-58 he was the Vice Principal; from 1958-69 he was the Principal; from 1969-81 (when he retired) he was the Assistant Superintendent in charge of Secondary Education. While principal at Milford High School, Herman worked closely with Milford Hospital's Emergency Services Coordinator in order to incorporate CPR training into the high school curriculum. He was also instrumental in implementing Title IX in the Milford schools which is a law that demands gender equality in all educational programs that are federally funded. After his retirement, he continued to serve the Milford community by volunteering to run the BIC Scholarship Committee, which provides college scholarships to local students. Since 1981 and continuing today, Herman and his family personally fund a small scholarship at each of Milford's two high schools.



GERARD B. WRIGHT

Bolton

U.S. ARMY

Wright joined the Army in October of 1968 and was deployed to Vietnam from May 27, 1969 to December 16, 1970. On November 16, 1971, after two tours in Vietnam, Wright left Active Duty service and returned to Connecticut. In 1982 he joined the Connecticut Army National Guard and was called to federal Active Duty for Operation Desert Storm. Since retiring from the National Guard in 1999, Wright continues to serve his Community, State and Nation. Owning a towing business, he has witnessed serious auto accidents and tragedies. He has used this knowledge to educate high school students in the proper use of vehicles, and the consequences of unsafe driving habits. Using tangible proof of what can happen with unsafe vehicle operations, such as texting while driving. He wants to keep students safe. He spends his time addressing school children on the meaning of Veterans Day and Memorial Day and about those who served their country during conflicts and the sacrifices these brave men and women made for freedoms we all enjoy today. He has been a staunch supporter and participant of events for Veterans such as Military Funerals, Demobilization of returning Units from Afghanistan and Iraq, Stand Down, or simply helping families that need work around the house. Wright is a participating member of numerous Veterans' Organizations and Associations and with his tireless work ethic and selfless compassion for serving others; he puts the needs of others before himself.

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 Hults 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. JohnstonEvans
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. Lechausse
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*

CT VETERANS HALL OF FAME PAST INDUCTEES

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*

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*