

The 2008 inductees to the Connecticut Veterans Hall of Fame:

Dr. Evans H. Daniels, Jr., MD, posthumous award (formerly of Wethersfield)

Dr. Daniels, formerly of Wethersfield, was drafted as a U.S. Army medic out of medical school for World War II and went on to receive two Bronze Stars. Following the war, he completed medical school and returned to Hartford to establish a family medical practice and the first medical clinic in the state dedicated to serving the poor, now known as Community Health Services. Dr. Daniels also served as the physician for the State Veterans Home in Rocky Hill and performed extensive medical missionary work in Guyana, China, Africa, Honduras and Santo Domingo focusing on bringing modern medical services to the poor.

Dr. Valentine D. Galasyn, PhD, MD, of Canterbury

Dr. Galasyn, of Canterbury, served for 25 years in the U.S. Navy with wartime service during World War II, Korea and Vietnam. Earning a doctorate in chemistry and his MD later in life, he served as a Naval physician off the coast of Vietnam and as director of the Naval Undersea Medical Institute in Groton. With four other Navy physicians, Dr. Galasyn voluntarily established and manned the first emergency department at Windham Hospital. Following his retirement from the military, he served the community for many years as a community physician, donating many in-kind services and for over 40 years was an active volunteer with the 4H.

John L. Levitow, posthumous award (formerly of Glastonbury) Congressional Medal of Honor Recipient

Mr. Levitow, formerly of Glastonbury, was the first and lowest ranking member of the U.S. Air Force ever to receive the Congressional Medal of Honor for his heroism in saving his aircraft and crew over Long Binh, Vietnam in February 1969. After his discharge, Mr. Levitow became a tireless advocate for Air Force enlisted men and veterans, traveling around the world to speak with service members. He worked on behalf of veterans for many years in key positions including service as a VA Congressional liaison, benefits counselor, and chief of medical administration at the Newington VA Medical Center and as the director of planning and assistant to the commissioner at the Connecticut Department of Veterans' Affairs.

Howard L. Luppi of North Haven

Mr. Luppi, of North Haven, served in World War II and received a Bronze Star and Purple Heart for his service during the Battle of the Bulge. While establishing and growing his own CPA firm, he began a long public service career culminating as a member of the Connecticut House of Representatives from the 88th District from 1980 to 1990. Locally, Mr. Luppi served as second selectman, assistant town treasurer and as a member of the Finance Board. He is the co-founder of the Connecticut Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge and served as vice commander of American Legion Post #76, coordinating many veterans recognition and educational programs.

Barbara E. Miller, RN, of Gales Ferry

Ms. Miller, of Gales Ferry, had a 20-year active duty career as a Navy nurse with service during the Vietnam War, retiring at the rank of Commander. An educator for over 26 years, she has provided medical instruction, training and volunteer services for multiple organizations including the Department of Developmental Disabilities, Connecticut League for Nursing, the American Red Cross, the American Heart Association and the American Cancer Society. Her veterans advocacy work has included service as president of the WAVES Unit #40, president of

the state chapter of the Military Officers Association of America and director of the Retired Activities Office, Submarine Base New London.

H. Richard Newell, Jr., of Hartford

Mr. Newell, of Hartford, was a lance corporal in the U.S. Marine Corps in Vietnam with service during the Tet Offensive and is a recipient of the Purple Heart. He serves as the Disabled American Veterans' (DAV) hospital service coordinator at the Newington VA Medical Center where he coordinates and provides multiple services to disabled veterans, including the DAV transportation program. As a DAV volunteer driver, he has driven 101,299 miles in 6,448 hours to transport 2,835 veterans for medical care. A former trustee of the Connecticut Department of Veterans' Affairs, he has served as state commander of both the DAV and the Italian-American War Veterans and district commander of the VFW.

Governor William A. O'Neill, posthumous award (formerly of East Hampton)

Governor O'Neill, formerly of East Hampton, served as a U.S. Air Force B-29 gunner flying twelve night combat missions over North Korea during the Korean War. The 84th Governor of Connecticut and longest serving in over 200 years, Governor O'Neill is credited with increasing state funding for education, re-building the state's infrastructure and providing additional resources and programs for many less fortunate citizens. He also established a new state veteran's cemetery in Middletown. Prior to becoming Governor, Mr. O'Neill had extensive public service as a member of the East Hampton Finance Board, as a member of the Connecticut House of Representatives rising to the position of majority leader and as Lt. Governor.

Roger G. Paulmeno of Old Greenwich

Mr. Paulmeno, of Old Greenwich, was a helicopter door-gunner during the Vietnam War where he was seriously wounded while handling a burning grenade inside his aircraft in order to save his crew. He was cited for valor and is a recipient of the Distinguished Flying Cross. For the last 23 years he has devoted his career to helping veterans as a VA readjustment counseling

therapist and is currently Team Leader/Chief for the White Plains, NY Vets Center. For many years he has volunteered locally assisting individual veterans with benefits information, participating in memorial events, and instructing students about the Vietnam War.

Lt. Gen. Frederick G. Reincke, posthumous award (formerly of Wethersfield and Rocky Hill)

Lt. Gen. Reincke, formerly of Wethersfield and Rocky Hill, served for 47 years in uniform in two World Wars as both a Navy sailor and as an Army/Connecticut National Guard officer. He is the longest-serving Adjutant General of the State Military Department, serving under six governors from 1948 to 1963. While Adjutant General and following his retirement from the military, General Reincke also served as warden of the Connecticut State Prison, responsible for restoring order after a series of riots and initiating several rehabilitative programs. His extensive public service also includes serving as Hartford County High Sheriff and as a member of the Wethersfield Board of Selectmen and Police Commission.

Robert R. Ritz of Stamford

Mr. Ritz, of Stamford, was an enlisted Army combat engineer in Vietnam with service during the Tet Offensive. For over 35 years, he has volunteered at the West Haven VA Medical Center visiting patients weekly and organizing supportive events. A 38-year member of the

Elks, he has served as exalted ruler, trustee and veterans affairs chairman for Lodge #899 in Stamford. Mr. Ritz is also an elder, youth ministry chairman and Sunday school teacher at Zion Lutheran Church and is a life member of the VFW with active service on the drill team/honor guard. He has coordinated volunteer fundraising for the West Haven VA, Connecticut Children's Medical Center, Special Olympics and New York City homeless missions.