

Strong Girls, Healthy Communities: 100 Years of Girl Scouts in Connecticut



From *Parade of Youth* magazine, June 1946
Courtesy of Girl Scouts of Connecticut

During World War II, Connecticut Girl Scouts collected waste kitchen fats for the war effort, which were used to grease guns and make soap.

This year, the Girl Scouts of America celebrate their 100th anniversary and the Girl Scouts of Connecticut celebrate their centennial along with the national organization. The first Girl Scout troop was created by Juliette Gordon Low on March 12, 1912 in Savannah, Georgia and, that very same year, the first troop in Connecticut was established. Low wanted to establish a program that brought together girls from all backgrounds, encouraged them to spend more time outside and helped them develop self-reliance, resourcefulness and good citizenship.

The Girl Scout movement quickly grew and gained prestige throughout the nation. In 1915, the Girl Scouts were incorporated by the United States Congress. By 1920, they had nearly 70,000 members and by the end of that decade that number had expanded to over 200,000, with troops established in China, Mexico, and present day Saudi Arabia and Syria. By 1950, the Girl Scouts had over 1.5 million members.

Girl Scouting in Hartford began at the start of World War I; ever since, Connecticut Girl Scouts have provided invaluable assistance to troops and the community in times of war. During the First World War, scouts worked informally with aid

organizations assisting in war drives, selling war bonds and adopting war orphans. During the Second World War, Connecticut Girl Scouts ran errand agencies and baby tending bureaus that provided mothers with time to volunteer for service. They also held collection drives for scraps for the war effort and to benefit the community. Scouts hosted a Victory Fund Drive at the Old State House in Hartford, where they sold war stamps in order to raise money to aid children in war zones. During the Vietnam War, East Lyme troops collected clothing items to send to children in Vietnam. Some Connecticut Girl Scouts even traveled to South Vietnam to assist with aid efforts for refugees fleeing North Vietnam.

During the Great Depression and in other times of need, Girl Scout troops in Connecticut established Distributing Centers, which collected food, clothes and fuel for the needy. They worked with the Red Cross during Thanksgiving seasons to give food and clothes to those without. For Christmases they sewed handmade dolls and repaired donated toys to give to families.

The first troops of Senior Service Girl Scouts (girls of high school age) in Connecticut were established in 1942 during World War II. Senior Girl Scouts were trained to help people in emergency situations, aid in civilian defense units and tend to children in times of emergency. St.

Vincent's Hospital in Bridgeport was one of the first hospitals to let Senior Scouts volunteer as junior hospital aides. Though hospitals were at first wary of letting Girl Scouts volunteer, the shortage of nurses and the success of the scouts in Bridgeport soon had hospitals nationwide requesting that Girl Scouts volunteer at their local hospitals. By 1945, eighty-one former Hartford Girl Scouts had entered the war service. Soon after the end of the war in 1945, the Girl Scouts were sending aid to refugee children and sending trained Girl Scouts to help in liberated areas.



Hartford Council Dolls, November 1932
Courtesy of Girl Scouts of Connecticut

*During the Great Depression, Connecticut Girl Scouts
held doll making contests, donating the dolls
to families in need for the holidays.*

Connecticut Girl Scouts have always been actively engaged not only in war efforts but in scouting and other major events. In 1922, the Hartford Girl Scouts opened the first day camp in the nation at Garvan Field in Newington. In 1969, four scouts from Connecticut were among 130 Girl Scouts from thirty-seven states sent to see the launching of Apollo 11. In 2007, two sisters from Connecticut were nationally recognized by Girl Scouts of America as “National Young Women of Distinction.” In 2009, Girl Scouts of Connecticut collected 3280 pounds of old sneakers for recycling.

Each year Connecticut Girl Scouts collect donations of cookie boxes to send to troops at home and abroad. In 2012 more than 125,000 boxes were collected for the Cookies for Heroes program. Along with summer and day camps, Connecticut Girl Scouts has instituted many programs that advocate for girls and help them to adjust to modern day obstacles. Such programs include *Girlz R.U.L.E.*, an anti-bullying campaign, and *S.T.E.M.*, a program that focuses on encouraging girls to pursue their interests in science, technology, engineering and math.

Today, Girl Scouts is the largest educational organization for girls in the world. There are over 3.2 million Girl Scouts globally and troops in more than ninety countries. In Connecticut, 64,000 girls and adults are currently members of the organization. One in every six women in Connecticut was at one time a Girl Scout. In the Connecticut legislature, that ratio is even higher. Two out of every three female legislators were at one point Girl Scouts. In 2010, I helped to

establish an Honorary Girl Scout Troop at the Capitol, whose membership includes female legislators, as well as Lieutenant Governor Nancy Wyman.

Connecticut Girl Scouts has helped countless girls to better themselves and their communities. Girl Scouts have been there for Connecticut troops in times of war, and for Connecticut citizens in times of need. They work to promote understanding within their community and to help girls develop as individuals and leaders. Girl Scouts promotes strong girls and women, and hand in hand with that, they build healthier, more civically engaged communities.

In honor of the generations of girls and women who have made personal growth and helping others their priority, and in recognition of the centennial anniversary of Girl Scouting, I dedicate the 2012 edition of the *Connecticut State Register and Manual* to the past, present and future Girl Scouts of Connecticut.



Denise W. Merrill
Secretary of the State



Untitled, circa 1950
Courtesy of Girl Scouts of Connecticut

For 95 years, Girl Scouts have sold cookies to finance troop activities. In 2008, Thin Mints were voted Connecticut's favorite cookie.



Courtesy of Girl Scouts of Connecticut

Then-House Majority Leader Denise Merrill listens to Girl Scouts recite the Girl Scout Promise at their annual Advocacy Day in Hartford,

In Memoriam:
Three Extraordinary Public Servants

This past year, Connecticut lost three of its most honorable and dedicated public servants. Speaker of the House **Nelson Brown**, U.S. District Court Judge **Peter Collins Dorsey**, and State Senator **Margaret Morton** will always be remembered for their extraordinary contributions to the state of Connecticut. In an era when public officials can sometimes get bogged down in partisan bickering, these three individuals remind us all of what is good about public service—that there are still millions of honest and hardworking people that have dedicated their lives to making our community the best it can possibly be.



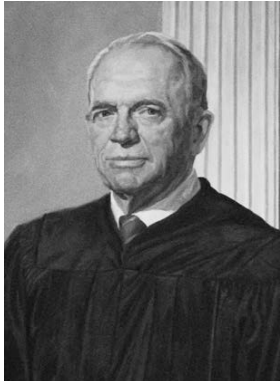
Nelson C.L. Brown, II
Speaker of the House of
Representatives,
1957-1958;
Robert L. Perry,
photographer

On September 8, 2011, **Nelson C. L. Brown, II** of Groton passed away. A former three-term state representative, Brown served in the Connecticut General Assembly from 1952 through 1958. In 1957, Brown was chosen to be the Speaker of the House of Representatives for his third and final term in the state legislature. At the age of 35, this gave him the distinction of being the youngest Speaker in Connecticut history.

Brown's remarkable political career will always be highlighted by his tie-breaking 1957 vote in favor of a transportation bill that permitted towns to provide free public school bus service to students of non-profit private schools, including Catholic parochial schools. Brown, a Protestant Republican, was forced to break a 133-133 tie on the bill that was strongly opposed by the members of his own party. His vote in favor of the bill pleased many Catholics within the state but angered Republicans and eventually led to his exodus from the state legislature. The courageous act by Speaker Brown would forever cement his legacy in Connecticut history.

Following his departure from the legislature, Brown worked for the American Petroleum Institute (API), serving as Connecticut's Executive Director and eventually Northeast Regional Director. Following his retirement in 1987, Brown served as a lobbyist for the Connecticut Council on Freedom of Information and the Connecticut Broadcasters Association. In 1988, Governor William A. O'Neill appointed him to the board of directors of the Connecticut Housing Finance Authority. In 1994, he was appointed as a member of the Connecticut Gaming Policy Board, and later was named chairman of the board by Governor John G. Rowland.

Viewed as a man who could find common ground and moderation, Brown was twice appointed as the ninth member to the State Reapportionment Commission. The commission is charged with the difficult task of redrawing legislative districts every ten years following the U.S. Census. Four Republicans and four Democrats are always appointed to the commission, followed by one individual agreed to by members of both parties. Speaker Brown's selection as the ninth member in 1991 and 2001 reflects the bi-partisan trust and respect he earned in over sixty years of public life in Connecticut.



Judge Peter C. Dorsey
from his official portrait
at the U.S. District
Court

On January 21, 2012, longtime federal prosecutor and **U.S. District Court Judge Peter Collins Dorsey** passed away. Perhaps best known for presiding over the plea agreement and sentencing of former Governor John Rowland, Judge Dorsey will be remembered as one of the most respected federal judges in Connecticut's modern history. A graduate of The Harbor School in New London and Philips Academy in Andover, Mass., Dorsey received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Yale University in 1953. He earned his law degree in 1959 from Harvard Law School.

After years of private practice as a New Haven attorney, Dorsey was nominated by his former Yale classmate, Connecticut Senator Lowell Weicker, to serve as United States Attorney for the District of Connecticut. Dorsey was appointed by President Richard Nixon and served in his role as a federal prosecutor from 1974 to 1977. Following a brief return to private practice, he was once again nominated by Senator Weicker, this time for a federal judgeship on the U.S. District Court for the District of Connecticut. Following an official nomination by President Ronald Reagan and a confirmation by the U.S. Senate, Judge Dorsey took his role on the bench, where he served honorably until his passing this winter.

Judge Dorsey served as chief judge from 1994 to 1998, when he assumed senior status. The trial and conviction of dairy store owner Stew Leonard, the N.A.A.C.P. discrimination suit against the town of East Haven, and the Schaghticoke Tribal Nation's attempts to gain federal recognition are some of the most notable cases over which Judge Dorsey presided.

Judge Dorsey will always be remembered for his reputation as being a fair and well-respected judge, one inclined to show compassion and mercy, and with an independent streak that made it nearly impossible to anticipate his decisions.



Senator Margaret E. Morton
Deputy President Pro Tempore of the Senate, speaking at the Old State House in Hartford in 1990;
Wayne Fleming, photographer

On March 10, 2012, Connecticut lost one of its most beloved advocates, leaders and public servants with the passing of former state legislator **Margaret E. Morton** of Bridgeport. A woman who exuded compassion and yearned for a more just society, Morton's political career was trailblazing. The first African American woman to serve in Connecticut's General Assembly, she gave hope to other African Americans and women who wished to get involved with politics and make a difference in their communities.

Margaret E. Morton was born in Virginia and spent the majority of her childhood and teen years in Bluefield, West Virginia. After graduating summa cum laude from Genoa High School in 1941 she married James F. Morton. Shortly after their marriage Margaret and James relocated to Bridgeport, Connecticut, where they founded a funeral business.

Morton's political career began in 1972 with her decision to run for a vacant seat in the Connecticut House of Representatives. Concerned that her local government was not doing enough to help her city, she decided to run for office so that she could make a positive difference in society.

The first African American woman elected to the state House, Morton took office in January of 1973 and served for four terms before also becoming the first African American woman elected to the state Senate in 1980. In 1990, she was appointed Deputy President Pro Tempore, becoming the first African American woman to hold the second highest office in the state Senate.

While serving in the General Assembly, Morton frequently fought for the rights of those who were ignored. With a mission to end discrimination in our society, she strongly advocated for the rights of women, gay citizens, welfare recipients, and many more. In 1983, Morton was one of the main advocates of a bill passed to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual status. She also sponsored a bill to outlaw discrimination against people with AIDS. After retiring at the end of the 1992 legislative session, Morton served for two years in the Governor's Bridgeport office.

Margaret Morton was extremely important to Connecticut in more ways than one. She was never content with just being another person involved with politics; she constantly worked to help those who suffer injustices. Through government, business, church and community service, Morton positively influenced not just African American women, but all women. She will be remembered for her many accomplishments as well as her sincere dedication to bettering our state.

Connecticut will always be grateful for the extraordinary contributions of House Speaker Nelson C. L. Brown, Judge Peter Collins Dorsey and Senator Margaret E. Morton. Their decades-long commitment to the state serves as a model for future generations of public officials and citizens alike.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Denise W. Merrill". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "D".

Denise W. Merrill
Secretary of the State

The Tenth Anniversary of the Help America Vote Act: How Far We Have Come and Where We Hope to Go in the Future

The momentous presidential election of 2000 proved to be the closest electoral contest in United States history. In a race between Republican Governor George W. Bush and Democratic Vice President Al Gore, the fate of the election hinged on the outcome of one state: Florida. With an unclear winner in Florida, candidate Gore called for a statewide recount. The Florida recount revealed the lack of uniformity in election counting standards among local municipalities across the state. Misaligned butterfly ballots with “hanging chads”, missing absentee ballots from military overseas voters, and registered voters who were purged from the voter rolls and turned away from the polls on Election Day, made citizens across the country question the legitimacy of the vote for the highest office in the land. Ultimately, the recount was suspended and deemed unconstitutional by the United States Supreme Court in a very controversial 5-4 decision in *Bush v. Gore*. George W. Bush was declared the winner of the presidential election in Florida by 537 votes. The Supreme Court ruling, *Bush v. Gore*, did more than decide the 2000 presidential election, but also made it clear that a federal intervention in the election process was necessary. The *Bush v. Gore* decision held that without a statewide uniform counting standard, a statewide recount could not be conducted. Therefore, states, not local jurisdictions, would be responsible for setting election administration standards, and that in order for votes to be recorded accurately, local jurisdictions within each state needed universal counting methods.

Two years after the 2000 presidential election, Congress responded to the *Bush v. Gore* decision by enacting the Help America Vote Act (HAVA). Authored by former Connecticut U.S. Senator Christopher Dodd, the Help America Vote Act, signed into law on October 29, 2002, mandated state governments regulate and administer elections. The new law mandated that each state create a single, uniform, centralized, computerized voter registration system maintained at the state level, which until then was within the jurisdiction of local election administrators. Election officials, poll workers, and election volunteers needed to be provided with uniform election training. States were also required to purchase new electronic voting equipment. The new voting equipment needed to be accessible to individuals with disabilities, permit voters to verify their votes before casting their ballots, and produce permanent paper records with the capacity for a manual audit. States also needed to have uniform vote-counting measures among local election districts. HAVA strengthened the identification requirements for new voter registration: first time voters who register by mail were required to present identifying documents when registering to vote, voting in person, or applying for an absentee ballot. States also needed to establish provisional ballots for persons who claim to be registered in a jurisdiction though do not appear on the official voting list. Provisional ballots were required to be verified promptly and counted, if valid. HAVA also required polling places to have information posted on Election Day: a sample ballot, the date of the election and hours of polls, instructions on how to vote, instructions for mail-in voters and first-time voters with new identification requirements, the Voter Bill of Rights, rights concerning provisional ballots, and information regarding state laws governing voter fraud. States were also required to create a complaint process about violations of HAVA by state or local jurisdiction.

HAVA directed that billions of dollars in federal funds to help modernize elections were distributed throughout the country. In order to receive monetary assistance from the federal government, each state was required to submit a formal plan of action detailing the state’s plan to

execute the requirements of the Help America Vote Act. The newly established Election Assistance Commission was responsible for reviewing each state's plan, and appropriating a sum of money from the \$3.9 billion of federal grants designated for the execution of HAVA.

Under my predecessor, Susan Bysiewicz, the Office of the Secretary of the State filed Connecticut's State Plan for HAVA in the summer of 2003. While the Help America Vote Act was created to establish minimum election administration standards, Connecticut has far exceeded this minimum and we have taken many steps before and after the enactment of HAVA to establish a voting system that is secure, accurate and reliable. By 2003, Connecticut was already nearly centralized with its voter registration lists. Today, it is completely centralized and computerized with the ability for registrars of voters to effectively monitor their official registry list in order to prevent voter fraud or duplicate registration. Connecticut also spent \$16 million on updating new voting equipment by transitioning from lever-based voting machines to optical scan voting technology using paper ballots. Researchers at the University of Connecticut endorsed the state's purchase of optical-scan voting technology, and recommended the use of tamper proof seals, disabling internal modems, and post-election audits. The researchers' studies in the field of voting technology led to the creation of the Voting Technology and Research Center at the University of Connecticut, and the legal requirement for post-election auditing. Today, all municipalities use electronic voting technology approved by the State of Connecticut in which voters are able to review their votes before submitting, and a printed record is produced with a manual audit capacity. Post-election audits are conducted by 10% of the districts which are selected at random—the strictest post-election audit law in the country. The state also supplies a vote-by-phone system designed to assist visually impaired voters to cast ballots privately and independently as required under HAVA. Connecticut also redesigned mail-in registration with new procedural requirements for state-issued identification. Before 2002, training for election officials, poll workers, and election volunteers was localized. Today, the state issues uniform training for all individuals involved in polling place operations. Connecticut utilized \$32.7 million of HAVA's federal grants in the process of updating our state's voting system.

As Connecticut's commissioner of elections, it is my responsibility as the Secretary of the State to ensure that each and every ballot cast by a registered voter in our state is accurately counted and recorded. 2012 marks the ten year anniversary of the enactment of the Help America Vote Act. Over the past ten years, our nation and our state has made necessary changes in order to prevent a reoccurrence of the mistakes made in the 2000 presidential election. We have updated and centralized our voting systems, making states accountable for the proper execution of legitimate and fair elections. The Help America Vote Act has held all states accountable for uniform election standards.

In the future, I believe the state of Connecticut can go even further to make our voting system as dynamic, flexible and inclusive as possible to address the other election crisis we face as a nation: woefully few Americans are actually using their constitutional right to vote. Connecticut is now acting to implement Election Day registration in a way that will allow voters who may be motivated late in the election cycle to cast a ballot. We are also developing a voter registration system that will allow voters holding driver's license to register online from any computer or mobile device with Internet access. These election modernizations were enacted into law this year and in the future I would like to see our General Assembly explore opening our state up to early voting or mail-in voting, concepts that have proven very popular and cost-saving in other

states. These reforms are based on the principle that more of our citizens will participate in our elections if voting is made easier and more convenient.

Some ten years after the enactment of the Help America Vote Act, I recognize that an election crisis became an opportunity for leaders who had the political will to make necessary investments in our elections and require us, as a nation, to raise our voting standards and modernize our voting systems. None of the future election reforms I have outlined would even be possible to consider were it not for the basic assurance of voting integrity, security and accuracy guaranteed by the Help America Vote Act. With that strong foundation, we can now confidently move Connecticut elections forward into the 21st century.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Denise W. Merrill".

Denise W. Merrill
Secretary of the State

In Memory of

Brian R. Bill

Edward J. Frank, II

Ari R. Cullers

Philip C.S. Schiller

*Service members from Connecticut lost in
Afghanistan and Iraq,
June 2011 – August 2012*

Orlando E. Gonzalez

Dennis J. Pratt

*Service members from Connecticut lost in
Afghanistan and Iraq,
March 2007 – July 2009*



Navy Chief Special Warfare Operator Brian R. Bill

Navy Chief Special Warfare Operator (SEAL) Brian R. Bill, of Stamford, died August 6, 2011 in Wardak Province, Afghanistan when his helicopter was shot down during a mission to assist Army Rangers engaged with enemy forces. He was 31 years old.

A graduate of Trinity Catholic High School in Stamford and Norwich University in Vermont, Bill enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 2001 and trained in Illinois and Florida. After graduating from Basic Underwater Demolition/SEAL Training in California in 2002 and Naval Special Warfare Advanced Training in 2003, he was assigned to an East Coast-based SEAL team in Virginia Beach, Va.

A highly-decorated combat veteran of numerous worldwide deployments and sixty direct-action missions, Chief Petty Officer Bill's awards include three Bronze Star Medals with Valor, including one for extraordinary heroism; the Joint Service Commendation Medal with Valor; the Purple Heart; the National Defense Service and Defense Meritorious Service Medals; the Navy-Marine Corps Commendation and Achievement Medals; the Afghanistan and Iraq Campaign Medals; the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary and Service Medals; two Combat Action Ribbons; the Sea Service Deployment Ribbon; two Presidential Unit Citations; the Navy Unit Citation; and the Rifle and Pistol Expert Medals.

Navy Chief Special Warfare Operator Brian R. Bill was laid to rest at Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia. Survivors include his parents, his brothers and his sisters.

Information and photograph courtesy of: Naval Special Warfare Command Public Affairs. Additional sources: The Congressional Record; American Forces Press Service; Norwich University Alumni Office.



Army Sergeant Edward J. Frank, II

Army Sergeant Edward J. Frank, II, who was born in Hartford, died August 11, 2011, in Kandahar Province, Afghanistan when his unit was attacked with an improvised explosive device while on patrol. He was 26 years old.

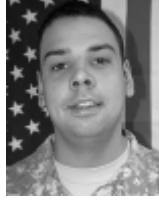
Sgt. Frank was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 32nd Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, based at Fort Drum, N.Y.

A graduate of Gorton High School in Yonkers N.Y., Frank joined the Army in August 2005. After completing Basic Training at Fort Benning, Ga., he was stationed in Germany from December 2005 to July 2010. An infantryman, Frank was twice deployed from Germany to serve in Iraq. In July 2010 he was assigned to Fort Drum and was deployed to Afghanistan with his unit in March 2011.

Sgt. Frank's awards and decorations include two Army Commendation Medals, two Army Achievement Medals, the Meritorious Unit Commendation, two Army Good Conduct Medals, the Iraq Campaign Medal, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the NATO Medal, the Army Service Ribbon, the Overseas Service Ribbon and the Combat Infantryman Badge.

Army Sergeant Edward J. Frank, II is survived by his wife, three children, and his parents.

Information and photograph courtesy of: U.S. Army, Fort Drum Public Affairs. Additional sources: The Hartford Courant; The Journal News (White Plains)



Army Staff Sergeant Ari R. Cullers

Army Staff Sergeant Ari R. Cullers, of Waterford, died October 30, 2011 in Kandahar Province, Afghanistan when enemy forces attacked his unit with a rocket propelled grenade. He was 28 years old.

Staff Sgt. Cullers was assigned to the 3rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, based at Fort Drum, N.Y.

A 2001 graduate of Waterford High School, Cullers joined the Army in October 2004. After training at Fort Jackson, S.C., he was assigned to Camp Kyle, Korea and Fort Sill, Okla., before being assigned to Fort Drum in December 2008. He served a tour in Afghanistan from December 2008 to December 2009, and was deployed again in March 2011.

Sgt. Cullers' awards and decorations include the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star, the Army Commendation Medal, four Army Achievement Medals, the Meritorious Unit Commendation, two Army Good Conduct Medals, the National Defense Service Medal, the Korean Defense Service Medal, three Afghanistan Campaign Medals, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Noncommissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon, the Army Service Ribbon, three Overseas Service Ribbons, the NATO Medal, the Certificate of Achievement, the Combat Action Badge, and the Driver and Mechanic Badge.

Army Staff Sergeant Ari R. Cullers was laid to rest at St. Mary Cemetery in New London. Survivors include his mother, his stepfather and his brother.

Information and photograph courtesy of: U.S. Army, Fort Drum Public Affairs. Additional sources: The Day; U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.



Army Specialist Philip C. S. Schiller

Army Specialist Philip C. S. Schiller, who grew up in West Hartford and Winsted, died April 11, 2012 in Kandahar Province, Afghanistan, of wounds suffered while providing cover to his unit after it was attacked by enemy forces with small arms fire. He was 21 years old.

Spc. Schiller was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment, 3rd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, based at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash.

He attended Oliver Wolcott Regional Vocational Technical School in Torrington before moving to The Colony Texas, where he joined The Colony High School's Junior ROTC program.

Upon graduation in 2010, Schiller enlisted in the Army and completed Basic and Advanced Individual Training at Fort Benning, Ga. In November 2010 he was assigned to the 3rd Stryker Brigade at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, and was deployed to Afghanistan in March 2011.

Spc. Schiller's awards and decorations include the Army Achievement Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Army Service Ribbon, and the Combat Infantryman Badge. He was posthumously awarded the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star.

Army Specialist Philip C. S. Schiller was laid to rest at Dallas-Fort Worth National Cemetery in Dallas, Texas. Survivors include his father, his mother and his sister.

Information and photograph courtesy of: U.S. Army, Joint Base Lewis-McChord Public Affairs.

Additional sources: The Northwest Guardian; The Dallas Morning News; KHOU-TV, Inc.; The Hartford Courant.



Army Private First Class Orlando E. Gonzalez

Army Private First Class Orlando E. Gonzalez, who was born in Bridgeport, died March 25, 2007 in Diyala Province, Iraq when his patrol was attacked by a suicide bomber while handing out candy to Iraqi children. He was 21 years old.

Gonzalez was a scout javelin gunner and paratrooper assigned to the 5th Squadron, 73rd Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, based at Fort Bragg, N.C.

Gonzalez moved from Connecticut to Glen Rock, Pa. as a child, and graduated from Glen Rock's Susequhannock High School in 2005. He joined the Army in June 2005 and completed Cavalry Scout One Station Unit Training at Fort Knox, Ky. He then completed the Basic Airborne Course in November 2005 at Fort Benning, Ga., and was assigned to the 82nd Airborne at Fort Bragg.

Pfc. Gonzalez' awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal, the Purple Heart, the National Defense Service Medal, the Iraq Campaign Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Army Service Ribbon, the Combat Action Badge and the Parachutist's Badge.

Army Private First Class Orlando E. Gonzalez was laid to rest at Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Va. Survivors include his parents, his sister, and his brothers.

Information courtesy of: U.S. Army, 82nd Airborne Public Affairs Office, Fort Bragg, NC. Photograph courtesy of: Office of Lt. Governor Nancy W. Wyman (Conn.). Additional sources: The Congressional Record; the York Daily Record; the Connecticut Post.



Army Specialist Dennis J. Pratt

Army Specialist Dennis J. Pratt, who was born in Waterbury and raised in Southington, died July 20, 2009 in Wardak Province, Afghanistan, when his vehicle was struck by an improvised explosive device followed by an attack from enemy forces with small arms and rocket propelled grenade fire. He was 34 years old.

Spc. Pratt was a field artillery automated tactical data systems specialist assigned to the 4th Battalion, 25th Field Artillery (STRIKE), 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry) based at Fort Drum, N.Y.

Spc. Pratt graduated from Southington High School in 1995. He later moved to Duncan Okla., and joined the Army in January 2008 at the age of 32. After completing basic training at Fort Sill, Okla., he was assigned to Fort Drum in June 2008. He was deployed to Afghanistan in January 2009.

Spc. Pratt's awards and decorations include the National Defense Service Medal and the Afghanistan Campaign Medal with Campaign Star. He was posthumously promoted to Specialist from the rank of Private First Class and awarded the Bronze Star, the Purple Heart and the Army Good Conduct Medal.

Army Specialist Dennis J. Pratt was laid to rest at Fort Sill National Cemetery in Elgin, Okla. Survivors include his wife and three children, his parents, two brothers and his step-sister.

Information and photograph courtesy of: U.S. Army, Fort Drum Public Affairs. Additional sources: The Hartford Courant; The Oklahoman; Tulsa World; NBC30 Connecticut News, WVIT; Meriden Record-Journal; U.S. Department of Defense.

**In Memory of
Service Members from Connecticut
Lost in Afghanistan and Iraq**

March 2002 – September 2004

*(Memorialized in the 2004 edition
of the State Register and Manual)*

John A. Chapman

Phillip A. Jordan

Kemaphoom Ahn Chanawongse

Wilfredo Perez, Jr.

Richard Selden Eaton, Jr.

David Travis Friedrich

Anthony D'Agostino

Phillip R. Albert

Jeffrey Braun

Eric Thomas Paliwoda

Benjamin Gilman

Tyanna Avery-Felder

Felix Delgreco

Nathan B. Bruckenthal

Melissa Hobart

Jacob D. Martir

October 2004 – October 2005

*(Memorialized in the 2005 edition
of the State Register and Manual)*

William Brennan

Kevin J. Dempsey

Joseph Michael Nolan

Michael J. McMahon

Henry E. Irizarry

Robert Hoyt

Thomas E. Vitagliano

Lawrence R. Philippon

John T. Schmidt, III

Christopher Hoskins

Steve Reich

David Coullard

November 2005 – September 2006

*(Memorialized in the 2006 edition
of the State Register and Manual)*

Brian S. Letendre

Stephen Bixler

Jordan C. Pierson

Philip A. Johnson

Nicholas A. Madaras

November 2006 – May 2007

*(Memorialized in the 2007 edition
of the State Register and Manual)*

Jason Hamill

Joseph E. Phaneuf, II

Richard L. Ford

Stephen K. Richardson

Orlando E. Gonzalez*

Keith Heidtman

June 2007 – April 2008

*(Memorialized in the 2008 edition
of the State Register and Manual)*

Andre Craig, Jr.

Jason D. Lewis

Jason Lantieri

May 2008 – May 2009

*(Memorialized in the 2009 edition
of the State Register and Manual)*

Christian S. Cotner

Thomas J. Brown

* The memorial for Orlando E. Gonzalez appears in the 2012 edition of the *Connecticut State Register and Manual*.

June 2009 – May 2010

*(Memorialized in the 2010 edition
of the State Register and Manual)*

Edward C. Kramer

Dennis J. Pratt*

Benjamin A. Sklaver

Xhacob LaTorre

Ronald J. Spino

Tyler O. Griffin

Edwin Rivera

June 2010 – May 2011

*(Memorialized in the 2011 edition
of the State Register and Manual)*

Steven J. DeLuzio

Gebrah P. Noonan

David R. Fahey, Jr.

Dae Han Park

Frank E. Adamski, III

Raymond G. Estelle, II

Richard C. Emmons, III

Eric D. Soufrine

* The memorial for Dennis J. Pratt appears in the 2012 edition of the *Connecticut State Register and Manual*.