



Post 3272

Avon, Connecticut

“ON TARGET”

(Our Newsletter 10th Anniversary Year)

The Post's 65th Anniversary Year (1945 – 2010)

November 2010
LETTER # 107

The Post met on **27 October 2010** at the Italian Club with **45 members** in attendance. The Ladies Auxiliary provided another exceptional meal and we all enjoyed another evening of fellowship and conversation with our fellow veterans and their friends.

Our next scheduled meeting will be held on Wednesday, **17 November 2010** at the Italian Club. Cocktails begin at 1800 hours with dinner at approximately 1830 hours. This is our **Traditional Thanksgiving Dinner** prepared by our dedicated Ladies Auxiliary – *be advised you don't want to miss it!*

Commander Roy Walton opened the meeting at 1945 hours. The *Officer of the Day Mike Gould* led the members in the salute to the Colors and the Pledge of Allegiance. *Post Chaplain Bob Galiette* offered the opening prayer and *Ed Simonds* provided the POW/MIA prayer. The Commander requested a moment of silence in honor of *Charlie Kilgore* and *Jeanette Simonelli* who passed away since our last meeting. The Commander then introduced two guests from the VFW Department of Connecticut – *State Commander Richard DeFederico* and *State Chief of Staff Neil Hunt*.

The Commander called on *Past Commander Bill Samol* to administer the New Member Oath to his Father-In-Law, *Jim Pethis*, who was visiting from Georgia and was attending our Post Meeting for the first time. After the ceremony, the members warmly welcomed Jim to the Post.

Adjutant Aldo Vernesoni provided copies of the last meeting's minutes at each table for review and *Quartermaster Don Perreault* distributed the financial report in like manner. Both reports were approved as presented.

Members in Distress this month include Mike Battaglino, Mike Busha, Bob Campbell, Dr. Tim Curran, Josephine Hinman, Jim Katzung, Harold Schaal, Ed Stepien, *Norm Southergill* and Clyde Whirty. Please remember them in your thoughts and prayers – and visit them if you are able. Please inform Chaplain *Bob Galiette* at (860-673-9324) if you learn of any other members who are ill or hospitalized. Names underlined are new this time!

Under Committee Reports, the Commander asked the members their choice regarding two locations for our 65th Anniversary Brunch and the members voted for the Farmington Woods Club. Tickets will be available soon and the cost will be \$20.00 for members and \$23.50 for non-members. Please contact Roy Walton (860-673-3771) or Bill Newman (860-676-0037) for tickets.

Commander Walton noted that Voice of Democracy and Patriot Pen entry forms have been distributed to the Avon schools and he noted the article announcing these essay contests which appeared in local papers. Essays are due to the Post by 1 November, Post judging completed by 15 November and District judging concluded by 6 December.

The Commander thanked the Post Color Guard and Post members who manned for Avon Day this year. It was a perfect day for the event and a large crowd was on hand. There was good interest in both our booths at this event this year!

Bill Samol reported on the 65th Anniversary Magazine and noted that we have raised \$10,600 in ads and estimated the magazine would be ready for distribution by mid-November. Bill presented the Commander with \$300.00 in checks for the Post and said a final tally would be forthcoming.

Bill Newman advised the members on the recommendations of the Relief Fund Committee for additional charitable donations from the Relief Fund. The Committee's recommendations were as follows - \$1000 for the new *Fisher House* being constructed in New Haven; \$500 for the *proposed Connecticut Veterans Memorial*; \$500 for *100 veterans' cemetery medallions*; \$500 for the *CT National Guard Foundation*; \$500 for the *Connecticut Central State University Veterans Scholarship Fund*; \$500 for *Blinded Veterans Association*; \$500 for *Rocky Hill Veterans Home*; \$500 for the *American Warrior Day of Honor Flights*; 500 for the *Army Relief Fund*; \$500 for the *Navy-Marine Relief Fund* and \$500 for the *Air Force Relief Fund*. After some discussion, the Post members approved a motion to provide the recommended amounts to these charities and items for a total expenditure of \$6000 from the Post Relief Fund.

The Commander summarized the Post activities for Veterans Week beginning with Monday, 8 November at noon at the Avon Senior Center with a ceremony honoring veterans. On Wednesday, 10 November at Canton High School starting at 0815 an assembly followed by visits of classrooms. On Veterans Day, we meet at Avon Middle School at 0715 for breakfast followed by an assembly. A bus then takes us to Pine Grove for their program about 0900 for their assembly and we bus to the Avon Veterans Memorial for our traditional Veterans Day Service which is attended by the Roaring Brook Schoolchildren. After this service, we move to Thompson Brook for lunch and their Veterans Day assembly. The bus then returns us to the Middle School to get our cars. On Friday, some veterans will go into the classrooms at Avon High School beginning at 0740 and participate in several classes in 2-man teams until 1400 hrs. As you can see, it's a busy week!

The "Walmart Wall" is underway and several of our members have posted their photos. If you would like to participate, please bring your military photo to the Photography Department or ask for Aldo Vernesoni. The program, however, ends on 12 November!

The Commander noted that we have now completed 81 Military Service Histories on Members of our Post and our objective for early 2011 is 100. If you would like your military history developed, please see Bill Newman for information.

It was also noted by Commander Walton that the Hartford Veterans Parade will kick-off at 1300 hours on Sunday, 7 November. Please assemble in downtown Hartford by 1200. Rides for the parade are available.

The Commander advised that the Post Commemorative Coin is now available. Please contact Cathy Walton (860-673-3771) or Bill Newman (860-676-0037) if you would like to purchase these attractive 65th Anniversary Coins. It's a great way to honor the Post and help it financially at the same time. The coins sell for \$10 apiece and they make an excellent "Stocking Stuffer".

The *Commander* noted that *Bill Samol's* membership in the Avon Chamber of Commerce is up for renewal. Bill commented that several Chamber members took out ads in our 65th Anniversary Magazine and he is developing relationships at the Chamber which will increasingly prove profitable to the Post. A motion was made to pay Bill's membership of \$120.00 for another year and the motion was approved by the members present.

Mort Katz noted that the VA has accepted the protocol developed by the PTSD Judicial Service of working directly with veterans.

Under the Good of the Order, the *Commander* noted that we are interested in purchasing a VFW Table Banner for a number of our activities. *Bill Newman* commented that this attractive cover could be utilized to draw attention to the Post at Avon Day, future recruiting events, meetings, golf fundraisers and poppy drives. The table cover is featured on the cover of the new VFW Catalog and is made of 100% polyester with the VFW Logo printed in the center with 2 lines of lettering. A motion to purchase this table cover for \$200 was made, seconded and approved.

Commander Walton advised that we still need 2 new members to reach 100% by 12/31/10 and asked that members continue to act as recruiters. He also noted that there are still 23 members who have not yet paid their annual dues (\$21.00) for this new year.

Post Developments & Activities

Charles F. Kilgore **Captain – U.S. Army**

It is with deep sadness that we report the passing of Charlie Kilgore (90) on 27 October 2010 at his home in Avon. Charlie entered military service at 17 with the Maryland National Guard, 115th Regiment, 29th Infantry Div with a one year commitment on 3Feb41, was promoted to Sergeant but the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor – so he was in for the duration of the war. He served as 1st Sergeant of this company until 13 Nov42 when he was selected for OCS at Aberdeen Proving Grounds. Upon graduation, he was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant in the Ordnance Corps & was assigned as a 2nd Lieutenant to Tucson, AZ where he trained units in close order drill and was promoted to 1st Lieutenant. He shipped out for overseas on a Liberty Ship in February 1944 and finally landed in Sicily and then on to Naples, Italy. There he commanded an Ordnance Supply and Maintenance Company attached to the 15th Air Force Tactical Unit where he supervised the storage and delivery of bombs, pyrotechnics and ammunition and the installation of aircraft armament. As the unit in 1945 was preparing for shipment to the Pacific Theater and the Invasion of Japan, the Atomic Bombs were dropped on Japan in September 1945. Charlie was separated from active service on 25Feb46 at Fort Meade, Maryland. He then joined the Army Reserves & in 1950 was recalled to active service during the Korean War and served as an Ordnance Officer (Captain) for 8 months on active duty at Fort Dix, NJ in charge of motor maintenance. The remainder of his time was with the Army Reserves until his discharge on 1Apr53. His decorations include the Good Conduct Medal, American Defense Service Medal, European Campaign w one star, WWII Victory Medal and Aerial Gunner Wings. Funeral arrangements were handled by Vincent Funeral Home in Canton with burial at West Avon Cemetery with full military honors followed by a Memorial Service at the Avon Congregational Church on 30 October. Many members of our Post attended both these services. Charlie joined the Post in 1948 and was an active and dedicated member for over 60 years. He was honored in 2008 as our Outstanding Post Veteran for his many years of extraordinary service. He will be greatly missed by all. May he rest in the Eternal Father's Peace!

Michael J. Dlubac
Staff Sergeant – U.S. Air Force

We are also sad to notify you that **Mike Dlubac (79)** of Simbury passed away on 30 October 2010 at the Governor's House in Simsbury. He was a veteran of the **Korean War** and served on active duty from 7Sep51 to 4Aug55 with the U.S. Air Force as a Staff Sergeant. Mike served in Korea with the 7430th ABRON and also served a tour with the Air Force in France. He was responsible for processing security clearances for Air Force Personnel. When in France with the 465th Air Police Squadron at Toul-Rosiere Air Base, Mike was selected in February 1955 to participate in an Amsterdam Guest Program and represented the United States at this week-long event. His military decorations include the National Defense Service Medal, Good Conduct Medal, Korean Service Medal, UN Service Medal and the Presidential Unit Citation. Mike was a member of our Post for the last two years and came to several of our coffees at Friendly's. Funeral arrangements were provided by Vincent Funeral Home in Simsbury with calling hours on 1 November from 4-6 pm and our Post was represented by Quartermaster Don Perreault and Chaplain Bob Galiette. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on 2 November at 10am at St. Mary's Church in Simsbury, and following this service, burial with full military honors was conducted at St. Bernard's Cemetery in Tariffville. May Mike and all our departed comrades rest in peace!

Wayne F. Hosking
Captain – U.S. Army

It is with much sadness that we inform you also of the passing of **Wayne Hosking (73)** of Avon on 1 November 2010 at Bradley Memorial Hospital. Wayne was a Veteran of the **Vietnam War** who served as a Captain and Medical Corps Officer with the 18 Surgical Unit in Pleiku in the Central Highlands (II Corps). He served on active duty from 31Jan66 to 30Jan68 as an Anesthesiologist and also had 5 years of Army reserve service. His last duty station was at General Leonard Wood Army Hospital of the 5th U. S. Army. Wayne's military decorations include the Army Commendation Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal and Vietnam Campaign Medal. He returned to Vietnam on a visit 25 or so years after his service there in 1967-68 and told us how much he enjoyed seeing the country again. Wayne joined our Post 2006 and participated in many of our meetings and coffees – he also attended the 25th Anniversary of the "Wall" in Washington, D.C. on Veterans Day 2006 with 7 other Vietnam Veterans from our Post. Wayne was associated with Hartford Hospital as an Anesthesiologist for 40 years – retiring in 2002. Funeral Arrangements for Wayne were provided by Donald D. Sagarino Funeral Home in New Britain with calling hours on 4 November from 4-7pm and a Memorial Service held at Asylum Hill Congregational Church in Hartford on 5 November at 11am. Several members of the Post – *George Caron, Mike Fyler, Bob Galiette, Brian O'Donnell, Art Ostheimer, Bill Newman and John Pappalardo* - offered their condolences to his family during the calling hours at the Sagarino Funeral Home in New Britain. Wayne will be missed – especially by those Post members who knew him well. May he and all our comrades find rest in the Eternal Father's Peace!

Connecticut Veterans Hall of Fame

On 3 November, **Bob Hunt** was officially informed that he has been selected for induction into the **Connecticut Veterans Hall of Fame**. Governor Rell will conduct the awards ceremony at the Legislative Office Building in Hartford on Monday, 22 November 2010 starting at 5pm. Our sincere congratulations to Bob! There are 10 members being inducted into this Class of 2010 (the 6th Class of Inductees) and with this class there will be 60 members (several posthumous). Avon Post 3272 will now have three (3) members – Bill Coffey, Bob Hunt and Dan McHale - who have been inducted into the Connecticut Veterans Hall of Fame on the basis of their distinguished military and ongoing community service. It is unlikely that no other Veteran's Post in the State of Connecticut has been so honored as to have 3 of its members in the Connecticut Veterans Hall of Fame.

Bill Coffey informs us that he was been elected to the Post of National Commander of the 43rd Infantry Division Veterans Association. Many of our members served with this division in WWII (Gildo Consolini, John Higgins, Freddie Rotondo, Ray Zacchera, etc). The 43rd has long been a National Guard Division whose soldiers were drawn from the states of Connecticut, Maine, Vermont and Rhode Island in WWII (1941-46) and from these same states (less Maine) during the Korean Call-up (1950-53). The Association has members all over the Country and its members believe that they are the longest continual Association of all the Guard Divisions and only a few active divisions have a longer history. Our annual reunion will be hosted by the Connecticut Chapter in August 2011 at the Marriott in Rocky Hill.

Several members of the Post – George Caron, Mike Fyler, Bob Gaiette, Bill Newman, Art Ostheimer, Don Perreault and Commander Roy Walton - were on hand with Doug's family and others at the Army Aviation Support Facility at Bradley Airport on 4 November to welcome home LTC Doug Sutter from his deployment in Iraq. One of his detachment members – Captain Marotta also returned home with him and was invited by Doug to join our Post. She agreed and we are delighted to have her join us. We want to thank Mary Ann Sutter for keeping us informed about Doug's homecoming schedule.

The Post began Veterans Week with a Veterans Ceremony at the Avon Senior Center on Monday, 8 November organized by Mr. Arthur Atwood. The Post Color Guard - consisting of Mike Fyler, Mike Gould, Don Perreault and Lee Wilson – participated in the ceremony. Other members of the Post who were present included Marty Brighenti, Jim Burns, Rich Ecke, Bob Gaiette, Bob Hunt, Mort Katz, Frank Leva, Nick Lavnikovich, Bill Newman, Art Ostheimer, Pete Salvatore and Aldo Vernesoni. Besides a delicious lunch, it was a wonderful way to begin the Veterans activities.

On Wednesday, 10 November 20 members of the Post visited Canton High School for a Veterans Day Assembly which was organized by Nora Mocariski, Social Studies Department Chair, and the high school administration. We were invited into 18 classrooms after an excellent assembly and then provided coffee and refreshments in their cafeteria. The principle feedback was that the students were very receptive and engaging but the 45 minute period went by so quickly. All of us thoroughly enjoyed the visit and we hope Canton invites us back again next year. We sincerely thank the school for changing their Veterans Day activities to Wednesday so that more of our veterans could participate in this well-organized patriotic program.

We have been asked to "Ring the Bell" for the Salvation Army this Holiday Season on Saturday, 12 December at Walmart from 8am to 6pm. The Post has offered its services for several years now. We need 2-man teams on one door for 2-hours. Please let Bill Newman know if you can help!

On Veterans Day, we started our busy day at 0715 hrs at the Avon Middle School where we enjoyed a breakfast which was followed by an assembly which featured our Color Guard (*Mike Gould, Bill Samol, Bob Skeels & Lee Wilson*) presenting the Colors to open the program. There were Patriot Pen Essays read by students, a great presentation by LTC Doug Sutter regarding his recent deployment to Iraq, patriotic renditions by the exceptional Middle School Band and Choral Group and, as usual, the warm and enthusiastic welcome from the schoolchildren. We next climbed aboard the provided Datco Bus which took us to Pine Grove Elementary where we were treated to the Kindergarten and student body leading us in the Pledge of Allegiance and God Bless America. Commander Walton introduced the Post members present while the Principal introduced students' guests who were veterans. First to Fourth Grade classes then presented separate programs – each of which were delightful. We again boarded our bus and headed to the *Avon Veterans Memorial* for our traditional Veterans Day Service which has been enhanced in the last few years by all the Roaring Brook Elementary Schoolchildren. In addition to their reading precious tributes of veterans, they led us in the National Anthem and Pledge of Allegiance with the able assistance of *Music Director Paul Johnson*. Besides our Color Guard opening the service, *Commander Roy Walton* acted as the Master of Ceremonies: *Chaplain Bob Galiette* offered the invocation and benediction; *Ed Simonds* presented the POW/MIA remembrance and prayer; and *Bill Newman* read the following list of Post members (10) who had passed away since last Veterans Day:

William J. Huebner – Army WWII (Pacific) & Korean War

Robert August – Navy - WWII (Pacific)

Harold St. Onge – Army - WWII(Pacific)

Louis A. Capitani – Navy WWII - (Atlantic/Pacific)

Nat S. Michon – Army - Korean War

Alfonse Lapore – Army – German Occupation

John J. Higgins – Army – WWII (Pacific)

Charles F. Kilgore – Army – WWII (Europe)

Michael J. Dlubac – Air Force – Korean War

Wayne F. Hosking – Army – Vietnam War

We completed our Veterans Day activities at Thompson Brook School where we first enjoyed a welcomed lunch with plenty of choices & seconds. After lunch we attended their assembly which featured our presentation of the Colors, the school's sharp 5th & 6th Grade Band, a presentation on the Vietnam Veterans "Wall" and Patriot Pen essays read by selected 6th graders. We then departed by bus and returned to the Middle School to our cars and to the end of a very memorable Veterans Day for all of us. We are most grateful to *Peppy Roell, Middle School Principal Marco Farmiglietti, Pine Grove Principal Gail Dahling-Hench, Roaring Brook Principal Dr. Crisanne Colgan, Thompson Brook Principal Anne Watson, the Teachers and Students* of this outstanding School System to make this day once again the annual highlight of our Post Year.

On Friday, 12 November several of our veterans – *Bill Coffey, George England, Grant Hagedorn, Grant Hagedorn, Jr., Bob Hunt, Jim Hutton, Bill Newman, Art Ostheimer, Bob Skeels and Doug Sutter* visited 550 students Avon High School in 19 U.S. & World Classes (sophomores & juniors) and 1 Humanities (seniors) Class. We arrived at the high school at 0730 hrs and departed at 1430 – so it was a full day and offered a unique setting to meet with students. Feedback from the veterans who participated was very positive and complementary. We are indebted to *Principal Jason Beaudin, Mike Infantino and all the teachers* who organized and participated in this program. We hope Avon High School invites us back again next year as we all thought it proved to be a exceptional opportunity for us to personally interface and dialogue with about half of the Avon High School student-body.

At our upcoming meeting next week we will have available at the door, tickets for our 65th Anniversary Brunch on Saturday, 20 November. The cost for Post Members is \$20.00 and the cost for guests is \$23.50. Please have checks made out to Avon Post 3272. We will also have available our attractive 65th Commemorative Coins for \$10.00 each. **Remember to get your tickets and coins at our meeting this Wednesday, 17 November!**

The November issue of the Veterans History Project Newsletter from Center for Public Policy and Social Research at CCSU carried several articles about our Post and its members. The newsletter noted separately the passing of *John Higgins and Charlie Kilgore* and highlighted their military service. It also published an article regarding a Google search by a Professor Lewis at Michigan State University and how it linked him to the Veterans History Project website and *Don Perreault's* military history records. He was Don's replacement as an Intelligence Officer in the 2nd Field Force in Vietnam more than 40 years ago. Lastly, there was an article that our Post made a generous donation to the Central Connecticut State University Student Veterans Scholarship Fund and that many members of our Post had contributed their personal histories to both CCSU and the Library of Congress. We encourage all our Post Veterans to take advantage of this opportunity and make an appointment with *Eileen Hurst (860-832-2976)* to have your personal military history recorded by the Veterans History Project at CCSU.

We are pleased to report that Mort Katz is the recipient of the 2010 pro bono award from the Hartford Country Bar Association. Mort is one of several lawyers certified to appear before the Veterans Administration and represent veterans who are making disability claims against the VA. Mort works with Statewide Legal Services, volunteering at the Legal Clinic in Hartford and representing claimants in Unemployment Compensation hearings before the Administrator and Appeals Division of the Department of Labor. The presentation was made at Law Day ceremonies in Hartford Superior Court earlier this year. Our Congratulations, Mort!

All members of the Post should have the VFW Overseas Cap and should wear it at all our meetings and official functions. If you still need one, please contact *Don Perreault at 860-673-0552*. The cost is \$33.75 and it comes with the Cross of Malta, Post Number, VFW letters and State. Optional items are Life Member Patch, City Name, Post Name, Title & Years and Continuous Membership Bars.

We are closing in on year-end and have only a month and a half to meet our objective of 100% membership (170 members) and qualify for an All-State Designation again this year. As of now we still have 18 members who have not paid their annual dues of \$21.00. Please remit your dues to National or give your check to *Commander Roy Walton, Quartermaster Don Perreault or Past Commander Bill Newman*. We are of course also looking for new members and need at least 2-3 more to sign-up before the cut-off date of 31 December 2010.

We are planning to deliver to the Avon Historical Society in early December 15 additional Military Service Histories. Now that the Veteran Day Activities are over, we have more time to work on more histories. Please contact *Bill Newman (860-676-0037)* if you would like to have your military service history developed and included in this 2nd installment which will become a permanent part of our Post Veterans Collection at the Avon Public Library. The VFW Magazine has had 2 articles recently (*August & September*) regarding the importance of sharing your military experiences with the young. The September article notes ...*"Unless veterans share their memories with children, grandchildren – local school classes – history will die with them."*



VETERANS DAY PRAYER

“ETERNAL FATHER, We thank you for sparing us from the grasp of our enemies and bringing us safely home from our foreign wars. We remember well how we yearned for home and are eternally grateful for the many years you have given us with our loved ones. We ask you to grant mercy and peace to those of our comrades who did not return - *especially those who we served with and remember in our hearts* - console their families and help us all take comfort knowing that there is *no greater love* than laying down one’s life for another. We pray, Father, for all veterans who have departed this life and especially those from our Post who have passed away this year. We also remember this day in a special way our wounded and disabled veterans asking you to bless them for their many trials and sacrifices. We ask also for those, who because of infirmities, cannot be with us this day. Comfort also, Father, the widows and families of our departed comrades – especially those who were once members of our Post Family.

We ask you also to watch over our Armed Forces – especially those who are *now in harm’s way* - and return them safely to their loved ones. Sustain us in our ongoing efforts to support them always as brothers-in-arms.

We thank you for giving us brave men and women willing and able to serve America under difficult circumstances and, in so doing, demonstrate to all of us the true meaning of duty, honor and sacrifice. Keep them close to you, Father, and make us worthy of them!

We ask you to watch over our country which, through Your Grace, has provided us with life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Keep it *safe, strong and ever mindful* of your many blessings. We pray also for our leaders that they may be united for the common good and protect this great country from all those who seek to destroy it.

Lastly, Father, we pray for peace – *a true and lasting peace* – one will only come when we seek you with a sincere heart and do your will. Amen!”