



Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States

Post 3272

Avon, Connecticut

“On Target”

The Post’s Monthly Newsletter

October 2009

LETTER #96

The Post met on Wednesday, **23 September 2009** at the Italian Club with 41 members in attendance. The *Ladies Auxiliary* prepared an exceptional meal with plenty of second helpings for our troops and their guests. Prior to our meeting, we presented Dr. Tim Curren, WWII Army Doctor, with a cake & sang a rousing “*Happy Birthday*” to him in celebration of his “96th Birthday”

Our **next meeting** will be held on **Wednesday, 28 October 2009** at the Italian Club. Cocktails begin at 1800 hours with dinner at 1830 hours. Join our **Post Family** for another evening of **good food, stimulating conversation and great friendship**. The new Avon School **Superintendent Dave Erwin** will be our Guest Speaker

Our guest speakers at the September meeting were three Avon High Seniors – Linsay Gauthier, Jack Hamel and Mia Nardina – who discussed their letter-writing campaign for deployed troops. They initiated a program to send 250-300 letters written by Avon High School Students and Third-Graders at Roaring Brook School to soldiers deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan. Their letter-written campaign was also featured on Channel 61. We thank Linsay, Mia & Jack for visiting us and telling us about this patriotic program. *Commander Newman* presented each of them with a copy of Bill Coffey’s “*More Patriot Hearts*” as a token of our appreciation.

Commander Bill Newman administrated the New Member Oath to *Phil Davidson* and *Julian Schroeder* – both WWII Navy Veterans who joined our Post recently. Bill also presented both veterans with a VFW Lapel Pin. *Chaplain Tom Chrosniak* also offered an initiation prayer to these new members

The *Commander* opened the meeting at 1945 hours and *Officer of the Day* Mike Gould led the members in the Salute to the Colors and the Pledge of Allegiance. *Chaplain Tom Chrosniak* offered the VFW Prayer and *Fred Hudon* provided the POW/MIA Prayer. The *Commander* then asked for a moment of silence for Stan Barnett and Don Martin who passed away since our last meeting in June.

The *Commander* noted that the minutes of the last meeting and the financial report were available on each table for the members to review courtesy of *Adjutant Aldo Vernesoni* and *Quartermaster Don Perreault*. He asked for separate motions to accept the minutes and financial report as provided - which were in turn seconded and approved by the members present.

Comrades in Distress this month include *Bob August*, *Josephine Hinman*, *Bill Huebner*, *Jim Katzung*, *Alvin Liftig*, *Sanford Lindy* and *Harold Schaal*. Please remember to keep them in your thoughts and prayers - and visit them if you are able. We ask that you also let our *Chaplain Tom Chrosniak* (675-9196) know if you learn of any other Post members who are ill or hospitalized.

There was no report this month from our Service Officer, *Bill Coffey*, who was travelling overseas to visit his son in Germany.

The Commander asked *Doug Sutter* to tell us about his upcoming deployment to Iraq. Doug stated that he will deploy on 23 October with the 143rd Area Support Group and lead a detachment which will work closely with Iraqi Troops in Mosul. He is scheduled to return in November 2010. Bill Newman, speaking for the Post, wished him our very best and asked him to keep in touch with us as circumstances permit. Once he gets settled, Bill asked that he contact us so we could send him and his unit care packages from our Relief Fund. We will keep him and his family in our thoughts and prayers.

Under Committee Reports, *Bill Newman* noted that we still need volunteers for our last Golf *Fundraiser at Blue Fox Run* this Saturday (26 September). This is a make-up opportunity as our scheduled date in August was cancelled. Bill also stated he needed some additional volunteers to man our booth on Avon Day (also 26 September) – especially in the afternoon.

The Commander advised that he had made a presentation on 14 September to the Avon School Administrators regarding the *Voice of Democracy and Patriot Pen Essay Contests* sponsored at this time of year by the National VFW. He outlined the program to these administrators to revisit and rekindle the program among the 6th, 7th, 8th and high school students in the Avon Public School System. *Roy Walton* is the Chairman this year of this important Post project.

Commander Newman also noted that it's been a number of years since we have recognized and honored local teachers who instill in students a sense of national pride. He asked if any of our members know of an *Avon Teacher* who stimulates interest in American history, patriotism and civic responsibility, please forward their name to us for consideration.

Under communications, the Commander read a note from *John Carmon* thanking our veterans who served as Honor Guards for Stan Barnett. John stated how proud he is of all of us and all we do for veterans; *Tom Pellegrini*, President of the Italian Club, thanked our members for their generous contribution of \$1000 to the club's renovations this summer; and the *Boston Fisher House Foundation* send us a thank you note in appreciation of our \$1000 donation in support of severely wounded veterans and their families.

Regarding Unfinished Business, *Bill Newman* noted a *Connecticut Veterans Memorial* will be constructed in Rocky Hill across from the Veterans Home. He asked for a motion to make a donation from our Relief Fund to support this Memorial to honor all Connecticut Veterans. A motion was made by *George Slack* to donate \$500 to its construction from our Relief Fund, seconded and approved by the members present.

Under New Business, the Commander advised that *Avon's MIA* from the Vietnam War, *Major Craig Nobert*, who was declared missing on 20Jul66 received full military honors at Arlington National Cemetery and was given a grave marker there. The Nobert family was invited to the service and this event offered them finally some closure. We would like to honor Major Nobert with a plaque in his honor to be displayed at the Avon Town Hall or the Avon Library. A motion was made by George England, seconded and approved by the members present to have a plaque made to honor Major Nobert's service and sacrifice.

Bill Newman noted that this **Veterans Day** (*Wednesday, 11 November*) we will visit Avon Old Farms School for the first time and participate in a ceremony celebrating the 65th Anniversary of the *Old Farms Convalescent Hospital* which was run by the U. S. Army Service Forces for Blinded Veterans from 1944-47. The ceremony begins at 0730 hours in their Auditorium on the campus and will feature a video presentation of several soldiers who went through the program as well as civilians who worked or volunteered there. This is an extraordinary story and a unique aspect of the Town of Avon's History. Bill will introduce 10 of our WWII Veterans to the assembly and our Color Guard will open and close the ceremony.

John Caruso, who chaired the 2009 Poppy Drive, congratulated the volunteers on another record campaign this year. He noted for our size (150 members) we outperform and outdistance all Posts in the state that have a poppy effort. John noted that the "*Beat Newman*" theme proved to be successful this year!

Post Activities & Developments

Donald G. Martin **Navy Corpsman – WWII & Korea**

It is with great sadness that we inform you of the sudden passing of *Don Martin* (83) on 8 September 2009 at Union Hospital in Lynn, MA. Don served in the U. S. Navy during WWII and the Japan Occupation from May 1944 to May 1946 in the Pacific Theater as a Ward Corpsman at the Naval Hospital #204 on Tinian. He was recalled to active service on 19Sep50 for the Korean War, assigned to the Marine Corps and sent to Camp Lejeune. Shipped out to Korea in December 1950, he served first as a Charlie Med Corpsman with the 1st Marine Division and later as a Line Company Corpsman with G/H Companies, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines until November 1951. He was discharged from the Navy in January 1952. His military decorations include the Good Conduct Medal, American Campaign Medal, Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal w/ bronze star, WWII Victory Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Korean Service Medal w/ bronze star, Republic of Korea War Service Medal and the Korean Presidential Unit Citation.

Funeral Arrangements for Don were handled by the Eustis Cornell Funeral Home in Marblehead, MA where a memorial service was held on 18 September with military honors provided by Marine Corps and Navy Personnel. *Tom Chrosniak, Bill Newman and Lee Wilson*, representing the Post, came to honor him, offer their condolences to his family and placed a wreath at his beautiful and touching memorial display. *Commander Bill Newman* spoke regarding his military service and his close affiliation with our Post. *Chaplain Chrosniak* offered our *Final Salute Prayers*. "*Doc*" Martin was a personal friend to many of our veterans and was a very active member who participated in all our ceremonies, services and activities. He will be deeply missed by our veterans. *May the Eternal Father grant Don His Peace!*

On 10 September, Army 1/LT John Ballantyne and his Father visited us at our weekly coffee at Friendly's. John was home on leave from Iraq where he's serving as a Chinook Pilot. He told us about his unit, their mission and the golf driving range they constructed on their base. He expects to be home in February 2010. He also joined our Post as a new member. We asked him to drop a line when he can. Great to have you aboard, John, and Godspeed!

The September Issue of *Avon Life* contained a very interesting article regarding Major Craig Nibert – Avon's MIA from the Vietnam War. I contacted his brother, *Dr. Gary Nibert*, and he noted that, despite the grave marker now at Arlington and the military service there this summer, the case is not closed and Major Nibert is still considered as MIA. I asked him if he had any photos of his brother in uniform as we would be interested in completing a Military Service History on Major Nibert. He said he would look into it and, in the meantime, we will honor his brother with our plaque.

On 14 September, *Bill Newman* met with the Avon School Administrators at the Avon Superintendent's Conference Room in the Towpath Annex. *Superintendent Dave Erwin* had invited Bill to speak at this meeting. The Administrators were very supportive of the *Voice of Democracy and Patriot Pen Essay Contests*. Bill outlined the program, handed out copies of both brochures and noted that Roy Walton will chair the program for the Post this year.

Past Post Commander Dick Petersen stopped in on our coffee at Friendly's on 17 September and conducted an impromptu inspection of the troops. A few of our guys failed the inspection for wearing "Blue Jackets" and had to drop and do "10". *Bob Hunt* objected but was outvoted by the preponderance of "Black Jacket Vets". It was good to see Dick and he gave us an interesting update on his activities in South Carolina. He noted how cold it was up here already! His wife Joy also came in to say "Hi" and they both looked pretty darn good for "southerners". Thanks for stopping by – Dick and Joy – we miss you guys!!

Bob Campbell and Rudy Cusson have been selected to participate in the Warrior Flight from Bradley Airport to the WWII Memorial in November.

On 26 September, we had our last Golf Fundraiser of the season at Blue Fox Run and netted for our General Fund \$445.00. Volunteers for this event were *Tom Chrosniak, Tim Curren, Bernie Driscoll, Grant Hagedorn, Dick Harris and George Slack*. Thanks to all our volunteers who helped us with these important fundraisers. We deeply appreciate *Tim Curren* for overseeing these three fundraising events this year and note that we had a very successful season. We raised a total of \$1,521.00 for the Post which is one of the best years ever!

We will conduct our 4th Veterans Day Service at St. Ann's Church on Thursday, 12 November at 0930 hours. The Color Guard will, as before, lead the veterans into the church and we will list and honor those Post Veterans who passed away since last Veterans Day. We will have patriotic music, a vocalist and Taps. There will also in a reception after the service in Father Bennett Hall. All veterans from this community are invited to attend this nondenominational service to honor veterans. This is the only service of its kind in the area so please come and remember our decreased comrades – and invite another veteran!

Members of our Post have been strong supporters of the *Veterans History Project* at Connecticut Central State University. In fact, to date 23 of our members have been interviewed and have participated in this Library of Congress Project. If you are interested in contributing your personal military history to this important effort, please contact *Eileen Hurst*, Project Director, of the Veterans History Project at Connecticut Central State University (CCSU) at (860) 832-2976 or email her at hursteim@ccsu.edu.

At our 7 October *Coffee Klatch at Friendly's*, we set a new attendance record at 27. The Post Coffee is becoming a popular weekly event and we encourage all to stop-in when they can. It's a good opportunity to gather together and stay in touch with one another. We are there each Thursday morning at 10am rain, snow or shine!

If you want to order one of our *Post Jackets* (black) with your name, post identity and the VFW Insignia on the front and a large VFW, Post 3272 & Avon, CT on the back contact our Quartermaster Don Perreault at 673-0552. The cost is \$75.00

Noteworthy Quotes

"Flying the Hump"

"The mission was a simple resupply run over the Himalayas from Kuming, China to Chabua, India. Of course, when flying over some of the highest, most treacherous peaks in the world, buffeted by violent thunderstorms and extreme turbulence, nothing is simple. That's why the airmen who routinely make the run called it "flying the Hump". If you could conquer the Hump, you felt could conquer anything. According to the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC), *an estimated 415 planes – and more than 1,360 crew members* – were lost in the China–Burma–India Theater over the course of WWII. The heavily-loaded planes, which included B-24s, C-47s and C-109s, took off from airfields in India's eastern jungles, where torrential rains were frequent and long-lasting, and flew over the mountains in the face of bitter cold and dense fog that often made visibility a constant challenge. A direct flight to Kuming took an average of four (4) hours at an altitude of 16,000 feet, but crews typically took a dogleg to the north to avoid Japanese fighters. This stretched fuel reserves to the limit and sometimes required a climb to 20,000 feet to clear the cloud-covered precipices. It was a highly dangerous but critical mission, because the almost-daily flights were an essential part of the Allied effort to keep China in the fight against Japan – as the CBI Theater tied up over 1 million Japanese soldiers for most of the war. Each bombing mission against the enemy required several supply ferries, so combat cargo crews flew no matter what. According to Air Transport Command veterans, it naturally was assumed that if you could see the end of the runway through the rain and mist, your flight was a go. At night, ATC crews sent a jeep down the runway ahead of planes to clear it of farm animals, nocturnal critters and curious indigenous personnel. Although JPAC is well aware that there are many potential crash sites in those mountains, little has been done to recover the remains of these crewmen over all these years. Things began to change, however, with the discovery of a crash site atop a desolate, nameless mountain in the Arunachal Pradesh region of India in December 2006 by Clayton Kuhles, a businessman from Prescott, AZ whose idea of fun is climbing inhospitable mountains. Kuhles posted a photo on the internet from an aircraft named *Hot as Hell* which went down on 25 January 1944 in the towering Himalayas. A nephew of one of the crewman on that ill-fated plane searching for information on his uncle (*1/Lt Irwin Zaetz*) noticed his name and the photo pop up on a website dedicated to planes lost over the Hump. The family of 1/Lt Zaetz contacted Kuhles regarding his discovery of *Hot as Hell* and, they as well as other families of the plane's crewmen, in turn alerted JPAC as to the location and proof of the wreckage. To their dismay, JPAC, based in Hawaii, did not react but offered reasons why they could not inspect the site – i.e. a dangerous location, limited budget, small staff, no recovery agreement with India, etc. In November 2008, JPAC did conduct an initial site survey mission to India and a Phase II Recovery Team visited the site in February 2009 but weather forced them to end the mission early. JPAC is planning a possible return to the region this fall but weather could again be a factor. The families are hoping that this will happen and these airmen will be returned home after all these years. As a sidebar to this story, JPAC estimates that of the 78,000 servicemen missing from WWII about 20,000 to 30,000 are actually recoverable and only 15% of their resources are allocated to WWII MIAs." *"Lost in the Himalayas"*, *Don Vaughan, Military Officer – September 2009*

Postscript - *Bill Graffeo, who passed away earlier this year, served in China-Burma-India (The Forgotten Theater) with the Air Transport Command as a Crew Chief and Aircraft Instrument Specialist and flew 17 missions over the Hump in a C46 Curtiss Commando. Perhaps, he's trading stories up there with the crew of the "Hot as Hell". We miss you, Bill!*

Tiger Wood's Speech at the Inauguration

"I grew up in a military family -- and my role models in life were my Mom and Dad, Lt. Colonel Earl Woods. My dad was a Special Forces operator and many nights friends would visit our home. They represented every branch of service, and every rank. In my Dad, and in those guests, I saw first hand the dedication and commitment of those who serve. They come from every walk of life. From every part of our country. Time and again, across generations, they have defended our safety in the dark of night and far from home. Each day -- and particularly on this historic day -- we honor the men and women in uniform who serve our country and protect our freedom. They travel to the dangerous corners of the world, and we must remember that for every person who is in uniform, there are families who wait for them to come home safely. I am honored that the military is such an important part, not just of my personal life, but of my professional life as well. The golf tournament we do each year here in Washington is a testament to those unsung heroes. I am the son of a man who dedicated his life to his country, family and the military, and I am a better person for it. In the summer of 1864, Abraham Lincoln, the man whose memorial we stand, spoke to the 164th Ohio Regiment and said: "I am greatly obliged to you, and to all who have come forward at the call of their country." Just as they have stood tall for our country -- we must always stand by and support the men and women in uniform and their families. Thank you, and it is now my pleasure to introduce the U.S. Naval Glee Club." "You'll Never Walk Alone", Tiger Woods, 1/19/09

Postscript: *Tiger Woods' 2-minute, 5-second tribute to our nation's military was delivered January 18th at the Inaugural Celebration in Washington, DC. It is said he had been subjected to intense pressure to attend and offer remarks especially so by liberals who have demeaned and criticized him for a decade for not joining their ranks. Yet, at the Lincoln Memorial, instead of paying homage to Barack Obama, Tiger paid tribute to our soldiers. Not once did Tiger mention Obama, the inauguration or the new administration. The media totally ignored his speech!*

Vietnam Lessons for Afghanistan

"More than 30 years have passed since North Vietnam, in gross violation of the 1973 Paris Peace Accords, conquered South Vietnam. That outcome was partly the result of greatly increased logistical support to the North from its communist backers. It was also the result of America's failure to keep its commitments to the South. Those commitments included promises to maintain a robust level of financial support, to replace combat materiel, and even the use of air power to support the South in case of aggression by the North. That failure was the doing of a U.S. Congress that had tired of the country's long involvement in a war in Southeast Asia and cared nothing for the sacrifices of its own armed forces or those of the South Vietnamese people. Since then, whenever America has entered into other military actions abroad or contemplated such commitments, the specter of Vietnam has been raised. It is entirely appropriate that earlier military experiences be examined for such "lessons learned" as they may yield. But it is equally essential that those prior campaigns be accurately understood before any valid comparisons are made. When it comes to the Vietnam War, much skewed or inaccurate commentary has impeded our understanding of that conflict and its outcome. All the better-known early works on the Vietnam War—by Stanley Karnow, Neil Sheehan, George Herring—concentrated disproportionately on the early period of American involvement when Gen. William C. Westmoreland commanded U.S. forces. As a consequence, many came to view the entirety of the war as more or less a homogeneous whole, and to apply to the whole endeavor valid criticisms of the early years, ignoring what happened after Gen. Creighton Abrams took command soon after the 1968 Tet Offensive. William Colby, who headed American support for the South Vietnamese pacification program (and was later director of the CIA), once remarked that the prevalence of such truncated treatments of the Vietnam War was like what Americans would know about World War II if the histories of that conflict had stopped before Stalingrad, the invasion of North Africa and Guadalcanal. We now know, or should, that virtually everything changed when Abrams took command. The changes grew out of his understanding of the nature of the war, and of his conviction that upgrading South Vietnam's armed forces and rooting out the enemy's covert infrastructure in rural hamlets and villages must be accorded equal priority with combat operations. Even combat operations were radically reconfigured. Westmoreland had concentrated on a buildup of American forces—eventually peaking at 543,400 by 1969 in response to his repeated requests for more troops—to be used in large sweeps called "search and destroy" operations. The measure of merit was "body count," the number of enemy killed, based on his conviction that if enough casualties were inflicted on the North Vietnamese and their Viet Cong elements in the South they would be induced to cease their aggression. Westmoreland did, during his four years in command, inflict a horrifying number of casualties. But North Vietnam relentlessly sent more and more men into battle. Westmoreland largely ignored the crucial tasks of upgrading South Vietnam's military forces and supporting pacification, especially the campaign to eradicate the covert enemy infrastructure that used terror and coercion to dominate the rural population. As a consequence, the enemy's covert infrastructure continued to keep the rural peasantry in the South under domination. Meanwhile, South Vietnam's armed forces, consistently outgunned by the enemy, were slowed in their development and consequent ability to take on more responsibility for their nation's security. In the later years, Abrams, along with Ellsworth Bunker (at the head of the embassy in Saigon) and William E.

Colby (in charge of support for pacification) devised a more viable approach for conducting the war even as U.S. forces were being incrementally withdrawn. Security for the South Vietnamese became the new measure of merit. Instead of "search and destroy," tactical operations were now focused on a "clear and hold" objective. Greatly increased South Vietnamese territorial forces, better trained and equipped and integrated into the regular army, provided the "hold." Abrams, Bunker and Colby regarded South Vietnam's President Nguyen Van Thieu as his country's "No. 1 pacification officer." Against the advice of virtually all his advisers, Thieu took the courageous step of organizing and arming a People's Self-Defense Force to back up localized defense forces that defended their home provinces.. Thieu also implemented a "Land to the Tiller" program which, for the first time, brought real land reform to the South Vietnamese peasantry. By 1972 over 400,000 farmers had acquired title to two and a half million acres of land. Tenancy was eliminated. Better intelligence and a structured Phoenix program (as the campaign against the enemy infrastructure was called) progressively identified and neutralized the enemy's covert infrastructure. Most were either captured or induced to rally to the government side, providing valuable sources of intelligence for going after the rest. By the time of the enemy's 1972 Easter Offensive virtually all U.S. ground troops had been withdrawn. Supported by American airpower and naval gunfire, South Vietnam's armed forces gallantly turned back an invasion from the North amounting to the equivalent of some 20 divisions, or about 200,000 troops. Critics were quick to attribute the successful defense to American airpower. Abrams would have none of it. "The Vietnamese had to stand and fight," he said. If they hadn't done that, "ten times the [air] power we've got wouldn't have stopped them." When the last U.S. forces departed South Vietnam in March 1973 pursuant to the Paris Peace Accords, South Vietnam had a viable government and military structure that was positioned—had the U.S. kept its commitments—to sustain itself against the renewed aggression from the North that began almost immediately after the peace accords were signed. When America defaulted on those commitments, South Vietnam was doomed. Lessons learned from the past are only as good as our understanding of the past. This is especially important to keep in mind now, as the commander in chief, his principal national security advisers, and senior military leaders contemplate the next step in Afghanistan. Analogies to the real history of Vietnam could be as useful as those based on a flawed understanding of that conflict are dangerous and misleading.” “The Real Afghan Lessons From Vietnam”, Lewis Sorley, Opinion, WSJ, 10/12/09

“A War of Necessity”

“So what does their commander in chief do now with the war he once declared had to be won but had been almost criminally under-resourced by Bush? Perhaps provide the resources to win it? You would think so. And that's exactly what Obama's handpicked commander requested on Aug. 30 — a surge of 30,000 to 40,000 troops to stabilize a downward spiral and save Afghanistan the way a similar surge saved Iraq. That was more than five weeks ago. Still no response. Obama agonizes publicly as the world watches. On March 27, flanked by his secretaries of defense and state, the president said this: "Today I'm announcing a comprehensive new strategy for Afghanistan and Pakistan." He then outlined a civilian-military counterinsurgency campaign to defeat the Taliban in Afghanistan. And to emphasize his seriousness, the president made clear that he had not arrived casually at this decision. The new strategy, he declared, "marks the conclusion of a careful policy review." The conclusion of an extensive review, the president assured us, that included consultation with military commanders and diplomats, with the governments of Afghanistan and Pakistan, with our NATO allies and members of Congress. The general in charge was then relieved and replaced with Obama's own choice, Stanley McChrystal. And it's McChrystal who submitted the request for the 40,000 troops, a request upon which the commander in chief promptly gagged. The irony is that no one knows more about this kind of warfare than Gen. McChrystal. He was in charge of exactly this kind of "counterterrorism" in Iraq for nearly five years, killing thousands of bad guys in hugely successful under-the-radar operations. When the world's expert on this type of counterterrorism warfare recommends precisely the opposite strategy — "counterinsurgency," meaning a heavy-footprint, population-protecting troop surge — you have the most convincing of cases against counterterrorism by the man who most knows its potential and its limits. And McChrystal was emphatic in his recommendation: To go any other way than counterinsurgency would lose the war. His domestic advisers, led by Rahm Emanuel, tell him if he goes for victory, he'll become LBJ, the domestic visionary destroyed by a foreign war. His vice president holds out the chimera of painless counterterrorism success. Against Emanuel and Biden stand David Petraeus, the world's foremost expert on counterinsurgency (he saved Iraq with it), and Stanley McChrystal, the world's foremost expert on counterterrorism. Whose recommendation on how to fight would you rely on? On Aug. 17, in front of an audience of veterans, the president declared Afghanistan to be "a war of necessity." “New Soliloquy: To Be (LBJ) Or Not To Be” Charles Krauthammer, IBD, 10/9/09

(PLEASE NOTE OUR VETERANS DAY(S) PROGRAM ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE)

OUR 2009 VETERANS DAY(S) SCHEDULE

TUESDAY, 10 NOVEMBER

7:15 Breakfast at Avon Middle School (Park in lot on right)

7:45 Program at Avon Middle School

9:00 Dattco Bus takes Veterans to Pine Grove School

9:15 Program at Pine Grove School

10:00 Bus Returns Veterans to Middle School Parking Lot

WEDNESDAY, 11 NOVEMBER (VETERANS DAY)

7:30 Program at Avon Old Farms Boys School (Park at Fisher Meadow – Board Dattco Bus)

8:30 Board Bus at Old Farms School for Avon High School

9:15 Program begins at Avon High School in Auditorium

10:15 Board Bus for ride to Avon Veterans Memorial on Town Green

11:00 Avon Veterans Memorial Ceremony (Roaring Brook Students Attend)

12:00 Board Bus for ride to Thompson Brook School

12:30 Lunch at Thompson Brook School

1:15 Program at Thompson Brook School

2:00 Bus Returns Veterans to Fisher Meadow Parking Lot

THURSDAY, 12 NOVEMBER

9:30 Veterans Service at St. Ann's Church on Arch Road (All Veterans & Families Invited)

10:15 Coffee & Refreshments at Fr. Bennett Hall – St Ann's Church (In place of Friendly's)

Hope of see many of you at these events – please wear your Blue & Grays, Military Uniforms or Overseas Caps which identify you as a veteran. Remember the children and their teachers look forward to seeing you. This is one of the Highlights of our year!

Bill Newman