



Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States

Post 3272

Avon, Connecticut

“On Target”

(Our Newsletter’s 10th Anniversary Year)

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



**May 2010
LETTER #102**

The Post met on Wednesday, **28 April** at the Italian Club with 47 members in attendance. The *Ladies Auxiliary* prepared another wonderful meal with plenty of second helpings for some hungry troops and their guests.

Our **next meeting** will be held on **Wednesday, 26 May 2010** 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**. Hope to see you there!!!

Prior to the meeting, the Commander presented George Slack with a Buddy Poppy Award to recognize his distributing more than 3000 poppies over the last 5 years. To reach this level George volunteered for as many as 8 time slots or 16 hours during these drives. It is this type of commitment which has allowed us to reach our goals year after year. The Commander also presented Art Ostheimer with a Poppy Commendation for distributing over 2000 poppies over the last 3 years. Another example of a deep commitment to our Poppy Drive and our efforts to increase the size and scope of our donations to veterans causes.

Our speaker for the evening was Avon’s New Town Manager – **Brandon Robertson** who shared with us his enthusiasm for being selected four months ago by the town of Avon as its Town Manager. He discussed his background in town government, outlined the budget process and noted some of the town’s new initiatives. He then answered a number of questions from the members. It was a wonderful opportunity for our members to meet Brandon and we hope he will visit us again. Our next speaker was **Rebecca Wareing**, a new member, who served with the U.S. Army in Bosnia as a Sergeant in Public Affairs. She distributed a handout which outlined the role of Public Affairs in the Armed Forces and discussed her background in this area. Her talk was very informative and was enjoyed by all. We are delighted that she will serve as the Post’s Public Relation Chairperson and bring her extensive experience to enhance our public communications effort.

Commander Bill Newman 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. *Chaplain Bob Galiette* offered the VFW Prayer and *Ed Simonds* provided the POW/MIA Prayer. The minutes of the last meeting and the financial report were available on the tables for the members to review courtesy of *Adjutant Aldo Vernesoni* and *Quartermaster Don Perreault*. Separate motions were made to accept the minutes and the financial report as provided, seconded and approved by the members present.

Commander Newman administered the New Member Oath to Andy Arsenault, Past Commander of the Governor's Horse Guard, who has been a member for a couple of years but his duties and our schedule made it difficult for us to properly initiate him into the VFW. Andy invited the members to attend the Horse Guard's upcoming Memorial Service at St. Ann's Church on Sunday, 22 May at 1230 hours.

Comrades in Distress this month include *Mike Battaglino, Mike Busha, Dr. Tim Curran, Mike Dlubac, Mike Gresh, John Higgins, Josephine Hinman, Jim Katzung, Nat Michon, Ben Pereslugoff, Harold Schaal, Al Simonelli & Ed Stepan*. 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 (860-675-9691) know if you learn of any other Post members who are ill or hospitalized. Members added to the list this month are underlined.

Under Committee Reports, the Commander distributed poppies, cans and Charlie's magic slick to the 40 Poppy Drive volunteers. He noted that we have 2 types of can – the standard type and the reusable type. He also requested that each volunteer take 3 timeslots – so that we cover all the times we have been allotted. Our Opening Day is Friday, May 14th at Wal-Mart and also at the Canton Discount Food Center. Bill noted we still have openings and some volunteers have not signed-up for time-slots yet. *Rich Ecke and Lee Wilson* have agreed to act as Poppy Drive Assistants to insure that volunteers have sufficient poppies, cans and other logistical support.

Quartermaster Don Perreault presented the 2010-2011 Post slate of nominations to the members. The slate was also published in the April Newsletter. After determining there were no other nominations from the floor, a motion was made by *George England* to accept the slate as presented. This motioned was seconded and the slate of officers and chairpersons was approved by the members present. The officers will be installed at our next meeting on 26 May.

Bill Samol, Memorial Parade Chairman, updated us on the parade arrangements noting that we will have plenty of antique cars for veterans who need a ride. He said a flyover has been arranged but it would not be Blackhawks or A-10 this year. He asked members to be at the Tow Path Annex at 1030 hours and the parade would kickoff at 1100 hours. In case of inclement weather we would assemble at the Avon Senior Center for a brief ceremony.

Regarding Communications, the Commander read a note from the Capitani Family thanking us for being present at Lou's funeral service and acting as Honor Guards. The Commander also advised that he talked with Mary Ann Sutter who said that Doug and his detachment in Iraq are doing well but have moved back to an American Base. She emailed some monthly newsletters that the detachment wrote for the families and included information and photos on their activities and mission. She also noted Doug is at the halfway mark in his tour of duty in Iraq.

Under the Good of the Order, the Commander advised that we are ready to place our order for Post Jackets with our vendor in Hartford. He asked that those members who have ordered a jacket review the list that he circulated at this meeting and assure that the size and personal lettering is correct. The cost per jacket will be \$89.00 which includes all stitching and 2 patches.

The Commander also noted that we have new flags and additional medallions for decorating veterans graves. To be uniform we should decorate the Avon Cemeteries no earlier than Armed Forces Day – 15 May nor later than Saturday, 22 May so that flags are in place at least a week before the Memorial Day period. Please contact him for flags and/or medallions.

It was also informed the members that we are still holding on tenuously to 2nd place in the quest for another All-State Designation. To insure we maintain that position we need at least 2 new members prior to 15 May which is the membership cutoff date for this year. If you have a new member prospect please try to have them fill out an application as soon as possible and get it to me. We have to mail it in to VFW National prior to the 15th deadline.

Post Activities & Developments

The Commander noted that we received the following new applications for Post membership since our last meeting:

Doug Rogers - a veteran of the Gulf War who served in the U. S. Army on active duty from 27Aug87 to 17Jul01. Doug served as a SSGT with Special Forces for over 9 years. In addition to Special Forces and Ranger Tabs, he holds the CIB, Master Parachutist Wings, Thai Airborne Wings...

Jeff Haggett – an Air Force Veteran who served from Sep 1997 to Apr 2004. He went to technical school in Sheppard AFB, Wichita Falls, TX as a HVAC technician, Civil Engineering Unit and also to Peterson AFB, Colorado Springs, CO., 21 Civil Engineering Unit. His deployments include the Al Dhafra AFB in United Arab Emirates, Camp Snoop in Doha Qatar, Camp Virginia in Kuwait and Camp Victory North in Baghdad, Iraq. Jeff resides in Bristol and is an Officer with the Avon Police Department.

Matt Beschler – A Navy Veteran who served as an Gas Turbine Technician (E6) from 17Oct80 to 16Jan87 which included over 5 years of sea duty. Matt last served on the USS Clark (FFG-11). His decorations include the Meritorious Unit Commendation, Coast Guard Unit Commendation, Navy Good Conduct Medal, Navy Expeditionary Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal and Sea Service Deployment Ribbon. He lives in Berlin.

Bob Kelly – A veteran of the Navy who served as a Captain and Dental Officer from 7Jul79 to 30Nov00 including 4 years in the Navy Reserves and 2 years 7 months of sea duty. Bob's decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal, Navy Commendation Medal, Navy Expeditionary Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Sea Service Deployment Ribbon and the Expert Pistol Badge. His home is in West Hartford.

Evan O'Donnell – is serving on active duty as a Lance Corporal with the Marine Corps on an Atlantic Naval Cruise and recently participated in the Haitian Relief Effort where he received Imminent Danger Pay. This tour of duty now qualifies for VFW membership according to a bulletin from National. Evan's home of record is West Hartford and he is the son of *Brian O'Donnell* – a member of our Post and a Past Commander.

Frank Celentano – A WWII Army Veteran who served in the European Theater. He entered military service in Sep 43, took basic in Fort Benning and was assigned to ICo/377 Inf, 95th Div at Indiantowngap, Pa. Shipped overseas in Aug 44 to England then to Normandy joining Patton's 3rd Army. Major battles included Metz and Moselle River, Saar River Towns, Battle of the Bulge, Rhine Crossing and Ruhr Pocket. Promoted to SSGT and Squad Leader. Left active service in Nov.45 and joined the 79th Div as a reservist. Promoted to LT and retired as a Lieutenant Colonel and Battalion Commander of the 314 Infantry after 26 years of military service in 1969. Decorations include Silver Star, European Campaign Medal w/ 4 battle stars and Combat Infantryman Badge. Frank lives in Simsbury.

At our Coffee on 22 April we presented to *Tom Chrosniak* a Certificate of Appreciation recognizing his outstanding service as our Post Chaplain for the period 2008 – 2010. Tom, as you know, will be stepping down as our Chaplain in June. Tom greatly expanded the duties of the Post Chaplain to include visits to members in distress at home and at care facilities, delivered fruit baskets, sent well-well and sympathy cards – and also contacting members who we had not heard from for sometime to re-establish contact and determine if they needed any assistance. Great job, Tom!

On 6 May our Color Guard, consisting of *Rich Ecke, Mike Gould, Fred Hudon and Lee Wilson*, participated in the National Day of Prayer Ceremony held in Avon on the Town Green. *Bill Newman* acted a Captain of the Color Guard and *Bob Galiette and Ed Simonds* also participated in the program. Although the weather was threatening early in the day, it turned out to be a beautiful day and ceremony.

Tim Curran has confirmed our Golf Fundraiser Dates for this year with the management of Blue Fox Run. We are scheduled for the following three (3) dates – 26th June, 14 August and 11 September. We will pass around sign-up sheets for these dates at our next meeting. Remember this is the key fundraiser for our General Fund – so help us on these dates as it's a fun time!

Memorial Day Visits to the Avon Cemeteries

Commander Newman requests as many members as possible to attend our Memorial Day Service at the Avon Cemeteries. This is really one of our profound duties on Memorial Day – a day set aside to honor our fallen and departed comrades. We meet by O'Neil Chevrolet at 0730 hours and drive together to visit six Avon Cemeteries where we offer prayers, place a wreath, salute our departed comrades and play taps. Please join us and participate in this traditional ceremony which honors and remembers our departed comrades – many of whom were members of our Post. Remember wherever the body of a comrade lies is hallowed ground!

After these memorial services at the cemeteries, we are invited for coffee and donuts at Lee & Terri Wilson's house on 64 Mountain View Ave. You can park your car by the Tow Path Annex (where the parade starts) and walk over to their house. All our veterans in the parade are invited.

We also ask as many veterans as possible to march or ride with us during our Memorial Day Parade. We assemble at the Towpath Annex on Simsbury Road at 1030 hours and step off at 1100 hours. Please wear your Blue & Greys with Overseas Cap, a Military Uniform or something that clearly identifies you as a Veteran. Remember you are the focal point of this Parade – so please participate!!!

Remember the Secretary of State Susan Bysiewicz will honor WWII Veterans from Avon at a ceremony on Monday, 17 May at 4pm in the Avon High School. All Avon WWII Veterans are encouraged to attend.

Tim Curran advises us that the Vietnam Veterans Moving Wall is coming to West Hartford on 17 May with an opening ceremony at 7pm. The Moving Wall will be at the Town Hall from 17 to 20 May.

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS POST 3272, AVON CT
“AVON MEMORIAL DAY OBSERVANCES May 31, 2010”

The Avon V F W and their Color Guard, as has been their solemn duty since 1946, will observe Memorial Day by first **visiting the Avon cemeteries beginning at 8am**. They will place wreaths, perform a brief service and play taps at each cemetery in honor of our departed veterans.

Avon's 65th Annual Memorial Parade will step off on **Monday, May 31st, at 11:00 am** according to **Bill Samol**, Parade Chairman. The Governor's Horse Guard will lead the parade, followed by the Avon Police and their Color Guard, members of the Avon Veterans of Foreign Wars and their Color Guard, (along with all other veterans who would like to march), the Avon Fire Department and their Color Guard, and the Avon High School Marching Band. Also included in this honored group, are the Boy and Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts and Brownies. There will be a fly-over from the Connecticut Army National Guard at approximately 11:15 am.

The parade will begin at Towpath Annex on Simsbury Road, stop at the Avon Congregational Church Cemetery for a short memorial service to honor all fallen veterans, proceed down Old Farms Road to Columbus Circle, continue around the circle, stop at the Prince Thomas of Savoy Club to honor their departed veterans, then march back to Route 44 and conclude at the Veteran's memorial at Avon Park South.

The public is cordially invited to participate in this traditional memorial event and observe with us the true meaning of Memorial Day – a day in which we honor those who served their country in times of war and especially those who gave their lives to ensure the freedom and independence we now enjoy. By honoring those who lost their lives defending us, we preserve their memory, service and sacrifice.

At 12 noon, a brief memorial service will be held at the Avon Veteran's Memorial with **Bill Samol** as the Master of Ceremonies and **Bill Newman** as the Commander of Avon VFW Post 3272. The invocation will be offered by **Tom Chrosniak, Jr.**, Chaplain of VFW Post 3272 and a Marine Veteran of WWII (Pacific). After the presentation of the Memorial Wreath and Forget-Me-Nots, a Firing Squad Salute will be rendered by the **Governor's Horse Guard** and TAPS will be played by members of the **Avon High School Band**. The National Anthem this year will be sung by **Alexandra McDonald**, an 8th grader at the Avon Middle School. **Heather St. Peter** will sing Amazing Grace. **Gary Jensen** will play the bagpipes. Our keynote speaker this year will be **Bob Galiette**, an Army Air Force Veteran of WWII (Pacific) and the incoming Chaplain of VFW Post 3272.

The War Memorial on the Town Green lists **719 Veterans** from the Avon community who served their country from the Mexican War to the Gulf War and separately honors **41 Veterans** who gave their lives in four wars.

“Show your strong support for America, its Armed Forces and its Veterans – especially during this time of War. This is a year for families and friends to demonstrate their patriotic spirit.”

PLEASE NOTE: In the event of rain, the ceremonies will be conducted at Avon's Senior Citizen Center at 11:00 am, and the public is invited.

Noteworthy Quotes