

Connecticut Veterans Hall of Fame

CLASS OF 2020
INDUCTION CEREMONY

July 29, 2021



CONNECTICUT VETERANS HALL OF FAME 2020 INDUCTION CLASS

July 29, 2021

Dear Veterans, families, and friends:



I am honored to join you tonight to recognize the Connecticut residents whose outstanding achievements have inspired us and left a lasting legacy of service for generations to come.

These 2020 Connecticut Veterans Hall of Fame inductees served their state and their country honorably in the Armed Forces, and then went on to do the same in cities and towns across the state. They have dedicated themselves to building thriving communities and a stronger Connecticut.

We are grateful to the Class of 2020 and all of the members of the Connecticut Veterans Hall of Fame for their brave and patriotic service, leadership and commitment to improving the lives of others.

Sincerely,



Susan Bysiewicz
Lieutenant Governor



CONNECTICUT VETERANS HALL OF FAME 2020 INDUCTION CLASS

July 29, 2021

Dear Veterans, families, and friends:



After a seven month delay due to the pandemic, I am honored to join with Lt. Governor Susan Bysiewicz and the CT National Guard Adjutant General, Fran Evon, to induct the members of CT Veterans Hall of Fame, Class of 2020. The CT Veterans Hall of Fame recognizes the positive impact that a Veteran has had in the community after their military service.

The class of 2020 inductees, living and posthumous, collectively served for decades in the U.S. military in wars, conflicts, stability and humanitarian operations across dozens of countries and multiple continents. Their commitment and honor demonstrated through their military service set the foundation for their continued contributions and achievements throughout their post military lives – we honor them tonight for their military service and for their continued contributions achieved for others –their neighbors, their fellow Veterans, and for a multitude of communities, causes and countless residents across this state.

My sincere thanks to the Class of 2020, true patriots who epitomize service to country and to community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Thomas J. Saadi".

Thomas J. Saadi
Commissioner

CONNECTICUT VETERANS HALL OF FAME

History

The Connecticut Veterans Hall of Fame was established to increase the awareness of the lifetime contributions of Veterans after completion of honorable military service. The Connecticut Veterans Hall of Fame is not a military hall of fame. Those selected for the honor of induction are Veterans who honorably served their country through military service and who continue to serve and inspire their fellow man with their deeds and accomplishments throughout their lifetime.

Each year the committee selects inductees from applications received from across the state and nation. These Veterans will be leaders in a variety of areas, such as arts, education, public service, volunteer activities, and community and business leadership to name a few. Most importantly, they will have made significant impacts on the lives of others and their communities.

To be eligible for the Connecticut Veterans Hall of Fame, the nominee must have served their country honorably in a branch of military service and continued to serve their communities, state and nation after discharge. Because so many of America's Veterans continue to give to their communities, state and nation after honorable military service, the Connecticut Veterans Hall of Fame seeks to recognize them for their countless contributions to society.

The Connecticut Veterans Hall of Fame is administered by the Connecticut Department of Veterans Affairs and the Connecticut Military Department on behalf of the Office of the Governor.

The first class of the Connecticut Veterans Hall of Fame was inducted in November 2005 and includes the 41st President of the United States, George Herbert Walker Bush.

In 2015, a plaque was unveiled and placed in the Legislative Office Building with the names of all Inductees of the Connecticut Veterans Hall of Fame since 2005. Each future class of Inductees will be named on this plaque.



HARVEY CURTISS BARNUM JR.
Cheshire (Virginia)

U.S. MARINE CORPS

Colonel Harvey Curtiss Barnum, Jr. earned the Medal of Honor as a young Marine officer in December 1965 for his combat actions in Vietnam. Shortly after receiving the Medal of Honor, Barnum was awarded the VFW's Military Man of the Year and took on the position of the Flag Officer's staff, which provided him the opportunity to address service members and veterans across the country in which he advocated for military service. Upon his completion of his 28-year career, Barnum accepted a position as Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Reserve Affairs. He served his fellow Sailors and Marines for eight years making six trips to Iraq and Afghanistan. In this capacity, he had the opportunity to advise the Department of Veterans Affairs, Veteran Service Organizations and corporate America on how to care for not only wounded service members, but all persons who had served their country in uniform. Additionally, during his tenure as Deputy Assistant Secretary, our country endured terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001. As the country moved towards war and increased military presence across the globe, Col. Barnum managed the greatest mobilization of Marine Corps and Navy Reserves since the Korean War. Col. Barnum's life has made a significant difference to many in Connecticut. Leading was not a new concept to Barnum and as a Boy Scout, he led the way by becoming a member and subsequently chief of the Order of the Arrow, which is the Boy Scouts of America's National Honor Society. Barnum would regularly serve as a volunteer at the Boy Scouts of America's Camp Mattatuck in Plymouth, CT teaching and mentoring his fellow Scouts and spent summers as a counselor at the Times Farm Camp in Andover, CT. In 1967, Barnum was honored as the "Connecticut Man of the Year." Volunteering for his community continued as Barnum was a member of the Cheshire Volunteer Fire Dept. and today, he remains an honorary Cheshire Volunteer Fire Dept. Chief. Today Col. Barnum still serves. He is an Advisory Board member for both SEGS4VETS and the Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation. He serves on the Board of Directors for the Marine Corps Law Enforcement Foundation, a nonprofit military services organization.



SEVERIO "BOB" FODERO

Orange

Posthumously

U.S. ARMY

Colonel Severio Fodero became involved in the U.S. military when he joined the Army ROTC at UConn. He learned the value of teamwork and formed bonds of loyalty and friendship with fellow recruits. His superiors recognized his discipline and respectful disposition and upon completion of training, he was appointed Commanding Officer of the Ambulance Unit of the 555th Medical Service Corps in Orleans, France. In 1956, Bob returned statewide with the rank of Captain and served as Adjutant, Executive Officer and Deputy Commander with the 340th General Hospital Army Reserves in New Haven. He was named Chief of Staff for the Columbus Day Parade in 1975 and Parade Marshal in 1976. When the Columbus Day parade was no more, Bob and the Veterans Affairs Committee (VAAC) was tasked with exploring other options for honoring New Haven Veterans. He and the VAAC initiated a free Memorial Day Concert in 1996, sponsored by community businesses and local educational institutions and the New Haven Symphony headlined the concert which was held at the Shubert Theater. Bob served as Chair of the Orange War Remembrance Committee to plan a Veterans' memorial honoring residents for their military service. A memorial garden was developed with a brick walkway inscribed with names of military honorees in the center of town. The Police Dept. appointed Bob to coordinator of bioterrorism and for his contributions to the community, Bob was named a Living Treasure of Orange in 2011. He served as President of both the CT Lung Assoc. and the New England Public Health Assoc. He headed several sub-committees of the CT Public Health Assoc. and as member of the CT State Clean Air Task Force, Bob served on the Governor's Clean Air Commission. Bob was also on the Board of Directors of Opportunity House of Hamden, a residential facility for autistic adults. He was hired as Asst. to the Director of Student Health Services at Yale University and appointed to the exploratory committee for extending health care to all Yale employees including spouses and families. This resulted in the creation of the Yale Health Plan. He represented Yale on the Disaster Recovery Committee in New Haven and during the entirety of his 42-year career at the Yale Health Plan, Bob coordinated medical services at Yale home football games.

CONNECTICUT VETERANS HALL OF FAME



THEODORE "TED" GRAZIANI

Army

U.S. ARMY

Ted volunteered for the draft at the age of 18 and was sworn in on August 22, 1966. He served in Vietnam, Phu Loi with the 539th Transportation Company and transferred to the 610th Transportation Company in An Khe and then Da Nang. Before the company moved to Da Nang, he was part of the Advanced Party Volunteers along with seven other soldiers to scope out where the main company would be setting up. He also served during two major campaigns: Tet Offensive, January 30, 1968-April 1, 1968 and Counter Offensive Phase IV from April 2, 1968-June 6, 1968. Ted additionally volunteered to extend his tour by two additional months. He was honorably discharged on June 6, 1968. Due to Ted's tours in Vietnam, years later he was diagnosed with PTSD and exposure to Agent Orange. Through Ted's work within the legislature (his accomplishments are too lengthy to include all of them), he enabled military spouses to receive unemployment compensation if voluntarily leaving a job to accompany a spouse requiring them to relocate for active-duty service. He entered Connecticut into the Interstate Compact on Military Education which eases the transition of military families moving to another state by having uniformed educational standards. Ted also established Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day, March 30th of each year and continues to coordinate a ceremony at the state capitol with the CT Dept. of Veterans Affairs every year. He assisted in the expansion of the State of CT tuition waiver at public universities and colleges and allowed members of the National Guard credit for graduate level courses. Ted was instrumental in the expansion of eligibility for access to our States Veterans Cemeteries and the CT Wartime Service Medal and bonuses to honor our service members and National Guardsmen contributions to our state. Ted has served on several boards, committees and veteran service orgs. supporting military veterans and their families. Some of these include the Soldiers, Sailors & Marine Fund, Vietnam Veterans of America, Disabled American Veterans, Ellington American Legion and VFW and Employer Support of the Guard & Reserve (ESGR). Ted's continued commitment and service to his fellow comrades is always first and foremost on his mind, there is never a day that goes by that he isn't in one way or another supporting those who served.

CONNECTICUT VETERANS HALL OF FAME



EDWARD ROBERT KARAZIN, JR.
Westport

U.S. ARMY

Judge Karazin's desire to serve his community and others is part of his lifeblood. After marrying in May of 1965 and expecting to spend two years in the Army in Augusta, GA at Fort Gordon serving as a civil affairs officer, the war in Vietnam abruptly changed those plans. In November of 1965, Judge Karazin was sent to Vietnam for a one-year tour of duty as a civil affairs officer working the Pacification Program in Quang Tin Province, South Vietnam as a MACV advisor. Upon his discharge, he was presented with the Bronze Star Medal and then the Vietnamese Government awarded him with the Vietnamese Gallantry Cross. After his return, he immersed himself into his two other passions: the law and his family. As a member of the bench, and previously as a lawyer, Judge Karazin has supported Veterans in several ways. He is a member and supporter of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 399 in Westport, he has participated in local parades on a regular basis, speaks at local schools about his service in the military and participates in local veterans events. Each year he leads the Veteran's Day ceremony at the courthouse in Stamford. As a lawyer, a good part of his pro bono work was done on behalf of the VFW Post 339. Judge Karazin is a former member of the Little League Board of Directors and a team coach, Governing Board of Pop Warner Football and Lector at the Church of the Assumption. He taught in-service training to the Westport Police Dept. and chaired a fundraiser for Capt. Eugene Pasacreta of that department to create a park in his honor, and is a former member of the Westport Red Cross. He belongs to the VFW Post 399 in Westport and Port 5 National Assoc. of Naval Veterans in Bridgeport. Judge Karazin was also an Adjunct Professor at Western Connecticut State University where he taught legal writing, research/analysis and Family Law.



KRISTAPS JURIS KEGGI
Middlebury

U.S. ARMY

Kristaps Juris Keggi was born in Riga, Latvia and as a child he survived WWII. In 1949, as Communism was starting to spread throughout that region, he was lucky to get to America. Arriving on a refugee ship, he passed by the Statue of Liberty and landed on the docks of Manhattan. Eight years later, he volunteered for military service and another eight years later, was on his way to the war in Vietnam. After immigrating to the U.S., he attended the Brunswick School in Greenwich, CT and then graduated from Yale University in 1955, and from Yale University School of Medicine in 1959. He served as the Orthopedic Surgery Chief, Third Surgical Hospital, Mobil Army, in Vietnam from Sept. 1965 to June 1966. Dr. Keggi has volunteered for many charitable endeavors and has received many awards, local and international, through the years. He has created and endowed many educational efforts including as the Founder and President of the Keggi Orthopedic Foundation and Orthopedic Exchange Program between the U.S. and former Soviet Republics. He created the Yale Keggi Fund for International Orthopedic Education in 2008, and created the Yale Keggi Library Baltic Internships program. Dr. Keggi was honored in 2018 by the City of Waterbury, Waterbury Veterans Memorial Committee for his lifetime of service working with and treating patients with the wounds of war. As an orthopedic surgeon who trained at Yale and served in the Vietnam Theater, he was the senior author of the seminal American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons Instructional Course on “Early Care of Severe War Wounds,” detailing how battlefield wounds should be treated. He has given this lecture throughout the U.S., the Walter Reed Army Hospital and the Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences in Latvia, Russia along with several other countries.



MICHAEL “MIKE” KELLETT
Shelton

U.S. NAVY

Michael Kellett served honorably in the U.S. Navy, specifically at sea on board the USS Tuett. Since returning to Connecticut after Naval duty in the mid-1980's, Mike has served with both the Shelton and State of CT Fire Departments with distinction. Mike is a life-time member of the American Legion, Dept. of CT and as a member of Post 16, has worked to grow his post, improve the building and promote local programs to assist the community. As both a father and Legionnaire, Mike spent countless days and weeks over many years volunteering in Shelton to support education, public service, volunteer activities and support his community. He became a Flag Football Coach, a Cub Scout Leader, an officer for the Shelton HS Wrestling Parents Club and a member of the Elizabeth Shelton School Father's Club. In service to the Shelton community, Mike has been Deputy Fire Marshal, Fire Prevention Chief, a member of the Board of Trustees for White Hills Volunteer Fire Company 5 and Shelton Fire Service Instructor. In addition to his service on Shelton boards and departments, Mike has served as Chairman for the Shelton 50th Anniversary White Hills Fire Company Fair Committee. For over ten years, Mike ran the Children's Easter Egg Hunts and Christmas Parties (playing Santa for many of those years). He also worked various pancake breakfast and block party committees. In October of 2006, Mike brought the "Moving Wall" to Shelton. The wall was transported with great care on flatbed tractor trailers and an estimated 200 plus motorcycle riders met the Moving Wall at the state line in Danbury on Oct. 11. On Oct. 13, over 2000 intermediate and high school students visited the wall and met with in-country Vietnam vets as part of the Post Moving Wall committee's educational program. He has worked year after year with young people for fire safety, bicycle safety, taught Scouts about our American Flag and flag etiquette. He partnered with "Safe Kids Greater Naugatuck Valley," and every year since 2004 he teaches home and fire safety to children and adults. Mike is a genuine, caring person that is committed to serve and inspire his community county and state. Most importantly, he has made a significant impact on the lives of countless veterans, their families as well as many others.

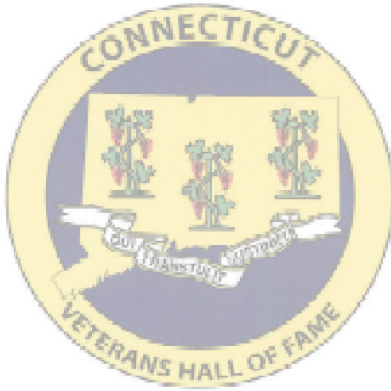
CONNECTICUT VETERANS HALL OF FAME



KENNETH R. "K. ROBERT" LEWIS
New London

U.S. AIR FORCE

K. Robert Lewis was honorably discharged from the U.S. Air Force on Easter Sunday, 1976 at McGuire AFB with the rank of Airman First Class. He is a Vietnam-era veteran and since has served in numerous capacities in the American Legion. He has been a member of the National Legislative Council since 2001, and currently serves on the Executive Committee of the VA&R Commission. K. Robert volunteered as a representative of the Soldiers' Sailors' & Marines' Fund aiding needy and at-risk veterans and their families. He served ten years as editor of the CT Legionnaire Newspaper, a quarterly publication reaching more than 25,000 members, providing timely information about veterans' issues and benefits. As a member of the American Legion Facilities Advisory Committee, K. Robert investigated proposed VA closures across the country that threatened VA capability to provide healthcare to eligible veterans including long-term care. Travelling the country to inspect targeted facilities and proposed Enhanced Use Leases, advocating for Assured VA Funding a year in advance. The Windham VA outpatient was slated for closure. Cooperating with Congressman Rob Simmons, the clinic remained open and expanded. Veterans across America benefitted from the transparency brought by the committee as buildings were renovated and repurposed to provide care in lieu of being sold or shuttered. As Chairman of the VA&R Commission, K. Robert ensured that veterans' influence was felt nationwide and veterans' needs were addressed. Benefits such as access to world class healthcare, expanded education benefits, and compensation earned as a result of honorable military service to America, are sacrosanct. He chaired numerous influential panels on timely issues such as PTSD/TBI, backlogs in veterans' claims and appeals, long-term care and others. His commission panels were featured on C-Span five times. K. Robert provides training for volunteer U.S. Postal Service officers several times a year, certifying their training and educating them on the newest benefits available, maintaining client confidentiality and proper communication with the Dept. Service Office. He and his team conduct outreach when possible, to VA Vet Centers, Homeless Shelters, Stand Downs and numerous veterans events.



CONNECTICUT VETERANS HALL OF FAME CLASS OF 2020 INDUCTION CEREMONY

JULY 29, 2021

PRELUDE

Connecticut National Guard 102nd Army Band

ENTRANCE OF THE OFFICIAL PARTY

Master of Ceremonies

USMC Veteran Gil Simmons

Morning Meteorologist WTNH/NEWS8

NATIONAL ANTHEM

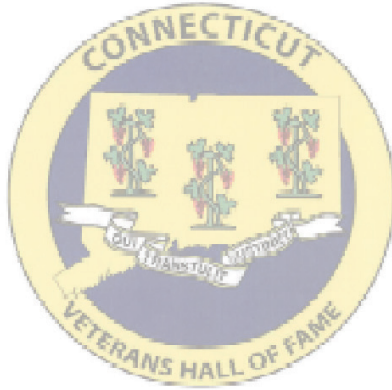
Connecticut National Guard 102nd Army Band

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND MOMENT OF SILENCE

INVOCATION

Chaplain Seth Johnson

Captain CTANG 103AW



REMARKS AND INTRODUCTION OF THE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

Thomas J. Saadi
Commissioner, Department of Veterans Affairs

REMARKS

The Honorable Susan Bysiewicz
Lieutenant Governor

INDUCTION - CLASS OF 2020
Lieutenant Governor Susan Bysiewicz
Commissioner Thomas J. Saadi
Major General Francis Evon

BENEDICTION

Chaplain Seth Johnson

*VIP Reception for Inductees and their guests
immediately following the program at the
Officer's Club at Gov. William A. O'Neill State Armory*



STEWART BRETT MCKINNEY

*Fairfield**Posthumously*

U.S. AIR FORCE

Stewart Brett McKinney was born in Pittsburg, PA on January 30, 1931. His family moved to Fairfield when he was a young child. Upon graduation from high school, Stewart attended Princeton University until enlisting in the U.S. Air Force in 1951. While in the Air Force, he was one of 40 officers and enlisted men selected to attend the Dwight D. Eisenhower Citizen's Training Program at Columbia University in 1953. Stewart was honorably discharged in 1955 with the rank of sergeant receiving the National Defense Service medal and Air Force Good Conduct Medal. He graduated from Yale with a BA in American History in 1958. After serving his country, Stewart returned to Fairfield, married and raised his family on a parcel of property he purchased from his mother's father, who donated almost 200 acres of forest to the Town of Fairfield as open space. Stewart was elected to the CT General Assembly in 1966, reelected in 1968 and served as Minority Leader for that term. During this time, he was also a director at Bridgeport Hospital, the Bridgeport Child Guidance Clinic, the Rehabilitation Center of Eastern Fairfield County and Bridgeport Chamber of Commerce. In 1970, Stewart was elected to the Ninety-Second Congress and was reelected to the eight succeeding Congresses serving from January 1971 until his passing in 1987. While in Congress, he was a member of the House Committee on Banking, Finance and Urban Affairs, the Small Business Committee and District of Columbia Committee. The committees on which he served, and his time in the Air Force gave him the insight and the ability to affect change when he thought change was needed no matter the scope of the issue. His constituents were able to make their voices heard, and he was always available to listen. Congressman McKinney started his political career during the time when America began building up its involvement in the Vietnam War, and created a draft to supply manpower. Being a veteran, himself, and having immediate contact with the families of young men in his district as a state legislator, he was aware of the concerns and needs of our veterans, and service personnel and did all he could to help these service members and their families during this turbulent time.

CONNECTICUT VETERANS HALL OF FAME



MIRCA REYES

Groton

U.S. NAVY

Mirca Reyes is a disabled Navy Veteran who began serving her country by enlisting in the Navy shortly after graduating from New London High School. She served honorably for four years and upon separation from active service she joined the Naval Reserve but, as a result of her service-connected disability, was forced to separate. Mirca's selfless support of veterans has taken shape in her efforts to help the most vulnerable, as evidenced in her service to the homeless, those struggling with PTSD, and those seeking to return to society following incarceration. She possesses the rare quality of empathy making her noteworthy. This characteristic is also evident in her ability to connect at a personal level. Throughout her career she has repeatedly been recognized for her exemplary ability to build professional relationships, establish close and collaborative connections with co-workers and service-providers, and most importantly, built trust with the veterans for whom she serves. She provides high-quality service to every veteran, and this has frequently been life changing. This is most evident in the sustained and exemplary passion she demonstrates in her current role, working tirelessly to maintain a high placement rate of homeless veterans, an act that regularly returns dignity to those who have served our nation. Harkening back to the earliest moments of her service to veterans, formed in her own journey as a service-disabled veteran, Mirca has made good on her ambition to educate herself on VA procedures and policies in order to be a better advocate. Over the course of several years, she has developed a comprehensive working knowledge of various veteran agencies and established professional relationships that allow her to act in the best interest of her client's needs. She has demonstrated a proven record of assisting Connecticut veterans when many felt lost in the overwhelming complexities of the Federal VA System. She has been able to work with these citizens to gain employment, seek necessary health treatment, gain earned VA benefits, or secure housing. She has dedicated much of her effort to those who need the greatest assistance.



MANUEL RODRIGUES
Coventry

U.S. MARINE CORPS

Manuel (Manny) Rodrigues served his country honorably while in the Marine Corps and continues to serve well after his military service. His focus has continued to be on helping not only veterans, but the entire community. Manny assists veterans who are in need of assistance obtaining benefits available from the Veterans Administration, whether that means driving them to Newington to get help or driving them to local medical appointments. Manny works directly with Capt. Nathan Hale Middle School in Coventry to promote the VFW Patriots Pen program that encourages students to write essays on a patriotic theme. Judges are enlisted from our veteran members and Manny emcees an awards presentation at the school. Manny also works with the local Boy Scouts and their leaders to promote a public Flag Retirement Ceremony each year on Flag Day. He teaches the scouts about our national flag, its history and its importance to our country. He is the chairman of the Connecticut State VFW Scouting program, and he enjoys participating in Eagle Scout presentation ceremonies across Connecticut. Manny is especially effective working with our young people. He instituted a Junior Air Rifle program in Coventry that teaches early teens about firearms safety, the proper handling of air rifles and how to develop the shooting skills that will allow his team of students to compete against other rifle teams as their skills progress. Manny works with the Coventry Senior Center in hosting Veterans Day ceremonies each year. He continues to spearhead the planning for each year's Memorial Day Parade arranging everything from getting necessary permits, arranging for flyovers, invitations, etc. He also coordinates with the Town of Coventry and the American Legion Auxiliary to ensure that all veterans' graves in Coventry's cemeteries are decorated with American flags for Memorial Day. As a retired union electrician, Manny willingly offers his maintenance and electrical skills at various locations in his town. When the First Congregational Church of Coventry volunteered to be a distribution site for Connecticut's Food Share program to distribute food to needy persons, they asked Manny for his assistance and he arranged for some American Legion Post 52 members to help the church with this worthy mission.



HEATHER SANDLER
Glastonbury

U.S. NAVY

Heather Sandler enlisted and served in the U.S. Navy from 1995 to 2005, completing four deployments in ten years; two on the USS Abraham Lincoln CVN72 in support of Operation Southern Watch, and two on the USS Harry S. Truman CVN-75 with Strike Fighter Squadron 37 supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom. She completed a shore duty rotation to VX-23, Naval Aircraft Test Squadron and was a work center supervisor in the ordnance shop. During her final deployment on the USS Truman, she served as night shift Quality Assurance Supervisor. Heather earned three Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals and three Navy Good Conduct Medals during her ten-year enlistment. Heather was a Legal Admin. Specialist/Congressional Liaison at the Dept. of Veterans Affairs, Benefits Administration's Hartford Regional Office. She served as Sr. Constituent Liaison for Military and Veterans Affairs for U.S. Senator Blumenthal. Heather worked aiding members of congress on veterans' claims and appeals with the Dept. of Veterans Affairs. CT was chosen as the "Pilot State" for this Federal VA Program engaging military communities and families to work in concert with the Regional and National VA leadership developing solutions and identifying opportunities to improve the veteran experience. She was instrumental in scheduling Secretary of the Federal VA (then Secretary McDonald) for the first in the nation MyVA/CVEB Town Hall meeting at CCSU. Connecticut's successful efforts were used nationwide as a model for other states and communities. She was also the first co-chair of the CT Community Veterans Engagement Board which forged many partnerships and projects that will serve Connecticut's veteran and military communities for years to come. She speaks with students and at various events about her experiences and as a woman serving our country, and is also recorded on the Library of Congress' Veteran's History Project and interviewed with Daria Summers at the viewing of her film "Lioness" at CCSU. For the past four years, Heather has shared her experiences at the Yale School of Nursing and uses her wealth of practical knowledge gained through her professional work and advocacy to engage students in unique health care dialogue about the social challenges military families encounter in the community. She serves on the Board of Trustees for the CT Dept. of Veterans Affairs Board.



THOMAS EUGENE WILLIAMSON
New London

U.S. NAVY

Tom Williamson began a life of service at an early stage. He joined the Boy Scouts and his local Civil Air Patrol. The son of a military family, he enlisted in the Marine Corps at age 17. After Basic Training, he transferred to the U.S. Navy and trained as a Medical Corpsman. (The Marine Corps does not have its own field medical support; the Navy supplies it.) His goal was to serve his fellow Marines as a field medic. During the Vietnam War, Tom requested assignment to MACV/SOG Special Operations Group and Marine Force Recon. He wished to serve as a point of the sword. He qualified for Special Forces and volunteered for the Phoenix Program, where he undertook numerous highly classified missions, including participation in Operation Bright Light. This notable program infiltrated small volunteer teams at great risk behind enemy lines to rescue isolated or captured U.S. military personnel. While performing his duties, Tom was wounded numerous times. As a result of these activities, the bulk of his DD-214 records remain closed due to their classified nature. Following Vietnam, Tom was selected for unusually responsible duty in the Ceremonial Guard Presidential Detail at the White House. For two years, he served as a personal guard for President Nixon. After military service and earning a degree at Eastern CT State College with a BA in Sociology/ Applied Criminal Counseling, Tom began a second career at the Connecticut Department of Corrections. As a Correctional Officer for Alcohol and Drugs, Tom served for many years as counselor for incarcerated and paroled inmates of our CT penal system. Subsequently, he served as a Criminal Justice Counselor at Cochigan House, a halfway residence for inmates about to be released. Tom has continuously pursued a civil career of service in support of his fellow citizens of Connecticut. He has pursued a wide range of activities from Boy Scouts to drug abuse counseling, with a particular interest in assisting veterans with PTSD issues. He was a valuable member of the Masonicare Home Health & Hospice Team volunteering from 2010 to 2018. In the ongoing operations of the many organizations he is involved in, he has demonstrated pursuit of life after military service dedicated to human health and safety in our state.



CT VETERANS HALL OF FAME PAST INDUCTEES

CLASS of 2005

*Nathan George Agostinelli
George Herbert Walker Bush
William Thomas Coffey, Sr.
Dr. Randall Howard Collins
Bruce Hults Ey
Joseph G. Lombardo
Giacomo "Jack" Mordente II
Lt. James Sedalia Peters II
Ernest Virgil Plantz
Norman Warren VanCor*

CLASS of 2006

*Douglas A. Bora
Robert A. Janicki
Franklin E. Johnson, Sr.
William J. Johnston
Evans Edward Kerrigan
Peter Robert Pardo
Anthony Vito Savino
James S. Tierney
Carl Roderick Venditto
Edward Washburn Whitaker*

CLASS of 2007

*Michael J. Daly
Alfred Faticoni
Dr. George G. Gentile
Elwood A.D. Lechasseur
Anthony Mammola
Alfred A. Meadows
Robert J. Nearine
Col. Robert B. Nett
Tony Paul Pia
Darrell D. Stark*

CLASS of 2008

*Evans H. Daniels, Jr
Valentine David Galasyn
John L. Levitow
Howard Louis Luppi
Barbara Ellen Miller
H. Richard Newell, Jr.
William Atchinson O'Neill
Roger Gene Paulmeno
Frederick Gates Reincke
Robert Rudolph Ritz*

CLASS of 2009

*Richard O. Belden
John "Jack" Dougherty
Robert L. Genovese
Dr. Harvey James Grinsell, Jr.
Brig. Gen. John J. King
Rev. William David McGee
Brig. Gen. Daniel J. McHale
Theodore J. Plamondon, Jr.
Alphonse N. Sabetta
Daniel A. Vece, Jr.
Homer L. Wise*

CLASS of 2010

*Edmund J. Burke
Thomas J. Burke
John J. Carcioppolo
Robert C. Hunt, Jr.
Doris Troth Lippman
William J. McGurk
Robert C. Moeller
Abner Oakes III
Edward V. Sabotka
Robert R. Simmons
Stanley F. Zebzda*



CT VETERANS HALL OF FAME PAST INDUCTEES

CLASS of 2011

*Madelon Baranoski
Samuel K. Beamon, Sr.
George Kenneth Carpenter
Ronald Catania
John Gregory Chiarella
Harold B. Farrington, Jr.
Phillip R. Kraft
Ronald Perry
Richard Rampone
Burke Ross*

CLASS of 2012

*Father Thomas E. Berberich
Manuel Michael Cardoza, Jr.
Paul F. Dillon
Peter Galgano, Jr.
William George Godburn
Norman Hanenbaum
Alan Jepson
Charles Richard Morrissey, Sr.
Herbert Thomas Schacht
Thomas Sheridan
James H. Throwe
Carmine Joseph Vaccaro*

CLASS OF 2013

*John H. Bannan (posthumously)
George H. Breuler
John (Jack) G. Casey Jr.
Miguel A. Escalera, Sr.
Charles P. Gallagher
Robin L. Montgomery
James Milford Mosley
Michael Albert Thomas
William F. Vornkahl III
Robert John Young*

CLASS OF 2014

*Edwin Francis Atkins
Samuel Baez
Edmond Clark
Maurice L. Collin
Theodore Robert Cummings
Frank Esposito (posthumously)
David William Gay
Robert T. Getman (posthumously)
Richard A. Herman
Gerald B. Wright*

CLASS OF 2015

*Glenn Arthur
Peter Beckwith
John DeBisschop
Elliott Donn
Richard Fuller
Thomas Heath
Allen Lawton
PW Louthain
Dan Riccio, Jr.
Michael Skelps
Greg Smith*

CLASS OF 2016

*Robert Burns
Bradford Davis
Francis Conahan
Archie Elam
Richard Iannuci
Paul Wm. Orstad
Linda S. Schwartz
Salvatore Sena
Kjell Tollefsen
Arthur Ward*



CT VETERANS HALL OF FAME
PAST INDUCTEES

CLASS OF 2017

*Alfred Adinolfi
Robert Bailey
Philip Cacciola
Benjamin Cooper
Dominick Cortese
Lawrence Herrmann
Chester Morgan
Thomas Pandolfi
Thomas Quinn
William Sullivan
John Turk*

CLASS OF 2019

*Robert T. Cahill, Sr.
Alfred H. Comeau
Richard King Gorman
Jesse Monroe Harrison
Lenell Kittlitz
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For additional information regarding the
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*Grateful appreciation is extended to all those agencies, organizations
and individuals who help support the Connecticut Veterans Hall of Fame
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