

# 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.



FRANK ALVARADO

*North Haven*

U.S. ARMY

Frank Alvarado has been an outstanding and relentless advocate for Veterans during most of his life. He has been an active member of various Veteran service and civic organizations such as the National Guard Assoc. of CT, Crossroads Inc. which is a bilingual program for substance abuse rehab., State of CT Judicial Selection Commission, Lifetime Member of VFC 12150 New Haven, Volunteer/ Site Coordinator for the Income Tax Assistance Program, Board Member/VP Operations New Haven Road Race, member of the Hispanic American Veterans of CT, member of the Community Veterans Engagement Board, Member of the City of New Haven Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee and was involved with the American Warrior Organization which is dedicated to bringing WWII Veterans to DC to visit their memorial. Frank has made it his life mission post military service to serve his community and improve the quality of life for people through community engagement and advocacy. He has been a role model and inspiration to many in the Latino Community. After completing his 2 tours in Vietnam, he returned home joining the CT Air National Guard and made a choice to continue his mission to serve not only his country, but his community. He has been a pioneer on matters related to empowerment and educating the community on business ownership and this being an avenue to financial freedom and security. He has dedicated over 20 years with his primary focus being supporting, educating, training and expanding the opportunities for small business owners within the Latino Community. Frank has lived by the code of always ensuring to care for family, community, fellow man and country. A true patriot and hero when it comes to public service.



KEVIN BROWN "RED EAGLE"  
*Guilford*

U.S. ARMY

Since his return to Connecticut in 2013, Kevin Brown has walked, run, marched, hiked, rucked, driven his motorcycle, parachuted, and of course, given words of inspiration at the microphone for a variety of awareness and fundraising events each year on behalf of Veterans. He has lived a life of public service, as he states "it's in my DNA". Kevin's desire and ability to leverage the great visibility that comes with his role as chairman of the Mohegan Tribe to highlight the needs of Veterans and showcase their accomplishments, especially those of Native Americans, is remarkable. His voice helps to amplify those of the many unsung heroes who go about their daily lives of service without having access to his very public platform. Under his leadership, in 2015, the Mohegan Tribe hosted the first Vets Rock, a career fair and concert at Mohegan Sun which is now held annually around Veterans Day. Vets Rock provides a multitude of services for former military personnel, including job training, free healthcare, and job matching, all at no cost to Veterans. In 2016, the event also included the Wall That Heals which is a ½ scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in DC. Each year the costs for the event, which are valued in the thousands, are donated by the Mohegan Tribe. It is estimated that within the next few years, more than 10,000 Veterans will have benefitted from the Vets Rock effort. Kevin serves on Boards for the Chamber of Commerce of Eastern Connecticut, Channel 3 Kids Camp, American Heart Assoc. Southeastern CT Heart Walk, National Native American Veterans Memorial at the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian, National Coast Guard Museum and Mystic Center for Hospice Care and Walk 2018 to name a few.



DANIEL CAMILLIERE

*Wethersfield*

U.S. ARMY

Dan Camilliere's desire is to care for the needs of others. After serving in the US Army, Dan and his brother-in-law opened a Drug Store in the South End of Hartford. Back then, customers paid cash for their purchases, there were no credit cards. When people came into the store with a prescription to fill and didn't have the cash to pay for it, Dan would give them "credit" and let them pay it back over time. He felt that the most important thing was to get the medication to the individual so they could get better. Dan wanted to do more for people and decided he would run for the Hartford Council to help the people of Hartford. He later became a State Senator representing Hartford to even further his efforts on the concerns and issues of the people he represented. His concern for the youth of the communities he served got him involved with the local school PTO. Moving to Wethersfield, he became Mayor and again, focused on the youth in the community. Dan served on many Boards and Commissions and continues to serve on the Memorial Day Parade Committee and the Veterans Day Committee. His concern for the children of Wethersfield got him on the High School Renovation Committee and to assure the town moved forward economically, Dan still sits on the Redevelopment Commission. Within his community, Dan is a member of UNICO, an Italian Fraternal Organization, which motto is "Service above Self". Thirty-nine years ago, Dan organized the first annual Pasta Dinner which helped to raise funds for the victims of an earthquake in Italy. Future dinners have raised funds to give local high school graduates scholarships to attend college. Dan received UNICO's "Medal of Service" two years ago for his service to his community.



DAVID P. COLE  
*Norwalk*

U.S. ARMY

Since retiring from the Army, David Cole has been continuously active in a wide array of Veteran affairs and community service. His post retirement service to his fellow Veterans and the Norwalk Community spans four decades. He has held elected office and been appointed to municipal commissions in Norwalk, and, without exception, has risen to chairman of all his community endeavors. He has served as a Commissioner on the Zoning Commission, and was also elected to the Board of Education where he was a strong advocate for various academically/artistically talented programs. He was stalwart in protecting these programs when they were being threatened to be cut or eliminated. His focus was always about providing the best student learning experience for all students in the district. For many years as a civilian, David continued his association with the 7th Special Forces Group. He ran the Memorial Day Parade in Norwalk for 10 years as well as serving as Chairman of the Norwalk Veterans Memorial Committee for several terms. David was selected to be the Parade Marshal for the 350th Anniversary Parade in Norwalk. He is a lifelong member and former Commander of the Military Order of the Purple Heart and the 82nd Airborne Division Association in Hartford. David also served on the Board of Education and the Zoning Commission.



ROBERT J. FROELICK  
*Naugatuck*

U.S. AIR FORCE

Robert Froelick's life's work of Veteran Advocacy, being deeply involved in the community and his exemplary civic contributions have significantly made a difference on others. He is a life Member of the VFW, American Legion, DAV, VVA, K of C and Elks. He is an Honorary Member of the Veterans Who Care Committee for helping Veterans in need throughout the years and also assisting during the holidays with the Waterbury Area Veterans Association. Robert has held numerous Post, District and State of CT positions including State Commander 2013-14 with the distinction of an All American status earned by assuring all posts and districts completed the required programs. Robert was awarded Veteran of the Year by the VFW Crusade Post 1946. He attends Memorial Day ceremonies at schools to promote the true meaning of Patriotism. He regularly visits communities to promote POW-MIA awareness spending time sitting in a bamboo cage to depict the horrors our POW's endured. In 1988 Robert began volunteering at the VA hospitals in West Haven, Newington and Rocky Hill. He is currently active proving rides, serving coffee and wrapping hundreds of gifts for the Secret Santa Program. He has received numerous recognitions for the hours he has dedicated to helping Veterans in need. Robert has personally assured food and played Santa for a local family of six in need. In 2000 he became "Day of the Child" Ambassador for the State of CT. He and his wife have collected teddy bears and toys for needy and abused children, and have worked at soup kitchens, youth services and battered woman's shelters throughout the years.



DONALD R. MARANELL  
*Stonington*

U.S. NAVY

Don Maranell served 20 years in the Navy and has been active with Veteran groups and his community ever since. As a community leader, Don has spent 20 years in service to his neighbors including a year as Stonington Borough Burgess, two terms as Borough Warden and three terms as Stonington First Selectman. One of his many accomplishments was an addition to the Town Hall Veteran's Memorial. Public service has always been important to Don, he believes that everyone should be involved in the community if they have the time and desire. He is a life member of the VFW and US Submarine Veterans Inc./Groton Base. A proud Veteran and ardent supporter of active and former service members, Don has been a member of the American Legion Post 58 for 35 years, Adjutant for 5 years and Treasurer for 3. He organizes the placing of flags on Veteran's graves and also volunteers for Bugles Across America to play TAPS to honor fallen Veterans. He volunteers at the TVCCA RSVP Veterans Coffeehouse which provides group support for Veterans and their families. Other causes close to his heart include his service as a Stonington Borough Volunteer Fireman as well as volunteering during and sponsoring walks for the Terri Brodeur Breast Cancer Foundation's Walk Across Southeastern CT. He serves on the St. Mary's Church of Stonington Financial Advisory Committee and has taught religious education for 18 years. He has been an inspiration to young people as a speaker at Stonington High School for several years speaking about the political system and military service. A model of post military life, Don has humbly spent his years as a Veteran in service to others. He passionately supports his community and is a fierce advocate for active service members and Veterans.



CONNECTICUT VETERANS HALL OF FAME  
CLASS OF 2018 INDUCTION CEREMONY

DECEMBER 7, 2018

PRELUDE

1st Company Governor's Foot Guard Band Ensemble

ENTRANCE OF THE OFFICIAL PARTY

Master of Ceremonies

USMC Veteran Gil Simmons

Morning Meteorologist WTNH/NEWS8

NATIONAL ANTHEM

Hazel Pufahl

Age 10

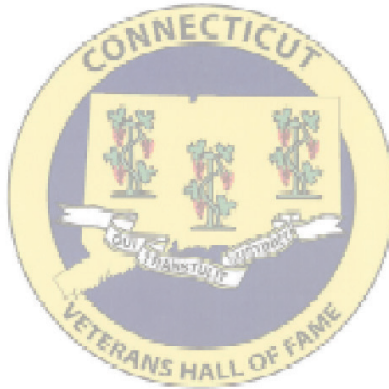
5th Grade, Ashford Elementary School

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND  
MOMENT OF SILENCE

INVOCATION

Chaplain (Major) Nutt, State Support Chaplain





INTRODUCTION OF THE  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

Thomas J. Saadi  
Commissioner, Department of Veterans Affairs

REMARKS

Lieutenant Governor Nancy Wyman  
Commissioner Thomas J. Saadi

INDUCTION - CLASS OF 2018

Lieutenant Governor Nancy Wyman  
Commissioner Thomas J. Saadi  
General Francis Evon

CLOSING MUSICAL SELECTION

1st Company Governor's Foot Guard Band Ensemble

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



WILLIAM CHARLES MASON , JR.  
*Prospect*

U.S. MARINE CORPS

William Mason has been involved in several Veteran advocacy initiatives over the years. Having been severely wounded in Vietnam, he has never let his handicap affect his ability to accomplish anything he sets out to do. He served on the Veterans Hospital Committee at West Haven VA as a Veteran's advisor. He has assisted in drafting grants to enhance the Veteran Homeless, Suicide and Addition Assistance Programs such as the Errera Center in West Haven. He wrote a draft on the development of an outreach program for unemployed disabled Veterans which became the Disabled Veterans Outreach Program (DVOP). William set up the Operation of Transitional Assistance Training at the Naval Base in Groton for separating service members which was credited as the best Nationally in 1994. He assisted in achieving an Attorney General ruling and state statute change in favor of Reservist and Guard Obligations effecting CT Correction Officers, CT State Police and all other state agency employed Veterans and military reservists regarding military credit and reserve/guard obligation duties for credit towards retirement benefits. As an active parishioner of St. Anthony's Church in Prospect, he wrote a program called "Helping Hands" which was designed to provide assistance to disabled and elderly parishioners with simple home repairs through volunteers from the parish. The program still exists today.



LAWRENCE ISIAH RILEY

*Middletown*

U.S. AIR FORCE

After serving his country in Vietnam, Larry Riley returned to Middletown working security for the State of Connecticut and then over to Washington DC working with the United States Secret Service as part of the Explosive Detector Team, Larry again returned Middletown. He has been Commander of the VFW for five years. He served two – one year terms as Commander of the Middletown Council of Veterans Organization and is currently the Commander of the American Legion Post 75. Through the Veterans Administration, Larry is training pound and shelter dogs to be companion dogs for Veterans suffering from PTSD, TBI and other ailments that tend to make a Veteran become isolated. Larry has been honored by the Hartford Courant for his work connecting school children with Veterans. Larry and his fellow Middletown Veterans visit schools and help students learn about what it means to be a Veteran, the importance of the US Flag and serving your communities. In 2016, Larry was awarded the annual Middlesex Chamber of Commerce William J. Pomfret Service Award which is given to a Veteran in recognition of his/her distinguished service to the citizens of Connecticut and selfless commitment to public service. In 2017 Larry was honored by the City of Middletown by having a tree planted in his name for exceptional service as a Veteran to the city and its residents. The trees were planted in the Veterans Memorial Park near Wesleyan University. In June of 2018, Larry was honored by the Middletown Mayor with the annual City of Middletown Humanitarian Award for service as a Veteran and his community work. Larry serves on the Board of Trustees for the Greater Middletown Military Museum and is also a member of the Chamber of Commerce Support the Troops Breakfast & Award Committee.



ANTHONY J. SILEO

*Bristol*

U.S. ARMY

Since Anthony Sileo returned from military service during WWII, he has participated in many parades, memorial service and dedication ceremonies on behalf of and in support of Veterans. He has dedicated his life to the betterment of his community, state and nation as a member of the American Legion for over 50 years addressing numerous youth groups and Veterans' organizations with the story and history of his military service. Anthony has committed over eight years as a tutor at South Side Elementary School in Bristol. He has established an annual scholarship at Sienna College in New York dedicated to honor fifty 10th Mountain Division comrades who perished. Anthony is also a member of the Friends of Bristol Public Library and volunteers countless hours to the library's history room. He has purchased and donated books to underprivileged children at Parkville Elementary School in Hartford. He is a dedicated and committed individual who truly cares about the betterment of his community and all of those people with whom he has contact. Anthony has received the "Volunteer of the Year Award" from the 10th Mountain Division, the Bristol Mentor Program and the Bristol Friends of Library.



## 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. Lechause  
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*



## CT VETERANS HALL OF FAME PAST INDUCTEES

### **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*

### **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*

**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*



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