

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WAR OF THE UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF CONNECTICUT



TESTIMONIAL DINNER  
HONORING

*State Commander, Richard DiFederico*

And

*State Auxiliary President, Grace Kelly*

SUNDAY OCTOBER 15, 2023

In The Grand Ballroom of the Rocky Hill  
Sheraton Hotel 100 Capital Blvd  
Rocky Hill, Ct.

**\$55.00** PER-PERSON

Our special guest representing the Commander-in Chief will be  
National Council Member Glenn Umberger from Pennsylvania,  
who is also a candidate for Jr. Vice Commander-in-Chief in 2025



Menu

Your Choice of \*\* Prime Rib of Beef

\*\* Seared Sea Bass in Lobster Dill Sauce

\*\* Chicken Cordon Bleu

**LAST CALL**

**LAST CALL**

Accompanied with:

\*\* Mystic Pear Salad w/Spiced Pecans, Grapes, Pear Slices, Crumpled Bleu Cheese  
And Dressing

\*\* Roasted Butternut Squash \*\* Twice Baked Potato

\*\* Fresh Baked Dinner Rolls and Sweet Butter \*\* Coffee - Decaf and Assorted Specialty Teas  
Dessert: Turtle Cheesecake w/Carmel and Pecans

Cash Bar Cocktail Hour at 12:00 Noon

Dinner Served at 1:00 pm

LET'S HAVE A REPRESENTATIVE FROM EVERY POST AND AUXILIARY TO SHOW  
OUR SUPPORT FOR OUR STATE COMMANDER AND PRESIDENT

PLEASE SEND ME \_\_\_\_\_ TICKETS AT \$55.00 EACH.

A CHECK FOR \$ \_\_\_\_\_ IS ENCLOSED. POST / AUXILIARY # \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

STREET: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

MY / OUR MEAL SELECTION(S) ARE BEEF \_\_\_\_\_ FISH \_\_\_\_\_ CHICKEN \_\_\_\_\_

A GLUTEN FREE MEAL \_\_\_\_\_ A VEGETERIAN LASAGIANA MEAL \_\_\_\_\_

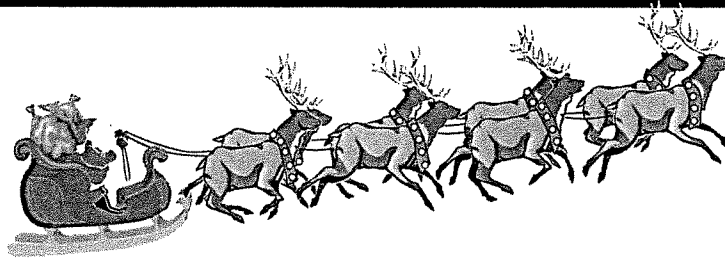
PLEASE MAIL  
TO: VFW  
P.O. BOX 429  
Rocky Hill, Ct.  
06067

Cutoff date to order your tickets is Tuesday October 10th

# *Holiday Greetings From us to you*



*Richard DiFederico*  
*Commander*



*Stanley Borusiewicz*  
*Sr. Vice Cmdr.*



*Charles Pickett*  
*Jr. Vice Cmdr.*

*Kenneth Hartline*  
*Chaplain*

*Roberty Bailey*  
*Judge Advocate*

*Rusty Meek*  
*Surgeon*

*Joseph Beal*  
*Chief of Staff*



*Jack Leblanc*  
*Inspector*

*Grace Kelly*  
*President*

*Kathrine Fleischauer*  
*Sr. Vice President*

*Cheryl-Costello-Pelkey*  
*Jr. Vice President*

*John Lawrence*  
*Chaplain*

*Susan Dubay*  
*Conductress*

*Kate Fitzgerald*  
*Guard*

*Anne Philippon*  
*Treasurer*

*Doris Laferriere*  
*Asst. Secretary*

*Kim McCarroll*  
*Chief of Staff*

*Linda Ciccone*  
*Service Office Claims Asst.*

*David Greene - Judith Barnes*  
*Natnl Council Members*

*Ron Rusko*  
*Adjutant/Quartermaster*

*Sharon Messenger*  
*Auxiliary Secretary*

*Bella Pereira*  
*Hdqtrs. Admn. Asst.*

*Have a great Holiday Season!!* OVER



**TO: All Members**

**FROM: Richard DiFederico State Commander**

**RE: Council of Administration Meeting**

The Second scheduled Department Council of Administration Meeting of the 2023 - 2024 VFW administrative year, will be held on MONDAY – November 6, 2023 at 7:00pm.

The meeting will be held at the Stanley Budleski VFW Post 9965- 424 Church St. in Yalesville, Connecticut. Phone (203) 269-7110

All Post Commanders are invited to attend this meeting **and bring any Post Officer or Member** who may wish to attend. Every VFW Member is welcome.

If any State Officer, District Commander or State Chairman is unable to attend this meeting, please notify the State Adjutant at Department Headquarters at: (860) 616-2363 or [stct@vfw.necoxmail.com](mailto:stct@vfw.necoxmail.com)

**Food will be available prior to the meeting starting at 6:00 pm.**

**Dress is State Commander's Blue shirt, casual slacks, (or with 3 button down sport shirt if you do not have a Cmdrs. Shirt) and VFW cap. NO Dungarees or shorts Please.**

Looking forward to seeing you on the 6th of November 2023 in Yalesville.

Richard DiFederico

State Commander

OFFICIAL: For the Commander

*Ronald (Rusko) Rusakiewicz*

Ronald (Rusko) Rusakiewicz State Adjutant/Quartermaster

**NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.**



# DEPARTMENT OF CONNECTICUT VFW AND ITS AUXILIARY



TO: ALL POSTS AND AUXILIARIES

FROM: RICHARD DIFEDERICO, STATE COMMANDER  
GRACE KELLY, STATE AUXILIARY PRESIDENT

Dear Comrades and Auxiliary Members; As we once again approach this blessed and joyous holiday season we would like you to help in remembering those Veterans who are in the Rocky Hill Veterans Home and the Newington and West Haven Veterans Hospitals.

We can make their holiday a bit brighter, with your help, by providing a gift to each one of them as we have in past years.

Your Posts and Auxiliaries can send donations to support this effort. Please make your checks payable to the Department of Connecticut VFW and please mail to: Ron Rusko, QM - P.O. BOX 429 Rocky Hill, Ct. 06067

**NAME AND NUMBER OF YOUR POST OR AUXILIARY**

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**Thank you!**  
***RICH & GRACE***





**DEPARTMENT OF NEW JERSEY  
EASTERN CONFERENCE BANQUET**

**Saturday – October 21, 2023**

~ MENU ~

**Garden Salad**

**Two (2) Entree Selections: Breast of Chicken or Salmon**

**Chef's Choice of Dessert**

**LAST CALL**

Accompanied with:

**LAST CALL**

**Dinner Rolls and Butter**

**Coffee, Regular & Decaf, Hot & Cold Tea, Water**

Dinners are priced at \$55.00 each. VFW and Auxiliary Dinner reservations must be made through your respective Department Adjutants

I/WE NEED \_\_\_\_\_ TICKETS AT \$55.00 EACH. A CHECK FOR \_\_\_\_\_ IS ENCLOSED

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

MY / OUR MEAL SELECTION(S) ARE SALMON \_\_\_\_\_ CHICKEN \_\_\_\_\_

ALL MEAL TICKETS WILL BE GIVEN TO YOU AT THE CONFERENCE

**PLEASE MAKE CHECKS OUT TO VFW AND MAIL TO:**  
VFW  
P.O. BOX 429  
Rocky Hill, Ct. 06067

**Connecticut as of Sunday, October 1, 2023**

City	Post	Dst	Total	Prior Year	Percent	Div	NEED	Need for 102%	City	Post	Dst	Total	Prior Year	Percent	Div	NEED	Need for 102%
<b>Division 3</b>									<b>Division 10</b>								
<b>356 to 749 Members</b>									<b>51 to 67 Members</b>								
OAKVILLE	7330	5	392	497	78.87%	3	105	507	EAST KILLINGLY	4908	4	45	56	80.35%	10	11	58
<b>Division 4</b>									<b>Division 11 (Upper)</b>								
<b>246 to 355 Members</b>									<b>10 to 50 Members (31 to 50)</b>								
STRATFORD	9460	1	268	323	82.97%	4	55	330	ANSONIA	597	2	36	40	90.00%	11	4	41
JEWETT CITY	10004	4	204	251	81.27%	4	47	257	SALEM	2774	4	31	35	88.57%	11	4	36
NEW BRITAIN	511	3	234	315	74.28%	4	81	322	SOUTHBURY	1607	2	39	45	86.66%	11	6	46
<b>Division 5</b>									STAMFORD	9617	1	36	43	83.72%	11	7	49
<b>185 to 245 Members</b>									EAST HADDAM	3336	6	29	37	78.37%	11	8	38
NAUGATUCK	1946	2	243	233	104.29%	5	+10	238	HEBRON	8776	3	32	42	76.19%	11	10	43
DANBURY	149	1	195	233	83.69%	5	38		HAMDEN	10321	2	36	49	73.46%	11	13	50
EAST HAMPTON	5095	6	152	195	77.94%	5	43	238	HARTFORD	254	3	27	37	72.97%	11	10	38
DEVON	7788	2	145	192	75.52%	5	47	196	WEST HAVEN	9422	2	26	37	70.27%	11	11	38
WALLINGFORD	591	2	136	188	72.34%	5	52	192	THOMPSON	10088	4	33	48	68.75%	11	15	49
PAWCATUCK	1265	4	133	187	71.12%	5	54	191	SEYMOUR	12084	2	24	36	66.66%	11	12	37
NEW MILFORD	1672	5	128	187	68.44%	5	59	191	CHESHIRE	10052	2	21	32	65.62%	11	11	33
<b>Division 6</b>									PORTLAND	6121	6	22	34	64.70%	11	12	35
<b>143 to 184 Members</b>									COVENTRY	10589	3	16	25	64.00%	11	9	26
WILLIMANTIC	1724	4	155	175	88.57%	6	20	179	STAFFORD SPRINGS	9990	3	28	50	56.00%	11	22	51
MANCHESTER	2046	3	139	157	88.53%	6	18	161	<b>Division 11 (Lower)</b>								
MONTVILLE	10060	4	138	158	87.34%	6	20	162	<b>10 to 50 Members (10 to 30)</b>								
WINDSOR LOCKS	6123	3	124	146	84.93%	6	22	149	DURHAM	10169	6	9	10	90.00%	11	1	11
MYSTIC	3263	4	123	154	79.87%	6	31	158	ESSEX	6726	6	25	28	89.28%	11	3	29
PLAINFIELD	5446	4	114	147	77.55%	6	33	150	THOMASTON	572	5	24	27	88.88%	11	3	28
PRESTON	9452	4	125	162	77.16%	6	37	166	COLCHESTER	6990	4	17	20	85.00%	11	3	21
NORWICH	594	4	129	168	76.78%	6	39	70	WEST WILLINGTON	938	3	22	27	81.48%	11	5	28
WESTPORT	399	1	118	162	72.83%	6	44	166	HIGGANUM	10690	6	22	28	78.57%	11	6	29
WATERBURY	201	2	128	180	71.11%	6	52	184	BRIDGEPORT	10273	1	23	30	76.66%	11	7	31
CANAAN	6851	5	123	177	69.49%	6	54	181	TAFTVILLE	2212	4	22	30	73.33%	11	8	31
PUTNAM	1523	4	115	176	65.34%	6	61	180	LAKEVILLE	9243	5	14	21	66.66%	11	7	22
BROOKFIELD	10201	1	100	169	59.17%	6	69	173	COS COB	10112	1	16	25	64.00%	11	9	26
<b>Division 7</b>									FAIRFIELD	9427	1	14	29	48.27%	11	15	30
<b>112 to 142 Members</b>									<b>State Totals</b>								
WOLCOTT	1979	2	104	123	84.55%	7	19	126				7804	10044	77.69%		2240	10245
ROCKY HILL	2138	3	99	137	72.26%	7	38	140									
PLAINVILLE	574	3	82	117	70.08%	7	35	120									
YALESVILLE	9965	2	83	119	69.74%	7	36	122									
NEW LONDON	189	4	76	113	67.25%	7	37	116									
OLD SAYBROOK	10153	6	75	137	54.74%	7	62	140									
<b>Division 8</b>																	
<b>88 to 111 Members</b>																	
NOROTON HEIGHTS	6933	1	92	103	89.32%	8	11	106									
NIANTIC	5849	4	79	89	88.76%	8	10	91									
WATERTOWN	5157	5	80	97	82.47%	8	17	99									
AVON	3272	3	78	95	82.10%	8	17	97									
NEWTOWN	308	1	86	106	81.13%	8	20	109									
WINSTED	296	5	75	101	74.25%	8	26	104									
BERLIN	10732	3	69	93	74.19%	8	24	95									
TRUMBULL	10059	1	69	101	68.31%	8	32	104									
NEW HAVEN	12150	2	59	88	67.04%	8	29	90									
<b>Division 9</b>																	
<b>68 to 87 Members</b>																	
CANTERBURY	10688	4	77	78	98.71%	9	1	80									
OLD LYME	1467	4	64	69	92.75%	9	5	71									
PROSPECT	8075	2	71	80	88.75%	9	9	82									
ELLINGTON	10689	3	56	68	82.35%	9	12	70									
MIDDLETOWN	583	6	71	87	81.60%	9	16	89									
GUILFORD	7666	2	55	68	80.88%	9	13	70									
EAST HARTFORD	2083	3	58	73	79.45%	9	15	75									
WATERFORD	6573	4	56	71	78.87%	9	15	73									
SUFFIELD	9544	3	55	71	77.46%	9	16	73									
SIMSBURY	1926	3	60	84	71.42%	9	24	86									
BRANFORD	12106	2	38	74	51.35%	9	36	76									

District Commander: D: District4 : Sherry Wozniak

Division Commander: 3. Post 7330 Erich Ruman

Division Commander: 4. Post 9460 Steve Evangelista

Division Commander: 5. Post 1946 John LeBlanc

Division Commander: 6. Post 1724 Christopher Paulhus

Division Commander: 7. Post 1979 Thomas Griffin

Division Commander: 8. Post 6933 Brian O'malley

Division Commander: 9. Post 10688 William D'Appolino

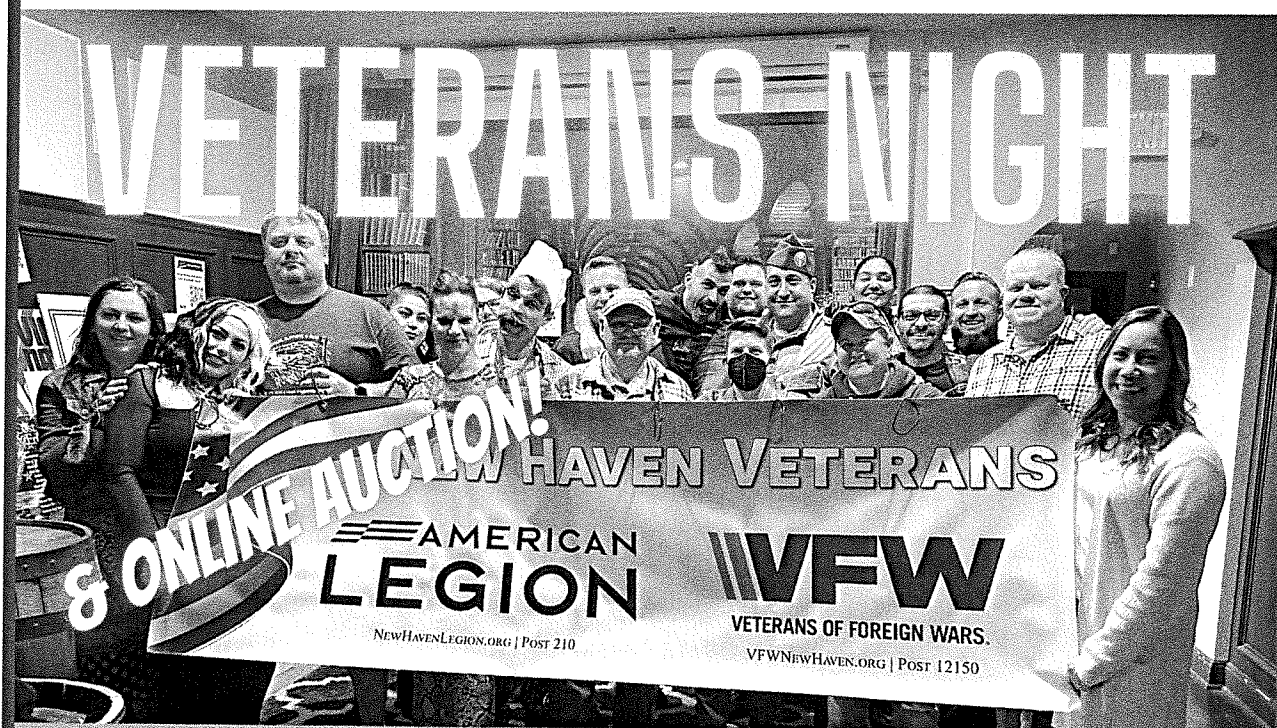
Division Commander: 10. Post 4908 Brian P Simmons

Division Commander (U): 11. Post 597 John Bittman

Division Commander (L): 11. Post 10169 Charles Arrigoni

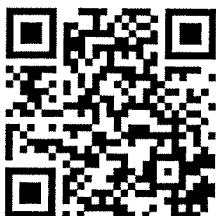
PROCEEDS BENEFIT VFW NEW HAVEN POST 12150 & AMERICAN LEGION NEW HAVEN POST 210

FRIDAY **NOVEMBER 3<sup>RD</sup>** 5-9PM



PRE-VETERANS DAY, CHARITY PARTY, FOR EVERYBODY

✓ **ONLINE CHARITY AUCTION**  
**STARTS OCT. 25, 2023**



Online Auction

[32auctions.com/VeteransNight](https://32auctions.com/VeteransNight)



Nov. 3 Event Info



[VeteransNight.eventbrite.com](https://VeteransNight.eventbrite.com)

**\$20 DOOR DONATION INCLUDES:**

- Exclusive Wristband
- Exclusive Drink Specials
- 5 PM Event & T-Shirt Sales Start
- 6 PM Happy Hour Hors D'Oeuvres
- 7 PM Mattatuck Drum Band
- 8 PM Raffles & Auction
- 100+ Participants
- 3 FREE Raffle Tickets to any Silkies-Wearing Wristband Holder
- A Fun Time Supporting Veterans



157 ORANGE ST • NEW HAVEN, CT



# COMMUNITY SERVICE BEST PRACTICES

**Reporting** – For the purposes of volunteer recognition, VFW community service hours must be performed by and as a representative of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. As it is the intent of VFW community service to impact a broad spectrum of the local community, the work must also be performed for an organization outside of the VFW and its Auxiliary, and must be verified by an authorized representative of that organization. In addition, efforts performed for the benefit of the Post or Auxiliary should not be considered as community service. This kind of effort could be maintenance, upkeep, or beautification of the Post home, cooking or serving a meal for a Post fund raiser, or working on bingo night. Please keep in mind that efforts that are part of the normal requirements of a Post or Auxiliary would not be considered community service. Examples of this include , but are not limited to, flying the American flag or the POW flag, conducting flag retirement programs, placing flags on graves, building memorials, hosting bingo, Post dinners, “Buddy”® Poppy drives, or anything that only benefits the Post. A particularly controversial area in VFW community service is service to one’s church. Generally, these efforts are not considered community service for two reasons: They are not performed for the community at large; and they are part of an individual’s service to their faith and not to the VFW.

**The community service year is July 1 - June 30 annually.** Events should be reported 365 days a year and not weekly, monthly, or quarterly. This will prevent forgetting the specific details of what events happened. All events should be reported online through VFW Department (state) online reporting websites or through the VFW Programs Dashboard Tool for those Departments who do not have an online solution. Lastly, do not forget that Posts can – and are highly encouraged – to report their Auxiliary community service events also. However, this is not mandatory because the Auxiliary has their own community service report which will only be submitted at the Post level.

**Value of a Volunteer Hour** – Volunteers in the United States hold up the foundation of civil society. They help their neighbors, serve their communities and provide their expertise. No matter what kind of volunteer work they do, they are contributing in invaluable ways. According to its Value of Volunteer Time report, Independent Sector, together with the Do-Good Institute, announced in April 2022, that the latest value of a volunteer hour is estimated to be \$29.95, which is a 4.9% increase from 2020 to 2021.

**Value of a Mile** – You may already be familiar with the standard mileage rate for business. Every year the IRS issues standard mileage rates for business, medical and moving purposes, and charity. The rate for mileage in service or charitable organizations remains the same at \$0.14 per mile.

**Total Impact** – When figuring the total impact of your community service event, you must calculate the money spent on hosting and organizing the event, plus total hours all participating volunteers spent executing the event, plus the mileage for all volunteers who participated. This equals the total impact for the event, and when added up throughout the year can provide the Post’s annual community service total impact.

**\$ + Hours + Mileage = Total Impact**

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**Ways to Support Your Community** – In many cases, the brainstorming process of planning community service can be the most difficult. We've compiled a list of both good and non-qualifying events in an effort to help you plan the perfect community event.

### **Examples of Good Community Service**

- Assisting of veterans within the community
- Scholarships to youth
- Sponsoring of youth teams
- VA hospital work on behalf of the VFW
- Blood drives
- Legislative town halls
- Care packages for troops, homeless etc.
- Register to Vote campaigns
- Food Bank support
- Building of ramps for disabled veterans
- Hosting job fairs
- Visiting VA Homes & nursing facilities
- Community Clean Up activities
- Natural Disaster Relief support
- Clothing Drives
- Donations to civic organizations within the community that align with our values

### **Examples of Non-Qualified Community Service Events**

- Flying the U.S. Flag
- Flying the POW Flag
- Post dinners
- Bingo
- Paid VFW Service Officer work
- Personal efforts of a member volunteering at a church or other nonprofit organizations
- Buddy Poppy Drives
- Membership Drives
- Anything that directly benefits the Post
- Reciting the pledge of allegiance at a Post meeting
- Charging, renting or loaning the Post hall to their Auxiliary or Cootie Pup-Tent

**Please note:** These lists are not all inclusive but rather a frame of reference of what is good to host and report versus what events should not be reported.

DEPARTMENT OF CONNECTICUT  
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS  
PO Box 429  
Rocky Hill, CT 06067

FROM: State Inspector

TO: State Commander, State Adjutant/Quartermaster, District Commanders,  
Post Commanders, Post Quartermasters

SUBJECT: Tax Exempt Status

Dear Comerades,

Congratulations on your election or reelection, and the confidence the Members have entrusted you with. You should be proud of this fact and be fully aware of the responsibilities that go along with your position. Among these responsibilities is ensuring that your Post is in compliance with the National By-Laws and applicable State and Federal law.

As we have done for the past several years, the five major areas that I have emphasized will continue to be stressed. These areas are:

1. Incorporation with the State is in place and current.
2. Quarterly audits completed and submitted in a timely manner.
3. Quartermaster is bonded.
4. Amount of bond is greater than the total of all accounts.
5. 990 / tax-exempt status is in place and current.

State Commander Richard DiFederico and State Inspector "Jack" Leblanc have made it their mission this year, to get all Posts in compliance with the requirement that Posts are operating under IRS awarded tax exempt status. This designation is a 501(c)(19) Veterans Organization.

*Unfortunately, we have more than a few Posts that have lost their tax-exempt status. This has a very detrimental effect on Post operations.*

The data from the IRS website, isn't always up to date, so this is why we are going to require a copy in order to ensure every Post is in compliance, so please submit to Department Headquarters, a copy of your most current IRS Form 990, or a copy

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of the IRS filing you did online to include in your post folder. That 990 information can be sent by email to [stct@vfw.necoxmail.com](mailto:stct@vfw.necoxmail.com) or “snail mail” to:

Dept of Connecticut, VFW  
PO Box 429  
Rocky Hill, CT 06067

For the Posts that have lost, or never had, their tax-exempt status, we can provide guidance and support on how to get a reinstatement or new status. Of course, each Post will be responsible to pay its own costs and fees.

Our goal is to bring all Posts into compliance with the By-Law requirements and Federal tax law. Please don't hesitate to call or email me with any questions, concerns or comments at [lanca1993@hotmail.com](mailto:lanca1993@hotmail.com) / 203-231-8714 (email is more efficient and preferred).

Thank you for your prompt response so we can move quickly with this project.

JOHN “JACK” LEBLANC  
State Inspector



## VFW and Auxiliary Christmas Hospital Gifts

Christmas is fast approaching and it's time for us to make plans for our Holiday gifts to our hospitalized Veterans in the West Haven, Newington and Rocky Hill Hospitals. Unfortunately all three hospitals still do not want a large group of people walking around inside with covid still relevant.

State VFW Surgeon Rusty Meek and State Auxiliary Hospital Chairman Kathy Fleischauer, ask that as many of the VFW and Auxiliary members as possible, join in bringing cheer to our hospitalized Veterans during the holiday season, by sending a donation to department, to defray the costs of the monetary gifts to the three hospitals.

Please remember that we have an obligation to our hospitalized Veterans to bring them a bit of cheer, especially at this time of year.

We hope your post and auxiliary unit can participate with a donation with the enclosed flyer.

Thank You Richard Diferderico State Commander and Grace Kelly State Auxiliary President