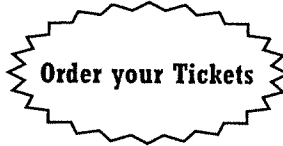
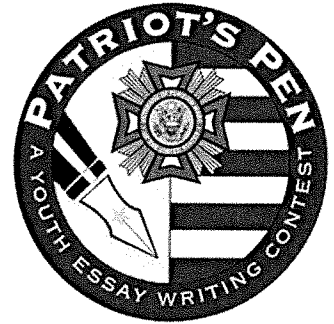


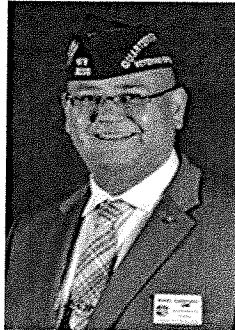
Sponsored by the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Department of Connecticut and its Auxiliary



Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen Annual Awards Dinner

Please join us on Sunday January 12th, 2025 @ 1pm. The event will be in the Grand Ballroom of the Rocky Hill Sheraton Hotel. Address: 100 Capital Blvd Rocky Hill, CT 06067.

Representing the National Commander in Chief, our special guest The VFW Quartermaster General Marc Garduno



Every Post and Auxiliary Should have a representative at this great event!!



Buffett Menu

Plated (Pre-Set) Caesar Salad - Roast Sirloin of Beef with Homemade Brown Gravy
Mashed Potatoes - Stir Fry Vegetables - Rolls/Butter - Coffee/Tea - Desert (Tiramisu).

The winners of the 54th Annual State Voice of Democracy and Youth Essay Programs will be announced at the Dinner. We need your cooperation to make this event a huge success. Please make checks payable to: VFW, Department of Connecticut and mail with the reservation form below.

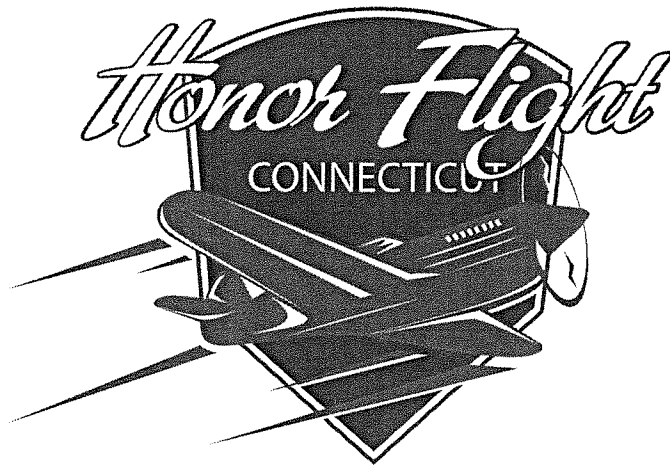
Deadline for Tickets is Wednesday January 9th, 2025

Mail to: Domenic M. Guiliano State Adjutant Quartermaster P.O. Box 429 Rocky Hill, CT 06067

Name: _____ Address: _____ Town: _____ Zip: _____

Check/Money Order in the amount of \$ _____ is enclosed.

I need a Gluten Free Meal _____ I need a Vegetarian Meal (Zucchini Tart) _____



NEXT FLIGHT: May 3rd, 2025

Now accepting applications from veterans of:

WWII

KOREA

VIETNAM

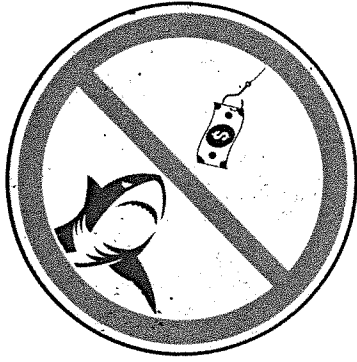
**for a day of honor and appreciation at
our national memorials in DC and VA**

Applications: www.honorflightct.org

Email: honorflightct@gmail.com

Phone: (860) 255-8208





DON'T FEED THE SHARKS



DontFeedTheSharks.org

What is a "Claim Shark"?

- A Claim Shark is an individual or company that charges hefty fees to "assist" or "consult" veterans with filing their VA benefit claims – this practice is illegal!
- Claim Sharks are not VA accredited, meaning they aren't required to adhere to the well-established professional and ethical standards of VA accreditation, so their advice can often be misleading or even fraudulent.
- Like a "Loan Shark," once you're in, you can't get out, and may be subject to new and hidden fees whenever you get a new rating, no matter who does the work.

Some of their predatory practices are:

- Promising or guaranteeing an increased disability rating or percentage increase.
- Advertising expedited VA claims decisions.
- Requesting login credentials to access a veteran's personal information through secure VA websites like eBenefits or VA.gov.
- Using confusing tactics or ambiguous language to mislead claimants or coerce them into signing a contract.
- Telling veterans to forego VA exams and offering health consultations within their own network of doctors.

Who are the Claim Sharks?

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| ➤ Trajector Medical | ➤ Patriot Angels |
| ➤ Vet Benefits Guide | ➤ Veteran Care Services |
| ➤ Veterans Guardian | ➤ VetComm |
| ➤ VA Claims Insider | ➤ VA Claims Academy |
| ➤ Telemedica | ➤ Vet Assist |

Veterans can protect themselves by:

- Always working with VA accredited representatives.
- Attending all exams ordered by VA.
- Not signing contracts.
- Not agreeing to fees or payments from future benefits.
- Not agreeing to pay for medical consultations or opinions.
- Not providing access to Protected Health Information or Personal Identifiable Information.

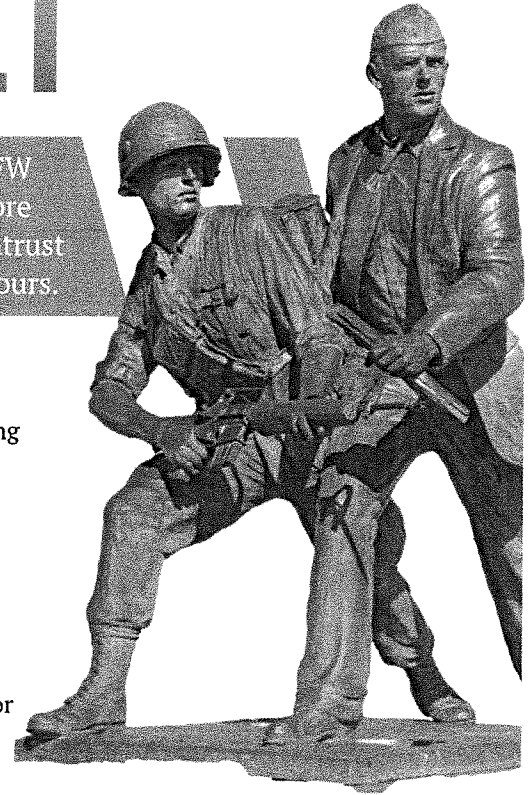
Who is NOT a Claim Shark?

- VA accredited veterans service organization representatives, like the VFW
- VA accredited claims agents
- VA accredited attorneys
- Attorneys assisting with Camp LeJeune lawsuits who do not charge excessive fees



FACT SHEET

As the nation's oldest major war veterans' organization, the VFW has an impeccable and longstanding record of service and stewardship. More than 4.4 million patriotic Americans, both members and non-members, entrust the VFW with financial contributions and dedicate millions of volunteer hours.



THE VFW'S VITAL SUPPORT PROGRAMS

Educate separating service members about their well-earned VA benefits through private benefits counseling sessions with a VFW Accredited Service Officer.

Advocate for America's veterans and their families on Capitol Hill, ensuring *promises made* to veterans are *promises kept*.

Help cover rent, utilities or groceries for a military family struggling with the hardships of war.

Deliver morale-boosting "welcome home" celebrations for service members who have returned from combat.

2,300+

Number of VA-accredited VFW representatives across America and abroad, helping veterans fight for the VA benefits they have earned.

152,883

Number of service members and their family members hosted at VFW Military Assistance Program (MAP) events.

\$13 billion

The total annual amount the VFW helped veterans recoup in VA disability compensation and pension benefits in fiscal year 2023.

\$1.6 million+

Amount of academic scholarships awarded to 357 veterans and service members.

19

Number of times the VFW has testified to Congress in the last 12 months alone. The VFW has been instrumental in virtually every major legislative victory for veterans in the 20th and 21st centuries.

\$3 million+

Amount of scholarships, monetary awards and other incentives the VFW distributes annually to middle and high school students through two major patriotic essay competitions.

\$589,007

Value of financial assistance awarded to military families to help cover basic needs in times of crisis. 61% of the funds covered basic housing needs in fiscal year 2023.



JOIN THE VFW

Connect With Us



Updated December 2023

Learn more about the VFW's programs and services at vfw.org.

Connecticut as of Monday, November 25, 2024

City	Post	Dist	Total	Prior Year	Percent	Need	Need1 02%
Division 3 356 to 749 Members							
WTBY-NAUG	201	2	430	446	96.41%	16	455
OAKVILLE	7330	5	409	500	81.80%	91	510
Division 4 246 to 355 Members							
STRATFORD	9460	1	289	325	88.92%	36	332
NEW BRITAIN	511	3	244	283	83.27%	39	289
Division 5 185 to 245 Members							
JEWETT CITY	10004	4	215	240	89.58%	25	245
DANBURY	149	1	200	233	85.83%	33	238
EAST HAMPTON	5095	6	168	216	77.77%	47	221
NEW MILFORD	1672	5	135	185	72.97%	50	189
Division 6 143 to 184 Members							
MANCHESTER	2046	3	142	144	98.61%	2	147
WILLMANTIC	1724	4	154	161	95.65%	7	165
NORWICH	594	4	136	150	90.66%	14	153
DEVON	7788	2	146	165	88.48%	19	169
MONTVILLE	10060	4	133	155	85.80%	22	159
PLAINFIELD	5446	4	126	147	85.71%	21	150
PAWCATUCK	1265	4	151	177	85.31%	26	181
WESTPORT	399	1	132	155	85.16%	23	159
CANAAN	6851	5	138	177	77.96%	39	181
WALLINGFORD	591	2	140	182	76.92%	42	186
PUTNAM	1523	4	113	169	66.86%	56	173
BROOKFIELD	10201	1	110	173	63.58%	63	177
OLD SAYBROOK	10153	6	73	159	45.91%	86	163
Division 7 112 to 142 Members							
PRESTON	9452	4	133	142	93.66%	9	145
WOLCOTT	1979	2	111	122	90.98%	11	125
WINDSOR LOCKS	6123	3	127	140	90.71%	13	143
MYSTIC	3263	4	120	136	88.23%	16	139
PLAINVILLE	574	3	93	112	83.03%	19	115
ROCKY HILL	2138	3	100	123	81.30%	23	126
Division 8 88 to 111 Members							
NEW LONDON	189	4	95	91	104.39%	+4	93
NIANTIC	5849	4	100	96	104.16%	+4	98
NEWTOWN	308	1	96	94	102.12%	+2	96
NORTON HEIGHTS	6933	1	91	96	94.79%	5	98
AVON	3272	3	77	90	85.55%	13	92
YALESVILLE	9965	2	88	103	85.43%	15	106
WINSTED	296	5	76	90	84.44%	14	92
TRUMBULL	10059	1	85	102	83.33%	17	105
WATERTOWN	5157	5	75	97	77.31%	22	99
Division 9 68 to 87 Members							
NEW HAVEN	12150	2	74	70	105.71%	+4	72
CANTERBURY	10688	4	69	73	94.52%	4	75
WATERFORD	6573	4	63	68	92.64%	5	70
SUFFIELD	9544	3	68	74	91.89%	6	76
MIDDLETOWN	583	6	72	81	88.88%	9	83
PROSPECT	8075	2	67	77	87.01%	10	79
BERLIN	10732	3	67	80	83.75%	13	82
SIMSBURY	1926	3	61	74	82.43%	13	76
BRANFORD	12106	2	57	76	75.00%	19	78

State	District	Total	Goal	Percent	Need	102%
District Totals	4	1890	2111	89.53%	221	2153
District Totals	2	1406	1579	89.04%	173	1611
District Totals	3	1282	1466	87.44%	188	1495
District Totals	1	1176	1385	84.90%	209	1413
District Totals	5	874	1095	79.81%	221	1117
District Totals	6	479	643	74.49%	164	656
District Totals	99	1139	1456	78.22%	317	1485
State Total		8246	9735	84.70%	1489	9930

City	Post	Dist	Total	Prior Year	Percent	Need	Need 102%
Division 10 51 to 67 Members							
OLD LYME	1467	4	68	65	104.61%	+3	67
GUILFORD	7666	2	61	64	95.31%	3	66
EAST HARTFORD	2083	3	50	55	90.90%	5	57
ELLINGTON	10689	3	53	62	85.48%	9	64
CLINTON	9918	6	43	51	84.31%	8	53
NORWALK	603	1	42	52	80.76	10	54
EAST KILLINGLY	4908	4	50	63	79.36%	13	65
Division 11 (Upper) 10 to 50 Members (32 to 50)							
WINDSOR	4740	3	58	49	118.36%	+9	50
LEDYARD	4608	4	54	48	112.50%	+6	49
EAST HADDAM	3336	6	39	38	102.63	+1	39
ANSONIA	597	2	32	32	100%	0	33
MADISON	2096	2	44	47	93.61%	3	48
HARTFORD	254	3	29	32	90.62%	3	33
STAMFORD	9617	1	33	37	89.18%	4	38
NEW CANAAN	653	1	41	47	87.23%	6	48
HEBRON	8776	3	33	38	86.84%	5	39
HAMDEN	10321	2	41	50	82%	9	51
SOUTHBURY	1607	2	35	42	83.33%	7	43
CHESHIRE	10052	2	30	36	83.33%	6	37
THOMPSON	10088	4	39	48	81.25%	9	49
STAFFORD SPRINGS	9990	3	39	50	78%	11	51
SEYMOUR	12084	2	25	32	78.12%	7	33
WEST HAVEN	9422	2	25	35	71.42%	10	36
PORTLAND	6121	6	25	36	69.44%	11	37
Division 11 (Lower) 10 to 50 Members (10 to 30)							
DURHAM	10169	6	11	10	110%	-1	11
SALEM	2774	4	32	31	103.22%	-1	32
THOMASTON	572	5	24	24	100%	0	25
COLCHESTER	6990	4	20	20	100%	0	21
ESSEX	6726	6	25	27	92.59%	2	28
HIGGANUM	10690	6	23	25	92%	2	25
BRIDGEPORT	10273	1	23	26	88.46%	3	27
COS COB	10112	1	20	23	86.95%	3	24
WEST WILLINGTON	938	3	22	26	84.61%	4	27
COVENTRY	10589	3	19	24	79.16%	5	25
LAKEVILLE	9243	5	17	22	77.27%	5	23
FAIRFIELD	9427	1	14	22	63.63%	8	23
TAFTVILLE	2212	4	19	31	61.29%	12	32
Members at Large	99		1139	1456	78.22%	317	1485
State Totals			8246	9735	84.70%	1489	9930

District Commander : Earl S. Colella

- Division 3 Commander : Post 201, Alfred H Comeau
- Division 4 Commander : Post 9460, Steve Evangelist
- Division 5 Commander : Post 10004, David G Greene
- Division 6 Commander : Post 2046, Arthur L Thompson
- Division 7 Commander : Post 9452, William T Mclellan
- Division 8 Commander : Post 189, Jennifer L Zetah
- Division 9 Commander : Post 12150, Bryan J Standish
- Division 10 Commander : Post 1467, Richard P Mason
- Division 11 (U) Commander : Post 4740, Peter D. Ford
- Division 11 (L) Commander : Post 10189, Charles J Arrigoni

For weekly updates go the Adjutant's corner on vfwct.org website.