

The Gazette

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2024

THE GAZETTE

AROUND TOWN

Ceremonial site disposes of worn flags

The town dedicated a special American Flag Retirement Memorial on Hillside Street Wednesday to allow a dignified ceremony for any worn or damaged American flag to be honorably retired. The mayor and the Veteran's Commission held the first ceremonial burning of flags.

"We don't burn the flag, we cut the flag in a ceremonial process into four quarters," said Rich Bates, commissioner. "We first burn the stripes, and then the union. But once a flag is cut it's no longer considered a flag." Bates added that another ceremony will be held on Flag Day June 14, 2025. Anyone in the community may bring worn flags to special flag retirement boxes at Town Hall, Raymond Library, the East Hartford Community Cultural Center and the Public Safety Complex.

Mayor Connor S. Martin and the Veteran's Commission came up with the idea of the flag re-

RETIRED AMERICAN FLAGS GIVEN PROPER RESPECT



irement area. Originally it was to have been in Bicentennial Square, then inside Hillside Cemetery. "The Flag Retirement Memorial was created to allow the Veterans Commission the ability to conduct a proper US Flag retirement ceremony peri-

odically throughout the year. This new space better honors the sacrifice made by our veterans and the importance of the United States Flag."

According to the U.S. Flag Code, "the flag, when it is in such condition that it is no

FLAGS ARE RETIRED by burning in a new memorial on Hillside Street.

longer a fitting emblem of display, should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning."

The new memorial has three benches and three flag poles placed around a fire pit.

CLASSIFIEDS

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT NEEDED - I'm seeking a detail-oriented Administrative Assistant to work with me. The ideal candidate will provide administrative support and ensure efficient operation of official administrative activities. Must possess strong organizational skills with a

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