



**USSVI Groton Base**  
40 School St  
Groton CT 06340  
**Veteran Committee Report**

SEP2021 SITREP

*Alvin G. Kinsall, Chairman*



## CT DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS VETERANS STAND DOWN 2021

The Connecticut Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) is pleased to announce that we are holding Veterans STAND DOWN 2021 on September 22nd, 23rd, & 24th. While the COVID-19 pandemic has changed the way agencies and organizations operate, the DVA continues our commitment to serving Connecticut's Veterans by providing this "one stop" access to a range of programs and services offered by state and federal agencies, Veterans organizations, and community-based non-profits through online webinars and at five regional sites across the State. We hope this approach to Stand Down will help more Veterans across Connecticut connect with the programs and benefits they have earned.

### PROGRAMS AND BENEFITS ONLINE PRESENTATIONS

Wednesday September 22, 2021 & Thursday September 23, 2021, 9:00am – 4:00pm

STAND DOWN 2021 will begin with a kickoff ceremony on September 22, 2021, at 9:00am which will be broadcast live via social media from the DVA Auditorium at our Rocky Hill Campus. This will be followed



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by informational webinars on September 22nd and 23rd on a variety of topics will be conducted by the DVA, Federal VA, State & Federal agencies, and community providers.

**REGIONAL SITES ACROSS CT – INPERSON SERVICES**

Friday September 24, 2021, 8:00am – 2:00pm

Veterans attending will have access to a variety of in-person services, personal need items, vaccinations, legal services, medical screenings, and meals to go provided by the DVA, Federal VA, Veteran Organizations, many other State & Federal agencies, and community providers.

Bridgeport: Port 5 National Association of Navy Veterans, 69 Brewster Street

Danbury: Danbury War Memorial, 1 Memorial Drive

Danielson: Quinebaug Valley Community College, 742 Upper Maple Street

Norwich: Easter Seals Veterans Rally Point, 24 Stott Avenue

Rocky Hill: CT DVA Rocky Hill Campus 287 West Street

For additional information and to register for Stand Down 2021 please visit: <https://portal.ct.gov/DVA/Pages/Veterans-Stand-Down> ■

**MILITARY APPRECIATION DAY**

On Saturday 14 Aug 2021 New London Veterans Affairs Committee hosted its 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Military Appreciation Day event. It started at 1000 and went until to closing. It was a free day at Ocean Beach Park for all veterans and active-duty military in the greater New London area. At 1500 over 300 COAST GUARD SWABS lead by RADM William Kelly Supt of the CGA and CAPT Todd Moore Commanding Officer of US NAVAL SUBMARINE BASE NEW LONDON ran into Ocean Beach Park. That kicked off the ceremony that lasted for about an hour.

Besides speeches from RADM Kelly, CAPT Moore, Mayor Passero the highlights of the ceremony were the recognitions of Service Person(s) of the Year, Veteran Volunteer(s) of the year, honoring Gold Star Families present, and the presentation of the Connecticut Veterans Wartime Service Medals to 12 recipients.

One such recipient was Rocco DeLuca, a 99-year-old WWII veteran escorted by his daughter Joyce. The presentation of Medals was presented by Ryan McKenna who was representing the Commissioner of Connecticut Department of Veterans Affairs, RADM Kelly and New London Mayor, Michael E. Passero. ■



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**CT Department of Veterans Affairs**

**Board of Trustees**



**Wreaths Across America**  
at the  
**Connecticut State Veterans Cemetery**  
**Middletown, CT**

Saturday, December 18, 2021 at Noon

\$15 per wreath which will be placed at each Veteran's Headstone.

**All Proceeds from Board of Trustee sales support the Perpetual  
Care Fund for the State Veterans Cemetery at Middletown**

To Purchase Wreaths, please visit the Official DVA Board site at:  
<https://www.wreathscrossamerica.org/CT0115P>

Or scan the QRL code with your Smartphone Camera.

SCAN THIS CODE



HONOR A VET

You may also pay by check made to: "Wreaths Across America"  
And mail to: Sherri Vogt, 283 Barrett Hill Rd, Brooklyn, CT 06234

**For More Information, please call Sherri Vogt at: 860-315-2666**

**Thomas John Saadi**

August 13 at 5:02 PM · 🌐

I am pleased to announce that the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) Board of Trustees has partnered with Wreaths Across America to sell holiday wreaths for placement at each of the more than 10,000 Veteran's Headstone at the State Veterans Cemetery in Middletown. This event takes place on Saturday December 18th at Noon.

You can support this effort to honor our fallen Veterans by purchasing wreaths at: <https://www.wreathscrossamerica.org/CT0115P>, or via the QRL code on the attached flyer. All proceeds from wreath sales support the Perpetual Care Fund for the State Veterans Cemetery. Thank you for honoring our Veterans - the living and the departed.



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## **Congress Should Increase Access to Care for Veterans**

Prostate cancer is the most common cancer diagnosis among U.S. veterans, who are twice as likely to be diagnosed as men in the general public. In fact, one in five U.S. veterans are at risk for developing prostate cancer in their lifetime. Historical access to care issues within the VA, exacerbated during the COVID-19 pandemic, have increased the impact of this disease among veterans, who are often not screened for prostate cancer until it's too late. Even when cancer is identified, the Department of Veterans Affairs lacks an adequate plan to protect veterans from this deadly disease. It is critical that Congress acts now by increasing access to preventative prostate cancer care and mandating the creation of a standardized clinical treatment pathway within the VA to help ensure that more veterans do not unnecessarily die from prostate cancer. Veterans and active military servicemembers know the importance of having a clear plan of attack for defeating your enemies. For Col. Paul Taylor (Ret.) that became even more apparent when he was diagnosed with stage IV prostate cancer in 2012. At the time, he was only 41 years old, and was serving as a commander in the Army's 101st Airborne Division. After the initial shock of a cancer diagnosis, his military training kicked in, helping him figure out his next steps and his plan for fighting cancer. His treatment at that point had included hormone therapy, chemotherapy, surgery, and immunotherapy, which had helped him hold the disease in check. By establishing a clinical pathway for prostate cancer through the VA, lawmakers could provide a clear plan of attack and support for veterans fighting prostate cancer. Legislation should address all stages of prostate cancer, from early detection to end-of-life care. Congressional action would also help draw attention to veterans who are at an elevated risk for the disease due to evidence-based risk factors, like race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, and family history. A clinical pathway would also lead to the development of a suggested protocol for prostate screening, diagnosis, treatment, or care based on severity and stage of cancer to provide veterans with all-inclusive support for the disease. Veterans are an extremely high-risk patient population for developing prostate cancer. The United States has an aging veteran population and many veterans have been exposed to herbicides, such as Agent Orange — two factors that further increase the risk for prostate cancer. Black men are 1.8 times more likely to be diagnosed with prostate cancer and 2.2 times more likely to die from prostate cancer, highlighting the disparate impact of prostate cancer on Black veterans, who are most at risk for the disease. There are already nearly 489,000 prostate cancer patients in the VA health care system, and 16,000 of these patients have metastatic prostate cancer, meaning the cancer has spread to other parts of their bodies. With many men catching up on regular prostate check-ups now, the number of prostate cancer patients within the VA is expected to rise. Early detection of prostate cancer is critical for improving treatment and survival rates. Congress has the power to expand access to prostate cancer care and help protect veterans. As we appreciate the sacrifices our veterans make, let's honor them by improving health care services for veterans and passing crucial legislation to increase prostate cancer care in the VA.

[Source: MilitaryTimes | Paul Taylor (Opinion) | August 6, 2021 ■