

Did you know?
November is
Native American
Heritage
Month!

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WORLD WAR II VETERANS DISCUSSION GROUP
HAGAMAN MEMORIAL LIBRARY 203-468-3890
227 MAIN ST. EAST HAVEN, CT 06512

Thanksgiving is
Thursday,
November 27th.



November 2014

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, November 19th at 2:00 pm in the Hagaman Library DeMayo Community Room.

NOTE: OUR MEETING IS A WEEK EARLIER DUE TO THE THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

This month, Peter Falcione will talk to us about how he became a war dog handler and will read from his original work, a play entitled "Confessions of a War Dog" which recounts the story of love and loss between a scout dog and his handler. Peter has been involved with the Veteran's Home Front Theatre of the VA CT, which began over 18 years ago. Theatre provides a space and place for lifetimes of stories to be told, held, shared and witnessed. This holding space provides a safe container for veterans to not only tell their stories but connect us all through our common humanity. The group is dedicated to exploring the veteran's journey. They have created numerous original plays over the years (including a musical comedy which we watched on video at a past meeting, starring our own Dana Murphy!) Their work has been the springboard for a documentary film called "No Unwounded Soldiers" by Rebecca Abbott.

And Kevin will share photos he took during a recent trip to St. Louis, MO, to do research at the National Archives National Personnel Records Center. As always, refreshments will be served, and since it's November, we'll be sure to have apple cider!



Painting of Vietnam Soldier and His War Dog
Artist: John Dell, Sr, 1st Bn, 14th Infantry Regiment,
Company A, The Golden Dragons

Free Thanksgiving Day Football Game and Breakfast for Veterans!

ATTENTION ALL VETERANS!

On Thanksgiving morning at 10:30 a.m., veterans can attend the West Haven vs. Fairfield Prep high school football game for free and receive a free Thanksgiving breakfast as well, soup to nuts! Veterans will assemble in the end zone to watch the game, which will be played at West Haven High School's Ken Strong Stadium, One McDonough Plaza in West Haven. The West Haven football alumni regularly host veterans for free, some who travel from the V.A. hospital by bus to the stadium. All veterans are welcome. The breakfast is being provided by McDonald's, which recently opened a new restaurant in West Haven on Saw Mill Road, next to Walmart. West Haven mayor Ed O'Brien helped make arrangements for the event.



GEM OF THE MONTH:

**"Happiness lies in the joy of achievement and the thrill of creative effort."
—Franklin Delano Roosevelt**

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Gail Eisenhower 11/9
Louis Hardy 11/28

**A GREAT BIG ROUND OF APPLAUSE!**

for our WWII Group member Vincent Barone, who led us in singing *I've Been Working on the Railroad, You're a Grand Old Flag, and America*, at our October meeting!



As we remember Veterans Day, we say Thank You to all those who have served our country.

**LAST MONTH'S MEETING:**

Jane Dougherty, of the Quilts of Valor organization, showed us many of her beautiful quilts made for veterans of all ages. WWII Group members signed one of her quilts which will soon be given to a United States Marine. And Kevin shared photos of his recent visit to Battleship Cove in Fall River, Massachusetts.

U-boat and Convoy Ship from 1942 Found Off Carolina Coast

(October, 2014—off the North Carolina coast). After poring over historical records and sweeping the seafloor with cutting-edge technology, researchers from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) have pinpointed the long-buried wrecks of the freighter *Bluefields* and German U-boat U-576. The discovery of these two vessels which met their end in a pivotal naval skirmish in 1942, sheds new light on a bloody yet little-known chapter in American history: the Battle of the Atlantic. For the first half of 1942, the Eastern Seaboard of the United States was under siege by Germany's submarines. On July 15, 1942, while travelling with convoy KS-520 the merchant freighter *Bluefields* was sunk by four torpedoes launched from the German U-boat U-576. The U-576 surfaced shortly afterward and was quickly fired on by the armed merchant vessel *Unicoi* and depth charged by US Navy Kingfisher aircraft, which sent the submarine to the bottom. All hands of the *Bluefields* survived, but the entire crew of the submarine perished.

For more than 70 years, sand and silt concealed the watery graves of the two vessels lost in a battle that brought WWII to America's shores. The discovery of these wrecks provides a time capsule by which historians and scientists can uncover additional stories of these ships.

Images at right: TOP: Freighter *Bluefields*; MIDDLE: Sonar scan of U-576; BOTTOM: Sonar scan of freighter *Bluefields*.

