

WWII VETERANS DISCUSSION GROUP

HAGAMAN MEMORIAL LIBRARY

227 MAIN STREET EAST HAVEN, CT 06512 (203) 468-3890

*January Newsletter**Happy New Year and thanks to The Greatest Generation.*

Join us as Thomas Holman, nephew of our own Francis Holman, shares his WWII collection with us on January 28th at 1:30 p.m. in the Community Room of the Hagaman Memorial Library.

Jesse Dyson will give a short review of her movie viewing experience of "Defiance."

Kevin McKernon will talk about the USS Corry reunion.

Dan Garritta will have a display of his WWII materials at Guilford Library through the end of January.

Badges are "in the works" and we hope to see them soon.

John Rossick suggested the following, *Why is the American Flag folded 13 times?*

Why is the American Flag Folded 13 Times?

Reprinted with permission from the Ninetieth Division Association Newsletter Fall 2008

Here is the meaning of each of those folds and what it means to you:

The first fold of our flag is a symbol of life.

The second fold is a symbol of our belief in eternal life.

The third fold is made in honor and remembrance of the veterans departing our ranks who gave a portion of their lives for the defense of our country to attain peace throughout the world

The forth fold represents our weaker nature, for as American citizens trusting in God, it is to Him we turn in times of peace as well as in times of war for His divining guidance.

The fifth fold is a tribute to our country, for in the words of Stephen Decatur, "*Our Country, in dealing with other countries may she always be right; but it is still our country right or wrong.*"

The sixth fold is for where our hearts lie. It is with our heart that we pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States Of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, One Nation under God, Indivisible, with Liberty and Justice for all.

The seventh fold is a tribute to our Armed Forces, for it is through the Armed Forces that we protect our country and our flag against all her enemies, whether they be found within or without the boundaries of our republic.

The eighth fold is a tribute to the One who entered into the valley of the shadow of death, that we might see the light of day, and to honor mother, for whom it flies on Mother's Day.

The ninth fold is a tribute to womanhood; for it has been through their faith, their love, loyalty and devotion that the character of the men and women who have made this country great has been molded.

The tenth fold is a tribute to the father, for he, too, has given his sons and daughters for the defense of our country since they were first born.

The eleventh fold in the eyes of a Hebrew citizen represents the lower portion of the seal of King David and King Solomon and glorifies in the Hebrews' eyes, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

The twelfth fold in the eyes of of a Christian citizen, represents an emblem of eternity and glorifies, in their eyes, God the Father, the Son and Holy Spirit.

The thirteenth fold completes the folded flag and the stars are uppermost reminding us of our nation's motto, "In God We Trust." After the flag is completely folded and tucked in, it takes on the appearance of a cocked hat, ever reminding us of the soldiers who served under General George Washington, and the sailors and marines who served under Captain John Paul Jones, who were followed by their comrades and shipmates in the Armed Forces of the United States, preserving for us the rights, privileges and freedoms we enjoy today.

There are some traditions and ways of doing things which have deep meaning.



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February 2009 Newsletter

Feb 20, 2009

Join us as Thomas Holman, shares his WWII collection with us on February 25th at 1:30 p.m in the Community Room of the Hagaman Memorial Library.



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March 2009 Newsletter

Attention: Meeting moved to April 1st 1:30 pm

March 18, 2009
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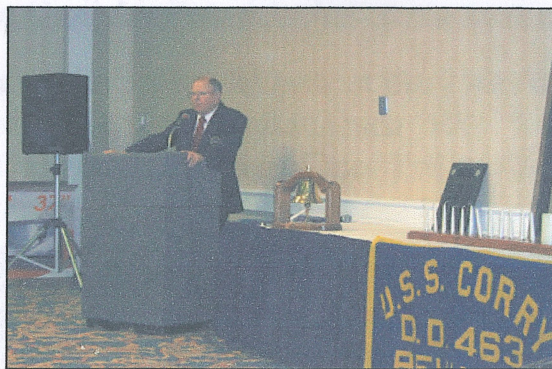
«GreetingLine»

We welcome new members- John P. Bonner, (3rd Armored Division) and James Medcalf, (Army Air Transport Command).

We opened our February 25th meeting with a reading by WWII Re-enactor, Dan Garitta. Dan shared part of a letter written by S/Sgt. Sherman Allan, who was stationed in Paris, France with the Society of American Archivists. The letter related details of Allan's experiences as well as personal emotions concerning the war. Thank you Dan, we look forward to hearing the rest of Allan's letter. Dan will also be showing film footage of the bombing of the USS Franklin to commemorate the Battle of Okinawa at our April 1st meeting. I will be reading a letter and enlisting the help of the group.

Rose Bernabucci, profiled below, will display her Civil Air Patrol Jacket at our next meeting. *(different page)*

Kevin McKernon presented a slide show of some of the photos he took at the 35th Annual USS Corry (DD-463) Reunion last October. The Reunion took place in Virginia Beach, VA. Below are some photos from the event. Kevin's father, Francis McKernon, served as Chief Petty Officer aboard the Corry, which was sunk in an artillery duel off Utah Beach at the front of the D-Day battle.



**Above left Candle ceremony for the 24 USS Corry shipmates killed on D-Day
Right Speaker, Chief Grant Gullickson,**



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April Newsletter

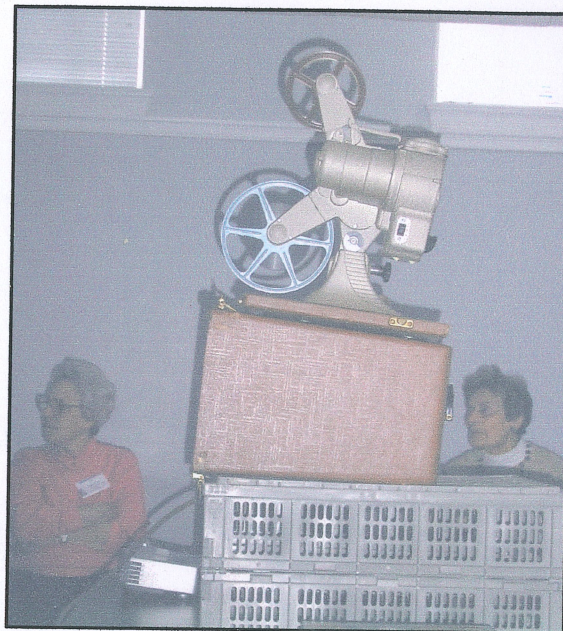
March 18, 2009

«AddressBlock»

«GreetingLine»

This month we are featuring John P. Bonner of the and Tom Yester, Dan Garitta brought footage of Okinawa shown on the projector below.

Left Jesse Dyson
Right Rose Bernabucci
Photo by Fawn Murphy



April 29th, 2009



Mayor showing clips of Veterans Interviews

The Mayor is having a half-hour video of veteran's interview "clips" put together by MultiMedia Solutions. This will be shown prior to the Movie on the Beach- "We Were Soldiers" with Mel Gibson, Sunday May 24th at dusk. I have taken the following interviews Kevin and I have done with some of you over to Multimedia solutions:

Tom Yester; John Rossick; Barbara Esposito; Nile Heermans; Martin Nobile; Francis Holman; Ken Delaney; Rose Bernabucci; Jesse Dyson; Eileen Papa; William Jackson; Gordon Stevens.

If you are not on the list above and would like to be included please let me know by Monday May 4th. (203-468-3890) Also if you don't want to be included let me know. I'm not in control of what does and does not get included. But it would be great if folks showed up at the beach to see this video before the movie on May 24th.!

Veterans Aid and Attendance Benefits Seminar - April 30th

There will be a Veterans Aid and Attendance Benefits Seminar given at Mariner's Point Thursday April 30th at 1 pm with a lunch provided, as well as a 6 pm session the same day with a light dinner. I will be attending the 1 pm session and will provide transportation from the library for those who would like to go with me. Please let me know if you need transportation. I will be leaving the library at 12:30.

Veterans Awareness Day- May 22nd

I will be picking folks up at the library at 8:30 Friday May 22nd. We should arrive by nine giving us an hour to set up tables of memorabilia and take advantage of eating pastries etc.- There will also be a lunch provided. Students from Hamden Middle School come in at 10. This is a great opportunity to share your knowledge and experience with these students!

Veteran Group Members of the Month

You have been reading about "Veteran Group Members of the Month." We want to get everyone's biography, so I'll be interviewing two of you per month. Kevin had this wonderful idea of starting at the beginning and end of the alphabet so you don't have to wait as long for your turn. Didn't work out perfectly this month but was delighted to profile Tom Yester and send the newspaper article of Nile Heermans. If you are profiled as "Person of the Week" by the East Haven Courier- that will count as your Veterans Group Member of the Month profile.

TIME CHANGE- We are moving the meeting to 2 pm starting in May.

☆ It has just been too rushed to try to get everything done when there is a group occupying the Community Room until 1 O'clock before our meeting. Hope this is ok.



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June 17, 2009

Jean Granada
Laurel Woods
451 N. High Street
East Haven, CT 06512

Dear Jean,

Newsletter June, 2009

JOIN US ON **JUNE 24TH AT 2 P.M.** As we go to the pre-WWII 1930s to compare MEMORIES FROM your DEPRESSION IMPRESSIONS and compare them with today's CULTURE AND ECONOMY.



DEPRESSION IMPRESSIONS

What do you remember about the Depression?



WPA: unemployed shown at volunteers of America Soup Kitchen: Washington, D.C. 1936
Franklin D. Roosevelt Library and Museum

French Legion of Honor Medal

There are veterans in the Group who fought in France between June 6th, 1944 and May 8th, 1945, and are eligible to receive the beautiful French Legion of Honor Medal. Ken Delaney showed us his French Legion of Honor medal at the last meeting.

Here is what you need to do to apply-send copies only:

1. Honorable discharge (DD-214) both sides
2. Brief history of your division or unit's service
3. Brief personal history of your service-your function and activities. It is important to include any medals or citations you received. Include your address, phone and any other contact information.

Send to: The French Consulate
934 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10021

Please note: submission of these materials is not a guarantee you will receive the medal. They make this decision.

Hope you enjoy reading about Antoinette Coleman, our Veterans Discussion Group Member of the Month.

"Hometown Heroes"
The Trolley Square Post Office is honoring East Haven Hometown Heroes.

Do you have someone CURRENTLY serving in the military from East Haven? Drop off their photo along with their name, rank and branch of service to the Post Office, 175 Main St. East Haven. They will showcase these photos in the lobby of the Post Office.

Quiz

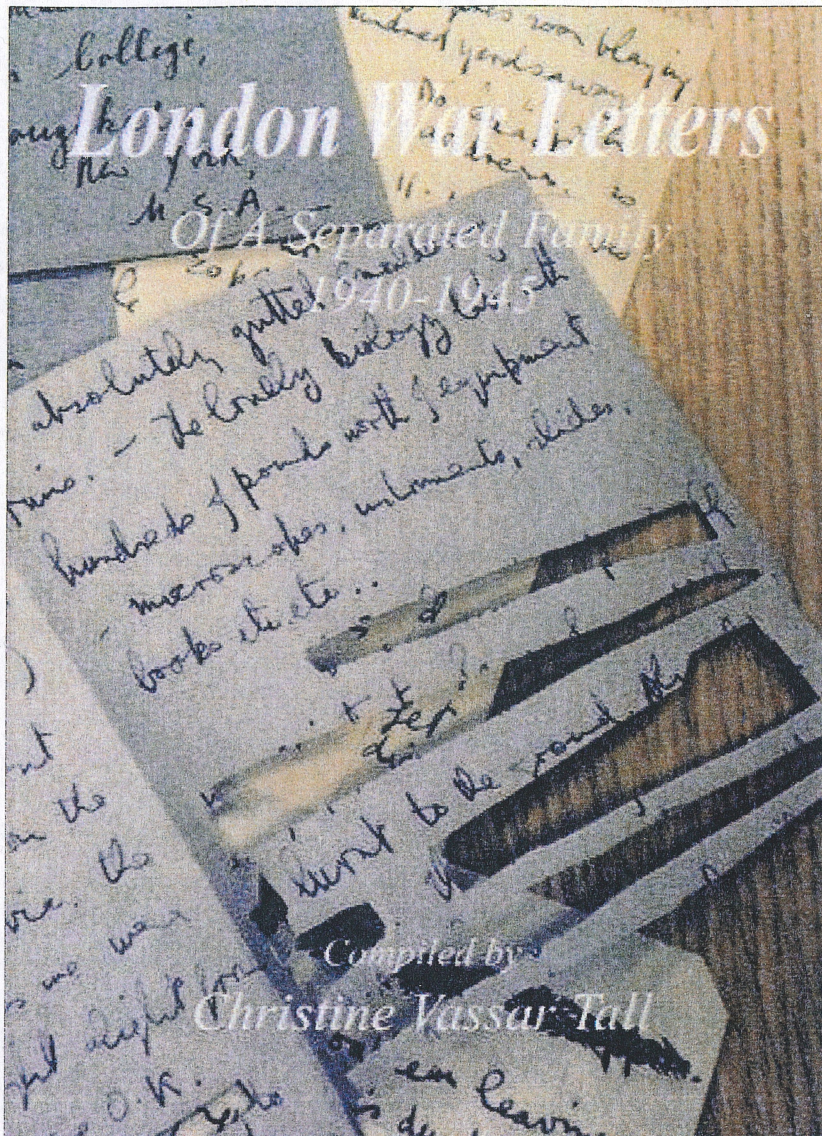


In what year was the movie *Laura* released? 1942, 1944, 1945.

When was the CCC formed? 1931, 1933, 1940.

What about the WPA? 1939, 1940, 1941.

Battle of the Bulge Luncheon- We had a good time- hope to see some of you folks at the next one in September!



Christine Vassar Tall, who compiled these letters for publication, was born in London in 1927 and was there when World War II broke out in 1939. She was evacuated to the home of President MacCracken of Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, N.Y. in August 1940.

London War Letters Of a Separated Family 1940-1945

Join us for this talk, by Christine Vassar Tall, on a compilation of letters exchanged between her family in war torn Britain, and the child she was at that time, sent for safety to the United States.

**Wednesday, July
29th, 2 p.m. at the
Hagaman
Memorial Library**

*Sponsored by the Hagaman Library
WWII Veterans Discussion Group*



FIGHTING FOR FREEDOM

Major Raoul Lufbery VFW Post 591, Wallingford, Connecticut

Artist, Andrew J. Yelenak will speak about the inspiration and experience of painting this stunning panoramic mural to honor our veterans.

September 30th, 2 p.m. at the Haganan Memorial Library

227 Main Street, East Haven, Connecticut

Sponsored by the WWII Veterans Discussion Group

This event is free and open to the public

The mural stretches 20 feet and was eight years in the making. Veterans of WWI, WWII, Korea, Vietnam, and the Gulf War are represented. Mr. Yelenak was the artist for the official 1997, 1998, 2003 & 2004 Boston Marathon Lithographs. Among other credits, in 2001, Mr. Yelenak had a solo exhibition at the Old State House in Hartford, Connecticut called

"The Art of Sports." Words and images from the website: www.runningpast.com/mural

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WWII VETERANS DISCUSSION GROUP

HAGAMAN MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Newsletter October 2009

Congratulations to all WWII Veterans who received a public service award from **Secretary of State Susan Bysiewicz and Mayor Capone Almon** on September 30th.

Join us for the WWII Veterans Discussion Group October 28th at 2 p.m. in the Community Rm. of the Hagaman Library. Our program will be: One of the Last PT Boats—Kevin McKernon will show pictures of one of the last remaining PT boats that he had the privilege of riding in at the Milford Oyster Festival. Under Nazi Rule—Walter Lindert will speak about growing up under Nazi rule in the village of Gutersloh.

Volunteers Needed for Field of Flags Memorial Service Held
Christ and the Epiphany Episcopal Church, 39 Park Place East Haven, will be hosting the **Field of Flags**

November 7th to Nov. 27th, 2009. A memorial service will be held at the Church Nov. 8th at 3 p.m. The Field of Flags represents our service men and woman's ultimate sacrifice in Iraq and Afghanistan. Each flag stands for a fallen serviceman or a fallen servicewoman. Three teams of 12 persons are needed at the church Nov. 7th. There will be a 9 a.m., (over)

The Illustrator

A Rockwell scene, he called them thus,
Distinctive imagery brought to life.
He was the master of an illustrator's brush,
Be it contentment, peace or strife.

I've often thought if I might write,
share my thoughts with such complete realism,
Bringing to generations as much delight,
As Rockwell succeeded with professionalism.

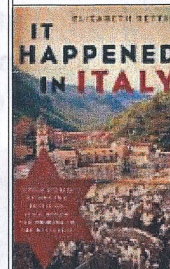
Hopefully love of his illustrations never decreases,
They are for now and forever pure masterpieces.



BY FAUX POE- WWII VETERAN

HELP WANTED

Jean Granata, of Laurel Woods Rehab/ Nursing Home would like to present programs to the veterans there. Would anyone be willing to help on this? Call Jean: 203-466-6850 ext. 319 or speak with Fawn.



Don't miss this—
Seating is limited
please call the library at 203-468-3890 to register.

Hear author Elizabeth Bettina tell the story of how the Italian people and the Catholic church harbored the Jewish people and saved their lives during WWII.

Thurs. Nov. 5th, 7 pm at the Hagaman Library

Special Thanks for Raffle Participation

Special thanks to Francis Holman for providing the raffle prizes, Evelyn Rossick for providing the raffle tickets, and Dana Murphy for announcing the raffle. This effort is MUCH appreciated!!

Ken Delaney won the copy of the mural provided by speaker Dan Yelenak.

Right: Evelyn Rossick shakes the tickets. Speaker Dan Yelenak is seated at the table. Audience: furthest back Edward Misbach, John Rossick and Tom Yester look on. On stage: Kevin McKernon and Dan Garitta.



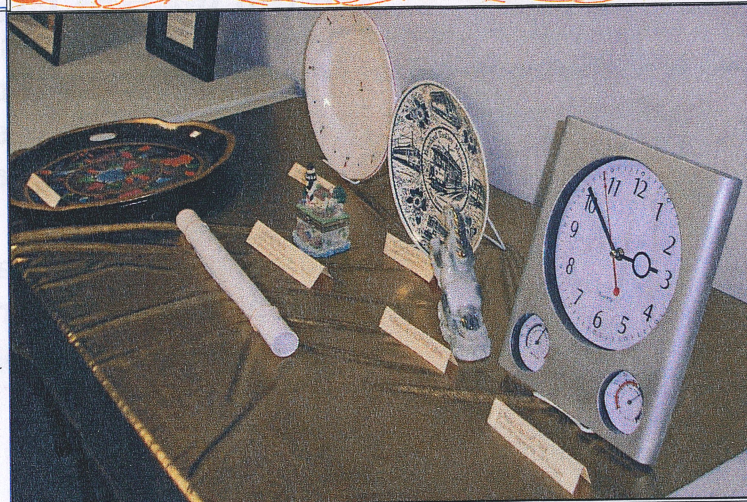
Field of Flags, continued

There will be a 9 am, 10 am, and 11 am team each team will work for one hour rain or shine. If you would be able to put together a team, or work on a team let us know. Also needed one or two people every day to walk the property and set up-right fallen flags and replace broken ones.

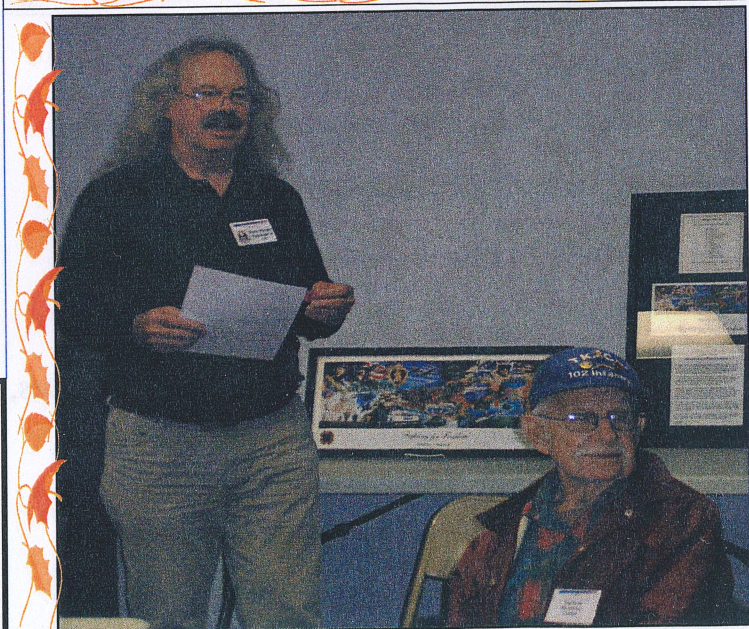
The flags will be removed Nov 27th help needed then as well.

If you would be able to put together a team or work on a team please call Pat Walters at 488-7762 after 6 pm.

The Church will hold a memorial service on Sunday, November 8th 2009 at 3:00 pm. This non-denominational service will consist of prayers and patriotic songs and is open to all. Veterans are encouraged to wear their uniforms. A reception will follow. If you would like to help



Program at Mariner's Point: Do you like "old time" radio? Meet Radio and TV Personality, Bob Shulz, and enjoy music and voices from the past. Tuesday, Nov. 3rd, 2 p.m.



☆☆☆

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Newsletter November 2009



Nov. 19th, 2009

Jesse Dyson

Dear Jesse,

Welcome New Members!

**George Barba
John Bendt
Sherman Best
Jeanne Bowen
Peter DiGuseppe
Walter Dianni
Lou Galluci**

We enjoyed having you.
Please come back so we
can learn more about you!

Nov 17th Birthday-Ethyl Papa

One of the stars of the Civil Air
Patrol video made by Kevin
McKernon. Ethyl served in the
CAP in 1940s. She enjoys writ-
ing and drawing
portraits. She is the
author of a chil-
dren's book,
*Holiday Stories and
Poems* available
here at the Library.



**Military
Museum
to open in
West
Haven—
Memorial
Day, 2010**
West Haven
Public works
commis-
sioner, Beth
Savo, and
Korean War
(over)

The copper Coin

I found a copper coin along my walk
Not a startling fact of which to talk.
It appeared a rock, on the forest floor
Green undistinguishable nothing more.

Ah yes! But intrigue, unraveled when
Brushing, cleaning, operations began.
Now faint figures appeared, lettering next
Presently small clues to rescind the vex.

Excitement welled I was forced to wait
Alas! To my delight, there was the date.
Visions rolled back to Colonial years
Of centuries pass with joys albeit tears.

Identified by research I now find
Step by step as a ratchet does wind.
Information, images, historical fact
Gathered together gives cause to react.

The copper coin will intrigue and fascinate.
Coin age, and historical value none will debate.
Together we, who the past and present do mix
Possess a coin dated seventeen eighty six.

Faux Poe– WWII Veteran

This Month

**Wednesday,
November 25th**

Yes, we do meet the day
before Thanksgiving. We
will have a Thanksgiving
social of cider and
pumpkin pie.

Bring your memories of
what you were thankful
for during WWII and the
present. We will write
them on "leaves of thanks"
and place them on a
"Thanksgiving Tree."



*We note with sadness
the passing of
Francis Holman.*

Honor Flight
**Do You Want to see
the World War II
Veterans Memorial
in Washington
D.C.?**

**The World War II
Memorial was
dedicated in 2004,
sixty years after the
war. Earl Morse, a
physician's assistant
at the VA Hospital in
Springfield, Ohio.
(over)**

Honor Flight— Morse noted that many WWII veterans were, by that time, in poor health or did not have the means to travel. He took his cause to a local air club. Honor Flight now uses Boeing jets from 86 hubs in 33 states to fly WWII veterans to D.C.

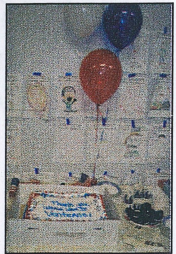
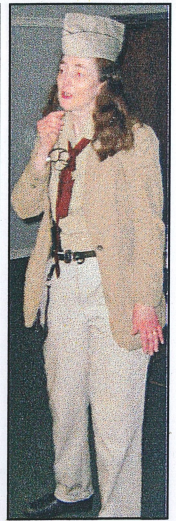
(from CNN "Taking World War II Veterans to See Memorial Before Time Runs Out"
Alicia Eakin, Nov. 11th, 2009)

I spoke with the Lt. Governor's office concerning the next Honor Flight. A group went out this month and the next date has not yet been established. But it would be great to have some people from the Group on the next flight!

Military Museum to open in West Haven— Veteran, Frank Carrano have worked to find a home for an extensive array of military items formerly housed in New Haven at the 102nd Infantry Regiment Museum. Carrano was curator when that museum was open. The new museum will open in a warehouse on Hood Avenue in West Haven.

The space will feature collections from the 102nd Infantry Regiment Museum and the New Haven Grays, a protective force formed after the War of 1812. But it is hoped that pieces will be added to the museum over the years, including memorabilia donated or loaned by local families of war veterans. (from the *New Haven Register* "W. Haven Military Museum finds a Home" by Abbe Smith, Nov. 4th, 2009)

Thank you to all for helping to launch me on my → singing career. Somehow I don't think that hat is government issue. It may be an issue, just not government issue!



October 28th, 2009- WWII Veterans Discussion Group

WWII Veterans Discussion Group

Christmas Party 2009

**WWII
Veterans
Discussion Group
Christmas Party**



**December 23rd
2009**

Program

O Holy Night

The Very Thought of You—piano
Ruth Altschuler

A Kingston Trio Medley
Dana Murphy

Living by the Sea- A Poem by
Dana Murphy

A Reading
Fawn Murphy

***Christmas Carols—
Singing and Ringing of Bells***
All—led by Kevin McKernon

Prayer for our Military

O Prince of Peace we humbly ask
Your protection for all our
men and women in military service.
Give them unflinching courage to
defend with honor, dignity and devotion
the rights of all who are imperiled by injustice
and evil. Guard our churches, our homes, our
schools, our hospitals, our factories, our buildings,
and all those within from harm
and peril. Protect our land and its people
from enemies within and without.
Grant an early peace with victory
founded upon justice. Instill in the hearts
and minds of people everywhere a firm purpose
to live forever in peace and good will towards all.



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"I saw this man with hair so gray,
stooped and bent he knelt to pray. In
his eyes there glowed a strange light,
like the wonder stars on that night.
He looked toward where the Christ
Child lay, bowing his head

I could hear him say.

'On this day of days I beg of thee, to
keep our country strong and free.
Shower your blessings upon her men,
who are now fighting to the very end.
And for those who sacrifices give,
America forever, she must live.'"

Francis Holman
Christmas Day, 1942



WWII VETERANS DISCUSSION GROUP

Christmas 2009

*Please Join Us
for the*

*WWII Veterans Discussion Group
Christmas Party and Luncheon*

*Wednesday, December 23rd at 2 p.m.
to be held in the Community Room of
the Hagaman Library
227 Main St., East Haven*

*Please note this is a week earlier
than our usual meeting date*