



# AMVETS (American Veterans)

Department of Connecticut

PDC Albert Duff, State Adjutant (860) 861-2331

e-mail: aduff0037@charter.net www.amvetsct.org

Chad Colter  
State Commander (860) 383-2770  
e-mail: ccolter@amvetsct.org

## Samples of AMVETS CT Projects:

# How We Help Our Troops, Our Veterans & Our Community

Page 1 of 2



AMVETS State Executive Committee

### The Connecticut AMVETS

The AMVETS are the only congressionally chartered veterans service organization whose membership is open to anyone who has honorably served or is serving in the U. S. Armed Forces since World War II. Connecticut AMVETS have over 2,400 members and participate in an extensive list of programs for our troops, veterans, and their families, some of which are listed in this 2 page flyer. The AMVETS take pride in providing an unending stream of community services. Everything from sponsoring blood and organ donor drives to promoting patriotism, to operating our drug and alcohol education program. Wherever the need exist, you'll find AMVETS ready to pitch in.

### Post 24 Heroes On Wheels

Post 24 Heroes On Wheels is a AMVETS program, created and supervised by Roger Geiger and his wife Diane, that collects donated used or new electric wheelchairs and electric scooters, and other medical equipment such as walkers and crutches. When needed, Roger and his post volunteers refurbishes the donated items and deliver them to veterans or their families who need them throughout Connecticut and occasionally into New York, Rhode Island and Massachusetts. In 2010 they gave away 25 electric wheelchairs. The volunteers also visit veterans at home or in nursing facilities.

Roger and Diane Geiger make repairs to electric wheelchairs and scooters prior to donating them to needy veterans or their families.



### Parades and Military Funeral Honors

Throughout the year AMVETS participate in numerous parades, historic events, and other patriotic ceremonies in order to remind the public of the sacrifices of our military and veterans, both past and present. It is important to remind the public that freedom is not free. Countless servicemen and women have placed the welfare of our Nation ahead of their own. Many servicemen and women have paid for that devotion with physical and mental scars and some the supreme sacrifice, their lives. CT AMVETS attempt to provide military and veterans funeral honors whenever possible.

### AMVETS Americanism Program

The AMVETS Americanism Program is a patriotic program the organization offers schools and youth organizations as a resource for teaching children in kindergarten through 12th grade about their American heritage, civics and citizenship. The program includes flag drawing, poster and essay contests that are grade specific and age appropriate. AMVETS and AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary sponsor a series of contests at the local and state level wherein children design flags or posters and write essays. The winners at the local level progress to the state contests and the state winners are then entered into the National competition.



### Preserving History

CT AMVETS are dedicated to the preservation of history. The Connecticut Vietnam Wall of Honor, shown on left, is an great example. Past State Commander Dick Bonneau built the Wall of Honor in 2000 at his own expense in order to honor the 612 Connecticut servicemen who died in Vietnam

and to remind the public of their sacrifice. AMVETS support the Veterans History Project which chronicles veterans' and other citizens' wartime experiences, and the effect these experiences had in their lives.



# AMVETS (American Veterans)

Department of Connecticut

PDC Albert Duff, State Adjutant (860) 861-2331

e-mail: aduff0037@charter.net www.amvetsct.org

Chad Colter

State Commander (860) 383-2770

e-mail: ccolter@amvetsct.org

## How We Help Our Troops, Our Veterans & Our Community

Page 2 of 2

### Samples of AMVETS CT Projects:



Photo: Paul R. Roley

### Operation Gift Cards (For Our Wounded Troops)

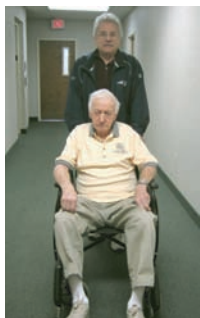
Since October 2005, the Operation Gift Cards' 75 monthly/bimonthly visits have presented 12,110 thank you kits which contained \$242,000 in military department store gift certificates to our wounded troops. An additional \$169,468 in other gift certificates and special group product donations (Girl Scout cookies, corporate gift certificates etc.) have been delivered to the Soldier Family Assistance Center, the Fisher Houses, Building 62, the Navy Lodge, the Red Cross, and the Bethesda Casualty Affairs Office, along with over \$50,000 worth items on the "wish list" for both the wounded troops and their families (over \$435,600 total). The Connecticut AMVETS have been the largest contributor to OGC for the past 2 years. For more information contact Al Meadows (203) 929-3357 or e-mail al.meadows@snet.net or see web site www.ctveterans.org.

### Care Packages for Our Troops

Danielson AMVETS Post 45 has led the AMVETS's effort in Connecticut to send care packages to our troops deployed in Afghanistan and Iraq and to other locations including the United States. Post 45 has set a strong example to follow in both the quantity and quality of care packages mailed by AMVETS posts in the state. The contents of the care packages are carefully selected to provide items the troops may find hard to obtain and to provide items that would boost their morale.



PDC Dick Bonneau, the CT National Executive Committeeman on the left, and AMVETS State Commander Chad Colter assemble a group of care packages to send to our troops.



### Veterans Administration Volunteer Service

Many AMVETS post have members that regularly participate in many VAVS programs including sponsoring bingos (which include providing prizes and refreshments) and sponsoring holiday parties for the patients.

### Homeless and Hardship Funds

AMVETS Posts allocate funds for homeless veterans or veterans going through hardships. These post programs provide assistance to local veterans without the extensive paperwork sometimes required by other state and federal assistance programs.



### Other Sample Community Service Projects:

- AMVETS Against Drug and Alcohol Abuse (AADAA)
- AMVETS White Clover
- Armed Services Blood Program(ASBP)
- Boy Scouts of America
- Ceremonial Rifles
- Citizens Flag Alliance
- Freedoms Foundation Youth Leadership Conference
- Make a Difference

- Homeless Veterans (NCHV)
- National Guard - Memorandum of Understanding
- ROTC
- Scholarships
- Special Olympics
- Stand Down for Homeless Veterans
- Task Force DVD
- Veterans Affairs Voluntary Services (VAVS)
- Veterans History Project

Some of the other Programs Supported by posts at the local level:

- American Red Cross
- Bone Marrow Foundation
- CT Heroes On Wheels
- Girl Scouts USA
- Habitat for Humanity
- National Center for Missing & Exploited Children
- National Transplant Society
- Operation Gift Cards For Our Wounded Troops