



For Immediate Release

Photo attached

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**“Memorial Month: Honoring Veterans in our Community”
Photographic exhibit by Avon VFW Post 3272 in Gallery of
the Avon Free Public Library through May 31st**

The Gildo T. Consolini VFW Post 3272, Avon, Connecticut announces it has mounted a photographic exhibit entitled “Memorial Month: Honoring Veterans in our Community” is now open in the Gallery of the Avon Free Public Library, 280 Country Club Road, Avon through May 31st.

As a lead up to Memorial Day when the country honors all military veterans, past and present, the Avon VFW, with the help from Deb Key Imagery, has mounted an exhibit of over 200 photos in the Gallery of the Avon Library with three themes:

1. 70 years of the Avon VFW Post 3272 with enlarged pages of their commemorative magazine showing the amount of community service and activity they have undertaken over the past 70 years for the town of Avon. Copies of the magazine are free for the public at the exhibit.
2. The many activities the Post does for the community such as the Annual Buddy Poppy Drive which raises money from the community to donate to veteran causes locally, statewide and nationally as well as organizing the annual Memorial Day Parade, visits to Avon schools on Veterans Day, participation in Avon Day, as well as providing color guard for the National Day of Prayer.
3. A commemoration of the 25th anniversary of Desert Shield and Desert Storm in which 12 current Avon VFW Post members participated. Various photos from the web and an explanation of the Iraqi invasion in Kuwait and the 100-hour war that followed is provided. A few items were provided by the Desert Storm Memorial in Washington, D.C.

In addition, the Avon VFW Post Auxiliary is exhibiting photos and samples of various projects and events they hold for the Post members and the community. They provide meals to the members of the Post during their monthly meetings; make beautiful wreaths for the Final Salute at Veteran’s funerals; participate in the VFW Annual Buddy Poppy Drive in May and assist with the Memorial Day parade and events on the Town Green.

The Avon VFW Post and Auxiliary is unique in that it is totally community-based which gives them

flexibility in their activities and support. Over the many years they have been involved in town, they are well respected and appreciated. The members range from service in WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Cold War, Desert Shield/Desert Storm and some from the most recent Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts. They welcome and encourage new members.

There are three main criteria required to be eligible to join the VFW such as: the veterans must have served overseas during a conflict, they must have an Honorable Discharge or be a current Member of the Military and they must be a U.S. Citizen or U.S. National. There is also criteria for veterans who served in Korea for 30 consecutive days or 60 nonconsecutive days anytime since June 30, 1949 to present. Or if the veteran has received one of several badges, indicating various other service, makes them eligible to join. Examples of include Operation Joint Forge, Combat Infantry Badge, Coast Guard Combat Action Ribbon, Expeditionary Medals for all branches, Hostile Fire or Imminent Danger Pay, and Iraq and Afghanistan campaign medals, among others. A full list will be available from the Post members.

To join the VFW, the veteran will need to supply a copy of their DD214 Separation Form indicating their full service. Lost or missing separation documents can be replaced by completing and submitting GSA Standard Form 180, "Request Pertaining to Military Records." The Post can assist any veteran with this process.

If a veteran wants to meet the Post members in a friendly setting, they are welcome to do so on Thursdays from 9:30am to 11:00am at Truffles on Main Restaurant, 300 West Main Street, Avon. They also encourage veterans to join them the first Saturdays of the month from 8:00-10:00am also at Truffles. Lee Wilson, Commander of the Gildo T. Consolini VFW Post 3272 in Avon, said, "This gives us an opportunity to meet with veterans, in a friendly setting, and talk about our community activities and the benefits of membership in the VFW." He went on to say that the motto of the VFW is "no one does more for veterans and their families than the Veterans of Foreign Wars. From local grassroots ideas to national influence, the VFW works every day to make a difference." For the Avon Post that means that all their work is for the service of the veteran and the current military.

The Avon VFW Post is open to any resident of Connecticut. Transfers from others Posts are also welcome. For more information about the Avon VFW Post 3272, visit: www.avonvfw.com or e-mail Commander Lee Wilson at: commander@avonvfw.com

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