

Operation Gift Cards

For our wounded and injured troops in Walter Reed and Bethesda Military Hospitals

Web site:
www.ctveterans.org

Sponsored by **VETERANS And Their Supporters** in 34 chapters, posts, detachments and units of the:

American Legion: Fairfield Post 74, Shelton Post 16, Fairfield Post 143, Derby Post 24

Disabled American Veterans: Stamford Ch. 13, Fairfield Ch.19, Enfield Ch. 52, Greater New Haven Ch. 2, Derby Ch. 4, Milford Ch. 15, Manchester Ch. 17, Bristol Ch. 5, West Haven Ch.18

Marine Corps League: Stamford Detachment 910

Military Order of the Purple Heart: Shelton/Derby Ch. 1, Greater New Haven Ch. 103, New Britain Ch. 51, Darien Ch. 1932

Veterans of Foreign Wars: Fairfield Post 9427, Derby Post 10585, Ansonia Post 597, Huntington Post 10466

Also sponsored by: State HQ of CT: **AMVETS, DAV, MOPH, & VVA**
Vietnam Combat Vets Mon. & Tues. Evening Groups from the New Haven Vet Center, Employees of Sikorsky Aircraft Corp., Vietnam veteran Gary Plassman, Actress Ellen Muth, Order of Sons and Daughters of Italy in America West Haven Lodge 2832, the Affinon Group, and Vets Who Care Committee.

OGC OPERATIONS SUMMARY

Our Wounded Troops receive:

A visit from a representative of each of the participating unit sponsors for that particular month who will personally present a Thank You Kit from the unit.

Each Thank You Kit contains:

1. \$20.00 gift certificate for PX (total between \$60-\$120 in gift certificates).
2. A specially designed Thank You Card with a group picture of sponsoring unit.
3. A letter or memo from sponsoring unit describing the programs in which it participates that may be of interest to the patient once he/she returns to their home state.
4. Flyers, brochures, or newsletters from state and national HQ of parent organization describing their programs (applications for membership not allowed because the purpose of OGC is to thank our wounded not to overwhelm them with applications for membership to the various veterans organizations).

The OGC Committee will provide:

1. Guidance so that the thank you kits are consistent in content and appearance and coordination so that the maximum number of kits are distributed in an organized manner.
2. All original artwork (thank you card and flyers), labels and envelopes for thank you kits, free of charge.
3. Liaison with appropriate Walter Reed and Bethesda officials.
4. Each participating unit will be provided a press release with 2 pictures and a description of their visit and OGC (see ctveterans.org for samples) which they can use for public relations.

NOTE: The participating units control how all of their money is spent on OGC. The OGC committee does not have a checking account and it does not accept any funds (its purpose is coordination). The envelopes and labels are donated by the Derby/Shelton MOPH Chapter 1 and the Stamford DAV Chapter 13. The original artwork, guidance, and coordination is donated by the members of the OGC committee.

Sponsoring Unit provides:

1. Purchases of either \$500 or \$1,000 in PX gift certificates. Note: \$1,000 is required if you want to present a thank you kit from your unit to everyone we visit, other wise you will alternate with another unit who purchased \$500.
2. Provide a group photo of unit members for use on the thank you card.
3. Provide phone no. and e-mail address of both a contact person and a veterans benefits expert from the sponsoring unit or from the state or national organization to be listed at the bottom of the thank you card.
4. A letter or memo from sponsoring unit describing the programs in which it participates (optional).
5. Responsible for printing color copies (8-1/2" x 11") of the 2 sided thank you card and for printing copies of the letter from the sponsoring unit.
6. Assemble and stuff the thank you kits.
7. Arrange, through the OGC committee, to have your unit representative hand deliver the thank you kits to the wounded during one of the OGC monthly scheduled trips to Washington D. C. or have another OGC representative deliver them for you.

Note: Because we try to present at least \$3,000 in gift certificates on each visit and because we are restricted to 5 representatives per visit, usually each participating unit is allowed to send one representative. Sometimes units are allowed a second representative but that depends on how many units participate and how many thank you kits each unit prepares.

For additional information see web site ctveterans.org or contact Al Meadows (203) 929-3357 or e-mail: al.meadows@snet.net