

Bill,

On behalf of the Board of Selectmen, I want you to know that I am honored to extend our heartfelt congratulations on your well-deserved induction into the Connecticut Veterans Hall of Fame. This prestigious recognition is a testament to your unwavering dedication, exceptional service, and significant contributions to our community and our nation.

Your commitment to excellence and tireless efforts have set a high standard for others to follow and have made a lasting impact on the lives of many. We are incredibly proud to have you as a community member and celebrate this remarkable achievement with you.

Thank you for your service and for being an exemplary role model. We look forward to continuing to support and work alongside you in the future.

Congratulations!

Thank you,

Liana

Liana St. Germain

Executive Assistant

First Selectman's Office

Town of Middlebury

1212 Whittamore Road

Middlebury, CT 06762

203.758.2439

[www.middlebury-ct.org](http://www.middlebury-ct.org)

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**Subject:** Governor Lamont Announces 14 Honorees Selected for Induction Into the Connecticut Veterans Hall of Fame

Ceremony scheduled for January 23 at 5PM.



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STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
**GOVERNOR NED LAMONT**

**[Governor Lamont Announces 14 Honorees Selected for Induction Into the Connecticut Veterans Hall of Fame](#)**

**Posted on January 14, 2025**

(HARTFORD, CT) – Governor Ned Lamont today announced that 14 veterans have been selected as part of the 20<sup>th</sup> class of honorees for induction into the [Connecticut Veterans Hall of Fame](#), the state’s official tribute recognizing former members of the United States Armed Forces who are from Connecticut and have continued making significant impacts in their communities after leaving military service.

This year’s class will be celebrated during an induction ceremony that will be held at 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 23, 2025, in the Gold Star Families Memorial Auditorium on the campus of the Connecticut Department of Veterans Affairs in Rocky Hill.

“There are so many veterans from Connecticut who have continued their generosity even after leaving military service by volunteering in their communities and providing leadership that has helped improve the lives of others in many ways,” **Governor Lamont said**. “The Connecticut Veterans Hall of Fame is a way we can celebrate the many veterans in our state who have gone above and beyond the call of duty and have truly made a lasting impact. I congratulate the 14 veterans who are being inducted this year and I thank each of them to everything they have provided to our nation and the State of Connecticut.”

“No words could ever express the deep gratitude we have for the sacrifices and contributions our veterans have made on the battlefield, at home, and around the world,” **Lt. Governor Susan Bysiewicz said**. “Not only have our inductees stood up when their nation called and did what needed to be done to protect our families, our nation, and our way of life. But, following their military service, they further demonstrated their commitment to their

communities through their volunteer activities and activism. Congratulations to our inductees. We extend our sincere appreciation for your service to our country, for your commitment to your community, and for all your contributions to the State of Connecticut.”

“On behalf of our dedicated staff of professionals at the Connecticut Department of Veterans Affairs, we congratulate the fourteen of you on your honorable service and lifelong accomplishments,” **Connecticut Veterans Affairs Commissioner Ronald P. Welch said.** “You effected a profound impact during your military service, and then pledged unwavering service and volunteerism to our Connecticut communities, including compassionate support and advocacy to our service members, veterans, and families in our great state and beyond. With heartfelt gratitude, we salute you and your lasting contributions. In celebration, we welcome you into the Connecticut Veterans Hall of Fame.”

Administered and sponsored by the Connecticut Department of Veterans Affairs and the Connecticut Military Department on behalf of the Office of the Governor, the Connecticut Veterans Hall of Fame was established in 2005 and inducts a new class annually. With the addition of this year’s class, there will now be 215 honorees inducted.

The focus of the Connecticut Veterans Hall of Fame is on veterans’ service to their communities after they have left military service. Many of the honorees are veterans who have been leaders in a variety of areas, such as the arts, education, public service, volunteer organizations, and community and business leadership.

The honorees are nominated throughout the year by members of the public, and then a committee – consisting of the commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Veterans Affairs, the adjutant general of the Connecticut National Guard, members of the legislature’s Committee on Veterans and Military Affairs, and a group of veterans from the state – reviews the nominations and selects inductees.

To be eligible, nominees must have been born in Connecticut or resided in the state for a minimum of five years. They must also meet the definition of a “veteran” under [Connecticut General Statutes § 27-103](#) and have received an honorable discharge from the United States Armed Forces. The submitted nomination package must contain the completed nomination form, the veteran’s discharge documents, and a detailed narrative of the veteran’s community and/or public service at the local, state, and/or national level and the veteran’s contributions to the community at large.

For information on how to nominate a veteran for a future class of inductees, and to read the names and biographies of previous inductees, visit [//portal.ct.gov/dva/pages/ct-veterans-hall-of-fame](http://portal.ct.gov/dva/pages/ct-veterans-hall-of-fame).

The following individuals have been selected as this year’s class for induction into the Connecticut Veterans Hall of Fame:

**Cicero B. Booker, Jr. of Waterbury (United States Marine Corps)**

**Ronald A. Farina of Vernon (United States Marine Corps)**

**Anthony J. Gaunichaux, Sr. of Middletown (United States Army)**

**Thomas K. Kanasky, Jr. of Bridgeport (United States Marine Corps)**

**Lucien H. Lefevre of Enfield (United States Army)**

**Conley F. Monk, Jr. of Hamden (United States Marine Corps)**

**Donna A. Monteleone of Sandy Hook (United States Army)**

**Lesbia I. Nieves of Manchester (United States Army)**

**William F. O'Brien, Jr. of Stratford (United States Marine Corps)**

**Stanley J. Prybylski of Southbury (United States Marine Corps) – Posthumously**

**Steven A. Ricard of New London (United States Navy)**

**Scott W. Rosado of Bristol (United States Navy)**

**William J. Stowell of Middlebury (United States Navy)**

William (Bill) James Stowell was raised in Middlebury, Connecticut, and became a member of the U.S. Naval Reserve in July 1964 while he was a student at Woodbury High School. He started his career as an enlisted member of the U.S. Navy and attained the rank of chief petty officer. After twelve years of enlisted service, he was promoted to the rank of Ensign Supply Corps under the Limited Duty Officer Program.

Both Mr. Stowell's enlisted and officer services were in logistics. During his military career, he served on five naval ships, as well as completing two tours in Vietnam, holding two major staff positions. After his first tour with the Seabees, he was assigned as an advisor to the Vietnamese Navy, which required intensive language training. He received numerous medals and awards, including the Meritorious Service medal, three Navy Commendation medals, and three Navy achievement medals. He retired in June of 1988 as a lieutenant commander after 24 years of service.

After retirement from the Navy, Mr. Stowell worked as the business manager for Regional School District 16, managing a \$30 million budget and overseeing human resources, food service, transportation, and facilities management. After retirement from Region 16, he was asked to return as a consultant to oversee the building of a \$60 million new elementary school.

Mr. Stowell's service continued for the Town of Middlebury, holding the positions of chairman of the Board of Finance and Planning and Zoning Commission, treasurer of the Library Board, member of the Middlebury Retirement Committee, and veteran member of the Middlebury Volunteer Fire Department. He presently serves as the municipal veterans representative for the Town of Middlebury. He has worked tirelessly for the past 35 years at

St. George's Episcopal Church, serving as treasurer, past senior warden, and vestry member. He was honored with being named the church's first vergger in 2013.

He lives in Middlebury with his wife, Karen, and has two children and four grandchildren.

**John W. White of Cheshire (United States Navy)**