

Operation Gift Cards

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

Web site:
www.ctveterans.org

Press Release

October 22, 2007
Contact: See below

Connecticut veterans present \$3,000 in Gift Certificates to our wounded and injured troops in Walter Reed and Bethesda Military Hospitals on behalf of four Connecticut veterans' organizations



Photo: Operation Gift Cards

Left to right: John Considine, Kaz Brejwo, Escort Officer LTJG Desmond, Ron Orszakg, and Al Meadows, not shown, represented 4 units of Connecticut veterans organizations.



Photo: Philip W. Stein

Leaders of Veterans of Foreign Wars
Sgt. Thomas J. Nelson Post #9427, Fairfield, Connecticut

Since October 2005, Connecticut's Operation Gift Cards program has distributed 3,800 "Thank You" kits, including \$76,000 in PX (military store) gift certificates, to wounded and injured troops at Walter Reed and Bethesda Military Hospitals in Washington, DC.

On the last visit, representatives from three units of the the Military Order of the Purple Heart, the American Legion and and the Veterans of Foreign Wars visited wounded soldiers and personally thanked them for their service to their country and for their sacrifice for freedom. Each patient was presented with 4 "Thank You" kits (each from a different unit) containing a custom-designed thank you card with a group picture of the sponsoring chapter or post, a \$20 gift certificate for the military store (\$80 total in gift certificates), and flyers about programs the sponsoring service organization has developed that may be of interest to the patients. Operation Gift Cards also delivers items that are on the "Wish List" on the right.

Operation Gift Cards was started jointly by the Military Order of the Purple Heart Shelton/Derby Chapter #1 and the Disabled American Veterans Stamford Chapter #13. Twenty-three other veterans units have joined Operation Gift Cards. The goal is to have a different group of veterans units **collectively** purchase each month between \$3,000 and \$4,000 in gift certificates in order to present all visited wounded patients in Walter Reed and Bethesda hospitals with at least three "Thank You" kits containing between \$60-\$100 in gift certificates.

To participate in Operation Gift Cards or to make a corporate or personal donation, contact Al Meadows (203) 929-3357 (e-mail: al.meadows@snet.net) or Tim Kelly (203) 937-3420 (e-mail: kellytmthy@aol.com). Or read the Operation Gift Cards summary page or the Operation Gift Cards press releases (all can be downloaded from the Web site: ctveterans.org). Operation Gift Cards will be an ongoing project; check our Web site (listed at top of page) for future events and our progress reports.

Sponsored by **CONNECTICUT VETERANS**

in 25 chapters, posts, and detachments 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 10,585 Ansonia Post 597

Also sponsored by: Departments of CT: **AMVETS, DAV, and MOPH** and Employees of Sikorsky Aircraft Corporation

OPERATION GIFT CARDS ALSO DELIVERS ITEMS FROM:

Soldier Family Assistance Center Wish List (For The Wounded Troops):

DVDs • VCR Tapes • Batteries AA & AAA • Flip Flops • Plain Black Backpacks • Duffle Bags • Boxer Shorts Large & XLarge • Sneakers (With Velcro) Male 8-13 Female 6-12 • Electric Razors

Fisher House (For Families Of The Wounded):

Commissary (food purchases) and Exchange (department store) Certif-checks for families (to order-1(877) 770-4438), taxi gift certificates (Taxi Company-Barwood 1-800-831-2323), Metro transportation gift certificates, restaurant cards (in DC), phone cards greater than 60 minutes, Staples gift cards, Home Depot gift cards, Office Depot gift cards, VCR/DVD combination players. Also: Laundry detergent, bleach, fabric dryer sheets, coffee, tea, sugar, sweeteners, coffee creamers, single serving sizes of canned goods and convenience foods that do not require refrigeration.