

Operation Gift Cards

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

Web site:
www.ctveterans.org

Sponsored by **CONNECTICUT VETERANS** in chapters and posts of the:

American Legion: Fairfield Post 74, Shelton Post 16

Disabled American Veterans: Stamford Ch. 13, Fairfield Ch. 19, Enfield Ch. 52, Greater New Haven Ch. 2, Derby Ch. 4, Milford Ch. 15

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

Veterans of Foreign Wars: Fairfield Post 9427, Derby Post 10,585

Also sponsored by:
Department of CT DAV
Department of CT MOPH

Press Release

February 27, 2006
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 three chapters of Connecticut veterans' service organizations



Left to right: PDC* Tim Kelly, Al Comeau (DAV Transportation Program volunteer driver), Nancy Cashman Meadows, PDC* Al Meadows, Walter Reed escort officer SPC Danial Trever, and PDC* Nat Caminati.

* Past State Commander



Leaders of Fairfield Disabled American Veterans Chapter #19 at a chapter meeting. Fairfield DAV Chapter #19, along with Enfield DAV Chapter #52 and Stamford DAV Chapter #13, sponsored the February hospital visits.

Since October 2005, Connecticut's Operation Gift Cards program has distributed 600 "Thank You" kits, including \$12,000 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 of three Disabled American Veterans chapters (Fairfield Ch. #19, Enfield Ch. #52, and Stamford Ch. #13) visited 25 wounded soldiers and personally thanked them for their service to their country and for their sacrifice for freedom. Each soldier was presented with two "Thank You" kits (each from a different chapter) containing a custom-designed thank you card with a group picture of the sponsoring chapter, a \$20 gift certificate for the military store (\$40 total in gift certificates), and flyers about programs the sponsoring service organization has developed that may be of interest to the patients. At least one "Thank You" kit was left for each of the other wounded or injured patients.

Operation Gift Cards was started jointly by the Military Order of the Purple Heart Ansonia/Derby/Shelton Chapter #1 and the Disabled American Veterans Stamford Chapter #13. MOPH Ch. #1 and DAV Ch. #13 are trying to enlist other Connecticut chapters and posts in veterans' service organizations (e.g. AL, DAV, MOPH, VFW, etc.) to join the program so it can continue for at least 12 months. The goal is to have a different group of chapters or posts each month purchase a total of \$2,000 in gift certificates in order to present all wounded inpatients in Walter Reed and Bethesda hospitals with a "Thank You" kit containing a \$20 gift certificate they could use in their PX.

To participate in Operation Gift Cards or for additional information contact either 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 OGC summary page or the OGC press releases (all can be downloaded from 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.