

# Operation Gift Cards

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

Web site: [www.ctveterans.org](http://www.ctveterans.org)

Sponsored by **VETERANS And Their Supporters** in 33 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, and Affinion Group.

## Operation Gift Cards was started in order to:

- Thank our wounded or injured troops (personally when possible) for their service to their country and for their sacrifice for freedom.
- Present all visited wounded or injured patients in Walter Reed and Bethesda Military Hospitals with 3 or more "Thank You" kits, each including a \$20 gift certificate enclosed in a specially designed thank you card (with group photo) from the sponsoring chapter, post, or detachment.
- Inform the patients about the free programs the sponsoring organization has developed that help our troops, our veterans, and their families.
- Provide a means for veterans organizations, other groups and individuals to donate items from the "Wish List" of both the Soldier Family Assistance Center and the Bethesda Fisher Houses and present them to the patients or mentioned groups.

Since October 2005, 6,205 "Thank You" kits, including \$124,100 in PX (military store) gift certificates, have been distributed to wounded and injured troops at Walter Reed and Bethesda Military Hospitals in Washington, DC & Maryland, under Connecticut's Operation Gift Cards program.

The goal of Operation Gift Cards is to enlist additional units of Connecticut veterans service organizations (e.g., AL, AMVETS, DAV, MCL, MOPH, VFW, VVA) so that each of the visited troops receives between \$60 and \$120 in PX gift certificates. Each month, a different group of veterans units **collectively** purchases between \$3,000 and \$4,000 in gift certificates (in \$500 to \$2,000 increments per unit for a cosponsorship for a month) in order to present all visited patients in Walter Reed and Bethesda hospitals with a "Thank You" kit from each sponsoring unit.

Operation Gift Cards also delivers items that are on the Walter Reed Soldier Family Assistance Center's "Wish List", which have been donated by veterans units and by other groups and individuals. The "Wish List" can be viewed by clicking on the Operation Gift Cards link on the [www.ctveterans.org](http://www.ctveterans.org) Web site.

Thirty-two Connecticut veterans units and their supporters have participated: four American Legion posts, nine Disabled American Veterans chapters, one Marine Corps League detachment, four Military Order of the Purple Heart chapters, four Veterans of Foreign Wars posts, the Connecticut Department Headquarters of the American Veterans (AMVETS), Disabled American Veterans, the Military Order of the Purple Heart, and Vietnam Veterans of America, and other veteran support groups. Many units have participated in multiple visits.

To participate in Operation Gift Cards or to make a corporate or personal donation, contact Al Meadows at (203) 929-3357 (e-mail: [al.meadows@snet.net](mailto:al.meadows@snet.net)). 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](http://ctveterans.org)). Operation Gift Cards will be an ongoing project; check our Web site for future events and our progress reports.

