



AT YOUR SERVICE

Spring, 2021

Welcome to the premier issue of *AT YOUR SERVICE*, a collaboration of the Town of Wethersfield and the Wethersfield Veterans Commission dedicated to serving the needs of our Town's 1,300+ Veterans.

The Wethersfield Veterans Commission: Here to Serve You! In 2018, the Wethersfield Town Council established a **Veterans Commission** to "assist and advise the Town and its residents on Veterans' issues and to coordinate and assist in the planning, organization and conduct of the Memorial Day Ceremony and Parade and the Veterans Day Ceremony." In addition, the Commission advises the Town Council on matters of concern to Veterans and their families. The Commission consists of seven members and two alternates, and is advised by two Town staff liaisons and one Town Council liaison, listed below.

The Wethersfield Veterans Commission traditionally meets from 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month, except for July and August. The public is welcome at all meetings! You can contact the Wethersfield Veterans Commission through one of the Town staff liaisons listed below, or visit our webpage at: <https://wethersfieldct.gov/social/veterans> or email us at veterans.commission@wethersfieldct.gov to learn more!

Commission Members

Tricia Giscombe
Jennifer Glick
Rick Newell, Vice Chair
Helen Nye, Secretary
Mark Rudewicz
Frank Sena
Doug Shipman, Chair
Sandra Rhodes

Town Staff Liaisons

Mary Thibeault, Assistant Director, Parks and Recreation
860-721-2890 or email: mary.thibeault@wethersfieldct.gov
Chris Taylor, Veterans Services Contact, Social & Youth Services
860-721-2977 or email: chris.taylor@wethersfieldct.gov
Dan O'Connor, Town Council Liaison: dan.oconnor@wethersfieldct.gov

**Mail Address: Wethersfield Town Hall, 505 Silas Deane Hwy,
Wethersfield, CT 06109 ATTN: Mary Thibeault**

Who is a Veteran?

Former service members often say they are confused about who should be considered a Veteran. Some programs include only 'combat Veterans' while others include a broader definition. Under Title 38 of the U.S. Code a Veteran is defined as a "person who served in the active military, naval, or air service, and who was discharged or released there from under conditions other than dishonorable."

According to the Veterans Administration (VA), to be considered a Veteran, the individual must have "active military, naval or air service," active service meaning full-time service in the Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force or Coast Guard. Full time service means those on active duty are available to report for duty 7 days a week, 24 hours a day. For people who enlisted or were drafted into the armed services prior to September 8, 1980, there is no minimum length of service required to be considered a Veteran for most VA benefits. However, for those who enlisted after September 8, 1980, a minimum service requirement exists. Unless the Veteran has a service connected disability, they must have served a minimum of 24 months of active duty. The statutory definition of Veteran also includes commissioned officers of the Public Health Service (PHS) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). In the post 9/11 GI Bill legislation, Veteran status was granted to those who served as commissioned officers in the two agencies and served at least 90 days on active duty after September 10, 2001.

Veterans Tax Relief and Renters Rebate Programs

Tax Benefits for Wethersfield Veterans: To be eligible for these benefits, Veterans must have served a minimum of 90 days cumulatively during a qualifying wartime period AND:

- File their DD214 or National Guard B Form 22, along with Honorable Discharge or General Discharge Under Honorable Conditions paperwork, with the Town Clerk.
- This paperwork must be filed no later than October 1st to receive exemption on the following July tax bill. Once filed, it becomes a permanent record.
- Veterans may choose to apply this exemption to either their real estate or automobile tax.
- Veterans with a disability rating from the VA are eligible for benefits regardless of when they served, but must file the documentation as stated above, as well as the VA disability rating documentation with the Tax Assessor's Office.
- Veterans of low income may qualify for additional benefits. Proof of income must be filed every two years. Please contact the Tax Assessor's Office for income limits and filing deadlines (860.721.2810).

Some Veterans may also be eligible for the **Renters Rebate Program**, which is managed by the Wethersfield Social and Youth Services Department (860.721.2977). The program applies to all elderly (age 65 and older) who are of low income or are disabled. Applications are completed between April 1st and October 1st.

For more information, contact Chris Taylor, Wethersfield Social and Youth Services Department at 860-721-2977 or email: chris.taylor@wethersfieldct.gov.

Save the Date! Memorial Day Ceremony: May 29, 2021

- 10:00 a.m. - Wreath Laying at the Monument, corner of Nott Street, State Street, and Hartford Avenue
- 11:00 a.m. - Ceremony at the Village Cemetery, Old Wethersfield

Important Contact Information!

- **U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs**
1-844-MyVA311 (1-844-698-2311) The options menu sends you to the proper location.
- **Connecticut Department of Veterans Affairs**
287 West Street, Rocky Hill CT 06067 Phone: (860) 616-3600 Fax: (860) 616-3562
- **Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Department of Connecticut**
80 Hall Avenue, Suite 801, Meriden CT 06450, Phone: 203-440-4440 Fax: 203-440-4329
Email: disabled.veterans@snet.net Hours of Operation: Tuesday and Thursday 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
- **VA Connecticut Healthcare System ("Newington Hospital")**
555 Willard Ave. Newington, CT 06111 Phone: 860-666-6951
- **Wethersfield Senior Center** 30 Greenfield Street Phone: 860-721-2979

Funding for *AT YOUR SERVICE*

AT YOUR SERVICE is financially supported through the generous donations of Wethersfield's residents. Donations are expressly designated for use in supporting Wethersfield's veterans. Contact Mary Thibeault at 860-721-2890 if you wish to make a donation.

Comments?

We want to know what you think of the contents of this newsletter and what additional information would be helpful to you in a future newsletter. Send your comments to Mary Thibeault or Christine Taylor. Their phone numbers, email addresses and mailing address are listed above.