



# At Your Service

FALL 2023

**Welcome** to the Fall 2023 issue of *At Your Service*. This issue includes new and updated articles for Veterans services and contact information within Wethersfield, surrounding communities and State and Federal agencies. 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 to attend the monthly meetings! You can contact the Wethersfield Veterans Commission through the Town staff liaisons listed below, or visit our webpage at [wethersfieldct.gov/social/veterans](http://wethersfieldct.gov/social/veterans)

## Commission Members

*Doug Shipman*, Chair  
*Rick Newell*, Vice Chair  
*Sandra Rhodes*, Secretary  
*Mark Rudewicz*  
*Jennifer Glick*  
*Trisha Giscombe*  
*Laura Bloomquist*, Alternate  
*Sean Cattanach*, Alternate

Student Representatives  
*Thomas Clark*  
*Sean O'Leary*

## Town Liaisons

*Rachael Mattioli*  
Assistant Director, Wethersfield Parks and Recreation  
860.721.2894, [rachael.mattioli@wethersfieldct.gov](mailto:rachael.mattioli@wethersfieldct.gov)

*Daniel Rosario*  
Elderly Services Coordinator, Wethersfield Social and Youth Services  
860.721.2883, [daniel.rosario@wethersfieldct.gov](mailto:daniel.rosario@wethersfieldct.gov)

Mailing Address: Wethersfield Parks and Recreation  
505 Silas Deane Highway  
Wethersfield, CT 06109

## DON'T MISS

### the next **Regional Veterans Seminar!**

**Thursday, October 19, 2023, 4:00 to 7:00PM at the Pitkin Community Center, 30 Greenfield Street, Wethersfield, CT**

In cooperation with the towns of Newington, Rocky Hill, and Glastonbury, the Wethersfield Veterans Commission will sponsor a Regional Veterans Seminar to help Veterans, surviving spouses, and family members who have questions about the benefits or services available to them. This Veterans Seminar will feature informative presentations by representatives of over a dozen national, statewide, and regional Veterans services organizations. This is an opportunity to meet face-to-face with Veterans services representatives to get your questions answered and meet people who can assist you. The seminar is free and no registration is required.

**Questions?** Contact the Town of Wethersfield Veterans Services Coordinator at 860.721.2883 or [veterans.commissions@wethersfield.gov](mailto:veterans.commissions@wethersfield.gov).



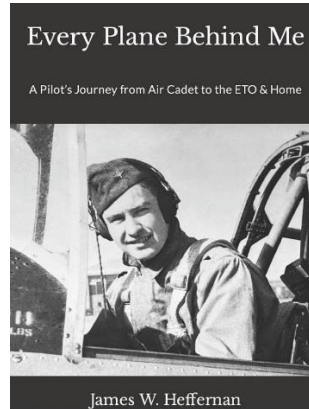
**Regional Veterans Seminar Returns to Wethersfield – October 19!** Pictured here, representatives of the Hartford Veterans Center and the DAV share information with a participant at the fall 2022 Veterans Seminar.

## WETHERSFIELD VETERANS-WEEK EVENTS!



**Governor's Foot Guard Band Performs Live at the Keeney Memorial Cultural Center Monday, November 6, 7:30-8:30PM – Free.**

Join fellow veterans as the First Company Governor's Foot Guard Band performs all of your musical favorites! This is a free performance in honor of Wethersfield veterans. Co-sponsored by the Wethersfield Historical Society, Friends of the Kycia Farm and the Wethersfield Veterans Commission.



**WWII Author Book Talk: at the Wethersfield Public Library, Thursday, November 9, *Check Library website for details.***

Join WWII veteran James W. Heffernan, author of *Every Plane Behind Me*, for a discussion of his experiences as an Army Air Corps pilot in the Eastern Theater of Operations from 1943 to 1946. This is a free event for Wethersfield veterans and enthusiasts.

### **Wethersfield Veterans Day Ceremony**

**11:00AM - 12:00PM, Friday, November 10, at Wethersfield High School**

Veterans Day falls on Saturday this year, so the annual ceremony honoring the town's many veterans will occur on Friday, November 10. The ceremony will be held at the traditional time, 11:00AM, marking the 11<sup>th</sup> hour of the 11<sup>th</sup> day of the 11<sup>th</sup> month when the armistice was signed, ending WWI. Join fellow veterans, students and community members in front of Wethersfield High School for this inspiring program. In the event of inclement weather the ceremony will be held indoors in the high school auditorium.



## **A HELPFUL VA BENEFIT: IN CASE YOU DON'T KNOW.....**

Eligible veterans and caregivers can receive **travel pay reimbursement** for mileage and other travel expenses to and from approved health care appointments; that is, a VA health facility or for VA-approved care at a non-VA health facility in your community.

### **Eligibility Requirements:**

- 1) You have a VA disability rating of 30% or higher, **or**
- 2) You are traveling for treatment of a service-connected condition, even if your disability rating is less than 30%, **or**
- 3) You receive a VA pension, **or**
- 4) You have an income that is below the maximum annual VA pension rate, **or**
- 5) You can't afford to pay for your travel, as defined by the guidelines, **or**
- 6) You are traveling for one of these reasons: a scheduled VA claim exam or for VA-approved transplant care.

**For caregivers**, transportation and related lodging and meals may be reimbursed if the person meets any of these requirements:

- 1) The person is the veteran's family caregiver under the National Caregiver Program traveling to receive caregiver training or to support the veteran's care, **or**
- 2) The person is the veteran's medically required attendant traveling with the veteran to support his/her care, **or**
- 3) The person is the veteran's transplant care donor or support person.
- 4) **More information on this benefit can be obtained from the below website:**

[www.va.gov/health-care/get-reimbursed-for-travel-pay/](http://www.va.gov/health-care/get-reimbursed-for-travel-pay/)

## **A REMINDER: Town of Wethersfield Tax Exemptions for Veterans**

Veterans exemptions are available to Wethersfield residents as of the October 1<sup>st</sup> assessment date for those who served during one of the state mandated dates of war or military campaigns as well as received an Honorable Discharge. Your DD214 must be filed with the Town Clerk's Office by September 30<sup>th</sup>.

Exemptions are based on certain qualifying conditions, with additional benefits granted to Veterans with a VA disability rating or low income that meets State mandated income limits (proof is required). Deceased Veterans spouses will continue to receive benefits until re-marriage. Additionally, if you are a CT resident on Active Duty, you may be eligible for the total exemption of one passenger motor vehicle. For questions about tax exemptions, or to obtain an application, contact the Town of Wethersfield Assessor's Office at 860.721.2810 or at [assessor@wethersfieldct.gov](mailto:assessor@wethersfieldct.gov)



Wethersfield Veterans Commission members say farewell to outgoing Student Representatives Hamza Sisic and Anthony Kaplun, and welcome new student representatives Sean O'Leary and Thomas Clark at the June 14, 2023, commission meeting.

**ACCESS PRIOR and CURRENT ISSUES OF "AT YOUR SERVICE" NEWSLETTERS at:**  
[wethersfield.gov/government/veterans-commission](http://wethersfield.gov/government/veterans-commission).