



OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Avon Public Schools

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Gary S. Mala
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

May 17, 2013

Greetings Once Again:

I hope you have enjoyed a productive week and are looking forward to a restful weekend.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars, Gildo T. Consolini Post 3272, will begin its Annual Poppy Drive this year in the communities of Avon and Canton on May 17th. Local Veterans from World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Gulf War, Afghanistan and Iraq will be distributing Buddy Poppies at the Avon Wal-Mart from May 17th to May 26th.

The following are some facts which many people are unaware. Additional details are included on the document attached to this message.

- The need to support veterans this year is greater than ever as the number of severely wounded veterans and returning veterans without jobs has overwhelmed virtually all veterans' programs.
- All funds collected (100%) go directly to benefit veterans.
- There is no veteran cause that you can donate to that distributes a greater percentage of its funds to veterans than the Annual Poppy Drive. This is in stark contrast to some highly suspect veteran groups which have solicited funds in the Farmington Valley in recent years.
- Since fewer disabled veterans from the local VFW post were available to assemble poppies this year, the members of the Gildo T. Consolini Post 3272 volunteered & assembled over 10,000 poppies for the Annual Poppy Drive.
- Last year, the VFW raised \$22,500 during 10 days in May from public donations in this community and distributed the entire amount to the veteran charities listed below:

The veteran causes which were contributed to during the last year included: Blinded Veterans Association (Avon-founded in 1945), Give-To-The-Troops (care packages), Soldiers' Angels (care packages), USO (service centers), Operation Uplink (phone cards), Fisher House (free housing for families of wounded soldiers), Unmet Needs (deployed soldiers family assistance), Rocky Hill Veterans Home (Christmas gifts & care packages), VFW National Home – CT House (widows & orphans), Operation Stand-Down (benefits for homeless vets), Post Care Packages (Connecticut-deployed veterans), Wounded Warrior Projects – initiatives for severely-wounded vets, Army Emergency Relief Fund, Air Force Aid Society, Navy/USMC Relief Fund; CT

national Guard Fund, CCSU Veterans Fund; 43rd Div Memorial Fund, Veteran Grave Markers (local cemeteries), Funeral Wreaths (deceased veterans), Memorial Donations (deceased veterans) and Fruit Baskets (hospitalized veterans).

Please take this opportunity to share your thanks and appreciation to members of our local VFW post for what they and others like them have sacrificed for all of us.

Additionally, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Gildo T. Consolini Post 3272 has requested my assistance with seeking out names of residents who served in the War on Terror that commenced on September 11, 2001. Details about who to contact with this information is contained on a document attached to this message.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact Bill Newman, Poppy Chairman at 860-676-0037 or me at 860-404-4700.

Thank you for your continued support of your schools and for always remembering how we continue to enjoy a democratic society. Please also remember all those who have served and continue to serve in our armed forces.

Enjoy a great weekend.

Very truly yours,



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