



**Gildo T. Consolini Post 3272
Avon. CT**

AVON MEMORIAL DAY OBSERVANCES May 27, 2013

The Avon VFW and their Color Guard, as has been their solemn duty since 1946, will begin their Memorial Day at 7:30 am by visiting the Avon cemeteries, placing wreaths, performing a brief service, and playing taps in recognition and honor of all the departed veterans from Avon.

Avon's 68th Annual Memorial Parade will step off on **Monday, May 27th, at 11:00 am** according to Bill Samol, Parade Chairman and Past Commander of Avon's VFW Post 3272. The Avon Veterans of Foreign Wars and their Color Guard (along with ALL other Veterans who would like to march) will lead the parade. Followed by The Avon Police and their Color Guard. The Governor's Horse Guard and the Avon High School Marching Band. The Avon Fire Department and their Color Guard. Along with this Honored Group will be the Boy and Girl Scouts, Cubs and Brownies.

The parade will begin at the Towpath Annex on Simsbury Road, stop at the Avon Congregational Church Cemetery for a short memorial service to honor all fallen veterans, proceed down Old Farms Road to Columbus Circle, continue around the circle, stop at the Prince Thomas of Savoy Club to honor their departed veterans, then march back to Route 44 and conclude at the Veteran's Memorial at Avon Park South.

The public is cordially invited to participate in this traditional memorial event and observe with us the true meaning of Memorial Day – a day in which we honor those who served their country in times of war and especially those who gave their lives to ensure the freedom and independence we now enjoy. By honoring those who lost their lives defending us, we preserve their memory, service and sacrifice.

At 12 noon, a brief memorial service will be held at the Avon Veteran's Memorial with Bill Samol as the Master of Ceremonies and Grant Hagedorn, the Commander of Avon VFW Post 3272. The invocation will be offered by Father John W. McHugh, Pastor of Saint Ann's Church in Avon. After the presentation of the Memorial Wreath & Forget-Me-Not's, a Firing Squad Salute will be rendered by the Governor's Horse Guard and TAPS will be played by members of the Avon High School Band. The National Anthem will be sung by Heather St. Peter. This year's keynote speaker is Bill Newman a member and Past Commander of Avon VFW Post 3272 and who served in the Vietnam War as an Army Captain and Company Commander with the 8th Group – a combat support unit in the Central Highlands in 1966-67.

The War Memorial on the Town Green lists 719 Veterans from Avon who served their country from the Mexican War to the Gulf War and separately honors 41 Veterans who gave their lives in four wars.

"Show your strong support for America, its Armed Forces and its Veterans – especially during this time of War. This is a year for families and friends to demonstrate their patriotic spirit."

PLEASE NOTE: In the event of rain, the ceremonies will be conducted at Avon's Senior Citizen Center, West Avon Rd. at 11:00 am, and the public is invited.

Grant Hagedorn, Sr. Commander, Avon VFW Post 3272