



OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Avon Public Schools

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Gary S. Mala
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

September 12, 2014

Dear Parents, Staff and Concerned Citizens:

I am again pleased to communicate with you and hope you have enjoyed a productive week.

As many of you are aware, the school district continues to enjoy a very strong, positive relationship with the Gildo T. Consolini VFW Post 3272 of Avon, CT. The mission of the local post, founded in 1945, is to uphold the Congressional of the Veterans of Foreign Wars: 1) to preserve and strengthen comradeship among its members; 2) to assist worthy comrades; 3) to perpetuate the memory and history of our dead and to assist their widows and orphans; 4) to maintain true allegiance to the Government of the United States of America and fidelity to its Constitution and Laws; 5) to foster true patriotism; 6) to maintain and extend the institutions of American Freedom; and 7) to preserve and defend the United States from all enemies.

The Gildo T. Consolini VFW Post 3272 will participate in the 2014 AVON DAY event on Saturday, September 27, from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., with a booth that is open to all military veterans and the general public to learn about membership in the **Veterans of Foreign Wars** (VFW). In addition, members of the Post will provide a Color Guard for the town's festivities which will begin at 1:00 p.m.

According to Avon VFW Post Commander Lee Wilson, "This day gives us an opportunity to meet with veterans, in a friendly setting, and talk about our community activities and the benefits of membership in the VFW." He went on to say that the motto of the VFW is "No one does more for veterans and their families than the Veterans of Foreign Wars. From local grassroots ideas to national influence, the VFW works every day to make a difference." For the Avon Post that means that all their work is for the service of the veteran and the current military. Membership in the Avon VFW Post also includes receiving a monthly Post newsletter, the highly-informative VFW Magazine, and introduction to the State VFW Service Officer for those who need assistance with benefits. In addition, members are invited to participate in the Annual Memorial Day Parade, Veterans Day activities at many local schools and on the Town Green on November 11, the annual Buddy Poppy Drive as well as the camaraderie with other veterans during their weekly coffees and monthly dinner meetings.

The Avon Post is entering its 70th anniversary year (2015) and stands ready to help any veteran in need in the town or Valley. They fundraise during the year for many local and state veteran causes, which provides an opportunity to meet the men and women who have fought for our freedom. As well, they commemorate and collect the military service histories of Post 3272 veterans for permanent collection in the Local History Room of the Avon Free Public Library. Military service histories already collected (135 to date) will be on display in the booth on Avon Day.

There are three criteria required to be eligible to join the VFW: the veteran must have served overseas during a conflict, must have an Honorable Discharge or be a current Member of the Military and must be a U.S. citizen. There are also criteria for veterans who served in Korea for 30 consecutive days or 60 nonconsecutive days anytime since June 30, 1949. If a veteran has received one of several badges indicating various other service the veteran is also eligible to join.

All veterans of any foreign wars, and their families, are welcome to visit the AVON VFW Post 3272 booth at the Avon Day event, Saturday, September 27 on the grounds between Thompson Brook School and Pine Grove School in Avon; rain date is Sunday, September 28. Receptacles for collecting worn flags for proper disposal will be located in the VFW booth as well as flyers on U.S. Flag etiquette and giveaways for children.

To learn more about the Gildo T. Consolini VFW Post 3272, visit: www.avonvfw.com

I look forward to communicating with you again very soon.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gary".

Gary S. Mala
Superintendent of Schools
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