



Commission on Veterans' Affairs (WHCVA) Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, September 9, 2025 – 7:00 p.m.
West Hartford Town Hall Room 407

1. Call to Order/Roll Call: Meeting called to order at 7:15 p.m. by Chairman Knoll

Present: Rolf Knoll, , John Mele, Nicola Rubinow, Rachel Avenick, John Coss, Chad Licht, Patrick Harrel, Inga Bowes, Karen Paquette, WHCVA Representative for West Hartford, Heidi-Anne Mooney, American Legion Past Commander, Elaine Kotler, American Legion Auxiliary.

Absent: Matt Hart

2. Public Comment: None.
3. Approval Minutes of June 10, 2025: Motion made, seconded, and Jun 10, 2025, minutes were approved.
4. Reports:

Website & Facebook –Jon Coss reported that the WHCVA minutes and agenda are now easily accessible on TWH website. Also, The Veterans of West Hartford Facebook page has been updated. A Instagram link is planned.

- Wounded Warrior Project Carry Forward 5K Walk or Run October 5, 2025, Fundraiser to be held at West Hartford Reservoir #1 (Farmington Ave) with invitation to West Hartford veterans to join the Squad formed. Details found on the WHVC Facebook page.
- Veteran Stand Down - Scheduled for Wed, Sep 19 2025 in 6 locations in CT. West Hartford veterans may seek transportation from the State of CT Dept of Veterans Affairs website.
- Gold Star Families- Rolf Knoll updated conversations with Town Manager Rick Ledwith and Town Assessor Joseph Dakers for property tax relief for the 9 resident Gold Star Families.
- Veterans Day Breakfast scheduled for 9:00 a.m. Monday Nov 11, 2025, at Elmwood Community Center. The event has been added to the WHVC Facebook page.

Business Items

- WHCVA Contact Roster for veterans in town: there are currently 120-150 names and emails to the roster. Plans are being made to send a mailing to veterans in West Hartford to obtain emails for all 1,400 veterans in town.
- Sterling Field Plaque - Patrick Harrell reported funds committed to moving the plaque to a more appropriate location.
- West Hartford 's Celebrate America 250 – the Town has formed committee to coordinate all events association with the America 250 anniversary celebration. Details available on the TWH website.

- West Hartford Veterans Memorial Access – the town has evaluated the access issues to the Veterans Memorial (corner of North Main and Farmington Avenue) for people with mobility constraints. WHCVA will continue to stay involved in the process to ensure better access for veterans with walkers and in wheelchairs.
- Viet Nam Veterans Wall – the town of Wethersfield will host The Wall in Cove Park on Saturday Sep 10-14, 2025.
- WHCVA Goals for 2025-26 Commission members were asked to identify initiatives and events for the upcoming year. One suggestion made by Rachel Avenick and Jon Coss is to host a “Veterans and Military Appreciation’ Day that includes activities for veterans and their families.

Correspondence: -the flyer for the CT Department of Veterans’ Affairs (DVA) Stand Down on Sep 19, 2025, was distributed.

Adjournment at 8:20 p.m.

John Mele, Secretary