



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

287 West Street

Rocky Hill, Connecticut 06067

Dr. Linda S. Schwartz, RN, MSN, DrPH, FAAN
Commissioner

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CT DVA Launches Digital Directory of Veterans Memorials for Memorial Day 2010

Citizens are invited to go to CTDVA website - www.ct.gov/ctva and click on *Digital Directory of Veterans Memorials* to find photos and locations of memorials in towns and cities in honor of state veterans.

Dr. Linda S. Schwartz, Commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Veterans' Affairs, today announced the launch of an electronic directory of local veterans memorials created from information submitted by municipalities. The directory is available on the agency's website at www.ct.gov/ctva.

Commissioner Schwartz created the directory to help encourage citizens to visit memorials across the state to honor the sacrifice of those "who gave all."

"I was inspired by the moving words of an address by the parents of one of our fallen from Iraq," said Commissioner Schwartz. "I hope their words will encourage all citizens to visit and help maintain the many memorials throughout our state, remember the faces of the fallen, and remind each new generation that freedom is never free."

That Gold Star family, who lost their son in Iraq, asked the following of the citizens of Connecticut:

"Not just for Veterans Day, or Memorial Day, but everyday we urge you to reach out and honor our fallen by showing respect to our flag for which they have fought, respect to our memorials, and the show of gratitude to our precious veterans. Veterans, who bear the burden of service through out their lives, and carry in their hearts the fullest measure that was given by their comrades in arms. Veterans, who at times, have witnessed the fall in battle of their friends and perhaps even held them in their arms as they breathed their last breath. We know that it is these very veterans, the depth of their devotion and their commitment to our nation that our son revered and aspired to follow. When you visit our state's veterans' memorials, ask yourself, "Am I living my life in a way that deserves these individuals giving their lives for me?"

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www.ct.gov/ctva

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Updates to the Connecticut Digital Directory of Veterans Memorials will continue to be made based on information submitted to the Department of Veterans' Affairs. Local chief elected officials and town managers are encouraged to compile and forward information to add their memorials to the directory.

Information and digital photographs may be sent to Cathy Cook, Director of Community Affairs, at Catherine.Cook@po.state.ct.us for inclusion in the directory.