



St. Michael's Post 1562 and Auxiliary

Catholic War Veterans of the USA

112 Derby Ave - Derby, Conn. 06418-2010

(203) 734 – 9748 after 1:00 PM

Email: CWV@Post1562.ComcastBiz.Net

Visit our WebSite: www.CWV-Post1562.cwv.org



From the Desk of the Post Commander *Thomas M. Voytek*

This year's newsletter is going to be very different than those of the past few years. Many changes are in the works and are necessary for our survival. Some changes you may agree with and others you may not.

I am very proud of the things **we** as an organization have accomplished over the years and there are many, far too many to list here. These accomplishments **could not have been done without** the great Veteran and Auxiliary officers who served under me, along with the **entire 'blue cap' membership and our social members**. I hope our Post tradition of serving God, Veterans and the local community will continue.

The executive Board has recently reviewed the business end of our organization and found that the costs of everything have risen dramatically. In addition to the normal operating and fixed expenses, there are several maintenance and repairs needed on the interior and exterior of our building which must be completed in 2026. Critical repairs are needed in the restrooms and kitchen, and the windows panes and wood trim on the exterior of the building need attention to prevent decay.

Everyone's help to sponsor new members and attend our social functions are the primary ways we can maintain financial operating stability and fulfill our required mission objectives of the Catholic War Veterans & Auxiliary.

If you want our Post to continue, you all need to get involved by attending our meetings, considering to fill one of several vacant officer positions in the Post and Auxiliary; helping with publicity and website maintenance, and volunteering a little bit of your time to help in any number of capacities, supporting our events, and helping to recruit new members

A few weeks ago, all members were invited to attend our annual planning meeting. The discussions resulted with planning our traditional events and a couple of few new events which we believe will increase patronage and revenues. I hope you will consider visiting the Post and taking advantage of our events. Your support will certainly help to raise working capital to offset costs of heavy snow removal and the aforementioned maintenance and repairs to our building.

So what's new....

- **"Game Competition" starts in April.** The Post has several electronic games, a pool table and a friendly atmosphere to socialize and have fun. In April we will have team competition for the Pool Table, Electronic Darts, Electronic Bowling, and card games such as Setback, Cribbage or any other game teams would be interested to participate in. So, pick a game, pick a partner / team and practice up on your skills. Sign Up in March.
- **"Just Talk Between Friends"**. Will be a new opportunity for anyone to meet once a month and talk about a selected topic while sharing snacks and beverages. The first meeting will be on Monday April 20 at 6:00 PM. The topic will be "Godwink or Coincidence".
- **Bus Trip Possibilities:** Research is being conducted to host a bus trip to one or more of these suggested locations: Springfield or Mohegan Sun Casino, the new Coast Guard Museum, US Navy Subbase / Thames River tour, Yard Goats baseball, Thimble Island boat tour, the Tall Ships tour, a UConn Football game, and the Deep River Fife & Drum Parade. More information will be published when the dates, cost and details are confirmed by the trip's organizer.
- **MONTHLY 50 / 50 RAFFLE**
- **Our Monthly Pasta Dinners** will be held on the 3rd Tuesday of the month EXCEPT in March which will be on March 10th - the 2nd Tuesday. Serving begins at 6:30 PM and we ask attendees to please call the Post at least three days BEFORE the event to RSVP. Your RSVP allows us to purchase the correct amount of food for all patrons. Walk-ins will be welcomed after accommodating the ones who have an RSVP.
- We will retain the **four key fund raisers** throughout the year of which any money raised (profit wise) will go to: *House of Heroes in March*, Sea Cadets in June, *Tunnel to Towers* in July thru September and St. Mary / St. Michael School for their sports program in October. All other raffles, Dinners, 50/50, general donations will be earmarked for our High School Scholarship Fund (6 scholarships at \$500 each), the commercial loan for the patio improvements, and programs supporting veterans.

☞ **IMPORTANT EVENT DATES coming soon!**

Sunday, March 22, 2026 ANNUAL MASS/COMMUNION BREAKFAST.

Mass begins at 9:00 AM in St. Michael's Church. Breakfast afterwards in the Post Hall
As always, I pray for a large representation of Post and Auxiliary members to attend Mass since it is being celebrated in memory of both the deceased and living members of Post 1562 & the Auxiliary. This year, my Commander's Award will be presented to the **"Magnificent Brass Band"** who play for the Post throughout the year and support many of our events.

☞ **IMPORTANT EVENT DATES**

Sunday, April 12, 2026 *DERBY HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL LUNCHEON AND AWARDS PRESENTATION.*

Post 1562 will be the recipient of the DR. JOHN I. HOWE AWARD for outstanding service and support in our community! This award is given each year by the Derby Historical Society, and I am extremely honored to accept it on behalf of CWV Post 1562. Details for the award dinner and ceremony are forthcoming. Many of our Veteran, Auxiliary and Social members contributed to our Post being selected – Congratulations - so please plan to attend.

April 10- 11 -12, 2026 *VETERAN SERVICE OFFICER ON SITE FOR PERSONAL APPOINTMENTS*

Catholic War Veterans **National Service Officer, Rick Gales**, will be on site at Post from Friday, April 10, 2026 to Sunday, April 12, 2026 to help you register in the VA if you are not yet in the VA system, to discuss benefits and assist any veteran who may be having issues with a VA claim or help submit a new claim to the VA. An appointment sign-up sheet will be on the Post 1562 bulletin board for individuals to set up an appointment. Please take advantage of this opportunity to speak with our highly knowledgeable VSO. Rick was well received at our Post Family Outing this past September and helped several of our members resolve issues and concerns.

Weekend of April 25 – 26, 2026 *VETERAN'S OPEN HOUSE*

Will take place on our patio for all local veterans and their family to come to our Post and find out who we are and what we do.

Many other traditional functions like Memorial Day Weekend events, the National Convention, our Family Outing, Veteran Day events, the Children's Christmas Party, and more are listed later in this newsletter. Veteran and Auxiliary meetings are also listed. We try to put everything on our website, so make it a FAVORITE and visit our website as often as possible for the latest update on all events and news: www.CWV-Post1562.org Tell your friends, family members and others about us too!

The bottom line is; if we all don't get involved, take things seriously and start bringing in new members or outsiders to our events, it's just a few years before we too will fold. This post is only as good as the people who support it and what we stand for. Please try to find some time to get involved. Our future depends on you. Failure is not an option.

* If you received this newsletter in the mail, please provide us with your email address so Post 1562 can notify you in a timely manner of new and changing information; but more importantly to save us the cost of hard copy mailings.

Respectfully yours,
Thomas M Voytek
Commander Dept. of Connecticut / Post 1562



Our Post 1562 Auxiliary President's Message: *Loretta Budd*

I hope everyone had a Happy and Healthy Christmas and New Year. I want to express my Special Thanks to all of you who have helped with Auxiliary and joint events with the veterans during 2025. I am excited about the upcoming events being planned for 2026.

As always any help with any of the events, be it a fundraiser, trip, cleanup of the post is always appreciated. Post Commander Voytek and I are always looking for new ideas to bring our Veterans and Auxiliary community together and to sponsor new members.

I started a walking club which I want to "get back on the track" once the weather warms up. Please send me text if you are interested in being part of the walking club or if you have another idea of something we can do together.

I am really looking forward to working with everyone this coming year.

God Bless.

Loretta Budd



Tidbits from Thomas D. Owen First Vice Commander

Greetings Fellow American Patriots,

2026 brings a renewed effort for recruitment. We need new members. Our Unit cannot survive without new and younger members to eventually take the Helm.

Please keep in mind, operating YOUR Post takes many hours of solid work in both the Summer and Winter. It takes an effort from every single member of this Post from Social to Auxiliary, to Veteran to maintain the premises and property. Make a commitment to serve on planning committees, attend and help run events. The Facility is going to need some exterior maintenance this coming summer and this all comes with a cost.

Attrition is our worst enemy. We are a Post of ageing members, and this is quite obviously not sustainable. Anyone who enjoys OUR Post and all that it offers to us should look up and around and see the writing on the wall. Don't wait until the day the bad news comes, announcing that we can no longer sustain operations, it will be too late then.

Step up and step in to help... today.

As the Commander wishes, if each of us brings in one new member, we could double our membership and continue to grow this Post. Bring in a new member. (Continued in upper right column)

1st VC Tidbits continued here....

This year, the House Committee intends to promote more frequent use of the Patio area for Drink Special nights, Movie nights, "possibly Karaoke" and any other ideas that anyone wishes to suggest. Please bring your friends down for one night and they would almost certainly want to become members.

Also, do not forget to check in with your neighbors and older relatives and ask if they need anything during this brutal Cold and Snow season we are having. Well, stay warm and safe through this Winter.

Semper Fidelis

Thomas D. Owen

**YOUR
MEMBERSHIP
MATTERS**

Reminder to FAMILY of our Members

Please notify the Post or Auxiliary when a member is hospitalized. We also ask the family to notify us in a timely manner when a member passes, so proper CWV / CWVA respects can be rendered during the wake service. *Thank you*

✓ **Greetings from our
Newly Elected Post
2nd Vice Commander**



Hi All,

I just wanted to introduce myself - my name is **Susan Stankye, USN Veteran**. I was elected 2nd Vice Commander in October. As I learn my job, I will be reaching out to all for ideas about increasing our active members.

I am planning to have an Open House for all Catholic Veterans on April 25th & 26th. Details will be announced soon. I think if we bring Vets into the post and let them see our community involvement and the different social activities we sponsor, maybe we will increase membership - especially amongst the younger Veterans. If anyone would like to assist in planning and implementation please reach out to me!

Lastly... I will be following up with Veterans who are currently in arrears on their 2026 dues payment for renewal of their membership. So if you have not paid yet, please remit **\$35** at the post or by mail as soon as possible.

Thank you. *Susan Stankye*



**BUT YOUR OPINION
ONLY MATTERS WHEN . . .**

It is voiced at a monthly business meeting. So attend an Auxiliary Meeting held on the first Monday of the Month or a Veteran Meeting held on the second Monday of the Month. Meetings begin at 6:30 PM and are held in the Post Hall.

* A Social Member who wishes to attend a Veteran Meeting should contact the Post Commander in advance.

YOUR 2026 POST & AUXILIARY OFFICERS

*** POST Commander**

Thomas Voytek

1st Vice Commander

Tom Owen

2nd Vice Commander

Susan Stankye

3rd Vice Commander

Maureen McDonnell

Adjutant

Joe Delgrande

Treasurer

Mike Kasinskas

Officer of the Day

Dennis Salzer

Service Officer

Brian Naylor

Welfare Officer & Historian

Vacant – If interested, contact Cdr. Voytek

Directors

Susan Stankye (3 YR) Paul Grammer (2 YR)

Joseph Delgrande (1 YR)

*** AUXILIARY President**

Loretta Budd

1st Vice President

Marge Mattei

2nd Vice President

Donna Osak

3rd Vice President

Anna Marie Webber

Secretary

Arleen Getlein

Treasurer

Jill Bellao

Ritual Officer

Joan McCabe

Welfare Officer

Bonnie Wilkes

Historian

Vacant – If interested, contact Pres. Budd

Directors

Tina Ranno (3 YR) Veronica Kudej (2 YR)

Donna Osak (1 YR)

Planned Events for St. Michael Post 1562 and Auxiliary

All events are subject to change, and additional events may be added.

Visit our website and your E-mails for current information.

Our Website: www.CWV-Post1562.org

Our E-Mail: CWV@Post1562.ComcastBiz.net

* Note: We use MAILCHIMP to communicate with our entire membership. Do not unsubscribe from MailChimp. Please put our E-mail Address into your CONTACT list which should prevent our communications from being captured in a SPAM or JUNK folder.

If you are not receiving our E-mails please send an E-mail to us so we can add you to the distribution list. Also let us know if you change your email. Thank You.

Our Address: 112 Derby Avenue - Derby, CT 06418-2010

Our Phone Number: (203) 734 – 9748 Best to Call after 1:00 PM

Our Normal Hours of Operation: Saturday & Sunday: 11:00 AM until 10:00 PM

Monday – Friday: 1:00 PM until 10:00 PM

** Hours subject to change based upon business patronage and / or weather conditions.*



Veteran Meetings 2nd Monday of the Month at 6:30 PM (1830) in the Post Hall.

February 9th March 9th April 13th May 11th

No Meetings in June, July, or August

September 14th October 12th November 9th December 14th



Auxiliary Meetings 1st Monday of the Month at 6:30 PM in the Post Hall.

February 2nd March 2nd April 6th May 4th

No Meetings in June, July, or August, * Wednesday September 9th

October 5th November 2nd December 7th

* September date change because of Labor Day holiday weekend.

Planned Events for St. Michael Post 1562 and Auxiliary

All events are subject to change, and additional events may be added.

Visit our website and your E-mails for current information.



Monthly PASTA Dinners

3rd Tuesday of the Month at 6:30 PM (Except in March!)

Please RSVP at least three days before the event. Walk-ins may not be accommodated because bulk food purchases are made two days before the dinner based upon the RSVP attendees.

MARCH 10TH (2ND TUESDAY)

APRIL 21ST

MAY 19TH

JUNE 16TH

JULY 21ST

AUGUST 18TH

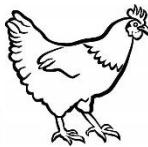
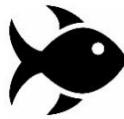
SEPTEMBER 15TH

OCTOBER 20TH

NOVEMBER 17TH

DECEMBER 15TH

MEATO NIGHTS



Games Start at 7:00 PM You can sign up and purchase your 'fans' before the games!
Arrive early to settle in, purchase your fans and enjoy the friendly atmosphere in the Post rooms.

- ☞ Friday, March 6, 2026 Auxiliary hosts this fundraiser for House of Heroes – CT
- ☞ Friday, April 24, 2026 Auxiliary hosts the MEATO
- ☞ Friday, June 19, 2026 Veterans host this "SUPER MEATO" fundraiser for the BARQUE EAGLE SEA CADETS. Two winners per game!!
- ☞ Friday, Sept. 25, 2026 Auxiliary hosts this fundraiser for Tunnel 2 Towers

March 17th Celebrate St. Patrick's Day in our Post Rooms! Corned Beef & Cabbage will be available to all patronages and guests.

SUNDAY MARCH 22, 2026 * Annual Corporate Communion Mass and Breakfast.

All Post & Auxiliary Officers and members should attend this traditional Lenten event demonstrating our Catholic Faith. Your families and our Social members are welcomed to attend Mass and Breakfast. Muster at St. Michael Church at 8:45 AM.

Breakfast will be served in the Post following the conclusion of the 9:00 AM Mass.

Please sign up if you plan to attend breakfast so we have a count of attendees. Thanks.

During the month of April, in addition to Rick Gales, our C.W.V. National Service Officer visiting April 10 – 11 – 12 and the Open House for Catholic Veterans and their families as mentioned earlier in this newsletter:

April 3rd and April 4th: On Good Friday and Holy Saturday, traditional Meatless and varieties of non-meatless Easter Foods will be provided in the Post Rooms beginning about 1:30 PM each day. Have a Blessed Easter.

May 9th and May 10th : Our Auxiliary will hold their annual Mother's Day Flower Sale

On Armed Forces Day, Saturday, May 16th the Auxiliary will host a Veteran's Appreciation Dinner in the Post Hall for Veterans of Post 1562 and their guests. Post 1562 Veterans will be free, all other guests will be \$10. RSVP will be required by Friday, May 8th.

Memorial Day Float and Memorial Day Weekend Events

Our float will be assembled and decorated during the week of April 18th. Work details will be announced as the date draws closer. Our Post and Auxiliary will march and/or ride the float on Sunday, May 24th Ansonia Parade and Monday, May 25th Derby-Shelton Parade. Post has an open house with refreshments at the conclusion of the parade on Monday.

As we did last year, the Sea Cadets will conduct a US Flag Retirement Service in our Post parking lot at 12:30 PM on Memorial Day, May 25th. All members, family, friends and citizens in the area are encouraged to attend.



VENISON, ELK and WILD BOAR GAME DINNER will be held on **Friday, June 5, 2026**. RSVP ahead of time especially if you need seats reserved for a group. Post opens at 1:00 PM so come early and enjoy. Dinner served at 7:00 PM.

Hot Dogs & Fireworks - Start to ring in the 4th of July celebrating 250 years of INDEPENDENCE by having a Hot Dog and a Beverage at Post 1562 – watching the city fireworks display. Friday July 3rd.

CWV & CWVA National Convention is Friday, August 1, 2026 through Thursday, August 6, 2026. The location is CLEVELAND, OHIO. Visit www.TheCWV.org for details. Post & Auxiliary 'Blue Caps' may attend as delegates, and Social members may attend too. Talk to Post Commander Voytek or Auxiliary President Budd for information about a complimentary stipend to offset your expenses.

Hola!

Saturday - August 15th is our 2nd Annual SPANISH CUISINE NIGHT

Last year's premier of the Spanish Cuisine Night was very successful featuring plenty of delicious food and festive atmosphere. This year it's planned for August 15th to take advantage of warmer weather and our patio. RSVP will begin in July.



August 28th features a "CIGAR KNIGHT"

Hosted by our friends from the Raging Knights Fire Fighters Motorcycle Club – Battalion Two. It will be held in the evening on the patio (Weather permitting). Most of the RKFFMC Battalion 2 members are also Veteran, Auxiliary and Social members at Post 1562 who support and participate in CWV & CWVA functions. So come on out to support their organization's fundraising for the Connecticut Children's Burn Center and other fire victim related assistance.



POST FAMILY OUTING

Saturday, September 19th 2026



Bus Trip to West Point, NY to watch ARMY vs AIR FORCE Football

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2026

Details forthcoming. RSVP with Full Payment required.

November 11th Veterans Day Ceremony on the Derby Green begins at 10:30 AM

November 21st Celebrate Pre-Thanksgiving Weekend in our Post Rooms featuring Turkey, Ham and other fixings available to all patronages and guests around 1:00 PM.

November 26th Thanksgiving Day Dinner Our Auxiliary will host a Thanksgiving Dinner in the Post Hall for members who would be spending the day alone. This is a sit-down meal - not take-out. RSVP, Cost \$10





Children's Christmas Party

Will be held on Sunday, December 13th 2026.
Registration will take place in November.



SAVE THE DATE
for
NATIONAL
WREATHS ACROSS
AMERICA DAY
SATURDAY,
DEC. 19, 2026

WREATHS across AMERICA

St. Michael's Post 1562 and Auxiliary will be soliciting sponsors for the 2026 Wreaths Across America program being held at St. Michael Cemetery in Derby, CT.

You may sponsor a Wreath **TODAY** for December 19, 2026 by going to St. Michael's Post 1562 Wreaths Across America website: www.WreathsAcrossAmerica.org/CT0121

Listed below are some of the donations made by Post 1562 to other Non-Profit community organizations and high school scholarships during the 2025 calendar year.

All donations and monies collected from our events were gratefully appreciated.

Thank you to EVERY member, family, and friends who supported our mission in 2025.

THANK YOU.

* ST MARY / ST MICHAEL SCHOOL (YOUTH PROGRAMS)	675
* OUR LADY QUEEN OF APOSTLES (ST. MARY CHURCH FESTIVAL)	100
* DERBY – SHELTON ROTARY CLUB FLAG PROGRAM	250
* CONNECTICUT HURRICANES MILITARY APPRECIATION CONCERT	100
* K OF C ASSEMBLY 2459 SPONSOR FOR GOLF FOR VETS	150
HOUSE OF HEROES – CONNECTICUT	975
HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS (4)	2,000
BOYS & GIRLS CLUB LOWER NAUGATUCK	150
COL CHARLES RUSSELL MONUMENT FUND	100
SUB-VETS (DINNER SPONSORSHIP FOR TWO SAILORS)	130
NAVAL SEA CADETS (SUPER-MEATO & DONATIONS)	2,000
CITY OF DERBY HOLIDAY FUND FOR ACTIVE DUTY TROOPS	100
WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA	170
HOLY FAMILY PASSIONIST RETREAT CENTER (YOUTH PROGRAMS)	100
* TARGET CT FOR T2T DONATIONS (TUNNEL 2 TOWERS)	11,484

** combined with Auxiliary donations*