



**ANTIQUÉ VETERANS
of MERIDEN, CT POST #1**



The Antique Veterans of Meriden, CT is a volunteer, informal, unincorporated group of honorably discharged veterans of the US Armed Forces who meet 9:30 AM Thursdays, at the Meriden Senior Citizen Center, to discuss issues concerning veterans and plan the organization’s activities. The Antique Veterans also hope to promote those patriotic values that inspired them while in the military service of their country.

Membership requires the honorable discharge from one of the Armed Forces of The United States, and being present at one meeting. There are no dues, although a collection container is passed at the meetings to help defray the cost of coffee and doughnuts. The only other possible expenses would be participation in a pay-as-you-go activity, and the voluntary self-provision of a uniform.

The Senior Citizen Center provides the meeting space for the group, and the Antique Veterans try to reciprocate by participating in any request the Center makes. The A-V’s organization also officially represents the City of Meriden at requested city public events, but refrain from any political affiliation, discussion or activity. The group also participates in many of the surrounding cities’ & towns’ events, and has traveled near & far throughout CT, as well as out of state to RI, MA & NY.

Group activities range from national, state and local functions to churches, schools, parades, rendering Military Honors at funerals, US Flag retirements, plus any other ceremony of a patriotic nature. Uniforms are required at these activities, and about 34 exist in our membership of 226 as of 08/29/12. The deceased members number 103. There are 19 flags to display; The Stars and Stripes, CT State, City of Meriden, each branch of the Armed Forces, POW, various battle and division flags, etc. The bulk of our expenses are: Fuel for our van, blank ammunition for the rifle squad, flag replacement and any additional paraphernalia.

Documentation of bestowing Military Honors started right after 9/11/01. Usually 12-20 uniforms participate, forming an appropriate flag line, with an Honor Guard for the American Flag, Two flag folders for the casket flag, a flag presenter to the appropriate mourner at graveside, 3-6 in the rifle squad, and 1 or 2 bugles to play *Taps* with an echo, an appropriate entrance hymn, and the proper service song as The Colors are retired. Combatants receive graveside recognition with inverted rifle, bayonet & helmet; Navy and Coast Guard, the Eight Watch Bells. Honors have been rendered along with other units. Monetary donations are accepted but not sought. 1,126 Military Honors have been bestowed since 9/11, as of August 16, 2012

The RSVP (Retired Senior Volunteer Program) recognizes the Antique Veteran members within the RSVP organization. Attendance at any function is voluntary, and no explanation is necessary or expected. Somehow, members schedule their VA Hospital appointments around Antique Veteran activities.

A Brief History: The founding was on, or about, 3/21/96, at the Senior Citizen Center, by Richard Egan, Kenneth Dow & Frank Lang (dec ‘07). The second meeting was advertised in the Record-Journal as a “WWII Vets Meeting” and attracted 9 more vets; Adam Mickiewicz (dec.), Jim Weber (dec.), Ken Cowing, Ed Dering (dec.), Joseph Salonia, Bill O’Brien (dec), Bob Carabetta (dec. ‘10), Emanuel Manopoli, plus one vet who came in late, did not sign in, and ever since has been known as “The Unknown Antique Veteran”!

Member Dr. Peter Burch has provided an easy link to our website: [Click here](#) (or go to www.cityofmeriden.com, click on senior services, & then click on Antique Veterans, for more information and biographies of notables. The following are officers and some of our notables.

- *Dick Egan: Founder & Commander
- *Ken Dow: Founder and Executive Officer
- *Harold Rochette: Treasurer Emeritus & Author “8th Air Force Lottery”
- Joe Borriello: Membership Chairman
- George Tamburri: Quartermaster, Flag Folder
- Jack O’Neill: Funeral Coordinator, “ “
- Frank Lamphier: (dec. ‘10) Member of Meriden Hall-of- Fame & our A-V Hall-of-Fame.
- Paul Hanson: Field Commander, Flag Line
- Dick Calvanese: Treasurer
- Dennis Bradley: Rifle Squad CO
- Al Hergott: Bugler & Recording Secretary