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# Gildo T Consolini

## VFW POST 3272

Avon, Connecticut

Newsletter Vol VII Issue 02 – October 2022

October 26th Post Meeting  
Prince Thomas of Savoy Society  
32 Old Farms Road, Avon, CT

Post 3272 Meetings  
4th Wednesday each month.

### Post Address

AVON CT VFW Post 3272  
PO Box 297  
Avon, CT 06001

Post Website <http://www.avonvfw.com/>

### Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/VFW3272/>



### Post Officers

#### Commander

Tim Healy

[tim.healy@comcast.net](mailto:tim.healy@comcast.net)

#### Sr. Vice Commander

Don Perrault

[BCEAGLE66@hotmail.com](mailto:BCEAGLE66@hotmail.com)

#### Jr. Vice Commander

Jerry Stinson

[cantilevered@hotmail.com](mailto:cantilevered@hotmail.com)

The event will start a social hour at **5:30 PM on October 26<sup>th</sup>** at the Prince Thomas of Savoy Society (Italian Club), 32 Old Farms Road, Avon, CT.

**There will also be a Veterans Day Planning meeting at 5:30**



### **Roster Update Project**

If you took a list of names to contact at our last meeting, please let me know how you've been able to do at the next meeting. What we've found so far (not surprisingly) is that many of the emails and phone numbers are not valid. The next step is to try to locate these people through tax records and direct mail services. Some expense may be involved there – we will see, and you'll definitely have an opportunity to weigh in on anything we propose that costs money.

Please don't be disappointed or reluctant to speak because you had trouble finding folks; we knew that would be the case and it's no reflection on you.

It's important to do this work. In one case so far, we located a man who was a member of the post who had recently lost his job and needed help getting insurance through the VA. He also wanted to know when we met and had never received our newsletter! We can now offer help and hope where none had existed for him before. That's why what you're doing is so important – keep up the good work!

### **Schools**

The schools are very supportive of our work, from the Superintendent down to the principals and their staffs. As time goes by, we will be working closely with faculty and students to develop scholarships, history programs, community service projects and similar outreach to people and places in need. We will also leverage this involvement to contact potential new members from students' families and acquaintances. Let me know if you are particularly interested in any of these activities or have ideas about new ones.

### **American Legion**

Charlie Zaorski, the head of the local AL group, and I have a good working relationship at this point. We are jointly sponsoring a toiletries collection in the schools for the benefit of the veterans at Rocky Hill. I've invited them to join us at the Veterans Day events. Charlie's fine with us doing what we do best by ourselves and us doing things together where it makes sense.

### **Cemeteries**

We've made a couple of contacts with the people who maintain our cemeteries in town. Ultimately, we'd like to have a map of all the veterans in all the cemeteries, with indications of whose history is in the Town Library, and what books and movies are available that talk about their adventures. This way people can visit and reflect on our veterans' contributions as they walk among them at their final resting places and learn something about the sacrifices that people have made so that we can live as well as we do.

There's more, but this thing is already too long. Enormous thanks to everyone for helping out. You guys are simply the best!

Tim  
Commander  
Avon VFW Post 3272

## Notes from around the Post

During the social hour Paula DeSilva and four other members of Quilts 2 Heal presented Don Perreault with a beautiful handmade quilt made by their organization. Don was surprised and very grateful for their presentation.



### Post Meeting September 28, 2022

#### Minutes of Meeting September 28, 2022

##### Dinner Meeting

On September 28, 2022, 21 Post members and their guests gathered at the Italian Club for the monthly meeting of the Gildo T. Consolini Post 3272, Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Chaplin Bill Newman offered the invocation after which a delicious meal of pizza and grinders was enjoyed by all.

##### Business Meeting

Opening Ceremony: Post Commander Tim Healy called the business meeting to order at 1955 hrs. Post Chaplin Bill Newman offered the opening prayer and the MIA/POW prayer.

Comrades in Distress: Chaplin Newman reported the following comrades were in need of our thoughts and prayers:

Dick Hill, Joe Luzzi, Mort Katz, John Caruso, and John Kostrisak. It was requested that the Chaplain be informed of any other Comrades in distress.

Consideration of the Minutes and Quartermaster's Report Both approved

## Committee Reports

### New Members

Commander Healy reported that a membership application was received from Johnathan Longman, a Marine, War on Terror veteran. Bill Newman is processing the paperwork.

### Membership

Quartermaster Walton reported that Post achieved 87% membership. He reported he had paid the dues for 8 unpaid members.

### Service Officer

Service Officer Mickey Bennett stated many TV and radio advertisements are being pushed on the Camp Lejeune water contamination problem. He recommended anyone having a case should work through the VA and not through a radio or TV lawyer.

### Appointed Officers

Commander Healy reported the appointment of Tom Voorhees as Post Adjutant and Mickey Bennett as Post Service Officer for the year 2002-2023

## Business Meeting

### Veterans Day

Commander Healy will serve as coordinator for Veterans Day activities. Roy Walton will handle the permit from Parks and Recreation for Veterans Day activities on the town green. The VFW Color Guard will participate. A final preparation meeting will be held 5:30 p.m. prior to the next regular Post meeting.

### Proposed Projects

Commander Healy requested proposals of projects the Post could undertake to aid veterans and to keep the Post active in town. Several ideas were listed. Commander Healy requested these be listed in the Post Newsletter along with any others suggestions:

Aid refugee family. Help those from Iraq and/or Afghanistan who helped the veterans there

Sponsor a golf tournament. See Jerry Stinson if you are interested in helping

## Good of the Order

Trip to Washington: Brian O'Donnell and Jerry Stinson are in final steps of planning a trip to Washington over Veterans Day. They will visit the Wall and read names. Presently eight Post members are scheduled to go with Brian and Jerry. Anyone else interested contact them.

Establishing contact with lost members: Commander Healy handed out a list of approximately seven names to each of ten volunteers present at the meeting. These names are Post members we have not seen recently. The member receiving the names are requested to contact the member, renew contact, and inquire if they need any assistance and report their results at the next meeting.

Adjournment Officer of the Day Mike Fyler led the Post in rendering honors to the colors and Commander Healy offered the closing prayer.

**Commander Healy noted the next meeting will be October 26<sup>th</sup> and adjourned the meeting at 2020 hrs.**

## Notes from the Web

### It's Official: Here's the 2023 Pay Raise for Vets and Military Retirees



Clipped from: <https://www.military.com/benefits/military-pay/allowances/cola-for-retired-pay.html>

Military retirees and disabled veterans will see their monthly checks increase by 8.7% for 2023, thanks to an annual adjustment to the federal [Cost of Living Allowance \(COLA\)](#) due to inflation.

This will be the largest increase since 1981. Retirees saw a 5.9% increase in 2022 and 1.3% in 2021; the annual adjustment has averaged 1.9% for the last 10 years.

The COLA increase was announced Thursday by the Social Security Administration. Most government disability and retirement payments are required by law to increase annually by the same amount.

#### Retirement Pay Increase

For 2023, retired military members will see a \$87 increase for each \$1,000 of [military retirement](#) pension they receive each month.

Retirees who entered military service on or after Aug. 1, 1986, and opted for the [Career Status Bonus \(CSB/Redux retirement plan\)](#) will have any COLA increases reduced by 1%, so they will see a smaller increase of \$77 per \$1,000 in 2023.

#### VA Disability Increase

Disabled veterans will also see their benefit payments increase in the upcoming year. The average [VA disability check](#) will go up about \$13.28 per month for those with a 10% rating, and \$289.89 for those rated at 100%.

**Related:** [See the current VA disability compensation rates.](#)

#### Retirement and VA Disability Pay Offset

Military retirees with combined VA disability ratings of 40% or lower whose injuries are not combat related can only receive that amount in either their retirement pension or their disability check – but not both. That rule is known as an “offset” and is a matter of law. Since disability pay isn’t subject to the federal income tax but retirement pay is, most veterans elect to receive it instead of their retirement pension for the offset amount.

That means even though both retirement and disability payments will see the COLA increase, some veterans will benefit from only one, not both.