

13 November 2012

As a Veteran of the Korean War, I come to speak in favor of a new line item in the Mansfield Budget. It will provide funding for an annual "Veterans' Luncheon", toward "Celebrating the Living and Remembering the Fallen".

First, I wish to acknowledge the significant effort of several Town Staff involved in the Veterans' Luncheon, held last Friday. These include Mr. Kevin Grunwald, Director of Social Services, Mrs. Cynthia Dainton, Coordinator of the Senior Center, and Mr. Curt Vincente, Director of Parks and Recreation. In addition Mr. Sean Emond of VITAS Innovative Hospice Care, Mr. Bill Woodbury of the Windham Regional Community Council, and Mansfield Army Veteran, Maurice Moriarty, cooperated with Staff in this effort.

We thank the Air Force Reserve Officers Training Corps, of the University of Connecticut, for their portion of the program. Their presence reassured old veterans like me that the future of our Armed Forces is in good hands.

We sincerely thank the Business Community of Mansfield for financially supporting the catered lunch.

As a result of efforts of all these individuals, Mansfield Veterans and their spouses came together proudly to join their colleagues, in a moment of reunion, though some came limping, or with canes, or with walkers, and even a wheel chair.

American Flags that have flown over the Capitol of the United States were presented to two World War II Veterans, Air Force Flight Engineer of B-17s, Richard Hobby, and Air Force Gunner, George Tomecko. George was unable to attend.

Memories of our service in the Armed Forces are etched forever among the most important accomplishments of our life. The Luncheon provided us with a few moments to reflect on those years, so long ago

As a resident of Mansfield for over twenty years, I encourage residents to support the request for "The Veterans' Luncheon" line item in the budget. Further, I request The Town Council to approve, unanimously, the new budget line item for the purpose of sponsoring the Veterans' Luncheon, annually.

**Anthony W. Kotula, Ph.D.
Former First Lieutenant
15th Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron
5th Air Force, USAF
Kimpo Air Base, Korea**