



MEDIA CONTACT

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Local Veterans Honored at Service Medal Ceremony

BRISTOL, CT., April 8, 2019 – The Veterans Strong Community Center, the Town of Plymouth and the City of Bristol hosted a Veterans Wartime Service Medal Ceremony recently to honor local Veterans in the Bristol and Plymouth communities.

The ceremony took place in the Bristol City Hall Council Chambers and began with the Presentation of Colors by the American Legion Post 2 Honor Guard with an Invocation given by Stanley Piotrowski (USAF) from the Veterans Strong Community Center. Mayor Ellen Zoppo-Sassu welcomed attendees and thanked the Veterans for their service. Representing the Connecticut Department of Veterans Affairs, Commissioner Thomas J. Saadi addressed the Veterans and their families acknowledging each Veteran's commitment and dedication to our country.

Whit Betts, Mayor Ellen Zoppo-Sassu, and Plymouth Mayor David Merchant assisted Commissioner Saadi in presenting each recipient with their medals and a certificate. The medal recipients were: George Castle – US Army (Plymouth), Jerry Duncan – US Navy (Bristol), Wilfred Lavoie – US Army (Bristol), Stephen Luba – US Navy (Plymouth), David Peplau – US Army (Bristol), Robert Sherman – US Army (Bristol), Reno Soto – US Army (Bristol), and Ronald Trafford – US Army (Bristol).

“Bristol is so fortunate to have a strong legacy of men and women who have answered the call for military service,” stated Mayor Zoppo-Sassu, who has a son currently serving active duty in the U.S. Army. *“It is always an honor to attend these type of recognition events.”*

Mayor David Merchant gave closing remarks and reflected on the changing times from when the soldiers returned, and what is happening in the world today.

“As a veteran I am always humbled and proud to be part of any event that honors our veterans. The sacrifice that all members of the military gave in the form of ‘time’ when they were so young to serve this great nation means so much. But it is the oath that was taken as they entered the military which said To Preserve, Protect and Defend the Constitution of this great country or ‘Die Trying’ gives them the right to be called veterans and this country will always be proud of them,” stated, David Merchant, Mayor of Plymouth

“It's always an honor for me to be able to organize these kinds of events for our Veterans. We can't ever forget the commitments they made to serve our country, especially during times of war and conflict,” stated Donna Dognin, Executive Director, Veterans Strong Community Center, Inc.

Photos attached.

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About Veterans Strong Community Center, Inc.: *Veterans Strong Community Center, Inc. – a 501(c)3 non-profit corporation – is a regional information and resource center. The Center is committed to improving services, assistance and communication to Veterans, Service Members and their Families throughout the Greater Bristol area. This includes but is not limited to analyzing inquiries for assistance through the use of personal knowledge and reference materials; providing responses and taking appropriate action to resolves issues; monitoring inquires for specific function areas, tracking progress and resolution of issues; providing “warm” referral to service providers based on issues presented. For more information, visit: <https://www.vetstronginc.org/>*