

Peter Galgano Jr. - Public Service and Volunteer Bio

Peter Galgano Jr.'s service in the United States Marine Corps is one of his proudest accomplishments. He is a Vietnam Veteran and served from 1966 to 1970 and was discharged as Sgt E-5.

In 2003, he received the **“Secretary of the State’s Public Service Award”** from Susan Bysiewicz, Secretary of the State of Connecticut, for his dedicated service and contribution to state boards and commissions in Connecticut, as the Co-Chair, Governor’s Committee on Physical Fitness.

In 2006, he was the recipient of **the Marine Corps League’s prestigious “Department of Connecticut Marine of the Year”**. He received this for his extensive involvement with the Military Funeral Honors Detail, Wake Service, and creating a DVD that was given to 300 Funeral Directors in CT to show to the families what was entitled to them.

In 2007 (- the Present), Peter **became Co-President of the Connecticut State Veterans Memorial in Hartford**. Connecticut’s first statewide Memorial that pays tribute to State heroes and heroines of the past, honors the veterans of today, and demonstrates the appreciation we hold for their service for generations to come.

In 2007, after Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 25th Marines in Plainville, CT, returned from Fallujah, Iraq, the Marines of Charlie Company named him the **“2006 Marine Corps Veteran of the Year”**. He received this honor for establishing a website for Marines in Iraq to see and communicate with their families in Connecticut. Peter was also the co-organizer for Charlie Company’s Homecoming from Iraq and he created a DVD of all the pictures for the 200 Marines returning.

On Oct. 08, 2008, Peter was the **Public Relations Chairman for bringing the largest traveling Vietnam Wall to Rentschler Field in East Hartford**. He was also instrumental in bringing up the Marine Corps Silent Drill Team and the Drum and Bugle Corps.

On 17 November 2010, after being on a committee since 2007 to get a **Veterans OASIS Center** in all of the CT State Colleges, Peter, at **Middlesex Community College dedicated its new Veterans OASIS Center**, a place where Veteran Students can congregate, relax, talk, study, and seek assistance from Peter, was the Veterans Outreach Coordinator.

In 2011, Peter became a **Board Member on the CT Trees of Honor**. He **helped Design the Living Trees Tribute and Created the Fallen Heroes Video** for all the CT fallen service members who gave the ultimate sacrifice while deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan, post 911.

On 03 May 2011, Peter was **appointed to be on the Town of Berlin Veterans Commission**. On **07 February 2012**, Peter was nominated to be **the new Secretary of the BVC**.

On November 8, 2011, Peter Galgano Jr. **received the “William J. Pomfret Veteran Community Service Award”**. The award was presented by the Middlesex County Chamber of Commerce “Honor the Veterans and Support the Troops Committee” in recognition of distinguished service on the part of a veteran of our armed forces to the citizens of Connecticut and selfless devotion to the ideal of commitment to public service.

On November 28, 2012, Peter Galgano Jr. was **inducted into the “Connecticut Veterans Hall of Fame”**. The Connecticut Veterans Hall of Fame honors veterans both for their direct service to their country and for making significant contributions to their local communities after they have completed their military service.

In December 2012, Peter Galgano Jr. was **awarded the Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 120, "Member of The Year Award"**. In recognition for his many years of Continued Devotion, Service and Work on Behalf of Vietnam and Vietnam era Veterans. Your Genuine Affection, Enthusiasm and Faithfulness to Your Fellow Veterans and their Families Will Hold You in High Esteem by All.

In 2013, Peter had the idea of **creating the America's Wars Walkway** at the Berlin Veterans Memorial Park. It took about two years to design the signs and get approval from the Department of Defense for the pictures and statistics used on the fiberglass embedment signs. **In 2015, the signs were installed** in the Berlin Veterans Memorial Park. We now have **school busses from across the state who come to the park with students to learn about the history of America's Wars.**

On April 29, 2015, Berlin Veterans Commission member Peter Galgano **was named "Berlin's volunteer of the year"** by Mayor Rachel Rochette at the annual economic development awards at The Baltic Restaurant in Berlin, CT.

"Peter has an extensive record of volunteering to recognize and assist veterans of military service," said Town Manager Denise McNair. When Galgano returned from Vietnam, he "hung up" his uniform for years. Later, he started to dedicate much of his time to making things better for other returning vets. "I don't want them to lose the time I did," he said. Galgano "has once again gone above and beyond the call of duty" in the work he put into planning the recently dedicated Veterans Memorial Park near Stop & Shop and The American Legion, McNair said. Galgano, who also created and designed the America's Wars Walkway signs, "saved the town thousands of dollars in sign design fees" and "added a personal touch to the project that we will all appreciate," she added.

On November 9, 2015, the **CT State Veterans Memorial was dedicated.** The landmark event was coordinated by the dedicated committee of veterans and volunteers of the Connecticut State Veterans Memorial, Inc., a nonprofit organization established exclusively to raise funds for and build a statewide memorial to honor all Connecticut veterans.

Sergeant Peter Galgano Jr. serves as Co-President of the Connecticut State Veterans Memorial Board of Directors. The park is located inside of Minuteman Park at the intersection of Capitol Avenue and Broad Street in Hartford – directly in front of the William A. O'Neill State Armory – the memorial pays tribute to the more than 1.3 million men and women from Connecticut who served honorably in the U.S. military in defense of our freedom. It recognizes past, present, and future Connecticut veterans and will serve as a site for official observances, activities, and ceremonies that honor veterans.

On March 1, 2016, Peter Galgano Jr. has officially been appointed as the Town of Berlin "Municipal Veterans Representative". He serves as the main coordinator in serving veterans and their families. He will be in charge of assisting veterans as they adjust to life outside the service and help in their transitions. Galgano's role also includes setting up the activities involved with public and private facilities that are in charge of reemployment, education and rehabilitation of veterans. Among many other responsibilities, He will be the primary person that veterans can seek for help.

On March 18, 2016, Peter Galgano **was appointed to the "Board of Trustees" for the Connecticut Department of Veterans Affairs.** The board shall be comprised of eighteen voting members who by education and/or experience shall be qualified in health care, business management, social services, or law and who shall have a demonstrated interest in the concerns of veterans. The board shall advise and assist the commissioner in the operation of the Veterans Residential Services facility, the Office of Advocacy and Assistance, the administration, expansion or modification of existing programs and services of the department and the development of new programs and services.

In January 2018, Peter Galgano **was contacted by the VFW's Women's Auxiliary to update the pictures that were on the wall in the Berlin Town Hall's Rotunda.** There were 10 – 15 pictures of Berlin Veterans who were serving in the military but hasn't been updated in two years. Peter said yes but had a better idea and brought it up at the next Berlin Veterans Commission meeting. He proposed to make a video presentation of pictures and information of all Berlin Veterans who are serving or have ever served in the military. So, after months of getting pictures and information from Berlin residents, he created the Berlin Veterans Digital Wall of Honor Video.

In November 2018 (- the present), **the Berlin Veterans Wall of Honor Video was dedicated** in the Rotunda in Berlin's Town Hall and is displayed on a 50" Smart TV. We now have **380 veterans on the Berlin Wall of Honor** and the Berlin Veterans Digital Wall of Honor Video is also **displayed on YouTube** that Galgano created for family members and friends to view all over the world.

On March 22, 2019, Peter Galgano Jr. was **appointed to the "Board of Directors for the Friends of VA Connecticut Fisher House Inc."** Fisher House provides high quality, temporary lodging, at no charge, to families/caregivers of Veterans and Active-Duty Service Members who are undergoing inpatient or extensive outpatient treatment provided by the VA or Department of Defense (DOD). Fisher House is a "home away from home" and offers a warm, compassionate environment and a sense of comfort while a loved one is undergoing medical treatment.

In November 2021, Peter Galgano Jr. was **appointed to the "Woody Williams Foundation CT Gold Star Families Memorial Monument Committee"**.

This Monument was **dedicated on April 23, 2022,** in the **Berlin Veterans Memorial Park.** Gold Star Family members and relatives are those who have sacrificed a Loved One for our Freedom.

In December 2021, Peter Galgano Jr., was once again **awarded the Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 120, "Member of The Year Award"**. In recognition of his many years of Tireless Devotion and Selfless approach to Serving all Veterans through our VVA chapter. Your Affection, Enthusiasm and Faithfulness to Your Fellow Veterans and their Families Will Hold You in High Esteem by All.

On May 26, 2022, Peter Galgano was **awarded the Middlesex Community College "Distinguished Service Award"**. Interim CEO Kim Hogan presented the **Distinguished Service Award** to Peter Galgano, Middlesex Veterans Outreach Coordinator, and former Media Associate, for his "longtime commitment to veterans and service to Middlesex."

On June 10, 2023, Peter Galgano Jr. and Charles Colaresi were each awarded with a beautiful **Quilt of Valor from The Connecticut Gold Star Mothers at the Woody Williams Foundation Gold Star Memorial Monument** at the Berlin Veterans Memorial Park. **Helen Keiser Pedersen, President CT Gold Star Mothers,** said "I want to thank you both for your Vietnam service, your continued service to the community in Berlin, and to these United States of America."

On July 29, 2023, Peter Galgano received **a letter from the Vietnam Veterans of America National Liaison to Four Chaplain Foundation.** It said that on **August 11, 2023,** I will be the recipient of **The Chapel of Four Chaplains Legion of Honor Award at the National Convention of Vietnam Veterans of America in Orlando, Fl.**

Peter is presently active with the following: The Marine Corps League #781, in New Britain, and the MCL Dept of Connecticut, the VFW Post 10732 and the American Legion Post 68 in Berlin, CT, the Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 120 (Board of Directors), in East Hartford and the VVA CT State Council-Vice President, the town of Berlin Veterans Commission, the town of Berlin Municipal

Veterans Representative, Co- President of the CT State Veterans Memorial Inc., a member of the Special Veterans Advisory Committee for Senator Richard Blumenthal, the Veterans' Outreach Coordinator at Middlesex Community College, the Staff Advisor for the Middlesex Community College Veterans Club, an Outreach Coordinator for the OEF/OIF Military Support Committee, at Maj. Gen. Maurice Rose Armed Forces Reserve Center in Middletown, and the Connecticut Department of Veterans Affairs Board of Trustees.

Peter received his A.A.S. in Business Management - Video Arts at Five Towns College in Dix Hills, NY in 1993. He graduated Class Salutatorian (3.97 GPA) • inducted into the Phi Sigma Honor Society, Eta Chapter • the FTC Honor Society • the FTC Accounting Award • and the Long Island Business Education Chairmen's Association Award for Excellence. Peter took Management & Leadership courses, as a part time student, at AT&T Broadband University for 30 credits in 1996 – 2003 (3.92 GPA). Then as a part time student, he earned 26 credits towards an A.S., Multimedia at Middlesex Community College in 2003 - 2006 (4.0 GPA).