



Purple Heart

For
Combat
Wounded
Veterans

Some gave all, all gave some
www.purpleheart.org

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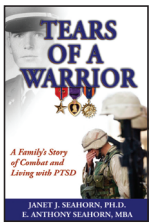
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DERBY/SHELTON MOPH CONNECTICUT CHAPTER 1 members honor Iraq and Afghanistan veterans with certificates of appreciation. Front row, combat wounded soldiers Sgt. First Class Walter Laracuente, Jason Coppola, Ryan Buxton, Daniel Laffin, with WWII veteran Joe Wargo, who earned four Purple Hearts. Honoree Capt. Dean White is at the right end of the second row. Details on Page 54.

**INSIDE:
National
Convention
Registration and
Schedules**



Book News & Reviews

Synopsis: “TEARS OF A WARRIOR.” By Tony and Dr. Janet Seahorn. Many young veterans return from the Middle East wars and they see their homeland worlds differently than when they left. In Iraq, the fighting troops had to be on constant alert for car bombings and roadside ambushes. Living in such a hostile environment during months of combat can change perceptions and reactions. When these soldiers come home they may be unable to smoothly adjust back into normal life. Vietnam veterans and soldiers from previous wars have experienced similar trauma after returning from combat. This book is the true story of a veteran affected with PTSD, and the trial of his wife and children as they learned to understand and cope with the effects of his condition. The authors say it contains vital information on PTSD, including its characteristics, and how it affects the veteran and the family.

Book Review: “FISHING WITH HAND GRENADES.” By Ari Pontz, Llumia Press, paperback, \$14.95, ISBN 978-1-59526-910-2. This first-hand account of the Vietnam War is based on the true story of an 18-year-old U.S. Marine in 1968. It describes the war, and it also closely examines the underlying factors that made returning home such an ordeal for many Vietnam vets. At the same time it challenges Americans to learn from history as a growing number of U.S. troops return home from Iraq and Afghanistan. The story is told through a series of letters home, and a number of journal entries. One example: “Dear Mom: Well, I recently learned the hard way just how much respect the rats at Khe Sanh have for the Marines. I have told you before about how huge and nasty they are -- I mean, they’ll open your C-rations for you. Anyway, a week ago, I was in the bunker when a rat appeared out of nowhere and in broad daylight, and bit a Marine named Artie on the arm. I guess the NVA figure if they can’t finish us off with their bullets and bombs, then they’ll send their pets after us.” Pontz is not a full-time writer, and is employed as a portfolio manager and partner in an investment management company. Yet he has written an engaging story filled with anecdotes of friendship and brotherhood, and detailed descriptions of life in the trenches. An excellent read and highly recommended. *-(Review by CNB)*

Synopsis: “THE ULTIMATE WEAPON” By Stuart Scherr. On March 20, 1959, the Ultimate Weapon Statue at Ft. Dix, NJ was unveiled. The statue was designed and built by two G.I.’s, Steven Goodman and Stuart Scherr. The unveiling ceremony took place in front of crowds of military and civilian spectators, Thirty years later the statue was moved and funds raised to recast it after the elements had taken their toll. In 1990 it was rededicated. This book was written by Scherr and contains more than 130 photographs of the designing and sculpting of the statue, as well as detailed illustrations. For more information e-mail stuscherr@earthlink.net.