



TOWN OF HAMDEN

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MEDIA RELEASE

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Memorial Day Comes Early In Hamden

Students and Vets Mingle at Quinnipiac University Friday, May 23rd

HAMDEN, CT – More than 450 high school and middle school students and 90 veterans with visual displays of their service experiences will share in the Hamden Veterans Awareness Day events at Quinnipiac University's Athletic Center (main campus) on Friday, May 23rd starting at 10:00AM until noon. The annual event builds on the increased awareness of the Memorial Day weekend to enhance students' understanding of the freedoms we often take for granted.

CT Veterans Affairs Commissioner Linda Schwartz, a Vietnam veteran, Lt. Gov. Nancy Wyman, and others will also speak on the importance of remembering those who served and continue to defend the freedoms we share. Major General Margaret Boor, Commander 99th Army Reserve Support Command, a decorated U.S. Army veteran will also speak about her experiences.

“Veterans Awareness Day is a great opportunity for students and veterans to discuss one-on-one, and learn what has made this nation great,” said Abner Oakes, Chairman of the Hamden Veterans Commission. “Veterans bring exhibits and memorabilia of their time in the service and the students really enjoy the interaction.” In addition to veterans from World War II, Korea, Vietnam, the Persian Gulf, and O.E.F. there will be exhibits from the Civil War and many other groups that support veterans. The Hamden Veterans Awareness Day was conceived by Daniel Levy, a Coast Guard veteran and middle school Principal, and has always been about speaking WITH students, not at them.

If the displays don't prompt interaction with the students, new 'Scavenger Hunt' booklets will get things started. Each student has a copy and the questions require an observant eye and thoughtful inquiries to fill out the pages. This year's booklets include questions about current events in Iraq and Afghanistan as well as living history details from earlier conflicts. There are many new exhibits and surprises this year both inside the Athletic Center and outside in the nearby ball field. Now in its fourteenth year, Dan Levy noted “Quinnipiac University has been a great host and once again we look forward to filling the Athletic Center with a living example of the meaning of service.”

For more information, contact Abner Oakes at 203-215-4675 or Dan Levy at 203-407-7131. To see a video of a previous event posted on YouTube, go to http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_xOIrPvk2lQ.

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