



The Hundred Club of Connecticut
 119 Oakwood Drive
 P.O. Box 419
 Glastonbury, CT 06033
 hundred@portone.com

"The Club with a Heart"

THE HUNDRED CALL

JAMES A. BARONE
 President

VOLUME XXXVII, NO. 3 Phone (860) 633-8357 Fax (860) 633-8350 e-mail: hundred@portone.com www.hundredclubofct.org Joseph A. Owens, Editor JULY 2005

Wm. Thornton Dies; President in 1982

A founding member of The Hundred Club, who served as its president in 1982, died March 26. William B. Thornton was



introduced to Anthony Ustjanauskas, founder of the club in 1967, by Matthew Moriarty of Manchester and immediately joined the organization.

Another past president, James R. McCavanaugh, recalled that from the outset Mr. Thornton was a vigorous promoter of the club. "Bill was an outgoing fellow and whenever possible he spoke to groups and individuals, extolling the good work of The Hundred Club."

Mr. Thornton's cousin, David G. Thornton, president in 1998, recalled, "Bill devoted his presidency to increasing the membership. He made people aware of the club by bringing them, as guests, to the annual dinner meetings. He also sponsored potential members and Manchester police officers at the golf

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Openings Remain For Golf Sponsors

There are openings for firms and individuals interested in sponsoring a hole during The Hundred Club's annual day of golf Tuesday, Aug. 2 at Tunxis Plantation Country Club, Farmington. Two separate tournaments will be played, with one event on the White Course and the other on the Green Course.

Convention Center, Hartford, Site For Meeting Oct. 11; Luncheon Planned

A spectacular setting and a new format are among the highlights of plans for The Hundred Club's annual meeting Tuesday, Oct. 11.

The event, a luncheon, will be held in the newly opened \$271 million Connecticut Convention Center in Hartford. Club officials are urging members to act now — to RESERVE THE DATE — OCT. 11. Additional details related to the meeting will be in the September issue of *The Hundred Call*.

The Convention Center, an impressive facility overlooking the Connecticut River, is an integral part of Adriaen's Landing, the massive renewal program designed to revitalize the Capitol City.

Club officials will appreciate early luncheon registrations.

For additional information about the Convention Center please see page 3. ■

A blue and gold banner with the club's emblem and the sponsor's name is displayed on the sponsored holes. These nylon flags are later given to the sponsors.

Interested parties should contact Managing Director William E. Sydenham, Jr. at the club's headquarters. ■

Gov. Rell Salutes Law Enforcers At Memorial Ceremony

The men and women who wear the badge of law enforcers in Connecticut constitute "the finest police force in America," Gov. M. Jodi Rell declared at the 17th annual Police Memorial Ceremony May 28.

Addressing the large gathering in the auditorium of the Police Training Academy in Meriden, the Governor said the 127 names on the Connecticut Law Enforcement Memorial "are the names of Connecticut heroes." She continued, "These men and women sacrificed to protect the residents of our state — and Connecticut is grateful and proud."



Inclement weather prevented officials from conducting the event outdoors at the Memorial. Prior to the speaking program the veils covering the names of Master Police Officer Peter J. Lavery of the Newington Police Dept. and Capt. Stephen E. Wilson of the West Haven Police Dept. were removed. Mr. Lavery

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was killed Dec. 30, 2004 while responding to a domestic complaint. Mr. Wilson suffered a heart seizure Dec. 12, 1959 answering a burglar alert at a bank. A recent investigation revealed that he died in the line of duty. Mrs. Rell spoke privately to Mr. Lavery's widow, Mrs. Pamela Lavery and to Raymond Gooley, the grandson of Mr. Wilson.

Public Safety Cmsr. Leonard C. Boyle, in brief remarks, (continued on page 2)

THORNTON DIES (continued from page 1)

outings at Banner Lodge.”

Through the years Mr. Thornton served in various offices before assuming the presidency. During his term as president the club's headquarters were moved from Meriden to Glastonbury. The leadership he provided was highly praised by Gov. (Ret.) John Dempsey, Gov. Bill O'Neill and Mr. Thornton's successor, Russell A. MacDonnell, at the club's annual meeting in 1982.

Mr. Thornton was born in Manchester April 17, 1930 the son of the late William J. and Alice M. (Fanning) Thornton. He lived and worked in that town until he moved to Florida in 1986.

A graduate of Kingswood School, West Hartford, and Dartmouth College, Hanover, N.H., he excelled in sports in both schools. Following his education he entered the construction business and rose to the top, serving as chief executive officer and president of the Manchester Sand and Gravel Co. He was a co-founder of the Connecticut Construction Institute and the founder of the Connecticut Construction Industries Association. Also, he was active in several state, regional and national construction organizations.

Mr. Thornton served as chairman of the Savings Bank of Manchester and as a member of the Manchester Memorial Hospital Board of Directors and was active in several civic organizations. He was a recipient of the "M" award from the Manchester Chamber of Commerce for his contributions to the community.

Mr. Thornton, who died in Manchester Memorial Hospital, is survived by his wife, Nancy D. (Fiorentino) Thornton; two sons, William J. Thornton and Steven H. Thornton, both of Fuquay Varina, N.C.; a daughter Sandra T. McNary of Orlando, FL.; two stepsons, Robert V. Dynak, Jr. of Florida and Curtis J. Dynak of East Hartford; seven grandchildren and several in-laws.

Funeral services were held at St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Manchester, and burial was in Buckland Cemetery. ■



William Thornton, Gov. Bill O'Neill and Russell A. MacDonnell pose for the photographer at annual dinner meeting in 1982. Mr. MacDonnell followed Mr. Thornton as president.

Golf Tourneys Aug. 2 At Tunxis Courses

The Hundred Club's annual day of golf will be Tuesday, Aug. 2 at Tunxis Plantation Country Club, Farmington. The club will conduct two separate tournaments. There are openings for foursomes and individuals.

Play will be on the par 72 White Course and par 70 Green Course and will begin promptly at 10 a.m. with a shotgun start. All golfers are requested to arrive 30 minutes early and go directly to the registration desk. The practice range and putting green will be open. Also, coffee and breakfast pastries will be available on the Pro Shop porch.

The entry fee is \$125 per player. This covers the golf cart, greens fee, lunch (on course), steak dinner and prizes for the best gross and net scores. The social hour in Table Green, the covered outdoor dining facility, will start at approximately 3 p.m. Dinner will be at 4 p.m. The fee for non-golfers is \$40. The popular free raffle will take place shortly before dinner.

Tunxis General Manager Lou Pandolfi, P.G.A., and Angelo Fiducia, P.G.A., resident golf professionals will oversee the tournaments and compile the official scores. ■

GOV. RELI (continued from page 1)

noted that since "Officer Lavery was killed, 55 other law enforcers in the United States have lost their lives in the line of duty." He stressed that in police work, "There is no such thing as a routine call."

Atty. General Richard Blumenthal hailed law enforcers in Connecticut and throughout the country for protecting the nation from attacks by terrorists. "The fact that we have not been attacked again is a tribute to these men and women."

Other speakers included Chief State's Atty. Christopher Morano, U.S. Atty. Kevin O'Connor, Chief James Strillacci of West Hartford and Chief (Ret.) William Farrell of New Haven.

Chief (Ret.) Robert E. Kosienki of Meriden was the master of ceremonies. The invocation and benediction were delivered by Rev. Edward Goetz.

Chief Richard Mulhall led a delegation from the Newington Police Dept. and Chief Russell F. Kniehl represented the West Haven Police Dept. ■

Firefighter Victim In Training Mishap

Firefighters from throughout Connecticut and beyond paid their respects to a rookie firefighter, who lost his life during a training exercise.



Justin Wisniewski

Justin M. Wisniewski, 18, of Southington died April 3 in St. Mary's Hospital, Waterbury, from injuries to his head and spine. Mr. Wisniewski fell from a ladder the previous day at the State Fire School, Wolcott.

According to Wolcott Police Capt. Domenic Angiolillo, Mr. Wisniewski's foot became stuck in the top rung of an extension ladder and he fell about 20 feet to the ground. He was wearing his full firefighter's gear including a helmet and oxygen mask. Police officers who investigated the accident said that they could not determine whether the rainy conditions that day were a factor in the accident.

Mr. Wisniewski was a volunteer firefighter and had joined Southington Fire Co. No. 1 Jan 18. He had expressed the desire to follow his older brother, Matthew, in the firefighting service.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated in St. Peter's Church, New Britain, April 8. The Connecticut Firefighters Pipes and Drums led the procession from the funeral home to the church. Mr. Wisniewski's casket was carried on a fire engine from Fire Co. No. 1.

Southington Fire Chief Richard McDonough presented the American flag, which had adorned Mr. Wisniewski's casket, to his parents.

Mr. Wisniewski was born in New Britain, a son of Eric and Jill (Aubin) Wisniewski. He lived in Southington all of his life and graduated from Southington High School in 2004. He was a freshman at Central Connecticut University, New Britain. He was a member and longtime alter server at St. Peter's Church and a Lion's Club Volunteer in New Britain. He recently rose to the level of Eagle Scout in Troop 45, Southington. In his spare time he enjoyed riding motorcycles and dirt bikes.

In addition to his parents and his brother, Mr. Wisniewski leaves his maternal and paternal grandparents and several aunts, uncles and cousins.

Burial was in Sacred Heart Cemetery, New Britain.

Representatives of The Hundred Club have visited the Wisniewski family. ■

New Troopers Pinned By Proud Relatives

Several family members took part in the ceremonies when 53 graduates of the 116th State Police training class received their badges. The event took place April 14 at the Jorgenson Center on the University of Connecticut campus, Storrs.

Two fathers, M. Sgt. (Ret.) Scott O'Mara and Lt. Ben Pagoni of Professional Services, attached badges to the uniforms of their sons, Trooper Marc O'Mara and Trooper Ben Pagoni, Jr.

Trooper Michael Hoague, who was seriously wounded in 1998 and has returned to duty at Troop C, Tolland, pinned his brother-in-law, Trooper Russell Longo.

An out-of-state officer, Det. Carey McKenzie of the West Springfield Police Dept., did the honors for his brother, Trooper Thomas McKenzie.

The principal speaker, Atty. Gen. Richard Blumenthal, said the state was proud of the new troopers and acknowledged the role their families played during the 6-month training period. He reminded the families that it was possible the new troopers may, on occasion, be in harm's way.

Of the 53 new troopers five are women. All were immediately given their initial assignments.



Lt. Ben Pagoni pins State Police badge on son, Trooper Ben Pagoni, Jr.



Trooper Mike Hoague pins badge on his brother-in-law Trooper Russ Longo.

Hartford's Newest Jewel



The imposing Connecticut Convention Center in Hartford will be the site of The Hundred Club's annual meeting Tuesday, Oct. 11. A luncheon will be served at noon. The structure which overlooks the Connecticut River is easily reached from Rte. I-91 and Rte. I-84.

Constructed by the state at a cost of \$271 million, the building is an attractive addition to Hartford's skyline. It is 125 feet high and measures 1,004 feet in length and 498 feet in width. The base of the building (its footprint in construction terms) is 11.52 acres.

Among the main features is the 40,000 square foot ballroom that can accommodate 6,000 people for a concert. The ballroom can easily be divided into three separate rooms. The 140,000 square foot exhibition hall provides space for 800 booths. The 2,500 square foot kitchen enables the staff to prepare meals for as many as 4,000 conventiongoers.

According to center officials, visitors during June, the first month the center was open, were tremendously impressed by the atrium which reaches 125 feet skyward and features bands of golden yellow limestone bordered by black granite and a sweeping staircase which leads to the Exhibition Hall. "It's the wow factor," explained one official.

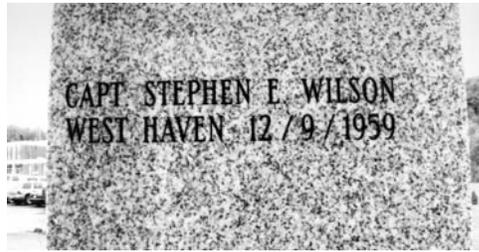
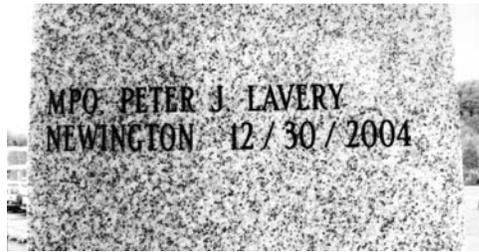
The center is expected to provide a positive impact on the economy in the Hartford area. During the next 12 months it will be the site of 200 major events that will bring 250,000 visitors to Hartford. Projections indicate they will spend \$260 per day in restaurants, for entertainment and while shopping.

In addition, the center will be the location for hundreds of small and medium-sized one-day sessions such as The Hundred Club's meeting. Hundred Club officials believe that members, their wives and friends will be interested in seeing the center and some may either directly or indirectly bring about the scheduling of future business events at Hartford's newest jewel. ■

17th Annual "Never Forget" Memorial Ceremony



Gov. M. Jodi Rell



Mrs. Pamela Lavery



Raymond Gooley



Rev. Edward Goetz



Chief Richard Mulhall



Col. (Ret.) Joseph Perry



Cmsr. Leonard Boyle



Samantha Lavery



Atty. Gen. Richard Blumenthal



Shawn Tompkins — Chief (Ret.) William Farrell



Mrs. Fran Snyder



Chief Russell Kniehl



Mrs. Susan Mingione