



Golden Kielbasa Veterans Open

Benefitting Connecticut War Veterans

Presented By



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Charity Golf Event Raises \$10,000 for Veterans Causes

*Golden Kielbasa Veterans Open Reaches Goal;
Large Crowd Honors New Britain War Hero Manny Jimenez in Moving Ceremony*

New Britain, Conn. (September 27, 2012) – The Golden Kielbasa Veterans Open further cemented its place as the largest veterans charity golf event in Central Connecticut last Friday, September 21, as nearly 200 golfers and post-golf barbeque guests at the VFW in New Britain raised \$10,000 for causes benefitting New Britain-area veterans and beyond.

Net proceeds from the fourth annual tournament, presented by Farmington Bank, will benefit the Hardware City Chapter of the Disabled American Veterans and Purple Heart Homes, which builds barrier-free homes for disabled vets. In addition, a portion of the proceeds will be used for the purchase of American flags in the Veterans Section of New Britain's Fairview Cemetery on Memorial Day and Veterans Day.

Some 109 golfers enjoyed a picture-perfect day at Timberlin Golf Club in Berlin and later took part along with other attendees in special ceremonies at the VFW Post #511. The ceremonies, featuring the New Britain High School Junior ROTC Color Guard, New Britain Mayor Timothy O'Brien, members of the Marine Corps League, Hardware City Detachment #781, and other guests, honored all New Britain-area veterans. The guest of honor was retired New Britain Marine Manny Jimenez, who lost his left arm, hearing in his left ear and partial sight in his left eye while on routine foot patrol in Afghanistan in 2010.

Jimenez had a large gathering of family and friends in attendance to support him. Upon being introduced by Tournament Director Dennis Buden, Jimenez was given a rousing, standing ovation by the large and grateful gathering.

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“Some of you have not previously met Corporal Jimenez,” the Marine Corps League’s Fred McGoldrick told the crowd. “But we have known him since his days with the Junior ROTC program at New Britain High School. He impressed us then, and he impresses us now as he closes one chapter of his life and opens another as a valued member of our community.”

Farmington Bank Senior Vice President Eric Schwab said “Farmington Bank has a long tradition of supporting our local communities and organizations. The Golden Kielbasa Veterans Open, honoring Manny Jimenez and so many other veterans – old and new – is an event we’re proud to be associated with. We are very grateful for the service veterans have given for our country.”

Ed Mackiewicz, a Korean War vet, double Purple Heart recipient and vice commander of the event’s host, the Northwestern Veterans, T.G.M. Memorial Post in New Britain, presented to Jimenez on behalf of the tournament and the community an engraved Marine Corps NCO sabre. Inscribed on the sabre’s cherry wood display case were the words “To Cpl. Manny Jimenez, From a Proud and Grateful Hometown.”

“I’m honored,” said Jimenez. “An event like this means there are tons of people in the community who care about veterans and what happens in their lives after they return home. Every veteran is different and it’s sometimes hard to get back into the community because you’ve been away so long.

“I’m lucky.”

In addition to Farmington Bank, additional major sponsors included AT&T, Okay Industries, the Hospital of Central Connecticut, Rexel USA and more. Key contributors offering time, services and products included Martin Rosol’s, Public Market of Newington, Zarella Farms, the VFW Post 511 Men’s Auxiliary and Bingo Committee, Sir Speedy Printing of New Britain, Bianca Signs, Ali’s Nursery of Plantsville, the Connecticut State Fraternal Order of Police and many, many more.

The event is only in its fourth year, and third raising money for veterans causes. Two years ago, the Golden Kielbasa Veterans Open had only a handful of golfers and raised \$200. Plans are already underway for the 2013 event next September.

The Northwestern Veterans, T.G.M. Memorial Post is a 501(c)(19) non-profit veterans organization. The Post, founded in 1945, honors the memory of New Britain World War II heroes Stanley T. Todzia, Edward J. Giramonti and Francis J. Majewski.

For more tournament information, visit www.goldenkielbasa.org.