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### **Golden Kielbasa Veterans Open Raises Record \$16,500 for Connecticut Veterans**

*Sixth Annual DAV Charity Event Benefits House of Heroes, Fisher House and More*

**New Britain, Conn., October 31, 2014** – The Golden Kielbasa Veterans Open further solidified its standing as Central Connecticut’s premier veterans charity golf event this year, as 147 golfers and a record number of sponsors joined forces to raise \$16,500 for causes benefitting Connecticut veterans.

The majority of net proceeds from the October 2 event at Tunxis Plantation Country Club in Farmington, presented by Farmington Bank and hosted by the Disabled American Veterans, Hardware City Chapter 8 (DAV), benefitted two major veterans charities, House of Heroes Connecticut and Friends of Fisher House Connecticut. Additional smaller gifts benefitted other causes including the Marine Corps Family Foundation’s Operation Santa, the Iwo Jima Memorial Historical Foundation and Monument in Newington, the Victory Gardens veterans housing project in Newington, VFW Post 511 in New Britain and the DAV itself.

In the past four years, the event has raised more than \$40,000 for area vets.

“The response to this event continues to grow year-by-year and as an organization dedicated to serving and honoring those who have served us, we could not be more pleased with our continued growth and success,” said DAV Chapter 8 Commander Ron Pelletier.

The event was highlighted by ceremonies honoring World War II veteran and Pearl Harbor survivor Ed Riccio, Jr. of Bristol. Special guests included then-Connecticut Department of Veterans Affairs Commissioner Linda Schwartz, New Britain Mayor Erin Stewart and Bristol Mayor Ken Cockayne. Taking home first place among 37 groups in the golf competition was the foursome of Tim Stewart, Matt Taricani, Brian Anderson and Stan Szczepanik at 11 under par. The team of Dean Buden, Richie Daigle, Dick Smith and George Jailonowski took home the fabled “Golden Kielbasa.”

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## **Golden Kielbasa 2014 2-of-2**

Platinum sponsors of the Golden Kielbasa Veterans Open were Stanley Black & Decker and the Starlight Program at Stonington Institute. Gold sponsors were AT&T, the Tomasso Group and the Petit Family Foundation. Silver sponsors included Okay Industries, the Hospital of Central Connecticut, Sir Speedy Printing and Marketing Services/New Britain, the Creed Law Firm and Bourdon Forge. The New Britain Herald/Bristol Press was the event's media sponsor.

For more information on the Golden Kielbasa Veterans Open, please contact Tournament Founder and Director Dennis Buden at [dennis@goldenkielbasa.org](mailto:dennis@goldenkielbasa.org) or 860-558-0514, or visit [www.goldenkielbasa.org](http://www.goldenkielbasa.org).

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