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Decorated Bristol Vietnam War Veteran to be Honored at 8th Annual Golden Kielbasa Veterans Open

*Farmington Bank-Sponsored Event Hopes to Raise \$25,000 to Benefit
DAV, House of Heroes Connecticut, Friends of Fisher House Connecticut*

New Britain, Conn., July 18, 2016 – John Hogan, an unassuming man whose “extraordinary heroism” in the jungles of Vietnam 49 years ago saved countless lives of his comrades, will be the guest of honor at the 8th Annual [Golden Kielbasa Veterans Open](#), presented by [Farmington Bank](#), on Thursday, September 29, at Tunxis Plantation Country Club in Farmington.

Hosted by the [Disabled American Veterans, Hardware City Chapter 8](#), the “GK” has become the premier veterans charity golf event in Connecticut, having raised more than \$62,000 in the past five years for causes serving Connecticut veterans. Primary beneficiaries are the DAV, [House of Heroes Connecticut](#) and [Friends of Fisher House Connecticut](#).

Last year alone, a record field of 189 golfers raised \$21,500 as the event honored three New Britain World War II combat vets on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the Battle of Iwo Jima. Tournament Director Dennis Buden says the event is hoping to reach the \$25,000 mark in net proceeds this year.

“The Golden Kielbasa has grown by leaps and bounds over the years and we are hoping for another record-setting response,” said Buden. “It has become clear that this event, with its extraordinary combination of fundraising for worthy causes and our practice of going above and beyond to honor Connecticut heroes for their service and sacrifice, is striking a chord with the many people, companies and organizations seeking to show their respect for our nation’s veterans.”

Hogan is the recipient of the Distinguished Service Cross, the Bronze Star, three Purple Hearts and multiple additional medals for his service in Vietnam between 1966 and 1974. In May of 1967, while serving as a U.S. Army infantryman with Company C, 2nd Battalion (Airborne), 502nd Infantry, 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division, Specialist Four Hogan, as his Distinguished Service Cross citation states,

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distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions while serving as fire team leader on combat operations near Duc Pho. In the midst of a heavy attack by Viet Cong forces, Hogan took matters into his own hands and made multiple rushes under heavy fire to both rescue wounded comrades and destroy enemy bunkers.

States Hogan's Distinguished Service Cross citation: "Specialist Four Hogan's extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit and the United States Army."

"This man is an absolute hero, a true warrior," says Hogan's fast friend and fellow Vietnam combat veteran Earle Jackson, the former Plainville and CCSU star athlete who now resides in Florida. Jackson has been working in recent years to have the Congressional Medal of Honor, the nation's highest award for valor in action, bestowed upon Hogan. "His story reads like an Audie Murphy movie."

Additional major sponsors of the Golden Kielbasa Veterans Open include Stanley Black & Decker, the Tomasso Group, the Starlight Program at Stonington Institute, Frontier Communications and more. The New Britain Herald/Bristol Press is the event's media sponsor.

Online registration is available now at www.goldenkielbasa.org. The fee is \$150 per player, which includes range, greens fees, cart, premium gift bag, lunch and beverages on the course, prizes and post-golf dinner and raffle. The shotgun start is at 11:30 a.m., with registration beginning at 10 a.m. A wide variety of sponsor opportunities are available beginning as low as \$100.

For further information about the Golden Kielbasa Veterans Open, please contact Tournament Director Dennis Buden at dennis@goldenkielbasa.org or 860-558-0514, or visit www.goldenkielbasa.org for complete details.

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