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### **10<sup>th</sup> Annual Golden Kielbasa Veterans Open to Honor New Britain Vietnam Veteran and Long-Time Educator Dennis Taricani**

*State's Largest Veterans Charity Golf Event Set for September 27*

**New Britain, Conn., July 6, 2018** – The state's largest veterans charity golf event will celebrate a decade of raising funds for veterans causes this September by honoring a recently retired Connecticut Vietnam veteran who has spent the past 48 years giving back to veterans and educating New Britain youth.

The 10<sup>th</sup> Annual [Golden Kielbasa Veterans Open](#), hosted by the [Disabled American Veterans, Hardware City Chapter 8](#) and presented by [Farmington Bank](#), will take place on Thursday, September 27, 2018, at Tunxis Plantation Country Club in Farmington with the guest of honor being DAV Chapter 8 Commander Dennis Taricani. More than 200 golfers and 300 guests at the post-golf dinner and ceremonies are expected to be on hand for Connecticut's premier veterans charity golf event.

The "GK" has raised more than \$110,000 for veterans causes over the past seven years. Tournament organizers are hoping to reach or exceed \$30,000 in net proceeds this year alone. Last year's event attracted a record 206 golfers and raised \$27,500, the highest single-year total in the event's history. This year's beneficiaries are [House of Heroes Connecticut](#) and DAV Chapter 8.

"We're hoping our 10<sup>th</sup> annual event will be our biggest and best yet," said tournament Founder and Director Dennis Buden. "It is only appropriate that this year's event honor Mr. Taricani, DAV Chapter 8's commander who has selflessly flown under the radar for decades tirelessly supporting his fellow veterans. Given Dennis' status in the Greater New Britain community as a highly regarded veterans advocate and educator, we are expecting a large turnout."

Taricani, a New Britain native who has lived in Berlin for years, served in Vietnam from February, 1968 to January, 1970, coming back thankful to be alive and determined to make a difference in his community. He retired two years ago after 35 years as a teacher in the New Britain school system, influencing countless lives and serving as a teachers' union leader for many years. Taricani has been a central figure over the decades in a wide variety of community efforts to serve and honor veterans and has assisted countless fellow veterans collect the benefits they have rightfully earned as a longtime DAV Chapter 8 service officer.

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## **2018 Golden Kielbasa to Honor Taricani**

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Taricani has been instrumental in New Britain's hosting of the Vietnam Wall Experience in Walnut Hill Park in 2003, the community's Wreaths Across America event in Fairview Cemetery in 2014, and most recently the New Britain veterans community's efforts to place a Global War on Terror monument in Central Park. He has been a longtime leading figure at New Britain's VFW Post 511 – for decades most any benefit dinner at the VFW rarely took place without Taricani manning the kitchen.

Additional major sponsors of the Golden Kielbasa Veterans Open have included Stanley Black & Decker, the Tomasso Group, the Creed Law Firm and Atlantic Restoration and Remodeling. A wide variety of [sponsorship opportunities](#) beginning at \$100 are available.

Online registration is available now at [www.goldenkielbasa.org](http://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 a.m., with registration beginning at 9:30 a.m.

This year, for the first time, dinner-only registration is available on-line for those interested in attending only the dinner and ceremonies honoring Taricani. Tickets are \$75 per person, with tables of eight available for \$600.

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

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