



Golden Kielbasa Veterans Open

Benefitting New Britain-Area War Veterans

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Golfers, “Greatest Generation” Veterans Alike Brave Rain to Raise Thousands for New Britain-Area War Heroes

80 Golfers, 150 Dinner Attendees Answer Call at Golden Kielbasa Veterans Open

New Britain, Conn. (October 6, 2011) – The incessant rain and wind of Saturday morning gave way just in time. Five New Britain “Greatest Generation” war veterans and their family members stepped off a Dattco Bus Company courtesy shuttle at Timberlin Golf Club’s first tee, and the ceremonies honoring them and the charity golf to follow would go on.

The Golden Kielbasa Veterans Open took the best that Mother Nature could toss at it and persevered, as some 80 golfers and nearly twice as many at a post-golf barbeque at New Britain’s VFW Post 511 helped to raise \$4,000 in support of New Britain-area veterans.

“When I awoke this morning and saw the rain, I thought of our veterans and the conditions they often endured while serving our country,” said Tournament Director Dennis Buden before a gathering of about 100 at the first tee. “It occurred to me that we can tolerate a few raindrops to support them.”

The majority of funds - \$3,000 - raised by the event, hosted by the Northwestern Veterans, T.G.M. Memorial Post in New Britain, will benefit the New Britain chapter of the Disabled American Veterans (Chapter 8). The remaining dollars will fund, in cooperation with the City of New Britain’s Parks and Recreation Department, the placement of American flags in the Veterans Section of New Britain’s Fairview Cemetery on Veterans and Memorial Days.

The veterans ceremony at the first tee opened with the singing of the National Anthem by New Britain vocalist Judy Adolewski-Lentini. The five honored New Britain World War II veterans, who remain active contributors to their communities, were then introduced: Francis “Chet” Giorgetti, 95; Gene Leganza, 87; Leo Piccoli, 94; Andy Symecko, 90; and Al Wojtera, 91. Despite the wet conditions, each of the five participated in a ceremonial tee off honoring their comrades as the crowd cheered.

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“We stand here today enjoying the freedom of being Americans thanks to what these gentlemen and their friends and colleagues did some 70 years ago – voluntarily put their lives at risk in World War II,” said Buden while introducing the veterans. “What better way to demonstrate our support of New Britain-area veterans than to honor these members of the Greatest Generation?”

Giorgetti, who has lived in New Britain since 1952, was a Private First Class/Corporal in the U.S. Army's 119th Infantry from 1942-1945; Leganza was born and raised in New Britain and was a Machinist Mate, 2nd Class, in the U.S. Navy from 1943-1946, serving on the U.S.S. Gregory destroyer in the South Pacific; Piccoli has lived in New Britain since the age of 6 and was a Sargent in the U.S. Army from 1943-47, serving stateside; Symecko, born and raised in the city, was a Motor Machinist Mate, 3rd Class, in the U.S. Navy aboard the U.S.S. Cero Gato-class submarine; and Wojtera, another city native, was also in the Navy as a Seaman, 1st Class, aboard the YMS 383 minesweeper.

The post-golf barbeque at the VFW/Pvt. Walter J. Smith Post 511 in New Britain included ceremonies featuring the New Britain High School Jr. ROTC color guard; the Pledge of Allegiance led by William Kochanowski, Commander, Northwestern Veterans, T.G.M. Memorial Post; taps performed by retired P.F.C. Richard E. Wearne, Sr., U.S.M.C.; and remarks by New Britain Mayor Timothy Stewart and Ron Pelletier, Commander, DAV Chapter 8. Stewart presented each of the five honored veterans with keys to the City.

Gold Sponsor of the event was Schaller Auto World. Other major sponsors included Ericson, Scalise & Mangan; VFW Post 511 Men's Auxiliary; Guida's Dairy; Sir Speedy Printing; Sign Pro; the Oaks Club; RSL Fiber Systems, LLC; Dattco Bus Company and Dr. William Petit.

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.

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