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Thomas Sheridan, formerly of East Hartford and Glastonbury, entered the Army in 1968 and served in

Vietnam. He was discharged in 1971 as an Intelligence Analyst. Tom was awarded several medals and citations for his Army service, the Bronze Star, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal and Vietnam Campaign Medal. With degrees from Amherst College, Tom went on to study law at Boston's Suffolk University and earned his Juris Doctor in 1978. He became a partner in the law firm of Dwyer and Sheridan and soon became a trusted and proficient attorney in Glastonbury. In 1981, Tom was appointed by the Speaker to be the Clerk of the Connecticut House of Representatives. His expertise was recognized by members of the Senate and he was soon appointed as Clerk of the Senate, serving from 1987 until his untimely passing in 2011. He is believed to be the longest serving Senate Clerk in state history. He was a master of the Rules to Regulate the Proceedings of the Senate and guided many legislators through the process and procedures of crafting Connecticut's laws. He also shared his time with many academic sports programs and served on the Manchester Community College Regional Advisory Board. He was recognized for his contributions by the National Football Foundation and College Hall of Fame.



Paul Barry East Hartford U.S. Marine Corps CPL. Paul Francis Barry, Jr., a Vietnam Veteran, served honorably in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1966 to 1972. As a former Veterans Service Office, Paul coordinated burials for three Connecticut state veteran's cemeteries and dedicated 30+ years servicing veterans and communities. In 2019, Paul and the Military Advisory Council worked hard and tirelessly in terms of funding, designing and the development of what is now known as the Falling Star Memorial with three bronze statues paying homage to veterans and Gold Star Families. Paul's commitment to veterans is evident based on the number of Veterans Boards, Councils, and Commissions he's seated on including the 1st Congressional District Veterans and Military Advisory Committee, Vietnam Veterans of America East Hartford Chapter, CT Fallen Star Memorial Steering Committee, and the CT Department of Veterans Affairs Board of Trustees. Paul is also the Honorary Captain of the 1st Governor's Foot Guard and Delegate to 12 Vietnam Veterans of America National Conventions. In March 2019, Paul hosted the Vietnam Veteran Lapel Pinning Ceremony at the CT State Armory. His commitment to his brothers and sisters in arms is unwavering. The ceremony acknowledged and welcomed Vietnam Veterans who when returning home did not receive a warm welcome. The ceremony had a profound impact on every veteran in attendance and Paul pinned and saluted each veteran. Paul's civic contributions include advocacy for policies that assist veterans and their families. This advocacy brings the issues to the table and has helped with the implementation of the expansion of the Educational Benefits for Post 9/11 Veterans and the Cares Act which provided funding to expand telemedicine, deploy mobile treatment centers and make improvements to VA facilities and state-run veterans homes to address the needs of veterans being treated for Covid-19. Paul's moral compass is guided by the U.S. Marine Corps motto "Ductus Example"; lead by example and behave in a manner that inspires others.



James Shelmerdine East Hartford U.S. Army For James Shelmerdine, Jr., whose grandfather served in the British Army, and whose father served in the Connecticut National Guard (CNG), the death of a friend killed in Korea served as his motivation to join the CNG. James served in the 1st Bn, 224th Infantry Regiment, and 40th Infantry Division, where he was awarded the Combat Infantry Badge, the Korean War Service Medal with two Bronze Stars, and a Purple Heart. Upon discharge, Lt. Colonel Shelmerdine joined the CNG while opting to have his Military Occupational Specialty reduced to the rank of E7 to remain in the CNG. He served in guard reserve units for over 40 years. James' list of organizational memberships and related accomplishments reads like the chapter in a book. In civilian life, after graduating from East Hartford High, he earned a BS at the University of Hartford before working on an MBA at Adelphi University, after which he attended UCONN Law School. Once in the military, he joined its Airborne school, its Command and General Staff School, the National Security Management School, and its U.S. Army War College. A native of East Hartford, James has served as a constable in that community, and served on its Patriotic Commission, Veterans Commission, and Seniors Commission. He oversaw, and later dedicated the Korean War Memorial and managed the town's Memorial Day Parade where he also served as its Marshal. He is a 17-year member of the Connecticut Veterans Day Parade and is also a member of the Connecticut Veterans Memorial Committee. His membership in Veterans' organizations include the American Legion, VFW, and the Korean War Veterans. James also organized the first USO, Final Honors Firing Squad and dedicated the Korean War Memorial Highway. He volunteered his services to the Masonicare Hospice for Veterans.



Craig Jordan South Windsor U.S. ARMY Craig Jordan was a First Lieutenant in the U.S. Army and served with distinction during the Vietnam War from 1969 to 1974. Upon receiving an Honorable Discharge, Craig returned home where he continues to serve the Veterans community to this day. Craig's commitment to Veterans is evident based on the boards, councils, and committees he serves on, including Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 120, the First Congressional District Veterans & Military Advisory Council, and the Vietnam Traveling Wall Committee. In addition, Craig served on the steering committee that brought the Connecticut Fallen Star Memorial and Gold Star Mother statue to Goodwin University's campus in 2019. This memorial pays homage to service members that made the ultimate sacrifice and to the Gold Star Family survivors. As a Veterans Coordinator for Goodwin University, Craig assists and provides resources to service members transitioning from military to civilian life. Since 2014, Craig has hosted Armed Forces Coffee House sessions for Veteran to network and receive assistance with Department of Veterans Affairs related matters. In 2017, he launched the Veterans OASIS at Goodwin University – a place for Veterans to network and support each other. In 2022 he also opened Goodwin's campus as a meeting place for the Disabled American Veterans Chapter 12. Craig has received numerous awards and honors during and after his time in the Army, his community awards include the Dr. Raymond Houle Award for outstanding community service to East Hartford and the East Hartford Spotlight Award for this works as Project Director of the Smaller Learning Communities Grant. In addition to supporting Veterans and service members from all walks of life, Craig coaches baseball and basketball in Windsor, CT.