

# RHODE ISLAND VETERANS:



**In August, we said "Thank you for your service!" Now it's time for candidates to DO "Thank you" rather than just say it. NOTE: George Mendonsa, the sailor pictured here, will join us at the Varnum on October 29th!**

**SERVE YOUR COUNTRY AND YOUR STATE ONE MORE TIME!**

**REPORT FOR DUTY AT THE VARNUM ARMORY ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29 FROM NOON TO 4PM.**

**YOUR MISSION:**

**MAKE SURE THAT CANDIDATES SEEKING YOUR VOTE THIS NOVEMBER ARE AWARE OF, AND COMMIT TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT, THE MEDICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL ISSUES MOST AFFECTING YOU AND YOUR FAMILIES.**

**Admission is FREE to all veterans, serving military and families. A complimentary buffet and soft drinks will also be served.** We expect this event will be oversubscribed quickly. Priority admission goes to those who registered for the veterans picnic. Other requests for reservations will be confirmed on a first come-first serve basis until the capacity of the armory is reached, so get your form in today!

**WHO:** All who have served, and their families

**WHAT:** Candidate Forum on Veterans Issues

**WHEN:** Sunday, October 29, 2006 from noon - 5PM. Program starts at 1PM.

**WHERE:** Varnum Armory, 6 Main Street, East Greenwich RI 02818 (directions included.)

**SPEAKERS COMMITTED** (as of 10/11/2006): Senator Chafee, Cong. Langevin, Gov. Carcieri, Lt. Gov. Fogarty, Sheldon Whitehouse, AG Lynch, Bill Harsch, MG Centracchio, Elizabeth Roberts, Robert Healey, Mayor Mollis and Andrew Lyon. Congressman Kennedy is also expected.

*Please mail or fax this form to:*

Veterans Forum  
c/o USS Saratoga Museum Foundation, Inc.  
P.O. Box 845, North Kingstown, R.I. 02852  
Fax: (401) 885-1290 • Voice (401) 398-1000  
frankl69@aol.com

## FORUM REGISTRATION-PLEASE PRINT!

Name of veteran \_\_\_\_\_

Branch of Service \_\_\_\_\_

Year Entered Service \_\_\_\_\_

Length of Service \_\_\_\_\_

Name of guest (1 allowed) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (home) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (work) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

I cannot attend but enclose a donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to support the event  
(Check payable to USS Saratoga Museum Foundation is tax deductible)

Please contact us for a possible in-kind donation of products or services

# **CANDIDATE FORUM ON VETERANS ISSUES**

**Sunday, October 29, from noon to 4PM**

We invite you to join us at the Varnum Armory in East Greenwich for a candidate forum on issues important to veterans, serving military and their families.

This is a follow-up to the August Veterans Picnic. All the major candidates running for political office this November came to the picnic to say "Thank you". They also promised to support us as we fight for issues important to veterans, serving military and their families. **They also came to ask for our votes.**

They also did the math. There are some 660,000 registered voters in Rhode Island. According to the 2000 census, there are 118,000 veterans in Rhode Island. **Add in families, and we have enough potential votes to decide any election in this state.**

We believe that an energized and mobilized group of veterans, presenting a united front, should be able to bring enough pressure to bear to quickly solve some of the problems that affect veterans, serving military and families. Based on input from veterans, veterans' service organizations, serving military and family members, we identified the issues presented in the attached Veterans Platform as most deserving of immediate attention. That platform was presented to all candidates at the end of August.

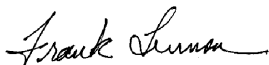
Sad to say, the only way veterans and their families will get the funding allocations they need is to make themselves more important to political leaders than other special interest groups. That importance will only come when candidates believe we will vote for those who champion our causes.

As a result, a number of Rhode Island veterans have come together to host this forum in order to help you make an informed voting decision in November. **October 29 is our chance--BEFORE the election--to find out just what candidates will commit to DO, not just SAY, to advance our causes.** Let's find out how much of the enclosed Veterans Platform they are prepared to act on.

Doors will open at noon for armory tours, informal discussions with veterans service agencies and general socializing. The speaking program will begin at 1PM. **Each candidate running for US Congress (Senate and House) and major statewide office will get equal time to let us know where they stand.** The topics to be covered will relate to economic, medical and social issues affecting veterans, serving military and their families, and those issues ONLY.

- ◆ **We expect this event will be oversubscribed quickly, and requests for reservations will be confirmed on a first come-first serve basis until the armory capacity is reached.**
- ◆ **Admission is free for all veterans, serving military and their families.**
- ◆ **A complimentary buffet and soft drinks will also be served.**
- ◆ **To request a reservation, return the attached form, or call Christie Gibson at 401-398-1000.**
- ◆ **Directions and information about the Varnum Armory are on the back of this letter.**

Please spread the word; a big turnout will reinforce the message that veterans and their families are a force to be reckoned with at election time in Rhode Island!



Frank Lennon  
US Army-Vietnam

P.S. The Patriots don't play til Monday night, October 30.

*To confirm your reservation, please mail the attached form to: Veterans Forum, c/o Frank Lennon, PO Box 845, North Kingstown, RI 02852. You may also fax it to 401-885-1290; call in to 401-398-1000, or send an e-mail to: frankl69@aol.com. Please note: your reservation request is NOT confirmed until you receive a confirmation number back from us. You will need that number for admission.*

**Please join us at the Varnum Armory on Sunday afternoon, October 29!**

**DIRECTIONS**

**6 Main Street, East Greenwich, RI 02818**

**From Providence and points north:**

Take I-95 South to Exit 9 (left exit) toward East Greenwich/North Kingstown. You will immediately merge onto RI Route 4 South. Take the first exit (number 8) which is marked Route 401 toward East Greenwich. Turn right at the light at the top of the ramp. You are now on Division Street. Bear LEFT when the road forks, and continue to the traffic light at Division and Main. The Varnum Armory is on the far right corner. Continue across Main Street and you will find ample free parking in the lots at the bottom of the hill behind the armory. **A shuttle van will be available for those needing assistance.**

**From Westerly and points south:**

Take I-95 North toward Providence. Take exit 8A (RI Route 2 South) toward RI Route 4/East Greenwich. Merge onto RI Route 2 for 0.17 miles, then turn left onto Route 401/Division Street. Continue as above to Main Street.

**From Newport:**

Take Route 138 across the Newport and Jamestown Bridges. Turn right onto Route 1 (Tower Hill Road) north toward Providence. After 3/4 of a mile Route 1 merges into Route 4 north; bear left. Take exit 8A toward East Greenwich, then turn onto Route 401/Division Street. Continue as above to Main Street.

The Varnum Armory was built in 1913 in the medieval architectural style. The armory is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and it is in perfect original condition.

For military buffs, the collection includes:

- Military weapons & artifacts from the 16th century to the present
- Collection of more than 600 original WWI & WWII posters
- Official museum collection of the 76th Division
- Colt Model 1883 Gatling Gun and Limber and several artillery pieces
- Militia commissions and appointments dating from the 17th century, including documents signed by George Washington
- RI Train of Artillery leather helmet worn by Capt/Lt. Benijah Carpenter when he was killed at the Battle of Long Island August 27, 1776
- Collections of medals, ribbons and toy soldiers
- Hundreds of vintage photos and other artifacts

**MORE REASONS TO JOIN US!**

- One-on-one chance to meet candidates, and let them know the issues that most affect you and your families;
- Meet George Mendonsa, Rhode Island's "Kissing Sailor" of 1945 Life Magazine fame;
- Complimentary buffet and soft drinks, provided by Pinelli-Marra Restaurant Group;
- Great door prizes for registered attendees

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