

Westerly Armory Restoration, Inc.

Mail: PO Box 614 Westerly, RI 02891 **Location:** 41 Railroad Ave
www.westerlyarmory.org **Telephone:** 401.596.8554

Are you Friends of the Westerly Armory?

Are you a member? Have you ever come over to help with a project? Have you ever served on the Armory's board? Have your children and/or grandchildren come to see the museum? Do you know what is in the museum? Do you know that there is much more to the Armory than militaria?

If you've been able to answer many of these questions (and some in the affirmative), you are, indeed, a friend of the Westerly Armory. Thank you. Even an old armory needs friends.

We are looking for volunteers – one time, several times, many times. Example: for Member Evening, we need help in serving, setting up, and cleaning up. It's actually fun when there are many hands (what is that expression – many hands make light work?). Use your strength(s).

Membership runs from Memorial Day to Memorial Day and if you don't remember renewing, give John a call at 401-596-8554 or email westerlyarmory@aol.com. These are ways to contact us, too, if you wish to volunteer. Spring comes and the gardens need cleaning, shrubs need pruning. The urns will need filling.

And – bring yourself and your loved ones to see the museum – the community museum, the people's museum. Open Mondays AND Thursdays from 9-4. You will be very welcome.

■ And be a part of the history of the community.



Danny Carr & Friends Create Bonds with My American Story

Westerly High School students walked down to the Armory on November 9 for a full day of learning first-hand about veterans and their stories, a day that gave them insight into the Vietnam period and what members of the US Military do when they serve – and how it affects them then and now.

Danny Carr, Russell Foden, and Timothy McLaughlin – all in college and all graduates of WHS put together a program to mesh WHS students with veterans. The three developed the program to bring together different generations and different lives. WHS teachers who accompanied the students were: Mrs. Amanda Murphy, Mr. Michael Gleason, and Mr. Steve Servidiio.

9:00-9:20: Introduction
9:20-11:00: Vietnam Veteran Interviews/Armory tour

- Every 25 minutes, 10-12 students will go on Armory tour
- 4 groups of 25-minute tours

11:00-11:45: Lunch
11:45-1: College Bowl & Closing

The day was highly productive and students, teachers, and event creators felt it a great success – and look forward to next year.

New in the Museum



Now, for the third year, Leadership Rhode Island will spend the day at the Westerly Armory involved in strength-based learning, and developing a leadership in action project for each of the multiple teams. LRI classes are given a new project each year, and one of the main goals is to connect Rhode Island to Rhode Islanders.

LRI is probably the strongest state leadership program in the country with members of its staff giving presentations around the nation. Each class gives something to the state. For example, two years ago the class created the kiosks for Rocky Point Park. Mike Ritz, Executive Director, has given LRI national importance.

Class members come from all 39 cities and towns in Rhode Island (and a few from our neighboring state, Massachusetts).

The Westerly Armory welcomes XI Class II.



The US Navy Seabee blouse of Richard (Dick) Comolli. In addition, the museum displays Dick's wooden "suitcase" which he built and which carried all the things he had to tote during WWII as a Seabee.

Dick was honored in March 2017 at the Armory. He is known as an incredibly talented stone mason.



The Westerly Sun

The 1954 and the 1938 Hurricane editions



Toys from Burdick's Sporting Goods & Toys

From the 1940s and 1950s

A Very Special Membership Evening: April 28

Members, please mark your calendars for Saturday, April 28 at 6 pm sharp (doors open at 5 pm) for an evening devoted to good eating, superb entertainment, and the honoring of 5 (yes, 5) people of service.

You won't want to miss this evening which features a new chef with a treat for the palette. The entertainment will inspire wonderful memories. Felicia Gardella, President of the Warwick Historical Society, will give a highly colorful (and with sound effects) presentation on how Rocky Point Park began and how it became famous around the world. Ms. Gardella's family once owned Rocky Point Park -- and she will bring several pieces of Rocky Point memorabilia for us to see. John Howell, President of the Rocky Point Foundation (and editor of the *Warwick Beacon*) will follow with remarks about what the Park has become – and tell about the official Rocky Point license plate. A visit from Warwick Mayor Scott Avedisian completes the Warwick scenario.

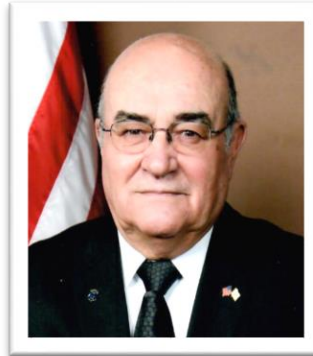


This year there are **five honorees** for service to community, state, and nation. They are:

Rose Marie Pampel Weston



Samuel A. Azzinaro



Dr. John B. Stellitano



Joseph Potter



Mary Lou Serra (in memory of)



Member ticket is \$8 pp (and there is still time to join – see www.westerlyarmory.com); non-member ticket is \$35 pp. It may be wise to **call 596-8554 or send in your reservation to PO Box 614** soon in order to secure a place for this very special evening which is expected to be a sell-out. Wine and beer will be available at the Armory's bar. The evening will be stellar.

Present Occupant or

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Nautilus Night: A Success for Man & Boat

This past September we honored Henry Nardone and the USS Nautilus (SSN 571) with an evening complete with video of the accomplishments of the ship that was made by local men and women and became the first nuclear-powered vessel in the world – and the first vessel to go under the North Pole. Henry Nardone feels it is his greatest accomplishment as an engineer.

Come see the display of items from the commissioning and launching of the Nautilus as well as pieces from its original deck – and a canvas square made by a shipman who went under the North Pole and celebrated the event by creating a small banner. The Nautilus marked the beginning of the nuclear Navy.



Facebook & the Armory



Keep posted about Armory events, rentals, and goings-on by “liking” the Armory on Facebook and/or visiting the Armory’s website at www.westerlyarmory.org (or .com). The Armory could use your friendship.