

Searching for 7 fallen soldiers for photo project

By KAITLYN NAPLES
STAFF WRITER

There were 612 soldiers from Connecticut who lost their lives during the Vietnam War, with 17 of them being from Bristol.

Donna Shackett, of Bristol, is looking for help from her fellow city residents, with the national project, "Call for Photos," which is intended to "immortalize" in Washington D.C. those fallen soldiers "I'm down to seven names from Bristol," Shackett said, adding that she took on the project recently after hearing about a resident from New Britain being involved. "I'm not giving up; I'm really trying to honor these men."

The Call for Photos project is a partnership between The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund and the Nation Park Service, which are working to build an education center that would be located near the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington D.C. The project calls for photos of the 58,272 fallen soldiers to be placed with their names, which will be displayed on a "virtual wall," being referred to as "the wall" right now.

Shackett said she also wanted to get involved in

Who they are looking for

Any individuals who recognize the names listed or have photos should contact Donna Shackett at DPS622@aol.com. These seven men were Vietnam War veterans and military photos are needed: Lawrence Joseph Pelletier; Peter Philip Dubiel; Eugene R. Johnson; Matthew Canfield; Edward J. Christensen; Roland P. Levesque; Joseph J. Paparello.

the project because her father is a World War II veteran, and because the Vietnam War was going on during in her generation, she said she felt it would be a nice way to remember former members of her community.

"It is just going to be a great way to put faces with these names we have," Shackett said. She spends time searching the names on the internet to try and find some connection so she can contact that family and ask for a military photo. She said if she isn't able to get military photos, she would use yearbook photos, "but ideally we want to use their military photos."

There are three sets of fathers and sons on the wall, Shackett said, along with 31 sets of brothers, which means 31 sets of parents lost two of their sons; and eight women who were nursing the wounded are on the wall.

"The largest age group, 33,103, was just 18 years old," she said, adding that 12 soldiers on the way were 17, five were 16 and one soldier on the wall was only 15-years-old.

As Vietnam War Veterans pass on, those names and photos will also be added to the wall, Shackett said.

"These soldiers got no recognition for what they had done," and didn't receive a welcoming atmosphere when they returned from war, Shackett said, adding that they were called harsh names like "baby killers."

"I think this is a great way for us to be able to honor them for their service." She added that this project has become "very near and dear to my heart," since she has taken it on.

The project has a dead

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