

KEEP IT LOCAL

It is a rare day when we are not subjected to requests for donations from numerous sources and in various ways either through regular mail, email, or telephone solicitations. It never ends! Along with voting, how we choose to spend our money is one of the few fundamental rights that are completely within our control. We respect that.

Recently the NFVA, your local veterans organization, received several inquiries on unknown subjects identifying themselves as Veterans collecting donations outside Stop and Shop. We appreciate such diligence concerning anyone identifying themselves as a Veteran seeking donations for Veterans. There is an unwritten rule of courtesy about local organizations canvassing in someone else's neighborhood. The NFVA abides by that rule. Those claiming to be state and national organizations, however, have free reign throughout the state. Because most of the solicitations take place on private property there is very little we can do to protect our citizens from fraudulent solicitors. We hope that local businesses have safeguards in place to protect residents from unscrupulous solicitors before they are allowed to set up tables in front of their establishments.

The New Fairfield Veterans Association is a federally recognized 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, incorporated in the State of Connecticut. All our donations are used to maintain our limited equipment and support our involvement at community functions on various holidays and events. The NFVA often is called upon to perform military honors where a town citizen's family has requested a military burial detail. The NFVA annually conducts events on Memorial and Veterans Day and Pearl Harbor, remembering those who have served and were lost to war, (Never Forget). Our historical vehicles are often on display and used in the Lion's Club 4th of July parade as a past reminder of such times. With the help from local Scouts we maintain the flags at veterans grave sites at four local cemeteries.

For the past 24 years the NFVA has been blessed by the generosity of the citizens and civic organizations of New Fairfield. Rest assured that every penny collected by the NFVA benefits the community in one way or another. As a side note, we never use donations to fund our annual member picnic or Christmas Party. Those events are funded strictly from membership dues and voluntary internal contributions.

Below is a description of what it means to be 501(c)(3) recognized.

In the meantime, mark your calendars for October 7th, the NFVA will be at Stop & Shop from 10 - 3 PM to collect your unserviceable National and State flags for proper "retirement". Stop by and chat with your **local** men and women of the New Fairfield Veterans Association.

If you are not sure of the legitimacy of the solicitor,

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Thank you.

Since the right to exist as a 501(c)(3) is determined solely by the IRS, let's start with an exact definition: *"To be tax-exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, an organization must be organized and operated exclusively for exempt purposes set forth in section 501(c)(3), and none of its earnings may inure to any **private shareholder or individual**. In addition, it may not be an action organization (i.e., it may not attempt to influence legislation as a substantial part of its activities, and it may not participate in any campaign activity for or against political candidates)."*

Tom McGurn and Bob Ballas