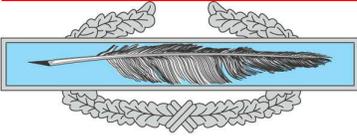


PUTNAM VETERAN'S REGISTER



An E-mail Newsletter of the Putnam County Veterans Service Agency

A line in one of the prayers in the Veterans of Foreign Wars ritual the chaplain observes "...our ranks are thinning". Our comrade is no longer with us..."our ranks are thinning". This has always touched me beyond all the other parts of the beautiful and moving ritual. Four words"...our ranks are thinning".

With the death of Denis Castelli members of the VFW will be invoking that prayer and memories of our comrade. It was my good fortune to work with Denis on many Veterans issues. From legislative initiatives to honoring our fellow Veterans. The last project that we were working on was for the Putnam County Sherriff's Office helping to select the names of worthy Veterans from Putnam County to have those names placed on the four Sherriff's boats that patrol the waters of Putnam.

There are many things that can be said about Denis but the most important and crucial to understand was that Denis served his country in Vietnam and he was a proud Veteran. There are few accolades that can top that.

Denis was so proud that Putnam County became the first Purple Heart County in New York State. An honor he helped to usher in with the urging of County

Executive MaryEllen Odell and the assistance of the Putnam



County Joint Veterans Council and the Military order of the Purple Heart. Denis was a member of both groups.

No better way to conclude then the words from:

Sleep, Soldier Boy
(VFW Memorial Song)
by Dorothy Alexander,
1926



The battle's over and peace is all around you,
Sleep soldier boy sleep on.
The canon's roar, can never more disturb you,
Sleep soldier boy sleep on.
Your journey is ended your work here is done,
Sleep soldier boy and rest,

Your flag you defended, The vict'ry you won,
Sleep on among the blest.
The sun's gone down, and darkness has enclosed you,
Sleep soldier boy sleep on.
A mother's arms, are waiting to enfold you,
Sleep soldier boy sleep on.
The time is not long when the bugle will sound forth,
Must'ring you back again.
You'll wake with the dawning, and answer to roll call,
Sleep soldier boy till then.
(to Taps)
Sleep in peace soldier boy
Till the bugle calls you with the dawn,
Sleep and rest God is nigh, soldier boy.