

# 7 vets honored in Quilts of Valor ceremony

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By Lisa Reisman

BRANFORD — When Guilford native Donald Timothy joined the Navy in 1951, he was just following in the footsteps of his four older brothers.

His oldest brother Earl served in the Pacific on a Navy destroyer. Charlie, an Army man, waded ashore with the third wave at Normandy. Bob, a coxswain on a landing barge operating off the USS Windsor, took part in 11 invasions in the Pacific Islands, and Roy was a member of the fabled Navy Seabees in Guam.

"All five of us came home and all five of us are on the [Veterans Memorial] Monument [in Hamden]," said Timothy, 89, a Korean War veteran, at last week's Quilts of Valor ceremony that had the 55 filling the hall of Walter Dymarczyk Memorial Post 12106, including Timothy's own cheering section, recognizing the seven honorees.

Among them was East Haven's Walter "Bud" Wylie, 85, who served on a Navy submarine in the Korean War.

"We know what he did, but no one else did, so now it's really cool for him to be honored," said Wylie's granddaughter Janine Parenti.

Eileen Landry of the Shoreline Quilters Guild wrapped Branford's Harvey Goldstein, an Air Force veteran who served in Vietnam, in a bold yellow quilt with vibrantly spangled patterns.

Quilts like Goldstein's "are infused from the get-go with prayer and care and love," said emcee Jane Dougherty, Connecticut co-ordinator of the Quilts of Valor Foundation, in keeping with the organization's mission to "cover those service members and veterans



Lisa Reisman / For Hearst Connecticut Media

Quilts of Valor recipients from left, Francis Allen, Dave Laughran, Donald Timothy, Donald Langlois Sr., Dennis Zemke, Harvey Goldstein and Walter (Bud) Wylie.



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Donald Timothy, surrounded by his family, after the Quilts of Valor ceremony in Branford.

touched by war."

That includes "people coming home with non-visible wounds," she said, noting that "PTSD has been going on for centuries," and

citing the estimated 22 veterans who commit suicide each day.

The quilts crafted by the Shoreline Quilters Guild and Willoughby Wallace



Don Timothy / Contributed photo

The Timothy brothers, from left, Bob, Roy, Charlie, Earl and Donald. The four oldest fought in World War II. Donald, the youngest, served in the Korean War. All five came home.

Library quilters are not just "safe places, healing places," as Dougherty put it. As shown by the gameboard design on the quilt presented

to Wallingford's Dennis Zemke, a Vietnam veteran who donned his Army cap, they're also whimsical. "Your grandchildren can

play hopscotch on it," Dougherty gamely suggested.

For Francis Allen, a retired member of the Royal Canadian Navy in Halifax, Nova Scotia, the "O Canada" quilt, made by Nova Scotia native Denise Daley, served as a reminder of home. (Quilts of Valor is an international organization, with a branch in Canada.)

Then there was Navy veteran Donald Langlois Sr., taking a break from his busy November; he was marshal in the Branford Veterans Day parade and then played a vital role in Branford High School's Veterans Appreciation Day, along with continuing his tenure as American Legion Post 83 commander.

"Such an honor," he said, after receiving a Shoreline Quilters Guild quilt studded with stars and bordered in a paisley pattern.

The only Marine in the group, Branford VFW 12106 member Dave Laughran, served from 1998 to 2003.

And then there was the Korean War vet Timothy, the youngest of five brothers, surrounded by his proud family, talking about the sailboat he recently built, about how he hopes to have the mast completed by his 90th birthday in June.

About his military service, which included stints on the submarine USS Neurus, and then on the USS Wisconsin in the Pacific, where he shelled North Korean targets in support of UN and South Korean ground operations, the words of Timothy, an American Legion Post 76 member, were plain.

"There was never any question," he said. "It was just what you did."

If you know a veteran you'd like to honor, visit [www.govf.org](http://www.govf.org), find the "take action" tab, and click "request a quilt," or email [jane.dougherty@govf.org](mailto:jane.dougherty@govf.org).