The University of Connecticut’s Office of Veterans Affairs and Military Programs, along with more than 70 volunteers, presented the “Colossal Colors” in style during the UConn Men’s Basketball game at Gampel Pavillion on Jan. 26.

The crowd in attendance, eager to see their beloved Huskies take on the Shockers of Wichita St., roared in approval as the gigantic flag made its way toward center court.

As the pre-game clock signaled the start of game-time, it was time for our incredible team of volunteers to present this stirring symbol of the nation in all of its glory.

The national anthem rang out over the public address system, as the Colossal Colors added the perfect patriotic background before tip-off.

Volunteers removed the flag as quickly as it had been unfurled, but no one will forget the sense of pride they felt in that “Colossal” moment.
The Office of Veterans Affairs & Military Programs (VAMP) at UConn is pleased to honor George J Penney III as our Veteran of the Month for February 2019. Penney served in the U.S. Navy on active duty for six and a half years as a Mass Communication Specialist, or MC, reaching the rank of Petty Officer 2nd Class.

After spending three years stationed on the mighty aircraft carrier USS Nimitz (CVN-68), Penney transferred to Naples, Italy, working for the American Forces Network as the legendary DJ Joker.

Penney is currently a Journalism student at UConn and will continue to utilize the hard work, determination, and work ethic that was instilled and developed throughout his military career, as he attempts to achieve academic excellence. Penney says that the support and guidance provided by UConn’s Office of Veterans Affairs and Military Programs was instrumental in a smooth transition to student-veteran life on campus.

Penney currently serves as the social-media manager for the Office of Veterans Affairs and Military Programs, providing coverage for VAMP’s vast array of veteran-community events, programs, and support at UConn.

If you would like to nominate a student, faculty, or staff member for “Veteran of the Month,” please contact Nikki Eberly at Nikki.eberly@uconn.edu with the name of the person and reasons for your nomination.
The nominations for the Student Life Awards at the University of Connecticut are being accepted until Feb. 24.

UConn’s Office of Veterans Affairs and Military Programs sponsor the William N. Hawley Service and Leadership Award and is looking for nominees to fulfill the eligibility requirements listed above.

This is the perfect time to nominate someone you think exemplifies the student-veteran lifestyle, including those who might wish to nominate themselves. You certainly won’t want to miss your opportunity.

Award recipients will be recognized during “Leader Recognition Week” from April 8-12, 2019. The Student Life Awards Ceremony will be held Thursday, April 11, 2019 in the Student Union Ballroom at 4:00pm.
Would you like to do an internship where you can meet interesting people of all ages, collect personal narratives of military service, and be part of preserving these stories for future generations? The UConn Office of Veteran’s Affairs and Military Programs and the UConn History Department are seeking undergraduate and graduate students interested in doing 1-4 credit internships or work-study as a part of the Veterans History Project at UConn. Students will conduct and record interviews, catalog and process the interviews for archiving at the U.S. Library of Congress, and make meaning of the experience.

This is a great opportunity to hear the stories of veterans from WWII to the present day and to gain a better understanding about the day to day realities of war on a personal level. The internship will also will teach students:

- The principles, and professional and technical standards for conducting an oral history interview.
- How to prepare for an interview, and how to process and catalog the interview for archiving.
- Conduct an environmental scan of where this project fits into debates about war, memory, trauma and explore public programming opportunities to curate stories from the collection.
- Explore opportunities for funding through the Office of Undergraduate Research.

For an example of a grant-funded undergraduate program see The Story Front: http://www.thestoryfront.com/about.html

Students are encouraged to pursue interviews with veterans of conflicts that they are particularly interested in or veterans from groups of special interest to them.

No prior interviewing experience is required for this internship. If you have an interest in military history, oral history, and the willingness to listen and learn, then this is the project for you!

If you are interested in participating, contact:
Fiona Vernal or Heather Park (Internship Coordinators)
fiona.vernal@uconn.edu or heather.parker@uconn.edu

Alyssa Kelleher, Director, Office of Veterans Affairs and Military Programs
alyssa.kelleher@uconn.edu
The Hartford Foundation for Public Giving is accepting applicants for the Bonzagni and Thomas Families Scholarship. Preference will be given to applicants who meet all or most of the following criteria:

- Active military, military veteran, first responder, or other public safety personnel (detention, corrections, probation, parole); or who are the child of active military, military veteran, first responder, or other public safety personnel (detention, corrections, probation, parole)
- Graduating high school senior, adult learner, or graduate student
- Reside in the 29 town* Greater Hartford region
- Have demonstrated financial need
- Have been involved with volunteer, community service, work, and/or extracurricular activities

Preference will also be given to applicants with a demonstrated interest in and/or a desire to pursue a degree in fields such as: Environmental Studies, Ornithology, Conservation, Natural Sciences, Outdoor Recreation, Farming, Agriculture, Horticulture, Ranching, Natural Resource Management.

Application submissions must be in by Feb. 15, so make the most of the time available and submit your application as soon as humanly possible, following these guidelines:

- Go to hfpg.org/scholarships
- Type Bonzagni into search bar
- Click fund name
- Scroll down to click on “Apply to…”
- Create account
- Answer eligibility questions
- Click on blue Apply box to complete application

Follow the provided eligibility and submission requirements and you will set yourself up nicely at a shot for a prestigious scholarship worth up to $2,000.

The Hartford Foundation for Public Giving works with donors, nonprofits and community leaders to put resources into action for Greater Hartford.
The University of Connecticut - Hartford, Veterans Student Organization will host a veteran meet-and-greet Feb. 27 from 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. in room 209 of the Hartford Times Building.

The meet and greet will provide student veterans from around the Hartford campus to meet one another, as well as personnel from UConn’s Office of Veterans Affairs and the Vocational Rehab Program.

Light refreshments will be served and time will be made available for any questions or concerns you may have as you continue to maximize your benefit utilization toward academic excellence.