

Jim

Pictures are on the way ... Mailed them yesterday 9/14/04 ... a total of 38 pictures in all .. All of the pictures are numbered on the back and a write up explaining each picture ... And also a write up on how the Honor Guard started ...

Jim

When Chief Kinsella saw the Flag section on that Memorial Day 1970 with the rifles carried in Picture # 1 ... I was called into his office the next day and asked me how come the rifles in the American Flag section who were leading the parade were carried other than the original Shoulder arms?

Well, I told him that even the West Point Honor Guard carried there rifles at times in that manner ...

The Chief told me to start a drill team (Honor Guard) for the Stamford P. D. and asked if I was able to teach men the proper way for a burial ceremony due to the fact that one of our brother officer was in the Hospt. and may not make it ...

I began to recruit men within the P. D. and before you know it I had 21 men in line to be taught for a -wake detail -
Church services - Burial detail at grave side - Firing Squad to render the officer his honors - bugler for taps - And to represent our Dept. with this Honor Guard in the City of Stamford ...

Well, all of this was accomplished and then some ... We were asked to travel through out CT. Mass. New York and not only for officers killed in the line of duty but exhibitions at schools and youth gatherings ... So a drill was put together and an opening ceremony at all of the functions (National Anthem) which included the flag raising on Iwo Jima ... A majority of the time all 21 of the members were in attendance ... All of the ceremonies were done to music chosen by me and other members of the squad ... We even put on a show for the Veterans at the Italian Center Veterans Day dance (held the weekend of the parade) ... In that show we had music from the World War I - WW II - Korea and Viet Nam ... Not only the music but the uniforms of all branches of the service and some in full battle gear ... Men remained in the uniforms of the different services and along with the other members of the Honor Guard ended this show with the National Anthem ... We marched out onto the middle of the floor with a 10 Ft. empty flag pole with a cord and pulleys attached and with one of the members carrying the American flag in it's triangle form...hooked the two ends to the clips and raised the flag onto the flag pole during the beginning of the Anthem ... and during the playing of the Anthem at a certain part of the Anthem the Iwo Jima was formed ... The music was done by WSTC and chosen by Melfi and Orgera ... A real tear jerker ...

The firing squad was headed by either Jim Byrne or Joe Slesh ... Ernie Orgera also led the burial detail ... Any of the men in the Honor Guard were able to lead and perform any of the details within the duties of the Honor Guard ... Talented group of Men ... And the City of Stamford and The Stamford Police Dept. were very proud of these men ...

Thanks for Honoring the men of the first Stamford Police
Dept. Honor Guard
Eddie Melfi

9/18/2004