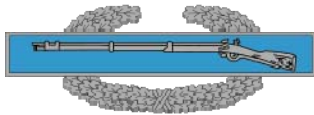




BRAVO COMPANY

1ST BATTALION (MECHANIZED), 50TH INFANTRY REGIMENT



Denis M. Castelli, of North Salem, NY, formerly of Brewster, NY, died Saturday, April 19, 2014 at Putnam Hospital Center. He was 67 years old.

Mr. Castelli was born on April 26, 1946 in the Bronx, NY, to the late Pasquale and Caroline (Piacquadio) Castelli. He graduated from schools in the Bronx and attended Iona College in New Rochelle, NY. Denis married Athena Arvan on October 2, 1982 at Church of Our Savior in Rye, NY.

Mr. Castelli was Historian for the County of Putnam for the past two years as well as historian for the Village of Brewster from 2006 to the present. From the late 1970's until his retirement in 2000, Mr. Castelli had been a computer analyst for Daprex Inc. in Stamford, CT.



Denis had lived in North Salem since 1989 and Brewster prior since the early 1970's. Denis was an avid photographer displaying his works in both the Applebee's restaurant in Brewster and the Putnam County main offices; he enjoyed writing articles for the village of Brewster among many entities. Denis was a trustee of the Southeast Museum for 19 years and a board member for both the Putnam County Land Trust from which he recently received the emeritus award and the Landmarks Preservation Society.

A Bronx boy, he had a front-row seat for the conflict in Vietnam, serving with the Army's 1st Battalion (Mechanized), 50th Infantry which was attached to the 1st Cavalry Division and 173rd Airborne Brigade. Castelli was awarded the National Defense Ribbon, The Vietnam Service Medal, the Vietnam Campaign Medal, the Good Conduct Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, the Air Medal, the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star while earning his Combat Infantryman Badge. That led to an affection for his fellow veterans, an attachment perhaps matched only by his fondness for local history.

Denis was a member of the VFW Post #672 in Brewster. He also had assisted Congresswoman Nan Hayworth for two years as a veterans advocate. Denis was also instrumental assisting Putnam County to become the first Purple Heart County in New York State.

Besides his wife Athena of 31 years, Mr. Castelli is survived by his brother Michael Denis Castelli and his nephew Robert Castelli, both of Venice, FL as well as several aunts and uncles and many friends. A mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated Friday April 25, 2014 10:00 AM at St. Lawrence O'Toole Church in Brewster. A private cremation was held earlier. Calling hours will be on Thursday, April 24, 2014 from 4 to 8pm at Beecher Funeral Home, 1 Putnam Avenue, Brewster. www.beecherfuneralhome.com