



# WYMANews

State of Connecticut  
Office of the State Comptroller  
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WYMANews

Volume 4 Issue 1

## WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA



Connecticut State Capitol

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Comptroller Wyman and Attorney General Richard Blumenthal co-hosted a ceremony at the State Capitol on Dec. 8 to welcome the Wreaths Across America convoy to Hartford and to honor all Connecticut service men and women serving, injured or killed in action. The following are the Comptroller's remarks to the audience, which included dozens of soldier's family members.

My job as Comptroller is all about the numbers.

And even though this ceremony is most definitely about people, I'd like to give you a few numbers that I think tell the story of why we are here tonight. We are here tonight, first and foremost, for the dozens of Gold Star family members who are honoring us with their presence.

The pain of their sacrifice, and the sacrifice of their loved ones, cannot be expressed in words. But I know every one of us feels their loss in our hearts. God Bless you all.

We are here tonight for the 44 young men and women from Connecticut that we have lost in Iraq and Afghanistan over the past seven years. You may have seen their faces on the Wall of Honor down the hall, where they will soon sadly be joined by two more heroes lost in battle this year - Marine Sgt. Edward Kramer of Southington and Army Captain Benjamin Sklaver of Hamden.

We are here tonight for the 2,700 Connecticut soldiers who have been called to serve their country either in combat or in support of the wars since 9/11 – and the families they have left behind. I know you join me in praying for their safe return, and I congratulate the Governor for helping bring 700 of them home for the holidays this year.

We are here tonight for the 612 Connecticut men killed in Vietnam, the 312 lost in Korea, the tens of thousands who never came home from the two world wars and all those before them who gave their lives for their country.

Tonight, we are here to pay tribute to all of them. And we are also here to salute two more people - the wonderful couple who have made it their mission for the last... **Continued on Page 2**



### E-NOTIFICATION

WYMANews and Press Releases

Receive the quarterly newsletter, WYMANews, and monthly press releases via email.

Sign up at [www.osc.state.ct.us/public/newsletter](http://www.osc.state.ct.us/public/newsletter)

## OSC's ANGELO ROMANO NAMED IT MANAGER OF THE YEAR FOR 2009

In this atmosphere of ever-tightening budgets, individual initiative and critical thinking about how we can accomplish goals more efficiently are more important than ever.

It was that kind of creative approach that led Angelo Romano of the Comptroller's information-technology staff to an idea that not only has improved the technical side of the state's core financial computer system (Core-CT) but has saved hundreds of thousands of tax dollars.

His idea was to distribute Core-CT computing on many smaller servers using a non-proprietary operating system – a system we call “the grid.” It was not a quick or easy change, but in the end it has worked beautifully and proved more cost-effective than the former system.

The new system has reduced processing times by as much as 30 percent, saved the state about \$250,000 in the cost of buying new servers, and will save about another \$200,000 annually in licensing and maintenance costs.

Angelo's initiative and hard work at putting together the proposal and an implementation plan got the attention of Oracle Magazine, which awarded him the title of IT Manager of the Year – the only one in the world for 2009.

Of course, it took the efforts of all Core-CT teams to carry out this vision, and I salute everyone who took part in this project over the past year.

Well done, Angelo and everyone!



### MUNICIPAL SWEARING IN CEREMONIES Bethel, Seymour, West Haven, Bethel, Hamden, Bristol, Harwinton



## CT'S ROAD TO HEALTHCARE REFORM

The SustiNet Board of Directors is an 11 member board established in Public Act 09-148 and Public Act 09-03 of the September Special Session. It is co-chaired by Nancy Wyman, the State Comptroller, and Kevin Lembo, the State Healthcare Advocate. The board has many duties including the responsibility to present a plan to the general assembly for the implementation of the SustiNet plan.

The SustiNet Health Partnership encourages Connecticut residents attend the meetings of the Board of Directors, the Task Forces, and the Advisory Committees. Dates and locations of all meetings will be posted on the website, [www.ct.gov/sustinet](http://www.ct.gov/sustinet).

## WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA

*(Continued from Page 1)* ... last 16 years to honor our heroes – Karen and Morrill Worcester of Wreaths Across America. On behalf of the State of Connecticut and all of those who have died defending us – we thank you both.

A few more numbers.

In those big trucks parked outside, there are 15,000 wreaths that in four days will be placed on soldier's graves in Arlington National Cemetery, where many of the parents here tonight have buried their loved ones.

That same day, hundreds of more wreaths bought by private citizens will be placed on graves in Veteran's cemeteries all over our state.

An awful lot of wreaths - an awful lot of memories - an awful lot of tears.

And there is one final number that perhaps dwarfs them all. When the Worcester's trucks roll into Arlington cemetery on Saturday morning, they will enter a sacred ground where more than 300,000 brave American soldiers have been laid to rest.

Three hundred thousand - and still just a fraction of the lives that have been given up to preserve our nation's freedom. That is a number that should stagger us all.

That is a number that should inspire us to commit to the message painted on the side of the Worcester's trucks:

Remember the Fallen. Honor Those Who Serve. Teach Our Children the Value of Freedom.

Remember, Honor and Teach that the fallen soldiers we are honoring tonight - and all the others being honored this week across the country - are the reason that we are free. Thank you and God Bless America.

## Where has Wyman been lately ... Visit [www.osc.state.ct.us/public/events/](http://www.osc.state.ct.us/public/events/) for more photos



22nd Senate District Senior Fair  
Trumbull



Beacon Falls Ceremony Acquiring  
a 45 Acre Parcel



Women Against MS Luncheon  
Hartford



Cadet Mgmt Association & Eastern CT  
Chapter of the Institute of Mgmt  
Accountants, New London



Bridgeport Veterans Day Parade and  
Unveiling of Korean War Memorial



CT Alliance for Business Opportunities  
(GLBT Chamber), North Haven

### Wyman Tells It Like It Is ... By David Hunter

TORRINGTON — Before discussing the state’s economic woes with Torrington Rotarians on Tuesday, Connecticut Comptroller Nancy Wyman offered a glimpse into how it impacts her professional life.

“Lately, people have not been inviting me places. When we had surpluses, somebody wanted to talk to me everyday,” Wyman said. “No one wants to talk with me anymore (in light of state economic woes.) I am sorry I am not wearing red, but I do not like red”.

After offering this preface, Wyman thanked the local branch of the international service organization for choosing her to speak at their meeting Tuesday.

The recession has brought much pain in many ways, Wyman said. Many Connecticut residents worked in high-paying Wall Street financial jobs. In this economic recession, many of these people have lost their jobs. Consequently, their losing these jobs resulted in the state collecting far less money in tax revenue.

“The income tax is the biggest loss of revenue for us right now,” Wyman said. “The Legislature expected \$6.6 billion to come in from the income tax. We’re seeing about a \$200 million deficit in that area.”

“Everytime you talk about a bonus, you are talking about withholding taxes and bonuses that we’re not getting,” Wyman said.

One need not pore over the state government’s latest revenue and spending figures in order to understand the economic turmoil. Based on her observations during a recent trip to the shopping mall, people are reducing their spending even though many items are being sold at discounted prices, she said.

“People are in the malls shopping, but they are not buying much,” Wyman said.

Since the beginning of the calendar year, the Constitution State has lost upward of 100,000 jobs, she said. Some children who require social services are cared for with three professionals, Wyman said. In her estimation, this is far less efficient than using one professional to care for the child.

While providing numerical figures to illustrate the economic recession, Wyman mentioned an increasing number of Connecticut people who are hungry.

As the Rotarians donated money to benefit a Torrington food bank at its meeting, Wyman lauded their generosity.

Rotarian member Lynn Ridgway asked Wyman about the likelihood of state lawmakers trimming the deficit without borrowing. More specifically, he asked who has the “political will” to ask difficult questions and make difficult decisions.

Immediately after the meeting ended, Ridgway further addressed his concerns.

“There is too much political infighting. They do not have the political will to do it,” he said, referring to state lawmakers. “They are more interested in getting re-elected than anything else.”

Rotary Club member David Dean thanked Wyman for speaking to the organization.

The Connecticut General Assembly did not pass a budget until September of this year. The Democrat-controlled body passed a two-year, \$37.6 billion budget without Gov. M. Jodi Rell signing the bill. The legislators returned to Hartford this month in an effort to make up an estimated \$467 million deficit.



**Lighting of "Heroes Tree" Katherine Hepburn Center Old Saybrook**



**Mothers Against Drunk Driving Red Ribbon Campaign Kick Off East Hartford**



**BECOME A FAN OF STATE COMPTROLLER WYMAN ON FACEBOOK**



**Newington High School Political Science Class visits Hartford**



**Military Send Off of 700 Soldiers CT Convention Center, Hartford**