

# Hayes-Velhage Post 96

## The American Legion



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*“Serving our Veterans and  
Community for 95 years”*

## Newsletter

★ Summer 2017 ★

**Thursday, June 8, '17**

**Post Closed for  
Renovations until Sept.**

**Wednesday, September 13, '17 – 7:00 pm** **Monthly Post Meeting  
Installation of Officers**

**Wednesday, October 11, '17 – 7:00 pm** **Monthly Post Meeting**

**Saturday, November 4, '17 – 8:30 am** **Placement of Flags at  
Fairview Cemetery**

**Wednesday, November 8, '17 – 7:00 pm** **Monthly Post Meeting**

**Saturday, November 11, '17 – 11:00 am** **Veterans Day Ceremony  
CT Veterans Memorial  
West Hartford**

**Wednesday, December 23, '17 7:00 pm** **Monthly Post Meeting**

★ THE FOUR PILLARS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION ★

★ A Strong National Security ★ Taking Care of Veterans ★ Mentoring Youth ★ Promoting Patriotism and Honor ★

# Hayes-Velhage Post 96 \*NEWSLETTER\* Summer 2017

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## Commander's Message

My Fellow Legionnaires, family, and friends of Post 96,

As I assume my responsibilities as your Post Commander, I want to thank you in advance for your support as we begin a new year as Hayes-Velhage Post 96.

Over the past 12 months the Post evaluated several options regarding the most effective structure for Post 96 to address the future financial and organizational resources needed to fulfill our mission outlined in The Four Pillars of the American Legion. The current building we own at 37-45 Raymond Road will continue to be the American Legion Building and will continue to be owned by Post 96. One of the key changes we will implement is the lease of the space currently used by our Post to a tenant for use as a restaurant. The new restaurant will be called **Flora**. There will be renovations ongoing July and August and they plan to open for business in early September. Please read KC Ward's letter to our membership contained in this Newsletter.

In the future Hayes-Velhage Post 96 will continue to hold monthly meetings and special events in the same place we have held them for the past 9 years. The key difference will be that the food and bar service will be the function of **Flora**, and our focus will be supporting our Veterans and the Americanism programs we conduct throughout our community.

2017 is our 95<sup>th</sup> anniversary as Hayes-Velhage Post 96. In five years we will celebrate our 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary and our goal is to continue to be the best American Legion Post in Connecticut.

Fraternally,

Jeff Cole  
Commander.

## American Legion Auxiliary Unit 96

It's not too late to submit your 2017 Membership dues. Online pay is now available at [ala link](#) below. Your annual dues help the Auxiliary's Voice be heard in the units' auxiliary programs for veterans & their families, military & their families, & the community. You are an active and very important member, even if you don't attend any meetings.

The first year of ALA membership for Female veterans is **FREE**.

Applications for ALL are available by calling the Post at 860-233-9029.. Let's be a part of the 1 Million members by the Auxiliary's Centennial Year 2020.

*Thank You* for bringing pull tabs from cans, box tops, and Campbell Soup labels to the post. Mark Gallagher reigns as Tab King, with the most pull tabs donated since the last newsletter. Please email me your list of goods and their \$ value, for items donated since July 2016. (clothes, shoes, household goods, etc.) (6 large bags \$100)

Who says "Nothing is Free These Days"? As a member of TAL, ALA, or SAL, 18 years of age up, you are entitled to \$1000 AD&D at **NO COST TO YOU**. Added AD&D up to \$5000 when on "official legion business." You've earned it, so Contact: [www.thelit.com](http://www.thelit.com) or Chuck Berry: [cberry1@comcast.net](mailto:cberry1@comcast.net) to sign up.

GOOD, BETTER, BEST – Never, Never, Rest, till your Good is Better, and your BETTER, BEST. Have a fun & safe summer. Honor our Veterans every day.

Visit [www.alaforveterans.org](http://www.alaforveterans.org) for more info or contact President Jeanne at 203-715-2336 [jeanneberry@comcast.net](mailto:jeanneberry@comcast.net) . God Bless You and God Bless America.

## West Hartford Class of 2017 Military Inductees Recognized at American Legion Ceremony

May 30, 2017 We-Ha.com

On May 30, 22 members of the class of 2017 from West Hartford's high schools gathered at the American Legion Hayes-Velhage Post 96 at 45 Raymond Rd. to be honored for their future service for our country.

*By Gillian Hixson and Jackie Palermo*

American Legion Hayes-Velhage Post 96 and West Hartford's high schools partnered up for the second annual military recognition ceremony Tuesday to thank and honor 22 courageous and selfless young men and women who have committed to serve their country.

Paul Vicinus, assistant superintendent for West Hartford Public Schools, said the local American Legion representatives reached out to West Hartford Public Schools to plan this congratulatory event. He added that the ceremony is not exclusive to public high school seniors graduating from Hall and Conard, but includes Kingswood Oxford and Northwest Catholic graduates as well.

At the ceremony, representatives from West Hartford Public Schools as well as past and present military personnel were incredibly excited to formally congratulate the young graduates, thank them, and provide some words of advice and encouragement in their future endeavors.

Post 96 Commander Jeffrey Cole said to the 2017 graduates, "Thank you for stepping up ... so we can maintain the freedoms and opportunities we have today."

West Hartford Public Schools Superintendent Tom Moore also thanked the honorees, stating, "What

could I possibly have to say other than 'Thank you.' I can't thank you enough."

Moore continued, making a joke that the honorees' generation is frequently chastised by members of older generations for being glued to their phones. But, Moore said to the graduates, "You make that a lie ... you are providing a legacy."



Photo credit: Jackie Palermo

Michael Sisti, a 2016 Conard High School graduate who is part of ROTC at Yale, speaks to the members of the Class of 2017.

One of last year's honorees, Michael Sisti, offered advice based upon his first year in the Air Force ROTC program at Yale University. Sisti encouraged the honorees to work hard, stating "You build skills you don't realize you're building."



Class of 2017 Military Inductees Recognition Ceremony.  
Photo credit: Jackie Paler



# Hayes-Velhage Post 96 \*NEWSLETTER\* Summer 2017

(Military Inductees Ceremony Continued)

Each student walked to the front of the room and received his or her certificate and cord to wear at graduation, and each honoree had a unique reason for pursuing the military.

To end the ceremony, Lt. Colonel Jeffrey Cole, son of Post Commander Jeffrey Cole and the keynote speaker of the night, gave a stirring and honest depiction of life in the military.

Using the core values of the different military services, such as integrity, “service before self,” “excellence in all we do,” and respect, Cole offered his own advice. However, Cole prefaced his speech by saying, “I’m here to motivate an already highly-motivated group.”

The greatest piece of advice Cole gave to the 22 graduates was to work to maintain balance in all they do. “You’re going to hit the ground running,” Cole explained. “Leave it. Let it go. Take care of yourself.”

“I am envious of you because you are just starting out ... enjoy it,” Cole said.



From left: Beth Kyle; Timothy Kyle, who will be part of the Navy ROTC program at Fordham University; and Paul Kyle. Photo credit: Jackie Palermo

## HONOREES

Jordan Baker  
Hall High School  
US Marine Corps

Robert Balcezak  
Kingswood Oxford  
Navy ROTC

Kelesha Banton  
Hall High School  
US Army Reserve

Matthew Batayte  
Conard High School  
US Coast Guard

David Boley  
Kingswood Oxford  
Army ROTC

Kyron Bridges  
Conard High School  
Army National Guard

Tyler Correia  
Conard High School  
US Air Force

Tom Costello  
Conard High School  
US Naval Academy

Franklin Cruz  
Conard High School  
US Army

Nora Dynowski  
Conard High School  
Army ROTC

Jared Flores  
Northwest Catholic  
US Air Force

Adam Giroux  
Conard High School  
Navy ROTC

Dallas Goncalves  
Conard High School  
Army National Guard

Timothy Kyle  
Conard High School  
Navy ROTC

Andy Le  
Conard High School  
Army National Guard

Matt Lombard  
Conard High School  
US Army

Khanhvy Nguyen  
Conard High School  
Air Force ROTC

Juan Requeses  
Conard High School  
Army National Guard

Elenis Rodriguez  
Conard High School  
Army National Guard

Andrew Swain  
Hall High School  
US Naval Academy

Ruth Tian  
Conard High School  
US Coast Guard Academy

Tatyana Tulier  
Hall High School  
Air Force Reserve

Please follow the below link for the complete article:

<http://we-ha.com/west-hartford-class-2017-military-inductees-recognized-american-legion-ceremony/>

## Hayes-Velhage Post 96 \*NEWSLETTER\* Summer 2017

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### Post 96 Distinguished Achievement Awards for 2017

The American Legion School Awards were presented to the following students. The award is presented in "*Recognition of the possession of those high qualities of Courage, Honor, Leadership, Patriotism, Scholarship and Service which are necessary to the preservation and protection of the fundamental institutions of our government and the advancement of society.*"

#### Hall HS

Medal/Certificate	Lucas Booth
Honorable Mention	Emma Chozick

#### Conard HS

Medal/Certificate	Carly Gorman
Honorable Mention	Ruth Tian

#### Northwest Catholic HS

Medal/Certificate	Mitchell Karangekis
Honorable Mention	Christopher Ravosa

#### King Philip MS

Medal/Certificate	Ethan Chandler
Honorable Mention	Rylie Dagnall

#### Bristow MS

Medal/Certificate	Joseph LoSada
Honorable Mention	Arianna Fandozzi

#### Sedgwick MS

Medal/Certificate	Rushil Yerrabelli
Honorable Mention	Tejal Nair

#### American School for Deaf

Medal/certificate	Hector Carrion
Honorable Mention	Esdras Leiv

### Boys State and Girls State Candidates for 2017

For one week, at Boys State and Girls State, young men and women learn about state and local government. It is a hands on approach to how government functions with state and local officials guiding the way.

The following individuals have been selected to attend Boys State and Girls State this year. Boys State will be held at Eastern Connecticut State University June 24-29, 2017 and Girls State will be held at Post University June 25-30, 2017

#### Hall HS

Boys - Craig Wasielewski and Cole Canorie

Girls - Brae Sullivan and Jacqueline McConnell

#### Northwest Cath.

Boys - Noah Lisle, Dawid Karpiej, Christopher Raymond, Shayne Rice, and Luke Fox

Girls - Clara Barnes, Elizabeth D'Arcangelo, Eliza Wizner

#### Conard HS

Boys - Jack Moore, Malik Brown

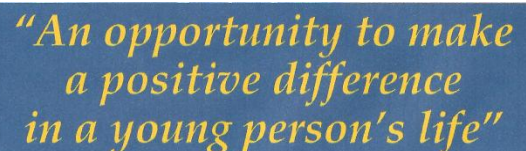
Girls - Grace Andrews, Kaleigh Werner

#### Loomis Chaffee

Boys - John Costello

#### Prince CTHSS

Boys – Dante Skyes



*"An opportunity to make  
a positive difference  
in a young person's life"*



### **Officer Brandon Dudzinski Honored as American Legion 2017 Police Officer of the Year**



(L-R) Commander Fradette, Mayor Cantor, Officer Dudzinski, Police Chief Gove

Hayes-Velhage recently honored West Hartford Police Officer Brandon Dudzinski as the American Legion 2017 Police Officer of the Year. Officer Dudzinski joined the WHPD in 2008 with a Bachelors degree in Political Science from UConn and has worked in Patrol and is currently assigned to the Community Interaction Team.

He is also a Field Training Officer for the department and a member of the Emergency Service Unit. He is currently mentoring a student at Morley Elementary school and serves as a volunteered with the Make a Wish Foundation.

In his remarks West Hartford Police Chief Gove acknowledged the many citations awarded to Dudzinski as well as the numerous letters of commendation and praise received from citizens.

While working full time, Officer Dudzinski received his Master's Degree from Central Connecticut State University. Brandon is an FTO, a member of WH ESU and is also a sniper.

The ceremony also included a Proclamation from the Town of West Hartford read by Mayor Shari Cantor recognizing Officer Dudzinski for his service to the West Hartford Police Department.

### **Views from the Post**

#### **Squires Present new Flag to Elmwood Community Center**



Post members Ken Hungerford, Jeff Cole, and Harold Ducey recently participated in a flag ceremony for the presentation of a new American flag presented by the Squires to the Elmwood Community Center in West Hartford.

#### **Memorial Day Ceremony**



Hayes-Velhage Post 96 Color Guard at Memorial Day Ceremony at Town Hall

## Hayes-Velhage Post 96 \*NEWSLETTER\* Summer 2017

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To the Respected American Legion Post 96

I'd like to introduce myself, partners and our vision. We are all Conard High, North West Catholic and Hall High, graduates of West Hartford. We all have strong ties and authentic feelings for the past, present and future of this remarkable town and will now join part of its business community with our second restaurant concept Flora.

We currently operate Rooster Co. on Main Street in Newington which focuses its farm-to-table menu around the core product of rotisserie organic chicken. The great management team and cohesive staff have allowed for thoughts of opening a second location or new concept. Timing and opportunity has proven to be everything in locating the right space.

After initially being introduced to the American Legion space it took time, thought and many conversations to focus the 'lens' on what could truly work best as a restaurant concept given its location and excellent nearby competition. A light bulb went off for me after a lunch meeting with my partner Rich where we discussed our own interests in eating healthy but delicious. With the reinforced thought that the Center doesn't need more of the same, Flora was born.

We will be an everyday approachable plant focused menu and bar. There will still be something for everybody. Instead of an all-or-nothing approach to offering vegetarian and vegan food, I believe in what I call 'viable fauna' or good to eat meat. The thing that gets me out of bed in the morning is talking to our farmer Dale at Young Farms in East Granby and hearing what he just planted, harvested or milled and how or why. Sometimes I will stop by to pickup product and he'll just say "got time to get in the truck?" My answer is always "yes!" and he shows / teaches me about the fields that grow our food and it is fascinating and so removed from the broken food system we have today where big agri-business is making it almost impossible for the small, local and sustainable farmer to make a living. The best thing I believe all of us can do is to think globally and act locally with our meals.

I want there to still be a piece of the American Legion that remains in order to honor and embrace it. The back room will be designed to accommodate monthly meetings and preserve the display case with so much meaningful memorabilia. The pool table will relocate to the back of the restaurant and dual as a buffet top while the space lends itself as a lounge area with suitable room partition allowing for storage of stacked tables and chairs when unused. The bar area will give some concession of space to the kitchen, which Chef Joe has worked wonders out of and will allow him to execute at a higher level. The office will relocate to allow for better flow of patrons entering and add necessary bar-to-dining-room separation, required by the state Liquor Commission. The beautiful wood trim will remain, although some cosmetic changes will occur to make the space best fit the new feel of a plant focused menu concept.

The Legion Commander Moe has been an excellent liaison as well as a progressive leader who values the Legion's four Pillars, and is intent on this opportunity in directing the Post's ability to focus on those community influences. I stand united with him in the symbiotic benefits we shall all enjoy as Flora becomes.

Sincerely,

KC Ward

Jaime Ward

Rich Bouvier

Jon Martin

Steve Ferguson



**Hayes-Velhage Post 96**  
**The American Legion**  
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### 👏 HONOR ROLL OF DONORS 👏

*We tip our legion caps and salute the following members and friends of our Legion family for supporting Post 96's Baseball program for the 2017 Legion Baseball Season:*

👏 West Hartford Youth Baseball 👏 Barry Leghorn 👏 Brad Collins 👏 Robert Gfeller 👏 William Noonan 👏 Mark Gallagher 👏 Brian Bannister 👏 D.E. Goodwin 👏 William Gilmour 👏 Ted Jacobs 👏 Steve Lishnak 👏 Chris Conlin 👏 Linda Newman 👏 Jim McMillan 👏 Chuck Berry 👏 Pete Stevens 👏 John Small 👏 R. Lee Damuth 👏 Ralph Braitwaite 👏 Winslow Runde 👏 Martin Cunningham 👏 Paul Noel 👏 Robert Martin 👏 Michael Scanlan 👏 J. Morton Dunn 👏 John Parenti 👏 Michael Golas 👏 Stanley Silva 👏 John Carr, Jr. 👏 John McCormick 👏 Paul Grady 👏 Peter Negrola 👏 Arthur Nardi 👏 Harold Wylie 👏 Bill Reardon 👏 Harold Ducey 👏 Patrick Nolan 👏 Russell Pound 👏 Robert Gulliksen 👏 James Ellis 👏 David Gadue 👏 Claudio Pane 👏 Michael Tuohy 👏 Patrick Haley 👏 John Bergquist 👏 Ken Hungerford 👏 Joseph Stafford 👏 Brendan Boyle 👏 Donald Marzano 👏 Willard Censak 👏 Harry Davidson 👏 Dwight Davies 👏 Robert Carter, Jr. 👏 William French 👏 W. James Dyber 👏 Stephen Johnson 👏 Robert Paulson 👏 Fredrick Ferace 👏 Ketil Osland 👏 Ted Calabrese 👏 Rolf Knoll 👏 Philip Kelly 👏 Robert Viarengo 👏 Andrew Lutz 👏 Clifford Thomas 👏 Holger Gadegard 👏 Robert O'Leary 👏 Herman Anderson 👏 John Jennings 👏 Jeffrey Linden 👏 Michael DeLuca 👏 Roger Reynolds 👏 F. Owen Eagan 👏 Robert Battistini 👏 Raymond Goulet 👏 Lynwood Associates 👏 Joseph Glowacki 👏 Martin Guyer 👏 Robert Pizzella 👏 John Midney 👏 Russell Bjorlund 👏 William McCarthy 👏 M. Robert Reynolds 👏 Joseph Forte 👏 Jason Jaffee 👏 Mark Byrnett 👏 Edward Peltier 👏 David Weaver 👏 Robert Cunningham 👏 James Burns 👏 Constance Collins-Cain 👏 Robert Hyland 👏 Spero Makris 👏 Gary Andrews 👏 Gary Espelin 👏 Norman Duquette 👏 Moe Fradette 👏 Stan Johnson 👏 Tom Desmond 👏 Mike DeConti 👏 Thomas Lynch 👏 Robert Ouellette 👏 Trey Sinatro

*Thank you for supporting American Legion baseball.*