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Hayes-Velhage Post 96 The American Legion

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www.post96.org

*“Serving our Veterans and
Community for 97 years”*

★ Newsletter ★ ★ Winter 2018-2019 ★

Monday, December 10, '18 – 6:30 pm **Monthly Post Meeting**

Sunday, December 16, '18 - 3:00-5:00 pm **Holiday Reception**

Monday, January 14, '19 – 6:30 pm **Monthly Post Meeting**

Monday, February 11, '19 – 6:30 pm **Monthly Post Meeting**

Monday, March 11, '19 – 6:30 pm **Monthly Post Meeting**

Monday, April 8, '19 – 6:30 pm **Monthly Post Meeting**

Monday, May 13, '19 – 6:30 pm **Annual Post Meeting
Election of Officers**

Monday, May 27, '19 – 10:00 am **Memorial Day Parade**

Tuesday, May 28, '19 – 6:00 pm **Military Inductees
Ceremony**

Monday, June 10, '19 – 6:30 pm **Monthly Post Meeting**

★ THE FOUR PILLARS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION ★

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

Commander's Message

Dear Fellow Legionnaires,

As anticipated, we have delved into the new Legion year by inducting the new Officers for this year at our September meeting. Planning was in place for the November Veterans Day Luncheon and other related Veterans events including the Veterans Day Ceremony at the CT Veterans Memorial West Hartford.

In October, Sr. Vice Commandeer Pat Harrell and I accompanied Commissioner Thomas Saadi, of the State Dept of Veterans Affairs along with Wayne Rioux, Veterans Liaison for Hartford Health Care, to Jerome Home in New Britain for a ceremony honoring 24 Veterans who received the CT Wartime Service Medal, miniature flags of their Branch of Service and a certificate followed by a reception provided by the Jerome Home. Pat and I performed the POW/MIA Empty Table ceremony and described what each prop represented.

November 8th Post 96 and the Elmwood Senior Center provided a luncheon for many West Hartford area Veterans. Commissioner Saadi was also the keynote speaker for this event attended by over 70 Veterans. Wayne Rioux conducted a "Generational Movement of the Flag" ceremony beginning with Fran King, WWII; Ken Hungerford, Korean Conflict; Pat Harrell, Viet Nam; Chris Bobmara, Desert Storm/OIF/OEF, Eagle Scout Helkin Sosa, Troop 163, who took position of the flag and was escorted to safety by our armed Color Guard. This ceremony was narrated by Wayne Rioux, a very impressive ceremony, indeed.

Members of the Post distributed flags to Scouts and other volunteers, at Fairview Cemetery On Saturday Nov 10th.

Veterans Day Ceremony was held at the Memorial at 1:00PM. Keynote speaker was CSM Paul Vicinus, CT Army National Guard, who kept his speech short and to the point.

Nov. 12th, members of Post 96 and Jewish War Veterans attended Conard High School for breakfast, followed by a group meeting with student and then

one on one sessions with students for questions. Then on to Hall High School, catered lunch by students in Culinary Arts course followed by a very entertaining concert.

Other members of the Post attended veterans Day events at Charter Oak Academy, King Philip Middle School, and other members to some elementary schools.

One more Veterans recognition was accomplished on Wed November 14th at Fellowship Housing on Starkel Road where Pat Harrell provided a one man performance on the Viet Nam War.

Thank you to all who volunteered for these events. More volunteers are encouraged to participate as some of the "Regulars" are unable to share their time and resources. It is a great feeling of accomplishment to "spread the word" and encouraging Americanism.

Upcoming events consist of Oratorical Contest in January, preparation for our Annual Inductee Ceremony in May, Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony in May, and School Citizenship Awards in May and June for the Middle and High Schools. Volunteers are requested to assist in these events.

As we move forward, I want to thank each and every one of you for your membership, continued support and any assistance you can provide in support of our missions.

Finally, I hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving and want to wish you and your families a safe, happy and merry Holiday Season.

I also want to extend my sincere, personal thanks to Moe Fradette, who does a tremendous job of planning, providing guidance and logistical support to me and the Post.

In Comradeship,

Jeffrey Cole
Commander

American Legion Auxiliary Unit 96

Jeanne Berry

Greetings from your Auxiliary Unit #96. I'd like to take this opportunity to wish you & your families the most wonderful Christmas & New Year Holiday Season.

Instead of material gifts, give the best gift of all. **Pay Forward** dues for anonymous unit members having a rough year. Donations can be mailed to:

ALA Unit 96
c/o Jeanne Berry
441 Main St., Trlr #705
East Hartford, CT 06118-1440

(American Legion Auxiliary Unit 96, continued)

To female veterans in The American Legion, our unit has a special invitation for you. Join the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 96 with \$25 membership dues. The unit will pay for the following 2 years of membership. YES! Buy 1 get 2 Free! Paid up till 12/2020.

Sign up your daughters and grand-daughters under 18 years of age for \$5. And YES! They also get the Buy 1 get 2 Free Offer! There are many opportunities, scholarships, & grants from the auxiliary, for youth members up thru their college years.

Visit www.ALAforVeterans.org for information on programs. For applications or questions contact President Jeanne at: address above, cell/text 203-715-2336, or jeanneberry@comcast.net. We look forward to you joining us.

God Bless America

MEMBERSHIP



I Need Your Help!

Post 96 Membership

As we approach 2020, our Centennial Anniversary, we want to initiate a membership drive focused on encouraging young Veterans to join our Post. Today the average age of our members now exceeds 75 years of age. Your help is needed. Attendance at monthly meetings has diminished and we sometimes are unable to conduct business due to a lack of members for a quorum. If you know someone currently serving or who has served in our military, extend an invitation for them to join **YOUR** Post. A personal invitation is the strongest tool we have in recruiting new members. If they show an interest have them complete an application by going to our website at www.post96.org and select the link “**Application**” and complete the form and we will follow up with them.

Unit 96 Auxiliary Membership

Our Auxiliary is also looking for new members to fulfill their mission as Unit 96 Auxiliary. Please see Jeanne Berry's message above. Please consider asking your spouse or daughter to join our Post family.

Sons of the American Legion

Have you considered asking a Son or Grandson to join the Sons of the American Legion? The eligibility requires that a parent or grandparent had served in the military. For additional information go to:

www.legion.org/sons/join

Thank you for your support.

DANIEL SYME HONORED AS 2018 FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR



(Firefighter Syme and Post Commander Cole)

Firefighter Daniel Syme of the West Hartford Fire Department has been honored as the 2018 Firefighter of the Year by Post 96 in a ceremony held October 1, 2018. Commander Jeffrey Cole acknowledged the dedication and professionalism of the entire West Hartford Fire Department and thanked them for all they do for the community.

Joined by over 35 of his fellow firefighters, Syme received the award at a ceremony held at the Flora Restaurant in the American Legion Building in West Hartford.

Firefighter Syme joined the West Hartford Fire Department in July of 2012, with 11 years firefighter

(Firefighter of the Year continued)

experience from the Howard County Fire and Rescue where he served as a Battalion Chief's Aide, and Prince

William County Fire and Rescue where he served as firefighter.

In his remarks Assistant Chief Michael Sinsigalli said, "Dan is a quiet and unassuming firefighter who goes about the work of his profession without a lot of fanfare. Yet when asked, his peers use words like dependable, trustworthy, knowledgeable, dedicated, and professional to describe him."

Battalion Chief William Kall, Chairman of the West Hartford Fire Departments Awards Committee, stated Apparatus Operator Syme was being recognized "for his professionalism, commitment, knowledge and willingness to go above and beyond the normal duties as assigned to an Apparatus Operation. Dan consistently demonstrates an unwavering, positive attitude toward both fellow firefighters and members of our community."



(Mayor Cantor presenting Proclamation to Firefighter Syme)

Mayor Shari Cantor read a proclamation she issued on behalf the Town Council, and the Town of West Hartford, declaring Oct. 1, 2018, "Daniel Syme Day." Town Manager Matt Hart also offered his congratulations and appreciation for all that the West Hartford Fire Department does for the community.

In his remarks Apparatus Operator Syme thank his fellow Firefighters for being nominated for the award and acknowledged he could not do his job without their help.



ELMWOOD SENIOR CENTER AND AMERICAN LEGION HOST VETERANS LUNCH

The Elmwood Senior Center and Hayes-Velhage Post 96 hosted its second annual luncheon for all area Veterans on Thursday, November 8, 2018 at the Elmwood Senior Center.

The event, which was attended by over 70 Veterans, had as the guest speaker Thomas J. Saadi, Commissioner, Connecticut Department of Veterans Affairs.



Commissioner Saadi, who was confirmed by the Connecticut General Assembly as Commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Veterans Affairs on February 21, 2018, spoke of the focus of his Department in meeting the future needs of all Connecticut Veterans. Commissioner Saadi, acknowledging the 100th anniversary of cessation of fighting in WWI, read a letter written by a soldier in WWI to his parents before he was killed in battle. He acknowledged the sacrifice made by those who fought in WWI and that we should remember all during the 100th anniversary.

Mayor Shari Cantor and Town Manager addressed the audience thanking them for their service during the Veterans Day week.

A ***“Generational Movement of the Flag”*** ceremony was presented by Wayne Rioux where the Flag was passed from generation to generation of Veterans. The following were participants:

WWII - SSG Francis King, US Army Air Corps. 1943-1945,

Tail Gunner B17. 401st Bomb Group, 8th Air Force, Milldenhall, England. 36 Missions over Germany.

Korean War - SSG Kenneth Hungerford, US Army 101st Artillery Bn, South Korea 1951-1953.

Viet Nam – 1stLt Patrick Harrell, 26th Marines and 1st Reconnaissance Battalion, I-Corps Area, North of Danang, S. Viet Nam, 1969-70.

Operation Iraqi Freedom/Operation Enduring Freedom - Commander Chris Bombara, US Navy Expeditionary Logistics Force, Jan 2004 - April 2005.

Currently Serving - Commander Chris Bombara

Eagle Scout - Helkin Sosa, Boy Scouts of America, Troop 163 West Hartford, CT, Senior student at Conard High School, West Hartford.

Eagle Scout Sosa was given responsibility for safeguarding the flag for future generations.

Kathleen Faroni, Director of the Elmwood Senior Center, said “We are very excited to be partnering with the American Legion to provide this special event each year and look forward to next year’s event during the Veterans Day week.”

POST 96 PRESENTS COLORS AT NATIONAL INDIAN EDUCATION ASSOCIATION CONVENTION

The National Indian Education Association, the premier organization supporting Native American youth in the United States, held its 2018 Convention and Trade Show at the Hartford Convention Center [October 10-13, 2018](#). Hayes-Velhage received an invitation from the Association to participate in the opening ceremony and carry the colors for the event.

Two members of the Post Color Guard, Brendan Boyle and Patrick Harrel, represented the Post for the event.

(National Indian Education Association continued)



(Legionnaire Pat Harrell, Kathryn T. Cross, Gold Star Mother, Legionnaire Brendan Boyle)



(Opening Ceremony October 10th)

POST 96 ACKNOWLEDGES SUPPORT OF WEST HARTFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

For many years Hayes-Velhage Post 96 has received strong support from West Hartford Public Schools for the Americanism youth programs of our community. In recognition of this support Post 96 presented a *Certificate of Appreciation* to the West Hartford Board of Education at the October 2, 2018 meeting of the Board.



(Post Commander Jeffrey Cole presents Certificate of Appreciation to BOE member Cheryl Greenberg, Ph.D.)

West Hartford Public Schools provides support for our Inductees Ceremony, Veterans Day in-school visits, Americanism awards, Boys State and Girls State, and American Legion Baseball.

2018 PARK ROAD PARADE

Post 96 was again well represented by our outstanding Color Guard in the 20th Annual Park Road Parade on October 6, 2018. Followed by members of the Post, we were well received and appreciated by members of the West Hartford community.



Hayes-Velhage Post 96 Color Guard



HOLIDAY RECEPTION



Hayes-Velhage Post 96 will hold its Holiday Reception on Sunday, December 16th from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm at Flora Restaurant in the American Legion Building at 45 Raymond Road, West Hartford.

Come join us for an afternoon of friendship and celebration of the season.

If you plan on attending please send an email to alpost96@comcast.net or call the Post at 860-233-9029 so we can let Flora know the number of people attending.

Also, park in the Isham Garage but do not use the kiosk in the garage for payment. Bring you marker plate information with you and the Post will validate your parking.

See you on December 16th!

WEST HARTFORD VETERANS DAY CEREMONY



(Command Sergeant Major Paul Vicinus)

Command Sergeant Major Paul Vicinus of the 169th Regiment of the CT National Guard was the keynote speaker at the 2018 Veterans Day Ceremony held November 11th at the Connecticut Veterans Memorial West Hartford.

In his remarks CSM Vicinus spoke of how he struggled on how to answer someone who says "Thank you for your service." His answer today is, "It was an honor and a privilege to serve."

CSM Vicinus also told of his experiences as a soldier while serving Afghanistan as part of Operation Enduring Freedom.



West Hartford Mayor Shari Cantor also addressed the audience and thanked everyone for attending the ceremony. She reminded the audience that November 11th was the 100th anniversary of the cessation of fighting in WWI and related that her Grandfather served in WWI.



(Placement of Memorial wreath by Mayor Cantor, CSM Vicinus, Troop 146 Scouts Auden Woolfson and Max Mega)

The ceremony concluded with the sounding of TAPS by Peter Roe, Hayes Velhage Post 96.



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The American Legion
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