



Hayes-Velhage Post 96 The American Legion

45 Raymond Road
West Hartford, CT 06107-2211
860.233.9029
www.post96.org

Newsletter

★ Winter 2011-12 ★

Wednesday, Dec, 14, 2011 – 7:30 p.m.	Monthly Post Meeting
Wednesday, Jan. 11, 2012 – 7:00 p.m.	Monthly Post Meeting
Wednesday, Jan. 11, 2012 – 8:00 p.m.	Post Oratorical Contest
Saturday, Jan. 21, 2012	

American Legion Dept. of CT Mid-Winter Conference
Marriott Hotel, Rocky Hill, CT

Wednesday, Feb. 8, 2012 – 7:30 p.m.	Monthly Post Meeting
Wednesday, Mar. 14, 2012 – 7:30 p.m.	Monthly Post Meeting
Wednesday, Apr. 11, 2012 – 7:30 p.m.	Monthly Post Meeting

Commander's Message

The one-two punches of Tropical Storm Irene and Snowstorm Albert that crippled the northern half of Connecticut taught us all a grim lesson on the need to be prepared for emergencies. The Post was fortunate that we did not lose electricity during Storm Alfred when 90% of the town was without power for 10+ days.

One of the most important committees of any organization is the Nominating committee, I have appointed a Nominating Committee and the details of this committee are covered elsewhere in this newsletter. I urge members to give your consideratin to serving Post 96. To paraphrase JFK: "Ask not what your Post can do for you; ask what you can do for your Post!"

My best wishes to all members of the Legion Family for a safe and enjoyable holiday season and for good health in the New Year.

Andrew J. Battistone, Commander

Commander Andy Battistone
anjoba30@aol.com

Sr. Vice Comdr. Brendan Boyle
bboyle542@gmail.com

Jr. Vice Comdr. Chris Conlin
cjconlin@gmail.com

Adjutant Charles Berry
cberry1@comcast.net

Finance Officer
PPC Richard Hennessey
richardhennessey@sbcglobal.net

Judge Advocate
Robert Hyland, Esq.
rehyland@travelers.com

Chaplain Barry Leghorn
bleghorn@snet.net

Executive Committeeman
Francis X. Gallagher
Phone 860-521-3634

Executive Committeeman
Brendan Roberts
Brendan.Roberts11@gmail.com

Chair, Facilities and
Operations Committee
Ray Gmeindl
rgmeindl@snet.net

Chair, Finance Committee
Robert Kulak
rjkulak@att.net

Editor Richard Hennessey
alpost96@comcast.net

★★★★ THE FOUR PILLARS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION ★★★★★

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

A Few Snapshots from West Hartford's "Salute" to WWII Veterans! May 27, 2011



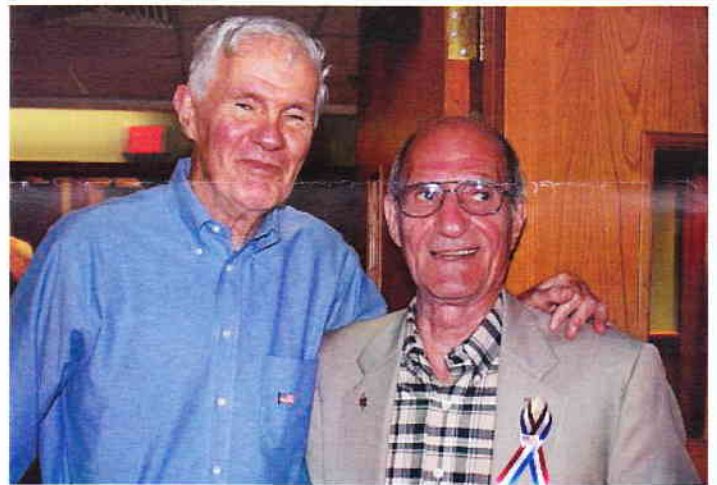
Michael and Dee Guglielmo



T-5 Ben Cooper and Henny Simon



Mayor Scott Slifka and Ed May



Harold Ducey and Andy Battistone



*Rich Fournier, Moe Fradette, Janet Fournier,
Commander Andy, and Vice-Commander Chris Conlin*



Mr. & Mrs. Abe Homar and Moe Fradette



Kenneth Devins, R.I.P.

The cycle of life is ever present in our membership. We anticipate a loss of our World War II and Korean War veteran members due to their age; but we were shocked when SAL member Kenneth Devins died this past September at the young age of 53.

Ken was a professional design engineer with the Goodrich Co. He made many noteworthy contributions to the Post as a member of the Steering Committee that managed the design of our new Post Home.

Ken was a Past Squadron Commander of SAL Squadron 96. He gave many hours of volunteer service to the Post from fund raising for our baseball teams to serving as our computer and media technical specialist. His many friends in the Legion Family of Post 96 will miss him greatly.

We extend our sincere condolences to the Devins family.

Post Nominating Committee

Commander Battistone has appointed Past Commanders Ray Gmeindl, Dick Hennessey and Ken Hungerford to the Post Nominating Committee and designated PPC Ray Gmeindl as the committee chair. The Post Bylaws require the committee to propose a slate of officers at our April post meeting to serve for the coming year. After the report is accepted, the Commander calls for further nominations from the floor three times, after which the nominations are then closed. Regarding nominations, our Post Bylaws state: "Nominations may be reopened with the unanimous consent of members present at the annual meeting of the Post before the vote of the membership on the election of officers." Thus, the nominating process is tantamount to being elected to office. Our elections take place at our May post meeting. Members interested in serving Post 96 are encouraged to contact Chairman Gmeindl at 860-667-0272 or any member of the Nominating Committee to express their interest in serving Post 96.

Veterans Day

The Post observed Veterans Day on 11-11-11 with an appropriate ceremony at 11 a.m. at the Veterans Memorial in West Hartford Center. Our Post Color Guard presented the colors. A student choral group of eight students from Hall High School opened the ceremony with the National Anthem. Legionnaire Moe Fradette served as the Master of Ceremonies. Through the courtesy of the First Church of Christ Congregational we were able to use their church hall to offer coffee and donuts before the ceremony to the people attending the ceremony. Both of our guest speakers, Colonel John Jepson, US Army Retired and Mayor Scott Slifka delivered inspired and spirited speeches for the occasion.

Odds and Ends

We doff our legion caps and thank John Johnson for his recent donation of a prize for a charity raffle. Junior Vice Commander Chris Conlin ran the raffle to benefit the Post's favorite charity, the FISHER HOUSE which will be constructed on the campus of the West Haven VA Medical Center - - The Post recognized Officer Robert Riccobon as our "Police Officer of the Year for 2011." - - Chef Kevin Madigan has taken charge of our kitchen and is serving a variety of bistro specialties to the delight of our members. Lunch is served Monday through Friday from 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Dinner is served Monday through Saturday from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. These hours are in effect through Memorial Day when the hours are adjusted for the summer.



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A Flashback to the Music of the Tommy Dorsey Era

