

# Hayes-Velhage Post 96

## The American Legion



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*“Serving our Veterans and  
Community for 96 years”*

## ★ Newsletter ★ ★ Summer - Fall 2018 ★

<b>Monday, September 10, '18 – 6:30 pm</b>	<b>Monthly Post Meeting Installation of Officers</b>
<b>Monday October 1, '18 – 6:30 pm</b>	<b>Firefighter of the Year Award</b>
<b>Monday, October 8, '18 – 6:30 pm</b>	<b>Monthly Post Meeting</b>
<b>Saturday, November 3, '18 – 8:30 am</b>	<b>Placement of Flags at Fairview Cemetery</b>
<b>Thursday, November 8, '18 - Noon</b>	<b>Veterans Lunch Elmwood Senior Center</b>
<b>Sunday, November 11, '18 – 1:00 pm</b>	<b>Veterans Day Ceremony Veterans Memorial</b>
<b>Monday, November 12, '18 – 6:30 pm</b>	<b>Monthly Post Meeting</b>
<b>Monday, December 10, '18 – 6:30 pm</b>	<b>Monthly Post Meeting</b>

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

## Commanders Message

It has been a very busy, successful, and rewarding winter and spring for Post 96. We continue to meet monthly at Flora Restaurant on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday in the Bar area of Flora, the back room where we always conducted our meetings. As the Holding Company for Hayes-Velhage Post 96 developed, many positive endeavors developed.

Legion baseball began to develop with 3 teams Prep, Junior and Senior divisions, with tryouts and structures being developed. They've all had an exceptional season. We even played a triple header at the Dunkin Donuts Stadium in Hartford against Ellington, with great results. Our Honor guard presented the colors and stood by for the National Anthem with Ellington.

School awards were solicited from the middle and high schools and preparation for presentations were developed with volunteer Legionnaires participating at each awards ceremony. Two or more Legionnaires attended most of them, with pictures appearing in this issue of the Newsletter.

The Military Inductee ceremony held the evening following Memorial Day, attended by over 100 students, family members and guests. The event was sponsored by the Post and was catered at the Town Hall Auditorium. Twenty four students graduating from Hall, Conard, Norwest Catholic, Loomis-Chaffee and Kingswood-Oxford High Schools were recognized for entering the Armed Forces as part of their future careers. Medal of Honor recipient, Paul (Buddy) Bucha was the keynote speaker and well received by all in attendance.

Post 96 also marched in the Memorial Day Parade after two years of cancellations due to rain, followed by the Memorial Day service at the Veterans Memorial in West Hartford Center.

With volunteers willing and able to assist, School Citizenship awards were presented to students in the middle schools and the High schools, beginning May 30 through June 16<sup>th</sup>. Election of officers was held in May for the new year.

I want to thank all of you for your confidence and support of my position as your Post Commander this past year and my reelection to serve another year as Post Commander. I thoroughly enjoyed the challenges and the support from all of you and those who readily volunteer to assist and the members of the Post. Thank you to Moe Fradette for

his energy and service to the Post and his continuing support of our Legion Post. Special thanks to Sr. Vice Commander Rocky Goodwin for assisting me in the monthly meetings and to Jr. Vice Commander Pat Harrell, who organized and coordinated the School Citizenship awards program. Thanks to Chuck and Jeanne Berry for their administration of the Boys State/Girls State programs, which came together in June. One student in Boys State was elected Governor which recognized our Post at the Summer State Department of CT convention and our receipt of a Plaque, honoring our Post for support of one of the students being elected Governor.

My thanks to everyone else who has contributed to our Post's success this year, including the Chaplain and Adjutant, whose duties continue serving our off season. Also the SAL members and Auxiliary Unit 96 for their support and the Baseball Commissioner and the coaches and teams we support for their excellent mentoring of our youth.

Look for more programs to get involved in during the upcoming year and please consider volunteering. Working together we can make a difference in our community.

In Comradeship,

Jeffrey Cole  
Commander

## American Legion Auxiliary Unit 96

As this current 2018 year ends for the unit, we're planning for next year. Let's look at what we have accomplished this year: Most members renewed their dues, turned in their donation numbers of clothing and food, celebrated patriot events, assisted veterans with house projects or escorted them to appointments.

As a unit: You were represented at all Department Auxiliary functions, we participated in all of the Projects of the Months at the Rocky Hill facility, shopped for Rocky Hill, the Domicile, and West Haven Hospitals for the Christmas Shops, and interviewed junior year girl students for Girls State. We accomplished much more.

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Representing Unit 96 for Girls State were: From Conard High School, Grace Evans and Brianna Bobo. From North West Catholic School is Taylor Armstrong. From Hall High School are Siobhan Boyle and Megan Striff-Cave. A generous Thank You to our Post for sponsoring these young ladies. The Post also contributes to the can tab collections. The pull tabs are made into wheelchairs for our veterans.

The Department Convention was held July 13 & 14, 2018 at the Trumbull Marriott in Trumbull and attended by Units throughout the state.

You'll receive your 2019 membership renewal during the summer/fall. Our unit meetings have a new opportunity. We'll meet at the post home (Flora Restaurant) on Monday September 10, 2018 at 5:00 pm for our last meeting there. New meetings will be by conference call, or we can elect to conduct the meeting by email.

Enjoy your summer and we'll get back to work in September.

Yours in Service,  
Jeanne Berry President unit 96  
[jeanneberry@comcast.net](mailto:jeanneberry@comcast.net)  
cell/text 203-715-2336

## Hayes-Velhage Post 96 Elections

Hayes-Velhage Post 96 elected officers for 2108-2019 at its annual meeting held May 14, 2018. Jeff Cole was re-elected to the position of Post Commander. Commander Cole is a 29 year veteran of the US Army Reserves retiring in 1997 as First Sergeant.

The following Legionnaires were elected to serve:

Commander Jeff Cole  
Senior Vice Commander Pat Harrell  
Junior Vice Commander Mike DeLuca  
Junior Vice Commander Rino St. Pierre  
Judge Advocate Bob Hyland  
Finance Officer Phil Kelly  
Chaplain Barry Leghorn  
Executive Committee Subrina Persaud  
Executive Committee John Cotter  
Adjutant Jeff Linden (Appointed Position)

Hayes-Velhage Post 96 Holding Company Board of Directors

Powell Schunder  
Frank Haran  
Harold Ducey  
John Pappalardo  
Ray Jean  
John Mele  
Rocky Goodwin

Installations of Officers will be held at the September 10, 2018 monthly meeting of the Post. The meeting will be held at Flora Restaurant in the American Legion Building at 45 Raymond Road.

## Police Officer of the Year

(By Ronni Newton, We-Ha, May 7, 2018)



Photo credit: Ronni Newton

Off. Andrew Teeter has received numerous awards for saving lives and arresting drug dealers and armed robbery suspects, and he also runs the department's Christmas party for children, reads to elementary school students at Smith STEM School, volunteers as a role player for the West Hartford College Police Academy, and helps out K-9 officers by serving as a decoy, and on Monday night he was honored by the American Legion Hayes-Velhage Post 96 as West Hartford Police Officer of the Year for 2018.

Members of Post 96, the West Hartford Police Department, Town Manager Matt Hart, and Town Council members Leon Davidoff and Mary Fay attended

(Police Officer of the Year Continued)

the ceremony, as did Teeter's father, Chief Deputy Jerry Teeter (a 34-year veteran of the

Monterey County (California) Sheriff's Office in California), and his girlfriend, Heather Cohen.

Officers are selected by their peers to receive the award. "Andy has been characterized by his fellow officers as hard working, motivated, and determined officer," said Assistant Chief Daniel Coppinger at the ceremony, as he read off a long list of cases that earned Teeter three departmental citations, a lifesaving award, a merit award, and many unit citations.

"He is highly decorated and has received numerous letters of commendations from the department and letters from grateful citizens," Coppinger said.

Past Post Commander Moe Fradette served as emcee for the ceremony. "This is a very special occasion for the American Legion. We have the opportunity to honor one of the first responders from our town and our community," he said.

Post Commander Jeff Cole praised the West Hartford Police as well as the West Hartford Fire Department, and said that he had recent medical issues and was so happy with the service from the town's first responders. "I am very happy that I live in this town ...," Cole said.

"I am honored and humbled to receive this award," Teeter said, after thanking all who were present. "I have been fortunate to work alongside the excellent men and women of this agency."

Teeter said when he was considering what to say at the ceremony, he reflected on the words of advice his trainer in the police academy: "Know your job and do your job. Since then it has always been one of my biggest goals to always abide by that simple, honest statement."

Teeter said he has responded to nearly every type of imaginable call – including saving people who were "being held hostage by the aggressive kitten they just adopted" as well as many serious situations. "My recognition here tonight is very much appreciated but it is only possible because I work alongside such excellent officers – so thank you to all of you who have been here for me."

Teeter earned a bachelor's in political science from Norwich University in Vermont, and joined the West Hartford Police Department on Aug. 19, 2007. He has served in the Patrol and Traffic Divisions, and on the Community Interaction Team. He is currently a Field Training Officer, member of the West Hartford Police Honor Guard, Police Department Safety Committee, and a member of the Capitol Region Emergency Services Dive Team which services 20 towns and cities in the greater Hartford area.

## ELMWOOD SENIOR CENTER AND AMERICAN LEGION TO HOST VETERANS LUNCH

The Elmwood Senior Center and American Legion Hayes-Velhage Post 96 of West Hartford will host a special luncheon for Veterans on Thursday, November 8, 2018 at noon at the Elmwood Senior Center.

The guest speaker for the luncheon will be Thomas J. Saadi, Commissioner, Connecticut Department of Veterans Affairs.



Commissioner Saadi was confirmed by the Connecticut General Assembly as Commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Veterans Affairs on February 21, 2018. Commissioner Saadi previously served as Acting Commissioner of the Department since October 2017, and prior had served as Chief of Staff and General Counsel for the Department. Commissioner Saadi is a Major in the U.S. Army Reserve and also serves on the Danbury City Council.



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## Veterans Lunch continued)

Prior to beginning his service with the Department of Veterans Affairs in May 2015, Commissioner Saadi served as an Assistant Attorney General and Special Prosecutor.

Commissioner Saadi received his Commission in the Army Reserve in 2005 and completed Officer Basic training in 2006 and Officer Advanced training in 2014 and Command and General Staff College in 2016. He is currently assigned as Chief Legal Officer of the 411th Civil Affairs Battalion. He has received several awards and commendations including the Meritorious Service Medal, multiple Army Commendation and Army Achievement medals.

**The luncheon is free to all Veterans and will be served in the Ernest O. St. Jacques Auditorium on the first floor. Seating is limited to 100 Veterans and reservations are required. The event location is at 1106 New Britain Avenue - access to driveway is on Burgoyne Street.**

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 for Veterans during the Veterans Day week."

Reservations can be made by calling the Elmwood Senior Center at (860) 561-8180 or emailing [alpost96@comcast.net](mailto:alpost96@comcast.net)

## Memorial Day 2018

(By Ronni Newton, We-Ha)



Photo credit: Ronni Newton  
(Parade Marshalls Dawn Morris and Charles Carlton)



Photo credit: Ronni Newton  
(Hayes-Velhage Post 96 Member and Parade Grand Marshal Dawn Morris)

Dawn Morris, Hayes-Velhage Post 96 member and executive vice president and chief operating officer with Webster Bank and Webster Financial Corporation, is a graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point who served as a captain in the Army's 530th Supply and Service Battalion at Fort Bragg, NC.

Growing up as an "Army brat," Morris said she recalled thinking, "Someday I'd like to be like my dad."

Her father, Charles Carlton, is a retired U.S. Army Infantry colonel whose active duty included two combat tours in Vietnam and Cambodia (1967-70). He served tours with the Fifth Marine Regiment, the Seventh Cavalry Regiment, and the 82d Airborne Division, was special assistant to the Supreme Allied Commander Europe, commander of a Joint Task Force in Central America during the Contra-Sandinista confrontation, and a participant in the removal of Noriega in Panama in 1989.

"My years at West Point instilled in me discipline, drive, and a strong work ethic," Morris said.

As she paid tribute to those who gave their lives in the service of this country on Monday, Morris told the stories of two women.

Second Lt. Emily Perez was a member of the "Class of 9/11" at West Point, Morris said. She was deployed to Iraq in 2005, always went above and beyond, and was trusted by everyone around her. As she often did, Perez

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volunteered to lead a convoy in place of someone else, when on Sept. 12, 2006, she hit an IED.

She was the only member of the convoy killed in the mission. At age 23, Perez became the first female West Point graduate to die in Iraq.

Morris also told the story of Mary Odell, a then-27-year-old West Hartford woman and Hall High School graduate who was working at Aetna when she enlisted in the Women's Army Corp (WAC). She was the only female casualty from West Hartford to die in World War II, Morris said.

"These are two of so many who have given their lives in service for our country," Morris said.

A beautiful new rose garden has now been created next to the Veteran's Memorial, Morris said, to honor "Rosie the riveters," the generation of women who supported the war efforts from home. "These collective sacrifices give new perspective to the phrase 'freedom is never free,'" Morris said.

"I say to all of you ... salute and enjoy your freedom, celebrate your family, and serve your community," said Morris.

Carlton took the podium next, thanking the town for holding the parade, remarking on the enthusiasm of the many children who participated.

"What caused these people to make such sacrifices?" Carlton said, speaking of those who gave the ultimate sacrifice. It's not a difficult question to answer, because we live in a country with freedom of speech, freedom of religion, and a class-less society, where our government is "truly one of the people, by the people, and for the people."

Speaking of those who are engaged in military service today, Carlton said, "To these heroes of today as well as those of the past that we are honoring today, our country and our citizens owe an undying debt of gratitude."

Town Manager Matt Hart, a U.S. Army and U.S. Army National Guard veteran, served as emcee.

"For everyone in attendance today, please remember that Memorial Day is more than just a celebration," Hart said. "It's a commemoration."

Celebrating and having fun is fine, "but let us never, never, lose sight of that," Hart said.

## Hayes-Velhage Post 96 Color Guard 2018 Memorial Day Parade



## *"Marching Towards Our 2022 Centennial Celebration"*

## Girls State – Boys State 2018

For one week, at Girls State and Boys 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 American Legion Girls State convention was recently held at Post University in Waterbury and attended by seven incoming seniors from local high schools. The attendees to Girls State, were sponsored by American Legion Post 96 Auxiliary to attend one of the most respected and selective educational programs of government instruction for high school students.

Representing Unit 96 for Girls State were: From Conard High School, Grace Evans and Brianna Bobo. From North West Catholic High School, Taylor Armstrong. From Hall High School, Siobhan Boyle and Megan Striff-Cave.



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Girls State-Boys State continued)



(Unit 96 President Berry and Commander Cole presenting certificate)



(Boys State Delegates)

The Boys State program was recently held at ECSU and attended by incoming seniors from local high schools and town residents. The attendees were sponsored by American Legion Hayes-Velhage Post 96. Representing Post 96 were: From Conard High School, Noah Case and Andy Tran. From Hall High School, Mark Reynolds, Brennan George, and Hugh Wells. From Xavier High School, Pier Bos.

Andy Tran, third from right in above picture was elected as Governor for the program. Congratulations to Andy!



(Department Commander DeGumbia presents Boys State award to Post 96 Commander Jeffrey Cole)

Girls and Boys State is a participatory program where each delegate becomes part of the operation of his local, county and state government. At American Legion Girls State and Boys State participants are exposed to the rights and privileges, the duties and the responsibilities of a franchised citizen. The training is objective and practical with city, county and state governments operated by the students elected to the various offices. Activities include legislative sessions, court proceedings, law enforcement presentations, assemblies, bands, chorus and recreational programs.



(Orientation for Boys and Girls State by Chuck Berry)

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(Orientation night for Boys State and Girls State)

The following is a letter sent by Megan Striff-Cave to Unit 96 President Jeanne Berry on her experience at Girls State.

Dear Mrs. Berry,

I wanted to take a moment to express my utmost gratitude to you for your efforts making it possible for me to attend the ALA Girls State program this year. I have been reflecting on my time at Post University and felt the need to reach out and explain the significance it has had on me. Although I began my week feeling hesitant, by the end of the program, my only wish was that I could stay longer. This transformative program gave me experiences that I will remember for the rest of my life.

Girls State provides an environment of support and encouragement that gave me the self-confidence to run for Girls Nation Senator. I was certainly out of my comfort zone, but having the opportunity to stand in front of a gymnasium full of my peers and give a speech about my ideas and how my bill could make a difference showed me how much strength and power my voice has. Working in a city gave me the skills I needed to collaborate with others towards a common goal. I learned how to effectively compromise towards solutions for the issues we faced. As a Senator, I gained confidence in my ability to defend my views, but also had the opportunity to hear from girls who completely disagreed with me. Being exposed to intelligent viewpoints from both sides of an argument made me more open to considering other perspectives, but also helped me strengthen my own principles as well. Meeting government officials like State Comptroller Kevin Lembo and Senator Blumenthal gave me a newfound appreciation for those in public service. Finally, learning about veterans makes me even more proud to be an American and has inspired me to do more within my community to help those who have sacrificed everything to serve our country.

My favorite memory was the night before elections. My friends and I were all in Siobhan and Cat's Rell Village dorm until 2:00am making "Cat for Comptroller" posters. Some of us were Nationalists, some of us were Federalists, but it didn't matter. We went from talking about important issues facing our country to exchanging stories that made us all laugh so hard we couldn't breathe. That snapshot defines Girls State for me. Young women coming together to support one another. I consider myself very lucky to have had the opportunity to work with such strong and intelligent girls who lifted me up, challenged me, pushed me to try new things and told me to believe in myself. The friendships I have cultivated at Girls State will last a lifetime.

Because of Girls State, I have a renewed love and enthusiasm for public policy and the political process that has led to me seeking out various internships and volunteer opportunities for this election season -- I'm currently interning for gubernatorial candidate Ned Lamont. Girls State instilled the value of being an informed and engaged citizen in me and has inspired me to be a leader wherever I go. Thank you for the time, energy, and money you have put into making it possible for me to attend this wonderful program. I am a better woman for it.

All the best,  
Megan Striff-Cave

Thank you to our friends at  
Cricket Press for their support  
of Hayes-Velhage Post 96

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## 2018 Post 96 Scholastic Awards

Each year Hayes-Velhage Post 96 recognizes two graduating students from each local High School and Middle School to receive the annual American Legion Scholastic Awards. The Award is based on courage, honor, leadership, patriotism, scholarship, and service as selected by the teachers in each school.

From Conard High School, Eleanor Duva, Medal and Certificate, Trevor Ratchford, Certificate.



(Commander Cole presents Metal to Eleanor Duva)

From Hall High School, Patrick Daly, Medal and Certificate, Elizabeth Rousseau, Certificate.



(Harold Ducey presents Certificate to Elizabeth Rousseau)



(Kathryn Barnett, Hall High School, receiving her appointment to U.S. Coast Guard Academy)

From Northwest Catholic High School, Alex Kanya, Medal and Certificate, Clara Barnes, Certificate.



(Cole Canarie, Hall High School, receives his appointment to USMA West Point. Cole attended Boys State in 2017)

From American School for the Deaf, Medal and Certificate, Craichelle Morrison, Juan Salgado, Certificate.



(Commander Cole presents Medal to Crichelle Morrison)

## 2018 Military Inductees Ceremony

(By Maddie Geerlof, We-Ha)

West Hartford students who will be joining the military after graduation attended a ceremony in their honor on Tuesday, May 30, as representatives of the American Legion and educators congratulated the students on their decision to serve the United States of America.

The Class of 2018 Military Inductees Ceremony was presented by American Legion Hayes-Velhage Post 96 and West Hartford Public Schools to salute the 24 students who represent each of the seven branches of the United States military.

“The young patriots we honor this evening are the best of the best,” said Chaplain Anthony J. Bruno (LTC) as he opened up the evening’s event with a prayer of gratitude toward the young men and women.



(Reverend Anthony J. Bruno)

Throughout the ceremony, several speakers, including retired military personnel and a current ROTC student from West Hartford, presented advice as well as words of thanks and gratitude towards the students.

Superintendent of West Hartford Public Schools Tom Moore told the students, “Thank from our community, thank you from our schools, thank you from our state, thank you from our country, because we need people like you.” Moore added that he admired the students so much for “answering that call” of service and sacrifice they have made in their decisions to serve their country.



(Post Commander Jeffrey Cole addresses audience)



(Superintendent Tom Moore)



The Conard High School Solo Choir offered a special tribute to the students by singing “God Bless America” as well as “American Soldier,” a song by country artist Toby



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Keith. Maggie Noble, a member of the choir as well as an inductee who will be attending Bridgewater State University and joining the Air National Guard with the hopes of becoming a pilot, said “I really feel these songs...[the lyrics] are going to be me in a few months.”



(Keynote Speaker Paul “Buddy” Bucha)

Paul (Buddy) Bucha, a Medal of Honor recipient for his service in the Army, was the keynote speaker. Bucha shared a lesson about leadership with the attendees and said there are five components of leadership including honor, confidence, competence, compassion, and humility. Bucha explained that honor is the foundation and basis of leadership, and said that all of the preceding elements are quintessential components of leadership.

Each of the students in attendance received a chord to be worn at their graduations, a certificate of honor, and a coin to commemorate their courage and sacrifice to serve. The ceremony was concluded with closing remarks from Mark Zydanowicz from the West Hartford Board of Education and a closing prayer by Fr. Bruno.



(Superintendent Tom Moore, Malik Brown, Conard Principal Julio Duarte)

The following are the 2018 students who were honored :

- Anthony Adam, Conard High School, Army ROTC
- Clara Barnes, Northwest Catholic, U.S. Coast Guard Academy
- Kathryn Barnett, Hall High School, U.S. Coast Guard Academy
- David Birnbaum, Conard High School, U.S. Air Force
- Malik Brown, Conard High School, U.S. Army
- Cole Canarie, Hall High School, USMA West Point
- Brianna Castillo, Hall High School, Army National Guard
- Jack Costello, Loomis Chaffee, Navy ROTC
- Abigail Eberle, Kingswood Oxford, Airforce ROTC
- Andrew Eikleberry, Conard High School, Air National Guard
- Nicholas Flynn, Northwest Catholic, Navy ROTC
- Alejandro Held, Conard High School, Navy ROTC
- Zachary Lagana, Conard High School, Navy ROTC
- Jane Lee, Conard High School, Air Force ROTC
- Richard Mitchell IV, Hall High School, Army ROTC
- Maggie Noble, Conard High School, Air National Guard
- Kenny Nguyen, Hall High School, U.S. Army
- Andrew J.M.H. O’Brien IV, Conard High School '12, U.S. Navy
- Bejan Pazoli, Northwest Catholic, U.S. Marine Corps
- Mark Place, Kingswood Oxford, U.S. Coast Guard
- Christopher Raymond, Northwest Catholic, Navy ROTC
- Joshua Rivera, Hall High School, U.S. Air Force
- Edwin Rodriguez, Conard High School, U.S. Marine Corps
- Jaron Stake, Kingswood Oxford, Navy ROTC



## 2018 Military Inductees Ceremony



Presentation to Abigail Eberle



Presentation to Mark Place



Posting of Colors



2018 Military Inductees



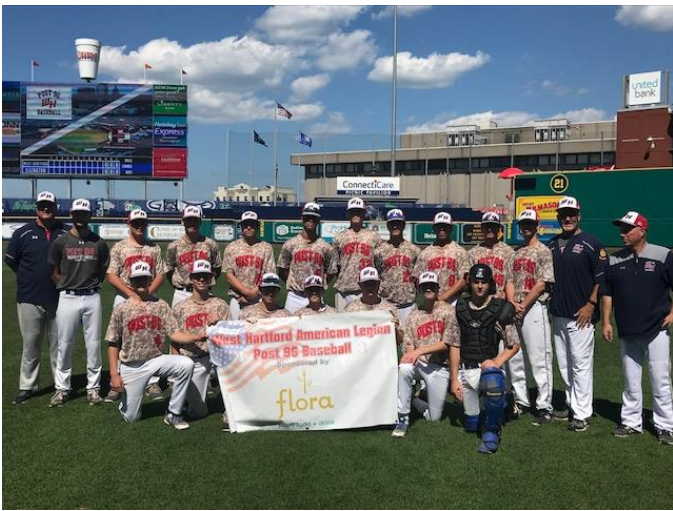
Posting of Colors



Buddy Bucha presenting certificate

## AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL

### 2018 West Hartford Post 96 Senior Legion (19 U)



The Post 96 senior legion 19u squad finished with an overall record of 20-8, finishing in 2<sup>nd</sup> place in Zone 7, and advanced to the Connecticut state semi-finals for only the second time since 1973, the last time Post 96 won a state championship. Post 96 lost in the state championship game in 2017, and followed up that campaign with a run to the state semi-finals in 2018.

In the state tournament, West Hartford defeated South Windsor in a 13 extra inning thriller, 1-0, behind the pitching of Luke Fox (8 shutout innings) and James Gadue (5 shutout innings). Drew Hungerford (3 for 5) drove in the game winner with a single in the bottom of the 13<sup>th</sup>. The quarterfinal round brought a match up against Niantic Post 128 in a best of three series. West Hartford bested Niantic, 2 games to none. Strong pitching from Matt Beazoglou, James Gadue, Drew Hungerford and Tim Cotter carried the day for West Hartford in game two as they won 2-1 to advance to the state semi-finals, where our boys lost to Ellington 4-2 in an elimination game. In game one, Max Main had a two-run single to put West Hartford in front and break a 3-3 tie in the 6<sup>th</sup>.

Named to the Zone 7 all-star team from Post 96, as voted on by the opposing coaches in Zone 7, were Luke Fox, Drew Hungerford, Sean Langan and Tim Cotter. At the team's annual awards banquet, Drew Hungerford, who batted .432 in the regular season, was voted the team's MVP. Luke Fox, who had a 0.80 ERA in the regular season, was voted team Pitcher of the Year. Sean Langan won the Coaches "Play Every Play" award for his hustle

and grit, and Joe Celio won the team's Ken Hungerford Pride Award for his sportsmanship and citizenship.

Post 96 Team members were: Patrick Baron, Matt Beazoglou, Joe Celio, Tim Cotter, Ryan Farley, Luke Fox, James Gadue, Mike Giungi, Drew Hungerford, Sean Langan, Colby Lytle, Max Main, Bryan Renker, Griffin Van Rye, Paul Wilson. Coaches: Jim Hungerford, Dave Gadue, Bill Wilson, Matt Celio.

### 2018 West Hartford Post 96 Junior Legion (17 U)



The 2018 Post 96 Junior Legion team had a successful 20 win regular season that saw the team go all the way to the state semifinals. Playing their regular season in a tough zone 1 helped prepare the team for their strong play-off run. The team was comprised of players from Northwest, Kingswood Oxford, Hall and Conard. The team steadily improved and at one point won 7 straight games and 11 of its last 14 games. The team was led by a strong and deep pitching staff and an aggressive offense. As the season progressed, the team's defense steadily improved and peaked during the playoff run.

The pitching staff was led by Brian Kenna, Wesley Pierce and Drew Wendorff while the offense was led by Dylan Mallinson, Will Fox, Emmett Coco as well as Kenna and Pierce. The team placed three players on the Zone All-Star team: Mallinson, Kenna and Wendorff.

The team would like to thank all the people who helped the team have a successful season including: Post 96, Coach Hungerford, Rick Sanford, Ron Fox and all the parents.



Team Members: John Cashman (NWC), Emmett Coco (Conard), Seth Ehrlich (Hall), Will Fox (Hall), Ryan Howe (Hall), Brian Kenna (Conard), Liam Langan (NWC), Chris Maglio (Conard), Dylan Mallinson (Conard), Jack McGovern (Conard), Wes Pierce (KO), Robert Schunder (Hall), Liam Stone (Hall), Brady Tober (Hall), Drew Wendorf (NWC). Head Coach - Brian Coco, Asst. Coaches - Rob Howe, Avi Ehrlich, John Cotter

## 2018 West Hartford Post 96 Prep Legion (15 U)

The 2018 West Hartford 15U Legion prep season was one marked by the development of brotherhood, character, heart, and commitment. 15U Legion is the first experience for the players to play at an accelerated level of competition amongst the best players at their



level in the state. This year's legion team, featuring the upper-echelon of 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> graders in town took the challenge in stride and came out ready to go with an 8-2 start in the month of June. It was clear from the start that this collection of boys was special and they were going to be the team feared in Zone C.

Moving into July, injury woes and fatigue set in as the prep team hit a bit of a rough patch to open up the month. As the month moved on they regained their strength come playoff time and came up one out short of the Zone title at Avon on July 21<sup>st</sup>. Despite moving into the playoffs as the 5<sup>th</sup> overall seed due to tiebreakers, it was still well known that when West Hartford put it all together they were a team to be reckoned with to win the North Division Title. After putting together one of their best games of the season in a 13-1 mercy-victory over Windsor Locks in the first round, it was off to a rematch in the second round with number one seed Ellington. In a game where both

teams knew the winner would hold the control in the North Division, Ellington came out swinging taking an early 6-0 lead and extending that to 9-1 after the 4<sup>th</sup>. With their backs against the wall, West Hartford showed their trademark heart and overpowering will and stormed back with 6 in the 5<sup>th</sup>. After getting back a few of their own in the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>, Ellington entered the 7<sup>th</sup> confident with their 4-run lead. However, West Hartford was not done. With patience and poise, they loaded the bases yet again and began to claw their way back. After getting one more on the board, Ellington was finally able to close the door on West Hartford and propel themselves to being the eventual North Division Champions. Emotionally drained of the heartbreaking loss, West Hartford's season came to an end the next day at home to RCP.

Overall the season was more productive than any record or written success could dictate. The season was defined by a culture change for the success of West Hartford Baseball for the future. Putting team over personal pride, and learning how the keys to success take no talent at all. The boys of the 15 U prep team experienced what it is like to play baseball at the next level and made great steps to improving themselves and the future of West Hartford baseball. This group of kids will be an exciting collection of players to watch in town for years to come.

## 2018 West Hartford Post 96 Prep Legion Baseball Supports Foodshare



Foodshare CEO Jason Jakubowski, (Center) surrounded by Post 96 Legion Prep Baseball Team.



The Post 96 Legion Baseball Prep team recently spent a day volunteering at Foodshare. Under the supervision of Coaches Jack LaBranch, Brendan Smith, and Brandon Harris, the team volunteered for three hours and showed their muscle by sorting over 5000 lbs. of meat. It was definitely a team effort and every member of Hayes-Velhage Post 96 thanks them for volunteering.



(Ken "Mr. Baseball" Hungerford giving advice)



## Post 96 American Legion Baseball Plays Triple Header at Dunkin Donuts Park

June 29<sup>th</sup> was a special day for Post 96 baseball as all three teams participated in a triple header at Dunkin Donuts Part in Hartford. The opposing team was Ellington, and despite the very warm weather it was a great experience for all three Post 96 teams.

Great job by all and hopefully we'll be back next year.

A very special thank you to Flora for their support of Post 96 American Legion Baseball.





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Memorial Day 2018

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