

Hayes-Velhage Post 96 The American Legion



Commander Jeff Cole
topjeffc@aol.com

Sr. Vice Comdr. Rocky Goodwin
degoodwin65@gmail.com

Jr. Vice Comdr. Pat Harrell
harrell_patrick_r@sbcglobal.net

Adjutant Jeff Linden
jeffrey.linden@snet.net

Finance Officer
Phil Kelly
admin@pfkelly.com

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

Chaplain Barry Leghorn
bleghorn@snet.net

Past Post Commander
Moe Fradette
mfradette@comcast.net

Executive Committeeman
Ray Jean
rajean728@gmail.com

Executive Committeeman
Dave Albert
davidalbert19@comcast.net

Board of Trustees

Trustee Harold Ducey
liducey@aol.com

Trustee John Parenti
jpar43@sbcglobal.net

Trustee Powell Schunder
powell.schunder@gmail.com

Trustee John Pappalardo
jcpapp2@yahoo.com

Trustee Frank Haran
fjay46@comcast.net

P.O. Box 370160

West Hartford, CT 06137-0160

860.233.9029

www.post96.org

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

Newsletter



Winter 2017-8



Monday, January 8, '18 -7:00 pm

Monthly Post Meeting

Saturday, January 20, '18

(Location to be determined. Snow date January 27th)

Oratorical Contest

Monday, February 12, '18 - 7:00 pm

Monthly Post Meeting

Monday, March 12, '18 – 7:00 pm

Monthly Post Meeting

Monday, April 9, '18 – 7:00 pm

Monthly Post Meeting

Monday, May 14, '18 – 7:00 pm

**Monthly Post Meeting
Election of Officers**

Saturday, May 19, '18 - 8:30 am

**Placements of wreaths at
Fairview Cemetery**

Monday, May 28, '18 – 10:00 am

Memorial Day Parade

★ 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* Winter 2017-8

“Serving our Veterans and Community for 96 Years”

Commanders Message

Happy Holidays Fellow Legionnaires,

I would like to recap the events of the last 4 months since leasing both levels of the American Legion Building at 37-45 Raymond Road. Since the Flora Restaurant had not completed the new design of their restaurant, the first meeting of our 2017-2018 Post year was held at the Elmwood Senior/Community Center. In October, we honored Robert Howe III as the American Legion Firefighter of the Year for 2017. More details on the event is included in this Newsletter. On October 29th we held a reception for Post members at the Flora Restaurant. Great *hors d'oeuvres* and an opportunity to view the improvements to the second level of the American Legion Building.

November was a busy month. A Veterans Luncheon, hosted by Post 96, was held at the Elmwood Senior/Community Center on November 9th. This first annual endeavor was well attended and received by local veterans to say “thank for your service”. Other events included dedication of a Veterans Wall at Hughes Rehabilitation and Health Care in West Hartford. There were many school visits on November 10th by Post 96 members including ceremonies, breakfasts, and visitations to many of the Elementary schools in West Hartford. High School programs were held at Conard, Northwest Catholic, and Hall High Schools. Breakfast was served at Conard in the morning before the program and lunch was provided by Hall with a musical concert performed by the outstanding musicians from Hall High School. On to Avery Heights Healthcare in Hartford to honor Veteran residents with a program, certificates and gifts provided by Avery Heights. On Saturday, November 11th, our annual Veterans Day event scheduled for the Connecticut Veterans Memorial West Hartford, was moved indoors due to inclement weather. First Church of Christ Congregational opened their auditorium to accommodate the general public, dignitaries, and speakers. The keynote speaker was Andrew Clapsaddle, Principal at Sedgwick Middle School. More details of the ceremony are contained in this newsletter.

On December 11th the Post hosted a Holiday Reception at Flora Restaurant in the American

Legion Building which was well attended by Post members. Our Oratorical Contest is scheduled for January 20th. This national competition exists to develop deeper knowledge and appreciation for the U.S. Constitution among high school students and offers scholarship awards.

In April our Nominating Committee will be seeking Post members to serve in various positions in the Post. Please consider volunteering. May and June we will be busy. The Post will march in the Memorial Day Parade (keep your fingers crossed for good weather) and hope you will join us. In May and June we will host the Military Inductee Ceremony for town High Schools (third year), Citizenship Awards for High Schools and Middle Schools, election of Post Officers in May, American Legion Baseball kickoff, and Boys State and Girls State in June.

We are a busy, community oriented Post that can use your help and support.

A big thank you to Moe Fradette and his committee for transitioning the Post and special thank you to Kim Fallon who almost single handedly, closed our operation, reorganized our storage area, disposed of unneeded inventory, and maintained the building while the new tenant, Flora, renovate the second floor. A job well done. And I thank all of you for your continuing support of our Post and your assistance for the many activities we put our time and efforts into.

I hope you and your families have a wonderful Holiday Season and a Healthy, Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Fraternally,
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 P.O. Box 280596 East Hartford, CT 06128-0596

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

VA announces rollout and application process for new Veterans ID Card

The VA has announced that the application process for the national [Veterans Identification Card \(VIC\)](#) is now available for Veterans — yet another action honoring their service.

This has been mandated through legislation since 2015 to honor Veterans, and today’s rollout of the ID card fulfills that overdue promise.

Only those Veterans with honorable service will be able to apply for the ID card, which will provide proof of military service, and may be accepted by retailers in lieu of the standard DD-214 form to obtain promotional discounts and other services where offered to Veterans.

“The new Veterans Identification Card provides a safer and more convenient and efficient way for most Veterans to show proof of service,” said VA secretary Dr. David J. Shulkin. “With the card,

Veterans with honorable service to our nation will no longer need to carry around their paper DD-214s to obtain Veteran discounts and other services.”

The VIC provides a more portable and secure alternative for those who served the minimum obligated time in service, but did not meet the retirement or medical discharge threshold. Veterans who served in the armed forces, including the reserve components, and who have a discharge of honorable or general (under honorable conditions) can request a VIC.

To request a VIC, Veterans must visit vets.gov, click on “[Apply for Printed Veteran ID Card](#)” on the bottom left of the page sign in or create an account.

Veterans who apply for a card should receive it within 60 days and can check delivery status of their cards at vets.gov. A digital version of the VIC will be available online by mid-December.

ROBERT HOWE III HONORED AS 2017 FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR



Photo by Ronni Newton

Firefighter Robert Howe III of the West Hartford Fire Department has been honored as the 2017 Firefighter of the Year by HayesVelhage Post 96. 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, Howe received the award for his actions on March 10, 2016. Assistant Chief Richard Winn praised Howe who began on Winn's shift when he first started at the West Hartford Fire Department in 2000.

Battalion Chief William Kall, Chairman of the West Hartford Fire Departments Awards Committee, described the incident of March 10, 2016. "The West Hartford Fire Department responded to a report of a building fire at 140 Kane Street. This is a 4 story apartment building and multiple 911 calls reporting fire and smoke throughout the entire building as well as multiple people trapped were being received by our dispatchers. Quint 3 arrived and gave a report of heavy fire showing from two windows on the Oakwood Avenue side of the building. From their perspective, multiple people were hanging out windows and out on balconies of multiple floors. At least one occupant had already jumped from his balcony to the ground. Meanwhile on the other side of the building, Engine 1 had entered into the complex from Kane Street and also found multiple people hanging out of windows and out on balconies.

Captain Winter and his crew stretched a hose line to the fire floor for initial fire attack. Apparatus Operator Howe, the driver of Engine 1, saw a few lives in immediate danger, being trapped by heat and smoke from the fire which was adjacent to their apartment. He quickly deployed a ground ladder from his engine and removed the two occupants by himself. He did this without direction from his Officer knowing the urgency of his actions."

"His actions had contributed to the positive outcome of this fire. In all, over 100 people were evacuated from the building, of which 18 individuals were directly rescued by Firefighters from all 5 West Hartford companies as well as Engine 11 and Ladder 5 from the city of Hartford. Some of those rescued were wheel chair bound individuals."

"At the end of this incident the fire had claimed the contents of two apartments on two separate floors and not a single Firefighter was injured nor was a single human life lost!"

For his actions on March 10, 2016 Apparatus Operator Howe was awarded the "St. Florian Medal".

Town Manager Matt Hart read a proclamation issued on behalf of Mayor Shari Cantor, the Town Council, and the Town of West Hartford, declaring Oct. 16, 2017, "Robert Howe III Day."

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



Post Commander Cole and Firefighter Howe

Park Road Parade

The Hayes-Velhage Post 96 Color Guard lead the annual Park Road Parade on October 7, 2017. This outstanding community parade draws more than 7,000 people each year from West Hartford and beyond.



Veterans Day Ceremony

Veterans Day Ceremony

By Ronni Newton, We-Ha

"The Town of West Hartford continued the tradition of honoring its veterans, but in deference to Saturday's freezing temperatures and brisk wind, the town's annual ceremony was moved indoors to the auditorium of First Church West Hartford, where at 11 a.m. on Nov. 11 a capacity crowd gathered to pay tribute to all who have served.



Keynote speaker Andrew Clapsaddle

[Sedgwick Middle School Principal Andrew Clapsaddle](#), who served as a combat photographer in the U.S. Marines for four years after high school, was the keynote speaker.

Military service is a strong element of his family's history, Clapsaddle said. Most recently his father served as a tank commander in the Army in the 1950s and 1960s, and his brother was in the Marine Corps during Operation Desert Storm with an infantry unit that helped liberate Kuwait.

The important purpose of Veterans Day, Clapsaddle said, "is above all an opportunity to celebrate the choice someone makes to serve their country."

Clapsaddle said as he considered the importance of his time in the military on his life, the word "service" came to mind. It was the term used years ago to ask if someone was in the military, but the term is not outdated at all and actually more relevant than ever, he said.

"'Service' is defined as rendering assistance, help, or aid," Clapsaddle said. In the big picture, that's what our military does.

Clapsaddle said he doesn't think it's a coincidence that he transitioned from being in the military to being an educator, because it involves many of the same core values – "motivation, commitment, courage, excellence and service" that guided him as a teacher and now as a principal.

"From my perspective education is not a job, it's a calling," Clapsaddle said.

We should all find some way to serve, Clapsaddle said. "Service is the foundation and the network of humankind."

He also encouraged everyone to find some way to help and support a veteran or service member.

"A final message to our veterans: Please, please share your stories with someone new ... the more we will demonstrate to everyone that serving your country is an example of excellence," Clapsaddle said.

Town Council Minority Leader Denise Hall, whose late father Jean Paul Berard was involved in the construction of the Connecticut Veterans Memorial where the ceremony is customarily held, spoke of the importance of the memorial, the hallowed ground in the center containing soils from battlefields, cemeteries, prison war camps, and waters from the seven oceans that were combined on dedication day with Connecticut earth.

Hall said that she and former town manager Ron Van Winkle had long lamented that many did not know the significance of that part of the memorial. A new marker has now been placed in the center, describing what lies beneath.

"Today is where we make a point of thanking veterans for their service ... their willingness to stand between us and those who would do us harm," Hall said."



Mayor Shari Cantor

“Mayor Shari Cantor said speaking on Veterans Day is a daunting task, because any expression of gratitude to veterans seems inadequate. The families and friends of veterans also carry a heavy load.

“We say we honor you and we remember you, we talk about ways we as Americans can give back to our veterans, today and every day, but what is important to know about veterans is that they are among the most active volunteers to improve our communities across the country,” said Cantor, citing statistics that they donate 30 percent more time than non-veterans.

In West Hartford, veterans and families of veterans are involved in improving and leading our community every day, Cantor said, specifically mentioning Ron Van Winkle, Town Manager Matt Hart, Town Planner Todd Dumais, and Public Works Director John Phillips – all of whom are veterans. Cantor also noted the volunteer contributions of Moe Fradette, Ken Colliton, Janet Fournier, Ray and Leesa Philipponm, and Denise Hall.”

“In addition to the principal, other representatives of Sedgwick Middle School played another important role in Saturday’s ceremony. “Top of the Sixes,” the school’s sixth grade select choir, under the direction of Melissa Dzen, sang the National Anthem.



Hayes-Velhage Post 96 Peter Roe sounds TAPS

To conclude the ceremony, Peter Roe of the American Legion Post 96 sounded “Taps,” and Eagle Scouts Chris Stimson and Graham Douglass of Boy Scout Troop 163 proceeded down the aisle with the memorial wreath, placing it in the front of the auditorium.”

About 30 veterans remained after the ceremony, posing for a photo.”



POW/MIA Chair Unveiled

Lawmakers celebrated the addition of a new chair to the U.S. Capitol, honoring American prisoners of war and the thousands of service members missing in action. House Speaker Paul Ryan, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, Sen. Richard Blumenthal, House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, Sen. Elizabeth Warren, and Rep. Sam Johnson, unveiled the commemorative chair during a ceremony in the U.S. Capitol's Emancipation Hall, Nov. 8, 2017. The chair will serve as a memorial to those who served, but have not yet returned home.

Hayes-Velhage Post 96 *NEWSLETTER* Winter 2017-8

“Serving our Veterans and Community for 96 Years”

Among those speaking at the event was Representative Samuel Johnson. Johnson, a retired U.S. Air Force pilot, served in both the Korean and Vietnam Wars and was held as a prisoner of war in North Vietnam for nearly seven years.



Veterans Lunch 2017

American Legion Hayes-Velhage Post 96 and the Elmwood Senior Center hosted a special luncheon for Veterans on Thursday, November 9, 2017 at the Elmwood Senior/Community Center.



Have You Paid Your 2018 Dues?



All members should have received their dues notification for 2018 dues. Dues should be mailed to Membership Chairman Chuck Berry.

Chuck Berry
PO box 280596
East Hartford, CT 06128

Veterans Coffee Hour

Wayne Rioux's, an Army Veteran and **Veteran Liaison from Hartford Healthcare**, holds a “Veterans Coffee Hour” the second Wednesday of each month at the Elmwood Senior/Community Center from 10:30 – 11:30 to help Veterans with information on Veterans benefits. All Veterans are welcome.

The guest speaker for the luncheon was Marine Veteran Brad Davis who has been behind the mic on WDRC and The TALK of Connecticut since 1977.

All area Veterans were invited and guests included Veterans from WWII to today’s War on Terror. The luncheon was **free** to all Veterans.

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.”





**Hayes-Velhage Post 96
The American Legion
P.O. Box 370160
West Hartford, CT 06137-0160**

Non-Profit Orgn.
U.S. Postage **PAID**
Hartford, CT
Permit No. 391

Deliver to Addressee or Current Resident

*PLACE MAILING
LABEL HERE.*

