

# Hayes-Velhage Post 96

## The American Legion

45 Raymond Road

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[www.post96.org](http://www.post96.org)

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

## Newsletter

★ Summer 2019 ★

<b>Wednesday, September 11, '19 – 6:30 pm</b>	<b>Monthly Post Meeting Installation of Officers</b>
<b>Saturday, October 5, '19 – 10:00 am</b>	<b>Park Road Parade</b>
<b>Wednesday, October 9, '19 – 6:30 pm</b>	<b>Monthly Post Meeting</b>
<b>Thursday, November 7, '19 – Noon</b>	<b>Veterans Luncheon Elmwood Senior Center</b>
<b>Saturday, November 9, '19 – 8:30 am</b>	<b>Placement of Flags at Fairview Cemetery</b>
<b>Monday, November 11, '19 – 11:00 am</b>	<b>Veterans Day Ceremony Veterans Memorial</b>
<b>Wednesday, November 13, '19 – 6:30 pm</b>	<b>Monthly Post Meeting</b>
<b>Sunday, December 15, '19 – 3:00 pm</b>	<b>Holiday Social Flora Restaurant</b>
<b>Wednesday, January 8, '20 – 6:30 pm</b>	<b>Monthly Post Meeting</b>
<b>Wednesday, February 12, '20 - 6:30 pm</b>	<b>Monthly Post Meeting</b>

**NOTE: Monthly Post Meetings are held at Rockledge Grille,  
289 South Main St., West Hartford, CT.**

★ THE FOUR PILLARS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION ★

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



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Jr. Vice Comdr. Mike DeLuca  
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Adjutant Jeff Linden  
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John Cotter  
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Chaplain Barry Leghorn  
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Executive Committee

Executive Committee  
[subins.af@gmail.com](mailto:subins.af@gmail.com)

Moe Fradette  
Past Post Commander

Board of Trustees

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# Hayes-Velhage Post 96 \* NEWSLETTER \* Summer 2019

*"Serving our Veterans and Community for 97 Years"*

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## Commanders Message

It has been an Honor and Privilege to serve you and Hayes-Velhage Post 96 as your Commander these past two years. I would like to thank all of you, for your support, especially Past Post Commanders Ken Hungerford and Moe Fradette, for their guidance, assistance, and keeping me in line as I executed the responsibilities I was appointed to perform.

All of you are members of a special organization with special recognition known as VETERANS, who have served our country proudly, and continue to serve in the American Legion. Thank you!

We successfully presented Citizenship awards to students at all the public and private High Schools, and Middle schools in town including American School for the Deaf, and the Intensive Education Academy. All schools had two candidates that were recognized. American Legion Baseball got off to a great start with a fundraiser held at a local Craft beer brewery with great financial results. We are sponsoring three teams this year, a Prep team, Junior and Senior Teams., thank you for your donations and support.

We sponsored several Boys and Girls State attendees and provided an orientation dinner at the Elmwood Senior Center for students and parents. Chuck Berry and his wife Jeanne, provided meaningful information to all. Hopefully we will have another student elected to Governor. We also provided an excellent meal and program at Town Hall for the 2019 Military Inductees and their families. Eighteen graduating Seniors from Hall, Conard and Northwest Catholic High Schools were recognized after a fantastic meal provided by Russel's Catering, a keynote speech by Thomas Saadi, Commissioner of the State Department of Veterans Affairs and a moving program of *Generational Movement of the Colors*, narrated by Wayne Rioux, Veterans Liaison for Hartford Healthcare. These young men and women were presented their Red, White and Blue cords which were provided by the WH Board of Education worn with their Cap and Gowns. A

certificate of Appreciation provided by the American Legion Post 96, and an American Legion Challenge coin thanking them for their decision to join the Armed Forces. Students joined the Regular Services, ROTC Programs, National Guard and Reserves, one student to the US Coast Guard Academy and one to the Massachusetts Maritime Academy. Dr. Rolf Knoll, a retired Colonel, and a member of our Post, was Master of Ceremony. Good luck to all, our future leaders.

I am looking forward to working with your Commander elect, Pat Harrell, when I turn over the gavel to him at our meeting in September.

I hope you all have a safe, healthy, and enjoyable summer. I look forward to seeing you in September, and working with Pat.

In Comradeship,

Jeffrey Cole  
Past Post Commander

## Message from Commander Elect Patrick Harrell

It is a privilege and an honor to serve the American Legion in any capacity, for like all branches of military service, 'to serve' is the underlining theme and compass for the Legion, with its four-pillar foundation: to serve our nation, its ideals and constitution, our veterans, our community, and our youth.

I look forward to my tenure as Post Commander, following the path blazed by the three former Post leaders, whom I've come to know and respect, and who remain 'in service', as we continue the march towards the centennial anniversary of our Post's founding, in 1922.

Patrick Harrell

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## Election of Officers for 2019-2020

At the annual meeting of Hayes-Velhage Post 96 held May 8, 2019 at the Rockledge Grille, West Hartford, CT., the following members were elected to serve the Post for 2019-2020:

Commander - Pat Harrell  
Senior Vice Commander – Jeffrey Linden  
Junior Vice Commander – Mike DeLuca  
Judge Advocate - Bob Hyland  
Finance Officer - John Cotter  
Chaplain - Barry Leghorn  
Executive Committee – Rob Giuffria  
Executive Committee – Winslow Runde

Hayes-Velhage Post 96 Holding Company  
Board of Directors

Harold Ducey  
Ray Jean  
John Mele

Adjutant – Chuck Berry (Appointed)

Members of the Holding Company Board of Directors who will be serving the second year of their two year term:

John Pappalardo  
Powell Schunder  
Rocky Goodwin  
Frank Haran

**Installation of Officers will be held on September 11, 2019 at the Post Monthly Meeting,**

## American Legion Auxiliary Unit 96

Jeanne Berry

As this year winds down at the Department Convention on July 13 & 14, 2019 at the Marriott in Trumbull, CT, we'll take a short break then begin the auxiliary's 100<sup>th</sup> Year Celebration. The yearlong party goes from September 2019 to August 2020. You don't want to miss anything. You'll receive your membership renewal in the mail. You can return by

mail or go online at [www.alaforveterans.org](http://www.alaforveterans.org). Let's be a part of the 1 million members by the Auxiliary's Centennial Year 2020.

Your annual dues help the Auxiliary's Voice to be heard in Washington D.C., as well as assisting the units' auxiliary programs for veterans & their families, active military & their families, & the community. You are an active and very important member, even if you don't attend the unit meetings. Once we become an "E" unit, we'll conduct business from our home, on the phone. That won't eliminate our Poppy Drive, Christmas Shops, Girls State and other programs.

Our Legion Post was instrumental in sponsoring six of our applicates to Girls State and provided a light meal during orientation for the Boys and Girls. Selected were:

Sophia Giuffria - Farmington High  
Katherine George and Sophie Ennis – Hall High  
Catherine Wilcox, Katherine Dudley, and Isabel Mortillaro – NW Catholic High

These teenagers will be running our country soon and making an impact on the future.

If you plan to attend the Department Convention, let me know, so I can get you registered. Enjoy your summer. For questions contact President Jeanne Berry at 203-715-2336 or [jeanneberry@comcast.net](mailto:jeanneberry@comcast.net). God Bless You and God Bless America.

## 2020 Membership Dues

The notice for 2020 dues has recently been sent by National. If you want to renew your membership online, go the following link:

<https://www.legion.org/renew>

Plans for our 2022 Centennial Celebration are underway and we hope you will continue your support support of Hayes-Velhage Post 96 with your membership renewal.

## American Legion Baseball

In 1935 Hayes-Velhage Post 96 began participating in American Legion Baseball and this year marks our 74th year of support for this outstanding program.

Post 96 was moved from Zone 7 to Zone 1 and we again have 3 levels of players participating again this year, Senior, Junior, and Prep, giving players an opportunity to participate from under 15 years of age through the Senior level of under 19 years of age. All three Post 96 teams are having an outstanding season.

All three teams played in a triple-header at Dunkin Donuts Park on June 14<sup>th</sup>, another great day for all our teams. Home games are played at Hall High School and hope you can attend and show your support for Post 96 baseball.

The following are the links for schedules:

19U <https://www.hometeamsonline.com/teams/default.asp?u=WHSRLEG&s=baseball&p=schedule>

17U <https://www.hometeamsonline.com/teams/default.asp?u=WHARTJRLEG&s=baseball&p=schedule>

15U <https://www.hometeamsonline.com/teams/default.asp?u=WESTHARTFORD&s=baseball&p=schedule>



(Dunkin Donuts Park June 14<sup>th</sup>. Photo credit: Sandy LaBranch)

## West Hartford’s Military-Bound Students Saluted at Recognition Ceremony

May 28, 2019

By Dexter McCann. Photos by Zoe Pierce and Ronni Newton (we-ha.com)



Class of 2019 Military Inductees Ceremony. May 28, 2019. Photo credit: Dexter McCann

Eighteen West Hartford Students were honored at a recognition dinner held by the American Legion and West Hartford Public Schools.



Inductees observe the Generational Passing of the Colors. Class of 2019 Military Inductees Ceremony. May 28, 2019. Photo credit: Zoe Pierce

Tuesday’s Class of 2019 military recognition ceremony, held at West Hartford Town Hall, celebrated 18 soon-to-be high school graduates who will be serving in the United States armed forces.

The graduates, hailing from Hall High School, Conard High School, and Northwest Catholic High School, will represent five different branches of the military.

The ceremony was sponsored by American Legion Hayes-Velhage Post 96 in conjunction with the West Hartford Public Schools, and featured speakers of all military and academic backgrounds. Before they spoke, the Hall High School Choraliers sang a beautiful rendition of the National Anthem.

Following the anthem, emcee Dr. Rolf Knoll told the audience that the recognition ceremony “is a program that without a doubt we continue to see providing deserving recognition of the young men and women who have chosen to serve their country.” He also praised the ceremony as a way for the American Legion to honor their mission statement, which “is to support ... youth mentorship, advocacy of patriotism and honor ... and continued devotion to our fellow service members and veterans.”

Jeff Cole, Post Commander of the American Legion Hayes-Velhage Post 96, delivered the opening remarks. His speech celebrated the future of the 18 soon-to-be military men and women, as well as that of the armed forces and the country.

“The reason for this event is because you students, the graduates this year, through military service are the future of our armed forces and the future leaders of country,” said Cole.

Tom Moore, superintendent of schools in West Hartford, also offered his thoughts. Moore spoke fondly of the event, and of the soon-to-be graduates in attendance.

“This is one of the things I’m most proud to be a part of. It’s the right thing to do to bring recognition for

those who are choosing to serve and choosing service.”

Moore offered his profound thanks to all those in attendance, especially the service members-to-be.

“I just want to speak as one father from West Hartford, one citizen from West Hartford, and I just really want to give my heartfelt thanks from those of us in West Hartford who haven’t served, but have relied on you to do it in the past,” Moore said. “And, for those heroes that I get to see here every year, and for those who are willing to do it in the future, it is much appreciated.”

Thomas Saadi, commissioner of Connecticut’s Department of Veteran Affairs, was the night’s keynote speaker. His speech was a reminder of the rich history of the military, as well as its importance in protecting the freedoms Americans take for granted.

“It’s a privilege for me to participate in this salute to our military inductees, as it is only because of those who have served, those who continue to serve, and those who will serve, that all of us, and all Americans, can live in this free and democratic nation,” remarked Saadi.

Saadi took a moment to honor all World War II veterans in attendance, but then returned to the subject of the honorees.

“I can tell you students here, from my own personal experience, that the United States military is among the most dynamic and diverse organizations in the world, with men and women from every walk of life. And while diverse, they all have something in common. They are brothers and sisters in arms, volunteer to serve their country so that the entire nation may live in freedom.

“You are all here today because you understand the meaning of service to country, service to community,” Saadi added.

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Following a generational passing of the colors, in which veterans spanning several generations passed down an American flag to the night’s honorees, Board of Education member Dave Pauluk offered concluding remarks, recalling humorous times from his own military experience.

Monsignor James F. Kinnane conducted the invocation and benediction.

The following students were honored at the event:

- Maxwell Boyd, Hall High School, Navy ROTC
- Sunsiray Brown, Hall High School, U.S. Marine Corps
- James Cheverier, Conard High School, U.S. Army
- Marcos Cruz, Conard High School, U.S. Air Force
- Bryson Denby, Conard High School, U.S. Air Force
- Lucas Diaz, Hall High School, Army National Guard
- Cristina Gaudio, Conard High School, Air Force ROTC
- Angel Guevara, Conard High School, U.S. Air Force
- Jacob Imerini, Northwest Catholic, U.S. Marine Corps
- Ethan McCabe, Conard High School, Army ROTC
- Cheyanne Parker, Conard High School, Army Reserve
- Izabella Raviv, Hall High School, Army ROTC
- John Taylor, Hall High School, U.S. Coast Guard Academy
- Timothy Tobin, Conrad High School, U.S. Marine Corps
- Daniel Towner, Hall High School, U.S. Marine Corps
- Jenesis Ward, Conard High School, U.S. Air Force
- Hugh Wells, Hall High School, Massachusetts Maritime Academy
- Jason Zamorano, Hall High School, U.S. Navy

To read the complete article go to:

<https://we-ha.com/west-hartfords-military-bound-students-saluted-at-recognition-ceremony/>



American Legion Hayes-Velhage Post 96 color guard.  
Photo credit: Zoe Pierce



Keynote speaker Thomas Saadi. Photo credit: Zoe Pierce

## Boys State and Girls State

Each year Hayes-Velhage Post 96 and our Auxiliary sponsor students from local high schools for the Boys State and Girls State program where young men and women learn about our state and local government. It is a hands on approach to how government functions with state and local officials guiding the way.

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The American Legion Girls State convention was recently held at Post University in Waterbury and was attended by six incoming Seniors from local high schools. They 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.

Recipients of the Girls State awards were:

Sophia Giuffria - Farmington High  
Katherine George and Sophie Ennis – Hall High  
Catherine Wilcox, Katherine Dudley, and Isabel Mortillaro – NW Catholic High



(Auxiliary President Jeanne Berry presenting award certificate to Sophia Giuffria)

The Boys State program was recently held at ECSU and attended by three incoming seniors from local high schools.

Recipients of the Boys State awards were:

John Zehr and Eli Wizevich – Hall High  
Jack Gaumer – Cohard High



(Andy Tran, 2018 Governor of Boys State, addresses 2019 delegates during orientation for Boys State and Girls State)

## 2019 School Awards

American Legion Hayes-Velhage Post 96 has awarded its 2019 School Awards. 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.”*



(Pat Harrell with Hall High recipients Brennan George and Francesca Lynch)

*The 2019 recipients are:* Hall HS, Medal/Certificate, Brennan George, Honorable Mention, Francesca Lynch; Conard HS, Medal/Certificate, Michael Driscoll, Honorable Mention, Allison Morhardt; Northwest Catholic HS, Medal/Certificate, Loren Davis, Honorable Mention Francesca Discenza; American School for Deaf, Medal/Certificate, Marceline Hakizimana, Honorable Mention, Luis Mandato; Intensive Education Academy, Medal/Certificate, Allison Willette, Honorable Mention, Drew Tower.

King Philip MS, Medal/Certificate, Lauren Fluckiger, Honorable Mention, Adan Ezovskij; Bristow MS, Medal/Certificate, Jeffrey Rosborg, Honorable Mention, Logan Trafford; Sedgwick MS, Medal/Certificate, Sophia Bavaro, Honorable Mention, Zoe Pinckney.



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**Class of 2019 Military Inductee Recognition Ceremony  
May 28, 2019**

Photo Credit: Amy LaRose