

Welcoming Veterans
Since 1964

American Legion Post 196



East Shore American Legion Post 196 – 25 Merwin Ave. – Milford, CT 06460 – www.milfordctvets.org – Dec. 2024 – Jan. 2025

Some Things are Always Worth Repeating

- Join our FB page to be kept up to date with events and volunteer opportunities:
<https://www.facebook.com/AmericanLegionPost196>
- Shirts, sweatshirts & hats for sale. See the bartender.
- Parking in the lot adjacent to the building is for Post 196 Legion Veteran Members only. The only exceptions are the first spot which is for the bartender on duty and the second spot for the musicians performing that day. All others park in the lot across the street or on the street.

Wishing you all a very happy holiday season. Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, Happy Kwanzaa and the very best of any holidays you may celebrate.

Colleen Weatherspoon
Commander

Expiring – Use Now

Just a reminder to all that the current **bar chips** will expire on December 31, 2024. Please use them prior to 12/31/24 as they will not be accepted after that date. The new Chips will be in place on January 1, 2025.



Remember Everyone Deployed
WEAR R-E-D SHIRT on FRIDAYS



Post 196 Commander Colleen Weatherspoon

WHAT A YEAR WE'VE HAD. I'VE ENJOYED SEEING AND SPEAKING with so many of you and I look forward to closing out the year as well as starting 2025 with health and happiness for all.

Recent Highlights

- We have a new Jr. Vice Commander: Phil Pilletere. Phil has jumped head first into this role and is already planning improvements with how we communicate across all of our legion families, and planning more events to come. Please join us in Welcoming Phil.
- We also have a new Bar Manager: Samantha Carey. Sam's knowledge of electronic capabilities will be a great help with streamlining some of the behind the scenes work for the Lounge. Please be sure to say Hi to Sam who will be tending bar on Tuesdays.
- Thank you Laurie Bucchino – for your many years of service and employment. Laurie has been a valued employee for over 27 years serving as a bartender for 19 years and bar manager for 8 as well as serving as the Auxiliary's Sr. Vice for 9 years during that same time. She will be transitioning to a bartender role working Thursdays and Saturdays. We are so fortunate Laurie has offered continued support with her vast knowledge of the ins and outs of our post.
- Thanks to Rich and Kim Jones, and Chef Mike for coordinating the Thanksgiving meal for our members.

Who we are - Why we are - The American Legion Preamble



For God and Country, we associate ourselves together for the following purposes:
To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America; to maintain law and order; to foster and perpetuate a 100-percent Americanism; to preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in all wars; to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation; to combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses; to make right the master of might; to promote peace and good will on earth; to safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy; to consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.





CHAPLAINS

CORNER



A Special Time



All the major faiths in America have what we consider special times. In Islam it could be Ramadan - a time of prayer and self criticism of our behavior as Muslims. A time to follow more closely the tenets of our faith, culminating in a joyous celebration which signifies the success of our endeavor to draw closer to the Almighty.

In the Buddhist faith it would be the celebration of the birth of the Buddha, a time to improve our spiritual harmony with all our physical and spiritual presence. Buddhism, or Buddha Dharma, is an Indian religion and philosophical tradition based on teachings attributed to a wandering teacher who lived in the 5th-6th century BCE.

A special time in Judaism would be Yom Kippur (the Day of Atonement), a day on which we recognize our shortcomings as Jews. By creating an acceptable path to God we hope to become better people in His eyes.

For America's largest religion, Christianity, a special time - and it's coming soon - is Christmas, the day of Christ's birth and one of the most important days in the Christian Calendar. Very often the real meaning of Christmas is overshadowed by the commercial view, dominated by Santa Claus, presents for everyone, and time off from work to enjoy parties and merriment. For Christians it can be difficult to get past that commercial noise to see the real meaning of this special day, the birth of the Son of God, who came to save us and bring us peace.

We have been tested recently by an extremely divisive election. It is time now to become again the good and caring people God created us to be. We can do this! As brothers and sisters under God, with faith, love and compassion we will succeed.

God bless our beautiful country. Merry Christmas.

Lou Eden



Boy, oh boy. **The Auxiliary** has been very busy this fall. In October we had another successful Halloween bash! Check out the pictures on the Auxiliary and Post 196 Facebook pages. Also in October, we donated \$200 to Seymour Pink. They are a 100% volunteer run organization. All donations go directly to our mission of supporting the women and men who have been burdened by a breast cancer diagnosis. Additionally, in October, we donated \$100 to the Diaper Bank of CT. They collect diapers, teenager period pads incontinent pads, and adult incontinent pads. They also need toys. Finally, in October we donated \$800 to the Veterans Christmas Shop. The Veterans Christmas Gift Shop this year at the West Haven VA hospital. Volunteers are needed for set up, assisting veterans with shopping, wrapping, and cleanup. This is in our own back yard ladies; we need to step up, even just an hour of volunteering will be such a help and really appreciated. Contact Mary-Ellen by text at 203-258-5732.

On November 2, through *Hearts of Hope*, an organization that helps grieving people and those who have been through a tragedy, we hosted a "Paint with a Purpose" event. We painted 36 hearts valued at \$360 and the *Hearts of Hope* president donated 28 painted hearts done by other groups for a total of 64. The proceeds went to *Hearts of Hope* and the painted hearts went to the homeless veterans that reside at Homes for the Brave.

On November 10, the Auxiliary participated in the annual Milford Veterans Day Parade and also at the annual Wreath Laying ceremony on November 11.

Our Ugly Sweater Party will take place on Saturday, December 14, 6-10 p.m. at The Post. There is no cost for entry; we will provide a DJ and you can bring your own snacks! This is OUR thank you for all of YOUR support throughout the year. *Tis the season!* Traditionally all unit members are asked to donate a toy to Toys for Tots. Just drop the donated toy off at the Post or any other pickup point. If you choose to participate in Toys for Tots, please add it to your service report that is submitted to Joyce Kozlowski.

We're getting ready for the January mid-winter conference which will be held on January 24-25, 2025, at the Trumbull Marriott Hotel. Any member in good standing is welcome to attend. It's a great way to learn more about our organization and meet other auxiliary members from around the state. Let our unit president Mary-Ellen Breen, [mbreen2020@sbcglobal.net], know if you are interested in attending.

Our membership is at 77% of our goal. Dues must be paid by December 31, 2024 or your membership and membership benefits expire. Dues are \$33 per year and Jr. Auxiliary dues are \$8.00.

Save the Date

- Ugly Sweater party - 12/14/2024
- Mardi Gras party - 3/1/2025
- Annual Brunch - 4/13/2025

Happy Holidays!

IN ADDITION TO THE E-BOARD, THESE MEMBERS ALSO SERVE OUR POST

| | |
|--------------------|---------------------------------|
| Permittee: | <i>Norm Lansing</i> |
| Auxiliary: | <i>Mary-Ellen Breen, Pres.</i> |
| Sons of AL: | <i>Ken Crepeau, Commander</i> |
| Legion Riders: | <i>Dave Woodmanse, Director</i> |
| Newsletter Editor: | <i>Garrett Stack</i> |



CONGRATULATIONS

THAT'S US, POST 196!



Let us talk briefly about the numbers. We currently have 362 members paid for the 2025 season. You are a member of the largest post in Connecticut.

Our goal is 540, which means we are 178 short or at 68% of the goal. If you have not renewed, please think about doing so this month. If not renewed by 1/1/2025 the membership is delinquent, by 2/1/2025, suspended.

As a current member you support our other members, veterans and their families. I urge you to not only renew but to invite friends and family members to become members of any capacity. We are one of the most active posts in the state and we also have a great place to sit, meet or bring friends, relax and do nothing. It is always your choice.

If you have any questions, please contact me:
Jackson.west@att.net, 203 257 2855

Tom Jackson
Sr. Vice Commander



For a full calendar of POST 196 events, go to

<https://milfordctvets.org/site/eventscalendar.php>

DECEMBER

- 14 - Auxiliary Ugly Sweater Party
- 15 - Children's Christmas Party



Auxiliary Hearts of Hope "Paint With a Purpose" (See page 2 for details.)

Friday Music At The Post



All Music Fridays: 5:00-7:00 unless otherwise noted.

DECEMBER

- 6: The Ellwoods
- 13: The Modifieds 6-8
- 20: Steve Bettencourt
- 27: The Ellwoods

JANUARY

- 3: Steve Bettencourt
- 10: Irena Hart
- 17: Tom Intelisano
- 24: The Two
- 31: (Pending Confirmation)

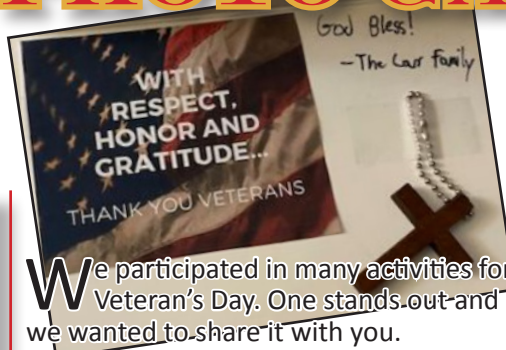
FEBRUARY

- 7: Steve Bettencourt
- 14: NO MUSIC
- 21: Tom Intelisano
- 28: NO MUSIC

MARCH

- 7: Steve Bettencourt
- 14: Irena Hart
- 21: Tom Intelisano
- 28: Take Two

PHOTO GALLERY



We participated in many activities for Veteran's Day. One stands out and we wanted to share it with you.

Our Post participates in a USMC Birthday Cake-Cutting ceremony, hosted by member Rob Reed, at neighboring Randalls Bar/Restaurant in West Haven. During this past celebration, Danny Carr's (owner of Randalls), two sons Austin and Blake hand delivered hand made cards and keep sakes they made specifically for veterans. It was a great honor to be part of this celebration and to meet these two fine boys who showed such kindness and respect. Carr family of West Haven – American Legion Post 196 appreciates you.