

**Welcoming Veterans  
Since 1964**

**American Legion Post 196**



East Shore American Legion Post 196 – 25 Merwin Ave. – Milford, CT 06460 – [www.milfordctvets.org](http://www.milfordctvets.org)



**W**elcome 2024. Only two months into the new year and we've had to say goodbye to some beloved members: Russ Edwards, John Leydon, Emery Linton, Barbara Luedee. We wish them peace in eternity and offer condolences to their families and friends.

We are continually working on improvements to our post – most recently purchasing new chairs for our hall. We also are continuing with quarterly meetings among all Legion families – Legion, Aux, SAL, Riders – to reduce overlap of events and volunteer opportunities.

*Speaking of .....* we have some events coming up that you may be interested in attending or volunteering for:

- Polar Plunge - March 2, 1 PM
- Golf Tournament (May)
- Picnic (September)

Join our FB page to keep up with events and opportunities. <https://www.facebook.com/AmericanLegionPost196>

### **And The Winner Is**

**S**ince 1938, the American Legion Oratorical Contest has existed to develop deeper knowledge and appreciation for the U.S. Constitution among high school students. Congratulations to Alexandria Reagan, winner of Post 196 Oratorical contest. Alexandria went on to participate in the District 2 contest.

A special Thank You to Bill "Bumper" Bowers who managed this program as well as the committee who helped: Bill Battaglia, Sally Carter, Kim Jones, Rich Jones and Bob Smith.



Brick Program – as the warm weather approaches, installation of our memorial bricks will begin again. Please take a look at the installed bricks and let us know if you're interested. See the updated report below.

Be well and see you soon!

*Colleen Weatherspoon*  
Commander Post 196



### **A Lasting Tribute: The foundation of Post 196**

**I**n the spring of 2021, Post 196 initiated the Memorial Tribute Brick Program. A contribution of \$100 ensured the donor an engraved brick placed in the foundation of Post 196's building on Merwin Avenue.

We are happy to report this fundraiser has been successful and continues to grow. To date, 231 bricks have been purchased and placed in the foundation. Shout out to Chad Rose and Jim Scott. So far we have grossed \$23,100, and have a net amount of over \$16,000 for Legion programs.

With just eight more bricks we will reach the half-way point on the wall that honors veterans and their families. The wall is testimony to the those who have defended America and the U.S. Constitution in times of war and peace.

To purchase a brick, go to our website, [milfordctvets.org](http://milfordctvets.org). On the home page click the link on the left that says Brick Program. All the details are there. Applications are also available at the Post 196 bar.



# CHAPLAINS



# CORNER

## Prayer

There are all kinds of prayer. When we were small God bless Mommy and Daddy, Uncle Leo and Auntie Jane seemed to work. Then there is the more formal kind of communication with the Lord, usually heard in churches synagogues and mosques. I find when I'm writing a prayer for a funeral or a Final Salute that the more formal approach is best.

But hold on just a moment! God already knows what we're trying to say, so all the fancy verbs and adjectives are really more for us than for Him.

Praying is simply a conversation with God. If you've never prayed, if you're a beginner, a great way to start is just to say hello. Hi God. It's me. I've never done this before, so please bear with me. I just know He's going to love hearing from you. In fact, you don't need a reason, although a serious need very often precedes our wanting to pray.

Now I have found praying for others makes me feel really good. It's a great way to deal with people who really get under your skin. When our prayer is answered - and it's always answered, in God's time and in God's way - we have to remember that we played only a small part in the positive outcome. We were concerned enough to ask for God's help. God was gracious enough to answer.

So, when it comes to prayer, don't be bashful, go for it. Hi, God, how's it going? That's a great start.....

Lou Eden  
Chaplain



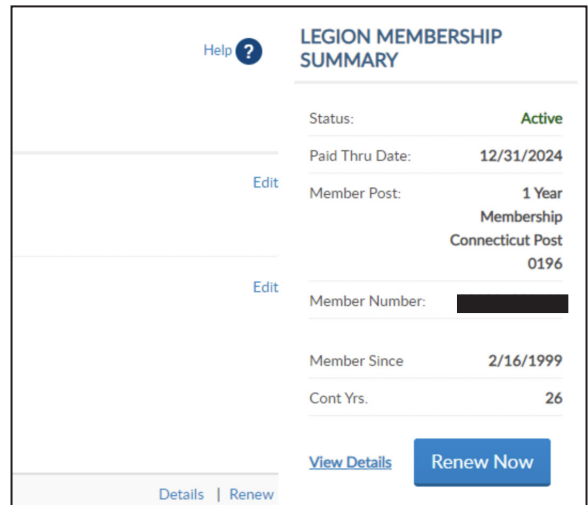
How would you like to save \$30 on your membership renewal? Of course you would. Here's how.

Background:

- Dues go up \$10 next year - 2025.
- But, paid up members can renew at the 2024 price of \$40, not \$50. And, they can renew for three years at the sale price.
- Renew three years until 12/31/27 for \$120, a savings of \$30.

### How do I do it?

1. Go to mylegion.org
2. Log into your account (or create one) - you need your email and password.
3. Go to your contact page info.



4. Once you're in, it knows you're a member of Post 196 and presents you with a "RENEW NOW" button.
5. Press the renew button and the option for paying for the three years comes up.
6. Agree and pay.
7. Congratulations, you just saved \$30.

## Membership keeps growing

Tom Jackson, Membership Chair, reports we now have 488 paid members for the 2024 membership. It may be confusing that the dues are based on a fiscal calendar. The membership is based on a yearly calendar. If you have not paid your dues for 2024. Look at your card, it should say 2024. I would encourage you to get current ASAP. Your legion privileges are suspended if your card does not read 2024.

There will be a \$10 increase in the dues next year, but you are able to buy your 2025,2026, and 2027 at the 2024 price of \$40. (See "SALE" piece above.) Your membership supports many programs through The American Legion nationally and locally. Let us know if you have any questions. Tom





### Auxiliary Gearin' Up for 2024



**W**elcome to all our new members! For those members who have not paid their 2024 dues, to stay in good standing with benefits and privileges of membership, send your \$33.00 renewal to the American Legion Post 196, Attention Patty Paris, as soon as possible. Don't

risk your membership being suspended. If you are experiencing financial hardship and need help with your dues, please reach out.

### St Patrick's Day raffle basket experiences change

The Auxiliary is busy planning for upcoming events and initiatives. March is around the corner which means it's time for our St. Patrick's Day raffle basket. As many of you know, this basket contains anything you might need to host a St. Pat's party. In years past, we've included bottles of liquor which no longer can be accepted. However, you can donate a gift card/certificate to a grocery or package store for whatever alcohol you wish to contribute to the basket. Please put the gift card in an envelope addressing it to Rosie Plank and give it to the bartender. We are currently accepting donations for the basket and tickets are on sale at the bar for \$5 each.

Also, in March keep a lookout for information on our annual Sunday Brunch which will be held on April 28, 2024.

## AMERICAN LEGION *Who's Who at Post 196?*

- Commander: *Colleen Weatherspoon*
- Sr. Vice: *Tom Jackson*
- Jr. Vice: *Justin Pacelli*
- Adjutant: *Larry Carter*
- Finance: *Chad Rose*
- Chaplain: *Lou Eden*
- Service Officer: *Sean Eden*
- Judge Advocate: *Bob Murray*
- Sergeant at Arms: *Christopher Sweetwood*
- Historian: *Norm Lansing*
- Permittee: *Norm Lansing*
- Auxiliary: *Mary-Ellen Breen, Pres.*
- Sons of AL: *Ken Crepeau, Commander*
- Legion Riders: *Dave Woodmanse, Director*

## Music At The Post



### FEBRUARY

- 16 - The Elwoods – 5-7
- 23 - Take Two – 5-7

### MARCH

- 1 - Steve Bettencourt – 5-7
- 8- The Elwoods – 5-7
- 15 - The Modifieds – 6-8
- 16 - Jesse Ofgang – 3-5  
at St. Patty's Day Party
- 22 - Take Two – 5-7



Garrett Stack  
PRESENTS  
BABY BOOMER CLASSICS

**Rock 'n' Roll**

Folk – Folk Rock – Doo  
Country – Soft Rock

American Jukebox Live is available for your next event.

Garrett Stack's  
American Jukebox  
Live returns  
starting May 17



### FEBRUARY

- 20 - General Veterans Meeting - 7:00
- 25 - Rider's Chili Cook-Off - 11 a.m.

### MARCH

- 2 - Polar Plunge - 1 p.m.
- 16 - St. Patrick's Day Party
- 19 - General Veterans Meeting - 7:00

