

Welcoming Veterans

American Legion Post 196



East Shore American Legion Post 196 – 25 Merwin Ave. – Milford, CT 06460 – www.milfordctvets.org – Feb/March 2025

Thank You!

- Chris O'Donnells – SAL Secretary. During our Children's Christmas Party – Chris collected Wish Lists from all the children and then sent a Letter from Santa to each child.

How Post 196 demonstrates the American Legion's Mission Statement **"to improve the lives of veterans, their families, the military and communities."**

At the end of December, our Final Salute Detail attended the funeral of a veteran who proudly served in the Army's 3rd Armored Division. Noticeably missing was an American flag. When speaking with the family, Sean Eden learned that there was a housefire years before and the veteran lost all military paperwork. The family was unable to contact the VA and so, there was no flag. Sean brought this up at the next E-Board meeting; sought out an old incased flag; cleaned it up; added a 3rd Armored Division patch, and presented it to the veteran's daughter. A little effort went a long way and he "improved the lives of this veteran's family."

Some things always worth repeating:

- Join our FB page to be kept up to date with events and volunteer opportunities. <https://www.facebook.com/AmericanLegion-Post196>
- Shirts, Sweatshirts and hats all for sale – see the bartender.
- While we happily provide robust menus on Wed/Fri/Sat/Sun – we require that you clear your own tables, bring trash to the receptacles provided and leave the table clean for the next guest.
- Parking in the lot adjacent to the building is for Post 196 Veteran Legion Members only. The only exception is the first spot which is for the bartender on duty, and the second spot for musicians performing that day. All others – park in the lot across the street.

Commander *Colleen*



Remember Everyone Deployed – (R.E.D.) is a national campaign that aims to raise awareness and show support for US troops and veterans. The campaign encourages people to wear red on Fridays, known as R.E.D. Friday, to remind people of those who are deployed and to show that they are being thought of. The campaign also aims to highlight the importance of keeping troops in people's minds.



Post 196 Commander Colleen Weatherspoon

Hi Legion Family

I don't know about you but I am definitely looking forward to 2025. Our membership continues to grow in all families, our day-to-day lounge and kitchen service will have more specials in the very near future. Our Final Salute and Color Guard is becoming legendary, and our events continue to have increased attendance. Stay tuned for details about events such as our 5th Annual Polar Plunge in February, and in March, a moving event recognizing the 50th Anniversary of the end of the war in Vietnam. I look forward to seeing and speaking with you during a visit to the post or at one of the fun events we have planned.

Recent highlights:

- We celebrated our Post's 60th Birthday on 11/23. It was a great event attended by many.
- We now have 2 Shuffleboard Leagues – 1 on Monday and 1 on Thursday. The games start at 6 – come down and cheer the teams on.

Congratulations!

- Bob Murray, a member of our post for 39 years, and past Commander of our post – now serving as National Executive Committeeman, will be inducted into the Legion Hall of Fame in February. We are happy to honor Bob and celebrate this tremendous honor with him.



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.





What is a woman?

I learned what a woman is when I was seven years old. My dad took me out to our car - a '48 Ford - and explained to me that from now on I would be responsible for opening the door for Mom. I looked up at him with a big question: why?

"You see, Louis, your mother is very special. She takes very good care of you. She takes care of all your needs. She hugs you when you scrape your knee. Taking care of you and daddy keeps her busy all day, no time for a nap but always time to fix dinner for us. Your Mom is a woman, and God has made all women very special. He realized that man needed someone to share this world with, someone to love and to cherish, someone who could share the responsibility of bringing little boys and girls into this world. Women have the special ability to nurture, to love and to give of themselves to the sick and the needy. Women are so very important in our lives. The partnership of man and woman makes a wonderful team that completes the circle of Life as the good Lord intended."



My dad is long gone but the lessons he taught me so many years ago are more true today than ever. Today I have two sons and a daughter who know full well how I feel about mom and about all women. It's been seventy-six years since I first opened the door for my mother. And my wife Ann knows for certain that when the car stops, I will be there to open her door.

Lou Eden
Chaplain



You're delinquent if Your Membership Card says 2024

For those who have renewed, and that is 396 out of our group, Thank You. Our paid membership for 2024 was 547, and our 2025 goal is 540. We are at approximately 90% of our goal. If your current card is 2024 it means your membership is delinquent, and on February 1, if not renewed, it is suspended. To avoid this, I would suggest stopping at the post and leaving the payment.

Or, mail payment to the post:

**American Legion Post 196,
25 Merwin Ave, Milford, CT 06460**

Or, go online at, legion.org and choose the years to renew.

I would also encourage your family and friends to join our American Legion Post 196 and aid us in accomplishing the great work that we do.

Respectfully,
Tom Jackson

Senior Vice Commander

Honoring Our Heroes



On Saturday, March 29, we commemorate **Vietnam Veterans Day** marking the 50th anniversary of the end of America's involvement in Vietnam. This makes it a uniquely significant moment to honor all our veterans. Over **8.7 million Americans** served during the Vietnam era, with **58,000** making the ultimate sacrifice. From Connecticut alone, **51,934 service members** served in Vietnam, with **615** paying the highest price.

With March 29th falling on a Saturday, we have a rare one-day opportunity to extend a heartfelt welcome home and honor all our Vietnam and Vietnam Era veterans.

This year marks the fourth time Vietnam veterans *Bill Battaglia, Tom Jackson, and Bill Repko* have organized *Vietnam Veterans Day* on the Milford Green. Bill and Tom, both Milford residents, are seeking the city's partnership to expand this meaningful event.

We propose to commence the event with a presold field of flags displayed on the green. These flags will be showcased from Saturday, March 15, through Sunday, March 30, spanning from High St. west to Green's End.

Event Schedule for Saturday, March 29, 2025

- Set up on the Green: 10:00 AM
- Breakfast on the Green: 10:30 AM - Egg Sandwiches, Coffee
- Ceremonies on the Green: 11:00 AM - 12:00 Noon
Invocation, Pledge, Anthem, Music, Speeches
- Migrate to Veteran's Auditorium: 12:30 PM
- Entertainment at the Veterans Hall at Parsons: 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM - approximately
- Adjourn to City Hall for Veterans Social 4:00 PM - approximately.



Join us in this special tribute as we celebrate and honor the brave men and women who served in Vietnam. Your presence and support will help make this event a memorable and heartfelt recognition of their sacrifices.

Bricks for our Memorial Wall – KIA Vietnam

Eight bricks, engraved with the names of eight Milford men who were killed in action in Vietnam, will be installed in our Post's Memorial foundation wall this spring.

JEFFERY R MALONEY CPL - USMC 4-26-1967 QUANG TRI	PAUL J BRAUN LCPL - USMC 4-28-1967 QUANG TRI	HENRY M SARMENTO CPL - USMC 5-19-1967 QUANG TRI
ROBERT C NELSON LCPL - USMC 7-04-1967 QUANG NAM	MILFORD RESIDENTS KILLED IN ACTION IN THE VIETNAM WAR	RICHARD D CONKLIN PFC - USMC 6-15-1968 QUANG NAM
WILLIAM J BANNON JR SP4 - ARMY 4-11-1969 PLEIKU	THOMAS D TIGHE SGT - ARMY 1-10-1970 QUANG TIN	CLIFFORD E PARSONS JR PFC - ARMY 7-17-1970 QUANG NGAI



POST 196



Welcome to all our new members!
We've reached 88% of our membership goal, we are so close.

For those members who have not paid their 2025 dues, to stay in good standing with benefits and privileges of membership, send your \$33 renewal to the American Legion Post 196 Attention: Patty Paris as soon as possible. Don't risk missing out on all the benefits of being an Auxiliary member. If you are experiencing financial hardship and need help with your dues, please reach out by emailing msgrpatty@yahoo.com.

New member initiation will be held at our April 8th meeting. If you have joined the Auxiliary but haven't been initiated you are still a member. The initiation is a way to receive the Auxiliary pin. If you're planning on attending the initiation please contact Patty Paris at msgrpatty@yahoo.com.

Poppy Making: Brenda Abel and Barbara Barrett from unit 165 came to Post 196 to teach us how to make poppies. For each 1,000 our unit makes we will receive \$75.00. If you're interested in helping, please contact Sally Carter sjcarteraux196@gmail.com. The Department needs them by April.

The **Veteran's Christmas Shop** at the VA hospital was a great success. Thank you to the six Unit 196 Auxiliary members and our President Mary-Ellen Breen who participated in this heart-warming event.

At our January monthly meeting we had two special guests: *Tony Diblase* and *Lou Eden*. Tony is a member of *Savage Freedoms Operations*. Tony and his organization were in Western North Carolina in Oct, Nov, and Dec helping the hurricane Helene victims who are living in tents keep warm by tubing in heat from propane tanks. Our Auxiliary unit donated \$500 to help with the cost of filling the tanks. If you would like to help or donate, please visit <https://www.savagefreedoms.com/savageops>.

Lou Eden invited us to his presentation of the "Four Chaplains" which will be held on February 16 at 2PM at Post 196. Additionally, he wrote a special article in this newsletter "What is a Woman" and dedicated it to our group.

The Auxiliary is busy planning for upcoming events:

- Mardi Gras party, March 1.
- Annual Brunch, April 13.

Keep an eye out for details in Feb and March.

SONS Superbowl Pot-Luck – Feb. 9



The SAL is having a Superbowl pot-luck party on Superbowl Sunday February 9, 2025. Sign up at the bar. More details to come, check our Facebook page for updates.

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>Tim Cox, Director</i>
Newsletter Editor:	<i>Garrett Stack</i>

Friday Music At The Post 5-7pm *Eat - Drink - Support Live Music*

February

7 - Steve Bettencourt
14 - no music
21 - Tom Intelisano
28 - no music

MARCH

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



Special Events in February

 The bar will be starting **Tequila Tuesdays** in February. Each month the bartenders will create a new martini special that will be served on Saturdays. Check the new White board for specials.

Feb 9 - SONS Superbowl Pot Luck



Feb 15 - Polar Plunge



Feb 16 - Four Chaplains breakfast - 2 PM
Feb 23 - RIDERS Chili Cook off

Special Events in March

March 1 - Auxiliary Mardi Gras Party



March 15 - St. Patrick's Parade *after party* at 2 PM. Music by DJ Blaze. Drink specials and corn beef sandwiches to go with a full menu by Chef Mike.



LEGION RIDERS CHILI cook-off Sunday

February 23, 2025
12:00 Noon To 4:00P.M.
\$5.00 Enter, Taste & Judge
Entries must be submitted by 11:30 a.m.
Judging begins at 12:00

CASH PRIZES Officially Judged & Peoples Choice **WINNERS**

FREE Chili Dogs After Judging

American Legion Post 196
25 Merwin Ave. Milford Ct. 06460
203-674-9822 Milfordcvtvs.org

Calendar



For a full calendar of POST 196 events, go to milfordcvtvs.org

On the left click **EVENTS CALENDAR**

There's a lot more happening at Post 196!