

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) – June-July 2024



### Post 196 Commander Colleen Weatherspoon

#### Greetings Post 196 Legion Family

**H**ope you are all doing well. Spring and summer mean yard work and time outside with family and friends. If you find yourself looking to escape family and friends or yard work – please stop down to say hi. 😊

Elections for E-Board Members are coming up. Any Legion member (paid up for the current year) – can run for any position on the E-Board. In addition, this year, the positions of Jr. Vice Commander and Finance Officer have no candidates for consideration so if you are interested in running for either of those positions, or any position – please contact a member of the Nominating Committee: Larry Carter, Norm Lansing, or Chad Rose and let them know your name should be added to the list. I look forward to welcoming new members with new ideas.

Memorial Day: This year we marched in two parades – Milford on 5/26 and West Haven, in the rain, on 5/27.

We have a lot of great events that recently took place: Auxiliary Brunch, Cinco de Mayo and Golf Tournament and

even more events coming up. See more details on all of them within this issue of our Newsletter.



We so appreciate the volunteers who make these events a success, and I'd like to highlight a few:


**Bill Battaglia** – our go to person for many of the flyers we use to publish our events. Try as we may to be more organized, we often only give him a day notice and yet, he always gets us what we need so – **Thank You Bill.**


**Chef Mike** – we've had regular kitchen hours for some time now and we love it. No better burger in town than the "Commander Burger." Mike also works with us to create specialized menus for events like *New Years Eve* and *Cinco de Mayo* and that definitely drives improved customer satisfaction, so – **Thank You Mike.**

Stay tuned for our **Baseball Team** schedule – we will post as soon as we get it. Come out and join us to support the team.

#### 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 bartender. 

• **Parking** in the lot adjacent to the building is for legion members – the only exception is the first spot which is for the bartender on duty. All others (Aux, SAL, and guests) should use the lot across the street. 

Looking forward to seeing you soon.

Colleen



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

**F**or 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.







### The Challenge of the Perfect Gift

**G**ifts: Expressions of love, recognition of achievements, remembrances of special occasions, sharing the joy of the holidays. We give gifts for all kinds of reasons. Americans, in particular, give often and give generously.

For years now I've thought about the possibility of giving the perfect gift: something very important to the recipient, who would never know that the gift came from me.

Grandma always wanted a cameo, but never asked for one - it seemed frivolous. The 6-year-old in the neighborhood looks longingly at the bikes his friends ride, but knows his single mom can't afford to buy one. The minister of the small church in that poor, downtrodden neighborhood could use additional funds at the holidays, but none are forthcoming. These and more are opportunities for giving the perfect gift.

#### The challenge? It's two-fold:

- 1) You may never let the recipient (grandma, the 6-year-old, the minister, whoever) know that you gave the gift
- 2) You may never let anyone at all know that you provided it.



Got it? Simple, easy - right? Not really. Remember: Only you and the Almighty will ever know, and you don't have to tell Him. (He knows everything.) Now, some news. Time and again I've tried to meet the challenge, but the "never letting anyone at all" know has tripped me up. Sorry. And, if I should succeed, I won't be able to tell you. If you try to meet the challenge, I hope you succeed. I won't know, of course, because, hmmm, you won't be able to tell me.

God bless Post 196. God bless America. We ARE Legion!  
Good luck and have a great summer.

**Chaplain  
Lou Eden**

### See the Pirates' Hideout

**R**iders are sponsoring a trip for those ambulatory members, age 70 and older, who would enjoy a boat ride to **Thimble Islands**. Participants will leave from Post 196 by bus to the Branford dock and back. The date is to be announced.



Connecticut's unique and fascinating Thimble Islands in Branford.

**A Memorial Day Thought:** Remembering the Father of our Country. I would like to give special thanks to General George Washington. Without his guidance, our great country and Constitutional Republic would not have been possible.  
Riders Historian, Noelle J. Richard

**T**hank you everyone for supporting, helping and donating your delicious recipes to our annual **Sunday brunch**.

Another thanks to everyone that participated and volunteered for the **8th Annual Post 196 Golf Tournament**. We had another successful year and we couldn't do it all without you. In the past two months, we've been fortunate to be able to donate to the following events/charities: *The Purple Box*, *Mission 22 Elderheart Inc\**, *Post 196 Annual Golf Tournament*, *VA CT Fisher House*, *a brick to memorialize Barbara Luedee*, *West Haven VA annual Baby Shower for female veterans* and *Fisher House at West Haven VA*. Additionally, we made a donation to the Past Presidents Parley. This money is used to provide scholarships to children and grandchildren of veterans.

We're very excited to announce that the Auxiliary currently reached 103% of our membership goal and welcomed **32 new members**. As a reminder, the Auxiliary does not have monthly meetings in July and August. So enjoy the summer and rest up for September. The Auxiliary annual dues begin in September.

When you're planning to come to Post 196, bring a non-perishable food item and place it in the **Purple Box** located in the lounge. The best donation is protein, like peanut butter, canned meats, chili, tuna fish, boxed mac and cheese etc. These items will be picked-up on a regular basis and placed in the Purple Pantry boxes around Milford.



Once again, we will be sponsoring a high school student from Milford to attend the University of New Haven to participate in the **Laurel Girls State** June event. We also gave two scholarships to students: one each from Foran and Jonathan Law High School. The Auxiliary participated in the Milford Memorial Day ceremonies by placing flags at the cemeteries and the parade marchers distributed flags and poppies. This year, some of us marched in the West Haven Memorial Day Parade, the next day, in the rain. Our Executive Board elections will be held at our June meeting. Any member in good standing can run for any office from the floor.

*\*Mission 22 (Elderheart, Inc.) is a program that helps vets and families dealing with PTSD, TBI and veteran suicide..*

**COMING SOON**

*Aloha*

**ANNUAL AUXILIARY  
LUAU  
JULY 20**



**MEMBERSHIP – THE TRUE MEANING**

A full member is part of an organization or group and has all the rights to participate in it. This includes the right to make, discuss, and vote on decisions, except for certain cases where the organization has reserved those rights for specific members.

The purpose of a membership organization is to gather like-minded individuals to engage with or further interest in a shared activity, industry, profession, or mission. Alongside the ability to share specific interests with others, a membership business model has several additional benefits.

We currently have 530 Legion members paid for 2024 and I would like to thank them for their support. It is my duty to encourage all these 530 members (up 25 since last report) to recommend a friend, neighbor, or relative for membership.

The Legion membership fee for 2025 will increase. You have an opportunity to renew for 2025, 2026, and 2027 at the current 2024 rate. This can only be accomplished through legion.org and select renew. See detailed instructions below.

It has been my pleasure to assist with your membership.

Senior Vice Commander  
**Tom Jackson**

**FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY:**  
*Special renewal discount continues*



How do I renew for three years and save \$30?

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.



Sons of the American Legion will sponsor a Fathers Day Brunch, June 16 at 10:00 a.m.



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

Permittee:	Norm Lansing
Auxiliary:	Mary-Ellen Breen, Pres.
Sons of AL:	Ken Crepeau, Commander
Legion Riders:	Dave Woodmanse, Director

**Friday Music At The Post**



**>> Eat - Drink - Support Live Music <<**

**JUNE**

- 7 - Steve Bettencourt – 5-7
- 14 - The Modifieds
- 21 - Garrett Stack's American Jukebox® Live – 5-7
- 28 - The Elwoods – 5-7

**JULY**

- 5 - Steve Bettencourt – 5-7
- 12 - The Modifieds
- 19 - Garrett Stack's American Jukebox® Live – 5-7
- 26 - The Elwoods – 5-7

**AUGUST**

- 2- The Modifieds – 5-7
- 9- Steve Bettencourt – 5-7
- 16 - Garrett Stack's American Jukebox® Live – 5-7
- 23 - Take Two
- 30 - The Elwoods – 5-7



For a full calendar of POST 196 events, go to

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

**JUNE**

- 16 - SAL Fathers Day Brunch - 10:00 a.m.
- 18 - General Veterans Meeting - 7:00

**JULY**

- 16 - General Veterans Meeting - 7:00
- 20 - Auxiliary Luau - 6:00

**AUGUST**

- 20 - General Veterans Meeting - 7:00



Garrett Stack PRESENTS BABY BOOMER CLASSICS

**Rock'n'Roll**

Folk – Folk Rock – Pop

Country – Soft Rock

American Jukebox® Live is available for your next event.

**Garrett Stack's American Jukebox® Live - Every third Friday through October**