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## *James Parise - Candidate for Post Commander 2023-24*

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Why am I running to be Post Commander?

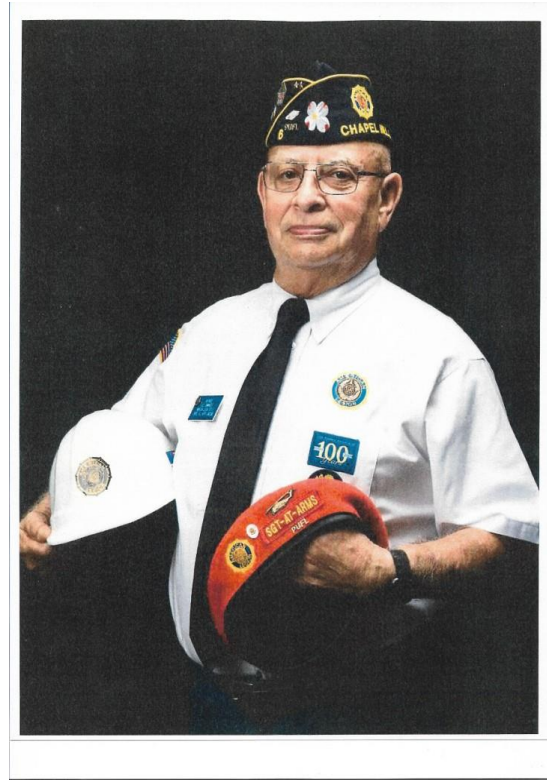
Chapel Hill Post No. 6, American Legion, Incorporated, was dedicated on 28 August 1919.

One hundred and four years ago, dedicated veterans founded our post based on the [Four Pillars of this organization](#) that bind us together. Our founding forefathers have passed to Post Everlasting, but their values live on.

Many of you have seen me around the Post as I have come up through the ranks, and I present a short message.

Who am I? I served with the US Army Security Agency for four years. I have previously served at the [James Harvey Spire Post 787, Cicero, NY](#) (now the largest in New York state) for eight years.

Locally, in Chapel Hill, I have served as Post 6 Memorial Brick Sales Manager, six years; Post 6 Sergeant-at-Arms, four years; Post 6 Facilities Manager, four years; and Post 6 3rd Vice Commander two years. It was my honor and privilege to help bring our new post home to realization as a member of the Post 6 New Post Home Construction Committee—a six-year journey.



Local honors include service on the [Orange County Veterans Memorial](#) Committee for five years where we built the only community-funded veterans memorial in Orange County. I was honored by Orange County as a member of the Seymour Center Veterans' Wall of Honor, three years; and have had the distinct honor and privilege, extended to me by Immediate Past Post Commander Bill Munsee, of raising Old Glory for the first time at our new American Legion Post Home.

I serve the American Legion, Department of North Carolina, American Legion, as a Sergeant-at-Arms, three years, and was promoted to Chief Sergeant-at-Arms by Department Commander Mike Donnelly this year. Additionally, I was selected American Legionnaire of the Year, Department of North Carolina, for 2021.

The American Legion of our Fathers wasn't just envisioned as a monthly social gathering, but a hubbub of activity for Veterans, their families, and the community. The

American Legion is one of the few organizations left that still proudly recites the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of our great Union.

I am not running a negative campaign against anyone. I am running because my vision for Chapel Hill Post No. 6 is positive, for I want to serve others by revitalizing our efforts through concentrating our programs at the Post and in our community to efforts by which our roots first took hold. That is, the **Four Pillars** upon which we were founded; [Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation](#), [National Security](#), [Americanism](#), and [Children & Youth](#).

Chapel Hill Post No. 6 should be a resource center for all veterans, their families, and the community. Our Home should be a place where veterans can seek solace and experience comradery. It should be a place where the youth of our community can learn about our values, Americanism, our Constitution, and see why so many have written a blank check to the Nation and American people, payable up to their lives. The community should feel like we feel; that we are a prominent and valuable part of the daily activities of our community.

You are the American Legion, and I promise to work just as hard as I have in the positions of Vice Commander and Facilities Manager to serve you and to make Chapel Hill Post 6 a safe haven for all our fellow veterans and their families. I will strive my best to serve you, the 300+ members of Chapel Hill Post 6, as we continue our legacy of over 104 years.

These goals cannot be achieved unless we have a targeted fiscal plan and policy to ensure that our beautiful building is self-supporting, while being the resource for which it was built. My door will always be open (even if it is closed) to you as a member and to those veterans and their families in our community. Your thoughts, concerns, and needs are always foremost.

It has been my great honor to serve you and I look forward to serving as your good steward as a Post Commander. Thank you for taking the time to read this. I greatly appreciate your support.

*Jim Parise*

Candidate for Post Commander