

“Help Keep the Promise!”



Memorial Courtyard, between the Veterans Building and the Opera House, site of the San Francisco Veterans Memorial. The site is interred with the soils of battlefields where Americans have fought for our freedom.

By MajGen J. Michael Myatt, USMC (Ret.)

The San Francisco Veterans Memorial Steering Committee, co-chaired by Secretary George P. Shultz and Secretary William J. Perry, is proud to announce that on June 8, models of the three finalist proposals for the San Francisco Veterans Memorial will be placed on public display in the War Memorial Vet-

erans Building, home of The American Legion Department of California offices and the Posts of District 8. The three selected artist teams – all of whom have experience creating memorials – represent different backgrounds and artistic practices, and are expected to present a diverse range of design concepts. We need your help and your support to make this project a reality.

“We have selected an exceptional group of finalists. We were extremely impressed with their previous projects, and we are confident that each will develop an excellent proposal for this memorial, which will mean so much for our local and state veteran community,” said War Memorial Trustee MajGen J. Michael Myatt, member of American Legion Post 236 and co-chair of the Veterans Memorial Working Committee with Trustee Wilkes Bashford.

The memorial will be located between the War Memorial Opera House and Veterans Building on a site already made sacred by soil interred therein from battlefields around the world where brave Americans have

fought for their country. This sacred soil will be incorporated into the Memorial and is a required element of any design proposal. Since the complex’s completion in 1932, the site always intended to have a memorial to our nation’s Veterans. “We are asking people to come together to help fulfill a promise to erect a memorial that honors the people that have protected our freedom and security. This memorial will be a symbol of gratitude for their service and for the peace we enjoy as a nation,” said Secretary Shultz.

The \$2.5 million project is being funded by donations raised through a campaign currently underway, which has united in this common cause the San Francisco War Memorial Board of Trustees, San Francisco Opera, San Francisco Ballet, San Francisco Symphony and numerous Veterans’ organizations serving the Bay Area, including the American Legion Posts of District 8. As an example of their strong commitment to the project, the San Francisco Opera has generously donated all seats

— PROMISE, continued on page 2

The American Legion Department of California Convention Call

**93rd Department Convention
Ontario, California
June 23-26, 2011**

The 93rd Annual Convention of The American Legion, Department of California, is hereby called to meet in ONTARIO, California at the DOUBLE TREE Hotel and ONTARIO Convention Center, JUNE 23-26, 2011.

Purpose: The Convention is called for the annual reports of the Department Officers and Department Convention Commissions and Committees, consideration of proposed amendments to the Department Bylaws, adoption of the Department budget for the ensuing year, election of Department Officers for the ensuing year, and transaction of such other business as may be brought before it.

Election of Department Officers: The Department Commander, Department Vice Commanders, Department Sergeant-at-Arms, Executive Committeeman

— CALL, continued on page 8

American Legion Department of California Eagle Scout of the Year

John is the son of Geary and Mary Caldwell. Geary is a member of Moorpark Post 502, Distinct 16, and Area 6. Geary is a retired Marine and Iraq war veteran. John attends Oaks Christian School.

John received his Eagle Rank on November 15, 2009 and has earned 4 palms. John has also earned the World Conservation Award. John is 18 years old and now is a Junior Assistant Scoutmaster of troop 761. In John’s scouting journey, he has placed flags on the graves at Arlington National and other local military cemeteries. John has attended a World Scout Jamboree in England and the 100th Anniversary National Jamboree where John was a patrol leader. John’s Eagle project was to refurbish the boy’s locker room at Los Cerritos Middle School in Thousand Oaks. This involved the cleaning and painting of 600 lockers. The project required over 200 hours of labor and managing 22 Scouts and adults. John has earned his God and Country and God and Life Award religious emblems. John is an active member of the Order of the Arrow, an honor camping society, and involved in the Lodges Ceremonies teams.

He has a 4.28 GPA and is in the top 5% of his class. John tutors math and chemistry in his school. John was involved in the exchange student program and lived with a family in Yokohama, Japan. He is the layout design editor of the school magazine. John is involved in Varsity Lacrosse and the school musical, *South Pacific*. John also is a California Boys State Alumni. John was a practicing attorney and won his case.

John is very active with his church and has traveled to Costa Rica, China and Guatemala doing global community service. In Costa Rica, he refurbishes the camp equipment and was a part-time counselor for the La Montana Christian Camp. In China, John dug ditches and helped at an orphanage and taught English at five different middle schools. In Guatemala, John worked on the Santa Anita Cooperative and picked, sorted and processed coffee.

John’s mother is a cancer survivor and has focused John’s career interest in the Biomedical Engineering field. He plans on pursuing a PhD or M.D. in Biomedical Engineering.

Editor’s Note: The American Legion



John W. Caldwell

National Organization awarded a \$2,500 scholarship to John William “Reeves” Caldwell of Thousand Oaks, California as one of three runners-up in the national Eagle Scout of the Year recognition program. The American Legion has supported scouting since its first National Convention in 1919. Legion Posts sponsor more than 2,700 scouting units, serving more than 71,500 young people, at a cost of more than \$1.7 million.

Invitation to join the Navy Golf Course Men’s Club

Men’s Club membership is now open to current members and former members of the Armed Forces of the United States. Specifically, this means men who are currently on active duty, men who have retired from the armed forces, and veterans who have not retired, and have a DD214.

Monthly tournaments are on the 3rd Saturday of each month. Annual Member/Member and Member/Guest tournaments. Service cup challenges. Play with your fellow service buddies as a team event.

Two traveling teams called: Blitz Teams – Blue and Gold. Match play with the men’s clubs at March AFB, Camp Pendleton, Miramar Marine Air Base, Admiral Baker San Diego. Year-end scramble tournament, four man mixed team. Travel by bus. There is a separate fee to belong to Blitz Club. Monthly meeting (not mandatory) on the first Wednesday of every month with drawings for golf balls/money. Opportunity to dine with new and old friends prior to the meeting.

Tea times available: Tuesday open play shotgun and meeting day tournament. Four golf professionals, including a lady PGA golf professional, are available for lessons. New clubhouse.

Two courses – One 18- and one 9-hole. Best of all you get to play one of the best courses in Southern California.

Do you have a question? Log on to our Web site at www.ngcmc.org. Click on club administration and membership. Mail your application and check to the address shown on the application.

OPT OUT!

Opt-out of the home mailing of the *California Legionnaire*. If you received this USPS delivery of the paper, your previous request was lost in the transition to our on-site database. Just visit www.calegion.org/html/opt-out.html Complete the simple on-line form, click submit, and then your next issue of the paper will be available on-line!

e-Edition

Same format as our print edition online!

www.calegion.org



American Legion Honors Officers



L-R: Kristen Huyck, Field Representative; Assemblyman K. Jeffries, 66th Assembly District; Buzz Waltz, District 21 Commander; Officer Eric Pena and wife; Pete Ramos, L&O Chairman, District 21. Photo courtesy of CHP Officer Dan Perez

Last month, American Legion District 21, Riverside County, hosted its Annual Law and Order program at American Legion Post 328 in Norco. The program honored law enforcement officers who distinguished themselves throughout the year, either meritoriously or through acts of courage or bravery.

Guests included District Commander Harold Waltz and his wife, Marie, of Palm Springs Post 519; from Los Angeles, Department Commander Candidate Hugh E. Crooks, Jr. and his wife, Yoko, and Area 5 Law and Order Commissioner, Ed Alvarez and his wife, Patricia. Kristen Huyck, representing Assemblyman Kevin Jeffries of the 66th Assembly District, attended and presented certificates to each honoree. Over 100 officers, colleagues, friends and legionnaires were present to witness the awards ceremony.

The program opened with presentation of the Colors by the Sea Cadets, Desert Storm Division, from the Norco Post. The pledge was led by District Sergeant-at-Arms, Jim Walsh, Post 328. The Sea Cadets also assisted with the dinner service and were rewarded with a donation and a Certificate

of Appreciation from the District.

The honorees included Sergeant Mathew Beard, Palm Springs Police, who rescued a critically burned victim from a burning house. Deputies Andrew Acosta, Gustavo Ibarra and Christopher Waters of the Lake were honored for rescuing an elderly female from a fast moving brush fire. CHP Officer Eric Pena from Indio has removed over 527 intoxicated drivers from the highways over a 5 year period, and Officer William Bozyk of Riverside was instrumental in solving several freeway shooting incidents, which resulted in the arrests of the responsible suspects.

CHP Sergeant Thomas Clarke of the Desert Hills Truck Inspection Facility and CHP Office Assistant Patricia Davis were honored for over 29 years and 32 years, respectively, of dedicated service to the citizens of the county and the state. Both are looking forward to retiring this month.

Each honoree was awarded an American Legion plaque, Assembly Commendation Certificate and a Congressional Recognition Certificate from Congressman Darrell Issa, 49th Congressional District.

Good morning!

Matthew E. Herndon, Assistant Director
Internal Affairs & Membership

The Race to the Top winners have been determined. The first place winner in each category has won a trip to this year's National Convention in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Second place winners have won \$500 and third place winners have won \$375.

Congratulations to all of these District Commanders for a job well done.

Category I

- 1st – Wayne Jackson (UT)
- 2nd – Pete Padilla (NM)
- 3rd – Fred Nelson (SD)

Category II

- 1st – Bernard Remoaldo (CA)
- 2nd – Dan Smart (MT)
- 3rd – No one qualified

Category III

- 1st – Jay Conti
- 2nd – No one qualified

Category IV and Category V

No one qualified

PROMISE, continued from page 1

to the final dress rehearsal of their world premiere of "Heart of a Soldier" as a fundraising opportunity.

Heart of a Soldier tells the true story of Second Lieutenant Rick Rescorla, an incredible man whose military training and experience in multiple combat tours led him to become Head of Security for Morgan Stanley at the World Trade Center, where his courage and commitment to emergency preparedness saved 2,700 lives. During the 1965 Battle of Ia Drang in the Vietnam War, Second Lieutenant Rescorla sang to break the fear that gripped his men as they marched forward into the pages of history. Thirty-six years later, on September 11, 2001, he used this same voice to sing his colleagues out of the smoke-filled World Trade Center, saving the lives of thousands. Forever a soldier, he then made the ultimate sacrifice when he went back in for those left behind.

The San Francisco Veterans Memorial Project will fulfill the 75-year promise of a Memorial to honor the service and sacrifice of our nation's military veterans, like Rick Rescorla, by building a memorial commensurate with the dignity of their sacrifice. The models will be on display from June 8 through June 22, 2011.

Please join the San Francisco Veterans Memorial Steering Committee and help keep the promise to generations of veterans who have served our nation in the cause of freedom. For more information or to make a donation, please visit the San Francisco Veterans Memorial Web site at www.SFVeteransMemorial.org



At left, Col. Cyril Richard "Rick" Rescorla (May 27, 1939-September 11, 2001) during the Battle of Ia Drang (1965) and Baritone Thomas Hampson, renowned for his "clarion power and burnished tone" sings the role of Rick Rescorla in the San Francisco Opera production of "Heart of a Soldier."



Published bimonthly by:

THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA

Veterans Memorial Building
401 Van Ness Avenue
Room 117
San Francisco, CA 94102
TEL: (415) 431-2400
FAX: (415) 255-1571
Email: maryj@calegion.org

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER

Mark Foxworthy (199-5)

DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT

Bill Siler iii (132-29)

EDITOR

David L. Eby (529-1)
Department Commander 1998-99
(707) 275-2771 Home
calegion@pacific.net

AUXILIARY EDITOR

Estella Avina
(928) 649-3027 Home
(928) 649-3027 Fax – call first
(928) 593-9717 Cell
Avinahotgram@aol.com

PUBLISHING COMMISSION

Chairman:

E. Paul Terry (410-26) - Area 2

Vice-Chairman:

Larry Johnson (280-18) - Area 6

Members:

Alberto Castillo (77-6) - Area 1
Kelly Haughton (26-15) - Area 3
Marilyn Rideaux (252-23) - Area 4
Roderick P. Van Orden (6-22) - Area 5



PUBLICATION POLICY

California Legionnaire is the official publication of The American Legion Department of California. The six Publishing issue months are August, October, December, February, April and June with occasional special editions published as needed.

NOTICE: Submissions to the *California Legionnaire* must be submitted no later than 26th of each prior month to be included in the upcoming bimonthly issue.

To submit articles and/or photos: Please e-mail article and any photos attached at a minimum 200 DPI (1600 x 1200) to calegion@pacific.net or mail prints, negatives or slides to Editor David L. Eby, 9804 Diane Lane, Upper Lake, CA 95485. All submissions become the property of The American Legion Department of California. All submitted material is subject to edit, rework and omission. We are not responsible for lost items or misplaced material.

Please send "Change of Address" and "Deceased Notifications" to:

The American Legion, Department of California, 401 Van Ness Avenue, Room 117, San Francisco, CA 94102-4587

Do not direct them to the Editor

All Advertising:
Please contact Mary Long at Department HQ for pricing.

PUBLISHING OFFICE:

American Graphics & Design
Greenfield, WI 53227
www.agad.com
Jenny DeBack, President
Cindy Chic, Graphic Designer



Do you know someone who may appreciate Membership in The American Legion?

Mail completed form and dues to:
The American Legion Department of California
401 Van Ness Ave Room 117
San Francisco, California 94102-4587

Don't forget, women are Veterans too!!!

THE AMERICAN LEGION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

_____ (NAME)	_____ (PHONE)
_____ (MAILING ADDRESS)	_____ (DATE)
_____ (CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE)	\$35.00 (DUES)

(PLEASE CHECK ONE) LOCAL MEMBERSHIP POST# _____
 POST 1000 MEMBERSHIP (HEADQUARTERS)

PLEASE CHECK APPROPRIATE ELIGIBILITY DATES AND BRANCH OF SERVICE BELOW

<input type="checkbox"/> August 2, 1990 - cessation of hostilities as determined by U.S. Government	<input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Army
<input type="checkbox"/> December 20, 1989 - January 31, 1990	<input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Navy
<input type="checkbox"/> August 24, 1982 - July 31, 1984	<input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Air Force
<input type="checkbox"/> February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975	<input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Marines
<input type="checkbox"/> June 25, 1950 - January 31, 1955	<input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Coast Guard
<input type="checkbox"/> December 7, 1941 - December 31, 1946	<input type="checkbox"/> Merchant Marines (12/7/41-8/15/45 only)
<input type="checkbox"/> April 6, 1917 - November 11, 1918	

I certify that I served at least one day of active military duty during the dates marked above and was honorably discharged or am still serving honorably.

(SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT)

(RECRUITER)

MY ANNUAL DUES OF \$35.00 ARE PAID BY:

PERSONAL CHECK MONEY ORDER CASHIERS CHECK

VISA MASTERCARD

(COMPLETE BELOW IF PAYING BY CREDIT CARD)

(CREDIT CARD NUMBER)

(EXPIRATION DATE)

(NAME ON CARD)

(CARDHOLDER SIGNATURE)



FROM THE COMMANDER'S DESK



Mark Foxworthy
State Commander

Dear Legionnaires and Legion Family,

Please accept my deepest appreciation and gratitude for the opportunity you have provided in allowing me to serve you as your Department Commander. Our travels

and experiences are lifetime memories. The stories and examples of service we witnessed throughout the year offered tremendous inspiration and motivation. We continue our efforts to improve and fine tune the programs, services and support so desperately needed today.

The results of our success are well documented. The Department Oratorical winner placed 3rd in the National Competition. Our Eagle Scout also received National recognition and joined several other Californians receiving scholarship awards and acknowledgment for their dedication to God and Country. We are preparing to conduct another excellent Boys State program this year and the Environmental Youth Conference is underway, helping to shape and develop the leaders of tomorrow. I am very proud of our Americanism and Children & Youth programs and activities. Excellent job to all!

The State of California is faced with many difficult decisions surrounding our Veterans and those who support them. (That's us!) Issues from Remote Caller Bingo, County Veterans Service Officers, and Veterans Courts are just a few legislative matters currently being debated in Sacramento. Please seek out your District or Area Legislative Commissioner for information and guidance on our positions. Then contact your elected represen-

tatives and voice your opinions supporting The American Legion.

Our National Legislative Council was revitalized this year with the help of Chairman Eric Measles, who did an outstanding job coordinating and compiling the list of council members and their designated representatives. This effort resulted in streamlined communication from the National organization and provides the avenue for us to stay in tune to the happenings and efforts related to national legislative issues – as they occur. We ask you to keep an eye on Washington, D.C. and help ensure America's Veterans are provided with the services and support they earned.

The Department Membership program accepted another great challenge this year. I would like to say "Thank You" to every Legionnaire who supported Bill Clapp and his team this year. With over 2 million Veterans residing in our great state, we can and must, work smarter in recruiting, retaining and reconnecting with these Brothers and Sisters in Arms. An extraordinary effort in District 10 paid huge dividends this year...Commander Bernie Remoaldo accepted this challenge and has been awarded First Place in the National "Race to the Top" competition. Bernie won a trip to the National Convention and tremendous respect from his peers. Proof that if you work for something that you truly desire, you'll achieve success. Bernie – all I can say is AIRBORNE!

There are many valid ideas and suggestions towards improving The Department. I encourage you to speak your mind, get involved and help change the culture and move us into the 21st Century. We can make great strides in the coming years. Your support will determine our future. Please join us as we Serve America's Veterans Every Day. Again, thank you for the opportunity. AIRBORNE!



DEPARTMENT SERVICE OFFICER



Scott McKee
Department
Service Officer
VA & R
Division

"From the Desert to the Sea and All of California, Greetings." The American Legion Fiscal year is almost finished and as I reflect on the past year a great deal has

occurred in the world, nation, state, local, Veterans Affairs, The American Legion and the Vocational Affairs and Rehabilitation Division. I began the year by implementing a training program, which would take the *Post Service Officer Guide*, and put it in a PowerPoint presentation. By doing this it would assist the Post Service Officer, the Hospital Representative and anyone interested in VA affairs a better educational experience in learning how to file VA claims.

I started out in the 2nd Area up in Santa Clara and traveled through Northern, Central and Southern California for each of the six Area Meetings. I want to thank the Area Vice Commanders for allowing these seminars to occur during these busy meetings. For those who attended the meetings, the response was positive and I had requests to expand beyond the basic training for VA&R. We had over 100 Legionnaires and interested parties participate, and some even braved the open book exam, and passed with high scores. Those participants received a *Certificate of Completion*, showing they now have a basic understanding on how to file a VA Claim. Even if you are not the Post Service Officer or the Hospital Representative, this seminar can prove valuable in

understanding the VA Claims process in the handling of your own claim. At the Department Convention in Ontario on June 25 we will be offering the same course and we will expand on some of the issues you have requested. Take time out and come on over to the Convention and check it out. I don't think you will be disappointed.

To add to this continuing education, I am asking that the *California Legionnaire* allow a new addition called "Tips from the Veteran Service Officers." This month we have a few tips from our Service Officers out of all three Regional offices. They are Ed Tauscher from Oakland, Cynthia Mann from Los Angeles and Josie Grafilo and Nestor Soriano from San Diego. I've asked each one to provide their picture so when you call our office, you'll be able to place a face with the name. It is a joy to work with these fine folks and I think you'll learn the same.

All incoming Area Vice Commanders when you are planning your year, please keep in mind I would like to offer this class again. The plan, just as last year, is to offer it once at one of your Area meetings. I attend one Area meeting in each of the six Areas once per year, and feel this VA education is vital to providing one of the benefits we offer, known as the 1st Pillar – Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation. The Father of The American Legion, Theodore Roosevelt, Jr. (and I paraphrase), was asked the purpose of the establishment of this new veteran's organization. His response was, since the WWI Veterans were not accepted into the Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R.), we need to take care of our boys. The education program I present ——— *SERVICE, continued on page 4*



ADJUTANT'S CORNER



Bill Siler III
Adjutant

Department Convention is coming up in June! It will be June 23-26, 2011.

1. TO ALL POSTS:

The "Consolidated Post Report" must be filled out and the National and Department copies in to

Department Headquarters by June 6, 2011. If your "CPR" Report isn't filled out and to Department, you will not be cleared to be seated at the Department Convention. If you aren't cleared, your delegates will have to go the Department Office and fill out a report to be cleared. This was voted to be part of the Department Bylaws at the Fresno Convention in 2006 by you, the delegates representing your Posts.

2. **DISTRICTS:** should try to have their paperwork into Department Headquarters by June 13, 2011 which is only ten (10) Days prior to Convention. This would coincide with having the Post "CPR" Reports into Department prior to the Department Convention, Article VI, Section 3, of the Department Bylaws. If the Districts could have their meetings, at the latest, the first weekend in June, this will help the Department staff get their part of the paperwork completed prior to the Department Convention.

3. **COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN:** At the Convention you will go to the Department Office prior to your Committee meeting and pick up your folders. The folders will include committee members that were appointed by their Districts at the District Caucus or are elected at the District Convention Caucus. Anyone who attends the committee meeting and isn't on the list, will have no vote at the committee meeting. District Commanders/Adjutants, please send in your committee lists with your certification of District Officers and all other forms that pertain to the Convention.

4. **POST BILLING:** Around May 16,

2011 each Post should have received their billing for DELEGATE FEES. Whether your Post delegates go to Convention or don't go to Convention, you are expected to pay your Post Delegate Fees.

5. **MEMBERSHIP CARDS:** Incoming District Commanders are to pick up Membership Cards at the Department Office. The time and date will be announced at Convention.

6. **REGISTERING SECRETARIES:** Don't forget, there will be a meeting on Wednesday, June 22, 2011 at 11 a.m.. The place will be Posted at the Convention Center.

7. **NATIONAL DELEGATES: You are to elect your DELEGATES and ALTERNATE DELEGATES at your District Caucus, prior to the Department Convention.** Please have your National Delegates and Alternate Delegates Form to Department Headquarters by June 15, 2011. If you don't get them in you will only have until 10 a.m. on Friday, June 24, 2011 to get them in to Department.

8. **REMEMBER:** If you are a delegate or alternate delegate from your District, you can't be on the delegate or alternate delegates at-large list.

9. Check the Web site [www.calegion.org] to make sure where your committee will be meeting on Thursday, June 23, 2011. Our Webmaster, Dave Eby, has the Department Convention information on our Department Web site. Check the Web site frequently to make sure that you didn't miss any current changes or updates.

10. **ALL DEC MEMBERS 2011-12:** Because we have been having Legionnaires who aren't eligible to be members of The American Legion become members of the DEC, we are requesting that all incoming Members of the DEC bring with them to the Convention their eligibility to be a member of The American Legion. If you can't show me that you are eligible to be a member of The American Legion, then you can't be a member of the DEC.



MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR



Bill Clapp
Membership
Director

Mission Statement: To foster and promote membership in The American Legion, Department of California

It is with great pleasure that I have had the opportunity to serve as Department Membership Director this past year, and my thanks to all of you who have helped in

achieving the membership goals of the Department. As Convention is upon us, I hope that each of you will take this opportunity to enjoy your stay in Ontario, and that you will participate in all the Convention activities that are available to you – to learn from one another and help promote the ideals of The American Legion.

This has truly been an interesting year for membership. As I have traveled throughout the Department of California, I have met many in our Legion Family. I have found that there is a purpose to all

and their efforts are reflected in our membership reports. I want to thank everyone for all your efforts this year.

I look forward to meeting many of you at our Membership Meeting while at Convention. This meeting is designed to not only hear from Department on various aspects of membership, but for you to participate, to interact with others in attendance, and to put forth new ideas and options that the Department might consider to promote membership.

Many of you have made significant contributions to the success of this year's membership program. Becoming "Community Partners" in the Department of Defense program "Yellow Ribbon – Reintegration" Program; hosting cookouts for local Reserve Units; representing The American Legion at various Veterans Day functions, — *MEMBERSHIP, continued on page 4*

Department Membership Committee

Membership Director, Bill Clapp (496 – 19)
Membership Chair North: Ralph W. Jacob, Jr. (419 – 13)
Membership Chair South: John Chizmar (826 – 29)
Area 1 Chairman: Mike Hooper (807 – 4)
Area 2 Chairman: Ron Parshall (647 – 10)
Area 3 Chairman: Richard Barghoorn (108 – 11)
Area 4 Chairman: Art Castro (51 – 19)
Area 5 Chairman: Charles Hicks (725 – 25)
Area 6 Chairman: Augustine Galaviz (475 – 18)



LEADERSHIP COMMISSION



Benny Kepaa
Leadership
Commission

Greetings, California Legionnaire Leaders and Comrades!

It's "Convention Time" here in beautiful Ontario, California. I would be remiss if I didn't comment one last time on this year's (2010-2011) progressive "program reminders" from your LEADERSHIP COMMISSION.

As stated in my last article, April 2011 edition of the *LEGIONNAIRE*, I recommended and suggested to start planning your Membership drives for next year (2011-2012). Do not hesitate to call upon your past Post officers to give assistance

and guidance.

And, since it's "Convention Time" here in beautiful Ontario, it is my hope that every Post has fully completed and forwarded in a timely manner all their important reports to Department Headquarters and respective Commissions. Your Post Certificate of Officers should have already been turned in. The deadline date has been adjusted to June 7th, 2011.

Oh...one more thing! Don't forget to have an old-fashioned 4th of July celebration and as a suggestion, make it a Community project.

Okay Legionnaires (Comrades), this is a wrap! Enjoy your time at our 93rd Department Convention, as I look forward to your attendance. God Bless America and God Bless our American Legion Leaders.



DEPARTMENT VICE COMMANDER REPRESENTING AREA 1



Gary Leach
Department Vice
Commander
Representing Area 1

As the annual Convention approaches, I want to thank all of you for your support throughout this past year. You have done an amazing job of service to the community, state and nation. Some of the many things I observed Area One Legionnaires, Sons, Riders and Auxiliary members involved in this year were: Color Guards, Honor Guards, parades and flag retirement ceremonies; holiday food baskets and canned food drives; toy runs and children's Christmas parties; scholarships, temporary financial assistance, appreciation dinners and phone cards for active duty military personnel, fundraisers for families with catastrophic medical issues; Stand Downs for at-risk veterans, volunteer service at VA clinics, cemeteries, and the California Veterans' Home at Yountville, etc. And then there were the

usual Legion programs that we support year after year: American Legion Baseball, Boys' State, Boy Scouts, the H.S. Oratorical Contest, Legislation, Naturalization, School Awards, Law Enforcement and Firefighter recognition, to name a few. We can be confident that we lived up to our commitments this year in Area One.

In spite of all we do for our communities, membership was down this year. Membership is the product we sell. With all the good things we do, eligible veterans should be knocking on our doors wanting to belong. Why isn't that happening? Increasing our emphasis on public relations would go a long way in letting the public know who we are and what we do. We're doing good things, but we need to work harder on getting ourselves more recognition.

Be proud of what we've accomplished this year. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as your Department Vice Commander. I look forward to seeing you all in Ontario in June and to working with you all in the future.

Tee up big savings!

Unbeatable Golf Offer for Department of California members!

Attention Golfers! Discounted tee-times...up to 70% and more are waiting for you at over 3,000 golf courses in your area and across the U.S...over 350 in California alone! We've created a special golf program for our members in partnership with the Play it Forward Golf™ Program. Sign up today...it's free...and you'll be able to buy discounted tee-times near home or when you travel.

What's more...when you purchase rounds at these great prices, the American Legion-Dept. of California will receive funds for future activities.

YOU PLAY and SAVE....YOU HELP FUND OUR ORGANIZATION!

IT'S A WIN...WIN!!!

Just visit "Play it Forward Golf" Web site at www.pifgolf.com. Then, click on registration button (Choose American Legion-Dept. of CA in the drop down menu) and begin playing great golf...today!

Don't wait...register today!

Good golfing...

Your Dept. of California Headquarters

P.S. Tell a friend, too. Just tell them to register using American Legion-Dept. of California. All rounds purchased will be credited to our account as well.

SERVICE, continued from page 3 —

is a tool to assist in General Roosevelt's call. How can we care for our fellow veterans and their dependents unless we know how to advocate for their just earned benefits they fought and died for?

When we were in the service, the standard order was to "take care of your shipmate, soldier, marine, airmen or guard." Just like that we, too, need to keep an eye on each other as Legionnaires and Auxiliary members. Especially those who through age, ignorance or disabilities, fall prey to outside forces in the world. A few months ago we received in our offices notification of companies offering up a sure thing in getting VA benefits granted. I sent out a warning through The American Legion Department of California about these organizations, and how they prey on our older veterans and then start extracting money out of their bank accounts. Often these companies use our American Legion Posts to have these seminars and make it look as if we endorse them or go to another Veteran or Service Organization. Here are some sample cases I've received from some of the County Service Offices concerning these company's practices.

Case 1: *One widow I found before they got her claim for pension submitted was married to Army 0-4, medically retired since WWII, and receiving military retirement pay and Comp, 100% w/SMC for more than 35 years.*

One of these is known as the NSA Educational Academy, probably legal but highly questionable ethics:

Case 2: *This is per our phone conversation a few moments ago about the NSA's request for my mom's financial info. I really appreciate your info and help on this issue. As I stated, my Dad passed away in 2/1999 and Mom is collecting approx. \$1,200/mo. from Social Security. She has no assets. I will cancel her phone appt. for Friday at 10:30 a.m. w/NSA.*

Another questionable organization;

Case 3: *Subject: War Era Veterans Alliance*

My mother has been speaking with the above referenced person regarding an Aid and Attendance Pension claim for her partner. AWEVA Representative claimed association with your national organization, which appears on the Veterans Administration Web site. Can you confirm or tell me anything else about this organization?

County Veteran Service Officer Response:

Your question has been referred to the VA IRIS inquiry system. I will forward you the response I receive. The VA Office of the General Counsel does not list the War Era Veterans Alliance as an Accredited

MEMBERSHIP, continued from page 3 —

and many other events within your local communities. All of these efforts have contributed to the success of our membership program, and promoting the ideals of The American Legion. As of the National Membership Report, April 17, 2011, California is 37th place nationally with 90.27%.

By Convention, the Department will have hosted representatives of the National Membership team. These representatives will have visited Areas 2 and 4, in an effort to revitalize selected Posts. The Department will have yet another opportunity in September to have this team of experienced membership professionals visit the Department. This is the first time in several years that the Department has opted to use the services of the National Membership Team, and we look forward to having more visits, to help revitalize other Posts within the Department.

This next year will again find us with

Veterans Service Organization (VSO).

These are a few of the cases we have received from our fellow Veteran Service officers. For those of you who did not receive the warning e-mail I sent, here is an edited copy:

All Hands... Please pass onto your members and county veteran service offices. I received a call from a veteran in the Los Angeles Area concerning a company known as "NSA Educational Academy," an organization that is offering assistance for veterans filing VA pensions and aid and assistance claims with the VA. They have been holding seminars in numerous American Legion Posts, and operating under the guise that they have been approved by The American Legion at Department and National level. This is further from the truth and they are not endorsed by The American Legion, at either the Department or National Level. By giving this impression, a veteran assumed them to be legitimate (they may be or not) and endorsed by The American Legion even at the Post level.

They assisted this veteran in filing and mailing his VA claim, but in return required a \$299 fee and a signed contract. This veteran reluctantly agreed and made out his check to "Discount Legal Services," which he was instructed to.

He later was called and asked for an additional fee of roughly \$300 more and told he was contractually obligated to pay. This veteran contacted our office, which in turn we contacted our National Organization and "National Veteran Legal Services Program," affiliated with The American Legion in Washington, D.C. and advised the veteran to cut off all contact. The VA Inspector General has been notified and is looking into this, as well as NVLSP.

What this means is please do not engage with these organizations as the members and officers of the individual Posts could be held liable. A portion of your membership pays for the VA&R Division, both at the Department and National level; also we have County Veteran Service Offices in practically every County in California. Call them and us first, as we do not charge or have you sign contracts. Talk to your VA&R Division.

Please be careful out there. Protect each other and remember if it sounds too good to be true it most likely is, and if they ask you for money or to sign a contract head for the door and say, "NO Thanks!"

This first pillar is the foundation for The American Legion and it is our duty as a fraternal organization to care for our fellow veterans and their families, whether they are a member of our organization or not. This is a sacred vow we each take every time we recite the *Preamble to the Constitution of The American Legion*.

challenges in meeting our membership goals. I don't have a real sense of what our membership goals will be for Legion Year 2011-2012, but I feel that the goals established by National, will be much the same as this past year. We will not know the actual goal until we meet in Indianapolis, Indiana for the National Membership Workshop in late July. We will then be ready to provide those numbers at the first Department Executive Committee (DEC) meeting in August. At this first DEC, it will be important that all our District membership representatives be ready to help establish membership goals for their respective Districts.

I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible, not only at Convention, but as I travel this next year throughout California. Don't forget to purchase your Membership Shirts while at Convention. We want to see all of you wearing your shirt with pride.

The American Legion – Calendar of Events

See the Department of California Web site: www.calegion.org for event details

Department of California

PCC State Convention – June 21-22, 2011 - Ontario Post 112

Department Annual Convention – June 23-26, 2011 - Ontario, CA

Yountville American Legion Days

July 29, 2011 - Golf Tournament

July 30, 2011 - American Legion Baseball Tournament

July 31, 2011 - American Legion Picnic

Department Executive Committee Meeting – Dixon Post 208 - Dixon, CA (tentative)

August 12, 2011 - 9:00 am - Finance Commission, 1:00 pm - Ways & Means Commission

August 13- 14, 2011 - D.E.C.Meeting - 9:00 am

American Legion National Convention – August 26-September 1, 2011 - Minneapolis, MN



LEGISLATIVE ADVOCATE TO THE CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE PETE CONATY & DANA NICHOL

The American Legion, Department of California had a very successful year in 2010 and 2011 is shaping up to be an interesting and challenging time legislatively. The Department has just concluded its 2011 Annual Legislative Day at the State Capitol. Legionnaires from all over California gathered at the State Capitol on May 10 to exercise grassroots advocacy and to remind legislators of the importance of veteran's issues. The daylong event included speeches and drop in visits from State Senators, Assemblymembers, legislative staff, and committee consultants. The Department also presented its annual Legislator of the Year awards to Senator Joel Anderson and Assemblyman Nathan Fletcher.

Senator Joel Anderson (R-San Diego) has been a staunch supporter of veterans since he was first elected to the Assembly in 2006. Senator Anderson comes from a Navy family and his daughter is currently at the U.S. Air Force Academy. Senator Anderson has also authored key legislation of importance to California's 2.1 million veterans and their dependents. In 2008, in response to the attacks on the Mt. Soledad Cross Veterans Memorial by the American Civil Liberties Union, Anderson introduced Assembly Concurrent Resolution 148 to bring visibility to the issue. The Senator also authored legislation to provide lifetime State Parks passes to disabled veterans, exempt National Guard active duty pay from the first \$50,000 of income tax, prohibit the State from including retirement pay and survivor annuities from active duty service from being taxed as gross income, exempt veterans from having to obtain a handgun safety permit to purchase a firearm, and to address the death benefits of National Guard members who die on active duty.

Assemblyman Nathan Fletcher was the first veteran of the Global War on Terror to be elected to the Legislature. In 2004, Fletcher served eight months in the Sunni Triangle region of Iraq. Assemblyman Fletcher finished his service in the United States Marine Corps Reserves where he served as a Counterintelligence/Human Intelligence Specialist. While in the Legislature Assemblyman Fletcher has authored legislation to make improvements to the veterans home loan program, create a California Veterans Homes Fund on the income tax form, streamline the application requirements for veterans for the disabled license plate, and declare the Spirit of 45 Day in August to commemorate the anniversary of the end of WWII. Assemblyman Fletcher has also attempted legislation to assist National Guard members called to active

duty, and provide relief for taxation on military housing.

2010 and 2011 saw the transition of the 2009-2010 legislative session to the 2011-2012 legislative session, as well as the transition from Arnold Schwarzenegger to Jerry Brown as Governor. Due to term limits, these changes have brought about a legislature comprised of almost 25 percent brand new people. Each of these freshmen legislators must be educated on the importance of veterans' issues. The change in the Administration has also brought change at the California Department of Veterans Affairs. Major General Roger Brautigan (USA-Ret) served as Undersecretary and then Secretary under Governor Schwarzenegger from 2004 to 2010. Upon his retirement, Colonel Rocky Chavez (USMC-Ret) assumed the post of Acting Secretary. On April 29, 2011, Governor Jerry Brown appointed Major General Peter Gravett (USA-Ret) Secretary. Secretary Gravett spoke to the Legionnaires attending the May 10 Capitol event. The Department looks forward to working with Secretary Gravett in helping our state's veterans.

The largest legislative challenge we faced in 2010 and 2011 is the fight to restore the funding for veterans outreach services. The Legion was prominent in advocating that the Legislature appropriate adequate funding for the County Veterans Service Offices, Operation Welcome Home, and veterans assistance grants for veterans service organizations. The American Legion joined together with their fellow veterans service organizations and provided a unified front of overwhelming, grassroots veterans support. Veterans' service organizations were joined by a broad coalition of supporters, including 22 county boards of supervisors. As a result of this effort, the Governor and Legislature eventually agreed to fund these programs at a reasonable level of \$7.6 million. However, in early 2011 the new Governor and Legislature took \$5 million of that money back before it was even appropriated. Furthermore, they decided to keep the funding for the County Veterans Service Offices at pre-1997 levels while completely defunding Operation Welcome home and grants to VSO's.

At the time of this writing, The American Legion, Department of California is an active participant in restoring this funding to the reasonable levels needed to sustain the services our veterans deserve. Of course against this backdrop, the Department, with the assistance of this office and the Legislative Commission, are sponsoring, supporting, and monitoring the over 60 pieces of legislation pertaining to veterans, the military, and their families. We will continue to work with Legislative Commission Chairman Gary Ross to coordinate our advocacy efforts with California's Legislature, executive branch, boards and commissions.

Attention Legionnaire 40 & 8ers Grande Promenade to meet again with Legion

The Annual Convention of the 40 & 8 will return to meeting in conjunction with the annual Department California Convention of The American Legion in Ontario on June 20 and 21, 2011. The move will save our members travel dollars, time and further our commitment to enhance and support The American Legion in all their endeavors. Committee meetings are Monday, children's pilgrimage at Ontario Post 112 at 11:00 a.m.; opening Monday Evening. Business Session and elections Tuesday, followed by annual

banquet Tuesday evening.

Wednesday morning we meet briefly to ratify new appointments. All activities (except the pilgrimage) are at the Holiday Inn Ontario Airport (across the street from the Convention Center). Their e-mail is www.hiontario.com or phone 909-212-8000; Rates \$92.00 + Tax, Sunday through Tuesday. Banquet choice of chicken, salmon or tri-tip for \$35.00, payable by May 31 to Voiture 36 and sent to Frank Estrada, 200 W. San Bernardino Avenue, Sp 91, Rialto, CA 92376-5094.



Edward C. Landis
National Executive
Committeeman

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEMAN

Greetings to all from Your NEC!

The first half of my term is about to close and it has been a very busy and productive year; starting with the first mail out to Legionnaires reminding them that the dues are soon due. There will be an option on the notice to pay by Credit Card, which will be sent to National first. National will take their Per Capita out, and send the Legionnaire a temporary membership card. The Department will then receive their and the Posts share. When you receive the Per Capita, you can then send the member his membership card.

I attended the May NEC meeting in Indianapolis from May 1st-May 5th, 2011. There are several Resolutions I would like to point out:

Res 1 – The American Legion John H. Geiger Operations Center

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of the American Legion in a regular meeting in Indianapolis, Indiana on May 4-5, 2011. That, in tribute to Past National Commander John H. Geiger for his commitment to The American Legion and his dedication to America's Veterans, The American Legion building located at 5745 Lee Road, Indianapolis, Indiana, be rededicated as The American Legion John H. Geiger Operations Center; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the official dedication shall be conducted during the National Executive Committee Meeting of The American Legion to be held in Indianapolis, Indiana, October 12-13, 2011; and be it further

RESOLVED, that \$25,000 be approved for appropriate signage, building lettering and the dedication Ceremony.

Res 4 – National Convention Registration Fee

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 4-5, 2011. That the registration fee for Delegates, Alternates and Guests attending the National Convention, who are 18 years old or older, be increased by \$10.00 (ten dollars) effective with the 2012 National Convention; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That said increase in the National Convention Registration fee shall be added to the current fee of \$15 (fifteen dollars) for a total registration fee of \$25.00 (twenty-five dollars) and set aside as follows; \$17.00 (seventeen dollars) for host, National Convention Corporation, and \$8.00 (eight dollars) for The American Legion National Headquarters Convention Stabilization Fund.

Res 5 – Amending Guidelines for The National Convention Stabilization Fund

Whereas, Resolution No. 4 of May 2011 increased National Convention Registration from \$15.00 (fifteen dollars) to \$25.00 (twenty-five dollars) effective with the 2012 Convention. Prior to the beginning of the National, the National Treasurer shall collect

\$21.00 (twenty-one dollars) from The American Legion Auxiliary and the Sons of the American Legion.

Res 11 – Establishment of The American Legion Amateur Radio Club

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in a regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 4-5, 2011. That The American Legion Amateur Radio Club be established to facilitate public communication with our nation's federally licensed amateur radio operators who are veterans; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that membership in The American Legion Amateur Radio Club will be open to all federally licensed amateur radio operators who are members of The American Legion, The American Legion Auxiliary and the Sons of The American Legion; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that American Legion Posts encourage member participation in Amateur radio licensing and emergency communications; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that an amount not to exceed \$1,000.00 (one thousand dollars) be authorized to facilitate the establishment of The American Legion Amateur Radio Club as an approved activity of The American Legion.

Res 32 – Amend Resolution 35: "American Legion Riders as a National Program"

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 4-5, 2011. That guideline numbers 2 and 3 of the third resolving clause of Resolution 35: "American Legion Riders as a National Program", NEC, October 17-18 2007. Which states:

"2. Each ALR member shall own a motorcycle.

3. Each ALR member shall be properly licensed and insured as required by the state law"

Shall be amended as follows:

"2. Each ALR member shall establish and maintain membership by owning, individually or through marriage, a motorcycle licensed and insured as required by law.

3. ALR programs may allow for continued membership for those who have given up motorcycle ownership because of age, illness, injury or other reasons outside the members control"

Res 33 – Retirement of the POW/MIA Flag as part of the Empty Chair Ceremony

RESOLVED, By the national Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 4-5, 2011. That a proper retirement of the POW/MIA Flag be given in the closing ceremony of the American Legion Officer's Guide with the addition of the command to the Sergeant-at-Arms to retire the POW/MIA Flag prior to the command to retire the Flag of our Country.

God Bless Our Troops, God Bless America, God Bless The American Legion!

Candidate for Department Commander 2011-2012

Hugh E. Crooks, Jr.



Hugh and Yoko Crooks

Hugh E. Crooks, Jr. was the first child born to Hugh E. Crooks and Vivian Crooks in Chicago, Illinois. His parents had met during a USO dance in Scott's Field, Illinois, at the end of World War II when his father was a Corporal in the U.S. Army Air Corps. After being discharged and returning to Chicago, his father eventually enrolled in the Chicago Baptist Institute and became an ordained Minister. In this environment, Hugh would learn many lessons from his father concerning the meaning of "God and Country". Being raised as a "PK" (Preacher's Kid) gave Hugh a unique opportunity to learn such things as how meetings are conducted (always according to Robert's Rules of Order revised), that veterans should be revered, and family is always important.

The family moved to Los Angeles, California, where they settled into Northeast Los Angeles (El Sereno) and Hugh went to Woodrow Wilson High School where he had a major of College Prep-Math. During his time at Wilson, he participated three years in the newly formed JROTC Unit attaining the rank of Cadet Captain. His Company won city-wide awards, and he also lettered in football. After high school, he enrolled into East Los Angeles College, left school after a couple of years and was drafted into the US Army.

He was sent to Fort Ord, California in 1967 where he learned that using the right motivational techniques can change anyone's behavior, a lesson that would stay with him for the rest of his life. After graduation, he was assigned to Fort Polk, Louisiana (Tigerland) for Advanced Individual Training to be an Infantryman. After graduation, Hugh was transferred to the 9th Infantry Division. He was assigned to the 3rd of the 39th Regiment, Company A, which was located in an abandoned French Fort in the Mekong Delta of the Republic of Vietnam. He served as Rifleman, Machine gunner, Radio Operator (RTO) and Squad Leader. As a Squad leader he learned many valuable

lessons such as supervising subordinates in the field during less than admirable conditions, and the real meaning of comradeship and loyalty. After spending 13 months in Vietnam, he was sent back to Oakland, California and discharged.

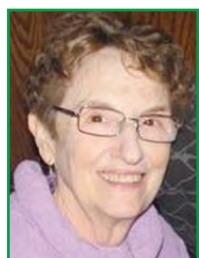
He immediately started working with Los Angeles County, as a Booking Clerk with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, and after two years he was promoted to be an Officer of the Los Angeles County Safety Police. He was promoted to the rank of Sergeant, and worked his way to a promotion of Division Chief. This is where he gained the managerial experience that would serve him later. At that time, there were five (5) different Divisions of Safety Police within the County of Los Angeles and each of their Chiefs came together to form the Executive Committee for the Los Angeles Safety Police. Hugh became the Chairman and Senior Chief on the Committee, and was responsible for the creation of their own Police Academy program through Rio Hondo College (where he was on the Executive Committee of the Police Academy at Rio Hondo), and helping to create an environment for more professionalism which met the Police Officer Standards and Training's (POST) criteria. During his tenure as Chief he also initiated a Reserve Unit and when his Division was consolidated he promoted to the position of Head of Administrative and Facilities Services at the Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History.

At the Museum of Natural History he was responsible for personnel and the majority of the operational units within the museum such as, security, maintenance, photography and custodial. In 2000, Hugh transferred to the Los Angeles County Department of Register-Recorder/County Clerk where he was placed in Employee Relations and finally, as Operations Manager of the Department's Human Resources Division, which he held until he retired from Los Angeles County in March 2005 after 38 years of service.

While employed with Los Angeles County, Hugh realized the need to improve his scholastics and complete his education. He received an Associates of Arts Degree from East Los Angeles College, and a Bachelor's Degree from California State University at Dominguez Hills.

Hugh's greatest supporter is his wife, Yoko, and together they have two sons: the youngest is on active duty with the U.S. Navy; two daughters, one is a graduate of California State University at Fullerton and the other is a Doctor of Clinical Psychology; and eight grandchildren.

American Legion Auxiliary Unit 111 honors Chaplain



Elaine Simmons

by Constance Newton

American Legion Auxiliary Sotoyome Unit 111 in Healdsburg is honoring the memory of their recently deceased Unit Chaplain, Elaine Simmons, with a memorial scholarship

fundraising effort.

Elaine's passing on February 17th has saddened the hearts of many, as she was very active with her Unit in supporting the Auxiliary's Girls State program, interviewing applicants from Windsor,

Healdsburg and Geyserville High Schools. Elaine loved her work with the high school students and supporting the local Veterans organization. In her honor, Auxiliary Unit 111 is accepting donations toward a Healdsburg High School Scholarship to be awarded to a qualifying graduate at the end of this school year. Elaine's husband of almost 56 years, Bud Simmons, was voted Sonoma County Veteran of the Year in 2010.

This tradition of a memorial scholarship in the name of a Unit member was established last year. Donations can be mailed to American Legion Auxiliary Unit 111, P.O. Box 174, Healdsburg, CA 95441.

Candidate for Sergeant-at-Arms Department of California 2011-2012

Edward Grimsley

Personal

Edward Grimsley was born and raised in Dothan, Alabama and is a graduate of Newville Rosenwald High School. He enlisted in the United States Marine Corps upon graduation in 1969 as a Combat Engineer and later became an Administrative Chief.

While enlisted in the Marine Corps, he served in a number of capacities, as well as duty stations home and abroad until he retired a Non-commissioned Officer in 1990.

After retirement, Ed worked as the Manager of various club systems throughout Okinawa, Japan, setting up various morale, recreational and entertainment venues for Marines and Sailors stationed overseas. He later began employment with civil service at Camp Butler, Marine Corps Base, Okinawa, Japan, Disbursing Office.

After returning to San Diego in 1999, Ed continued his employment with civil service; working for the U.S. Navy as an Education Specialist, responsible for managing, administering and monitoring the career advancements on all Navy

enlisted personnel in and around Naval Submarine Base, Point Loma.

Ed is married to Annette Grimsley (USMC Retired Warrant Officer and Legionnaire), and he has three sons and one daughter.

Credentials

American Legion member since 1999; 2001-2002, Post 310 Sergeant at Arms; 2002-2003, Post 310 2nd Vice Commander; 2003-2004, Post 310 1st Vice Commander; 2004-2006, Post 310 Commander; 2004-2005, 22nd District 2nd Vice Commander; 2005-2006, 22nd District 1st Vice Commander; 2006-2007, 22nd District Commander.

Affiliations

Outpost 22, President and Member.

Committees

2009-2010, 22nd District Boys State Chairman; 2009-2010, 22nd District Convention Housing Chairman.



Edward Grimsley

Amador Post 108 Proudly Presents Ambulance to Yountville Veterans Home



Department Parliamentarian Al Lennox (center) with donated ambulance surrounded by grateful staff of the Yountville Veterans Home.

The Medical staff of Yountville Veterans Home, along with Home Administrator Marcella McCormack and Lois Printz of the Allied Council, were all on hand to receive an ambulance donated by Amador Post 108. PDC Al Lennox acting on behalf of Amador said, "Amador is privileged and proud to donate this ambulance to Yountville Veterans Home. It should provide the EMTs at the home many years of service for our veterans living at the home."

Yountville Veterans Home was established in 1884 and is the largest Veterans

Home in the United States serving 1,100 Veterans from all wars and conflicts. The ambulance will provide the necessary transport of Veterans on the home grounds. Administrator Marcella was quick to point out the many improvements at the home. Legionnaires are encouraged to attend the summer American Legion golf tournament, baseball finals and American Legion picnic the last weekend in July and see for yourselves. Marcella and her staff are right – it is a wonderful facility for Veterans.

Post Celebrates Special Events

Palo Alto Post #375's 81st Anniversary and Member Recognition Night



L-R: Past and Present Post 375 Commanders: Tom Meadows; Clifford Yip; Chuck Wallin, Present Post Commander; Jim Ashikawa; Vic DiRocco; District Commander Ken Newman; District Adjutant Gene Fanucchi; and seated in front, Tom Kocal.

On March 3, 2011, Palo Alto Post #375 hosted a dinner to celebrate its 81st anniversary and give recognition to members. Invited guests included District 13 Commander Ken Newman and District Adjutant Gene Fanucchi and their wives, as well as the spouses of Post members.

The highlight of the evening was the presentation of certificates to members

for their years of continuous American Legion membership. District Commander Newman and Adjutant Fannucchi participated with Post Commander Jim Ashikawa in the presentations.

Certificate awards included: ten, 10-year; one, 20-year; a 40-year to Past Commander Tom Meadows; a 55-year to Past Commander Tom Barv; two, 65 years: one to Past Department Commander and Past NEC man, Brad Stephens, and the other to John Brannaman, out-of-state resident, but loyal Post 375 member all these years.

The recognition night concluded with the master of ceremonies, Past Commander Chuck Wallin, noting that the Post had the good fortune of having 10 existing Post Commanders, past and present, on its roster. While reading each name, he asked those present to come forward to be recognized and be included in a group photo with the District Commander and Adjutant. Six of the Post's ten Commanders were present.

Ontario Convention Activities

June 23-26, 2011

By George Curtis, Ontario Convention Corporation Chairman

June 22, 2011 – Golf Tourney:

Come play a round of golf and start out the Convention right. We will be playing at Sierra Lakes Golf Course. Green's Fees will be modest, so that as many that want to play will be able to. Tee off time is yet to be determined, but in recent conversations with the chairman, it will be around 9:00 a.m.

June 23, 2011 – Meeting Room Assignments:

The following is a list of the meeting rooms that have been assigned. There will be meetings for other organizations such as the Sons of The American Legion and American Legion Riders. Please check the electronic message boards posted around the Convention center for meeting room changes and additions.

Room Number	Committee	Time
103	American Legion Office	Ongoing
205	Trial Board	As Needed
100A	Leadership	1:00 p.m.
100B	Oratorical Contest	1:00 p.m.
102	Ways & Means	1:00 p.m.
104B	Finance	1:00 p.m.
105	Legislative	1:00 p.m.
106	Constitution & Bylaws	1:00 p.m.
106	Foreign Relations	2:00 p.m.
107A	Agriculture	1:00 p.m.
107A	Valley Forge	2:00 p.m.
107B	Amateur Radio	1:00 p.m.
107B	Counter Subversive Activities	2:00 p.m.
107C	Veterans Employment	1:00 p.m.
107C	Housing	2:00 p.m.
200A	Boy's State	1:00 p.m.
200B	Children & Youth	1:00 p.m.
200B	Ritual	2:00 p.m.
200C	Convention City	1:00 p.m.
201A	Baseball	1:00 p.m.
201B	Publishing	1:00 p.m.
201B	Community Service	2:00 p.m.
202A	Sons of The American Legion	1:00 p.m.
202B	Americanism	1:00 p.m.
203A	Law and Order	1:00 p.m.
203A	Naturalization	2:00 p.m.
203B	American Legion Riders	1:00 p.m.
203C	Membership	1:00 p.m.
204	Scouting	1:00 p.m.
204	Disaster & Emergency Services	2:00 p.m.
205	VA&R	1:00 p.m.

Meals – Where to eat:

There will be several places around the Convention Center where you will be able to grab a meal. Between where the Legion and Auxiliary meet is a snack bar that has fresh coffee, cold beverages, cold sandwiches and salads. We will also have a place to buy hot meals right in the Convention Center. If you feel like you need to get away for a while, most hotels are within walking distance. There is also a Marie Callender's and a Spires restaurant nearby. Several more are located a very short drive away.

Displays and Vendors:

We have arranged for a large American Flag to be on display. What is so unusual about that? It is made entirely out of Legos. It will be on display in the lobby for your viewing enjoyment. In Ballroom A, we will have vendors who all have some good things to sell. Others in the display area will be non-profits who primarily offer services. This is where you can also buy Convention shirts and pins, or a raffle ticket to win \$2,000.00 or one of 15 other prizes. Going out of the south door will put you on the South Esplanade, where there will be an assortment of military vehicles all restored and maintained by private individuals from their personal collections. In the front of the Convention Hall (East side) will be a collection of antique cars sponsored by Post 755 Cruiser's Car Club.

When it Happens:

June 23, 2011: Pre-Convention DEC: The Department Executive Committee will meet in Ballroom C. This meeting is scheduled to start at the conclusion of the Auxiliary's Department Executive Committee meeting.

June 24, 2011: Opening of the 95th American Legion Department of California's Annual Convention. Commander Mark Foxworthy has some great surprises and a few wonderful presentations ready for the opening of the general session.

Special Events:

Parade – The Parade is back!

We will be hosting a long-forgotten tradition of a good old-fashioned parade on Friday at 5:00 p.m. Now there might not be all of the bands and large decorated floats; but then, we have to start off humble and grow from here.

Here is the order of march: LA PD Motorcycles Drill Team; Legion Riders; Dept. Commander; Dept. Officers; Past Dept. Commanders; Dept. Auxiliary President; Dept. Auxiliary Officers; Dept. Auxiliary Past Presidents; SAL Detachment Commander; SAL Detachment Officers; Districts 1 through 10; 40/8 Grand Chef de Gare du California; 40/8 Trains; Districts 11 through 20; PCC State President; Districts 21 thru 30; Cruisers.

THE BIG BBQ

We have a no-host Barbeque for the first 800 members of the Convention, right after the close of the parade. There is no charge for the BBQ, and we promise it will be worth every cent that you pay for it. So right after the parade, why not grab a free burger or hot dog. Join the fun!

Commander's & President's Ball

Saturday night, we will hold the annual Commander's and President's Ball. The entertainment will be a Las Vegas Review and will feature a pair of comedians, an Elvis imper-

sonator, and a live burlesque show rated G for "Good for Everyone" who attends.

Luncheons – Some special lunches have been planned for American Legion members.

1. **On Saturday, the California American Legion Press Association**, better known around the state as CALPA, will hold its annual awards luncheon. All members are invited to attend. Please see John Bartos for tickets and reservations. The room is to be announced. Please check with the electronic message boards around the Convention Center.

2. **On Friday, Department Service Officer Scott McKee** will hold a lunch to honor veteran's service officers and all of the hard work that they do for our organization. At this time, the location and menu have not been selected. This luncheon is by invitation only.

3. **During the 40&8 Convention, the woman's honor society of 20&4** will hold a lunch to honor women veterans. Time, place and amount has yet to be determined, but this traditional lunch promises to be a lot of fun for all who attend.

Workshops – Four fantastic workshops are planned for this Convention.

All of the workshops will be held on Saturday from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Watch the electronic message boards for the location of the workshop that you may wish to attend. All workshops are free and open to ANYONE wishing to attend.

Membership: The membership workshop is to be a two-way session for input to the Department Membership Chairman, as well as a "How To" presentation. This is not going to be a workshop where some guy with a white cap tells you what he thinks you ought to know, but rather information will be provided and input taken in, on how to grow and retain members in the Post. Department Membership Chairman and workshop leader Bill Clapp knows that there are a lot of good ideas floating around and he is looking to exchange ideas.

Service Officer: What is going on with the Blue Water Navy and Agent Orange? Where can I get help with my PTSD? How can I get my VA Percentage increased? Training for Post Service Officers is a critical way to aid veterans in each Post. Who to turn to and who can help and what is the level of help to expect is all important knowledge that each Service Officers needs. Department Service Officer and Workshop leader, Scott McKee, will fill that knowledge void with a slide show that will leave everyone wanting more information. It will not only be informational, but also inspiring.

Public Relations: PR or Public Relations is the best way to promote your Post in the community. Let the world know that you are out there to serve veterans and the children and youth of your community. Learn how to publish articles, get space in papers, and start your own Blog or just get your Post noticed. How to do this is great fun and can be rewarding for every Post that attends. It will also help promote the dinners or breakfasts that your Post works hard to serve up and then make a profit. Department Public Relations Chairman, Joanne Evans, will host this workshop. She will be augmented by a select group from National Headquarters. This group from National has all of the answers and is willing to share them with each one.

Modern Post Management: Post management can be a challenge for even the smallest of Posts. Recognizing the challenges facing each Post in California, we have put together the definitive workshop for understanding the rules and regulations that confront us each and every day. Representatives from the ABC, IRS and a practicing attorney will be able to answer questions like, "Do I need to file a Form 990?" or "How do I get a qualified bartender to manage my Post canteen?" Questions about Post incorporation, mutual or public benefit (c19 or c3 – which is better?) and everything else that you have ever wanted to know about how to incorporate your Post, and maintain the finances while staying within the law. This forum will be a panel type of Q and A with a moderator.

Other Items of Interest – The closing session promises to be as exciting as the opening.

Please make arrangements to stay and watch the closing ceremonies. Mark has some great plans. Immediately following the closing, the Department will reopen for the installation of all of the new incoming District Commanders and a short Department Executive Committee meeting. During the installation of the new District Commanders comes the capping ceremony, which is always an awe-inspiring event. At the conclusion of the installation will be the final gavel.

With all of the great events planned and close proximity to the airport, Ontario promises to be one of the best Department Conventions that we have seen in recent years. The Ontario Convention Committee wishes everyone a great Convention and has made every effort to make the meetings run as smooth as possible. If you have any questions or need any further help with anything before the Convention, contact me at dspdoctor.george@verizon.net

Thanks and I will see you all in Ontario June 23-26.

you're invited to the
19th District Luau
in celebration of 2011 American Legion Convention

Friday, June 24th @ 6:30p.m.

The Best Western Ontario Airport Hotel 19th District Hospitality Room
209 N. VINEYARD AVENUE, ONTARIO

Tickets are \$10 ea - Contact Bill Miller @ 562.425.3879

Menu: Kalua Pork, Shoyu Chicken, Rice, Macaroni Salad, Chinese Cabbage Salad & Dessert

Live Band & Hawaiian Dancers!

shall be elected at the regular Department Convention and shall hold office as prescribed by the Bylaws of the Department.

Election of the six (6) Vice Commanders representing the six (6) Areas of the Department shall be by vote of delegates of the Posts of each specific Area, provided further that the Department Vice Commander shall be a member of a Post of the specific Area they are elected to represent. (Bylaws, Art. IX, Sec. 13 and 14)

Representation: The Convention shall be composed of delegates and alternates for each Post, each Post being entitled to two (2) delegates and two (2) alternates and one (1) additional delegate and one (1) additional alternate for each 50 members, or major fraction thereof, paid up 45 days prior to the opening date of the Convention. The vote of each Post shall be equal to the total number of delegates to which the Post is entitled. (Bylaws, Art. IX, Sec. 2)

Extra Votes: In addition to the above delegates to which each Post is entitled, all Past Department Commanders, Past Department Adjutants, members of the Department Executive Committee and incumbent elected Department Officers, who attend and register as such, shall be delegates to the Department Convention with voice and vote. Convention registration fee for such delegates shall be waived by the Department. (Bylaws, Art. IX, Sec. 5)

Each Post in the Department shall, at least 20 days prior to the opening of the Department Convention, elect delegates and alternates to the Convention and shall certify such election to the Department Adjutant at least 15 days prior to the opening of the Convention. Certification sheet must be authenticated by the Post Commander and Post Adjutant. (Bylaws, Art. IX, Sec. 3)

No Post shall be represented at the Convention by proxy. (Bylaws, Art. IX, Sec. 7)

Post Officers: Post Officers have no privileges in the Convention, except as guests of their representative delegation, unless they have been elected as delegates to the Convention.

Qualification and Seating of Delegates: The Department Constitution and Bylaws Commission annually at the meeting of the Department Executive Committee immediately preceding the Department Convention, shall report to the Executive Committee the lists of the Posts which have failed to comply with the provision of Section 16 of Article V of the Department Bylaws, and the Department Adjutant from such report shall notify the Convention Credentials Committee that the delegates to the Posts so listed are not entitled to be seated in the Convention until such Posts have complied with the provision of said Section.

In accordance with Department Bylaws Article IX, Section 3, no delegates from any Post shall be seated at the Annual Department Convention unless all Post obligations have been paid or satisfied at the time of the Convention, including the following:

1. Certification to the Department of officers elected and/or appointed by the Post for the current year.

2. Payment of delegate fees to the Department Convention for the

prior year.

3. Payment of all bills contracted 30 days prior to the annual District meeting.

4. Certification to the Department of an examination of the Post Books of Account, as outlined in Art. V, Sec. 9.

5. Obtaining all bonds required by Post officers.

6. Approval of the Constitution and Bylaws of the Post and any amendment thereto by the Constitution and Bylaws Commission.

7. Payment of all prior per capita dues or other monies due from a Post to the District. The Convention registration fee shall be \$10 for each delegate to which the Post is entitled, which shall be paid before the opening date of the Convention (Bylaws, Art. IX, Sec. 4). **This fee must be paid by each Post, whether or not the Post is actually represented at the Convention.**

8. Submission of properly executed Post Consolidation Reports (Bylaws Art. IX, Sec. 16 H).

Registration of Delegates: Booths for registration of delegates and alternates will be open **Wednesday, JUNE 22, 2011 from 2:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.** in the assigned registration area of the Doubletree Hotel and Convention Center.

Registration fees must be paid before credentials can be issued. Delegate credentials will be issued only to those whose election as a delegate has been properly certified. Alternates acting for delegates will be accredited only when properly certified by their Post.

Convention Committees: Each of the Convention Committees, except the Credentials, Organization and Rules, and Resolutions Assignment, shall consist of one delegate from each District, such delegate to be chosen by the delegates from the District. In addition, the Chairman and two members shall be Ex-Officio members of the representative Convention Committee. (Bylaws, Art. IX, Sec. 8).

District representatives on the Convention Committee shall be elected at the respective annual District meeting or at the first caucus of the District delegates held at the Convention. **It is mandatory for all Standing Committees to organize and function within 48 hours prior to the opening of the Convention.** (Bylaws, Art. IX, Sec. 8)

Resolutions: All resolutions must be prepared in **triplicate** on forms which will be sent to the Post Adjutant on request. In order that resolutions may be properly classified before presentation to the Convention, it is requested that they be directed to Department Headquarters (San Francisco), so as to arrive before **June 6, 2011**. Resolutions after this date should be presented to Department Headquarters in ONTARIO, immediately upon your Post representative's arrival for Convention.

Colors: Posts bringing Colors are asked to have their Colors permanently marked for identification purposes. All Colors should be insured. The Department shall not be liable for lost Colors.

(s) **Mark A. Foxworthy**
Department Commander

(s) **Bill Siler iii**
Department Adjutant

National Legislative Council, Department of California

Eric W. Measles
Vice Chairman,
National Veterans Preference Commission
Chairman, National Legislative Council

The American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary once again joined forces in our efforts to better communicate with our elected officials. The Annual American Legion Legislative Conference and Auxiliary's Awareness Assembly convened in Washington, D.C. during mid-March. The purpose of these meetings in part was to attend various commission meetings and seminars presented by Speakers National Organizations. Guest speakers from various Government offices, including the Veterans Administration, were presented for dissemination of information and Q&A sessions. These meetings allow us to better understand the direction in which our Administration is headed as it relates to Veterans, their families and our current military. A highlight of the Conference was National Commander Jimmy Foster's "Commanders Call". This Call 'spotlights' leaders from within the Administration, including another visit from Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Retired Army General, Eric Shinseki.

Although numerous topics were presented during our sessions, the underlying message throughout our sessions was the need for Congress to pass a budget that protects our military and properly supports the VA and its programs. This message was stressed to be carried to 'the Hill' on our visit, and we came away with this thought as our major 'talking point'. We were again presented with our annual 'Legislative Priority Sheet' aka 'Drop Sheet', which we were instructed to discuss with our Representatives on our visit to their offices. The "Hill Walk" allows us to visit the offices of our California Legislators and discuss our most current Legislative Priorities, including our continuing effort for passage of a Flag Protection Amendment.

Early on Tuesday, March 22nd, prior to the Commander's Call, the California contingency gathered to discuss our strategy prior to our annual 'Hill Walk'. At this meeting, I created teams to ensure a visit to each and every Senator's and Representatives office. The Hill Walk allows us to visit the offices of our California Legislators and discuss our most current Legislative Priorities, including our continuing effort for passage of a Flag Protection Amendment.

I am proud to report that the 'California Team' worked harmoniously and accom-

plished exactly what we were tasked to do. I would like to personally thank the following members of the Legion and Auxiliary for performing our assignment in a courteous, timely and professional manner. In no particular order, they are: Past Dept. Cmdr and N.E.C. man Michael Gombar, Past Sixth Area V.C. Larry Van Kuran, Past Dept. Pres. Nancy Brown-Park and her husband, Jim Park, Auxiliary President Pilar Reyes, Past Fourth Area V.C. and candidate for Dept. Cmdr. Hugh Crooks, Past Dept. Cmdr. Howard Darter, Dept. Service Officer Scott McKee, CA Auxiliary Legislative Director Gloria Williams, Past 5th District Cmdr. Bob Taylor accompanied by Past Dept. Presidents Melanie Taylor, Dianne Delashmitt and Luann Capazzi, Past Alt N.E.C. man Randy Wharton and Past 6th Area V.C. Nile Creacy.

Another productive result of this Conference and Hill Walk was the accumulation of information gathered from each of our Senators and Representatives. I have compiled a Roster of CA Council Members assigned to each Legislator which includes the contact information for each appointee, along with the specific Legislative Aide for each with their contact information. The purpose of this roster is to allow each member of the California Council to better communicate with their respective Legislator. Included in the Roster is the name, phone number and e-mail address for each aide.

I have encouraged each member of our current Council to contact their Aide immediately and begin a dialogue that will encourage a renewed 'working relationship'. This direct contact with 'the specific person assigned to address Legislative and Veterans Affairs', will streamline the process of sharing information with our elected officials in Washington, D.C. This, of course, does not circumvent the need for all Legionnaires to contact their Senators and Congressman directly when needed; however, this does allow The American Legion (at the highest levels) to share information through the Council and ensure that it is being delivered to the proper persons. Our National organization also benefits from this information when surveys and studies of Congressmen/women are necessary.

Again, I share my gratitude to all who joined in this effort. I certainly could not have accomplished this without the support and assistance of each member of the Council and Auxiliary members. It was truly a pleasure to join together and work with 'the ladies', thus ensuring our 'American Legion Family Values' in future efforts.

PRESIDENT'S CONVENTION BANQUET COMMANDER'S BALL

Featuring Las Vegas Entertainment and DJ
Ontario Convention Center • Saturday, June 25, 2011

Entrees

Half Rotisserie Chicken, Santa Maria Tri-Tip, Chef's Choice Vegetarian
New York Cheesecake with Raspberry Sauce
All Entrees are served with Whipped Potatoes and Seasonal Vegetables
Ontario House Salad, Dinner Roll, Iced Tea, Water and Coffee

\$40.00

Name _____ Unit/Post _____ District _____

Number of Meal Selections: Chicken _____ Tri-Tip _____ Vegetarian _____

List Names: _____

Make Checks payable to: ALA Dept. of CA
Mail to: Kathy Pipkin, 3745 Valley Boulevard, Sp 15, Walnut, CA 91789
909-468-4953

DEADLINE: June 3, 2011

Service Officer Oakland Office

Edward Tauscher

Service Officer's Tip: Update your address with the Veterans Administration

It is very important to update any changes to your address and telephone number with the Veterans Administration, as failure to provide an updated address could result in reduction, suspension or the termination of your benefits.

You can update your information with a simple phone call to the Veterans Administration at 1-800-827-1000 or county veterans service office for the county in which you reside. Keeping your address and phone numbers current with the Veterans Administration allows them to keep you, the claimant, informed about the pending claim, appeal, future examinations, and disability status.

Claimants who are receiving individual unemployability, VA pension, aid and attendance, and death pension are required to provide a current address so the Veter-

ans Administration can contact the claimant, when needed, to certify that any or all of the eligibility factors, which established entitlement to the benefit being paid, continue to exist.

An example would be to verify current eligible dependents. Failure to provide an updated address could result in a termination of your benefits. It is important to know that updating the medical center with your new contact details does not update the veteran's benefits program, so you really do need to supply both of them with this.

In order to avoid any disruption in benefits as a result of an outdated address, please take the time to contact the Veterans Administration or county veterans service office with an updated mailing address and telephone number.



Service Officer San Diego

Nestor Soriano

Service Officer's Tip: AGENT ORANGE...

...is the code name for one of the herbicides and defoliants used by the U.S. military as part of its herbicidal warfare program, Operation Ranch Hand, during the Vietnam War. If you are a veteran who served in-country in Vietnam, you can claim for service-connected disability for Agent Orange.

These are the diseases which VA currently presumes resulted from exposure to herbicides like Agent Orange: **Chloracne, Diabetes Mellitus Type II, Hodgkin's disease, Multiple myeloma, Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, Acute and subacute peripheral neuropathy, Porphyria cutanea tarda, prostate cancer, Respiratory cancers and Soft-tissue sarcoma.**

Last October 2010, the Congress also approved three new presumptive illnesses. They are: **Parkinson's disease, Ischemic heart disease and B-cell leukemias.** Viet-

nam veterans are encouraged to submit their claims as soon as possible to begin the important process of compensation.

It is important to submit a medical diagnosis of a disease which VA recognizes as being associated with Agent Orange. A DD-214 or competent evidence of service in Vietnam (i.e., Awarded the Vietnam Service Medal, boots on the ground or who otherwise deployed to land, sea or air in the Republic of Vietnam).

For more additional information about Agent Orange and VA's services and programs for veterans exposed, go to www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange. You can also contact your American Legion Representative if you need more information or assistance.



San Diego American Legion

Service Office

Josephine Grafilo

VA Fully Developed Claims (FDC)

Do you want your VA claim to be processed/decided in 90 days? The U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has designed and implemented a new program to process claims in a fast manner, for those that have been fully developed. In order to meet the criteria, the veteran must **submit** all the following (that apply):

Service connected Compensation

- Completed VA Form 526EZ (for original claims)
- FDC certification signed and dated by the claimant
- all private medical treatment records
- identification of all Federal treatment facilities (i.e. VAMC, VA Outpatient Clinic)
- completed VA Form 21-686c (claims for dependents)
- any/all service treatment and personnel records in the custody of the unit (for Guard and Reserve members)

Non-service connected Pension

- Completed VA Form 527EZ (for original claims)
- FDC certification signed and dated

by the claimant

- identification of all necessary income and net-worth information
- completed VA Form 21-2680 or VA Form 21-0779 (for special monthly pension claims)
- completed VA Form 21-686c (claims for dependents)
- availability to report for VA examination, if required (for both pension and compensation)

Claims that need development of evidence or information will be processed in the usual routine, such as requesting private medical records or Guard/Reserve records, failure to report for VA exams, submission of additional claim or evidence after receipt of the FDC certification.

In short, the VA will adjudicate the claim within 90 days, if the claim submitted has all the complete information and evidence needed to make a decision. If you have questions or need assistance, please call your American Legion representative.



Service Officer Los Angeles Office

Cynthia Mann

Service Officer's Tip: Adding a Dependent

When a veteran submits a claim to add a spouse and/or children, it is very IMPORTANT that the VA Form 21-686c "Declaration of Status of Dependents" be filled out completely. When any information is missing, the claim will be denied.

However, if the completed form is submitted along with applicable documents (i.e. marriage certificate for current marriage, divorce decree(s) [veteran and/or

spouse], children's birth certificate) immediately following the denial, the claim will be reinstated.

It is always best to submit the applicable documents, along with the VA Form 21-686c.

Should you have any questions, whatsoever, please do not hesitate to contact your American Legion Representative.



Post 852 Honors Officers and Citizen



L-R: Rudolfo Castillo, Jr.; USBP Agent Mustafa Joseph; CHP Officer Greg Velasco; CHP Officer Emigdio Lepro; Sheriff's Corporal Giulio Simms; Murrieta PD Officer Sean Waterman and Sheriff's Deputy Mathew Hunter. Photo by Frank Correa, Post Chaplain


American Legion Post 852 of Temecula in District 21 honored local law enforcement officers for their service to the community at its Eighth Annual Law and Order Awards ceremony. The program was attended by over 75 officers, legionnaires, guests and family members. Among the attendees was Ryan Peters, Veterans Affairs Representative for Congressman Darrell Issa, 49th Congressional District. The Air Force Jr. ROTC from Temecula Valley High School opened the program by Presenting the Colors.

Recognized for rendering First Aid and life-saving actions were Corporal Giulio Simms and Deputy Mathew Hunter, Riverside County Sheriffs and Agent Mustafa Joseph, US Border Patrol. Honored for multiple MADD awards (Mothers Against Drunk Drivers) were CHP Officers Greg

Velasco and Emigdio Lepro from the Temecula station. Officer Lepro, a Marine Corps veteran, was also recognized for developing a Defensive Weapons Training course for his fellow officers.

Officer Sean Waterman of Murrieta Police Department, a Coast Guard veteran and his partner "Blietz", a K-9, responded to over 150 incidents, detecting many illegal drugs and apprehending several dangerous suspects throughout the year. Lastly, Rudolfo Castillo, Jr., a Temecula resident and Army veteran, was recognized for rescuing an injured family, which included four small children, from a burning car in a ditch.

Each honoree received a plaque and "Certificates of Special Recognition" from Congressman Darrell Issa and Assemblyman Kevin Jeffries of the 66th Assembly District.





HOMECOMING CELEBRATION

HONORING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF

AREA 5 VICE COMMANDER
DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA
2010/2011

TED PASNAK



SATURDAY, JUNE 18, 2011
2:00 P.M.

"POT LUCK STYLE"

AMERICAN LEGION POST #460
7815 ARMOUR STREET, SAN DIEGO, CA
(858) 277-1052

MONETARY DONATIONS ACCEPTED IN LIEU OF GIFTS
TO SUPPORT VETERAN PROGRAMS

Make checks payable to: American Legion, 22nd District
POC: Ed Grimsley (619) 894-1035

DMS and Post 1000 Transfers

DMS and P-1000 Transfers cannot be counted by us until they have been checked by National. This is because National sends all transfers to "Internal Affairs" who contacts those members to see if they have been properly transferred. If they have, then the transfers go to I.T. where they are then counted, and it is at this time that we can count them on our membership.

It sounds like too many transfers from Departments are invalid because they were transferred without the member's knowledge or using other proper procedures.

Some of the discrepancies were:

1. Telephone not in service but the transfer form read, "Per Telephone".
2. Some members when contacted wanted to be transferred to a different Post.
3. Some members didn't know they were being transferred.
4. Some members' telephones were disconnected.

When writing letters to members that you want to transfer to our Post, don't say:

1. "If you agree with this transfer there is no further action on your part." WRONG! You need to check their DD-214, other type of discharge or see their Active Duty I.D. Card.
2. If you state, "If for any reason you elect not to have your membership transferred to this Post, please e-mail me or call me by (Date), and I will discontinue your transfer." If the member doesn't contact you, you are going to automatically transfer the member? WRONG! You can't do this because it is against National Rules.
3. You should state in your letter when your Post has its meetings and invite the

member to your Post, so you can check their DD-214 to make sure the member is eligible to be a member. Just because they are a P-1000 or DMS Member doesn't mean that their eligibility has been checked. This is up to the Post when transferring a member to your Post. REMEMBER: The Post is the judge over their own membership. When I was a Post Adjutant, we had a standing rule that any member being transferred into the Post (new or from another Post) had to show their eligibility.

4. DATA FORMS: On the Data Forms that you send to Department, where the member is to sign, if you insert the words, "By Mail" – this is not acceptable. The words, "By Telephone" are acceptable. When you telephone, ask the member to send you a copy of their DD-214. After you see the copy of the discharge, then you are ready to take the transfer to your General Membership for approval.

5. Please follow proper procedures when contacting a member for transfer whether it is by telephone, letter or in person.

6. If you have any questions, please contact your Department Membership Team.

BOTTOM LINE: Until National (Internal Affairs) verifies that the member has been transferred like it is supposed to be done, we can't count them.

If National states that they were improperly transferred, the IT never sees the transfer and they will be sent back to the Department Adjutant. Then the Adjutant has to send a letter to the Post Adjutant stating the correct way to transfer a member, and reasons why not to do it this way in the future.

Orinda, Calif., Senior Places Third in National Speech Competition

Earns \$14K Scholarship In American Legion Oratorical Contest



L-R: 1st Place Winner, Anisha Gururaj, senior from Chesterfield, Missouri; 3rd Place, Anastasia Kaiser, senior from Orinda, California; and 2nd Place, Grace M. Pyo, a high school senior from Powell, Ohio.

INDIANAPOLIS (April 17, 2011) – A high school senior from Orinda, Calif., capped a busy weekend of competition in Indianapolis by earning a \$14,000 college scholarship and 3rd Place in The American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship Program – "A Constitutional Speech Contest."

The competition was won by Anisha Gururaj of Chesterfield, Mo., who earned an \$18,000 scholarship. Her winning oration was titled "One Parent: The Constitution." The 2nd Place award and a \$16,000 scholarship went to Grace M. Pyo, a high school senior from Powell, Ohio. The scholarships account for a small portion of the roughly \$3.5 million in post-secondary scholarships that The American Legion, the nation's largest veterans' organization, awards annually.

Anastasia Kaiser, a student at Miramonte High School, started the weekend as one of 53 state or territorial champions in the 74th annual speech competition and placed third after three rounds of intense competition.

In her speech, titled "From a Crisis, a Constitution," Kaiser reminded listeners that the Constitution was written during a time of great strife, and its guarantees came as a result of other times of great trial. "Our great Constitution guarantees equality under the law, yet it took the courage of suffragists to make these words a reality for women with the 19th

Amendment. It took the actions of civil rights protestors who marched for freedom to make these words a reality for African Americans. The Constitution has weathered the storms of civil war, economic crises and terrorism. It is the task of each individual to preserve, protect and defend its heritage."

She concluded by saying that Americans have an obligation to continue the Constitution's guarantees.

"No matter which act of our country's history we find ourselves in today, so long as we adhere to the calling of the first three words of the Constitution, 'We the people,' we, ordinary men and women, to vote and fight and work for a more perfect union. And if our rights are ever lost, it will not be because the Constitution has failed America but because Americans have failed the precious heritage given to them by the men who argued and sweltered and worried during the long hot summer months of 1787."

In each round of the weekend competition, orators delivered a rehearsed 8- to 10-minute address and a randomly assigned 3- to 5-minute oration on a constitutional topic, each without the benefit of notes and in front of a live audience, including the judges. The 2.4-million member American Legion developed the contest to encourage young people to improve their communications skills and to study the U.S. Constitution.

13th Annual Yountville Veterans Home American Legion Golf Tournament

Friday, July 29, 2011

Vintner's Golf Course

On the grounds of the California Veterans Home of Yountville

Check in time: 7:30 a.m. – Tee time: 8:00 a.m.!!

Soft spikes only. No tank tops or cut-off jeans, please. Prizes, awards and picnic lunch following the tournament.

*Golf committee will make teams four person scramble (by handicap and number of residents).

If you have team, ask to be placed together.

No more than two residents per team, please.

First 16 residents, then wait list.

Home Rep: Jon Jackson

GOLF COMMITTEE:

Ralph Jacob, Chairman (408-226-3722)

Dennis Fercho, Vice Chairman (805-482-8141)

Janet Wilson, Secretary/Treasurer (925-754-9070)

Golf Committee: Roy Nichols, R.T. Lee, Mark Foxworthy

AMERICAN LEGION GOLF TOURNAMENT ENTRY FORM

Name _____

Resident _____

Legionnaire/SAL/Auxiliary _____

Telephone: _____ Handicap: _____

Entry fee \$10.00 (non-refundable) for home residents only; includes cart rental and course fees. All others, \$60.00.

Mulligans will be available to purchase day of the tournament.

Make checks payable to: American Legion Golf Tournament

Send to: Janet Wilson Secretary/Treasurer
1936 Crestwood Drive, Antioch, CA 94509-2626
(925-754-9070) e-mail: postl61@aol.com

Fee and entry form due by July 23rd.

The American Legion 13th Annual Golf Tournament

Hole Sponsorship: \$50.00 per hole

Name on Sign(s): _____

Any preference for hole, (if available): _____

Makes great gifts – campaign signs – advertise your Post, SAL, Auxiliary and Riders.

Contacts:

Ralph Jacob, Chairman at 408-226-3722
E-mail: BOCAJ1999@YAHOO.COM

Make checks payable to:

American Legion Golf Tournament
and

Send to:

Janet Wilson Secretary/Treasurer
1936 Crestwood Drive, Antioch, CA 94509-2626
(925-754-9070) e-mail: postl61@aol.com

AB 1209 Talking Points

AB 1209 (Cook/Pan)

Authors: Assemblymembers Paul Cook and Richard Pan

Principal Co-author: Senator Lou Correa
AB 1209 seeks to restore funding to CVSO's and veterans benefit outreach programs which were cut during state budget deliberations in February 2011.
Sponsor: CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE OFFICERS

Bill's supporters: American Legion, Department of CA • AMVETS, Department of CA • CA State Commanders Veterans Council • Military Officers Association of America, CA Council of Chapters • Student Veterans of CA • Vietnam Veterans of America, CA State Council • and others.

In the budget, CVSO local assistance is bundled with other funding for veterans benefit outreach: County grants, CAL-VET Connect (formerly known as Operation Welcome Home), and grants to Veterans Service Organizations (VSOs) and nonprofit service providers.

AB 1209 seeks an increase totaling \$7.3 million for all of these programs. The CVSO's Local Assistance funding will be increased by \$2.4 million, bringing the total subvention amount to \$5 million. The funding breakdown for AB 1209 is as follows:

- \$2.4 million from the General Fund to the California Department of Veterans Affairs (CDVA) for disbursement to the counties.

- \$2 million from the General Fund to the Department of Veterans Affairs for disbursement to the counties for targeted, competitive grants.
- \$2.3 million from the General Fund for use by CDVA for CalVet Connect to assist the 30,000 veterans who get out of the service in California each year.
- \$600,000 from the General Fund to the Department of Veterans Affairs for grants to nonprofit organizations, such as veterans service organizations and community-based organizations.

THE FOLLOWING LEGISLATORS HAVE JOINED ON TO THE BILL AS CO-AUTHORS: (REV MAY 11, 2011)
Senators:

Joel Anderson, Tom Berryhill, Ron Calderon, Anthony Cannella, Tom Harman, Doug La Malfa, Ted Lieu, Michael Rubio, Sharon Runner

Assemblymembers:

Katcho Achadjian, Michael Allen, Toni Atkins, Jim Beall, Bill Berryhill, Marty Block, Susan Bonilla, Joan Buchanan, Betsy Butler, Wes Chesbro, Connie Conway, Roger Dickinson, Tim Donnelly, Nathan Fletcher, Martin Garrick, Jeff Gorell, Shannon Grove, Linda Halderman, Diane Harkey, Kevin Jeffries, Steve Knight, Dan Logue, Fiona Ma, Jeff Miller, Mike Morrell, Brian Nestande, Jim Nielsen, Allan Mansoor, V. Manuel Perez, Jim Silva, Cameron Smyth, David Valadao, Donald Wagner

Legislative Priorities

The Current American Legion Legislative Policy Priorities in the 112th Congress

The American Legion believes the pressing considerations to be addressed in the 112th Congress are:

FY 2011 Continuing Resolution (CR)

– The current state of disarray and stopgap measures stands to negatively impact veterans, as well as the active duty armed forces. Construction projects for both VA and the military stand ready, yet the departments lack the authority to begin work without a yearlong CR. Research, development and acquisition projects are similarly negatively impacted. The American Legion, therefore, urges Congress to work in a bipartisan manner to fully fund the remainder of fiscal year 2011 to ensure the needs of the nation's active duty service members and veterans are met. Only then can Congress move on to the 2012 budget.

Jobs – Recent figures show a jobless rate among veterans fully two thirds higher than the national average, even higher among returning Iraq and Afghan veterans. The hiring percentages of government agencies lag far behind where the Legion believes it should be. Dod and VA in particular, but the whole of government, must be directed to improve their reporting and tracking of veteran hiring percentages.

The Caregiver Act – In May 2010, Public Law 111-163, "The Caregiver and Veterans Omnibus Health Service Act" was signed into law. In the intervening time, VA has not only missed implementation deadlines, but the proposed implementation plan in the Interim Final Rule is overly restrictive and fails to address the needs of more than 75 percent of the intended recipients. The American Legion urges Congress to continue their aggressive oversight in this area, and to consider legislation that would expand the provisions of this law to veterans of all wars, and to extend the health care benefits to the children of these severely disabled veterans.

Oversight of VHA/VBA – Access to rural health care and VHA's modernization to address the needs of rising numbers of women veterans are critical as these two groups are the fastest growing demographics in the veterans' community. The American Legion urges Congress to investigate growing reports of budget shortfalls impacting hiring at the VISN levels. Advanced Appropriations was supposed to allow VA to plan for these very needs, and if they are not being met, then the application and planning measures for VHA should be examined. The backlog of veterans' disability claims is unconscionable, and the million claims levels surpassed over the last two years underscores the fact that VBA *must* reform the claims system. As VBA transforms the claims processing system to an electronic system, they must put accountability and accuracy on a level with raw numbers if there is to be any significant impact on the claims system.

Disabled Veterans Tax – Particularly in this difficult economy, removal of the disabled veterans' tax that prohibits concurrent receipt of disability and retirement benefits for those veterans receiving below 50 percent disability will be a much needed protection from additional hardship for disabled veterans. Often forgotten in this discussion is that retirement pay and disability compensation are entirely different benefits made for distinct and different reasons. There is no reason veterans should not be entitled to the full, earned value of both these benefits. The American Legion urges co-sponsorship of S. 344, HR. 303 and H.R. 333.

Flag Amendment – The American Legion is committed to protecting Old Glory from acts of physical desecration. Representative Emerson (MO) has introduced House Joint Resolution (H.J. Res.) 13, "The Congress shall have power to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States." Senator Hatch (UT) will introduce a companion bill in the Senate in April. He is currently looking for "original co-sponsors." The American Legion supports passage of these bills and urges every Senator and Representative to co-sponsor the bills.

The American Legion Budgetary Priorities in the 112th Congress.

FY '12 VA Budget – While endorsing an increased budget request when many agencies are facing cuts, The American Legion still has concerns regarding areas which VA is seeking to cut funding. Cutting major construction by over half from 2010 levels and minor construction by over \$70 million will only lead to dangerous gaps in infrastructure of the system and fail to meet the mission of ensuring VA care meets the needs of rural veterans, as well as urban veterans. Furthermore, VA's proposed cuts to Research and Prosthetic Medicine of over \$70 million is troubling when there is so much to be learned about emerging conditions such as TBI, PTSD and amputee medicine.

FY '12 DoD Budget – The most pressing major concern of The American Legion in the budgets for DoD is the impact on rates for TRICARE. Proposed changes call for raises in the rates veterans currently pay, and increases of up to 6% over successive years. Ensuring the full funding of the War on Terror remains a top priority as the nation cannot afford shortfalls or to forget that these operations are still critical to the national defense.

DOL-VETS – The American Legion makes these recommendations to improve the State Grant Program: transfer all DVOPs and LVERs from the State Agencies back to DOL-VETS for greater supervision and oversight; adjust staffing levels to meet the needs of the state veterans' community, and not merely the fiscal needs of the States; and, initiate a GAO investigation into the Jobs for Veterans State Grant Program to ensure the program is properly serving eligible veterans.



Participating in the Project is as easy as having a conversation

The Voluntary Service is an Official collection site for the Veterans History Project Program of the Library of Congress. We collect, preserve and make accessible the personal accounts of American war veterans so that future generations may hear directly from veterans and better understand the realities of war.

The Project collects first-hand accounts of U.S. Veterans from the following wars:

- World War I (1914-1920)
- World War II (1939-1946)
- Korean War (1950-1955)
- Vietnam War (1961-1975)
- Persian Gulf War (1990-1995)
- Afghanistan and Iraq conflicts (2001-present)

What Happens to My Interview and Other Donated Items? The items you

donate to the Veterans History Project (VHP) are housed in the permanent collections of the Library of Congress. Your stories and collateral materials are available to you online after processing. As resources allow, VHP will digitize interviews and documents from its collection, which will allow Internet users to view the collections. VA Greater Los Angeles will make a DVD copy for you and your family to keep and cherish.

How Do I Participate? The Project is looking for Veterans and American Civilians who supported the war efforts, and we would be most honored to record (video and audio) your service experiences for the Library of Congress.

Please contact us Monday through Friday: 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at 310-478-3711, Ext. 42440

Veterans History Project Building 258 – Room 208J

Stories can be told through...



Personal Narratives
 audio and video-taped interviews, written memoirs

Correspondence
 letters, postcards, v-mail personal diaries



Visual materials
 photographs, drawings, scrapbooks

VA Medical Discretionary Programs					
	P.L. 111-117 FY 2010 VA Final Funding	P.L. 111-322 FY 2011 VA Funding	President's FY 2012 VA Budget Proposal	FY 2013 Proposed Advance Appropriations	American Legion's FY 2013 Request
Medical Services	\$34.7 billion	\$37.1 billion	\$39.5 billion	\$41.3 billion	\$38.1 billion
Medical Support & Compliance	\$4.9 billion	\$5.3 billion	\$5.4 billion	\$5.7 billion	\$5.3 billion
Medical Facilities	\$4.8 billion	\$5.7 billion	\$5.4 billion	\$5.4 billion	\$6.2 billion
Medical/Prosthetic Research	\$510 million	\$581 million	\$581 million	\$509 million	\$600 million
Total Medical Care	\$47.9 billion	\$51.6 billion	\$53.9 billion	\$52.4 billion	\$50.2 billion
VA Non-Medical Discretionary Programs					
	P.L. 111-117 FY 2010 VA Final Funding	P.L. 111-322 FY 2011 VA Funding	President's FY 2012 VA Budget Proposal	FY 2013 Proposed Advance Appropriations	American Legion's FY 2012 Request
Major Construction		\$1.2 billion	\$1.2 billion	\$590 million	\$1.2 billion
Minor Construction		\$703 million	\$703 million	\$550 million	\$800 million
State Veterans' Homes Construction Grants		\$100 million	\$100 million	\$85 million	\$100 million
State Veterans' Cemeteries Construction Grants		\$46 million	\$46 million	\$46 million	\$60 million
General Operating Expenses		\$2.1 billion	\$2.5 billion	\$2.5 billion	\$2.6 billion
Information Technology		\$3.3 billion	\$3.3 billion	\$3.2 billion	\$3.5 billion
National Cemetery System		\$250 million	\$250 million	\$251 million	\$260 million

Scouting An American Legion tradition since 1919

By Bob Miller, Scouting Advisor, District 24

On Monday, April 4, 2011, Mr. Arte Moreno, Owner of the Los Angeles Angels, was presented with the Department's Scouting Commissions Certificate of Appreciation for sponsoring the Veterans Relays Awards for the past eight years.

Receiving the Certificate for Mr. Arte Moreno was Mr. Dennis Kohl, Chairman of the Los Angeles Angels. Mr. Moreno is a Veteran and will become a Member of Hollywood Post 43 – Just as his predecessor, the Late Great Gene Autry, the 1st Owner of the Angels was!! Again... Congratulations, Angels Baseball.

Our Motto is Let's Make Things Happen!!!



L-R: Jeric Whilhensen, Post 43 Commander; Mr. Dennis Kohl, Chairman of the Los Angeles Angels; and Bob Miller, District 24 Scouting Advisor.



Several dignitaries attend the Area 3 Meeting at Harry V. Baley Sr. Post 476 in California City on April 9, 2011, which included 4 Past Department Commanders and Candidate for Department Commander Hugh E. Crooks, Jr. Pictured, L-R: Michael Gombar, Thomas D. Hetherington, Hugh E. Crooks, Jr., Al Lennox and Floyd Martin. Photo by Lon Chaney, District 15 Historian, Scribe and Editor



Two District 15 Active Marines were married on March 19, 2011 at Alvin Myo Dunn Post 365 in Vista, California. Mr. and Mrs. Beni Tipou are members of Tehachapi Post 221 and guarded the colors in the Color Guard competition at the Riverside Convention in 2009. CPL Lora Tupou is the daughter of Past Department Sgt.-at-Arms Norm Clendenin and his wife, Harriet. Over 50 family members and close friends of the bride and groom attended the wedding and festivities, including a number of active Marines from Camp Pendleton.

American Legion Riders 5th Annual Convention

AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS CONVENTION 2011 LOMPOC



First row, L-R: Anita "Red" Bart, Albert "Poncho" Villa and Luis "Doc" Diaz. Second row, L-R: John "Doc" Bart, Steve Weber, Dave "Schnautzer" Avant, Bob "Wizard" Scudero, Joe Love and Mary Estrada.

By Jennifer Diaz, ALR District 10

The American Legion Riders Department of California (ALR DOC) held their 5th Annual Convention in Lompoc, California, a close neighbor to the sprawling Vandenberg AFB on April 8-10, 2011. The American Legion Post 211 and their ALR Chapter 211 were the hosting Post/Chapter for the Convention. The events opening ceremonies included the singing of the National Anthem, Bagpipe presentation and a Fallen Soldier tribute sponsored by ALR District 28 (seen center in the above picture). Department Commander Mark Foxworthy provided the opening remarks for the ALR DOC Convention.

Present at the event were over 200 American Legion Riders from across the state. Delegates honored the diversity of its membership by recognizing a rider del-egate and former POW from the USS PUEBLO incident held captive for 11 months by North Korea. Additionally, the range of age in the Rider membership was acknowledged and its oldest rider (at 86 years

young) was honored for his years of service to the Legion. Diversity and service extended to the animal community as the presence of Hercules d'Boxer (a therapy dog "owned" by "JD" from the ALR District 13) who conveniently rides in JD's sidecar, stood proudly to a round of applause. While business was conducted in an orderly fashion, time was set aside for the traditional lunch run on Saturday. The evening was filled with the sound of the Department's Officers (and others) singing karaoke at the Post bar.

New officers were voted in on Sunday with Luis "Doc" Diaz of District 10 elected to his third term as State President, Albert "Poncho" Villa of Chapter 108 as Vice President and Dave Avant of Chapter 48 as Sergeant at Arms. Continuing in their appointed roles were John "Doc" Bart of Chapter 23 as Judge Advocate, Anita "Red" Bart of Chapter 23 as Secretary, Bob "Wizard" Scudero of District 9 as Quartermaster, Joe Love of District 9 as Treasurer and Mary Estrada of District 28 as Chaplain.

The Last Bugle Call



Reporting Period: March 1, 2011 to April 30, 2011

O Lord, You have showed us that death is but the gateway to a more glorious life and that we must not fear its coming; and we know, also, that neither life nor death can separate us from Your love. Assure us, yet again, that our departed comrades are not lost to us, but sharing new life with You in the kingdom of our Father, where we shall in your good time be reunited. We know them to be with You forever ... Amen.

During the Reporting Period there have been 510 transfers to Post Everlasting. The names of all our departed comrades may be seen on the department Web site. Just click on the highlighted "Post Everlasting" button on our homepage www.calegion.org

Inside This Issue:

Call to Convention	1
Eagle Scout of the Year	1
Commander/Adjutant	3
Service Officer.....	3
Membership Director.....	3
Calendar of Events	4
NEC Man.....	5
Legislative Advocate	5
Candidates.....	6
Ontario Convention Activities	7
Service Officers	9
Legislative Priorities	11