



CALIFORNIA Legionnaire

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Legislator of the Year



Congressman Bob Filner was recognized as "Legislator of the Year" by The American Legion Department of California. A delegation of Legionnaires traveled to the Washington, D.C. Conference and visited personally with many of our elected legislators. California's 25th District Congressman Bob Filner was recognized for his tireless efforts in support of our country's veterans. Shown from L to R: N.E.C. man Jim Hachney, Congressman Bob Filner, and Department Commander Charlie Eskridge.

— See page 4 for biography of Bob Filner

House Veterans' Affairs Committee Reports Three Bills to the House Floor

Washington, D.C. – March 15, 2007, the House Veterans' Affairs Committee led by Chairman Bob Filner (D-CA), reported on three bills: the Joshua Omvig Veterans Suicide Prevention Act, the Dr. James Allen Veteran Vision Equity Act, and the Veterans Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2007.

1. H.R. 327 – to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to develop and implement a comprehensive program designed to reduce the incidence of suicide among veterans.

2. H.R. 797 – to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve compensation benefits for veterans in certain cases of impairment of vision involving both eyes, and for other purposes.

3. H.R. 1284 – to increase, effective as of December 1, 2007, the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans.

"This committee has a tremendous opportunity to make sure that this Congress keeps the promises that have been made to our veterans," said Chairman Filner. "Caring for veterans is an ongoing cost of war and the measures passed today will have an impact on our veterans and their dependents."

Please visit House Veterans' Affairs Committee Web site at <http://veterans.house.gov>

Resolution 169 – Global War on Terror

March 16, 2007

Yesterday was a very busy day on Capitol Hill with regard to Resolution 169. The House Appropriations Committee approved a roughly \$124 billion draft supplemental spending bill Thursday, following a series of passionate debates on amendments addressing the Iraq War. The panel voted 36-28 to approve the measure, largely along party lines.

The American Legion continues to express strong opposition to specific provisions in the bill sets in motion a withdrawal of military service members from Iraq and establishes steadfast requirements for unit readiness and lengths of deployments.

Representative Jerry Lewis (CA), the former Committee Chairman, offered an amendment that would strike these provisions from the bill, oppose cuts or restrictions in war funding and express support for U.S. military personnel.

— WAR, continued on page 4

Oratorical Contests Commission

by Phil Heller, Commission Chairman

The American Legion's National High School Oratorical Contest, California State finals was conducted Sunday, February 25, 2007, at Ontario Post 112. The winner was Zakary Dychtwald, a junior from Miramonte High School in Orinda, California. He

will represent our Department at the National Finals in Indianapolis, Indiana, the weekend of April 14-15 at the Indiana University-Purdue University of Indianapolis (IUPUI). Zak, as he calls himself, will be competing against 53 other students from around the country, including the Departments of France, Mexico and the

District of Columbia.

The other students competing were Kimberly Solomon, an 18-year-old senior from Encino who attends William Howard Taft High School in Woodland Hills; Marc Etchepare, 16-years-old and from Turlock, who attends Central

— ORATORICAL, continued on page 4



Seated L to R: Kimberly Solomon, Senior at William Howard Taft High School, Woodlands Hills, CA – Area 6 runner-up; Russell York, Junior in home study, National City, CA – Area 5 – second place; Jeffery Lee, Junior at Whitney High School, Cerritos, CA – Area 4 – runner-up; Zakary Dychtwald, Junior at Miramonte High School, Orinda, CA – Area 2 – winner; Marc Etchepare, Junior at Central Catholic High School, Modesto, CA, he lives Turlock, CA – Area 3 – runner-up; Douglas MacDonald, Senior at Willits High School, Willits, CA – Area 1 – runner-up; Standing L to R: Edward Alvarez, Area 5 Vice Commander; Charlie Eskridge, Department Commander; Phil Heller, Chairman; and Michael Bloom, Area 2 Vice Commander.

Local Post Events Are Online

Local Post events are supplied to the California Legionnaire and run as a reader service as space allows. Timely short-term calendar events are posted on the Department of California Web site www.calegion.org in the "District Scribe" section and to view additional listings go to: http://www.calegion.org/html/calendar_events.html and click on the appropriate calendar month.

Submit your own local Post event notices by e-mail in text format and with at least one-week advance notice. Send to editor@calegion.org or calegion@pacific.net Put "Scribe Column" in the subject line.

CALVET Home Loan Program Urgently Needs Your Help!

March 27, 2007. Sacramento. On January 18, 2007, U.S. Representatives Susan Davis (D-CA) and Wally Herger (R-CA) introduced H.R. 551, the "Home Ownership for America's Veterans Act of 2007," to make today's wartime veterans eligible for the CalVet Home Loan program. Federal law currently restricts the eligibility for home loans financed by state of California tax-exempt bonds, called Qualified Veterans Mortgage Bonds (QVMB), to veterans who entered active duty prior to January 1, 1977.

Five states – Alaska, California, Oregon, Texas, and Wisconsin – offer veterans home loans financed by QVMB. Since the 102nd Congress in 1991-92, these five states have been asking the U.S. Congress to repeal the provision requiring veterans to have served prior to 1977 to be eligible for mortgages financed through these bonds. The five states have argued that veterans who served during the Gulf War and Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom are being denied a benefit that veterans who served in World War I, World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War received.

Last year, federal legislation was enacted to remove the 1977 restriction and open the eligibility for all wartime veterans in Alaska, Oregon, and Wisconsin, only. Unfortunately, the 1977 restriction still remains in effect for California and Texas.

H.R. 551 would eliminate the 1977 enlistment date restriction for eligible veterans in California and Texas, thus giving all wartime veterans in these two states the same benefit bestowed on wartime veterans in Alaska, Oregon, and Wisconsin. With the high cost of housing in California, this program may be the only opportunity some veterans have for home ownership. The bill would also insert an inflation adjustment schedule to increase the bond limit for each participating state beginning in 2011.

"I encourage all veterans to contact their U.S. Representative to urge them to become a cosponsor of H.R. 551, if they have not already signed on. This is

very important legislation for the veterans of California" said Tom Johnson, Secretary of the California Department of Veterans Affairs.

As of March 27, 2007 there were 28 cosponsors to HR 551. You can find out if your U. S. Representative is a cosponsor by going to the following Web site: <http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/bdquery/z?d110:HR00551:@@@P>

For more information on H.R. 551 go to the CDVA Web site: <http://www.cdva.ca.gov/calvet/hr551.asp>

Background on the CalVet Home Loan Program

The CalVet Home Loan program is financed through the sale of voter-approved general obligation bonds pursuant to federal law (Section 143 (1) of the Internal Revenue Code). These bonds are generally tax exempt at both the state and federal levels, and are referred to as Qualified Veterans Mortgage Bonds (QVMB) in the Internal Revenue Code. The CalVet Home Loan program operates at no direct cost to taxpayers.

Each state gave its soldiers returning from World War I certain benefits in gratitude for serving their country. These benefits ranged from wartime bonuses to educational advantages. California, along with four other states, chose to provide low interest home loans to veterans.

Established in 1921, the CalVet Home Loan program has offered over 415,000 loans to California veterans, enabling them to purchase homes and farms they might not otherwise been able to afford. Prior to 1984, the CalVet Home Loan program served virtually all eligible California wartime veterans using QVMB. California was able to issue as many QVMB as necessary to meet the demand for CalVet loans. Other states were authorized to establish similar home loan programs for veterans using QVMB, but as of 1984, only Alaska, California, Oregon, Texas, and Wisconsin had done so.

How to Write a Newspaper Article

The first thing prospective reporters must know is that newspaper articles are written differently depending on their format, or purpose. Pure news articles are the most structured type of newspaper article. A specific format must be followed in writing this type of article. The purpose of this article is to convey facts of an event to an interested reader.

(1) Tips for writing a news article:

1. As with all newspaper articles, it should be set off with a headline. The headline shouldn't be a summarization of the article; instead it should serve the purpose of getting the reader's attention.

2. IMPORTANT: The story should start with a "lead paragraph," which is the summary of the story. Do not tease at the beginning or summarize at the end as you sometimes see on television news. Lay all your cards out on the table. The lead paragraph should include the who, what, when, where, and why of the story.

3. After the lead paragraph comes explanation and amplification, which deals with illuminating details. Use discretion in choosing details to include. Also, some details may not be as important as others. Put in order of importance from greatest to least. Don't feel the need to include everything you know, but do include everything you feel is important.

4. Do not use the first person. If you feel that it is absolutely important, think about writing a feature story or a column instead (see below).

5. NO BIAS. Personal prejudices should not find their way into the article. Again, use of an op-ed or column forum is recommended for personal opinions.

6. When possible, use quotes to flavor the article. However, don't use quotes for the sake of using quotes – make sure they are relevant. Also, make sure the quotes aren't a grammatical embarrassment – avoid run-ons especially.

(2) How to Write Feature Stories

Features are interesting stories about people, places, and events. They aren't as concerned with conveying basic facts as in conveying a mood, feeling, or theme. Unlike writing news articles, there are no hard and fast "rules" for composing features. Features, common in newspapers, are even more common in magazines.

(3) How to Write a Column

A column, or opinion-editorial (op-ed), is the most open ended of newspaper articles. It is a chance to express your opinion. There are not many rules to writing this type of article. The most important thing is to have all your facts straight. Other than that, simply follow the rules for writing a persuasive paper than you learned in your introduction to writing class. Always keep in mind that it is difficult to persuade readers by offending or insulting them.

WANTED: WWII Veteran Needed for Interview

By Alexandra Draper, freshman at Upland High School in Upland, CA

For a history assignment, we have been asked to interview a WWII veteran. Unfortunately, I do not know any. There are several other students that have the same needs. Is there a chance that a few WWII Legionnaires would agree to allow me and my fellow students to interview them for 20 to 30 minutes? If so, please e-mail me at: abc.ds@verizon.net or phone 909-931-1491



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Do you know someone Who may enjoy membership in The American Legion?

Mail completed form and dues to:
The American Legion Department of California
401 Van Ness Ave Room 117
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Don't forget, women are Veterans too!!!

THE AMERICAN LEGION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

_____ (NAME)	_____ (PHONE)
_____ (MAILING ADDRESS)	_____ (DATE)
_____ (CITY, STATE, ZIP COD)	\$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:	
<input type="checkbox"/> PERSONAL CHECK	<input type="checkbox"/> MONEY ORDER
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(COMPLETE BELOW IF PAYING BY CREDIT CARD)	
_____ (CREDIT CARD NUMBER)	_____ (EXPIRATION DATE)
_____ (NAME ON CARD)	_____ (CARDHOLDER SIGNATURE)



FROM THE COMMANDER'S DESK



Charlie Eskridge
State Commander

First Lady Rosie and I have been very busy in the last two months since my last message.

We started the year off by attending the Department of California Auxiliary's Executive meeting held in Santa

Clara. President Sandy Jacob had an excellent meeting, and we were all impressed with the number of Auxiliary members who attended.

Several days later we are on our way to Brawley, which has become an American Legion tradition! Post 60 is host to the Area 5 meeting for this well-known event, but it is more like a mini State Convention. The weather was good having come from a cold spell in the north, and the chili and salsa contest was the best. I still think I picked the best of both, but one out of two is not bad! I would encourage all of you who have never attended this gathering of Legionnaires to mark your calendars for next year; it is well worth the trip.

Back to the north and we are at the District 9 meeting; did I mention they throw in a crab feed?! Lafayette Post 517 now sporting a new Post has really become a signature landmark within this community. Again, it was well attended; and Rosie and I highly recommend it as an event not to miss.

First weekend in February saw us back in San Francisco for the Finance Committee meeting. All is well, and we hope to be able to present a budget for consideration after the March D.E.C. that the Department Convention will be able to accept. That same week we attended the Four Chaplains services at the Old Fort Ord Chapel and then off to the Area 1 meeting held at Post 84 in Auburn. Here, again, the turnout of Legionnaires was impressive.

The following weekend we were at St. Mary's Cathedral for the Department's Four Chaplains services. This is one of the most moving services the Legion puts together, and Rosie and I were saddened to know this may very well be the last time our Junior R.O.T.C. Cadets will be able to participate due to San Francisco's Education Board of Supervisors demanding there will no longer be an R.O.T.C. program within the San Francisco school system. This event in the past has been supported

greatly by our S.A.L.; but due to the sudden and unexpected passing of Past Detachment Commander Michael Bracandi, their members were not with us but rather attending his services. Michael was a great force within the S.A.L. and will be greatly missed by all.

National President of the Auxiliary paid a visit to our state in February, and we were honored to be able to host a luncheon at my home Post 694 Marina on Sunday, February 11. JoAnn Cronin has a very impressive background within the Auxiliary and has done a lot to help support the Legion Family in her first six months as President.

Rosie enjoyed the time at home for a few days, but it was short lived. The next two weeks were taken up with the finals for the annual Oratorical contests. The Area contests produced some very fine candidates for the finals, which were held in Ontario Post 112. Possibly one of the more difficult jobs is to pick a winner from the final six contestants. Each presented themselves in such a way as to make all of us proud of the youth of our country. The winner will present himself to the Department Convention.

On March 6th we were in Washington D.C. As of this moment, both Rosie and I have thawed out enough to return to normal activities. Cold as it was, the 47th American Legion Washington Conference was a great success once again. I know many of you witnessed President Bush's pledge to continue the support of our troops and to pursue the War On Terrorism. Although he admitted to the fact there is Congressional opposition from some for this endeavor and the support of our troops, he felt certain the majority share his feelings this will not be "another Vietnam!"

Back in California we are looking forward to the run down to the Department Convention in June. We will be at the D.E.C. on 17 & 18 March at Santa Maria and then back to the regular schedule of visits and appearances. Rosie and I knew, we were committing to a full year of travel and special events, and we are holding up well for it all. There are still many of you we have yet to meet and share our time with, but I feel confident we will be able to accomplish my goal of visiting more Posts than any Commander in recent memory.

We hope all is well with you, and Rosie and I look forward to dropping into your Post.

Leadership in California

by Benny Kepaa,
Leadership Commission Chairman

Hello California Legionnaires! It's that time again; but this time, I want to talk and write about two issues: Consolidated Post Reports (CPRs) and Legionnaire of the Year

To begin with first, every Commander and Adjutant (at all levels) needs your help with their Consolidated Post Reports. The National Commander, Paul A. Morin, is counting on you to do your volunteer jobs, and that is, helping your Post Commander and Adjutant successfully complete their Consolidated Post Report.

Each Commission has a responsibility to complete their reports prior to the deadline date. Every Commissioner

should know when their reports are due. The chain of command still applies, Post - District - Area and Department. Let's put a priority on all Consolidated Post Reports (CPR) and submit them in a timely manner. This will be a Team California effort.

And now for the second issue: LEGIONNAIRE OF THE YEAR. If you haven't selected a candidate yet, you still have time; but there's not too much time because our Department Convention will soon be upon us (June 21-24, 2007) in Palm Springs. I'm hopeful that this year's participation will improve as opposed to last year. I highly encourage every Commander (at all levels) to get behind this outstanding award program and stimulate professional interests, especially with our

Post Insurance Program

Great news! The American Legion, Department of California, has partnered with The Post Insurance Program to offer our Posts quality, affordable business insurance.

Business insurance may not seem important, but insuring your Post is one of the *most* effective ways to financially protect your organization. Every month your Post is exposed to potential risks; in fact, every time a member and his family enters your building you are at risk. That risk increases exponentially if you sell liquor at your Post, rent the building to other organizations for special events or hold special Post events like fundraisers, holiday parties and other activities.

If an accident were to happen during one of these visits, even through no fault of your own, your Post could face significant financial repercussions. Business insurance helps protect your Post from these costly accidents and provides a financial buffer that can be invaluable in times of crisis.

The Post Insurance Program, administered by Lockton Risk Services, has over 17 years experience providing affordable insurance solutions to American Legion Posts. To date, over 1,700 American Legion Posts have chosen the Program to provide coverage for their Posts - having so many participants lets The Post Insurance Program offer you the advantage of mass-

buying power, something you aren't able to get through a local agent.

Unlike many local agents, The Post Insurance Program is familiar with the activities that our Posts have, so their insurance will cover things that most agents forget - like a Post bar, groups like the American Legion Riders and others, and activities in the community. Designed specifically to meet the unique exposures your Post faces, The Post Insurance Program offers *Property, Commercial Liability, Liquor Liability, Business Auto, Workers' Compensation, Special Events, Directors & Officers and much more.*

The State Department encourages you to contact The Post Insurance Program to make sure you have the proper amount of coverage you need for your Post. Even if you've already renewed your insurance for the year, we recommend that you call. The Post Insurance Program will keep your information on file and call you 45 days before your next renewal date, to offer you a competitive quote.

The friendly, knowledgeable representatives at The Post Insurance Program are happy to answer any questions you have, as well as send you additional information about the Program; just call *toll-free* at (800) 669-9944.

Additional information is available online at www.PostInsuranceProgram.com



ADJUTANT'S CORNER



Bill Siler III
Adjutant

Before we know what is happening, it will be time for the Department Convention June 21-24, 2007, in Palm Springs. Before I say anymore, I want to thank John Lea and his staff for all their hard work in getting everything ready for convention.

I have noticed this past month that resolutions have been coming into headquarters office but not in or on proper forms. Only two of the resolutions have been in proper form and on the Department of California Resolution Forms. The other resolutions haven't been on the proper resolution form.

Everyone can now go to the Department of California Web site (www.calegion.org) and download the resolution form and instructions on how to write a resolution. The resolution form and instructions are in "Word" and "PDF" form. You can download the form in your computer and type your resolution. REMEMBER, the resolu-

tion form is supposed to be on LEGAL SIZE PAPER (8 1/2 x 14).

If you have any ideas that you think will help improve The American Legion at any level, put them in the form of a resolution.

Most resolutions start at the Post level. After passing a resolution at the Post, it is good to take it to your District and have it passed. I think that gives your resolution more clout at the Department Convention. It also gives Legionnaires at the District level a chance to look at your resolution and see if any changes might be made to help improve your resolution.

REMEMBER: The resolutions adopted by your Post membership represent the official opinion of your Post.

The last resolve sections are also important. Use one or all of the following depending on where you want your resolution to go:

- A. **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, By District _____, The Department of California assemble in (*city*) on (*date*) for passage, and
- B. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That this resolution be forwarded to The American Legion, Department of California, for passage at the regular convention, assembled in Palm Springs, California, June 21-24, 2007, and
- C. **BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, That the Department Adjutant be and is hereby instructed to send this Resolution to the National Adjutant for appropriate action at the National Convention in Reno, Nevada, August 27-30, 2007.

Writing resolutions can be educational, rewarding because it gives you a chance to try to change something in The American Legion and sometimes just down right frustrating. If you have a resolution that is passed, it does feel very rewarding.

I hope to see you all some place within the Department of California during this year. If you see me, but I don't see you, come up and say hello anyway. I don't want anyone to feel that I am ignoring them.

younger members.

Be a mentor and encourage participation and involvement. Your Leadership Commissioners are available and willing to assist anyone and everyone. Also, be advised the Department Leadership Web site is available for referenced guidelines and assistance; and be sure to follow those instructional guidelines and rules to the letter.

Well Legionnaires and Comrades, that's it for now; this is a wrap! Work your CPRs and candidates for LEGIONNAIRE OF THE YEAR from your Posts, Districts and Area. A reminder: deadline for your submitted LEGIONNAIRE OF THE YEAR package(s) is June 1, 2007. IN SERVICE, FOR GOD AND COUNTRY AND THE AMERICAN LEGION. GOD BLESS AMERICA!



Russell York

Catholic High School in Modesto. Another student, Jeffery Lee, 17, and a junior, is from Cerritos and attends Willits High School. Each of these four students received runner up awards of \$700.00.



Zakary Dychtwald

First runner up, Russell York, took home to National City a check for \$1,000.00. He, a 16-year-old, is home schooled.

Zakary Dychtwald, our first place winner, received a check for \$1,200.00 and will be competing for an \$18,000.00 scholarship prize when at the National Contest finals.

Each student, in an eight to ten-minute oration had to speak on some aspect of the U.S. Constitution with emphasis on the duties and obligations of a citizen to our government. They also must speak on an assigned topic, drawn at the last minute, and cover not less than three minutes nor more than five minutes in total length. This tests the speaker's knowledge on the subject and the research that went into the topic. Five judges, from different walks of life were used to determine the eventual winner.

19th District High School Oratorical

by Gil Soto
19th District Oratorical Chairman

The 19th District held its High School Oratorical Contest on January 28, 2007 at Montebello Post 272. Participating were Irma Giron, 11th grader at Santa Fe High School, Santa Fe Springs, sponsored by Whittier Post 51 and Jeffrey Lee, 10th grader at Whitney High School,

Cerritos, sponsored by Norwalk Post 359. Jeffrey Lee was selected as the first place winner and Irma Giron second place.

Jeffrey went on to participate in the 4th Area contest in February at Lakewood Post 496 and then advanced to the Department contest held at Ontario Post 112. Jeffrey came in as first runner-up. The winner was Zachary Dychtwald from the 2nd Area.

WAR, continued from page 1 —

However, Representative John Murtha (PA), the Defense Subcommittee chairman, quickly offered an amendment to Representative Lewis' amendment that restored the original provisions, but kept Representative Lewis' wording to support the troops. Representative Lewis countered with another amendment to a reiteration of his earlier proposal. The Committee quickly rejected that language (27-37), then adopted Representative Murtha's amendment (37-27) and approved the amended version of Representative Lewis' initial provision, as amended by voice vote.

In an attempt to put the Members on record for a quick exit of U.S. forces from Iraq, the Defense Subcommittee's ranking member, Representative C.W. Bill Young (FL) offered an amendment that mirrored a proposal by his colleague Representative Barbara Lee (CA) that would have only allowed federal money to be spent withdrawing those forces. The Committee unanimously rejected it, 0-64, with even Representative Lee voting against her previous proposal.

In making his arguments, Representative Lewis explained that this spending bill clearly "ties the hands of our commander-in-chief during a time of war; places military decisions in the hands of politicians; and attempts to buy votes for its passage — on the left and on the right — by literally promising something to everyone." However, Representative Murtha responded, "I say it's a civil war, and the Iraqis have to take it up themselves."

Among the many other provisions was one concerning removing Walter Reed Army Medical Center from the Base Realignment and Closure list. The Committee adopted that provision by voice vote. Both Representatives Ray LaHood (IL) and Young had sought the provision. Representative LaHood stated, "I think this was a dumb decision to begin with. We're at war. Many of the decisions made by [the base realignment and closure commission] were dumb, but this was the dumbest."

The bill also includes funding for the State Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) and for the Defense Health Program be directed to strengthening recruitment and formalized training for administrative and

casework personnel and that they go to military medical centers with large patient backlogs. There is also funding for other issues like agriculture disaster relief, homeland security and pandemic flu preparations. The bill also includes \$1.7 billion for the Department of Veterans Affairs.

In the Senate, a binding resolution (S.J. Res. 9), sponsored by Senator Reid (NV), was defeated by a vote of 48-50. Senator Gordon Smith (OR) was the only Republican senator to cross party lines on the vote on S.J. Res. 9. Both Democratic Senators Mark Pryor (AK) and Ben Nelson (NE) voted against the measure. Under terms of the debate, 60 votes were required for adoption. This resolution called for the redeployment of U.S. military personnel that would have begun scaling back the Iraq mission within four months of its adoption and eventual withdrawal of all U.S. military personnel from Iraq. S.J. Res. 9 would also set a goal — but not a requirement — that combat troops be pulled out by March 31, 2008.

Senate Mitch McConnell (KY) made the point that, "Giving (advanced) notice to the other side is a guarantee of defeat in Iraq and a guarantee that we'll have these problems back in the homeland. It is exactly the wrong way to go."

The Senate then moved to adopt two non-binding resolutions to demonstrate support for the troops by overwhelming margins:

Senator Patty Murray (WA) introduced a bill to express support for funding troops in the field and for medical care after they return from combat. It passed 96-2.

Senator Judd Gregg (NH) offered a non-binding measure (S. Con. Res. 20) that stated the Senate's commitment to not taking away funding for troops. It was adopted, 82-16.

The Senate will soon take up its version of the FY 2007 Defense emergency supplemental appropriations bill. It is anticipated it will contain redeployment and withdrawal language.

Please share the official views of The American Legion with your Members of Congress. A copy of the Resolution 169 booklet is available on The American Legion Web site: <http://www.legion.org/pdf/res169booklet.pdf>

About 'Legislator of the Year' Bob Filner — U.S. Representative California's 51st Congressional District



Bob Filner

Bob Filner has served the people of southern California in Congress since 1992, compiling an impressive record of achievement. Bob's efforts have made his district and the entire region

he represents a better, safer place. Tens of thousands have directly benefited from Bob's determination and hard work.

"As the Chairman of the House of Representatives Veterans Affairs' Committee, I am committed to serving the men and women who have risked their lives for our freedom. You can help fellow veterans by being informed and knowledgeable about the legislation that directly affects American veterans. I encourage you and your friends and relatives to contact your Member of Congress, write letters to the Editor, call talk radio shows, and be vocal about your support for veterans legislation." —Bob

Bob is a supporter of the "GI Bill of Rights for the 21st Century," this is a comprehensive package of legislation to improve benefits for our men and women in uniform and for the nation's military retirees and veterans. This legislation will bolster support for our troops in harm's way and their families here at home. In addition, included are special provisions for the National Guard and Reserves that provide better education, health care and job training to these men and women whose service has been above the call of duty.

This "GI Bill of Rights" also ends the Disabled Veterans' Tax providing concurrent receipt of military retired pay and VA compensation to all eligible disabled retirees.

Congressman Filner's legislation, passed by Congress, will provide dental services to all ex-Prisoners of War, improve insurance for veterans, increase the amount of the VA home loan, and improve recruitment and retention of VA dentists by increasing their pay. Provisions of his bill to eliminate the Military Widows' Tax by removing the Social Security offset to the Survivors Benefit Plan (SBP) for military widows were also passed. While he strongly supported the bill which passed that partially eliminates the Disabled Veterans Tax and allows concurrent receipt of VA compensation and military retired pay for disabled military retirees, he is introducing legislation to finish the job — and pay concurrent receipt to all eligible veterans. His amendment to allow a study of space-available travel on

military aircraft for many disabled veterans and their families has been included in the Defense Authorization bill, which was passed by the House of Representatives.

He introduced a bill to give Purple Heart recognition to POWs who died of causes other than wounds while in captivity — this bill led to a study of the issue with a report due in March. Additionally, he has attempted to give recognition and a medal to veterans who died from causes related to their service in Vietnam but who are not eligible for inclusion on The Wall at the Vietnam Memorial in the nation's capital. Bob has also made strides to provide benefits to World War II Merchant Mariners to compensate them for exclusion from the GI Bill for over 40 years (H.R. 23). Other Filner bills, which he will soon introduce into the new, 110th Congress, would provide veterans with direct access to chiro-practic care and provide disabled veterans with access to commissaries.

Congressman Filner introduced an amendment to the Iraq Supplemental bill that would give preference to veterans for contracts for the rebuilding of Iraq. He called for a GAO investigation of the health effects of exposure to depleted uranium in military personnel and veterans. He is introducing a bill with Congressman Neil Abercrombie (D-HI) and Mike Thompson (D-CA) to eliminate "dose reconstruction," a time-consuming and misleading process that is currently required to determine compensation for Atomic Veterans.

Bob has also worked, along with the other members of the San Diego Delegation, to establish an annex to Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery. The Navy Department and the VA Department recently announced an agreement that will provide space at MCAS Miramar for additional local burials. The new site will provide approximately 200,000 much-needed gravesites for the San Diego and Imperial Counties.

Department Events Calendar

Events Calendar

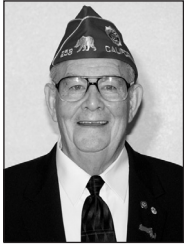
On the Web at:

http://www.calegion.org/html/calendar_events.html

March 30, 2007	1st AL Riders State Convention, Fresno	May 1, 2007	Commission Book of Reports Due
April 4, 2007	Membership Target Date	May 5, 2007	Area 4 Meeting, Culver City
April 15, 2007	National Oratorical Contest	May 7, 2007	Delegate Strength Report
April 21, 2007	Commander Eskridge Homecoming	May 13-20, 2007	Auxiliary 7-day Alaskan Cruise, Seattle, WA
April 24, 2007	Legislative Day in Sacramento	May 28, 2007	Memorial Day
April 25, 2007	May/Jun Legionnaire Articles Due	May 30, 2007	Americanism Fisk Report Due
April 28, 2007	Auxiliary Department President Homecoming	June 2-3, 2007	Area 1 Meeting, Ft. Bragg
April 28-29, 2007	P.C.C. State Board	June 9-10, 2007	Area 5 Meeting, Rialto
		June 16-23, 2007	Boy's State, CA State, Sacramento
		June 21-24, 2007	Department Convention, Palm Springs
		June 26, 2007	Jul/Aug Legionnaire Articles Due



NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEMAN



Jim Hackney
National Executive
Committeeman

Comrades, I'd like to report to you about the American Legion's 47th annual Washington Conference and Legislative Rally that took place the first week in March.

Talk about an immediate response! As soon as the reports

about the terrible conditions at Walter Reed Medical Center were made known, your American Legion's National Staff leaped into action to help correct these problems.

After a lot of research and discussions with both the Medical Center management, and with the Department of Veterans Affairs personnel, an agreement was reached with The American Legion on what we could do to help those fighting men and women. Tuesday morning, March 6, that agreement, called a Memorandum of Understanding, was announced and was signed by all parties in front of over a thousand cheering Legionnaires and their families at our Legislative Rally.

Now, what this means is that The American Legion will have an office on the grounds of the Walter Reed Medical Center. We will staff this office with paid professionals to help our wounded military members' transition from Department of Defense control to the Department of Veterans Affairs.

You know, The American Legion has always fought to make sure that the benefits veterans have earned, they get when they need them. Heck, we've been doing that since 1919. This is just our latest effort, and it's a major one. Let me tell you why.

According to National Commander Paul Morin, our staff at Walter Reed will help cut through the red tape that delays the out-processing of soldiers, which forces them to live in those terrible conditions. We want to reduce or even do away with the need for them to be in facilities not ever intended for such long-term use.

This is taking our "Heroes to Hometown" program a step higher. Right now, this program identifies returning men and woman at the local level who need direct help when they come home. There we provide the help they need figuring out the VA system, and the day-to-day things they and their families need at home, while adjusting back to civilian life; kind of like we've been there, done that, and help them not make the mistakes some of us made. There'll be more details about this Memorandum of Understanding in upcoming Legion publications.

A little later on in the program a "surprise" guest made his appearance. We knew about this surprise guest all along, since we had to pass through metal detectors to get into the main conference room. Still it was a thrill to hear the announcement, "Ladies and Gentlemen, the President of The United States, George Bush." I mean, he just strode in from the right side of the stage; and after the picture taking, he began to talk to us. He spoke about the war and the reasons for the "Surge" and how we need to win the war against terrorists over there, or we'd have to fight them right here at home. He was persuasive, and relaxed, like he was among friends. He spoke to us for quite a while; but when it came time for him to leave, it was like he'd only been with us a few minutes.

And then we got back down to business.

Now, another thing we did at the conference was to walk the halls of Congress. After meeting on Tuesday morning, we broke up into teams. That afternoon, Legionnaires from every state in the Union were given a list of Senators or Congressmen to visit. I met first with our Senator Diane Feinstein. She was very receptive when I spoke about Resolution #169. And I think she'll back us on that. I then went to see Senator Boxer, but she wasn't in her office. I did speak with one of her staff, and he promised to let the Senator know about our concerns.

It was really impressive to walk down

the Halls of Congress and see other Legionnaires wearing our caps, going into or coming out of a Congressman or Senator's office. We sure let them know how we felt and what we expected of them. Every state was represented. There were hundreds of Legionnaires making contact with their elected representative that day. I don't want to call it a show of force. It was more like a show of concern; concern for those who have come after us.

I mentioned Resolution #169 earlier. It's called the Support for the War on Terrorism Resolution, and was passed at the 88th National Convention at Salt Lake City in August 2006. The "resolved" of this resolution is that The American Legion fully supports our government and armed forces as they are engaged in the global war on terrorism, and we urge all Americans to stand united with freedom loving people everywhere in this war.

"Now we all have our own opinion about this war, and I'm not going to say one side is right and the other side is wrong. There's a lot we can disagree about here, but we have to respect our troops and do so without providing propaganda that will harm them. We must be doing something right with about 70

nations supporting our efforts, because we have not had any terrorist attacks on the scale of the Kobar Towers, or the two attacks on the World Trade Center. Remember the sacrifices we Americans made during World War's One and Two, Korea, and Vietnam? Well sacrifice is part of War and that will never change.

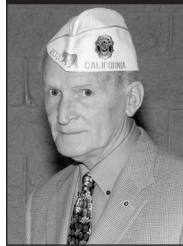
I would like to close with the words of Col. Brett Wyrick, a surgeon deployed in Iraq ...

"I wish there was not a war, and I wish our young people did not have to fight and die. But I cannot wish away evil men like bin Laden and al-Zarqawi. These men are not wayward children who have gone astray and they are not great men who are simply misunderstood. They are cold-blooded killers, and they will kill you, me, and everyone we love and hold dear if we do not kill them first. The last thing we need here in Iraq is an exit strategy or some damn timetable for withdrawal. Thank God there was no timetable for withdrawal after the Battle of the Bulge or Iwo Jima. Thank God there was no exit strategy at Valley Forge. Freedom is not easy, and it comes with a terrible price."

May God bless our troops, and the United States of America!



SERVICE OFFICER



Terry Tracy
Service Officer

Rehab

There is some misinformation circulating about the Department of California regarding the Patient Welfare and Entertainment Fund and the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Fund Drive.

I have recently received correspondence indicating that there is a huge misconception regarding the Patient Welfare and Entertainment Fund with its "archaic rules" and confusing it with the Rehab Fund. The intent of the Patient Welfare and Entertainment Policy is to provide a "boots on the ground" type of event involving Legionnaires: Events - such as Holiday Parties, Picnics and such for our comrades who are ill and unable to provide such entertainment for themselves. **The Patient Entertainment and Welfare Fund are monies set aside from the General Fund for distribution of the participating districts. The Rehab Fund Drive's sole purpose is to subsidize the operation of the Department of California's Veterans Rehabilitation Program.**

These are separate funds and should not be confused with one another!

Attached is a copy of the Patient Welfare and Entertainment Policy for your inspection. I have underlined sections regarding the intent of the policy.

Patient Welfare and Entertainment Fund Requirements and Restrictions Policy

PURPOSE:

The Patient Welfare and Entertainment Fund will provide limited funding to the various districts that maintain a physical presence at the various VA Medical Centers/Outpatient Clinics. **Districts will be subsidized for planning and executing events**

designed to provide patient welfare and/or entertainment to inpatients at the VA Medical Centers and/or Clinics or for VA approved outings conducted by the district.

POLICY:

The funds budgeted for the Patient Welfare and Entertainment Fund shall be distributed in accordance with this policy only. **No funds shall be disbursed without proper documentation of funds spent (original receipts), a summary of the activity (written VA acknowledgement of the activity, type of activity, date, number of legion participants and total cost) for which the funds are being requested and the name of the person requesting the funds.** Approved funding shall be sent to the district finance officer only. Funds shall not be used to subsidize any activity or program that is not in direct control of, and provided by, member representatives of the district requesting the funds.

All requests for funds shall be submitted to the Department Service Officer on approved department form designed for that purpose. Requests for funding shall be submitted on or before the end of the department fiscal year (department convention) and shall be for activities conducted during that fiscal year only. No funds shall be distributed until the request has been approved by the Department Service Officer.

The Department Service Officer will prepare an annual Patient Welfare and Entertainment Fund Budget and present it to the Convention Finance Committee for consideration.

The Department Service Officer shall have final determination authority over all requests for funding.

Adopted August 7, 2005 by the Department Executive Committee in Visalia, California

I certainly hope that this provides an adequate explanation to every Legionnaire in the Department of California.



FROM THE CHAPLAIN



R. T. Lee
Department
Chaplain

A Prayer of Hope

Almighty God, Captain of all hosts and Commander over all, bless and consecrate this present hour. We thank You for our country and its flag and the liberty for which it stands. We

stand before You as veterans of many wars and conflicts. Many of us have entered the realm in the west where we dropped our burdens by the wayside of life and have

gone to eternal rest. We ask that You hear now our pledge of loyalty to our country and its flag. Let us renew again our resolve of word and deed that will emphasize the privilege and duty we hold to keep patriotism alive. We ask that You give us power to see and do what is right. Grant that The American Legion will preserve the ennobling high ideals for which our comrades served and died. We ask that You keep us forever in righteousness, humble of heart and unselfish in our purpose. We ask this all in Thy holy name. Amen.

1st American Legion Riders Dept. of CA State Convention

by **Jim Banakus**,
ALR Dept. of CA President
E-mail: Harley4Jim2@aol.com

The convention was scheduled for arrival on Friday, March 30, 2007, with registration taking place in the evening at Post 509. Saturday was a full day of ALR business along with Sunday morning until around noon.

Besides voting on the ALR Dept. of CA Constitution & Bylaws and other related business, we also nominated and voted on the Dept. of CA ALR officers for 2007.

The ALR Convention was held at: Fresno Federal Post 509
3509 N. 1st St., Fresno, CA 93726
Phone: 559-224-0522

Friday night and Saturday morning check-in was handled by members of ALR Chapter 509 at Post 509

Saturday lunch was catered with cost very reasonable.

Transportation was provided to and from hotels by Post 509.

Saturday night spaghetti and meatball dinner and entertainment was held at Post 509.

Report on Washington Conference

by Joanne Evans,
Public Relations Commission Chairman
Department of California
Consultant to the National Commander

The March 7, 2007, Legislative Call-in to Washington, DC, was one of the best and better presented that I have attended in a long time, representing the National Commander as a member of the National Public Relations Commission.

Of course, my main job was to attend Public Relations and Legislative Day as well as any other meetings I could attend and gather information. I arrived late Sunday Afternoon on the 4th of March and was able to attend opening ceremonies in the evening and attend the National Commander's reception earlier.

Monday morning I started the day off by attending the ANAVICUS breakfast.

There were many handouts; however, I was limited as to what I could take because of luggage weight constraints. These are all available at National, and members need to go online and send for some of the brochures.

As a member of the Public Relations Commission, I met with many of my colleagues from throughout the United States and discussed our policies on various public relations strategies. The National Public Relations Officials presented an outstanding program on enhancing our PR. There is a new CD out on the Blue Star Salute; and also, we were presented a program called "Andi's Milblog Army." This is one woman's effort to connect with loved ones in Afghanistan and Iraq as well as other areas of the world where our troops are stationed. Handouts are available. For more information on this, please contact National PR office. A new press release dated March 4th was sent out to all media reference "Legion to Speed Walter Reed Processing."

"In the Footsteps of the Founders," a guide to defending American values, known as the PERA booklet printed for the 109th Congress; and it is currently being revised. Other than the bill number and the sponsor name, the information contained is correct. For the current 110th Congress, The American Legion supports: *The Veterans' Memorials, Boy Scouts, Public Seals, and Other Public Expressions of Religion Protection Act of 2007*

It is the same name in both chambers, but the bill numbers are:

H.R. 725 SPONSORED BY Rep. Dan Burton, Indiana
S.415 sponsored by Sen. Sam Brownback, Kansas

"The War on Terrorism" Resolution No. 169, as adopted at The American Legion National Convention in Salt Lake City, Utah, on August 29, 30, and 31, 2006, is in a pamphlet and being distributed to all Congressional, Senatorial and State Representatives and Senators for their understanding and support. **WE MUST SUPPORT**

Vice-Commander Representing Women Legionnaires Scholarship Fund

by Kathleen Heeren
Department of California
Vice-Commander Representing
Women Legionnaires

The objective of this fund is to provide scholarships to Women Legionnaires and/or their sons/daughters, grandchildren of Women Legionnaires. These awards will be made on the basis of scholarship, character and need of the applicant. A panel of past Department Vice-Commanders Representing Women Legionnaires will be selecting these recipients and they will be announced at the Department Convention held in Palm Springs in June.

Scholarship awards will be in the amount of \$500.00 each, and the number of awards will be determined by the resources available to the fund. My goal is to give four scholarships during the 2006/2007 Legion year, which means that I must raise \$2,000 by May

OUR TROOPS AT ALL COSTS.

As usual and another good example of lousy, negative reporting, the *Washington Post* did not even give us a nod or bother to mention that the President came and addressed us (about 500 plus) from the Legion and Auxiliary. The *Washington Times* put President Bush on the front above the fold with our backdrop and covered much of his address.

The main focus was ensuring the continued support of our soldiers and our dedication to winning the War on Terrorism. We are insisting our legislators continue to fund the effort and make sure we don't have another Vietnam. Too many in the audience were Vietnam Era soldiers, and we do not want to walk away AGAIN and feel that the lives of over 3,000 men and women have been sacrificed in vain. We truly believe that we have made vast headway on the removal of those factions that would seek to eliminate us as a country.

We also had a very, very interesting forum on illegal Immigration. This was conducted by Mark Krikorian, Executive Director, Center for Immigration Studies and included two keynote speakers, U.S. Senator Jeff Sessions (Alabama) and Alfonso Aguilar, Chief of Citizenship, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. There were other very prominent contributors included in a panel discussion, but the issue was considered very important and the feelings were strong.

On Tuesday we split up into six teams and went to the halls of Congress. My team consisted of myself and past Department Sgt At Arms, Benjamin A. Kepaa. We visited the office of 14 Representatives to discuss our Priorities. We did not have appointments and did not get a chance to talk to all except one in person. The one in person was Congresswoman Grace Napolitano, a former Legislator from Sacramento whom I testified with in support of the Women Veterans representative with the Department of California Veterans Affairs. This position is now a Deputy Secretary position filled by a female. We handed out the Press Release on "Legion to Speed Walter Reed Processing" and Legislative Priorities we wish them to support us on as well as the booklet on The War on Terrorism, Resolution No. 169. Of course, we left business cards for them to get in touch with us to answer any questions. Everyone was very supportive. Those Congressional personnel who were not present had Veterans Affairs representatives who we were able to speak with.

Wednesday, Ben Kaapa filled in for me at the Commander's PR luncheon as it was snowing, and I did not want to get stuck in Washington. So I left early and was able to get an earlier flight home; and as it was, the plane I was on had to be de-iced and de-snowed. I was raised on the East coast and had seen this type of weather before and did not want to be snow sliding on a runway.

In conclusion, I believe this was one of the best conferences that I have attended.

15, 2007.

If you know a Woman Veteran who is deserving of a scholarship, currently attending school or will be attending school, sign her up for The American Legion. This will make her or her child/grandchild eligible to apply for this scholarship.

For more information about this Scholarship Program or eligibility requirements please visit my Web page on The American Legion Department of California Web site at:

http://www.calegion.org/html/vc_women.html

Any amount that you can contribute will be appreciated. Please remit donations to Kathleen Heeren, 545 Trinity Drive, Vacaville, CA 95687-5802, earmarked "Vice-Commander Representing Women Legionnaires Scholarship Fund." Any questions please call me at 707-430-7023 (mobile phone) or email: cntrywmn@pacbell.net

Public Relations Commission

by Ralph Otte, Area 2 Commissioner

1. A "VETERANS MEMORIAL COMMISSION" Project is being developed in Cupertino to honor all veterans currently in the South Bay Area.

It will be located in the existing Memorial Park on a grassy knoll above the flagpole, facing a reflecting pool, and featuring a bigger-than-life statue of two veterans of the current Mid-east conflict.

A "Wall of Remembrance" features brick-stones that can be purchased to honor ANY VETERAN OR SERVICEMAN.

This welcome project is headed by former mayor Sandra James (408-981-7220) and details are visible online at <http://www.cupertinoveteransmemorial.org>

2. NEW POST BEING FORMED TO INCREASE LEGION MEMBERSHIP

"Admiral William A. Moffett Post 881" is the name assigned to a new Post now awaiting Charter at Moffett Field, recognizing the pioneer in lighter-than-air craft AND THE

CONTRIBUTION of those fighting for freedom in Iraq and Afghanistan

The new Post will directly invite returning veterans to join an American Legion Post soon after return from combat. It was created by the efforts of a "Team of Four" who last summer formed the "Moffett Veterans Association" as a startup group. This MVA included Dr. Charles Rogers, Ralph Otte, Richard Moore, and Carolann Wunderlin from Post 558. The project received encouragement from many Moffett Field workers, plus strong endorsements at District and Department levels.

In December 2006, National Commander Paul Morin wrote his congratulations to all concerned, and the final paperwork was filed at national headquarters.

The new Post 881 now has 43 members, with many more applications. Their hope is to serve as a model for expanding membership among the "New Warriors of America."

National Security & Foreign Relations

by Marian Landis,
Commission Chairman

This commission has had two meetings, one at Convention and the other in October at Pomona. It was well attended and much was discussed. At each meeting resolutions were written with one on Homeland Security shifting grant money to local police work, and the second on Border Security requesting that Congress act to increase funding and personnel to the U.S. Border Patrol in order to more adequately perform the duties of securing the borders of the United States. This last resolution has been completed and will be presented at the National Convention.

The shifting grant money to local police work has already taken place as reported on January 6, 2007, by the news media. The team is working together very well and as Chairman, updates are mailed or E-mailed to them when new information comes in. The following are mem-

bers: Henry Mazzotte (392-6), Vice Chairman; Arthur Kapsalis (694-2); Bill Dacus (82-12); George Newell III (170-19); Marian Landis (460-22), Chairman; Michael H. Baldwin (288-20). We hope to see the members who haven't been present. With everything going on in our Country, it is necessary that we help in every way we can.

It has been requested by this Chairman that each member speak at their Area meetings and District meetings to keep everyone updated on what their Department Commission is doing. Bringing new ideas to our call-ins is very important.

While attending the March Washington Conference in D.C., the Foreign Relations Commissions have been requested to attend a special session, a Forum on Illegal Immigration, which will help The American Legion develop a roadmap on involvement in the national debate on the subject. A report on this will be made at a later time.

You are cordially invited to attend
The American Legion
Department Commander Charlie Eskridge's
Homecoming on
Saturday, April 21, 2007

at Monterey Cypress Post 694 in Marina
No Host Social Hour: 6:00 p.m. Dinner: 7:00 p.m.
Entertainment by DJ Mike Ward
Menu - Roast Beef or Baked Chicken
Reservation Deadline: April 9, 2007
Dinner Cost: \$15.00

Mail this reservation form with a check made payable to Post 694 to Art Kapsalis, 1105 Mescal St., Seaside, CA 93955-6110. (831) 394-4514. Email: kapsalis694@sbcglobal.net
Deadline for reservations is April 9, 2007. Post 694 phone number is (831) 384-6616

Name: _____ District _____
Name: _____ District _____
Name: _____ District _____
Name: _____ District _____
(If additional space is needed, please use reverse side). Reservations limited to 175

No. of roast beef dinners _____ No. of baked chicken dinners _____

Check # _____ is enclosed for _____ Reservations @ \$15 each for a total of \$ _____

Recommended nearby hotel: Comfort Inn, 140 Reservation Road, Marina, CA. Included in the rate is a "comfort sunshine breakfast" which includes waffles, eggs, toast, rolls, cereal, juice, etc. Call the hotel directly at 831-883-4000. There is also a Holiday Inn Express located directly across the street from the Comfort Inn as well. For those arriving on Friday night and need a place to eat, Post 694 has a great dinner and menu every Friday night from 6-8PM

Look who's 85!



Marvin Jones

Marvin Jones, Department Commander (1974-75), will celebrate his 85th birthday on May 15, 2007. Just about everyone knows Marvin – a leader, advisor, and

counselor for many, especially during Department Conventions. Marvin is a Paid-Up-For-Life member of South Bay Post 184 in Redondo Beach. He has been a member of The American Legion for over 60 years. Word has it his family will be traveling to his home in Tennessee to celebrate with him. Let's all wish Marvin a very happy 85th!

Celebrating 60 Years in Legion



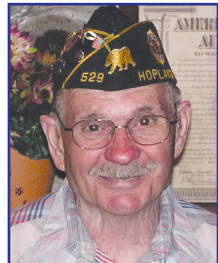
Lita S. Bowman

Lita S. Bowman, American Legion Post #1000, San Francisco, CA, wearing her Post #149 Legion Cap from Escondido, CA where she recently resided.

Lita is celebrating her 60th Anniversary as a Legionnaire, having joined the Corporal Marshall N. Braden Post #56, in Santa Maria, CA, in 1947, shortly after her discharge from service. She was a member of the WACs. She is Charter member of WIMSA and is a surviving spouse of a Pearl Harbor Veteran.

Lita went through the chairs at Hollywood Women's Post #185. In the mid 1950s, she was a member of a group called, "The Six Singing Santos Sisters," and they entertained the troops during WWII. Her family is listed in the Marquis, "Who's

Who In The World." She has represented the Legion throughout the years with pride and dignity and has marched in countless Military Parades and attended Memorial Services, made Hospital visits, raised money for Child Welfare and has served as Chaplain among the other offices held.



Floyd "Bill" Hollenback

Floyd "Bill" Hollenback, member of Hopland Post 529, was presented his 60 Years Continuous Membership in The American Legion certificate at a recent Post dinner meeting.

Making the presentation for the National Organization was Past Department Commander David L. Eby (1998-99) and Post 529 Commander Bill Traina.

Legislative Day in Sacramento

Tuesday, April 24, 2007

by A. E. Menshew,
Legislative Representative

The particulars are: We have reserved the Eureka Room, in the Capitol Building basement cafeteria for a complimentary continental breakfast, starting at 8:00 a.m., and have invited our representatives to join us. After breakfast, around 9:00 a.m., we will have various State representatives address our group.

Last year, Governor Schwarzenegger, as well as CDVA Secretary Tom Johnson spoke. We also had the Senior Veterans' Consultant from Senator Morrow's office speak. Senator Morrow was, at that time, the Chairman of the Senate Veteran's Affairs Committee. We had several speakers from the Assembly Veteran's Affairs Committee, including the Chairperson Assembly Member Lori Saldana.

As of now, we have confirmations from the Governor's office that he will attend and from CDVA Secretary Tom Johnson. We also have confirmations from Senate Veteran's Affairs Committee Chair Senator Mark Wyland and a possible from Committeeman Senator Jeff Denham. Assemblymember Mary Salas, Chair of the Assembly Veteran's Affairs Committee will speak as well as Committee Members Chuck Devore and Bob Huff who are also scheduled to speak. There may be more speakers confirmed as we get closer to the event. It is very important that you wear your Legion caps and other identifying apparel on that day. We want our representatives to know that the Legion has landed!

After the conclusion of the program, around 11:00 a.m., we will have flyers giving the names and room numbers of your Senators and Assembly Members in the Capitol Building available for your information. We encourage you to visit those legislators and discuss your concerns with them. We suggest you call ahead and make appointments to guarantee that you will

get a chance to meet with those persons. In the event that you cannot make an appointment, it is still helpful to drop by their offices and get acquainted with their aides. Quite often these are the people whom you will deal with.

You are on your own for lunch. There are many good restaurants within walking distance of the Capitol, or you may choose to have lunch at the cafeteria where we have held our morning meeting.

At this time we are not sure, but they normally have veterans' affairs hearings on the day we have scheduled. The Senate hearings are held at 1:00 p.m., and the Assembly hearings are at 4:00 p.m. You are welcome at the hearings and a room full of blue caps would be an impressive sight. However, whether they hold hearings depends on whether they have anything to discuss.

Parking around the Capitol Building is at a premium and is limited. I suggest that you car pool and even consider getting a bus if you are able to get enough people together at a single place. At this time I am not sure, but Department might be able to help with the cost of a bus.

It is important that we have a good showing at this Legislative Day. Our legislators are very sensitive to the numbers of people they represent. If we make a poor showing, their conclusion is that we are not actively interested in legislation affecting veterans; and they listen to other voices, which are louder. Some of those "other voices" may not be in our best interest. Ideally, every one of us should know our state and federal representatives on a first name basis. These people are the ones who will determine future funding and priorities on many things, which will affect our lives, our dependants and other veterans who come after us.

I need to have an idea of how many Legionnaires are coming. You can contact me at phone (209) 664-1599, or e-mail LOLOnal@aol.com

Hope to see you there ...

La Société des 40 Hommes et 8 Chevaux Grande Voiture du California

Website: <http://www.ca40and8.org/>

Grand Director Locomotive & Boxcar

by James Palsrok



The primary purpose of the California boxcar Association is to preserve the Box Car as the symbol of the 40 & 8. For those of you who do not know the history of the Box Car – During WW I the French boxcar had a sign on the side saying 40/ 8 which meant its capacity was 40 men or eight horses.

Since the Box Car of World War One is where it all started, it is more than appropriate that we maintain that symbol, not only as a historical artifact, but also an active part of the 40 & 8. Monies raised through the sale of Crew Cards (for members of the 40 & 8) and Associate Cards, (for all others) fund the program at National level.

Here in California, our Loco pins go to support the 11 pieces of rolling stock from the various Local Voitures within California, The Grande du California Loco Pins are fashioned after one of our rolling stock Loco's within the Grand, and

the pin changes each year to reflect a new Local. Pin sales help the Local Voitures with their insurance, travel, parade participation, and children's parties.

In addition, at each Grand Promenade (State Convention), we have a huge children's party, who are entertained by our Hobo Clowns. An additional goal of the Box Car Association is support our Veterans at VA Hospitals, Clinics and State Veterans Homes. For more information please contact me, James E. Palsrok, or Ron Galvan at 510-483-1605.

Membership & Chef de Train du California

by Carl Asher

Have you asked yourself a question and known the answer before asking? Sure you have! As a leader you do that several times a day.

Here's a question we should know the answer to: "Why are we not growing in membership within California?" For one, we are not promoting the Forty and Eight. Why? At the Locale and Grand levels, it only takes a little effort to get an article into the news media, whether printed, audio or video. Just some effort on our part will yield success and an increase in membership.

We are not asking qualified Legionnaires

to join us ... Why? Are you letting "personalities" enter into your decision making on whom to invite into our great organization? If you are, you are wrong! Differences of individual personalities should not be a factor.

The concern should be: "Are they working the Legion programs and/or helping their Legion Post?" That is what you want to know, if the answer is "YES," then we want them as members of the Forty and Eight.

Membership in California as of March 5, 2007: Goal 1778; reported 1408; percent of goal 79.19%.

Won't you HELP your Local make its Goal?

DO YOU HAVE YOUR 2007 MEMBERSHIP CARD?



**YOUR 2007 MEMBERSHIP CARD IS EVIDENCE OF YOUR
MILITARY SERVICE IN TIME OF WAR AND OF YOUR
MEMBERSHIP IN A PATRIOTIC SERVICE ORGANIZATION.**

*"We've been there.
We're here for you now."*



American Legion Auxiliary Department of California



Serving Veterans — Children & Youth — Community



★ ★ ★ DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT



Sandy Jacob
Department
President

*Empowering Women,
Inspiring Communities*

What an amazing year this has been. We have raised money for Creative Arts, served thousands of Veterans and played an important part in the lives of countless children. We have sponsored a workshop for our Junior Members and will be sponsoring a conference to teach our Junior Members about the programs of the American Legion Auxiliary. In July we will send 500 young ladies to Girls State – this weeklong session will impact their lives for years to come. We continue to support our communities in numerous ways. In early March, several Auxiliary members attended the Awareness Assembly in Washington, D. C. and visited with the members of Congress to let them know where we stand on veteran's rights and the flag amendment. Support for the active duty military continues to be a focus this year. Packages are sent daily to our troops to show our support. Many members work at the USO and at the Fisher House. I'm truly amazed at the

many success stories at the Veterans' Hospitals as the population of wounded military continues to grow.

The Department Executive Board was an interesting and informative meeting. We had the pleasure of entertaining the Western Division Vice President, Judy Daybell. In February, National President, JoAnn Cronin visited California and received a wonderful welcome.

One of the highlights of this year has been the District visitations. Meeting the members and listening to the many accomplishment achieved by Unit members. Thousands of lives have been touched by the generous deeds of our members.

How can you be a part of all this amazing activity? Become a member of the American Legion Auxiliary – contact a Unit in your area.

"How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world." –Anne Frank

Continue to take Pride in Country, Pride in Service, Pride in Self as we complete this amazing year.

MEMBERSHIP Anita Biggs, Chairman

The Department of California membership stars have continued to accomplish all missions. January 25, 2007, marked the third target date honoring our Marines with the 'Marine Corps Hymn' – Red Star Award. Eleven Districts reached this milestone and helped California in the National standings. We have made all targets so far and our fourth target date of March 22, 2007, honored the Army with 'The Army Goes Rolling Along' and so do we!

Mid-year awards were given at the Department Executive Committee meeting held at Santa Clara in January. The first 10 Units to make goal were given a red, white and blue tote bag that boasts this year's motto: 'Our Membership is Our Pride.' Districts received certificates and their blue stars for making the first target. A drawing was also held for all Units that had achieved goal with monetary awards. Congratulations to District 24 for being the first District to make goal.

The current events that are occurring with our active duty military make achiev-

ing our membership goals even more important. The American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary have long been the leaders in care for veterans and their families. We must encourage our members to renew now so we can continue our volunteer service. Our numbers are vitally important when it comes to legislative issues. You can remind members why you joined the Auxiliary and ask them the same question. Sometimes we may get sidetracked with all our different programs and individual ambitions, but we should never forget the veterans who have sacrificed and continue to sacrifice so much for us to remain free. Our membership in this great organization is a gift that should not be taken for granted. Your eligibility gives you the opportunity to make a difference. It is up to each and every one of us to promote our great deeds and encourage membership. Let's continue to recruit new members, ask members to join the elite VIMs and to renew their membership. We can't do it alone, but together we can accomplish almost anything.

GIRLS STATE Vicki Crow

The American Legion Auxiliary 64th Annual Girls State Program will be held at Fresno State University, July 1-7, 2007

One junior girl from each participating high school within California is picked to attend this prestigious week-long program (approximately 500 girls).

The Program offers training in the practical processes of self government and citizenship. At Girls State, the "citizens" study local, county and state government by setting up their own city (18 cities, four counties and two political parties). To encourage creativity and fellowship the following activities are offered: Journalism, talent show, orchestra and judicial court system. Recreation includes: swimming, running, volleyball and just resting.

Friendships that last a lifetime are made during this week at Girls State. Just a few of the past participants of Girls State are: Jane Pauley, Broadcast Journalist; Ann Richards, former Governor of Texas; United State Representatives former and present are: Jennifer Dunn, Constance A. Morella and Barbara Cubin – the list goes on-and-on.

At the 64th Session, one girl will be elected Girls State Governor; and two girls will be picked to attend Girls Nation in Washington D.C.

California Girls State believes that educating youth about basic ideals and principles of government will help ensure the survival of democracy.

LEADERSHIP Shelby Hitch

"Reporting—Makes us Stronger"

Can you believe that our year is rapidly coming to a close, and it will soon be time to write the year-end reports. I want to commend all of you leadership chairmen on a job well done this year, holding workshops at the Unit and District levels has been outstanding. The better informed we are the better organization we will have and thanks to each of you we have lived up to President Sandy's theme, "Pride in Country, Pride in Service and Pride in Self" and all the while showing that we, here in California, "Can Do."

"Follow the Rules – when reporting"

A few reminders on your year-end reports and supplemental, please pay attention to the deadline dates and the number of words; we do not want to be disqualified for too many words or being late. I do want to have 100% reporting; so if I don't receive a report, I will be calling.

I'm sure by now you have read your plan of work, so when writing the report please be sure and include all areas that are in the plan.

1. Educate
2. Motivate
3. Mentoring
4. One activity/resource that you used to teach and train members to be leaders.

I'm looking forward to getting all of the reports and to see what you have done to make us a stronger organization.

CHILDREN & YOUTH Norma DuVall, Chairman

"Our young people – our future"

Amid the problems with the environment, crime, unemployment, and financial uncertainty, we as Americans need to remember the one constant that will make or break this country – our young people, our future. Our dreams and hopes for a better tomorrow rest in their hands.

Your commitment to young people in the communities – youth groups, girl and boy scouts, school children, homeless children, hospitalized children, foster children, military children – all can benefit from your activities whether it be safety programs, Toys for Tots, DARE, Make-A-Difference Day, Special Olympics, food, clothing, diapers, books, school supplies or love, support and caring.

The pledge of care and protection for children of our veterans is carried out through the same service work, through direct cash assistance, and through the use of National funds for temporary financial assistance. We have two exciting additions for our "labor of love" to our veteran's children.

The first is Operation Military Kids that provides military youth with "Hero Packs" filled with a variety of items we

supply and "Mobile Technology Laboratories" with laptops, printers, digital and video cameras and DVD burners. Both activities are intended to provide ways for the youth to stay connected to their deployed parents. Contact Berney DeLaCruz at (661) 868-6227 or bdlacruz@ucdavis.edu

The second is our joint sponsorship with *Connect and Join* and *America Supports You* to promote **The Month of the Military Child**. Contact your local unit to make the month of April a magical time for our one million-plus military children. **Our Purpose:**

- To recognize and pay tribute to military children for their commitment, sacrifice, and unconditional support shown to their parents, our men and women serving in the military.
- To hold these children up as a source of pride and honor to us all.
- To provide support for military children as they face the special challenges of being a child of a military family.

Thank you for your commitment to our most precious resource.

COMMUNICATE

Public Relations – Midge Farrar

You must publicize the American Legion Auxiliary both internally and externally. Let your members know what is going on in the local unit and district. Also let the public know what you are doing within your organization. This is a good way to encourage others to join your unit.



American Legion Auxiliary

Empowering Women – Inspiring Communities



Pride in Country – Pride in Service – Pride in Self

DATES TO CALENDAR

March 22, 2007	95% Membership Goal
April 20, 21, 22, 2007	Junior Conference Wonder Valley Ranch Resort, Sanger, Ca. Deloris Artis, Chairman
April 28, 2007	President's Homecoming
May 13, 2007	Group Cruise – Alaska
May 13, 2007	Poppy Week
May 24, 2007	100% Membership Goal
June 21, 2007	101% Membership Goal
June 20-24, 2007	ALA Dept of Ca. Convention, Palm Springs, Ca.
July 1-7, 2007	Girls State CSU – Fresno, Ca.

44th ANNUAL JUNIOR CONFERENCE

Deloris Artis, Jr. Conference Director

APRIL 20, 21, 22, 2007
WONDER VALLEY
SANGER, CALIFORNIA

Please encourage ALL your Juniors, ages 10 years to 17 years old, to come to the 44th Annual American Legion Auxiliary Junior Conference. This conference will provide additional information about our programs, elect new officers, and have the graduation and the memorial ceremony. Additionally, we are having a talent show, so bring your costume, music and be ready to perform. Other activities consist of campfire with singing and smores, swimming, canoeing, kayaking, and an obstacle course. We are really looking forward to seeing you at this conference. Don't forget to send in your conference forms. Please let us know if you are bringing a friend so that you can be together.

We are requesting items for our Junior Conference Store. Some of the items that the Juniors really like are stuffed animals, jewelry, make-up, hair items, lotions, nail polish, candy, etc. You can donate one of a kind or as many as you can provide. If you are able to help, please contact me by telephone or e-mail and I will make arrangements to get the items from you. The Juniors love to shop, these items cannot be purchased; the Juniors must earn coupons by keeping their cabin clean and demonstrating good leadership skills, being polite and respecting each other as well as counselors and staff, being responsible for themselves and their belongings, participating in the programs. The Counselors will hand out the coupons.

Thank you in advance for all your help and support to our Junior Conference.

Remembering President Sandy's theme:

Pride in Country, Pride in Service,
Pride in Self

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Gloria Williams

"To connect with others – reach out"

Community Service is a program that can become a way of life. An active Auxiliary Unit within a community, it is a vital necessity. No other single program brings into focus the caring efforts of the entire American Legion Family as Community Service.

The Bugle Girls of Company CA, under the direction of our Commander and Chief, Department President Sandy Jacob, continues to journey throughout our State enhancing the quality of lives of others and raising awareness. Our greatest achievements are made when the interest and efforts of the entire community are enlisted in the support of a project. We not only care about doing our own thing we also participate in and recognize the work of others.

March is highlighted as Community Service month. Submit an entry for the "Best Post

Legion Family Activity." Sponsor and welcome home an Iraq Veteran and his family at your Post. Invite the community, and local governmental officials.

Submit an entry for the "Best Post Legion Family Activity" or "Junior or Senior Volunteer of the Year." The most powerful way to connect with others and solve social problems is to reach out to one person, commit one act of kindness – offer the best we have to others who need it, and watch the giving and love flow. You will discover that when kindness is expressed healthy relationships are created, community connections are nourished and people are inspired to pass the kindness on to others.

Continue to Donate, Participate, Volunteer, and Advocate for our Community Service Programs.

N.E.C. WOMAN

Bonnie Christner

After receiving some of the Mid-Year reports, I am happy to say our men and women in the military were certainly thought about with hundreds of packages filled with socks, T-shirts, lotions, razors, toothpaste, tooth brushes, phone cards, baked goodies and lots of other things during the holidays. Way to go, California Legion Family, you certainly out did yourselves and I couldn't be prouder of you. I'm sure you will continue to support our military not only during the holidays but all year long.

There are several Web sites that your Unit or District can gather information or support:

www.americasupportsyou.mil. – This site is sponsored by the Department of Defense – purpose to support our troops; asy@stripes.osdmil – send/receive messages from our troops; www.anglestore.org – purchase support packs. A big thank you to Unit 288 District 20 for this information on angelstore.

Visit these sites to find out what other organizations are doing, find ideas for fundraisers to support our troops.

PAST PRESIDENTS PARLEY

Linda Caples

Supporting Unit Members and Military Personnel

The activities and efforts to make Christmas and Thanksgiving joyful and comfortable for our veterans, our children and the elderly have kept many members, Units and Districts here in California very busy, hitting the ground running as we began 2007. As we assess what we have done for 2006, let's see what areas continue to need our attention.

Unit Member of the Year

Through Past Presidents Parley, an outstanding Unit member can be recognized for her contributions in making her Unit and its programs a success,

such as those recently completed Thanksgiving and Christmas projects and many more. These ladies are the backbone of the Units and the cornerstone of our Organization.

Last year, there was a noted decline in the number of Departments recognizing and submitting a Unit Member of the Year to National. There is also a noted decline in submissions to us here in our own Department. Please give your members the honor they are so deserving of and submit. (Criteria for this recognition has been sent to all units from Department)

Female Service Member Serving in the Global War on Terrorism

For the second year, the American Legion Auxiliary will recognize a female service member from each branch of the military who has served on active duty since the inception of the Global War on Terrorism.

Membership in the American Legion Auxiliary (although it would be extra nice-especially if it was a gift by your Unit) and/or deployment to the theater of Iraq or Afghanistan is not a criteria for this recognition. The service member selected from each branch will be a guest of the American Legion Auxiliary 2007 National Convention in Reno, NV. An exciting recognition to today's service women! Discuss this with your local post as many times they are also sponsoring our active duty service personnel and/or have a service women who is one of their post Legionnaires and can help you to locate them or a local service women.

(All additional information and criteria has been sent to all Units by our Department)

We thank you each and everyone for all your support and all you do for our Unit Members and military personnel. We know that each Unit will take the final, small step, and have submissions in both above.

We are also excited and "VERY" eager to read your completed annual reports with supplemental come this Auxiliary year end.

Editor Alice A. Christensen
E-mail alchristensen@sbcglobal.net

ALA Dept of Ca.
www.calegionaux.org

SAL Detachment Goal Performance

by **Mark Severance, Commander**
Sons of TAL Detachment of CA

As we enter into the last month of our third quarter, I would like to reflect on our successes as we work the programs of "The American Legion Family." We, as a Detachment, set several challenging goals based upon our outstanding performance in 2005-2006. These goals were set with the intent to meet all of the accomplishments that were set last year while adding new goals to enhance this year's programs. In a nutshell, we have set maintenance goals and new performance goals.

The PR Commission has been challenged this year to publish four issues of the *California Connection*; so far, two editions have gone to print, a third will go to print after the D.E.C. in March, and the fourth will go to print after Convention. The intent is to increase our communication to the "Blue Cap Member." The PR Commission is also involved with the celebration of our "Diamond Jubilee." This year we celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the Sons of The American Legion.

In the area of membership, we have not only achieved; but we are exceeding this goal. We are extremely pleased with this year's membership as the Western Region made it to 1st place nationally on March 2, 2007. California is leading the way in position number one. As of the March 6, 2007, National Membership Report, we currently are ranked 13th in the nation with 6,807 paid or 86.05% of our 2006-2007 goal. Our goal this year is to exceed 100% on or before May 9, 2007, and be at 110% by July 21, 2007. It would be nice to win back-to-back National Houghton Awards, and we are on the right track. We still have a way to go, so please work that membership.

Internal Affairs was asked to create a Mission Statement. It is complete and available on our Web page.

The Finance Commission had a goal to create a Finance Officer's Handbook. This is

also complete and will be reviewed and voted on at the Spring 2007 D.E.C. by the Detachment Finance Commission and if approved by the D.E.C., will be forwarded to the American Legion's S.A.L. Commission for approval.

Ways & Means has a goal to continue the Trout Derby, as it is our third year; and the money raised goes toward the American Legion programs. See the flyer and article in this publication. Another goal completed.

VA&R goals were set quite high this year with an overall \$2.00 quota per member. We have not completed our dollar data collection as I write, but I am asking that all Squadrons support the National Commander's Project, **Fisher House**. The Detachment supported the Veterans Appreciation Day at March ARB by assisting the community effort in cooking over 5,000 Hamburgers and Hot Dogs. We also provided 45 homeless Vets from the US Vets Initiative with a huge Christmas Luncheon at Hooters during the S.A.L. National Commander's visit. We are working hard to also support The Family Support Network, Hometown Heroes Program, The Creative Arts Festival at the VA Medical Centers, and the "Soldiers for Soldiers" initiative by collecting empty inkjet cartridges and used cell phones to raise money for "American Legacy Scholarships" for the children of military personnel killed since September 11, 2001.

Children & Youth goals were also set very high this year with a \$2.00 per member goal to The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation. As of today we have only sent \$3,832.50 to National in support of CWF. This can be improved with some additional effort. This last weekend I watched Carl R. Meairs Squadron 289 in Riverside put on a BBQ that raised \$1,000.00. We have until May 31, 2007, to get this job done, and we need all of your help. We are starting a "365 Club" for all members. Where all members would put away a penny a day in a jar; and at the end of the year, the jars will be turned into the local

Squadron and sent to the CWF. Let's get those checks rolling to National Headquarters. You can also support the Spinoza Bear Program, the Josh the Dog Program, and the Children's Miracle Network. Again let's get on the ball and get it done.

The Americanism Commission was challenged to maintain our Five Star program for this year. After great success last year, providing 103 five star medals we have fallen short this year. There will be testing at the DEC and at Convention in Palm Springs, those of you who are interested please contact Greg Olson the Chairman of The Detachment Americanism Commission. The other goal for this Commission was to have an S.A.L. Color Guard present at our Detachment Convention and send a color guard to National for Competition. As it stands now,

we will have an S.A.L. Color Guard at Convention in Palm Springs from Merced Squadron 83. We are hopeful that they will be able to compete in Reno this year.

Our Area Vice Commanders should be complimented for their efforts this year as we have reinstated several Squadrons, chartered two new Squadrons, and started the 22nd District. They have somewhat met their goal this year processing bi-monthly newsletters to their Area. Those of you who have received letters in your Area know who was doing the job.

In closing this has been a great nine months working with all of you in The American Legion Family. We only have a short time to finish what I believe will be one of the best years that the S.A.L. has ever had. Let's dig in and give it that extra 10%.

SAL Looking To The Future

by **Rod Perkins**
Senior Vice Commander,
Detachment of California

Greetings to all my S.A.L. brothers and families, as Commander Mark Severance's year nears its conclusion, let us all take notice of what we have accomplished, and goals we have set in motion. First we have met every membership goal set by National and continue to work towards our year-end goal. We have established new districts and chartered new squadrons. We have donated more food to the needy and fed the hungry in greater numbers. In this one area, we do more than all the other State Detachments combined. Our commitment to the programs of The American Legion is second to none. You, the rank and file members, have demonstrated that you are dedicated in heart, mind and effort to our programs. National Commander Earl Ruttkofsky advised me when he visited us that the Detachment of California was in the forefront in assisting

our Veterans.

We have also felt the loss of one of our Past Detachment Commanders, Michael Brigandi. Michael was an inspiration to many of us, and his wisdom and friendship will be missed.

The Detachment of California is looking for future leaders. If you are aware of any individuals that have demonstrated leadership towards the programs of The American Legion Family, tell us. I am looking to fill Committee and Commission positions for the coming year.

On a personal note, I have sold my business in order that I can commit myself full time as your next Detachment Commander. I will also be attending National Executive Committee in Indianapolis, Indiana, and the National Convention in Tahoe, Nevada. I am looking to the future and remembering the past. My father told me as a young man that if you know the past you can predict the future. Our past has been great, and our future will be even better.

IRVINE LAKE

4621 Santiago Canyon Rd., Silverado, CA 92676
714 649-9111



Sons of The American Legion
3rd Annual Carl R. James Memorial
Trout Derby

A Fundraiser for America's Veterans
Saturday, April 28, 2007
Gate opens at 6:00 AM
Weigh-In at 3:30 PM

Guaranteed \$500.00 for Largest Trout
1st; 2nd; & 3rd Prize Categories as Follows:

- Heaviest Trout - Adult*
- Heaviest Stringer of Trout - Adult*
- Heaviest Trout Male/Female - Under 12 yrs of age*
- Heaviest Stringer Male/Female - Under 12 yrs of age*

Pre-Registration is Required
Call 951 359-3497 for Additional Info

Pre-Registration Form - 2007

Name _____	Sign up for:	Donation
Address _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Adult Fishing	\$37.00
_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Child (4-12 YRS) Fishing	\$15.00
_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor - (Advertisement Only)	\$300.00
E-mail _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor - Corporate Tier 1 (Advertisement + (4) Fishermen)	\$500.00
Phone _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor - Corporate Tier 2 (Advertisement as a Corporate Sponsor + (8) Fishermen)	\$1,000.00
	<input type="checkbox"/> I Cannot Attend	_____
	<small>Please accept this donation for The Sons of TAL VA&R Program</small>	
	Deadline for Registration is: 4/25/2007	Total: _____

Please Make your Check Payable to:
Sons of The American Legion
For Additional Info Call
951 359-3497



COME JOIN US AT
MONTEREY POST 41
1100 Veteran's Drive, Monterey, CA
(End of Johnson and High Streets)
FOR AN AREA 2 DETACHMENT
SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION
FUNDRAISER!

FUNDS RAISED WILL GO TOWARD THE
CHILDREN'S WELFARE FOUNDATION!

CHICKEN BBQ w/ ALL THE FIXINGS!

DRAWINGS
50/50 RAFFLE
Other Raffle Prizes!

\$10.00 Donation
(See a Post Officer for tickets)

SATURDAY - 7 APRIL 2007
STARTS 1200 HRS UNTIL ???



The Last Bugle Call

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.

POST 1 Warner, Stanford	POST 43 Edgerton, Barney Johncox, William Provenzano, Robert	POST 102 White, Floyd	POST 147 Acquaviva, Joe Crocker, Leland Enns, Hank	POST 211 Agee, Robert Grande, Sidney Heiden, Robert	POST 270 Rosales, Antolin Stroh, Alvin	POST 359 Dobler, Reuben Godinez, Vicente Hardy, Warren	POST 482 Stein, Carl	POST 650 Martinez, Thomas	POST 820 English, Howard	
POST 3 Roberts, J. Sherman, Asher	POST 46 Tascher, John	POST 104 Shinn, Arthur Tandy, Edgar	POST 149 Bailey, Chan Berlingeri, Carmelo Bradford, Charles	POST 212 Richard, Edward	POST 275 Gegax, William Moran, Morell	POST 381 Banks, Gale Bell, William Jenkins, Lester	POST 484 Levenson, Lewis	POST 653 Magwood, William	POST 832 Martinez, Margarito	
POST 6 Mauldin, Luther Whiting, Harry	POST 48 Rhodes, Clara	POST 106 Shultz, Dale	POST 150 Canfield, Orville Dimiscio, Anthony	POST 216 Fisher, Robert	POST 276 Sherbert, Harold	POST 398 Reed, Robert	POST 488 Anderson, W.	POST 657 Pack, Clarence	POST 837 Martin, Floyd	
POST 8 Ledford, Wilson	POST 49 Ott, Charles	POST 108 Owen, Farrel	POST 151 Scott, Robert Sullivan, Grant	POST 217 Smith, Loretta	POST 282 Bonnert, Matthew Head, Kelvin	POST 409 Colombo, Angelo Lucanic, John	POST 490 Jacobus, Roy	POST 660 Clark, Raymond	POST 848 Weatherly, Bill	
POST 11 Venegas, Alfred Voith, John	POST 53 Archer, William Clemens, Abner Duffy, Richard Peterson, Howard	POST 110 Hopkins, Sherrill	POST 152 Kennedy, James Ramirez, Mike	POST 218 Dillard, Ben	POST 283 Adams, James Dignam, William	POST 410 Malespin, Erick	POST 491 Bailey, Jack	POST 668 Johnson, Leo Miyamoto, Ken Weaver, Ward	POST 852 Reynolds, Larry	
POST 13 Berglund, Ansel Boisclair, Lionel Elgin, Merrill Wilson, Hosea	POST 56 Harvel, James Morehouse, Charles	POST 111 Ausiello, Frank Scalese, Chris Schroeder, Jerome	POST 153 Martinez, Ventura	POST 219 Richter, Frederick	POST 288 Klass, Edgar	POST 419 Housman, Frank Martin, Daryle Pereira, Joseph Silva, Frank	POST 496 Brown, Richard Brown, Ralph O'Keefe, Dennis Swett, Max	POST 669 Ghirlanda, Thomas	POST 867 Halatsis, Vicki	
POST 16 Goodway, Earl Harwell, Roy Hightower, James Ladd, Kenneth Rauzi, Robert Reeves, William Williams, Earle	POST 58 Rice, Norman	POST 112 Becker, Robert Miller, Henry Shore, John	POST 154 Robertson, Lewis	POST 220 Nerelli, Aldo	POST 289 Leon, Pablo Luther, Ross	POST 421 Laskowski, Thomas Mussell, Stanley	POST 499 Giosa, Daniel Kaiser, Edmon Proffitt, James Sanches, Manuel	POST 677 Harper, Wayman	POST 873 Bertelson, Miriam	
POST 17 Blake, Joseph Gray, Raymond Perry, Delmar	POST 63 Borrecco, C.	POST 113 Forte, Albert Hansen, Carl Reese, Jon Ross, James	POST 155 Crawford, Leroy Crowder, Richard Fuehrer, Harry Miles, Raymond Wilson, Richard	POST 221 Scott, Robert Sullivan, Grant	POST 291 Bacca, Lou Conroy, Francis De Pauw, Harvey Eichler, Albert Kelly, Timothy Levang, Maurice Lowry, Harold Shears, Walter	POST 422 Levin, Harold Weber, Hanlon	POST 500 Du Broc, Joseph	POST 682 Landis, Elmer	POST 899 Bishop, Ivan Corey, Alan Cruz, Tiburcio English, John Fong, Wing Johnson, Robert Kiplinger, Edwin Manquera, Eduardo Morey, J. O'Keefe, Richard Raymond, Richard Roberts, Walter Rudner, Ralph Verbick, James	
POST 18 Eastman, Margaret Perry, John	POST 64 Walker, Ira	POST 114 Baer, Paul Clarke, Rodney Coffey, M. Ferguson, Elvis	POST 156 Gillen, Richard Gilly, James Zolensky, Robert	POST 222 Kennedy, James Romney, Harvey Rungaitis, Walter	POST 295 Adams, Wayne	POST 426 Bankson, Raymond	POST 509 Giosa, Daniel Kaiser, Edmon Proffitt, James Robert, Bruce	POST 684 Harper, Wayman	POST 900 Armstrong, John Avelar, Vicente Bartlett, Rodney Bebelle, Charles Bode, David Burke, Joseph Cairns, Clifford Carswell, Melvin Collender, Sidney Dilettera, John Edwards, Willie Fryer, Edwin Hanker, Carl Houston, Robert Keith, Robert King, Loren Kluttz, Farrell Loftis, Earl Lucas, Margaret Martin, Donald Mastrotoaro, John Mcgonigal, William Miyakawa, Tomio Moyer, Leo Pickens, James Potter, Jackson Quigley, Philip Roberts, Ralph Roberts, Franklin Schubbe, Robert Sheeler, George Smith, Wilburn Steiner, George Stewart, Raymond Sweet, William Walter, Richard Woods, John Wynn, Robert	
POST 21 Aumack, Thomas Bowen, Crawford Gordon, Robert Ingham, Jack Markusen, John Moran, Matthew Odonnell, John Popich, Frank Reeser, Howard Saunders, James Smith, Charles Smith, Earl Taylor, Walter White, Thomas	POST 66 Langford, Bruce	POST 115 Crevar, Steve Einstoss, George Litvak, Harold	POST 157 Carlson, Leonard Self, Kenneth	POST 223 Calderaro, Joseph Kaplan, Charles	POST 299 Brown, Hossie Travis, Walter	POST 428 Whiteley, Charles	POST 514 Robinson, Bud	POST 688 Schneider, Harold	POST 910 Bishop, Ivan Corey, Alan Cruz, Tiburcio English, John Fong, Wing Johnson, Robert Kiplinger, Edwin Manquera, Eduardo Morey, J. O'Keefe, Richard Raymond, Richard Roberts, Walter Rudner, Ralph Verbick, James	
POST 22 Loveless, Jay Schumacher, Harry	POST 67 Morales, Richard	POST 116 Becker, Robert Miller, Henry Shore, John	POST 158 Robertson, Lewis	POST 224 Kennedy, James Romney, Harvey Rungaitis, Walter	POST 300 Ames, Chester Chapman, Robert	POST 431 Diliberti, Antonio Haynes, Floyd Herrmann, Harold Panian, Robert	POST 519 Caubin, Paul Cooper, Marvin Hughes, William Wiespechte, Phillip	POST 694 Johnsen, Fred Robert, Bruce	POST 911 Bishop, Ivan Corey, Alan Cruz, Tiburcio English, John Fong, Wing Johnson, Robert Kiplinger, Edwin Manquera, Eduardo Morey, J. O'Keefe, Richard Raymond, Richard Roberts, Walter Rudner, Ralph Verbick, James	
POST 25 Cree, Harry Freeman, Raymond Marchbanks, Angus Pinkerton, V. Stout, Lester	POST 68 Langford, Bruce	POST 117 Schwoyer, William	POST 159 Crawford, Leroy Crowder, Richard Fuehrer, Harry Miles, Raymond Wilson, Richard	POST 225 Boyce, James	POST 301 Schwartz, Alex	POST 432 Dominguez, Raymond Redwood, James Spadini, Richard Stotter, James	POST 521 Briguglio, Nunzio	POST 699 Landis, Elmer	POST 912 Bishop, Ivan Corey, Alan Cruz, Tiburcio English, John Fong, Wing Johnson, Robert Kiplinger, Edwin Manquera, Eduardo Morey, J. O'Keefe, Richard Raymond, Richard Roberts, Walter Rudner, Ralph Verbick, James	
POST 27 Hurt, Oscar	POST 69 Thomas, Roy	POST 118 Baer, Paul Clarke, Rodney Coffey, M. Ferguson, Elvis	POST 160 Ewing, Charles Richard, Charles	POST 226 Buck, Everett Cremeans, Ralph Ward, Ewan	POST 302 Vega, Benjamin	POST 433 Bennion, Glen Beyer, Roland Brown, Robert	POST 522 Briguglio, Nunzio	POST 700 Johnsen, Fred Robert, Bruce	POST 913 Bishop, Ivan Corey, Alan Cruz, Tiburcio English, John Fong, Wing Johnson, Robert Kiplinger, Edwin Manquera, Eduardo Morey, J. O'Keefe, Richard Raymond, Richard Roberts, Walter Rudner, Ralph Verbick, James	
POST 30 Bromley, Tom Burnette, Victor	POST 70 Thomas, Roy	POST 119 Baer, Paul Clarke, Rodney Coffey, M. Ferguson, Elvis	POST 161 Gillen, Richard Gilly, James Zolensky, Robert	POST 227 Carlson, Leonard Self, Kenneth	POST 303 Crittenden, John Mc Master, Timothy Mc Namara, Alfred	POST 434 Bennion, Glen Beyer, Roland Brown, Robert	POST 523 Briguglio, Nunzio	POST 701 Crowl, Walter Reid, Joseph Sczapanik, Anthony	POST 914 Bishop, Ivan Corey, Alan Cruz, Tiburcio English, John Fong, Wing Johnson, Robert Kiplinger, Edwin Manquera, Eduardo Morey, J. O'Keefe, Richard Raymond, Richard Roberts, Walter Rudner, Ralph Verbick, James	
POST 31 Epperson, Douglas Garcia, Edward Martinez, Victor Ozenne, Robert Pacheco, Dave Rodriguez, Philip Rodriguez, Ausencio Shaw, Milton	POST 71 Alloway, Richard Aukes, Harvey Coman, George Engstrom, Clarence Ferns, John Hildebrand, Shirley Mertz, Otto Talbot, Claris	POST 120 Constan, Ernest Neece, Jim Shepard, Robert	POST 162 Robertson, Lewis	POST 228 Calderaro, Joseph Kaplan, Charles	POST 304 Green, Robert Lynch, John Shaw, Charles Spielman, Reid	POST 437 Allen, Jack Ghiorzi, Ermen	POST 524 Hawkins, Warren	POST 702 Crowl, Walter Reid, Joseph Sczapanik, Anthony	POST 915 Bishop, Ivan Corey, Alan Cruz, Tiburcio English, John Fong, Wing Johnson, Robert Kiplinger, Edwin Manquera, Eduardo Morey, J. O'Keefe, Richard Raymond, Richard Roberts, Walter Rudner, Ralph Verbick, James	
POST 34 Omalley, Joseph	POST 72 Morales, Richard	POST 121 Johnson, William Mcgowan, Jarvis Reyes, Benigno	POST 163 Robertson, Lewis	POST 229 Hoover, George Sund, Ronald	POST 305 Crittenden, John Mc Master, Timothy Mc Namara, Alfred	POST 438 Whiteley, Charles	POST 525 Briguglio, Nunzio	POST 703 Edwards, George Johnson, William	POST 916 Bishop, Ivan Corey, Alan Cruz, Tiburcio English, John Fong, Wing Johnson, Robert Kiplinger, Edwin Manquera, Eduardo Morey, J. O'Keefe, Richard Raymond, Richard Roberts, Walter Rudner, Ralph Verbick, James	
POST 35 Rhodes, William Thompson, Sharon	POST 73 Hansen, Carl Reese, Jon Ross, James	POST 122 Becker, Robert Miller, Henry Shore, John	POST 164 Robertson, Lewis	POST 230 Crescio, Alfred Lustan, Ventura Mcguire, Arthur	POST 306 Ames, Chester Chapman, Robert	POST 439 Bennion, Glen Beyer, Roland Brown, Robert	POST 526 Briguglio, Nunzio	POST 704 Gonzales, Louis	POST 917 Bishop, Ivan Corey, Alan Cruz, Tiburcio English, John Fong, Wing Johnson, Robert Kiplinger, Edwin Manquera, Eduardo Morey, J. O'Keefe, Richard Raymond, Richard Roberts, Walter Rudner, Ralph Verbick, James	
POST 37 Barclay, Richard Rubini, Hector	POST 74 Beltran, Victor Bosowski, Stanley Bruegger, Byron Edwards, Ervin Hansen, Edward Haskin, Clifford Laun, Donald Martin, Jon Mcarthur, Jack Rees, James Sheffield, Calvin Stejskal, Charles Zinnbauer, Richard	POST 123 Davis, Edwin Mcconnaughey, Larry	POST 165 Gillen, Richard Gilly, James Zolensky, Robert	POST 231 Carlson, Leonard Self, Kenneth	POST 307 Crittenden, John Mc Master, Timothy Mc Namara, Alfred	POST 307 Crittenden, John Mc Master, Timothy Mc Namara, Alfred	POST 440 Mc Kinnon, Roy	POST 527 Briguglio, Nunzio	POST 705 Martin, Leon	POST 918 Bishop, Ivan Corey, Alan Cruz, Tiburcio English, John Fong, Wing Johnson, Robert Kiplinger, Edwin Manquera, Eduardo Morey, J. O'Keefe, Richard Raymond, Richard Roberts, Walter Rudner, Ralph Verbick, James
POST 41 Bonczewski, Bernard	POST 75 Ferns, John Hildebrand, Shirley Mertz, Otto Talbot, Claris	POST 124 Constan, Ernest Neece, Jim Shepard, Robert	POST 166 Robertson, Lewis	POST 232 Carlson, Leonard Self, Kenneth	POST 308 Crittenden, John Mc Master, Timothy Mc Namara, Alfred	POST 441 Leach, Samuel Means, Joseph Moore, James Powers, Jerry Smith, Leonard	POST 528 Briguglio, Nunzio	POST 706 Fleming, Viola Trueman, Thomas	POST 919 Bishop, Ivan Corey, Alan Cruz, Tiburcio English, John Fong, Wing Johnson, Robert Kiplinger, Edwin Manquera, Eduardo Morey, J. O'Keefe, Richard Raymond, Richard Roberts, Walter Rudner, Ralph Verbick, James	



L to R: National Director VIP 20/4, Beverly Keaveny, Eileen Krizansky, Joanne Evans, Jeanne Wood and Anne Marie Pina-Brown.

National Director VIP 20/4 Visitation, Brawley

**by Joanne Evans,
Aide/Disbursing Officer, Echelon 40**

Echelon 40 of the Honor Society for Women Legionnaires, 20/4, held its annual bake sale at the Fifth Area meeting at Brawley Post 60 on Saturday, January 20th. Members from Echelon 1 and 32 of the 20/4 were also present. Janet Wilson, Hattie Stone, Marilyn Rideaux and our present Vice-Commander representing Women Legionnaires, Kathleen Heeren, joined the festivities. Diana Drake, candidate for VC Representing Women 2007-2008, was super busy running the Chili Cook-Off with her husband, Jim Drake, Chairman.

The bake sale was very successful, and the National Director had an opportunity to meet with the various Echelon members as well as Department Officers and the famous Chili Cookers. Ann Marie Brown, Director VIP for Echelon 40, said the National Director, Beverly, attended a dinner that was

held for Kathleen Heeren at the San Diego Women's Post 451 hosted by Dee Schick on Friday evening. Monday, Director VIP Beverly and her husband; Anne Marie Brown, Deputy Representative for VAMC Hattie Stone; Kathleen Heeren, VC Representing Women; and Joel Gregg, District Historian for District 22 toured the VAMC in La Jolla. They visited the "End of Life" room to be dedicated to Ron Hanson, past Department Commander, and spoke with the Physician in charge of women. Director Beverly and her husband were very impressed with the facilities.

Director Beverly, traveling with her husband, will continue her cross-country trip visiting Jeepettes in Echelons in various other states.

Echelon 40 welcomed Eileen Krizansky, a transfer from Echelon 1, and one new member, Sheryl Palsrok. The Echelon wishes to thank each and every one who supported the bake sale. The funds will be used for items needed by Women Veterans in our VA Hospitals and Veterans Homes.

Convention City Commission Questionnaire

by Jack Kidd, Chairman

Would your City, Post or District be interested in hosting a Department Convention of The American Legion? Hosting provides an economic benefit to the local Community and Posts. In addition, it brings favorable attention to the host, which enables membership growth and provides member participation in an important Legion activity!

We appreciate those cities that have been – and are – scheduled to host, but we need more choices!

Please contact
Convention City Chairman
Jack Kidd
at Palisades Post 283,
(310) 454-0527,
e-mail:
nana.kidd@roadrunner.com
or



Planning at the Convention City Call-in March 17-18, 2007, in Santa Maria, CA – L to R – back row: Jacklyn Reed, Technical Advisor; Glen Mayer, Area 1 Commissioner; Ronald Galvan, Area 2 Commissioner, secretary; Jack Kidd, Area 6 Commissioner, chairman; front row far right continuing around the table: Richard Nelson, Area 3 Commissioner; John Lea, Palm Springs Convention Chairman; Frank Manthei, Area 5 Commissioner; Brian Franklin, D19 Housing Chairman; and Frank Ortiz, Area 4 Commissioner.

Future Department of California Conventions

Palm Springs – June 21-24, 2007
Bakersfield – June 19-22, 2008
Fresno – June 25-28, 2009
Huntington Beach (tentative) – June 24-27, 2010

Eagle Scout of the Year

by Lee R. Wise, Scouting Commission Chairman

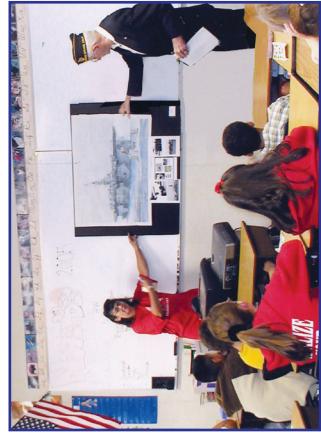
Eagle Scout, Daniel Jeffrey Nibbs, was selected as “Eagle Scout of the Year – 2007” for the Department of California. Daniel is a member of BSA Troop 783 of the Golden Empire Council and chartered by Sierra Pines United Methodist Church. Daniel attends Jesuit High School in Carmichael, CA, and resides

with his parents in Auburn, CA. Daniel’s father, Dimitri, is a Legionnaire. Daniel’s Nomination Application has been submitted to The American Legion National Americanism Commission for consideration of the prestigious honor of “Eagle Scout of the Year – 2007” for National. Congratulations to Daniel and his family, and we wish him the best during the National selection process.



Daniel Jeffrey Nibbs, California’s 2007 Eagle Scout of the Year

Veterans in the Classroom



L-R: Ellen Dickman and Warren Smith with students in classroom.

The Borrego Springs, CA, Elementary School hosted a Veteran in the Classroom for 4th and 5th grade students. Warren Smith, a sailor in the Navy told the history of his ship, the USS Enterprise and much history of his multiple tours of duty. Helping Warren with his pictures was 5th grade teacher, Ellen Dickman. An assembly was held first so every student was told the history of the flag and what it meant to be a Veteran. Small flags were handed out to each student, and a new American Flag and California State flag was given to the school from Post 853.

Members of the California Delegation visit Senator Dianne Feinstein



During the recent Washington D.C. American Legion Conference, Commander Charlie Eskridge presented Senator Dianne Feinstein with the prestigious American Legion Department of California Legislative “Award of Excellence.” Senator Feinstein was recognized for the continuing effort to provide for our veterans both past and present. Pictured are L to R: Floyd Martin, Membership Director; Randy Wharton, Alternate National Executive Committeeman; Bruce Theisen, Past National Commander; Senator Dianne Feinstein; Charlie Eskridge, Department Commander; Al Lennox, Finance Committee Chairman; Leo P. Burke, Past National Vice Commander; and Jim Hackney, National Executive Committeeman.

Inside This Issue:

Legislator of the Year	1
CALVET Home Loan	2
Commander	3
Events Calendar	4
NEC Man	5
Eskridge Homecoming	6
40 & 8	7
Auxiliary	8-9
SAL	10
Last Bugle	11