



CALIFORNIA *Legionnaire*



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September/October 2006

California Loses Battle to Block National Dues Increase

National Dues Increase of \$4.50 a Year to Become Effective January 2007

California Legionnaires should be proud!

At the 88th National Convention in Salt Lake City on August 29-31, we lost the battle to block a \$4.50 increase in the National segment of membership dues. But, California's delegates did not waver under pressure to change our stand.

California's delegation to the National Convention stood firmly and 100% behind the California resolution that was overwhelmingly, and perhaps unanimously, adopted by our 88th Department Convention (June 22-25 in Fresno) to oppose National's proposed dues increase. At the recent National Convention, our resolution was rejected in committee, but we still took it to the convention floor, spearheaded by an outstanding professional presentation by *Department Finance Chairman Al Lennox*. Again our appeal was rejected – by national officials, not by the delegates – based on a technicality.

At that point, the National proposal should have simply gone to the floor for a vote of all the delegates. But instead, Past National Commander *Ron Conley* (*Department of Pennsylvania*) felt a need to rebut the points made by California in our argument against a dues increase. We would have welcomed and respected Mr. Conley's position, if he had stayed with the facts and the issue. But it seemed to our delegation that all Past National Commander Conley wanted to do was belittle California for taking a stand against an issue advanced by the national organization. Think about that: a Past National Commander belittling a Department of The American Legion for openly and articulately expressing the views of its Legionnaires. All it showed us is how arrogant and closed-minded he is.

Not that it helps, but after the convention vote approving National's proposed dues increase, many Legionnaires from other departments said that they

wished they would have had the same conviction demonstrated by California. But, they indicated that they felt we were going to lose anyway, so why not give-in to the pressure from National and keep everyone happy. I wonder how they are going to explain their vote to their departments' membership when they return home.

Our answer to that reasoning is that California works all of the programs of The American Legion with expertise, dedication, and vigor. California has perhaps the strongest and best-funded Veterans Service Program in the Nation! We are very concerned that this dues increase could adversely affect our fund-raising programs for VA&R, and our membership as well. We are not asking anything for ourselves; we are merely protecting our ability to continue a high level of service to our Veterans. So why should we yield to pressure from the National organization or anyone else? We voiced the clear opinion of our California Legionnaires, and we will always stand by that approach!

Now it's time for all Legionnaires to get behind and support the vote of the national convention. I would ask if you have not sent in your 2007 dues yet please do so before the first of the year. California must and can remain a strong Legion voice, but we must have your continued membership to do so. I'll close this by saying "Thank You!" for your continuing support of our programs and your membership.

God Bless the United States of America; and God Bless Our Veterans and their Families! May they always be safe.

Floyd Martin
Department Membership Director



*Al Lennox, Amador Post 108,
Chairman of the Department Finance Committee
takes California's argument to the Convention floor.*



From the Commander's Desk

Charlie Eskridge

The National Convention is behind us as well as the first D.E.C. of this year; now comes the real work of The American Legion. As you most likely know by now, the National Convention approved an increase in our PER CAPITA of \$4.50! As I had promised in my campaign to be your Department Commander, I would oppose any such increase. At the National Convention, I spoke against this increase, as did our Finance Chairman Al Lennox; in the end, only California voted against this increase. My fear now is that we will be putting an additional hardship on our already limited/budgeted income Senior Veterans. What can we do?

We have until the first of the calendar year 2007 before the increase goes into effect. We need to get the word out to all those unpaid members to pay up now before the increase takes effect; this way we can spare members the increase for this year. I realize there are still some out there that wait until the end of this calendar year to renew. They are carrying a 2006 card and see no reason to pay until the end of this calendar year, and see no reason to pay prior to 2007. We need to get the word out! Posts need to send out mailings to those who traditionally have been late payers. Posts need to put in their newsletters and flyers about this increase. I have heard

from some Posts that they fear they will lose members because of this increase. We cannot let this happen. Post and Districts need to think of ways to help those who will be impacted by this additional cost. The main aim of The American Legion is to help Veterans and here is a **GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY** to be able to help.

National's case for an increase was "increased operating costs and declining membership." There is little any of us can do about the increases in our cost of living; certainly little we can do about National's operating costs. If the National organization cannot think of ways to tighten the belt as we have done in California, we will have to suffer the increase. As to the **DECLINING MEMBERSHIP**, we know we can do something about that. Get out there and find those 50% of the American Veterans that are NOT yet members of The American Legion or any other veterans' organization and ask them to join. Floyd Martin's "ASK ME!" campaign is an excellent one, but we need to also be doing the asking! Ask each new friend or acquaintance if he or she was in the service; and if so, do they qualify to be a Legionnaire? We need to help our Veterans learn of their Benefits and that is what our American Legion does. Not only will we be adding to the membership of The American Legion, but also we will be helping Veterans get what they have earned and deserve.

This is not a negative message from your Commander but rather a call to arms to show the National organization we can overcome this increase and perhaps next year try to repeal this increase.

I was extremely proud of our Sons of The American Legion at National Convention in Salt Lake City and California's outstanding performance this past year. The Sons of The American Legion can be a great source of helping us find members. They are very proud of their status in The American Legion and in many Posts that have added Legionnaires to the membership, have also found the eligible son to join The Sons of The American Legion and Sons Squadrons. Use your Sons of TAL Squadron as a recruiting tool.

While on the subjects of The Sons of The American Legion and The American Legion Family, we lost a great Legionnaire in the passing of George Sinopoli. George was a friend and a GREAT supporter of Veterans Affairs, Veterans Care and Welfare. His efforts will be missed at all levels of our American Legion.

I hope this message finds you all well and enjoying the coming fall season. I continue to look forward to seeing and meeting as many of you as I can in the coming months.

Charlie Eskridge
Department Commander

Service Officer

Terry Tracy

REHAB

Although I did not attend the National Convention in Salt Lake City, I would like to provide an update on the Resolutions submitted by the Department of California's VA&R. There were nine resolutions submitted to National. Of these nine, the following seven were adopted:

252 – Extend the Filing Period of an Appeal Notice to the Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims

253 – VA Role in National Emergency Preparedness

254 – The American Legion Policy on Assured Funding for VA Medical Care

255 – The American Legion Policy on VA Compensation

256 – Presumptive Medical Care for Persian Gulf Veterans

257 – The American Legion Policy on Former Prisoners of War

67 (251) – The American Legion Policy on Community Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOC's) *Consolidated with Michigan Resolution 67*

Only one resolution was rejected:

316 – Support Legislation for WWII Merchant Mariners

(A similar resolution submitted by the Department of Nebraska was also rejected)

Registered and referred to VA&R to be acted upon at the next NEC meeting:

CA Emergency Resolution

In Opposition to the Army's intention to exchange 10 acres of the Veterans Facilities in California.

There were a total of 106 Resolutions submitted at the National Convention. Of these, 58 were approved or approved with Amendment; 23 were consolidated with resolutions approved; nine were referred to the standing commission; six were received and recorded; and 10 were rejected.

By the time you read this, I will have already launched this year's travel starting this weekend with the 2nd Area Meeting in San Leandro; the following weekend, the 5th Area Meeting in Buena Park; and, the weekend after that, the 1st Area Meeting in Vallejo. In mid-October, I will attend the 6th Area Meeting in Pasadena. I look forward to seeing many of you along the way. If there are any questions, please do not hesitate to call my office at 310-473-6534.

Adjutant's Corner

Bill Siler III

First, I want to thank all of you for the welcome you have given to me as your new Department Adjutant. I know Bill Mayer will be missed by all of you as well as myself.

The Fall DEC Meeting in Visalia on August 12-13, 2006 was an effective and very informative meeting.

I want to thank all of you who I have known over the years that took the time to come to the DEC and give me a hard time. That made the meeting more fun for me and hope for all of you.

On Friday, the Department Finance Commission, Chaired by Al Lennox, and the Ways & Means Commission, Chaired by Chuck Parnell, both met and had very productive and informative meetings.

The members of the DEC had good and concise reports. I give them all a WELL DONE!

Department Membership Director Floyd Martin and his committee have come up with new ideas for membership. The ideas are different, creative and should make for a very good strategy for the ensuing fiscal year.

The DEC ratified the Commission Appointments of Commander Charlie Eskridge.

Our Honored Distinguished Guest for the weekend was Marty Conaster, Candidate for National Commander 2007-2008.

TO ALL DISTRICT COMMANDERS: PLEASE NOT – RE: DEC

ARTICLE X

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Section 1. The executive power shall be vested in a Department Executive Committee to be composed of the Department Commander, Department Junior Past Commander, Department Vice-Commanders, Department Sergeant-at-Arms, the National Executive Committeeman and, in the absence of the *National* Executive Committeeman the Alternate National Executive Committeeman shall so *serve*, all Past National Commanders who at the time of their election to such office were Members of the Department of California and continue as Members in good standing in the Department of California, and the District Commanders. The District First Vice Commander shall serve as alternate for the District Commander and in the absence of both the District Commander and the District First Vice-Commander the District Second Vice-Commander shall so serve and in the absence of District Commander, District First Vice-Commander and District Second Vice-Commander the District Third Vice-Commander shall so

serve. The Department Adjutant shall be the Secretary of this Committee without voice or vote.

It is important that you read and remember the above section. Also remember that the Fall DEC is always in the month of August. If you're the new District Commander you are expected to attend the DEC's and the Department Convention, which is always in June of each year.

THE 88th NATIONAL CONVENTION in Salt Lake City, Utah, August 25-31, 2006, was my first National Convention as Department Adjutant. WOW! Was that fun! At the convention we elected Paul A. Morin from Massachusetts as our National Commander. I also had fun marching with the rest of our delegation in the Parade. We had a lot of excitement with the new increase in National Dues. Our Department Finance Chairman Al Lennox did a great job explaining why we shouldn't pass a National Dues Increase. Of course the dues increase passed. The Department of California was the ONLY department that voted against the increase.

Below is a copy of the letter that we sent out to all Posts in the Department of California.

INCREASE IN NATIONAL DUES

At the 2006 National Convention in Salt Lake City, Utah, it was voted to increase the National dues by \$4.50. The Department of California was the only department that voted against the increase.

This is the first increase National has had in their dues since 1993. In 1993 the increase was suppose to last for five (5) years but the increase lasted for thirteen (13) years.

We recommend that each Post raises its dues to at least \$35.00 to cover the National increase in dues. This must be done, and the enclosed form must be sent to Department Headquarters before December 1, 2006. This is so your **NEW DUES** are recorded on the National Membership Computers before the **DIRECT RENEWAL NOTICES** are sent out by National. This is because you want your **NEW DUES** not your **CURRENT DUES** to show on the Direct Renewal Notices that will be sent out to your members.

After December 29, 2006 you will be expected to send in the per capita tax totaling \$21.50 not the current per capita tax of \$17.00. For the rest of this **calendar year of 2006** you still **send** in the **per capita tax of \$17.00**.

THE NEXT RENEWAL NOTICE WILL BE JANUARY 6, 2007.

Let us all get this done **as soon as possible** so we will have the new per capita tax amount to send in **effective** January 1, 2007.

Let's all work together for The American Legion, God, and Country. And may God Bless America!

CALIFORNIA
Legionnaire

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DEPARTMENT COMMANDER
Charlie Eskridge



EDITOR
James J. Leyser

PUBLICATION POLICY

CALIFORNIA Legionnaire is the official publication of The American Legion Department of California.

We welcome inquiries concerning any aspect of *CALIFORNIA Legionnaire*. Publishing dates are July, September, November, January, March and May with occasional special editions published as needed.

The contents of *CALIFORNIA Legionnaire* will reflect the policies and activities of The American Legion. All materials submitted for publication in *CALIFORNIA Legionnaire* are subject to approval by the Editor and the Department Commander, and may be published or rejected without notice to the author. Unsolicited submissions become the sole property of *CALIFORNIA Legionnaire* and will be edited for length, grammar and style considerations. Materials will not be returned unless a self-addressed return envelope with sufficient postage is provided.

To submit photos, please e-mail photos at a minimum 200 DPI (1600 x 1200) to histotec@inreach.com or mail prints, negatives, or slides to Editor Jim Leyser, 3521 E. Rialto, Fresno, CA 93726.



PLEASE SEND CHANGE OF ADDRESS
AND DECEASED NOTIFICATIONS TO:

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Fresno, CA 93726

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National Executive Committee

Jim Hackney

I would like to thank all the Legionnaires for their support in electing me to this high office of National Executive Committeeman.

The NEC Meeting at National Convention in Salt Lake City 222 resolutions were approved. The list of resolutions will comprise The American Legion's Legislation program for the first session of the 110th Congress.

The Flag Protection Amendment loss by one vote in June – 66 to 67.

As you and your family celebrate summer this month, please take a moment to contact your Senators and urge support and quick passage for S3696, the "Veterans' Memorials, Boy Scouts, Public Seals, and other Public Expressions of Religion Protection Act of 2006" and contact your Representative and urge support and quick passage for its House companion bill, H.R. 2679, the "Public Expression of Religion Act." Please encourage other members of your local Posts to contact their Senators and Representatives, as well.

These bills would amend all federal laws with fee-shifting provisions, including the

Civil Rights Attorney Fees Act, 42 U.S. Code 1988, and Equal Access to Justice Act. They would eliminate the Authority of judges to award taxpayer-paid attorney fees to the ACLU, or any other organization, in lawsuits brought under the Establishment Clause of the Constitution against Veterans' Memorial, the Boy Scouts, or the public display of the Ten Commandments or other symbols of American History and religious heritage.

Commander Bock has said the ACLU's threat of the imposition of taxpayer-paid attorney fees to force local elected bodies – city and county councils and school boards into surrendering to the ACLU's demands to secularity. To cleanse the public square of any evidence of America's religious heritage is "judicial blackmail," plain and simple.

The Legislative Action Center located on National's website, www.legion.org has e-mail capability that can be used to write Congress.

James W. Hackney
National Executive Committeeman

Membership Director

Floyd Martin

Limited Commission Organizational Call In Meeting October 28 & 29, 2006

CHARLES P. ROWE POST #30
239 E. Holt Ave., Pomona, CA 91767
(909) 620-0943

becomes 60 East, keep right to I-57 North, take Temple Exit, turn left on W. Temple, Make a "U" turn at Pomona Blvd. onto W. Temple.

Chairman: John Sampson (951) 295-2020

DIRECTIONS FROM HOTEL TO POST:

1. Merge onto 57 North, merge into I-10 toward San Bernardino, take Garey Ave. Exit, turn left on E. Holt Ave.

HOTEL: SHILO INN,
3200 Temple Ave.,
Pomona, CA

Reservations #: (800) 222-2244
Hotel: (909) 598-0073

**RESERVATIONS CAN BE MADE FOR
FRIDAY, SATURDAY & SUNDAY**

When telephoning
for Reservations tell the hotel:
**American Legion Department of
California**

ROOM RATE: \$72.00/Night plus Tax

**MEETINGS TO START AT 9 A.M.
BOTH DAYS**

Americanism
Children & Youth
Counter Subversive Activities
Community Service
Constitution & By-Laws
Convention City
Disaster & Emergency Services
Foreign Relations
Legislative
Publishing
Ritual
Scouting
Valley Forge
Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

(NOTE) Other Commissions will be called-in at the most appropriate times, over the next several months, depending upon their required work and budget availability.

DIRECTIONS TO THE HOTEL:

1. From the North: I-5 South to I-210 East towards Pasadena, then I-57 South towards Santa Ana, take Temple Ave. Exit, Turn right on W. Temple, Make "U" turn at Pomona Blvd. onto W. Temple.

2. From the South: I-5 North to I-57 North,

Telephone Information to District First Vice Commanders

When requesting Post 1000's by zip code you must:

1. Request by e-mail, mail, or fax
2. Give the following information:
 - A. Name
 - B. Title
 - C. ID Number
 - D. Your e-mail address directly to Jim at jim@calegion.org
 - E. Purpose for request
 - F. Zip Codes (numerically)

Do you have questions about your membership?
Do you have problems concerning your membership?
Please contact us, we want to help!

MEMBERSHIP CONTACTS

State Membership Director	Floyd Martin	(209) 267-5764
Area Membership Director North	Ron Galvin	(510) 483-1605
AREA		
1	Chairman	Mike Hooper (530) 743-6974
2	Chairman	Ralph Jacob (408) 226-3722
3	Chairman	Kenneth Kramlich (209) 318-5683
Area Membership Director South	Carlton LeDrew	(949) 683-3032
4	Chairman	Robert C. Brown (310) 516-0427
5	Chairman	Bernard Foley (951) 377-2718
6	Chairman	Dennis Fercho (805) 482-8141

NATIONAL CONVENTION 2007 • SALT LAKE CITY, UT NATIONAL RESOLUTIONS

NATIONAL SECURITY

- RES: #259 Illegal Immigration and Selective Service Registration. **Referred to the Standing Committee on National Security**
- RES: #261 Dispersing Homeland Security Funds. **Received and Recorded**

VETERANS AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION

- RES: #252 Extend The Filing Period of an appeal Notice to the court of Appeals for Veterans Claims. **Approved.**
- RES: #253 VA Role in National Emergency Preparedness. **Approved.**
- RES: #254 The American Legion Policy on Assured Funding for VA Medical Care. **Approved.**
- RES: #255 The American Legion Policy on VA Compensation. **Approved.**
- RES: #256 Presumptive Medical Care for Persian Gulf War Veterans. **Approved.**
- RES: #257 The American Legion Policy on Former Prisoners of War. **Approved.**

CREDENTIALS AND INTERNAL AFFAIRS

- RES: #258 Alliance Defense Fund and the Defense of Veteran's Monuments Project. **Referred to the Internal Affairs Commission.**
- RES: #260 Memorial to the Veteran's of Desert Storm, Iraqi Freedom and Afghanistan Conflicts. **Referred to the Internal Affairs, Trophies and Awards Ceremonial Committee.**

MEMBERSHIP

- RES: #250 Reject any dues increase. **Not Approved**

REFERRED TO THE NEC

- RES: #2572 Oppose United States Army Reserve Selling Land Plot in Los Angeles.
- RES: #2573 Veterans Flag Remembered
- RES: #2574 Support for the Civil Rights Act Reaffirmation Action

Legion Calls on Congress to Pass Bill Ending 'Judicial Blackmail'

INDIANAPOLIS (Sept. 25, 2006) – With a floor vote scheduled Tuesday in the House of Representatives for the Veterans' Memorials, Boy Scouts, Public Seals, and Other Public Expressions of Religion Protection Act of 2006, the leader of the nation's largest veterans organization strongly urged lawmakers to pass the measure. "This legislation, if enacted, would amend the United States Revised Statutes to eliminate the threat of judicial blackmail on constitutionally protected expression of religion by state and local officials," American Legion National Commander Paul A. Morin wrote in a letter to Members of Congress today. "This chilling effect results from the financial threat to cities and municipalities by potential litigants seeking civil damages and attorney fees under Title 42 United States Code (USC) 1988."

H.R. 2679, and its companion bill in the U.S. Senate, S.3696, would eliminate the authority of judges to award attorney fees in litigation against religious symbols at veterans' memorials, the Boy Scouts, public seals, and open displays of America's religious heritage. "The real threat of such judge-ordered fees is that they have ter-

rorized local elected officials into surrendering to the plaintiff's demands to remove religious symbols, such as crosses from veterans' memorials, city logos, police badges, and any public environment where the rich religious heritage of the nation flourishes," Morin said. "It is time to put an end to this outrageous exploitation of a law designed to encourage individual plaintiffs injured by racial discrimination to seek judicial relief," he added. "Attorney-fees awards, although discretionary with a trial judge, are usually approved for the prevailing party; however, some have twisted this civil rights legislation to achieve results The American Legion believes Congress never intended.

"The American Legion fully supports this legislation because it fairly addresses the constitutionally protected expression of religion and rectifies the excessive awards of attorney fees paid from public funds," Morin said. "On behalf of the 2.7 million veterans of The American Legion, I strongly urge all Members of Congress to pass PERA legislation."

House Passes PERA, H.R.2679: 244 TO 173!

We Must Now Work to Pass S.3696 (PERA) in Senate

Comrades, Colleagues, and Patriots:

The U.S. House of Representatives today voted 244 to 173 to pass the Veterans Memorials, Boy Scouts, Public Seals, and Other Public Expressions of Religion Protection Act of 2006 (PERA, HR 2679).

A great debt of gratitude is owed to the sponsor of PERA, Rep. John Hostettler (R-Ind.), who has courageously led the effort for passage, resulting in some sixty-seven co-sponsors joining that effort, and leading to passage with 244 Representatives voting for PERA, and only 173 against.

PERA IS strongly supported by American Legion National Commander Paul Morin of Massachusetts, as it was by his predecessors, Past National Commander Thomas Bock of Colorado (2005-2006), and PNC Thomas Cadmus of Michigan (2004-2005).

Commander Morin, on behalf of the 2.7-million member American Legion, strongly urged legislators to pass PERA in order to end "judicial blackmail" in a letter delivered to Members of Congress on the eve of the House Vote.

H.R. 2679, and its companion bill in the U.S. Senate, S. 3696, would eliminate the authority of judges to award attorney fees to the ACLU, or anyone else, in Establishment Clause lawsuits against veterans memorials, the Boy Scouts, public seals, and the public display of the Ten Commandments and other symbols of America's history and heritage which have a religious aspect.

"The real threat of such judge-ordered fees is that they have terrorized local elected officials into surrendering to the plaintiff's demands to remove religious symbols, such as crosses from veterans' memorials, city logos, police badges, and any public environment where the rich religious heritage of the nation flourishes," Morin said.

"It is time to put an end to this outrageous exploitation of a law designed to encourage individual plaintiffs injured by racial discrimination to seek judicial relief," he added.

Support for passage of PERA grew and more and more Americans learned that the ACLU, which postures as a pro bono legal organization representing the poor and oppressed without fees, has in fact for years been amassing millions in profits in judge-ordered, taxpayer-paid attorney fees in Establishment Clause cases attacking veterans memorials, Boy Scouts, and other targets of ACLU's ideologically-driven secular-cleansing terrorizing litigation.

The grass roots movement for reform, made up of organizations which neither endorse political candidates nor contribute to their campaigns, in contrast to the big donor backers of the ACLU like George Soros and Hollywood multi-millionaires like Norman Lear, has involved many organizations who have generated tens of thousands of petitions in support of PERA.

As one example, Dr. Gary Cass, Director of the Center of Reclaiming America, which was initiated by Dr. D. James Kennedy, president of Coral Ridge Ministries, delivered almost 200,000 petitions in support of PERA to sponsor Rep. John Hostettler last Friday, and met with staff of the House leadership on the need for PERA.

On Monday, Congress received a powerful and eloquent request to take urgent action to pass PERA from two of America's most decorated veterans, former U.S. Senator Jeremiah Denton, Rear Admiral (USN, ret.) and Maj. General Patrick Brady (USA, ret.) Medal of Honor recipient.

They called on Congress to recognize the importance of memorials honoring veterans and the need to pass PERA so that they, and other veterans, could enter litigation as full parties to defend veterans' memorials against ACLU's lawsuits, as in the ACLU's attack on the Mt. Soledad National War Memorial. They pointed out that the First Amendment right of veterans and other citizens to enter those cases parties is prevented because of the threat of ACLU's attorney fees being imposed upon them as parties – unless PERA is passed by House and Senate.

A major victory has been won by the courage and integrity of PERA sponsor John Hostettler (R-Ind.) who refused to give up when it appeared that passage of PERA was impossible, and by the persistence of The American Legion and other grass roots organization who drew a line in the sand and took a stand for American values against the ACLU's exploitation of federal fee-shifting laws for profit.

Now, the grass roots movement must move to pass S. 3696, PERA, in the Senate, and make it the law of the land.

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY FOREVER, SURRENDER TO THE ACLU – NEVER!

Rees Lloyd
Commander
District 21

Post 275 Honors Echo Company 2/4 Marines



On August 26, 2006 the American Legion Post 275 in cooperation with Mt. Soledad Memorial Association, Inc. unveiled two granite plaques for the service of Echo Company 2/4 Marines who served in Iraq and 21 of these men that made the ultimate sacrifice while serving with this unit. From left to right: John Smith, trustee of Mt. Soledad; Carl Dustin, Vice President of Mt. Soledad; Edd Grimsley, American Legion Post Commander 22; Jay Vargas, Medal of Honor Recipient; Steve Marietti, American Legion Post Commander of 275; Dan Beard, American Legion Post; Bob Phillips, Marketing for Mt. Soledad. Photo submitted by Joanie Miyashiro-Brennan, Director, Mt. Soledad Memorial Association, Inc.

Hello California,
The members of the Building and Construction Trade Affiliates as well as their partnered contracting associations, continue to make a significant difference in the lives of the men and women transitioning from the Armed Forces and members of the National Guard and Reserves. Because of their support, Helmets to Hardhats has attracted attention from major news stations as well as state and federal officials. The Helmets to Hardhats program has captured video of this success along the way.

Bob Hope Tribute Update

Emil Wroblicky, California Chairman

Dear Legionnaires,

We thank you for responding to our letter about the dedication of the National Salute to Bob Hope and the Military monument to be held on October 25, 2006, aboard the USS Midway. Unfortunately, we have since been informed that this date was unacceptable to the Hope family; but they have assured us that they are committed to complete this project.

Since many preparations were made to have the ceremony in October, the Taffy III committee decided to go forward but to make necessary changes to the original plans. The ceremony will be held on the ground level at the project site not on the USS Midway on October 25, 2006, at 2:30 P.M. No invitations are needed, and everyone is more than welcome to attend.

Connie Stevens will be the Master of Ceremonies, and the San Diego Marine Band will be performing. We have been assured that 15 military statues will be completed and displayed; however, it is questionable that the statue of Bob Hope will be completed due to many structural changes, approvals and foundry time required.

Construction began on Monday, September 18, 2006. The time capsule containing the names of all contributors will be installed at this point. The capsule is to be opened on 25 October 2044.

The site is located at 700 N. Harbor Drive, San Diego, CA, along side of the USS Midway. A seating section will be reserved for Legionnaires.

We apologize for this change of events, but we will still close this letter with, **"THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES."**

Military Lingo and Jargon

I am a veteran of the Vietnam War. Six years ago on the 30th anniversary from service in the field artillery at first bases near/along the DMZ, I wrote an article on some of our military lingo and slang. I did so after than asking some Army NCOs whether they knew what a "donut dollie" was, what "REMF" meant, or "going home through Hamilton" referred to.

The article I penned is on the web, and you can find it at: <http://www.8th-4th-arty.com/vietnamjargon>; and it is entitled Vietnam's Military Jargon Headed for History. I am now collecting military lingo, jargon from WWII, the Korean War and the Global War on Terrorism (GWOT). I intend to also write articles on the jargon of these conflicts.

If you would like to share with others the military jargon/acronyms that you know from these wars (underlined above), I would appreciate hearing from you. Mail, fax, or e-mail military jargon/lingo to:

Paul J. Constantino
433 Airport Blvd. Suite 323
Burlingame, CA 94010
Telephone: (650) 579-7535
Fax: (650) 579-7445
E-mail: kanc@sbcglobal.net

Finance Commission Chairman

Alan Lennox

Goliath knew California was there

California Legionnaires at the 88th Department Convention passed a resolution to vigorously oppose a resolution from The National American Legion proposing a \$4.50 per capita dues increase. Our concerns with such a huge increase were and still are the risk of negative fiscal impact to our Membership and Ways and Means Programs.

I attended the Convention Finance Commission Meeting. The meeting consisted of a review of the financial status of the National American Legion. National Adjutant Spanogle presented an extensive report on the need for such a per capita increase. This presentation emphasized American Legion Children and Youth Programs, of which without this increase were in serious jeopardy of termination or significant reduction. In 2005, the National Organization concluded the fiscal year with a \$15,000 deficit. In 2006, the projected budget deficit is one million dollars. I requested an explanation for such a large increase in the deficit in just one year? Mr. Spanogle explained that there were several one-time significant expenditures (legal fees and last minute flag amendment costs) this year. It appears the one million dollar deficit to be a one-time aberration.

I then spoke in earnest in support of California's Resolution. I explained California's rational in proposing such a resolution. We felt national's membership figures of 2.6 million members to be somewhat conservative. This conservative estimate seems contrary to National's highly touted DMS-Plus Program, which now requires a \$3 fee sent to National for each DMS sent to a Department. I also stated that the \$4.50 per capita increase (which translates to an \$11,700,000. annual income increase to National) was excessive and that the National Organization did not adequately justify or explain the need for such a huge increase (National Net Assets are in excess of 70 million dollars and unrestricted, assigned net assets in excess of 50 million dollars). I referenced National's own financial statements of 2005 and projections for 2006. I again reiterated California's concerns about membership and ways and means donations. I was politely thanked for my comments, and the discussion ended.

I was the delegate assignee to the Convention Finance Committee Meeting. Again National Adjutant Spanogle gave his presentation to the Department Delegates regarding the need for a per capita increase. After his presentation, Mr. Spanogle left the room. The Chair asked for a motion to approve the National Resolution. Under discussion, I objected to any action on this motion until California's Resolution was read to the committee. The Chair gavelled down my objection. I then explained the concerns California had with such a huge increase at one time. I added additional arguments to support California's position. In re-examining National's financial statements, I discovered that funds used for Children and Youth programs were restricted and not general fund revenues. My request for a clarification in this matter was unanswered. I also pointed out that the lion's share of children and youth funding was borne by the Departments and at local Post level. Again I asked for a

clarification, none was received. Past National Commander Ron Conley spoke in favor of the National Resolution. His highly emotional tirade left many opportunities for challenge in rebuttal. When I requested an opportunity to rebut his assertions, I was denied for lack of time. The Chair allowed only 15 minutes for discussion for such a momentous decision. The National Adjutant was allowed 30 minutes of uninterrupted time before he left the scene.

I presented my report to the California Convention Caucus. Their response was genuine and heartwarming; continue the opposition to National's Resolution on the floor of the convention. On the floor of 88th National Convention, California spoke against the per capita increase vigorously and professionally. The same logical arguments used previously were again asserted. California stood alone in this endeavor. No other Department had the courage of their convictions. In private, they spoke against the huge increase; but in public, their courage melted like butter. As before, Past National Commander Ron Conley rambled on without facts or reference. His personal attack directed at California resulted in an immediate appropriate response from the California Delegation. The per capita increase was passed with only California in dissent.

I am proud of the position California took in the face of opposition and pressure. Often the most vulnerable of our society are the least thought about. The American Legion Family is a micro society. California stood for the most vulnerable in our family: the retired Veterans on fixed incomes, those Veterans facing financial hardships, younger Veterans with young families and little funds to spare and Veterans requiring representation, guidance and support from our VA&R Program. We stood up to Goliath. We lost, but we made a statement. The core mission of The American Legion is taking care of Veterans, taking care of our youth, taking care of our communities, not lining the coffers of the National Organization with millions of dollars.





The Department of Minnesota.



Mormon Tabernacle Choir during the Memorial Service for National Convention Delegates in the new LDS Conference Center in Salt Lake City, Utah.



The Department of Wisconsin.



Commander Eskridge greets and speaks to as many delegates as possible during the Convention.



The Department of Iowa.



The Department of California at the beginning of the National Parade in Salt Lake City.





*Newly elected Vice Commanders attend their first DEC in Visalia, CA.
Photo by Dept. Historian - Henry Hosea.*

Fall DEC



*L to R Center: Willy Wilkin, Mike Gumbar, Leo Burke, and Niles Creacy.
Photo by Jim Leyser.*



*L to R: Candidate for National Commander, PDC Fred Walden, and Bruce Thiesen.
Photo by Jim Leyser.*



*PNC Bruce Thiesen escorts National Commander hopeful from the Department of Illinois, Marty Conatser after he addressed the Visalia, CA D.E.C.
Department Chaplain R. T. Lee shows his approval. Photo by Dept. Historian - Henry Hosea.*



American Legion Auxiliary

Department of California



Serving Veterans — Children & Youth — Community



Department President
Sandy Jacob



Department Vice President
Shelby Hitch



Department Secretary/Treasurer
Theresa Jacob



NEC Women
Bonnie Christner

Chaplain
Loretta Marsh

Historian
Gigi Manno

Parliamentarian
Diane DeLashmit

Musician
Ruth O'Conner

Sergeant-at-Arms
Linda Diebal

Marshal
Alice Faye Heard

Finance Committee Chairman
Elizabeth Marshment

Finance Committee - Senior
Martha Datz

Finance Committee - Junior
Peggy Voegel

Advisory Chairman
Sue Hooker

Advisory Committee
Jerry Jeske

Advisory Committee
Margorie Shank

Advisory Committee
Madeline Lee



DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT

Sandy Jacob

Pride in Country, Pride in Service, Pride in Self will be our motto for the 2006-2007 Auxiliary year. We want to show pride in our Country, to honor the flag of our country, and to let everyone know we are proud of this great land. We want to show pride in service to our Country and pride in service to our organizational family. And most importantly, we want to have pride in ourselves for our patriotic deeds and services. We should have pride in our great organization and the work we do for our veterans, children, and the community in which we live.

Our theme will be military organizations and ranks. I hope each of you will have fun with the theme but always with respect to the men and women who served our great country.

Creative Arts will be our special project for the year. This is a wonderful program that allows veterans to heal themselves through their creative talents. I hope each of you will participate.

One big hurdle for the year will be to increase membership. I challenge each of you to become a recruiter and to sign up at least one new member this year. If you are not a member – why not? If you are eligible for membership, fill out that application and drop it off at a Unit of your choice. If you are a member but are unable to attend meetings, contact your Unit and become involved. There are many ways you can assist in veterans' projects throughout the year. Show your Pride.

I look forward to working with each of you this year – come be part of the team.

DEPARTMENT MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

Anita Biggs

Membership 2007

The prospect of a new year of membership is always exciting. Just the thought of recruiting new members to our ranks gives us renewed spirit. This year is no different. We are once again given the opportunity of a new exciting theme for membership. Our National membership theme is 'Shoot for the Stars, the Sky's the Limit.' While the National President's theme is 'We Can Do It – Together!' In keeping with our Department President Sandy's theme of 'Pride in Country, Pride in Service, Pride in Self', the membership theme is 'Our Membership is Our Pride.' We will also use stars as we shoot for our goal! We are proud of California members, all of our great accomplishments and service to our organization. What better way to share our pride than by inviting new members to join us. While in fact we did attract 2,789 new members in 2006, what about the 3,364 members that did not renew? We need to figure ways to keep our current members! We must work together by joining forces and sharing the pride we feel in the American Legion Auxiliary. There are many ways to do this, some of which include just being kinder to each other, keep communication lines open, be inviting to new members, kill gossip by letting it stop with you. So many opportunities are missed that could save the relationship of new members with their Unit.

Let's start with good news! This year we have only five, instead of six targets to make! Using our Department President's military theme, our targets are based on our military's songs. Beginning with our 1st Target – 'Anchors Aweigh' at 55% of goal, due to Department by September 21, 2006 and 2nd Target – 'Off We Go Into the Wild Blue Yonder' at 65% of goal, due to Department by October 26, 2006. The Department of California 2007 goal is 29,418, which has been distributed to all 29 Districts. We need each and every member to help attain our goal. Encourage your members to renew now and offer rewards.

The Department President and this Department Chairman have entered into a very friendly challenge with the American Legion Membership Chairman, Floyd Martin. We will let you know later the fun payoff. Many of you know Floyd, our Past Department Commander, is a great membership recruiter, so we have our work cut out for us! But we are up for the challenge! The American Legion Auxiliary potentially has three eligible members to every one American Legion member, so be sure to work with your Post Membership Chairman. We can do it – together! Let's keep our membership strong, while we shoot for the stars with pride in our great country, pride in our service to this great organization and pride in our most important asset, our members!



Department Leadership enjoy 88th National Convention in Salt Lake City.

DATES TO CALENDAR

Sept. 9-10, 2006 – Workshop
Clovis Veterans Memorial Bldg., Clovis, CA

Oct. 15, 2006 – Leadership
TAL Chino Post 299, Chino, CA

Oct. 28, 2006 – Leadership
TAL California City Post 476, California City, CA

Nov. 4, 2006 – Leadership
TAL Monterey Cypress Post 694, Marina, CA

Jan. 12-14, 2007 – D.E.C. (Dept. Executive Mtg.)
Santa Clara, CA

June 2007 – ALA Dept. Convention
Palm Springs, CA



American Legion Auxiliary

Empowering Women – Inspiring Communities



Pride in Country – Pride in Service – Pride in Self



NEC WOMAN

Bonnie Christner

As the Junior Past President, it was my job to serve as the Chairman for the National Convention held in Salt Lake City, Utah, August 25-31 2006. What an honor it was for me to represent the Department of California in this capacity, and what an AWESOME time we all had. The Memorial Service that was held on Sunday was held in the Church of Latter Day Saints, and we were honored to be able to hear the Mormon Tabernacle Choir. They sang so beautifully that I would have been happy to sit and listen to them sing all day. The parade was also held that day, and I can assure you that the Department of California was very well represented. For those of you that took the time out of your busy schedules to attend the National Convention this year, I would like to thank you. Thank you for spending your hard-earned money and for the long hours you sat in sessions with me and for your support, I really appreciated it.

I am happy to report also that we took home quite a few Western Division Awards for California. I want to thank not only the wonderful members of this great state of ours, but also the Department Chairmen for doing an outstanding job for me this year. I read some of the reports that were sent in, and I know what great things our members do for our veterans, children and our communities. As I said at Department Convention, it was truly an awesome and wonderful year for me; and one I will cherish forever. Keep up the good work, ladies, so we can bring home some more awards next year for our new Department President Sandy.

MUSIC

Alice Christensen

Music is an activity that enhances meetings, socials and any type of gathering throughout the year. If no piano is available, use other resources, such as tapes. Use your imagination to bring music to the members of Unit or District. Some Units may have a song book of favorites available to sing at the end of a meeting or when/if there is a void.

As a positive resource, learn to use the suggestions as printed in the National News. Present a program in the month of September, which is designated as Music month. The Program may consist of the history of an old standard with focus on the song writer. If you have talented youth, incorporate their participation into the program not only in September but throughout the year.

Citations will be presented at year end to the Unit and District for the Best Supplemental Report. Watch for bulletins that will give guidance throughout the year.

DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN

Loretta Marsh

What a wonderful year to serve as Chaplain for the Auxiliary. With Department President Sandy's military theme, all those that have accepted the responsibility of serving as Chaplain in their Units and Districts, can take this opportunity to make the most of their positions. Being a Chaplain is bringing a sense of love and caring to your meetings. Know your members and tune into their needs.

And with this theme the promotion of the "Chapel of the Four Chaplains" seems particularly appropriate. The example of giving and caring cannot be more exemplified than with these four brave men. There are still members in our Units that have not heard this wonderful story. I would encourage you to see that each member is acquainted with the "Four Chaplains."

The "In Loving Tribute" fund is another vital function to acquaint members with. We get new members each year and sometimes take it for granted they know about these programs because they have been around for a while. The "In Loving Tribute" fund is not just for "memorial" donations but for "Get Well," "Birthday," "Anniversary," "Retirement" or any other special occasion. Honor your family and friends on these occasions with a contribution to the organization and cards are sent out by the Department.

Remember to treat others with the same caring and consideration you would like shown to you.

LEADERSHIP CHAIRMAN

Shelby Hitch

It is an honor to serve the Department of California as Vice President and Leadership Chairman this year.

The leadership chairmen will be known as the "Navy Instructors," we are planning three workshops throughout the date: October 15th we will meet in Chino, October 28th in California City and November 4th at the Monterey Cypress Post. Please attend one of the three; they will be a learning experience as well as a lot of fun. We will be educating, motivating, mentoring and developing new activities and resources for members of all ages.

After Department Convention, I had the privilege of attending Yountville Days, serving our Veterans that are in the home. What a rewarding experience to see their eyes light up at the smallest gesture. We handed out "ditty bags," served lunch, visited with them and listened to their stories; and they all had stories to tell.

We have just returned from National Convention in Salt Lake City, resolutions were presented and passed on the following programs: Auxiliary Emergency Fund, Chaplain, Education, Poppy, and Guidelines for Annual Report Forms.

Condoleezza Rice attended the Convention and Woman of the Year luncheon where she received the Auxiliary Woman of the Year Award. She spoke briefly to the assembly, commending the Auxiliary on the work that we do for our Veterans and their families.

In keeping with President Sandy's theme, Pride in Country, Pride in Service and Pride in Self, the Leadership Chairmen will be showing our pride in all that we do.

EDUCATION

Esther Garcia

October is Education month, and now is the time to start promoting our program. Our mission is to promote quality education for every child and to support students with their wishes to continue getting an education beyond high school. Please get the scholarship information to the schools early. Be available to answer any questions that the students may have and be able to help them fill out the applications if so needed.

National is asking us to set the following goals for the 2006-2007 year:

1. Scholarship.
 - a. Promote financial assistance for higher education
 - b. Encourage students to apply for National Scholarships
2. Literacy
 - a. Motivate children to read
 - b. Assisting adults to read, write, communicate and comprehend
3. Veterans in Classroom
 - a. Veterans sharing military stories with the children
 - b. Providing positive adult role models
 - c. Promoting leadership, patriotism, and Americanism
4. Supporting American Legion Programs
 - a. Support Policy on Education
 - b. PACT (Post Auxiliary Community Together)
 - c. Oratorical Contest
 - d. American's Veterans Video
 - e. For Which it Stands (DVD)
 - f. America's Veterans (DVD)

Other things you can do to support education are:

Campbell's Soup Labels Program www.labelsforeducation.com
and Boxtops for Education www.boxtop4education.com.

To submit articles contact:

Alice A. Christensen, ALA Department of California Editor

Phone: (559) 299-9314

e-mail: alchristensen@sbcglobal.net

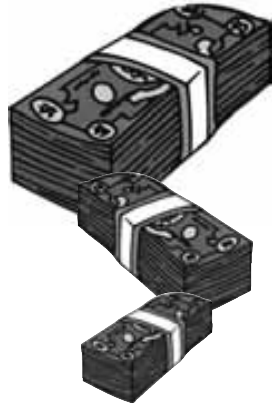
Contracted Issues: Sept./Oct. – Nov./Dec. – Mar./Apr. – May/June

2006 SUMMER SWEEPSTAKE RESULTS

The Summer Sweepstake Drawing was held at California Department Headquarters on the 2nd of October 2006 at 10:00 a.m.

HERE ARE THE WINNERS:

\$5,000.....KATHLEEN HAMON (108-11)
 \$2,000.....JAMES CLARKE (1000-HQ)
 \$2,000.....GEORGE D TAYLOR (274-1)
 \$2,000.....FRANCIS A CARTIER (41-28)
 \$2,000.....ROBERT E CONLIFFE (558-13)
 \$2,000.....BOB MYERS (369-2)
 \$1,000.....LARRY C TAYLOR (106-25)
 \$1,000.....EDWARD L ZELLMER (826-20)
 \$1,000.....JOSEPH P HALL (139-18)
 \$1,000.....ARTHUR D ROBERTSON (1000-HQ)
 \$1,000.....ERNIE ARNOLD (1000-HQ)



TFA – Temporary Financial Assistance

By

The American Legion National Commission on Children and Youth
 P.O. Box 1055
 Indianapolis, IN 46206
 (317) 623-1323

HOW TFA HELPS CHILDREN:

TFA is especially designed to assist minor children of eligible veterans through cash grants. In order to maintain a stable home environment for the child or children, grants are awarded to help families meet the costs of shelter, utilities, food and medical expenses.

statement from a Physician outlining the problem, treatment, and eliminated costs. Grants must be approved and grants cannot be awarded for previous medical expenses or care.

APPLICATION PROCESS

All TFA applications originate at the local or Post level. A local investigator visits with the family to determine the needs of the children. A completed application, supporting documents and proof of military service is forwarded to the Department Children and Youth Chairman or the Department Adjutant. The designated Department representative reviews, makes a recommendation, and forwards the approved application to the National Headquarters.

The Americanism and Children and Youth Division reviews approved cases and forwards a recommendation to the National Adjutant. Upon approval by the National Adjutant, a check is drawn and forwarded to the Department Adjutant for delivery to the Post or family.

MAINTENANCE GRANTS;

1. SHELTER
2. FOOD
3. UTILITIES
4. CLOTHING

Maintenance grants cannot be awarded for previously incurred debt, except to:

1. Prevent disconnection of utilities
2. Prevent eviction or foreclosure

MEDICAL GRANTS FOR A CHILD:

1. MEDICAL CARE
2. SURGERY
3. MEDICATIONS
4. DENTAL CARE
5. HOSPITALIZATION
6. DIETARY NEEDS

Medical grants require a written

Mauricio S. Ilaga Turns 100



Comrade Mauricio S. Ilaga's 100th Birthday Celebration and celebrates 60th year in The American Legion at Magellan Post #604 Sacramento, CA, Aug 20, 2006. Photo by Sarah T. Enloe.



The winning tickets were drawn by Robert "Bob" Lando (40-8) and handed to the (new) Department Adjutant Bill Siler III. Vince Rios (1-8) and Net La Cap, Program Coordinator, were witness to the drawing with the remaining Department Headquarter staff observing from behind the camera view.

16th Annual Junior Air Rifle National Championship Results

The 16th annual Junior Air Rifle National Championship was held August 3-5, 2006 at the USA Shooting range, Olympic Training Center, Colorado Springs, Colorado.

The 2006 American Legion Junior Air Rifle National Champions are:

Precision

Thomas Santelli – 2474.4/2509
 Washington, Pennsylvania
 Frazier-Simplex Shooting Team
 Edwin Scott Linton Post 17(PA)5

Sporter

Tempe Regan – 2286.1/2509
 Superior, Montana
 Mineral County 4-H Shooting Sports
 Ray Welch Post 13 (MT)

Precision 2nd through 5th place finishers:

2nd

Ethan Settlemires – 2458.8
 Walnut, Mississippi
 Cross Roads Sport Shooting
 Peter A. Johns Post 6 (MS)

3rd

Emily Holsopple – 2457.7
 Wilcox, Pennsylvania
 DuBois Rifle and Pistol Club
 DuBois Post 17 (PA)

4th

Michael Kulbacki – 2450.2
 DuBois, Pennsylvania
 DuBois Rifle and Pistol Club
 DuBois Post 17 (PA)

5th

Christina Dutra – 2449.2
 Grampian, Pennsylvania
 DuBois Rifle and Pistol Club
 DuBois Post 17 (PA)

Sporter 2nd through 5th place finishers:

2nd

Nicole Heitmeyer – 2277.4
 King George, Virginia
 King George High School NJROTC
 Ratcliffe-Owens-Summer Post 89 (VA)

3rd

Lauren Strebel – 2276.2
 Pottstown, Pennsylvania
 Palmyra Junior Rifle Team
 Palmyra Post 72 (PA)

4th

Max Stovall – 2270.1
 Sparks, Nevada
 Spanish Springs High School JROTC
 Post 1 (NV)

5th

Danielle Poteete – 2265.3
 Sparks, Nevada
 Spanish Springs High School JROTC
 Post 1 (NV)

The following tournament records were either tied or broken:

PRECISION PRONE (800 possible):
 Thomas Santelli tied the record of 800.

PRECISION STANDING (800 possible)
 Thomas Santelli set the new record of 785; the old record of 784 was set in 2005.

The winner of the annual Francis M. Redington Sportsmanship award was:

Christina Dutra. Dutra was selected by the tournament staff as the athlete competing in The American Legion Junior Air Rifle National Championship who best exemplified good sportsmanship and fair play.

TAPS

George Sinopoli – 1918-2006



George was born on April 13, 1918 in Fresno, Ca. He attended school in both Fresno, CA, and Chicago Heights, IL. He returned to Fresno as a teen and lived here the remainder of his life. George passed peacefully on August 30, 2006.

He enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps in 1942 and served as an airplane mechanic. He qualified for Flight Training as a cadet in 1943. He graduated as a Pilot in 1943 in Marfa, Texas and served in the Troop Carrier Command.

George joined The American Legion in 1951 and held many offices in the organization: Post Commander of 594, District Commander, Department Commander of the State of California and Aid to the National Commander his good friend, Bruce Thiesen. He was a life member of The American Legion, Disabled American Veterans and AM-VETS.

He served California Veterans by being appointed to the California Veterans Board in 1964 by Governor Pat

Brown. He continued to serve on the California Veterans Board as Chairman for Governors Ronald Regan, Jerry Brown, Gray Davis and Arnold Schwarzenegger.

George has been a professional veterans' advocate for California Veterans and energetically supported all assistance to the homeless veterans as well as all veterans in residence at the three California Veterans Homes. He was also a founding member of the Central Valley California Veterans Home Support Foundation, dedicated to the building of a Veterans Home here in Fresno, CA, to serve valley veterans.

George is survived by his wife of 65 years, Mary; daughter, Gloria Jean Sinopoli of Fresno, CA; son, Sam Sinopoli of Las Vegas, Nevada; and grandchildren Anthony and Michael of Fresno, California, and Julia and Lauren of Las Vegas, Nevada.

Lemuel C. Goode – 1927-2006

Lem was born on January 31, 1927 in Marmaduke, Arkansas, son of C. Organ Goode and Maude Jane Johnson. The family moved to California about 1937. Lem attended School in Bakersfield until he enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1944. Lem served aboard the U.S.S. Enterprise and was involved in the battles of the Marshall Islands, Saipan, Rota and Guam, Okinawa and

Iwo Jima.

He returned to Bakersfield and worked for Southern Pacific Railroad. He joined the U.S. Marine Corps Reserves in 1948 and was called to active duty for the Korean Conflict in September 1950. He participated in the invasion at Inchon, fought through Seoul and beyond the 38th Parallel to the Chosin Reservoir.

Lem was the recipient of The Silver Star, Bronze Star with Combat V, two Purple Hearts, Victory Medal, American Campaign Ribbon with 7 battle stars, United Nations Ribbon, Korean Campaign Ribbon with 4 battle stars, Korean Unit Citation, 2 Presidential Unit Citations, and National Defense Ribbon.

Lem is survived by his lovely wife of 55 years, Barbara; sons Michael and Patrick; sisters Hazel Lyles, Edress Thomason; Granddaughters and numerous nieces and nephews. Lem was a member of Fresno Federal Post 509. Lem was laid to rest at Fresno Memorial Gardens.

Darby Duff

Commander of Morrison Memorial Post 574 (Moreno Valley), transferred to Post Everlasting on September 2, after a long battle with cancer.



Paul Terry Grande Publicist

Grand Chief de Gare Robert Mattson has called for the fall Grands Chrminots meeting to be held Saturday and Sunday, November 4-5 in Santa Clara, California with the host being Sam Tomas Voiture 365.

HEADQUARTERS HOTEL will be:

Biltmore Hotel and Suites
2151 Laurelwood Road
Santa Clara, Ca. 95054
Phone (408) 988-8411
Fax (408) 986-9807

Rates are \$ 79.00 plus 9.5% plus \$ 1.00 TID tax per room for a total of \$ 87.51. Make your reservations direct to the hotel and mention the American Legion or 40/8.

Hotel is close to San Jose airport and will have shuttle service to that airport vice versa to Hotel. Courtesy phone at airport at baggage pick up, just push button and call for pickup.

There will be socializing at Mission City Post 564 on Friday evening and Karaoke in the Lounge. Food service will be available.

All Grande Voiture, La Femmes meetings and banquet will be held at Mission City Post 564, which is located at 2120 Walsh Avenue in Santa Clara. (Maps

Forty & Eight Grande de California

will be available at Hotel)

Banquet will be either beef or chicken for the reasonable price of \$ 15.00

Reservations to Mr. William Carney at 7153 Calero Hills Ct., San Jose CA 95139-1512, Phone (408) 224-3762

Meeting schedule will be posted at the Hotel. All meetings will be held at Mission City Post 564.

Chef de Chemin de Fer Thomas Stockmal, "National Commander" of the Forty and Eight paid a brief visit to California. His visit consisted of three medical facilities in Northern California and three in San Diego.

On Tuesday, August 29th, he visited The Palo Alto VA Hospital, the trauma center, Hospice ward, 21-room Fisher house, which was dedicated last April.

Severely wounded Soldiers from Iraq arrive at Walter Reed Hospital, and when able to be moved, are sent to one of seven trauma Hospitals in US. Palo Alto VA Hospital is the trauma Hospital for the West coast.

Bill Ball, Chief of Voluntary services gave a very informative tour. A reception was given for Chief Tom at Voiture Home—Mission City Post 564.

Thursday, August 31, 'Chef Tom' called on the VAMC at La Jolla. There he met the Director of Volunteer Resources Management Service Ms. Lorelei Winn. Ms. Winn provided an enlightening tour of the facilities at the VAMC, particularly the

Spinal Cord Injury section of the medical center. Including an extensive tour of the rehab and recovery areas.

On Friday, September 1, Stockmal visited the new "Wounded Warriors Center" at Camp Pendleton, CA. We were greeted by Corporal Shannon and shown the facilities and later visited with Gy Sgt Mel Greer, SNCOINC for the center.

Later that day, we traveled to the Naval Medical Center (Balboa Hospital) where Chef Tom was well received by the Armed Service YMCA Senior Program Manager Cherri Barnswell. After an informative indoctrination as to the "Y's" involvement in the recovery effort for returning wounded personnel, we were escorted to the Marine Liaison unit at the hospital by Associate Program Director Evelyn Bardales where we visited with numerous returning veterans and staff members. At each location, 60 handmade lap robes were presented to our returning heroes or in some cases left with the staff to distribute. The robes were a gift from the Women of The Grange in the State of Washington.

Chef Tom departed San Diego on September 2nd for Tampa, FL, and was pleased with his visit to the facilities in San Diego, and Palo Alto.

**Carl Asher, National Director Public Relations
Robert Page, VAR Voiture 393**



Candidate for the Governor of California Phil Angelides also attended the 88th Department Covention pictured on the left before being escorted to the stage by Department Sgt.-At-Arms James Higuera. In the background are PNC Bruce Thiesen and PDC George Sinopoli.

Commission Organizational Call-In

October 28 & 29, 2006

at Charles P. Rowe
Post 30 in Pomona

See page 3 for details



The American Legion NASCAR.

Deadline Dates

September 8, 2006	March 9, 2007
November 3, 2006	May 4, 2007
January 5, 2007	July 6, 2007

California Leadership and Members Gather at Yountville



California Leadership at Yountville. Photo by Bob Cozad.



Auxiliary President Sandy Jacob addresses Yountville Picnic. Photo by Bob Cozad.



L to R: Legion Member, Bob Cozad, and Commander Eskridge enjoy refreshment break after the front 9. Photo by Bob Cozad.



Commander Eskridge shows his form at Yountville Golf Tournament.

Photo by Bob Cozad.

Legion Days



Legion Days at Yountville Veterans Home, Yountville, CA. Photo by Bob Cozad.



Legion Days at Yountville Veterans Home, Yountville, CA. Photo by Bob Cozad.



Members of Karl Ross Post 16 meet Dept. CMDR Eskridge, fr. L to R - active post member, CMDR Jackie Reed, Dept. CMDR Eskridge, Past Nat. West. Region CMDR Leo Burke. Photo by Bob Cozad.



Sons of TAL Dept. CMDR Mark Severance, Dept. Commander Eskridge, Auburn Post 84 and team representative Court Bradbury and 1st Area Vice CMDR Robert Canclini hold up Baseball trophy won by th Auburn Team. Photo by Bob Cozad.