



Stevens Creek Post 642 The Ranger Way
June 2025 Newsletter
Mailing Address: PO Box 302,
Cupertino, CA 95015



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Source: Army Ranger Full Color Embroidered Tab – Vanguard Industries (vanguardmil.com)

For more events and detailed event information please visit our [website events page](#).

Commander's Corner

We are quickly coming to the end of our 2024-25 American Legion Year for our Post. I wanted to look back at what our Post accomplished this past year.

VA BBQ's-We held 3 BBQs for the Mental Health shut in patients at the Palo Alto VA. A big thanks to Mike O'Meara for coordinating these BBQs with the VA.

Boys/Girls State-Our Post sponsored two high school juniors who participated in the Boy/State Program held in late June in Sacramento. A big thanks to the late Gordon Hall who was the POC for our Post and recruited and took care of the administrative aspects of the program for our sponsored students.

Post Picnic-We held our annual Post Picnic in July at Steven Creek County Park and had a decent turnout for the event. This is one of the two key Post social events we have each year. A big thanks to Bill Reichard and Mike O'Meara for planning this event.

De Anza Student Veterans Lunches-Out Post sponsored and served 3 lunches (one each quarter) for the Veterans who are students at De Anza College. It is a way for us to welcome them to the community, get a chance to know them and more importantly engage with them regarding career choices, membership in our Post and assist them in any way possible. A big thanks to Vince, Jim Barnhart for assisting with these lunches and purchasing the food.

Veterans Day-Our Post had several members participate at the Miller Middle School Veterans Day program, and we also participated at the Cupertino Veterans Day Celebration at Cupertino Memorial Park.

Christmas/Holiday Dinner-Was held at the Blue Pheasant with a smaller turnout than in previous years. A big thank you to Mike O'Meara for coordinating this event.

Wreaths Across America-Took place in December and under Dennis Whittaker's guidance our Post sold over 1,100 wreaths for the event at Gate of Heaven Cemetery. Vince played the bag pipes, I was the MC, and several other members of the Post were involved with the event.

Lastly regarding our 2024-25 year, based on the input from our members who submitted their Americanism Report, our Post members volunteered over 850 hours of their time supporting Veterans and the community. Additionally, members spent over \$8000 of their own money supporting various programs and events.

These events that our Post sponsors for Veterans, the community and our members doesn't happen by itself. Post members are the ones who make it happen, and although we are close to meeting our membership goal of 68, the number of active members has been declining for the past several years. Our Post Vietnam War Veterans are most of our Post, however they are aging and passing the baton to the younger Veterans. Unfortunately, there are not enough younger Veterans in our Post who can pick up the torch and continue to support all the work that our Post has and is doing. We need to recruit newer and younger members so that our Post can remain a viable part of the Cupertino community this coming year and for years to come.

Please reach out to other Veterans that you know or meet on the street, at the store or some of the volunteer or other activities in which you are involved. Invite them to our meeting, which is the reason we have a social hour prior to the meeting so that they can speak with other Veterans and members of our Post.

We are the largest Veteran Organization in the United States, and we need all members to step up and recruit and bring in new members.

Thanks again for all of you who do so much for Veterans in our community and it has been an honor to have served as your Commander this past year.

"Duty First"!

Arturo



Upcoming events for June 2025-August 2025

2 Jun	1900 hrs.	Post 642 Monthly Meeting and Installation of Officers (Dinner served at 1800 Hrs. Oddfellows Cupertino Lodge #70, 20589 Homestead Ave. Cupertino, CA
14 Jun	1000 hrs.	VA BBQ at Palo Alto VA, Bldg. 520, 3801 Miranda Ave, Palo Alto,
1 July	1900 hrs.	Post 642 Monthly Meeting in Person (Dinner served at 1800 hrs.) Oddfellows. Cupertino Lodge #70, 20589 Homestead Ave. Cupertino, CA
26 July	1100 hrs.	Post 642 Annual Picnic, Stevens Creek County Park: Sycamore Picnic Area
29 July	1900 Hrs.	District 13 Meeting, Post 318 1504 Minnesota Ave, San Jose, CA 95125
4 Aug	1900 hrs.	Post 642 Monthly Meeting and Installation of Officers (Dinner served at 1800 Hrs. Oddfellows Cupertino Lodge #70, 20589 Homestead Ave. Cupertino, CA

For more events and detailed event information please visit our [website events page](#).

Other Activities on Post Calendar

Fellow Legionnaires, although our Post does not have many events as in the past, I have updated our [Post calendar](#) with events from Posts that are close to Cupertino. Please look as there are a considerable number of events that are open to Legionnaires and their families. More importantly by attending you can have fun and support the American Legion.

1st Vice Commander's Note

Greetings Fellow Legionnaires,

Please invite fellow veterans, even if they aren't American Legion members yet, to our [Post meeting which is on June 2nd](#) at the [Odd Fellows Lodge #70 Hall](#). This month also brings us the [Post 858 Chess Parlor every Monday](#), [Vet to Vet Café at Post 419 on Thursdays](#), [First VA BBQ of the Summer on the 14th](#), [Mobile medical outreach for Veterans in Gilroy \(20th\)](#) and [5th Annual Operation Care and Comfort Poker Tournament \(21st\)](#). June 14th is also the 250th Anniversary of the US Army. The Post Office introduced new stamps for the Army, Navy and Marines 250th starting on the May 16th.

We are still working on increasing membership and meeting current goals. The post has an application page for both new applications and renewals at <https://www.americanlegionpost642.com/site/application.php> or your My Legion account here: <https://mylegion.org/PersonifyEbusiness/Membership/Renew> I would highly recommend signing up for autopay of your memberships, especially since our new membership year starts in June.

We have taken care of elderly Post Members annual membership like our remaining WWII Veterans. This is to keep them in the loop with our newsletter, Buddy Checks, etc. I am continuing to reach out to Post 1000 members. Remember that our Student Veterans are also subsidized, so please reach out to me or Arturo to renew this year and the coming year to maintain continuity of service.

Michael Fouts should be inducted into the Post this month.

We would really like to get more people attending the Post meetings and events and enjoy social aspects of membership, so let us know your ideas by coming to our meetings. Do give us heads up, so that we can requisition extra rations versus our regular contingent. The next person on the meals roster will have to get the cooler with drinks, etc. If additional drinks are required, it will be reimbursed above the normal meal amount. Remember, if you need a ride, contact either me or one of the officers. **Arturo has the cooler.**

Please remember that if you have Post or Veterans events that you would like on the calendar to get them to Arturo or the District. Please include pertinent information like event information, contacts, address, where to meet, etc. [Events Calendar](#)

If you know of deceased members during the past few months either bring their name and share with our District Chaplain, Sunny Dosanjh or send to him at dos@dosanjhusa.com. Unfortunately, we have confirmed with the family that Fenton Hill, one of our WWII Veterans has entered Post Everlasting.

To Comradeship!
Vincent Guinnane, MSME, P.E.
CW4, 881A1, USAR (Retired)
vguinnane@comcast.net

Meals Roster 2025

June: David
July: Bob
August: Arturo
September: Mike
October: Jim
November: Ken
December: Michael O'Meara
January: Bill
February: Vince
March: Dennis
April: George
May:?

2025 Membership Report (As of 16 May)

2025 Membership Goal: 68
Paid Up for Life (PUFL): 16 (-2)
Online Renewals: 21
Mail Renewals: 23
Post 1000 Transfers: 2
Newly renewed Members: 1

Total Members: 64
New Members: 1
Renewals Pending Submittal: 1
Members not yet renewed: 4
District Rank: Tied for 3rd/12

Membership Reports

<https://americanlegionpost642.com/index.php?id=94>



Source: <https://images.app.goo.gl/t54bPZ7B2fTUxaLx8>

Service Officer Report

<https://americanlegionpost642.com/index.php?id=119>

Weren't able to attend the May 23rd Santa Clara County event? No problem.

Enroll in VA health care.

- **Apply online:** [VA.gov/health-care/apply/application/introduction](https://www.va.gov/health-care/apply/application/introduction)
- **Apply over the phone:** Call VA toll-free at **1-800-MyVA411** (1-800-698-2411), Option 2.
- **Apply in-person:** Visit your nearest VA medical center (<https://www.VA.gov/find-locations>).

Submit a VA disability compensation \$\$\$ claim.

- [Schedule a virtual or in-person appointment with a VA benefits specialist.](#)
- [Submit your VA disability claim online.](#)
- [Get help from a VA accredited representative or Veteran Service Organization.](#)



with everyone you know who may benefit, including Veterans, caregivers, service members and survivors.

We're making millions of Veterans eligible for [VA health care](#) under the [PACT Act](#). Here's what YOU need to know.

- If you served in **Vietnam**, the **Gulf War**, **Iraq**, or **Afghanistan**, you can enroll.
- If you deployed to **any combat zone after 9/11**, you can enroll.
- If you **deployed in support of the Global War on Terror**, you can enroll.
- And **even if you never deployed but were exposed to toxins** or hazards while training or serving on active duty here at home—by working with chemicals, pesticides, lead, asbestos, certain paints, nuclear weapons, x-rays, and more—you can enroll, too.

Bottom line: all Veterans who meet the minimum service requirements and were exposed to toxins and other hazards—at home or abroad—are eligible to enroll in VA care.

VA provides the best and most affordable health care for Veterans in America – and *this* is your chance to apply. Veterans who are enrolled in VA health care are proven to have better health outcomes than those who get their care elsewhere. And copays can be as low as \$0 for prescriptions, urgent care, outpatient care, and more.

Choosing VA means getting everything you need in one spot. Come see why 90% of patients said they trust VA for their health care. Even if you don't need this care today, you may need it tomorrow, or the next day, or 30 years from now. And once you're in, you have access for life.

DID YOU SERVE HERE?

YOU MIGHT HAVE BEEN EXPOSED TO:

- AIR POLLUTANTS:** Burn pits, oil well fires, sulfur fire, sand, dust, and particulates
- CHEMICALS:** Agent Orange or other herbicides, pesticides, and depleted uranium
- OCCUPATIONAL HAZARDS:** Asbestos, lead, fuels, and industrial solvents
- RADIATION:** Nuclear weapons testing and ionizing radiation
- WARFARE AGENTS:** Chemical warfare agents, nerve agents, and mustard gas

Service members may have been subjected to any of these exposures in any of these areas.

If you served on the ground, in the airspace above, in territorial waters, or a ship that called there, you may be eligible for VA benefits and health care for over 300 conditions.

LEARN MORE about toxic exposure screening, toxic-exposure related benefits, and VA health care by visiting [VA.gov/PACT](https://www.va.gov/PACT) or calling 1-800-MyVA411 (1-800-698-2411).

Labels on map: SYRIA, LEBANON, JORDAN, EGYPT, SAUDI ARABIA, KUWAIT, IRAQ, BHRAIN, QATAR, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES, OMAN, YEMEN, DJIBOUTI, SOMALIA, UZBEKISTAN, AFGHANISTAN, PALOMARES, SPAIN, GUAM, AMERICAN SAMOA, JOHNSTON ATOLL, ENEWETAK ATOLL, THULE AFB, GREENLAND, LAOS, THAILAND, CAMBODIA, VIETNAM

VA U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

[Historian's Report](https://americanlegionpost642.com/index.php?id=102)

<https://americanlegionpost642.com/index.php?id=102>

National Days and Months:

There is a neat description of June here with regard to the National Days and also where the rest of these links can be found. <https://www.nationaldaycalendar.com/June> Oklahoma, New Mexico, Arizona, and Alaska were all admitted to the Union in June. There are also quite a few culinary days like National Strawberry Rhubarb Pie Day (a personal favorite as we grew Rhubarb in backyard in Detroit) and Martini Day.

[NATIONAL HEIMLICH MANEUVER DAY - June 1](https://youtu.be/GFCYB4vMw9E?si=6QwdQpNzeAoIyDPj)

<https://youtu.be/GFCYB4vMw9E?si=6QwdQpNzeAoIyDPj>

D-Day | June 6 https://youtu.be/Abk0mhu4a-g?si=7Hgvwp_RQeMle7P

NATIONAL EYEWEAR DAY | JUNE 6

VA cover eyewear? https://youtu.be/zPcCJfl_38M?si=6M1vFGzdpFQGsabX

Types of Lenses: https://youtu.be/ggsz3B3lo7E?si=n-0uktoswOS_aa-N

ARMY BIRTHDAY - June 14 <https://youtu.be/Bcfk1WHC33o?si=qWOC-zQsQzpGhKIL>

NATIONAL FLAG DAY - June 14 <https://youtu.be/qy6iTfKEbA8?si=HqWfBszKXmChZ5tB>

NATIONAL AMERICAN EAGLE DAY - June

20 <https://youtu.be/FaS515ZkFOU?si=F3sfQMdJv4R5xgB7>

FATHER'S DAY - Third Sunday in June https://youtu.be/WVGo0m_DOxY?si=e5-vwxa2-iKLhyy6

NATIONAL PTSD AWARENESS DAY-June

27 https://youtu.be/YMC2jt_QVEE?si=LHRNPSv_klmV6mHI

Military History: D-Day

June 5

ft 1794: The first six officers of the new United States Navy receive their commissions: Captain John Barry (the first captain in the Continental Navy and considered the "father of the American Navy), Samuel Nicholson, Silas Talbot, Joshua Barney, Richard Dale, and Thomas Truxtun.

1917: The First Naval Aeronautical Detachment lands at Brest, France, becoming the first American military unit deployed for World War I. The Naval aviators, commanded by Lt. Kenneth Whiting, will conduct anti-submarine patrols throughout the war. The service collier USS *Jupiter* that carried the detachment across the Atlantic will be converted to the United States' first aircraft carrier, USS *Langley* (CV-1) in 1920.

1944: As the sun sets on airfields across England, 13,328 American paratroopers with the 82d and 101st Airborne Divisions (along with nearly 8,000 British and Canadian paratroopers) board the C-47 transports and gliders that will carry them behind Nazi lines on "the Great Crusade." 1,000 British bombers pound German defenses at the beaches of Normandy while thousands of ships carrying some 130,000 Allied soldiers steam towards France After months of planning, Operation Overlord is finally underway. Earlier in the day, Lt. Col. Leon R. Vance led a diversionary bombing mission over Wimereaux, France. Anti-aircraft fire cripples his plane, killing the pilot and wounding Vance and several crew members. Despite only one engine still functioning, he regains control of the aircraft and continues to lead the formation as they successfully bomb the target. With the assistance of another airman, he applies a tourniquet to his leg and orders the crew to bail out of the fatally wounded bomber. When he learns that one of the airmen is too injured to bail, he ditches the aircraft in the English Channel to help give his comrade a fighting chance of survival. Vance is pinned in the cockpit as the bomber slips under the waves, but is blown clear of the bird by an explosion. Vance is awarded the Medal of Honor after being recovered by search-and-rescue crews.

Meanwhile, the B-29 "Superfortress" flies its first combat mission. Bombers flying out of airfields in India attack Japanese rail lines and other targets in Bangkok, Thailand.

1951: Benjamin F. Wilson served as an infantry officer during World War II before resigning his commission. He re-enlists as a private shortly after leaving the service volunteers for combat in Korea. When Master Sgt.

Wilson's company is ordered to take the well-fortified Hell Hill, Wilson leads a bayonet charge that nets 27 dead Chinese soldiers. The enemy mounts a counterattack and Wilson makes a one-man charge that drives off the communists. The battlefield is littered with dead and wounded soldiers taken out by Wilson's rifle, bayonet, grenades, and entrenching tool. Just four days after the actions that would earn him the Medal of Honor, Wilson ignores his wounds and conducts another valiant one-man charge when his unit is forced to seek cover during another assault on an enemy-held hill near Nodong-ni, Korea. Wilson is again recommended for the Medal of Honor, but since Army policy forbids awarding the prestigious honor to the same soldier more than once, he is awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.

1971: Special Forces Staff Sgt. Jon R. Cavaiani's platoon is attacked by a numerically superior enemy force at a camp in Vietnam. Cavaiani, acting as the platoon leader, delivers heavy fire on the enemy using a variety of weapons and when the decision is made to evacuate the camp, he organizes the withdrawal by helicopter. The next morning, the enemy attacks again before helicopters can lift out the remaining defenders. Cavaiani mans a machine gun and orders his fellow soldiers to escape. After inflicting severe losses on the enemy soldiers, he is captured and spends the next two years in captivity. Upon his return to the States, the Irish-born Cavaiani is awarded the Medal of Honor.

June 6

1918: Two battalions of Marines, led by Brig. Gen. James Harbord, advance against four German divisions in Belleau Wood, the site of an old French hunting preserve near Chateau-Thierry. The Marines face withering fire, with over 1,000 casualties in the first day of battle alone. In three weeks, the Marines drive out the Germans, but at a high cost; Enemy machine guns, artillery, and gas attacks inflict 10,000 American casualties. But the tenacity of the "Devil Dogs" at Belleau Wood becomes legend.

During the battle, Lt. (j.g.) Weedon E. Osborne - a medical officer attached to the 6th Marines - is killed by an enemy shell while carrying the wounded to safety. He is posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor.

Meanwhile, a wounded Gunnery Sgt. Ernest A. Janson (serving under the name of Charles Hoffman) and his fellow Marines are consolidating the ground they recently gained at Hill 142. The Germans attempt a counterattack, and when Janson spots 12 enemy soldiers making their way towards the Americans, he rushes forward, killing the leaders with his bayonet and scattering the remaining men. The Army and Navy both award Janson with the Medal of Honor.

1942: Commander-in-chief of the Combined Fleet Admiral Yamamoto Isoroku orders his fleet to withdraw from the Battle of Midway. Although the Americans have lost the carrier *Yorktown*

and a destroyer, Japanese losses are staggering: all four of the fleet's aircraft carriers (whose aircraft attacked Pearl Harbor six months ago) and a heavy cruiser are sent to the bottom. After a long string of defeats, the United States Navy has dealt Japan "the most stunning and decisive blow in the history of naval warfare."

1944: Just after 2 a.m., some 13,000 American and British paratroopers and glider troops begin landing behind enemy lines in France. 2,000 Allied aircraft bombard German positions in preparation of the invasion. And five hours later, nearly 150,000 American, British, and Canadian troops hit the beaches at Normandy. 1,200 warships and over 4,000 landing ships from eight different navies support the invasion. "Utah" Beach (VII Corps) and "Omaha" Beach (V Corps) are on the right flank. To the left are Gold, Juno, and Sword Beaches, which fall under British command. Losses are heavy for both sides and 4,414 American and Allied soldiers die on "D-Day" - the first day of the largest amphibious operation in history.

On Utah Beach, Pvt. Carlton W. Barrett, 1st Lt. Jimmie W. Montieth Jr., and Technician 5th Grade John J. Pinder Jr. are each awarded the Medal of Honor for valor. On Omaha Beach, World War I veteran and son of former president Theodore Roosevelt, Brig. Gen. Theodore Roosevelt Jr. also earns the Medal of Honor.

1957: Two Navy F-8U "Crusaders" and two A-3D "Skywarriors" launch from the deck of USS *Bon Homme Richard* (CVA 31) off the coast of California and fly to USS *Saratoga* (CVA 60), operating off Florida in the first transcontinental, carrier-to-carrier flight. The Crusaders land after three hours and 28 minutes, while the Skywarriors make the trip in four hours and one minute.

1964: Navy Lt. Charles F. Klusmann's RF-8A Crusader was hit for the second time in two days by communist anti-aircraft fire while flying an armed reconnaissance mission in Laos' Plain of Jars. Klusmann was hit the day before and as his damaged plane burned for 20 minutes during the return trip to the deck of USS *Kitty Hawk*. On this day, however, he is forced to eject and is captured by enemy forces. Rescue Combat Air Patrol aircraft launch as soon as the first fixed-wing aircraft lost in Southeast Asia goes down and nearby "Air America" helicopters stand by for the order to launch, but all assets are ordered to stand down. Klusmann has been abandoned by his government. As word of the betrayal passes up the military's chain of command, Adm. Harry D. Felt phones Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara, who confirms that Klusmann is on his own. Felt demands to be put through to the President Lyndon Johnson, and finally gets authorization for the rescue mission. By then, it is too late; two helicopters are turned around by heavy enemy fire, critically wounding the would-be rescuers. Klusmann incredibly manages to escape in August - one of only a handful of downed airmen to slip out of captivity during what will become the Vietnam War.

June 7, 1830: Following nearly four years at sea, the sloop of war USS *Vincennes* arrives at New York, becoming the first United States warship to circumnavigate the globe.

1942: Japan lands an invasion force and occupies the Alaskan islands of Attu and Kiska. 25 American soldiers are killed on Attu and the inhabitants of both islands are relocated and placed in internment. The attack was originally intended to be a diversion for the U.S. Navy during the Battle of Midway, which by this time has been cancelled. Less than a year later, U.S. and Canadian troops will wipe out the Japanese occupying force nearly to a man.

1944: (D-Day Plus 1) Allied warplanes pound enemy armor and vehicles moving towards the beaches of Normandy. The 1st and 29th Infantry Divisions make slow progress expanding the beachhead at Omaha Beach, where casualties are heavier than all other sectors combined. On Utah Beach, the 4th Infantry Division begins linking up with the heavily scattered paratroopers (only ten percent landed in their drop zones) of the 82d and 101st Airborne Divisions. Three companies of 2d Battalion Rangers, which famously scaled the 100-ft. cliffs at Pointe du Hoc under fire the day before, have taken 50 percent casualties, with their commander Lt. Col. James Rudder having been shot twice. The isolated Rangers will endure numerous counterattacks by

Germany's 914th Grenadier Regiment throughout the day and won't be relieved until D-Day Plus 2. Meanwhile, construction begins on harbors that will deliver soldiers, vehicles, and materiel to the new Western Front.