



The Ranger Way

March 2026



Commanders Corner

Commander's Corner

Greetings Fellow Legionnaires,

I hope that everyone had a Happy Valentine's Day celebration and are getting ready for St. Patrick's Day. Maureen has already been putting up the seasonal pennants and décor. The Four Chaplains Ceremony at St. Frances Cabrini Church was well attended. We do have more good news from the VA which is in the Service Officer Section of the Newsletter like Second Amendment Rights restored for Veterans, they are moving to speed delivery of Survivor Benefits and if you are enrolled with VA Health, you may be eligible for free medical supplies from the VA. My HealtheVet info on phone app, CPAP supplies. The History Officer Section has some information on various health issues that are given month or day remembrances, National Anthem Day, the K-9 Corps was formed, POWs were released from the Hanoi Hilton, Patrick Henry's Famous speech, and multiple Medal of Honor stories.

All are invited to our Post meeting which is on March 2nd where we have a social hour prior to the meeting with meals served, so please plan on attending. There are also the usual District-wide events like Monday chess at Post 858, Vet to Vet Café at Post 419 on Thursdays. Post 419 is also hosts a First Sunday Breakfast on the 1st. The District Meeting is on the 24th [Check the District 13 Calendar](#) for information.

Remember that we generally meet at [the Odd Fellows Lodge #70 on Homestead Road](#) on the first Monday of the Month at 1800 for socializing and a light meal and refreshments then check out the meeting at 1900.

We really want to get more people attending the Post meetings and events and to be more social, so let us know your ideas by coming to our meetings. **I would like the current attending members/officers to use the roster to call and invite members to our**

meeting which is also a form of Buddy Check. Newly attending members do give us a heads-up, so that we can requisition extra rations versus our regular contingent. The next person on the meals roster ([on the Adjutant's Corner](#)) will take the cooler with drinks, etc. for the next meeting. If additional drinks are required, it will be reimbursed above the normal meal amount. I have the cooler and will bring it to the meeting for the meal.

We need a Finance Officer to step up as our long time Finance Officer Mike O'Meara needed to step down for personal reasons and Arturo is temporarily holding that position as well as Adjutant. If you have questions about the position, please reach out to either Mike O'Meara at (408) 691-8277 or momeara47@yahoo.com or Arturo. In our Post Bylaws Section 5. Duties of the Finance Officer. The Finance Officer shall be charged with custody of the funds of the Post. He shall keep its accounts and report thereon at regular meeting of the Post. They shall receive all funds of the Post and pay all bills approved by the Post. The office of Finance Officer and any other officer and/or positions charged by the Post Constitution and/or Bylaws, with the responsibility of handling Post funds, should be bonded and must pass a credit check. This position is important for maintaining the Post Charter and eligibility in the District.

Please remember that if you have Post or Veterans events that you would like on the calendar get them to Arturo. Please include pertinent information like event information, contacts, address, where to meet, etc.

<https://www.americanlegionpost642.com/site/eventscalendar.php?y=2023&m=3>

If you know of deceased members during the past few months either bring their name and share with our District Chaplain, (currently vacant) so contact the Adjutant at wheimsoth@aol.com with information or if you would like to volunteer for the District 13 Chaplain position.

To Comradeship!
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First Vice Commanders Notes

None

2026 Membership Report (As of 22 February 2026)

2026 Membership Goal: 65
Paid Up for Life (PUFL): 13
Online Annual Renewals: 14
Multi-Annual Renewals: 4
Mail Renewals: 17
Post 1000 Transfers: 0

Total Members: 44/67.7%
Newly renewed Members: 0
New Members: 0
Renewals Pending Submittal: 0
Members not yet renewed: 24
District Rank: 11th out of 11

Renewed Members Since Last Report: 1
Chester Theuner, US Army-Vietnam 3 years

[Membership Report URL](#)

Adjutant Update

Fellow Legionnaires,

I write this on a nice rainy afternoon here in San Jose, enjoying the views from my study. I wanted to let everyone know that Post 642 had the biggest turnout of all Post at this year's Four Chaplains Inter-Faith Memorial Service. Vince Guinnane played the bag pipes during the ceremony. Dennis Whittaker and I carried the Colors and our Post flag and Bill Reichard was in attendance too. For those who never attended this event, I highly recommend it. This year my wife Carmen attended. She is used to me disappearing for a few hours to attend this event over the years and this year decided to also attend. Her take was that the event was highly informative, and she enjoyed the choir singing during the event. After the event we headed across the street for a late breakfast/brunch and saw other Legionnaires at the restaurant. [Here](#) is the link of some of the photos of the event,

We are still looking for a new finance officer. I am currently filling in while the search continues, if you or someone you know of the American Legion who would like to step up and become the Finance officer, please let me know. As previously mentioned, it is not time-consuming and is a wonderful way to support our Post and help the Post continue to move forward. In the meantime, I am working on this year's budget and expect to present it to our Post at the April Meeting.

American Legion Pillar #3 **Americanism**: Promotes patriotism, civic duty, and education through programs like Boys State, Boy Scouts of America, and advocating for flag protection.

Our Post sponsors (pays for program, transportation) for High School Juniors at the annual Boys/Girls State each summer in Sacramento. Regarding this year's Boys/Girls State sponsorship by our Post, I should note that the application window is now closed and we have 9 High School Juniors who have applied for this summer's program. We had been expecting our Post to receive anywhere from 4-7 slots for this year's event, unfortunately we only have 3 sponsorship slots. George Midwin and I will be interviewing these 9 students in the first two weeks of March. If you would like to assist with the interviews, please shoot me an email or give me a call.

Finally, the Military Commissary at the Old Moffett Airfield has been given a two-year reprieve and will remain open. You can read details of the deal at the following [link](#).

"Duty First"

Arturo

Upcoming events for March 2026-May 2026

- | | | |
|--------------|------------------|--|
| 2 Mar | 1900 hrs. | Post 642 Monthly Meeting in Person (Dinner served at 1800 hrs.) Oddfellows. Cupertino Lodge #70, 20589 Homestead Ave. Cupertino, CA |
| 24 Mar | 1900 hrs. | District 13 Meeting, Zoom Mtg. Call in info TBP |
| 6 Apr | 1900 hrs. | Post 642 Monthly Meeting in Person (Dinner served at 1800 hrs.) Oddfellows. Cupertino Lodge #70, 20589 Homestead Ave. Cupertino, CA |
| 4 May | 1900 hrs. | Post 642 Monthly Meeting in Person (Dinner served at 1800 hrs.) Oddfellows. Cupertino Lodge #70, 20589 Homestead Ave. Cupertino, CA |
| 25 May | 1030 hrs. | Memorial Day Veterans Tribute and Memorial Mass, Gate of Heaven Cemetery, Los Altos, CA |

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

Historian Report

[Historian's Report](#)

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

National Days and Months:

There is a neat description of March here regarding the National Days and where the rest of these links can be found. <https://www.nationaldaycalendar.com/March> Minnesota, Oregon, Kansas, West Virginia, and Nevada were all admitted to the Union in March. There are also quite a few culinary days like National Cocktail Day on the 24th (one of my personal favorites) and “**NATIONAL SPANISH PAELLA DAY**” (Arturo’s Foodie Day?) on the 27th, which I am sure some of our members will be fans.

[NATIONAL BRAIN INJURY AWARENESS MONTH - March](#)

https://youtube.com/shorts/x_RgUroKpS4?si=kCRtlulLzffFnNSA

[IRISH-AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH – March](#)

[NATIONAL COLORECTAL CANCER AWARENESS MONTH – March](#)

<https://youtu.be/oXhfV1mYZx8?si=mVYdaRLHNCWSZzil>

<https://youtu.be/Z4pgqUr9rg8?si=ycUaB3k9GYE8jyP>

[National Women's History Month – March https://youtu.be/sQWfldxB6kU?si=9D7Yg3nA-o8Q3Sjc](https://youtu.be/sQWfldxB6kU?si=9D7Yg3nA-o8Q3Sjc)

[NATIONAL INVEST IN VETERANS WEEK | March 1-7 What is National Invest In Veterans Week? \(youtube.com\)](#)

[NATIONAL ANTHEM DAY - March 3 1931 https://youtu.be/FLH8fzAPWYk?si=QvbD-3eodZzmu3np](https://youtu.be/FLH8fzAPWYk?si=QvbD-3eodZzmu3np)

[NATIONAL HUG A G.I. DAY - March 4](#)

<https://youtube.com/shorts/EOXw9BCKKHU?si=GfK6RwrybmBJZEQ1>

[NATIONAL K9 VETERANS DAY - March 13 https://youtu.be/CeW57a2YN9Y?si=DPOpyG9aj6typ-4a](https://youtu.be/CeW57a2YN9Y?si=DPOpyG9aj6typ-4a)

[NATIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR DAY - March 25](#)

<https://youtu.be/Ayllq4N718?si=fo3NYZ1nchjZ6Oy>

[NATIONAL VIETNAM WAR VETERANS DAY - March 29 https://youtu.be/p4XZ8A7Nw24?si=v-5ToScDc-z5kd6J](https://youtu.be/p4XZ8A7Nw24?si=v-5ToScDc-z5kd6J)

Military History Notes: Vietnam, Medal of Honor, and Dogs

March 13

1942: The U.S. Army establishes the "K-9 Corps" - training dogs to serve in sentry, scout, messenger, and mine detection duties during World War II. The Quartermaster Corps puts the dogs through an 8-12 week basic training at camps across the United States, weeding out the animals who can't handle the sound of gunfire or handle the military lifestyle. Starting with 32 breeds, the Army eventually cuts down the list to seven breeds: German Shepherds, Doberman Pinschers, Belgian Sheep Dogs, Siberian huskies, farm collies, Eskimo dogs, and Malamutes. Some even serve on the front lines. The Japanese are said to have never attacked a patrol accompanied by a war dog. A German Shepherd named "Chips" serving with a military police company on Sicily attacked a German pillbox, forcing the occupants to surrender. Wounded in his attack, Chips was awarded Purple Heart and Silver Star.

Mar. 14

1945: on Iwo Jima, Pvt. Franklin E Sigler leads his squad on an assault against a Japanese machine gun nest that had been holding up his company for several days. Sigler reaches the position first and neutralizes it with grenades. As additional enemy troops begin firing from tunnels and caves near his location, he keeps pressing the attack. Despite his own painful wounds and heavy incoming fire, Sigler carries three of his wounded Marines to safety before returning to the fight. Pvt. Sigler will be awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions, as will fellow Marine, Pvt. George Philips, who leapt on an enemy grenade to shield his comrades from the deadly blast - sacrificing his life.

Mar. 17

1973: The first U.S. prisoners of war are released from the infamous "Hanoi Hilton" prison camp in North Vietnam.

Mar. 19

1945: The aircraft carrier USS *Franklin* sails to within 50 miles of the Japanese mainland - closer than any U.S. carrier during World War II. A lone Japanese bomber slips through the flattop's defenses and hits *Franklin* with two armor-piercing bombs. The bombs detonate below the flight deck, igniting fires and devastating the ship. Around 800 sailors are killed and another 400 wounded - the highest casualties for a surviving ship during the war. "Big Ben's" death toll would have been far higher were it not for men like Lt. (j.g.) Donald A. Gary, who earned the Medal of Honor when he located a blacked-out mess compartment holding 300 trapped sailors. Gary made repeated trips through the ship, guiding the men to (relative) safety.

March 23

1775: In a speech before the House of Burgesses, future Virginia governor (and colonel of the 1st Virginia Regiment) Patrick Henry exclaims, "Is life so dear, or peace so sweet, as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery? Forbid it, Almighty God! I know not what course others may take; but as for me, give me liberty or give me death!"

Mar. 24

1959: Elvis Presley is sworn into the Army as a private. He would attend basic and advanced training at Fort Hood, Texas and later serve in Europe in the 3d Armored Division. He ultimately reached the rank of sergeant before completing his two years of active duty service. Elvis was a jeep driver and reconnaissance scout, although he could also drive, load, and fire the M-48 Patton tank.

Mar. 25

1863: Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton presents six Union Army soldiers members of Andrews' Raiders with the first-ever Medals of Honor. Today, America recognizes all of its Medal of Honor recipients on National Medal of Honor Day — Mar. 25 (of each year) — the anniversary of the first presentations.

1915: While on maneuvers off the coast of Hawaii, USS *F-4* (SS-23) develops a fatal leak, going down with the entire 21-man crew and becoming the first commissioned submarine lost at sea. When a fellow Navy diver becomes entangled during recovery operations on the sunken vessel in April, Chief Gunner's Mate Frank W. Crilley volunteers to rescue his comrade. Crilley's dive of 306 feet sets a world-record and he is awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions.

March 27

1953: When the Marines launch a counterattack against entrenched communist forces at Outpost Reno, Corpsman Francis C. Hammond exposes himself to enemy fire to treat his wounded Marines for four exhausting hours, becoming critically wounded himself. When his unit was ordered to withdraw, Hammond remains behind to assist the incoming medics treat and evacuate the casualties, but is killed by an enemy mortar. For his actions, Hammond is posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor.

March 28

1966: While serving as a corpsman with the 1st Battalion, 7th Marines in Quang Ngai Province, Petty Officer Robert R. Ingraham's platoon was hammered by automatic weapons fire from around 100 North Vietnamese soldiers. Over the next several hours, Ingraham disregarded heavy incoming fire and treated his fellow Marines, patching up wounds, distributing ammunition, all the while ignoring four bullet wounds he received during the battle - one of which was life-threatening. For his selfless actions, Ingraham is awarded the Medal of Honor. Today he is one of only 71 surviving recipients of the nation's highest award for combat valor.

March 29

1911: After a series of disappointing firearm designs The U.S. Army selects Colt's Model of 1911 .45-cal pistol to become the service's new standard-issue sidearm. Designed by John Browning, the M1911 is destined to become the longest-serving pistol in military history, still carried on battlefields by [U.S. Army Special Forces](#), [U.S. Marine Corps](#) and the [U.S. Navy](#).

March 30

1944: During the Nuremburg raid, a Halifax bomber flown by captain Cyril J. Barton fell under attack by German fighters while enroute to the target. Barton manages to throw off the enemy fighters but not before they inflict heavy damage to his Halifax, causing three of his seven-man crew bail out. Despite not having a navigator, radio operator, or bombardier, Barton presses on to the objective and releases the bombs himself, then makes the return trip to England. The badly shot up plane runs out of fuel once they hit the coast, and Barton crash-lands - saving the crew, but at the cost of his life. For his actions, Barton is posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross, the British equivalent to our Medal of Honor.

1981: President Ronald Reagan is shot during an assassination attempt at the Washington D.C. Hilton Hotel. While the president lost half his blood and was in shock from the gunshot, the 70-year-old former cavalry officer makes a full recovery - thanks to his fitness and the quick actions of his Secret Service agents.

Jerry Parr, the agent who pushed Reagan into the presidential limousine and made the life-saving decision to reroute the motorcade to George Washington Hospital instead of the medical team waiting at the White House, was inspired to become a Secret Service agent by watching a film starring Ronald Reagan called *Code of the Secret Service* (1939). Also wounded in the attack is White House Press Secretary James Brady, District of Columbia police officer Thomas Delahanty, and Secret Service agent Timothy McCarthy.

Service Officer Report

[Service Officer Report](#)

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

There didn't appear to much American Legion National or Department emails, but they had phone and internet issues on the 3rd.

[#VetResources](#) is a weekly newsletter for Veterans, their families, caregivers, and survivors. [Connect with Secretary Collins on X](#)

VA undoes decades-old wrong and protects Veterans' Second Amendment rights.

"Many Americans struggle with managing their finances, and Veterans' Second Amendment rights shouldn't be stripped just because they need help in this area. But for too long, Veterans who needed the services of a VA fiduciary were deprived of their right to

bear arms,” said **VA Secretary Doug Collins**. “Under the leadership of President Trump, we’re correcting this injustice and ensuring Veterans get the same due-process and constitutional rights as all Americans.”

[Learn more](#)

VA moves to speed delivery of survivors’ benefits.

Rather than addressing claims for [Dependency and Indemnity Compensation](#) (DIC) and [Survivors Pension](#) separately, starting Feb. 23, VA will pay the higher of the two benefits, without delaying the process to develop the lesser benefit.

[Learn more](#)

VA medical equipment and supplies

If you are enrolled and a current VA health care patient and your VA provider prescribed supplies or related medical device, you may be eligible to order certain free medical supplies from the VA. Watch the current SITREP to learn more.



[Watch](#)

VA resources, we're here for you.

- For any questions or requests, [1-800-MyVA411](tel:1-800-MyVA411) ([1-800-698-2411](tel:1-800-698-2411)) is always the right number.
- [Veterans Crisis Line: 988](#) and press 1, [Chat](#), or Text [838255](tel:838255)
- [Vet Centers: 1-877-927-8387](#)
- [Homeless Veteran Resources: 1-877-424-3838](#) or [Chat](#)
- [Ask VA](#)
- [Schedule a 1-on-1 Appointment with a VA Benefits Expert](#)
- [Find a VA facility near you](#)

For non-urgent questions, you can reach VA using the [VA Health & Benefits App](#) or [MyHealthVet](#) secure messaging to schedule an appointment, refill prescriptions, and access your medical records.

Upcoming VA events

VA hosts free events around the country for Veterans and their families, caregivers, and survivors. Check out the weekly outreach events calendar to find an event near you.

[View all events](#)

Jobs for Veterans

Employers from around the country are looking to hire Veterans. Get info about openings across the nation and multiple career fairs below.

[Find your next job](#)



Exclusive discounts for Veterans

Check out hundreds of recently updated discounts and deals available to Veterans, service members, and retirees.

[View discounts](#)

Use this mobile app to manage your VA health care and benefits from your phone





Your VA health and benefits on your phone

One mobile app makes it easy to manage your health care needs.

Did you know that there is a mobile app that lets you easily refill prescriptions, review appointments, apply for travel pay, and so much more? Find out what else you can do with the

VA: Health and Benefits app.

[Learn more](#)



[When you need CPAP supplies](#)

If you use a CPAP or BPAP machine, it's important to regularly replace certain parts of the machine to keep it working properly.

[Learn how VA makes it easy to order supplies online](#)



[Do you know your medicines?](#)

Taking medicines incorrectly can be harmful to your health. Review these tips to ensure your treatment is safe and effective.

[Read the Veterans Health Library guide to know your medicines](#)



[Support mental health at home](#)

Your mental health is just as important as your physical health. Now you can stay connected to your VA mental health provider without leaving home. [Learn about the MHA for Veterans app](#)

[Sign in or create an account](#) to manage your VA health care and benefits online.

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Keep updated & let us know how we're doing

Military Humor



Vets wearing their silkies 3 years after getting out



THE INFANTRY

WHERE EVERYTHING IS A PILLOW