

Stevens Creek Post 642 The Ranger Way August 2023 Newsletter Mailing Address: PO Box 302, Cupertino, CA 95015





Stevens Creek Post 642 Mailing Address: PO Box 302, Cupertino, CA 95015 Zoom Meeting Info for June 2023 Meeting: Arturo Thiele-Sardina is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: American Legion Post 642 March Meeting

Time: 7 August, 2023 07:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6756452940?pwd=SXR0eFlZYTVuVWJUK0RmNnBQS05RZz09

Meeting ID: 675 645 2940

Passcode: 1151

Dial by your location

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Meeting ID: 675 645 2940

Find your local number: https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kHGiETSdb



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



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

Commanders Corner

Greetings Fellow Legionnaires,

All are invited to our Post meeting which is on August 7th of this month.

Remember that we generally meet on the first Monday of the Month at 1800 for socializing and a light meal and refreshments then check out the meeting at 1900. Do give us a heads up, so that we can requisition extra rations versus our regular contingent. COME ON DOWN!

Remember that August 4th is the Coast Guard birthday! It is also my brother's birthday, so my Quadruplet brothers and I, as former Coast Guardsmen, dutifully wish him a Happy Coast Guard Day each year.

This is a bone of contention, but the oldest extent military service is the US Coast Guard which actually was started in 1790 as the Revenue Cutter Service and only amalgamated later with the Lighthouse and Life Boat Services to be renamed the Coast Guard on January 28th 1915 by an order signed by Woodrow Wilson. Whereas the Navy, Army and Marines were actually disbanded after the Revolutionary War and reinstated during the "Quasi War" with France in 1798. The original day is maintained as the birthday. (Okay, I am also a former Machinery Technician Chief Petty Officer in the Coast Guard Reserves! (3)

On July 15th, we had our Post BBQ where we were able to present Wallace (Wally) Johnson with his 70th Year of American Legion Membership Certificate from Nation at it was great to have our Post Founder there.

The District 13 Installation Dinner is August 11th at Post 564 with the reception at 1800, Dinner at 1900 and Installation of Officers at 2000. The Post Officers are invited, but we are going to install our Officers at our meeting on the 7th.

For one of our Post Themes, and along with the 1st Vice on Membership Drive, I would like to divvy up the member list to the various officers as a Buddy call-up to check up on them, but also to let them know about things that we are doing and invite them to come and socialize at our monthly meetings.

Please remember that if you have Post or Veterans event 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.

https://www.americanlegionpost642.com/site/eventscalendar.php?y=202 3&m=3

If you know of deceased members during the past few months either bring their name and share with our District Chaplain, Jere Bernardoni, or send to him at Jerep.bernardoni@gmail.com.

Please enjoy the National Day and Month links and Military History below.

To Comradeship!

Vincent Guinnane, MSME, P.E.

CW4, 881A1, USAR (Retired)

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Major Jock Sinclair in "Tunes of Glory":

"Whisky for the gentlemen that like it. And for the gentlemen that don't like it - Whisky."



First Vice Commander Notes

Greetings fellow Legionnaires,

As we move into August and the mid-summer months, I just wanted to let you all know that the final numbers for our 2022-23 membership year were finalized. As a Post we did a fantastic job getting 65 members to either renew or join our Post out of a goal of 67. At 97% we achieved the third highest percentage of membership goal in the District. There was only one Post in the entire District that achieved 100% or higher. For all those who renewed this past year thank you for continuing to support the American Legion and our Post. Thanks to you we continue to support our Veterans and our community both financially and volunteering.

Now that we are in our new year, the Paid Up For Life (PUFL's) have already renewed. We have received some checks in the mail by members for renewal. I want to point out that the most streamlined method to renew if on-line. It is quick, easy and you can set up auto-renewal so that next year your membership will renew on or about the 15th of July. I know that some of us are procrastinators by nature, but I am asking that you all renew as quickly as possible this year, so that we can focus on getting new members to our Post which is key for our Post to grow and survive. Those of you who did not renew your membership last year, it is still not too late to do so at this time. We would hate to lose you as members and more importantly for you to lose your seniority within the American Legion. I just received the new 2024 membership cards this evening and will begin to send out the new cards later this week to those who have already renewed later this week.

We held our Post Annual Picnic last Saturday 15 July at the Stevens Creek County Park. We had a nice turn out of approximately 33 members and their families. The weather was nice, and the food and company were excellent. There is more information about our picnic and pictures farther down in the newsletter.

Stay safe and I look forward to seeing you all at our August meeting on 7 August 2023.

"Duty First"

Arturo

2024 Membership Report (26 July2023)

2024 Membership Goal: TBD Total Members: 26/

Paid Up for Life (PUFL): 17 New Members: 0

Online Renewals: 5 Renewals Pending Submittal: 0

Mail Renewals: 4 Members not yet renewed: 39

Post 1000 Transfers: 0 District Rank: XX/XX

Newly renewed Members: Jim Brice: 6 Yrs., Vince Guinnane: 6 Yrs., Faezan Hussain: 1 Yr., Wally Johnson: 71 Yrs., Kenneth Klinkowski: 11 Yrs., Gregory Lindh: 16 Yrs., George Midwin: 3 Yrs.,

Robert Sargent: 36 Yrs., Cathy Schiavone: 14 Yrs., Arturo Thiele-Sardina: 16 Yrs.

Upcoming events for August 2023-October 2023

7 Aug 1900 hrs. Post 642 Monthly Meeting in Person/Zoom

(Dinner served at 1800 hrs.)

26 Aug 1000 hrs. VA BBQ at the Palo Alto VA, 3801 Miranda Ave.,

Palo Alto

9 Sep 1000 hrs. VA BBQ at the Palo Alto VA, 3801 Miranda

Ave., Palo Alto

11 Sep 1900 hrs. Post 642 Monthly Meeting in Person/Zoom

(Dinner served at 1800 hrs.)

26 Sep 1800 Hrs. District 13 Meeting at Post 809, 1825 Mt.

Pleasant Rd., San Jose

2 Oct 1900 hrs. Post 642 Monthly Meeting in Person/Zoom

(Dinner served at 1800 hrs.)

Post 642 Annual Picnic

This past 15 July our Post held the annual picnic at the Stevens Creek County Park at the Sycamore Group Picnic Area. Although the weather was supposed to be in the mid 90's it was a few degrees cooler and with the nice breeze and overhead cover at the picnic site, the picnic went off without a hitch. This year Bill Reichard and George Midwin were our BBQ pit masters and they did an awesome job with the steaks, hotdogs and grilled corn. Several other members brought salads, desserts and other goodies for the Post members to enjoy. We had a nice turnout of 32 persons. The highlight of the day was the awarding to Wally Johnson of the American Legion 70th Year Membership Certificate issued by the National Department. Additionally Wally was awarded with an Army flag in recognition of his service in the US Army during the Korean War and all that he has done for our Post. Wally besides having been the founder of the Post, he has also been the Post Commander and District 13 Commander during his 70 years of service to the American Legion. Wally was accompanied by his two daughters and a family friend at this years picnic. Photos are being uploaded to our Post Website Gallery Page and will be ready for viewing next week. Here are several pictures:









Need A Ride?

Are you member who hasn't had a chance to attend one of our meetings or activities because you have difficulties driving at night, or no longer are able to drive? If so please feel free to contact the 1st Vice Commander (arturo@cadiz.com) or at 408-838-0375 and let him know. We will arrange to have someone pick you up and drop you off at home. We currently have several members who use this service and will be more than happy to assist others in being able to attend our meetings and activities. It's a great opportunity to get out of the house especially if you are not able to on your own, and meet fellow Legion members and attend our meeting.

Membership Contact Updates

With the new Legion year already upon us, now is the time to make sure that your contact information is correct so that you receive your magazine, newsletter and other important information pertaining to the American Legion. We are continually moving towards email as the main communication platform for the Post. You can find your contact information at mylegion.org If you have already registered you just need to log in, if not you can register and then log in. Changes and updates can be easily made by the individual member. If your name appears below that means we do not have a valid email address for you: You can either shoot me an email so I can update your info with your email address or give me a call at 408-838-0375 and provide me with the email address or let me know that you do not have an email address.

- Gary Burton
- Thomas Cribbs
- Herbert Duvernay
- Fenton Hill
- Richard Lee
- Patrick Montijo
- Timothy O'Meara
- MaryAnn Salvatierra
- Chris Snell
- William Tillinghast

VA BBQs for 2023

Please mark your calendars for the VA BBQ's that our Post will be hosting at the Palo Alto VA with the shut in patients from the Psych ward. The dates are as follows:

August 26 Sept 9

We usually arrive on site at 1000 hrs. and finish around 1300 hrs. We are always looking for volunteers to support this event, as these BBQs are one of the activities that we perform in support of fellow Veterans. Please let us know if you are interested in participating on any of the scheduled dates. Please bring a friend or family member to this event as the more folks helping out the more fun we have.





Service Officer Cathy Schiavone

VA/DoD Health Affairs

VA & TRICARE Information

TRICARE is the Department of Defense (DoD) health care program for uniformed service members, retirees & their families. https://tricare.mil/

Does VA participate in the TRICARE Network?

- Yes, since 1995, all VA health care facilities have participated as TRICARE Network Providers.
- VA can provide care for Active-Duty Service Members, military retirees, & family members under their TRICARE benefit - on a space available basis.
- Each VA health care facility can serve as primary care manager for TRICARE beneficiaries, but more often TRICARE referrals are used for specialty care.

What VA requirements are there to be TRICARE Providers?

- Care can only be made available to TRICARE beneficiaries on a space available basis.
- No service provided under the agreement will adversely affect the range of services, quality of care, or the established priorities for care provided to the primary/core (Veteran) beneficiaries of VHA.
- VHA USH has certified to VA Sec that caring for TRICARE beneficiaries will not result in denial/delay in providing access to care for any Veteran at that facility.

For TRICARE Information and Assistance

TRICARE eligibility is determined by the military services.

If eligibility questions arise or more information is needed regarding TRICARE eligibility, contact:

- Defense Manpower Data Center: https://dwp.dmdc.osd.mil/dwp/app/main
- Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS): 1-800-538-9552
- TRICARE East Region: Humana Military 1-800-444-5445 https://www.humanamilitary.com
- TRICARE West Region: Health Net Federal Services 1-844-866-9378 https://tricare-west.com

Meals Roster 2023

August 7th: Cathy Schiavone

September 11th: George Midwin (availablility?)

October 2nd, Gordon Hall

November 6th^t: David Han

December 4th: Dan Weishaar (availablility?)

January 8th: Mike O'Meara

February 5th: Bill Reichard

March 4th: Bob Devlin

April 1st: Kenneth Klinkowski

May 6th: Jim Barnhart

June 3rd: Vince Guinnane

Adjutant's Advice

Below is a request for veterans to tell their stories to be recorded for future generations. Please participate if you are able.

Hello,

I am following up on behalf of my colleague Lizzie McCarthy, who spoke to you last week regarding the Veterans History Project we are working on. As Lizzie may have mentioned, we would love to do a brief interview with service members so that we can learn from their lived experiences. Please share the invitation below and help us get the word out.

Our target is to interview two hundred Veterans by this summer. We have completed twenty incredible interviews so far and would love your support in helping to get the word out so we can reach our target. Please forward this email to the service members.

Some Details:

- •Interview duration: 30-45 min
- Interview can be remote or in person.
- In appreciation of the time, we will provide an amazon gift card.

To set up a time for the interview, please send an email to <u>team@spikeview.com</u> or call/text 510-209-7615. Please include:

- Date/Time you are available for the interview.
- Email/Phone number where we can contact you.

With much gratitude, Spikeview Team

Inviting all Veterans!



Do you want to help immortalize history and tell your story?

We would love to do a brief interview with you to catalog your lived experiences and submit them to the library of congress for future generations to view and learn from, leverage your collective stories to spark policy discussion, and explore how to get you connected to helpful resources.

In appreciation of your support, we would love to gift you an amazon gift card

To interview with us, please send an email to team@spikeview.com



American Legion Post 642 July 10, 2023 meeting minutes

Attendance:

Gordon Hall, David Han, Vince Guinnane, Bill Reichard, Arturo, Wally, Kenneth Klinkowski, Manny, George Midwin, Michael O'Meara, Dennis Whittaker, Jim Barnhart.

Opening the meeting: Vince, Commander

Prayer by Wally

Pledge of Allegiance POW empty Chair Ceremony Preamble to the Legion Constitution

Adjutant Roll Call:

Commander- Vince, 1st Vice- Arturo, 2nd Vice- Gordon, 3rd Vice-, Finance-Mike, Chaplain- Wally, Service Officer- Cathy, Judge Advocate- Bob, Adjutant- David, Sergeant at Arms- Bill Reichard, Historian-.

Guests:

None.

Reading of the Minutes:

Motion: Accepting minutes as written.

Moved: Wally, Seconded: Manny

Discussion: None. Unanimous Approval

Officer Reports Updates:

Finance Officer's Report: Mike

Summary: Little income last month.

Motion: To approve the finance report subject to audit.

Moved: Bob, Seconded: Gordon

Discussion: None Unanimous Approval First Vice Commander: Arturo

Summary: Our post is in the top three for membership in the District. We got three new Post 1000 members. Seventeen PUFLs this month. One life member in Wally. Beginning in August there will be a mass mailing about joining the Legion.

The Fischer House. The Defender's Lodge. We send them \$750 to both groups yearly. We received a letter from the Fischer House thanking us. Families saved money by staying at the Fischer Houses.

Discussion: There are two Fischer Houses in Palo Alto now.

Second Vice Commander's Report: Gordon

Summary: Two delegates graduated successfully from Boys and Girls State. They will be invited to the dinner at Christmas and given medals from us.

Discussion: None.

Adjutant's Report: David

Summary: None.

Chaplain Report: Wally

Summary: A past commander is still alive but may be recorded as deceased.

Arvid Stenstrom.

Post Service Officer: Absent Summary: No new updates.

Commander: Vince

Summary: Legion Coins will be ordered and meals roster has been shared.

Committee Reports:

Wreaths Across America: Dennis

Summary: None. Discussion: NA

VA BBQ: Mike

Summary: Very successful VA BBQ last month. Had in an open area. Many patients enjoyed it. August 26 and September 9 are the next two BBQs.

Picnic Summer: Mike

Summary: Next Saturday. Weather will be hot. Same location as last year.

Twenty some sign ups.

Post By Laws: Vince

Discussion: Sent to Area 2 and approved.

Discussion: NA

Sick Call Relief: None

Unfinished business: None.

Initiation of new members: Jim Barnhart

New Business: Business cards updates. We have the slate and have added Dennis back. Arturo will take care of it.

District Meeting Updates: None.

Memorial to Departed Post member: None.

Good of the legion: None

Chaplain: Bill

POW/MIA chair ceremony Benediction and Closing

National Days and Months:

NATIONAL DOG MONTH - August

https://nationaldaycalendar.com/national-dog-monthaugust/ (Includes Assistance Dogs Week which includes service dogs for PTSD, etc.)

NATIONAL WELLNESS MONTH – August https://nationaldaycalendar.com/national-wellnessmonth-august/ (The VA can help with this an Medicalert below)

<u>MEDICALERT AWARENESS MONTH – August</u> https://nationaldaycalendar.com/medicalertawareness-month-august/

<u>INTERNATIONAL PEACE MONTH – August</u> <u>https://nationaldaycalendar.com/international-peace-month-august/</u> (A month which the American Legion takes to heart with our missions.)

August 04 Friday

International Beer

Day https://nationaldaycalendar.com/international-beer-day-first-friday-in-august/ (I am not sure if the Coast Guard is an official sponsor considering the proximity. Also, August seems to have a lot of eating and drinking days if you check out the calendar site. \bigcirc)

National Coast Guard Day https://nationaldaycalendar.com/national-coast-guardday-august-4/ https://youtu.be/FBfpv7hH7YA

<u>August 05</u> Saturday

International Blues Music Day

https://nationaldaycalendar.com/international-bluesmusic-day-first-saturday-in-august/

National Vfr Day

https://nationaldaycalendar.com/national-vfr-day-first-saturday-in-august/ (Veteran and First Responder Mental Health Day. A lot of military join police, fire and EMT) https://youtu.be/3VLJO-izWPA

August 07 Monday

Purple Heart Day

https://nationaldaycalendar.com/purple-heart-dayaugust-7/ https://youtu.be/NVA-7TqQT9w

National Lighthouse Day

https://nationaldaycalendar.com/national-lighthouse-day-august-7/ (This service also is under the Coast Guard) https://youtu.be/9IMJPub0i I

August 10 Thursday Agent Orange Awareness Day https://nationaldaycalendar.com/agent-orange-awareness-day-august-10/https://youtu.be/r4LicCz4w-A (There are many more videos on VA SITREP site)

August 13 Sunday

National Spirit Of '45 Day

https://nationaldaycalendar.com/national-spirit-of-45-day-second-sunday-in-august/https://youtu.be/FH6H11mo2s8

International Left Handers Day

https://nationaldaycalendar.com/international-lefthanders-day-august-13/ My late Mother-in-Law was a fan for obvious reasons as left-handers are only people in their right mind which she would always remind us.



August 14 Monday

National Navajo Code Talkers Day https://nationaldaycalendar.com/national-navajo-codetalkers-day-august-14/ https://youtu.be/yFLu73qKA8k

National V-j Day

https://nationaldaycalendar.com/national-v-j-day/https://youtu.be/66EOCMdEqCI

August 15 <u>V-j Day (europe)</u> https://nationaldaycalendar.com/v-j-day-europeaugust-15/

August 16 <u>National Airborne Day</u> <u>https://nationaldaycalendar.com/national-airborne-day-august-16/ https://youtu.be/T2aNgykxAOI</u>

August 18 <u>National Pinot Noir Day</u> <u>https://nationaldaycalendar.com/national-pinot-noir-day-august-18/</u> One of several days this month for Cathy and Arturo.

August 19 National Aviation Day https://nationaldaycalendar.com/national-aviation-day-august-19/ For our Post Aviation Guys. I am pretty sure this day sets off Aviation Week.

August 25 National Park Service Founders Day https://nationaldaycalendar.com/national-park-service-founders-day-august-25/https://youtu.be/vKBBgq5Fjcc Members of the Military, Veterans, and Gold-Star families are eligible for FREE park passes that provide access to more than 2,000 federal recreation areas including the national parks.

<u>August 28 National Red Wine Day</u> <u>https://nationaldaycalendar.com/national-red-wine-day-august-28/</u> Like I said earlier.

Military History Notes:

Aug. 1

1943: In the Solomon Islands, the Japanese destroyer *Aragiri* rams the motor torpedo boat *PT-109*. Two sailors are killed by the nighttime collision. Lieutenant junior grade John F. Kennedy and his remaining 11-man crew swim over three miles to a nearby deserted island and are rescued days late. The future president is awarded the Purple Heart and the Navy and Marine Corps Medal for gallantry.

1944: Gen. George Patton's Third Army becomes operational and forms the right flank of the Allied force sweeping across France.

Aug. 2

1776: Although the Continental Congress voted to establish "the thirteen united [sic] States of America" on July 2 and adopted Thomas Jefferson's draft of the Declaration of Independence two days later, congressional delegates sign the Declaration on this date. The most famous inscription belongs to John Hancock, the president of Congress, who is said to have declared, "There, I guess King George will be able to read that without his spectacles," after adding his rather substantial signature.

1862: The brass approves the plan by Maj. Jonathan Letterman, Medical Director for the Army of the Potomac, to establish an ambulance corps. Letterman is considered the "Father of Battlefield Medicine" for

revolutionizing the way casualties are handled; soldiers now had first aid stations at the regimental level where they could be treated and triaged. Those more seriously wounded could be sent - by ambulance - to field hospitals at the division and corps level.

During the Peninsula Campaign, one out of every three Army of the Potomac casualties would die prior to

implementing Letterman's system. But after, just 2 percent of soldiers wounded Battle of Gettysburg died.

1909: After a successful demonstration for the military by Orville Wright, the Army Signal Corps purchases a Wright Flyer for \$30,000 (the equivalent of \$800,000 today). The two-seat "Signal Corps Airplane No. 1" will train America's first military pilots at College Park, Md. and Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio over the next two years - crashing several times - before it's retirement. Today, the legendary aircraft hangs in the Smithsonian Institution's National Air and Space Museum.

1934: Upon the death of German president Paul von Hindenberg, Chancellor Adolf Hitler begins his "thousand-year Reich," assuming full dictatorial powers as Reichsführer. Also on this date, Hitler changes the military oath so that the Wehrmacht swears allegiance to him instead of Germany.

1944: Convoy HX 300, the largest convoy of World War II, safely crosses the Atlantic, bringing over 1 million tons of supplies to ports in the United Kingdom. 32 escort vessels protected the 155 cargo ships, and the formation spanned nine miles across and four miles long. Not a single ship was attacked by a Gelman submarine.

T

1950: As the North Korean Army bears down on the American and UN forces occupying the southern tip of the Korean Peninsula, the 1st Provisional Marine Brigade lands at Pusan and mans the Pusan Perimeter's left flank.

1964: The destroyer USS *Maddox* (DD-731), supporting South Vietnamese covert operations against the North in

the Gulf of Tonkin, is attacked by three North Vietnamese torpedo boats in the Gulf of Tonkin Within days, Congress would pass the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution, paving the way for full-scale conflict in Vietnam.

1990: At 2 a.m., several divisions of the Iraqi military's elite Republican Guards pour across the border into Kuwait, beginning a seven-month occupation of the neighboring state. The United States will lead a 35-nation

coalition to liberate Kuwait in January.

Aug. 3

1804: During the First Barbary War, Commodore Edward Preble's Mediterranean Squadron begins his first bombardment of Tripoli Harbor. Commanding a division of ships is Stephen Decatur, the youngest sailor ever

to be promoted to captain in U.S. Naval history. When Decatur's brother is killed while boarding a Tripolitan gunboat, Decatur hands over command of his ship and, along with a small crew, boards the enemy vessel and engages the much-larger force in fierce hand-to-hand combat. When the captain responsible for his brother's death attempts to behead Decatur, Daniel Fraser throws himself over Decatur receiving the lethal blow. Decatur then shoots and kills the captain avenging his brother.

1943: As American, British, and Canadian troops drive across Sicily, Axis forces begin evacuating the island. While visiting soldiers awaiting evacuation at Nicosia, Gen. George S. Patton, commanding the Seventh Army, slaps a soldier suffering from battle fatigue and orders him back to the front lines. Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower

reprimands Patton for the incident and the legendary general will not command another combat force for 11 months.

1950: Eight F4U-4B "Corsairs" of Marine Fighter Squadron (VMF) 214 take off from the deck of USS Sicily (CVE-118) and attack enemy installations at Chengu, marking the first Marine aviation sortie of the Korean War. During •World War II, the "Black Sheep" of VMF-214 destroyed hundreds of Japanese aircraft, sank several vessels, and earned the Presidential Unit Citation under Medal of Honor recipient and former "Flying Tiger" Maj. Greg "Pappy" Boyington - the Marine Corps' top ace, with 28 aerial victories.

Congress initiates an involuntary recall of former enlisted soldiers, ordering 30,000 men to report for duty in September. That same day in Southeast Asia, the first members of the U.S. Military Assistance Advisory Group members arrive in Saigon. The 35-man group will supervise the allocation of military aid to the French military in Vietnam, and later act as military trainers.

A

1958: USS Nautilus ____ the world's first nuclear-powered submarine and the U.S. Navy's sixth so-named vessel becomes the first "ship" to cross the North Pole.

Aug. 4

1790: Congress approves Treasury Secretary Alexander Hamilton's proposal to "build ten cutters to protect the new nation's revenue," establishing the Revenue Cutter Service — first of the predecessor services of the modern Coast Guard.

