



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



Stevens Creek Post 642
Mailing Address:
PO Box 302,
Cupertino, CA 95015



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

Commander's Corner

Greetings and Happy New Year fellow Legionnaires,

This past month has been an interesting one, with the fires down in SoCal there have been many Legionnaires who have lost their homes during the fires. The California Department of the American Legion is accepting donations for these Legionnaires. The funds collected at the Department level will be sent to those Legionnaires in need.

With the inauguration of Donald Trump as our 47th President, there will be a new SECDEF and VA Director. These two positions are important for Veterans and those currently serving. As the VA expands coverage due to the PACT act, timely and comprehensive care is very important for those Veterans requiring treatment. I should note that we will have two representatives from the Palo Alto VA speaking at our March 2025 meeting about the PACT Act, what it covers and will be answering all questions you and other members may have. I highly encourage that you attend that meeting especially if you served in Iraq/Afghanistan or other areas where burn pits and other hazardous materials were used.

Boys State nominations are due soon, at this point we will be sponsoring 3 high school juniors (Boys/Girls). If you know of any high school juniors who may be interested in the program please have them contact me at arturo@cadiz.com

I look forward to seeing you at our February monthly meeting on 3 February 2025.

"Duty First"

Arturo

San Jose Veterans Center Presentation

3 February 2025

Please join us at our monthly meeting as the San Jose Veterans Center Representative will be at our meeting providing information and updates regarding the Veterans Center, their services and answering any questions you may have. The Veterans Center supports all Veterans and their families.

Upcoming events for February 2025-April 2025

- | | | |
|--------------|------------------|--|
| 1 Feb | 1000 hrs. | Four Chaplains Interfaith Memorial Service, St. Francis Cabrini Church, 15333 Woodard Road, San Jose, California |
| 3 Feb | 1900 hrs. | Post 642 Monthly Meeting in Person (Dinner served at 1800 hrs.) Oddfellows. Cupertino Lodge #70, 20589 Homestead Ave. Cupertino, CA |
| 3 Mar | 1900 hrs. | Post 642 Monthly Meeting in Person (Dinner served at 1800 hrs.) Oddfellows. Cupertino Lodge #70, 20589 Homestead Ave. Cupertino, CA |
| 11 Mar | 1900 Hrs. | District 13 Meeting: Post 419, 958 Homestead Rd., Santa Clara, CA |
| 7 Apr | 1900 hrs. | Post 642 Monthly Meeting in Person (Dinner served at 1800 hrs.) Oddfellows. Cupertino Lodge #70, 20589 Homestead Ave. Cupertino, CA |
| 9 Apr | 1200 hrs. | DeAnza Student Veterans Lunch (Sponsored by Post 642), SEM-3 Bldg. De Anza Campus |
| 29 Apr | 1900 Hrs. | District 13 Meeting: Post 564: 2120 Walsh Ave, Santa Clara, 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.

American Legion 13th District

The Four Chaplains

82nd Anniversary

Interfaith Memorial Service
Saturday, February 1, 2025
10 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Saint Frances Cabrini Church
15333 Woodard Road, San Jose, CA
Between Bascom and Union
(south side of Camden)



Honoring The Four Heroic Chaplains

of World War II who lost their lives when the USAT
Dorchester sank off Greenland February 3rd, 1943.



Join us for an hour as we commemorate the 82nd anniversary of four chaplains, men of different faiths, who gave their lives so others could survive the sinking of the USAT Dorchester in World War II.

This public event begins promptly at 10 a.m. with a bagpipe led flag procession of veteran and patriotic service organizations. The tribute continues as life jackets and helmets are placed to honor their heroism and ultimate sacrifice. The service concludes with a Navy Two Bell Service. Tribute is also shared noting the services of Chaplains who serve our military today.

This is a free, educational, public service suitable for families!

For more information, please email interfaithservice@yahoo.com

1st Vice Commander's Note

Greetings Fellow Legionnaires,

As 1st Vice Commander, I would like to make sure that we are inviting our fellow veterans to our Post meeting which is on February 3rd at the [Odd Fellows Lodge #70 Hall](#). This month also brings us the [Four Chaplains Memorial Service on the 1st](#), [VA Mobile Medical Outreach at the Gilroy Vet Hall on the 21st](#) and the [Moffett Field Museum Tour on the 22nd](#).

We are still working on increasing membership, but we have met current goals and 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>

In January, we hosted another De Anza Veterans Center Lunch and Meet with very good attendance along with several Post 642 members and had good talks with the Student Veterans that enjoyed the stack of Costco Pizzas. We attended the District 13 Meeting at Post 558 which should be notes attached or in an email. We also added Jack Stauffer from Post 1000. We will induct him into the Post hopefully at this meeting.

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.

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

To Comradeship!

Vincent Guinnane, MSME, P.E.

CW4, 881A1, USAR (Retired)

vguinnane@comcast.net

2025 Membership Report (As of 17 January)
2025 Membership Goal: 68
Paid Up for Life (PUFL): 16 (-2)
Online Renewals: 21
Mail Renewals: 12
Post 1000 Transfers: 1
Newly renewed Members: 1
New Members:

Total Members: 52
New Members: 2
Renewals Pending Submittal: 1
Members not yet renewed: 17
District Rank: Tied for 4th/12

Additional Meeting Notes for February, but RSVP's required by January 24th.

My Fellow Area 2 Legionnaires:

National Commander James A. LaCoursiere Jr., his staff, along with Department Commander Nick Rosa, will arrive in San Francisco on February 5, 2025, as part of his tour of California. American Legion Cathay Post 384 has arranged a sumptuous luncheon to take place on Thursday, February 6, 2025, at noon. The luncheon will be held at the Osmanthus Restaurant located at 504 Broadway Street, San Francisco, CA. 94133. This will offer legionnaires from Area 2 a chance to meet, chat, and hear the visions of the National Commander. The cost of the luncheon is \$35 per person. In order to facilitate this gathering, I need a headcount of the attendees, and thus your RSVP to this [email](#) must be received no later than the end of the business day on Friday, January 24, 2025. Looking forward to seeing you.

For God and Country

Nelson Lum

8th District Commander



Source: <https://images.app.goo.gl/t54bPZ7B2ftUxaLx8>

Post 642 Monthly Meeting Schedule for 2023-24 Year

The meeting dates can be found on the [Post Website Calendar](#).

Meals Roster 2025

February 3rd: Bill Reichard	March: Bob Devlin
April: Kenneth Klinkowski	May: Jim Barnhart
June: Vince Guinnane	July: David
August: Arturo	September: Mike
October:	November:
December:	

Need A Ride?

Are you a member who hasn't had a chance to attend one of our meetings or activities because you have difficulties driving at night, or are no longer 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.

Service Officer Report

[Try the New Medical Records Tool on VA.gov](#)

[We're building a new home for VA health tools on VA.gov](#)

[My HealtheVet features are moving, so that you can manage your health and benefits all in one place. Try the medical records tool now, so you're ready for the change.](#)

[Learn More](#)

[Understanding Diabetic Nerve Damage](#)

[About half of all people with diabetes experience some form of nerve damage. Spotting the warnings signs can help you prevent injury. Learn more about diabetic nerve damage](#)

[6 Healthy Eating Habits to Start This Year](#)

[New year, new healthy eating habits. Now is a great time to start healthy habits that can create lasting change. Discover 6 tips to get started](#)

[5 Exercises for People Over 50](#)

[Whether you've exercised all your life or have a new goal, exercise is key to good health. We have tips and guides to make it easier to stay active at any age. Find the right exercise for you](#)

[Making a SMART New Year's Resolution](#)

If you are thinking about a healthy living change, the SMART strategy can help you stay on track and manage your progress. [Learn how to use SMART goals](#)

[Avoid the Pain of Shingles](#)

Anyone who has had chickenpox can develop shingles. However, some people are at higher risk for its longterm effects. [Learn how to prevent shingles](#)

[Don't Let Anger Get in Your Way](#)

Anger is a normal emotion. But uncontrolled anger can cause more stress and hurt people close to us. This VA mobile app can help you manage anger. [Learn more about the AIMS app](#)

|



2025 Veterans Benefits Guide Now Available

Don't miss out on what you've earned—check out the "2025 VA Federal Benefits Guide for Veterans, Dependents, Survivors, and Caregivers" handbook to learn more.

[ACCESS THE FREE GUIDE](#)

[READ MORE ABOUT THE NEW HANDBOOK](#)

.

Why is VA Transitioning to Login.gov or ID.me Accounts?
VA currently has four online sign-in account options (Login.gov, ID.me, My HealtheVet, and DS Logon) and VA is transitioning down to two sign-in account options in 2025: Login.gov and ID.me. Watch to learn the reasons why and how you can set up an account during the transition.

[WATCH AND LEARN MORE ABOUT THE SIGN IN CHANGES](#)

**VETERANS
PREPARE FOR
VA'S SECURE
SIGN-IN CHANGES**

My HealtheVet user ID
and password retires
JANUARY 31, 2025



CLICK HERE TO FIND OUT MORE

[CREATE YOUR ACCOUNT AND LOG IN TODAY](#)

[National Park Service Free lifetime pass. GET YOUR FREE LIFETIME PASS](#)

[SAVE MONEY, FIND MORE DISCOUNTS](#)

[Download the VA Welcome Kit VA WELCOME KIT](#)

[Find a VA facility near you. FACILITY LOCATOR](#)

VA is here for you.

1-800-MyVA411 (1-800-698-2411) is always the right number

Veterans Crisis Line: 988 and press 1, Chat, or Text 838255

Vet Centers: 1-877-927-8387

Schedule a 1-on-1 Appointment with a VA Benefits Expert

Historian's Report

Military History Notes: Presidents Day, Boy Scouts and Women Veterans

1. Who are the three presidents who served in 1841?
2. Forty years later, this same phenomenon occurred again in 1881. Name the three presidents who served that year.
3. Name the three presidents who died on July 4th.
4. Who were the four presidents who were assassinated while in office?

Answers

1. Martin Van Buren, William Henry Harrison, John Tyler
2. Rutherford B. Hayes, James A. Garfield, and Chester A. Arthur.
3. John Adams, James Monroe, Thomas Jefferson.
4. Abraham Lincoln, James A. Garfield, William McKinley, John F. Kennedy

Feb 3

During World War II, four chaplains who had attended Chaplain School together at Harvard boarded the *Dorchester* en route to the Army Command Base in southern Greenland. Aboard the ship were 904 service members. The four chaplains were Reverend George L. Fox, a Methodist minister, Reverend Clark V. Poling of the Reformed Church of America, Rabbi Alexander D. Goode, and Father John P. Washington of the Roman Catholic Church. Their voyage began on January 23, 1943. At the time, German U-Boats were patrolling the area, and the convoy was on high alert. When a German submarine torpedoed the *Dorchester* on February 3, 1943, in the frigid waters off the coast of Newfoundland, chaos ensued. Eyewitnesses recounted the chaplains' heroism, including giving their life jackets and gloves to other service members. They prayed with service members, assisting them into lifeboats. The four chaplains

remained on the sinking *Dorchester*. Only 230 men were rescued from the waters. Congress awarded the four chaplains the Four Chaplains Medal in 1960.

Feb. 8

1910: William D. Boyce incorporates the Boy Scouts of America. Countless boys will cut their teeth as young adventurers in Boyce's scouting program before joining the military. When sub commander Eugene Fluckey - one of nine Medal of Honor recipients to earn the Boy Scouts' top distinction of Eagle Scout - assembled a landing party to go ashore and destroy a Japanese train, he wanted former Boy Scouts to do the job, since they would be able to find their way back. 11 of the 12 humans to walk on the moon were Boy Scout alumni; and Neil Armstrong, the first was an Eagle Scout.

Feb. 12

1935: As the Navy's helium-filled rigid airship *USS Macon (ZRS-5)* flies through a storm, its tail fin and interior structural members are destroyed, puncturing the massive vessel's helium cells. The "flying aircraft carrier," which houses five Curtiss F9C-2 "Sparrowhawk" reconnaissance planes, crash-lands in the Pacific Ocean off the coast of Point Sur, Calif, and all but two of the airship's 76-man crew are saved.

The 785-ft. *Macon* and her sister ship *Akron* (which crashed in 1933) are the largest aircraft ever produced by the United States - just 20 feet shorter than the ill-fated *Hindenburg*, which will famously be lost in 1937. Incidentally, *Macon's* commanding officer, Lt. Cmdr. Herbert Wiley, was *Akron's* executive officer and one of only three men to survive that crash.

Feb. 16

1804: U.S. Navy Lt. (future commodore) Stephen Decatur sails a captured Tripolitan ketch he renames USS *Intrepid* into the harbor at Tripoli. There, Decatur and a volunteer force of sailors and Marines board the frigate USS *Philadelphia* (the second of six so-named American warships), which had been previously captured by Tripolitan pirates. After a brief but violent close quarters struggle in which several pirates but no Americans are killed Decatur orders the *Philadelphia* burned.

1945: 2,000 American paratroopers jump over the Philippines' "fortress Corregidor" in one of the most difficult airborne operations of the war. For the next 11 days, the Americans will root out the enemy from a labyrinth of caves and tunnels and beat back multiple banzai attacks before wiping out almost all of the 6,500-man enemy garrison.

1953: Marine aviator - and future baseball Hall of Famer - Capt. Ted Williams crash-lands his crippled Marine Corps F9F "Panther" fighter at Suwon's K-13 airstrip. During a massive 200-plane raid on a troop encampment, Williams was hit by enemy ground fire which knocked out his instrument panel, landing gear, and hydraulic system; damaged his control surfaces; and set the plane on fire. Rather than eject, Williams brings the plane down on its belly and skids down the runway for over a mile before the mortally wounded plane comes to a stop. Williams, often flying as the wingman for future Mercury astronaut John Glenn, walks away with just a sprained ankle and goes on to fly 38 more missions over Korea before returning to baseball for good (he also flew in the Pacific Theater during World War II).

Feb. 17

1864: The Confederate submarine H.L. Hunley sinks the Federal sloop-of-war USS *Housatonic* in Charleston (S.C.) harbor, becoming the first submarine in history to sink an enemy warship in action. It is a pyrrhic victory however: the submarine also sinking either with its victim or soon after the attack with the loss of all hands.

Feb. 22

1974: Lt. J.G. Barbara Ann Allen Rainey pins on her wings, becoming the first female Naval aviator. Rainey is assigned to a transport squadron, flying C-1 "Trader" planes .In 1982, she will be killed in a crash while training a student pilot.

Feb. 23

1778: Baron Friedrich von Steuben, a Prussian Army officer — arguably the father of American drill instructors arrives at Valley Forge with the task of whipping the Continental Army into shape.

Feb. 27

1942: A flotilla of 14 Dutch, British, Australian, and American ships suffers a disastrous defeat at the hands of a much-larger Japanese invasion force in the Battle of the Java Sea. 11 vessels are sunk and over 3,000 sailors are killed in the engagement. Meanwhile, the seaplane tender USS *Langley* (AV-3) - America's first aircraft carrier - is sunk by Japanese land-based aircraft while ferrying P-40 "Warhawk" attack planes to Java.

USS Jupiter (AC-3) served as a collier from 1913 to 1920 and was converted into the U.S. Navy's first aircraft carrier, being renamed USS Langley on 21 April 1920 and being recommissioned as an aircraft carrier in 1922.