



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



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Commander's Corner

Greetings fellow Legionnaires,

I will keep this short as I have updated my comments and input on the Post Website. You can find the Commanders Corner [here](#) and please check out the rest of our Post Website, as we have up to the minute events posted, information for Veterans and their families and other notable items.

1. I just wanted to point out that we are coming up to elections soon, nominations will be held in April and elections in May. I ask that you consider running for one of the leadership positions for our Post.
2. The \$1000 Post Scholarship application window is now open, if your wife/husband/son/daughter or grandkids will be attending technical school, junior college or college in 2025-26 please have them contact me at arturo@cadiz.com and request an application. Applications are due by 15 May 2025.
3. Boys/Girls State-Our Post is sponsoring 2 boys and 1 girl for this years Boys/Girls State event at Sacramento in late June 2025. Two of the students are from Lynbrook HS and one if from Fremont HS. Congrats to the selected students.

I look forward to seeing you at our March monthly meeting on 3 March 2025, where we will have the VA speaking about the PACT Act.

“Duty First”

Arturo

Palo Alto VA PACT Act Presentation

3 March 2025

Please join us at our monthly meeting as four VA Representatives will be at our meeting providing information and updates regarding the PACT (Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics) Act. The PACT Act is a law that expands VA health care and benefits for Veterans exposed to burn pits, Agent Orange, and other toxic substances. They will be answering any questions you may have. Please ask fellow Veterans that you know to attend and learn more about the PACT Act and how it may impact you. If you plan on attending please RSVP to arturo@cadiz.com NLT 1 March, so we can have enough food for you and any friends you have invited. As a reminder our social hour starts at 1800 hrs and we have food and various refreshments for attendees.

Upcoming events for March 2025-May 2025

- | | | |
|--------------|------------------|--|
| 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 |
| 5 May | 1900 hrs. | Post 642 Monthly Meeting in Person (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](#).

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 March 3rd at the [Odd Fellows Lodge #70 Hall](#). This month also brings us the [Post 558 Annual Crab Feed on the 1st](#), District 13 Meeting on the 11th at Post 419, and the [Mobile Medical Outreach for Veterans at the Gilroy Veterans Hall on the 21st](#). Also remember [DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME | Second Sunday in March – spring forward](#)

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 February, several members attended the Four Chaplains 82nd Anniversary Ceremony at St. Frances Cabrini Church. I played the pipes to escort the National and Post colors into the Church. I found out about a weekly Friday Veterans breakfast at the Hillsdale and Almaden Expressway Denny's at 0830 when I went to the Men's Club at SFC. Fr. James told me that he liked my playing at the ceremony. I have sent another round of Post 1000 Member invitation emails and got some responses as well as Renewal Reminders. I have to call some and do hard copies again. I was able to convert two members from Active to Deceased. Three members that haven't renewed since at least 2023 have removed from the National Roster. I'm still trying though.

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 22 February)

2025 Membership Goal: 68
Paid Up for Life (PUFL): 16 (-2)
Online Renewals: 22
Mail Renewals: 12
Post 1000 Transfers: 2
Newly renewed Members: 1
New Members:

Total Members: 53
New Members: 2
Renewals Pending Submittal: 1
Members not yet renewed: 14
District Rank: Tied for 3rd/12

Service Officer Report

NATIONAL BRAIN INJURY AWARENESS MONTH -

March https://youtube.com/shorts/x_RgUroKpS4?si=kCRtluLIzffFnNSA

NATIONAL COLORECTAL CANCER AWARENESS MONTH – March

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

NATIONAL KIDNEY MONTH –

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

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

NATIONAL MEMORY DAY | March 21 – this is about doing things to keep your brain active like the video poem below.

<https://youtu.be/caIoVj91czg?si=J5wV27RBFLt8mHJ9>

AMERICAN DIABETES ASSOCIATION ALERT DAY | Fourth Tuesday in March

VA PACT – Vietnam Diabetes mellitus type

2 <https://youtu.be/yu267D7DMAA?si=UxT0x4K6q9n3uhjZ>

NATIONAL VIETNAM WAR VETERANS DAY - March

29 <https://youtu.be/p4XZ8A7Nw24?si=v-5ToScDc-z5kd6J>

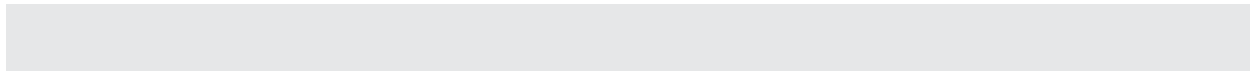
[VIEW/SHARE | EVENTS | WELCOME KIT | PODCAST](#)



VA Secretary Doug Collins Addresses Veterans' Benefits in New Video

In a recent video message from his desk at VA Central Office, Secretary of Veterans Affairs Doug Collins addressed media concerns that Veterans' benefits might be targeted for cuts.

[WATCH THE VIDEO](#)





Stay Independent and Connected with Your Community

Check out this list of resources and programs for older Veterans that can help you build a routine and support system to remain independent.

[**GET THE RESOURCES**](#)



Veteran Online Wellness Tool Now Available

Check-In, powered by the Veteran Wellness Alliance, connects Veterans, service members, and their families, caregivers, and survivors with no-cost, high-quality mental and brain health care professionals.

[**GET THE DETAILS**](#)

Upcoming Events

There are hundreds of free events for Veterans and their families, caregivers and survivors. Check out the full list of upcoming events on the outreach events site, including:

Online: VA Resources, Health Care and Benefits - Feb. 20 - 12:00 to 1:00 p.m. CST

[**VIEW ALL EVENTS**](#)



Resources to Nourish Your Heart

VA can help identify and implement changes you can make in your daily habits to support your heart health, including resources to access nutritious and affordable food.

[ACCESS THE RESOURCES](#)

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

My HealtheVet user ID
and password retires
March 4, 2025



[**CLICK HERE TO FIND OUT MORE**](#)

After March 4, 2025, we'll remove the option to sign in with a My HealtheVet user ID and password. You'll still be able to use your My HealtheVet health portal—you'll just need to sign in to it with a Login.gov or ID.me account.

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

Check on Your Veteran Buddy!

For those with an immediate need, regardless of whether they are enrolled in VA benefits or health care, the Veterans Crisis Line is the fastest way to get help for someone in crisis or at risk for suicide. Dial 988 and Press 1, Text 838255 or [Chat online](#).

Historian's Report

NATIONAL ANTHEM DAY - March 3 1931 <https://youtu.be/FLH8fzAPWYk?si=QvbD-3eodZzmu3np>

NATIONAL HUG A G.I. DAY - March

4 <https://youtube.com/shorts/EOXw9BCKKHU?si=GfK6RwrybmBJZEO1>

NATIONAL K9 VETERANS DAY - March

13 <https://youtu.be/CeW57a2YN9Y?si=DPOpyG9aj6typ-4a>

NATIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR DAY - March

25 <https://youtu.be/AyIlq4N718?si=fo3NYZ1nchjZ6Oy>

NATIONAL VIETNAM WAR VETERANS DAY - March

29 <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.

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.

