



**Stevens Creek Post 642 The Ranger Way**  
**September 2024 Newsletter**  
**Mailing Address: PO Box 302,**  
**Cupertino, CA 95015**



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

### **Commander's Notes**

Greetings fellow Legionnaires,

With the passing of Labor Day, summer is officially over with. I hope you all had a great summer; I know from several members they have been busy travelling and visiting family, which is a wonderful way to spend the summer.

As we move into the fall, there are several upcoming events that are Post related. The 23<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of 9-11 occurs this year. There are various ceremonies in the bay area. In Los Gatos they will have a RISE, Stand United, Stand Strong America Ceremony! Please see the list of upcoming events below with the time and location of that ceremony. We have the last VA BBQ this coming month which is currently scheduled for Saturday 28 September at 1000 hrs. Also, with De Anza College fall quarter beginning in September, I am working with the De Anza College Student Veterans Representative regarding what day our Post will be hosting the student Veterans for lunch at their Student Veterans Center. Once I know the date I will send an email out to the Post distribution list. These luncheons are a terrific way to meet fellow Veterans who are studying too and using their GI bill to earn a meaningful degree at De Anza or elsewhere once they transfer. Many of these younger Veterans are looking for mentors who can guide and work with them as to what fields of study are the best, what they can expect going forward, etc. I highly encourage all of you to attend the luncheon, if possible, it is free and a fantastic way to spend a couple of hours with other Veterans.

Finally, we are finishing on coordinating several guest speakers for our meetings this year. Once the speakers are locked in, we will publish to all our members the date/topic and speaker so that you can attend our meeting and get a chance to listen to these speakers and learn about the numerous opportunities and support that is available for Veterans in our community.

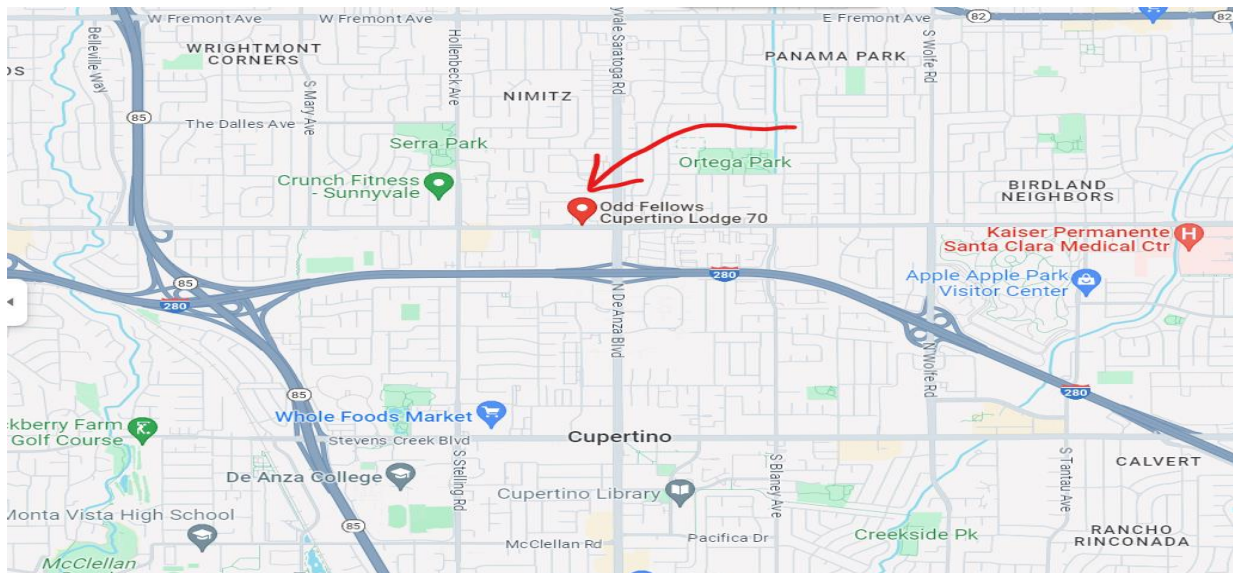
Thanks again for all you do supporting Veterans and the community!

“Duty First”

Arturo

## We Moved in 2024

We have finally found a new home for our Post meetings going forward. Beginning on the 5 February 2024 meeting we will be meeting at the Oddfellows Cupertino Lodge #70 in Cupertino; CA. The address of the lodge is 20589 Homestead Road in Cupertino. The building is located approximately 100 meters west of DeAnza Blvd. The Safeway store is located across the street. There is parking behind the building since you cannot park on the street. A big thanks to the relocation committee (Bill, Mike, Bob, Vince, and Arturo) who managed the logistics, legal and other aspects of making this happen. As in the past our social hour begins at 1800 hrs. and the meeting will start at 1900 hrs. We hope to see you all there in February so you can check out the facility, which is much nicer than the KoC Hall.



## **2025 Membership Report (As of 23 August)**

**2025 Membership Goal: 68**

**Total Members: 28**

**Paid Up for Life (PUFL): 16**

**New Members: 0**

**Online Renewals: 13**

**Renewals Pending Submittal: 9**

**Mail Renewals: 2    Members not yet renewed: 40**

**Post 1000 Transfers: 0    District Rank: Tied for 9<sup>th</sup>/12**

**Newly renewed Members:**

**New Members:**

## **First Vice Commander's Notes**

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 September 9th. I had a good time in Scotland both at the Piping School and competing in the World Pipe Band Championships with the San Jose Police Emerald Society Pipe Band in Glasgow, but especially touring with Maureen around those events in Glasgow and Edinburgh. I highly recommend visiting Scotland and the rest of the UK and Ireland.

We are still working on increasing membership, but we have met current goals and renewals as reported by the New/previous Post Commander Arturo. I will be distributing the new membership cards at our Meeting, and via mail. 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 am still working on getting officer permissions assigned to My Account on American Legion.

I might be available for the VA BBQ on the 28th, but I hope that others will join in on the fun and social help for our isolated Veterans.

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 a 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.  
<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, Jere Bernardoni, or send to him at [Jerep.bernardoni@gmail.com](mailto:Jerep.bernardoni@gmail.com).

Please enjoy the National Day and Month links and Military History below including VA links. The Day or Month link is highlighted in the email, and YouTube is a related topic video. I try to include the ones that I have a military or VA related topic for the National Day and Month and show for “For the Good of the Post”

To Comradeship!

Vincent Guinnane, MSME, P.E.

CW4, 881A1, USAR (Retired)

[vguinnane@comcast.net](mailto:vguinnane@comcast.net)

## 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.

### Upcoming events for August 2024-November 2024

31 Aug	1000 hrs.	VA BBQ-Palo Alto VA (Bldg. 520) 3801 Miranda Avenue Palo Alto, CA
9 Sept	1900 hrs.	Post 642 Monthly Meeting in Person (Dinner served at 1800 hrs.) Oddfellows. Cupertino Lodge #70, 20589 Homestead Ave. Cupertino, CA
11 Sep	0800 hrs.	RISE, Stand United, Stand Strong America Ceremony, The Flame of Liberty Memorial at the Los Gatos Civic Center, 110 East Main St. Los Gatos
24 Sept	1800 hrs.	District 13 Meeting, Post 809 The Moose lodge: 1825 Mt. Pleasant Rd. San Jose
28 Sept	1000 hrs.	VA BBQ-Palo Alto VA (Bldg. 520) 3801 Miranda Avenue Palo Alto, CA
7 Oct	1900 hrs.	Post 642 Monthly Meeting in Person (Dinner served at 1800 hrs.) Oddfellows. Cupertino Lodge #70, 20589 Homestead Ave. Cupertino, CA
4 Nov	1900 hrs.	Post 642 Monthly Meeting in Person (Dinner served at 1800 hrs.) Oddfellows. Cupertino Lodge #70, 20589 Homestead Ave. Cupertino, CA
11 Nov	1100 hrs.	Cupertino Veterans Day Ceremony, Cupertino Memorial Park
12 Nov.	1900 hrs.	District 13 Meeting, Post 217 74 West 6th St Gilroy



“They’re solar panels.”

## 2024-25 Membership Renewals

As we posted several months ago National American Legion voted to raise national dues by \$5. Our Post voted to raise our annual dues to \$45 starting on 1 July 2024. Therefore, if you want to save \$5 you need to renew online NLT 27 June and if you plan on renewing via check, please mail your check for \$40 to PO Box 302, Cupertino, CA 95014 NLT 15 June so we have time to process your membership renewal. Also, Department has a special where you can renew your membership for 3 years at \$40 per year. If you are interested in that option you can go to this [link](#) and follow the instructions.



## **Membership Contact Updates**

With the new 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](http://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
- MaryAnn Salvatierra
- Chris Snell
- William Tillinghast

## **Post 642 Monthly Meeting Schedule for 2023-24 Year**

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

## **Meals Roster 2024**

September 11th: Cathy Schiavone (availability?)

October 2nd: Chuck

November 6th: Gordon Hall

December 4th: David Han

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

## **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 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander ([arturo@cadiz.com](mailto: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.



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

## **Adjutant's Advice**

### **The Pat Tillman Story**

Patrick Tillman was born to parents Mary and Patrick on November 6, 1976, in San Jose, California. The eldest of three boys, Pat was a caring and protective brother and a natural leader with a tendency to push limits – in life, the classroom and on the field.

At Leland High School in San Jose, California (1990-1994), that challenger mentality would become his signature. His diligence and relentless curiosity amazed almost everyone he came into contact with. In high school he was a star who led his high school team to a Central Coast Division I Football Championship – after he was told he was too small to ever play football.



Arizona State University recognized Pat's potential both in classroom and on field with a scholarship to play for the Sun Devils. What Pat lacked in physical size he more than made up for in intensity as linebacker. He led ASU to the 1997 Rose Bowl after an

undefeated season, earned three consecutive selections to the Pac-10 All-Academic Football Team, a 1st team Academic All-American honor, as well as the NCAA's Post-Graduate Scholarship for academic and athletic excellence. Between games, Pat earned a B.S. in Marketing, graduating Summa Cum Laude from ASU's prestigious W.P. Carey School of Business in three and a half years.

Pat gained admiration and high regards from his professors, coaches and fans alike.

The Arizona Cardinals agreed, and selected Pat in the 7th round of the 1998 NFL Draft. Many people doubted his ability to deliver as a starter on the Cardinal's opening-day roster. He answered that skepticism by becoming the team's starting safety and broke the franchise record for tackles in 2000 with 224.

Pat's NFL success did not go to his head or break his principles. He still drove to games in the same beat up truck he had in college. He had no cell phone. He chose to read voraciously and develop, debate and discuss his ideas with eager listeners, family and friends. He made your passion his passion. In the off-season, he challenged himself physically with marathons and half-Ironman triathlons while pursuing a Master's degree in History from his alma mater. He volunteered with Boys and Girls Clubs, the March of Dimes, and read and talked to students in schools across the Phoenix Valley.





The day after the attacks of September 11, 2001, Pat told a reporter, “At times like this you stop and think about just how good we have it, what kind of system we live in, and the freedoms we are allowed. A lot of my family has gone and fought in wars and I really haven’t done a damn thing.”

In the spring of 2002, Pat married his high school love, Marie, and upon his return from their honeymoon, announced to the Cardinals he had decided to place his NFL career on hold to enlist in the U.S. Army with his brother, Kevin. The decision shocked many and garnered national media attention despite his refusal to speak publicly about the choice. Pat and Kevin joined the U.S. Army that July, committing to a three-year term. They were assigned to the second battalion of the 75th Ranger Regiment in Fort Lewis, Washington. They served tours in Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2003, and in Afghanistan during Operation Enduring Freedom in 2004. On the evening of April 22, 2004, Pat’s unit was ambushed as it traveled through the rugged, canyon terrain of eastern Afghanistan. His heroic efforts to provide cover for fellow soldiers as they escaped from the canyon led to his untimely and tragic death via fratricide. While the story of Pat’s death may have been the most publicized in the War on Terror, it is Pat’s life, principles and service that are his true legacy. Pat’s family and friends started the Pat Tillman Foundation to carry forward that legacy by giving military service members, veterans and spouses who embody those principles the educational tools and support to reach their fullest potential as leaders, no matter how they choose to serve.

**Source:** [Pat's Story - Pat Tillman Foundation](#)

## **National Days and Months:**

[NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION MONTH – September](#)

[Save A Veteran's Life with VA S.A.V.E Training](#)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mg58hLXacUY&pp=ygUVdmEgc3VpY2lkZSBwcmV2ZW50aW9u>

[National Preparedness Month National Preparedness Month](#)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q61C\\_y-o0Vs&pp=ygUfdmEgdmF0aW9uYWwgchJlcGFyZWRIbmVzcyBtb250aA%3D%3D](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q61C_y-o0Vs&pp=ygUfdmEgdmF0aW9uYWwgchJlcGFyZWRIbmVzcyBtb250aA%3D%3D)

[PROSTATE HEALTH MONTH – September](#)

<https://www.myhealth.va.gov/mhv-portal-web/ss20170530-prostate-cancer-screening-diagnosis-treatment-options>

[NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION WEEK – Week of September 10](#)

[Veteran Suicide Prevention for Community Providers](#)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9QGe9C3DjnQ&pp=ygUVdmEgc3VpY2lkZSBwcmV2ZW50aW9u>

**Dial 988 then Press 1, chat at [VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat](https://www.veteranscrisisline.net/Chat), or text 838255.**

[National V-j Day September 02](#)

<https://nationaldaycalendar.com/national-v-j-day/>

[Patriot Day And National Day Of Service And Remembrance](#)

[September 11 https://nationaldaycalendar.com/patriot-day-and-national-day-of-service-and-remembrance-september-11/">https://nationaldaycalendar.com/patriot-day-and-national-day-of-service-and-remembrance-september-11/](#)

**Uncle Sam Day September 13**

<https://nationaldaycalendar.com/uncle-sam-day-september-13/>

**National Pow/mia Recognition Day September 15**

<https://nationaldaycalendar.com/national-powmia-recognition-day-third-friday-in-september/>

**Constitution Day And Citizenship Day September 17**

<https://nationaldaycalendar.com/constitution-day-and-citizenship-day-september-17/>

**Air Force Birthday September 18**

<https://nationaldaycalendar.com/air-force-birthday-september-18/>

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=elH0\\_rwlDA8&pp=ygUXYWlyIGZvcmlldC1dGggYmlydGhkYXk%3D](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=elH0_rwlDA8&pp=ygUXYWlyIGZvcmlldC1dGggYmlydGhkYXk%3D)

**National Voter Registration Day September 19**

<https://nationaldaycalendar.com/national-voter-registration-day-changes-annually/>

**Autumnal Equinox September 23**

<https://nationaldaycalendar.com/autumnal-equinox-changes-annually/>

**Gold Star Mother's And Family Day September 24**

<https://nationaldaycalendar.com/gold-star-mothers-day-last-sunday-in-september/>

**National Vfw Day September 29**

<https://nationaldaycalendar.com/vfw-day-september-29/>

**Military History Notes:**

Sep. 1

**1942:** 357 men and five officers of the 6th Naval Construction Battalion arrive in Guadalcanal - the first combat deployment of the legendary "Seabees."

**1952:** While airmen enjoyed the Labor Day holiday, a tornado hits Carswell Air Force Base, destroying two-thirds of the Air Force's B-36 bomber fleet.

**1974:** A SR-71 "Blackbird" flown by Air Force Maj. James V. Sullivan streaks from New York to London in 1 hour and 55 minutes, setting a record that still stands today. Despite having to slow down to take on fuel from a

specially modified KC-135 tanker, the reconnaissance plane still averages a blistering Mach 2.27.

## **Sep. 2**

**1944:** An Avenger torpedo bomber - flown Lt. (junior grade) George H.W. Bush - is shot down by intense anti-aircraft fire after the planes attack Japanese positions on the island of Chichijima. The future president is the

only crewmember of his stricken plane to survive, and is picked up by the submarine US S *Finback* after spending four hours floating in a liferaft.

**1945:** Japan surrenders to the United States on the deck of the battleship USS *Missouri*, anchored in Tokyo Bay.

## **Sep. 4**

**1967:** When two companies of Marines are ambushed in the Que Son Valley south of the de-militarized zone, the 1st Marine Division sweeps in to clear the area of hostiles. During the battle, Navy

chaplain Lt. Vincent R. Capodanno leaves the command post to administer last rites to dying Marines and to aid the corpsmen. Although wounded himself, he refuses treatment and returns to his work. Capodanno is killed by machinegun fire as soon as he finishes dragging a wounded comrade to safety. Meanwhile, Sgt. Lawrence D. Peters ignores hostile fire raining down on his exposed position to pinpoint enemy locations and lead his Marines during the fierce battle. Both Capodanno and Peters are posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor.

### **Sep. 5**

1944: While escorting a bombing mission to Stuttgart, Lt. William H. Lewis shoots down five Heinkel He-111 bombers taking off from Göppingen, Germany, becoming an ace in one mission. His flight of P-51 Mustangs would shoot down 16 bombers during the attack.

### **Sep. 7**

**1997:** Lockheed Martin's F-22 Raptor, a fifth-generation stealth fighter billed as unmatched by "any known or projected fighter aircraft," makes its first flight. Only 187 of the \$150 million Raptors are built before production ends.

**2001:** Four days before the 9/11 attacks, the State Department issues a warning to U.S. citizens worldwide of a possible "terrorist threat" from "extremist groups with links to Osama bin Laden's al Qaeda organization."

### **Sep. 9**

**1972:** DeBellevue becomes an ace by shooting down two enemy fighters near Hanoi.

## **Sep. 10**

**1951:** A 3rd Air Rescue Squadron H-5 helicopter picks up Capt. Ward M. Millar, an F-80 pilot that had been shot down and held as a prisoner of war. Millar escaped after spending two months in captivity, and managed to evade his captors for three weeks, despite having broken both of his ankles when ejecting from his jet.

## **Sep. 11**

**2001:** As air controllers learn that several planes appear to have been hijacked, fighter jets are scrambled but do not arrive in time to disrupt a complex terrorist attack that kills 2,997 Americans and injures some 6,000. At

9:37a.m., a Boeing 757 flown by Al Qaeda terrorists slams into the Pentagon, killing 55 military personnel and 70 civilian employees. The area hit by the plane was undergoing renovations at the time of the attack, which meant only a few hundred of what would normally be around 5,000 occupants were endangered. Structural reinforcements and a sprinkler system had recently been added - in response to the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing - which increased survivability. Although it is too late for the Pentagon, all U.S. military facilities worldwide are ordered to enter Force Protection Condition "Delta" - the highest level of readiness for a possible terrorist attack. Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld increases the military alert level from DEFCON 5 (the lowest state of military preparedness) to DEFCON 3. Although the Russians would typically match the

increase, President Vladimir Putin notifies George W. Bush that he would order his forces to stand down and denounces the terrorist attack. A report of a possible truck bomb attack targeting the North American Aerospace — Command (NORAD) headquarters in the Cheyenne Mountain Complex leads to the first time the facility

closes its massive blast doors, which are designed to withstand a nuclear attack. NORAD now controls of all American air space as combat air patrols guarded the skies and enforced a nationwide no-fly-zone.

## **Sep. 17**

**1908:** 2,500 people gather at Fort Myer, Va. to watch Orville Wright demonstrate his Wright Flyer to the Army Signal Corps. One of the propellers breaks during the flight, sending the aircraft nose-first into the ground, severely wounding Wright and killing his passenger, Lt. Thomas E. Selfridge. Although Wright survived the first-ever fatal aircraft incident, he would spend the next seven weeks recovering in an Army hospital

**1947:** The National Security Act of 1947 enacts sweeping reorganization of the Armed Forces and intelligence service structure. After 40 years of service as a component of the Army, the newly formed Air Force stands up as an independent branch of the military. The act creates a National Military Establishment - renamed the Department of Defense in 1949 - with the Army, Navy, and Air Force now under a unified command. Also established is the Joint Chiefs of Staff, which provides military advice to the president and the new Cabinet position of Secretary of Defense. The act also establishes the Central Intelligence Agency - America's first

peacetime intelligence service - and the National Security Council, which advises the president on matters of national security and foreign policy.

## **American Legion Post 642 August 5, 2024 meeting minutes**

**Attendance:** Wally, Michael O'Meara, David, Bill R, Gordon, Manny, Kenneth, Bob, Charles, George, Jim, Dennis.

**Opening the meeting:** Arturo

**Prayer** by Bill

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**POW empty Chair Ceremony**

**Preamble to the Legion Constitution**

### **Adjutant Roll Call:**

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

### **Guests:**

Grandson of Bill Reichard

Initiation of new officers: Wally

### **Reading of the Minutes:**

Motion: Accepting minutes as amended. Need to change VA BBQ date to September 28 not September 9.

Moved: Dennis, Seconded: Bob

Discussion: None.

Approval: Unanimous

**Officer Reports Updates:**

***Finance Officer's Report:*** Mike

Summary: Reviewed report.

Motion: To approve the finance report subject to audit.

Moved: Dennis, Seconded: George

Discussion: None

Unanimous Approval

***First Vice Commander:*** NA

Summary: NA

Discussion: NA

***Second Vice Commander's Report:*** Gordon

Summary: Completed Boys and Girls State in July. Jessica Jackson is our delegate and she will represent us and will attend our Christmas dinner.

Discussion: NA

***Adjutant's Report:*** David

Summary: None.

***Chaplain Report:*** Bill

Summary: All is well.

***Post Service Officer:*** Absent

Summary: None.

**Commander:** Arturo

Summary: Met our membership goals. 100% was reached. Thank you to those who helped with membership. Next meeting is 9/9. Rates went up for membership. (\$42)

Scholarships from our post. Both were grandsons of our members. Both are engineers.

Austin was present and he expressed thanks for the support. Letter was read from the other recipient.

**Committee Reports:**

Boys and Girls State: Gordon

Summary: Jessica Jackson was our delegate. We are the only post in the District to send a girl to Boys State. Jessica sent a card to share her thanks.

Discussion: None.

Wreaths Across America: Dennis

Summary: Next to last year for Dennis to run this event. Dennis is getting the speakers ready. Flyers need to be printed and fundraising must begin soon. There will be Starbucks and donuts to those who help out. Wreaths are now \$17.50. Home Depot may donate to the event. A Major General will be a speaker. \$30,000 needs to be raised for all the veteran gravestones to be covered.

**Sick Call Relief:** None.

**Unfinished business:**

VA BBQ: Mike

Discussion: Needs some volunteers. August 31, 2024 Saturday. Last time we had 6 members. September 28 is the last BBQ for the year.

Christmas Dinner: Mike

Discussion: December 5th at the Blue Pheasant.

**Initiation of new members:** None

**New Business:**

Commander- Arturo will have an executive meeting at Arturo's house.

**District Meeting Updates:** None.

**Memorial to Departed Post member:** Thomas Cribbs passed recently.

**Good of the legion:** Raffle.

Arturo was on National Guard active duty. Was a combat veteran. At Fort Riley, Kansas, a soldier was wearing two left boots.

**Chaplain:** Bill

**POW/MIA chair ceremony**

**Benediction and Closing**