



Veterans Helping Veterans & Serving the Community Since 1932

Issue 1-30

958 H0mestead Rd, Santa Clara CA 95050

March 2020

Commander's Corner

Greetings, what is new?

SOLAR INSTALLATION – Let's take a step back

from last month's update. Before the 'Solar' can be mounted on the roof, we need to resurface it. There are just a few leaks, but due to the age of the last resurfacing, it was advisable to put in a new roof with a 30-year loan of \$53,000.

Wednesday, January 29th - Color Guard – St. Clare Catholic School in Santa Clara (right next to our post) requested a Color Guard for their morning assembly for 'Flag Morning'. The participants were John Boyles, Jeff Driskell, Stan Ferro, Gene Grundstrom, Gene Venechanos, Steve Villegas, and myself. The kids recited the 'pledge of allegiance', sang a patriotic song, and made speeches. We presented colors and marched off. When we were gathering our belongings in the conference room, three little kids stood by the door waiting to shake our hands as we exited. You could say that the kids were pretty impressed with us. But, I was unexpectedly surprised by their showing of respect to the flag, country, and God. It is not something I see or hear much about these days. I wonder if other schools teach patriotism.

Email Blast, January 30th – From the survey that was taken earlier in January, several members did not know that we had events. So, an email blast was sent out on January 30th to members that live in the Santa Clara County for the following events.

Saturday, February 1st - The Interfaith Memorial Service for the four Chaplains

Sunday, February 2nd – First Sunday of the Month Breakfast

Monday, February 3rd – Vet to Vet drop in

Wednesday, February 5, General Meeting

I am only aware of 1 extra person attending the 'Vet to Vet' and 1 for the General Meeting.

Wednesday, February 5th - General Meeting

Ralph Jacob was awarded the 2019 '**Veteran of the Year Award**' by Rose H. of the 'United Veterans Council' accompanied by Gene Fanucchi and Dennis Foggie. Last year Ralph received a '**Life Time Achievement Award**' from the American Legion. Ralph has a history of serving the community and veterans dating back to 1984.

New Members joined the Post: Gilbert Rodrigues, Bruce Starr, Adrin Allop, Lorenzo Lopez Jr., and Edward Shaffer – Welcome and hope you can join us in our activities.

Our membership status is at 93.62% with 411 members.

Monday, February 17th - 'Vet to Vet' Drop-In – we had two guest representatives from 'Hospice' organization. They gave us information on how we as veterans can help by working directly with patients as volunteers and how 'Hospice' can be of service to members of the post. In case you did not know, we are an aging post and I am not talking about the building.

WW2 – 45 members, average age 97

Korea – 80 members, average age 86

Vietnam – 221 members, average age 74

Lebanon – 26 members, average age 58

Panama – 9 members, average age 51

Persian – 19 members, average age 35

If you are interested or would like more information on 'Hospice', let us know.

(continued on page 2)

Commander's Corner Continued

Wednesday, March 4th – Delegates – One of the orders of business on March's general meeting will be to nominate delegates for the conventions. I think we need about 12 members, it depends on the size of our membership. I, along with others, are delegates in this current fiscal year. I may have been a delegate last year also, but I can't remember because like most of the delegates, we 'never' went to a convention. Most of us are not convention kind of people, we are 'Only in Name'. Fortunately, we have a few that are 100% into conventions. They attend and bring back all the updated information and tell us about their misguided exploits.

How can you help? Please come to the meeting at 7pm Wednesday, March 4th. Introduce yourself to me and be sure that I spelled your name correctly, sit back and relax. When the time comes, I will nominate you and you just need to stand up and say, 'I will be delighted'. Now you can tell your friends and family that you are an American Legion Delegate for post 419, and we will see you next year. If you are interested the 2020 Department Convention will be held in Visalia, California.

Post Newsletters Publisher – Mel has stepped down from his duties as publisher due to health issues. I know that he did his best and at times it was not easy for him to work on it. Thanks for giving it all you got, Mel. We are all praying for you and your wife to feel and get better.

Tom Freeman of Arizona has volunteered to take over the publications. Thanks Tom and I hope you have fun putting it together.

Al Wong Commander
Post Commander

Chaplain's Report

We are sad to have to tell you that one of our members has transferred to Post Everlasting. Frank Vierra a WWII Veteran, branch unknown, a member of Post 419 for 23 years.



If you hear of any member or members family who are sick, in the hospital or a member has transferred to Post Everlasting, please contact Post 419 at 408-244-3052 (follow the menu) or Ralph Jacob at 408-476-4030 bocaj1999@yahoo.com.

Gene Grundstrom for Post Chaplain



We would like to welcome the following new members to our family at Santa Clara Post 419

Gilbert Rodrigues	US Army	Korea
Adrin Allop	US Army	War on Terror
Lorenzo Lopez Jr	US Army	War on Terror
Bruce Starr	US Army	Vietnam



The American Legion Auxiliary is the world's largest women's patriotic service organization.

Welcome new members **Marie Sanchez** and **Jennifer Bassett!** Thanks to them, our Unit is now at 92% of our membership goal, but we need your help today.

We need just 12 more members, especially junior girls, to make goal by April. Consider a **gift of membership** for your daughter, grand-daughter, mother, or spouse of a Post member or eligible veteran. **Annual dues are only \$5 for juniors** (under 18) and \$30 for adult members.



Please pick up an application from the Post lobby or bar and drop it off at the office or give to Maydean Grundstrom at First Sunday Breakfast on March 1st. Have questions? Contact Maydean at (408) 732-5257 or email her at megefg@sbcglobal.net.

Post & Sons WE NEED YOU to reach out to your families for eligible Auxiliary members, especially juniors, and we'll do the SAME! Making sure that our Legion Family is *solidly* red, white and blue will help our organizations lobby for veterans while our members enjoy the benefits of our association.

Help us fluff poppies at our next meeting! We meet Wednesday, **March 11th** with snacks and social at 6:30 p.m. and an *informal* meeting at 7 p.m. We'll be fluffing poppies while talking about Girls State, how to help the Sons with their Socks for Vets, and we can get tickets from Frances to the Legion's St. Patrick's Day Dinner. In April, we'll be stuffing envelopes with a poppy for the annual Poppy Appeal. Hope to see you! Cindy Newman, Secretary/Treasurer, (650) 219-1041
cnewman419@yahoo.com





Squadron 419 Report

Good afternoon everyone, well this month is coming to a close, and it seems like the days are going by a lot faster.

Our memberships have been trickling in, but we still have a bunch that haven't renewed. So if you come across a member, just ask them if they've renewed.

Also, a friendly reminder that our dues may be going up, so if this must happen we will need to change our by-laws to reflect it. Also remember that we now have the capability to get memberships transmitted on-line.

As you may be aware, we are sponsoring two students to attend Boys state in June. Students across California will be traveling to Sacramento for a week of learning government. The parties will create their own governments, gain hands-on learning, and of course, make long time friends. If anyone is interested in learning a bit about what they will be doing, there will be an orientation at American Legion post 564 on May 16th. More information to follow.

Each year before our conventions, we record hours and miles for activities we participate in, so I will be reaching out, probably by the end of April, for everyone's information. This information is compiled, sent to National and presented to Congress, so they know what we are doing, and how it affects programs.

If anyone is interested in committees or volunteering please ask. We always need people to step up and get involved!

Activities:

The annual **St. Patty's dinner dance** will be held March 14th. Look for more information within this newsletter.

On April 11th, we are holding our newly named "**Sock's for Vets**" dinner dance. Dinner will be provided by Golden Harvest and we'll have a DJ. Our flyer will be coming out soon. We'd love it if everyone would contribute a new pair of socks which will be given to the Veterans at the Menlo Park VA on July 4th (Carnival Day). We have been doing this longer than I have been a member of 419. As a legion family (Post, Aux and Son's). we will spend our day having games for the residents at Menlo Park. If you are interested in helping out for a few hours, we would greatly appreciate it.

Helmets for Hero's is an ongoing program. Loose change in your pockets adds up and will go into the V.A. & R program for the Department of California which pays for the Service Officers which help veterans with VA Claims. You can deposit your donation in the green helmets in either the clubroom or main hall.

The **Fox Fund Raiser** will be raffling off a drawing for a Kawasaki 4x4 Quad. The monies generated will be going to the Fox campaign, supporting Michael Fox, California's candidate for the position of "National Commander of the Son's of the American Legion".

Tickets are \$10.00 each and the drawing will be held this June at the Convention; you need not to be present to win. Flyers about the Quad are in the lobby of the post and in the clubroom. Tickets are still available and can be purchased

Important Contact Information — Post 419, Squadron and Auxiliary

GENERAL CONTACT NUMBER — 408-244-3050 (You may leave messages here any time of the day or night.)

Post Adjutant email contact — americanlegionpost419@comcast.net (excellent means for sending information and/or requests to Post officers).

HONORING OUR MILITARY VETERANS

WWII, KOREAN AND VIETNAM

Honor Flight Bay Area Foundation — 598 Veterans Honored with trip to Washington, D.C.



2020 Flight Schedule

Trip #24: April 26-28

Trip #25: June 7-9

Trip #26: Sept 13-15

Honor Flight Bay Area Foundation is preparing for its 6th year of operation in 2020. Since organizing in 2014, we have flown 598 veterans to Washington, D.C. to visit their war memorials. This is an all-expense paid trip for the veteran and our way of thanking them for their service and sacrifice.

If you are a WWII, Korean or Vietnam war veteran who has not been to D.C. and seen your war memorial, you are invited, encouraged, to participate in this trip of a life time. Applications are available at www.honorflightbayarea.org. Full details of the trip and information about Honor Flight Bay Area is available at our Web site.

Prior to each flight we will conduct an orientation meeting for all participants. This gives you the opportunity to meet your fellow travelers and learn about the trip itinerary. A few weeks after each flight we hold a reunion where participants can share their experiences from the trip. All of this is a truly memorable experience... for the veteran, the guardians and our volunteers.

Many of our senior veterans are concerned with health issues and the ability to make this trip. Let us help you evaluate your situation before you disqualify yourself. Part of the application process involves a private conversation with an Honor Flight Bay Area health professional.

Guardians and escorts are also needed to assist our veterans. If you are interested in volunteering as a guardian, you can obtain an application at www.honorflightbayarea.org. Or, if you just want to volunteer to help Honor Flight Bay Area with the logistics and work required to organize each flight, an application for volunteers is available at the website.

A huge thank you to Post 419 and to all of the members and volunteers who have helped to make our honor flights a success.

I look forward to everyone's continued support for our 2020 honor flights.

Don Newton

Co-Founder and Director, Honor Flight Bay Area Foundation

Past Commander – Post 419 and District 13

History of the POW/MIA Flag



In 1970, Mrs. Michael Hoff, an MIA wife and member of the National League of Families, recognized the need for a symbol of our POW/MIAs. Prompted by an article in the Jacksonville, Florida, *TIMES-UNION*, Mrs. Hoff contacted Norman Rivkees, Vice President of Annin & Company which had made a banner for the newest member of the United Nations, the People's Republic of China (PRC), as a part of their policy to provide flags to all United Nations members states. Mrs. Hoff found Mr. Rivkees very sympathetic to the POW/MIA issue, and he and an Annin advertising agency employee, designed a flag to represent our missing men. Following League approval, the flags were manufactured for distribution.

On March 9, 1989, an official League flag that flew over the White House on National POW/MIA Recognition Day 1988 was installed in the U.S. Capitol Rotunda as a result of legislation passed overwhelmingly during the 100th Congress. In a demonstration of bipartisan Congressional support, the leadership of both Houses hosted the installation ceremony.

The League's POW/MIA flag is the only flag ever displayed in the U.S. Capitol Rotunda where it will stand as a powerful symbol of national commitment to America's POW/MIAs until the fullest possible accounting has been achieved for U.S. personnel still missing and unaccounted for from the Vietnam War.

On August 10, 1990, the 101st Congress passed U.S. Public Law 101-355, which recognized the League's POW/MIA flag and designated it "*as the symbol of our Nation's concern and commitment to resolving as fully as possible the fates of Americans still prisoner, missing and unaccounted for in Southeast Asia*, thus ending the uncertainty for their families and the Nation".

The importance of the League's POW/MIA flag lies in its continued visibility, a constant reminder of the plight of America's POW/MIAs. Other than "Old Glory", the League's POW/MIA flag is the only flag ever to fly over the White House, having been displayed in this place of honor on National POW/MIA Recognition Day since 1982.

Passage by the 105th Congress of Section 1082 of the 1998 Defense Authorization Act required that the League's POW/MIA flag fly six days each year: Armed Forces Day, Memorial Day, Flag Day, Independence Day, National POW/MIA Recognition Day and Veterans Day. It must be displayed at the White House, the U.S. Capitol, the Departments of State, Defense and Veterans Affairs, the headquarters of the Selective Service System, major military installations as designated by the Secretary of the Defense, all Federal cemeteries and all offices of the U.S. Postal Service. In addition to the specific dates stipulated, the Department of Veterans Affairs voluntarily displays our POW/MIA flag 24/7, and the National Vietnam Veterans, Korean War Veterans and World War II Memorials were all recently required by Congress to display the POW/MIA flag daily, as do many State Capitols and other locations across the country.

National POW/MIA Recognition Day—September 19th In September, Americans across the country will pause to remember the U.S. service members who never came home, either living or dead. The third Friday of September is designated as POW/MIA Recognition Day to honor those U.S. service members that are either prisoners of war or still missing in action. The day is one of six in which Congress mandates the flying of the POW/MIA Flag; the others days are Armed Forces Day, Memorial Day, Flag Day, Independence Day and Veterans Day.

The American Legion is committed to achieving a full accounting of all POW/MIAs from all war eras. This means returning living POWs, the repatriation of their remains, or finding convincing evidence of why neither is possible. Resolution No. 288, adopted at the 67th National Convention, calls for designating a POW/MIA Empty Chair at all official Legion meetings as a physical symbol of the thousands of American POW/MIAs still unaccounted for.

The Legion's commitment to this issue was re-emphasized at the 94th National Convention in Indianapolis. Resolution No. 78 states that "The American Legion remains steadfast in our commitment to the goal of achieving the fullest possible accounting for all U.S. military personnel and designated civilian personnel missing and unaccounted for from our nation's wars."

Learn more about POW's and MIA's at the Defense Department's Office of Defense Prisoner of War—Missing Personnel Office at DPMO.

Those who have served, and those currently serving in the uniformed services of the United States, are ever mindful that the sweetness of enduring peace has always been tainted by the bitterness of personal sacrifice. We are compelled to never forget that while we enjoy our daily pleasures, there are others who have endured and may still be enduring the agonies of pain, deprivation and imprisonment.



POW/MIA Remembrance Table



POW/MIA Flag

AMERICAN LEGION POST 419

**HAPPY
ST. PATTY'S
DAY**



ST. PATRICK'S DINNER and DANCE

Date: MARCH 14, 2020 Doors Open: 5:00 pm

Dinner Starts: 6:00 pm

Menu: Corned Beef & Cabbage

Live Music and Dancing: 7:00 – 10:00 pm

Full-Service Bar (Beverages not included in pricing)

Price: \$30 per person



FOR TICKETS CONTACT:
FRANCES @ 408-243-5832
POST 419 @ 408-244-3050
STOP BY POST 419

958 HOMESTEAD RD., SANTA CLARA, CA 95050
Phone: 408-244-3050  WEB SITE: alpost419ca.org

Come Join the Conversation Vet to Vet Monday Morning Coffee Chats

Your hostess is Karen Carter - 408 595-3333

Held at the American Legion Post 419

Homestead Ave., Santa Clara

Every Monday morning from 9:00 am - 10:30 am

Drop in anytime or come for the entire time, your choice

Time to relax and talk with a fellow Veteran



Donuts Too - all complimentary

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MEMORIAL

LIFE WELL CELEBRATED[®]

2020 Calendar of Events

Host	Event	Date
Legion	First Sunday Breakfast	Sunday Mar 1, 2020 9 - 11am
Legion	St Patrick's Dinner/Dance	Saturday Mar 14, 2020 6 - 10pm
Legion	First Sunday Breakfast	Sunday Apr 5, 2020 9 - 11am
SAL	Socks for Vets	Sat Apr 11, 2020
Legion	Girl's State Orientation	Tuesday Apr 21, 2020
Legion	First Sunday Breakfast Mother's Day	May 3, 2020 9 - 11am
SAL	Rib Feed	Saturday May 16, 2020
Legion Aux SAL	Installation Dinner	Friday May 29, 2020
Legion	First Sunday Breakfast Father's Day	Sunday June 7, 2020 9 - 11am
Legion	Annual Car Show	Saturday June 13, 2020
Legion	First Sunday Breakfast	Sunday July 5, 2020 9 - 11am
Legion	First Sunday Breakfast	Sunday Aug 2, 2020 9 - 11am
Legion	First Sunday Breakfast	Sept 6, 2020 9 - 11am
Legion	Surf City Dinner/Dance	Saturday Sept 26, 2020
SAL	First Sunday Breakfast	Sunday Oct 4, 2020 9 - 11am
Legion	Halloween Dinner/Dance	Sat Oct 31, 2020
Aux	First Sunday Breakfast	Nov 1, 2020 9 - 11am
Legion	Annual Craft Faire	Saturday Nov 7, 2020
Legion	Veterans Day	Wednesday, Nov 11, 2020
Legion Aux SAL	Thanks for Giving Dinner	Thursday Nov 19, 2020
SAL	First Sunday Breakfast	Sunday Dec 6, 2020 9 - 11am
Legion	Legion Family Christmas Dinner/ Dance	Saturday Dec 12, 2020
Aux	New Years Eve Party	Thursday Dec 31, 2020