

The Ranger Way December 2025





Commanders Corner

Greetings Fellow Legionnaires,

All are invited to our Post meeting which is on December 1st where we have a social hour prior to the meeting with meals served, so please plan on attending. There are also the usual District-wide events like Monday chess at Post 858, Vet to Vet Café at Post 419 on Thursdays. Post 419 is also hosting a First Sunday Breakfast on the 7th. Check the District 13 Calendar for information. We also have the Post Christmas Dinner on the 5th at the Blue Pheasant. We host our Boys/Girls State representatives at the dinner with talks from each that are always interesting. I will be in Hawaii for the Pearl Harbor Day Parade this year. Remember that we have the Wreaths Across America on the 13th the Gate of Heaven Cemetery. Get your orders in for Wreaths by the 28th of November. There is also the 2025 Season of Service Country Store & Silent Auction Fundraiser at the Palo Alto VA.

Remember that we generally meet at the Odd Fellows Lodge #70 on Homestead Road on the first Monday of the Month at 1800 for socializing and a light meal and refreshments then check out the meeting at 1900.

We really want to get more people attending the Post meetings and events and to be more social, so let us know your ideas by coming to our meetings. Do give us a headsup, so that we can requisition extra rations versus our regular contingent. The next person on the meals roster (on the Adjutant's Corner) will have to get the cooler with drinks, etc. If additional drinks are required, it will be reimbursed above the normal meal amount. I have it for this coming meeting, so we will have to adjust the roster.

We need a Finance Officer to step up as our longtime Finance Officer Mike O'Meara needs to step down for personal reasons. If you have questions about the position, please reach out to Mike O'Meara at (408) 691-8277 or momeara47@yahoo.com. In our Post Bylaws' Section 5. Duties of the Finance Officer. The Finance Officer shall be charged with custody of the funds of the

Post. He shall keep its accounts and report thereon at regular meeting of the Post. They shall receive all funds of the Post and pay all bills approved by the Post. The office of Finance Officer and any other officer and/or positions charged by the Post Constitution and/or Bylaws, with the responsibility of handling Post funds, should be bonded and must pass a credit check. This position is very important for maintaining the Post Charter and eligibility in the District.

Please remember that if you have Post or Veterans events that you would like on the calendar get them to Arturo. 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, (currently vacant) so contact the Adjutant at wheimsoth@aol.com with information or if you would like to volunteer for the District 13 Chaplain position.

To Comradeship! Vincent Guinnane, MSME, P.E. CW4, 881A2, USAR (Retired) vguinnane@comcast.net

Cell: +1 (408) 219-0191

First Vice Commanders Notes

None

2026 Membership Report (As of 23 November 2025)

Total Members: 38/58.46% 2026 Membership Goal: 65 Paid Up for Life (PUFL): 13 Newly renewed Members: 3 Online Annual Renewals:10 New Members: 0

Multi-Annual Renewals: 4

Renewals Pending Submittal:0 Mail Renewals:11 Members not yet renewed: 24 District Rank: 10th out of 11 Post 1000 Transfers: 0

Renewed Members Since Last Report: 3

Vance Nau USAF 19 Years John Bruzas USN 24 Years Robert Pickle USMC 31 Years Tim O'Meara USA 12 Years

Membership Report URL

Adjutant Update

Fellow Legionnaires,

It is great to be back home after spending 6 weeks in Chile and Argentina visiting family and checking out the beautiful sites in both of those countries. Much like when we were serving in uniform, getting a chance to see unfamiliar places and faces is enjoyable however one always appreciates coming back home!

Hopefully, you all have a great Veterans Day 2025 and were able to attend some of the local events within our community.

Next year at the Cupertino Memorial Park during Veterans Day the Moving Vietnam Memorial Wall (Replica) which is 80% of the actual size of the Wall in DC will be on-site from 10 to 14 November 2026. Dennis Whittaker and John Swensson from our Post are the key folks who oversee this event. As part of hosting the Moving Wall we will need to have guards on site 24 hours a day during the event. Dennis will be at our January meeting and will begin asking for volunteers and sign-up sheets. The Post hosted the Moving Wall about 13 years ago and it was an enormous success, especially for the Vietnam War Veterans in our community who were able to view the Wall.

This coming month we will be celebrating our 10th Annual Wreaths Across America Ceremony at the Gate of Heaven Cemetery on Saturday 13 December 2025 at 1000 hrs. We are always looking for volunteers to help on the day of the event. Also you can go directly to our website and purchase wreaths for \$17. Proceeds from the sale of the wreaths are used by our Post to support Veterans in our local community.

Thanks to the 38 members who have renewed so far this year, we still have a way to go to achieve our goal of 62 members. If you haven't already done so you can renew **online** or send your check to the address that is listed on the renewal letters you have received.

I wish you and your families a Happy Hanukkah and Merry Christmas!

"Duty First"

Arturo

Upcoming events for December 2025-February 2026			
1 Dec	1900 hrs.	Post 642 Monthly Meeting in Person (Dinner served at 1800 hrs.) Oddfellows. Cupertino Lodge #70, 20589 Homestead Ave. Cupertino, CA	
5 Dec.	1815 hrs.	Post 642 Christmas/Holiday Dinner, Blue Pheasant Restaurant, 22100 Stevens Creek Blvd. (See flyer for more information	
13 Dec	1000 hrs.	Wreaths Across America Ceremony-Gate of Heaven Cemetery	
5 Jan	1900 hrs.	Post 642 Monthly Meeting in Person (Dinner served at 1800 hrs.) Oddfellows. Cupertino Lodge #70, 20589 Homestead Ave. Cupertino, CA	
21 Jan	1900 hrs.	District 13 Meeting Post 558, Los Altos, 347 1st Street, Los Altos	
2 Feb	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.

Historian Report

Historian's Report

https://americanlegionpost642.com/index.php?id=102

National Days and Months:

There is a neat description of December here with regard to the National Days where the rest of these links can be found. https://www.nationaldaycalendar.com/december NATIONAL REPEAL DAY - December 5 – End of Prohibition

SAINT NICHOLAS DAY - December 6 recognizes the third-century saint who became an inspiration for the modern-day Santa Claus including leaving gold in the shoes of daughters of poor men for dowries.

https://youtu.be/3jLO6A2NpPU?si=5BLIWbrVJzLVyciw

<u>CHANUKAH - changes annually Festival of Lights, is an eight-day Jewish holiday</u> commemorating the re-dedication of the Holy Temple (the Second Temple) in Jerusalem at the time of the Maccabean Revolt of the 2nd century BCE.

NATIONAL PEARL HARBOR REMEMBRANCE DAY - December 7

https://youtu.be/X872ODCGht8?si=JB9McjB1AzmzwPhk

<u>CHRISTMAS CARD DAY - December 9</u> – Remember to get your cards out to make sure they get there in time.

NATIONAL GUARD BIRTHDAY - December 13 – History note listed in section below. https://youtu.be/1gFU_qHrdCQ?si=OEUTBor8JZ90B40S

BILL OF RIGHTS DAY - December 15

https://youtu.be/SHEbA6vCaw8?si=Zh3KGiSHuDxP94Y3

NATIONAL WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA DAY - Changes Annually - check 1st Vice notes.

WRIGHT BROTHERS DAY - December 17 commemorates the first successful flights in a heavier-than-air, mechanically propelled airplane. Orville and Wilbur Wright made that

first successful flight on December 17, 1903, near Kitty Hawk, North Carolina. https://youtu.be/pTac5ApoHGA?si=xEpSI-D-I12V6CsU

https://www.nationaldaycalendar.com/national-day/national-flashlight-day-day-of-winter-solsticeYULE - Day of Winter Solstice

WINTER SOLSTICE - Day Between December 20 and 23 - The winter solstice is the shortest day and longest night of the year in the Northern Hemisphere. When YULE is also celebrated.

<u>FOREFATHERS' DAY - December 22</u> (Unless on Sunday, Then Following Monday) commemorates the landing of the Pilgrim Fathers in Plymouth, Massachusetts, on December 21, 1620. https://youtu.be/SHEbA6vCaw8?si=Zh3KGiSHuDxP94Y3

CHRISTMAS EVE - December 24

CHRISTMAS DAY - December 25

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE DAY - December 28 Congress formally gave recognition for the Pledge of Allegiance on December 28, 1945. Francis Bellamy receives credit for writing the Pledge of Allegiance. The Youth's Companion, a magazine for young people, first published it anonymously on September 8, 1892, under the title "The Pledge." It was written in celebration of the 400th anniversary of the discovery of America. HOLY INNOCENTS' DAY - December 28 The day commemorates the execution of the innocent, male children in Bethlehem as told in Matthew 2:16.

UNIVERSAL HOUR OF PEACE - December 31 From 11:30 p.m. on December 31st to

<u>UNIVERSAL HOUR OF PEACE - December 31 From 11:30 p.m. on December 31st to 12:30 a.m. on January 1st each year, Universal Hour of Peace hopes to take a step toward a war-free world.</u>

Military History Notes: National Guard which leads to the Continental Army **December**

Dec. 1

1941: The Civil Air Patrol is established. Originally intended for reconnaissance, civilian planes are eventually fitted with bombs and depth charges when German submarines begin attacking U.S. shipping on the east coast. During the war, CAP pilots would log half a million hours, spotting 173 submarines, hitting 10 and sinking two - at the cost of 64 pilots.

Dec. 4

1783: Nine days after the British evacuate New York City, Gen. George Washington bids farewell to his fellow Continental Army officers over a turtle feast at Fraunces Tavern. Washington tells them that "With a heart full of love and gratitude, I now take leave of you. I most devoutly wish that your latter days may be as prosperous and happy as your former ones have been glorious and honorable."

1964: President Lyndon Johnson presents Army Capt. Roger H.C. Donlon (http://www.victoryinstitute.net/blogs/utb/2000/07/roger-h-c-donlon-medalof-honor-citation) the first Medal of Honor of the Vietnam War in ceremonies at the White House. Capt. Donlon led a Green Beret team as they defended against a reinforced Viet Cong battalion near Laos on July 6, 1964.

https://youtu.be/UtWdC8cis2w?si=bHzR_U8EI0IHfmtK

Dec. 6

1950: American forces — primarily leathernecks of the now-famous 1st Marine Division, a few American soldiers, and a handful of British commandos — begin their epic "fighting withdrawal" from Hagaru-ri to Koto-ri and on to Hamnung, during the breakout from the Chosin Reservoir, Korea. At Koto-ri, a few officers express concern that their vastly outnumbered, bloodied, freezing, near-starving columns might not survive the final trek to Hamnung. As the UN orders communist forces to halt at the 38th Parallel, U.S. and Australian planes kill an estimated 2,500 enemy troops.

Dec. 7

1941: At 3:57 a.m. the minesweeper USS *Condor* spots a periscope at the entrance to Pearl Harbor. The ship signals the nearby destroyer USS *Ward*, whose crew begins searching for the unidentified vessel. At 6:37 a.m., *Ward* spots the periscope as a twoman Japanese mini sub attempts to follow a U.S. cargo ship into the harbor and sinks the enemy warship - the first U.S. shots of World War II.

Having achieved total tactical and strategic surprise, Vice Adm. Chuichi Nagumo's 1st Air Fleet begins their attack on Pearl Harbor. The strike is conducted in two waves: The first wave of 183 enemy aircraft strikes just before 8:00 a.m. The second wave of 170 planes hits a little after 8:30 a.m. Of the ships anchored at Pearl Harbor, five of the eight battleships, three destroyers, and seven other ships were either sunk or severely damaged. By day's end, 2,718 American sailors, 582 soldiers (including Army Air Forces personnel), 178 Marines, and 103 civilians will be dead, dying or wounded. Japanese losses were minimal: 30 planes, five minisubs, 65 killed, and one Japanese sailor captured. All but two of the battleships - *Arizona* and *Oklahoma* - are raised to fight again.

Dec. 13

1636: The Massachusetts General Court in Salem orders the creation of a militia, requiring all able-bodied men between the ages of 16 and 60 join, to defend the colony if necessary. Three regiments are created: the North Regiment - today's 181st and 182nd Infantry Regiments; the East Regiment - today's 101st Engineer Battalion; and the South Regiment - today's 101st Field Artillery Regiment. The National Guard is born.

Dec. 15

0 1944: A plane carrying Maj. Glenn Miller, leader of the world-famous "Glenn Miller Orchestra" prior to World War H, disappears in bad weather over the English Channel. Miller volunteered for service and led the Army Air Force Band from 1942 until his disappearance. https://youtu.be/6Twqm0aRD-k?si=Tin3nyAZeGGpWqGB

1967: During a firefight in South Vietnam's Binh Dinh province, Specialist Allen J. Lynch (http://www.victoryinstitute.net/blogs/utb/2000/12/allen-jlynch-medal-of-honor-citation/) crosses a kill zone multiple times, killing numerous enemies, in order to carry three wounded comrades to safety. As his company withdraws from the numerically superior enemy, Lynch remains behind with the wounded - after crossing the kill zone several more times to carry the casualties to a safer location, and then single-handedly defends the position for two hours until another company mounts a counterattack and the men are evacuated. https://youtu.be/mFedNF7qMZs?si=8ZvWVzzz4rF7RWqp

Dec. 16

1944: A massive German Army force composed of SS Panzer (SS armored units), Volksgrenadier (infantry), Panzergrenadier (armored infantry), and Fallschirmjager (paratroopers) burst through the snow-covered Ardennes

Forest and smash headlong into the weakest stretch of the Allied frontlines in Belgium. The attack which will become known as the Battle of the Bulge (because of the temporary bulging salient the German thrust will create in the Allied lines) is a last ditch gamble on the part of the Germans, a surprise counteroffensive aimed at cutting American and British forces in half; crossing the Meuse River; encircling, isolating, and destroying Allied armies west of the Meuse; and perhaps reaching the North Sea. It is not to be. Despite the initial shock along a 60-to-70-mile front and a 50-mile-deep Penetration German forces will quickly find themselves running up against giants of men like Gen. Anthony McAuliffe's diehard paratroopers of the crack 101st Airborne Division, who though surrounded, outnumbered, outgunned, freezing, and nearly starving to death refuse to surrender the strategically vital highway hub at Bastogne. The battle, which will last until Jan. 28, 1945, will prove to be the largest land battle in western Europe during World War II, and it will be a decisive American victory. But it will not be without heavy losses: 19,000 American soldiers will be killed out of 81,000 total U.S. casualties in five weeks.

https://youtu.be/DZmPM9s1mTs?si=3MqtDmshqOXN6 Ka

Dec. 17

1903: Brothers Orville and Wilbur Wright pilot the first heavier than air machine. The Wright Flyer travels 120 feet in the air over the sand dunes of Kitty Hawk, N.C., staying aloft for 12 seconds. The aviators will make three more flights that day. The modem aviation age is born.

Dec. 19

1777: 18 miles northwest of Philadelphia, Gen. George Washington's Continental Army establishes its winter camp at Valley Forge. 2,500 of the original force of 12,000 would not survive the winter thanks in part to harsh weather conditions, disease, supply shortages, and malnutrition. Over the winter, the Prussian drillmaster - later, Washington's Chief of Staff – Baron Friedrich von Steuben drills the Americans, greatly increasing their combat effectiveness and morale.

https://youtu.be/0pUSiVep0RU?si=Ai1Rvog3-CM3gFM4

2001: Fires that had been burning for over three months under the rubble of the World Trade Center are finally declared to be extinguished.

Dec. 21

1861: President Abraham Lincoln signs a bill creating a "Medal of Honor" for enlisted sailors and Marines who "distinguish themselves by their gallantry and other seamanlike qualities during the present war." The Army version of the medal is signed into law the following summer.

1944: German troops from the 5th Panzer Army have surrounded the 101st Airborne at Bastogne, Belgium. Nearby, Pvt. Francis S. "Frank" Currey (http://www.victoryinstitute.net/blogs/utb/2000/12/francis-s-frank-curreymedal-of-honor-citation/) ignores heavy incoming fire, killing one German tank, disabling three others, and forcing an enemy unit to retreat after inflicting heavy casualties with an effective combination of fire from his automatic rifle, a bazooka, a halftrack, and anti-tank grenades. Five soldiers that had been pinned down for hours by enemy infantry and the

now-empty tanks are able to escape. For his actions, Currey is awarded the Medal of Honor.

1950: Airmen from the Fifth Air Force conduct "Operation Kiddy Car," the evacuation of nearly 1,000 Korean War orphans to the island of Cheju-do to escape approaching communist forces.

Dec. 22

1775: The Continental Congress creates the Continental Navy. Esek Hopkins, Esq. is named commander-in-chief of the fleet, four captains are commissioned, as well as five first lieutenants (including future hero John Paul Jones), five second lieutenants, and three third lieutenants.

1944: Having surrounded the 101st Airborne at Bastogne, Belgium, German General Heinrich Freiherr von Liittwitz issues a surrender ultimatum to Gen. Anthony C. McAuliffe, the acting commander for the 101st. Clement's one word response: "NUTS!" Despite being heavily outnumbered, the 101st was able to hold out until the 4th Armored Division relieved them on Dec. 26th. Meanwhile, German commanders recommend ending the Rundstedt Offensive (Battle of the Bulge) due to a lack of significant progress. And on this day near Kalterherberg Germany, Tech. Sgt. Peter J. Dalessondro http://www.victoryinstitute.net/blogs/utb/2000/12/peter-j-dalessondromedalof-honor-citation/)

Dec. 23

1944: The heavy cloud cover and winter weather which had been kept American warplanes grounded during the Battle of the Bulge finally breaks after a week. Nearly 3,000 heavy bombers and fighters of the Eighth Air Force take off from England for the largest strike mission of the war to relieve the troops on the ground. Brig. Gen. Frederick W. Castle (MOH), commanding the 3rd Combat Bomb Wing, assigns himself as co-pilot of the lead bomber for this vital mission.

1950: An armada of ships and aircraft evacuate over 100,000 U.S. and South Korean troops, along with their equipment and 91,000 Korean refugees from the North Korean port of Hungnam, in what has become known by historians as the "greatest evacuation movement by sea in U.S. military history."

1972: A North Vietnamese Mig-21 Fishbed fighter closes in on the B-52 *Diamond Lil* while the bombers approach their target of a railyard at Thai Nguyen. Tail gunner Airman First Class Albert E. Moore fires three bursts of fire from the B-52's quad .50 Cal machine guns, shooting down the MiG and scoring the last-ever tail gun kill - and saving his bomber crew. Today, the *Diamond Lil* is on display at the Air Force Academy with a red star painted on the rear of the plane commemorating Moore's victory.

Dec. 28

1941: After the execution of civilian construction contractors who fought aalongside the Marines on Wake Island until their capture by the Japanese, the Navy's Chief of Bureau of Yards and Docks, Rear Admiral Ben Moreell, requests that Naval construction battalions be created. The teams would be capable of building anything, anywhere, under any conditions, at any time, and - if necessary - picking up weapons and fighting. The famous Seabees have been born. In the Pacific Theater alone, they construct 111 major air fields, over 300 bases, and countless roads, bridges, and facilities. Just two years after their founding, Admiral Ernest King will write that "Your ingenuity and

Service Officer Report

https://americanlegionpost642.com/index.php?id=119



<u>#VetResources</u> is a weekly newsletter for Veterans, their families, caregivers, and survivors. <u>Connect with Secretary Collins on X</u>

President Trump reinstates GI Bill benefits to Veterans discharged for refusing COVID vaccine.

Veterans who believe they were discharged inappropriately or believe their personnel records still reflect an error may request a review. Once Veterans receive official notification that their discharge status has been upgraded to fully honorable, they can submit a new education benefit claim to VA.

LEARN MORE

VA reduces backlog of Veterans waiting for VA benefits by 57%.

The backlog of Veterans waiting for VA compensation and pension benefits has dropped by more than 57% since the start of the second Trump Administration. The backlog reduction was made possible through a series of record-breaking production milestones.

LEARN MORE

VA houses largest number of homeless Veterans in seven years

VA permanently housed 51,936 homeless Veterans across the country in fiscal year 2025. That is the department's best performance since it began tracking the number of individual Veterans permanently housed instead of the total number of permanent housing placements, ensuring a more accurate count of the number of Veterans helped.

LEARN MORE

VA pulls the plug on \$77 million EV-charger earmark.

VA has terminated a mandate to spend \$77 million on electric vehicle charging stations at VA facilities. The money will instead be redirected to critical health care construction projects.

LEARN MORE

VA Resources, we are here for you.

- For any questions or requests, <u>1-800-MyVA411</u> (<u>1-800-698-2411</u>) is always the right number.
- Veterans Crisis Line: 988 and press 1, Chat, or Text 838255
- Vet Centers: 1-877-927-8387
- Homeless Veteran Resources: 1-877-424-3838 or Chat
- Ask VA
- Schedule a 1-on-1 Appointment with a VA Benefits Expert
- Find a VA facility near you

For non-urgent questions, you can reach VA using the <u>VA Health & Benefits App</u> or <u>MyHealtheVet</u> secure messaging to schedule an appointment, refill prescriptions, and access your medical records.

Upcoming VA Events

VA hosts free events around the country for Veterans and their families, caregivers, and survivors. Check out the weekly outreach events calendar to find an event near you.

VIEW ALL EVENTS

Jobs for Veterans

Employers from around the country are looking to hire Veterans. Get info about more than 80 openings across the nation and multiple career fairs below.

FIND YOUR NEXT JOB



Exclusive Discounts for Veterans

Check out hundreds of discounts and deals available to Veterans, service members and retirees.

SAVE MONEY, FIND MORE DISCOUNTS

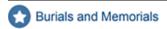




















California Transition Assistance Program November Webinar Series

Dear Service Members, Veterans, and Family Members,

As we enter November, we take time to honor and remember all who have worn the uniform of our nation. Veterans Day reminds us of the courage, sacrifice, and commitment of those who have served—and continue to serve—our country. We are deeply grateful not only to our veterans but also to our community partners and supporters, whose dedication and generosity allow us to carry out our mission of serving those who have served. Your partnership ensures that veterans and their families receive the care, connection, and recognition they deserve.

November 10th also marks a special milestone for our Marine brothers and sisters: the 250th birthday of the United States Marine Corps. We salute every Marine, past and present, for embodying the values of honor, courage, and commitment. Semper Fidelis!

As we celebrate this month of gratitude, let us remember to reach out to fellow veterans, lend a hand where it is needed, and take pride in the bond we share. While we are taking a short pause from our regular programming, please note that **we will not be hosting webinars this month**. Be sure to check in with us later for updates on upcoming events and learning opportunities—we look forward to connecting with you again soon.

In addition to our virtual workshops, CalTAP also offers in-person workshops throughout California to inform and connect veterans of all eras to their earned federal and state benefits.

Please visit the CalTAP webpage for <u>upcoming workshops</u> and <u>archives</u>, and the <u>CalVet YouTube</u> channel for more information.

Upcoming Virtual Workshops

Check back for upcoming events.

Contact Us

877-741-8532 (Toll Free) 916-653-2573 (Direct) 916-653-2563 (FAX)



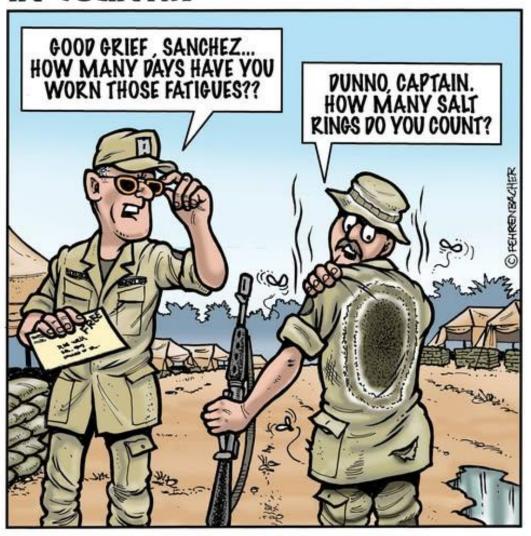




California Department of Veterans Affairs | 1227 O Street | Sacramento, CA 95814 US

Military Humor

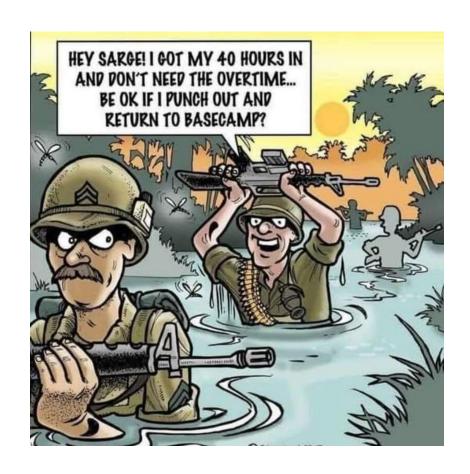
IN-COUNTRY



LIFE BACK AT BASE CAMP...NO SWEAT!



Our technologically disadvantaged armed forces



COME JOIN US for OUR CHRISTMAS DINNER

Sign up for our annual Christmas dinner on.

Friday, December 5, 2025

at the Blue Pheasant. 22100 Stevens Creek Blvd. in Cupertino.

No Host Bar/Fellowship 6:15 to 7:00, Dinner served at 7:00 All dinners include mixed green garden-fresh salad, potato, or rice (depending on the menu item), fresh vegetables, French bread, coffee, tea, and house made dessert.

Menu items are:	
Pasta Primavera (for vegetarians)	
Broiled Salmon	
Breast of Chicken Jerusalem	
Prime Rib of Beef	
For reservations, call Mike O'Meara at (408 request to Mike at 10171 Lockwood Dr. Cup @momeara47@yahoo.com and tell him how choice.	pertino CA 95014 or email
The cost this year is \$20 per person. The Deadline to sign up is November 30, 2	2025,
Please PRINT	
Name:	
Menu Choice	
Number of Guest	