



The Ranger Way

July 2026



Commanders Corner

Commander's Corner

Greetings Fellow Legionnaires,

I hope that you snapped a salute to Old Glory on Flag Day. We are celebrating the 250th Anniversary of our country on July 4th. The History Officer also records Amelia Earhart Day, Korean Armistice, Buffalo Soldiers Day, Gettysburg, General Washington took command, Philippines were liberated, as well as other military stories of note and some YouTube videos. The Service Officer has information on Virtual Workshops like VA Claims Sharks, VA Loan after Hardship, PTSD Treatment, Postcard Scams, etc.

All are invited to our Post meeting which is on July 6th 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 hosts a First Sunday Breakfast. We are hosting a BBQ for the VA Patients on the 20th. [Check the District 13 Calendar](#) and [Post 642 Calendar](#) for information.

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. **I would like the current attending members/officers to use the roster to call and invite members to our meeting which is also a form of Buddy Check.** Newly attending members do give us a heads-up, so that we can request extra rations versus our regular contingent. The next person on the meals roster ([on the Adjutant's Corner](#)) will take the cooler with drinks, etc. for the next meeting. If additional drinks are required, it will be reimbursed above the normal meal amount. I have the cooler and will bring it to the meeting for the meal.

We need a Finance Officer to step up as our long time Finance Officer Mike O'Meara needed to step down for personal reasons and Arturo is temporarily holding that position as well as Adjutant. If you have questions about the position, please reach out to either Mike O'Meara at (408) 691-8277 or momeara47@yahoo.com or Arturo (Adjutant and Temporary Finance Officer). 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 officers 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 especially 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
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First Vice Commanders Notes

None

2026 Membership Report (As of 26 June 2026)

2026 Membership Goal: 65
Paid Up for Life (PUFL): 13
Online Annual Renewals: 16
Multi-Annual Renewals: 4
Mail Renewals: 15
Post 1000 Transfers: 0

Total Members: 54/83.08%
Newly renewed Members: 1
New Members: 0
Renewals Pending Submittal: 0
Members not yet renewed: 18
District Rank: 11th out of 11

Renewed Members Since Last Report: 5
Cathy Schiavone: USA GWOT 1 year
George Thum: USN Korea 8 years
Bob Sargeant: USAF Korea 38 years
Andrew Rosetta USN WWII 14 years
Richard Lee USA Korea 29 years

New Members Since Last Report: 1
Joshua Krupia: Post 1000 Transfer; USN GWOT 1 year

[Membership Report URL](#)

Adjutant Update

Greetings Legionnaires,

We are in the last few days of the Legion Year and are working to complete the renewals of membership before the year end. If you have not yet renewed your membership, please do so as quickly as possible.

I am back home in Milwaukee for a few days and had a chance to stop by one of the American Legion Posts and had a nice chat with the bartender who happened to be a member of the Post. They like us are having a tough time retaining and getting new members in their Post and their Auxiliary Post.

The 2026 Boys/Girls State Session is a wrap; it was held last week in Sacramento. Our four representatives left for Sacramento on Saturday the 20th and after spending the entire week at the Capital and Sac State they arrived home yesterday the 27th of June. I have asked them to provide a quick write up of their experience and a few photos so that we can insert them into our webpage for next year's applicants to view.

Do not forget that our annual Post Picnic will be held on Saturday 25 July. This year's picnic is free for members and guests. Please see the flyer in the newsletter for more information.

Here are your new officers that were elected last month for this coming year:

<u>Position</u>	<u>Elected Officer for 2026-27 Legion Year</u>
Commander	Vince Guinnane
1 st Vice Commander	Cassius Williamson
2 nd Vice Commander	David Han
3 rd Vice Commander	NONE

Executive Committee Members (In addition to the Commander and Vice Commanders

1. Arturo Thiele-Sardina
2. Bill Reichard
3. Ken Klinkowski

These positions below were reappointed by the Commander:

Adjutant	Arturo Thiele-Sardina
Finance Officer	Arturo Thiele-Sardina (Acting/Temporary)
Seargent of Arms	Ken Klinkowski
Judge Advocate	Bob Devlin
Historian	Dennis Whittaker
Chaplain	Bill Reichard

Finally, we will be celebrating the 250th Anniversary of the United States of America on the 4th of July. It is hard to imagine that from the drafting and signing of the Declaration of Independence in 1776 that the United States has gone from a British Colony to the leader of the free world. As Veterans we have had a key role to play in the creation, shaping, survival and prosperity of the United States of America. Enjoy the celebration and may freedom ring for centuries to come!

“Duty First”

Arturo

Upcoming events for July-Sept 2026

4 July		Various 4 th of July Events (see events page on website)
6 July	1900 hrs.	Post 642 Monthly Meeting in Person (Dinner served at 1800 hrs.) Oddfellows. Cupertino Lodge #70, 20589 Homestead Ave. Cupertino, CA
25 July	1100 hrs.	Post 642 Picnic, Stevens Creek County Park (Sycamore Site)
3 August	1900 hrs.	Post 642 Monthly Meeting in Person (Dinner served at 1800 hrs.) Oddfellows. Cupertino Lodge #70, 20589 Homestead Ave. Cupertino, CA
TBD-Aug.	1000 hrs.	VA BBQ Palo Alto VA Site, 3801 Miranda Ave, Palo Alto
14 Sept.	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:

CAPTIVE NATIONS WEEK – Third Week in July

<https://nationaldaycalendar.com/captive-nations-week-third-week-in-july/> This observance raises public awareness about oppression in communist nations across the world.

National Wildland Firefighter Day July 02 <https://nationaldaycalendar.com/national-wildland-firefighter-day-july-2/> This is appropriate for California, where we have been having many fire days in the last few years, but also because of the Canadian fires that are affecting the Eastern and Midwestern States with smoke.

National Cheer Up The Lonely Day July 11 <https://nationaldaycalendar.com/national-cheer-up-the-lonely-day-july-11/> This is a good day to do a Buddy Check.

Malala Day July 12 <https://nationaldaycalendar.com/malala-day-july-12/> The 15-year-old Pakistani girl took a Taliban bullet for girls to have an education in her country.

National Pet Fire Safety Day July 15 <https://nationaldaycalendar.com/national-pet-fire-safety-day-july-15/> To remember to make sure that our pets are safe.

National Get Out Of The Doghouse Day July 17

<https://nationaldaycalendar.com/national-get-out-of-the-dog-house-day-third-monday-in-july-2/> Okay, guys! This is the day!

National Amelia Earhart Day July 24 <https://nationaldaycalendar.com/national-amelia-earhart-day-july-24/> She is lost as mentioned in the History notes below.

(<https://youtu.be/rUR8r06EtVE>)

National Hire A Veteran Day July 25 <https://nationaldaycalendar.com/national-hire-a-veteran-day-july-25/> Good ideas to push hiring of Veterans especially our De Anza Student Veteran Members.

National Korean War Veterans Armistice Day July 27

(<https://youtu.be/MxWszWBARd0>) <https://nationaldaycalendar.com/national-korean-war-veterans-armistice-day-july-27/> Sometimes known as the Forgotten War, we need to remember our Korean War Veterans like Glen, Eugene, Robert P, Donald P, Joseph, George, Adrian, Don Y, Manny and Wally.

National Scotch Day July 27 <https://nationaldaycalendar.com/national-scotch-day-july-27/> One of my personal favorites! 😊

Buffalo Soldiers Day July 28 <https://nationaldaycalendar.com/buffalo-soldiers-day-july-28/> The (Bob Marley <https://youtu.be/uMUQMSXLIHM>) (National Park Service Public Service Message <https://youtu.be/y13RwS95PIM>)

Military History Notes:

July 2

1863: The Battle of Gettysburg (Pa.) enters its second day. Col. Joshua L. Chamberlain's 20th Maine Volunteers occupy "Little Round Top" at the extreme left flank of the Union forces. With ammunition running low from repeated attacks by the 15th Regiment of Alabama, inflicted heavy casualties on the defenders, Chamberlain orders a bayonet charge. His men rush downhill, capturing over 100 soldiers. Chamberlain, who personally took a Confederate officer prisoner with his saber, is awarded the Medal of Honor. (<https://youtu.be/f7ez--7Hn18>)

1937: World-famous aviator Amelia Earhart takes off from New Guinea and heads for the tiny coral atoll of Howland Island, over 22,000 miles into her around-the-world flight. The Coast Guard cutter USCGC *Itasca* was positioned near Howland to assist Earhart, and receives a transmission that her Lockheed Electra was running out of fuel. The Navy dispatches the battleship USS Colorado (BB-45), aircraft carrier USS *Lexington* (CV-2), and PBY Catalinas from Hawaii (1,700 miles away) to join *Itasca* in the search, but they come up empty-handed.

1943: A flight of 16 B-25 Mitchell bombers, escorted by P-40 Warhawk fighters of the all-black 99th Pursuit Squadron, conducts a raid on Sicily. 1st Lt. Charles P. Hall becomes the first Tuskegee Airman to shoot down an Axis warplane - a Fw-190. Hall will fly 198 combat missions during World War II and is the recipient of the Distinguished Flying Cross, which incidentally, was created on this day in 1926. (<https://youtu.be/lcq3pfFnOIQ>)

July 3

1775: Gen. George Washington, the newly appointed commander-in-chief of the Continental Army, takes formal command of his troops in Cambridge, Mass.

1951: When a Marine Corsair flown by Capt. James V. Wilkins is shot down 35 miles southwest of Wonsan, Lt. (j.g) John K. Koelsch volunteers to rescue the downed aviator. Overcast conditions force Koelsch to fly very low and without fighter protection. His helicopter is hit by enemy fire during the search, and once Koelsch hoists Wilkins out and is in the process of flying back to friendly lines, the chopper is shot down. Koelsch extricates fellow crewman George M. Neal and Wilkins from the wreckage and the

Americans evade enemy soldiers for nine days before being captured. Neal and Wilkins survive their captivity, and Neal is awarded the Navy Cross. The communists subject Koelsch to especially harsh treatment, from which he will not survive and he is awarded the Medal of Honor posthumously.
(<https://youtu.be/HrWmJuaLW4I>)

July 5

1942: The submarine USS *Growler* (SS-215), skippered by Lt. Cmdr. Howard W. Gilmore, attacks three Japanese destroyers operating in Alaska's Aleutian Islands. She sinks *Arare* and severely damages two others, narrowly avoiding enemy torpedoes. For this engagement, Gilmore is awarded the first of his two Navy Crosses, and will later be awarded the Medal of Honor when he sacrifices his life to save his ship the following year. (<https://youtu.be/wilnP6fR8rM>)

1945: After nearly 11 months of fighting - and some 80,000 American casualties - Gen. Douglas MacArthur announces that the Philippine Islands have been liberated.

1950: Two infantry companies and an artillery battery under the command of Lt. Col. Brad Smith set up a defensive line at Osan, hoping to hold off the communist advance long enough for American forces to land at Pusan. The Americans' obsolete anti-tank weapons are no match for the Soviet-built T-34 tanks, who quickly overrun the task force. Task Force Smith manages to hold off two full divisions of enemy troops for several hours before retreating in the first clash of U.S. and North Korean forces. Only 185 of Smith's 520-man force return to friendly lines after the Battle of Osan.

July 6

1911: Legendary aviation pioneer - and future five-star general - Henry H. "Hap" Arnold overcomes his fear of flight and receives his pilot's license, becoming one of the world's first military aviators.

July 7

1798: The "Quasi War" with France begins when Congress rescinds treaties with the revolutionary French government. Leading up to - and during - the two year undeclared war, 2,000 American merchant vessels are captured by French privateers. The U.S. Navy and Marine Corps, which had been disbanded after the American Revolution, are both brought back into service, as is George Washington, whom President John Adams reinstates as Commander-in-Chief.

1944: On Saipan, 3,000 Japanese troops conduct the largest banzai charge of the war, nearly wiping out two battalions of soldiers from the 105th Infantry Regiment in a 12-hour pitched battle. Although resistance will continue for weeks, Saipan is declared secure on July 9. The 30,000-man Japanese garrison force is wiped out, but the Battle of Saipan is the costliest campaign in the Pacific War to date with over 12,000 American casualties - **including (soon-to-be) famous actor Lee Marvin, then a Marine Corps private, who was twice wounded in the assault on Mount Tapochau.**
(<https://youtu.be/jpZU7zNfzWo>)

During the battle, Marine Private First Class Harold C. Agerholm commandeers an abandoned ambulance and for three hours makes repeated trips through perilous enemy fire, rescuing 45 wounded Americans before he is mortally wounded by an enemy sniper. For his actions, Agerholm is awarded the Medal of Honor.

(<https://youtu.be/NfimYlwtJq8>)

July 8

1942: The Gato-class submarine USS *Barb* (SS-220) is commissioned in Groton, Conn. The sub will conduct combat tours in both the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, and, according to Japanese records, is credited with sinking more tonnage than any other U.S. submarine. On July 22, 1945, a crew of sailors from *Barb* land at Karafuto, Japan and place explosives that will destroy a train - the only land combat on Japanese home islands during the war. (<https://youtu.be/Y6Ed7EQiLXU>)

1943: Just after midnight, 82d Airborne Division paratroopers perform their first combat jump behind enemy lines on the island of Sicily. That morning, over 100,000 American, British, and Canadian troops hit on the beach in one of the biggest airborne and amphibious invasions of the war. The Allied force captures the island after six weeks of fighting, but is unable to prevent the withdrawal of many of the Axis forces.

"Chips," a German Shepherd military police dog serving in Sicily with Company I, 30th Infantry Regiment, attacks a hidden German pillbox, forcing four enemy soldiers to surrender. Chips is wounded in the attack, but the canine will be awarded the Silver Star and Purple Heart by the 3rd Infantry Division's commander, Maj. Gen. Lucian Truscott. (<https://youtu.be/mSQVIPoc0Mk>)

Earlier that morning, as the American fleet prepares for the Sicily invasion, **Ensign John H. Park** spots a small fire aboard a landing ship that was loaded with ammunition and explosives. Fearing that the detonation of the craft could compromise the invasion, Parle rushes through the smoke towards the flames. Unable to put out the fire pot that threatened the dangerous cargo, he throws it overboard. Park perishes from smoke inhalation a week later and is awarded the **Medal of Honor** for his sacrifice.

July 11

1953: Lt. Col. John F. Bolt, a Marine Corps F-86 pilot attached to an Air Force unit, scores his fifth victory during the Korean War, becoming the only Marine ace of the Korean War and, to this day, the Marines' only jet ace. Bolt, having shot down six enemy warplanes in both World War II and Korea, is also the only Marine to achieve ace status in two conflicts.

1969: When well-camouflaged enemy machine gun fortifications open fire on Specialist Gordon R. Roberts' platoon, pinning the Americans down, Roberts crawls towards the nearest bunker, then leaps to his feet and kills the occupants. Ignoring the bullets whizzing past him, he charges towards another bunker, but a burst of fire knocks Roberts' weapon from his hands. After obtaining another weapon from the battlefield, he continues forward and silences a second position. He then takes out a third bunker with grenades, then a fourth - despite being completely separated from his unit. Roberts

manages to link up with another company and helps drag wounded soldiers down the hill before returning to his unit. President Richard Nixon awards him the Medal of Honor in 1971. Roberts rejoins the Army after receiving a commission in 1991, retiring as a colonel in 2012. (https://youtu.be/2A_R0APnmb0)

July 12:

1862: President Abraham Lincoln signs a law creating the Medal of Honor the nation's highest decoration for valor. The award is presented to "such noncommissioned officers and privates as shall most distinguish themselves by their gallantry in action and other soldier-like qualities during the present insurrection." The Navy had established their version, the "Medal of Valor," six months previously. To date, 3,502 Americans have been awarded the Medal of Honor - roughly half of which were from the Civil War.

Historian's Report

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

National Days and Months:

There is a neat description of June here about the National Days and where the rest of these links can be found. <https://www.nationaldaycalendar.com/June> Oklahoma, New Mexico, Arizona, and Alaska were all admitted to the Union in June. There are also quite a few culinary days like National Strawberry Rhubarb Pie Day (a personal favorite as we grew Rhubarb in backyard in Detroit) and Martini Day.

NATIONAL HEIMLICH MANEUVER DAY – June 1

<https://youtu.be/GFCYB4vMw9E?si=6QwdQpNzeAolyDPj>

D-Day | June 6 https://youtu.be/Abk0mhu4a-g?si=7Hgwp_RqeMle7P

NATIONAL EYEWEAR DAY | JUNE 6

VA cover eyewear? https://youtu.be/zPcCJfl_38M?si=6M1vFGzdpFQGsabX

Types of Lenses: https://youtu.be/ggsz3B3lo7E?si=n-0uktoswOS_aa-N

ARMY BIRTHDAY – June 14 <https://youtu.be/Bcfk1WHC33o?si=qWOc-zQsQzpGhKIL>

NATIONAL FLAG DAY – June 14

<https://youtu.be/qy6jTFkEbA8?si=HqWfBszKXmChZ5tB>

NATIONAL AMERICAN EAGLE DAY – June 20

<https://youtu.be/FaS515ZkFQU?si=F3sfQMdJv4R5xgB7>

FATHER'S DAY – Third Sunday in June https://youtu.be/WVGo0m_DoxY?si=e5-vwxa2-iKLhyy6

NATIONAL PTSD AWARENESS DAY-June 27

https://youtu.be/YMC2jt_QVEE?si=LHRNPSv_klmV6mHI

Military History: D-Day

June 5

ft 1794: The first six officers of the new United States Navy receive their commissions: Captain John Barry (the first captain in the Continental Navy and considered the "father of the American Navy), Samuel Nicholson, Silas Talbot, Joshua Barney, Richard Dale, and Thomas Truxtun.

1917: The First Naval Aeronautical Detachment lands at Brest, France, becoming the first American military unit deployed for World War I. The Naval aviators, commanded by Lt. Kenneth Whiting, will conduct anti-submarine patrols throughout the war. The service collier USS *Jupiter* that carried the detachment across the Atlantic will be converted to the United States' first aircraft carrier, USS *Langley* (CV-1) in 1920.

1944: As the sun sets on airfields across England, 13,328 American paratroopers with the 82d and 101st Airborne Divisions (along with nearly 8,000 British and Canadian paratroopers) board the C-47 transports and gliders that will carry them behind Nazi lines on "the Great Crusade." 1,000 British bombers pound German defenses at the beaches of Normandy while thousands of ships carrying some 130,000 Allied soldiers steam towards France. After months of planning, Operation Overlord is finally underway. Earlier in the day, Lt. Col. Leon R. Vance led a diversionary bombing mission over Wimereaux, France. Anti-aircraft fire cripples his plane, killing the pilot and wounding Vance and several crew members. Despite only one engine still functioning, he regains control of the aircraft and continues to lead the formation as they successfully bomb the target. With the assistance of another airman, he applies a tourniquet to his leg and orders the crew to bail out of the fatally wounded bomber. When he learns that one of the airmen is too injured to bail, he ditches the aircraft in the English Channel to help give his comrade a fighting chance of survival. Vance is pinned in the cockpit as the bomber slips under the waves, but is blown clear of the bird by an explosion. Vance is awarded the Medal of Honor after being recovered by search-and-rescue crews.

Meanwhile, the B-29 "Superfortress" flies its first combat mission. Bombers flying out of airfields in India attack Japanese rail lines and other targets in Bangkok, Thailand.

1951: Benjamin F. Wilson served as an infantry officer during World War II before resigning his commission. He re-enlists as a private shortly after leaving the service volunteers for combat in Korea. When Master Sgt. Wilson's company is ordered to take the well-fortified Hell Hill, Wilson leads a bayonet charge that nets 27 dead Chinese soldiers. The enemy mounts a counterattack and Wilson makes a one-man charge that drives off the communists. The battlefield is littered with dead and wounded soldiers taken out by Wilson's rifle, bayonet, grenades, and entrenching tool. Just four days after the actions that would earn him the Medal of Honor, Wilson ignores his wounds and conducts another valiant one-man charge when his unit is forced to seek cover during another assault on an enemy-held hill near Nodong-ni, Korea. Wilson is again recommended for the Medal of Honor, but since Army policy forbids awarding the prestigious honor to the same soldier more than once, he is awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.

1971: Special Forces Staff Sgt. Jon R. Cavaiani's platoon is attacked by a numerically superior enemy force at a camp in Vietnam. Cavaiani, acting as the platoon leader, delivers heavy fire on the enemy using a variety of weapons and when the decision is made to evacuate the camp, he organizes the withdrawal by helicopter. The next morning, the enemy attacks again before helicopters can lift out the remaining defenders. Cavaiani mans a machine gun and orders his fellow soldiers to escape. After inflicting severe losses on the enemy soldiers, he is captured and spends the next two

years in captivity. Upon his return to the States, the Irish-born Cavaiani is awarded the Medal of Honor.

June 6

1918: Two battalions of Marines, led by Brig. Gen. James Harbord, advance against four German divisions in Belleau Wood, the site of an old French hunting preserve near Chateau-Thierry. The Marines face withering fire, with over 1,000 casualties in the first day of battle alone. In three weeks, the Marines drive out the Germans, but at a high cost; Enemy machine guns, artillery, and gas attacks inflict 10,000 American casualties. But the tenacity of the “Devil Dogs” at Belleau Wood becomes legend.

During the battle, Lt. (j.g.) Weedon E. Osborne – a medical officer attached to the 6th Marines – is killed by an enemy shell while carrying the wounded to safety. He is posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor. Meanwhile, a wounded Gunnery Sgt. Ernest A. Janson (serving under the name of Charles Hoffman) and his fellow Marines are consolidating the ground they recently gained at Hill 142. The Germans attempt a counterattack, and when Janson spots 12 enemy soldiers making their way towards the Americans, he rushes forward, killing the leaders with his bayonet and scattering the remaining men. The Army and Navy both award Janson with the Medal of Honor.

1942: Commander-in-chief of the Combined Fleet Admiral Yamamoto Isoroku orders his fleet to withdraw from the Battle of Midway. Although the Americans have lost the carrier *Yorktown* and a destroyer, Japanese losses are staggering: all four of the fleet’s aircraft carriers (whose aircraft attacked Pearl Harbor six months ago) and a heavy cruiser are sent to the bottom. After a long string of defeats, the United States Navy has dealt Japan “the most stunning and decisive blow in the history of naval warfare.”

1944: Just after 2 a.m., some 13,000 American and British paratroopers and glider troops begin landing behind enemy lines in France. 2,000 Allied aircraft bombard German positions in preparation of the invasion. And five hours later, nearly 150,000 American, British, and Canadian troops hit the beaches at Normandy. 1,200 warships and over 4,000 landing ships from eight different navies support the invasion. “Utah” Beach (VII Corps) and “Omaha” Beach (V Corps) are on the right flank. To the left are Gold, Juno, and Sword Beaches, which fall under British command. Losses are heavy for both sides and 4,414 American and Allied soldiers die on “D-Day” – the first day of the largest amphibious operation in history. On Utah Beach, Pvt. Carlton W. Barrett, 1st Lt. Jimmie W. Montieth Jr., and Technician 5th Grade John J. Pinder Jr. are each awarded the Medal of Honor for valor. On Omaha Beach, World War I veteran and son of former president Theodore Roosevelt, Brig. Gen. Theodore Roosevelt Jr. also earns the Medal of Honor.

1957: Two Navy F-8U “Crusaders” and two A-3D “Skywarriors” launch from the deck of USS *Bon Homme Richard* (CVA 31) off the coast of California and fly to USS *Saratoga* (CVA 60), operating off Florida in the first transcontinental, carrier-to-carrier flight. The Crusaders land after three hours and 28 minutes, while the Skywarriors make the trip in four hours and one minute.

1964: Navy Lt. Charles F. Klusmann’s RF-8A Crusader was hit for the second time in two days by communist anti-aircraft fire while flying an armed reconnaissance mission in Laos’ Plain of Jars. Klusman was hit the day before and as his damaged plane burned for 20 minutes during the return trip to the deck of USS *Kitty Hawk*. On this day, however, he is forced to eject and is captured by enemy forces. Rescue Combat Air

Patrol aircraft launch as soon as the first fixed-wing aircraft lost in Southeast Asia goes down and nearby "Air America" helicopters stand by for the order to launch, but all assets are ordered to stand down. Klussman has been abandoned by his government. As word of the betrayal passes up the military's chain of command, Adm. Harry D. Felt phones Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara, who confirms that Klussman is on his own. Felt demands to be put through to the President Lyndon Johnson, and finally gets authorization for the rescue mission. By then, it is too late; two helicopters are turned around by heavy enemy fire, critically wounding the would-be rescuers. Klussman incredibly manages to escape in August – one of only a handful of downed airmen to slip out of captivity during what will become the Vietnam War.

June 7

1830: Following nearly four years at sea, the sloop of war USS *Vincennes* arrives at New York, becoming the first United States warship to circumnavigate the globe.

1942: Japan lands an invasion force and occupies the Alaskan islands of Attu and Kiska. 25 American soldiers are killed on Attu and the inhabitants of both islands are relocated and placed in internment. The attack was originally intended to be a diversion for the U.S. Navy during the Battle of Midway, which by this time has been cancelled. Less than a year later, U.S. and Canadian troops will wipe out the Japanese occupying force nearly to a man.

1944: (D-Day Plus 1) Allied warplanes pound enemy armor and vehicles moving towards the beaches of Normandy. The 1st and 29th Infantry Divisions make slow progress expanding the beachhead at Omaha Beach, where casualties are heavier than all other sectors combined. On Utah Beach, the 4th Infantry Division begins linking up with the heavily scattered paratroopers (only ten percent landed in their drop zones) of the 82d and 101st Airborne Divisions. Three companies of 2d Battalion Rangers, which famously scaled the 100-ft. cliffs at Pointe du Hoc under fire the day before, have taken 50 percent casualties, with their commander Lt. Col. James Rudder having been shot twice. The isolated Rangers will endure numerous counterattacks by Germany's 914th Grenadier Regiment throughout the day and won't be relieved until D-Day Plus 2.

Meanwhile, construction begins on harbors that will deliver soldiers, vehicles, and materiel to the new Western Front.

Service Officer Report

[Service Officer Report](https://americanlegionpost642.com/index.php?id=119)

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



California Transition Assistance Program

Dear Service Members, Veterans, and Families,

As we focus this month on transitioning from military service and navigating life after separation, we recognize the importance of preparing for the next chapter while staying informed about the benefits and opportunities available to you and your loved ones. The California Transition Assistance Program (CalTAP) is hosting a series of webinars focused on important post-service topics, including guidance on filing a VA disability claim and education funding opportunities available for veteran dependents. We encourage you to register and take advantage of these informative sessions.

We are honored to provide resources that support you and your family during this transition.

Stay connected with us by following our social media channels and checking in regularly for updates on [upcoming webinars and in-person events](#) designed to support and empower veterans.

We also invite you to explore the [California Transition Assistance Program \(CalTAP\)](#) online curriculum which contains valuable information and resources on federal and state benefits, healthcare, education, entrepreneurship, behavioral health services, legal aid, financial literacy, and burial and memorialization.

[Upcoming Virtual Workshops](#)

June Webinar Series

This link should be updated for the July Virtual Workshops by the time the Post Newsletter is published.

Jun 26

Claim Sharks with Veterans Legal Institute

[Register](#)

Free



VETRESOURCES

#VetResources is a weekly newsletter for Veterans, their families, caregivers, and survivors. [Connect with Secretary Collins on X](#)



VA RESOURCES



UPCOMING VA EVENTS



JOBS FOR VETERANS

REDUCED WAIT TIMES FOR PROSTHETIC LIMBS

Veterans waiting on a prosthetic limb aren't waiting on a piece of equipment, they're waiting to get back to living their lives. That's why VA is reducing red tape and getting Veterans the prosthetics they need faster.

[Learn more](#)

Did you know VA has a [clothing allowance](#) for Veterans that have a prosthetic or orthopedic device, or skin medication that affects your clothing? Learn who qualifies for this \$1000+ annual tax-free benefit. **Applications must be submitted by August 1.**

[Watch](#)

PTSD TREATMENT WORKS

Many Veterans carry the invisible wounds of PTSD. And seeking help takes courage. This month we're encouraging Veterans, their families, and caregivers to learn the signs, [start the conversation, and connect with resources that can make a difference.](#)

[Learn more](#)



WORKING AT VA

Interested in a career with VA but don't know where to start? Each week, VA hosts "Talk About It Tuesday" on LinkedIn. Hear from VA employees about their experiences and what it means to serve Veterans. [Find our more!](#)

[Watch](#)



VA RESOURCES

- For any questions or requests, [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](#)
- [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 [VA Health & Benefits App](#) or [MyHealtheVet](#) secure messaging to schedule an appointment, refill prescriptions, and access your medical records.



BEWARE: POSTCARD SCAM

Veterans and spouses are being targeted with a new postcard scam that promises up to \$185 per month and free dental care. Learn what to watch out for, what to do if you receive this postcard, and how to protect your personal information.

[Watch](#)



EXPLORE BUSINESS OWNERSHIP

Warrior Rising, in partnership with the U.S. Small Business Administration, is offering SDVET LaunchPoint—a free, 4-hour virtual course designed specifically to help service-disabled Veterans explore the path to business ownership.

[Learn more](#)



LEGAL NOTICE FOR VETERANS

A fairness hearing has been scheduled in the Freund v. Collins lawsuit. For more information, see [here](#).

EXCLUSIVE DISCOUNTS FOR VETERANS

Veterans save 15% on clothing, EDC gear, equipment, and packs with [Triple Aught Design](#) “Made in the USA”. Whether on your toughest excursions or everyday adventures, Triple Aught Design knows that exceptional quality and functionality will help you succeed.

[Find other Veteran discounts](#)



HEALTH
CARE



DISABILITY



EDUCATION AND
TRAINING



CAREERS AND
EMPLOYMENT



PENSION



HOUSING
ASSISTANCE



LIFE
INSURANCE



BURIALS AND
MEMORIALS



RECORDS

If you are having thoughts of suicide, call **988**, then **PRESS 1** or visit

<http://www.veteranscrisisline.net/>.

Please remember the only secure way to ask personal questions is at VA.gov/contact-us/.

WORKING TO END VETERAN HOMELESSNESS

Last year, more than 50,000 Veterans were moved to permanent housing. **VA Secretary Collins** shares how VA is not looking to address Veteran homelessness for a moment, but looking to fix it for a lifetime. No Veteran should be homeless in the country they fought to defend.

[Watch](#)

[Learn what VA is doing at the West L.A. campus.](#)

[Learn more about VA homeless programs.](#)

MODERNIZING VA FACILITIES

Veterans deserve better than 70-year old facilities. **VA Secretary Collins** shares how VA is modernizing facilities with upgraded operating rooms, more patient capacity, and safer, more reliable infrastructure to improve the Veteran experience.

[Listen here](#)



EASIER PATHWAY TO CDL

If you're a Veteran interested in commercial driving, VA is making it easier to use G.I. Bill benefits for Commercial Driver's License (CDL) training, helping to shorten the path into one of the country's most in-demand fields. [Learn how the Dole Act streamlined CDL program approval process.](#)



[Watch](#)

VA HOME LOANS AFTER HARDSHIP

Did you know that bankruptcy or foreclosure does not automatically end your ability to use a VA Home Loan? Learn more about your options, protections, and how to use your VA loan again.



[Watch](#)

CALLING WOMEN VETERANS

The Center for Women Veterans is traveling across the United States bringing women Veterans together to connect, enroll in VA, share resources, and strengthen the women Veterans community. They are aiming to enroll 1 million women Veterans and will host five regional summits. **Join them at their first stop in the Southwest from July 24 – 25, 2026 in San Antonio, Texas.**



[Learn more](#)

[Register today](#)

[Find more women Veteran health care events across the nation.](#)



Onto our top Veterans news beats this past week, starting with... California SB 694 may soon benefit from companion legislation at the federal level after the SAFEGUARD

Veterans Act garnered early bipartisan support in the House. Both bills—the former now law in California—make it illegal for unaccredited organizations and individuals from filing VA benefits claims on behalf of Veterans. *More details in the article link below.*

More Articles This Week

- A Pentagon order to ban Transgender Service Members from the Military was declared illegal by a federal appellate court earlier this week. For the time being, only the Service Members who brought the suit are to be protected from separation—however, a ban preventing new transgender enlistment will remain in effect unless struck down by the U.S. Supreme Court, possibly later this year.
- ICYMI: Last week we spotlighted San Bernardino Post 710’s ongoing renovations, with before-and-after photos and a quick interview with Post Commander Felicia Ponder and Community Support Coordinator Cynthia James.

Is your post also going through significant renovations? Let us know! We would love to spotlight improvements.

West Los Angeles VA Campus Update

Previously, we reported that the VA is planning to build around 220 units on its long-controversial West Los Angeles campus.

Per a now-substantiated [report](#) from the *Los Angeles Times*, the VA is actually planning to build 260 units, each with kitchenettes and bathrooms on its campus this year. That figure is down from a [promised 800 “tiny home” units](#) that would have shared communal spaces instead.

It is unclear at what point the change in plans was made, but the trade-off appears to be geared toward providing better quality spaces for Veterans in need.

CALIFORNIA LEGIONNAIRE

The May edition of the California Legionnaire is now available online.

[VIEW NEWSLETTER](#)



Find out more about the CA Legionnaire, [here](#).





CANDIDATE FOR NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEMAN (2026-2028): NICK ROSA

by caLegion Contributor | Jun 10, 2026



CANDIDATE FOR ALTERNATE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEMAN (2026-2028): LARRY MAGGIO

by caLegion Contributor | Jun 9, 2026



AMERICAN LEGION POST 710 IN SAN BERNARDINO UNDERGOES REVITALIZATION

by Rikki Almanza | Jun 1, 2026



JUNE 14 IS THE U.S. ARMY'S BIRTHDAY

by Christian Southards | Jun 14, 2022



WHAT IS FLAG DAY?

by Christian Southards | Jun 14, 2022



JUNE 12 IS WOMEN VETERANS DAY

by Christian Southards | Jun 12, 2022

- [FEDERAL LEGISLATION INTRODUCED TO CRACK DOWN ON CLAIM SHARKS TARGETING VETERANS](#)
 - [APPEALS COURT SAYS PENTAGON POLICY ILLEGALLY BARRED TRANSGENDER TROOPS](#)
 - [CANDIDATE FOR NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEMAN \(2026-2028\): NICK ROSA](#)
 - [CANDIDATE FOR ALTERNATE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEMAN \(2026-2028\): LARRY MAGGIO](#)
 - [AMERICAN LEGION POST 710 IN SAN BERNARDINO UNDERGOES REVITALIZATION](#)
 - [JUNE 14 IS THE U.S. ARMY'S BIRTHDAY WHAT IS FLAG DAY? JUNE 12 IS WOMEN VETERANS DAY](#)
-

Military Humor

"I can't tell you how many times I've been shot at. It's like being a letter carrier, but with more walking."--Colin Powell

"In the Army, you can be anything you want. You just have to lie about your qualifications."—Unknown.

"There's nothing more dangerous than a resourceful soldier with a sense of humor."--Unknown.

"War is God's way of teaching Americans geography."--Ambrose Bierce

"The only thing harder than being in the Army is finding a good barber on base."--Unknown.

"The only thing more dangerous than a Marine with a sense of humor is a Marine with two weeks of leave."--Unknown.

"If at first you don't succeed, call in an airstrike."--Unknown.

"The difference between a soldier and a civilian is that a soldier never complains about being tired, he just gets extra coffee instead."--Anonymous.

"The secret to military life? Pretend you know what you're doing and hope no one asks!" --Unknown

"If only cleaning weapons burned calories!" --Unknown

"My favorite cardio? Running late to formation!" --Unknown

"A sailor's motto: 'If it moves, salute it; if it doesn't, paint it!'" --Unknown

Stevens Creek Post 642 Annual Picnic
25 July 2026, 1100-1500 hrs.



Please join us for the annual Post 642 BBQ/Picnic. It is a fantastic opportunity to see fellow members and have some fun.

Saturday, July 25, 2026 - 11:00 AM till 3:00 PM Stevens Creek County Park, Sycamore group area.

Steaks and fixings --- This year the cost is free for all attendees; however, we are asking for you to send a check for \$10 per person attending which will be returned to you on the day of the picnic/BBQ .

Please feel free to invite another couple to the event so they can enjoy a day with all of us, the more the merrier!

RSVP NLT 18 July, to Bill Reichard at 408-393-3858 and leave a message. Either bring your check to our July meeting make it out to American Legion Post 642, and list Post BBQ/Picnic in the Memo section. Or you can mail the check to American Legion Post 642, PO Box 301, Cupertino CA 95015.