



The Ranger Way

October 2025



Commanders Corner

Greetings Fellow Legionnaires,

All are invited to our Post meeting which is on October 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 hosting a First Sunday Breakfast on the 5th. District 13 is holding an on 1st Vice and Membership Officer training class at Post 318 on the 4th.

[Check the District 13 Calendar](#) for information.

We are now officially in Fall after the passing of the Autumnal Equinox on the 22nd which brings cooler weather, Columbus Day, the Navy Birthday and Halloween (or All Hallows Eve) as well.

The VA wants to really emphasize Buddy Checks to help prevent Veteran Suicide. [Veteran Buddy Checks - Veterans Experience](#). The Veteran Buddy Checks encourages Veterans to connect or reconnect with their Veteran friends—just to check in. As part of the effort, Veteran Buddy Check Week, which takes place October 20-24, 2025, builds on the success of the American Legion's Buddy Check program and the Veteran Wellness Alliance's Get Involved program. For Buddy Check Week, I would like the 1st Vice to have each of the current officers check up on five or so members using the Post Roster, so they can check up on our members and let them know about things that we are doing and invite them to come and socialize at our monthly meetings.

<https://www.legion.org/getmedia/3ecf21c8-2df1-4c8b-a7ad-b68b3497030d/57mem0923-buddy-check-toolkit.pdf>

[Veteran Buddy Check Outreach Kit - Veterans Experience](#)

Post 642 hosted the [De Anza Veterans Lunch on the 24th at their Student Veterans Center](#) which was well attended and very much appreciated by the students and staff.

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 be more social, 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.

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!
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First Vice Commanders Notes

None

2026 Membership Report (As of 26 September)

2026 Membership Goal: 65
Paid Up for Life (PUFL): 13
Online Annual Renewals: 8
Multi-Annual Renewals: 4
Mail Renewals: 8
Post 1000 Transfers: 0

Total Members: 33/50.77%
Newly renewed Members: 1
New Members: 0
Renewals Pending Submittal: 0
Members not yet renewed: 29
District Rank: 10th out of 11

Renewed Members Since Last Report: 0

Membership Reports

<https://americanlegionpost642.com/index.php?id=94>

Adjutant Update

Fellow Legionnaires,

Welcome to fall and the changes of seasons. We had a wonderful time at the De Anza Student Veterans Center last Wednesday. As has been the case these past 3+ years, our Post once again sponsored lunch for the Student Veterans at De Anza. Turnout was robust as there were at least 20+ students, some of the staff and four Post members who attended the lunch. This is the first week of the fall quarter and we saw some unfamiliar faces at lunch. Best news is that Rey Villasenor, one of the students is working on re-starting the Student Veterans of America Chapter at De Anza College. One of the objectives is to have some events with our Post to strengthen the bond and camaraderie between Veterans. Once they kick off the new Chapter, we will let you know of their upcoming events. Here is a picture of the event:



Please look at the newsletter for more information regarding our Post Annual Christmas/Holiday Dinner scheduled for Friday 5 December 2025. This is a great chance to meet fellow members and their spouses and enjoy some Holiday cheer with others.

If you have not done so, now is a great time to register on mylegion.org so that you can manage your membership, your information pertaining to military service, email/phone numbers and get a chance to sign up for updates and newsletters from the American Legion.

Finally, a quick plug in membership renewal. We are currently at 51% of our membership goal of 65 members, and if you have not yet renewed, please do so sooner than later. You can either renew online at mylegion.org or send in your check to the Post from the mailers that you have received from National HQ about membership renewal.

“Duty First”

Arturo

Upcoming events for October 2025-December 2025

6 Oct	1900 hrs.	Post 642 Monthly Meeting in Person (Dinner served at 1800 hrs.) Oddfellows. Cupertino Lodge #70, 20589 Homestead Ave. Cupertino, CA
3 Nov	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.	District 13 Meeting, Post 419, 958 Homestead Road, Santa Clara
6 Nov	0900 hrs.	Miller Middle School Veterans' Day Ceremony, 6151 Rainbow Drive, San Jose
6-8 Nov.	1000 hrs.	2025 Veteran Stand Down, Santa Clara County Fairgrounds, 344 Tully Road, SJC
11 Nov	Various	Veterans Day Ceremonies, Cupertino, San Jose, and Santa Clara
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)

For more events and detailed event information please visit our [website events page](#).

Service Officer Report

Service Officer Report

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



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

Backlog of Vets waiting for VA benefits down 45%

When President Trump took office in January, the backlog of Veterans waiting more than 125 days for a decision on their VA disability benefits claim stood at more than 264,000. That number is now down 45%.

[LEARN MORE HERE](#)

[FILE YOUR CLAIM HERE](#)

VA Resources, we're here for you.

- 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.

Upcoming VA Events

VA is hosting hundreds of 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](#)



VA Awards \$84M in Grants to Fight Veteran Homelessness

The Department of Veterans Affairs has announced \$84 million in grants to 176 organizations across the country to help Veterans who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. \$42 million in grants will cover legal services and another \$42 million in grants will go toward case

management services to improve housing retention by Veterans who are at risk of becoming homeless or who were previously homeless and are transitioning to permanent housing.

[ABOUT THE GRANTS](#)



Exclusive Discounts for Veterans

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

[SAVE MONEY. FIND MORE DISCOUNTS](#)



Health Care



Disability



Education and Training



Careers and Employment



Pension



Housing Assistance



Life Insurance



Burials and Memorials



Records

[Overpayment Scams, Natural Disaster Fraud, Education Benefit Scams and More](#)

SCAMS AND FRAUD

IMPORTANT INFO



The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is committed to protecting you and your benefits from fraud and scams. We monitor the latest fraud and scam trends and share this critical information with you.

SCAM ALERT!



Overpayment Scam: Beware of anyone contacting you pretending to be VA

Have you received a call, text or letter from someone pretending to be with the Department of Veterans Affairs alleging you have a substantial VA debt due to overpayment? It can be a scam! The scammer uses high pressure tactics to insist the debt must be repaid immediately via wire transfer, gift cards, cryptocurrency, or other non-traditional payment methods. VA will never demand Veterans repay their debts in full up front, as VA offers many [flexible payment plans](#) at no additional cost. Official VA Debt Management Center (DMC) communication will provide specific details about the debt, offer secure payment through www.pay.va.gov, and your appeal or waiver rights.

If you are suspicious of a communication alleging to be VA, you can verify authenticity with VA at 1-800-827-1000 or contact the DMC at 1-800-827-0648. Never share sensitive information, such as social security numbers, bank account details, or credit card information, when responding to unsolicited requests.



New Scams:

Bad actors continue to come up with new fraudulent schemes, from unpaid toll texts and fraudulent mailing messages to bereavement scams exploiting families after the loss of a loved one.

- **Bereavement scams:** Scammers exploit the vulnerability of grieving family members while contacting them to gather personal information or extort money with claims of fake debts owed by the deceased, inflated funeral expenses, processing fees, or unpaid insurance premiums.
- **Mail scams:** Involve text messages alleging to be from shipping companies or the United States Postal Service attempting to make a delivery, demanding delivery fee payment, or with a gift offer.
- **Unpaid Toll Texts:** Individuals receive a text notification indicating they have an excessive outstanding unpaid toll fee, and immediate payment is demanded to prevent driver privileges from being permanently revoked or arrest. The messages appear to be from companies such as EZPass, SunPass, PeachPass, and FastTrack, among others. The messages usually instruct the victim to click on a link to issue a payment for the outstanding fees.



Natural Disasters Fraud:

In the wake of natural disasters like tornadoes, flooding, earthquakes, fires, and hurricanes, it's important for Veterans and their families to know VA is here to help. Scammers prey on vulnerability resulting from [natural disasters](#) and often exploit the chaos and desperation of homeowners in disaster-stricken areas. To alleviate financial stress, which can heighten vulnerability, we recommend that Veterans enroll in [direct deposit](#) to receive their benefits.

Likewise, scammers also seek to exploit generosity with [charity scams](#) to divert donations from genuine causes. [For resources to help manage fraud or to file a report](#), call 833-38V-SAFE.



Protect Your G.I. Bill Benefits From Scams

Unfortunately, some non-accredited educational institutions and programs employ [deceptive practices](#) and make embellished promises regarding the value and earning potential of their degrees. It is crucial for Veterans and their families to be well-informed when using their G.I. Bill benefits and to make wise financial decisions related to their education to avoid [student loan scams](#). Protect your benefits by only choosing [G.I. Bill approved schools](#). At VA, we are committed to empowering Veterans to make the best financial decisions related to their education. Therefore, VA encourages Veterans and their beneficiaries to familiarize themselves with education fraud warning signs.

Let's stand united as fraud fighters to safeguard the well-deserved benefits of our nation's heroes.

If you miss a VA benefits payment, identify a discrepancy in payments, or find suspicious activity with your direct deposit account, contact VA immediately at 1-800-827-1000. If you suspect you have experienced fraud, you can find resources to file a report to the appropriate agency by visiting [vsafe.gov](#) or by calling 1-833-38V-SAFE

[Learn More](#)

Historian Report

Historian's Report

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

National Days and Months:

FILIPINO AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH – October <https://nationaldaycalendar.com/filipino-american-history-month-october/>

NATIONAL FIRE PREVENTION MONTH – October

<https://nationaldaycalendar.com/national-fire-prevention-month-october/> Remembering the USS Forrestal Fire and Fire Fighting Training

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RdI7L2c4XSk&pp=ygUdbGVhcm4gb3IgYnVybiBmb3JyZXN0YWwgdmlkZW8%3D>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AVgocdvcG0A&pp=ygUdbGVhcm4gb3IgYnVybiBmb3JyZXN0YWwgdmlkZW8%3D>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wHZmgqTgSgl&pp=ygUdbGVhcm4gb3IgYnVybiBmb3JyZXN0YWwgdmlkZW8%3D>

NFPA Fire Prevention Month 2022:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YTc7ljaufbE&pp=ygUdVkEgRmlyZSBQcmV2ZW50aW9uIE1vbnRoIDlwMjM%3D>

POLISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH – October <https://nationaldaycalendar.com/polish-american-heritage-month-october/>

NATIONAL DEPRESSION EDUCATION & AWARENESS MONTH | October (See Buddy Check Week above) <https://nationaldaycalendar.com/national-depression-education-awareness-month-october>

- NATIONAL DENTAL HYGIENE MONTH | October

<https://nationaldaycalendar.com/national-dental-hygiene-month-october/>
[*Dental Benefits for Veterans with Disabilities*](#)

<https://www.va.gov/disability/eligibility/special-claims/dental-care/>

- [VA Dentistry - Improving Veterans Oral Health Home](#)

VA dental care <https://www.va.gov/health-care/about-va-health-benefits/dental-care/>

If you qualify for VA **dental** care **benefits**, you may be able to get some or all of your **dental** care through VA.

NATIONAL CYBER SECURITY AWARENESS MONTH – October

<https://nationaldaycalendar.com/national-cyber-security-awareness-month-october/>
[Research Cybersecurity Awareness](#)

<https://www.research.va.gov/programs/orppe/education/webinars/acos-ao-education/cybersecurity-awareness.cfm>

NATIONAL AUDIOLOGY AWARENESS MONTH – October

<https://nationaldaycalendar.com/national-audiology-awareness-month-october/>

[*VA Audiology Fact Sheet*](#) <https://www.prosthetics.va.gov/factsheet/Audiology-FactSheet.pdf>

Health, wellness, veterans, hearing, **audiology**...VA **Audiology** Fact

Sheet **AUDIOLOGY** SERVICES The Department of Veterans Affairs... Consistent with the VA mission, **Audiology** is inv...

[VHA Audiology - Rehabilitation and Prosthetic Services](#)

<https://www.prosthetics.va.gov/audiology/index.asp>

Hearing Aids - Rehabilitation and Prosthetic Services

https://www.prosthetics.va.gov/psas/Hearing_Aids.asp

VHA Directive 1034 Prescribing and Providing Eyeglasses, Contact Lenses, and Hearing Aids

https://www.va.gov/OPTOMETRY/docs/VHA_Directive_1034_Prescribing_and_Providing_Eyeglasses_Contact_Lenses_and_Hearing_Aids_10-24-19.pdf

Columbus Day October 09 <https://nationaldaycalendar.com/columbus-day-second-monday-in-october/> Also Italian Heritage Day which goes along with the Month.

General Pulaski Memorial Day October 11 <https://nationaldaycalendar.com/general-pulaski-memorial-day-october-11/> This may be why this is also Polish-American Heritage Month.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OKEbBR4ekMQ&pp=ygUQR2VuZXJhbCBQdWxhc2tpIA%3D%3D>

Navy Birthday October 13 <https://nationaldaycalendar.com/navy-birthday-october-13/>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YohR1TbMk_k&pp=ygUSbmF2eSBiaXJ0aGRheSAyMDIz

National Day Of The Deployed October 26 <https://nationaldaycalendar.com/national-day-of-the-deployed-october-26/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pV4NtVaYgLM&pp=ygUcbmF0aW9uYWwgZGF5IG9mIHRob2ZSBkZXBs3lZA%3D%3D>

Navy Day October 27 <https://nationaldaycalendar.com/navy-day-october-27/>

Theodore Roosevelt and the Navy

Between 1922 and 1972, the Navy celebrated its birthday on October 27th in honor of President Theodore Roosevelt's birth. He elevated the U.S. Navy to a premier fighting force. During his term as Assistant Secretary of the Navy, he built up the power and strength of the U.S. Navy. Roosevelt's pursuit of the naval aircraft advanced the U.S. Navy. As president, Roosevelt was the first president to submerge in a submarine and the first to fly. His support of the Navy led the former Secretary of the Navy, John F. Lehman, to say, Theodore Roosevelt, "was one of the architects of our modern Navy."

Halloween October 31 <https://nationaldaycalendar.com/halloween-october-31/>

Military Humor



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) 691-8277 or send your request to Mike at 10171 Lockwood Dr. Cupertino CA 95014 or email @momeara47@yahoo.com and tell him how many and what menu choice.

The cost this year is \$20 per person.

The Deadline to sign up is November 30, 2025,

Please PRINT

Name: _____

Menu Choice _____

Number of Guest _____