



The Ranger Way

September 2026



Commanders Corner

Commander's Corner

Greetings Fellow Legionnaires,

I hope that you all enjoyed your August including the Coast Guard's 236th Birthday on the 4th and helped with the VA BBQ on the 29th. The History Officer has uploaded the complete Military History Calendar online, there was the first deployment of the Seabees in WWII on the 1st, V-J Day on the 2nd, Navy Catholic Chaplain Lt. Vincent R. Capodanno MOH on the 4th, Infamous 9/11 Day, Air Force Birthday on the 18th, National Suicide Prevention and Prostate Health Months, National POW/MIA Day on the 15th also records as well as other military days and stories of note and some YouTube videos. The Service Officer has news on Sept 5th SCC VA Resources Day, VA SECURES \$10B+ IN PHARMACEUTICAL PRICE REDUCTIONS, VA Homeless Support, Maximizing VA Benefits, Veteran Discount Information, HealtheVet App updates and Exercise information, Acupressure for better Sleep, VA Life Insurance and other California Legion News. Note that underlined and highlighted words are generally Internet links for more info.

We are having our Post meeting on September 14th due to Labor Day. There is **Freedom 250 Celebration: All Veterans Lunch on the 26th**. We have the District 13 Meeting apparently on Post 808 Zoom on the 30th. 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 also hosts a First Sunday Breakfast. [Check the District 13 Calendar](#) and [Post 642 Calendar](#) for information.

Remember that we generally meet at [the Odd Fellows Lodge #70 20589 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 with VA Buddy Check information linked here.](#) 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.

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 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 District Chaplain and Honor Guard Captain, Sunny Dosanjh sunny@dosanjhusa.com
To Comradeship!

Vincent Guinnane

CW4, 881A2, USAR (Retired)

vguinnane@comcast.net

Cell: +1 (408) 219-0191

First Vice Commanders Notes

None

2026 Membership Report (As of 29 August 2026)

2026 Membership Goal: 56
Paid Up for Life (PUFL): 12
Online Annual Renewals: 6
Multi-Annual Renewals: 5
Mail Renewals: 17
Post 1000 Transfers: 0

Total Members: 40/71.4%
Newly renewed Members: 11
New Members: 0
Renewals Pending Submittal: 0
Members not yet renewed: 16
District Rank: 1st out of 11

Renewed Members Since Last Report: 11
Richard C Smith, USA Other 17 years
John Swensson, USA Vietnam 10 years
Robert Devlin, USAF Vietnam 16 years
George Dill, USA Vietnam 24 years
George Midwin, USA Vietnam 5 years
Randy Jones, ?? Vietnam 31 years
John Bruzus, USN Vietnam 25 years
Jim Brice, USA Vietnam 8 years
Dennis Whittaker, USA Vietnam 18 years
Jerry Calbraith, USA Vietnam 26 years

New Members Since Last Report: 0

[Membership Report URL](#)

Adjutant Update

Greetings Legionnaires,

I hope that all of you are enjoying your summers, I know that a significant number of members have done some travelling this summer. I too will be heading out of town soon for a visit back to Spain to visit friends and family. I encourage any of you who are travelling here in the US to stop by a local American Legion Post if they are open and get a chance to visit and speak with members from the Post. There are just under 1.9 million Legionnaires here in the US. We all have something in common.

We finally received our membership goal for the 2026-27 year. It was a significant drop from the 65-member goal last year. Our new goal is to reach 56 members. The last

several years have been somewhat difficult for our Post as we have lost members through deaths and not renewing their membership. Attendance at our monthly meetings has also decreased as some members are affected by illness and can no longer attend. We used to have 12-14 members attend but lately that number is 7-9 members. I will be reaching out to Post 558 (Los Altos, CA) to speak with their new commander and see what our Posts can do together to increase membership and work more closely together and have joint events where we can enjoy each other's company and still work for the Veterans and community moving forward.

Our Post Picnic in July was attended by about 30 people and this year it was free for all who attended. Our Post would like to thank all those who attended and who brought friends and family to the event. A big thanks to Bill Reichard who coordinated the event and to George Midwin who was the BBQ Headmaster. Some photos are on our [main page](#) of the website and the remainder are in the [photo gallery](#).

I have sent out membership cards to most of the members who renewed via check. I will be sending out online renewal cards this week.

Finally, just a reminder that our next meeting is on Monday 14 September, not the 7th of September because that is Labor Day.

Stay safe and I hope to see as many of you as possible at our September meeting.

“Duty First”

Arturo Thiele-Sardina

Adjutant

Upcoming events for Sept-November 2026

14 Sept.	1900 hrs.	Post 642 Monthly Meeting in Person (Dinner served at 1800 hrs.) Oddfellows. Cupertino Lodge #70, 20589 Homestead Ave. Cupertino, CA
23 Sept.	1200 hrs.	De Anza Student Veterans Lunch, De Anza College SEM3 Building
30 Sept.	1900 hrs.	District 13 Meeting, Post 808 Virtual Zoom call
5 Oct	1900 hrs.	Post 642 Monthly Meeting in Person (Dinner served at 1800 hrs.) Oddfellows. Cupertino Lodge #70, 20589 Homestead Ave. Cupertino, CA
2 Nov	1900 hrs.	Post 642 Monthly Meeting in Person (Dinner served at 1800 hrs.) Oddfellows. Cupertino Lodge #70, 20589 Homestead Ave. Cupertino, CA
10 Nov	0900 hrs.	Miller Middle School Veterans Day Ceremony, 6151 Rainbow Dr, San Jose
10-14 Nov	0700-1900	Vietnam Travelling Wall, Cupertino Memorial Park, 21121 Stevens Creek Blvd., Cupertino
11 Nov	1100 hrs.	Cupertino Veterans Day Ceremony, Cupertino Memorial Park, 21121 Stevens Creek Blvd. Cupertino

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

Second Vice Commander

Wreaths Across America (WAA) update

"The post is preparing for Wreaths Across America 2026 by attending city council meetings in the Bay Area in an effort to spread the word about the message of Wreaths Across America. The message is to remember, honor, and teach about our veterans and their service. We have already prepared several plaques to honor those who have served our event faithfully over the past ten years. We would like to attend city council meetings in Sunnyvale, Los Altos, Palo Alto, San Jose, Mountain View, and such. If you are available and interested during the week, then please let us know. We will send out a list of upcoming city council meetings in September, October, and November. The meetings are generally in the evenings. We look forward to your participation at this year's event."

Thank you,
David
Second Vice Commander

Historian Report

Historian's Report

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

National Days and Months:

NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION MONTH – September

Save A Veteran's Life with VA S.A.V.E Training

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

National Preparedness Month National Preparedness Month

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q61C_y-](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q61C_y-o0Vs&pp=ygUfdmEgcmF0aW9uYWwgchJlcGFyZWRIbmVzcyBtb250aA%3D%3D)

[o0Vs&pp=ygUfdmEgcmF0aW9uYWwgchJlcGFyZWRIbmVzcyBtb250aA%3D%3D](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q61C_y-o0Vs&pp=ygUfdmEgcmF0aW9uYWwgchJlcGFyZWRIbmVzcyBtb250aA%3D%3D)

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

NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION WEEK – Week of September 10

Veteran Suicide Prevention for Community Providers

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

Dial 988 then Press 1, chat at VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat, or text 838255.

National V-j Day September 02 <https://nationaldaycalendar.com/national-v-j-day/>

Patriot Day And National Day Of Service And Remembrance September 11
<https://nationaldaycalendar.com/patriot-day-and-national-day-of-service-and-remembrance-september-11/>

Uncle Sam Day September 13 <https://nationaldaycalendar.com/uncle-sam-day-september-13/>

National Pow/mia Recognition Day September 15
<https://nationaldaycalendar.com/national-powmia-recognition-day-third-friday-in-september/>

Constitution Day And Citizenship Day September 17
<https://nationaldaycalendar.com/constitution-day-and-citizenship-day-september-17/>

Air Force Birthday September 18 <https://nationaldaycalendar.com/air-force-birthday-september-18/>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eIH0_rwIDA8&pp=ygUXYWlyIGZvcnNIIDc1dGggYmlydGhkYXk%3D

National Voter Registration Day September 19
<https://nationaldaycalendar.com/national-voter-registration-day-changes-annually/>

Autumnal Equinox September 23 <https://nationaldaycalendar.com/autumnal-equinox-changes-annually/>

Gold Star Mother's And Family Day September 24
<https://nationaldaycalendar.com/gold-star-mothers-day-last-sunday-in-september/>

National Vfw Day September 29 <https://nationaldaycalendar.com/vfw-day-september-29/>

Military History Notes:

Sep. 1

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

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

1974: A SR-71 "Blackbird" flown by Air Force Maj. James V. Sullivan streaks from New York to London in 1 hour and 55 minutes, setting a record that still stands today. Despite having to slow down to take on fuel from a specially modified KC-135 tanker, the reconnaissance plane still averages a blistering Mach 2.27.

Sep. 2

1944: An Avenger torpedo bomber - flown Lt. (junior grade) George H.W. Bush - is shot down by intense anti-aircraft fire after the planes attack Japanese positions on the island of Chichijima. The future president is the only crewmember of his stricken plane to survive, and is picked up by the submarine US S *Finback* after spending four hours floating in a life raft.

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

1958: An Air Force C-130 takes off from Incirlik Air Base in Turkey for a signals intelligence-gathering mission along the border with Soviet Armenia. The crew inadvertently stray off course and are intercepted by four MiG-17 fighters, which take

turns shooting the unarmed reconnaissance plane. The C-130 crashes, killing all 17 aboard. When confronted, the Soviet Union says they found a wrecked plane and repatriates the remains of the plane's six crewmembers, but says nothing of the 11 Security Service airmen that were also aboard.

Sep. 4

1967: When two companies of Marines are ambushed in the Que Son Valley south of the de-militarized zone, the 1st Marine Division sweeps in to clear the area of hostiles. During the battle, Navy chaplain Lt. Vincent R. Capodanno leaves the command post to administer last rites to dying Marines and to aid the corpsmen. Although wounded himself, he refuses treatment and returns to his work. Capodanno is killed by machinegun fire as soon as he finishes dragging a wounded comrade to safety. Meanwhile, Sgt. Lawrence D. Peters ignores hostile fire raining down on his exposed position to pinpoint enemy locations and lead his Marines during the fierce battle. Both Capodanno and Peters are posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor.

Sep. 5

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

Sep. 7

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

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

Sep. 9

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

Sep. 10

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

Sep. 11

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

9:37a.m., a Boeing 757 flown by Al Qaeda terrorists slams into the Pentagon, killing 55 military personnel and 70 civilian employees. The area hit by the plane was undergoing renovations at the time of the attack, which meant only a few hundred of what would normally be around 5,000 occupants were endangered. Structural reinforcements and a sprinkler system had recently been added - in response to the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing - which increased survivability. Although it is too late for the Pentagon, all U.S.

military facilities worldwide are ordered to enter Force Protection Condition "Delta" - the highest level of readiness for a possible terrorist attack. Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld increases the military alert level from DEFCON 5 (the lowest state of military preparedness) to DEFCON 3. Although the Russians would typically match the increase, President Vladimir Putin notifies George W. Bush that he would order his forces to stand down and denounces the terrorist attack. A report of a possible truck bomb attack targeting the North American Aerospace — Command (NORAD) headquarters in the Cheyenne Mountain Complex leads to the first time the facility closes its massive blast doors, which are designed to withstand a nuclear attack. NORAD now controls of all American air space as combat air patrols guarded the skies and enforced a nationwide no-fly-zone.

Sep. 17

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

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

1948: The first delta-winged aircraft prototype - Convair's XF-92 – conducts its maiden flight. The cutting-edge design will pave the way for forthcoming platforms such as the F-102 Delta Dagger, F-106 Delta Dart, and the B-58 Hustler.

Service Officer Report

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

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

Hey Santa Clara County Veterans! You're invited to attend an in-person Veteran outreach event.

This event will offer an opportunity to connect with community resources and get assistance accessing VA benefits you've earned.

- Concerns about your toxic exposure while in service?
- Find out what resources you are eligible for.
- Interested in income-based benefits for war-time Veterans and survivors?
- Need help applying for a Veteran ID card?
- Ready to enroll in VA health care?
- Want to check the status of your disability claim or appeal?
- Want to connect with resources available in your community?

This is an exclusive event for Veterans and their families in the Santa Clara County area. Don't miss this opportunity to get the benefits you've earned. Join us on **Saturday, September 5, 2026 from 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

Event Location:

[Santos Family Car Show](#)

[North 1st Street](#)

[San Jose, California 95112](#)



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

VA SECURES \$10B+ IN PHARMACEUTICAL PRICE REDUCTIONS IN 2026

Discover how VA's bold negotiations are saving Veterans and taxpayers over \$10 billion this year—fueling better care and access to the latest therapies.

[Learn more](#)

VETERAN BUSINESS BOOST

In the latest episode of “At the Table,” VA Deputy Secretary Paul R. Lawrence talks with SBA Deputy Administrator Bill Briggs about how Veterans can turn their resilience into business success—with resources, support, and tips to kickstart their entrepreneurial journey

[Learn more](#)



G.I. BILL TO CDL PATHWAY

Did you know the G.I. Bill could pay up to 100% of your Commercial Driver's License (CDL) training at any program approved by a State Approving Agency?

[Learn how](#)

Veterans with a service-connected disability that affects their ability to work may also be eligible for CDL training through VA's [Veteran Readiness and Employment program \(VR&E\)](#).

It is easier than ever for Veterans to build a thriving career in American trucking through [Freedom Haulers](#).



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](#)



- [Apply for Pre-Need burial eligibility at a VA national cemetery](#) or Call the National Cemetery Scheduling Office at [800-535-1117](tel:800-535-1117) (TTY: [711](tel:711)) and select option 4.

For non-urgent questions, you can reach VA using the [VA Health & Benefits App](#) or [My HealtheVet](#) secure messaging to schedule an appointment, refill prescriptions, and access your medical records.

VA HOMELESS SUPPORT FUND

VA is investing \$29 million to help homeless Veterans with emergency supplies and transportation.

[Learn more](#)

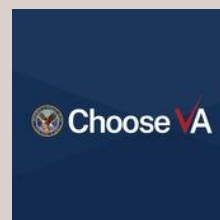
If you are a Veteran who is homeless or at risk of homelessness, call the [National Call Center for Homeless Veterans](#) at 877-4AID-VET ([877-424-3838](tel:877-424-3838)) to take advantage of the support made possible by this authorization and learn about [VA's programs for Veterans exiting homelessness](#).



MAXIMIZE YOUR VA BENEFITS

Are you fully utilizing your VA benefits? Discover how available resources can help you achieve homeownership, advance your education, access top health care, and start a career. Explore your options today!

[Choose VA today!](#)



EXCLUSIVE DISCOUNTS FOR VETERANS

Get the most out of your veteran discounts— The [VA National Veterans Financial Resource Center \(FINVET\)](#) shows you how to [earn more](#), [save more](#), and [keep your money safe](#).

[FINVET—Keys to financial health](#)

[Find other Veteran discounts](#)



HEALTH
CARE



DISABILITY



EDUCATION AND
TRAINING



CAREERS AND
EMPLOYMENT



PENSION



HOUSING
ASSISTANCE



LIFE
INSURANCE



BURIALS AND
MEMORIALS



RECORDS



[New features arrive to the VA mobile app](#)

[View your lab results as soon as they're ready](#)

Now you can view lab results and manage VA benefit overpayment debts directly in the VA Health and Benefits app. Download the app to easily and quickly manage your health care and benefits from your phone.

[Learn more](#)



[5 exercises to try if you're over 50](#)

You don't have to slow down as you get older. We have 5 ways you can add activity to your day, and in a way that works for you.

[Try these exercises](#)



[Treat your pain at VA](#)

Chronic pain is more common in Veterans than in the general population. Learn about 3 treatment options VA offers to help relieve your pain. [Read about pain treatment at VA](#)



[Acupressure self-care for sleep](#)

Stress, travel, or changes in your routine can throw off your sleep schedule. The good news is that healthy sleep habits can help you get back on track. [Try this sleep routine](#)



[Are you due for a vaccine?](#)

Vaccines (immunizations) are one of the best ways to reduce your risk of serious illness. What vaccines you need depends on your age and health history. [Find your recommended vaccines](#)



VA offers life insurance that can protect you and your loved ones both now and later!

When was the last time you thought about life insurance? Perhaps you don't think you can get coverage with your disability rating. Or maybe you missed the opportunity to apply before, due to time limits. At every stage of life, you have different needs and life insurance can help in each one. There are several advantages to buying whole life insurance with your service-connected disability.

- **Peace of mind** – Whole life insurance can give you peace of mind knowing your spouse, children, and other loved ones will not have to struggle financially when you pass away.
- **Lock in a price** – Buying whole life insurance at your current age locks in a fixed monthly premium and does not increase during your lifetime.
- **Convenient payment** – Easily pay for premiums, monthly or annually, through a deduction from your compensation benefit payment. Once established, you don't have to worry about remembering to make payments.
- **Build wealth over time** – Whole life insurance builds cash value which you can access for important life events if needed.

Life Insurance is financial protection for your family that can be used for income replacement and end of life costs. VA can help you *protect those who matter most* with its newest Guaranteed Acceptance Whole Life Insurance program called Veterans Affairs Life Insurance or VALife.

VALife Offers:

- **Guaranteed acceptance** whole life coverage to service-connected Veterans (0-100%) that are age 80 or under with no time limit to apply.
- **Coverage up to \$40,000** available in increments of \$10,000 (full coverage takes effect two years after enrollment).
- **No health questions** or medical exams for enrollment.
- **Convenient online application** process with an instant decision.
- **Competitive premium** rates that are fixed for the life of the policy; premiums do not increase.
- **Cash Value** that builds after the first two years of enrollment.

[Apply Here Today!](#)

For more information on VALife visit us at [VALife Insurance Options and Eligibility](#)



From *The California Legionnaire*

Our top Veterans news beats from the past week, starting with... the VA's community care program has been targeted by the federal department's own inspector general office in a new watchdog report. Around 20 percent of VA health care systems fail to meet the VA's 30-day scheduling standard for mental health appointments outsourced via community care, a program that allows the VA to outsource treatment to private care providers.

It is unclear how many Veterans are affected by delays, but the average wait time is 56 days for critical care.

Quarterly Newsletter

The August issue of *The California Legionnaire* will launch later this month (digital only). Catch up on the top Veterans news stories from the last few months as well as exclusive articles.

Op-ed and letter-to-the-editor submissions are welcome! Email news@calegion.org or Southards.CALegion@gmail.com.

More Legionnaire Articles This Week

- Today is National Aviation Day, first commemorated on Aug. 19, 1939, by President Franklin D. Roosevelt. Aerospace Commission Chairperson and Whittier Post 51 Legionnaire Fredrick Shacklett covers the day's history while also shedding light on the commission's activities and importance today.

More California Veterans News Bites

- The family of Fong Thao, a U.S. Army Veteran from Sacramento who served two tours in Iraq, is organizing a new search party nine months after initial efforts failed to find a trace. Thao was last seen on Dec. 11, 2025, when he had allegedly been suffering from worsening mental health symptoms related to his service. Readers with potential tips are encouraged to reach out to the Sacramento Police Department.
- For the first time since 1994, the Justice Department is enacting a review process that allows people with federal firearms prohibitions to apply to have their gun rights restored. Those affected will be able to apply through the Office of the Pardon Attorney, with reviews conducted on a case-by-case basis.
- San Diego County has greenlit the Lakeside Veterans Wall of Honor, which will carry up to 13,000 names outside Lakeside's community center at Lindero Lake Park, provided it receives enough donations. In similar news, the USS Midway Museum is moving forward with plans to build a public park on Burnham Navy Pier following a \$10 million donation.
- The VA announced that it has thus far secured over \$10 billion in pharmaceutical price reductions for FY 2026 and is continuing negotiations with drugmakers.

SHARE YOUR CONTENT

Have a commission or committee report you'd like highlighted? Did your post or district hold a major event you're proud of? Would you like to write how-to articles to share your expertise with other Legion Family members?



UPLOAD AN ARTICLE

VETERANS NEWS

If you want your veteran's news more often, visit caLegion.org



HONORING THE SKIES: NATIONAL AVIATION DAY

by Fredrick Shacklett | Aug 19, 2026



SOME VETERANS WAIT 56 DAYS FOR MENTAL HEALTH CARE OUTSIDE THE VA

by Rikki Almanza | Aug 17, 2026

Two ways to support your Department's content:

1.) As always, if you want to donate to support our news production for the website and the print newsletter, clicking the link. **SUPPORT TODAY**

2.) Traffic to the website also helps, so be sure to click on the articles below and click around [caLegion.org](https://cal legion.org) to read all the other articles.

- [HONORING THE SKIES: NATIONAL AVIATION DAY](#)
- [SOME VETERANS WAIT 56 DAYS FOR MENTAL HEALTH CARE OUTSIDE THE VA](#)

Military Humor

Shore leave



The Chief wasn't convinced his message was getting through.

