



Stevens Creek Post 642 The Ranger Way
February 2024 Newsletter
Mailing Address: PO Box 302,
Cupertino, CA 95015



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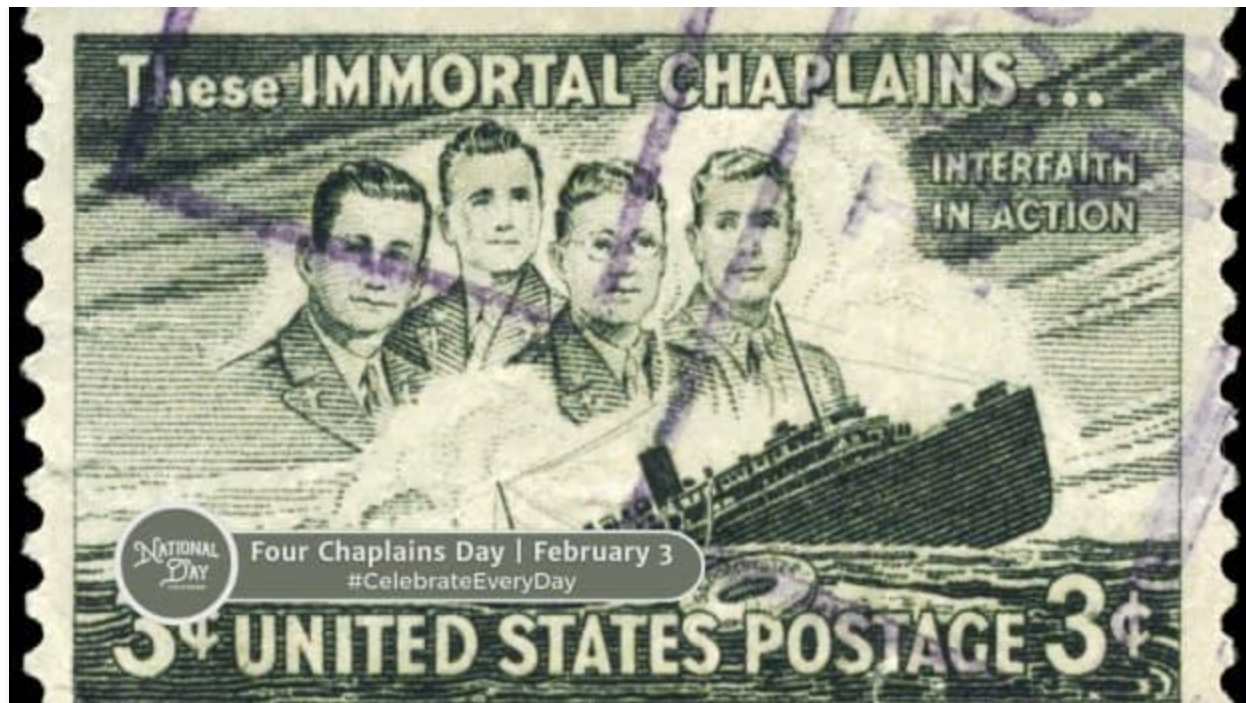
Source: Army Ranger Full Color Embroidered Tab – Vanguard Industries (vanguardmil.com)

Commander's Corner

Greetings Fellow Legionnaires,

All are invited to our Post meeting which is on February 5th of this month which is a Leap Year so 29 days does have February. Remember that we generally meet on the first Monday of the month at 1800 for socializing and a light meal and refreshments then check out the meeting at 1900. The 1st Vice shows a map to our new meeting site at the Odd Fellows Lodge #70 on Homestead. 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.

Hopefully, you will check out the possible military connections to National Days and the military history notes that I have listed in the newsletter below. Speaking of which, the Four Chaplains Day will be celebrated by the American Legion District 13 at St. Frances Cabrini Church on February 3rd at 1000. I will be leading in the colors playing the bagpipe.



Please remember that if you have Post or Veterans event that you would like on the calendar to get them to Arturo or the District. 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, Jere Bernardoni, or send to him at Jerep.bernardoni@gmail.com.

Please enjoy the [National Day and Month links](#) and [Military History](#) below including [VA links](#).

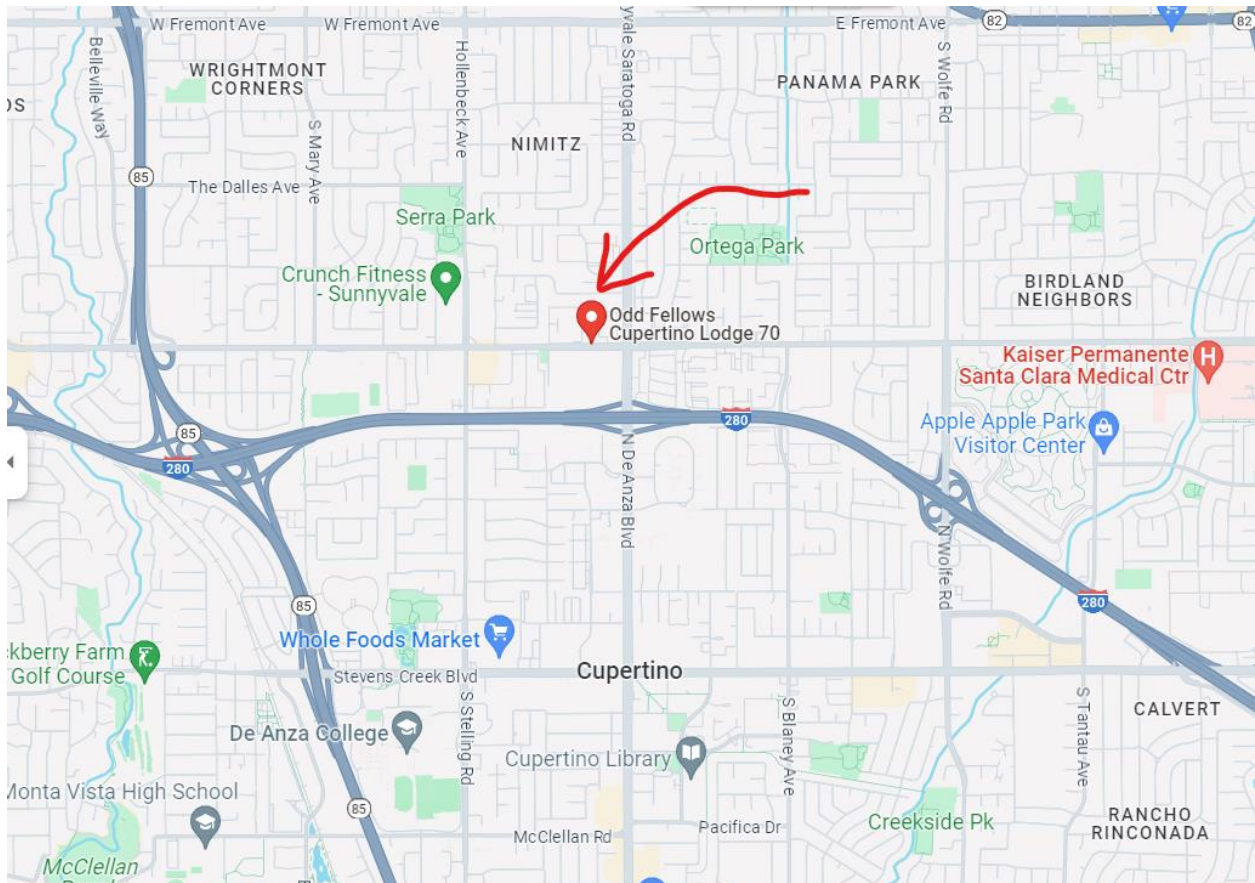
To Comradeship!
Vincent Guinnane, MSME, P.E.
CW4, 881A1, USAR (Retired)
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Cell: +1 (408) 219-0191

Major Jock Sinclair in "Tunes of Glory": "Whisky for the gentlemen that like it. And for the gentlemen that don't like it - Whisky."

We Are Moving in 2024

We have finally found a new home for our Post meetings going forward. Beginning on the 5 February 2024 meeting we will be meeting at the Oddfellows Cupertino Lodge #70 in Cupertino; CA. The address of the lodge is 20589 Homestead Road in Cupertino. The building is located approximately 100 meters west of DeAnza Blvd. The Safeway store is located across the street. There is parking behind the building since you cannot park on the street. A big thanks to the relocation committee (Bill, Mike, Bob, Vince, and Arturo) who managed the logistics, legal and other aspects of making this happen. As in the past our social hour begins at 1800 hrs. and the meeting will start at 1900 hrs. We hope to see you all there in February so you can check out the facility, which is much nicer than the KoC Hall.



First Vice Commander Notes

Greetings fellow Legionnaires,

It has been a busy January. As you can see, we finally were able to secure a long-term location to hold our Legion Meetings. We were fortunate that the Oddfellows location is 1) in Cupertino close to where we used to meet. With our Post being from Cupertino it was important for us to remain in Cupertino. 2) They have storage for our Post items. 3) The facility has been remodeled and it has everything that we need for our meetings and social hour. 4) Several of our members know Oddfellow members so it was easy to reach them and they gave us financial break when it comes to the rental fees. Please join us at one of our upcoming meetings.

This past Wednesday 24 January our Post hosted a lunch for the De Anza Veterans at their Veteran center on campus. The turnout was decent, we had 6 members from our Post attend and there were at least 15 De Anza Veterans who attended and enjoyed Pizza and soft drinks for lunch. It gave them and us a chance to get to know each other better. The De Anza President Dr. Lloyd Holmes stopped briefly and thanked us for hosting the lunch. We are trying to do this every other month, so stay tuned.

Membership is picking up and we are getting close to reaching our goal. We need some new members and for the few members who have not yet renewed to do so. For those of you who have not yet renewed it is not too late to do so. Please renew either [online](#) or writing a \$40 check to American Legion Post 642, PO Box 302 Cupertino, CA 95015. Your renewal and support enable our Post to continue to work for and help Veterans in our community.

“Duty First”

Arturo

Other Activities on Post Calendar

Fellow Legionnaires, although our Post does not have many events as in the past, I have updated our [Post calendar](#) with events from Posts that are close to Cupertino. Please look as there are a considerable number of events that are open to Legionnaires and their families. More importantly by attending you can have fun and support the American Legion.

2024 Membership Report (26 January 2023)

2024 Membership Goal: 66

Total Members: 58/87.9%

Paid Up for Life (PUFL): 16

New Members: 0

**Online Renewals: 17
Submittal: 1**

Renewals Pending

Mail Renewals: 25 Members not yet renewed: 8

Post 1000 Transfers: 0 District Rank: 03/12

Newly renewed Members: Ed Fabela-36 yrs., Jack Wells-1 yr., John Bruzus, -23 yrs. and Charles Snell-32 yrs.

Upcoming events for February 2024-April 2024

3 Feb 1000 hrs.

Four Chaplains Memorial Interfaith Service, St. Francis

Cabrini Church, 15333 Woodard Rd. San Jose, CA 95124

5 Feb 1900 hrs.

Post 642 Monthly Meeting in Person (Dinner served at 1800 hrs.)

Oddfellows

Cupertino Lodge #70, 20589 Homestead Ave. Cupertino, CA

5 Mar 1900 hrs.

Post 642 Monthly Meeting in Person (Dinner served at 1800 hrs.)

20589 Homestead Ave. Cupertino, CA

12 Mar 1900 hrs.

District 13 Meeting at Post 419: 958 Homestead Ave. Santa Clara CA

1 Apr 1900 hrs.

Post 642 Monthly Meeting in Person (Dinner served at 1800 hrs.)

Oddfellows

Cupertino Lodge #70, 20589 Homestead Ave. Cupertino, CA

Membership Contact Updates

With the new year already upon us, now is the time to make sure that your contact information is correct so that you receive your magazine, newsletter and other important information pertaining to the American Legion. We are continually moving towards email as the main communication platform for the Post. You can find your contact information at mylegion.org. If you have already registered you just need to log in, if not you can register and then log in. Changes and updates can be easily made by the individual member. If your name appears below that means we do not have a valid email address for you: You can either shoot me an email so I can update your info with your email address or give me a call at 408-838-0375 and provide me with the email address or let me know that you do not have an email address.

- Gary Burton
- Thomas Cribbs
- Herbert Duvernay
- Fenton Hill
- Richard Lee
- Patrick Montijo
- MaryAnn Salvatierra
- Chris Snell
- William Tillinghast

Post 642 Monthly Meeting Schedule for 2023-24 Year

Here are the meeting dates for the current American Legion Year, please update your calendars. You can also find these dates on the [Post Website Calendar](#)

4 December 2023
8 January 2024
5 February 2024
4 March 2024
1 April 2024
6 May 2024
3 June 2024

Need A Ride?

Are you a member who hasn't had a chance to attend one of our meetings or activities because you have difficulties driving at night, or are no longer able to drive? If so, please feel free to contact the 1st Vice Commander (arturo@cadiz.com) or at 408-838-0375 and let him know. We will arrange to have someone pick you up and drop you off at home. We currently have several members who use this service and will be more than happy to assist others in being able to attend our meetings and activities. It's a great opportunity to get out of the house, especially if you are not able to on your own and meet fellow Legion members and attend our meeting.



Service Officer Cathy Schiavone
VA/DoD Health Affairs

VA & TRICARE Information

TRICARE is the Department of Defense (DoD) health care program for uniformed service members, retirees & their families. <https://tricare.mil/>

Does VA participate in the TRICARE Network?

- Yes, since 1995, all VA health care facilities have participated as TRICARE Network Providers.
- VA can provide care for Active-Duty Service Members, military retirees, & family members under their TRICARE benefit - on a space available basis.
- Each VA health care facility can serve as primary care manager for TRICARE beneficiaries, but more often TRICARE referrals are used for specialty care.

What VA requirements are there to be TRICARE Providers?

- Care can only be made available to TRICARE beneficiaries on a space available basis.
- No service provided under the agreement will adversely affect the range of services, quality of care, or the established priorities for care provided to the primary/core (Veteran) beneficiaries of VHA.
- VHA USH has certified to VA Sec that caring for TRICARE beneficiaries will not result in denial/delay in providing access to care for any Veteran at that facility.

For TRICARE Information and Assistance

TRICARE eligibility is determined by the military services.

If eligibility questions arise or more information is needed regarding TRICARE eligibility, contact:

- Defense Manpower Data Center: <https://dwp.dmdc.osd.mil/dwp/app/main>
- Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS): 1-800-538-9552
- TRICARE East Region: Humana Military 1-800-444-5445
<https://www.humanamilitary.com>
- TRICARE West Region: Health Net Federal Services 1-844-866-9378
<https://tricare-west.com>

Meals Roster 2023

December 4th: Dan Weishaar (availability?)

January 8th: Mike O'Meara

February 5th: Bill Reichard

March 4th: Bob Devlin

April 1st: Kenneth Klinkowski

May 6th: Jim Barnhart

June 3rd: Vince Guinnane



Adjutant's Advice



VA announces \$5M in special needs grant funding for transitional supportive housing for homeless veterans.

The American Legion

FEB 02, 2024

Today, as a part of ongoing efforts to end veteran homelessness, the Department of Veterans Affairs [published a Notice of Funding Opportunity](#) for approximately \$5 million in grants per year (for up to two years) to help veterans experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

The funds are available through VA's [Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem](#) Program, which offers financial assistance to eligible community organizations that provide veterans with transitional housing and case management — including connecting eligible veterans to VA benefits, community-based services, and permanent housing. These special needs grants support homeless veterans who are women, elderly, terminally ill, chronically mentally ill, or who have care of minor dependents.

Earlier this week, VA announced that it permanently housed 46,552 homeless veterans in 2023 — surpassing the calendar year goal to house 38,000 veterans by 22.5%. Thanks in part to these efforts, the number of

veterans experiencing homelessness has fallen by 4% since early 2020 and by more than 52% since 2010.

“We won’t rest until every veteran has the safe, stable home that they deserve,” said VA Secretary Denis McDonough. “These grants will allow VA — alongside community organizations — to help provide housing and wraparound services to more homeless and at-risk Veterans.”

Only the 16 existing special need grantees are eligible to apply. Awards will fund two years of operations starting fiscal year 2025 on Oct. 1, 2024, and ending Sept. 30, 2026. Grant applications must be received by 4:00 p.m. Eastern Time on April 15, 2024.

View the special need NOFO, and learn more about GPD or email GPDGrants@va.gov. For more information about VA’s comprehensive efforts to end Veteran homelessness visit [VA.gov/homeless](https://va.gov/homeless).

Source: [VA announces \\$5M in special needs grant funding for transitional supportive housing for homeless veterans | The American Legion](#)

National Days and Months:

There is a neat description of February here with regard to the National Days where the rest of these links can be found.

<https://www.nationaldaycalendar.com/february> Texas, Iowa Wisconsin and California were all admitted to the Union in February. There are also several culinary days like “National Drink Wine Day” on the 18th, which I am sure some of our members will be a fan.

NATIONAL CANCER PREVENTION MONTH - February

VA talks ‘cutting-edge’ approach to preventing, treating cancer

<https://youtu.be/hojtBhrlITU?si=1h61yPDHokqrjHWu>

Cancer Prevention & Screening

https://youtu.be/uC8h9b_5xJE?si=WNp3dfppn7LxCA0c

NATIONAL HEART MONTH – February

VA Benefits: Heart Conditions Guide for

Veterans <https://www.youtube.com/shorts/S18hDvqL9uU>

NATIONAL BLACK HISTORY MONTH –

February <https://youtu.be/Bi1JRXXKU-c?si=dVwW4NNi6uFZvCAW>

<https://youtu.be/ZJPlXHyQzPo?si=BVU0s7fhYIeJi8> -

[BOY SCOUTS ANNIVERSARY WEEK - First Full Week in February](#)

[NATIONAL BURN AWARENESS WEEK - First Full Week in February](#)
<https://youtu.be/ZeFQhpdAUDs?si=63ewHP2UzBkfcPdu>

[NATIONAL GROUNDHOG DAY - February 2](#)
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Punxsutawney_Phil

FOUR CHAPLAINS DAY - February 3
https://youtu.be/W40p0BWWoDA?si=aeY_uQWsMKwvQwpk

NATIONAL BOY SCOUTS DAY - February
8 https://youtu.be/YDO_EpwIVkc?si=uqlwT3NLgtR2ZndX

[VALENTINE'S DAY - February 14](#)

[NATIONAL VET GIRLS RISE DAY - February 19](#) <https://youtu.be/Hug-xQUrsI?si=cviYDgwRmmzYuoIR>

[PRESIDENTS DAY | Third Monday in February](#)

Military History Notes: Presidents Day, Boy Scouts and Women Veterans

1. Who are the three presidents who served in 1841?
2. Forty years later, this same phenomenon occurred again in 1881. Name the three presidents who served that year.
3. Name the three presidents who died on July 4th.
4. Who were the four presidents who were assassinated while in office?

Answers

1. Martin Van Buren, William Henry Harrison, John Tyler
2. Rutherford B. Hayes, James A. Garfield, and Chester A. Arthur.
3. John Adams, James Monroe, Thomas Jefferson.
4. Abraham Lincoln, James A. Garfield, William McKinley, John F. Kennedy

Feb 3

During World War II, four chaplains who had attended Chaplain School together at Harvard boarded the Dorchester en route to the Army Command Base in southern Greenland. Aboard the ship were 904 service members. The four chaplains were Reverend George L. Fox, a Methodist minister, Reverend Clark V. Poling of the Reformed Church of America, Rabbi Alexander D. Goode, and Father John P. Washington of the Roman Catholic Church. Their voyage began on January 23, 1943. At the time, German U-Boats were patrolling the area, and the convoy was on high alert. When a German submarine torpedoed the Dorchester on February 3, 1943, in the frigid waters off the coast of Newfoundland, chaos ensued.

Eyewitnesses recounted the chaplains' heroism, including giving their life jackets and gloves to other service members. They prayed with service members, assisting them into lifeboats. The four chaplains remained on the sinking Dorchester. Only 230 men were rescued from the waters. Congress awarded the four chaplains the Four Chaplains Medal in 1960.

Feb. 8

1910: William D. Boyce incorporates the Boy Scouts of America. Countless boys will cut their teeth as young adventurers in Boyce's scouting program before joining the military. When sub commander Eugene Fluckey - one of nine Medal of Honor recipients to earn the Boy Scouts' top distinction of Eagle Scout - assembled a landing party to go ashore and destroy a Japanese train, he wanted former Boy Scouts to do the job, since they would be able to find their way back. 11 of the 12 humans to walk on the moon were Boy Scout alumni; and Neil Armstrong, the first was an Eagle Scout.

Feb. 12

1935: As the Navy's helium-filled rigid airship USS *Macon* (ZRS-5) flies through a storm, its tail fin and interior structural members are destroyed, puncturing the massive vessel's helium cells. The "flying aircraft carrier," which houses five Curtiss F9C-2 "Sparrowhawk" reconnaissance planes, crash-lands in the Pacific Ocean off the coast of Point Sur, Calif, and all but two of the airship's 76-man crew are saved.

The 785-ft. *Macon* and her sister ship *Akron* (which crashed in 1933) are the largest aircraft ever produced by the United States - just 20 feet shorter than the ill-fated *Hindenburg*, which will famously be lost in 1937. Incidentally, *Macon's* commanding officer, Lt. Cmdr. Herbert Wiley, was *Akron's* executive officer and one of only three men to survive that crash.

Feb. 16

1804: U.S. Navy Lt. (future commodore) Stephen Decatur sails a captured Tripolitan ketch he renames USS *Intrepid* into the harbor at Tripoli. There, Decatur and a volunteer force of sailors and Marines board the frigate USS *Philadelphia* (the second of six so-named American warships), which had been previously captured by Tripolitan pirates. After a brief but violent close quarters struggle in which several pirates but no Americans are killed Decatur orders the *Philadelphia* burned.

1945: 2,000 American paratroopers jump over the Philippines' "fortress Corregidor" in one of the most difficult airborne operations of the war. For the next 11 days, the Americans will root out the enemy from a labyrinth of caves and tunnels and beat back multiple banzai attacks before wiping out almost all of the 6,500-man enemy garrison.

1953: Marine aviator - and future baseball Hall of Famer - Capt. Ted Williams crash-lands his crippled Marine Corps F9F "Panther" fighter at Suwon's K-13 airstrip. During a massive 200-plane raid on a troop encampment, Williams was hit by enemy ground fire which knocked out his instrument panel, landing gear, and hydraulic system; damaged his control surfaces; and set the plane on fire. Rather than eject, Williams brings the plane down on its belly and skids down the runway for over a mile before the mortally wounded plane comes to a stop. Williams, often flying as the wingman for future Mercury astronaut John Glenn, walks away with just a sprained ankle and goes on to fly 38 more missions

over Korea before returning to baseball for good (he also flew in the Pacific Theater during World War II).

Feb. 17

1864: The Confederate submarine H.L. Hunley sinks the Federal sloop-of-war USS *Housatonic* in Charleston (S.C.) harbor, becoming the first submarine in history to sink an enemy warship in action. It is a pyrrhic victory however: the submarine also sinking either with its victim or soon after the attack with the loss of all hands.

Feb. 22

1974: Lt. J.G. Barbara Ann Allen Rainey pins on her wings, becoming the first female Naval aviator. Rainey is assigned to a transport squadron, flying C-1 "Trader" planes .In 1982, she will be killed in a crash while training a student pilot.

Feb. 23

1778: Baron Friedrich von Steuben, a Prussian Army officer — arguably the father of American drill instructors arrives at Valley Forge with the task of whipping the Continental Army into shape.

Feb. 27

1942: A flotilla of 14 Dutch, British, Australian, and American ships suffers a disastrous defeat at the hands of a much-larger Japanese invasion force in the Battle of the Java Sea. 11 vessels are sunk and over 3,000 sailors are killed in the engagement. Meanwhile, the seaplane tender USS *Langley* (AV-3) - America's first aircraft carrier - is sunk by Japanese land-based aircraft while ferrying P-40 "Warhawk" attack planes to Java.

[USS Jupiter \(AC-3\)](#) served as a [collier](#) from 1913 to 1920 and was converted into the U.S. Navy's first [aircraft carrier](#), being renamed [USS Langley](#) on 21 April 1920 and being recommissioned as an aircraft carrier in 1922.

American Legion Post 642 January 8, 2023 meeting minutes

Attendance:

Vince, Michael O'Meara, David, Arturo, Bill R, Gordon.

Opening the meeting: Vince, Commander

Prayer by Bill

Pledge of Allegiance

POW empty Chair Ceremony

Preamble to the Legion Constitution

Adjutant Roll Call:

Commander- Vince, 1st Vice- Arturo, 2nd Vice-NA, 3rd Vice-, Finance- Mike, Chaplain-Bill, Service Officer- Ill, Judge Advocate- , Adjutant- David, Sergeant at Arms- Bill, Historian-absent.

Guests:

Meeting at Post 564 Santa Clara

Reading of the Minutes:

Motion: Accepting minutes as written.

Moved: Arturo, Seconded: Mike

Discussion: None

Approval: Unanimous

Officer Reports Updates:

Finance Officer's Report: Mike

Summary: Nothing significant.

Motion: To approve the finance report subject to audit.

Moved: Bill, Seconded: Gordon

Discussion: None

Unanimous Approval

First Vice Commander: Vince

Summary: Wreaths Across America was a success. Every veteran was covered with a wreath. Dennis will have a meeting at the beginning of February. Membership is at 84%. 7th in District. We need new members.

Post 1000 will be contacted. The old post is now owned by a chiropractor group.

Discussion: Mike said there is a two for one on wreaths right now. Please pay as soon as possible.

Second Vice Commander's Report:

Summary: NA

Discussion: NA

Adjutant's Report: David

Summary: Attended Wreaths and it was well attended. It was a great event, but speakers could not all be heard. May need to work on that next year.

Chaplain Report: No

Summary: None.

Post Service Officer: Absent

Summary: None.

Commander: Vince

Summary: None.

Committee Reports:

Boys and Girls State: Gordon

Summary: Received the packet for next year. Fee went up to \$500. The deadline is tight this year. There will be a need for someone to take over. Kenneth may take over. Arturo will ask Mitty High School for potential candidates. Photos from Boys and Girls State will be posted.

Discussion: May support other posts that may need help. Budget for 5 people for Boys and Girls State.

Sick Call Relief: Manny doing okay. Mary Anne is doing well too. Kathy is doing well but had surgery.

Unfinished business: Done deal with Odd Fellows. It will be yearly rent. \$600 a year. Need to get insurance.

Odd Fellows Cupertino
20589 West Homestead Rd.
Cupertino, CA 95014

Mailing Address:
Cupertino Lodge #70
PO Box 6
Cupertino, CA 95014

Discussion: If it doesn't fall through, then we will meet at post 564 again. There is more labor-intensive work to maintain it. There is storage for us.

Motion: Go forward with Odd Fellows to move the location. With a one-year contract. Subject to insurance being approved.

First: Arturo, Second: Bill
Unanimous approval

Initiation of new members: None.

New Business: Bob Sargent is moving to Buffalo, New York. Dan Weiser has moved to Maryland with wife and works at North Gunthrop. Arturo plans to meet the student leader from De Anza veterans' group.

District Meeting Updates:

Memorial to Departed Post member:

Good of the legion:

Chaplain: Bill

POW/MIA chair ceremony

Benediction and Closing