



Stevens Creek Post 642 The Ranger Way
July 2023 Newsletter
Mailing Address: PO Box 302,
Cupertino, CA 95015



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Cupertino, CA 95015

Zoom Meeting Info for July 2023 Meeting:

Arturo Thiele-Sardina is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: American Legion Post 642 March Meeting

Time: July 10, 2023 07:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6756452940?pwd=SXR0eFlZYTVuVWJUK0RmNnBQS05RZz09>

Meeting ID: 675 645 2940

Passcode: 1151

Dial by your location

+1 669 444 9171 US

+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 675 645 2940

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kHGiETSdb>



Source: <https://images.app.goo.gl/t54bPZ7B2fTUxaLx8>



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

Commanders Corner

Greetings Fellow Legionnaires,

All are invited to our Post meeting which is on July 10th of this month because of the July 4th Holiday on the Tuesday. Each year on July 4th, the United States celebrates Independence Day. This federal holiday commemorates the adoption of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776, declaring independence from the Kingdom of Great Britain.

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. Do give us a heads up, so that we can requisition extra rations versus our regular contingent. COME ON DOWN!

We are beginning our New Legion Year and were able to get our end of year reports submitted on time as well as getting our Post By-Laws officially accepted by the Department.

On July 15th, we will be having our Post BBQ where we will be having a special presentation, so please attend.

Next meeting for District 13 is on Tuesday, July 25, 2023, at 7:00 pm at Willow Glen Post 318, 1504 Minnesota Ave, San Jose, CA 95125.

I was approached by Jeff Rose, the Post 99 Commander, who said that, District 13 along with Post 99 has had an Installation Dinner and they are looking at the first part of Aug for this event for 2023. It was his understanding that the newly elected Dept Commander will be invited to preside over the installation. He was asking for those Posts that have not had their formal installation, how many would be interested in participating in a dinner event to officially swear the attending Post officers into office. I thought that this was a nice idea, so if we haven't gotten the District Commander or Adjutant to be available for the 10th, we could check on our Post Officers' availability for this meeting.

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.

To Comradeship!

Vincent Guinnane, MSME, P.E.

CW4, 881A1, USAR (Retired)

vguinnane@comcast.net

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."

Found at funny-pictures-quotes.com



MURPHY'S MILITARY LAW #22

If it's stupid, but it works, it ain't stupid

FUNNY-PICTURES-QUOTES.COM

First Vice Commander Notes

Greetings fellow Legionnaires,

Welcome to July which is the start of our new American Legion Year. We wrapped up our year with our first VA BBQ of the year. There were 12 of us representing both the Post and the Cupertino Rotary this past Saturday. Check out the article below in the newsletter with pictures and more info on the event.

Regarding membership, we made one last push with our members who had not renewed this year, contacting them by phone and letting them know that it wasn't too late to renew. As of today we have 65 members just shy of our goal of 67 members. There are still 5 Legionnaires who have not yet renewed their membership. The PUFL's will be renewed automatically on 1 July, those of you who renewed online, depending on what you selected you will either be renewed automatically or can renew online beginning 1 July. For the remainder of the Post, online renewal is quick, however if you decide to continue to renew by USPS, the sooner you renew the better. That way you won't be barraged by National, Department and by me on renewing for the 2023-24 year.

With the start of the new year this is the time to reflect on what you can do to help the American Legion and our Post on supporting our community and our Veterans. Whether it is attending a meeting, one of our VA BBQ's or Post events like our upcoming Post Picnic on 15 July, our Veterans Day event at Cupertino Memorial Park or the Wreaths Across America event on 16 December. This past meeting we had 15 members and guests in attendance, the Santa Clara County Veterans Service Office (VSO) briefed us on their mission and what they can do for us Veterans. Additionally Faezan Hussain who is the Vice President of the De Anza Veterans Students of America group spoke to us regarding their organization and how they want to work more closely with our Post.

I hope all of you and your families have a great Independence Day and I look forward to seeing you at our next meeting on the 10th of July,'

Arturo Thiele-Sardina

VA BBQ

This past Saturday our Post held the first of three BBQ's at the VA in Palo Alto. With the ongoing construction at the facility, we had to set up in a different location and the patients were served their lunches inside the facility. This enabled the volunteers to get a chance to interact with the patients and it was more personable than in previous years. There were a total of 12 volunteers, 5 Post members and their families and 7 Cupertino Rotary members. Over all 56 meals were served by our crew and we had a great time and the weather was not too bad as in the past. We have two more of these BBQ's scheduled for this summer. The next one is on 26 August and the last one is on 9 September. Please consider joining us, it's a great way to spend a few hours helping out Veterans who are in need, meeting new folks from our Post and the Rotary and having the chance to enjoy some fresh air and a lunch cooked by our crew. Here are a few pictures of the event.



2023 Membership Report (29 June 2023)

2023 Membership Goal: 67

Total Members: 65/97.0%

Paid Up for Life (PUFL): 19

New Members: 0

Online Renewals: 18

Renewals Pending Submittal: 0

Mail Renewals: 25

Members not yet renewed: 5

Post 1000 Transfers: 3

District Rank: 3rd/12

Newly renewed Members: 2 (Felton Hill and Faezan Hussain-Post 1000 Transfer)

Upcoming events for July 2023-September 2023

**10 Jul 1900 hrs. Post 642 Monthly Meeting in Person/Zoom
(Dinner served at 1800 hrs.)**

**15 Jul 1100 hrs. Post 642 Picnic, Stevens Creek County Park
(Sycamore Site)**

**7 Aug 1900 hrs. Post 642 Monthly Meeting in Person/Zoom
(Dinner served at 1800 hrs.)**

**26 Aug 1000 hrs. VA BBQ at the Palo Alto VA, 3801 Miranda
Ave., Palo Alto**

**9 Sep 1000 hrs. VA BBQ at the Palo Alto VA, 3801 Miranda
Ave., Palo Alto**

**11 Sep 1900 hrs. Post 642 Monthly Meeting in Person/Zoom
(Dinner served at 1800 hrs.)**

VA BBQs for 2023

Please mark your calendars for the VA BBQ's that our Post will be hosting at the Palo Alto VA with the shut in patients from the Psych ward. The dates are as follows:

August 26

Sept 9

We usually arrive on site at 1000 hrs. and finish around 1300 hrs. We are always looking for volunteers to support this event, as these BBQs are one of the activities that we perform in support of fellow Veterans. Please let us know if you are interested in participating on any of the scheduled dates. Please bring a friend or family member to this event as the more folks helping out the more fun we have.

PRE IN-COUNTRY



WELCOME TO THE ARMY/CORPS!

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

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Stevens Creek Post 642 Annual Picnic

Mark your calendar, it's Barbecue time! Join us for our annual BBQ.

Saturday, July 15, 2023 - 11:00am till whenever
Stevens Creek County Park, Sycamore group area.
11:00 am till whenever
Stakes and fixings --- cost \$10.00 per person

RSVP to Mike O'Meara 408-255-5845 and leave a message.
See you there.

Adjutant's Advice

Below is a request for veterans to tell their stories to be recorded for future generations. Please participate if you are able.

Hello,

I am following up on behalf of my colleague Lizzie McCarthy, who spoke to you last week regarding the Veterans History Project we are working on. As Lizzie may have mentioned, we would love to do a brief interview with service members so that we can learn from their lived experiences. Please share the invitation below and help us get the word out.

Our target is to interview two hundred Veterans by this summer. We have completed twenty incredible interviews so far and would love your support in helping to get the word out so we can reach our target. Please forward this email to the service members.

Some Details:

- Interview duration: 30-45 min
- Interview can be remote or in person.
- In appreciation of the time, we will provide an amazon gift card.

To set up a time for the interview, please send an email to team@spikeview.com or call/text 510-209-7615.

Please include:

- Date/Time you are available for the interview.
- Email/Phone number where we can contact you.

With much gratitude,
Spikeview Team

Inviting all Veterans!



Do you want to help immortalize history and tell your story?

We would love to do a brief interview with you to catalog your lived experiences and submit them to the library of congress for future generations to view and learn from, leverage your collective stories to spark policy discussion, and explore how to get you connected to helpful resources.



In appreciation of your support, we would love to gift you an amazon gift card

To interview with us, please send an email to team@spikeview.com



STEVENS CREEK POST 642
2023 Picnic

It's Barbecue time for Stevens Creek Post 642
Join us for our Annual 2022 BBQ

When: Saturday, JULY 15, 2023

**Where: Stevens Creek County Park, Sycamore
Group Area**

(Sycamore is just above the Stevens Creek Reservoir)

Time: 11:00 AM TILL WHENEVER

AMERICAN LEGION POST 642 PICNIC

We have a covered eating area with plenty of shade

Bring your own Deck Chair

Food and beverages provided

BBQ Steak with all the trimmings

Cost \$ 10.00 per person

Please RSVP to: Mike O'Meara

Phone: 408-255-5845 (If no answer, leave a message)

10171 Lockwood Drive, Cupertino CA 95014

American Legion Post 642 June 5, 2023 meeting minutes

Attendance:

Gordon Hall, David Han, Vince Guinnane, Bill Reichard, Arturo, Wally, Kenneth Klinkowski, Manny, George Midwin, Michael O'Meara, Dennis Whittaker, Jim Barnhart.

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- Gordon, 3rd Vice-George, Finance- Mike, Chaplain- Wally, Service Officer- Absent, Judge Advocate- Absent , Adjutant- David, Sergeant at Arms- Bill Reichard, Historian- Dennis.

Guests:

Darlene Escalante from VSO San Jose- Discussed the services offered at the VSO such as assistance with claims, VA Benefits such as the Post 9/11 GI Bill, County ID's, etc. Walk in appointments can be made virtually now. Please visit. They can improve any situation for veterans.

Fazan Hussein is President of the De Anza College Student Veterans of America- Pandemic has impacted our student veteran communities. Coming back in person is a new challenge for many student veterans. Many are still new and adjusting to civilian college life. We may be able to have lunches with veterans and serve them dinners here at our post.

Dr. Derrick Felton is a professor at De Anza College- And an advisor for veterans. Mentorship for student veterans by our Post 642. Mentorship on life, work, academics, and social.

Reading of the Minutes:

Motion: Accepting minutes as written.

Moved: Arturo, Seconded: Bob

Discussion: None.

Unanimous Approval

Officer Reports Updates:

Finance Officer's Report: Mike

Summary: Taxes were filed. Lot of money is going out to Fisher House and other organizations in June.

Motion: To approve the finance report subject to audit.
Moved: Wally, Seconded: Dennis

Discussion: None
Unanimous Approval

First Vice Commander: Arturo

Summary: New member today. Three renewed members. Six still have not renewed. Flag Day is June 11, 2023 at Oak Hill Cemetery. There is a Veteran Stand Down in Gilroy. Yountville veterans get a \$150 sponsorship from us regularly. Scholarships will be sponsored again for De Anza student veterans. We are second place in the District for membership. Was re-elected as Third Vice for District. There are lots of veteran events going on in our region.

Discussion: Jim Barnhart and Bill Tesle are new incoming members. Jim will be here next month for induction. Wally's event could be at another place or at his home. Arturo will meet with Wally's family to further discuss how to plan this event. A full blast will go out to the post regarding this.

Second Vice Commander's Report: Gordon

Summary: Attended online meeting for Girls and Boys State. One third were girls. First year it will be co-ed. Separate dormitories. Good experience. Emailed our two delegates about what will be required. Two medals were ordered for our delegates that will be given out at our dinner. One parent must sign for the student.

Discussion:

Adjutant's Report: David

Summary: A group is asking for veterans to share their stories. Please see the newsletter.

Chaplain Report: George Overby and Harry Baker.

Post Service Officer: Absent

Summary: No new updates.

Commander: Vince

Summary: Request to order more challenge coins for our post with our inscriptions on it. Would like to have a reserve for our post.

Motion: To order 50 challenge coins for reserve with our inscriptions with Post 642 to hand out. \$500 total.

First: Vince, Second: Dennis

Discussion: Enable our post to hand out challenge coins to the community.

Unanimous Approval

Committee Reports:

Wreaths Across America: Dennis

Summary: Eighth year this year for us. We have our speakers. Apple may donate to Wreaths. We are trying. We are looking for more sponsors for this year. South Bay Veterans Choir will be there. Start at 9:30 am December 16th this year.

Discussion: NA

VA BBQ: Mike

Summary: Volunteers needed for June 24, 2023 Saturday. Please sign up. Also in August and September. Remodeling the area we hold it.

Post By Laws: Vince

Discussion: Sent to Area 2 and approved.

Discussion: NA

Sick Call Relief: None

Unfinished business: New inductions for two new members and Officer installations.

Initiation of new members: None.

New Business: We will offer business cards to our members for representation of our post. Please look for the email from Arturo.

Motion: To support the Veteran Stand Down with some finances \$250 for July 2023.

First: Arturo, Second: George

Discussion: None.

Unanimous approval

District Meeting Updates: None.

Memorial to Departed Post member: None.

Good of the legion: None

Chaplain: Bill

POW/MIA chair ceremony

Benediction and Closing

National Days and Months:

[CAPTIVE NATIONS WEEK – Third Week in July](https://nationaldaycalendar.com/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/)

<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/)

<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/)

<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/)

<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-doghouse-day-third-monday-in-july-2/)

<https://nationaldaycalendar.com/national-get-out-of-the-doghouse-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/)

**<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/)

<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/wiInP6fR8rM>)

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/NfimYIwtJq8>)

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>)

July 10

1942: A PBV "Catalina" crew spots an intact Japanese A6M "Zero" fighter that crash-landed on the Alaskan island of Akutan. The fighter is salvaged and shipped to the United States, where test pilots will use the captured warplane to identify tactics that negate the formidable Zero's advantages. The newly developed F6F "Hellcat" is modified to take full advantage of the Zero's weaknesses discovered during tests, and Hellcat aviators will enjoy an impressive 13:1 kill ratio against Zeroes in the Pacific War.

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/mSQVlPoc0Mk>)

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.