



Stevens Creek Post 642 The Ranger Way
May 2025 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,

We are quickly closing in on the end of our Legion Year. Nominations and elections are this month. I sent an email about the positions and the key duties, please take a look at the email and step up and volunteer for one of our leadership positions. I have posted additional info that you can find the Commanders Corner [here](#) and please check out the rest of our Post Website, as we have up to the minute events posted, information for Veterans and their families and other notable items.

Last reminder the \$1000 Post Scholarship application window is now open, if your wife/husband/son/daughter or grandkids will be attending technical school, junior college or college in 2025-26 please have them contact me at arturo@cadiz.com and request an application. Applications are due by 15 May 2025.

Please don't forget to fill out the Americanism Report that I sent out earlier this month in an email.

I look forward to seeing you at our monthly May meeting on 5 May 2025, please attend as we will be accepting officer nominations and voting for the upcoming Legion Year.

"Duty First"

Arturo

Upcoming events for April 2025-July 2025

29 Apr	1900 Hrs.	District 13 Meeting: Post 564: 2120 Walsh Ave, Santa Clara, CA
5 May	1900 hrs.	Post 642 Monthly Meeting in Person (Dinner served at 1800 hrs.) Oddfellows. Cupertino Lodge #70, 20589 Homestead Ave. Cupertino, CA
25 May	1000 hrs.	District 13 Caucus, Post 564, 2120 Walsh Ave. Santa Clara, CA
2 Jun	1900 hrs.	Post 642 Monthly Meeting in Person (Dinner served at 1800 hrs.) Oddfellows. Cupertino Lodge #70, 20589 Homestead Ave. Cupertino, CA
14 Jun	1000 hrs.	VA BBQ at Palo Alto VA, Bldg 520, 3801 Miranda Ave, Palo Alto,
1 July	1900 hrs.	Post 642 Monthly Meeting in Person (Dinner served at 1800 hrs.) Oddfellows. Cupertino Lodge #70, 20589 Homestead Ave. Cupertino, CA
26 July	1100 hrs.	Post 642 Annual Picnic, Stevens Creek County Park: Sycamore Picnic Area

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

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.

IT'S OKAY, AIRMAN

**MARINE
CORPS MEMES**

**IT'S SUPPOSED TO MAKE
THAT LOUD "BANG" SOUND**



1st Vice Commander's Note

Greetings Fellow Legionnaires,

Please invite fellow veterans, even if they aren't American Legion members yet, to our [Post meeting which is on May 5th](#) at the [Odd Fellows Lodge #70 Hall](#). This month also brings us the [Post 858 Chess Parlor every Monday](#), [Vet to Vet Café at Post 419 on Thursdays](#), [Mobile medical outreach for Veterans in Gilroy \(16th\)](#) and Memorial Day on the 26th.

We are still working on increasing membership and meeting current goals. The post has an application page for both new applications and renewals at <https://www.americanlegionpost642.com/site/application.php> or your My Legion account here: <https://mylegion.org/PersonifyEbusiness/Membership/Renew>. I would highly recommend signing up for autopay of your memberships, especially since our new membership year starts in June.

We have taken care of elderly Post Members annual membership like our remaining WWII Veterans. This is to keep them in the loop with our newsletter, Buddy Checks, etc. I am continuing to reach out to Post 1000 members and Michael Fouts will be inducted into the Post this month. Remember that our Student Veterans are also subsidized, so please reach out to me or Arturo to renew this year and the coming year to maintain continuity of service.

We would really like to get more people attending the Post meetings and events and enjoy social aspects of membership, so let us know your ideas by coming to our meetings. Do give us 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. Remember, if you need a ride, contact either me or one of the officers. Arturo has the cooler.

Please remember that if you have Post or Veterans events 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. [Events Calendar](#)

If you know of deceased members during the past few months either bring their name and share with our District Chaplain, Sunny Dosanjh or send to him at dos@dosanjhusa.com. Unfortunately, we have confirmed with the family that Fenton Hill, one of our WWII Veterans has entered Post Everlasting.

To Comradeship!
Vincent Guinnane, MSME, P.E.
CW4, 881A1, USAR (Retired)
vguinnane@comcast.net

2025 Membership Report (As of 18 April)

2025 Membership Goal: 68
Paid Up for Life (PUFL): 16 (-2)
Online Renewals: 20
Mail Renewals: 23
Post 1000 Transfers: 2
Newly renewed Members: 1

Total Members: 62
New Members: 1
Renewals Pending Submittal: 2
Members not yet renewed: 6
District Rank: Tied for 3rd/12

Membership Reports

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



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

Service Officer Report

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

VA Resources, we're here for you.

- For any questions or requests, [1-800-MyVA411](tel:1-800-MyVA411) ([1-800-698-2411](tel:1-800-698-2411)) is always the right number.
- [Veterans Crisis Line: 988](tel:1-800-988-9888) and press 1, [Chat](#), or Text 838255
- [Vet Centers: 1-877-927-8387](tel:1-877-927-8387)
- [Homeless Veteran Resources: 1-877-424-3838](tel:1-877-424-3838) or [Chat](#)
- [Ask VA](#)
- [Schedule a 1-on-1 Appointment with a VA Benefits Expert](#)

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.

Historian's Report

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

National Days and Months:

There is a neat description of May here with regard to the National Days and also where the rest of these links can be found. <https://www.nationaldaycalendar.com/May> Montana (where I have a nephew serving as a rookie police officer), Washington, Idaho, Wyoming and Utah were all admitted to the Union in May. There are also quite a few culinary days like Chocolate Parfait Day, Truffle Day and quite a few others as well as Fitness and Senior Fitness Days.

[SILVER STAR SERVICE BANNER DAY | May 1 SGT Monica Lin Brown – Silver Star](#)

<https://youtu.be/5jciVaaxBdw?si=HoZEJFbJ3PRa7uLl>

[NATIONAL SPACE DAY | First Friday in May \(See stories in Military History\)](#)

[NATIONAL CARTOONISTS DAY - May 5 Bill Mauldin](#)
https://youtu.be/czkFi_wLMR0?si=vDEBgQFSUVcdbIAL

Military life gags https://youtu.be/ZJJHL5p9UIE?si=4i6_eIGXBHskSRjH

[MELANOMA MONDAY | First Monday in](#)
[May https://youtu.be/A4looqzp5So?si=17vsZ4XOs9fDXLrI](https://youtu.be/A4looqzp5So?si=17vsZ4XOs9fDXLrI)

VA Dermatological Exam <https://youtu.be/pBv3DmmAw24?si=qPOuMTaXNAnoqWML>

[NATIONAL NURSES DAY - May 6](#) <https://youtu.be/0src1KP2tW4?si=sztTrFVC3RLoaVB1>

[NATIONAL MILITARY SPOUSE APPRECIATION DAY - Friday before Mother's Day](#)

[MOTHER'S DAY - Second Sunday in May](#)
<https://youtu.be/mW23uF8x6Ng?si=Ym5x9aWe8KItifpM>

[PEACE OFFICERS MEMORIAL DAY - May 15 \(Also Police Week\)](#)

[NATIONAL DEFENSE TRANSPORTATION DAY- Third Friday in May \(like my unit 481st](#)
[Heavy Boat Company\)](#)

[ARMED FORCES DAY - Third Saturday in May \(YouTube is WWII History Museum](#)
[Documentary - long\)](#)

https://www.youtube.com/live/bTdi2n1O_Lw?si=-AIDFoJvTDQThmR

[NATIONAL MARITIME DAY - May 22 \(Merchant Marine stories in History below\)](#)

[AVIATION MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN DAY - MAY 24 \(Our Post United Airlines and Air Force vets\)](#)

[MEMORIAL DAY - Last Monday in May](#)
<https://youtu.be/CRXrfs0f1Fo?si=cz8714h5cmUkyOhn>

[NATIONAL 529 DAY - May 29 - National Day Calendar](#) – check email on Post 642
Scholarship Form

[NATIONAL SAVE YOUR HEARING DAY - May 31](#)

VA Hearing Aids https://youtu.be/_Jkx-3PDWdw?si=LrjTidnLZhuRPmKD

History Notes:

May 2

1964: Two months prior to the Gulf of Tonkin incident, a North Vietnamese frogman plants an explosive charge on USNS *Card* - a reactivated World War II escort carrier ferrying helicopters and American soldiers to South Vietnam as the ship sits at a dock in Saigon. The blast kills five civilian crew members and *Card* sinks. The vessel is patched, raised, and will return to service in December.

May 5

1862: Disappointed in the lack of progress of Maj. Gen. George B. McClellan's Peninsula Campaign, President Abraham Lincoln departs for Hampton Roads, Va. on the Treasury Department revenue cutter *Miami* to personally oversee operations. Over five days, the president - a former militia rifle company commander - directs the bombardment of Confederate positions and lands to conduct reconnaissance of the area with Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton and Secretary of the Treasury Salmon P. Chase.

1917: Eugene J. Bullard becomes the first black combat aviator, earning his wings with the French Air Service. The Columbus, Ga. native's father came to America from the Caribbean island of Martinique and his mother was a Creek indian. Bullard fled to Europe to escape racism in the United States and joined the French Foreign Legion as a machine gunner, seeing action in the Somme, Champagne, and Verdun campaigns before being wounded. After recovering, he joined the air service and earned his pilot's license. The "Black Swallow of

Death" would fly 20 combat missions for the French - claiming two aerial kills - before war's end. He volunteered for the infantry when Germany invaded France again in 1940 and was wounded.

1945: A Japanese balloon bomb explodes in Bly, Oregon, killing a pastor, his wife, and five Sunday schoolchildren on the way to a picnic. The Japanese sent over 9,000 of these incendiary devices into the jet stream, hoping some would land in America and the small explosives would start forest fires or cause casualties. A few hundred of the world's first "intercontinental weapon" were observed in the United States, going as far inland as Iowa and Michigan, but the only casualties are the one explosion in Bly. The highly

technical devices use altimeters and valves to control the hydrogen-filled balloons during the three-day, 8,000-mile flight from the east coast of Japan's Honshu island.

1961: At 9:34 am, U.S. Navy Commander (future rear admiral) Alan B. Shepard Jr.'s Mercury-Redstone rocket blasts off from Cape Canaveral, Fla. Shepard becomes the first American in space as his "Freedom 7" capsule

carries him 116 miles above the Earth's surface. NASA's first manned space flight tests the ability of humans to withstand the intense g-forces during liftoff and re-entry as Shepard encounters 11.6 g's as he plummets to the surface during his 15 minute flight.

May 7

1915: Just off the coast of southern Ireland, the submarine U-20 spots the massive ocean liner RMS Lusitania, steaming from New York and hoping to sneak through Germany's blockade of the British Isles. The U-boat fires a single torpedo at the ship and Lusitania sinks in just 18 minutes, taking 1,198 people including 128 Americans with her to the bottom. While the British government maintained for years that Lusitania was purely a passenger liner, the secondary explosions which caused the vessel to sink so quickly may have been from the tons of ammunition secretly being transported from an allegedly neutral United States. The sinking of Lusitania will be a major factor in the United States declaring war on Germany two years later.

May 9

1941: 40 Allied ships steam west across the Atlantic, right into the jaws of a waiting wolfpack of German U-boats. *U-110* and *U-201* make a coordinated attack on the convoy, sinking three freighters. British escort vessels score hits on both subs, sending *U-201* back to German pens for repair. *U-110* is forced to surface, and the captain orders his crew to abandon ship as it appears the destroyer HMS *Bulldog* is preparing to ram the sub. British sailors quickly seize the opportunity to board the fatally wounded submarine instead, grabbing the Enigma cipher machine and German code book. The British can now read the German Navy's traffic - a secret so closely guarded that the United States isn't informed until 1943.

May 15

1918: Privates Henry Johnson and Needham Roberts of the all-black "Harlem Hellfighters" become the first American soldiers to be awarded the Croix de Guerre - France's highest decoration for military valor. When a German raiding party attacks their outpost and captures Roberts, Johnson fights back with grenades, gun fire, his rifle butt, knife, and fists, rescuing his fellow soldier and forcing the Germans to retreat. Johnson is wounded 21 times in the fight, but is not awarded the Purple Heart until 1996 - decades after his passing - and is finally awarded the Medal of Honor in 2015.

1963: U.S. Air Force Maj. (future Col.) Leroy Gordon "Gordo" Cooper, Jr. blasts off aboard "Faith 7", the final Mercury mission. Cooper will spend over 34 hours in space - circling the globe 22 times - before a short circuit kills the capsule's automated control system. Cooper has to use the constellations and his watch to manually fly the capsule back to Earth, splashing down just four miles from the recovery ship in the Pacific Ocean.

The former U.S. Marine private (serving in the Presidential Honor Guard in Washington, D.C.) ultimately was commissioned an Army second lieutenant, before his days as an Air Force fighter jock and test pilot.

May 30

1866: "Decoration Day" — the predecessor to Memorial Day is first observed by order of U.S. Army Gen. John A. Logan, who designated the day "for the purpose of strewing with flowers or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country." Maj. Gen. (future U.S. pres.) James A. Garfield presides over ceremonies at Arlington Cemetery (the former estate of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee), and approximately 5,000 participants decorate the graves of both Union and Confederate dead about 20,000 of them buried on the grounds.