



**POST 564 -
MISSION CITY
NEWS
BULLETIN**



District 13 Area 2

March 2024

American Legion Officers

Commander: Jonathan Elliott

1st Vice: Jimshed Akhtar

2nd Vice: Tony Guida

3rd Vice: Charles Moore

Finance Officer: Rick Fetro

Judge Advocate:

Sargent at Arms: Ron Sousoy

Adjutant: John Carlson

Executive Board

Will Carney

Chuck Macntyre

Ron Souzy

Auxiliary Officers

President: Faith Thompson

1st Vice: Cece Harvey

Sec./Treasurer:

Sargent at Arms: Cathy Spinelli

Executive Committee Mem-
bers

Mary Hidalgo

SAL Officers

Commander: Roger Sanford

Adjutant: Tony Quida

1st Vice: Brian Tarbet

Stay Connected

MissionCity-

Post564@gmail.com

2120 Walsh Ave, Santa Clara



From the Desk of 1st Vice Membership

Hello Fellow Legionaries,
We are entering into March 20204 and have been doing very well with our current Membership Drive. Currently we stand at 89% total Membership for Post 564. We as a Post have been setting the standard for our District 13. Let us continue to gain momentum to reach that full goal we have set, as we accomplish every year. Your membership is important to us at Post 564, so please pay the requested dues and get that current membership card in hand. The best way to accomplish this is from the MyLegion.org website, there you can research a ton of great information about our organization the American Legion\, and get your new membership card. As we are Entering into March, please join us for our regular meetings and for dinner the fourth Friday of every month in 2024. The more the merrier, we can work together to keep our Post operating. Happy March to all our Family members at Post 564.
1ST Vice Jimshed Akhtar



American Legion Riders

The American Legion Riders are another segment of our Post 564, please join us if you're a motorcycle enthusiast and like to gain more knowledge about motorcycle Safety and proper operations on two wheels. We have a great group that meets regularly. The next meeting will be at Post 791 in San Jose at 10am 16 March, come on over and ride with us. As the weather will be getting better in Spring and Summer there will be some amazing events and rides, join us. Happy March to the American Legion Riders District 13.
SEC Jimshed A.

BUILDING FOUNDATION

I wish all members and their families a “St Paddy’s Day”.

Final-Final NOTICE

In accordance with The American Legion Post #564 Building Foundation Bylaws, “Each member in good standing of Mission City Post #564 shall be a member of the American Legion Post #564 Building Foundation”.

Article 1, Section 2 – Annual Meetings:

“The annual meeting of the shareholders shall be held on the 3rd Saturday of March each year at 1 o’clock PM at which time the shareholders shall elect a Board of Directors, consider reported of the affairs of the Corporation, and transact any other business which is within the powers of the shareholders.”

To comply with our Bylaws, this meeting with be held on:

Saturday, March 16, 2024, at 1PM

American Legion Post #564

[2120 Walsh Ave.](#)

[Santa Clara, Ca 95050](#)

We plan to have a light lunch at 12 noon. If you plan to attend, please RSVP to me so we have a number for the lunch.

Rick Fetro

President, Building Foundation

510-673-6343

Finance Office

All our finances are in order, and we will continue to move forward. We have not had the donations as we had in past years, so we've had to cut back on some of our budgeted programs. With that said, I'm happy to report that we had a drawing for a 32" TV at the post on Super Bowl Sunday and we made a profit of \$395.00. Congratulations to Gilbert Paramo a Son of the American Legion who won the TV.

Rick Fetro

Finance Officer

Building Foundation

In accordance with our by laws we are required to have an annual meeting of the membership (shareholders). Each member in good standing of Mission City Post #564 shall be a member of the American Legion Post #564 Building Foundation. This is the most Important meeting of the year since you will be electing the board of directors for the building foundation for the

coming year. Per our bylaws and since this is an even year, nominations and the election of 4 board of director members with highlight the meeting.

This meeting will be held at the American Legion Post #564, 2120 Walsh Ave, Santa Clara on Saturday, March 16, 2024. There will be a lunch served at or about noon with the meeting scheduled to start at 1PM.

PLEASE PLAN TO ATTEND

Rick Fetro

Building Foundation President

Here's what else has been happening in the last few weeks

- Winners of the National Oratorical Contest held at Ronald Reagan Palisades Post 283 on Feb. 25 have officially been announced.

The results of the contest are as follows:

Area 1, Contestant #2; **First Place, Mahee Haswani**, Oak Ridge High School, "A Piece of Paper", 12th Grade, Post 362

Area 2, Contestant #3; **Fifth Place, Maya Panchal**, Los Altos High School, "Responsibilities, Rights, and Civic Duties of a US Citizen", 9th Grade, Post 558

Area 3, Contestant #5; **Second Place, Ahsan Suhail**, Clovis North High School, "Look on the Works", 11th Grade. Post 147

Area 5, Contestant #4; **Third Place, Samson Rakhshani**, Edison High School, "Truth Found in Our Constitution", 12th Grade, Post 133

Area 6, Contestant #1; **Fourth Place, Ricardo Torres**, Loyola High School, "Don't Become Silent About Things That Matter", 10th Grade, Post 283

- **I want to thank and recognize the six judges who took time to help in this process:**

Thanks also goes to the Commissioners who worked so diligently with students who participated: Arlene Salvador, Area 1; Larry Maggio, Area 2; Josephine Thomas, Area 5; Danielle Baker, Area 6; Mildred S. Wright-Pearson, Area 3. Commissioner Area 4, Gil Soto, did not have a student in the contest this year.

On March 2, Palisades Post 283 will also be hosting the "Challenges and Opportunities" forum for Women Veterans. The free event aims to assist Women Veterans transition to civilian life, with professionals ready to answer questions about medical care, employment, and more. Prospective attendees are encouraged to RSVP promptly, as space is limited (see below).

A recent GAO study suggests that Student Veterans are significantly more likely to seek mental health treatment than both non-Veteran students and Veterans over the age of 35, particularly since the COVID-19 era began. However, it's unclear whether this indicates an increased willingness to skirt stigmas surrounding mental health care or an increased need for mental health care among Student Veterans.

AMERICAN LEGION STANDS WITH GOLD STAR SPOUSES IN SUPPORT OF H.R. 3651 | Feb 14, 2024

The American Legion is urging members of the Legion Family to engage with their respective members of Congress, advocating for support of [H.R. 3651](#), bipartisan legislation designed to ensure surviving spouses of military servicemembers maintain survivor benefits in the event of remarriage.

The Love Lives On Act aims to change the existing circumstances for Gold Star Spouses who choose to remarry before reaching the age of 55 risk losing essential benefits. The proposed bill extends to surviving spouses of active-duty, Veteran, and retired military personnel. Rep. Dean Phillips (D-MN) introduced the bipartisan bill along with Rep. Richard Hudson (R-NC). Senators Raphael Warnock (D-GA) and Jerry Moran (R-KS) are spearheading the Senate counterpart to the Love Lives On Act.

“Spouses of those who die in service to our nation make unimaginable sacrifices and deserve unending respect and support in return. The Love Lives On Act is part of my mission to ensure military families have access every single benefit they are owed,” said Phillips, who lost his birth father in the Vietnam War. “I’m grateful to colleagues on both sides of the aisle for backing it, but our work is not done. I will continue to push to eliminate remarriage benefit reductions for anyone who dies in service to their country, civilian or military.”

This legislation proposes several key measures:

- Removal of the age restriction for remarriage without loss of benefits.
- Permission for remarried surviving spouses to retain educational benefits.
- Safeguard Commissary and Exchange benefits for remarried spouses.

Additionally, the act seeks to:

- Restore TRICARE benefits for remarried spouses in case of subsequent marital dissolution.
- Eliminate the outdated “Hold Themselves Out to Be Married” clause, which unnecessarily instills fear and restricts freedom.

The American Legion asserts its commitment to championing the rights and entitlements of Gold Star Spouses, believing these individuals should not face repercussions for seeking love again. They ought to remain the surviving partners of fallen heroes, deserving of their benefits through their service and sacrifices.

The Legion Family is encouraged to reach out to members of Congress, urging their support for the Love Lives On Act. Explore further details about this legislation and other initiatives endorsed by The American Legion through the [Grassroots Action Center](#). Stay informed about legislative developments



From The Desk of The Sons Adjutant

Tony Guida

Brian and myself sent the transmittals for the sons to the American Legion in Sanger CA

We also found out that we had to resubmit the certificate of squadron officers because they had misplaced them.

I would also like to personally thank Brian for all his help.

As we get updated information, we will pass it on to all members of the post.

Second Vice, Tony Guida

From the Service Officer

Check in with the VA! Checking in with the VA isn't always easy or a pleasant way to start the new year, but hear me out. The VA has many new programs that can support veterans and their families, and you or the veteran in your life may have changed over the last year. Simply visiting the VA website at www.va.gov/ and reviewing what's changed may help connect you with services you were unaware of. Also, VA Disability compensation rates have also increased for 2024. You can check the new rates out by visiting www.va.gov/disability/compensation-rates/veteran-rates/. Last but not least, if you have a service-connected disability, make an appointment with the VA to have it looked at. You could see a rating increase if your situation has changed since you last visit.

Volunteer! Last year we started a program to help some of our local veterans with everyday tasks that can be difficult for them to do because of disability or other limitations. Some of these tasks included simple things like raking leaves, moving furniture, changing smoke detector batteries, and providing rides to doctor appointments. We are looking for volunteers to help with this assistance as our efforts grow. Please reach out to the Post 166 Service Officer or Chaplain if you or your group of friends would like to help a veteran and/or their family this year.

AMERICAN LEGION – DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA CAPITOL ADVOCACY DAY APRIL 17, 2024 SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA



THE AMERICAN LEGION-DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA WILL BE HOSTING ITS CAPITOL ADVOCACY DAY IN SACRAMENTO ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17, 2024. THIS IS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR LEGIONNAIRES TO VISIT STATE LEGISLATORS AND THEIR STAFF TO ADVOCATE AND EDUCATE ON IMPORTANT VETERANS ISSUES. THE STATE CAPITOL BUILDING'S LEGISLATIVE ANNEX IS UNDERGOING A MULTI-YEAR REMODEL. THE GOVERNOR, LT. GOVERNOR, AND LEGISLATORS ARE CURRENTLY HOUSED IN A STATE OFFICE BUILDING CALLED THE CAPITOL ANNEX SWING SPACE, WHICH IS 1 BLOCK SOUTH OF THE WEST END OF CAPITOL PARK. THIS EVENT WILL BE HELD AT THE CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE'S OFFICE BUILDING, WHICH IS ACROSS THE STREET FROM THE SWING SPACE. CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST AND LUNCH PROVIDED BY THE DEPARTMENT. PLEASE WEAR YOUR HATS! SHOW THE LEGISLATURE THAT THE LEGION IS ACTIVE AND INVOLVED.

WHEN: APRIL 17, 2024 (WEDNESDAY) 8:30 AM TO 3:30 PM WHERE: MARCH FONG EU SECRETARY OF STATE BUILDING 1500 11TH ST, SACRAMENTO, CA 95814 (ENTRANCE ON THE SOUTH/WEST CORNER OF 11TH AND O STREETS) 1 ST FLOOR MULTIPURPOSE ROOM; MUST SHOW DRIVER'S LICENSE OR CA ID CARD TO ENTER PARKING: • DGS PUBLIC GARAGE, 1500 10TH ST. 200 YARDS FROM EVENT. WEEKDAY RATES (5:30 A.M. TO 6:30 P.M.); \$1.25 EACH 20 MINUTES; \$20.00 DAILY MAXIMUM • CAPITOL GARAGE, 10TH AND L STREETS. 0.43 MILES FROM EVENT. ENTRANCE ON 10 STREET, WHICH IS ONE-WAY GOING NORTH WEEKDAY RATES (6 A.M. TO 5 P.M.); \$1.50 EACH HALF HOUR OR FRACTION THEREOF; \$25.00 DAILY MAXIMUM MUST RSVP TO ATTEND, SEATING IS LIMITED. OPEN TO THE FIRST 75 LEGIONNAIRES TO RSVP. ATTENDANCE FOR THIS EVENT IS LIMITED TO 75 PEOPLE BECAUSE OF THE MEETING ROOM'S OCCUPANCY LIMIT. TO RSVP: PLEASE EMAIL DANA NICHOL danan@water-warrior.com with the following information: 1. Your first and last name 2. City 3. Post