

# AMERICAN LEGION POST 419 REVEILLE

Veterans Helping Veterans & Serving the Community Since 1932

Issue 1-76

958 Homestead Road, Santa Clara CA 95050

January 2024

Welcome to the New Year! I hope everyone's Holidays were pleasant, joyous and without incident. And despite the sometimes-challenging weather and cooler temperatures, the Post is still an outstanding, beautiful venue to enjoy great food and a delicious beverage. The patio offers an additional dining experience. So please continue to visit the Post and enjoy yourselves throughout the coming months. Hall rentals are going strong, the bar business has increased over the past months. Whether you were a volunteer, a patron or mixture of both, I want to thank each one of you.

A salute to the members of the Honor Guard. They do so many honors in a year, I've lost count. Honoring fallen comrades is an experience you will not soon forget, if you haven't been part of an Honor Guard set, please feel free to contact our post to inquiry of how to become part of the Honor Guard.

Now it's time for the dreaded New Year's resolutions. Resolutions seem to encompass a weak or needing improvement in an area, but some are to keep a good thing going for another year. With only six months remaining in this American Legion calendar, I hope to have you join me working New Year's resolutions for our post.

Keep a good thing going; at the beginning I've heard patrons saying there was a "not welcoming" vibe in the air. Talking to people I'm hearing "not welcoming" issues are diminishing.

Needing Improvement; physical participation in community activities, finding Veteran, their families, programs or physically participating with them.

These two are small, but are specific, attainable, measurable. I believe with everyone's involvement, someone will remind someone of the resolutions then the resolutions will be habit, and there you go!!!

What a great start to the New Year, after our first Sunday Breakfast, January 7, a special viewing in the members lounge, of the 49'ers vs. LA Rams. Kick -Off 1:00 P.M. Meet and great your friends and family.

Just a reminder for the month of February: Four Chaplains Memorial a memorial service that pays tribute to the courageous chaplains and the brave young men who lost their lives on that fateful night.

More information coming.

As previously mentioned in our last newsletter, we still need an individual with skills, desire and time to help the Post with becoming our Financial Officer. Sound like a lot, but its processes has been streamed line. We have a candidate to do day-to-day financial management. But still feel free to come in and find out more about the position. If you are interested in these opportunities or find out what others may be available based on you interest and skills, please contact me or any member of the Executive Board.

With all the best wishes,

Richard Peralez

Commander

American Legion Post 419



# AMERICAN LEGION ADJUTANT

## Adjutant Report

Here we are at the beginning of another year. Two Thousand Twenty Four (2024) we have survived almost another quarter of a century. I can remember when it took the longest time to get from New Years Day to Christmas Day, now it is only a few months (moments) apart. A lot of work has to be done in a short time, which means there is not enough time to get it all done unless you have help. In the past there seemed to be a lot of participation in running the operation of Post 419 but this has fallen to just a few who have been doing the work for years at a time. New help needs to step up and take the reins for the post, for the everyday administration and finance work, yard work, assist with facility maintenance. Those of us who are currently doing these tasks are getting to a point where we are unable to do them. I took a look at our roster from the beginning of December 2023 and there are only about 34 current members under the approximate age of 70. We have to do a better job of recruiting the current veterans to join The American Legion Post 419. Just as a reminder Post 419 had 18 members transferred to Post Everlasting in 2023, that we know of.

We currently show 25 WWII veterans registered members 2024 (age group 95 and UP), 135 VIETNAM ERA veterans registered members 2024 (ages between 70 and 100), 7 UNKNOWN ERA veterans registered 2024 (age group unknown), 10 PERSIAN GULF ERA veterans registered members 2024 (ages between 50 and 70), 6 PANAMA ERA veterans registered members 2024 (ages between 45 and 50), and 11 listed in the OTHERS category this gives us a total pf 194+ veterans registered members 2024 so far. I ask again if you have not renewed your membership yet please do.

Again a reminder effective June 30, 2024 I will be stepping down as the Post 419 Adjutant. Some of the duties of the adjutant are simple however there are others which need a few months training in specialized computer application training. We need someone to step up in the next few weeks to start training.

Some of the applications that you will need to be familiar with are the Windows Office application. Word, Excel, and Publisher and some Power Point. The critical application is the 'MyLegion' from AL National, in order to input new and renewal members and establish membership lists to name a few.

Stop by the post or call the post at 408)244-3050 X5 and leave me a message and we can set up a meeting to go over details.

Thank all of you who have submitted your membership renewal and also to those of you who have chosen to become Paid Up for Life (PUFL) members this past year.

Gene Grundstrom

Adjutant Post 419



# AMERICAN LEGION SONS

Greetings everyone,

Well, here we are ending the 2023 year. Hope that everyone had enjoyable holidays. Our post's Christmas party went off well, A great many thanks to all the volunteers who stepped up to both before and during the party. It's not easy, but to have events, when you have a small group that continually step up.

Our Toys for Tots drive was once again a success, there were about 4 full boxes of toys and 9 large bags of toys collected. Many thanks to the Marine Corps league for bringing a truck to pick up all those toys, hopefully, we are making a bunch of children happy. This was a combined effort from all three of our post 419 family. A couple of Photos below. Our squadron's next event is going to be



in April, and it will be our Socks for Vets dinner/dance. Flyers will be coming out at the first breakfast in March.

Boys and Girls State will be coming up and we will be getting students from a few different schools. We have already started getting emails from students inquiring about the program. Looks like we are ahead of the game, so stay tuned for further news. We are as you know an active post and are very proud of that.

Membership, as you all know it is the lifeblood of our organization. If you know of any of our members who haven't renewed, there is still time. And then if you know someone who is a descendant of a veteran, just ask if they would be interested in joining. We do many things to support the community, invite them to a 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday breakfast, or any of our events. Remember that we are supposed to be a family and supporting each other.

Upcoming events are the following, as always, our 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday breakfast. A good breakfast for the price and of course a good time to visit with members, and there are some members for other posts who do come down to participate.

On behalf of the Officers and members of Squadron 419, best wishes to all as our 2024 year starts.

Steve Villegas, Squadron Adjutant

# AMERICAN LEGION JUNIOR PAST

Hope all are well. Happy New Year from Sandy and myself. Again I would like to thank all who have worked hard to keep Post 419 working for Veterans in our neighborhoods.

2024 will need an influx of new volunteers as we have lost some of our regulars to Post everlasting and retirement. 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday breakfast and bartenders are really needing help. Know how to use a leaf blower or trimmers?? Yard help is also needed.

Gene has volunteered to stay on as Adjutant for a few more months but please we need this position filled.

Contact me, the Post, Gene, and Brenda if you can help with a few hours.

Ralph Jacob

Junior Past Commander

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## AUXILIARY REPORT

Greetings from the American Legion Women's Auxiliary Unit 419!

### EVENTS

For our December 13<sup>th</sup> meeting, we held a Christmas Potluck, see picture below, and brought toys and stuffed animals for Toys for Tots. What an enjoyable evening shared by all!

Our New Year's Eve Dinner/Dance will be held on Sunday, December 31<sup>st</sup>, 12:00 pm to 5:00 pm. Dinner will be served at 1:00 pm. Tickets are \$50. For tickets come into the Post, call the Post at (408) 244-3050, or email [alaunit419santaclara@gmail.com](mailto:alaunit419santaclara@gmail.com). *See our flyer below.*

Mark your calendars for our Valentine's Dinner/Dance event to be held on Saturday, February 10, 2024.

More information forthcoming next month. 📄 *See our flyer below.*

There are many programs we support including Children & Youth, VA&R, Poppy, Legislative, Americanism, & Girls State/Education. Outreach is an important function for membership. Keep in mind family & friends that might be eligible & would love to join our Post and support our Veterans. Invite them to an event!

We meet on the 2nd Wednesday of the month. Our social time is 6:30pm to 7:00 pm. Our meeting begins at 7:00 pm and ends at 8:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Patricia Brickman, ALA Unit 419, President



# AMERICAN LEGION CHAPLAIN

Hello all,

It is a humble honor to serve in the role of Chaplain at both our Post and for District 13.

It is even more humbling for the three services that I had the opportunity to participate at during the month of December.

**Post Everlasting:** Santa Clara Post 419

**Pathways Hospice:** Remembrance of Light

**Oak Hill:** Service of Remembrance

The message during each one of my speeches was one of Light. Though I am not qualified in any capacity or formal training as a Chaplain...I know what love is, what love lost is and what love remembered is.

It is from that vantage point that I share a few thoughts. Yes, our heart breaks. Yes, the tears fall. Yes, our life feels as though the days are more dull.

But...then I remember the Light.

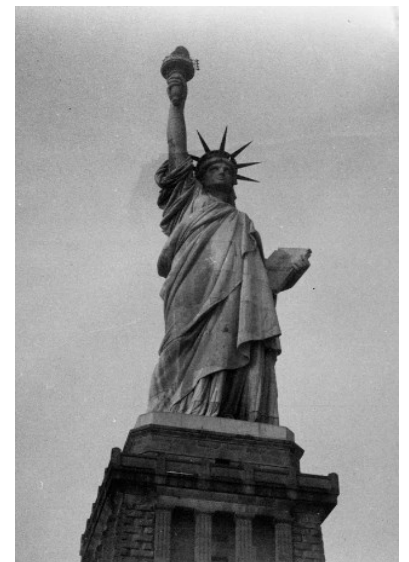
The Light of Love. The Light of Gratitude. The Light of Acceptance. The Light of Grace.

I'm reminded of a Lady. The Lady that raises her Light high for all to see.

They say she is the Light of Liberty, of Hope, of a new day.

Though I may not understand the words...I understand the Spirit of that Light.

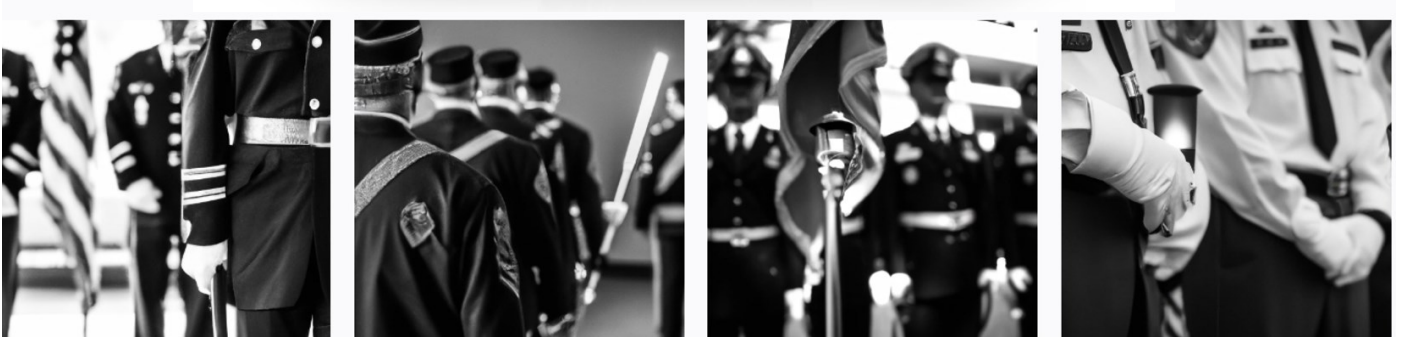
May you and your loved ones, also remember her Light. The Light that represents our nation. The Light that shines upon us in our darkest moments. And that Light that allows us to move forward, one step at a time. Yes, we grieve, we mourn and we remember. And we also raise our head up high as those tears of loss turn into momentarily reflection...and now there are tears of joy. So, as we say farewell to yesterday...2023...we raise our head up high and say hello to 2024. Hope in our hearts, Love in our deeds and a smile as we greet each other. May your life be blessed with the grace that uplifts, empowers and eases your pain and suffering. We thank the Almighty that allows us the privilege to live, to love and serve.



# AMERICAN LEGION CHAPLAIN

## 2024

The Spirit of Light Will Shine on You!



Sunny Dosanjh, Chaplain, Honor Guard Captain & Service Officer



# AMERICAN LEGION HONOR GUARD

The Sword of the Unknown.

A fellow GI passed away alone. No one left to remember him. His belongings were searched and they found a sword. The sword was presented to our Post.

The members of our Honor Guard team deemed it respectful to have our Captain of the Honor Guard carry it during Military Honors. It is my humble honor, to serve as Captain and carry the Sword of the Unknown. Our team conducted services during the month of December for both a fellow Veteran and Wreaths Across America.



For those of us fortunate enough to be able-bodied and continue our service to our nation in any capacity afforded us...we are grateful.

All that we know is that the "Sword of the Unknown" belonged to a Navy Officer and I had the humble honor of "Presenting Arms" at a Soldier's funeral. We welcome our fellow Veterans to join us in the Honor Guard and pay final respects to our fellow comrades with a Military Salute for the final farewell.

Sunny Dosanjh, Chaplain, Honor Guard Captain & Service Officer

# AMERICAN LEGION SERVICE OFFICER

It is a humble honor to be of service at our Post in the capacity of Service Officer.

I can assist you with guidance and direction regarding which official Veteran organization's can help you with your particular situation. Personally, I've dealt with rejection, a run-around and left at a loss. If you have frustration and are at a loss at any of the following then I can, at a minimum, share with you what the VA or other organizations can do to help.

**Homeless:** There are varying degrees of help. It's not easy, but they are there, I know.

**Criminal:** Organizations exist that can provide free legal council, not all are helpful, I know.

**Jobs:** They mean well, but it takes a commitment on your part, I know.

**Trauma:** The VA means well, but the in-take process is brutal, I know.

**Hospice:** It's confusing as to the benefits from the VA & Private Orgs...I know

**Funerals:** Emotions run deep, last minute paperwork...I know

**Suicide:** We lose 22 Veterans each day to suicide...I'm not one today...I know

**Faith:** I've experienced the power of Grace...I know

**Love:** It exists...look into a Veterans Eyes...I Know

To understand a Veteran is to understand Love. Love for something that we didn't know we had within us. Some may be lost in thought or other influences...but we GI's took an oath to serve and protect. **We Know.**

If you are a Veteran, If you are a family member of a Veteran...who needs help. Contact us.

We're not hard to find. Call us, email us...you'll be greeted with a smile.





American Legion Auxiliary Santa Clara Unit 419

# *New Year's Eve*



## **Daytime Party**



**Sunday, December 31st**

**12-5 PM**

*Countdown  
to*  
**2024**

Ring in the New Year  
with a champagne toast  
and a salute to our troops  
around the world!



**American Legion Post 419**

**958 Homestead Road, Santa Clara, CA**

**TICKET \$50 | DOORS OPEN @ NOON**

**Featuring music by the Island Wave Band**

**Dinner by Brenda Manley**

**Tickets: Legion Post 419 (408)244-3050  
(Bar x3, Adj x2 or Cmdr. x5) or stop by Post Bar  
or email - [alaunit419santaclara@gmail.com](mailto:alaunit419santaclara@gmail.com)**





*Auxiliary Unit 419*  
*Valentines Dinner Dance*

***February 10 2024***

***Come out and join us for great food and great dancing***

***Where: American Legion Post 419***

***958 Homestead Rd***

***Santa Clara Ca 95050***

***Time doors open at 5***

***Dinner at 6:00 = 7:00pm***

***Dancing 7:00 – 9:30pm***

Menu and price to be decided at next Auxiliary Meeting Jan 10, 2024

# Vet to Vet Café



## Vet to Vet Café

Every Thursday Morning

9 am - 10:30 am

Hostess: Karen Carter

Sponsored by

*Every Detail Remembered™* | **Dignity®**  
MEMORIAL

American Legion Post 419

958 Homestead Rd.

Santa Clara

Complimentary Coffee, Donuts & Conversation

HOST	EVENT	DATE	
<b>2024</b>			
Legion	1st Sunday Breakfast	Sun Jan 7, 2024	9 to 11 am
Legion	Luau / <b>Cancelled</b>	Sat Jan 27, 2024	<b>Cancelled</b>
Legion	1st Sunday Breakfast	Sun Feb 4, 2024	9 to 11 am
Aux	Valentine Dinner / Dance	Sat Feb 10, 2024	5 to 9 pm
Legion	1st Sunday Breakfast	Sun Mar 3, 2024	9 to 11 am
Leigion	St Patrick Day Dinner/Dance	Sat Mar 16, 2024	5 to 9 pm
SONs	Sock for Vets Dinner/Dance	Sat Apr 20, 2024	5 to 9 pm
SONs	May the 4th Be With You Dinner/Dance	Sat May 4, 2024	5 to 9 pm
Legion	Annual Car Show	Sat June 8, 2024	10 am to 3 pm

Flight #33 - 04/11/2024 - 04/13/2024 (COVID Vaccinations not required, masks strongly encouraged.)

Orientation dates:

Santa Clara American Legion Post 419: 03/24/2024

Roseville American Legion Post 169: 03/26/2024

Reunion date: American Legion Post 419: 04/28/2024

Flight #34 05/16/2024 - 05/18/2024 (COVID Vaccinations not required, masks strongly encouraged.)

Orientation dates:

Santa Clara American Legion Post 419: 05/05/2024

Roseville American Legion Post 169: 05/07/2024

Reunion date: American Legion Post 419: 06/01/2024 (Saturday)

Flight #35 09/19/2024 - 09/21/2024 (COVID Vaccinations not required, masks strongly encouraged.)

Orientation dates:

Santa Clara American Legion Post 419: 09/08/2024

Roseville American Legion Post 169: 09/10/2024

Reunion date: American Legion Post 419: 10/06/2024

Flight #36 10/24/2024 - 10/26/2024 (COVID Vaccinations not required, masks strongly encouraged.)

Orientation dates:

Santa Clara American Legion Post 419: 10/13/2024

Roseville American Legion Post 169: 10/15/2024

Reunion date: American Legion Post 419: 11/10/2024