



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



Stevens Creek Post 642
Mailing Address:
PO Box 302,
Cupertino, CA 95015



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

Commander's Notes

Greetings fellow Legionnaires,

This is my first update as Commander of American Legion Post 642 for the upcoming 2024-25 year. Summer is clearly upon us and the heat of the past few weeks is something that most of us can relate to during our time in the military whether it was in Vietnam, the Middle East or some of the numerous bases and posts in the South. Summertime is BBQ time, and we have our next VA BBQ scheduled for Saturday 31 August at 1000 hrs. at the Palo Alto VA for the shut in patients in the Mental Health ward. For those who have never participated in this, it is a great chance to do something for fellow Veterans who because of their medical condition really do not get a chance to meet other Veterans that are not part of the VA. More information is available in this newsletter.

Our Post did achieve our recruiting goal of 66 members for the 2023-24 year, as there were two members who renewed on the last day of the Legion Year. With our dues increase there were several members who took advantage of the Legion's 3-year renewal at the current price deal. Vince Guinnane is now the 1st Vice Commander and Membership Officer for the Post, so you will be hearing from him regarding renewals, and he is here to assist you in renewing your membership.

With our new Legion year starting, this is the perfect opportunity to get involved in the Post and volunteer for some of our events and a leadership Post.

I look forward to our Post doing important things this year for the Veterans and community and hope to see many of you at our meetings or events this coming year. Please visit our Post [Webpage](#) to view our events calendar and see what it going on with our Post and the American Legion in general.

“Duty First”

Arturo

2024 FINAL Membership Report

2024 Membership Goal: 66

Total Members: 66/100%

Paid Up for Life (PUFL): 16

New Members: 2

Online Renewals: 20

Renewals Pending Submittal: 0

Mail Renewals: 28

Members not yet renewed: 1

Post 1000 Transfers: 0

District Rank: Tied for 5th/12

Newly renewed Members:

New Members:

Upcoming events for July 2024-October 2024

30 July	1900 hrs.	District 13 Meeting, Post 318 Willow Glen 1504 Minnesota Ave San Jose, CA
5 Aug	1900 hrs.	Post 642 Monthly Meeting in Person (Dinner served at 1800 hrs.) Oddfellows. Cupertino Lodge #70, 20589 Homestead Ave. Cupertino, CA
31 Aug	1000 hrs.	VA BBQ-Palo Alto VA (Bldg. 520) 3801 Miranda Avenue Palo Alto, CA
9 Sept	1900 hrs.	Post 642 Monthly Meeting in Person (Dinner served at 1800 hrs.) Oddfellows. Cupertino Lodge #70, 20589 Homestead Ave. Cupertino, CA
28 Sept	1000 hrs.	VA BBQ-Palo Alto VA (Bldg. 520) 3801 Miranda Avenue Palo Alto, CA
7 Oct	1900 hrs.	Post 642 Monthly Meeting in Person (Dinner served at 1800 hrs.) Oddfellows. Cupertino Lodge #70, 20589 Homestead Ave. Cupertino, CA

Post 642 Scholarship Update

As the Post Scholarship Officer, I would like to announce that our Post awarded two \$2,000 scholarships to the following graduating high school senior students.

- Logan Bliss, the grandson of Robert Devlin, graduated from Westmont High School in Campbell, CA and will be attending the Colorado School of Mines in Golden, Colorado where he plans to pursue an engineering degree in Civil Engineering.
- Austin Leonard, the grandson of Bill Reichard, graduated from Mountain Vista High School in Highlands Ranch, CO and will be attending Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology in Terre Haute, Indiana where he plans to pursue an engineering degree in Mechanical Engineering.

Both recipients had outstanding academic achievements, community service and are most deserving of the scholarship that our Post sponsors on a yearly basis. As a reminder if you have any grandchildren, spouse or children who are planning to attend community college, vocational college or a 4-year university or college, the scholarship window opens in early Spring. There will be news in our newsletter and webpage regarding the scholarship and the key application dates.

We Moved 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.

1st Vice Commander's Note

Greetings Fellow Legionnaires,

As 1st Vice Commander, I would like to make sure that we are inviting our fellow veterans to our Post meeting which is on August 5th. I hope that everyone had a good July 4th as well. I couldn't make the Post Summer BBQ, because we had a family outing to the Oakland Zoo for my Grandsons at the same time.

We are still working on increasing membership, but we have met current goals and renewals as reported by the New/previous Post Commander Arturo. I will be picking up the new membership cards at the District 13 Meeting, but will have to see how to get them out as I will be leaving for Edinburgh and gone for a good part of August. 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 should be available for the VA BBQ on the 31st, but I hope that others will join in on the fun and social help for our isolated Veterans. We did have an equal contingent of American Legion and Rotary personnel at the last one.

We really want to get more people attending the Post meetings and events and be more social, so let us know your ideas by coming to our meetings. 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. Remember, if you need a ride to get a hold of either me or one of the officers.

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.

<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. The Day or Month link is highlighted in the email, and YouTube is a related topic video. I try to include the ones that I have a military or VA related topic for the National Day and Month and show for “For the Good of the Post”

To Comradeship!

Vincent Guinnane, MSME, P.E.

CW4, 881A1, USAR (Retired)

vguinnane@comcast.net

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.

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

The meeting dates can be found on the [Post Website Calendar](#).

Meals Roster 2024

August 7th: Arturo

September 11th: Cathy Schiavone (availability?)

October 2nd: Chuck

November 6th: Gordon Hall

December 4th: David Han

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

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.



1

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

Adjutant's Advice

Matthew Axelson: The Valor and Legacy of a Navy SEAL Hero

(from NavySeal.com)

Have you ever heard of **Matthew Axelson**? You might know him as a courageous Navy SEAL, but he was much more—a beloved son, brother, and spouse who fearlessly risked his life for our nation.

A picture paints a thousand words - imagine the tale woven by Matthew's life: from sunny California classrooms to the rugged terrains of Afghanistan. His narrative conveys bravery, respect, and self-sacrifice.

In exploring Matthew's journey, we delve into his early days at Monta Vista High School through Operation Red Wings. We'll uncover insights about SEAL training processes, deployment details, and what being part of such an elite force means.

The plot thickens when we recount how this hero was posthumously honored... but let's not get ahead ourselves now...



Source: [Navy SEAL Matthew Axelson Honored by Congress \(audacity.com\)](https://www.audacity.com)

Early Life and Education of Matthew Axelson

Born on June 25, 1976, in Cupertino, California, **Matthew Gene Axelson**, known as Matt or "Axe," was an ordinary boy with extraordinary dreams. He grew up alongside his brother Jeffrey under the guidance of their parents, Donna and Cordell Axelson.

The journey to becoming a Navy SEAL began at Monta Vista High School. An active teenager with a love for sports, Axe wasn't just physically fit and academically strong. After graduating high school in 1994, he set off for college at [California State University](https://www.calstate.edu) in Chico.

Ambition Molded by Political Science Studies

In college, Matt chose political science as his major - not exactly the path you'd expect from someone who would later become one of America's finest warriors. But this choice wasn't random; it reflected his interest in understanding global dynamics that could influence peace and conflict.

Matt graduated from university with a degree and heightened awareness about international affairs and its impact on national security. It's said that these studies played an integral part when he decided to enlist in military service post-graduation.

Laying Foundations: Military Aspirations Inspired Early On

Back home, during breaks between semesters at California State University, stories about war heroes inspired him deeply while nurturing respect for those defending American freedoms halfway across the world.

This early exposure kindled a fire within young Matthew Gene 'Axe' Axelson that ultimately led him down the brave path towards becoming a Navy SEAL – paving the way for future sacrifices beyond any measure.

[From a regular Cupertino kid to an extraordinary Navy SEAL, Matthew Axelson's journey was fueled by a passion for global peace and love for his nation. #MatthewAxelson #NavySEALsClick to Tweet](#)

Journey to Becoming a Navy SEAL

Matthew Axelson's journey to becoming part of the elite SEAL Team 10 started in December 2000 when he enlisted in the United States Navy. With an unwavering determination and spirit, Matthew set his sights on one of the most challenging military training - Basic Underwater Demolition/SEAL ([BUD/S](#)) training.

SEAL Qualification Training (SQT)

The completion of BUD/S marked only the beginning for Matthew. Next up was [SEAL Qualification Training \(SQT\)](#), a demanding program designed to give students the core tactical knowledge they would need as a SEAL.

Sonar Technician Surface 'A' School at Naval Station Great Lakes was where he got trained before attending basic underwater demolition/seal training. During SQT, every aspect, from cold water conditioning and dive physics to navigation and small unit tactics, was covered extensively.

Axelson also attended Army Airborne Jump School during this period, which helped him learn how parachute operations work from fixed-wing aircraft and helicopters.

[Dive into the grit and grind of Matthew Axelson's journey to becoming a Navy SEAL. From enlisting in 2000, mastering BUD/S training, to learning the ropes at Army Airborne Jump School - his determination knew no bounds. #NavySEALClick to Tweet](#)

Deployment and Operation Red Wings

In April 2005, Matthew Axelson was deployed to Afghanistan as part of the elite SEAL Team 10—the team's mission, Operation Red Wings, aimed to disrupt anti-coalition militia activity in the region.

The Role of Matthew Axelson

Axelson played a pivotal role during this operation. His courage and tactical acumen were integral to the team's strategies. On June 28th, a fierce battle erupted between Axelson's four-man scouting squad and an enemy force much larger in size.

This unexpected encounter led to tragic results for our heroes from SEAL Team 10. Despite their relentless fight against overwhelming odds, three members fell that day – including Axelson himself - leaving [Marcus Luttrell](#) as the lone survivor.

Matthew Gene Axelson gave everything he had for his brothers-in-arms and his country that fateful day in June 2005; through their stories, we keep alive the memory of these brave men who dared to venture into danger for us all.

[Remembering Matthew Axelson, the Navy SEAL hero who showed unyielding courage in Operation Red Wings. His legacy of bravery lives on through stories told by his brothers-in-arms. #SEALTeam10 #OperationRedWingsClick to Tweet](#)

Honors and Awards Posthumously Bestowed on Matthew Axelson

Matthew Axelson, a courageous Navy SEAL Team 10 member, made an indelible mark in military history with his valiant service. His bravery during Operation Red Wings didn't go unnoticed. He was posthumously awarded the Navy Cross, one of the highest honors bestowed by the U.S. Navy.

The official citation from this prestigious award tells a story of unparalleled heroism. As per records, when surrounded by larger enemy forces, Axelson fought relentlessly to protect his teammates and complete their mission.

This relentless spirit speaks volumes about his character and showcases why he is held in such high regard within the military community. However, it wasn't just for his courageous actions during that fateful operation that he was recognized posthumously.

Axelson's contributions were further honored through other awards as well. Alongside receiving one of America's highest military decorations - The Purple Heart Medal – which recognizes those wounded or killed while serving with U.S. Armed Forces; he was also granted The Combat Action Ribbon - recognizing active participation under enemy fire, along with numerous other commendations praising various aspects of his service throughout his career.

These awards stand testament to Matt 'Axe' Axelson's incredible courage and selfless dedication towards duty, which continue to inspire future generations.

[A Navy SEAL hero, Matthew Axelson fought with unmatched bravery during Operation Red Wings. Honored posthumously with the Navy Cross & Purple Heart, among others - his courage and dedication live on to inspire future warriors. #MilitaryHero #NavySEALsClick to Tweet](#)

Impact on the SEAL Community

Matt's legacy is far-reaching within the SEAL community. His heroic actions during Operation Red Wings have been commemorated in numerous ways posthumously. One such honor includes a combat training pool at the Naval Special Warfare Center named after him.

In addition to physical memorials, stories of Axe's courage continue to inspire new generations of [Navy SEALs](#). Many cite him as epitomizing what it means to be part of this elite group – demonstrating bravery, commitment, and unwavering loyalty even under extreme circumstances.

The Influence Beyond Military Circles

Apart from profoundly impacting those within military circles, Matt's story has resonated widely beyond them.

An example is "Lone Survivor," where Mark Wahlberg played Luttrell—the only team member to survive Operation Red Wings. The movie paid homage to Matthew Axelson and his fallen comrades, exposing a broader audience to their courage.

In conclusion, Matthew 'Axe' Axelson's story is more than that of an American hero; it's about family values, brotherhood, and sacrifice for one's country. It continues to inspire both within and outside military circles.

Source: [Matthew Axelson: The Valor and Legacy of a Navy SEAL Hero](#)

National Days and Months:

There is a neat description of August here about the National Days and also where the rest of these links can be found.

<https://www.nationaldaycalendar.com/August> Georgia, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maryland and South Carolina were all admitted to the Union in August. There are also quite a few culinary days since August is National Sandwich Month and hosts Farmers Market Week, and there is also National IPA Day and Beer in general, along with Chop Suey Day and Toasted Marshmallow Day. There is also Elvis Week, who was a proud Army Veteran.

NATIONAL DOG MONTH – August <https://nationaldaycalendar.com/national-dog-month-august/> (Includes Assistance Dogs Week which includes service dogs for PTSD, etc.)

NATIONAL WELLNESS MONTH – August
<https://nationaldaycalendar.com/national-wellness-month-august/>

https://www.va.gov/healthbenefits/resources/publications/hbco/hbco_additional_health_programs.asp

(The VA can help with this and Medicalert below)

MEDICALERT AWARENESS MONTH – August
<https://nationaldaycalendar.com/medicalert-awareness-month-august/> https://www.va.gov/files/2023-06/MVAHCS_VA_Benefits_and_community_resources_for_aging_Veterans_and_their_caregivers.pdf

INTERNATIONAL PEACE MONTH – August
<https://nationaldaycalendar.com/international-peace-month-august/> (A month which the American Legion takes to heart with our missions.)

August 04 Friday

National Coast Guard Day <https://nationaldaycalendar.com/national-coast-guard-day-august-4/> <https://youtu.be/FBfpv7hH7YA>

August 05 Saturday

National Vfr Day <https://nationaldaycalendar.com/national-vfr-day-first-saturday-in-august/> (Veteran and First Responder Mental Health Day. A lot of military join police, fire and EMT) <https://youtu.be/3VLJO-izWPA>

August 07 Monday

Purple Heart Day <https://nationaldaycalendar.com/purple-heart-day-august-7/> <https://youtu.be/NVA-7TqQT9w>

National Lighthouse Day <https://nationaldaycalendar.com/national-lighthouse-day-august-7/> (This service also is under the Coast Guard)
https://youtu.be/9IMJPub0i_I

August 10 Thursday Agent Orange Awareness Day
<https://nationaldaycalendar.com/agent-orange-awareness-day-august-10/>
<https://youtu.be/r4LicCz4w-A> (There are many more videos on VA SITREP site)

August 13 Sunday

National Spirit Of '45 Day <https://nationaldaycalendar.com/national-spirit-of-45-day-second-sunday-in-august/> <https://youtu.be/FH6H11mo2s8>

August 14 Monday

National Navajo Code Talkers Day <https://nationaldaycalendar.com/national-navajo-code-talkers-day-august-14/> <https://youtu.be/yFLu73qKA8k>

National V-j Day <https://nationaldaycalendar.com/national-v-j-day/>
<https://youtu.be/66EOCMdEqCI>

August 15 V-j Day (europe) <https://nationaldaycalendar.com/v-j-day-europe-august-15/>

August 16 National Airborne Day <https://nationaldaycalendar.com/national-airborne-day-august-16/> <https://youtu.be/T2aNgykxAOI>

August 18 National Pinot Noir Day <https://nationaldaycalendar.com/national-pinot-noir-day-august-18/> One of several days this month for Cathy and Arturo.

August 19 National Aviation Day <https://nationaldaycalendar.com/national-aviation-day-august-19/> For our Post Aviation Guys. I am pretty sure this day sets off Aviation Week.

August 25 National Park Service Founders Day
<https://nationaldaycalendar.com/national-park-service-founders-day-august-25/> <https://youtu.be/vKBBgq5Fjcc> Members of the Military, Veterans, and Gold-Star families are eligible for FREE park passes that provide access to more than 2,000 federal recreation areas including the national parks.

Military History Notes:

Aug. 1

1943: In the Solomon Islands, the Japanese destroyer *Aragiri* rams the motor torpedo boat *PT-109*. Two sailors are killed by the nighttime collision. Lieutenant junior grade John F. Kennedy and his remaining 11-man crew swim over three miles to a nearby deserted island and are rescued days late. The future president is awarded the Purple Heart and the Navy and Marine Corps Medal for gallantry.

1944: Gen. George Patton's Third Army becomes operational and forms the right flank of the Allied force sweeping across France.

Aug. 2

1776: Although the Continental Congress voted to establish "the thirteen united [sic] States of America" on July 2 and adopted Thomas Jefferson's draft of the Declaration of Independence two days later, congressional delegates sign the Declaration on this date. The most famous inscription belongs to John Hancock, the president of Congress, who is said to have declared, "There, I guess King George will be able to read that without his spectacles," after adding his rather substantial signature.

1862: The brass approves the plan by Maj. Jonathan Letterman, Medical Director for the Army of the Potomac, to establish an ambulance corps. Letterman is considered the "Father of Battlefield Medicine" for

revolutionizing the way casualties are handled; soldiers now had first aid stations at the regimental level where they could be treated and triaged. Those more seriously wounded could be sent - by ambulance - to field hospitals at the division and corps level.

During the Peninsula Campaign, one out of every three Army of the Potomac casualties would die prior to implementing Letterman's system. But after, just 2 percent of soldiers wounded at the Battle of Gettysburg died.

1909: After a successful demonstration for the military by Orville Wright, the Army Signal Corps purchases a Wright Flyer for \$30,000 (the equivalent of \$800,000 today). The two-seat "Signal Corps Airplane No. 1" will train America's first military pilots at College Park, Md. and Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio over the next two years - crashing several times - before it's retirement. Today, the legendary aircraft hangs in the Smithsonian Institution's National Air and Space Museum.

1934: Upon the death of German president Paul von Hindenberg, Chancellor Adolf Hitler begins his "thousand-year Reich," assuming full dictatorial powers as Reichsführer. Also on this date, Hitler changes the military oath so that the Wehrmacht swears allegiance to him instead of Germany.

1944: Convoy HX 300, the largest convoy of World War II, safely crosses the Atlantic, bringing over 1 million tons of supplies to ports in the United Kingdom. 32 escort vessels protected the 155 cargo ships, and the formation spanned nine miles across and four miles long. Not a single ship was attacked by a German submarine.

1950: As the North Korean Army bears down on the American and UN forces occupying the southern tip of the Korean Peninsula, the 1st Provisional Marine Brigade lands at Pusan and mans the Pusan Perimeter's left flank.

1964: The destroyer USS *Maddox* (DD-731), supporting South Vietnamese covert operations against the North in the Gulf of Tonkin, is attacked by three North Vietnamese torpedo boats in the Gulf of Tonkin. Within days, Congress would pass the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution, paving the way for full-scale conflict in Vietnam.

1990: At 2 a.m., several divisions of the Iraqi military's elite Republican Guards pour across the border into Kuwait, beginning a seven-month occupation of the neighboring state. The United States will lead a 35-nation coalition to liberate Kuwait in January.

Aug. 3

1804: During the First Barbary War, Commodore Edward Preble's Mediterranean Squadron begins his first bombardment of Tripoli Harbor. Commanding a division of ships is Stephen Decatur, the youngest sailor ever to be promoted to captain in U.S. Naval history. When Decatur's brother is killed while boarding a Tripolitan gunboat, Decatur hands over command of his ship and, along with a small crew, boards the

enemy vessel and engages the much-larger force in fierce hand-to-hand combat. When the captain responsible for his brother's death attempts to behead Decatur, Daniel Fraser throws himself over Decatur receiving the lethal blow. Decatur then shoots and kills the captain avenging his brother.

1943: As American, British, and Canadian troops drive across Sicily, Axis forces begin evacuating the island. While visiting soldiers awaiting evacuation at Nicosia, Gen. George S. Patton, commanding the Seventh Army, slaps a soldier suffering from battle fatigue and orders him back to the front lines. Gen. Dwight **D.** Eisenhower reprimands Patton for the incident and the legendary general will not command another combat force for 11 months.

1950: Eight F4U-4B "Corsairs" of Marine Fighter Squadron (VMF) 214 take off from the deck of USS *Sicily* (CVE-118) and attack enemy installations at Chengu, marking the first Marine aviation sortie of the Korean War. During •World War II, the "Black Sheep" of VMF-214 destroyed hundreds of Japanese aircraft, sank several vessels, and earned the Presidential Unit Citation under Medal of Honor recipient and former "Flying Tiger" Maj. Greg "Pappy" Boyington - the Marine Corps' top ace, with 28 aerial victories.

Congress initiates an involuntary recall of former enlisted soldiers, ordering 30,000 men to report for duty in September. That same day in Southeast Asia, the first members of the U.S. Military Assistance Advisory Group members arrive in Saigon. The 35-man group will supervise the allocation of military aid to the French military in Vietnam, and later act as military trainers.

Aug. 4

1790: Congress approves Treasury Secretary Alexander Hamilton's proposal to "build ten cutters to protect the new nation's revenue," establishing the Revenue Cutter Service — first of the predecessor services of the modern Coast Guard.

4 AUG 1790

Semper Paratus



American Legion Post 642 July 1, 2024 meeting minutes

Attendance: Wally, Michael O'Meara, Bill R, Gordon, Kenneth, Jim, George, Vince, Chuck Thuener. Manny, Delmar Wrench

Opening the meeting: Vince

Prayer by Bill

Pledge of Allegiance

POW empty Chair Ceremony - Gordon

Preamble to the Legion Constitution

Adjutant Roll Call: Commander-Vince, 1st Vice- Arturo - Absent, 2nd Vice- Gordon, 3rd Vice- Jim, Finance-Mike, Chaplain-Bill, Service Officer- Absent, Judge Advocate- Absent, Adjutant- Absent, Sergeant at Arms- Kenneth, Historian- Absent.

Guests: None

Reading of the Minutes: last meeting minutes shown on screen

Motion: Accepting minutes subject to edit.

Moved: Bill, Seconded: Manny

Discussion: None.

Approval: Unanimous

Officer Reports Updates:

Finance Officer's Report: Mike

Summary: Reported numbers from copies passed out to members.

Motion: To approve the finance report subject to audit.

Moved: Chuck, Seconded: Gordon

Discussion: None

Unanimous Approval

First Vice Commander: Arturo

Summary: went through 1st Vice Commander newsletter entry – membership good, dues price is now \$45, but can still check online for the multi-year discount.

Discussion: NA

Second Vice Commander's Report: Gordon

Summary: Post sponsored one girl who was at Boys and Girls State at University of Sacramento from June 15th to June 21st. She will be asked to give a short speech about her experience at the Christmas dinner. Gordon received Boys/Girls State medal which will be presented at the dinner.

Discussion: NA

Adjutant's Report: David

Summary: went over newsletter entry about Pat Tillmen.

Chaplain Report: David and George out sick, but Bob and Arturo out on travel

Summary: We identified that deceased member Cribbs was Thomas Cribbs that was on 1st Vice missing address information list. Need to send roster list to Bill. Noted that Roster was used during VA Buddy Check to assist with membership and greater attendance using VA script.

Post Service Officer: Absent –Summary: None.

Discussed Delmar's request for BP presumptive due to PACT Act for Vietnam Vets through Santa Clara County VSO, but denied due to less than 160/90. Vince also discussed members getting VA.gov account which will show disability and appeals information and MyHealthVet now is under VA.gov account. Bill will be out after 7/3 due to knee surgery.

Commander: Vince – will be traveling to Scotland during next meeting.

Summary: discussed National Month information that normally associated with some VA theme like Chronic Disease which include Diabetes, High Blood Pressure, COPD, etc. Veterans Health Information Exchange through VA has partners such as Stanford Health Care which helps to share civilian medical information with VA for C&P appeals etc. C&P Exam mileage is supposed to be paid, but general VA appointments might need 30% Disability Rating minimum.

Also Discussed Phishing emails and texts like email from “Vince Guinnane” that was actually Departmentalcommander001@gmail.com which got reported to gmail with links for that and US-CERT in newsletter.

July 4th parades and South Bay Yacht Club BBQ free for Vets as well as great viewing area for Bay Fireworks.

Committee Reports:

Wreaths Across America notes from last meeting minutes.

Summary: Dennis will be performing duties WAA Chair one last year and will need to be replaced so it will be good to get a shadow for this time around.

Discussion: None. Sick Call Relief: Absentees were not for any illnesses and Thomas Cribbs identified.

Unfinished business: None

VA BBQ and picnic: Mike was collecting money for picnic and noted per newsletter that there are two more VA BBQ on August 31st and September 9th per 1st Vice schedule information in newsletter. Last VA BBQ was well attended with half AL and half Rotary personnel with most of the hamburgers served.

Discussion: None

Plaque for our post at the front of the lodge: Oddfellows have not been contacted yet.

Initiation of new members: None.

New Business: Need to have installation of Officers because Post Commander was doing screen and discussions and partly taking meeting notes along with Bill R.

June 27-30 is the state convention in Visalia – no Post Members attending.

Meal roster: George will be doing October in place of Chuck who provided Togos for this meeting. Updated dates on the meal roster as well.

July 1st: Chuck

August 5th: Arturo

September 9th: Cathy Schiavone (availability?)

October 7th: George (has the cooler as Chuck took his spot because he was out sick)

November 4th: Gordon Hall

December 2nd: David Han

January 6th: Mike O'Meara

February 3rd: Bill Reichard

March 3rd: Bob Devlin

April 7th: Kenneth Klinkowski

May 5th: Jim Barnhart

June 2nd: Vince Guinnane

District Meeting Updates: None

Memorial to Departed Post member: None

Good of the legion: Showed VA Chronic Disease Disability YouTube from newsletter link

Vince – USCGR – Chief Petty Officer, then USAR Chief Warrant Officer with Heavy Boat Unit put on alert for Desert Storm at first AT, but beach landing didn't take place due to flanking movement. Deployed to Operation Iraqi Freedom as REMF in Kuwait Naval Base as Chief Engineer on Army Landing Craft. High Schoolers had to explained about anti-diver grenades by Coast Guard boat while detachment was

defending port for Fallujah reload from Ammo Ship, and that it was funny them using “Back in the Day” and “Good Times” on the Mess Deck.

No Further Business

Chaplain – Bill prayer

POW/MIA Chair Ceremony – Gordon

Colors: - Ken

Benediction and Closing - Vince