



Stevens Creek Post 642 The Ranger Way
May 2024 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,

All are invited to our Post meeting which is on May 6th. We will need to vote on our slate of officers and delegates this month. Of course, this month brings May the 4th (be with you) which is National Star Wars Day. I am not sure if the new Space Force celebrates this day. There is also Cinco de Mayo which is now an Irish National Holiday (An cúigiú de Bhealtaine) with the birth of my Grandson last year. We also have Armed Forces Day and Memorial Day.

I will reiterate that we need to work on end of year reports, which includes the Americanism Form which Arturo has emailed in Excel spreadsheet form before which needs to be updated by each member and consolidated as one of the End of Year reports. It helps National with showing the strength of the American Legion. We also need to get next year's slate of officers and delegates so that we can vote on them in May. Below is the list of EOY Post Reports.

MANDATORY POST REPORT FORMS

Post Data Report, Due April 15 (pdf)

Consolidated Post Report (CPR), Due June 1

Certification of Post Delegates, Due June 1 (pdf)

Certification of Post Officers, Due June 1 (pdf)

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. The 1st Vice showed a map to our new meeting site at the Odd Fellows Lodge #70 on Homestead Road in our last two newsletters, so you might want to save that and print it out.

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. 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.

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 can 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

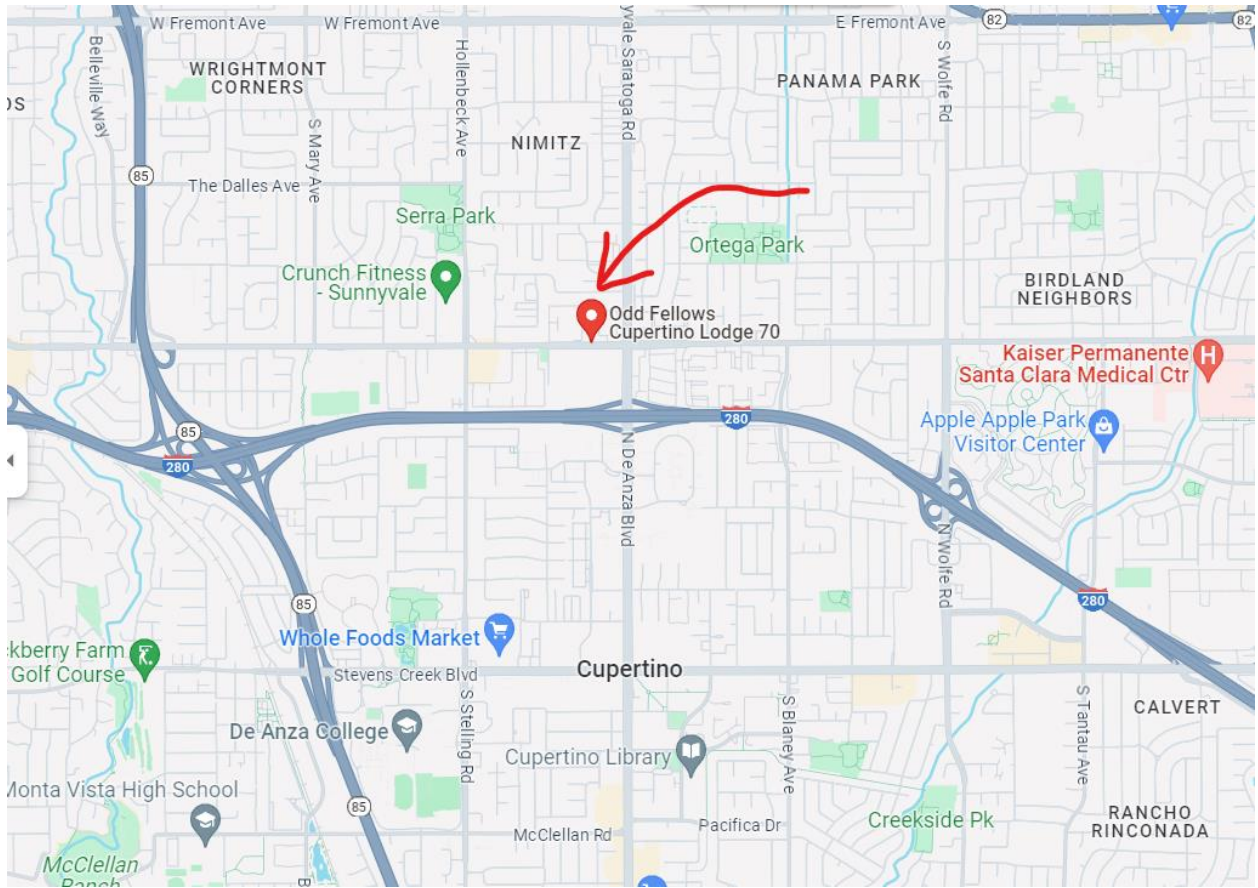
Cell: +1 (408) 219-0191

Major Jock Sinclair in "Tunes of Glory":

"Whisky for the gentlemen that like it. And for the gentlemen that don't like it - Whisky."

We Are Moving 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.



First Vice Commander Notes

Greetings fellow Legionnaires,

As we move forward to May, this month will be a busy one for our Post and the District. We will vote this month for our new slate of officers for the upcoming 2024-25 Legion year. Please attend if possible and exercise your voice on moving our Post forward. Memorial Day is also on the horizon and there will be several events locally remembering the men and women who gave their all during combat defending our country. At this time final arrangements are being made and once we receive the various updates of the events we will post them on our calendar and send out an email blast to the membership.

Regarding membership, we are close to meeting our goal of 66 members. We currently have 62 members and are only 4 short of our goal. I have reached out to the 4 members who have not yet renewed and the 6 members who did not renew the previous year's membership. We have two more members renewed this past month, Ken Klinkowski and Dan Weishaar. I should note that our dues will be increasing to \$45 beginning on 1 July, so if you want to save \$5 you can renew online prior to 1 July and or send a check to our Post PO address prior to 20 June (so we have time to process the renewal). Additionally National HQ has a 3-year renewal that will allow you to lock in your renewal at \$40 for the next 3 years. Key points of this new renewal option are as follows:

Payment for the three-year membership is upfront.

There is not a discounted rate with the three-year membership.

Membership cards will still be sent annually by Legion posts.

Those who sign up for a multiyear membership will not receive a renewal notice during the time they have signed up for the multiyear membership.

For more information, please visit their website.

Finally with De Anza spring quarter starting up, our Post hosted another luncheon on 10 April. It was well attended. See article below regarding the event. Also, if you attend any function whether it is American Legion or community related that supports Veterans, send me a quick note and if you have a picture or two that would work, so I can include it in our newsletter.

I will be out of the loop for at least the next 2-3 weeks as I will be undergoing shoulder replacement surgery in late April.

Stay Safe and Duty First!

Arturo Thiele-Sardina

1st Vice Commander

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.

2024 Membership Report (15 March 2024)

2024 Membership Goal: 66

Total Members: 62/93.9%

Paid Up for Life (PUFL): 16

New Members: 2

Online Renewals: 19

Renewals Pending

Submittal: 0

Mail Renewals: 25

Members not yet renewed: 4

Post 1000 Transfers: 0

District Rank: 07/12

Newly renewed Members: 2-Ken Klinkowski 11 Yrs., Daniel Weishaar 1 Yr.

New Members:

Upcoming events for April 2024-July 2024

27 Apr 1000 hrs. District 13 Meeting at Post 564: 2120 Walsh Ave, Santa Clara CA

6 May 1900 hrs. Post 642 Monthly Meeting in Person (Dinner served at 1800 hrs.) Oddfellows. Cupertino Lodge #70, 20589 Homestead Ave. Cupertino, CA

2 Jun 1000 Hrs. District 13 Caucus, location TBD

3 Jun 1900 hrs. Post 642 Monthly Meeting in Person (Dinner served at 1800 hrs.) Oddfellows. Cupertino Lodge #70, 20589 Homestead Ave. Cupertino, CA

8 Jun 1000 hrs. VA BBQ-Palo Alto VA (Bldg. 520) 3801 Miranda Avenue Palo Alto, CA

1 July 1900 hrs. Post 642 Monthly Meeting in Person (Dinner served at 1800 hrs.) Oddfellows. Cupertino Lodge #70, 20589 Homestead Ave. Cupertino, CA

13 July 1100 Post 642 Annual Picnic, Stevens Creek County Park (Sycamore Picnic Area)

Supporting Veterans in Our Local Community

On 10 April, our Post once again sponsored a luncheon for the De Anza Student Veterans at their Veteran Center location. The new Spring quarter just started that week and there tends to be a lot of foot traffic with returning and new Veterans, so it was the perfect chance to meet and greet the Veterans. We brought in lunch from Yummies (located across from the Cupertino Post Office) and the 30 or so student Veterans, Staff and 4 Post members had a fun time as we got a chance to know them better, speak about the American Legion and relax. Based on the feedback from the students they enjoyed the lunch, and we will be hosting our next lunch at the start of the fall quarter, so stay tuned for more information. We did get a group picture with some of the lunch attendees.



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

Here are the meeting dates for the current American Legion Year, please update your calendars. You can also find these dates on the [Post Website Calendar](#)

6 May 2024

3 June 2024

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.

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

May 6th: Jim Barnhart

June 3rd: Vince Guinnane



Adjutant's Advice

The Pat Tillman Story

Patrick Tillman was born to parents Mary and Patrick on November 6, 1976, in San Jose, California. The eldest of three boys, Pat was a caring and protective brother and a natural leader with a tendency to push limits – in life, the classroom and on the field.

At Leland High School in San Jose, California (1990-1994), that challenger mentality would become his signature. His diligence and relentless curiosity amazed almost everyone he came into contact with. In high school he was a star who led his high school team to a Central Coast Division I Football Championship – after he was told he was too small to ever play football.





Arizona State University recognized Pat's potential both in classroom and on field with a scholarship to play for the Sun Devils. What Pat lacked in physical size he more than made up for in intensity as linebacker. He led ASU to the 1997 Rose Bowl after an undefeated season, earned three consecutive selections to the Pac-10 All-Academic Football Team, a 1st team Academic All-American honor, as well as the NCAA's Post-Graduate Scholarship for academic and athletic excellence. Between games, Pat earned a B.S. in Marketing, graduating Summa Cum Laude from ASU's prestigious W.P. Carey School of Business in three and a half years.

Pat gained admiration and high regards from his professors, coaches and fans alike.

The Arizona Cardinals agreed, and selected Pat in the 7th round of the 1998 NFL Draft. Many people doubted his ability to deliver as a starter on the Cardinal's opening-day roster. He answered that skepticism by becoming the team's starting safety and broke the franchise record for tackles in 2000 with 224.

Pat's NFL success did not go to his head or break his principles. He still drove to games in the same beat up truck he had in college. He had no cell phone. He chose to read voraciously and develop, debate and discuss his ideas with eager listeners, family and friends. He made your passion his passion. In the off-season, he challenged himself physically with marathons and half-Ironman triathlons while pursuing a Master's degree in History from his alma mater. He volunteered with

Boys and Girls Clubs, the March of Dimes, and read and talked to students in schools across the Phoenix Valley.



The day after the attacks of September 11, 2001, Pat told a reporter, “At times like this you stop and think about just how good we have it, what kind of system we live in, and the freedoms we are allowed. A lot of my family has gone and fought in wars and I really haven’t done a damn thing.”

In the spring of 2002, Pat married his high school love, Marie, and upon his return from their honeymoon, announced to the Cardinals he had decided to place his NFL career on hold to enlist in the U.S. Army with his brother, Kevin. The decision shocked many and garnered national media attention despite his refusal to speak publicly about the choice.

Pat and Kevin joined the U.S. Army that July, committing to a three-year term. They were assigned to the second battalion of the 75th Ranger Regiment in Fort Lewis, Washington. They served tours in Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2003, and in Afghanistan during Operation Enduring Freedom in 2004. On the evening of April 22, 2004, Pat’s unit was ambushed as it traveled through the rugged, canyon terrain of eastern Afghanistan. His heroic efforts to provide cover for fellow soldiers as they escaped from the canyon led to his untimely and tragic death via fratricide.

While the story of Pat’s death may have been the most publicized in the War on Terror, it is Pat’s life, principles and service that are his true legacy. Pat’s family and friends started the Pat Tillman Foundation to carry forward that legacy by giving military service members, veterans and spouses who embody those principles the educational tools and support to reach their fullest potential as leaders, no matter how they choose to serve.

Source: [Pat's Story - Pat Tillman Foundation](#)

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>

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

Military 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.

American Legion Post 642 April 1, 2024 meeting minutes (Missing)