



Stevens Creek Post 642 The Ranger Way
April 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 April 1st which happens to April Fool's Day. Spring began on March 19 or the vernal equinox, but it seems to be leaving like a lion with even thunderstorms over Easter weekend. We are being asked to help support the National Month of the Military Child at Moffett on the 20th with information on the [Post](#) and [District 13](#) calendar pages.

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. If we have time in the meeting we try to watch one or two of the YouTube videos usually during "For the Good of the Post" section.

To Comradeship!

Vincent Guinnane, MSME, P.E.

CW4, 881A1, USAR (Retired)

vguinnane@comcast.net

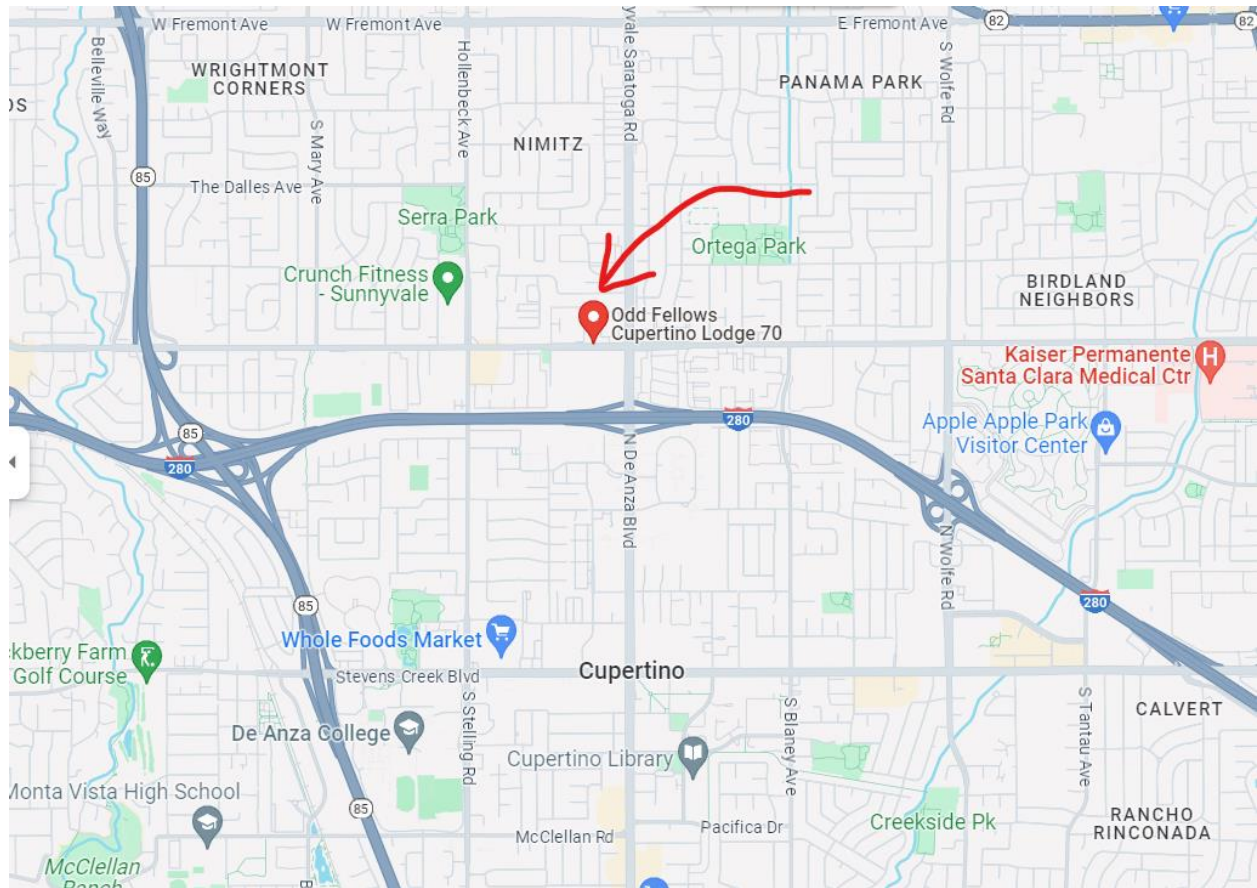
Cell: +1 (408) 219-0191

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,

I hope that all are well after a wet late January and February brought our area some needed rain. Now that spring is right around the corner and the days are getting longer, you may want to attend our monthly meetings at our new location, the Oddfellows Hall on Homestead Av. Just west of De Anza Blvd. We had a great turnout of 13 members last month and the facilities were much nicer than our previous meeting hall. As a note for those who need a ride, contact me or the Adjutant David Han if you need a ride and we will collaborate with other members to pick you up and take you home from the meetings.

Our support for the De Anza Students Veterans continues as we approved \$2000 for their Veterans Site, so Veterans can utilize sandwich vouchers, restock their break room snacks and food so they can continue to use the Students Veteran Center as a meeting place, study location and a place to grab a quick snack between classes. We will be hosting another Veterans lunch during the first week of the new quarter in April at their De Anza location.

Membership is picking up and we have a new member Chester Thuener a US Army Vietnam War Veteran who has helped our Post at a few VA BBQ.' Bob Devlin finally convinced him to join the American Legion. He will formally be initiated as a member at our March meeting. We are getting close to reaching our goal, at this point we are 6 members short of our 2024 goal. We still need some new members and for the few members who have not yet renewed to do so. For those of you who have not yet renewed it is not too late to do so. Please renew either [online](#) or writing a \$40 check to American Legion Post 642, PO Box 302 Cupertino, CA 95015. Your renewal and support enable our Post to continue to work for and help Veterans in our community.

"Duty First"

Arturo

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 (23 February 2024)

2024 Membership Goal: 66	Total Members: 60/90.9%
Paid Up for Life (PUFL): 16	New Members: 1
Online Renewals: 18	Renewals Pending
Submittal: 1	
Mail Renewals: 25	Members not yet renewed: 6
Post 1000 Transfers: 0	District Rank: 05/12
Newly renewed Members: Steven Gardner 2 Yrs.	
New Members: Chester Thuener-US Army (Vietnam War)	

Upcoming events for March 2024-May 2024

1 Apr 1900 hrs.

Post 642 Monthly Meeting in Person (Dinner served at 1800 hrs.)

Odd Fellows Cupertino Lodge #70, 20589 Homestead Ave. Cupertino, CA

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.)

Odd Fellows Cupertino Lodge #70, 20589 Homestead Ave. Cupertino, CA

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](#)

1 April 2024
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

April 1st: Kenneth Klinkowski

May 6th: Jim Barnhart

June 3rd: Vince Guinnane



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

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 March here with regard to the National Days and also where the rest of these links can be found.

<https://www.nationaldaycalendar.com/April> Nebraska, Colorado, North Dakota, and South Dakota were all admitted to the Union in April. There are also quite a few culinary days like New Beer's Eve on the 6th and followed by National Beer Day on the 7th, PB&J Day, Sour Dough Day, and quite a few others.

[MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD - APRIL](#)

<https://youtu.be/oz2TvU-lk60?si=TunCOkwV1Tf5UJag>

[GOLD STAR SPOUSES DAY - April 5](#)

[NATIONAL FORMER PRISONER OF WAR RECOGNITION DAY - April 9](#)

[NATIONAL WINSTON CHURCHILL DAY - April 9](#)

<https://youtu.be/BTAMM41f1Rw?si=LXmvz3L8Oj2uGJUO>

[NATIONAL BORINQUENEERS DAY - April 13](#)

https://youtu.be/gBCuL2PiIOc?si=3dUM_3rPLJFcQ28c

[NATIONAL BABE RUTH DAY - April 27](#)

<https://youtu.be/dKQqSdyzPNk?si=DWm21mN5D9332Sp8>

[NATIONAL MILITARY BRATS DAY - APRIL 30](#)

Military History Notes: Operation Baby Lift - Lt. Regina C. Aune. Moffett, Baseball

April 4

1933: During a storm off the coast of New Jersey, the Navy's massive helium filled airship USS *Akron* crashes into the ocean. 73 of the flying aircraft carrier's 76 crew members and passengers perish, mostly due to drowning and hypothermia. During the rescue operation the blimp, *J-3* goes down, killing two more sailors. As a result

of the deadliest airship disaster in history, life preservers and life rafts are installed on the Navy's remaining airships. Among the lost is airship advocate Rear Adm. William A. Moffett, who earned the Medal of Honor during the Veracruz Campaign before becoming the Navy's first Chief of the Bureau of Aeronautics. One of the three survivors is executive officer Lt. Cmdr. Herbert V. Wiley, who will go on to command *Akron's* sister ship USS *Macon*, which will crash in 1935, ending the Navy's rigid airship program.

1975: During the first flight of Operation BABYLIFT, an Air Force C-5 Galaxy transport loaded with orphans from Saigon hospital experiences an explosive decompression and attempts an emergency landing at nearby Tan Son Nhat Airport. Captains Dennis W. Traynor, III and Tilford W. Harp fight to keep the plane airborne with only one aileron and the thrust of the engines. The C-5 crash-lands in a rice paddy short of the runway, killing 138 passengers.

Helicopters are unable to land in the soggy rice fields, and the crew has to carry survivors to rescue teams. 1st Lt. Regina C. Aune ignores a broken foot, leg, and back and carries some 80 babies to safety before finally collapsing. For her selfless efforts the Air Force makes Aune the first recipient of the Cheney Award, which is presented "for an act of valor, extreme fortitude or self-sacrifice in a humanitarian interest."

Pilots Traynor and Harp are awarded the Air Force Cross for what the commanding officer of Military Airlift Command calls "one of the greatest displays of airmanship I have ever heard related." Over the next few months, Operations BABYLIFT and NEW LIFE evacuate over 100,000 Vietnamese and Cambodian refugees to Anderson Air Force Base in Guam, and then on to freedom in the United States. https://youtu.be/evg1Tm2E0_M?si=TaUOiuN72irNTEJ3

April 15

1947: Former 761st "Black Panther" Tank Battalion platoon leader Jack R. "Jackie" Robinson becomes the first player to break Major League Baseball's "color barrier." While Robinson is hitless against Boston Braves hurler (and Naval aviator during World War II) Johnny Sain, the Brooklyn Dodgers' rookie first baseman scores after reaching first on an error and also drives in a run. Robinson was recruited from the Negro Leagues by Branch Rickey, who commanded a chemical weapons unit that included fellow Hall of Famers Ty Cobb and Christy Mathewson during World War I. Rickey was looking not just for incredible black athletes, but one with "guts enough not to fight back" to racial animosity from players and fans.

April 18

1775: Paul Revere and William Dawes begin their famous "midnight ride" from Boston to Lexington, Mass., where they link-up with Samuel Prescott, who rides on to Concord. All three are sounding the alarm warning town leaders and alerting the

militia — that nearly 1,000 British infantrymen, grenadiers, and Royal Marines are advancing from Boston.

6 1942: At 7: 38 a.m. a Japanese patrol vessel spots the task force bearing Lt. Col. James H. "Jimmy" Doolittle and his raiders 650 miles east of Japan. The ship is sunk, but not before her crew can report the position of the American aircraft carriers. Their cover blown, sixteen specially modified B-25 Mitchell bombers have to launch from USS *Hornet* ten hours earlier than planned. The crews will not have enough fuel to return to the carrier after the first raid against the Japanese mainland of World War II, so they have been instructed to strike Tokyo and other targets on Honshu, then fly to China and pray they'll find suitable landing sites or bail out.

The one-way mission will be successful, but all aircraft will be lost. Eleven airmen will be killed or captured. Doolittle will be awarded the Medal of Honor.

1943: Naval intelligence intercepts communications that give them the travel itinerary of Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto - the Commander-in-Chief of the Imperial Japanese Navy, who is touring bases in the South Pacific to boost morale after the United States handily defeats Japan at Guadalcanal. A select group of pilots scramble from Guadalcanal on their secret mission personally authorized by President Franklin Roosevelt. The P-38 Lightnings ambush Yamamoto's "Betty" bomber and its fighter escorts over Bougainville, killing Japan's top naval officer.

1945: Across the globe, famed war correspondent Ernie Pyle is killed by a Japanese machine gun two days after landing with the 77th Infantry Division on Ie Shima, a small island northwest of Okinawa. President Harry Truman states, "No man in this war has so well told the story of the American fighting man as American fighting men wanted it told." Pyle is posthumously awarded the Purple Heart - rarely awarded to civilians.

April 20

2007: With U.S. military airlift assets stretched to the maximum, a Russian An-124 "Condor" lands at Moffett Air Field (Calif.) to transport the California Air National Guard's 129th Rescue Wing and their HH-60G Pave Hawk helicopters to Afghanistan.

April 22

2004: Pat Tillman, who left a multi-million dollar career in professional football to join the Army after the 9/11 terrorist attacks, is killed while on patrol in eastern Afghanistan. Pat and his brother Kevin (a minor-league

baseball player in the Cleveland Indians organization before enlisting) served in both Iraq and Afghanistan with 2nd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment.

Apr. 26

1777: 16-year-old Sybil Ludington — "the female Paul Revere" — begins her 40-mile, all-night ride across an isolated circuit of New York Connecticut backcountry, warning villagers of a British attack on nearby Danbury, Connecticut.

American Legion Post 642 March 4, 2024 meeting minutes

Attendance:

Vince, Michael O'Meara, David, Bill R, Gordon, Bob, Manny, Kenneth, Jim.

Opening the meeting: Vince, Commander

Prayer by Bill

Pledge of Allegiance

POW empty Chair Ceremony

Preamble to the Legion Constitution

Adjutant Roll Call:

Commander- Vince, 1st Vice- Absent, 2nd Vice- Absent, 3rd Vice- Absent,
Finance-Mike, Chaplain-Bill, Service Officer- NA, Judge Advocate- Bob,
Adjutant- David, Sergeant at Arms- Bill, Historian-absent.

Guests:

None

Reading of the Minutes:

Motion: Accepting minutes as written.

Moved: Bob, Seconded: Gordon

Discussion: Change the date of the last meeting.

Approval: Unanimous

Officer Reports Updates:

Finance Officer's Report: Mike

Summary: Still receiving money from Wreaths. Have outstanding checks going out for over \$2300.

Motion: To approve the finance report subject to audit.

Moved: Bob, Seconded: Kenneth

Discussion: None

Unanimous Approval

First Vice Commander: Vince

Summary: Reviewed the information on the newsletter.

Discussion:

Second Vice Commander's Report:

Summary: NA

Discussion: NA

Adjutant's Report: David

Summary: Attended Wreaths and it was well attended. It was a great event but speakers could not all be heard. May need to work on that next year.

Chaplain Report: No

Summary: None.

Post Service Officer: Absent

Summary: None.

Commander: Vince

Summary: None.

Committee Reports:

Boys and Girls State: Gordon

Summary: One student has not been able to get a letter of recommendation. We should not get sponsor him until he gets it.

Discussion: None.

Sick Call Relief: Wally was going to come.

Unfinished business:

Student Scholarships for high school students? - Bob

Discussion: Preparing a form to prepare students.

Initiation of new members: Chester Thuener

New Business:

Need to acknowledge Korean War veterans- Manny.

Motion: To increase the budget from \$1500 to \$3000 given to the Foothill De Anza Veterans Foundation subject to accountability by the Foundation.

First: Bill, Second: Chester

Discussion: What else is covered for the donation? Food? Or for whatever they want?

Who will monitor the money? -Bill

We will have to ask Arturo about who will be responsible for the money at De Anza. Vince and Arturo will ask the foundation about this.

Unanimous approval

1 Abstain- Bob

District Meeting Updates: None

Memorial to Departed Post member: None

Good of the legion: Bill

Chaplain: Bill

POW/MIA chair ceremony

Benediction and Closing