



**Stevens Creek Post 642 The Ranger Way**  
**December 2023 Newsletter**  
**Mailing Address: PO Box 302,**  
**Cupertino, CA 95015**



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

## Commander's Corner

Greetings Fellow Legionnaires,

All are invited to our Post meeting which is on December 4th of this month as the days get shorter and nights colder and longer. 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. Do give us a heads up, so that we can requisition extra rations versus our regular contingent.

We can share some warmth and light at the Post Christmas Dinner which will be held on December 7<sup>th</sup> Pearl Harbor Day at the Blue Pheasant as the weekend was not available. Apparently, that was the previous tradition for the Post as well. The 1<sup>st</sup> Vice has the particulars.

We will be moving out of the Knights of Columbus building after the December meeting. Initially, we have been offered a place for our meetings and storage at Post 564, but the meetings will be on the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesdays. We will need volunteers to help move our equipment.

We also need volunteer assistance on the day for Wreaths Across America where the Post is trying to have all Veteran's graves at Gate of Heaven Cemetery recognized with a wreath. Donations may have already been cut off due to purchasing and delivery requirements.  
[WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA \(WAA\) \(americanlegionpost642.com\)](http://www.americanlegionpost642.com)

Along with some other memorable days during December, we have Pearl Harbor Day which is a "Day that will live in infamy". On the other hand we have Christmas and Channukah which bring Seasons of Hope, Light, Family and Tradition. We also have the Bill of Rights Day and the National Guard Day.

Hopefully, you will check out the possible military connections to National Days and the military history notes that I have listed in the newsletter below.

Please remember that if you have Post or Veterans event 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](mailto:Jerep.bernardoni@gmail.com).

Please enjoy the National Day and Month links and Military History below including VA links.

To Comradeship!

Vincent Guinnane, MSME, P.E.

CW4, 881A1, USAR (Retired)

[vguinnane@comcast.net](mailto: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."

## Membership Renewal

**Remember your membership dues are due by December 31 for the 2024 year. 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.**

## First Vice Commander Notes

Greetings fellow Legionnaires,

As we are upon the close of November and the beginning of December, the days are getting shorter, the mornings colder and by now most if not all the leaves have turned colors and fallen. It was a very busy month for our Post in November, as the various Veterans Day events kept many of us busy attending a myriad of events, at Miller Middle School, the Cupertino Rotary, De Anza Student Veterans BBQ, and our Cupertino Veterans Day event just to name a few. It was great seeing some familiar faces and getting a chance to meet new Veterans and members of the community. It is events like these that show how our community appreciates all that Veterans have done for this country while serving in uniform.

As we wrap up the calendar year, we have a couple of Post related events. Our annual Christmas/Holiday Party will be held on Thursday 7 December 2023 at 1815 hrs. at the Blue Pheasant Restaurant. This is a great chance to bring your better halves or friends and enjoy a nice evening with fellow members and their families. Our 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Wreaths Across America Ceremony will be held on Saturday 16 December at 1000 hrs. This event is sponsored by our Post, so if you would like to volunteer and help with the event, please contact Dennis Whittaker at 4098-605-6354, as we could always use some extra help on the day of the event. Please try to attend if you have never attended, there is music, some memorable speeches and then the placing of the wreaths on the grave markers of the Veterans.

Finally at our December meeting on 4 December we will be discussing our short- and long-term locations for our Post monthly meetings moving forward. As mentioned, the building is being

sold and we must vacate by the end of December. Please attend so you can have input as to where we will be holding our meetings in the future.

Stay safe and Happy Hannukah, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

“Duty First”

Arturo

## **2024 Membership Report (24 November 2023)**

**2024 Membership Goal: 66**                      **Total Members: 48/72.7%**

**Paid Up for Life (PUFL): 16**                      **New Members: 0**

**Online Renewals: 13**                      **Renewals Pending Submittal: 0**

**Mail Renewals: 19**    **Members not yet renewed: 18**

**Post 1000 Transfers: 0**    **District Rank: 07/12**

**Newly renewed Members:** John Swensson 7 yrs., Peter Ridgeway 10 Yrs., Herbert Duvernay 11 Yrs., Raymundo Taja 4 Yrs., Jack Taylor 15 Yrs.

## **Upcoming events for November 2023-Janurary 2023**

### **Upcoming events for December 2023-February 2023**

<b>4 Dec 1900 hrs.</b>	<b>Post 642 Monthly Meeting in Person (Dinner served at 1800 hrs.)</b>
<b>7 Dec 1900 hrs.</b>	<b>Post Christmas/Holiday Dinner (No-host Cocktails start at 1815 hrs.)</b> <b>Blue Pheasant Restaurant 22100 Stevens Creek Blvd, Cupertino</b>
<b>16 Dec 1000 hrs.</b>	<b>Wreaths Across America, Gate of Heaven Cemetery, Los Altos, CA</b>
<b>8 Jan 1900 hrs.</b>	<b>Post 642 Monthly Meeting in Person (Dinner served at 1800 hrs.)</b> <b>Location TBD</b>
<b>27 Jan 1900 hrs.</b>	<b>District 13 Meeting at Post 558 347 1st St Los Altos</b>
<b>5 Feb 1900 hrs.</b>	<b>Post 642 Monthly Meeting in Person (Dinner served at 1800 hrs.)</b> <b>Location TBD</b>

## **Membership Contact Updates**

With the new Legion 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](http://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
- Timothy O'Meara
- MaryAnn Salvatierra
- Chris Snell
- William Tillinghast

## **Legionnaires Taking Care of Veterans**

During our most recent buddy checks, one of our Post members needed some assistance with a home repair. Two members of our Post, Bill Reichard and Arturo Thiele-Sardina paid a visit to the home of George Thum (US Navy-Korea) and repaired the flag pole in front of his house, just in time for Veterans Day. Here are several pictures:











## 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](#)

4 December 2023

8 January 2024

5 February 2024

4 March 2024

1 April 2024

6 May 2024

3 June 2024

### **Need A Ride?**

Are you member who hasn't had a chance to attend one of our meetings or activities because you have difficulties driving at night, or no longer are able to drive? If so please feel free to contact the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander ([arturo@cadiz.com](mailto: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.

COME JOIN US for OUR CHRISTMAS DINNER

**Sign up for our annual Holiday dinner on;**  
**Thursday, December 7, 2023**  
**at the Blue Pheasant. 22100 Stevens Creek Blvd. in Cupertino.**

No Host Bar/Fellowship 6:15 to 7:00, Dinner served at 7:00 All dinners include mixed green, garden fresh salad, potato or rice (depending on the menu item), fresh vegetables, French bread, coffee, tea and house made desert.

Menu items are:

- Pasta Primavera (for vegetarians) \_\_\_\_\_
- Broiled Salmon \_\_\_\_\_
- Breast of Chicken Jerusalem \_\_\_\_\_
- Prime Rib of Beef \_\_\_\_\_

For reservations, call Mike O'Meara at (408) 691-8277 or send your request to Mike at 10171 Lockwood Dr. Cupertino CA 95014 or email @momeara47@yahoo.com and tell him how many and what menu choice.

The cost this year will remain \$20 per person.

**The Deadline to sign up is November 27, 2023**

**Please PRINT**

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Menu Choices \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Guest \_\_\_\_\_

## **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**

December 4th: Dan Weishaar (availability?)

January 8<sup>th</sup>: Mike O'Meara

February 5th: Bill Reichard

March 4th: Bob Devlin

April 1st: Kenneth Klinkowski

May 6th: Jim Barnhart

June 3rd: Vince Guinnane

## Adjutant's Advice



# Share how you are delivering holiday cheer, assistance

The American Legion

NOV 30, 2023

Each year during the holiday season, members of the American Legion Family step up to assist families in need, whether it be through toy and food drives, direct donations or staging events and celebrations that provide gifts and a chance to celebrate the season. They also bring holiday celebrations to active-duty servicemembers, as well to their communities.

In December, we'd like to highlight some of the ways you in the American Legion Family are delivering on these efforts. Whether it's fundraising, purchasing and delivering meals and gifts, or taking part in efforts such as Wreaths Across America or our Holiday Blood Donor Program, we'd love to hear how you're impacting your community this holiday season.

Share your efforts on [legiontown.org](https://legiontown.org) or email them to [sbrooks@legion.org](mailto:sbrooks@legion.org). We'd like to highlight one daily through Dec. 25, whether it be on the national website or through our social media channels.

**Source:** [Share how you are delivering holiday cheer, assistance | The American Legion](#)



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

## National Days and Months:

There is a neat description of December here with regard to the National Days where the rest of these links can be found. <https://www.nationaldaycalendar.com/december>

### [NATIONAL REPEAL DAY - December 5 – End of Prohibition](#)

[SAINT NICHOLAS DAY - December 6](#) recognizes the third-century saint who became an inspiration for the modern-day Santa Claus including leaving gold in the shoes of daughters of poor men for dowries. <https://youtu.be/3jLO6A2NpPU?si=5BLIWbrVJzLVyciw>

[CHANUKAH - changes annually](#) Festival of Lights, is an eight-day Jewish holiday commemorating the re-dedication of the Holy Temple (the Second Temple) in Jerusalem at the time of the Maccabean Revolt of the 2nd century BCE.

### [NATIONAL PEARL HARBOR REMEMBRANCE DAY - December](#)

[7 https://youtu.be/X872ODCGht8?si=JB9McbB1AzmzwPhk](https://youtu.be/X872ODCGht8?si=JB9McbB1AzmzwPhk)

[CHRISTMAS CARD DAY - December 9](#) – Remember to get your cards out to make sure they get there in time.



[NATIONAL GUARD BIRTHDAY - December 13 – History note listed in section below.](#)

[https://youtu.be/1gFU\\_qHrdCQ?si=OEUTBor8JZ90B40S](https://youtu.be/1gFU_qHrdCQ?si=OEUTBor8JZ90B40S)

[BILL OF RIGHTS DAY - December 15](#)

<https://youtu.be/SHEbA6vCaw8?si=Zh3KGiSHuDxp94Y3>

[NATIONAL WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA DAY - Changes Annually – check 1<sup>st</sup> Vice notes.](#)

[WRIGHT BROTHERS DAY - December 17](#) commemorates the first successful flights in a heavier than air, mechanically propelled airplane. Orville and Wilbur Wright made that first successful flight on December 17, 1903, near Kitty Hawk, North

Carolina. <https://youtu.be/pTac5ApoHGA?si=xEpSI-D-l12V6CsU>

<https://www.nationaldaycalendar.com/national-day/national-flashlight-day-day-of-winter-solsticeYULE - Day of Winter Solstice>

[WINTER SOLSTICE - Day Between December 20 and 23](#) - The winter solstice is the shortest day and longest night of the year in the Northern Hemisphere. When [YULE](#) is also celebrated.

[FOREFATHERS' DAY - December 22](#) (Unless on Sunday, Then Following Monday) commemorates the landing of the Pilgrim Fathers in Plymouth, Massachusetts, on December 21,

1620. <https://youtu.be/SHEbA6vCaw8?si=Zh3KGiSHuDxp94Y3>

[CHRISTMAS EVE - December 24](#)

[CHRISTMAS DAY - December 25](#)

[PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE DAY - December 28](#) Congress formally gave recognition for the Pledge of Allegiance on December 28, 1945. Francis Bellamy receives credit for writing the Pledge of Allegiance. *The Youth's Companion*, a magazine for young people, first published it anonymously on September 8, 1892, under the title "The Pledge." It was written in celebration of the 400th anniversary of the discovery of America.

[HOLY INNOCENTS DAY - December 28](#) The day commemorates the execution of the innocent, male children in Bethlehem as told in Matthew 2:16.

[UNIVERSAL HOUR OF PEACE - December 31](#) From 11:30 p.m. on December 31st to 12:30 a.m. on January 1st each year, Universal Hour of Peace hopes to take a step toward a war-free world.

[NEW YEAR'S EVE - December 31](#)

## **Military History Notes: National Guard which leads to the Continental Army December**

### **Dec. 1**

**1941:** The Civil Air Patrol is established. Originally intended for reconnaissance, civilian planes are eventually fitted with bombs and depth charges when German submarines begin attacking U.S. shipping on the east coast. During the war, CAP

pilots would log half a million hours, spotting 173 submarines, hitting 10 and sinking two - at the cost of 64 pilots.

#### **Dec. 4**

**1783:** Nine days after the British evacuate New York City, Gen. George Washington bids farewell to his fellow Continental Army officers over a turtle feast at Fraunces Tavern. Washington tells them that "With a heart full of love and gratitude, I now take leave of you. I most devoutly wish that your latter days may be as prosperous and happy as your former ones have been glorious and honorable."

**1964:** President Lyndon Johnson presents Army Capt. Roger H.C. Donlon (<http://www.victoryinstitute.net/blogs/utb/2000/07/roger-h-c-donlon-medalof-honor-citation>) the first Medal of Honor of the Vietnam War in ceremonies at the White House. Capt. Donlon led a Green Beret team as they defended against a reinforced Viet Cong battalion near Laos on July 6, 1964.  
[https://youtu.be/UtWdC8cis2w?si=bHzR\\_U8EI0IHfmtK](https://youtu.be/UtWdC8cis2w?si=bHzR_U8EI0IHfmtK)

#### **Dec. 6**

**1950:** American forces — primarily leathernecks of the now-famous 1st Marine Division, a few American soldiers, and a handful of British commandos — begin their epic "fighting withdrawal" from Hagaru-ri to Koto-ri and on to Hamnung, during the breakout from the Chosin Reservoir, Korea. At Koto-ri, a few officers express concern that their vastly outnumbered, bloodied, freezing, near-starving columns might not survive the final trek to Hamnung. As the UN orders communist forces to halt at the 38th Parallel, U.S. and Australian planes kill an estimated 2,500 enemy troops.

#### **Dec. 7**

**1941:** At 3:57 a.m. the minesweeper USS *Condor* spots a periscope at the entrance to Pearl Harbor. The ship signals the nearby destroyer USS *Ward*, whose crew begins searching for the unidentified vessel. At 6:37 a.m., *Ward* spots the periscope as a two-man Japanese mini sub attempts to follow a U.S. cargo ship into the harbor and sinks the enemy warship - the first U.S. shots of World War II. Having achieved total tactical and strategic surprise, Vice Adm. Chuichi Nagumo's 1st Air Fleet begins their attack on Pearl Harbor. The strike is conducted in two waves: The first wave of 183 enemy aircraft strikes just before 8:00 a.m. The second wave of 170 planes hits a little after 8:30 a.m. Of the ships anchored at

Pearl Harbor, five of the eight battleships, three destroyers, and seven other ships were either sunk or severely damaged. By day's end, 2,718 American sailors, 582 soldiers (including Army Air Forces personnel), 178 Marines, and 103 civilians will be dead, dying or wounded. Japanese losses were minimal: 30 planes, five minisubs, 65 killed, and one Japanese sailor captured. All but two of the battleships - *Arizona* and *Oklahoma* - are raised to fight again.

### **Dec. 13**

**1636:** The Massachusetts General Court in Salem orders the creation of a militia, requiring all able-bodied men between the ages of 16 and 60 join, to defend the colony if necessary. Three regiments are created: the North Regiment - today's 181st and 182nd Infantry Regiments; the East Regiment - today's 101st Engineer Battalion; and the South Regiment - today's 101st Field Artillery Regiment. The National Guard is born.

### **Dec. 15**

**1944:** A plane carrying Maj. Glenn Miller, leader of the world-famous "Glenn Miller Orchestra" prior to World War H, disappears in bad weather over the English Channel. Miller volunteered for service and led the Army Air Force Band from 1942 until his disappearance. <https://youtu.be/6Twqm0aRD-k?si=Tjn3nyAZeGGpWqGB>

**1967:** During a firefight in South Vietnam's Binh Dinh province, Specialist Allen J. Lynch (<http://www.victoryinstitute.net/blogs/utb/2000/12/allen-jlynch-medal-of-honor-citation/>) crosses a kill zone multiple times, killing numerous enemies, in order to carry three wounded comrades to safety. As his company withdraws from the numerically superior enemy, Lynch remains behind with the wounded - after crossing the kill zone several more times to carry the casualties to a safer location, and then single-handedly defends the position for two hours until another company mounts a counterattack and the men are evacuated. <https://youtu.be/mFedNF7qMZs?si=8ZvWVzzz4rF7RWqp>

### **Dec. 16**

**1944:** A massive German Army force composed of SS Panzer (SS armored units), Volksgrenadier (infantry), Panzergrenadier (armored infantry), and Fallschirmjager (paratroopers) burst through the snow-covered Ardennes Forest and smash headlong into the weakest stretch of the Allied frontlines in Belgium. The attack which will become known as the Battle of the Bulge (because



of the temporary bulging salient the German thrust will create in the Allied lines) is a last ditch gamble on the part of the Germans, a surprise counteroffensive aimed at cutting American and British forces in half; crossing the Meuse River; encircling, isolating, and destroying Allied armies west of the Meuse; and perhaps reaching the North Sea. It is not to be. Despite the initial shock along a 60-to-70-mile front and a 50-mile-deep Penetration German forces will quickly find themselves running up against giants of men like Gen. Anthony McAuliffe's diehard paratroopers of the crack 101st Airborne Division, who though surrounded, outnumbered, outgunned, freezing, and nearly starving to death refuse to surrender the strategically vital highway hub at Bastogne. The battle, which will last until Jan. 28, 1945, will prove to be the largest land battle in western Europe during World War II, and it will be a decisive American victory. But it will not be without heavy losses: 19,000 American soldiers will be killed out of 81,000 total U.S. casualties in five weeks.

[https://youtu.be/DZmPM9s1mTs?si=3MqtDmshqOXN6\\_Ka](https://youtu.be/DZmPM9s1mTs?si=3MqtDmshqOXN6_Ka)

#### **Dec. 17**

**1903:** Brothers Orville and Wilbur Wright pilot the first heavier than air machine. The Wright Flyer travels 120 feet in the air over the sand dunes of Kitty Hawk, N.C., staying aloft for 12 seconds. The aviators will make three more flights that day. The modern aviation age is born.

#### **Dec. 19**

**1777:** 18 miles northwest of Philadelphia, Gen. George Washington's Continental Army establishes its winter camp at Valley Forge. 2,500 of the original force of 12,000 would not survive the winter thanks in part to harsh weather conditions, disease, supply shortages, and malnutrition. Over the winter, the Prussian drillmaster - later, Washington's Chief of Staff – Baron Friedrich von Steuben drills the Americans, greatly increasing their combat effectiveness and morale.

<https://youtu.be/OpUSiVep0RU?si=Ai1Rvoq3-CM3gFM4>

**2001:** Fires that had been burning for over three months under the rubble of the World Trade Center are finally declared to be extinguished.

#### **Dec. 21**

**1861:** President Abraham Lincoln signs a bill creating a "Medal of Honor" for enlisted sailors and Marines who "distinguish themselves by their gallantry and other seamanlike qualities during the present war." The Army version of the medal is signed into law the following summer.

**1944:** German troops from the 5th Panzer Army have surrounded the 101st Airborne at Bastogne, Belgium. Nearby, Pvt. Francis S. "Frank" Currey (<http://www.victoryinstitute.net/blogs/utb/2000/12/francis-s-frank-curreymedal-of-honor-citation/>) ignores heavy incoming fire, killing one German tank, disabling three others, and forcing an enemy unit to retreat after inflicting heavy casualties with an effective combination of fire from his automatic rifle, a bazooka, a halftrack, and anti-tank grenades. Five soldiers that had been pinned down for hours by enemy infantry and the now-empty tanks are able to escape. For his actions, Currey is awarded the Medal of Honor.

**1950:** Airmen from the Fifth Air Force conduct "Operation Kiddy Car," the evacuation of nearly 1,000 Korean War orphans to the island of Cheju-do to escape approaching communist forces.

## **Dec. 22**

**1775:** The Continental Congress creates the Continental Navy. Esek Hopkins, Esq. is named commander-in-chief of the fleet, four captains are commissioned, as well as five first lieutenants (including future hero John Paul Jones), five second lieutenants, and three third lieutenants.

**1944:** Having surrounded the 101st Airborne at Bastogne, Belgium, German General Heinrich Freiherr von Liittwitz issues a surrender ultimatum to Gen. Anthony C. McAuliffe, the acting commander for the 101st. Clement's one word response: "NUTS!" Despite being heavily outnumbered, the 101st was able to hold out until the 4th Armored Division relieved them on Dec. 26th. Meanwhile, German commanders recommend ending the Rundstedt Offensive (Battle of the Bulge) due to a lack of significant progress. And on this day near Kalterherberg Germany, Tech. Sgt. Peter J. Dalessandro

<http://www.victoryinstitute.net/blogs/utb/2000/12/peter-j-dalessandro-medalof-honor-citation/>

## **Dec. 23**

**1944:** The heavy cloud cover and winter weather which had been kept American warplanes grounded during the Battle of the Bulge finally breaks after a week. Nearly 3,000 heavy bombers and fighters of the Eighth Air Force take off from England for the largest strike mission of the war to relieve the troops on the ground. Brig. Gen. Frederick W. Castle (MOH), commanding the 3rd Combat Bomb Wing, assigns himself as co-pilot of the lead bomber for this vital mission.

**1950:** An armada of ships and aircraft evacuate over 100,000 U.S. and South Korean troops, along with their equipment and 91,000 Korean refugees from the North Korean port of Hungnam, in what has become known by historians as the "greatest evacuation movement by sea in U.S. military history."

**1972:** A North Vietnamese Mig-21 Fishbed fighter closes in on the B-52 *Diamond Lil* while the bombers approach their target of a railyard at Thai Nguyen. Tail gunner Airman First Class Albert E. Moore fires three bursts of fire from the B-52's quad .50 cal machine guns, shooting down the MiG and scoring the last-ever tail gun kill - and saving his bomber crew. Today, the *Diamond Lil* is on display at the Air Force Academy with a red star painted on the rear of the plane commemorating Moore's victory.

### **Dec. 28**

**1941:** After the execution of civilian construction contractors who fought alongside the Marines on Wake Island until their capture by the Japanese, the Navy's Chief of Bureau of Yards and Docks, Rear Admiral Ben Moreell, requests that Naval construction battalions be created. The teams would be capable of building anything, anywhere, under any conditions, at any time, and - if necessary - picking up weapons and fighting. The famous Seabees have been born. In the Pacific Theater alone, they construct 111 major air fields, over 300 bases, and countless roads, bridges, and facilities. Just two years after their founding, Admiral Ernest King will write that "Your ingenuity and fortitude have become a legend in the naval service."

[https://youtu.be/mylGI\\_Tb4Mk?si=kyQAFqpcLtbaqsX1](https://youtu.be/mylGI_Tb4Mk?si=kyQAFqpcLtbaqsX1)

## **American Legion Post 642 November 6, 2023 meeting minutes**

### **Attendance:**

Vince Guinnane, Michael O'Meara, David, Kenneth, Jose B, Bob Devlin, Arturo, Bill R, George.

**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- Arturo, 2nd Vice-NA, 3rd Vice-George, Finance-Mike, Chaplain-Bill, Service Officer- Ill, Judge Advocate- Bob, Adjutant- David, Sergeant at Arms- Bill, Historian-absent.

### **Guests:**

Jose, De Anza College Vet

### **Reading of the Minutes:**

Motion: Accepting minutes as written.

Moved: Arturo, Seconded: Mike

Discussion: None

Approval: Unanimous

### **Officer Reports Updates:**

***Finance Officer's Report:*** Mike

Summary: Most money moving is through Wreaths Across America.

Motion: To approve the finance report subject to audit.

Moved: Bob, Seconded: Bill

Discussion: None

Unanimous Approval

### ***Finance:*** Mike

Summary: Summary of the budget situation. Reviewed line by line the Post budget for 2023 to 2024. We didn't discuss in a group as last year. Provided updates on our spending and expected income.

Discussion: What will be our new rental space for the meetings?



Motion: Accept proposed budget subject to change  
First: Arturo, Second: Bob  
Discussion: None  
Approval: Unanimous

***First Vice Commander:*** Vince

Summary: Membership goal is 66. We are 69% of where we want to be. We are 8 out of 12 in our District. Many are starting to renew their membership. Veteran's Day activities at Miller Junior High School, De Anza veterans have a BBQ coming up, Memorial Park will have an event, and Wreaths Across America.  
Discussion: None.

***Second Vice Commander's Report:***

Summary: NA  
Discussion: NA

***Adjutant's Report:*** David

Summary: None.

***Chaplain Report:*** No

Summary: Arvid Stenstrom has been noted at national as deceased.

***Post Service Officer:*** Absent

Summary: None.

***Commander:*** Vince

Summary: Marine Corps Birthday is this month.

***Committee Reports:***

Wreaths Across America: Arturo

Summary: We have \$6910 so far which is paying for around 400 some wreaths. Donation letters will be sent out to thank them. Flyers will be given to members today. Please attend at 9:30am.

Discussion: NA

VA BBQ: None.

Summary: NA

Christmas Dinner: Mike

Summary: Thursday December 7th. Please see the flyer in the newsletter.

***Sick Call Relief:*** Manny is home with cane and walker. Answers his cell phone. Manny fell twice and is struggling with blood clots. Dennis and wife are going through health issues. Cathy is also having surgery for health issues.

***Unfinished business:*** Challenge coins are here. Please hand out to veterans or people who support veterans who deserve special recognition.

**Initiation of new members:** None.

**New Business:** Arturo

De Anza College: Many have moved on. Visited the student veterans center.

Jose, US Navy, USS Jacksonville

2nd year at De Anza, worker at resource center

Summary: There were free sandwiches, laptops need to be donated and can be refurbished for vets, scholarships, mentoring is needed, luncheon may be coming up, many are interested in possibly joining, and community service is a big interest among vets on campus. BBQ on campus 11:30am to 1:30pm on November 9 Thursday.

**District Meeting Updates:**

**Memorial to Departed Post member:** Arden Stenstrom

**Good of the legion:**

Need to find a local building to move our meeting. We should set up a committee.

Vince, Bill, Bob, and Arturo

Buddy Checks: Arturo

Fixed someone's flag pole. Veterans helping veterans.

**Chaplain:** Bill

**POW/MIA chair ceremony**

**Benediction and Closing**