



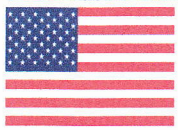
The Flash

Serving the 19th District Community, State and Nation Since 1926



Volume 93
No 8

FEBRUARY 2018 Member National & California American Legion Press Associations



Be good to your Valentine



FEBRUARY 14TH VALENTINES DAY

On behalf of the Officers of the Noisy 19th District, we wish to extend to our entire American Legion Family and Friends a very **HAPPY VALENTINES DAY.**

VALENTINE'S DAY HISTORY

Every February we celebrate Valentine's Day by giving flowers, candy and cards to those we love. We do this in honor of St. Valentine. You may be wondering, "Who is St. Valentine"? Time to brush up on your Valentine's history!

There are different ideas as to where or how the celebration of Valentine's Day began. The Roman's celebrated a festival called Lupercalia on February 15. This festival was held to ward off the danger of wolves to their flocks and honored their God Lupercalia. Some people think that Valentine's Day is based on this festival.

Another legend is that St. Valentine was a priest who served during third century Rome. During that time, there was an Emperor who ruled Rome named Claudius II. Emperor Claudius II decided that single men made better soldiers than those that were married and outlawed marriage *go to page 4*



FEBRUARY MEETINGS

E-BOARD FEB. 7, 2018

RIVERA 411 AT 7:00 PM

DISTRICT 2 FEB 14, 2018

HAWTHORNE POST 314

DINNER/ BEVERAGES 5:00

MEETING AT 7:00 PM

ATTENTION ALL

OUTPOST 19 MEMBERS

President Louie Adame has called a meeting of the Past Commanders Club, Outpost 19.

The scheduled meeting will take place on Feb, 14th, 6:15 PM prior to the District meeting at Rivera Post 411.

If you are a current post commander you are eligible to join with us.

A STRONG MEMBERSHIP FOR CONTINUED SERVICE

By

Denise Rohan

National

Commander



As an American Legion member, you will always be reminded that membership is the lifeblood of this organization. Because without strong membership numbers, our voice on Capitol Hill will not be heard. Our premiere youth programs, such as Boys Nation and Legion Baseball, will not put forth America's future leaders. Our financial support to those who need us, veterans and their families, will be diminished.

Asking someone to join may be one of the hardest things we do. So to support your recruiting and retention efforts, The American Legion has online resources available for the American Legion Family to use. I want to share a few:

The American Legion Magazine. Every American Legion post within the United States is currently

Continued on page 4

A MESSAGE FROM COMMANDER RICHARD RAMIREZ

Greetings Comrades,

We are approaching the last D.E.C. before the Department convention. I am eager to see what resolutions will be presented and taken to convention for the department to vote on. Speaking of convention this year's convent will be held on the 4th weekend in June in Sacramento, Ca.

It's time for "American Legion baseball". The season is gearing up for this year's series. Hopefully all posts and any groups or individuals will donate much needed dollars for this great program. Many Professional baseball players including Roger Clemens, Tommy John & the famous former Dodger catcher Mike Piazza played A. L. baseball.

Membership, the 19th is just a little behind in membership, let's make our Big push now. Get those dues in & sign up your qualified family members, friends neighbors & coworkers. Let's get it done. Give it all you've got

1ST VICE COMMANDER RAY GARD

Hello comrades. Good news on the membership front. District 19 is currently in 9th place at 2377 members paid which establishes the district at 72.43% of goal in the district standings. Thanks to Redondo Beach Post 184. Post 184 with 273 members signed up is at 102.25% of target. Coming in at 70 total members Post 61 Iowa is at 100% of target. Whittier Post 51 with 266 members at 90.48 % of goal. Congratulations everybody for our 9th place in the standings. Keep up the good work.

I want to thank everybody for their support on our Christmas morning at the VA in Long Beach. Next year the district should collect socks along with Christmas cards to pass out to the veterans. The nurses I talked to said this was a big issue not enough socks. It makes sense when they get up and walk they need socks. Keep this mind for next year.

I want to extend thanks to Commander Terry and his post for supporting our district meeting in January. The wardroom was a nice touch. As an enlisted sailor did not see the wardroom that much on my ship.

As a final note, we want to Congratulate the following post for attaining 50% Early Bird ribbons. The Ribbons will be presented at our district meeting this month at Rivera Post 411; We ask that post listed below have a representative present to receive their award from Department.

Whittier 51, Battleship Iowa Post 61, Paramount Post 134, South Bay Post 184, Downey Post 270, Norwalk Post 359, Lakewood Post 496, Houghton Park Post 560. Obregon Post 804 and Lincoln Village Post 833.

OVER THE TOP SPECIAL RECOGNITION TO

LINCOLN VILLAGE POST 833 108.82%

BATTLESHIP IOWA POST 61 105.71%

SOUTH BAY POST 184 103.75 %

2ND VICE COMMANDER KARL WILVERT

NO ARTICLE SUBMITTED

As we grow older, and hence wiser, we slowly realize that: Whether we wear a \$300 or \$30 watch - - - they both tell the same time. Whether we carry a \$300 or \$30 wallet/handbag - - - the amount of money inside is the same. Whether we drink a bottle of \$300 or \$30 or \$3 wine - - - the hangover is the same.

Whether the house we live in is 300 or 3,000 or 30,000 sq. ft. - - - the loneliness is the same. And we realize our true inner happiness does not come from the material things of this world. Whether we fly first or economy class, if the plane goes down - - - we go down with it. Whether we fly first or economy class, if the plane reaches its destination - - - everyone arrives at the same time.

We should realize that when we have mates, buddies and old friends, brothers and sisters, with whom we can chat, laugh, talk, sing, talk about north- south-east-west or heaven and earth -- that is true happiness.

Six Undeniable Facts of Life

1. Don't educate your children to be rich. Educate them to be happy, so when they grow up they will know the value of things, not the price.
2. Best wise words: "Eat your food as your medicines. Otherwise you have to eat medicines as your food."
3. The one who loves you will never leave you because, even if there are 100 reasons to give up, he or she will find one reason to hold on
4. There is a big difference between a human being and being human. Only a few folks really understand that.
5. You are loved when you are born. You will be loved when you die. In between, you have to manage.
6. If you just want to walk fast, walk alone; but, if you want to walk far, walk together.

1. Sunlight
2. Rest
3. Exercise
4. Diet
5. Self Control
6. Friends

and, finally: The nicest place to be is in someone's thoughts, the safest place to be is in someone's prayers, and the very best place to be is in someone else's heart and fond remembrances.

Seniors Texting Codes

- ATD: At The Doctors
 BFF: Best Friend Fell
 BTW: Bring the Wheelchair
 BYOT: Bring Your Own Teeth
 FWIW: Forgot Where I Was
 GTA: Got Heartburn Again
 TTYL: Talk To You Later

By Al Granados

Chaplain's Prayer: Father God, may you grant us with great faith, selfless service, and with a measure of wisdom, and great courage as we continue to serve. Keeps us in the straight and narrow way, be gracious to us, and with your loving kindness guide us, show mercy on us. God Bless us all. Amen

Reporting to Post Everlasting

Paul Gonzales
 Bert M. Loust
 Jose L. Garcia
 William Wells
 Dennis Lander
 Richard Lubner
 Marvin Foreman

MILITARY SERVICE RECORDS, AWARDS, AND UNIT HISTORIES:

A Guide to Locating Sources by Mese F. DeBruyne and Barbara Salazar Torreon.

The Congressional Research Service has just published a short reference document that might be of interest to many:

A New Congressional Research Service Publication on U.S. Military Service Records, Awards, and Unit Histories

The Congressional Research Service has just published a short reference document that might be of interest to many:

The guide provides information on locating military unit histories and individual service records of discharged, retired, and deceased military personnel. It also provides information on locating and replacing military awards and medals. Included is contact information for military history centers, websites for additional sources of research, and a bibliography of other publications, including related CRS reports.

<https://fas.org/sgp/crs/secretcy/RS21282.pdf>

History of Valentines Day

or all young men serving in his army. Supposedly, Valentine decided this decree just wasn't fair and chose to marry young couples secretly. When Emperor Claudius II found out about Valentine's actions he had him imprisoned, and later put to death. Some stories say that the young couples, who Valentine had married, gave flowers and letters to Valentine when they visited him in the prison.

In a slightly different version of the legend, Valentine was an imprisoned man who fell in love with his jailor's daughter. Before he was put to death he sent the first 'valentine' to his love when he wrote her a letter and signed it 'Your Valentine'. These words are still used on
c a r d s t o d a y .

Perhaps we'll never know the true identity and story behind the man named St. Valentine, but this much is for sure...February has been the month to celebrate love for a long time, dating way back to the middle Ages. In fact, Valentine's Day ranks second only to Christmas in number of greeting cards sent.

Another famous person from Valentine's Day that you may be wondering about is Cupid (Latin cupido, "desire"). In Roman mythology Cupid is the son of Venus, goddess of love. His counterpart in Greek mythology is Eros, god of love. Cupid is often said to be a mischievous boy who goes around wounding both gods and humans with his arrows, causing them to fall in love.

VALENTINE'S DAY GIFTS FOR HER

As most of us (men) tend to over thing gifts, hear are a few suggestions that may help. A simple rule to follow, make sure the gift is for her and not for you.

Flowers

And they don't have to be Roses, wild flowers are a great alternative (just be sure they're not Carnations)

Reservations

At a great restaurant.

Nights stay at a Bed and Breakfast

And the time tested standby

CHOCOLATE Covered Berries

How about a Diamond??? Good Luck we know you'll make a good choice.

REMEMBER THE HEROIC ACTS OF FOUR ARMY CHAPLAINS

Feb.3 will mark the 75th anniversary of the sinking of the United States Army Transport Dorchester and the selfless acts of four Army chaplains who were aboard. American Legion posts nationwide are encouraged to commemorate the anniversary each February and honor Four Chaplains Day.

The Dorchester tragically sunk on Feb. 3, 1943, while crossing the North Atlantic, transporting troops to an American base in Greenland. A German U-boat fired a torpedo that struck the Dorchester, killing 672 of the 902 officers and enlisted men, merchant seamen and civilian workers aboard.

Many of those survivors owe their lives to the courage and leadership exhibited by four chaplains of different faiths, who, in sacrificing their lives, created a unique legacy of brotherhood.

As soldiers rushed to lifeboats, Reverend George Fox (Methodist), Jewish Rabbi Alexander Goode, Reverend Clark Poling (Dutch Reformed) and Father John Washington (Roman Catholic) comforted the wounded and directed others to safety. One survivor watched the chaplains distribute life jackets, and when they ran out, they removed theirs and gave them to four young men.

As the Dorchester sank, the chaplains were seen linked arm in arm, praying.

Fox, Goode, Poling and Washington were posthumously awarded the Distinguished Service Cross and the Purple Heart. And in 1948, Congress declared Feb. 3 to be Four Chaplains Day.



Strong Membership Continued

receiving three complimentary issues of *The American Legion Magazine* every month. Post members can use the free magazine copies as a recruiting tool by showing potential new members one of the many benefits of Legion membership. They too can be left at the local VA hospital, veteran nursing homes, airport military lounges, dentist and doctors' offices, and other areas that veterans frequent.

Recruiting tools. There are membership recruiting items such as door hangers, flyers, videos, presentations and more available for download at www.legion.org/membership/tools.



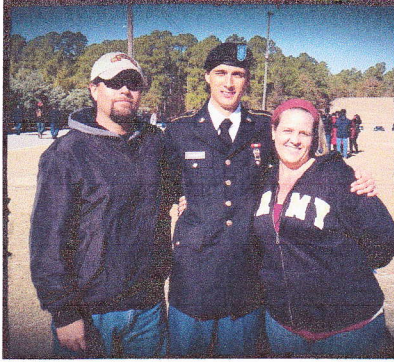
Vimeo channel. The American Legion has an abundance of promotional videos and public service announcements (PSAs) that help tell the Legion's story, as well as aid in membership recruiting, fundraising efforts, support for programs and events, and more. And it's all easily accessible on The American Legion's Vimeo channel at <https://vimeo.com/americanlegion>. The PSAs and videos housed on the Legion's Vimeo channel can easily be shared via mobile devices or downloaded onto a computer hard drive and shared without the need for Internet connection.



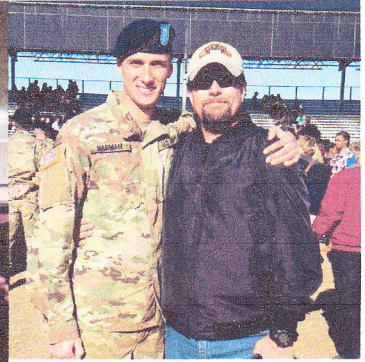
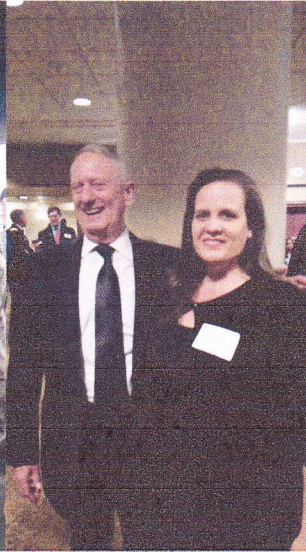
MEET THE HARMAN'S

PROUD PARENTS OF ANTHONY HAVLEN-HARMAN

Late last month David and Jennifer traveled to Ft. Jackson, S.C. for a very special occasion, and that was to see their son Antony, complete a milestone in training, and as dad David put it there is nothing that feels better than hearing your son is being promoted (E1 to E2) for his outstanding work during training, except for being the one to put on the promotion rank. We extend our Congratulations to PVT Harman and wish him the very best in his tour with the United States Army. Note added: David and Jennifer Harman are both Army veterans, and post officers of Battleship

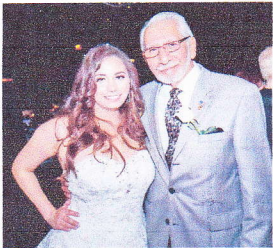


David, Anthony and Mom Jennifer at Ft. Jackson, S.C. Ceremony



Up close with the Secretary of Defense

GOING TO GITMO



The good news just keeps on coming, We have just learned from L.A. Police Post 381 member Paul Gaggie, that his daughter Mrs. Heather Gaggie-Pontrelli has received orders to deploy to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, sometime this summer.

Heather is also the Daughter of Adjutant Jim T., Higuera's niece Olivia Martinez-Gaggie. In addition to this we come to find out we have so many family members currently in the military, or have just completed their tours in the Army, Air Force and Coast Guard. Looks like 4 new



MARILYN "JUNE" BAKER

June 13, 1934, January 31, 2018

We take this opportunity to extend our heart felt sympathies, and condolences to the Baker Family for the loss of their mother. Services were held on Saturday, February 3, 2018 St. Mary Catholic Church, Millersville, Ohio.

Surviving are two daughters, Denise A. Conrad, Woodville and Deborah G. (Gary) Hofelich, Genoa; daughter-in-law, Mary Baker, Risingsun; eight grandchildren; and 21 great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by a son, Kenneth L. Baker; daughter, Dana Baker; and a sister, Beverly Alexander.

June retired in 2003 as an office manager after 39 years with the former Hummel Motor Sales, Holman Pontiac-Cadillac, Scott Pontiac all of Fostoria and Buck Baumann Motor Sales. She also was a bookkeeper for the Fostoria and Tiffin A&P stores. She was a longtime member of St. Mary's Catholic Church, Millersville, its Rosary-Altar Society and finance committee. She was a life member of the American Legion Auxiliary, Pemberville and life member of the Fostoria VFW. In 1984 she started the Freedom Unit 183 color guard retiring from that position in 2002. She was commander of the first women's color guard group to post colors for the Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall. She enjoyed gardening, canning, bowling, traveling, polkas and square dancing.

Mass of Christian Burial is 11 am Saturday at St. Mary's Catholic Church, Millersville with Rev. Stan Tabor officiating. Burial will follow in St



**THE AMERICAN
LEGION**

"Still and Forever

Sewing America"

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THE FLASH

DEADLINE

20TH OF MONTH

COMMENTS/SUGGESTIONS

WELCOMED

Check us out on

19th District Face book

On the Web page

Noisy 19th.com

FLASH EDITOR TRAVELS TO OHIO

19th District Adjutant Jim T. Higuera recently traveled to the Buckeye state of Ohio, January 17—February 4, 2018. This was one big experience for Jim, leaving sunny Southern California for the winter weather of Ohio. Usual day was in the single digit range. However, he did come prepared , hat gloves scarf, and a very warm jacket.

First on the agenda was the Department of Ohio Mid Winter conference. Legion, Auxiliary and Son's all meeting in Columbus, Ohio for the 3 day meeting. Lot's of fun in the process, workshops, and a special banquet hosting our National Commander Denise Rohan. Special thanks to Department Commander Stanley Pleasant, Adjutant for their outstanding hospitality and tour of the Department Headquarters.

On the fund side we visited the places we only wish we could visit but never found the time, like the Football Hall of Fame, The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, and President Rutherford B. Hayes home and library, The Speed Trap Diner, and the Motts Military Museum.



Cleveland Rocks

Mid-Winter Columbus

Canton, Ohio

END ZONE BRIEFS

Los Angeles County Council

Does anyone ever wonder what the County Council is? Actually there is only one way to find out, Participate in one of the regular monthly meeting held on the first Friday of each month.

Meetings are held at the Bob Hope Patriotic Hall, 1815 Figueroa, nearest cross street is Washington Blvd. Meetings are held in the basement and generally start at 7:00 PM. Parking is available in rear of building.

If you have never been to the Hall, come early and enjoy this beautiful building, you will be amazed by the Murals depicting the history our military, as well as many historical items. You'll be glad you did, as will Bob Boyd County Commander

News from Department HQ.

Spring will soon be in the air, as well as our Department's Spring Executive Board meeting. As in previous years we will once again meet in Santa Maria, California. March 10-11, 2018.

Cpl. Marshall Braden Post 56, located at 501 N. Pine St. will host the event. Hotel Reservations maybe made with at the Santa Maria Inn, or with nearby hotels/motels in the immediate area.

Meeting on Friday will be the Way's and Means Commission at 9:00 AM, followed by the Finance Commissions meeting at 1:00 PM. Legion members are always welcomed to attend.

News from National HQ

LEGION TO INVADE WASHINGTON D.C.

The American Legion's Washington Conference, held annually in our nation's capital gives our organization's leadership a chance to meet with elected officials to discuss legislative initiatives and priorities important to Legion members and their families. This event will be held in the last week in February.

A number of career and education events for veterans, service members and military spouses are on tap for The American Legion's Washington Conference later this month.

California will once again have a large contingent of legionnaires attending this years conference. This is one event every legionnaire should try an attend, at least once in your lifetime.