



THE MESSENGER

*Newsletter of The American Legion Post 318 and
The American Legion Auxiliary Unit 318
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From the Commander:

By: Randy Richmond

Greetings from our Post's new Commander for this year 2012/13, Randy Richmond. I would like to invite all of our Brothers and Sisters of our Legion Family to participate this year in the upcoming programs and events that the Executive Board has arranged. The Executive Board and House Committee have worked hard already to make sure that our year will be an eventful one. We are also looking into having social activities throughout this year to invite more of us to share in a little good old fashion fellowship. Of course we are open to any ideas. Please be safe in your travels and God speed as always service to Veterans.

From the 1st Vice Commander:

By: William Staehle

Many of you have received your annual renewal notices for you membership in the American Legion. Please note that these are due any time after July 1st but before December 31 and you can now renew on line at www.legion.org/renew . This is the fastest and easiest way to renew and you can print a temporary ID card immediately upon renewal. If you prefer you can still send a check to the Post and we will process your renewal and send your ID card by mail. Better yet, why not attend a meeting and pick up your card? This is a great way to enjoy a night out with some of your fellow veterans and also enjoy a light meal on us. It's one of the many benefits of being a Legion Member.

Many of you have friends and relatives that are potential Legion Members. We have the brochure "Why You Should Belong" available that outlines some of the many benefits of membership. Why not attend a meeting a pick up a couple of brochures and application forms for your friends and relatives that are veterans? A membership form can be found on our web site www.alcapost318.org on the APPLICATION page or

you can email any questions to

membership@alcapost318.org and I will answer it as quickly as possible.

For those of you that are Amateur Radio Operators or "Hams" please consider joining TALARC, The American Legion Amateur Radio Club. It's free to any licenses Ham who is also an American Legion member. Even if you're not a member you can participate in the monthly nets held by the club. You can find more information on our web site on the AMATEUR RADIO page. In addition we are considering a one day training class and testing session for anyone interested in obtaining a Technician Class Amateur Radio license. For information about the class, other classes, license tests, or any other questions about Amateur Radio please send me an email at webmaster@alcapost318.org

We are proud to announce that Post 318 was awarded the James Fiske Americanism Award at the Department of California Convention in Redding California in June. For those of you not familiar with this award, it is based on the time, effort, and expense provided by Post members in five different categories; Patriotic Observances, Youth Programs, Education and Community Projects, Awards and Veterans Activities, and Americanism and Ideals. The Post submits a report of activities annually and the data accumulated by all posts are used to report to the U.S. Congress about Legion Activities. If you participate in any activity related to Americanism please report it using the form available on our website www.alcapost318.org on the FORMS page to report your activity. You can submit the form on-line. We hope to continue our success in this area for the new 2012-2013 year.

Our Post again participated in the Annual 4th of July Carnival Day event at the Menlo Park VA Medical Center. This is a very rewarding event not only for the patients, but also for all of the volunteers who participate. It gives the patients a chance to get out of their rooms, play a few games, and win some prizes. Please consider joining us next year for this event. All members and their families are welcome to volunteer.

As most of you are aware, our web site www.alcapost318.org is the best place to find up-to-date information about upcoming events and activities on the UPCOMING EVENTS and EVENT CALENDAR pages. There is also a lot of other valuable information available on the site. Please visit it often and, if you haven't been to a meeting recently, why not plan to attend and join us for an evening of camaraderie. The General Meeting is on the 4th Wednesday of every month except June and December with a meal starting at 6:00 PM and the meeting starting at 7:00 PM. Please plan to join us whenever you can.

From the 2nd Vice Commander:

By: Lowell Gresham

No report submitted

From the Adjutant:

By: Gene Fanucchi

Yes, you have likely received a 2013 dues renewal notice from our national headquarters, which has led to the question as to why now; my membership for 2012 is good through December 31, 2012. And that is correct. Here's the story: renewal notices coincides with the Legion's fiscal year rather than the actual membership year. The intent is to begin collecting monies so that a more accurate national budget for the year. It may sound a bit confusing, but except for first year members, the early renewal does not affect us. We still get a year's value for our membership, and this early notice pushes us to get our membership renewed by January first. It also benefits the coffers of some local Posts which do not have a Post home to generate revenue. Our dues at Post 318 had to be raised this year, because the Department of California increased its per capita revenue by \$3.00. So from each Post 318 member dues of \$30, Post 318 sends \$23.50 up the ladder to Department and National Headquarters. Thank you Robert Hill and Robert Holman for being the first two to get your dues renewals sent in. For those who are computer aficionados, look at the back of your renewal notice to expedite the renewal process. You can do on-line at www.Legion.org/Renew.

Kudos are due to Second Vice Commander "Bill" Staehle who put extra effort into his responsibility of monitoring activities of the Post membership and reporting them to Department staff. Each year one of the most difficult endeavors of the American Legion is to convince the membership to report hours, miles, and money expended in serving the community a Post serves. Not reporting that data short changes the contributions of our Legion to veterans, youth, and community; an oversight that is important, because that information is given to Congress each year to evaluate our non-profit status as chartered by Congress. Bill collected as much data as possible (a dentist has an easier task pulling impacted wisdom teeth) and submitted it, and Post 318 was recognized at the recent Department Convention with a plaque for outstanding achievement of its service to Community, State, and nation.

From the Chaplain:

By: Norman Tevis

Three of our Comrades have reported to Post Everlasting, Silver C. Detorres, William F. Ditzler and Keith V. Halbert. Please remember them in your prayers. As always, should you hear of one of our brothers or sisters sick, injured, or worse, please contact me at (408) 266-5080.

Earl Frazier, Chaplain for Post 564 has been appointed as the Chaplain for Department of California. Keep up the good job.

From the House Committee:

By: Gene Fanucchi

We are close to contracting replacement of our main electric panel to increase capability and adding a few circuits to accommodate more diverse 21st century appliance needs. And it appears some long time discussion for adding an air conditioning unit is coming to fruition. Our goal is to have increased electric and air conditioning installed before the end of August, and if funding resources are available, we hope to resurface our parking lot before winter. These improvements should lead to increased rental income funding so as to enable us to continue our veteran and youth programs. That is why we exist.

Election Results - 2012 Department of California:

Department Commander

Ken Kramich (22-11)

Department Vice Commander (area 2)

Gregory Corrales (456-8)

Department Sgt-at arms

Anthony Guerrero (147-14)

Election Results - 2012 District 13:

District 13 Commander

Dennis Foggie (791)

District 13 1st Vice Commander

Galen Gunderson (642)

District 13 2nd Vice Commander

Don Newton (419)

District 13 Sgt-at-arms

Leland Washington (558)

Election Results - 2012 Willow Glen Post 318:

Post 318 Commander

Randy Richmond

Post 318 1st Vice Commander

William Staehle

Post 318 2nd Vice Commander

Lowell Gresham

Post 318 Sgt-at-arms

Billy Martin

Commander to Congress: pass a new Stolen Valor Act

By: American Legion National Press Release

American Legion National Commander Fang A. Wong is calling on Congress to pass a new version of the Stolen Valor Act, one that would stand up to constitutional scrutiny. The U.S. Supreme Court issued a "plurality" ruling Thursday morning, a 6-3 decision that protects those who lie about their military experiences, including those who falsely claim to have received combat wounds and medals, in order to advance their careers.

"While we are obviously saddened and aggrieved by the overall decision in this case, we felt good about the portions of the decision which suggest that a more narrowly tailored bill, which incorporates traditional fraud elements, would be upheld," Wong said. "Since the vast bulk of the more notorious valor thieves engage in this to gain something of value as a result, they will not be able to claim legal immunity once a new bill is passed." The plurality opinion, announced by Justice Anthony Kennedy -- who was joined by Chief Justice John Roberts and Associate Justices Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Sonia Sotomayor -- reasoned that, with only narrow exceptions, content-based restrictions on speech face strict scrutiny, and are therefore almost always unconstitutional. False statements of fact do not fall within one of these exceptions, and so the Stolen Valor Act can survive scrutiny only if it is narrowly tailored to a compelling government interest, the Court held. The majority concluded that the Stolen Valor Act is unconstitutional because the government had not

shown that such a statute is necessary to protect the integrity of the system of military honors -- the interest the government had identified in support of the act. Wong said a 2011 revision of the challenged law would pass the constitutionality test. "Congress needs to do whatever it takes to pass H.R. 1775, a 2011 rewrite of the original Stolen Valor Act, which we believe the Supreme Court would accept as constitutional. The justices did not say that the idea is wrong, because the idea is not wrong. It's just a matter of conforming to constitutional parameters." Associate Justice Stephen Breyer, joined by Associate Justice Elena Kagan, concurred separately, concluding that the Stolen Valor Act, in its current form, applies even in family, social, or other private contexts where lies will often cause little harm. Breyer and Kagan argued that the government could achieve its goals in a less burdensome way, and so determined that the Stolen Valor Act, as written, is unconstitutional. Their opinion leaves open the opportunity to revise the act, so that it would stand up if challenged in the nation's highest court.

American Legion Amateur Radio club:

The American Legion Amateur Radio Club (K9TAL) is open to wartime military veterans who are both members of the Legion family and FCC-licensed amateur radio operators.

The club has established an amateur radio station at National Headquarters with the call sign K9TAL (K9 The American Legion) in order to conduct special-event operations on The American Legion Birthday, Veterans Day, etc.; operate SKYWARN during local severe weather; and provide members an opportunity to operate the station during visits to National Headquarters. A special QSL card is provided to all amateur radio stations that work K9TAL on the air.

For information, or to join: www.k9tal@Legion.org

From the Editor:

If you wish to receive the "Dispatch" by mail, please telephone the post at (408) 926-9946.

From the Webmaster

By: William Staehle

If you haven't been on our www.alcapost318.org web site recently you may not have noticed its new, more modern appearance. In addition, some of the functions, such as the "Photo Gallery" and "Events Calendar" have been improved.

I am striving to keep the site up to date with events and current information. If you find any errors, have updated information, or want something posted to

the site please email that information to me at webmaster@alcapost318.org. Also, be sure to use the site "Forms" page to submit your Americanism Committee Report activity on a regular basis.

Auxiliary Unit 318

By: Patricia McLeod

Dear Sisters,

A BIG Thank You to each and every one of you who helped at the different events, volunteered for the various programs and fundraised till we Got-the-Job-Done. We had a great year! Who knew we could do so much with so little, and have a great time doing it. Let's keep it going.

I am looking forward to working with everyone again this year as we support our veterans, the troops and their families. Remember, you, the American Legion Auxiliary members are Unit 318. Your participation in the meetings and events have made us the success we are. Come out and enjoy the combined Post and Unit Installation of 318, Saturday July 14th, Bar B Q Chicken 'n' Ribs Lunch @ 11am, Installation to follow, *Old Fashioned Red, White and Blue 4th of July is the theme* Open to all members and their families. This is our opportunity to congratulate ourselves for the job well done for such a successful year.

Start planning the events you want to be involved in. Starting with our annual Craft Fair, we need some Fresh ideas for this event.

A listing of our upcoming events, meetings, and activities is included here to give everyone a chance to check your calendars. Items marked with an "***" are in need of a chairman or co-chairs. More details will be provided for the dates as the chairman for each event has more information. In our unit, members can choose a single event or entire program to chair and co-chairs are always welcome. If an event or program you are interested in is not listed here, jump in and I will help you get it started - Team Work!

JULY

++Members and supporters heads' up, start collecting school supplies for military families; Choose the stores you want to work with, let us know so we can send them our request letter to set up the barrels.

++ Give 10, ALA National Program starts. In our unit, it's a contest to see who can purchase the most school supply items with \$10.00; taxes don't count, but keep your receipts, sometimes it comes down the pennies. Bring the goodies to the July 22 meeting. Give Ten Contest Rules;

Rule 1. each \$10 worth of supplies counts toward an entry for the prize.

Rule 2. a package of binder paper, no matter how large, counts as one (1) item

Rule 3. teams are accepted, team members share the prize.

Get your ads together and go for it

++Girls State Letters go out, committee meeting immediately after general meeting, July 22

AUGUST

4th - Spirit of '45 @ San Jose History Park

**25th Italian Family Festa - check events page

26th ALA Unit 318 Meeting @ 2PM

**Date TBA Drop off School Supplies for Military Families

September

**9/11 Patriot Day event TBA

**21st POW MIA Recognition Day event TBA

9/23 ALA Unit 318 Meeting

**30th Gold Star Mother Day, luncheon, time TBA

McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Grants:

One June 27, the full House of Representatives voted on and approved H.R. 5972, the fiscal year (FY) 2013 funding bill for the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), which includes funding for the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Grants. The House provided **\$2.005 billion** for the program, an increase of approximately **\$104 million over FY 2012**. This funding level includes \$286 million for the Emergency Solutions Grant, but is not sufficient to cover all renewals for Continuum of Care renewals. The funding level is approximately **\$226 million below** the amount requested by the president in his Budget Proposal, and is approximately **\$140 million below** the amount provided by the Senate Appropriations Committee (see below).

On April 19, the Senate Appropriations Committee voted to approve the FY 2013 funding bill for the Department of Housing and Urban Development. The legislation includes **\$2.15 billion** for McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Grants in FY 2013, which is an **increase of approximately \$245 million from FY 2012** but **about \$80 million below** the \$2.231 billion requested by the president in his Budget Proposal. The Senate has allocated \$286 million for the new Emergency Solutions Grant.

Spirit of 45:

Located at History Park San Jose, 635 Phelan Avenue, San Jose, Times are 11:00am - 5:00pm, Saturday August 4, 2012. Spirit of '45 is honoring

the WWII Generation. Enjoy live Big Band music, exhibits, WWII re-enactments including military and vintage vehicles, a memorabilia sale, kids activities and much more! The week-long schedule of activities continues August 6th-10th at the Mexican American Heritage Plaza with the Spirit of '45 Unsung Heroes film festival. The week closes on National Spirit of '45 Day, August 12th when Spirit of '45 helps the San Jose Giants celebrate the Municipal stadium's 70th Anniversary. Visit the website for dates and times of activities.

More information: www.spiritof45.org
Admission is free to all World War 2 Veterans, Post 318 will be hosting a booth again this year at the celebration. Come and enjoy the day.

Operation Care and Comfort:

The Beginning

Operation: Care and Comfort (OCC) came to life in April of 2003 when the three co-founders decided to combine their efforts to support the military troops in the Bay Area that were stationed in combat zones overseas. In those early stages, they became a part of the Silicon Valley Chapter of the American Red Cross and grew from there, thanks to the hard, work and dedication of its volunteers.

Care Packages

It's original focus was providing care packages for our troops. OCC now provides support and comfort to "adopted" units of deployed U.S. military service members, serving in Iraq, Afghanistan, and other conflict regions. Working within our community and through donations received from all over our country, we assemble and ship care packages to our adopted units every month until they return home. We are currently supporting up to 200 units on a monthly basis.

Tickets For Troops

OCC then began to work with the professional sports teams in the Bay Area and began its Tickets for Troops efforts. Working with sports teams, event venues and season ticket holders, OCC has distributed tens of thousands donated tickets to military families and veterans in the San Francisco Bay area and Northern California, free of charge. *Contact OCC at www.occ-usa.org and request tickets. They are distributed on a first come first serve basis.*

Adopt A Military Family

OCC continued to find ways to support military troops. It's unique Adopt A Military Family program allowed individuals, organizations and

companies the opportunity to anonymously "adopt" a military family throughout the year.

Check our Calendar for upcoming packaging days at your Post, 10 am to 2 pm. If you have never participated with OCC you're in for a pleasant surprise. Hope to see more of our Veteran Members supporting the next generation.



Moffett Armed Forces Community Covenant

Day:

Save the DATE!!!Moffett Armed Forces Community Covenant Moffett Federal Airfield, Mountain View CA, Saturday, August 18, 2012, 10:00 am to 3:00 pm.

Opening Ceremony, Keynote Speakers & Covenant Signing, Silver Star Warriors and their Families, Government, Military sand Kids Connection.

Kiddies rides, Play & Learn activities, Team building, Teen networking and safety, relationship-building. Military, Veterans & Family Resource Fair

Military, Veteran & Spouse Employment, Military & Spouse Education Opportunities, Troop Support programs, Family

Calendar of Events

July 2012:

July 6th, House Meeting, 6pm Executive Meeting 7:30pm @ the Post.

July 15th, Care and Comfort packing, 10am @ the Post.

July 22nd, Aux Unit 318 General Meeting, 2pm @ the Post.

July 25th, Dinner at 6pm, Post 318 General Meeting, 7pm @ the Post.

July 31st, District 13 Meeting, 7pm @ the Post.

August 2012:

Aug. 4th, Spirit of "45", 10am @ History Park San Jose.

Aug. 12th, Care and Comfort packing, 10am, @ the Post.

Aug. 17th, House meeting, 6pm, Executive meeting, 7pm @ the Post.

Aug. 18th, Moffett Armed Forces Community Covenant, 10am to 2pm, @ moffett Field.

Aug. 22nd, Dinner at 6p, Post 318 General Meeting 7pm @ the Post.

Aug. 25th, Italian Family Festa, 11am to 8pm @ Guadalupe River Park & Gardens.

Aug 26th, Italian Family Festa, 11am to 6pm, Guadalupe River Park & Gardens.

Aug 26th, Aux Unit 318 General Meeting, 2pm @ the Post.

September 2012:

Sept. 21st, House meeting, 6pm. Executive meetings, 7:00pm @ the Post.

Sept. 23rd, Aux Unit 318 General Meeting, 2:00 pm @

Sept. 26th, Dinner at 6p, Post 318 General Meeting 7pm @ the Post.

2012/2013 Staff

Post 0318

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2nd Vice Commander:

Lowell Gresham (408) 781-5352

Sgt at Arms:

Billy Martin (408) 266-7027

Adjutant:

Gene Fanucchi (408) 506-9643

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