



THE MESSENGER

*Newsletter of The American Legion Post 318 and
The American Legion Auxiliary Unit 318
Volume CXXXIII, Issue 3, May - June, 2014
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From the Commander:

By: William Staehle

No report submitted

From the 1st Vice Commander:

By: Peter LaFond

No report submitted

From the 2nd Vice Commander:

By: John Parks

No report submitted

From the Service Officer:

By: Jim McMann

Any veteran is entitled to a free burial flag from the US government. These flags are available at VA offices and certain US Post Offices. Call the US postal service at 800-275-8777 to find a Post Office in your area that has flags. You'll need the veterans DD-214, a completed VA Form 27-2008 and a death certificate. Funeral directors are supposed to be able to assist you. Children of veterans meeting the VA's dependency criteria may be eligible to be buried at a national cemetery. According to the VA, the minor child of an eligible veteran may be buried at a national cemetery if they are unmarried and younger than 21 or younger than 23 if pursuing a full-time course at an approved educational institution. Other options and conditions exist. Go to www.cem.va.gov/CEM/burial_benefits/ for more information. Santa Clara County Tax Collector offers to lower your property taxes by reducing your assessed value by \$100,000 if you are a 100 percent service-connected disabled veteran. Contact their offices for more information. As always, if I can be of any service to you or a veteran please feel free to contact me at serviceofficer@alcapost318.org or call my home at 408-266-8601.

From the House Committee:

By: William Staehle

No report submitted

From the Editor:

It appears that for this edition of the Newsletter most all of our staff were unable for one reason or another to keep us informed. Remember this May is our Elections, your Vote counts Communication is important to all of us and with that we are always looking for articles related to Veteran issues for our newsletter. If you're a budding Journalist or a seasoned Pro please submit your article in "Word" format. to be published in the Messenger. Next deadline June 15, 2014.

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.

Annual Department of California Convention:

The 2014 Annual convention of the Department of California will be held right here in Santa Clara County this year. The convention will start on Friday, June 20th and ends on Sunday, June 22nd. At the City of Santa Clara Convention Center, 5001 Great America Parkway, Santa Clara, CA 95054 (across from Great America). If you have never been to an American Legion Convention here is your chance. No excuses, it is in our back yard this year. Committee meetings will be held on Friday with the floor activity on going. If you wish to attend as a Delegate, Elections are in May at our regular meeting

Post Annual Law and Order Dinner:



Deputy Jeremy Jones, of the Santa Clara County Office of the Sheriffs was our selection for Post 318's Peace Officer of the Year for 2014. The Sheriff, Laurie Smith with her staff was present (as always) for the award ceremony. This year's activity was well attended. If you failed to attend you missed out on a fun event



Unit 318 Looking Ahead, Moving Forward:

By: Patricia McLeod

Together with 1st Vice President Annetta we would like to thank the Unit members for sending their dues in that has allowed us to reach the 94% mark. Welcome aboard to our new members; Barbara, Lauree and Heather.

Sisters, Unit 318 is YOUR Unit and you have a say in its operation as a member. If you have the time, energy and the enthusiasm to be a Unit Officer, we want you. You will notice I didn't list knowledge. Knowledge is great and will make your year go smoother and actually you will have some fun, but a great deal of knowledge is not required. I told one member who I felt would be a good officer, "we won't throw you to the wolves." We have past

officers that are willing, able and have the enthusiasm to help ANY new officer in becoming a great Unit officer. That's not an empty promise we take great pride in our Officers, our Unit, our Programs and our Members. When we help you succeed, we all succeed as well. After all, this is OUR UNIT. Unit Elections will be at the next Unit meeting, nominations will be accepted from the floor as we don't use a nominating committee. Elected officers are President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, and Secretary.

April is Children and Youth Month - Duties of the Unit Children and Youth Chairman are in general the same as those of the Post Chairman. Those duties are: 1. Make sure that the pledge of care and protection for children of veterans is carried out through service work, through direct cash assistance to needy families from Unit funds, and through the use of Department or National funds for temporary aid to children of veterans. 2. Provide leadership for the Unit on all matters pertaining to children. If you need more information, please check the department website bulletin. With the help of a donation, our Unit was able to supported several students from a local school with much needed shoes this year.

Chaplain's Corner – A Sympathy card was sent to Cindy Hernandez, whose father passed onto Post everlasting in March after an illness from January. Our condolences to her and the family and we'll keep them in our prayers.

Save the dates May is Poppy Month

May 23 Girls Night Out: Ladies Choice for Movie Night at the hall. The Movie is free to members and their guests. Doors open 7pm come early, vote what movie goes up on the big screen. Bring an old favorite or send in your suggestions

auxiliary@alcapost318.org.

May 26, Memorial Day Ceremony at 10 am @ Oak Hill Memorial Park, 300 Curtner Ave., San Jose CA 95125. Hosted by Santa Clara County United Veterans Council.

June 14 - FLAG DAY. 11am Ceremony @ Oak Hill Memorial Park, 300 Curtner Ave., San Jose CA 95125. Hosted by American Legion CA D13
4th of July Parade, Assembly 8 am, Parade starts 10 am. Let us know if you would like to participate and need to have car to ride in. LOOKING for a really large wooden rocking chair for our Ms. Betsy Ross and Float volunteers.

4th of July @ Veterans Hospital, Menlo Park, we bring a Carnival to Them. Our booth offers lots of old fashioned water fun. Water guns and blasters

with veterans earning free prizes. Volunteers and prizes needed. Assemble at 9 am, event starts at 10 with free lunch provided. This is always a fun event. Remember your sunscreen!



Aug 8 thru 10 Sprit of 45 Live Big Band Music, Swing Dancing and 1940's Fashion Show. Costumes admired but not required
Aug 20, 2nd Annual Classic CAR SHOW Vintage Classic and Customs. . This is a great event, now our annual fundraiser. Nice Folks Beautiful Cars. Pulled Pork Sandwiches n Root Beer Floats! Volunteers and raffle prizes needed!

From the Chaplain:

By: Norman Tevis



Should you hear of one of our brothers or sisters sick, injured, or worse, please contact me at (408) 266-5080.

US, Philippines Reach Deal on Troops:

Associated Press | Apr 27, 2014 | by Jim Gomez

MANILA, Philippines -- The United States and the Philippines have reached a 10-year pact that would allow a larger U.S. military presence in this Southeast Asian nation as it grapples with increasingly tense territorial disputes with China, according to two Philippine officials and a confidential government primer seen by The Associated Press on Sunday. The Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement, which would give American forces temporary access to selected military camps and allow them to preposition fighter jets and ships, is due to be signed Monday at

the Department of Defense in the Philippine capital, Manila, shortly before the arrival of President Barack Obama, the officials said. Obama's visit is the last leg of a four-country Asian tour that also took him to Japan, South Korea and Malaysia. The two officials spoke with the AP on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss details of the pact ahead of its signing.

D-Day Practice More Deadly than Real Thing:

Western Morning News | Apr 26, 2014

Exercise Tiger proved to be the most deadly training incident in the whole of the Second World War. The similarity between the Start Bay area and the Normandy coast prompted its use for several full-scale battle practices. Slapton Sands was thought to be a perfect place to simulate landings for Utah Beach in France as part of Operation Overlord on June 6, 1944. In the early hours of April 28, 1944, eight landing ship tanks (LSTs) full of American servicemen and equipment converged in Lyme Bay and made their way towards Slapton Sands for a D-Day rehearsal. Four German E-Boats, alerted by heavy radio traffic, intercepted the three-mile convoy of vessels and the heavily laden, slow-moving LSTs proved easy targets for the torpedo boats. A series of tragedies, including the absence of a British Navy destroyer assigned as an escort and an error in radio frequencies, led to three of the LSTs being hit by torpedoes. More loss of life was caused by life jackets being incorrectly worn and the extreme cold of the sea. A total of 749 American soldiers and sailors died. The loss of life was greater than that later suffered by the assault troops during the initial attack on Utah Beach. Allied commanders, fearing the news might make its way into German hands and reveal the intentions for the D-Day landings, immediately ordered a communication blackout. Approximately 12 weeks before the military exercises, many of the villages surrounding Slapton Sands had been evacuated. The soldiers and sailors who survived were ordered not to speak about the incident and many did not talk about it until 50 years later. It remained a secret until Ken Small, then a Torcross hotelier, was told about a Sherman Duplex Drive tank that was resting on the sea bed three-quarters of a mile out from the shore. After negotiations over several years, he bought it from the US Government for \$50, finally recovering it from the sea in May 1984. Thanks to his efforts, the Sherman Tank Memorial was officially recognized by US Congress and acknowledged by the addition of a bronze plaque.



Annual Poppy Days:

To elevate community awareness and respect for our veterans by educating our membership and the public about the poppy's significance and the financial benefit realized by our nation's veterans as a result of its distribution. Poppy Days (during the month of May) have become a familiar tradition in almost every American community. This distribution of the bright red memorial flower to the public is one of the oldest and most widely recognized programs of the American Legion Auxiliary. From the battlefields of World War I, weary soldiers brought home the memory of a barren landscape transformed by wild poppies, red as the blood that had soaked the soil. By that miracle of nature, the spirit of their lost comrades lived on. The poppy became a symbol of the sacrifice of lives in war and represented the hope that none had died in vain. The American Legion Auxiliary poppy has continued to bloom for the casualties of four wars, its petals of paper bound together for veterans by veterans, reminding America each year that the men and women who have served and died for their country deserve to be remembered. The poppy, as a memorial flower to the war dead, can be traced to a single individual, Moina Michael. She was so moved by Lt. Col. McCrae's poem, "In Flanders Fields," that she wrote a response:

. . . the blood of heroes never dies, But lends a luster to the red, Of the flower that blooms above the dead, In Flanders' Fields.

On impulse, she bought a bouquet of poppies – all that New York City's Wanamaker's Department Store had – and handed them to businessmen meeting at the New York YMCA where she worked. She asked them to wear the poppy as a tribute to the fallen. That was November 1918. World War I was over, but America's sons would rest forever "in Flanders' Fields." Later she would spearhead a campaign that would result in the adoption of the poppy as the national symbol of sacrifice. The financial benefit realized by our nation's veterans as a result of poppy distribution is huge; nearly 3.5 million poppies were distributed by units last year, raising \$2.1 million. Children are involved in spreading the poppy message, too.

Poppy Poster Contests are held in local schools for students in grades 2 to 12. The Miss Poppy Contest is a fun event for Junior Auxiliary members who develop local programs to promote the Auxiliary memorial poppy.

Report Says Suicides High among Young Enlisted Men

UPI | Apr 26, 2014

The highest suicide rates in the U.S. military in 2012 were found among young enlisted men with comparatively little education, the Defense Department said Friday. In an annual report analyzing the patterns of suicide, officials also said the suicide rate was highest in 2012 among those serving in the National Guard. The rate was 22.7 per 100,000 among those on active duty, 19.3 for those serving in the Reserves and 28.1 in the National Guard. The Army had the highest suicide rate among the services, followed by the Marines. The overall rate for the Army was 29.7 with the suicide rate for the Army National Guard 30.8 per 100,000. Suicide rates dropped among older soldiers and those of higher rank. The rate for those between the age of 17 and 24 was 24.8 per 100,000 and for those in junior enlisted grades 26.6 per 100,000. The rate was 50 per 100,000 for service members with high school equivalency diplomas. The suicide rate was more than twice as high for men in the military than for women. It was only slightly higher for those who were single.

Almost half of those who killed themselves had seen a doctor for psychological problems and more than one-quarter had told someone they were considering suicide, the report said. Officials said they are expanding their analysis of statistics on suicide in an effort to prevent military personnel from taking their own lives. "Our most valuable resource within the department is our people," said Jackie Garrick, director of the Defense Suicide Prevention Office. "We are committed to taking care of our people and this more comprehensive view will give the department a greater understanding of how to prevent suicides among all our men and women in uniform."

Amateur Radio Technician Class and License Test

Post 318 is sponsoring a class and test session on June 28th 2014 for all American Legion/Auxiliary members interested in getting an Amateur Radio license for emergency communication and hobby use. For those of you who may have been studying for the FCC test this will probably be your last

chance to take the test before the new question pool goes into effect on July 1st. The trainer for the class has extensive experience and has a 90% pass rate for those taking his class. The 1 day class will be held at our Post 318 home and will start promptly at 8:00 AM. Testing will begin at completion of the class at about 3:30 PM. The \$30.00 fee (\$20.00 for Post 318 Members) will include the class, lunch, and the cost of the ARRL test session administered by the Silicon Valley VE Group and will be collected at the door. Class size will be limited to 40 people. For more information or, to reserve a seat, please email your Name, Post, and any questions to: info@alcapost318.org We will reply by email once your seat is reserved. The class will begin promptly at 8:00 AM. Please arrive early to get checked in and ready for the class. (editor To download the study material visit the Post web site at "www:alcapost318.org".

The soldier is the Army. No army is better than its soldiers. The Soldier is also a citizen. In fact, the highest obligation and privilege of citizenship is that of bearing arms for one's country
George S. Patton Jr.



We need you to participate! It's your Post

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Calendar of Events

May 2014:

May 4th, Unit 318 Pancake Breakfast, 8:30 am - 11:00 am, @ the Post Home

May 4th, Aux. Unit 318 General Meeting, 1:00 pm 3:00 pm, @ the Post.

May 9th, Post Game Night. 5:00 pm -9:00 pm, @ the Post.

May 10th, Aux 318 Chili Cook off, Event start at 10, @ the Post.

May 16th, House meeting, 6pm, Executive meeting, 7pm @ the Post.

May 26th, Flag raising, 7 am @ Oak Hill Memorial. Breakfast to follow

May 26th, Memorial Day Services, 11 am @ Oak Hill Memorial

May 28th, Dinner at 6 pm, Post 318 General Meeting 7:00 pm @ the Post.

June 2014:

June 1st, Unit 318 Pancake Breakfast, 8:30 am - 11:00 am, @ the Post.

June 1st, District 13 Caucus, as of publishing District still has not determined where or what time.

June 13th, Post Game Night. 5:00 pm -9:00 pm, @ the Post.

June 14th, District 13 Flag Retirement, 11:00 am @ Oak Hill
June 20th, House meeting, 6pm, Executive meeting, 7pm @ the Post.

American Legion Post 318
1504 Minnesota Avenue
San Jose, CA 95125-4445
June 28th Ham Radio training and licensee test. 8:00 am to 3:30 pm @ the Post.

July 2014:

July 5th, Post Installation of Officers, Lunch at noon @ the Post.

July 6th, Unit 318 Pancake Breakfast, 8:30 am - 11:00 am, @ the Post.

July 11th, Post Game Night. 5:00 pm -9:00 pm, @ the Post.

July 18th, House meeting, 6pm, Executive meeting, 7pm @ the Post.

July 23rd, Dinner at 6 pm, Post 318 General Meeting 7:00 pm @ the Post.