



THE MESSENGER

Newsletter of the American Legion Post 0318 and
The American Legion Auxiliary Unit 0318
Volume CXXVIII, Issue 1 January/February 2009
1504 Minnesota Avenue, San Jose, CA 95125-4445, (408) 926-9946

From the Commander:

By Garry McLeod

It's the start of a new year and I hope everyone enjoyed the Holidays. Last year saw some good times by the Post. We had our Cub Scout Pack 207 with us at the Founders Day parade passing out Flags to the kids on the sideline while we led off with the Flags. Thanks to the Auxiliary for putting this together.

Thanks also to those who worked the Post 318 booth at the Italian American Fiesta that same weekend. With the music, food and the great people we were able to talk too made for a really good time. We had a very nice dinner in November for our kids who were sent to the various camps and activities. Best of all has been our association with the Santa Clara Valley Red Cross's Operation Care and Comfort. They have sent thousands of pounds of supplies to our troops overseas. Julie DeMarie Director of Care and Comfort started the project to restore the Post with volunteers. The building has been professionally painted and the interior has been cleaned. Come by and take a look...We are looking for other locations to set up a booth so if you know of a place let us know. The Holiday Social was a lot of fun, food was good and the entertainment was even better.

Membership:

By Walt "Sarge" Carbaugh

Membership has been steady we are at 87.94% or 175 members. If you have a concern about your membership, check the address label on this news letter. The bottom line has the last paid year we have listed for you (i.e. 2008 or 2009).

Activities:

By Randy Richmond

Four Chaplains at Saint Francis Cabrini on Camden Avenue at 10 a.m. on Saturday, February 7, 2009.

We have a family Social Potluck scheduled for Saturday February 14, 2009 at; 12noon bring the family, Legionnaires bring main dishes.

Casino Day at the Menlo Park VA on Feb 16, 9am. Volunteers still needed.

The regular Post meeting on Feb 25, 2009 will be preparing to celebrate the 90th anniversary of the American Legion come and enjoy some fun with your comrades.

Searchers Say 139 Marine Graves Found

November 25, 2008 Military.com



The bullets were still flying in late November 1943 as Navy Seabees worked to convert parts of a blood-drenched Tarawa Atoll in the Gilbert Islands into a base to fly in troops and supplies for the continuing "Island Hopping" campaign waged by U.S. Marines. In the chaos, rows of markers and crosses designating the graves of fallen Marines were moved aside and were eventually forgotten. At the end of World War II, when the Army

returned to recover the bodies of American dead on the island, it would find fewer than half of those records claimed were buried there.

[Related Newsreel: The Battle of Tarawa.](#)

But in late November, two private companies announced they had found the final resting places of 139 missing Tarawa Marines, with Mark Noah, head of Florida-based History Flight organization, calling the discovery "the largest in the history of the American armed forces." With added support from the Veterans of Foreign Wars, The American Legion, The Baddour Foundation, private individuals and History Flight board members the recovery brought together a team of professional researchers, historians and ground penetrating radar specialists to find 139 of the 541 missing Marines from the battle of Tarawa, organizers say. Ted Darcy, a retired Marine whose Massachusetts-based WFI Research Group also worked on the Tarawa effort, said they are in the midst of compiling all the research data gained from the effort. "Once we've got our report all written up we'll turn it over to [the Pentagon]. They will get the bodies, they do the repatriation," he said. Larry Greer, spokesman for the Pentagon's POW/MIA Personnel Office, said the DoD is interested in studying the report, but declined to comment further until the report has been examined.

"They have not disturbed anything [at the investigated sites], they've not dug up any remains," he said of Noah and Darcy. "What they have done is use ground-penetrating radar to go down and look at the soil." "Now ground-penetrating radar indicates only one thing -- disturbances [in the soil] -- it does not show an x-ray-type picture of what is down there," Greer added. Until further investigation is done, he said, it's possible what the radar found "is simply the results of Army Graves Registration units digging there in the 1940s. So, in other words, there may be no remains there at all. They may be gone." According to Noah and Darcy, the graves were located using a Mala X3M ground penetrating radar with 250 and 500 MHZ antennas and a surveyor-quality Trimble GPS system donated for the research trip. It's also possible that there are remains at the site, Greer added, and they could be those of Marines, or Japanese soldiers or native islanders. "The hopeful option is [the report] gives us enough to cause us to send out preliminary teams to that area, to look at it and do our own search," he said. This would include some digging in very small areas, he said, and if the findings are positive "then we'd mount full-scale excavations." "But it has to be done very methodically on our part, the scientific evidence has to come together," Greer said. And even then, the office would have to weigh the findings and costs against other recovery efforts to which it is already committed. Darcy

told Military.com that he and Noah are "99.9 percent" certain that they have found the missing remains. "I've been doing this for 20 years," added Darcy, who began his hunt for MIAs after he found the remains of a World War II-era pilot in 1991 while searching for a lost F-6F Hellcat in the dense forests of Hawaii. The downed pilot, Ensign Harry Warnke, died on a training flight during the war. His remains were recovered 15 years later. "Tarawa is the first of 14 projects we hope to accomplish in the coming years" Darcy added in a news release.

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By; Bryant Jordan

Helping the Troops:



Since April 2003, the all-volunteer Operation: Care and Comfort program, unique to the Santa Clara Valley Chapter of American Red Cross, has shipped 225 tons of care packages for distribution to Army, Navy, Marine, Coast Guard and Air Force personnel deployed in conflict regions. Adopted military units receive care packages monthly, until they return home. Operation: Care and Comfort is a member of the Department of Defense's "America Supports You" program. For more information on how you can support this worthy program, please visit [www/operationcareandcomfort.org](http://www.operationcareandcomfort.org), The next package assembly will be March 1, 2009 10:00 am till it's done at our Post 0318.

Auxiliary Unit 0318 News:

Our December Social was well attended with lots of good food, conversation and great entertainment.

Membership reports that we made “early bird” quota. We have (7) seven new members and (1) transfer. Welcome aboard! If you haven’t paid your dues, you’re late! Your current membership expired Dec 31, 2008. Make out that check and mail it today. Same \$15.00.

Auxiliary was busy in December with special holiday projects including Toys for Tots, cards and gifts packs to the Palo Alto VA Hosp. Thank you to our sisters Amanda McLeod and Annetta Robertson for these “gifts of love” A big hello to all our home-bound sisters and out-of-towners. May the New Year (2009) bring you all good health, wealth and happiness. Happy New Year! The next pot-luck social will be Feb. 14, this time the ladies bring the sides, salads and desserts. RSVP 408/926-9946. Pres. Pat McLeod

Willow Glen Founder’s Day and Italian American Fiesta:



Thanks to Eugene Casanova, Susie and John DiPierro, Patricia McLeod, Randy Richmond, Annetta Robertson and Norm Tevis to name some of the workers at this year’s booth. I had a photograph with most everyone in it, but this editor messed it up!

Toys for Tots:



As you can see we did very well this year. The van was filled four times with goodies for the kids. A big applause for Pack 207, our monthly clubs/renters and a big one for our Post and Auxiliary members.

Post award:

We are in the running for “Outstanding Post Award” for this year. There are four criteria that the Post must meet to qualify. We have achieved three of these, 1. Support of the Boys State and the Scouting programs, 2. Our work with Operation Care and Comfort and our work at the VA Hospital, 3. The activity with the schools in the area. 4. The final goal that we must achieve is to reach 100% in membership. We have about 20 members from 2008 that have not yet renewed. Let’s get that membership in.

Color Guard Meeting:

Post 0318 is Rising a Color Guard for special occasions and parades. The first meeting will be held on Friday, February 13, 2009, at the Post hall, 7:00 pm. We can use your help so come on down and see what’s up.

D-Day Veterans:

We have been informed that the sixty-fifth anniversary of the D-Day landings are to be held

this summer. Members of District 13 are involved in the activities. Post 318 has been asked, by District, to gather the names of American Legion members of our posts who are D-day veterans. The names of those that are willing and able to travel will be put into a hopper. Based on the amount raised, winners will be sent to France for the activities. Contact the Adjutant Gene Fanucchi, at (408) 506 9643.

Health and Welfare

By Norman Tevis

I want to thank Sarge (Walt Carbough) for being Santa Clause this year to over 200 kids of Service men and women. The Post with the help of the Marine Corps Toys for Tots provided toys to kids of several units in the area.

The following poem was written by our very own and very talented Susie E. diPierro, Chaplin for Auxiliary Unit 318.

A SOLDIER'S THOUGHTS

When you sleep;

I keep watch.

When you eat a nice

Home cooked meal;

I hope for something

Hot and filling.

While you're praying;

I'm fighting.

You're cooling off; maybe going swimming.

I'm crawling and doing

Lots of sweating.

You go to work school and play

My duty never ends.

Until the day when I come back

I pray you're not dressed in black.

Keep all the Men and Women in harm's way in our prayers.

Legislative Report:

New law authorizes Veterans' and active duty military not in uniform to hand salute during the playing of the National Anthem. Thanks to

changes in federal law, Defense Authorization Act Of 2009, the new provision improves upon a little known change in federal law last year that authorizes veterans and members of armed forces while not in uniform, to render the military style hand salute during the raising, lowering or passing of the flag,

"The military salute is a unique gesture of respect that marks those who have served in our nation's armed forces," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Dr. James B. Peake. "This provision allows the application of that honor in all events involving our nation's flag."

CAL VET HOME LOANS

Proposition 12 passed by the voters on Nov. 4, 2008. This bond act will have no impact on the state's General Fund. It is important for individual veterans, Post etc. to help get the word out on the merits of Prop 12. For more information go to <http://www.californiaveteranscoalition.org>.

Donated Dental Services (DDS)

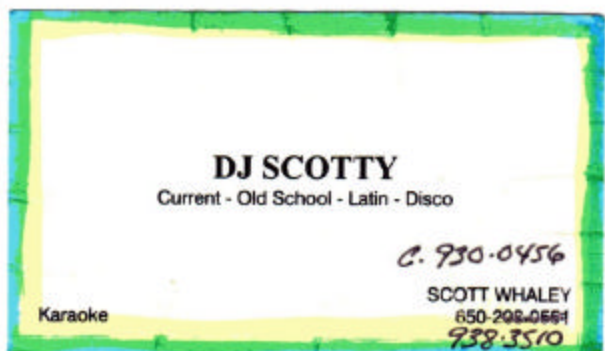
Program:

Dentists have volunteered to provide comprehensive dental care at no charge to veterans of all ages who, because of a serious disability, advanced age, or medical problems, lack adequate income to pay for needed dental care. There are no rigid financial eligibility requirements. For more info contact Susan Lear DDS Coordinator 877-357-8660, this program is part of National Foundation of Dentistry for the Handicapped.

VA Update:

VA Palo Alto is looking for funding for a Veterans Lodge. The lodge will provide overnight accommodation for those that have to travel far for treatment. Like the Fisher house it will have to be built with private funding.

The following businesses or groups have supported the American Legion Post 0318. Please try and support them:.



2008/2009 Staff

Post 0318

Commander:

Garry McLeod (408) 772-8827

1st Vice Commander:

Walt "Sarge" Carbaugh (408) 646-5535

2nd Vice Commander:

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Eugene Casanova (408) 892-5241

Adjutant:

Gene Fanucchi (408) 506-9643

Chaplin:

Norman Tevis (408) 266-5080

Unit 318

President:

Patricia McLeod (408) 926-9946

Secretary/Treasurer

Annetta Robertson (408)244-9624

Chaplin:

Susie Di Pierro..... (408)561-3918

Newsletter The Editor

Garry McLeod

Always open to contributions

Post318@aol.com

The deadline for submissions for the next issue of the Messenger is February 20, 2009. Please submit in Word format.

Jan. 25, Auxiliary Unit 318 meeting @ post
1:30 p.m. Everyone welcome.

Jan. 28, Regular Post meeting at the Post, 6:30
p.m.

February 2009

Feb 7, Four Chaplains Ceremony and Inter-
Faith Service at Saint Frances Cabrini Church,
15333 Woodard Rd, San Jose CA 95124 10am

Feb 7, Department Four Chaplains ceremony,
Saint Mary's Cathedral, San Francisco@3pm

Feb 13, Post Executive Meeting @Post 6:30p.m.

Feb 13, Color Guard Meeting at the Post 7pm.

Feb 14, Post Social meeting at the Hall, 12 noon
Men bring main dish, ladies bring sides, salads
and desserts RSVP 408/926-9946

Feb. 16, Casino Day at VA Hosp Menlo Park,
9:00 a.m. Volunteers needed!!!

Feb 22 Auxiliary Unit318 Mtg @ post,1:30pm

Feb.25, Regular Post meeting @ Post, 6:30 pm

March 2009

March 1, Care and Comfort packing 10 am.

March 13, Executive Meeting, 7 pm

March 22, Auxiliary Meeting 1:30pm

March 28, Public Safety Dinner 5/6/7pm please
RSVP 408/926-9946



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