



The Flash

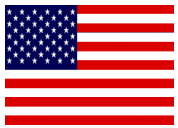
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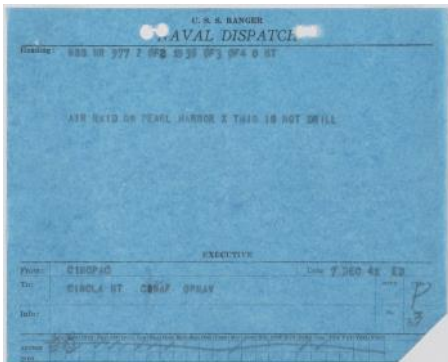


Tis the Season of Caring



On **December 7**, 1941, Japanese planes attacked the United States Naval Base at Pearl Harbor *External*, Hawaii Territory, killing more than 2,300 Americans. The *U.S.S. Arizona* was completely destroyed and the *U.S.S. Oklahoma* capsized. A total of twelve ships sank or were beached in the attack and nine additional vessels were damaged. More than 160 aircraft were destroyed and more than 150 others damaged.

A hurried dispatch from the ranking United States naval officer in Pearl Harbor, Admiral Husband Edward Kimmel, Commander in Chief of the United States Pacific Fleet, to all major navy commands and fleet units provided the first official word of the attack at the ill-prepared Pearl Harbor base. It said simply: **AIR RAID ON PEARL HARBOR X THIS IS NOT DRILL.**



More on Page 8

19th District

Meetings for December 2021

E-Board Dec. 1st

Paramount Post 134

General Membership

Dec. 8th

Eugene A. Obregon Post 804

All meetings start at 7:00 PM

Christmas has long been celebrated in the military, even in times of war. Perhaps the most famous celebration of Christmas in the military is the Christmas Truce of 1914. Starting on Christmas Eve, troops on both the British and German sides began singing Christmas Carols to one another.

Over the history of the U.S., several big military actions have taken place on December 25.

Here are four noteworthy ones.

- 1776: Washington's Famous Crossing of the Delaware
- 1864: The First Battle of Fort Fisher
- 1896: "Stars and Stripes Forever" is Written
- 1972: Operation Linebacker II in North Vietnam



National
Commander
Paul E. Dillard



(<https://youtu.be/xt67DFX0BGs>)

Holiday Message from The American Legion

American Legion National Commander Paul Dillard asks everyone to remember deployed service members, and to reach out to their local posts for assistance and support during the holiday season.

Louie Adame—Commander

Happy Holidays to All District 19 Legionnaires and Families,



As we enter the final month of 2021, and approach the Legion's 103rd year, we must get back to business as Legion members and posts. Membership is again the top priority for all of us as we have lost too many members for various reasons including the virus pandemic. It is time for all posts to rejuvenate and revitalize themselves as we have had plenty of time to strategize our plans for recruiting new members into the Legion, renew our current members, and retain those post members whose membership has expired. As such, all posts within District 19 should be seeking out community events for setting up a post booth to not only for membership recruitment, but to also offer assistance to all Veterans and families. It is time for all of us to wake up and start working to rebuild what we had before the pandemic started and inhibited us from doing what we should be doing under the American Legion's Four Pillars.

During these past months, some posts have been reluctant to have monthly general meetings as required under the American Legion Bylaws using the excuse "it's because of the virus restrictions." I find that reasoning unacceptable as the virus is being contained by people taking all the precautions to keep everyone safe, even those who are avoiding the vaccine. Post Commanders should be holding meetings even if members avoid doing so because some other members are not vaccinated. Commanders should take lead and hold meetings and other person-person interactions requiring everyone to wear a mask and get back to doing the programs of the American Legion such as the Oratorical contest, the Boys State program, American Legion Baseball, and other programs.

During the days your posts buildings have been shut down, you have had time to refurbish them, so now is the time to use that new building look and get back to American Legion business and functions. Post Commanders need to reevaluate their leadership and procure training if necessary, and experienced post members who are past officers should be mentoring new officers and assisting them as they learn the duties of their positions. Too many of us post leaders have held our office for too long and need to find candidates to not only replace us, but to also learn and know why we have an American Legion post. Most posts in District 19 have been around for a very long time, and we should all strive to continue the tradition of having our posts remain in the community. Nowadays, Americanism is being challenged by various groups who find our democratic beliefs and freedoms unacceptable. These beliefs and freedoms were awarded to us all via the U.S. Constitution which has remain intact as it has been since 1776. The American Legion was created in 1919 with the mission to not only advocate on behalf of all Veterans and their families, but also to maintain a society for all of us to enjoy the many freedoms we have inherited, and to fight anyone trying to take it away. Too many of our Veteran brothers and sisters have given of themselves to defend those freedoms under which we live today. As such, it is our duty as Legionnaires to continue that mission to offer our "mutual helpfulness" to all Veterans and their families.

So to those posts that have given up as to why they exist, it is time for your post leaders and members to review what they have done during these past months since March 2020, and what are they doing now. If the post leadership is not inclined to continue as post officers, then the members need to elect new replacements. Maybe those posts that have had the same officers year after year need to decide whether they want to continue on as an American Legion post and advise the District a need for help in keeping the post open or how to get it back on the right course. The District is willing to help, but you need to contact us so that we may assess the post's needs. Please contact our Adjutant Juan Gonzalez at **(863) 528-9262** or by email at **njeg_85@yahoo.com**, or myself at **(562) 201-3095**, or at my email address **71Phantom68@gmail.com**. Thank you.

Louie M. Adame
Commander, District 19

Fernando Gallardo—1st Vice Commander

Comrades, as you First Vice Commander, I would like to inform you that the membership goal for each post is 65% in November, and in December the goal is 75%. Reviewing the latest membership report from the Department it shows that District 19 is currently in 11th place with 61.02% of goal with 1,758 paid members. Also, the following is a breakdown of how the posts have responded to the current membership drive:

- 1 Post has reached 85.29%
- 1 Post has reached 70.41%
- 7 Posts have reached 60% or better
- 5 Posts have reached 50% or better
- 4 Posts have reach 40% or less.

As you can see, there is still a lot of work from the majority of the District posts that need to process membership to reach the monthly goals, and a few that need assistance from the District to meet their set goals. I have reached out to the deficient posts that are under 50% goal to see how District 19 can help either by training or other means of assistance. Also, if any post is delaying the forwarding of the membership transmittals or pay the per capita amount, it would wise to send them in as you receive them. The final month of December 2021 is now here, and those members who have not paid their renewal dues, or if the post has not submitted their payment and the transmittal by the end of December, that member may lose his or her membership in the American Legion. So, if your post is in need of assistance from the District please contact me at **(213) 925-8927** or my email address at **ferndogsc28@gmail.com**. You may also contact the Commander Louie Adame at **(562) 201-3095** or at his email address **71Phantom68@gmail.com**. For those members who have yet to submit their dues payment, let's give them a courtesy call and see how they are doing, and ask the member about membership renewal. Hopefully, the next Department membership report will show that all District posts stepped up to the plate to renew and reach that 75% goal. Thank you.

Fernando Gallardo
District First Vice Commander

Gilbert Palmer—Sergeant-at-Arms

Hello District 19 Posts and Members

As your Sergeant-at-Arms, it is my duty to make sure that rituals and order are properly observed during District meetings, to make sure the colors are properly posted, and to follow and enforce protocol where needed. Those of you who attend the meetings must remember to wear the proper uniform Legion cover, and when entering or exiting the meeting after the Commander has called to order the meeting, that silence must be observed unless called upon by the Chairperson of the meeting. Also, please remember that during the meeting if you exit and re-enter the meeting in progress that you salute the colors otherwise fines will be assessed by the meeting Chairman and collected by the Sergeant-at-Arms or the Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms. Thank you.

Gilbert Palmer
Sergeant-at-Arms

BURIAL ALLOWANCE



Military.com | By Jim Absher

VA burial allowances are cash allowances paid to an eligible veteran's family to help defray burial and funeral costs. VA will pay a different amount depending on whether the death was considered service-connected or not, or if the veteran was hospitalized by the VA at the time of death.

Reimbursements are generally described as two payments:

1. a burial (including cremation) and funeral expense allowance
2. a plot interment allowance

Amounts Payable

Service-Related Death - The maximum service-connected burial allowance is \$2,000. If the veteran is buried in a VA national cemetery, VA reimburses some or all of the cost of transporting the remains.

Nonservice-Related Death - VA will pay a \$300 burial allowance and \$796 for a plot.

VA Hospitalized Veteran - If the veteran was hospitalized by VA when they died, VA will pay a \$807 burial allowance and \$807 for a plot.

Indigent Veteran With No Next-of-Kin - The VA will furnish either a casket or cremation urn for interment in either a national, state, or tribal veterans cemetery.

Eligibility

The veteran must have been discharged under conditions other than dishonorable, and at least one of the following conditions must be met:

- they died as a result of a service-connected disability
- they were receiving VA pension or compensation at the time of death
- they were entitled to receive VA pension or compensation, but decided instead to receive their full military retirement or disability pay
- they died while hospitalized by VA, or while receiving care under VA contract at a non-VA facility
- they died while on authorized travel to or from VA treatment
- they had an original or reopened claim for VA compensation or pension pending at the time of death and would have been entitled to benefits from a date prior to the date of death
- they died on or after Oct. 9, 1996, while a patient at a VA-approved state nursing home.

Who Can Receive the Benefit

- surviving spouse
- the survivor of a legally recognized union
- the children, regardless of age
- the veteran's parent
- the executor or administrator of the veteran's estate

Application

Eligible surviving spouses of record are paid automatically upon notification of the veteran's death, without the need to submit a claim. VA may grant additional benefits, including the plot or interment allowance and transportation allowance, if it receives a claim for these benefits.

If necessary, you can apply by filling out **VA Form 21P-530, Application for Burial Benefits**. You should attach a copy of the veteran's military discharge document (DD 214 or equivalent) and a death certificate. If you are claiming transportation expenses, please attach a receipt for the expenses paid.

You can call VA toll-free at 800-827-1000 for assistance.

Christmas Military Traditions and Charitable Actions



The military has a long-standing reputation for watching out for its own, and providing excellent assistance to the needs of families in a wide variety of variable situations. Military families often band together, particularly when a member is deployed, to form a strong support system that lifts spirits and builds emotional strength in a time of uncertainty. By connecting with squadron friends and their families, military families can experience the warm Christmas spirit and fun-filled holidays, growing various traditions throughout each holiday season.

Military families can benefit greatly from traditions, and this can drastically help in lessening the longing for a family member who is deployed abroad. Ideas for traditions include: a countdown calendar, a neighborhood light tour, Christmas Eve pajamas, cookie parties, ornament decoration, and holiday parades. Even the smallest tradition can provide a family with a valuable pillar of hope and comfort during the holidays.

Charitable organizations are especially prominent during the holiday season, providing valuable support and resources for military families in need. The following are a few fantastic resources for charitable organizations that provide help to military personnel and their families:

Operation Holiday Joy

Established to raise awareness and funds for military and their families during the holiday season, providing food and toys to families in need.

Trees for Troops

Trees for Troops is making the holidays a little bit better for thousands of military families with free Christmas trees delivered to bases throughout the U.S. and abroad. This organization has provided more than 120,000 trees since 2005, donated from contributing tree farms in North America and also from the public.

Let Freedom Ring

Hopes to lessen the holiday burden and stress for military personnel in the Middle East by sending care packages from home.

Operation Homefront

Provides many facets of assistance, from relief of financial hardships to wounded warrior recovery and appreciation celebrations for military personnel and spouses.

Toys for Tots

New and unwrapped toys are collected in the fall of every year to be distributed to various children in need at Christmastime.

For additional resources, you can contact your base or post Family Support Center, local VFW chapters, and even non-military organizations.

How to Help Veterans During the Holidays

During the holiday season, there are many ways to help our veterans through what may be challenging times, and assist those veterans who may not have family to be with. You can help veterans who serve, honor, and protect by volunteering your time, donating items, or simply by making a cash contribution to a worthy cause. Here are some of the many ways you can reach out and make a difference in the life of a veteran this holiday season.

Call a local USO branch or area Armed Services Recruiter. They may have a local donation program list available.

Help a specific groups of veterans such as disabled or injured veterans, homeless veterans or veterans in need of employment.

Contact a local Veterans Association residential home or hospital. Often times there are multiple older vets who either are hospitalized or in residence, without family or friends around to keep them company during the holidays. Most of these centers plan fundraisers where you can further help. Contact them to see how you can best provide your service and time.

Reach out to local military hospitals where disabled vets are in recovery. Typically there are pre-determined donation lists consisting of typical things which service members may need to aid in their recovery such as blankets, gloves, DVDs, cookies and home baked goods, socks, and much more.

Knit a vet or service member a lap blanket or quilt for usage at a convalescent home.

Donate your used car.

Pick up the phone and call a local Veterans organization such as the American Legion, and ask how you can help out this holiday season. Even organizations that aren't specifically designed to help veterans do a lot for them like the Elks Lodge.

Ways to Help a Veteran

- Adopt-a-Veteran – Programs such as the Elk Lodge's program are targeted toward any veterans that are lonely or isolated. Veterans in VA hospitals, assisted care homes, community living center, retirement homes, homeless and transitional shelters, and hospital domiciliary programs are all eligible.
- Corporate Matching Gifts – Check to see if your employer matches your donation.
 - Check with your human resources, employee benefits office or community relations office.
 - Request an Employee Matching Gift form.
 - Verify the veterans charity you'd like to donate to is eligible.
- Combined Federal Campaign – Pledges made by Federal civilian, postal and military donors during the campaign season (September 1st to December 15th) support eligible non-profit organizations that provide health and human service benefits throughout the world.
- Give monetarily
- Planned Giving – Wills, Trusts, Charitable Gift Annuities
- Organize a fundraiser (you can even do this online through Facebook)
- Donate the Following
 - Airline/Hotel and Credit Card points/miles
 - Bonds or Stocks
 - Car
 - Clothing
 - Entertainment tickets
 - Furniture
 - Household items
 - Toys
- Volunteer with Wreaths Across America. Each December they coordinate wreath-laying ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery, in locations nationwide, at sea, and abroad. If you're unable to participate, you can donate to help buy wreaths.

Helping Veterans Cope with PTSD during holidays

The winter holiday season is regarded by many as a wonderful time of the year. However, the holidays can be a painful reminder of past times when life seemed better. Large groups of family and friends are often part of the holiday festivities, but this and other things may be stressful for someone with Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

Groups may tire a person out or make him or her feel overwhelmed. People may feel pressure to join family activities when they're not up for it, or believe they must act happy when they're not. People with PTSD may already find it difficult to get enough sleep or to relax and these added pressures can worsen those symptoms.

Someone with PTSD may be very sensitive to losses around the holiday. Veterans and military families, in particular, tend to remember at the holidays those who did not make it home from war. They may not know how to celebrate the holidays knowing those fallen heroes are no longer present. There may also be recent losses: the death of a loved one, an emotional divorce, or separation from one's children. All of these circumstances may cause someone to feel melancholy about memories of holidays past.

Family and friends might ask the Veteran questions about his or her life or about PTSD. The person with PTSD may not feel comfortable answering these questions, but it is important that he or she keep in mind that their family may feel some of the same pressures, and may only be asking because they have a genuine concern for their wellbeing.

The holiday gathering may also be one of the few times family or friends are able to physically see the person with PTSD, and they may feel it is more appropriate they ask such questions in person rather than over the phone or online because they may think that is too impersonal. In either case, the person with PTSD has the power and right to not answer any questions.

Responding to sensitive questions

A polite way of handling these types of situations is by taking a few slow, deep breaths and calmly responding to someone, "I think it is nice of you to show you care by asking, but I'd rather not talk about that right now," or "thanks for your concern, but I'm not comfortable answering questions about that." Then take the opportunity to redirect the conversation. Ask that family member about work, their children, or their favorite sports team, and steer the conver-

Both people with and without PTSD can cope with holiday stress by following these tips:

- Talk with your family about how you feel. Your family can help you. This does not mean you have to tell them everything, but let them know you're feeling stressed.
- Be honest about your stress level and let your friends and family know your plans ahead of time, especially if you are planning to take some time during the season to relax and de-stress by spending time away from home, work or people that bring stress into your life.
- Set limits. Don't join activities for longer than you can handle. You can choose when you want to be a part of the group.
- Take breaks. Go for walks, or set aside a place where you can be alone for a while. This can keep you from feeling overwhelmed.
- Get plenty of rest. You may already have difficulty sleeping, but do your best to maintain your usual bedtime or wake-up. Naps should be taken sparingly, as they may further disrupt your nighttime sleeping patterns.
- Keep up with exercise routines. If you normally do yoga, go jogging, or lift weights, try to keep up those healthy routines. These activities are all healthy ways to relieve stress.

Fake it 'til you make it. Sometimes people who are feeling depressed find that if they go through the motions, they just might catch themselves having fun. While the pain from the past hasn't gone away, this is a chance to begin making new positive memories one step at a time.

December 7, 1941— a date which will live in infamy



The following day, in an address to a joint session of Congress, President Franklin Roosevelt called December 7, 1941 “a date which will live in infamy.” Congress then declared War on Japan, abandoning the nation’s isolationism policy and ushering the United States into World War II. Within days, Japan’s allies, Germany and Italy, declared war on the United States, and the country began a rapid transition to a wartime economy by building up armaments in support of military campaigns in the Pacific, North Africa, and Europe.

Also on the day following Pearl Harbor, Alan Lomax, head of the Library of Congress Archive of American Folk Song, sent a telegram to colleagues around the U.S. asking them to collect people’s immediate reactions to the bombing. Over the next few days prominent folklorists such as John Lomax, John Henry Faulk, Charles Todd, Robert Sonkin, and Lewis Jones responded by recording “man on the street” interviews in New York, North Carolina, Texas, Washington, D.C., and elsewhere. They interviewed salesmen, electricians, janitors, oilmen, cabdrivers, housewives, students, soldiers, physicians, and others regarding the events of December 7. Among the interviewees was a California woman then visiting her family in Dallas, Texas.

“My first thought was what a great pity that... another nation should be added to those aggressors who strove to limit our freedom. I find myself at the age of eighty, an old woman, hanging on to the tail of the world, trying to keep up. I do not want the driver’s seat. But the eternal verities—there are certain things that I wish to express: one thing that I am very sure of is that hatred is death, but love is light. I want to contribute to the civilization of the world but ...when I look at the holocaust that is going on in the world today, I’m almost ready to let go...”

““Man-on-the-Street,” Dallas Texas, December 9, 1941.” Lena Jameson, Interviewee; John Lomax, interviewer; Dallas, Texas, December 9 & 10, 1941. After the Day of Infamy: “Man-on-the-Street” Interviews Following the Attack on Pearl Harbor. American Folklife Center

The Office of War Information (OWI) capitalized on the fear and outrage associated with the bombings to encourage support of war mobilization. Created In June 1942, some six months after the air raid on Pearl Harbor, the OWI served as a U.S. government propaganda agency generating pictures and copy such as the above photograph of Pearl Harbor widows. Concentrating on subjects like aircraft factories, training for war, women in the workforce, and the armed forces, the OWI documented and celebrated American patriotism in the military and on the home front.

The Memory Gallery of American Treasures of the Library of Congress contains an annotated script of a December 7, 1941, NBC news report on the bombing of Pearl Harbor. The script preserves the announcer’s markings for emphasis. The “program analysis” index card outlines all of the network’s news broadcasts of that day, including the break in regularly scheduled programming to announce the tragic news from Pearl Harbor. Other NBC documentation at the Library outlines nearly every program heard over the network during the World War II era. Recordings of more than half of these programs are held by the Motion Picture, Broadcasting & Recorded Sound Division.

Education and Transition

Spouses, kids of vets who die from service injuries, guaranteed in-state college tuition rate under new law

By Leo Shane III



Children and spouses of veterans who die from service-connected injuries will be guaranteed in-state tuition rates under new legislation approved by Congress.

The measure — the Colonel John M. McHugh Tuition Fairness for Survivors Act — passed without objection in the House on Monday. Senate lawmakers had approved the legislation back in June.

The change is expected to affect about 150,000 surviving dependents, potentially saving them tens of thousands in higher education expenses each year.

It concerns beneficiaries using Veterans Affairs' Dependents' Educational Assistance Program. Through that benefit, spouses and children of 100-percent disabled veterans receive about \$1,200 a month to help cover the costs of tuition, housing expenses and book stipends.

If a veteran dies from a service-connected disability (or died while on active duty prior to Sept. 11, 2001), beneficiaries can continue to receive that support. But unlike other education benefits for military survivors, DEA recipients aren't ensured in-state tuition rates when looking at colleges.

The difference between the in-state and out-of-state costs can be significant, and erase much of the financial support from the program.

Lawmakers said the change is needed to bring the benefit in line with similar veteran support programs for survivors.

"Members of our military and their families sacrifice so much in service to our country," said Rep. Barry Moore, R-Ala., a sponsor of the bill. "As a grateful nation, we have accepted the responsibility to ensure that the educational needs of the survivors and dependents of our fallen heroes are provided for."

Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee Chairman Jon Tester, D-Mont., echoed those sentiments in a statement after the House vote. "We're one step away from expanding affordable, in-state tuition to survivors who deserve this critical support."

The change had been a priority of numerous veterans groups in recent years. Bonnie Carroll, president and founder of the Tragedy Assistance Program For Survivors, praised the bill as "much needed legislation" that could be life changing for thousands of veterans' families.

President Joe Biden is expected to sign it into law in coming days, but no timeline for that action has been announced.

**Los Angeles County Council of
The American Legion, Department of California**

Delinquent Post Dues Report November 16, 2021

Dist.	Post #	Name	\$15.00 Dues	Post
19	61	Battleship Iowa	Due	Due
	134	Paramount	Due	Due
	170	Bert S. Crossland	Due	Due
	272	Montebello	Due	Due
	314	Hawthorne	Due	Due
	341	Leland A. Cupp	Due	Due
	352	Gilbert W. Lindsay	In Mail	Due
	411	Rivera Post 411	Due	Due
	465	Clyde F. Hager	Due	Due
	560	Houghton Park	Due	Due
	804	Eugene A. Obregon	Due	Due
	833	Lincoln Village	Due	Due

Make check/money order payable to: **The Los Angeles County Council**

**Mail to: LACC Adjutant
Robert C. Brown
837 E. Cyrene Street
Carson, CA 90746-3017
Attn: LACC Post Dues**

Thanking you in advance,
Robert C. Brown - Adjutant


**THE AMERICAN
LEGION**
*“Still and Forever
Serving America”*

19th District Flash Editor

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DEADLINE

25TH OF MONTH

COMMENTS/SUGGESTIONS

WELCOMED

Check us out on
19th District Face book
On the Web page
Noisy 19th.com



It’s been 22 years since California had a representative serve as National Vice Commander for the Western Region. This year James T. Higuera of Downey, Calif. was elected to that position.

He was born in Los Angeles, enlisted in the Army in 1963, and has been a member of The American Legion Department of California since 1966. His signature mustache and

affinity for funny socks announce his wry personality, but it’s his lifetime of genuine compassion for helping veterans that has made him a leader in the national organization.

“It’s been a lot of years for me, and I can honestly tell you I’ve been involved every one of those years in one way or another,” Higuera said.

Higuera worked up to the district level where he has served as chairman of various committees, elected and appointed offices, and was elected district commander in 1994. His Legion journey eventually led him to Downey Post 270 where he served as commander and is now a Paid Up for Life member.

Higuera started getting involved at the national level in 1999 when he was appointed to the National Convention Commission. “Man, oh man, that was plum. It was really nice,” he said. “I got to go on site visits to different departments, and there were like three or four departments that wanted the convention about five years out. We’d give them the once over on everything and make our report.” Higuera’s involvement at national continued with his appointment as National Historian in 2009, and his service on multiple national committees while attending more than 35 national conventions.

END ZONE BRIEFS



An Englishman and an Irishman go to a bakery. The Englishman steals three buns and puts them into his pockets and leaves.

He says to the Irishman: “That took great skill and guile to steal those buns. The owner didn’t even see me.”

“That’s just simple thievery,” the Irishman replied. “I’ll show you how to do it the honest way and get the same results.”

The Irishman then proceeded to call out the owner of the bakery and says: “Sir, I want to show you a magic trick.”

The owner was intrigued so he came over to see the magic trick.

The Irishman asked him for a bun and then he proceeded to eat it.

He asked two more times and after eating them again the owner says: “Okay my friend, where’s the magic trick?”

The Irishman then said: “Look in the Englishman’s pockets.”

