

**AMERICAN
LEGION**

The Flash

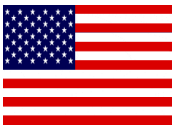
Serving the 19th District Community, State and Nation Since 1926

FEBRUARY 2024



**Volume 99
No. 2**

Member The American Legion Media Alliance



Marching forward...



**National
Commander

Daniel J.
Seehafer**

Once again, the Department of Defense (DoD) may be faced with another continuing resolution (CR), which would compromise national defense strategy and undermine improving quality of life issues for servicemembers.

In essence, a CR would cap funding at the previous year's levels, providing none of the approved increases and preventing any new programs from beginning that were authorized in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024.

It is not the time to be reducing our military capability. But that is exactly what the CR would do.

This stop-start-stop-start game also disrupts the hard-working employees of DoD, as well as the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). They are the backbone to the services provided to our veterans and the defense of our nation. Their ability to carry out their critical work should not be subjected to the whims of a polarized Congress.

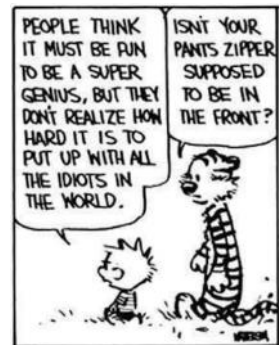
Speaking of Congress, I am scheduled to provide testimony on behalf of our great organization on March 13. If Congress does not sufficiently pass funding to support our military and VA, you better believe I will make our feelings known loud and clear.

There is no better time than right now to do the right thing for America, its military members and their families. Congress must pass an actual spending bill to ensure our military is properly funded throughout this year.

**19th District
Next E-Board meeting
Wednesday March 6th
Rivera Post 411
7842 Serapis Ave,
Pico Rivera, CA**

**General District Meeting
Wednesday February 14th
Leland A Cupp Post 341
4909 S. Durfee Ave
Pico Rivera, CA**

Meetings start at 7:00 PM



Larry Taylor, most recent Medal of Honor recipient dies at age 81



President Joe Biden awards the Medal of Honor to Capt. Larry Taylor, an Army pilot from the Vietnam War who risked his life to rescue a reconnaissance team that was about to be overrun by the enemy, during a ceremony Tuesday, Sept. 5, 2023, in the East Room of the White House in Washington. (Jacquelyn Martin/AP)

The most recent Medal of Honor recipient died Sunday after a lengthy battle with cancer.

Capt. Larry Taylor, 81, waited 55 years before his piloting heroics that saved the lives of four men during the Vietnam War were recognized with the nation's highest award for military valor.

His remains will be buried at the Chattanooga National Cemetery, home to those of fellow Medal of Honor recipients Charles Coolidge and Desmond Doss, the [Chattanooga Times Free Press](#) reported.

Fernando Gallardo—Commander



Comrades,

I would like to let you know that District 19 membership renewal is coming along with a 83.44% membership renewal. We need to continue to conduct buddy checks with fellow members and see how they and their families are doing. I would like to congratulate Clyde F. Hager Post and Hawthorne Post 314 for achieving 100% membership renewal, 2023-2024. I would like to let all of you know that on Saturday February 17, 2024, the District will have a Revitalization at Rivera Post 411 from 9am to 3pm.

I would like to let you know that Department of California Commander John Aldridge stated that the Department of California Revitalization held at American Legion E Pasadena Post 280 was a success with membership renewal. I would like for the District to achieve the same success as the Department of California had with their membership revitalization. I am requesting for a great turnout to help to make the calls.

I will be attending the Area Caucus at Benjamin J Bowie Post 228 on February 3, 2024. I will email all District Post with important information that all Post need to know. I am also going to attend the D.E.C meeting at Santa Maria, from March 15-17, 2024. If you are going to attend the D.E.C please reserve your room as soon as possible so that you have a room. I would like to inform all Post Commanders that I am going to try to attend one of your next meetings.

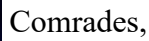
I would like to remind all Post that if there are any issues in your Post to please handle the issues in house and do not contact the Department of California with your issues. If you need assistance please District and we will try to help you with recommendations.

Comrades, my goal is for the District to have as many District Posts to achieve a 100% membership goal and the District to have a 100% membership renewal 100%, 2023-2024. I understand that members are not renewing their membership as of late but I have confidence that we will achieve my goal as District Commander as we continue to work together as a member of the American Legion family which is the best Veterans Organization in the Country.

Commanders I would like to request that when you have an event scheduled to please inform me and send me the flyer as well as District 1st Vice Commander Wilvert so that we can inform the District Post so that if they are available they can attend and support the event. I would like to inform you all that District 19 will be having a Breakfast in March 2024 at a location we are still working on. Once we have finalized the location and time I will inform all District 19 Post with the information so that if you are available you and your family are welcome to attend.

Let not forget to BE THE ONE!!!!

Thank You
Fernando Gallardo
District 19, Commander
Rivera Post 411 2nd Vice Commander
213-925-8927



Our work to increase the fold is ongoing and I am reaching out to every post in the district to participate in our District 19 Revitalization on February 17. It will be held at Rivera Post 411 from 9am to 3pm. Even posts that have reached 100% can benefit participating by making contact with post 1000 members. Discussing advantages of being an active member of your post can help boost your post strength as well as r events and officer positions.

Department of California - 2024 MEMBERSHIP REPORT								1/26/2024
DEPARTMENT TOTALS								
	New	PUFL	Members Paid	HQ/DMS Transfers	Total Members	Goal	%	Dept Standing
Posts	2,108	10,739	39,382	326	52,735	63,208	83.43%	48
HQ Administrative Posts	3	1,051	3,647	6	4,707	6,658	70.70%	
Totals	2,111	11,790	43,029	332	57,442	69,866	82.22%	
NOTE: THIS REPORT REFLECTS <u>ONLY</u> RENEWED AND NEW MEMBERS FOR THE 2024 YEAR								

157 posts are above the 85% membership goal target date (2/7) 40%

8 districts are above the 85% membership goal target date (2/7) 27%

2 areas are above the 85% membership goal target date (2/7) 33%

AREA TOTALS									
Area	Districts	New	PUFL	Members Paid	HQ/DMS Transfers	Total Members	Goal	%	Standing
1	1; 2; 3; 4; 5; 6; 7	284	1,741	6,096	76	8,197	9,838	83.32%	3
2	8; 9; 10; 13; 26; 28	203	1,618	4,279	27	6,127	7,199	85.11%	2
3	11; 12; 14; 15; 27	268	1,439	5,288	29	7,024	8,593	81.74%	6
4	17; 19; 23	154	703	3,393	18	4,268	4,952	86.19%	1
5	21; 22; 25; 29; 30	915	3,411	14,477	126	18,929	22,797	83.03%	4
6	16; 18; 20; 24	278	1,827	5,849	41	7,995	9,729	82.18%	5

DISTRICT 19 Commander FERNANDO GALLARDO (AREA 4)									
Department of California - 2024 MEMBERSHIP REPORT									1/26/2024
POST	Name	City	New	PUFL	Members Paid	1000/DMS Transfers	Total Members	Goal	%
27	Arthur L Peterson	Long Beach	0	21	1	0	22	31	70.97%
51	Whittier	Whittier	0	37	135	6	178	197	90.36%
61	Battleship Iowa	San Pedro	0	24	42	0	66	80	82.50%
134	City of Paramount	Paramount	4	17	61	0	82	108	75.93%
170	Bert S Crossland	Torrance	2	19	70	1	92	112	82.14%
184	South Bay	Redondo Beach	10	55	219	0	284	334	85.03%
270	Downey	Downey	0	21	60	0	81	105	77.14%
272	Montebello	Montebello	8	29	158	0	195	233	83.69%
314	Hawthorne	Hawthorne	9	29	81	0	119	119	100.00%
341	Leland A Cupp	Pico Rivera	0	6	32	1	39	55	70.91%
352	Gilbert Lindsay	Carson	0	8	29	2	39	50	78.00%
359	Norwalk	Norwalk	14	26	98	1	139	170	81.76%
411	Rivera	Pico Rivera	2	20	45	0	67	92	72.83%
465	Clyde F Hager	Bell Gardens	5	2	14	0	21	20	105.00%
496	Lakewood	Long Beach	11	99	304	3	417	477	87.42%
560	Houghton Park	Long Beach	0	13	5	0	18	27	66.67%
804	Eugene A Oregon	Los Angeles	3	15	41	0	59	83	71.08%
833	Lincoln Village	Long Beach	3	7	26	1	37	50	74.00%
Total			71	448	1,421	15	1,955	2,343	83.44%

New District 19 Pin and Sticker
By Fred Shacklett

After too many years of not having a pin, our Department Historian, Fred Shacklett, has designed a new Noisy 19 collectable lapel/hat pin and a sticker. Yes, he is also a graphic designer.



The pin is approximately 1 ¼ inch wide. Made of polished brass, with dark blue background color. The pin has a double rubber clutch on the back and won't stain your cover or suit lapel.

The sticker is 3.00 inches wide, with yellow and blue colors on an adhesive back.

If you would like to have one of these collectables, come to a Post 51 meeting or a District 19 meeting

You can get both pin and sticker for \$5.00.

USS Gravelly shoots down another Houthi missile over the Red Sea (Jan 31, 09:34 AM)



The Navy destroyer Gravelly shot down an anti-ship cruise missile fired by Iran-backed Houthi rebels in Yemen toward the Red Sea on Tuesday night, according to U.S. Central Command.

No injuries or damage were reported, CENTCOM said in a brief statement.

The intercept comes just days after a drone attack on Tower 22, a U.S. outpost in Jordan, killed three soldiers and injured dozens more.

Navy warships have shot down dozens of attack drones and missiles in the Middle East since October.

Gravelly's intercept also came on the same day that the Iran-backed militant group Kataib Hezbollah issued a statement directing its fighters to halt attacks on U.S. troops in Iraq and Syria.

The statement from the group, first reported by Reuters, came within hours of President Joe Biden telling reporters Tuesday that he had decided on a response to Sunday's fatal drone attack, one the Pentagon said "has the footprints" of a Kataib Hezbollah operation.

There have been more than 160 attacks on U.S. forces in Iraq and Syria since October, when the Israel-Hamas war began.

Contact either Jeff Freeman (209-840-2253), or Kristy Grayson, Bill Ducus, Marilyn Rideaux, Patricia Jackson Kelly, Jere Romano, Mildred Wright Pearson, Ken Sutton, Chris Hoffman, Sam Flores, John Aldridge, and Duarte Jr.



Trip to Hawaii

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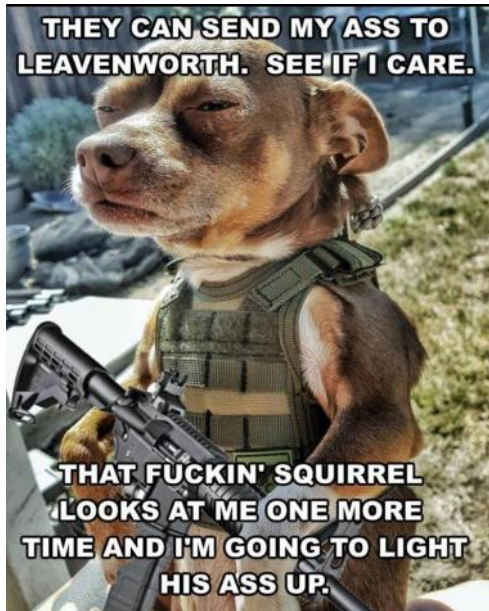
Each

A \$3700 prize package sponsored by the California
Past Commanders Club and Far Beyond Infinity Travel

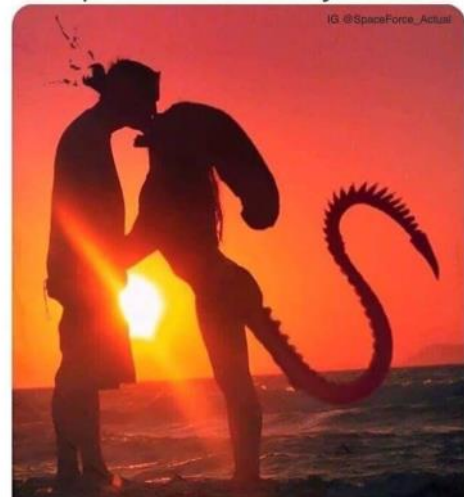
Travel must be booked by October 15 2024
and the drawing will be held on June 19 2024

Raffle earnings will be used by the PCC to pay for
training of the 2024/25 Department Officers

Some Fun for all

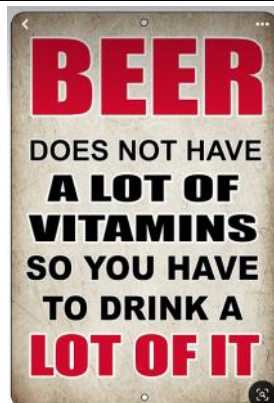


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WHEN MILEY CYRUS IS NAKED & LICKS A HAMMER, IT'S "ART"...

BUT WHEN I DO IT, I'M "DRUNK" AND "HAVE TO LEAVE HOME DEPOT".



AN OVERNIGHT PROGRAM FOR YOUTH GROUPS ONBOARD THE BATTLESHIP OF PRESIDENTS

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Education and Transition

VA hopes to convince tech workers that public service matters

By Leo Shane III



A nurse scans medication for a patient at the Washington D.C. VA Medical Center in on June 29, 2013. (Thomas Brown/VA)

Veterans Affairs officials want to hire more skilled experts from the tech industry. But first they have to convince them that government jobs are important too.

“The tech industry as a whole lacks a tradition of public service, which I personally think is distressing,” said Charles Worthington, chief technology officer for the department, during a press event Thursday. “This industry needs to grow up and build that culture.”

“One of the most prestigious things you can do out of law school is to clerk for a federal judge. But there’s no equivalent, for a staff engineer. A significant number of the best lawyers, the best scientists in the country, they work in public service for part of their careers. Tech industry workers also need to view it as part of their job to spend some of their career in public service too.”

Worthington’s comments came as officials from the department’s information and technology branch discussed plans to boost their workforce in the coming year, with an emphasis on specialists in cyber security, artificial intelligence and user support services.

Kurt DelBene, Assistant Secretary for Information and Technology, said one of the biggest obstacles in filling those jobs isn’t availability but convincing skilled recruits that “VA is a great place to work.”

“It’s a sacred mission to be delivering health care and benefits to veterans who have already committed their lives to defending us around the world,” he said. “That’s a great value proposition to recruits, but we have to match it with a better career path. You need to have an understandable career path you can launch into, in industry just as well as government.”

Worthington said VA leaders have been working on that in recent years, developing job descriptions that better correspond to commercial sector posts. New pay and hiring rules adopted by Congress in 2022 are also helping with those goals.

“As a whole, government has been relatively slow to create roles that make sense for somebody that has spent their whole career in the tech industry,” he said. “We’re changing that now with some of these new positions, and by making it easier to get into the government.”

DelBene did not specify what his agency’s hiring targets for fiscal 2024 will be, but noted that VA as a whole has made hiring a point of emphasis in the last year.

The information technology branch has seen significant growth in recent years. VA’s health and benefits mobile app passed 2 million downloads in late 2023, and VA.gov — the department’s main online portal — sees roughly 13 million logins per month, its highest usage rate ever.


**THE AMERICAN
LEGION**
*"Still and Forever
Serving America"*

19th District Flash Editor

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THE FLASH

DEADLINE

25TH OF MONTH

COMMENTS/SUGGESTIONS

WELCOMED

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



All the jet aircraft that the United States Air Force Thunderbirds and the United States Navy Blue Angels have flown.

END ZONE BRIEFS



Post 352 Commander David DeMoss presenting
mini signal flags to NJROTC Master Chief Tapia Lakewood HS