



COMMANDER'S CORNER

"Our Active Duty, National Guard and Reserve personnel have been dedicated supporters in the American Legion. We recognize that a strong and well-resourced national defense is, and has always been a central purpose of the organization. As former troops, Legionnaires understand the importance of home-front support."



COL Jennifer Nolan extends greetings to Post 246.



LTG Jody Daniels promotes Army Reserves in the local community.

These thoughts, straight from a page of our national organization's website, underlie our fostering relationships with organizations like the US Army Reserve Command and participating in the recent Chief of Army Reserves' Town Hall in Pleasanton, and the Bay Area Army Community Meeting at Parks Reserve Forces Training Area, aka Camp Parks. It was a pleasure to meet LTG Jody Daniels and hear her comments about the challenges,

accomplishments, and direction of the Army Reserve. It was also a pleasure to exchange greetings with COL Jennifer Nolan, a past commander of Camp Parks and a friend to our Post and other veterans service organizations.

Speaking of community support, I am proud to say that we actively support and are involved with the Scout packs and troops that we sponsor. Read the Blue and Gold Ceremony report from our 3rd Vice Commander and indefatigable Post Scouting Representative, Alan Scharlach, in the Community section (p.3). Helping to develop leaders and citizens of character who appreciate the principles of justice, freedom and democracy, as well as the scout pledge, is a hallmark of our Post's vision. It's a privilege to play an active role, and fun too, as described in Alan's article.

Our next general meeting is *March 1st, noon*, please RSVP. Also note that our April General Meeting has been changed from 4/5 to *Tuesday, April 4th, at 6:00 p.m.*

Last but not least, we extend a warm welcome to our newest members: **John Farmer**, a Marine vet from the Lebanon/Grenada military operations era, **George English**, Korean War era Army veteran, and **Stanford Severin**, WWII Army air Corps veteran. Welcome to the American Legion family! -- Michelle Lee



Renee Morgan gives "Town Talk" to Post.



THE SALVO

MARCH 2023

AMERICAN LEGION MT DIABLO POST 246 – CONTINUING TO SERVE

MEETINGS

Always RSVP for regular meeting luncheon and dinner events by leaving a message at **(925) 272-8480** or sending your email confirmation to commanderpost246@gmail.com **3 days** in advance. Please bring cash for meeting meals.

New Schedule 2023:

General Meetings are first Wednesdays
–Odd Months from 12:00-2:00 p.m.
—Even Months from 6:00-7:30 p.m.
In the Second Floor Meeting Room, Veterans Memorial Building of San Ramon Valley (VMBSRV), except where noted (June – Thursday at 6 p.m.; August – No Meeting; October 1st Sunday at 1:00 p.m.). EXCOM business meetings are on 3rd Saturdays, 8:30 a.m. at VMBSRV.

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

**** Every Saturday 8:00 a.m. to noon, all Vets Coffee at the VMBSRV, 400 Hartz Ave, Danville.

01 March, Noon, General Membership Meeting at VMBSRV, Douglas Davis from Mare Island

21 March, 7:00 p.m. District 9 Meeting hosted by Post 246, VMBSRV

04 April, 6:00 p.m., General Membership Meeting, VMBSRV, Adam del Castillo, Contra Costa College

03 May, Noon, General Membership Meeting at VMBSRV – TBA

21 May, 1:00 p.m., High School Swearing-in, Town Green (front of Danville Library).

08 June, 6:00 p.m., General Membership Meeting at VMBSRV, Braydon Drevlow

05 July, Noon, General Membership Meeting at VMBSRV, Autry James

OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

(Third Saturday of the Month from 8:30-10:00 a.m. in the Second Floor Meeting Room). For 2023:

- 18 March
- 15 April
- 20 May
- 17 June

DISTRICT 9 MEETINGS

District 9 will hold its next regular meeting on **21 March, 7:00 p.m. at VMBSRV, Danville**. All members are welcome and encouraged to attend. Bring \$15 bring cash/check for dinner.

COMMUNITY

A DOG OF YOUR OWN

Learn more about ARF Pets for Vets [here](#) and Athen's Dog Training/Real Service Dogs [here](#).



Blue and Gold Ceremony 2023

Every year I have the pleasure of attending the Cub Scout Blue and Gold ceremony. Each of our Cub Scout packs celebrates the creation of Cub Scouts within the Boy Scout system. The Cub Scouts were created in February 1930 approximately one decade after the creation of Boy Scouts of America. It was intended primarily to introduce young children into the joys of outdoor scouting and as a method for



Bridging to new adventures.

“bridging” young men into the Boy Scouts. This 93rd Birthday celebration was a time of joy, remembrance, and a tribute to the young scouts. It is a dinner ceremony with awards of the ultimate achievement in Cub Scouting “Arrow of Light” award for those who have earned it and the graduation for those who are continuing into the Boy Scouts of America. The Arrow of light patch is the only Cub Scout patch that can be worn on a Boy Scout uniform.

The Ceremonies at our Sponsored Cub Packs 997 and 995 were exceptional. Cub Pack 995 celebrated on February 15 and was awarded stunning Arrow of Light Plaques as since in the attached pictures. Four Scouts “bridged” (see pictures) into other Boy Scout Troops. Their old hats and Scarves were

replaced by the new Boy Scout Troop Hats, Scarves and neck ties. Cub Scout Pack 997 (the largest of our sponsored packs with 93 cubs) had 15 Scouts bridge into 4 different Boy Scout Troops on February 24th. On this night,



Cubmaster Ashley, Chief Carlson, yours truly, and Sue Oki of the Golden Gate Scouting District.

Cub Pack 997 was honoring San Ramon Police Chief Denton Carlson for the contributions of the San Ramon Police Department. Of particular interest, Cub Pack 997 has an all-female Cub Den and each received their “Arrow of

Light” award and each bridged into the same Boy Scout Troop 126! To top off the celebration, a magician entertained the Scouts with feats of magic. Indeed, this was a Magical Night.

Let’s continue to Support our Cub Packs and Boy Scout Troops.
--Alan Scharlach, Scouting Representative, American Legion Mt. Diablo Post 246



Smiles galore at the Blue and Gold!




THE SALVO

MARCH 2023

AMERICAN LEGION MT DIABLO POST 246 – CONTINUING TO SERVE

TRAVIS AFB CELEBRATION OF 50th ANNIVERSARY OF OPERATION HOMECOMING, 31 MARCH, 0930



The 60th Air Mobility Wing Commander Col Derek Salmi is inviting all POWs and family members to Travis Air Force Base in celebrating the 50th Year Anniversary of the return of Prisoners of War from Vietnam. Event is 31 March 2023.

The Wing will be holding a day full of commemorative events and honoring the sacrifice given for our country.

Below are the listed events. If you want to come to Travis AFB as an invited guest, please RSVP before 24 March.

The full day of events will happen on 31 March 2023 starting at the Passenger Terminal. If anyone would like to use our transportation, please meet at the Base Theater parking lot at 0900.

Events:

- Passenger Terminal Welcome - 0930
- Travis AFB Aviation Museum Ceremony - 1100
- Keynote Speaker/POW Round Table (Base Theater)- 1315
- Formal Closeout with the Wing Commander Colonel Salmi (Base Theater) - 1500

R.s.v.p. by 24 March 2023
 POC: [Angela Duff](mailto:Angela.Duff@us.af.mil)
 628-688-5535 angela.duff@us.af.mil
 Alt POC: [Kaitlyn Kraemer](mailto:Kaitlyn.Kraemer@us.af.mil)
 813-382-6411
kaitlyn.kraemer.l@us.af.mil

Military: UOD Civilian:
 Civilian attire

The date for this event is 31 March and activities start at 9:00 a.m. at Travis AFB AMC passenger terminal or meet at the museum at 8:30 a.m. for bus transportation to the terminal. Vietnam Era vets are especially welcome.

FREE GOOGLE CLOUD TRAINING AVAILABLE FOR VETERANS

The American Legion Department of California is pleased to announce that we've worked with Google to provide free training for its **cloud services to veterans**. To take advantage of this

free training for Google Cloud Services, you must be a member of The American Legion Family, 18 years of age, and committed to completing this self-paced program in 6 months. For more information, check out the website below and contact Autrey James or Roberto C. Arnold to enroll: <https://calegion.org/google-cloud-training/>

MAKE THE GRADE AT THE AMERICAN LEGION COLLEGE

CALIFORNIA AMERICAN LEGION COLLEGE 2023

MARCH 17, 18 & 19

Course begins at 8:00 a.m. Friday 3/17.
 Graduation should be completed by 1:00 p.m. on 3/19.

ONLINE STUDENT APPLICATION
<https://calegion.org/calc-application/>

Application Deadline: 1 March 2023
 Class size is limited to 25 participants

PREREQUISITES:
 Complete The American Legion Basic Training
<https://www.legion.org/alei>

LOCATION:
 The American Legion, Hollywood Post 43
 2035 North Highland Avenue, Los Angeles, California 90068

The Department of California will reimburse participants for mileage from their home Post to Post 43 and back home.
 We will also provide \$50.00 per day (3 days) for per diem.
 Questions? Contact calc@calegion.org

AMERICAN LEGION

POST OPERATIONS

POKER TOURNAMENT

Do you know how to play poker? Or, want to learn? Have you ever enjoyed



the camaraderie of a friendly card game? Does a poker tournament sound exciting? If you could relate to any of these questions, then you might be just the person to help the post and make new friends as Event Manager of a Post Poker Tournament. The Event Manager will oversee the event coordinator. Initial ground work has already been done and an operational plan drafted. Interested? Contact Eric Ardell at (925) 272-8480, or email commanderpost246@gmail.com.

MEMBERSHIP STATUS & RENEWAL

Membership Status

Current members paid/renewed for 2023 is **146**. According to Dept of CA, 142 is our 2023 membership goal; so, we have reach 101% of that goal. Thank you all who helped us get to 100++%!

Additionally, our current roster of members is **164**. We currently have 18 members whose memberships are now considered expired. Those members have or will receive notice of expiration from National. We strongly encourage you to renew online or mail us a check for your dues and get us to 100% of our roster members. We truly appreciate your continued support!

Membership Renewal

It takes less than 5 minutes to renew. 1) go to www.legion.org and click on the RENEW button, fill out the form, and you are done; or, 2) send the Post a check for \$45 to P.O. Box 133,

Danville, CA 94526, and we'll process it promptly. Dues will increase to \$50/yr in July 2023. Pay now for July-December membership.

AL BOYS AND GIRLS STATE ALA GIRLS STATE SELECTIONS

We are currently in the middle of AL Boys and Girls State and ALA Girls State selections. Five high schools from the local area nominate students to be interviewed for these highly respected programs. Selections will be completed in March and the selected Delegates will attend the programs in the 3rd or 4th week in June. These signature American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary national programs have helped millions of young people understand local government, develop their leadership skills, and inspire their life-long civic engagement.

POST VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Assistant Adjutant is an easy entry position for anyone with no adjutant experience. In practice, the adjutants and assistant adjutants keep our admin house in order including membership, minutes, and more.



Happy Scout earns Arrow of Light.

We are looking for multiple post photographers, as available, to take pictures (sample left) at post activities.



Content Coordinator -- Looking to do a low-effort/high-impact support to our mission? Please volunteer to push content to update our website.

Contact Mark Heinemann if interested helping make our post ever better.

FLAG & EMBLEM STORE

Want AL wear or supplies? Contact Alan Scharlach. See what's available [here](#), then Tel: 925-858-4199 or send email cab1ho@sbcglobal.net include the item number, quantity, color, and size; etc. and telephone number. Send or give him a check for your items.

POST OFFICERS & COMMITTEES

Post Officers for 2022-2023:

Commander: Michelle Lee
1st V. Cmdr: Mark Heinemann
2nd V. Cmdr: Alan Scharlach
3rd V. Cmdr: Eric Ardell
Adjutant: Bob Landy
Finance: Phil Connolly
Chaplain: Mary O'Donnell
Historian: Gerald Lindahl
Judge Advocate: Mary O'Donnell
Service Officer: Leroy Vares
Past Commander: Mark Heinemann

Executive Committee:

Neil Giles, Gary Soto, Mike Yura

Appointed Officers & Committee Chairpersons

Asst. Adjutant: Open
Asst. Finance: Raoul Miranda
Asst Sgt-at-Arms: Raoul Miranda
Supply Officer: Alan Scharlach
Boys State: Eric Ardell
Girls State: Michelle Lee
Oratorical: Neil Giles
Scouting Rep: Alan Scharlach
Asst. Scouting Rep: Mike Yura
VMB Ops Committee: Bob Landy
Museum Committee: Bob Sada
Protocol Officer: Floyd Cox
Board of Trustees: Ron Lowe / Eric Ardell / Alan Scharlach
East Bay Standdown Rep: Mark Heinemann
Veterans Outreach: Mark Heinemann
Program Dir: Mike Yura
Salvo Editor: Michelle Lee
Asst. Editors: Mark Heinemann, Eric Ardell, Bob Landy, Alan Scharlach, Adriana Santos
Post Webmaster: Rusty Orvik and Sons

Helmets for Heroes Donations



Bring some coins and bucks to our next meeting for [Helmets for Heroes](#)