



## **COMMANDER'S CORNER**

As we enter the Fall season, please take time to reflect on Veterans Day and your, your family members' and our comrades' military service to our country. Our Veterans Memorial Building of San Ramon Valley stands as a tribute to those who served and continue to serve in our nation's military. Please join me in recognizing and thanking our Post 246 members (some of whom also represent other veteran service organizations) who contribute to the sustained success of our VMB:

- Eric Ardell – Board of Trustees, Legacy Fund, Library and Historical Collections
- Ron Lowe – President Emeritus, Board of Trustees
- Lee Halverson – Board of Trustees, Legacy Fund, Library and Historical Collections,
- Alan Kalin – Board of Trustees
- Lorrie Sammons – Board of Trustees, Operations
- Alan Scharlach – Board of Trustees, Swearing-in, Operations
- Bob Sada – Legacy Fund, Library and Historical Collections
- Mary O'Donnell – Swearing-in, Library and Historical Collections
- John Reese – Library and Historical Collections
- Docents: Eric Ardell, John Farmer, Lee Halverson, Steve McCreery, Ron Roe, Bob Sada

Please join your fellow members at these special activities: Veterans Day weekend VMB "Space and Robotics" pop-up museum (Members are needed to staff the Post 246 exhibit at [Mount Diablo Post 246: Veterans Day Weekend Museum \(signupgenius.com\)](https://signupgenius.com) and the Pancake Breakfast on 11 November; Army-Navy Football game at the VMB; Wreaths Across America at the Alamo Cemetery; High School Oratorical Contest; and finally, our one and only Crab Feed Dinner & Fundraiser. Get involved and come help make these many activities a success; give the Post a call at (925) 272-8480 or email [commanderpost246@gmail.com](mailto:commanderpost246@gmail.com) to find out how you can help.

Please welcome new member Dennis Stogner, an Army Vietnam veteran living in Danville. We look forward to seeing you at our November meeting. The National membership goal is for every post to attain 100% membership renewal by 31 December. Our post is at 61%; we clearly still have a way to go. If you have not done so, please renew your membership with your dues of \$50 online or by mail to PO Box 133, Danville, CA at your earliest convenience. We hope you will help achieving our goal of 100% renewal by the end of the year. Thank you for your continuing support.

Mark Heinemann

The American Legion | Mt. Diablo Post 246

Meets Monthly | 400 Hartz Ave, Danville, CA 94526

Mailing: P.O. Box 133, Danville, CA 94526 | 925.272-8480

<https://www.americanlegionpost246.org>

Email: [CommanderPost246@gmail.com](mailto:CommanderPost246@gmail.com)



## MEETINGS

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

### **GENERAL MEETINGS**

First Wednesdays

- Odd Months from 12:00-2:00 p.m.
- Even Months from 6:00-7:30 p.m.

Second Floor Meeting Room, Veterans Memorial Building of San Ramon Valley (VMBSRV), except where noted (August - No Meeting; October - First Sunday at 1:00 p.m.).

### **UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS**

Every Saturday 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon, All-Vets Coffee at the VMBSRV, 400 Hartz Ave, Danville

01 November, Noon, General Membership Meeting at VMBSRV, COL Matt Brannen (USMC) Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency Representative

10-12 November, Veterans Day Pop Up Museum - Theme: "Space and Robotics", VMBSRV Community Hall.

11 November, 7:30 AM, Veterans Pancake Breakfast, VMBSRV

11 November, 4:45 PM, Mount Diablo Beacon Lighting for Veterans Day

06 December, 6:00 PM, General Membership Meeting at VMBSRV, Sidharth Anand, Troop 888 Eagle Scout Candidate, Alamo Cemetery Project to identify and mark veterans' graves

07 December, 4:45 PM, Mount Diablo Beacon Lighting for Pearl Harbor Day

09 December, 11:00 AM, Army-Navy Game, VMBSRV

16 December, 11:00 AM, Wreaths Across America, Alamo Cemetery

03 January, Noon, General Membership Meeting at VMBSRV, Tim Sammons (US Navy, Retired), "PT Boats of the Tonkin Gulf"

### **OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

(3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the Month from 8:30-10:00 a.m. except 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday in December, VMBSRV Second Floor Meeting Room). For 2023 and 2024:

18 November	20 April
09 December	18 May
20 January	15 June
17 February	July-No Mtg
16 March	17 August

### **DISTRICT 9 MEETING**

District 9 will hold its next general meeting at 7:00, PM 21 November 2023 at the Martinez VMB, 930 Ward Street, Martinez. All members are welcome and encouraged to attend. Bring \$20 in cash/check for dinner.



## COMMUNITY

### **PARKS RFTA COMMUNITY EXPO**

Post 246 staffed an information and recruiting table on 12 October at Parks RFTA Community Expo. CSM Eric Soto, Garrison CSM, and LTC Marisol Chalas, Garrison Commander, thanked Post 246 for donating \$250 to help cover the cost for enlisted personnel to attend the Garrison Ball on 28 October. CSM Soto, LTC Chalas, and Mark Heinemann met in front of the Post 246 information table at the Community Expo.



### **DIABLO VALLEY COLLEGE STUDENT VETERAN SCHOLARSHIP**

Please help Diablo Valley College grow the Mickey Ganitch All Veterans Memorial Scholarship Fund. Post 246 will collect donations to the scholarship fund from members and match up to \$500 in member donations. Please make your donation check out to American Legion Post 246 and add this note to the memo line: DVC Foundation Mickey Ganitch Scholarship Fund.

### **AUTREY JAMES NATIONAL COMMANDER CAMPAIGN FUND**

Past Department of California Commander Autrey James is campaigning for the position of National Commander of The American Legion. The campaign is a multi-year effort and, in the initial years, is limited for funding to Department of California Posts and Members. Autrey's objective is to provide a greater voice at National for California and other western states in developing and executing annual plans for National. Post 246 will collect donations for his campaign fund from members and match up to \$500 in member donations. Please make your donation check out to American Legion Post 246 and add this note to the memo line: Autrey James National Commander Campaign Fund.



### **CRAB FEED 2024**

Ticket sales at \$65 per ticket will start exclusively to members at our meeting on 01 November and to the public December. Contact Bob Sada ([sadartdent@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sadartdent@sbcglobal.net)) or attend one of our meetings to buy tickets.

### **HILL FAMILY DONATION**

Mildred Hill donated to Post 246 in honor of her late husband Gerald R Hill. Gerald served in the US Army during the Korean War and passed to Post Everlasting in 2022. Millie said that Gerald loved the American Legion.

### **BUDDY CHECKS**

October is Buddy Check Month. Please help the Post call members to check on how they are. Please let Eric Ardell and Mark Heinemann know if you can help this effort at: [commanderpost246@gmail.com](mailto:commanderpost246@gmail.com)

### **"BE THE ONE"**

"Be The One" is a nationwide effort of The American Legion to raise awareness of veterans in crisis. You can help end the stigma and "Be the One" to save one veteran. Learn how to help a veteran in crisis:

<https://www.legion.org/betheone>

### **POST 246 TRANSITION TEAM**

Post 246 members who served after the Vietnam War met in September and October to identify leaders for the 2024-2025 leadership term and activities to attract new and younger members to join Post 246.

### **ORATORICAL CONTEST**

The American Legion Oratorical Contest (<https://www.legion.org/oratorical>) develops deeper knowledge and understanding of the duties, responsibilities, rights and privileges of American citizenship and the U.S. Constitution among high school students. Since 1938, the program has presented participants with an academic speaking challenge that teaches important leadership qualities, the history of our nation's laws, and the ability to think and speak publicly.

For students of the San Ramon Valley Unified School District, Private School and Home Schoolers who live in San Ramon, Danville, or Alamo, they should notify Post 246 that they want to participate via e-mail to [commanderpost246@gmail.com](mailto:commanderpost246@gmail.com) or postal mail not later than December 31, 2022. We will notify participants in early January about logistical details with expectation that participants will perform their prepared oration and extemporaneous responses not later than January 25, 2023.

### **VETERANS VOICES**

Contra Costa County Veterans Voices airs at 7:00 PM, second Mondays on Comcast Channel 27, ATT/Uverse Channel 99, Wave Channel 32. At 7:00 PM, Monday, November 13, Vietnam War veterans Eric Ardell, Steve Burchik, and Dennis Giacobelli are the guests.





## POST OPERATIONS

### MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

The 2024 membership year started on July 1. Please renew by

- 1) going to [www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org) and clicking on the RENEW button, filling out the form, and you are done; or,
- 2) sending Post 246 a check for \$50 to P.O. Box 133, Danville, CA 94526
- 3) Please note that National Convention delegates approved raising 2025 dues by \$5.00. Post 246 will increase its 2025 dues to \$55 if approved by Post 246 membership.

### FLAG & EMBLEM STORE

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

### AMERICAN LEGION BASIC TRAINING

Please consider taking American Legion "Basic Training" at this link:

<https://www.legion.org/alei>

If you want pre-read materials, contact Mark Heinemann at [commanderpost246@gmail.com](mailto:commanderpost246@gmail.com)

## POST OFFICERS & COMMITTEES

### Post Officers for 2023-2024:

Commander: Mark Heinemann

1<sup>st</sup> V. Cmdr.: **OPEN**

2<sup>nd</sup> V. Cmdr.: Alan Scharlach

3<sup>rd</sup> V. Cmdr.: Michelle Lee

Adjutant: Bob Landy

Finance: Phil Connolly

Chaplain: Mary O'Donnell

Historian: **OPEN**

Judge Advocate: Mary O'Donnell

Service Officer: Leroy Vares

Sgt. At Arms: Floyd Cox

Past Commander: Michelle Lee

### Executive Committee Members:

Eric Ardell, Neil Giles, Mary O'Donnell

### Appointed Officers & Committee

#### Chairpersons

Asst. Adjutant: **OPEN**

Asst. Finance: Raoul Miranda

Asst Sgt-at-Arms: Raoul Miranda

Supply Officer: Alan Scharlach

Boys & Girls State: Eric Ardell

Girls State: Michelle Lee

High School Oratorical: Neil Giles

Scouting Rep: Alan Scharlach

VMB Board of Trustees: Eric Ardell /

Alan Scharlach

VMB Ops Committee: Alan Scharlach

VMB Museum Committee: Bob Sada

Protocol Officer: Floyd Cox

IT Coordinator: John Farmer

Asst. IT Coordinator: Neil Giles

East Bay & Delta Standdowns Rep:

Mark Heinemann

Veterans Outreach: Mark Heinemann

Program Dir: Michelle Lee

Salvo Editor: Mark Heinemann

Asst. Editors: Eric Ardell, Bob Landy,

Michelle Lee, Alan Scharlach

Post Webmaster: Rusty Orvik and Sons