



COMMANDER'S CORNER



Planting a flag on the moon



Americanism was on our minds in the past month as we celebrated Veterans Day with a myriad of activities. The space-themed museum was a blast, as we gazed at rockets and helped young people reach for the stars--or the moon! BZ to the VMBSRV! Thanks to Mary O'Donnell, whose timeline display on women in space was of great interest to the public. The book drawing was a big hit as folks lingered over our books display. Thanks to Mark Heinemann for



Women-in-space timeline draws much attention.

donating books. Personally, I enjoyed the camaraderie among the organizers and volunteers. As usual, families of veterans—spouses, partners, kids, grandkids--and friends gamely helped out which was very much welcomed and appreciated.

Several organizations including the Scouts, schools, and senior living centers contacted our Post to honor veterans or to request speakers. Alan Scharlach singlehandedly met all of our Scout troop speaker requests. Kudos to Alan! Several members attended the County's 75th-yr recognition of the



Alan Scharlach speaks to Scouts

county veterans service office. Thank you to Nathan Johnson for serving veterans for the last 18 of them. We wish him well! Come out

to our last general meeting of the year on 7 December where CMSgt Ray Betts from Travis AFB will give the inside scoop on the workhorses in the sky, and we'll enjoy a social [potluck](#). The rivalry of the year is near with the Army-Navy game on 10 December. Throw in the Airmen, Marines, Coasties, and Guardians, game snacks, and beverages and you're set for a lively, good time without the \$200-400 ticket price at Lincoln Financial Field. Post member Ron Lowe was honored for his many years serving veterans throughout the Tri-Valley area at the VNVDV Christmas dinner. He was also



recognized for his leadership of the VMB Board of Trustees for the last 10 years. Last but not least, all are welcome to lay a wreath at the Alamo cemetery on 17 December, remembering our local veterans as they rest in eternal peace. May the peace of the season be yours, and may your holidays be bright! – Michelle Lee



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. **New Schedule:**

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 on 3rd Saturdays, 8:30 a.m. are also at VMBSRV.

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

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

7 December, Wednesday, General Membership meeting, NOON – CMSGT Ray Betts, Sr Enlisted Advisor 349th Maintenance Group-TRAVIS AFB, VMBSRV, Potluck--sign-up [here](#).

7 December, Wednesday Mount Diablo Beacon Lighting for Pearl Harbor Day, 4:45 p.m.

10 December, Saturday Executive Committee business meeting, 8:30 a.m.

10 December, Saturday Army-Navy Game Potluck, Game starts at Noon. VMBSRV

12 December, Crab Feed Planning Meeting, 5:00 p.m., Zoom, Link [here](#)

17 December, Saturday Wreaths Across America, Alamo Cemetery, 10:00 a.m. (Volunteers Needed)

04 January, Wednesday, General Membership meeting, NOON, Speaker TBD

28 January, Post 246 Crab Feed VMBSRV, Community Hall, 5:30 p.m. (Volunteers Needed)

01 February, General Membership meeting, 6:00 p.m., Renee Morgan

01 March, Noon, General Membership Meeting, NOON, Douglas Davis, Mare Island

18 March, 5:00 p.m. Corned Beef and Cabbage, VMBSRV

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

OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

(Third Saturday of the Month from 8:30-10:30 am. in the Second Floor Meeting Room)

10 December 2022 (Changed due to expected conflict with Wreaths Across America at Alamo Cemetery on 17 December 2022)



21 January 2023
18 February 2023
18 March 2023
15 April 2023

DISTRICT 9 MEETINGS

District 9 holds its regular meeting at 7:00 p.m. on the third Tuesday of odd numbered months. The next meeting is 17 January 2023 at the Martinez VMB. Please let Michelle Lee or Mark Heinemann know if you would like to attend.

COMMUNITY

TROOP 888 COH, 12/5

Court of Honor for Scout Troop 888 will be on Monday, 5 December, 7:00 p.m. The post sponsors the troop so all are invited. Gale Ranch Middle School, 6400 Main Branch Road, San Ramon.

TOWN OF DANVILLE MAYOR INSTALLATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARDS, 12/6

Come and support individuals and organizations that have made a difference. You're invited to this annual event on 6 December, 6:00 p.m., Village Theatre, 223 Front Street, Danville.

CA LEGION & CLOUD BASED COMPUTING TRAINING

The American Legion's Department of California has partnered with Google to bring training for its cloud services to veterans for free. To take advantage of this **free** training for Google Cloud Services, you have to be a

member of The American Legion. More info [here](#).

ARMY/NAVY GAME at VMBSRV

On 10 December, noon, come early to join fellow veterans in the Community Hall of the Veterans Memorial Building of San Ramon Valley for hot dogs, chili, nachos, camaraderie, and The Game. Bring a side dish and refreshment.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT AT ST. PETER'S CHAPEL, 12/18, 2 P.M.

Christmas music medley and sing-alongs performed in the oldest Naval chapel in the United States. It is a key contributing element of the Mare Island Historic District. Tickets are limited, \$25. To secure tickets: visit tinyurl.com/ybfb3c5

FREE DENTAL CLINIC, 2/14/23

Give Veterans a Smile 2023 is a Free dental care day for veterans on 4 Feb 2023, 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., Union City Dental Care Center, 1203 J St., Union City. Register early for this first come first served treatment. See flyer and registration link [here](#). Sponsored by Southern Alameda County Dental Society, UOP School of Dentistry, Dental Care Center of Union City, and VSOs. Questions? Please email: info@sacds.org or call 510-782-5316



VA PALO ALTO MOBILE MEDICAL SERVICES PLEASANTON LIBRARY

Pleasanton Library will host the VA Palo Alto on Monday, 19 December 2022, from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Veterans, spouses, family members, caregivers, and survivors are invited to meet with the VA Palo Alto's Mobile Medical Services Team. Benefits counselors will be on site to review veteran-earned healthcare benefits, register veterans for care with the VA Palo Alto, answer related questions, and provide information about VA services. Members of the medical staff will provide private exams and referrals for registered veterans. Appointments are not needed for this drop-in event. Veterans, please bring proof of military service document (DD-214) and a list of current medications.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE OFFERS AN INTERAGENCY LIFETIME PASS

The National Defense Authorization Act of 2022 authorized a free lifetime pass to national parks and other federal recreational lands for eligible Veterans and Gold Star Families. More information [here](#).

POST 246 SUPPORTS LOCAL BUSINESSES

Our post is a proud member of the Danville Area Chamber of Commerce and of the San Ramon Chamber of Commerce, and we appreciate the strong, in-kind support of VSOs by many businesses over the years. As a

community service partner and supporter of local business, the Post encourages members to shop locally this holiday season.

POST OPERATIONS

OPERATION CRAB FEED

Crab Feed planning and fundraising is fully underway. Donors and Sponsors are needed. All Post members are asked to solicit for donations and sponsorships for the auction or at the least, to provide gift card(s), gift basket, or auction item. This is a critical Post fundraiser which provides funds for many of our most important programs, like Boys State and Girls State, Americanism activities, veterans projects and more. Please do your part, if you're able.

POST MEETING SURVEY

Results are in. (See page 2 for new meeting schedule for 2023).

Survey results:

1. Preferred Day – Wed 56.3%, Thu 37.5%, Tue 6.2%
2. 2nd Choice of Day – Tue 37.5%, Wed 25%, Thu 25%
3. Preferred Time – Alternating months lunch/eve 62.5%, Lunch 18.8%, Evening 18.8%
4. Willing to drive members – Yes/Maybe 85.7%
5. Noon Food preference – Deli Sandwiches 68.8%
6. Evening Food preference – Catered food/type rotation 75%
7. Preferred Meeting location – VMBSRV 87.5%



ORATORICAL CONTEST

The Oratorical contest marketing is in full swing. We're proud to sponsor this contest where young people can gain knowledge, appreciation, and understanding of the duties, responsibilities, rights, and privileges of American citizenship and the U.S. Constitution. Students who attend high schools in the San Ramon Valley can notify the Post of their intent to participate by 31 December 2022 to commanderpost246@gmail.com Post Level Speeches will take place in early January.

<https://calegion.org/oratorical-contests-commission/>
<https://www.legion.org/oratorical>

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA

Post 246 will again support Wreaths Across America at the Alamo Cemetery, 130 El Portal, Danville, on 17 December. We need several volunteers to help unload the delivery truck when it arrives (est. 15-16 Dec), prep the wreaths Sat morning 9 to 10 am on Sat, and one or two for the color guard. Please contact Eric Ardell to volunteer.

MEMBERSHIP

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.

VMBSRV LIBRARY AND HISTORICAL COLLECTIONS COMMITTEE (LHCC) REP

Bravo to Bob Sada for his continuing work with the Library & Historical Collections Committee (LHCC). Thank you for serving our post, the veterans' community, and the public!

POST 246 NEEDS YOUR HELP!



Do you like to lead teams and oversee operations? Why waste good talent? Volunteer to be the Event Coordinator for our Crab Feed. Orientation, training, and helpers included.



Michelle Haines and Michelle Lee, greeters at pop-up museum

We are looking for a post photographer to take pictures at our post activities (sample left). No experience needed--just a willingness to help.



Chaplain needed. Training and orientation come with this opportunity. This is an important position with much impact.

Content Coordinator -- Looking to do a low-effort, high-impact support to our mission? Volunteer to coordinate content to update our website.



Contact Mark Heinemann if interested in any of the open positions.

KEEP YOUR VA MEDICAL RECORDS UPDATED

If you received vaccines or treatments outside of V.A., please help keep your medical records updated. Two ways: 1) Bring your COVID-19 vaccination card to any V.A. NorCal location and present it to one of the V.A. clerks. Or 2) Take a picture of your COVID-19 vaccination card. Send a copy of the card to your care team in a Secure Message on the [My HealthVet website](https://www.myhealthvet.com).

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: Jon Heinson
Historian: Gerald Lindahl

Judge Advocate: Mary O'Donnell
Service Officer: Leroy Vares
Past Commander: Mark Heinemann

Executive Committee:

Neil Giles Gary Soto
Michelle Haines Mike Yura

Appointed Officers & Committee Chairpersons

Asst. Adjutant: Michelle Haines
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



Keep saving your coins and bucks for [Helmets for Heroes](#); and bring some to a meeting!



THE SALVO

DECEMBER 2022

AMERICAN LEGION MT DIABLO POST 246 – *CONTINUING TO SERVE*



The American Legion Mt. Diablo Post 246



JANUARY 28, 2023 CRAB FEED

Tickets available exclusively to Post members thru Saturday, 17 December. To secure tickets contact Mr. Bob Sada. email sadartdent@sbcglobal.net.

Payment of \$65.00/ticket must be received to confirm your purchase.

CRAB FEED

LIVE AUCTION

RAFFLE

ONLINE AUCTION

VETERANS MEMORIAL
BUILDING
105 EAST PROSPECT
AVE., DANVILLE



SATURDAY,
JANUARY 28TH

DOORS OPEN AT 5 PM
DINNER SERVED AT 6 PM

The American Legion exists to enhance the well-being of America's veterans, their families, our military, and our communities by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.