



COMMANDER'S CORNER

I hope that everyone enjoyed Thanksgiving and Veterans Day with friends and family.

Veterans Day weekend VMB "Space and Robotics" pop-up museum and the Pancake Breakfast on 11 November were great successes. Children who visited our exhibit of "Women in Space" loved the "Plant the US Flag on the Moon," provided by Michelle Lee, again this year. Mary O'Donnell's timeline of women military veterans who served as astronauts was also a big hit. Thank you to Michelle and Mary for providing these key parts of our exhibit. Please recognize Eric Ardell, Bob Sada, and Lorrie Sammons who played key roles as usual from inception through set up to take down of the museum exhibits and presentations. Also, a big thank you is extended to our Post exhibit docents: Eric Ardell, Mary O'Donnell, Michelle Lee, Elizabeth Freitas, John Farmer, Steve McCreery, Mike Yura, Bob Landy, and Janine Hollenbeck who was joined by her son for take down of the exhibits. Also, thanks to Eric Ardell and Michelle Lee who served as greeters at the Pancake Breakfast sponsored by our Town of Danville Council and cohosted by our Post.

December and January are, again, busy months for our Post. Please join your fellow members at these special activities: Army-Navy Football game at the VMB Community Hall at 12:00 noon on Saturday, December 9; Wreaths Across America at the Alamo Cemetery at 11:00 AM on Saturday, December 16; High School Oratorical Contest (Date/Time TBD); and finally, our one and only Crab Feed Dinner & Fundraiser at 5:00 PM on Saturday, January 27, 2024. 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 to find out how you can help.

Our monthly meeting on December 6 is a social event for members and their spouses / significant others. We will meet at 5:30 PM in the Community Hall of the Veterans Memorial Building, 115 East Prospect Avenue. The dinner meeting is catered (\$20 per person). Please bring a beverage of your choice to share and join the White Elephant Game with a wrapped gift of under \$25 if you would like to participate in the game.

The National and our Post membership goal is for every post to attain 100% membership renewal by 31 December. Our post is at about 70% of our membership goal. 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. 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



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 **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

06 December, 6:00 PM, General Membership Meeting, VMBSRV Community Hall, Speaker – Sidharth Anand, Troop 888 Eagle Scout Candidate, on his 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, Speaker – Tim Sammons (US Navy, Retired), "PT Boats of the Tonkin Gulf"

27 January, 5:00 PM, 2024 Crab Feed, VMBSRV Community Hall

07 February, 6:00 PM, General Membership Meeting at VMBSRV, Speaker – Mike Fedderson, USMC League, on Vets Roll (<https://www.vetsroll.org/>)

06 March, Noon, General Membership Meeting at VMBSRV, Speaker – To Be Advised

03 April, 6:00 PM, General Membership Meeting at VMBSRV, Speaker to Be Advised

OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

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

09 December	18 May
20 January	15 June
17 February	July-No Mtg
16 March	17 August
20 April	21 September

DISTRICT 9 MEETING

District 9 will hold its next general meeting at 7:00, PM 16 January 2024 at the Concord VMB, 2290 Willow Pass Road, Concord. All members are welcome and encouraged to attend. Bring \$20 in cash/check for dinner.



COMMUNITY

VETERANS DAY WEEKEND POP-UP MUSEUM

Post 246 members staffed our exhibit on "Women in Space". Mary O'Donnell presented a timeline of women military veterans who served as astronauts. Michelle Lee provided a "Plant the US Flag on the Moon." Six of the docents include Mark Heinemann, Mary O'Donnell, Michelle Lee, Elizabeth Freitas, Mike Yura, and Bob Landy joined together in the following photograph. John Farmer, Janine Hollenbeck, Steve McCreery, and Eric Ardell also served as docents and for set up / take down for our exhibit.



VETERANS DAY – VETERANS RECOGNITION

Michelle Lee and Mary O'Donnell assisted with recognizing veterans and their spouses at the Reutlinger

(Retirement) Community in Danville on Veterans Day.





CRAB FEED 2024

Ticket sales at \$65 per ticket are continuing exclusively to members through 30 November before beginning to the public in December. Contact Bob Sada (sadardent@sbcglobal.net) or attend our dinner meeting on 06 December to buy tickets.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Please welcome Louis Giorgi and Mike Yura as members of the Executive Committee effective November 1.

BUDDY CHECKS

Buddy Checks are continuing. Please help the Post call members to check on how they are. Please let Eric Ardell and Mark Heinemann know if you can help: 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 era 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. The team will meet again in early December.

SCOUT TROOP 888 COH

Troop 888 will hold an Eagle Scout Court of Honor for 14 Scouts at 5:30 PM on December 3, 2023 at the San Ramon Community Center.

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. The program presents participants with an academic speaking challenge that teaches important leadership qualities, and the history of our nation's laws.

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 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.



POST OPERATIONS

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

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

- 1) going to 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 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

POST OFFICERS & COMMITTEES

Post Officers for 2023-2024:

Commander: Mark Heinemann

1st V. Cmdr.: **OPEN**

2nd V. Cmdr.: Alan Scharlach

3rd V. Cmdr.: Michelle Lee

Adjutant: Bob Landy

Finance: Phil Connolly

Chaplain: Mary O'Donnell

Historian: **OPEN**

Judge Advocate: Mary O'Donnell

Service Officer: **OPEN**

Sgt. At Arms: Floyd Cox

Past Commander: Michelle Lee

Executive Committee Members:

Eric Ardell, Neil Giles, Louis Giorgi,

Mary O'Donnell, Mike Yura

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