



SALVO - MT DIABLO POST 246 MAY 2021

COMMANDERS CORNER

News Flash: The election of officers will be held at our May meeting for Commander, 1st Vice Commander, 2nd Vice Commander, and 3 members of the Executive Committee. These officers will lead the Post for the 2121-2022 year. If you are interested in serving your post and the American Legion as either an elected or appointed officer, please contact us now! This is your post so come help us make it bigger and better! Installation of officers will be held at the first live regular meeting, hopefully this summer.

The Veterans Memorial Building's High School Swearing-in Ceremony is being planned for 23 May 2021 at 1:00pm on the Library Green on Front Street in Danville. Attendance may well be somewhat limited but currently we know of six recruits and several appointees to the military academies. We are asking all VSOs to provide help in setup, ushering, and cleanup along with a contingent of our Boy Scouts. Please contact me if you will help.

Vaccine information is really encouraging, and live meetings may now be on the horizon. But keep **wearing a mask and social distance**. Let us do our part and wear them in any public setting.

Third call to say hi to **Robert Denison, Ken Duley, David Horton, William House, Sally Malone, Dr. Conrad Rougeux, Lee Sarty, Kenneth Winters, and Richard Zaslove**. We want to make sure you are doing well and ask if you need any assistance. We will keep trying to reach you, but if you would, please give us a call.

We are almost to 100% membership: now at 96.7% of members as of 3/12/21! Our goal is 153; we currently have 35 PFULs, 41 members paid online, 66 members paid through the Post, and 6 transfers from Post 1000. That is 148 out of 153 members that continue support of our post and the Legion. Thank you!!

We are going to start a fourth round of Buddy Calls and focus on those members who we have not been able to reach so far and those members who we have not talked since last year. We would really love if those who would like to help.

I want to say welcome to our newest member Adriana Santos, an Army veteran and student at Los Positas College. You may remember her as one of our recent speakers.

Be sure to see our new website at www.americanlegionpost246.org. Check it out!!

Stay safe and wear your masks!!!

Eric, Commander



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UPCOMING EVENTS

***** Every Saturday 9 to 12**

April 17th, Saturday
May 5th, Wednesday

May 15th, Saturday
May 23rd, Sunday
May 30th, Sunday
May 31st, Monday
June 2nd, Wednesday

June 19th, Saturday
June 19th to 25th
June 28th to July 3rd
July 4th, Sunday

July 7th, Wednesday
July 17th, Saturday
August 4th, Wednesday
August 21st, Saturday
September 1st, Wednesday
September 18th, Saturday
October 3rd, Sunday

Coffee at the Vets Hall ** Back soon!!**

Executive Committee meeting, 8:30 am
Regular meeting with speaker, 12:00 pm **TBD**

Speaker – Nathan Johnson, CCC Veterans Service Officer

Election of Officers/Exec Committee
Executive Committee meeting, 8:30 am
VMB High School Swearing-in Ceremony
VNVDV Memorial Day Ceremony, **Cancelled**
Memorial Day
Regular meeting with speaker, 12:00 pm **TBD**

In-Person Installation of Officers (TBD)

Executive Committee meeting, 8:30 am
California Boys State (virtual)
California Girls State (virtual)
Independence Day

Kiwanis Parade (status unknown)

Regular meeting with speaker, 12:00 pm **TBD**
NO Executive Committee meeting
NO Regular meeting

Executive Committee meeting, 8:30 am
Regular meeting with speaker, 12:00 pm **TBD**
Executive Committee meeting, 8:30 am
Boys & Girls State Recognition Luncheon, 1:00 pm

SPEAKER FOR MAY

Our speaker for May will be Nathan Johnson, Veterans Service Officer for Contra Costa County in Martinez. He hosts Veterans Voices, a monthly live talk show featured on Contra Costa Television. Nathan has been an adjunct faculty member at Golden Gate University since 2017. Nathan served in the Marine Corps as an intelligence analyst with 1st Marine Regiment at Camp Pendleton, CA. After September 11, 2001, Sergeant Nathan Johnson deployed to Pakistan where he supported Operation Enduring Freedom, and again on January 17, 2003, where he crossed the border into Iraq with Regimental Combat Team 1 in combat operations to defeat the Iraqi Army, Iraqi Republican Guard, and the Saddam Fedayeen. He was honorably discharged from the Marine Corps in August of 2003. He then moved to the Bay Area and earned his BA in Communications at CSU Stanislaus and his MSW at UC Berkeley. He is pursuing his MBA at Golden Gate University.



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SPEAKER FOR JUNE

Our speaker for June will be Alberto Aranda, M.S., Faculty Counselor-Veterans/General, Diablo Valley College, USMC/OIF Veteran. He will speak on issues facing student veterans, in general; and about issues facing student veterans, challenges which the DVC Student Veteran Alliance faces, anything on the horizon for student vets, any good news or success stories.

USS TELESFORO TRINIDAD CAMPAIGN

In commemoration of the 106th Anniversary of the awarding of the Medal of Honor to Fireman Second Class Telesforo Trinidad, the USS Telesforo Trinidad Campaign is launching an initiative to name A US Navy Warship after an American national of Filipino descent who served in the US Navy. Trinidad holds the distinction of being the first and only Asian American (and first Filipino) in the U.S. Navy to receive a Medal of Honor. He received the Medal of Honor for extraordinary heroism during boiler explosions onboard the USS San Diego (ACR-6) while underway in the Gulf of California on January 21, 1915. Trinidad brought two crewmembers to safety in spite of his own physical injuries from the explosion. For further information, please visit [Facebook/USSTTC](https://www.facebook.com/USSTTC).

POST 246 BOYS & GIRLS STATE SELECTIONS IN VALLEY SENTINEL, DANVILLE TODAY, AND ALAMO TODAY

SELECTIONS

The American Legion Mt. Diablo Post 246 congratulates the 2021 Boys and Girls State delegates from the San Ramon Valley!

BOYS STATE DELEGATES (86TH SESSION)

- Chad McElroy, Jake Okwubanego, and Ethan Arnold, the Athenian School
- Armin Bozorgi, California High School
- Matthew Jao and Jonathan Ng, Dougherty Valley High School
- Aidan Nichols, Dylan Purandare, and Andrew Howard, San Ramon Valley High School

GIRLS STATE DELEGATES (78TH SESSION)

- Hollis Carey, the Athenian School
- Pujitha Nachuri, Dougherty Valley High School
- Evelyn Howard, San Ramon Valley High School
- Evelyn Ramos, California High School
- Michelle Chen, Monte Vista High School

The American Legion Boys State and Girls State programs are among the most respected and selective educational programs of government instruction for U.S. high-school students. These are immersive, participatory programs in which students become part of the operation of city, county, and state government. Both programs are committed to preserving our republic, democracy, liberty, and justice by supporting and investing in our next generation of leaders and citizens.

This year, both programs will be held virtually but will encompass most all aspects of the live, in-residence program. While many students are relaxing over summer vacation, this select group of students will spend a week in June meeting delegates from all parts of California; forming cities, counties, and a state; running for office; developing party platforms; writing and debating legislation; prosecuting cases, hearing from distinguished speakers; and engaging in other leadership development activities.



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BOY SCOUT TROOP 60 COURT OF HONOR

Vice Commander Alan Scharlach joined a fantastic with Boy Scout Troop 60 Court of Honor on. Boy Scouts are awarded merit badge recognition, scout advancement and for the studious few, their Eagle Scout award. Troop 60 out did themselves with six (6) Scouts becoming Eagles and two of them Eagles with Palm (meaning they earned at least 5 additional merit badges more than was necessary to become Eagles). In context, only 11% of all Boy Scouts are awarded Eagles. Having five (5) at one Court of Honor acknowledges the great leadership and drive of these Scouts and this Troop.

Among some of the achievements this year for the Troop were hiking, practicing Flag Etiquette at the Veterans Memorial Building, and Eagle Projects such as building road barriers. Pictures can be seen at our website under Boy Scout Troop 60 album. Sadly, after 5 years both Boy Scout Troop 60's Scout Master Jim Saunders and their Committee Chairman Praveen Kasani will be retiring from their posts and moving on. Both Jim and Praveen have been great supporters of our Post, supplying Scouts for the Crab feed, Fourth of July Parade, swearing in ceremonies just to name a few events.



POST PHOTOGRAPHER

Still no takers? Like to take pictures with an iPhone or camera? We need YOU!! We are looking for a post photographer(s) to help capture pictures and videos of our post activities. There is a need to attend many our functions. Please give me a call.

FLAG & EMBLEM STORE

Alan Scharlach is our post "Supply Officer" and is available to order items for individual post members. Go to <https://emblem.legion.org/> to do your shopping; then email Alan with the item number, quantity, color, and any other item details needed to purchase the item you want.

TOWN OF DANVILLE

The Town of Danville website contains links to notices, alerts, news flash, calendar, etc. about all things Danville: <http://www.danville.ca.gov/list.aspx>

AMERICAN LEGION BASIC TRAINING COURSE

American Legion self-paced online course; go to <https://www.legion.org/alei>.



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THE OIL PATCH WARRIORS OF WORLD WAR II.

Seventy-five years, a Band of Roughnecks went abroad on a top-secret mission into Robin Hood's stomping grounds to punch oil wells to help fuel England's war machines. The year was 1943 and England was mired in World War II. U-boats attacked supply vessels, choking off badly needed supplies to the nation. But oil was the commodity they most needed as they warred with Germany.

A book "The Secret of Sherwood Forest: Oil Production in England During World War II" written by Guy Woodward and Grace Steele Woodward was published in 1973 and tells the obscure story of the American oil men who went to England to bore wells in March 1943. England had but one oil field, in Sherwood Forest of all places. Its meager output of 300 barrels a day was literally a drop in the bucket of their needs of 150,000 barrels.

Then a plan was devised: send some Americans and their expertise to assist in developing the field. Oklahoma based Noble Drilling Company signed a one year contract to drill 100 wells for merely costs and expenses.

42 drillers and roughnecks from Texas and Oklahoma, most in their teens and early twenties volunteered for the mission to go abroad. The hands embarked for England in March 1943 aboard the HMS Queen Elizabeth. Four National 50 drilling rigs were loaded onto ships but only three of them made landfall; the Nazi U-boats sank one of the rigs in route to the UK.

The Brits' jaws dropped as the Yanks began punching the wells in a week, compared to five to eight weeks for their British counterparts. They worked 12-hour tours, 7 days a week and within a year, they had drilled 106 wells and England oil production shot up from 300 barrels a day to 300,000.

The contract fulfilled; the American oil men departed England in late March 1944. But only 41 hands were on board the return voyage. Herman Douthit, a Texan derrick-hand was killed during the operation. He was laid to rest with full military honors and remains the only civilian to be buried at The American Military Cemetery in Cambridge.

"The Oil Patch Warrior," a 7-foot bronze statue of a roughneck holding a four foot pipe wrench stands near Nottingham England to honor the American oil men's assistance and sacrifice in the war.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"It is hard to imagine a more stupid or more dangerous way of making decisions than by putting those decisions in the hands of people who pay no price for being wrong."

--

Thomas Sowell

