

El Dorado American Legion Family

El Dorado Post 119

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
FOR GOD, COUNTRY AND COMMUNITY

August 2020

Visit our Website at <http://www.legionpost119.org/>



Commander Corner

I am trusting that all of you, the heart of our post, are faring well as we continue in the midst of this ongoing pandemic. It would appear once again for the foreseeable future we will be unable to hold any social activities or gatherings at our post. You all must be well aware of the latest COVID 19 Restrictions being re-imposed across our state. Your continued self discipline to remain at home when ever possible, maintain social distancing when out in public, wear your face mask when entering stores to shop will help stop the spread of COVID 19. God bless and continued good health to all of you. Thank you for your service and stay safe.

Service Officer Corner

24 hours:

Shout out to Rich Meagher, former Service Officer of VFW 10165, who is willing to still get up close and personal with our homeless Veterans.

We traded problems. He took for me a homeless Vet whose dad had just died. Rich drive him around to help him access some money he inherited, and then the Vet bought a vehicle. We might buy Rich a thank you tank of gas.

I took over his problem, dealing with a highly decorated Air Force retiree, who has been rescued by friends after suffering elder financial abuse by his daughter. Oriented his helpers to VA healthcare enrollment and eligibility, state Veterans homes, and county Dept. of VA.

Rich also spearheaded getting another homeless Veteran a car. MFSG provided the funds. Only Kindness will use funds held for my discretionary use to pay for getting the Vet his insurance.

Referred Rich to Senior Legal at the county on another Veteran facing eviction issues.

I seem to be the new EDVR transportation coordinator, as Tim Page is trying to step back. Not doing as well as Tim, but did put together a ten strong team to help a Veteran with his regular dialysis treatments.

That same Veteran was supposed to get a new prosthetic leg, but the VA is so screwed up, presumably by COVID, that they never issued the purchase order, and the appointment has been canceled until the VA wakes up, and does what they have promised to do.

Authorizing some fire safe work on an elderly Veteran's home.

Sure there is more, but just gives you a sense that even with hunkering down, there is work to do, and work getting done.

851 served to date.

David Zelinsky
Service Officer
American Legion Post 119
530-919-8488

New State Veteran Benefits in 2019

California will extend a handgun purchasing ban for those under 21 to long guns. Military members may be excluded from this ban.

Happy Hour at the Post is Canceled until further notice

I may not be that good looking, or athletic, or funny, or talented, or smart...
I forgot where I was going with this, but I do know that I love bacon

<p>Post 119 Officers Commander, Al Stone 916/690-2835 Adjutant, Joe Rendon 530/672-1161 1st Vice - OPEN 2nd Vice -James Leadbetter 916/ 254-7529 Finance - Mike Schiacone 530-409-2710 Sgt. At Arms, Milt Bandera 530/677-4423 Chaplain, Edgar "Bud" Brown 530/677-4135 Judge Advocate — OPEN Veterans Services, David Zelinsky 530/919-8488 Membership, Joe Rendon 530/672-1161 Historian, Mike Raffety 530/626-8020 Bar Manager, Barbara Riley 530/409-7746 Building Manager, James Leadbetter 916/ 254-7529</p>	<p>Chapter 119 American Legion Riders President, Joe Rendon 530-672-1161 Vice President, Carlos Navarette 916/204-6038 Secretary, Gary Coverdale 707/339-2362 Treasurer, Jane Fergason 530/409-7487 Sgt. At Arms, Mike Ross 916/747-7637 Membership, Critter Springer-Maxey 530/622-1961 Chaplain, Robert Flowers 530/417-5802 Run Coordinator, Sam Fergason 530/409-7489 Safety Officer - OPEN Historian — OPEN</p> <p>Legion Riders meet the second Wednesday of each month at 6:00 p.m.</p>	<p>40 & 8 Chef de Gare, John Krahn 530/677-6356 Commissaire Intendant, Al Rawlin 530/903-6768 Correspondent, Bud Brown 530/677-4135 Conducteur, Bob Russell 530/676-5533 Garde de LaPorte, Leo Cooper 530/306-3969 Chef de Train, Milt Bandera 530/677-4423 Lampiste - Open</p> <p>40 & 8 meets the first Monday of each month at 5:30 p.m.</p>
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<p>Executive Committee (1) Jim Ayers 916/739-9421 (2) Bud Brown 530/677-4135 (3) Sam Bradley 530/626-3956 (4) John Krahn 530/677-6356 (5) Bob Russell 530/626-5533 (6) Lauralee Flannery 530/903-1965</p> <p><i>The task of the leader is to get their people from where they are to where they have not been."--Henry Kissinger</i></p>	<p>Unit 119 Sons of the American Legion Commander, Robert Flowers 530/417-5802 1st Vice, Bill Bryant 530/409-8414 Adjutant, Bill Bryant Treasurer, Bill Bryant Membership, Bill Bryant Sgt. At Arms, Mike Ross 916/747-7637 Historian — OPEN Chaplain, Robert Flowers 530/417-5802</p> <p>Squadron meets the second Wednesday of each month at 5:30 p.m.</p>	<p>Unit 119 American Legion Auxiliary President, Janie Bandera 530/677-4423 1st Vice, Rebecca Marty 530/677-4423 2nd Vice, Carol McLaughlin 530/642-2153 Secretary, Carol Mueller 530/622-0674 Treasurer, Judy Muetz 530/622-9133 Chaplain, Dolores Wadsworth 530/677-1255 Sgt. At Arms, Joy Krahn 530/677-6356 Marshall, Joyce Reynolds 530/350-7740</p> <p>Auxiliary meets the first Wednesday of each month at 8:00 p.m.</p>
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<p>American Legion Post 119 meets the first Wednesday of each month.</p> <p>Social Hour: 6:00 p.m. Dinner: 7:00 p.m. Meetings: 8:00 p.m</p>	<p>Website: http://www.legionpost119.org/ Email: eldoradopost119@att.net Telephone: 530/626-3956 Newsletter Editor: Dick Bergin Email: dick@mrj3s.com Tel: 530/409-8794</p>	<p>"The greatest leader is not necessarily the one who does the greatest things. He is the one that gets the people to do the greatest things." --Ronald Reagan</p>
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<p>POST LEADERSHIP REPORTS</p> <p>Commander - Report Service Officer - Report 1st Vice - No Report 2nd Vice - No Report Membership - No Report Finance - No Report Adjutant - No Report SGT at Arms - No Report Executive Committee - No Report BAR - No Report Historian - No Report American Legion Auxiliary - No Report American Legion Riders (ALR) - No Report SONS - No Report</p>	<p>Note from Editor</p> <p>If you DO NOT see your NAME in the month of your Birthday there a couple of possible reasons.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ You were not born, you just appeared one day. Not sure what to do about this one. ◇ Your profile at the legion doesn't have your birthday listed. You will need to contact the Post and have your profile updated. ◇ You are a member of the Auxiliary. Sorry they do not give me that information. ◇ You are a member of the SONS. Sorry they do not give me that information. <p><u>NO August Birthdays</u></p> <p>"We are what we pretend to be, so we must be careful about what we pretend to be." --Kurt Vonnegut</p>
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Life is about discovering who we are; leading is about striving to become better than we are, and helping everything and everyone around us to become better too. Let these words inspire you, motivate you, encourage you and empower you to be the best you can be.

11 things you need to know about the LEGION Act

The American Legion JUL 30, 2019

With President Trump's **signature on the LEGION Act**, the extension of the ongoing declared period of war was extended back to Dec. 7, 1941. The congressionally approved act is a way to honor thousands of veterans who were killed or wounded on duty during periods not previously considered a time of war.

"Finally Congress has acknowledged the service and sacrifice of at least 1,600 veterans who died or were wounded in previously undeclared periods of war," said American Legion National Judge Advocate Kevin Bartlett. "This new law honors the memories of those veterans while allowing other veterans from those previously undeclared eras to receive all the American Legion benefits they have earned through their service."

The LEGION Act - Let Everyone Get Involved in Opportunities for National Service Act — also redefines The American Legion's membership eligibility dates. The eligibility now span from Dec. 7, 1941, until a time when the U.S. is no longer at war, as determined by Congress.

Here are answers to 11 key questions about the new law and what it means for The American Legion.

Question: How does this change the eligibility requirements for The American Legion?

Answer: The only change is that Congress has reduced the number of eligibility periods from seven to two. They are April 6, 1917, to Nov. 11, 1918, and Dec. 7, 1941, and continuing. No other restrictions are changed.

Question: What's the impact on veterans who previously were not eligible for American Legion membership?

Answer: Veterans who were honorably discharged but whose service did not fall into the previous defined war eras may now join The American Legion immediately. To do so, eligible members may sign up at www.legion.org/join.

Question: I am among the veterans who were not allowed to join previously, so why do you want me now?

Answer: The American Legion's founding fathers believed, "a veteran is a veteran," an axiom that has held true throughout the organization's more than century of service. Some veterans were ineligible to join because of the war eras that were defined by Congress. The recent bill passage and president's signature changed that.

For additional Questions and Answers please see <https://www.legion.org/legislative>.

VA housing assistance

VA housing assistance can help Veterans, service members, and their surviving spouses to buy a home or refinance a loan. We also offer benefits and services to help you build, improve, or keep your current home. Find out how to apply for and manage the Veterans housing assistance benefits you've earned.

How do I get help if I'm homeless or at risk of becoming homeless?

We offer many programs and services that may help—including free health care and, in some cases, free limited dental care. We can also help you connect with resources in your community, like homeless shelters or faith-based organizations.

Find the support you need:

Call the National Call Center for Homeless Veterans at (877-424-3838) for help 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. You'll talk privately with a trained VA counselor for free.

Contact your nearest VA medical center and ask to talk with the VA social worker. If you're a female Veteran, ask for the Women Veterans Program Manager. Find the nearest VA medical center

Talk with someone right now:

If you're a Veteran in crisis or concerned about one, connect with our caring, qualified Veterans Crisis Line responders for confidential help. Many of them are Veterans themselves. This service is private, free, and available 24/7.

"A true leader has the confidence to stand alone, the courage to make tough decisions, and the compassion to listen to the needs of others. He does not set out to be a leader, but becomes one by the equality of his actions and the integrity of his intent." --Douglas MacArthur

"If you always support the correct principles, then you will never get the wrong results." ~Andrew Johnson

Free Tech Training for Veterans and Spouses

Veterans and their spouses can take advantage of free virtual training and certification in technology skills from NPower. After four months of intensive training, mentoring and a paid internship, participants will have access to job placement and more. Apply online now for classes starting on September 8.

<https://www.blogs.va.gov/VAntage/76292/free-training-veterans-spouses-npower/>

Protecting Veterans returning for in-person care

More than 100 VA health facilities across the U.S. are offering in-person care for many non-urgent needs and appointments. At the same time, COVID-19 cases continue to rise in many parts of the country.

As more Veterans return to VA sites of care, safety is our top priority. Physical distancing and face coverings are our best safety measures.

<https://www.blogs.va.gov/VAntage/76617/protecting-veterans-returning-person-care/>

Tax exemptions for Veterans

There are two categories for full property tax exemptions in California. Eligible veterans or their surviving spouse may receive a basic exemption if the assessed value does not exceed \$100,000; or a low income exemption if the assessed value does not exceed \$150,000 when the household income does not exceed \$40,000. Both categories are for full property tax exemptions.

The Disabled Veterans' Exemption reduces the property tax liability on the principal place of residence of qualified veterans who, due to a service-connected injury or disease, have been rated 100% disabled or are being compensated at the 100% rate due to unemployability. An unmarried surviving spouse of a qualified veteran may also claim the exemption. There are two levels of the Disabled Veterans' Exemption:

Basic – The basic exemption, also referred to as the \$100,000 exemption, is available to all qualifying claimants. The exemption amount is compounded annually by an inflation factor. For example, for 2018, the basic exemption amount was \$134,706.

Low-Income – The low-income exemption, also referred to as the \$150,000 exemption, is available to qualifying claimants whose annual household income does not exceed a specified income limit. The amounts for both the low-income exemption and the annual income limit are compounded annually by an inflation factor. For example, for 2018, the low-income exemption amount was \$202,060 and the annual household income limit was \$60,490.

This Disabled Veterans' Exemption is a more advantageous exemption than both the Veterans' Exemption and the Homeowners' Exemption. Thus, if a claimant qualifies, the Disabled Veterans' Exemption should be claimed on the property instead of either of those two exemptions.

https://www.boe.ca.gov/proptaxes/dv_exemption.htm

THE GIRLS ALL GET PRETTIER AT CLOSING TIME~

She was sitting at a table 300 pounds I think, it was really hard to see her, I guess I'd had too much to drink. So I staggered right on over, to get a better look. And on her table was a hoagie, I guess she must have been a cook! There was mustard on her chin, and cheese was hanging from her lips. She must have ate a lot of hoagies, from the size of those big hips. I guess it really didn't matter, it was almost closing time. I knew the clock was ticking, and I was feeling in my prime. So we shuffled on the dance floor, and I spun that girl around. Then I heard the loudest noise, I think it was a flapping sound. And right there in the middle of Billy Rays achey breakey heart. That 300 pound woman cut a ranky stanky fart. Now I'm not one to complain much, I've had my share of gas. But that woman damn neart killed me, with what flowed out of her ass. But the pickins we're getting slimmer, and it was almost closing time. I had to decide really fast, if I would make that woman mine. Well the more I laid my eyes on her, the more I had to drink. And even though she damn neart killed me, she's getting prettier I think. So we left the bar together, and so the story ends. And I sure hope this story don't get out, too any of my friends.

The Cowboy Poet Story Teller..

"Nothing can stop the man with the right mental attitude from achieving his goal; nothing on earth can help the man with the wrong mental attitude." ~Thomas Jefferson

"Doing what is right isn't the problem. It is knowing what is right." --Lyndon B Johnson

"Do what you feel in your heart to be right, for you'll be criticized anyway." --Eleanor Roosevelt

10 Veterans Benefits You May Not Know About

by Military Benefits — <https://militarybenefits.info/10-veterans-benefits-you-may-not-know-about/>

Many veterans know about the basic health care and education benefits available to them through the Department of Veterans Affairs: Tricare and the GI Bill.--- While these benefits alone are substantial, numerous other programs help provide more benefits to veterans and their families. Even within the health care and education programs are little-known benefits to improve the lives of veterans and help ease the financial burden of medical care or other expenses. Here are 10 veterans benefits you haven't heard about that all veterans should see if they qualify for.

Long-term Care

Long-term care is expensive, but often necessary to provide care for aging relatives. Through the Aid and Attendance program, many veterans are eligible to receive money to cover the cost of nursing homes, assisted living programs and other long-term care options. With the ability for couples to receive up to \$25,020 a year, the Aid & Attendance benefit will help take care of a significant portion of long-term care costs. Surviving spouses of veterans are also eligible to receive up to \$13,560 a year to cover their long-term care costs.

Caregiver Support

Should you choose to take care of an ailing Veteran at home, the Department of Veterans Affairs offers a caregiver support program. While this program does not offer any monetary support to caregivers, they are provided with a free support line and a caregiver support coordinator to help navigate military benefits and the stress of care giving.

Death Benefits

When a veteran dies, families have a few unique benefits available to them. A U.S. flag may be requested to drape over the casket and families may request a Presidential Memorial Certificate to honor the deceased loved ones service. The Department of Veterans Affairs also provides free headstones or grave markers.

Non-College Degree Programs/Certificates

In addition to receiving credits to use towards a college degree, the GI Bill is available for training certification courses or other vocational training programs such as HVAC repair, truck driving, emergency medical training, and barber/beautician school. This benefit will work well for veterans who wish to change careers or pursue a career path that does not require a college degree. Other non-college degree programs are available through the VET TEC program which offers "accelerated training in coding bootcamps" or similar information science programs, software training, etc. Lastly, there are several free it certifications available to veterans.

Transferring GI Bill® Credits

Unused credits through the GI Bill may be transferred to spouses and dependents of veterans. There are service limits required to transfer the benefits.

Free Tax Preparation

Veterans and their family have access to free tax preparation services through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance offices on military bases. The individuals who work in the offices have expertise working with the complicated nature of military-related tax issues.

Life Insurance

Many veterans have trouble obtaining traditional life insurance, particularly if they sustained an injury during their time of service. Through the Service members' and Veterans' Group Life Insurance program, veterans may receive up to \$400,000 in life insurance. This program also offers competitive premium rates.

Mortgage Help

Veterans having trouble making their mortgage payments are eligible for repayment assistance through the Department of Veterans Affairs. Options for help include special repayment plans, loan forbearance and loan modification programs. Additional benefits are available for veterans with VA loans and for homeless veterans.

VA Foreclosures

The VA maintains a list of homes serviced by VA loans that have gone into foreclosures. Veterans have the ability to search the list of VA acquired properties and purchase homes at a discount. You do not have to be a veteran to search the properties, but all properties qualify for VA financing.

American Corporate Partners

American Corporate Partners connects veterans with top companies to help them obtain a job after their time of service. Along with being connected to job opportunities, veterans have the opportunity to receive one-on-one mentoring and other career development services.

"Associate yourself with men of good quality if you esteem your own reputation; for 'tis better to be alone than in bad company." ~George Washington

Health Programs for Veterans

Beyond the doctors and nurses who provide you with high-quality health care, VHA offers tools and information to help you reach your optimal health. Tools like My HealtheVet enable you to manage your medical priorities through an online prescription refill service, personal health journal, and links to Federal and VA benefits. Use the health support services listed below to maintain your physical and mental wellness.

Blind Rehabilitation

Support for blind and low vision Veterans and their families

Caregivers/Caregiving

Support and services for those who care for Veterans

Chaplain

Attending to the spiritual health needs of Veterans

Community Living Centers

Short-stay and long-stay nursing home care for Veterans who are medically and mentally stable

Dental Care Benefits

Facts regarding dental eligibility criteria and information to assist Veterans in understanding their eligibility for VA dental care.

Disease Prevention

Advocating for health promotion, disease prevention, and health education for our nation's Veterans

Fisher House

A "home away from home" for families of patients receiving medical care at major military and VA medical centers

Geriatrics & Extended Care

Geriatric and extended care services for Veterans including non-institutional and institutional options

Homeless Services

In our efforts to end Veteran homelessness within the next five years, the VA offers a variety of resources, programs and benefits to assist Veterans who are homeless.

Mental Health

Maintaining and improving the health and well-being of Veterans through excellence in health care, social services, education, and research

MyHealtheVet

Anywhere, anytime Internet access to VA health care information and services

National Center for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder

The center of excellence for research and education on the prevention, understanding and treatment of PTSD

Patient Centered Care

Patient centered care empowers Veterans to define and achieve their own lifelong goals.

Prescriptions

Online prescription refills provided through My HealtheVet (Requires Login)

Readjustment Counseling (Vet Centers)

Offers services to eligible Veterans and their families in an effort to aid their successful transition from military to civilian life

Rural Health

Improving access and quality of care for Veterans living in rural areas

Smoking Cessation

Resources and tools to help smokers quit

Substance Abuse Programs

Treatments addressing all types of problems related to substance use, from unhealthy use of alcohol to life-threatening addictions

Veterans Crisis Line

The Veterans Crisis Line (Dial 1-800-273-8255 and Press 1) is a toll-free, confidential resource that connects Veterans in crisis and their families and friends with qualified, caring VA responders

Women Veterans Health Care

Implementing positive changes in the provision of care for all women Veterans

<https://www.va.gov/health/programs/index.asp>

"An honorable defeat is better than a dishonorable victory;" ~Millard Fillmore

August 2020

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

						1
<u>ALL EVENTS ARE TENTATIVE DUE TO COVID-10 RESTRICTIONS</u>						
2	3 Voiture 1119 40 & 8	4 Young At Heart 9:00am	5 Auxiliary Unit, Dinner, Social & Mtgs. 6PM	6	7 Happy Hour 5pm	8
9	10	11 Young At Heart 9:00am, State of Jefferson 4:45PM	12 Sons of AL meet- ing. Legion Rid- ers, 6PM	13 Quiet Birdmen Hanger 6PM	14 Happy Hour 5pm	15 Retirement Din- ner 5pm
16 El Dorado Gun Club 12pm	17	18 Young At Heart 9:00am	19 Bartenders: 5pm E-Board: 6pm	20 El Dorado Min- eral & Gem So- ciety 6pm,	21 Happy Hour 5pm	22
23	24	25 Young At Heart 9:00am	26	27	28 Happy Hour 5pm	29 Life Line Screen- ing 8:30am

VFW Legislative Priorities

The location of our Washington, D.C., office allows us to monitor all legislation affecting veterans, alert VFW membership to key legislation under consideration and to actively lobby Congress and the administration on veterans' issues. National Legislative Service establishes the VFW's legislative priorities and advocates on veterans' behalf. By testifying at congressional committee hearings and interacting with congressional members, the VFW has played an instrumental role in nearly every piece of veterans' legislation passed since the beginning of the 20th century. Everything we do on Capitol Hill is with the VFW's Priority Goals and veterans' well-being in mind. With the strength of the more than 1.6 million members of the VFW and its Auxiliary, our voice on Capitol Hill cannot be ignored!

Among the VFW's most recent and important legislative victories was expanding college education benefits for military service members with the signing of the Forever GI Bill, and ensuring America's service members and veterans receive the care they deserve - whenever and wherever they need it - by passing the VA MISSION Act.

Our 2020 Priority Goals:

Budget
Health Care
Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs
Military Quality of Life
Education, Employment and Transition Assistance
National Security, Foreign Affairs and POW/MIA
<https://www.vfw.org/advocacy/national-legislative-service>

Do you want to know what a Nervous Wreck is....
A man with a house payment, a car payment, a
wife, and a girlfriend.... AND THEY'RE ALL A
MONTH LATE !!!!

"Never waste a minute thinking about people you don't like." ~Dwight D. Eisenhower

"If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more, and become more, then you are a leader." ~John Quincy Adams

The Gift of This Nation and Our Freedom

Finally, on this holiday, let's all take a moment to recall why the United States was founded, and what our rights and obligations are to protect our ability to pursue the American Dream.

"The founding of our Nation was more than a political event. It was an act of faith, a promise to Americans and to the entire world. The Declaration of Independence declared that people can govern themselves, that they live in freedom with equal rights, and that they can respect the rights of others." ~Gerald Ford

THE AMERICAN LEGION
EL DORADO POST 119
P. O. BOX 421
PLACERVILLE, CALIFORNIA
95667

August 2020

PRSRT STD
Non-Profit
Organization
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
Placerville, CA
Permit No. 257

Return Service Requested



Welcome to
The American Legion
The World's Largest Veterans Organization

El Dorado Post 119

www.legionpost119.org

All Meetings At:

American Legion El Dorado Post 119

4561 Greenstone Rd, Placerville CA 95667

(530) 626-3956

**MEMBERS' SPOUSES ARE ALWAYS WELCOME AT
OUR DINNERS ON MEETING NIGHT.**

The office at the Post will have someone present between 9am and 11am, Monday, Wednesday and Fridays. (Closed on Monday Holidays).

Membership Dues New and Renewing Members

When you receive your renewal statement from National for American Legion Dues, please pay it through Post 119 Dues for fiscal year 2020/2021 are \$45. If you receive a second notice from National, The Membership Director has information on when your membership expires.

"Nearly all men can stand adversity, but if you want to test a man's character, give him power" ~Abraham Lincoln

"Life is never easy. There is work to be done and obligations to be met - obligations to truth, to justice, and to liberty."

~John F. Kennedy

"Unswerving loyalty to duty, constant devotion to truth, and a clear conscience will overcome every discouragement and surely lead the way to usefulness and high achievement." ~Grover Cleveland