



# El Dorado American Legion Family

## El Dorado Post 119

### MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR GOD, COUNTRY AND COMMUNITY

### December 2020

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



## Veterans Day 2020: Honoring service and support for our heroes

By [John Poimiroo](#)

Receiving special recognition will be two local veterans: 2021 El Dorado County Veteran of the Year, Sgt. Leonard Avery Cooper, USA; and the first El Dorado County Veterans Alliance Veterans Service and Support Award recipient, FTM1 Tim Page, USN.

“This is a Veterans Day ceremony that has never been done before. Not only does it honor all veterans for their service, but also those who have stood by them,” said El Dorado County Veterans Alliance President Gary Campbell, an Air Force veteran.

“Most of the veterans participating in the ceremony, whether they carry their service’s flag or speak, will be accompanied by a spouse, partner, parent, sibling, child or friend — symbolic of the support we vets receive from our families, friends and community,” Campbell explained.

Emphasizing these connections, Shanon Strickler, a veteran of the U.S. Air Force, accompanied by her fiancé, also a veteran, will present a keynote address about the importance of family support to veterans. This year’s award recipients embody service and support to veterans.



El Dorado County Veterans Alliance Veterans Service and Support Award recipient FTM1 Tim Page, U.S. Navy, left, and El Dorado County Veteran of the Year Sgt. Leonard Avery Cooper, U.S. Army, pose at the El Dorado County Veterans Monument in Placerville. Photo by John Poimiroo

’Twas the Night before Christmas,  
and at the North Pole,  
Santa's sleigh was packed tight,  
reindeer ready to go.

When out in the snow,  
there arose such a clatter,  
St. Nick sprang from the can,  
to see what was the matter.

"The Elves are on strike!"  
cried Mrs. Claus with disdain.  
"What shall we do, Santa?"  
C'mon rack your fat brain!"

Santa's face, it did sparkle,  
he shouted "Merry Christmas to all!"  
He dashed to the coat closet,  
And grabbed his 16 pound ball.

Santa was laughing so hard,  
his stomach was rolling,  
"Come on old woman,  
it's time for elf bowling..."

Yes, Virginia...There really is Elf Bowling

Download and Play Elf Bowling  
<http://www.yuksrus.com/elfbowling.exe>



“A lovely thing about Christmas is that it’s compulsory, like a thunderstorm, and we all go through it together.” – Garrison Keillor

## Cook with a big heart

Veteran of the Year Cooper dedicated his skills as a cook to helping other veterans. He first learned to cook in his family's kitchen. After being drafted into the Army in 1966, he trained as a cook and was assigned to the 339th Transportation Unit in Nha



-Trang, Vietnam. There, he prepared meals for soldiers returning from combat and survived mortar attacks. He later attended the University of Nebraska, where he studied culinary sciences. His cooking skills were honed through a career in institutional, hotel and hospital food service, including at Marshall Hospital in Placerville. Leonard Cooper prepares about 100 meals a month for veterans out of the kitchen at the Veterans Memorial Building in Placerville. Cooper is this year's El Dorado County Veteran of the Year. Photo by John Poimiroo

Following the death of his son — one of 22 veterans who takes his life each day — Cooper felt a higher calling to help veterans and to direct his skills and time that no vet should ever go hungry.

A program he coordinates out of the Veterans Memorial Building in Placerville prepares 100 home cooked, healthy and nutritious meals a month for veterans who need meals for themselves and their families. Cooper also assists the homeless/indigent feeding program at Cold Springs Community Church and assists other ministries with their food programs.

Cooper said his aim is to lift spirits, hope and health by combining love, flavor, quality and healthy ingredients for people who get to eat home-cooked food too infrequently.



A freezer at the Veterans Memorial Building is filled with ready-to-eat meals that are given to military families and vets in need. Photo by John Poimiroo



THERE ARE 17  
MORE  
SHOPPING  
DAYS UNTIL  
CHRISTMAS. SO,  
GUYS, THAT  
MEANS 16  
MORE DAYS  
TILL WE START  
SHOPPING,  
RIGHT?

CONAN O'BRIEN



## U.S.VETS hosts virtual career development winter job fair on Dec. 4

Posted on [Nov. 21, 2020](#) Author [Jennifer Delatte \(Lynn\)](#)

Join Zoom Meeting ([Flyer](#))

<https://zoom.us/j/91202341266?pwd=UHJuVVFUSVo4a3gveXZnbEFvYkxadz09>

Meeting ID: 912 0234 1266

Passcode: 008596

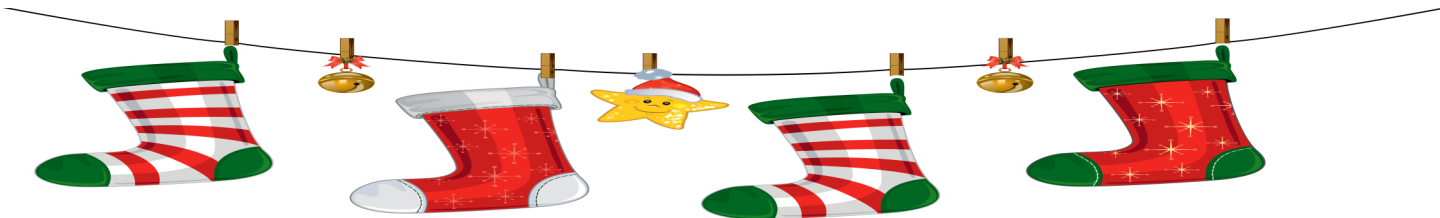
One tap mobile

+16699006833,,91202341266#,,,,,0#,,008596# US (San Jose)

+12532158782,,91202341266#,,,,,0#,,008596# US (Tacoma)

**\*Remember to schedule an appointment with your veteran talent specialist for resume reviews and mock interviews prior to the event so you feel well prepared to put your best face forward as you engage directly with recruiters\***

*Jennifer is a workforce development coordinator for U.S.VETS at Patriotic Hall in Los Angeles.*



## Dedicated driver



Receiving the El Dorado County Veterans Alliance's first Veterans Service and Support Award is Tim Page. The honor reflects the example this retired broker set during a lifetime of military, civilian and retired service, most recently for his dedication to transporting veterans for El Dorado Veterans Resources.

Tim Page, El Dorado Veteran Resources transportation manager, provides veterans with rides to doctor's appointments and other destinations. Democrat file photo by Krysten Kellum

A Navy veteran, Page served as a senior Missile

Fire Control Technician aboard the Guided Missile Cruiser USS Sterett (CG 31). He was recognized in 1982 for diffusing a wider international conflict by recommending that his ship light up the sea with star shells rather than open fire after Vietnamese patrol vessels had shot at the USS Turner Joy, and a year later for his service related to recovery efforts following the Soviet Air Force downing of Korean Airlines Flight 007.

At EDVR, he coordinated trips transporting veterans more than 23,000 miles, spending 1,000-plus hours driving and providing some 400 rides for veterans to medical offices, resource centers, court appearances and other appointments.

On one trip in 2019 the vehicle he was driving was hit by a heavy, sharply pointed surveyor's tripod that had been thrown from an overpass. The tripod smashed through the passenger side window and missed killing Page's passenger only because it landed upside down.


Page said later had the sharply pointed legs of the tripod landed first, the veteran might have lost his life. The award citation notes he, "sought immediate care for the veteran and was compassionate in his response to the mentally ill person who'd thrown the tripod, demonstrating his strength of character in the face of adversity and his deep concern for others."

Page continues to voluntarily transport veterans to medical and other appointments, all of whom he describes as "friends in need." In the award citation, Page is noted as demonstrating "time and again that he's level-headed in a crisis, takes action, gives his all, is extraordinarily compassionate and tirelessly serves El Dorado County's veterans."

"Adults can take a simple holiday for Children and screw it up. What began as a presentation of simple gifts to delight and surprise children around the Christmas tree has culminated in a woman unwrapping six shrimp forks from her dog, who drew her name."

– Erma Bombeck



<p><b>Post 119 Officers</b>  <i>Acting Commander, Sam Bradley</i>          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</p> <p>Bar Manager, Barbara Riley 530/409-7746          Building Manager, James Leadbetter 916/ 254-7529</p>	<p><b>Chapter 119 American Legion Riders</b>  <i>President, Joe Rendon 530-672-1161</i>          Vice President, Carlos Navarette 916/204-6038          Secretary, Gary Coverdale 707/339-2362          Treasurer, Jane Fergason 530/409-7487          Acting Sgt. At Arms, James Leadbetter          Membership, Critter Springer-Maxey 530/622-1961          Chaplain, Robert Flowers 530/417-5802          Run Coordinator, Sam Fergason 530/409-7489          Safety Officer - Jim Ayers          Historian — Bob Russell</p> <p><b>Legion Riders meet the second Wednesday of each month at 6:00 p.m.</b></p>
<p><b>Executive Committee</b>          (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><b>Unit 119 American Legion Auxiliary</b>  <i>President, Janie Bandera 530/677-4423</i>          1st Vice, Rebecca Marty 530/677-4423          2nd Vice, Carol McLaughlin 530/642-2153          Secretary, Carol Mueller 530/622-0674          Treasurer — OPEN          Chaplain, Dolores Wadsworth 530/677-1255          Sgt. At Arms, Joy Krahn 530/677-6356          Marshall, Joyce Reynolds 530/350-7740</p> <p><b>Auxiliary meets the first Wednesday of each month at 8:00 p.m.</b></p> <div style="border: 2px solid blue; padding: 5px;"> <p>"Nothing's as mean as giving a little child something useful for Christmas."          – Kin Hubbard</p> </div>	<p><b>Unit 119 Sons of the American Legion</b>  <i>Commander, Robert Flowers 530/417-5802</i>          1st Vice, Bill Bryant 530/409-8414          Adjutant, Bill Bryant          Treasurer, Bill Bryant          Membership, Bill Bryant          Sgt. At Arms — OPEN          Historian — OPEN          Chaplain, Robert Flowers 530/417-5802</p> <p><b>Squadron meets the second Wednesday of each month at 5:30 p.m.</b></p> <p><b>40 &amp; 8</b>          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 Banders 530/677-4423          Lampiste - Open</p> <p><b>40 &amp; 8 meets the first Monday of each month at 5:30 p.m.</b></p>
<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: <a href="http://www.legionpost119.org/">http://www.legionpost119.org/</a>          Email: <a href="mailto:eldoradopost119@att.net">eldoradopost119@att.net</a>          Telephone: 530/626-3956</p> <p>Newsletter Editor: Dick Bergin          Email: <a href="mailto:rjb@rjb1.com">rjb@rjb1.com</a>          Tel: 530/409-8794</p>

*The Dreaded Christmas Fruitcake*

Oh fruitcake, oh fruitcake,  
 Why are you heavy like a rock?  
 And why do people keep  
 sending you to me?  
 I really wish they would stop.

Your texture is like rubber,  
 And your fruit is chewy like gum.  
 I think no one would give you as a gift,  
 If they'd ever eaten some.

I've tried re-gifting you,  
 But you just keep coming back.  
 If I have to look at you one more time,  
 I think my mind will crack.

I really hate to be wasteful,  
 And I don't like to act rash,  
 But I can't take it anymore,  
 You're going into the trash!

—KELLY ROPER

*The Christmas Lights Went Out*

The Christmas lights went out—  
 The ones Dad just suspended.  
 He took all day to hang them,  
 But their gleaming's promptly ended.

I wonder how he'll take it  
 When he steps out in the snow  
 To marvel at his handiwork  
 But find he's missed the show.  
 The Christmas lights went out,  
 And all's dark on our lawn—  
 One fleeting, fizzling moment  
 And his masterpiece is gone.

I think I'll step inside now  
 To avoid how he reacts  
 When he finds one broken bulb  
 In the middle of my tracks.

—ANONYMOUS

**"A Chubby Little Snowman"**

**A chubby little snowman  
 Had a carrot nose.  
 Along came a bunny,  
 And what do you suppose?  
 That hungry little bunny  
 Looking for some lunch,  
 Grabbed that snowman's nose,  
 Nibble, nibble, crunch!  
 -Anonymous**

"What I like about Christmas is that you can make people forget the past with the present."  
 – Don Marquis

## Service Officer Corner

### State of California Collaboratives:

There are two collaborative that meet monthly via Zoom that include El Dorado County.

One covers the foothills from El Dorado county south, including Tuolumne county. It is hosted by Victory Village in Jackson. If you would like to be on their invite list, send an email to:

[lnunez@victoryvillageamador.org](mailto:lnunez@victoryvillageamador.org)

Tim Whalen of the Citrus Heights Vet Center is a regular.

The other collaborative is hosted by Volunteers of America. While it emphasizes Sacramento county, it also includes foothill counties from El Dorado north, including Nevada county. If you would like to be on their invite list send an email to:

[dlankford@voa-ncnn.org](mailto:dlankford@voa-ncnn.org)

David West, Nevada County VSO, and El Dorado county native, presented last month.

Coordination with county VSO:

I want to thank the El Dorado county VSO for a good referral recently. The fiduciary for a recently deceased Veteran did not know who his Veteran friends might be, so the VSO referred her to me.

Figured out he was a member of American Legion Post 119, and had been a Legion rider. Connected her with Bud Brown, who is both a Rider, and a Past Commander.

Yes, they were good friends. In fact, they had rode all the way to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial together.

Bud was able to arrange a service with appropriate honors for the deceased Veteran.

### **EDVR and transportation:**

EDVR is still alive. I am aware of four volunteers keeping the doors open, and numerous drivers are on board, although some are waiting until they get vaccinated (like yours truly).

Nevertheless, we continue to pull together rides, refer Veterans for services, hand out clothes and food, etc.

In October, every week, a Veteran had three rides either to dialysis, or from dialysis. His caregiver provides the other half of the rides. Per my calendar, I note three other rides to medical appointments last month.

### **Homeless Veterans:**

Tahoe Coalition for the Homeless coordinates a biweekly Zoom meeting in which we case manage homeless Veterans. Participants include both Mather and Reno VA, Volunteers of America, Only Kindness, and county staff. Due to my hiding out during COVID, I only know about half of the homeless Vets. It is a very productive meeting.

One of our homeless Veterans maybe on channel 13 this upcoming Wednesday at five p.m., if I understood his message correctly. This was facilitated by the Salvation Army.

El Dorado County Criminal Justice:

Every week, inmate services in El Dorado county jail provides me a list of self identified Veteran inmates, including upcoming release dates.

This provides leads for the Veteran Justice Outreach Specialist for both Mather and Reno. They are able to see if the Veteran is in their system, forward forms for the inmate to fill out and return, advocate for placement in Veterans Court, and perform discharge planning.

One of the fruits of this system is being able to help, and give hope to Veterans who have just about given up.

Just this week, a recent graduate from Veterans Court gave me a call.

Referred him to the county low income home emergency assistance program for help with his PG&E bill. Urged him to sign up for help with Only Kindness, which has a contract with the county to help Veterans.

Perhaps most importantly, asked him to go to the VSO and apply for state Veterans homes. The Veteran and his wife had never heard of it. I could describe in detail Yountville, Redding and Fresno. They were thrilled.

Every now and then, there is a get out of hell card.

David Zelinsky

Service Officer American Legion Post 119 530-919-8488



## Veterans Day 2020: Honoring service and support for our heroes Highlights



Carrying out the colors is 1st Sgt Veronica Salter, U.S. Army, with husband John, left, and Sgt. Bob Kinzel, U.S. Marine Corps with wife Kathy, right. Photo by John Poimiroo



Presenting the Memorial Wreath was Mitzi Stockel, widow of WWII Army combat medic John L Stockel (Purple Heart), with Cmd. Sgt. Maj McAdam. Photo by John Poimiroo



El Dorado County Supervisor Lori Parlin presents a county proclamation. Photo by John Poimiroo



Holding the the stars and stripes during the presentation of colors is Senior Master Sgt. Tim Martin, U.S. Air Force, as Command Sgt. Maj. Leonard McAdam, U.S. Army, center, and Capt. Jack Babbitt, U.S. Marine Corps, salute during Veterans Day Ceremonies held in advance at the El Dorado County Veterans Monument so they could be filmed and broadcast on the actual holiday due to COVID-19 concerns of in-person attendance. Photo by John Poimiroo

Carrying out the colors is 1st Sgt Veronica Salter, U.S. Army, with husband John, left, and Sgt. Bob Kinzel, U.S. Marine Corps with wife Kathy, right. Photo by John Poimiroo



“That’s the true spirit of Christmas; people being helped by people other than me.” – Jerry Seinfeld

## VA rolling out plan offering financial assistance to Post-9/11 veteran caregivers

The Veterans Administration is expected to roll out a program this week to help family caregivers of Post-9/11 veterans with financial assistance and other benefits.

The Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers, or PCAFC, offers financial assistance to caregivers. “As a family caregiver you play an important role in caring for the Veteran at home and in the community,” the VA said on its website. “We are here to support you.”

Check here to see if you’re eligible.

If approved, Veterans can select one (1) primary (main) caregiver and up to two (2) secondary caregivers. Secondary caregivers serve as a backup support to the primary caregiver when needed. The services you receive will depend on whether you are the primary or secondary caregiver.

If you are the primary caregiver, you may receive:

- A monthly stipend (paid directly to you as the caregiver);
- Access to health care insurance through Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs (CHAMPVA), if you do not already have health insurance;
- Mental health counseling;
- Certain beneficiary travel benefits when traveling with the Veteran to appointments. Note for specific details, speak to your Caregiver Support Coordinator;
- At least 30 days of respite care per year, for the Veteran. Respite is short term relief for someone else to care for the Veteran while you take a break.

If you are the secondary caregiver, you may receive:

- Mental health counseling;
- Certain beneficiary travel benefits when traveling with the Veteran to appointments. Note for specific details, speak to your Caregiver Support Coordinator;
- At least 30 days of respite care, per year for the Veteran. Respite is short term relief for someone else to care for the Veteran while you take a break.

### Twas the Night Before Christmas

For Bikers

Unknown

Twas the night before Christmas, and all through the pad,  
There was nada happenin', now thats pretty bad.  
The woodstove was hung up in that stocking routine,  
In hopes that the Fat Boy would soon make the scene.

With our stomachs packed with tacos and beer,  
My girl and I crashed on the couch for some cheer.  
When out in the yard there arose such a racket,  
I ran for the door and pulled on my jacket.

I saw a large bro' on a '56 Pan  
Wearin' black leathers, a cap, and boots (cool biker, man).  
He hauled up the bars on that bikeful of sacks,  
And that Pan hit the roof like it was running on tracks.

I couldn't help gawking, the old guy had class.  
But I had to go in -- I was freezing my ass.  
Down through the stovepipe he fell with a crash,  
And out of the stove he came dragging his stash.

With a smile and some glee he passed out the loot,  
A new jacket for her and some parts for my scooter.  
He patted her fanny and shook my right hand,  
Spun on his heel and up the stovepipe he ran.

From up on the roof came a great deal of thunder,  
As that massive V-twin ripped the silence asunder.  
With beard in the wind, he roared off in the night,  
Shouting, "Have a cool Yule, and to all a good rid

“I stopped believing in Santa Claus when I was six. Mother took me to see him in a department store, and he asked for my autograph.”– Shirley Temple

“For Christmas this year, try giving less. Start with less attitude. There’s more than enough of that in the world as it is – and people will usually just give it back anyway!” – Anne Bristow

## 20 groups call on VA to add more diseases to Agent Orange list



A U.S. soldier of the 9th Infantry Division uses an M79 grenade launcher to guide helicopters into an operation on the northern edge of South Vietnam's Mekong Delta in mid-July 1968. (Photo: Henri Huet / Associated Press)



Defoliation Mission: A UH-1D helicopter from the 336th Aviation Company sprays a defoliation agent on agricultural land in the Mekong delta. (Photo: Brian K. Grigsby, SPC5, National Archives)

A coalition of some 20 veterans groups and others are calling on the Department of Veterans Affairs to add four diseases to the list of those potentially caused by Agent Orange exposure during the Vietnam War.

In a Nov. 15 letter to VA Secretary Robert Wilkie, the heads of the organizations, which include National Commander Bill Oxford of The American Legion, seek the immediate addition of illnesses to the Agent Orange presumptive disease list.

“It is rare, indeed, for this many major VSOs to combine forces and jointly sign such a letter,” said Larry Van Kuran, The American Legion’s national executive committeeman representing California. “This is indicative of the seriousness of the situation in the eyes of our American Legion and the other major VSO signatories.”

VA told The American Legion on Thursday it currently has no announcements on changes to the list and is awaiting the results of two new studies being conducted by VA to help guide its decision-making on the issue. The “[Vietnam Era Health Retrospective Observational Study](#)” is comparing the health of veterans who served in the era of question to those U.S. residents in the same age group. No information was provided on the second, “Vietnam Era Mortality Study” and VA did not respond to emails requesting clarification by story deadline.

“VA remains committed to the care of Vietnam Veterans and the continued study of Agent Orange and its associated adverse health effects,” a VA spokesperson wrote in an email. “VA is committed to regular review of all emerging evidence of adverse impacts to Veterans from Agent Orange, but the department will not be announcing any new presumptive conditions until there is sufficient evidence to support an informed decision.”

Millions of gallons of the herbicide were tactically sprayed over the dense jungles of Vietnam. There are about 14 forms of cancer, diabetes, neurological diseases and others the [VA has linked](#) to Agent Orange exposure. Presumptive diseases are those that may not be directly caused by military service but can be linked secondarily and thus qualify a veteran for benefits.

Because of this connection, there are also certain birth defects in the children of Vietnam and Korea veterans associated with exposure to dangerous chemicals during those conflicts. Though Agent Orange is commonly associated with Vietnam, the toxic chemical was stored and possibly tested near the Korea demilitarized zone that separates South Korea from its Communist northern counterpart.

The addition of the four diseases to the list could represent a significant increase in the dollar amount of benefits paid to veterans with Agent Orange exposure, though no cost analysis has been revealed.

So-called “Blue Water Navy” veterans won a federal court battle in January over whether they could receive disability ratings for Agent Orange exposure while serving offshore aboard ships during the Vietnam War. The Congressional Budget Office estimated payouts of \$1.1 billion over 10 years, but the VA claimed it would be closer to \$6 billion, Stars and Stripes [reported](#).

<https://calegion.org/20-groups-call-on-va-to-add-more-diseases-to-agent-orange-list/>

“My husband’s idea of getting the Christmas spirit is to become Scrooge.” – Melanie White

“Christmas is a baby shower that went totally overboard.” – Andy Borowitz

“I haven’t taken my Christmas lights down. They look so nice on the pumpkin.” – Winston Spear



## 20 groups call on VA to add more diseases to Agent Orange list cont..

“At a March 2019 congressional hearing, Dr. Richard Stone, Executive in Charge of the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) indicated that a decision on these presumptions could be released within 90 days.” The coalition letter read. “At a Senate hearing in September, Dr. Patricia Hastings, VA Chief Consultant, Post-Deployment Health, noted that VA leadership, in accordance with Policy 0215, had been actively considering the addition of these diseases since early summer.”

Some 83,000 veterans stand to gain from the addition of the Agent Orange afflictions, which include bladder cancer, hypothyroid conditions, Parkinson’s-like symptoms and hypertension. The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine [in 2016 recommended](#) the first three illnesses be added and went further to upgrade hypertension in a [2018 report](#).

Perhaps it’s not surprising then that the Office of Management and Budget objected to proposed additions to Agent Orange list two years ago and blocked its enactment, according to an October Military Times [investigation](#).

A redacted March 2018 letter written by then-VA Secretary David Shulkin to OMB Director Mick Mulvaney and obtained through a Freedom of Information Act request revealed the bureaucratic red tape.

In one memo, Shulkin said the OMB and White House officials lacked any “detailed evidence,” “refutable rationale” or “implied limitations in the scientific support” of the regulatory proposal in the OMB’s denial of it.

“We are especially concerned by the recent release of internal documents that indicate Administration officials challenged the previous Secretary’s authority to add these four diseases and may have even impeded action,” read the Nov. 15 coalition letter. “Even more troubling is the possibility that the Administration is outweighing the cost of adding these diseases over those veterans in need of VA benefits and health care.”

The coalition letter was signed by Disabled American Veterans, Veterans of Foreign Wars, The American Legion, Vietnam Veterans of America, Military Officers Association of America, Fleet Reserve Association, Paralyzed Veterans of America, AMVETS, Military Order of the Purple Heart, Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A., Blinded Veterans Association, VetsFirst, United Spinal Association, Association of the United States Navy, U.S. Coast Guard Chief Petty Officers Association, Chief Warrant & Warrant Officers Association-USCG, Air Force Sergeants Association, TREA: The Enlisted Association, Army Aviation Association of America, AMSUS, the Society of Professional Health Professionals and Gold Star Wives of America.

## Veterans legal services webinars: fair housing protections, record clearing

Posted on Nov. 21, 2020 AuthorTara Hunter

The Los Angeles County Bar Association’s Veterans Legal Services Project will hold two webinars in December aimed at assisting veterans and their families.

For the first event, we are partnering with Mental Health Advocacy Services on a Fair Housing Protections webinar for veterans. The information during the webinar will be helpful not just for veterans who are immediately concerned about losing their housing, but also informative so that even the individuals who are not worried about losing housing are aware of their rights. ALL veterans are welcome, but registration is required.

Fair Housing Protections for Veterans (Flyer)

Virtual Webinar on Zoom

December 15, 2020

12–1 p.m.

Register here: [BIT.LY/MHAS-1215](https://bit.ly/MHAS-1215)

Our second event, is our monthly Record Clearing Clinic, which will be supported by attorneys from DLA Piper. The hours are a bit earlier, with the clinic starting at 3:00 p.m. All veterans who have tickets or convictions in a California State superior court are welcome to attend, to begin assistance with requesting leniency on tickets and expungement of criminal records on all eligible matters. Registration and completion of intake paperwork is required for this event.

Record Clearing Clinic (Flyer)

Virtual Webinar on Zoom

December 16, 2020

3–6 p.m.

To register, contact us at (213) 896-6537 or [inquiries-veterans@lacba.org](mailto:inquiries-veterans@lacba.org)

“Christmas is a time when kids tell Santa what they want and adults pay for it. Deficits are when adults tell the government what they want and their kids pay for it.” – Richard Lamm



### Adjutant Corner

To my fellow Legionnaires,

At this time here we are in another surge of COVID-19 and it has put our county into the purple tier. The post administratively has to keep moving forward in our efforts to be ready to either help our local veterans and the membership now and when we are able to open up again. We are under orders NOT to open due to the cold temperatures, which seems to help spread the COVID virus even more.

The only real news is that the Post will be holding **SPECIAL Meetings** to keep post business going. Sorry for the late notice, but on **December 2** a special membership meeting will be held to nominate and/or appoint persons to hold the **OPEN Officers Positions** such as **Commander, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander, and Judge Advocate, and voted upon January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2021 and hold office until the next regular election in April and May.** If interested please attend, if not well you are welcome, but we are limited in space of social distancing.

There is not much news to expound on since the mandate to the **COVID-19**, shelter in place, social distancing, and self-masking is a must. We are putting news out using modern technology, using emails and information through the post website

### Membership Corner

Congratulations to all who have paid to maintain your membership during this time of post closure. At this time we have had 420 renewals. This includes PUFL's, HLM's, and Annual mail in and ONL Memberships. Out of 636 assigned that means that 216 of our members are late either by 1 or 2 years as of December 31, 2020. The annual dues will be going up to \$50.00 from \$45.00 a \$5.00 increase due to National's increase of \$5.00 per post per person.

To those who have not paid and think you have, **PLEASE LOOK AT YOUR MEMBERSHIP CARD** to see the current year is 2021 not 2020.

On the brighter side we do have 24 new and transferred in members from Post 1000 who are current in their dues.

Again I want to thank you for your support to your post.

### American Legion Riders (ALR) Corner

The ALR President Ray Ruiz attended Bob Perryman's Area 1 Presidents meeting on November 18<sup>th</sup> on Zoom. There were several issues that were expounded on by other chapter presidents, but the one that stands out now is that Resolution 19 was passed by the NEC to keep our California Patch as is and National prefers the California Uniform Manual. Passing of Res. 19, canceled out Res. 32 & 35.

Also passed was that National wanted the leading chapter officer's title change from President / Vice President to Chairman or Director. As of now the titles will remain President and Vice President until the new incoming chapter officers will be titled Chairman or Director. Mark Rice and others are working on a resolution refuting the change.

The National Commander's trip to California has been canceled due to the current COVID restrictions on travel. So with that said the chapters will not have to escort the National Commander.

The Veterans Day Ride By turned out to be a success! It was well attended traveling to five retirement homes in our area. It was televised on channel 31 (Good Day Sacramento) that day. The person who spearheaded this drive by was Kathy Hatten from Visiting Angles along with her Corvette Club.

As President of ALR119 I am giving a **BIG THANK YOU** for all who participated it was a grand gesture thanking our veterans for their service and sacrifice.



<u>Name</u>	<u>Service</u>	<u>Era</u>
James Ramos Jr.	USA	Lebanon/Granada
Douglas Roscoe	USA	Korea
David Barnes	USCG	Vietnam
Frank Castaneda	USMC	Vietnam
Albert Kirkpatrick	USA	Persian Gulf
Bob Miller	USN	WWII
Paul La Mere	USA	Vietnam
Thomas Murray	USA	Persian Gulf
Richard Larson	USN	Vietnam
Irvin Dizmon	USMC	Vietnam
Samuel Kloczko	USA	Vietnam
Lenny McAdams	USA	Vietnam
Clifford Olmstead	USN	Vietnam
William Jones	USN	WWII
William Dinette Jr.	USAF	Vietnam
Thomas Dohnke	USA	Vietnam
William George	USAF	Korea
Neil Pfafman	USAF	Vietnam
Douglas Strange	USAF	Vietnam
Karen Hoffmann	USN	Panama
Daniel Stein	USAF	Vietnam
Ronald Schiller	USAF	Persian Gulf
Larry Van Der Linder	USN	Vietnam
Dick Edmonds	USCG	WWII
Gary Dobler	USAF	Lebanon/Granada
David Becker	USN	Lebanon/Granada
Gilbert Guzman	USMC	Korea
Russell Cherry	USN	Vietnam
Glen Riggs	USAF	Vietnam
Michael Donahe	USA	Vietnam

<u>Name</u>	<u>Service</u>	<u>Era</u>
Stephen Bradley	USAF	Persian Gulf
Frank Krek	USA	WWII
Michael Walacavage	USA	Vietnam
John Shetler	<u>USAF</u>	Vietnam
John Cherinka	USAF	Vietnam
George Visman	USA	Korea
Roger Reynolds	USA	Vietnam
Wayne Trumbly	USA	Vietnam
Seth Reeb	USA	Persian Gulf
Ben Newman	USAF	Vietnam
Jack Bois	USA	Persian Gulf
Joseph Weber	USAF	Vietnam
Richard Nesler	USAF	Vietnam
Richard Klinke	USMC	Vietnam
Kenneth Shane	USAF	Korea
Patrick Couch	USN	Vietnam
Neil Hart	USA	Vietnam
Stephen King	USA	Vietnam
Dick Rome	USA	Korea
James Logan	USN	Vietnam



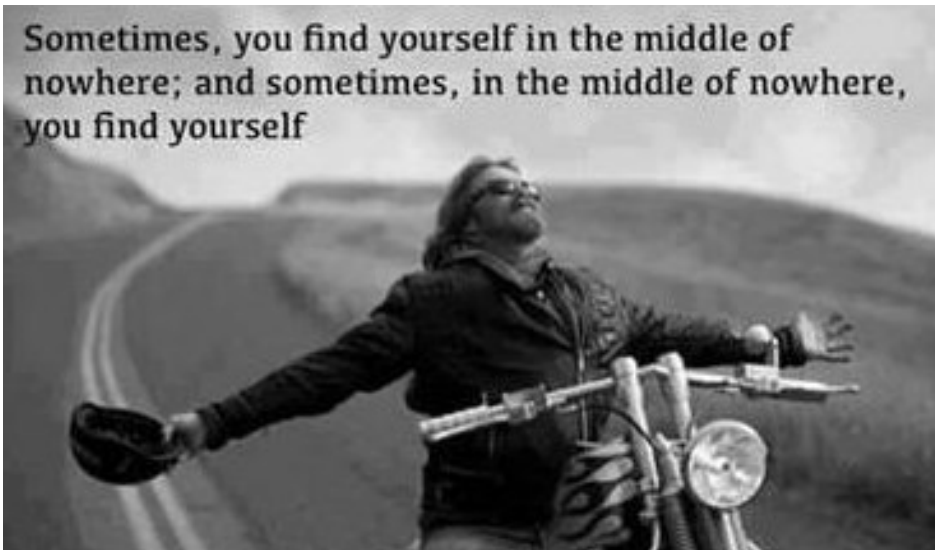
“The principal advantage of the non-parental lifestyle is that on Christmas Eve you need not be struck dumb by the three most terrifying words that the government allows to be printed on any product: ‘Some assembly required.’” – John Leo

“Do give books – religious or otherwise – for Christmas. They’re never fattening, seldom sinful, and permanently personal.”  
– Lenore Hershey

# December 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Young At Heart 9:00am Jr. Shooters 6pm	2 Post 119 Legion Family Christmas Dinner 6PM	3	4 Happy Hour 5pm	5
6	7 Voiture 1119 40 & 8 5:30pm	8 Young At Heart 9:00am	9 Sons of AL meet- ing, 5:30, Legion Riders, 6PM	10 Quiet Birdmen Hanger 6PM	11 Happy Hour 5pm	12 El Dorado Chap- ter NSDAR 9am
13	14	15 Young At Heart 9:00am Jr. Shooters 6pm	16 Bartenders: 5pm E-Board: 6pm	17 El Dorado Min- eral & Gem So- ciety 6pm	18 Happy Hour 5pm	19
20 El Dorado Gun Club 12pm	21	22 Young At Heart 9:00am Jr. Shooters 6pm	23	24	25	26
27	28	29 Young At Heart 9:00am Jr. Shooters 6pm	30	31		

**ALL EVENTS ARE TENTATIVE DUE TO COVID-10 RESTRICTIONS**



**Naughty  
OF  
Nice**



**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).

## 1923 time capsule uncovered at California American Legion post

Posted on [Nov. 21, 2020](#) Author [James JD Bennett, Sanger Post 23 commander](#)

American Legion Sanger Post 23 uncovered a buried time capsule from the 1920s.

What started as an Eagle Scout project at American Legion William Lee Netzer Post 23 in Sanger, Calif., turned into the finding of a historical treasure trove.

Christian Gonzalez, a senior at Sanger High School and a member of Scout Troop 223 (St. Anthony of Padua), contacted me to propose an Eagle Scout project. It was a beautification project that would conform to water conservation measures in California, as well as install a pedestal with a bronze plaque in front of the flag pole.

Christian, son of Post 23 member Lt. Col. Cesar Gonzalez with the 144th Fighter Squadron in Fresno, Calif., was jack-hammering concrete around the flag pole when he noticed a metal box. Thinking it might be an electrical box he stopped and began chipping away with a hammer. What he found was a shocking surprise to him and members of American Legion Post 23 – a time capsule from June 14, 1923, when the post was chartered.

Inside the time capsule was a:

- Bible with the name Eugene Bradford inside the front cover; he was listed as the post adjutant on the charter roster. The Bible marker was on John 3:16, one of the most quoted verses in the Bible: “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”
- Charter membership roster. The roster included the name of Frank Netzer, who is believed to be related to William Netzer whom the post is named after.
- Roster of what is believed to be the Auxiliary unit.
- 48-star small American flag.
- Photo of a young soldier kneeling next to a tent, believed to be possibly from World War I.
- Two newspapers, the Sanger Herald dated June 14, 1923, and The Fresno Republican dated June 16, 1923. The Sanger Herald had a front-page story featuring the dedication of American Legion Post 23.

Post 23 will be looking for a way to preserve this piece of history and possibly find family members alive today of the Bible, charter members and the soldier in the photo.

To bring this finding full circle, Post 23 decided to fill the time capsule with a bit of modern treasures. The 2020 time capsule features a:

- Bible donated by Post 23 Chris Conway that he received at basic training prior to leaving for Vietnam, where he too had underlined John 3:16.
- Current Post 23 and Auxiliary unit membership roster.
- Local Mid Valley Times newspaper.
- 2017 issue of *The American Legion Magazine*. On the cover is then American Legion National Commander Charles Schmidt with President Trump as he signed the VA Appeals Modernization Act on stage during the National Convention in Reno, Nev.
- 100th anniversary American Legion pin.
- 2020 American Legion Post 23 100 percent membership pin.
- Department of California bear logo pin.
- Few challenge coins.

And nothing in 2020 would be complete without a mask, a few sheets of toilet paper, and a bottle of hand sanitizer. We do have a sense of humor, because hey, it describes this year fairly well. All items were wrapped in plastic prior to being placed in the time capsule to help preserve their integrity. The time capsule was resealed and the concrete was poured to encapsulate it.

Post 23 would like to extend our thanks to Christian for all of his hard work and congratulate him for the historical treasure find.

“The one thing women don’t want to find in their stockings on Christmas morning is their husband.”

– Joan Rivers



## December Word Search

A P U L Q B L I T Z E N B I X S N W N Q  
 M V Y C U E B I P E Q M E F L L D I U B  
 E T P D V O C C O F V U T B D E C M E R  
 R Z A E U S A I I L M T H B O D H N G U  
 I I D N A D N C N U F J L E N O R O G D  
 C V B S G L D L S K R F E L N E I E N O  
 A N S R S E Y E E M O Z H L E L S L O L  
 N X I L E M L S T W S J E S R V T S G P  
 L P N K E I I S T L T B M D T E M V C H  
 E S R Y A I N R I S Y D Q V H S A B H F  
 G D N A H C G D A D V E N T M L S C R R  
 I R X O N O A H E C Z E G N I E C A I U  
 O E R I W C E N B E L J Y O S S O N S I  
 N S I J M F E E D E R E Q R T C O D T T  
 O S B O J Y L R R L L J Q T L R K Y M C  
 O I B L U F G A Y T E L M H E O I C A A  
 H N O L B C B M K W L S S P T O E A S K  
 B G N Y P B B J M E S M S O O G S N Y E  
 P U M P K I N P I E S H P L E E Q E P N  
 Y T N N E W Y E A R S Z B E T U Q S Y E

Christmas cookies	American Legion	Sleighbells	Snowflakes
Pumpkin pie	Poinsettia	Candy canes	Christmas
Fruitcake	Dressing	New Years	Candles
North Pole	Icicles	Reindeer	Mistletoe
Prancer	Scrooge	Advent	Frosty
Eggnog	Miracle	Donner	Elves
Blitzen	Angels	Jolly	Candy
Bethlehem	Rudolph	Ribbon	Bells
Sled	Noel		

**Navy version of 'Twas the Night Before Christmas.'**

'Twas the night before Christmas, he lived in a crowd  
 In a 40-man berthing, with shipmates so loud.  
 I had come down the exhaust stack with presents to give,  
 And to see just who in this rack did live.

I looked all about, a strange sight did I see,  
 No tinsel, No presents, not even a tree.  
 No stockings were hung, just boots close at hand,  
 On the bulkhead hung pictures of far distant land.

He had medals and badges and awards of all kind,  
 And a sober thought came into my mind.  
 For this place was different, it was so dark and dreary  
 I had found the house of a sailor, once I could see clearly.

The sailor lay sleeping, silent and alone,  
 Curled up in his rack, dreaming of home.  
 The face was so gentle, the berthing in such good order,  
 Not how I pictured a United States Sailor.

Was this the hero whom I saw on TV?  
 Defending his country so we all could be free?  
 I realized the families that I've seen this night,  
 Owed their lives to these sailors who were willing to fight.

Soon round the world, the children would play,  
 And grownups would celebrate a new Christmas  
 Day.  
 They all enjoyed freedom each month of the year  
 Because of sailors like this one sleeping right here.

I couldn't help but wonder how many lay alone,  
 On a cold Christmas Eve on a sea, far from home.  
 The very thought brought a tear to my eye,  
 I dropped to my knees and started to cry.

The sailor awakened and I heard a rough voice,  
 "Santa, don't cry, for this life is my choice."  
 The sailor rolled over and drifted to sleep,  
 I couldn't control it, I continued to weep.

I kept watch for hours so silent, so still,  
 And we both shivered from the night's cold chill.  
 I didn't want to leave on that cold, dark night  
 This guardian of honor so willing to fight.

Then the sailor rolled over and with a voice soft and  
 pure,  
 Whispered, "Carry on Santa, it's Christmas Day, all  
 is secure!"



**December Word Search**

A	P	U	L	Q	R	I	I	T	Z	E	N	B	I	X	S	N	W	N	Q
M	V	Y	C	U	E	R	I	P	E	Q	M	E	F	L	D	I	U	B	R
E	T	P	D	V	O	C	C	O	F	V	U	T	B	D	E	C	M	E	R
R	Z	A	E	U	S	A	I	I	L	M	T	H	B	O	O	H	N	G	U
I	I	D	N	A	D	N	C	N	U	F	J	L	E	N	E	O	R	O	G
C	V	B	S	G	L	D	L	S	K	R	F	E	L	N	E	I	E	N	O
A	N	S	R	S	E	Y	E	E	M	O	Z	H	L	E	L	S	L	O	L
N	X	I	L	E	M	L	S	T	W	S	J	E	S	R	V	T	S	G	P
L	P	N	K	E	L	I	S	T	L	T	B	M	D	T	E	M	V	C	H
E	S	R	Y	A	I	N	R	I	S	Y	D	O	V	H	S	A	B	H	F
G	D	N	A	H	C	G	D	A	D	V	E	N	T	M	L	S	C	R	R
I	R	X	O	N	O	A	H	E	C	Z	E	G	N	I	F	C	A	I	U
O	E	R	I	W	C	E	N	B	E	L	Y	O	S	S	O	N	S	I	
N	S	I	J	M	F	E	D	E	R	E	Q	R	T	C	O	D	T	T	
O	S	B	O	J	Y	L	R	R	L	I	Q	T	L	R	K	Y	M	C	
O	I	B	L	U	F	G	A	Y	T	E	L	M	H	E	O	I	C	A	
H	N	O	L	B	C	B	M	K	W	L	S	S	P	T	O	E	A	S	
B	G	N	Y	P	B	B	J	M	E	S	M	S	O	O	G	S	N	Y	
P	U	M	P	K	I	N	P	I	E	S	H	P	L	E	F	E	Q	E	
Y	T	N	E	W	Y	F	A	R	S	Z	B	E	T	U	Q	S	Y	E	



“  
 The worst gift is a fruitcake.  
 There is only one fruitcake  
 in the entire world, and  
 people keep sending it to  
 each other.  
 ”

JOHNNY CARSON

**Candlelit Heart**

Some where across the winter world tonight  
 You will be hearing chimes that fill the air;  
 Christmas extends its all-enfolding light  
 Across the distance...something we can share.

You will be singing, just the same as I,  
 These familiar songs we know so well,  
 And you will see these same stars in your sky  
 And wish upon that brightest one that fell.

I shall remember you and trim my tree,  
 One shining star upon the topmost bough;  
 I will hang wreaths of faith that all may see  
 Tonight I glimpse beyond the hear and now.

And all the time that we must be apart  
 I keep a candle in my heart.

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**Christmas  
 Is a Holiday for Friends**  
 By: Nicholas Gordon

C hristmas is a holiday for friends,  
 H owever they may be, or not, related.  
 R emember that the three wise kings were strangers  
 I n search of one remote, uncanny dream.  
 S o may we all be far more than we seem,  
 T ogether bound for dark and haunting changes,  
 M ore lovely for the loves we have created  
 A long the lonely paths from means to ends,  
 S tumbling towards that star of Bethlehem.

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