

AMERICAN LEGION

The Flash

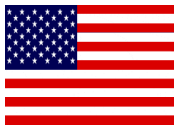
Serving the 19th District Community, State and Nation Since 1926

NOVEMBER 2024



Volume 99
No. 11

Member The American Legion Media Alliance



11th Day, 11th Hour



**National
Commander
James A.
LaCoursiere Jr**

Call addresses American Legion concerns over delays in detection and treatment of deployment-related respiratory diseases.

American Legion National Commander James LaCoursiere sent a letter to U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary Denis McDonough on Oct. 21 to address The American Legion's concerns on delays in detecting and treating for a variety of respiratory diseases under the PACT Act. Here is LaCoursiere's letter:

I write today regarding the ongoing implementation of The Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act of 2022. While there has been progress in the processing of PACT Act-related claims, we are concerned about the delays in triaging the influx of PACT veterans coming to the Department of Veterans' Affairs (VA) for treatment. As the law celebrates its second anniversary, it is our hope that VA will immediately expand pilots or adopt non-invasive lung imaging technologies to screen for service-connected respiratory diseases.
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19th District

**Next E-Board meeting
Wednesday November 6th
Norwalk Post 359
11986 Front Street
Norwalk, CA**

**General District Meeting
Wednesday November 13th
Norwalk Post 359
11986 Front Street
Norwalk, CA**

Meetings start at 7:00 PM

2024
NLDS



History of Veterans Day

World War I – known at the time as “The Great War” – officially ended when the Treaty of Versailles was signed on June 28, 1919, in the Palace of Versailles outside the town of Versailles, France. However, fighting ceased seven months earlier when an armistice, or temporary cessation of hostilities, between the Allied nations and Germany went into effect on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month. For that reason, November 11, 1918, is generally regarded as the end of “the war to end all wars.”

Veterans Day continues to be observed on November 11, regardless of what day of the week on which it falls. The restoration of the observance of Veterans Day to November 11 not only preserves the historical significance of the date, but helps focus attention on the important purpose of Veterans Day: A celebration to honor America's veterans for their patriotism, love of country, and willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good.

Fernando Gallardo—Commander



Comrades,

I attended the California American Legion College, 2-24 in Corona California this past weekend with District 19, 1st Vice Commander Karl Wilvert of Gilbert Lindsay Post 352, and Angelo Maldonado from Norwalk Post 359. I am going to be sharing my C.A.L.C spreadsheets with District 19, Posts Commanders so we can be up to date with American Legion, Policies, procedures, and rules.

I attended the Department of California Virtual Chaplin's Zoom meeting on Monday October 14, 2024, held by Dept. of Cal. Chaplin Kathy Cash. Cash is looking for any members that would like to learn the duties of the Chaplin or and Chaplin in the District to attend and learn and voice what on their mind regarding Chaplin duties. If interested I have inputted the email so you can register; <http://www.eventbrite.com>. The next Chaplin's Virtual Zoom meeting is scheduled for November 18, 2024, and is to start at 6:30pm.

We are 10 days away from Veterans Day. I would like to ask all Post to contact there 2023-2024 members that have not renewed their membership for 2024-025 see if they would like to renew their membership and inform, them that if they do their membership I.D number will be put in a PUFL drawing with the winner getting their membership for life. Winning membership I.D number will be picked at the Visalia Convention, 2026.

There are 3 Post that have not submitted their Consolidated Post Reports, and there are 2 Post that have not paid their Delegate fees, and 2, Post that hasn't submitted their Post Officers Certification. These Post are now on administration probation. So, Commanders check to see that all these reports and Fees have been submitted and paid. The financial Audit Certification is now due before November 15, 2024.

I would like for all District 19 Post to email District 19 1st Vice/Flash editor with events you have schedule at least one month age so that event and Flyer and Photos so they can be inputted on Flash Newsletter so the members can be informed the events in District 19. I need for all Vice Commanders, Chaplin, Executive board members, committee members to have a report for the meetings.

Are next District 19 E-Board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday November 6, 2024, at Norwalk Post 359 and General meeting is scheduled for Wednesday November 13, 2024, and also being held at Norwalk Post 359. I would like for more participation from all Posts. At the General meeting there are going to be serving Meatballs, baked potatoes, salad roll and desert for a donation of 8.

Fernando Gallardo
District 19, Commander
Rivera Post 411
213-925-8927



The 19th District was well represented for graduation.

Nick Rosa, Jim Higuera, Fernando Gallardo, Karl Wilvert, Angelo Maldonado



Department Commander Nick Rosa presents Fernand with his diploma on the final day.

Historian—Fred Schacklett



Comrades,

Since the last report, the following events have been recorded and archived for the good of the legion.

On 10/9/2024 – I attended, recorded and photographed the District 19 General meeting on board the Battleship Iowa in San Pedro, CA with D19 Commander Fernando Gallardo presiding.

On 10/5/2024 – I attended , recorded and photographed the 4th Area Causcus held at Ben Bowie Post 228, Los Angeles, with Vice Commander Ray Gard presiding.

On 10/14/2024 – I attended, recorded and photographed Montebello Post 272's participation in the Montebello Heritage Festival Day parade. Members of the post, along with the post Color Guard, the Dept Commander Nick Rosa, Department Sgt-At-Arms Kiki Ramierez, and Area 4 Vice Commander Ray Gard were in attendance.

Link to parade photos; <https://flic.kr/s/aHBqjBN1ff>

Respectfully,
Fred Shacklett, Historian

2nd Vice Commander—David DeMoss



Comrades,

Per previous reports, the casino trip is in the planning stages, the bullet thermos's are being priced between three different sources.

The raffle prize has been ordered and should be delivered in the next week or so. See Page 13 for info.

The thermos bottles should be available soon as well

Hope your Halloween is safe for you and your kids. Also, Happy Thanksgiving from myself and my family.

3rd Vice Commander—Open

WANTED:

Legion member willing to help veterans obtain the help they need!!

National Commander James A. LaCoursiere Jr (Continued from Page 1)

Continued:

Our concern lies in the delay in detecting and treating for a variety of deployment-related respiratory diseases (DRRDs), the term used for veterans suffering from respiratory issues due to exposure to burn pits and other service-connected respiratory diseases. The lack of existing evaluation protocols for DRRD-related symptoms significantly limits the VA's ability to treat these veterans. The VA has acknowledged the difficulties in identifying cases of the particularly concerning DRRD, "Constrictive Bronchiolitis" (CB), and creating an appropriate diagnostic code. CB, also known as Obliterative Bronchiolitis, is one of the original 23 conditions covered by the PACT Act. CB remains difficult to diagnose without painful lung biopsies. Without advanced imaging these biopsies can target the wrong areas, present false negatives, delay diagnosis and treatment, and negatively impact veterans' health outcomes. The proposed advanced imaging technology has an estimated cost of \$300 while requiring 30 minutes of the veteran's time, and provides patients and clinicians with actionable data when deciding if a biopsy is appropriate, without requiring additional instruments at the VA. The VA has had over a year to pilot the program, starting the pilot in Columbus Ohio's Truman Memorial VHA facility in 2023.

This technology has already been vetted by the American Thoracic Society as the "new standard" for lung function evaluation in 2022 and has been praised by Veteran Health Administration (VHA) respiratory scientists as the next step in diagnosing DRRD. As the invisible wounds of war are becoming more apparent in veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan, quick and actionable respiratory diagnostic tools at VHA facilities are imperative.

In July 2024, we hosted a panel discussion celebrating the success of the PACT Act and evaluating what additional steps can be taken to ensure veterans receive the care to which they are entitled. During this panel Danielle Robinson, widow of Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson, shared that her husband searched for answers to his respiratory issues for over nine months before his stage 4 lung cancer diagnosis. She noted that in a postmortem autopsy, Heath's lungs were reported as "obliterated," and that because his lung cancer diagnosis was so delayed, he was given only four to six weeks to live.

The panel was also asked about using FDA-approved functional lung imaging technologies to speed up the diagnosing process for veterans suffering from respiratory diseases. The panel member from the VA PACT Act Office informed the audience that the VA is still evaluating imaging technology and has been for several years, and it would be implemented following further research. But any further delays only extend the time our veterans suffering now must wait for answers and care. For veterans and their families, this delay is unacceptable.

The American Legion urges the VA to do three things:

1. Expand the pilot programs utilizing four-dimensional functional lung imaging and regional airflow quantification technologies to screen for respiratory diseases related to burn pit exposure or transition these programs out of the experimental phase by implementing them system-wide across the VHA.
2. Provide guidance to clinicians for the use of functional lung imaging programs in clinical protocols including the Deployment-Related Respiratory Disease Toolkit for Providers and other appropriate sources.
3. Implement accelerated authorization for these technologies to safely operate within VA facilities to ensure that veterans receive timely care.

Incredible progress has been made treating veterans with DRRD in the last two years, but there is still much more work to be done. Our veterans have waited long enough. The time for the VA to do something is now. In the words of Mrs. Danielle Robinson, "If this imaging would have been there for Heath to do, who knows, he could have been here today."

Thank you for your prompt attention to this issue.

Sincerely,
James A. LaCoursiere
National Commander



The American Legion
Department of California
1601 7th Street, Sanger, CA 93657

AUTHORIZATION FOR DIRECT DEPOSIT (ACH Credit)

I/we hereby authorize _____, ("Company") to electronically credit my/our account (and if necessary, to electronically debit my/our account to correct erroneous credits) at the financial institution named below. I/we agree that ACH transactions I/we authorize comply with all applicable law.

Bank Name: _____

Routing Number: _____ Account Number: _____

Type of Account:

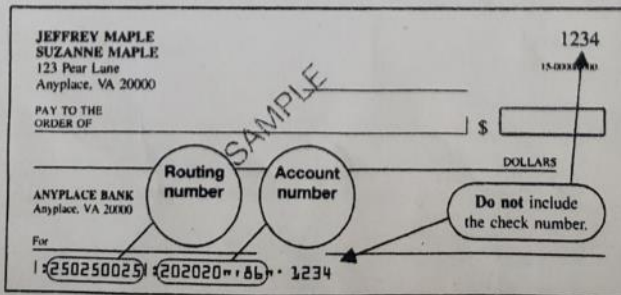
- Business Checking Business Savings Personal Checking Personal Savings
- Loan General Ledger

Name(s) on Account: _____

I/we understand that this authorization will remain in full force and effect until I/we notify Company in writing or by phone at the location address on file at least 30 days prior to the proposed effective date of the termination of authorization.

Signature _____ Date _____

Please attach a VOIDED CHECK to this authorization if a checking account will be credited.





DEPARTMENT OF
CALIFORNIA



EARLY BIRD PROGRAM

Renew membership by
Monday, November 11, 2024
to be eligible.

Win a **PUA** membership!

For more information call the
membership director
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GOOD LUCK!



City of Carson

Parks
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Life
Better!

HONORING ALL WHO SERVED
**VETERANS DAY
CELEBRATION**

**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2024
10:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.**

SAVE THE DATE



**Patriotic Music
Veterans Museum Display
FREE FOR ALL AGES**

Veterans Park

22400 Moneta Avenue, Carson, CA 90745
(310) 830-9997

PARAMOUNT AMERICAN LEGION

POST# 134

S.A.L. SQUADRON 134



VETERANS DAY

OPEN HOUSE & BBQ

MEET LOCAL VETERANS, FAMILIES, AND FRIENDS

ENJOY FULL BAR & GOOD FOOD

NOVEMBER 11, 2024

7550 SOMERSET BLVD, PARAMOUNT, CA 90723



proceeds
to benefit
auxiliary
national
security

DJ 7PM
open to the
public

★Pastrami Sandwich 6pm★ Drinks★ FUN

NOVEMBER 1st

American Legion Post 411
7642 Serapis Avenue, Pico Rivera

BATTLESHIP BOOGIE

Sat Nov 16 2024 starting at 12 PM at the Battleship USS Iowa Museum

Benefitting the American Legion Riders Chapter 61.

Don't miss out on the chance to party on a battleship with fellow riders!

Get ready for a day filled with live music, comedy, and of course, some badass Harley Davidson motorcycles on a WW2 battleship. Party starts at 12 pm with ship tours, drinks and more. Comedy/bands start at 2 pm. Get there early and grab a good seat- 1st come, 1st sit.
NO 1% clubs, PLEASE. It's the USS IOWA's policy and we deeply respect them.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/harley-davidson-presents-1st-annual-battleship-boogie-tickets-1047069161047?aff=oddtcreator>

HARLEY-DAVIDSON
 PRESENTS
**1ST ANNUAL
 BATTLESHIP
 BOOGIE**

**BATTLESHIP IOWA
 CHAPTER 61
 THE 61s
 THE AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS**

BENEFITTING

USS IOWA. NOV 16. 12-9 PM

New District 19 Pin and Sticker
By Fred Shacklett

After too many years of not having a pin, our Department Historian, Fred Shacklett, has designed a new Noisy 19 collectable lapel/hat pin and a sticker. Yes, he is also a graphic designer.



The pin is approximately 1 ¼ inch wide. Made of polished brass, with dark blue background color. The pin has a double rubber clutch on the back and won't stain your cover or suit lapel.

The sticker is 3.00 inches wide, with yellow and blue colors on an adhesive back.

If you would like to have one of these collectables, come to a Post 51 meeting or a District 19 meeting

You can get both pin and sticker for \$5.00.

SAVE PAPER.
SAVE POSTAGE.
SAVE TIME.



www.legion.org/renew

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MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

 AMERICAN
LEGION

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You can also scan the code above with your phone

Renewing your membership is as easy as pulling out your phone. Scan this QR code and you'll be taken to the national website to renew, where you'll be asked for your member number and last name. If you're reading this on your phone screen, [click here to renew](#).

Noisy 19th VA&R Raffle

For 2024/5 the 19 District is raffling off a unique poker chip set. The chips are illustrated in this flyer.

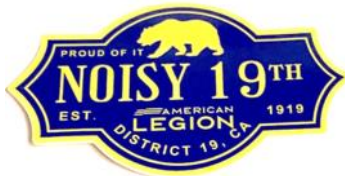
Help our district assist veterans and their families with direction and guidance in acquiring benefits they have earned.

You donation of \$5 will get you 1 ticket in this raffle.

Get 5 tickets with a \$20 donation.

The set contains the following:

- 300-Piece Poker Set
- Aluminum Carrying Case
- Casino Chips

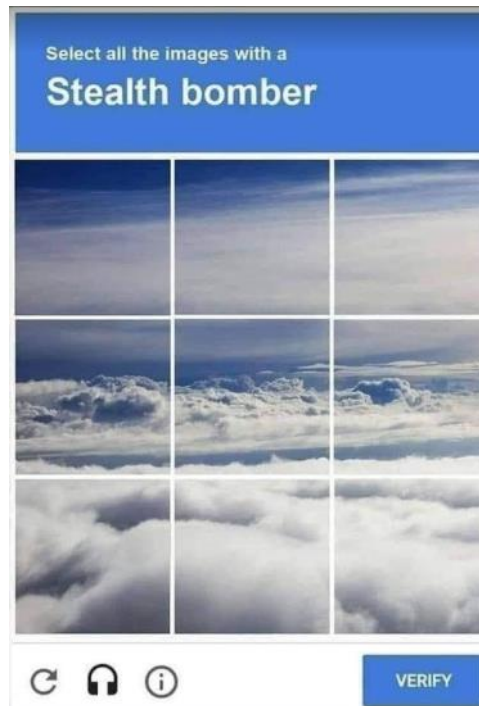
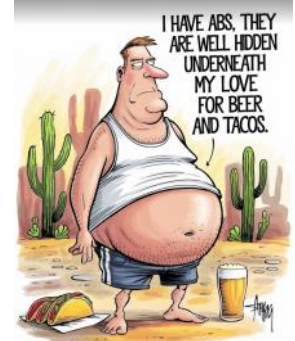


Some Fun for all



CNN: Navy SEALs were drinking in Iraq

Veterans and the rest of the Military:



63 Earths can fit inside Uranus.



AN OVERNIGHT PROGRAM FOR YOUTH GROUPS ONBOARD THE BATTLESHIP OF PRESIDENTS

Battleship IOWA and the Pacific Battleship Center to host our popular Camp Battleship Youth Overnight program. A program steered towards youth groups of all kinds, from schools, churches, the Boy Scouts, and the Girl Scouts, Camp Battleship will be an incredible overnight adventure aboard the grandest battleship along the Pacific. Sleep in the original berthing areas of IOWA's sailors and live a moment in time that recalls those who served and fought for our country. Are you ready? Enlist in the experience of a lifetime!

THE EXPERIENCE INCLUDES:

- Sleeping in a berth in the enlisted crew quarters •
- Follow in the footsteps of life at sea led by a knowledgeable crew member •
- Participation in a full schedule of activities promoting learning about Battleship IOWA •
- A personalized dogtag and patch commemorating their stay aboard IOWA •
- Enjoy dinner and breakfast in the Enlisted Mess Decks •

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Education and Transition

What you need to know about transitioning out of the military



By Dave Lubach

Merlyn Cruz-Feliciano's decision to leave the Army was made for her, and she wasn't prepared for it.

Born in Mexico and raised in California, Cruz-Feliciano served in the Army as a logistician supply sergeant from 2002 to 2016. But much like in civilian life, when an organization decides it has too many resources, it lets people go. The Army no longer needed her services, so her transition out of the military happened sooner than expected.

"For 14 years, this was all I knew, right? And I was very into the military life, very structured, very by the book, according to regulations, so (separating) was very daunting for me," she said. "I didn't even know where to start. It was very panic driven."

Eight years later and things are looking up for Cruz-Feliciano. She just turned 40, settled down as a homeowner with her daughter and family in California, and she's working toward her masters degree in mental health therapy. She also volunteers with the nonprofit organization [Veterans Transitions Support](#) to help veterans with many aspects of separating from the military.

If the decision to separate was hers, Cruz-Feliciano would have started the process at least a year before leaving to lay out her plan.

"The military really does not prepare you to get out," she said. "Their sole purpose is to prepare you to be in the military, which is understandable. But we're going to be in the civilian life a whole lot longer than we are in the military."

There are organizations that can help. For example, the [USO](#) serves as a resource for active and veteran military members and their families through all the stages of the process.

"We have such unique access to the service members because we have on-base access and we can get to them earlier in their career and get them focused on whether (the military) is going to be a lifelong career," said Lisa Elswick, USO's vice president of transition programs. "At some point everyone is going to separate. How can we actually start preparing for that situation?"

Organizations like the USO will sit down with the military members to help them sort out what their vision of civilian life looks like.

"You might want to get in the military for 20 years, but when you get out, do you want to do something completely different?" Elswick said. "Do you have the education that will help you in that career? Do you have the time, or the resources if you're going to go back to school?"

Elswick said younger veterans who leave the military at an early age after enlisting after high school often have the toughest time dealing with the transition to civilian life.

"We work very closely with them, because they are at the highest risk when they separate," she said. "They are usually the most at-risk for unemployment, and end up sleeping on somebody's couch for three years and then they come ask for help."

When the time came for her separation, Cruz-Feliciano focused on making sure her financial situation was stable, as expenses such as housing allowances are suddenly gone, not to mention the salary from the military.

"In the outside world, you have that transition period where you might not be getting any money," she said. "I definitely was looking at my finances, and being able to save enough money to keep me afloat."

Elswick said the best two steps separating veterans can take when returning to civilian life are to, "find a mentor and find a non-profit connection because all of those resources are going to be for free," she said. "They're free for all veterans, and they will connect you for what your needs are, because everyone's needs are all very, very unique."


**THE AMERICAN
LEGION**
*"Still and Forever
Serving America"*

19th District Flash Editor

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Carson, CA 90745

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E-mail: karl.wilvert@yahoo.com

THE FLASH

DEADLINE

25TH OF MONTH

COMMENTS/SUGGESTIONS

WELCOMED

Check us out on
 19th District Face book
 On the Web page
 Noisy 19th.com

Congratulations to Angelo Moldanado from the Norwalk Post 359 for Graduating the American Legion College 2-2024.



Department Commander Nick Rosa (19th District, Post 804) presents Angelo with his diploma on the final day.

END ZONE BRIEFS

Meanwhile, behind the Battleship Iowa



Please, get out and vote!

