

**AMERICAN LEGION**

# The Flash

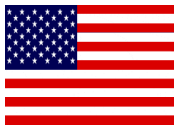
*Serving the 19th District Community, State and Nation Since 1926*

DECEMBER 2024



Volume 99  
No. 12

Member The American Legion Media Alliance



**National  
Commander  
James A.  
LaCoursiere Jr**

Click image to view video



## The American Legion Family stands united in Be the One mission

American Legion National Commander James LaCoursiere, American Legion National Auxiliary President Trish Ward, and Sons of The American Legion National Commander Joseph Navarrete stand together to lead The American Legion Family in the Be the One mission to end veteran suicide.

19th District  
Next E-Board meeting  
Wednesday December 4th  
Lakewood Post 496  
5938 Parkcrest St.  
Long Beach, CA

General District Meeting  
Wednesday June 12th  
Whittier Post 51  
Palm Park—Palm Room  
5703 Palm Ave,  
Whittier, CA  
Meetings start at 7:00 PM

Between gassing up F-35 aircraft a quick drink (no cookies) for santa



### Operation Christmas Drop 2024: U.S. Air Force, Allies and Partners Integrating to Deliver Donated Supplies

JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM, Hawaii --  
The U.S. Air Force, Allies and partner nations are making final preparations for Operation Christmas Drop 2024. This annual humanitarian activity brings essential supplies to remote communities in the Pacific starting Dec. 4 at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam. Operation Christmas Drop displays the shared capabilities of Indo-Pacific Air Forces and is a testament to the U.S. Air Force's enduring support of humanitarian assistance.

The airdropped bundles of food, supplies, and other hard to source items are expected to reach nearly 60 remote islands across the Pacific, including locations in the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of Palau, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

The success of this humanitarian activity is made possible through the collaborative efforts of multiple organizations, including the Japan Air Self-Defense Force, Philippine Air Force, Royal Australian Air Force, Royal Canadian Air Force, Republic of Korea Air Force, and the U.S. Air Force.

The multinational operation, led by the 374th Airlift Wing from Yokota Air Base, Japan, improves interoperability and communication for future real-world humanitarian assistance and disaster relief requirements. The tradition underscores the commitment to regional security and humanitarian cooperation in the Indo-Pacific.

Alongside Airmen from the 36th Wing at Andersen AFB and the 515th Air Mobility Operations Wing at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, they plan and execute low-cost, low-altitude airdrops for these missions.

For more information, to include the airdrop flyover schedule, visit <http://www.andersen.af.mil/ocd/> or direct any questions to the OCD24 Combined Joint Information Bureau at [374aw.pa.mediaoperations@us.af.mil](mailto:374aw.pa.mediaoperations@us.af.mil).

## Fernando Gallardo—Commander



Comrades,

I have emailed all District 19 Commanders and Adjutants a course I took at the California American Legion College I attended in October. I will continue to email you a course every Friday so you can teach our fellow members that would like to learn.

I would like for the District 19 Post that have yet not submitted the following Department of California administrative Compliance reports. Consolidated Post Reports need to be submitted by the following, (Post 27, Post 184, Post 833), and Certification Post Delegates need to be submitted by the following Post, (Post 27, Post 833) and Delegate Fees have not been paid by the following Post, (Post 27, Post 184,) and Post Officer Certification have not been submitted by the following Post, (Post 27, Post 184, Post 496 and Post 804. Department of California has put all the District 19 Post on probation until the reports your Post have not submitted get submitted. Let's get these reports submitted as so as possible.

I need for all Post to continue to conduct buddy checks with the members on their Rosters, let's not just call them to ask them to pay their membership. Let us ask them how the member and his family are doing. Christmas is just around the corner so let's wish them a Happy Holidays and invite them to your Post for holiday dinner if your Post is having.

If you have any Membership recruiting booth or revitalization on your scheduled, can you email me the information so if I don't have anything schedule on that date, I will attend the membership drive or revitalization. I would like to inform you that there working on having a Revitalization on either January 11 or 18, 2024 at Montebello Post 272. Once the date and location has been approved, I will email with all the information. I ask that we have District 19, participation.

I need all Post to continue to work Helmet for Heroes. Let's try to achieve \$2000. dollars.

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



## Historian—Fred Schacklett



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

On November 6, attending the Aerospace Commission Zoom meeting with Kevin Burns, chairperson. Commission is working to build the team membership.

On November 11, 2024, attended the Veteran's Day events in Jackson, California, with Department Commander Nick Rosa. This was at the invitation of District 10 Commander, Ken Sutton and Amador Post 108, Mike Green.

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

Continue to follow and record American Legion Facebook postings from around the District and the Department of California. Saved 28 postings this past month. For inclusion in the history book.

Wishing everyone a safe and happy holiday season.

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 is currently being offered. See Page 9 for info.

Happy Holidays to all

## 3rd Vice Commander—Open

**WANTED:**

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

**VA****U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs****News Release**Office of Public Affairs  
Media RelationsWashington, DC 20420  
(202) 461-7600  
[www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Nov. 15, 2024

**VA and DOD announce updates to improve Veteran and caregiver access to installations**

WASHINGTON — Today, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and Department of Defense (DOD) announced an improved installation access process for Veterans and eligible caregivers for medical appointments, shopping, and certain morale, welfare, and recreation (MWR) services. Veteran and caregiver eligibility will now be electronically verified during the installation access process.

Eligible veterans who do not have a VA-issued Veteran Health Identification Card (VHIC), as well as eligible caregivers, can enroll for installation access at the visitor center using their REAL ID Act-compliant driver's license or non-driver's identification card. Starting Nov. 1, 2024, Veterans without a VHIC, as well as eligible caregivers, no longer need to present a VA-issued caregiver patronage letter, VA-issued service-connected disability letter, or VA Health Eligibility Center Form H623A to enroll for installation access.

These updates reflect VA, DOD, and the Biden-Harris Administration's ongoing commitment to expand and improve care and benefits for those who served.

"DOD installations provide numerous benefits and critical services to our nation's Veterans, including health care," said VA Deputy Secretary Tanya Bradsher. "We are grateful for our partnership with DOD and the ability to implement these updates to make military installation access easier for Veterans and their caregivers."

"Our veterans and their caregivers deserve a smooth experience in accessing installations," said Ashish S. Vazirani, who is performing the duties of Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness. "We are glad to work with the Department of Veterans Affairs on this initiative and look forward to continuing to welcome eligible veterans and VA caregivers to military exchanges and commissaries, and at eligible facilities like golf courses, movie theaters and clubs."

To enroll for reoccurring installation access, eligible Veterans and caregivers must establish identity, fitness, and purpose on their first visit to each DOD installation they wish to access at the visitor's center. As part of enrollment, they must:

1. Present an acceptable credential (VHIC or REAL ID) to establish identity;

## Page 5 continued

2. Undergo an on-the-spot criminal record and terrorism check to establish fitness; and
3. Have their eligibility for on-installation benefits verified electronically to establish purpose. If purpose is for health care, and the DOD installation doesn't have a commissary, exchange, or authorized MWR service, then proof of appointment will need to be provided.

Following enrollment, the Veteran or eligible caregivers can access the installation by presenting the same VHIC or REAL ID they enrolled with to gain access at the installation gate. Enrollment is typically valid for one to three years, or one year after the last visit to the given installation. If a patron's VHIC or REAL ID expires, they will need to reenroll with their new VHIC or REAL ID. Termination of a patron's eligibility will automatically result in the termination of installation access enrollment.

Veterans who do not have a VHIC and eligible caregivers will still need to provide a hard copy letter (a VA-issued caregiver patronage letter, VA-issued service-connected disability letter, or a VA Health Eligibility Center Form H623A) to show eligibility to the commissary, exchange, or authorized MWR services, as these facilities cannot electronically verify eligibility. Currently — for purposes of MWR, commissary, and exchange shopping — eligible caregivers are those who are approved and designated as a primary family caregiver of an eligible Veteran under VA's Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers.

Recently, VA and DOD's continued partnership has increased health care access for Veterans in Alabama, the Gulf Coast and Tampa regions of Florida, Kentucky, New York's Hudson Valley, Tennessee, and Virginia.

Learn more about commissary and exchange privileges for Veterans here. Veterans with additional questions are encouraged to contact their local installation for further assistance or visit [www.militaryonesource.mil](http://www.militaryonesource.mil).

## Post 184 Rock N' Ribfest

Announcing Post 184 Sons of The American Legion Winter ROCK N' RIBFEST on **Saturday, December 14th, 2024**, from 12 PM until all of those delicious ribs are gone. Delicious Baby Back Ribs and a bunch of sides, including Beans, Coleslaw, Cornbread, and dessert! The price is \$20 per plate, which includes three ribs and all those sides. Highly recommend you get here early as we have sold out early each time in the past.

The ROCK N'RIBFEST will include live music by the HOLLOWBODY'S from 12:30 PM to 4:30 PM. A super great day at Post 184; this event is open to the Public and raises funds for the SALs and their work here all year long.

SONS OF THE  
AMERICAN  
LEGION

# ROCK N' RIBFEST



SONS OF THE  
AMERICAN  
LEGION

# POST 184

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.

**Camo 'Elf on the Shelf' can carry out covert Christmas ops**

By Sarah Sicard



As the late, great Bing Crosby once crooned, "It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas."

'Tis the season for frenzied shoppers, excess egg nog, and dreaded visits to the in-laws who only serve fruit cake for dessert. It's also the time of year when parents break out their Santa Claus-themed spyware: The "Elf on the Shelf."

If you're military, you know there's nothing stealthy about a rosy-cheeked elf dressed all in red, no matter how creative you get with your hiding places.

And in case the elf on the shelf concept wasn't creepy enough already, there appears to be a little rifle attachment as well as a bow and arrow. There's nothing quite like the threat of Christmas-related corporal punishment to keep impressionable children on the straight and narrow — or in a constant state of fear.

The only thing that would augment the elf's capabilities further is a voice component that shouts at kids to keep hands out of pockets and feet off the grass.



## 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:

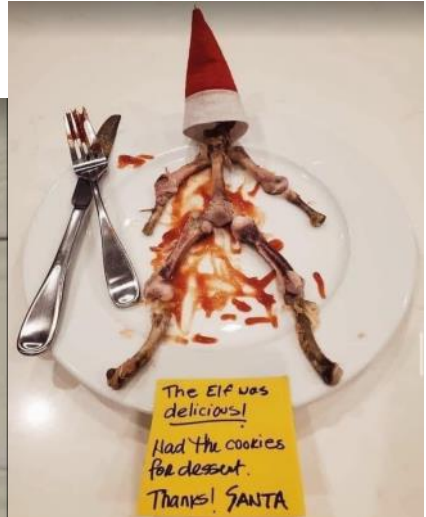
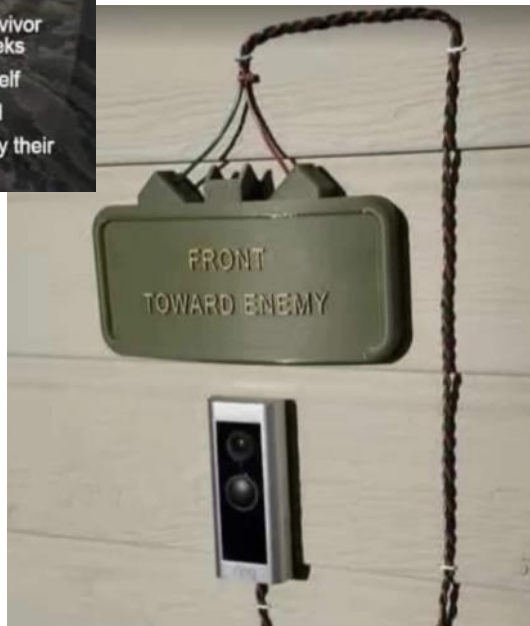
- 300-Piece Poker Set
- Aluminum Carrying Case
- Casino Chips



Some Fun for all

### YOU KNOW YOU'RE A VETERAN IF...

1. You can't fathom how people don't understand "military time"
2. You have a strong distrust for anybody named "Jody"
3. You can't watch most military dramas because they're so corny and wrong
4. You walk fast and your first step is always with your left foot
5. You still use the basic training "knife hand" to get your point across
6. People are always impressed by how ridiculously fast you eat
7. You laugh when you see people on Survivor cry after not seeing their family in 2 weeks
8. You clean your equipment before yourself
9. You don't carry things in your right hand
10. You still refer to everyone around you by their last name



LOOSE PARTS

### PIRATE MEDICAL SCHOOL

... after rebuilding the phalanges, we then realign the carpal bones. Then painstakingly connect the nerves of the wrist and then ... who am I kidding ... hand me a hook.

Blazek

Get this cartoon signed & framed & get signed copies of LP books at LoosePartsComic.com  
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Disgusting scene in at AT&T Stadium in Dallas as security forced a Cowboys fan to stay and watch the game all the way to the end



# 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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Per Person  
Per Night



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## Education and Transition



By Julie Trias

### Learning how to speak up in the civilian world

I struggled in the transition to civilian life from the first day I left my last duty station.

After military service, I used the GI Bill to get a degree in Computer Science and Electrical Engineering. I struggled to make friends outside of my study groups at the university – burying myself in my studies so that I could graduate sooner. I knew I was older than my peers, so I had to move fast. I had a new mission – to be a software engineer. Because according to the Soldier’s Creed: I will always put the mission first. I never went to parties. I studied even on the weekends. I overloaded my credits every semester.

And then it happened. I got an internship. And then another role, and then another. Until I found myself a home at Airbnb. My purpose was to strengthen and secure Airbnb’s platform. I spent half of my civilian career there, almost 5 years. It’s where I met one of my closest friends, Lizzy Nammour, the co-founder of our technology start-up company.

It has not been an easy journey. I had been trained in the military to either give orders or take orders. No questions asked. I didn’t know I had a voice. Until my manager at Airbnb, Chris Ballard, said to me: “One of your peers gave you a performance review comment that said you should speak up because you have great ideas.” Chris also encouraged me to speak publicly about the things I was building at Airbnb. That is when I broke the barrier between my military life and my new world — 6 years after leaving my last duty station. That’s a long time. I finally felt like I belonged. I developed camaraderie among my peers and mentors and to this day, we are very, very close and I consider them my family.

We had training in the military to help with transition into the civilian world. It was hosted at the military base where I was last stationed, and representatives in military contracting companies came in to give us advice on how to prepare our resume. I thought that was not enough to ensure our success. The civilian world is a very different place and I see now how veterans struggle to succeed, let alone survive in it.

In my days at Airbnb, I became part of the Veterans group. By 2020, we were 11 strong out of over 9,000 employees. All of my peers had jumped straight into a civilian job. I had taken a different path – going from the military, then to college, and from there into civilian work.

As a group, we often hosted large groups of military service members who are transitioning into the civilian world. Most of the transitioning service members we hosted at Airbnb had been in service for at least 20 years. Less than 1% were interested in becoming a software engineer; even fewer were interested in going back to school to get a degree. I remember that when I joined the Army, my recruiter had promised me that whatever MOS I chose would be completely translatable in the civilian sector. They weren’t really, because our military jobs were specialized for warzones.

While part of the Veterans group at Airbnb, we took transitioning service members on a tour of our offices and hosted a panel where they could ask us about our experiences and get advice about how we transitioned into the civilian world ourselves. I found this to be the most helpful way to assist my fellow service members. Looking back, I wish I had the opportunity to do those same tours in tech companies and ask the same questions they had asked me.

I felt fortunate to be with my 10 peers — among the very few who transitioned from military life to the business world.

Now, I’m on a new mission built on my experience at Airbnb in a startup venture where we’re creating software that automates the drudgery of protecting data privacy and security. I’ve still got a lot to learn and I’m asking lots of questions, but my military training has served me well in the discipline it takes to set goals and stay focused on the mission.

There is life after the military, if you choose. It won’t always be easy, but you’ve got a huge network of other veterans who are your comrades and will always be there to help. Just be sure to help them, too, when it’s time.

*Army veteran Julie Trias is a cofounder and chief technology officer of [Teleskope](#).*

  
**THE AMERICAN  
LEGION**

*“Still and Forever*

*Serving America”*

19th District Flash Editor

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**THE FLASH**

**DEADLINE**

**25TH OF MONTH**

**COMMENTS/SUGGESTIONS**

**WELCOMED**

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

**Veterans Day2024 - Carson CA**

**Gilbert Lindsay Post 352 described the POW/MIA table details to the attending citizens and veterans.**



**END ZONE BRIEFS**

