

AMERICAN LEGION

# The Flash

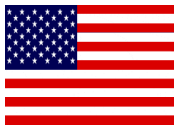
Serving the 19th District Community, State and Nation Since 1926

JANUARY 2025



Volume 100  
No. 1

Member The American Legion Media Alliance



## The New Year is upon us



National  
Commander

**James A.  
LaCoursiere Jr**

James A. LaCoursiere Jr. was elected National Commander of The American Legion on Aug. 29, 2024, in New Orleans, during the 105<sup>th</sup> National Convention.

An Air Force veteran, LaCoursiere has been a longtime field representative for the American Legion Department of Connecticut's Soldiers, Sailors and Marines Fund, which financially assists veterans and their families in need.

LaCoursiere has held many leadership positions at The American Legion post, department (state) and national levels. He is a member of American Legion Post 91 in Moosup, Conn. He has also served as a national vice commander, Connecticut state commander, and chairman of the national Legislative Commission.

As national commander, LaCoursiere is strongly committed to raising awareness for The American Legion's Be the One mission to prevent veteran suicide.

19th District  
Next E-Board meeting  
Wednesday February 5th  
Whittier Post 51  
Palm Park—Palm Room  
5703 Palm Ave,  
Whittier, CA

General District Meeting  
Wednesday January 8th  
Lakewood Post 496  
5938 Parkcrest Street,  
Long Beach, CA

Meetings start at 7:00 PM



## Fernando Gallardo—Commander



Good morning Comrades,

I would like wish a Belated Merry Christmas and Happy New Years day to you and your families.

So December 31, 2024 has passed. All of the Members that didn't renew their membership are now no longer in good standing at thier post. Let's contact them and see if they would like to renew thier membership.

American legion Area 4 and Area 6 will be having a Revitalization on January 11, 2024 at Montebello Post 272 from 9am to 1pm. I would like to see who is available to assist with the Revitalization.

Fleet week May 23-26 2025, is a go. I am going to need District 19 members to volunteer and assist with Fleetweek. I am going to have a Spreadsheet on our next District 19 meeting in Lakewood Post 496 so I can have you sign up to help out on one of those days.

The Department of California Chaplin Zoom meeting is scheduled for Tuesday January 21, 2025 from 6pm until 8pm. Here goes the User I.D 992 9594 7456 and password is 150568. So can you please pass this information to your Chaplins.

I would like to thank, Area 4 Vice Commander Ray Gard, District 19 1st Vice Commander Karl Wilbert, Lakewood Post 496, Commander Jim Stewart, and Battleship Iowa Post 51 Adjutant Carlos Portillo Jr. for helping me out, Christmas morning and visited the Disabled Veterans in the Spinal ward and gave them a Merry Christmas card that were done by elementary students from Long Beach, and Whittier and Middle school students from South Bay.

I attended Leland A Cupp Post 341 , Montebello Post 272 and Norwalk Post 359, Christmas toy giveaway.

Thank you.

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



## Just Sayin

**NEED REPORTS ABOUT YOUR POST ACTIVITIES!!!!**

### 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.

VA&R Breakfast will be Jan 19th at Norwalk Post 359. See Page 5

The raffle is currently being offered. See Page 7 for info

### 3rd Vice Commander—Available

**WANTED:**

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

## Historian—Fred Schacklett



December 26, 2024

Since the last report, the following events have been recorded and archived for the good of the Legion. Please see Page 14 for Aerospace Commission Newsletter.

December 7, 2024, Attended the LACC Tamale Festival at Abraham Lincoln Post 241, Buena Park, CA. Although smaller than past events it was a good turnout, with tasteful tamales.



L/R: Jennifer McMullen, Cmdr Nick Rosa (Standing), Mel McMullen

Link to full photos set <https://flic.kr/s/aHBqjBUgxi>

December 8, 2024 Attended a banquet in honor of the 82<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary of the Flying Tigers of the American Volunteer Group, a unit of the Air Transport Command (ATC), during WWII, to provide Chinese military with fuel, arms and essential supplies. They flew from Dinjan, India to Kunming, China over Himalayan Mountains (called “The Hump”).\



Grand Ballroom at the Sheraton San Gabriel, California

Honored guests at the banquet were Mr. Mel McCullen, age 99, and his wife, Jennifer, age 100. Mr. McCullen was an original member of the Flying Tigers, serving as a machine gunner attached to the AVG. He completed 95 missions into China and back.



L/R: Jennifer McMullen, Cmdr Nick Rosa (Standing), Mel McMullen

## Historian—Fred Shacklett (Continued)

Attending on behalf of the American Legion were Nick Rosa, Department Commander, L. Ray Gard, Area 4 Commander, Richard Ramirez, Department Sgt-At-Arms, Fred Shacklett, Department Historian, J. R. Duarte, Department Membership Director, Scott Sinclair, Department Asst. Parliamentarian, and Manuel Vital, past LACC Commander.



L/R: American Legion contingent, Scott Sinclair, J. R. Duarte, L. R. Gard, Richard Ramirez, Manuel Vital and Fernando Gallardo

Photos of the Flying Tigers event are archived at this link <https://flic.kr/s/aHBqjBUAR5>

December 14, 2024 I participated in the 2024 Uptown Whittier Christmas Parade with members of Whittier Post 51. This parade had over 100 entries and was larger than past parades. The parade route is approximately 1.2 miles long along Greenleaf Avenue in Whittier.

Bryon Hobbis, the post Finance Officer, was the stand-in for post Commander, Gil Palmer, who was unable to attend.



The Whittier Post 51 banner was carried by the local scouts.

## Historian—Fred Shacklett (Continued)



Members of Whittier Post 51 at the 2024 Whittier Christmas Parade.

L/R: Jean Carrillo, Byron Hobbs, Mike Panteleon, Frank Ventura, Norm Chavez, Diana Palmer, Dennis Knight, Scott Frees, Nick Rangel, and Louie Adame



View down Greenleaf Ave during the 2024 Christmas Parade.

Link to photos from Whittier Christmas Parade: <https://flic.kr/s/aHBqjBV6p6>

My plans are to 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

***“NOISY 19TH”***  
**DISTRICT BREAKFAST**  
**SUNDAY, JANUARY 19<sup>TH</sup>**  
**10:00 AM**



**DONATION: \$12.00**

**SAUSAGE**

**EGGS/OMELETTES**

**PANCAKES**

**ORANGE JUICE**

**COFFEE**

**50/50**

**PROCEEDS WILL BE DONATED TO VA&R**  
**(VETERANS AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION)**

**DISTRICT 19 COMMANDER FERNANDO GALLARDO**

**HOSTED BY NORWALK POST 359 – 11986 FRONT STREET, NORWALK CA**

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## Breaking down the number of veterans in the 119th Congress By Leo Shane III



When lawmakers convene the 119th Congress on Friday, the group will boast 100 military veterans among their members, the largest such caucus in eight years.

Sixteen new veterans will join 84 incumbent members of Congress with military experience, but that total will drop by two within days of the start of the new legislative term. That's because two veteran members are headed to the executive branch in the next few weeks.

Ohio Republican Sen. JD Vance is set to leave his Senate seat to be sworn in as vice president on Jan. 20, and Florida Republican Rep. Mike Waltz has been tapped to be President-elect Donald Trump's national security adviser.

Still, even a one-person jump in the number of veterans in Congress is significant, because an increase in members with military backgrounds has only happened four times in the last 50 years.

Because of their backgrounds, veterans serving in the House and Senate are often seen as critical to discussions of military operations and veterans benefits. But the number of veterans in Congress has declined almost steadily since the mid-1970s, as the military shifted from an end strength of largely drafted individuals to an all-volunteer force.

In 1973, only one in every four members of Congress had never served in the military. In 2025, about one in every six members will be veterans.

Here's a look at the incoming class, by the numbers:

- Nine women veterans will serve in Congress in 2025, the largest total in history.
- The group includes 28 Democrats and 72 Republicans.
- Congress will have 46 Army veterans, 25 Navy veterans, 16 Air Force veterans and 13 Marine Corps veterans.
- About one-third (31) began their military careers after January 2000. Twenty-one started before 1980.
- Twenty veterans will serve in the Senate, and 80 will serve in the House.
- Texas has the largest caucus of members with military experience (11), followed by Florida (9) and California (7).

## 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



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.

## IN MEMORY OF PAST DEPARTMENT COMMANDER AUTREY B. JAMES

With a saddened heart I inform the Department of California that our 105th Department of California Commander, Autrey James, transferred over to Post Everlasting on Saturday, November 9th. Commander James was an inspiration to us all in many ways and many encounters. Please keep his family in your prayers as they prepare for Commander James' celebration of life.

Sam Flores Department Adjutant

Autrey B. James died November 9, 2024 at the age of 62. He was a Persian Gulf War Coast Guard Veteran and a member of Post 161 with 20 continuous years of membership.

Condolences may be sent to his wife, Mari James, at 5004 Morgan Way, Antioch, CA 94531-8412.



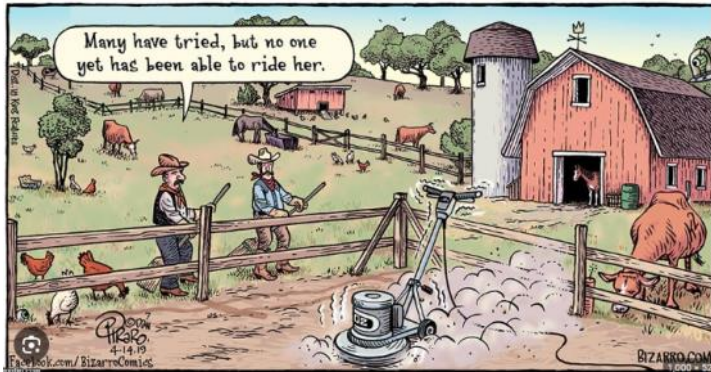
*Views of Christmas*



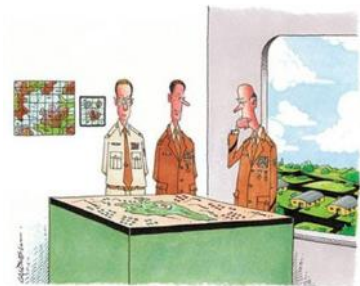
# Some Fun for all



Scottish Airborne



JUST TO BE CLEAR



"It's your call, General. Are we the little blue guys or the little red ones?"



"I found your earring."



"Dear Diary, Incredible news! Unfortunately, it's all classified."

# The Aerospace Roundup



**Department of California**

**Newsletter of the Aerospace Commission**

Volume 3 Issue 3

## Aerospace Commission Still Seeks Advisors

The Aerospace Commission is still disparately seeking District Advisors to be appointed by District Commanders. With each Area forming a team led by the Commissioner, even those Districts that have their appointee as the Commissioner need to find another so that the Area Commissioner has the support needed to represent the District and fulfill the duties of leading the team.

There is much to do as the nation faces shortages of trained personnel in the aerospace workforce. In addition to passing resolutions, every bit can help in the nation's preparation for the next generation of aerospace workers; from assisting with aerospace education in our local schools, to supporting programs like the Legion drone racing program in Palm Springs, assisting with merit badges in scouting programs, and working with the CAP.

Throughout this issue, you will find more details of the needs and goals of the Commission, as well as pertinent aerospace news. You can always find the newsletters, articles, meeting minutes, slides from the Commission meetings, and listing of events on the Commission website.

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*Commission Website:*

<https://calegion.org/aeronautics>

***Districts needing Advisors to be appointed to the Aerospace Commission: Pretty much every District in the Dept.***



# The Aerospace Roundup

## 5th Birthday of the Space Force

Ask any Marine, and they will tell you that the Marine Corps birthday is on 10 November 1775. When I was with the 3rd MEF in Iraq for a year, no one was allowed to have any alcohol; except every Marine was allowed one bottle of beer for the Marine Corps birthday, and one beer for Superbowl Sunday. That helps you remember the birthday, if you like beer. For those in aviation, 22 May 1912 is considered the birthday of U.S. Marine Corps Aviation.

Army soldiers like to remember that the Army was founded on 14 June 1775, almost 5 months before the Marines. The Army Center of Military History claims that Army Aviation was founded on 12 April 1983. But Benjamin Foulois was an Army lieutenant who flew the Army's first, Signal Corps aircraft over San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston on 2 March 1910.

Perhaps the reason that Army historians give Army aviation such a recent birthday is because much of the Army Air Corps history traveled to the Air Force when it was established on 18 September 1947 by President Harry S. Truman, who signed the National Security Act.

It can be argued that the oldest of the branches of service is the Navy; the Continental Congress established the Continental Navy on 13 October 1775, and that is the date that is celebrated each year as established in 1972 by Chief of Naval Operations Admiral Elmo R. Zumwalt. However, the first naval battle of the American Revolution took place in Machias, Maine on June 11–12, 1775, when the British schooner HMS *Margaretta* was captured by the townspeople. That would make the Navy three-days older than the Army.

According to the Naval History and Heritage Command, on 8 May 1911 Capt. Washington Irving Chambers made history with a purchase request for the Navy's first aircraft, marking the birth of naval aviation. However, Lieutenant Theodore G. Ellyson was ordered to training in December 1910 at the Curtiss aviation camp in San Diego; and first airplane to take off from a U.S. Navy ship was the Curtiss Pusher biplane piloted by Eugene Ely, which took off from the USS *Birmingham* in Hampton Roads, Virginia on 14 November 1910. Nonetheless, everyone agrees that 1911 and North Island Naval Air Station in San Diego marked the birthplace of Naval Aviation.

Between the Marine Corps and the Air Force there was the Coast Guard, which was established on 4 August 1790 by Secretary of the Treasury Alexander Hamilton. The first designated Coast Guard aircraft were obtained when the initial Coast Guard Air Station was established at Morehead City, North Carolina in 1920.

The Air Force was considered the youngest branch of the service, until the Space Force was formed on 20 December 2019. The need for a separate, space-oriented branch of service was driven by the quickly evolving space domain, and a growing threat posed by near-peer competitors in space. December 2024 marks the fifth anniversary of the Space Force, and in addressing The American Legion National Convention last August in New Orleans, Chief of Space Operations Gen. Chance Saltzman, shared his insights into the military recruiting crisis and what can be done to turn it around.

(Continued on page 4)



# The Aerospace Roundup

## Hearing on Unidentified Anomalous Phenomena (UAP)

Known to most of us as UFOs, until December 2022, the Pentagon referred to UAPs as “unidentified aerial phenomena,” and before 2021, UAPs were called “unidentified flying objects.”

Regardless of what they are called, on 13 November 2024 Subcommittees of the House Oversight and Accountability Committee held a joint hearing on alleged government research of unidentified anomalous phenomena (UAPs). Independent journalist Michael Shellenberger testified on an allegedly secret government program, “Immaculate Constellation,” and he submitted a report by an anonymous whistleblower alleging that the Defense Department and intelligence community withheld evidence to the public about UAPs. Other witnesses included former Defense Department and NASA officials.

A bill, led by California Democratic Rep. Robert Garcia, would require the FAA to establish reporting requirements for UAPs.



Photo courtesy of CSPAN

## Paper Presented on California Company

The annual SciTech conference is an international event sponsored by the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA). The conference is to be held 6-10 January 2025 at the Hyatt Regency in Orlando, Florida and is expected to have over 3,000 engineers and scientists attending.

California Legionnaire Kevin Burns will be presenting a paper at the conference on the history of Tri Models Incorporated (TMI), a business based in Huntington Beach, CA that specializes in making high technology, precision models for wind tunnel and hypersonic shock tunnel testing. The paper will be published in the Proceedings. Burns has published over 30 papers in the proceedings of the AIAA and has been elected as an Associate Fellow of the institute.



The paper examines the important role and history that Tri Models Incorporated has played in the development of aviation and space programs. Tri Models has an enviable history of supporting the aerospace community since the 1970s. As technology has evolved from the early Mercury rockets to the space shuttle, or from the DC-9 to the new 787, they have been there.





# The Aerospace Roundup

## Space Force Birthday (From page 2)

In asking for the American Legion to help, he also asked Legionnaires keep telling stories of their service so that we can inspire the next generation. "That means people are going to follow in your footsteps. So, step wisely. Step proudly," he said. He went on to say that, "Collectively, the state of play has become serious enough, the threats bad enough and our dependency on space strong enough, that it became a national imperative to ensure our place as the world's preeminent space power remained."



Chief of Space Operations Gen. Chance Saltzman at the Legion Convention.

## American Legion Policy a Century Ago

The American Legion demanded that in time of war, the government draft materials as well as men. The 1924 platforms of the Democratic and Republican parties echoed those sentiments.

The Democratic platform announced: "In the event of war in which the manpower of the Nation is drafted, all other resources should likewise be drafted. This will tend to discourage war by depriving it of its profits."

The plank in the Republican platform was even more explicit: "We believe that in time of war, the Nation should draft for its defense not only its citizens but also every resource which may contribute to success. The country demands that should the United States ever again be called upon to defend itself by arms, the President be empowered to draft such material resources and such services as may be required, and to stabilize the prices of services and essential commodities, whether utilized in actual warfare or private activity."

Protests from the legionnaires (several of whom were congressmen) and various anti-war groups pressured Congress in June 1930 to establish the War Policies Commission composed of four members of President Hoover's cabinet, four senators, and four representatives. The WPC was to consider the following: (1) amending the Constitution to allow Congress to seize private property for public use during war, (2) methods of equalizing the burdens and removing the profits of war, (3) other policies the nation should adopt during wartime, and (4) the "war profiteering" charges of the war.



Merchants of Death by Mabel Dwight.



# The Aerospace Roundup

## Moffett Field Museum Tour in February

Learn about the 1935-1942 era of Moffett Field, when it was home to the US Army Air Corps' Cadet Training Command and 20th Pursuit Group. This event sponsored by the Moffett Field Historical Society and supported by Mission City Post 564 of the American Legion, is an event you won't want to miss.

The tour will take place at 10:00am on Saturday, 22 February 2025, and you are asked to register as they are only accepting a limit of 50 people.



If you wish to register a group, please let them know the number of guests and your contact information (Name, Phone, Email). Further information and registration can be done with the Area 2 Aerospace Commissioner ([Johnstamps1@gmail.com](mailto:Johnstamps1@gmail.com)).

Moffett Field Historical Society Research Library is located inside the Museum, and contains over 4,000 aviation- and military-related books (from technical to fiction), plus newspapers, archival materials, and more.

Admission to the museum is \$10 for adults, \$5 for children over 4, \$8 for Seniors and disabled persons, and free for active duty military personnel.



Donations are always welcome



## Museums

### Spotlight On

The San Diego Air and Space Museum is California's official air and space museum and education center located in the center of San Diego at Balboa Park.



The museum is divided into many galleries with exhibits emphasizing the contributions San Diego has made to aviation. Sections include the Theodore Gildred Rotunda, Special Exhibit area, World War I Gallery, Golden Age of Flight Gallery, World War II Gallery, and Modern Jet & Space Age Gallery, and the Edwin D. McKeller Pavilion of Flight.

Like the American Legion, the San Diego Air & Space Museum's extensive Library & Archives collections may be searched online using AeroCat, the Museum's online catalog. Books, journal titles, oral histories, films and videos, albums and scrapbooks, and other materials are now accessible via the internet at URL:

<https://sandiegoairandspace.org/research/research-overview>.

Location: 2001 Pan American Plaza, San Diego, California

Hours: 10:00am. to 4:30pm everyday

American Legion Contact: Kevin Burns, Area 5 Aerospace Commissioner



# The Aerospace Roundup

## Civil Air Patrol (CAP)

The first two chairs of the Aeronautics Commission, Reed Landis and Gill Wilson, teamed up to organize the Civil Air Patrol in 1941. Landis was the aviation consultant to the Director of the Office of Civil Defense, and Wilson was the Executive Director of the new CAP organization. Working together they took the association that only existed on paper, and made it into a national working organization to continue the process that has endured to today.

On Aug. 28, 2015, Gen. Mark A. Welsh III, Air Force chief of staff, announced CAP officially as a member of the U.S. Air Force's Total Force, joining the regular, guard and reserve forces as American airmen.

In 2023, the CAP Cadet Programs were recognized with the American Legion National Education Award.

Posts throughout California are urged to support the CAP programs, and to make contact with your local CAP Squadron.



Brig. Gen. Regena Aye accepted the award for the CAP at the Legion's National Convention in Charlotte

## Critical Shortages in Aerospace Workforce

We are facing another time of critical shortages in the aerospace profession. Not only in pilots, both civilian and military, but also in all areas of the aerospace civilian and military workforce. Former Marine pilot – Brig. Gen. Lightfoot gave Legionnaires glimpses into a changing force structure, a redesign that emphasizes joint operations, and the need to meet the needs of a changing geopolitical landscape, recruitment, talent management, training, and education of personnel are high priorities in today's Marine Corps.



Currently, the US Air Force is trying to field next-generation aircraft in sufficient quantities. The problem is that the service consistently struggles to retain enough aviators to fly those aircraft. In fact, the Total Air Force (Active, Guard, and Reserve) was short 1,650 pilots in 2021, and the shortfall will likely only get worse. It's a crisis that must be addressed head-on by training more pilots.

The aerospace industry stated that it faced a shortfall of 8,000 pilots in 2022. That gap will grow to more than 29,000 by the end of the decade. The same is true of all the other areas of the aerospace workforce; engineers, technicians, assembly people, welders, etc.



# The Aerospace Roundup

## US Mint Issues USAF Coin

The United States Armed Forces Silver Medals honor the six branches of the U.S. Armed Forces. The medals are struck under 31 U.S.C. § 5111(a)(2), which gives the Secretary of the Treasury the authority to strike national medals. The program began in 2021.

The obverse design depicts a fighter jet pilot, flying alongside F-22 fighter jets with a stylized landscape below. The inscription is 'U.S. AIR FORCE.' The reverse design features a dynamic perspective of the three spires of the Air Force Memorial, with one of the spires piercing the border of the medal into the beyond. Surrounding the memorial are members of the U.S. Air Force Honor Guard in ceremonial assembly.



These 1 troy oz. Silver Medals, produced by the US Mint, while not technically a silver dollar they are comprised of 99.9% Silver. Selling for considerably more on the open market, they can still be purchased directly from the US Mint for \$90 each on their website at <https://www.usmint.gov/us-air-force-one-ounce-silver-medal-SAF1.html>.

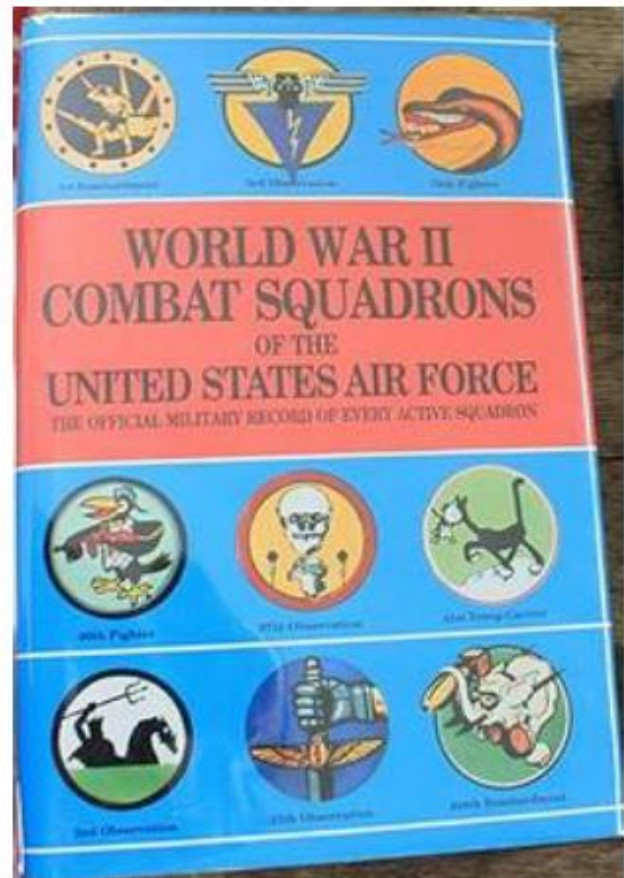
## USAF Books Available for Free

The Air Force Historical Support Division makes books published by the USAF History Office available both in print, and online.

Soar through this extensive collection of publications published by the US Air Force.

Books in print may be requested by Retired Military by using the form at URL: <https://media.defense.gov/2013/Dec/05/2001329859/-1/-1/1/Order%20form%20July%202020.pdf>.

Books that are "Out of Print" can be downloaded online by anyone at URL: <https://www.afhistory.af.mil/Books/Titles.aspx>.





# The Aerospace Roundup

Newsletter of the American Legion Aerospace Commission

**Next Aerospace Commission Meeting**  
**Thursday, 30 January 2025, 6:30pm**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://aiaa.zoom.us/j/85706913324?pwd=DvD62CJ2ag44vL8HAgZzeaelDeN6P.1>

American Legion  
 Department of California  
 Aerospace Commission  
 1601 7th St, Sanger, CA 93657

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Aeronautics and Aerospace Commission of the American Legion, Department of California

1601 7th St, Sanger, CA 93657

Any questions or concerns should be directed to the editor, Kevin Burns at [kevinrobburns@gmail.com](mailto:kevinrobburns@gmail.com)

## Aerospace Commissioners

- (1) Robert Tyndall
- (2) John Carlson
- (3) Robert Cozad
- (4) Fred Shacklett
- (5) Kevin Burns
- (6) Nic Mihojevich / Ed Barlow
- (TA) Harley Santos

# 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 •
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- Enjoy dinner and breakfast in the Enlisted Mess Decks •

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## Oldest living survivor of the attack on Pearl Harbor dies at 105



Warren Upton sits for a portrait with his daughter Barbara Upton on Nov. 26, 2021. (Shae Hammond/Bay Area News Group via AP)

Warren Upton, the oldest living survivor of the 1941 Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor and the last remaining survivor of the USS Utah, has died. He was 105.

Upton died Wednesday Dec 25th at a hospital in Los Gatos, California, after suffering a bout of pneumonia, said Kathleen Farley, the California state chair of the Sons and Daughters of Pearl Harbor Survivors.

The Utah, a battleship, was moored at Pearl Harbor when Japanese planes began bombing the Hawaii naval base in the early hours of Dec. 7, 1941, in an attack that propelled the U.S. into World War II.

Upton told The Associated Press in 2020 that he had been getting ready to shave when he felt the first torpedo hit the Utah. He recalled that no one on board knew what made the ship shake. Then, the second torpedo hit and the ship began to list and capsize.

The then-22-year-old swam ashore to Ford Island, where he jumped in a trench to avoid Japanese planes strafing the area. He stayed for about 30 minutes until a truck came and took him to safety.

Upton said he didn't mind talking about what happened during the attack. Instead, what upset him was that he kept losing shipmates over the years. By 2020, there were only three crew members of the Utah still alive, including himself.

There were an estimated 87,000 military personnel on Oahu on the day of the attack, according to military historian J. Michael Wenger. After Upton's death, there are only 15 still alive.

***By Audrey McAvoy, The Associated Press***



19th District Flash Editor

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Carson, CA 90745

720-840-5578 Cell  
E-mail: karl.wilvert@yahoo.com



**DEADLINE**

**25TH OF MONTH**

**COMMENTS/SUGGESTIONS**

**WELCOMED**

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SAVE TIME.



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- Pay online with a credit or debit card at Renew (mylegion.org)

*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.

**END ZONE BRIEFS**

Go to either Apple App or Google Play

**Download Legion+ membership app**

The American Legion has launched a new mobile membership app, Legion+. Download the app through Apple iTunes and the Google Play store.

Legion+ provides a direct route for members to access their digital membership cards, manage membership information, recruit new members, help veterans in crisis and get the latest news at **legion.org**. The new app includes four channels:



Search for Legion +

