

AMERICAN LEGION

# The Flash

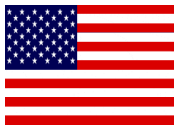
Serving the 19th District Community, State and Nation Since 1926

FEBRUARY 2025



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No. 2

Member The American Legion Media Alliance



National  
Commander

**James A.  
LaCoursiere Jr**

We don't know the 'why' but the 'what' is a heartbreaking tragedy. The American Legion extends its deepest condolences to the families of the souls lost in last night's horrific crash. We salute the first responders who always rise to such unenviable and difficult challenges. Like nearly all Americans, we call for a full investigation of what occurred.

19th District  
Next E-Board meeting  
Wednesday February 5th  
Whittier Post 51  
Palm Park — Palm Room  
5793 Palm Ave  
Whittier, CA

General District Meeting  
Wednesday February 12th  
Hawthorne Post 314  
14124 S. Prairie Avenue,  
Hawthorne, CA  
Meetings start at 7:00 PM

MY DESIRE TO BE WELL  
INFORMED IS CURRENTLY  
AT ODDS WITH MY DESIRE  
TO REMAIN SANE.

### Vets group blasts Trump plane crash comments as 'shameful'

Officials from Paralyzed Veterans of America strongly criticized President Donald Trump for his comments this week suggesting disabled workers may have played a role in Wednesday's aircraft collision in Washington, D.C., calling the commander-in-chief's remarks irresponsible and premature.

"The president's statements are shameful," PVA Chief Executive Officer Carl Blake said in a statement Thursday. "As an Army veteran who spent many nighttime hours in a Blackhawk and who incurred a combat-related spinal cord injury in service to this country, I can speak with authority when I say that veterans and all people with disabilities are dedicated, highly skilled and fully qualified to tackle the most difficult jobs possible.

"The fact that disabled veterans are now being shamed and minimized by this administration is disrespectful to their service and contributions to America's greatness."

PVA officials took exception to "the implication that veterans with catastrophic disabilities, like amputations and spinal cord injury, are not smart enough, not skilled enough and generally unqualified for these types of positions."

Officials from the military and National Transportation Safety Board have not said when they expect to have a clear idea for the reasons behind the collision.

## Fernando Gallardo—Commander



Comrades,

I would like to ask all District 19 Post to see what your Post and help out with items I emailed you earlier this week to help out all who were affected by the Fires in Palisades and Pasadena. They don't need any more clothing. I would like to add animal items to the list. I would like to thank all who are been helping already.

Los Angeles Fire cleanup jobs;  
For more information read flyer on *Page 7*

The Department of California Revitalization held in January at Montebello Post 272 had a good turn out from Area 5 and Area 4. I would have like a better participation from District 19 Post. I would like to inform you that we are scheduled to have a 4 Chaplin ceremony on February in Whittier on February 8, 2025 at 11am and at Norwalk Post.

I would also like to invite all are in need of foods to attend the Food distribution on Thursday February 6, 2025 from 10am to 12pm at Norwalk Post 359.

I would like to ask all District 19, Commanders, and Vice Commander, Adjutant and all Legionaries to attend the Department of California Training Tuesday courses.

I would like to inform you all that Fleetweek, May 23-26, 2025 is go to go. I am asking for Volunteers to assist with Fleetweek 2025.

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,

The casino trip is planned for April.

The District Breakfast held at Norwalk Post 359 raised over \$400 for VA&R. Thanks to Commander Maldonado and his staff for making this event a success.

The raffle is going to be drawn at February general meeting. See Page 8 for info

### 3rd Vice Commander—Available

**WANTED:**

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

# Four Chaplains Ceremony



**NORWALK AMERICAN LEGION  
POST 359 PRESENTS**

## **FOUR CHAPLAINS CEREMONY**

16th FEBRUARY at 10:30AM



**HOSTS:  
PASTOR'S  
FRANK RIOS  
RAUL ORTIZ  
CHAPLAIN'S  
BENITO GARCIA  
EDWARD CHOI**

**UNITY WITHOUT  
UNIFORMITY**  
Promoting cooperation  
and goodwill among  
people, and to encourage  
selfless service to  
humanity



WE WILL NEVER FORGET OUR

# **HEROES**

**SERVICE • SPEECHES • VIDEO  
MEMORIAL • LUNCH**

**NORWALK AMERICAN LEGION POST 359**

11986 FRONT STREET, NORWALK, CA 90650

The four chaplains were posthumously awarded the Distinguished Service Cross and Purple Heart in 1944. In 1961, Congress authorized the Four Chaplains Commemorative Medal, which was awarded to the chaplains' next of kin





...of the ultimate sacrifice of military chaplains: (l to r) Rabbi Lt. Alexander D. Goodes, Methodist Minister Lt. George L. Fox, Reformed Church of America Minister Lt. Clark V. Poling and Catholic Priest Lt. John P. Washington who perished (after volunteering their life jackets so that others might live) when the United States Army Transport SS Dorchester was torpedoed and sunk in the Labrador Sea by a German U-boat on February 3, 1943.

The Legion will pay homage to these 4 chaplains who served during WWII, on a ship in the Atlantic who sacrifice their lives by giving up their life jackets to other sailors and servicemen who did not have one after their ship was sinking by a torpedo. The ceremony will depict the event and the Chaplain's acts of heroism during that time with a narration of how the event unfolded.

**AMERICAN LEGION WHITTIER POST 51  
IS PROUD TO OBSERVE THE FOUR CHAPLAIN'S CEREMONY  
FEBRUARY 8, 2024, 11:00 A.M.  
FAITH HOUSE CALVARY CHAPEL  
15827 RUSSEL STREET  
WHITTIER, CA 90603**

**ALL VETERANS & THE GENERAL PUBLIC ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND**

# LA Fire Cleanup Jobs

## Los Angeles Fires Cleanup Jobs

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**LOS ANGELES**

**STR★NG**



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**ACS Staffing, Inc.**

**Job Description:**

Cleanup and recover residential and commercial wildfire affected areas.

Make an honorable impact to fellow Angelinos with the cleanup efforts in Pacific Palisades.

**Requirements:**

Prior experience and no experience crew members needed  
Must be physically able to lift up to 50lbs, stand and walk for entire shift schedule  
Reliable & Honest  
Able to follow instructions  
Able to work in unusual environments, open to weather conditions

**Responsibilities:**

Work in residential and commercial buildings that were impacted by wildfires  
After fire cleanup  
Wear appropriate PPE (as required)  
Follow safety measures  
Removal of debris, waste, and hazardous materials

**Benefits:**

Direct deposit available / Job site check deliveries  
Sick pay hours accruals  
Health, Dental, Vision, Life insurance eligibility



**Laborer/ Restoration Crewmembers**

Job Title: General Laborers/Restoration Technicians  
Location: Pacific Palisades, CA

**\$20-25hr**

(DOE)- with weekly pay

## 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.

Here is one of the photos taken by Fred Shacklett at Autrey James Celebration of Life yesterday at the Columbo Club in Oakland. Wonderful turn-out of Legionnaires and former co-workers.



Here is a link for you to see all the photos that Fred took during the event:

<https://flic.kr/s/aHBqjBZnKM>



**American Legion South Bay Members,**

Kenneth Scruggs, our past Commander of Post 184 for seven years, passed away Tuesday night at the age of 83. Ken was a good man, a friend, and a big supporter of Post 184; he was well-liked and served as the Commander of our Post from 2007 to 2013. Ken served in the Army for six years during the Vietnam Conflict and was a member of the American Legion for 22 years. Ken leaves behind two brothers and his wife, Kathy, whom we know well at Post 184. Per his request, there will be no formal services.

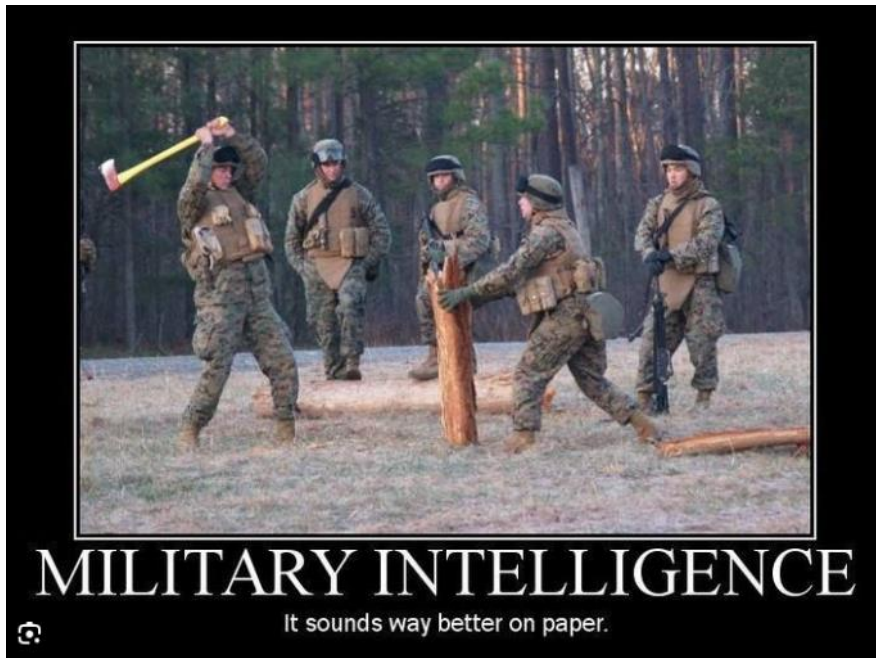
His leadership kept Post 184 at the forefront of District 19 and maintained membership growth during his term. His support of the Redondo Beach Veterans Memorial ensured that Post 184 was well-represented and culminated with the formal transfer of colors from the old 1932 Memorial to the new Memorial on Veterans Day in 2010.

His ongoing support of many civic and community endeavors, including the Junior ROTC program and the Redondo Union High School scholarships, kept Post 184 in a leadership position in the South Bay. His commitment to Post 184 and his community will be missed. We all here at Post 184 wish the Scruggs family the best

Some Fun for all



Pretty sure my neighbor's wife is about 2 minutes away from collecting a life insurance check.



# 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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## Pentagon & Congress

### All of DOD exempt from White House's civilian hiring freeze

By Karen Jowers



DOD was given a blanket exemption from President Donald Trump's hiring freeze, which could have affected many quality-of-life programs on military bases, such as commissaries, child care centers and schools. (U.S. Army)

Defense Department officials received a “blanket exemption” from the civilian hiring freeze ordered by President Donald Trump, according to memorandums from the Army and Air Force.

“Normal hiring actions and onboarding may continue,” stated an Army memo obtained by Military Times and signed by Mark R. Lewis, acting assistant secretary of the Army for manpower and reserve affairs.

While Trump’s memo about the hiring freeze said it didn’t apply to military personnel, it was initially unclear whether the exemption applied to all DOD positions — including jobs in areas such child care, commissaries, schools and other quality-of-life programs on military installations.

The Army memo states that the Office of Personnel Management had notified DOD of the blanket exemption. A similar memo, dated Jan. 24, was issued by the Air Force and signed by Gwendolyn R. DeFilippi, acting assistant secretary of the Air Force for manpower and reserve affairs.

Defense Department officials had no comment when asked to confirm that the exemption was in place. However, one agency within DOD confirmed to Military Times on background that they were exempt from the hiring freeze.

Trump’s order, issued soon after his inauguration Jan. 20, froze hiring for federal positions that were vacant as of noon that day. It also prevents the creation of new federal positions.

The order remains in effect for at least 90 days, when the Office of Management and Budget will submit a plan to reduce the size of the federal government’s workforce through efficiency improvements and attrition. When that OMB plan is issued, the hiring freeze will end.



19th District Flash Editor

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**DEADLINE**

**25TH OF MONTH**

**COMMENTS/SUGGESTIONS**

**WELCOMED**

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

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SAVE POSTAGE.  
SAVE TIME.

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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 +

**1980 in Long Beach**

