

AMERICAN LEGION

# The Flash

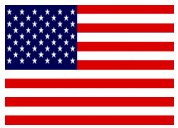
Serving the 19th District Community, State and Nation Since 1926

MARCH 2025



Volume 100  
No. 3

Member The American Legion Media Alliance



## Nominations are coming!!



National  
Commander  
**James A.  
LaCoursiere Jr**

On Feb 26, 2025, American Legion National Commander James LaCoursiere Jr. addressed a joint session of the House and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committees to cap the organization's annual Washington Conference.

But ahead of that, LaCoursiere addressed a full house of American Legion Family members in the Washington Hilton during the Commander's Call on Feb. 24. During his remarks, he gave his audience a preview of what's to come on Capitol Hill.

Click the image shown on the right side panel to read the entire report.

19th District  
Next E-Board meeting  
Wednesday April 2nd  
Paramount Post 134  
7550 Somerset Blvd  
Paramount, CA  
  
General District Meeting  
Wednesday March 12th  
Paramount Post 134  
7550 Somerset Blvd  
Paramount, CA  
  
Meetings start at 7:00 PM



National Commander James LaCoursiere speaks during the Commander's Call at the 2025 American Legion Washington Conference. Photo by Jeric Wilhelmson/The American Legion

Remarks delivered during Commander's Call a preview of his appearance before Congress on Wednesday.

Click the image above to read the entire report.

## Fernando Gallardo—Commander



Good morning, Comrades,

I hope I find everyone in good health.

We are coming down the stretch of 2024-2025 campaign.

I would like for all Post to continue with their buddy check with all members on their roster. Let reach out to them and see how they and thier families are doing. Let's keep in touch with them and let them know that the American Legion is a united family.

D.E.C in Santa Maria in March is just around the corner. I would like to remind everyone that I will submit a Resolution to cancel Arthur L Peterson Post 27 Charter due to the P.U.F.L or the other members don't want to take one of the required positions to run the Post.

Fleetweek May 21-26 2025 is approaching. I am requesting for Volunteers to assist with setting up the Canopy and table and chairs and man the both for a couple of hours a day. I am going to also need volunteers to help with taking down the Canopy and tables and chairs on the last day. I am going to be working on a list for Volunteers to sign their name to help out.

Comrades, I would like for you to forward all Post Everlasting Tranfers from your Post to Department of California Chaplin Dr. Kathy Cash so they can be recognized at the March 21-23, 2025, D.E.C. Chaplin Dr. Kathy Cash would like to receive all Post Everlasting Tranfers by March 8, 2025.

I had the pleasure to attend the following events in District 19,

On Tuesday February 11, 2025, I attended WWII Randy Parker 98th birthday party at Rivera Post 411. Pico Rivera Mayor Johnny Garcia issued Parker a certificate. In the picture it's me, Randy Parker, Rivera new Commander Steve Campos, Rivera assistant finance officer and Mayor Johnny Garcia.



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On Thursday February 13, 2025, I attended P.C. dinner with fellow Legionares.



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On Monday February 17, 2025, I attended Department of California President Linda Hayes visited to Alhambra Post 139. The photo has Department of California President Linda Hayes, myself, and my wife District 19 Auxiliary President Isabel Gallardo, District 18 Commander O'Neil and Area 6 Vice Commander Duarte Jr.



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On Saturday February 23, 2025, I participated in the District 19, turnaround fundraiser for Department of California Historian Fred Shacklett to Harrah's casino in San Diego California.

On Sunday February 24, 2025, I help District 19 2nd Vice president Debbie Butler with making Poppies at Lakewood Post 496.



Department of California Legion College is scheduled for April 25-27, 2025 in Woodland California, Yolo Post 77.

**See Page 9 for more detailed information.**

### CALIFORNIA AMERICAN LEGION COLLEGE

The application for the spring course of California American Legion College is now available.

Date: April 25-27, 2025  
Location: Yolo Post 77 (Woodland, CA)

[MORE INFORMATION & APPLICATION](#)



*Application open until class reaches max capacity, or March 30, whichever comes first.*



## 2nd Vice Commander—David DeMoss



Comrades,

As Second Vice there is nothing new to report.

Good for the Legion. Post 352 has been given approximately 120 500 piece puzzles some of these have already been disturbed to Long Beach V A by Debbie. \

If your Post has a organization which could use these in elderly homes or other organizations please contact Commander DeMoss Post 352.

We also have a large number of half crew socks.

## American Legion Baseball

19<sup>th</sup> District Baseball Teams Chairman

Hello District 19 Posts,

It is now March which means baseball is in the air especially American Legion Baseball. Last year District 19 has about 16 teams participating in the regular season with 8 teams advancing to the Area 4 baseball tourney which resulted with Long Beach Wilson Bruins and El Segundo Blues advancing to the Department of California baseball state tournament held at W.O. Hart Field in the City of Orange. It was an exciting series with El Segundo Blues playing for the state championship but unfortunately the team came up short.

A new season is now upon us and as usual we are asking District 19 Posts to consider making a donation to our program or maybe sponsoring a local team. As you know American Legion Baseball is one of the many Four Pillars programs offered under Children & Youth.

In 2025, American Legion Baseball will be celebrating 100 years since its inception which included many notable youth players who advanced to the baseball Major Leagues and even into the Baseball Hall of Fame. In July, there are tentative plans to hold a special anniversary celebration during the California State championship series at W.O. Hart Field. Further details will be announced in the coming months. In closing, if you need more information about Calegion baseball, or how you can donate, please send me a text or call 562-201-3095. Thank you.

Louie M. Adame  
District 19 Baseball Teams Chairman

## 3rd Vice Commander—Available

**WANTED:**

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



# NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR CALIFORNIA AMERICAN LEGION COLLEGE 1-2025

by caLegion HQ | Feb 3, 2025



## CALIFORNIA AMERICAN LEGION COLLEGE 1-2025

April 25-27, 2025

We are now accepting applications for the spring course of California American Legion College!

Legion College is designed for Legionnaires interested in operating a more prosperous and relevant American Legion Post within their respective communities.

The course begins at 8:00 AM on Friday, April 25.

Graduation should be completed by 1:00 PM on Sunday, April 27.

### LOCATION:

Yolo Post 77

523 Bush Street, Woodland, CA 95695

[Apply Online](https://calegion.org/calc-application/)

<https://calegion.org/calc-application/>

**Application open until class reaches max capacity, or March 30, whichever comes first.**

### PREREQUISITES:

- Complete The American Legion's online [Basic Training Course](#).
- Write a resolution on a topic of your choice.  
*Once your application is submitted, you will receive instructions on how to write a resolution.*

**Please submit your prerequisites to [CALC@caLegion.org](mailto:CALC@caLegion.org) as soon as possible to secure your seat, but no later than March 30. (Failure to submit requirements by the deadline will result in forfeiture of your class seat.)**

For more information visit: [The American Legion College](#)

**Questions? Contact [CALC@caLegion.org](mailto:CALC@caLegion.org)**

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.

## ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA



In 1919, many American Legion departments across the United States were holding conventions for the very first time. The Department of California held its first organizational gathering at Post 1 in San Francisco on October 10-12, 1919, where H. G. Mathewson was chosen as the first Department Commander. A year later, the first official Department Convention was held in San Diego on August 23-26, 1920, with David P. Barrow (Berkeley Post 7), elected as the second Department Commander.

Focusing on service to veterans and their families, the Legion evolved from a group of war-weary veterans of World War I into one of the most influential non-partisan and veteran, non-profit organizations in America.

The state headquarters was located at the Veterans War Memorial Building on Van Ness Avenue, across the street from San Francisco City Hall. The building is under the administration of the American Legion War Memorial Commission, <https://alwmcfsf.org/>. But in 2014, when the headquarters rent was raised from \$1 a year to \$2,500 a month, the Department decided to look for a new home.

As it was in 1919 and continues to the present day, California has the largest veteran population of any state in the United States, at approximately 1.8 million veterans (as of 2022). San Francisco was our headquarters until 2015 and was home to the first American Legion post in California. That post was named as American Legion San Francisco Post 1 (within District 8) and was also located in the Veterans Memorial building, but now meets at the First Lutheran Church on 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue SW.

In 2015, after approval from a majority of the state Legion membership, the Department of California bought an 8,000 square foot former bank building in Sanger, CA, sixteen miles east of Fresno (Janet Wilson Department Commander).

In March of 2015, the Department of California headquarters officially moved to Central California. Conveniently located in downtown Sanger, our new headquarters has ample parking and provides offices for the Department Commander, the Department Adjutant, meeting rooms, storage for records, as well as offices for our administration and support staff.

American Legion Montebello Post 272

Presents  
An Evening With

# Cold Duck

SINCE 1969



DJ GHOSTMAN

★★ *Proceeds Benefit ELAC Students & Veterans in Need* ★★

**SATURDAY, MARCH 29, 2025**

**6:00 PM — 11:00 PM**

**\$30.00 per person**

*(doors open at 5:00 pm)*

***Dinner Available for Purchase***

**NO OUTSIDE FOOD**

**616 W. Cleveland Ave, Montebello, CA 90640**

**Ticket Information**

**Call or TEXT Monika (562) 299-2263**

**Saturday March 15th**



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY  
AMERICAN LEGION**

**FOUNDED IN 1919**

**106th Birthday  
Ceremony At 6:00PM**

**Pre-St. Patrick's Day Dance  
7:00PM - 11:00PM**



**Soul Pursuit**

*Will Be Performing Your Favorite Dance Music*

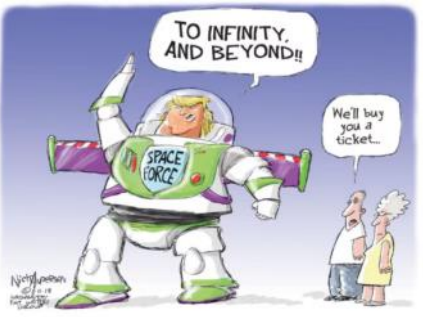
**No Cover Charge / Open To The Public**

**The SAL'S Will Be Serving  
Taco Plates With Rice & Beans  
For A Small Donation**



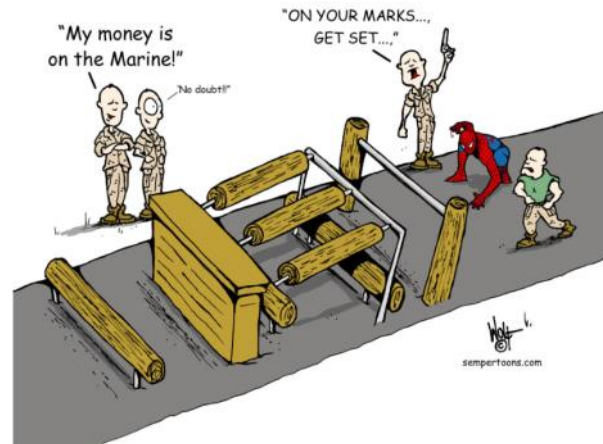
**American Legion - Post 277  
2000 West 1st Ave. Westfield, CA 93791**

# Some Fun for all



"BY THE WAY, WHAT ARE WE IN LINE FOR?"

"I never thought they'd cut the military budget this far!"



## FOOD IN THE US MILITARY



In a move to standardize equipment costs, budget weenies decided all Navy and Coast Guard ships use the same size anchor.



# 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 •

## MAKE RESERVATIONS TODAY!

E-MAIL [OVERNIGHTS@LABATTLESHIP.COM](mailto:OVERNIGHTS@LABATTLESHIP.COM) OR  
CALL 1-877-446-9261 EXT. 706

**COST**  
**\$105**  
Per Person  
Per Night



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## Education and Transition

### Disabled vets continue to struggle finding post-military employment

By Leo Shane III



Wounded Warrior Project members stretch before an event in Miami Beach, Fla., on Jan. 10, 2019. (Lynne Sladky/AP)

Disabled veterans continue to struggle to find jobs despite national efforts to help bring them back into the civilian workforce, according to a new survey released by Wounded Warrior Project on Thursday.

The report, based on responses in summer 2023 from nearly 19,000 veterans connected to the program, gives a snapshot of the continued struggles that veterans with serious injuries face years after their military service, even if their medical needs are being addressed.

Nearly 40% of veterans in the WWP survey did not have full-time work, although only about 12% are actively looking for work and would qualify for unemployment.

That figure is on par with past surveys by the group, but it sits well above the average for veterans without disabilities (around 3.6% in summer 2023) and the civilian disabled population across America (about 7.4% in summer 2023).

“Despite the unique training and skills WWP warriors receive while in the military, they still experience challenges while seeking other employment opportunities,” the report states. “Among WWP warriors currently employed, 52.2% reported at least one barrier that makes it difficult to obtain employment or change jobs.”

The news comes as President Donald Trump’s administration looks to cut back the federal workforce, traditionally a friendly environment for job-seeking veterans and disabled veterans looking for work.

According to the U.S. Office of Personnel Management, the federal government employed more than 337,000 disabled veterans in fiscal 2021, about two-thirds of whom had a disability rating of 30% or more.

Whether the administration’s potential cuts will increase unemployment among wounded veterans remains unclear. The WWP report said nearly one in four veterans in their survey listed their main barrier to finding stable work as mental health issues or psychological distress, factors that exist regardless of the job market.

About 14% of those surveyed also described difficulty translating military skills to the civilian workforce, which has been a focus of numerous federal employment efforts over the last 20 years.

Related to the unemployment issues, about two-thirds of wounded veterans surveyed said they faced financial problems in the previous 12 months. Roughly 60% said they have at least \$20,000 in total debt, beyond what they owe on real estate mortgages.

Officials from Wounded Warrior Project, which operates a host of outreach and advocacy programs, said they plan on using the survey results to look for ways to better serve members, including possible expansion of financial support efforts.

The full report is available on the WWP website.



19th District Flash Editor

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E-mail: karl.wilvert@yahoo.com



**DEADLINE**

**25TH OF MONTH**

**COMMENTS/SUGGESTIONS**

**WELCOMED**

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

SAVE PAPER.  
SAVE POSTAGE.  
SAVE TIME.

[www.legion.org/renew](http://www.legion.org/renew)

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**MEMBERSHIP MATTERS**

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- Pay by check or money order to Post or Department
- Call Department at 559-875-8387 to renew with a credit or debit card
- 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](http://legion.org). The new app includes four channels:

**Search for Legion +**

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