

AMERICAN LEGION

The Flash

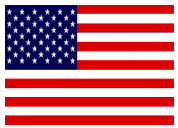
Serving the 19th District Community, State and Nation Since 1926

APRIL 2025



Volume 100
No. 4

Member The American Legion Media Alliance



Nominations *START* This Month !!



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 105th 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.

LaCoursiere is married to his wife, Lisa, and has two children (Patrick and Meghan), and three stepchildren (Jason, Kaylene and the late Johnathan).

Born to a military family in Honolulu, Hawaii, LaCoursiere attended Montville High School where he played junior varsity football, varsity football and varsity track.

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 April 2nd
Paramount Post 134
7550 Somerset Blvd
Paramount, CA

General District Meeting
Wednesday March 12th
Montebello Post 272
616 W Cleveland Ave
Montebello, CA

Meetings start at 7:00 PM



Spring DEC Santa Maria

VETERANS' MEMORIAL CULTURAL CENTER AND PARK

ON NOVEMBER 17, 1987, SANTA BARBARA COUNTY ACQUIRED THESE 8.16 ACRES FOR THE SITE FOR CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION OF A VETERANS' MEMORIAL BUILDING AND PARK. THIS PROJECT WAS A CAMPAIGN BY THE COUNTY, SUPPORTED BY THE AMERICAN LEGION OF CONNECTICUT FROM 1978 TO 1984. THE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, THROUGH THE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, MAJOR FEDERAL AGENCY THROUGH VETERANS SUPPORTS HELP TO MAKE ON JULY 1, 1984 WITH THE AS THE FIRST APPROVED PROJECT OF SANTA BARBARA COUNTY TO BE THE WORK OF THE COUNTY'S ADMINISTRATION.

INSTEAD OF A CONTRACT-BUILD STRUCTURE, THERE WAS THE OF HELP LABOR AND TO \$1.50 PER HOUR. SELECTED TO DIRECT THE PROJECT WITH A BUDGET OF \$1.50 PER HOUR AND A BUDGET OF \$1.50 PER HOUR. SUPPORTING BUDGET WAS A LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE OF BOB BOWEN, PAUL MARINO, AND HEVY TULLY ARCHITECT FULLY DESIGNED THIS STRUCTURE IN THE PRIVATE HOUSE. THE COUNTY PROVIDED THE LAND AND THE BUILDING WAS TO BE BUILT IN THE CITY OF SANTA MARIA. THE COUNTY BOARDS OF SUPERVISORS, THROUGH THE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, MAJOR FEDERAL AGENCY THROUGH VETERANS SUPPORTS HELP TO MAKE ON JULY 1, 1984 WITH THE AS THE FIRST APPROVED PROJECT OF SANTA BARBARA COUNTY TO BE THE WORK OF THE COUNTY'S ADMINISTRATION.

FINANCING DURING 1984-85 WAS PROVIDED TO \$25,000 FROM FEDERAL FUNDS AND \$25,000 FROM THE COUNTY. IN ADDITION, THE COUNTY PROVIDED \$250,000 IN 1984 TO START MEMORIAL PARK, WHICH BOUND BECAME AN ATTRACTIVE AREA.

USE OF THE MEMORIAL BUILDING WAS SET IN 1987 BY THE FACILITY AGENT WHICH PROVIDED MAINTENANCE TO ALL CITY OF SANTA MARIA. THE COUNTY DEDICATED THIS PROPERTY TO THE CITY OF SANTA MARIA ON NOVEMBER 17, 1987. IN JANUARY 1, 1988, THE COUNTY BOARDS OF SUPERVISORS, THROUGH THE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, MAJOR FEDERAL AGENCY THROUGH VETERANS SUPPORTS HELP TO MAKE ON JULY 1, 1984 WITH THE AS THE FIRST APPROVED PROJECT OF SANTA BARBARA COUNTY TO BE THE WORK OF THE COUNTY'S ADMINISTRATION.

DECLARED HISTORICAL LANDMARK NO. 9 BY THE CITY OF SANTA MARIA
NOVEMBER 17, 1987

SANTA MARIA CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF SANTA MARIA
CITY CLERK
CITY MANAGER

HISTORICAL LANDMARK COMMITTEE
CITY OF SANTA MARIA
CITY CLERK
CITY MANAGER



Fernando Gallardo—Commander



Good morning, Comrades,

I want to inform you all that next month is the first nomination for incoming Officers for 2025-2026, for Post and District levels. Have your Resolutions written, read to your membership, and signed by your Adjutant and Commander, if you are running for a District-elected position.

I attended the D.E.C. meeting this past weekend. I would like to inform you that I submitted and read the American Legion Arthur L Peterson Post 27 Resolution to the D.E.C Executive Committee to put Arthur L Peterson 27 on probation, and the D.E.C Committee voted yes on Arthur L Peterson Post 27 Resolution.


All members of Houghton Park Post 560 and Arthur L. Peterson Post 27 have been transferred to either Lakewood Post 496 or Lincoln Village Post 833. Houghton Park Post 560 will be removed from District 19's books at the next National American Legion committee meeting. With Arthur L Peterson Post 27, we are going to work on finding the Bank that has Post 27 funds before we take the next step on their Charter status.

There are currently three posts that are on probation because they haven't submitted one of the required documents or updated their Bylaws as required by department by-laws every 7 years. Post Commander, let's get it taken care of as soon as possible.

On membership, I would like to ask all posts to see what ideas you have or are using to recruit the younger Veterans to become an America Legion family member. Continue with your buddy checks. Let's not forget that membership dues are going to increase by \$5 for 2025-2026.

When you need American Legion items, let's purchase the item for the Calegion store so that way the 25% of funds collected go to the Department bank account and not the National bank account.

I want to inform you that next Year will be the last year that the American Legion Convention is going to be held in Visalia. The American Legion Convention will be held near LAX from 2027 through 2029.

I am working on District 19 buying a knife  and then having a raffle.

California Legion College's deadline is March 30, 2025, in Woodland, California. To qualify, you need to take the basic training course, submit a Resolution, and fill out an application.

1st Vice Commander—Karl Wilvert



Comrades,

We are in the final stretch to 100% membership. Please keep up with your post buddy checks.

I want to bring up Legion training sessions available to everyone that will assist you in obtaining the knowledge that will help to run your post.

The last Tuesday of each month American Legion National Headquarters staff will present 60 to 90-minute sessions on topics aimed at post commanders and adjutants. Each session will be recorded and made available for later viewing.

Click Next Session below to visit the training Tuesday page.

[Next Session](#)

Tuesday, April 29, 2025 7 p.m. Eastern

Department of California - 2025 MEMBERSHIP REPORT

3/28/2025

DEPARTMENT TOTALS

	New	PUFL	Members Paid	HQ/DMS Transfers	Total Members	Goal	%	Dept Standing
Posts	2,557	10,609	40,799	485	54,146	62,551	86.56%	33
HQ Administrative Posts	-	1,099	4,244	6	5,349	5,801	92.21%	
Totals	2,557	11,708	45,043	491	59,495	68,352	87.04%	

AREA TOTALS

Area	Districts	New	PUFL	Members Paid	HQ/DMS Transfers	Total Members	Goal	%	Standing
1	1; 2; 3; 4; 5; 6; 7	337	1,732	6,246	154	8,469	9,801	86.41%	3
2	8; 9; 10; 13; 26; 28	239	1,592	4,223	58	6,112	7,199	84.90%	5
3	11; 12; 14; 15; 27	275	1,415	5,257	91	7,038	8,485	82.95%	6
4	17; 19; 23	186	691	3,511	12	4,400	4,860	90.53%	1
5	21; 22; 25; 29; 30	1,006	3,417	15,332	101	19,856	23,058	86.11%	4
6	16; 18; 20; 24	509	1,762	5,931	69	8,271	9,148	90.41%	2

DISTRICT TOTALS

District	County	New	PUFL	Members Paid	HQ/DMS Transfers	Total Members	Goal	%	Standing
1	Del Norte; Humboldt; Mendocino	33	132	438	6	609	692	88.01%	6
2	Siskiyou; Trinity; Shasta	29	107	564	7	707	886	79.80%	29
3	Modoc; Lassen; Sierra; Plumas	16	50	165	-	231	292	79.11%	26
4	Yuba; Sutter; Colusa; Tehama; Butte; Glenn	46	199	767	4	1,016	1,178	86.25%	14
5	Lake; Sonoma; Marin; Napa; Solano	101	509	1,853	46	2,509	2,887	86.91%	13
6	Sacramento; Yolo	76	499	1,382	81	2,038	2,297	88.72%	3
7	El Dorado; Placer; Nevada	36	236	1,077	10	1,359	1,569	86.62%	15
8	San Francisco	6	192	410	1	609	699	87.12%	8
9	Contra Costa	23	213	580	12	828	954	86.79%	9
10	Alameda	44	306	757	28	1,135	1,307	86.84%	12
11	San Joaquin; Calaveras; Amador; Alpine	43	360	1,357	11	1,771	2,080	85.14%	18
12	Stanislaus; Merced; Mariposa; Tuolumne; Madera	52	367	1,335	51	1,805	2,156	83.72%	21
13	Santa Clara	28	391	882	8	1,309	1,598	81.91%	23
14	Fresno; King	100	318	1,210	18	1,646	2,028	81.16%	25
15	Tulare; W Kern	61	284	1,073	9	1,427	1,763	80.94%	24
16	San Luis Obispo; Santa Barbara; Ventura	136	629	2,060	38	2,863	3,231	88.61%	4
17	Los Angeles	84	97	1,854	3	2,038	2,070	98.45%	1
18	Los Angeles	71	293	1,053	9	1,426	1,637	87.11%	11
19	Los Angeles	96	439	1,454	7	1,996	2,321	86.00%	17
20	Los Angeles	34	435	1,255	9	1,733	1,985	87.30%	10
21	Riverside	275	577	2,948	24	3,824	4,417	86.57%	16
22	San Diego	247	1,376	3,848	23	5,494	6,438	85.34%	19
23	Los Angeles	6	155	203	2	366	469	78.04%	28
24	Los Angeles	268	405	1,563	13	2,249	2,295	98.00%	2
25	San Bernardino	160	589	2,619	22	3,390	4,069	83.31%	22
26	San Mateo	35	180	549	3	767	973	78.83%	27
27	Mono; Inyo; E Kern	19	86	282	2	389	458	84.93%	20
28	Santa Cruz; San Benito; Monterey	103	310	1,045	6	1,464	1,668	87.77%	7
29	Orange	320	783	5,645	32	6,780	7,673	88.36%	5
30	Imperial	4	92	272	-	368	461	79.83%	30

2nd Vice Commander—David DeMoss



Comrades,

The casino trip as of this date will have to be rescheduled. The bus company we had scheduled with seems to have scheduling conflicts. Will submit new dates later.

VPAN has given Post 352 27 boxes of jig saw puzzles. Each box has 3 different 500 piece puzzles. Puzzles will be on view during District meeting. These puzzles would be good for local VA, nursing homes and after school locations. These puzzles are free. Contact me for pick up location.



District Historian— Fred Schacklett



Comrades,

Since last newsletter, I have noted 24 Facebook posting to have historical significance for the American Legion in California, with a number of those posting to be included in the District historical record.

Additionally, I attended in person the following events;

1. On 2/16/2025, attended the District 19 Four Chaplains service and the District 19 Oratorical contest held at Norwalk Post 359. Photos posted to the Post 51 website. <https://flic.kr/s/aHBqjC2Mnk>
2. On 3/21-23/2025, attended the Department Executive Committee meeting held at Santa Maria Post 56 in Santa Maria, CA. Photos of the DEC are posted here <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1oz0WTmvvPNdnEly0rRMPe4ulCopPuKus?usp=sharing>

Future plans

1. I am working a draft Resolution to establish a Historian Committee, to better manage the historical records and activities of post and district Historians. All past Dept Historians, and current serving historians will be members of this committee. The resolution is planned to be presented at the annual State convention in Visalia, CA in June 2025.
2. I plan to attend the Department Oratorical finals to be held in Clovis, CA on March 30, 2025
3. I plan to attend the annual Department convention in Visalia, CA in June 2025 at the Marriot Convention Center.
4. I plan to work with the Department staff to finalize the posting of past Department officer photos for a wall display at the Sanger HQ. All photos from 1919 to present have been restored and retouched, and are digitally available on the Department Google Drive. Most photos will be reprinted and re-framed before placing back on the wall.

3rd Vice Commander—Available

WANTED:

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

The Department Commander's

INAUGURAL STATEWIDE AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY REUNION

AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY REUNION

JOIN US AS WE CELEBRATE THE SUCCESS OF ALL LEGION FAMILIES—LEGIONNAIRES, AUXILIARY, SONS, AND LEGION RIDERS—AT A FREE EVENT PROUDLY SPONSORED BY THE LEGION FAMILY!

BRING THE WHOLE FAMILY!



- ★ CHILI & BBQ RIB COOK-OFFS
- ★ HOT DOGS & BURGERS (FREE!)
- ★ POTLUCK-STYLE MEALS
- ★ ICE CREAM STATION & PHOTO AREA
- ★ JUMPERS FOR KIDS
- ★ GAMES FOR ALL AGES!
- ★ "DRIVE YOUR BEST RIDE" COMPETITION
- ★ LIVE MUSIC & MORE SURPRISES!!!

Fun, Food & Family Await!

DATE: SATURDAY, JULY 26, 2025 **TIME:** 12:00 PM - 5:00 PM

LOCATION: W.O. HART PARK, 701 S GLASSELL ST, ORANGE, CA

KICKOFF CEREMONY: 12:00 PM - BASEBALL DIAMOND WITH A COLOR GUARD PRESENTATION & NATIONAL ANTHEM!

QUESTIONS?

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN SUPPORTING OR VOLUNTEERING AT THE EVENT?

CONTACT: Jim Eubanks
pdc.eubanks@yahoo.com

DESIGNED & DONATED BY VIC MARTIN

Make It a Summer to Remember!

*We can't wait to
celebrate with you!
~ Nick*



JOB & RESOURCE FAIR BLOOMING OPPORTUNITIES!



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Join us for our Spring Job Fair and connect with employers looking for talented individuals like you!

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Security & Maintenance

Transportation & Logistics

And more!!



Community resources will also be available to support your career journey

- Support for individuals with justice involvement
- Access to wellness programs and support services
- Legal Aid
- Other community support services

Dress professionally & bring multiple copies of your resume!

Wednesday, April 30, 2025

10:00 am - 1:00 pm

WLCAC

10950 S. Central Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90059

For more information please contact:

Melvin Logan (323) 357-0803 or email: mlogan@wlcac.org

Stephanie Silva (323) 563-5679 or email: ssilva@wlcac.org



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YOU ARE INVITED TO

Nick's Celebration

*Join us as we honor our outgoing
Department Commander*

American Legion Post 496

5938 Parkcrest St.
Long Beach, CA

\$20 Donation

SOCIAL HOUR 5:00 PM | DINNER 6:00 PM

APRIL 12 2025

RSVP

Fernando Gallardo
District 19 Commander
ferndogsc28@gmail.com

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 2nd 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.

Some Fun for all



I got my wife to help me put some posts in the ground for our new fence, I gave her the new hammer and I said, "When I nod my head, you hit it." I don't remember much after that.



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!

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Pentagon & Congress

Senator pushes for new rules letting academy athletes play pro sports

By Leo Shane III



Navy quarterback Blake Horvath hands off the ball during the 125th Army/Navy Football Game at Northwest Stadium in Landover, Maryland, on Dec. 14, 2024. (Staff Sgt. Deonte Rowell/Army)

Former college football coach Sen. Tommy Tuberville said this week he plans to push for new rules in this year’s defense authorization bill debate allowing elite military academy athletes to pursue professional sports careers after graduation, calling it an invaluable recruiting tool for the services.

The proposal, discussed at a Senate Armed Services Committee hearing Wednesday focused on oversight of the academies, drew initial support from military leadership at the schools. Tuberville, R-Ala., has not released a formal proposal but said he intends to push the issue in coming weeks.

“When appropriate, these cadets and midshipmen should graduate and commission with their classes, then defer their service obligation until their professional sports playing careers are complete,” he said.

“These would be commissioned officers of our armed services subject to the same rules and regulations as their peers, while at the same time providing valuable exposure and increased visibility to the academies while they play sports at the highest level.”

In the past, academy athletes drafted by professional sports leagues or signed to free-agent contracts by major league teams had been able to apply for waivers to defer their service commitment until after a professional playing career.

But in 2022, lawmakers rescinded that policy, mandating that those service members complete at least two years of active duty service before being eligible for a waiver. That rule goes into effect for athletes graduating this year.

Critics of Tuberville’s idea — which include several members of Congress — have argued that academy graduates benefit from a significant investment of taxpayer dollars and resources, and they should be required to serve in the ranks after school to justify those costs.

But President Donald Trump has been a supporter of more relaxed rules for elite academy athletes, pushing lawmakers to allow for deferred service or a reserve service role while individuals pursue a professional sports career.

Tuberville, who serves as chairman of the committee’s personnel panel but is well known for his nine years as head coach of the Auburn football team, joked with the service academy superintendents that he had lost several potential recruits to their schools over the years. He added, “it never bothered me,” because of their commitment to serve the country.

He said he hopes to work with school officials to find a permanent solution to the athletics issue, avoiding the periodic — and disruptive — changes that have been enacted in recent years.

Debate on the annual defense authorization bill is expected to heat up in coming weeks, with the Senate Armed Services Committee expected to release its draft proposal in June.

The legislation contains hundreds of budgetary guidelines and policy reforms each year and has been approved annually by Congress for more than six consecutive decades.



19th District Flash Editor

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Carson, CA 90745

720-840-5578 Cell
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DEADLINE

25TH OF MONTH

COMMENTS/SUGGESTIONS

WELCOMED

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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 +

**Winner
Winner
Chicken dinner**

Angelo Maldonado

**Noisy 19th Poker Chip Set
Raffle winner**

