



The banner features a dark blue background with a yellow border. On the left is the Department of California American Legion logo, which includes a map of California and the text 'DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA AMERICAN LEGION'. In the center is a large, stylized logo for 'The Flash' with a lightning bolt, and below it, 'District 19 Council Newsletter'. On the right is the 'NOISY 19TH' logo for the American Legion, District 19, CA, established in 1919. At the bottom left, the email 'editorpost51@yahoo.com' is listed. At the bottom center, the date 'June 2026' is displayed. At the bottom right, the text 'Volume 101, Issue 12' is shown.

LA 2026 FLEET WEEK A SUCCESS

By Fred Shacklett 5/27/2026

SAN PEDRO, CA — The Los Angeles Waterfront surged with patriotic energy over Memorial Day Weekend as the 10th annual LA Fleet Week drew thousands of visitors to the Port of Los Angeles.



A young visitor meets a Navy officer alongside an active-duty ship at the Port of Los Angeles.. Source: Allen J. Schaben / Los Angeles Times via Getty Images

Running from May 22 to May 25, 2026, Southern California’s largest free Memorial Day celebration honored the men and women of the U.S. Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard. This milestone 10th anniversary took on added significance as the official kickoff for Los Angeles’ "America 250" regional

programming, paying tribute to the upcoming semiquincentennial of the United States.

Ships and Sights Take Center Stage

The main draw for the weekend remained the public tours of active-duty military vessels berthed at San Pedro’s Outer Harbor. Attendees utilized a mobile virtual queue system to secure same-day tickets, boarding massive ships like the Wasp-class amphibious assault ship USS Essex (LHD-2) and the Coast Guard Fast Response Cutter USCGC Terrell Horne. Visitors navigated tight corridors and climbed steep ladders to experience a firsthand glimpse into modern maritime capabilities and daily life at sea.

Adjacent to the permanent fixture of the Battleship USS Iowa Museum, the central EXPO area featured more than 90 military and first-responder exhibits. Live military hardware displays, dive tank demonstrations by Navy Seabee teams, and low-altitude aircraft flyovers crossing the skies above Cabrillo Beach and Long Beach kept crowds looking upward throughout the four-day event.

Friendly Rivalries and Neighborhood Outreach

Beyond the technical displays, Fleet Week brought back several crowd-pleasing traditions to foster community engagement:

- Galley Wars: A highly anticipated culinary cook-off hosted aboard the Battleship Iowa, pitting chef teams from the visiting vessels against each other in a high-stakes grilling competition.
- Military Has Talent: A multi-day vocal competition showcasing the diverse artistic talents of active-duty service members.
- Athletic Tournaments: Fierce but friendly dodgeball, soccer, and pickleball matches matching military personnel against local civilian teams.

Post 359 Member Angelo Maldonado, Post 184 Member Jesse Leal.

While San Pedro served as the heart of the action, the event expanded its footprint across Greater Los Angeles. Under the banner of "Neighborhood Activations," military bands and personnel participated in coordinated outreach events and community service projects at iconic regional locations, including the Santa Monica Pier, Dodger Stadium, and Disneyland.



Legion Members Ethel Butler (Post 252) and Manny Vital (Post 272) attending 2026 LA Fleetweek in San Pedro..

The week-long celebration concluded on Memorial Day afternoon with specialized flyovers paying a solemn final tribute to those who made the ultimate sacrifice in service to the nation.

UPCOMING DISTRICT 19 EVENTS

6/3/2026 – CANCELED District 19 Executive Board

6/7/2026 – District 19 General Membership Meeting at Hawthorne Post 359 at 19:00

6/26 to 6/28, 2026 – Department Convention at the Marriott Visalia Convention Center, Visalia, CA, 0900 to 1600 daily. Hotel info at <https://calegion.org/calendar>



District 19 Members at LA Fleet Week 2026 in San Pedro, (L/R) Post 496 Member Martin Martinez, Post 184 Member, VFW Member Dan Newwell,



- [Foreign Relations and National Security Commission](#)
- [Housing \(Veteran\) Commission](#)
- [Internal Affairs Commission](#)
- [Law and Order Commission](#)
- [Leadership Commission](#)
- [Legislative Commission](#)
- [Media and Communications Commission](#)
- [Naturalization Commission](#)
- [Oratorical Contests Commission](#)
- [Ritual Commission](#)
- [Scouting Commission](#)
- [Sons of The American Legion Commission](#)
 - [Sons of The American Legion Website](#)
- [Valley Forge Workshop Commission](#)
- [Veteran Affairs and Rehabilitation \(VA&R\) Commission](#)
- [Veterans Employment and Education Commission](#)
- [Ways and Means Commission](#)

participated in the Torrance Veterans Parade. Finally, I want to thank each and every post for their efforts during Memorial Day to remember our fallen heroes.

I encourage everyone to support those in need. Please pay your dues for 2026.

Please note that I have **cancelled** the next District 19 Executive Board meeting for **Wednesday, June 3rd, 2026**. The June district general meeting will take place **on Wednesday, June 10th, 2026, at Hawthorne Post 314**. I kindly request that each 19th District Post send at least one representative to our general meetings.

Karl Wilvert
19th District Commander

FIRST VICE COMMANDER

Manuel Vital
Fellow Comrades,
First, I would like to provide you with the Membership numbers as of May 22, 2026.

Currently Department is @92.59% and #41

Area 4 is 91.51% and #4

District 19 is 91.67% and #12

I attended the Montebello Post 272 elections, where Carlos Larios was re-elected as Commander. I also attended the 18th District elections, where Sam Cafiero was elected Commander.

I manned the 19th District booth at Fleet Week with other volunteers on Friday, May 22; Saturday, May 23; Sunday, May 24; and Monday, May 25. During that time, we recruited at least 4 New Members to our Posts.

We also provided information to other potential Members who live outside our District Area, including information on their local cities. Fleet Week was well attended, with tours of the Ohio and

OFFICER REPORTS

COMMANDER

Comrades,
I hope this message finds you and your loved ones in good health.

We have reached the end of the 25/26 fiscal year. While we still struggle to gain and retain membership, we have accomplished great things in helping veterans in our communities. Let's keep up the good fight to keep our current members. I am asking for us to have several revitalization events to work together in gaining new membership, as well as possibly transferring members from Post 1000 who will want to help manage the legion business of each post.

I look forward to serving the 19th District for my 2nd year as Commander. I also congratulate all the incoming officers in each post.

I thank everyone who jumped in to make Fleetweek a fun showing of the American Legion to the crowds that attended. I also want to thank those that



Essex Ships. The National Commander also attended Fleet Week.

In Comradeship,
Manuel E. Vital
19th District
1st Vice Commander

our Helmets for Heros to help our VA&R mission and please remember to bring your funds to the district meeting for presentation.

We are already planning fundraising ideas for the next administrative year, so please join us as we travel throughout the district and connect with our entire Legion family.

Thank you for your continued support of our district.

Yours in comradeship,
Angelo Gandalf Maldonado, JD

SAVE PAPER.
SAVE POSTAGE.
SAVE TIME.



QUICKLY AND EASILY RENEW ONLINE

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS



3 ways to renew!

- 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)

THIRD VICE COMMANDER

Greetings Comrades,
The month of May has been a busy month for Military Appreciation Month. We started with the 64th Annual Torrance Armed Forces Weekend. The American Legion was well represented by South Bay Post 184 and Norwalk Post 359. My Volunteers from South High Torrance led the American Legion parade. It was a great turnout overall. Thank you to all our volunteers who participated in this event.

Our 2026 Fleet Week 4-day event did well despite a lack of volunteers. Thanks to 1st Vice Manny Vital, 2nd Vice Angelo Maldonado, and 3rd Vice Jesse Leal, as well as my Legionnaire Rich Nunez, for their help and support when it came to getting this event put together. Also thanks to all our volunteers from Post 184, Post 359 and Post 272. Hopefully, next year we can get more support from our District 19 teams.

For God and Country,

Jesse Y Leal
Department of California
American Legion
Commander Elected
Redondo Beach Post 184
Area 4 District 19 3rd Vice Commander
US Army Veteran
Email: post184vicecommander@gmail.com
(310) 951-8199

SECOND VICE COMMANDER

Angelo Maldenado
Welcome, Members, Auxiliary, Sons, and Riders,
These months are getting shorter and shorter as we come to the end of the administrative year. We had some successful, if not time-consuming, events this past month, and convention is just around the corner. I would like to thank everyone who came out to support Fleet Week in San Pedro this past month and the district bus trip. Fun happens when we just get together.

Our next District 19 fundraiser, Comedy Night, is this Saturday at Norwalk American Legion at 7pm. Come support and have some laughs at the same time. Hard to believe it is near the end of our year and that we are off to another next month. Hope to see you all at the convention and at our hospitality room. Thank you for everything!

Reminder, We are looking for donations from the Posts in our district that have a Canteen or Post Hole for donations for Hospitality. Keep collecting for

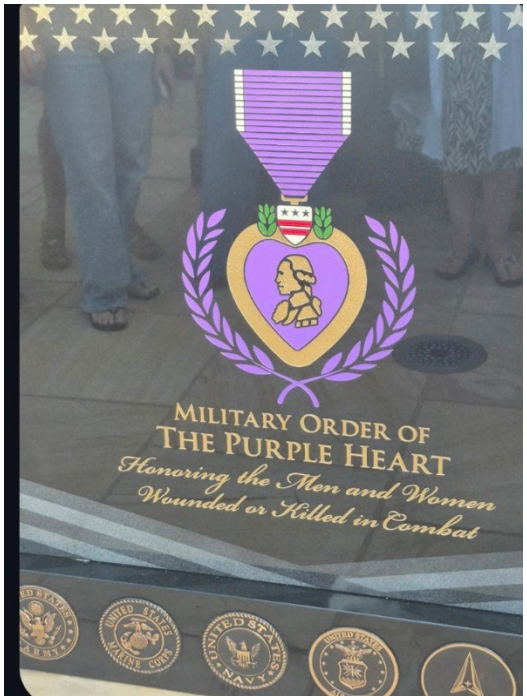
CHAPLAIN

Monika Rueda
Hello Comrades,

JR. PAST COMMANDER

Fernando Gallardo
Greetings,

On Friday, May 22, 2026, my wife, Isabel Gallardo, District 19 Auxiliary President, and I attended the Pico Rivera Veterans Memorial Plaza for the Purple Heart ceremony.



Close-up of the Purple Heart Monument at the Pico Rivera Veterans Memorial Plaza.



Fernando Gallardo (Post 411) with California State Senator Bob Archeleta at the Pico Rivera Memorial Day ceremony held at the Pico Rivera Veterans Memorial Plaza.



L/R Isabell Galardo with Jr. Past Commander Fernando Gallardo at the Area 4 recognition banquet held on May 16, 2026, at Proud Bird Restaurant in El Segundo, California

Thanks.
Fernando Gallardo
District 19 Jr. Past Commander, & Judge Advocate,
Los Angeles County Council Vice Commander,
Outpost 19 President
Rivera Post 411
213-925-8927



HISTORIAN

Fred Shacklett

This past month, I have made notes of and recorded several events.

5/2/2026 - Area 4 Caucus at Post 228

5/9/2026 – Whittier Founders Day

5/16/2026 – Celebration of Life for Jere Romano at Hollywood Post 43

5/23-5/25/2026 – LA Fleet Week and Memorial Day activities around the district.

DISTRICT 19 PIN/STICKER

A limited number of District pins and stickers are still available.

The pin is approximately 1 ¼ inches wide. Made of polished brass, with a dark blue background color. The pin has a double rubber clutch on the back and won't stain your cover or suit lapel.



Noisy 19th Pin Front and Back

The sticker is 3.00 inches wide, with yellow and blue colors on an adhesive back.



Noisy 19th Sticker

If you would like to have one of these collectables, come to a District 19 meeting.

Both can be yours for a \$5.00 donation.

About This Newsletter

The District 19 Council of the American Legion, Department of California, is a 503(c)(19) non-profit veterans organization registered with the IRS and the State of California. District 19 publishes this edition to all registered members without charge.

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District 19 meets on the second Wednesday of every month at 7:00 PM at various locations throughout Los Angeles County, California. See the latest calendar for locations.

SENIOR SERVICES PRESENTS:
HONORING ALL WHO SERVED
BOOTS & BRAVERY
A VETERANS COUNTRY CONCERT
JULY 27, 2026
CENTRAL PARK
 (SHUTTLE & DINNER INCLUDED)
 6:00 PM: SHUTTLE LEAVES UPTOWN SENIOR CENTER
 6:30 PM: DINNER SERVED
 7:00 PM: CONCERT STARTS
 RSVP STARTS JUNE 22ND
 SPACE IS LIMITED.
FREE FOR VETERANS (55+) ONLY AND ONE GUEST
FAUL & LINE
 Rocking 40 years of classic hits

Whittier Veteran's Concert

FOOD PANTRY DISTRIBUTION
JUNE 5TH, 2026
10:00AM - 12:00PM
 Community is the spirit that draws people together, and there is no better way to build that connection than by ensuring our neighbors are fed.

Food Pantry Distribution at Norwalk Post 359



POSTS OF DISTRICT 19

Post 27 Arthur L Peterson District 19 (4)

PO Box 20900, Long Beach, CA 90802
(562) 436-6182

Post 51 Whittier District 19 (4)

PO Box 51, Whittier, CA 90606
(562) 201-3095

Post 61 Battleship Iowa (ALR) District 19 (4)

250 S Harbor Blvd, San Pedro, CA 90731
28625 S Western Ave, PO Box 214, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90275
(310) 357-7063

Post 134 City of Paramount (SAL) District 19 (4)

7550 Somerset Blvd, Paramount, CA 90723
(310) 920-5545

Post 170 Bert S Crossland (SAL) (ALA) District 19 (4)

3309 Antonio St, Torrance, CA 90503
(310) 213-6484

Post 184 South Bay (SAL) (ALR) (ALA) District 19 (4)

412 S Camino Real, Redondo Beach, 90277
(310) 316-6718

Post 270 Downey District 19 (4)

(562) 544-0372

Post 272 Montebello (SAL) (ALA) District 19 (4)

616 W Cleveland Ave, Montebello, CA 90640
(323) 721-4878

Post 314 Hawthorne (SAL) (ALA) District 19 (4)

14124 S Prairie Ave, Hawthorne, CA 90250
(310) 675-1313

Post 341 Leland A Cupp (SAL) (ALA) District 19 (4)



**LIST OF DISTRICT 19
COMMANDERS**

1927 to Present
Department of California

Year Served	Name
1927	A. B. Waddingham
1928	Charles C. McGonegal
1929	Charles C. McGonegal
1930	Lawrence Klinker
1931	Lawrence Klinker
1932	Ray Hoskins
1933	Art Bliley
1934	Stephen M. Cope
1935	Lawrence M. Windle
1936	Authur Longnecker
1937	John C. Dunn
1938	Charles F. Walter
1939	Charles S. Warren
1940	Tracy C. Hicks
1941	Richard J. Myerscough
1942	Ray F. Tucker
1943	Raymond E. Jones
1943	Walter E. Mueller
1944	Merl W. Horn
1945	J. E. Child
1946	R. Y. O'Shaughnessy
1947	Robert L. Rossier
1948	Joseph F. McCann
1949	Emerson C. Miller
1950	Ralph E. Smith
1951	Henry S. Wilson
1952	Al Kaiser, Jr.
1953	W. Devore Walden
1954	Leonard G. Cross
1955	H. Ed Hissey
1956	J. Vincent Walker

1957	Ray Kimberlin
1958	Albert F. Mazzie
1959	Fredrick J. Pelletier
1960	Thomas Pope
1961	Willam H. Gilmore
1962	Nathan Sommer
1963	Christian A Akeo
1963	Maynard E. Norquist
1964	H. Gordon Gregson
1964	Kenneth L. Van Sant
1965	Marvin Jones
1966	J. U. MacCartney
1967	Raymond R. Pfluger
1968	Roy W. Grimwood
1969	Guy F. Millburn
1970	Clifford R. Bell
1971	Casper C. Rea
1971	Robert A Okeson
1972	Floyd W. Schultz
1973	Daniel M. Castillo
1974	John Hudak
1975	Thomas G. Jaurez
1976	Elbert W. Ralston
1977	J. W. McCormick
1978	Donald R. Carter
1979	John E. Mummert, Sr.
1980	Robert R. Hart
1981	Raymond F. Berucki
1982	Patrick M. Reese
1983	Lauro J. Jaime, Jr.
1984	Werner E. Wolf
1985	Thomas Vincent
1986	Fernando Soto
1987	Louis R. Gomez
1988	Gary CmCracken
1989	Frances F. Berlucki
1990	Carl F. Shasha
1991	Malcolm A. Jeffris
1992	James W. Wysong
1993	Ray Curry
1994	Albert B. Clugston

1995	James T. Higurea
1996	Ralph W. Shipley
1997	LeRoy "Lee" Spann
1998	John H. Holloway
1999	Rudy Moreno
2000	Johnny T. Brown
2001	James Potter
2002	Brian Franklin
2003	James Drew
2003	Richard Benninger
2004	Henry Pacheco
2005	Joe Gonzales
2006	Bull Musser
2007	Frank Dulleson
2008	Robert Mitchell
2009	Gil Soto
2010	Art Castro
2011	William Perry
2012	Gil Palmer
2013	William (Bill) Miller
2014	Dennis Radcliffe
2015	Robert Boyd
2016	Nick Rosa
2017	Richard Ramierez
2018	Patrick Dowd
2019	Ray Gard
2020	Ray Gard
2021	Louie Adame
2022	Louie Adame
2023	Fernando Gallardo
2024	Fernando Gallardo
2025	Karl Wilvert

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:// alwmcsf.org/](https://alwmcsf.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 and the Department Adjutant, meeting rooms, storage for records, and offices for our administration and support staff.