The Flash

District 19 Council Newsletter

November 2026

Volume 102
No. 5

STILL WANTED: FLASH Editor





19th District
EBoard meeting
Wednesday November 4th
Norwalk Post 359
11986 Front St, Norwalk, CA
General Meeting
Wednesday December 9th
Norwalk Post 359
11986 Front St, Norwalk, CA

Meetings start at 7:00 PM

DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA
THE AMERICAN LEGION

SCAM ALERT

Legionnaires,

We have been made aware of a new scam impersonating our Department Commander, requesting the recipient to review a linked document.

If you are not expecting an email from department or district officers, please be advised that it may be a phishing email or spam. Please verify the sender's email address before responding, opening attachments, or clicking links.

If you have any questions or concerns, please give us a call here at Department at (559) 875-8387.


VETERANS DAY
November 11, 2026
HONORING ALL WHO SERVED
Freedom
250
Veterans Day
National Committee

Karl Wilvert—Commander

Comrades,

I hope this message finds you and your loved ones healthy.

We have finally reached the end of the mid-term election cycle. It is your civic duty to get out and vote for the candidates and issues that are currently on the ballot. I, for one, am looking forward to less political ads and other pressures that have been forced upon us during this cycle.

There was a time in the not too distant past that politics and religion were subjects to be avoided in public or family gatherings. Those days are gone and, in my opinion, this is why there is so much anger and strife in our lives. Social media has allowed people to express in public forums that used to and should be kept in smaller circles. Many times, people express themselves by yelling in social media before really thinking about what is being said and if what is being spewed out is accurate.

I have been working diligently with the City of Carson in putting together the city's Veterans Day event. I am sure that each of our district posts is busy preparing for Veterans Day and I thank each member for their efforts.

I encourage everyone to go to:

https://department.va.gov/veterans-day/history-of-veterans-day/

This is the US Department of Veterans Affairs website and has an excellent overview of the history of Veterans Day.

I encourage everyone to support those in need. Please pay your dues for 2027.

REMINDER: We are dark for the November 11th General District Meeting.

Please note that the next District 19 General meeting is on Wednesday, December 14th, 2026, at Norwalk Post 359. The next EBoard meeting is on Wednesday, November 4th, 2026 and will be at Norwalk Post 359.

I kindly request that each 19th District Post send at least one representative to our general meetings.

Karl Wilvert

19th District Commander

1st Vice Commander—Manny Vital

No Report

2nd Vice Commander—Angelo Moldonado

Welcome Members, Auxiliary, Sons, and Riders,

October was another great month. And as we go into November, remember it is another busy month. As Veterans comes up, please go to as many events and show the community that we are still around and spread the American Legion and veterans stories. We will be having another fundraiser starting on Wednesday for Super Bowl. $25 buy in. So please support. As a reminder again, we are still looking for a few more legions to host District Fundraisers at your post, just let me know and give me a few ideas.

Our District E-Board meeting will be at Norwalk Post No. 359 on Wednesday, November 4th. We will have something simple meal for donation of chili dogs. Also, the LA County Council will be meeting at Norwalk Post on Friday, November 6th. We will be having a rib eye steak dinner with baked potatoes, scalloped corn, salad, roll and desert for a $20 donation. They will be having a Hall of Fame nominee and award presentation.

In coordination with the Birdwell Foundation we will be raffling a Yeti Red, White and Blue cooler like we raffled at convention before. This one is a lot bigger and will be on display Wednesday for our District Meeting. Tickets are $5.00 a ticket or 5 tickets for $20.00. Can't wait to see you then.

I continue to look for any more raffle (or opportunity drawing) basket donations for our monthly meetings. This is an opportunity to engage your members that don't particularity make it to district meetings. And I know some you our members and auxiliary love to make baskets.

I am still looking for members to be part of our hospitality committee to get ready for the Department Convention next year in Los Angeles. A lot of ideas have been floated and with your help, we can make it a success to showcase our district and the Greater Los Angeles Area. Please lend your hand and ideas.

Don't forget to keep bringing in those Helmets for Heros funds from your Posts. Its just a great way to keep our membership involved in our true mission of mutual helpfulness.

Please contact me to arrange some events for our VA&R and get some events on the calendar to support the Hospitality Suite next year. Thank you for all your interest. You can reach me at agandalf22@aol.com or (253) 495-9462.

Thank you all for your continued support for our district.
Yours in comradeship,
Angelo Gandalf Maldonado, JD

3rd Vice Commander—Jessie Leal

Greetings comrades,

On November 10th we at South Bay Post 184 will be celebrating the 251st Marine Corps Birthday. The ceremony will begin at 5pm for those interested in attending. On November 11th we will be hosting our annual Veterans Day BBQ starting at 12pm. I will be hosting the event to include our Redondo Beach High Schools MCJROTC cadets presenting our flags. Entertainment will be held by Jerry Romano and his band. Come join us for plenty of food and drinks. Also we will have our annual ceremony honoring our veterans at the Redondo Beach Veterans Park starting at 1pm.

For God and Country,

Jesse Y Leal
3rd Vice Commander

Historian—David DeMoss

No Report

Dear Comrades,

As members of the American Legion, you carry a legacy that is both noble and enduring. We have stood in service to our nation, and now in service to our fellow veterans and communities. Let us remember the values that define us: Honor, Courage, and Commitment.

In times when the world feels uncertain, remember that your presence, your voice and your example are a beacon of hope to many. Every handshake, every act of kindness and every moment you spend mentoring the next generation, strengthens the fabric of our Legion and its mission. God Bless You All

POST EVERLASTING:
Post 272 - Robert Adams,John R Sanchez, Robert Avila, Albert Serradel, David Valenzuela, Ralph Ortiz;

Post 804 - John Yanez;

Post 359 - Michael Salinas, Jose Gonzalez;

Post 411 - Dee Price; Post 184 - Donald Balzano, Alois Dressler, Dennis Gilmore, Garry Donatz;

Post 270 - Chuck Ana;

Post 51 - Byron R Hobbis Jr., Harry F Rodriguez, Richard L. Rosenthal, John H. Stevens, Lawrence Woods.

New District 19 Pin and Sticker

A limited number of District pins and stickers are still available





The pin is approximately 1 ¼ inch 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.

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

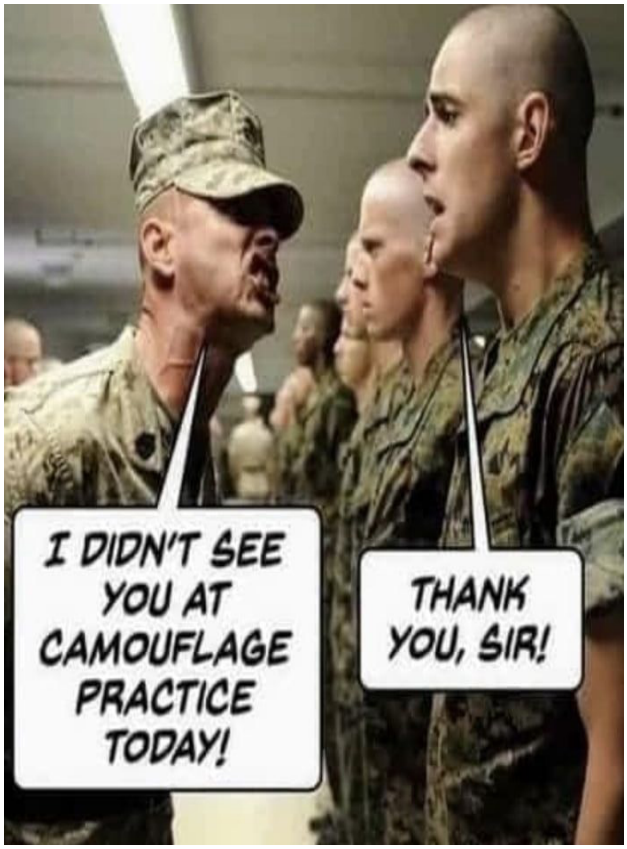
You can get both pin and sticker for $5.00.

Commission Web Pages

Go to https://calegion.org/commissions/ for information on all open commissions.

Aerospace Commission
Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Energy Commission
Amateur Radio Commission
American Legion Baseball Commission
CALegion.org/baseball
American Legion Riders Commission
American Legion Riders Website
Americanism Commission
Boys & Girls State
Foundation
Constitution & Bylaws
Children and Youth Commission

Some Fun for all









Legion post educates youth on civic responsibility



Post 30 in Edgefield, S.C., met with the school board to create a partnership and share how post members wanted to be involved in the classroom.

The American Legion National Executive Committee passed Resolution No. 6, Restoring Civic Knowledge and Patriotism through Education, during the 2026 Spring Meetings. In part, the resolution calls for students to gain a better understanding of the U.S. Constitution, separation of powers, civil liberties and the responsbilities of citizenship. And it encourages Legionnaires to get in the classrooms to educate students on this important endeavor.

Hezzie Griffis American Legion Post 30 in Edgefield, S.C., answered the call.

During Constitution Week last month, members of Post 30 handed out over 200 pocket-sized U.S. Constitution booklets to eighth graders at Merriwether Middle School and Fox Creek Middle School.

'This was part of The American Legion's commitment to patriotism and community service," said Post 30 Commander Winston Boddie. "We spent a few minutes talking about this magnificent document, then gave students a chance to ask questions before we tested them with a fun Constitution pop quiz. Tables of students recorded their answers on dry erase boards and held them overhead."

Post 30 members also engaged the students with information on the Legion's Oratorical Contest, a U.S. Constitutional speech contest for high school students that provides scholarship opportunities.

This is not the first time Post 30 members have visited classrooms to educate the students in Edgefield. They have:

- Visited four elementary schools during April, Children & Youth Month, to hand out The American Legion's "Our Country's Veterans" and "Our Country's Flag" comic books, and the American Legion Auxiliary's "America the Beautiful" coloring book with crayons.

- Read books to elementary students such as "Veterans: Heroes in Our Neighborhoods," "What is a Veteran, Anyway?" and "What Does it Mean to Be an American?"

- Provided flag education and etiquette, including how to raise, lower and fold the U.S. flag.

- Conducted the Missing Man Table ceremony during a Veterans Day ceremony at W.E. Parker Elementary School.

- Sponsored high school juniors to American Legion Boys State and Auxiliary Girls State. This past summer, the post sponsored 10 students to attend Palmetto Boys State and Girls State and the Nathan M. Wolfe Law Cadet Academy.

'Their participation was made possible through the support of local individuals, businesses, civic organizations, schools and American Legion posts working together to invest in young leaders," Boddie said.

How did Post 30 make this happen? Boddie and District 17 Commander Jerome Childs spoke with the school board last fall. "We got on their agenda, we went in, we had some talking points, and we laid out everything that we would like to partner with the Edgefield County Schools on," Boddie said.

That partnership has led to Post 30 having a standing invitation into Edgefield schools to uphold Resolution No. 6.

Aerospace Commission Honored with Prestigious Civil Air Patrol Brewer Aerospace Award
by Fredrick Shacklett | Oct 26, 2026

VISALIA, CA — In recognition of exceptional dedication to youth STEM and aerospace education, the California Wing of the Civil Air Patrol (CAP) has awarded the Frank G. Brewer, Sr. Civil Air Patrol Memorial Aerospace Award (Organization Category) to the American Legion, Department of California.



Aerospace Commission Chairman Fredrick Shacklett accepted the award on behalf of the Department of California of the American Legion during the California Wing Annual Conference Awards Banquet held on Saturday, October 24, 2026, at the Wyndham Visalia.

Celebrating Devotion to Youth and Aviation Education

Established on December 31, 1959, the Brewer Aerospace Award commemorates Mr. Frank G. Brewer, Sr.'s lifelong passion for aviation, education, and youth development. While the Civil Air Patrol presents numerous internal honors each year to cadets and senior members, the Category III Award (Individual or Organization Outside of CAP) serves as a special highlight of the annual conference. It is reserved exclusively to celebrate non-CAP partners that have demonstrated exemplary support and leadership in aerospace education.

The Department of California Aerospace Commission was nominated and selected for “having made outstanding contributions out of selfless devotion to the advancement of youth in aerospace activities”—the core benchmark of the Brewer Award.



Milestone Achievement: The Launch of CALTAP

A key driver of this year’s recognition is the successful launch and impact of the California American Legion Teacher Assistance Program (CALTAP).

Designed to connect veteran mentors, classroom educators, and next-generation aerospace curricula provided by both the Civil Air Patrol (CAP) and the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA). CALTAP equips teachers with the knowledge, resources, and direct tools to trigger student curiosity in aviation, rocketry, and space sciences.

Through CALTAP and other community outreach programs, the Aerospace Commission has expanded hands-on STEM pathways for California youth, strengthening ties between veterans’ service organizations, local schools, and aerospace programs statewide.

"A Proud Milestone for the Department of California"

"Receiving the Frank G. Brewer Memorial Aerospace Award is a tremendous privilege and a validation of the hard work our Commission and Legionnaires have poured into youth education," Chairperson Shacklett noted afterwards. "Our veterans know firsthand the importance of technical capability, leadership, and aviation history. Through CALTAP, we are investing in tomorrow's leaders, pilots, and scientists. We are deeply grateful to the California Wing of the Civil Air Patrol for this distinguished recognition and for their continued partnership."

The American Legion continues its long legacy of supporting the Civil Air Patrol and advancing aeronautical technology and education.

Historically, the first two chairs of the Aeronautics Commission (now called the Aerospace Commission in California), Reed Landis and Gill Wilson, teamed up to organize the Civil Air Patrol (CAP) in 1941.

Landis served as aviation consultant to the Director of the Office of Civil Defense, and Wilson served as Executive Director of the new CAP organization. Together, they turned the association from a paper concept into a national working organization, continuing a process that has endured to this day.

About the Frank G. Brewer, Sr. Memorial Aerospace Award

Established: December 31, 1959, in memory of aviation pioneer Frank G. Brewer, Sr.

Purpose: Bestowed annually at the Wing, Regional, and National levels to honor cadets, adult members, and external community organizations that demonstrate outstanding, selfless devotion to advancing youth in aerospace activities.

Learn More: Visit Civil Air Patrol Aerospace Awards to explore the history and legacy of the Brewer Awards. Visit the American Legion CALTAP website to learn more about the program.

Fredrick Shacklett

Author: Fredrick Shacklett

Fred Shacklett is the chairperson of the Aerospace Commission, Department of California. He is also the Commander of Whittier Post 51 in Whittier, CA. He has been a member of the American Legion for 18 years and retired in December 2024 after 26 engaging years as an Aerospace engineering/product manager at RTX/Collins Aerospace located in El Segundo, CA.

USS Abraham Lincoln to shift home port to Naval Base Kitsap-Bremerton



The USS Abraham Lincoln is shifting its home port from San Diego to Naval Base Kitsap-Bremerton, Washington, according to a recent service announcement.

The relocation is expected to be completed later this year and executed as a permanent change of station for the aircraft carrier's crew and family members. The move, while long planned, had left many family members in limbo after the USS Abraham Lincoln's routine six-month deployment was extended twice after the U.S. jointly launched Operation Epic Fury with Israel on Feb. 28.

The ship, which returned to San Diego, California, on Oct. 8, spent 322 days at sea — and 265 consecutive days without a port call.

At an August town hall meeting in San Diego, family members spoke with Acting Secretary of the Navy Hung Cao and other senior officials, expressing frustration with Navy officials over reported food shortages, concerns about self-harm and confusion over the timeline regarding the impending move to Washington.

According to the release, the home port shift is part of the Navy's "strategic dispersal of ships," while noting that "Regularly scheduled depot-level maintenance maximizes the lifespan of our Navy vessels and keeps our fleets lethal, modern, and ready to defend the nation. The work conducted during the maintenance period will maximize the lifespan of Abraham Lincoln and re-establish the carrier at the highest state

The Navy did not provide a start date for the maintenance period. Naval Base Kitsap is the Navy's third-largest Fleet Concentration Area and its most complex multi-mission installation, according to its website. The Lincoln will join its fellow Nimitz-class carrier, USS Ronald Reagan, in Kitsap.

Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth announced on Oct. 7 that the carrier strike group had been awarded the Presidential Unit Citation, the military's highest unit-level valor award.

Hegseth, who visited the carrier one day prior to the ship reaching shore, announced the award to the 5,000 sailors aboard the Lincoln, citing the "historic mission" that included completing "3,693 combat flights, sinking 64 Iranian warships, launching 450 Tomahawk land attack cruise missiles and shooting down 77 one-way aerial attack drones."

THE AMERICAN LEGION

"Stand Fast Swing Arica"

Veterans Crisis Line
DIAL 988 then PRESS 1

The Flash

DEADLINE

25TH OF MONTH

COMMENTS/SUGGESTIONS

FLASH EDITOR WANTED

Looking for a volunteer to help get the district word out to the membership

About This Newsletter

The District 19 Council of the American Legion, Department of California, is a 503(c)(19) nonprofit veterans organization registered with the IRS and the State of California. District 19 publishes this edition for all registered members at no charge.

Email: karl.wilvert@yahoo.com
EditorinChief: Karl Wilvert

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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



END ZONE BRIEFS

Upcoming Events

11/4/2026 – District 19 EBoard Meeting Norwalk Post 359 Light Dinner at 6pm

11/11/2026 - VETERANS DAY

12/2/2026 – District 19 EBoard Meeting Whittier Post 51 7pm

12/9/2026 – District 19 General Meeting Norwalk Post 359 Dinner at 6pm

3/12-14, 2027 Department Executive Committee meeting, Santa Maria Post 56 501 N Pine St, Santa Maria, CA 93458

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			

Continued next page

Post 341	Leland A Cupp	(SAL) (ALA)	District 19 (4)
4900 Durfee Ave, Pico Rivera, CA 90660 (562) 641-9043			
Post 352	Gilbert Lindsay		District 19 (4)
PO Box 11171, Carson, CA 90749 (720) 840-5578			
Post 359	Norwalk	(SAL) (ALA)	District 19 (4)
11986 Front St, Norwalk, CA 90650 (562) 474-1977			
Post 411	Rivera	(ALA)	District 19 (4)
7642 Serapis Ave, Pico Rivera, CA 90660 PO Box 411, Pico Rivera, CA 90660 (562) 656-4117			
Post 465	Clyde F Hager	(SAL) (ALA)	District 19 (4)
7550 Eastern Ave, Bell Garden, CA 90201 (562) 927-6116			
Post 496	Lakewood	(SAL) (ALA)	District 19 (4)
5938 E Parkcrest St, Long Beach, CA 90808 (562) 420-1014			
Post 804	Eugene A Obregon	(SAL) (ALR)	District 19 (4)
4615 E Cesar E Chavez Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90022 (714) 360-9268			
Post 833	Lincoln Village	(SAL) (ALA)	District 19 (4)
21022 S Alameda St, Long Beach, CA 90810 (310) 518-5054			

LIST OF DISTRICT 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
2026	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 1012, 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 2326, 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 warweary veterans of World War I into one of the most influential non-partisan and veteran nonprofit 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/ . 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 8,000squarefoot 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 includes offices for the Department Commander and the Department Adjutant, meeting rooms, record storage, and offices for our administration and support staff.