



CALIFORNIA *Legionnaire*



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Sept/Oct 2004

The Honorable Governor Schwarzenegger: **THE AMERICAN LEGION VIGOROUSLY OPPOSES THE DISSOLUTION OF THE CALIFORNIA VETERANS BOARD**

Recent Proposal to Eliminate California Veterans Board Prompts This Action by The American Legion



Past National Commander Bruce Thiesen addresses the August DEC to oppose the dissolution of California Veterans Board.

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger:

Attached is a resolution adopted on August 14, 2004 by The American Legion, Department of California, expressing our vigorous opposition to the dissolution of the California Veterans Board.

The recommendation of the California Performance Review Team to dissolve the California Veterans Board would eliminate the responsible and public oversight and policy guidance currently provided to the California Department of Veterans Affairs by the California Veterans Board, including the veterans appeals process and oversight of California's veterans homes.

The elimination of these important oversight functions would effectively allow virtually unlimited power in the office of the appointed Secretary of Veterans Affairs, with insufficient mechanisms for reviewing, and when necessary challenging, the many day-to-day bureaucratic decisions that have profound effects on California veterans.

It would just not be right, nor would it be good public policy to so severely weaken California's provision of veterans services, especially now with the Nation at war and so many new veterans returning from combat, with combat-related problems and needs, who trust the State to properly administer, and appropriately monitor, the Department of Veterans Affairs.

On behalf of over 2 million past and current California veterans, we pray that you disapprove the proposal to eliminate the California Veterans Board.

Respectfully yours,

Fred J. Walton
State Commander

Bill Mayer
State Adjutant
Please see **Resolution** on Page 4

CALIFORNIA
Legionnaire
THE AMERICAN LEGION
401 VAN NESS AVE STE 117
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From the Commander's Desk

Fred Walton

Comrades, California is off to a good start in Program Administration, Membership and Positive Attitude. Our leadership at the Post-District-Area and Department levels are uniting for a stronger American Legion environment and higher achievements.

Our recent DEC Meeting at Clovis was "VERY SUCCESSFUL." The agenda, assorted meetings, facilities and attendance were excellent. A special thanks to Richard (Dick) Nelson, Jack Climer and Legion staff for the planning and helping to facilitate a great meeting environment. The Finance and Ways and Means Meetings demonstrated that the Department of California is on solid ground

and getting stronger each month "thanks to you" the many Legion Members who are generously supporting our programs.

California had an active and spirited delegation at the recent National Convention in Nashville, Tennessee. Some 150+ California participants hit the street marching and wearing our newly designed California vests. The National Convention had many highlights—President Bush, Senator Kerry, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs General Richard Myers, USAF, several Congressmen, other public officials and the Outstanding Youth Award Winners and Outstanding Military Personnel from each branch of service.

Each addressed the convention.

Our Monday morning California Caucus provided excellent information to attendees. Thanks to all those who attended Convention Committee Meetings and made excellent reports at the caucus informing us about the national and local programs. Thanks to you who donated to the National Emergency Relief Fund. You help put California over our \$25,000 goal (114%). SUPER NEWS!!! Our 5 new Veterans Homes have been fully funded by the California Legislature and will be built!!!

The newly elected National Commander, Thomas Cadmus, will be visiting California on December 10-19, 2004. Select one of

the scheduled locations and come out for an enjoyable occasion.

Items of Major Concern: Membership—We must recruit new members and process all DMS's into our local post. We must create an environment at all levels so that our younger veterans learn the positive Legion traditions and programs, and advance into leadership roles. Legion meetings, programs and social events are important elements of our Legion Mission. We need the Legion-Auxiliary-Sons of the Legion all working together to help strengthen and grow the Legion Family. The California American Legion needs "YOUR HELP" to maintain and grow our very important organization.

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Adjutant's Corner

Bill Mayer



Greetings, California Legion Family! I want to comment on several issues. I'll try to stay brief and to the point.

Fall DEC Meeting: Clovis, August 14-15. From all accounts, we had an effective meeting of the Department Executive Committee (DEC), preceded as usual by Friday meetings of the Department Finance Commission and the Department Ways & Means Commission. Direct and concise reports were made by the department officers, vice commanders, and the district commanders. A creative and energetic 2004 membership strategy has been developed by membership director Mark Foxworthy, the membership committee, and the district first vice commanders. Commander Fred presented special awards to Everett Maguire and John Erpelding (Palisades Post 283) for their outstanding past work as Department Judge Advocates. And detailed reports were received from the department finance commission, chaired by Al Lennox, and the department ways & means commission, chaired by Chuck Parnell.

The DEC ratified Commander Fred's appointments to the Department's 29 Commissions, as required by the Department By-Laws, as well as the Commander's appointment of Jack Climer (Cecil Cox-Clovis-Post 147) to serve as Department Judge Advocate.

The DEC was attended by Tom Bock of Colorado, candidate for National Commander in 2005-06. Tom made a very thought-provoking presentation, and spent time obtaining the thoughts of many Legionnaires.

Of critical importance to all veterans, the DEC approved a resolution vigorously opposing the recommendation of the California Performance Review (CPR) Commission to eliminate the California Veterans Board. It

is important that the Legion Family write or call the Governor and Legislators to express our disagreement with this recommendation. Elimination of the California Veterans Board would eradicate the oversight and policy guidance currently provided to the California Department of Veterans Affairs by the Veterans Board, including the veterans appeals process and oversight of California's veterans homes.

The elimination of these important oversight functions would effectively allow virtually unlimited power in the office of the appointed Secretary of Veterans Affairs, with insufficient mechanisms for reviewing, and when necessary challenging, the many day-to-day bureaucratic decisions that have profound effects on California veterans. Your comments can be mailed to Office of the Governor, Constituent affairs, State Capitol, Sacramento, CA 95814, Attn: CPR Commission.

86th National Convention: Nashville, Tennessee, August 31- September 2

Great convention! California's convention committee representatives effectively represented our interests and provided excellent reports to our pre-convention caucus on August 30, arming California's delegates with the information they needed for convention. Outstanding and informative presentations were made by numerous officials, including President George W. Bush, Senator John Kerry, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs Richard B. Myers, USAF, Homeland Security Director Tom Ridge and Veterans Affairs Secretary Anthony Principi.

Of course, a major highlight of the convention was the election of Tom Cadmus (Michigan) as National Commander for 2004-05.

My personal thanks again to Randy

Wharton (Merced Post 83) for devoting so much of his personal time to our department registration requirements, and myriad other convention details.

Upcoming Events

September 20-21: National Commander's Testimony in Washington, D.C.

October 11-14: National Fall Meetings in Indianapolis, IN

October 22-24: P.C.C. Annual Convention, Amador Post 108

November 11: Veterans Day

December 10-18: National Commander Tom Cadmus' Visit to California

May God Bless All of You, and The American Legion. AND, MAY GOD BLESS AMERICA!

A SPECIAL THANK YOU

Donations were given to The National Emergency Fund at the Department DEC by Amador Post 108, 25th District, 5th Area, and the Department itself in August. Nile Creacy gave a personal donation at the National Convention in Nashville. Department was committed to \$ 25,000 for last year. With these donations we exceeded our commitment for 2003-2004.

On behalf of the National Headquarters I say THANK YOU and GOD BLESS YOU.

Willy Wilkin

FYI

Cal Turpin's New Address
2100 NE 140th St., Apt. 604E
Edmond, OK 73013
Phone: 405.478.4303

Service Officer

Terry Tracy



VA Benefits

Veterans returning from "Iraqi Freedom" and "Enduring Freedom", according to the VA, are slated for prompt service on claims. I read a VA letter that said death benefits would be processed in 24 hours or as soon as practicable and disability claims would be processed in 30 days.

Now much of this is possible because the DOD and VA are coordinating their efforts as the discharge physical will serve as the Compensation Examination for benefits.

The VA has positioned people at major DOD discharge processing centers to implement this plan. This effort is an attempt to take care of the veterans and not have a repeat of what Gulf War veterans returning home felt, that they were being shunned by the Dept of Vets affairs.

Much of this will hold true for active

duty personnel. My main concern is for the reserve components who return and are discharged from active duty but then are formed up in their respective reserve units, when they return home.

My concern is not only for the benefits aspect, but also health care. Some of these reservists have been injured and are not receiving treatment by the DOD or the VA and their impairments preclude them from returning to work. I've taken this on as a personal task!

The National Convention in Nashville was very successful. The VA&R Commission took the following action on resolutions:

Approved or Approved with Amendment 52

Consolidated with Resolutions Approved 15

Referred to the Standing Commission 12

Received and Recorded 0

Rejected 12

The majority of the resolutions that were rejected, cited legislation by bill number.

I am happy to report that the five resolutions that were passed at our Department Convention in Redding, CA, were also passed on the floor at the National Convention. One particular resolution worthy of note, # 141, GI BILL OF HEALTH, will more than likely not be at the top of the national legislative agenda, imploring congress to enact additional components of the GI BILL OF HEALTH, i.e., Medicare reimbursement and dependants in the VA.

The National Cemetery System: I am pleased to report that in addition to the cemetery slated for Sacramento, there will be one more national cemetery in Bakersfield, California in 2008.

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Membership

Mark Foxworthy



The American Legion
Department of California

District Standings as of 09/09/04

District Number	2005 Goal	2005 Paid	P1000/DMS PUFs	2005 Transfers	2005 Members	Percent Goal	Goose Eggs	Group Rank	Overall Rank
Group A (0001-1999)									
1	1,376	503	215	0	718	52.18%	0	2	16
2	1,344	532	161	1	694	51.64%	0	3	19
3	740	275	82	0	357	48.24%	0	4	24
27	1,161	520	139	0	659	56.76%	0	1	7
30	940	310	105	0	415	44.15%	1	5	28
	5,561	2,140	702	1	2,843	51.12%	1		
Group B (2000-3624)									
4	2,356	967	260	1	1,228	52.12%	0	8	17
6	3,284	1,407	415	2	1,824	55.54%	0	3	8
8	2,177	557	435	1	993	45.61%	2	10	27
9	2,266	836	247	2	1,085	47.88%	0	9	26
10	2,355	836	411	0	1,247	52.95%	0	6	13
15	3,130	1,236	456	0	1,692	54.06%	0	5	11
17	3,089	385	259	0	644	20.85%	1	12	30
23	2,792	517	406	0	923	33.06%	0	11	29
24	2,797	1,084	519	3	1,606	57.42%	0	2	5
26	2,023	854	251	1	1,106	54.67%	0	4	10
28	3,316	1,257	490	3	1,750	52.77%	0	7	14
31	2,600	1,328	338	0	1,666	64.08%	0	1	1
	32,185	11,264	4,487	13	15,764	48.98%	3		
Group C (3625-5699)									
11	4,574	2,074	360	3	2,437	53.28%	0	3	12
12	4,586	2,282	457	3	2,742	59.79%	0	2	4
13	3,917	1,289	607	2	1,898	48.46%	0	5	23
14	3,953	1,998	386	0	2,384	60.31%	0	1	3
18	5,327	1,896	655	0	2,551	47.89%	0	6	25
19	5,463	2,147	709	0	2,856	52.28%	0	4	15
	27,820	11,686	3,174	8	14,868	53.44%	0		
Group D (5700-Above)									
5	5,819	2,538	776	2	3,316	56.99%	0	2	6
16	6,545	2,837	781	5	3,623	55.36%	0	3	9
20	5,983	2,188	893	0	3,081	51.50%	0	6	21
21	5,995	2,568	526	1	3,095	51.63%	0	5	20
22	10,789	4,159	1,463	1	5,623	52.12%	0	4	18
25	6,745	2,681	635	1	3,317	49.18%	1	7	22
29	8,217	4,148	848	4	5,000	60.85%	0	1	2
	50,093	21,119	5,922	14	27,055	54.01%	1		

Greeting American Legion Family! We continue our journey through this Legion Year and it is important that we remind ourselves of our history and purpose. Looking back to our founders with the struggles and issues before them reminds us of our purpose. The needs of the veterans of yesterday, their families and society as a whole still rings true today.

There are many resources available for us to educate ourselves regarding our past history and our path into the future. If you have the means, please visit the national website www.legion.org or our department website (calegion.org) for information on our programs and activities.

You may order The American Legion Extension Institute from Emblem Sales (1-888-4LEGION to request a catalog). The National Leadership and Information Conferences are held throughout the year in regional locations and provide training in the many key areas of internal operations and our services to veterans. Many Districts and Areas are scheduling training sessions during the coming year and all are encouraged to attend.

Newly elected National Commander Tom Cadmus has a new theme . . . "Service first, Member-

ship second." This means assisting veterans, their families and members of the military without regard to their membership status.

Providing service will lead to increased membership. We must have the knowledge of these services and benefits. That's where the training and information listed above comes into play. This information will also reinforce your beliefs and build a stronger love and passion for The American Legion and in turn motivate our members.

The Membership Program can and should be the largest (outside of VA&R) program we work each and every year. It requires several independent teams working during the year in the different areas to be totally successful. We started this new Legion Year with a goal of contacting each member that dropped from our rosters last year. These members somehow have lost interest. It is very important to find out why they no longer feel a need to belong, address those issues and bring them back with the knowledge that they make a difference, are just as important as any member of The Legion! If you have that knowledge and interest, volunteer for your Post or District REINSTATE and RETENTION TEAMS. After soliciting the ideas and experiences of dropped and expired members, these teams will be able to direct your post functions and programs to include all members. Yes, it is difficult to accommodate all, but the Legion does work.

There is one team that we all belong to. The RECRUITING TEAM! This program is going on every day at every hour around the world. Armed with the knowledge of our history and our current pro-

grams and benefits, The American Legion is an easy sale. We all have relatives, friends and neighbors who are eligible to join our ranks. Please ask them to join and enjoy the benefits we offer.

The "Cole Managed Vision" eye care plan,

"RX America provides discounts on your prescriptions, "Veterans Holidays" offers timeshares for \$250 week, from hotel, car and airline discounts to insurance plans of all kinds, The American Legion membership more than pays for the cost of annual dues. These benefits can contribute to your life style and comfort level. Many new benefits are being considered, keep up to date by visiting www.legion.org/benefits. The tools and resources for creating these "teams" have been distributed throughout the Department of California. We now need your participation.

There are two more teams that need your support. The Post REHABILITATION TEAM - Past Commanders and Officers are being recruited to serve on the Rehab / Revitalization Teams. RECONNECT TEAM - The Reconnect Program, a joint effort between The American Legion and the Department of Defense to strengthen and sustain the bonds between America and its great military, has been a tremendous success. If you have an interest in any of the programs listed above, please contact your Post or District Officers and let's get rolling!

Thanks to all for working this most important program. Service does equal membership. If California has 1/10th the population of the U.S.A. then shouldn't we have 1/10th the population of The American Legion? Absolutely! Our goal for this year is 270,000.

The American Legion partners with Homeland Security

The nation's largest veterans organization has joined forces with the U.S. Dept. of Homeland Security and a coalition of 50 national groups to encourage citizens in communities across the nation to be prepared when it comes to handling emergencies.

With nearly 15,000 posts throughout the country, the 2.7 million-member American Legion is perfectly positioned to reach out to communities during National Preparedness Month in Sept. with information that could be crucial in saving lives.

"Military veterans are ideal activists in motivating their neigh-

bors to be prepared," according to John Brieden, national commander of The American Legion. "After all, we all spent a good portion of our lives training for war and know only too well the value of having the tools for survival at our fingertips."

"National Preparedness Month brings together an amazing coalition of partners to make citizen preparedness a priority for every city, every neighborhood and every home across America," said Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge.

Media Contact: Joe March or Lee Harris, 317-630-1253

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THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA RESOLUTION

(Adopted on August 14, 2004)

VIGOROUSLY OPPOSING THE DISSOLUTION OF THE CALIFORNIA VETERANS BOARD

WHEREAS: The Governor appointed a California Performance Review Team to review State Government, and

WHEREAS: The Review Team recommended the elimination of the California Veterans Board, and

WHEREAS: The Cal Vet Board provides oversight and policy guidance to the California Department of Veterans Affairs in open forums, and

WHEREAS: The Cal Vet Board is comprised of knowledgeable, dedicated volunteer veterans, who would be replaced by career bureaucrats, and

WHEREAS: Having an independent board guarantees that powerful discretionary actions are taken "In the Sunlight" with full public hearing and comment with regard to California Veterans issues, and

WHEREAS: Why should these powerful decisions affecting over two million California veterans be placed under the Secretary for Veterans Affairs, answerable only to the Governor, and

WHEREAS: The Cal Vet Board provides both policy determination and oversight in Farm and Home, Contract Review, Veterans Services, Annual Report and Audit, Recognition and Awards, Policy and Procedure, Legislation, Interest Rates, Life and Disability Insurance, POW Advisory, Homeless Veterans, and

WHEREAS: The Cal Vet Board also provides oversight in the Appeals process, allowing for veterans affected by the Secretary's decisions to be heard by an independent body, by which they are insured fairness in the Appeals process, and

WHEREAS: The Cal Vet Board's oversight and policy has been a check on the operation of existing California Veterans Homes, and

WHEREAS: The Cal Vet Board must remain in place with those powers provided them by law to ensure the successful completion of the proposed California Veterans Homes in California, NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED

RESOLVED: By The American Legion, Department of California, in a regularly convened Department Executive Committee Meeting at Clovis, CA on August 14 - 15, 2004 that the American Legion vigorously opposes the dissolution of the California Veterans Board and, be it further

RESOLVED: That the Department Adjutant be authorized and is hereby instructed to forward a copy of this resolution to the Governor and every sitting member of the California Assembly, Senate, United States Congressional Representatives and the two United States Senators.

Veteran Medical Advisor (Independent Medical Evaluations)

Craig Bash M.D.

7831 Woodmont Avenue, Bethesda, MD 20814
Phone: (301) 767-9525 Fax: (301) 365-2589
E-mail DrBash@veteransmedadvisor

State and National Legislation

Senate confirms Tom Johnson as Secretary of Veterans Affairs

Yesterday, the California Senate confirmed Tom Johnson as Secretary of Veterans Affairs by a vote of 38 to 0. This is excellent news for veterans since it helps guarantee continuity in the leadership of the California Department of Veterans Affairs. Governor Schwarzenegger appointed Johnson, a Vietnam Era veteran with more than 34 years in healthcare management experience, as Secretary of Veterans Affairs earlier this year. "This is not as much an affirmation of me as it is a vote of confidence in this department," said Johnson. "There are many good people here at CDVA, at headquarters, in the Veterans Homes, at our Cal Vet offices and at our Veteran Services offices and I am proud to serve with you." Johnson oversees an annual department operating budget of approximately \$300 million, a Farm and Home Loan program with assets of about \$2.4 billion, and roughly 1,600 employees statewide.

Legislature Fully Funds California's Five New Veterans Homes

Legislature agrees with Gov. Schwarzenegger to fulfill CA's commitment to its veterans. On August 27, 2004, AB 1077 (Wesson), a bill sponsored by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger and the California Department of Veterans Affairs (CDVA), passed both houses of the Legislature, nearly unanimously (66 to 2 in the Assembly and 30 to 1 in the Senate), in a bipartisan demonstration of support for California's 2.3 million veterans. AB 1077 provides an additional \$100 million in Lease Revenue bond authority for the five new Veterans Homes in Lancaster, Ventura, West Los Angeles, Fresno, and Redding. Without the additional funds provided by AB 1077, the hard work of many veterans, Veterans Service Organizations, legislators, the CDVA, and the United State Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA) could not have been completed and California would not have been able to fulfill its commitment to veterans.

Flag Amendment soon to hit Senate floor

Your calls, faxes, and emails worked! Senate Joint Resolution [SJR] 4, the flag amendment, is out of the Judiciary Committee and will go on the legislative calendar to await floor action by the full Senate. Now we have to contact every U.S. Senator again and tell them to vote "yea" on S.J.Res. 4 when it gets to the Senate floor.

Grand Voiture du California

La Societe des Quarante Hommes et Huit Chevaux

Having been elected to the office of Chef de Gare, Grand Voiture du California, by fair means or foul, the first thing that I want to say is "ITS GOOD TO BE CHEF". I thoroughly enjoyed the Cheminot at Monrovia and I hope those of you who were present did also. Hopefully, this will set the routine for the coming year. My goal is to conduct business, accomplish our goals for the year, and enjoy ourselves while we do it. The Grand Voiture has been blessed this year with, what I think is, an outstanding corps of Officers, Directors, Sous, Committeemen, and just plain old 40/8r's who jump in and help. I am looking forward to an outstanding year, and if that happens, it will be due to the efforts of those trouble makers in the funny looking hats. In the event that anyone has a bone

to pick with me, or if they have a beef with any 40/8r or 40/8 program, I'm the guy to see. I'm in the book, and if you don't have one, my # is 1-916-332-1603 and my e-mail is davem7684@msn.com. We are all comrades in arms, still serving our country. Even Bobby Brown, he stood up and defended the Air Force. I am indebted to him, but don't bother to send me a bill, Bobby.

Since entering office, I have conducted a number of Installations. These are very serious occasions, which were conducted with solemnity, and the 40/8rs installed were instilled with the gravity of the situation (and if you believe that, I have a bridge in Arizona). I am pleased to say that Sous Chef de Chemin de Fer Jim Palsrok, Grand Chef de Train Elmer Caster, Grand Conducteur

State budget veterans' victory

California Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary Tom Johnson today praised the budget agreement that the Governor and legislative leaders reached as a key victory for all Californians and especially for veterans.

"Through the leadership of Governor Schwarzenegger, California continues our economic recovery by providing critical and well deserved services and benefits to California veterans while at the same time protecting all California taxpayers from tax increases and unfair budget cuts," said Secretary Tom Johnson.

The California Department of Veterans Affairs (CDVA) provides benefits and services to thousands of California's 2.3 million veterans (the most in the nation). With only minor reductions in some programs during California's budget crisis,

Governor Schwarzenegger has protected veterans so they will continue to receive the help and assistance they have earned when they answered our country's call to service.

Bob Mattson, and Grand Garde La Porte Larry Turley along with myself were present at the Installation of Voiture #282, and they conducted the ceremonies with the same gusto as your Grand Chef. Enough of this fol-de-rol, lets get serious.

We are going to try to streamline operations at the Fall Cheminot, and we try to do the same at the Spring Cheminot. Hopefully, we will end up with a procedure that is both more efficient and more enjoyable. Grand Chef de Train Elmer has the Spring Cheminot pretty well squared away, and you will all be notified shortly. That's about all I have to say except, "ITS GOOD TO BE CHEF".

In the words of that immortal American Lee Greenwood, 'GOD BLESS THE USA'".

Grand Chef Dave

National Executive Committee

Floyd Martin



It is my pleasure to serve you and The American Legion Department of California as your National Executive Committeeman. Thank you for the opportunity and overwhelming support so many of you have conveyed to me. I will make a maximum effort and hope to justify the confidence you have shown in me. To my good friend Willy Wilkin; I had the good fortune to follow you as Department Commander and now as NEC. Your performance and leadership displayed for California was outstanding. I for one appreciate you and all your accomplishments during your tenure as NEC.

The 86th National Convention was busier than normal and very productive. There were 157 resolutions approved. These resolutions will comprise The American Legion Legislative program for the first session of the 109th United States Congress. The resolutions, too numerous to list individually, cover the full gamut of American Legion Programs ; Americanism, Children and Youth, Economics, Foreign Relations, Internal Affairs, National Security, Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation just to name a few.

American Legion Resolution 414 Supports a Constitutional Amendment giving Congress the authority to pass laws prohibiting the desecration of the flag of the United States. If U.S. Senate Resolution 4 has not yet been voted on the the Senate, I urge you to contact California Senator Barbra Boxer. You may remind the Senator that 78% of the public and her colleague Diane Feinstein already are on board with their support. At this time it is estimated that we are three votes short needed for approval.

I will highlight the following prominent resolutions that will be our National agenda :

- Resolution 413, Support : Prayer in Schools
- Resolution 415, Oppose : The foreign manufacture of the US Flag
- Resolution 395, Oppose : The production sale of obscene literature
- Resolution 391, Support : Stronger penalties for Child Pornography
- Resolution 58, Support : Disabled Veterans as priority under ADA Laws
- Resolution 436, Support : Full repeal of the Disabled Veterans Tax
- Resolution 180, Support : Permanent TRICARE eligibility for Reserves and their dependents.

- Resolution 166, Support : Second Amendment, Right to bear arms
- Resolution 21, Support : Protecting disability rating after 10 years
- Resolution 122, Support : Restoration and increase of burial and plot allowance
- Resolution 220, Oppose : Increased co-payments and enrollment fees for priority groups 7 & 8 and restore complete VA healthcare
- Resolution 326, Support : Maker of resolution- San Gregorio Post 428, (21st District) The preservation of the WWI Veterans Memorial in the Mojave Desert. My compliments to Post 428 and Mr. Rees Lloyd for a job well done.

As you can see this is a busy agenda ; with an all out assault on the issues and with your support we can and will make a difference.

In the July/August California Legionaire Commander Fred Wal-

ton targeted membership as a key to the success of our organization. I can't help but echo the Commanders words. Membership is the key. Recruitment, retention and the inclusion of new members is critical to the future of our organization. I know you will all support our Commander and make his priorities your priorities.

The California Delegation at The National Convention was proud of our Department's 114% exceeding the challenge in donations for the National Relief Fund (NEF). With the fires in the West and the hurricanes in the South once again there will be great need for assistance. Please continue your support helping Veterans in need because of natural disasters.

In conclusion, I ask for your support for our troops everywhere. You and I know the cost of freedom is high. Our troops need to know of our support back home. It is our responsibility to make sure our government keeps promises made and the needs of our young comrades will not be overlooked.

Michigan man elected National Commander

Thomas P. Cadmus of Ypsilanti, Mich. was elected National Commander of the 2.7 million-member American Legion on Sept. 2, 2004 in Nashville, Tenn. during the 86th National Convention of the nation's largest veterans organization. Cadmus is a United States Army veteran where he served as an Armored Reconnaissance Specialist from 1965 to 1967. He left the Army as a Specialist 5th (E-5).

During his time in the Army he was stationed at Fort Knox, Ky. and Munich, Germany. He joined The American Legion in 1967 and has served in key leadership positions at the post, district, department (state) and

national level. Among his national level appointments are: Chairman of the National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission, Vice Chairman of the National Security Council and a member of the Policy Coordination and Action Group, the Veterans Planning and Coordinating Committee and the Commanders' Advisory Committee.

Cadmus is retired from the Ford Motor Company where he worked on a variety automotive projects during his 38-year career. Not only is Cadmus active in The American Legion he also belongs to the Elks, the Moose, Eagles, AMVETS and the 24th Please see **Commander** Page 10



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- Oct. 5, Tues. at 3 PM, South Bakersfield Veterans Bldg, Bakersfield, CA
- Oct. 5, Tue. at 6:30 PM, East Bakersfield Veterans Bldg, Bakersfield, CA
- Oct. 6, Wed. at 10:30 AM, Kern River Valley Veterans, Lake Isabella, CA
- Oct. 7, Thurs. at 10:30 AM, VFW 9375, California City, CA
- Oct. 12, Tue. at 6:30 PM, American Legion 308, Reseda, CA
- Oct. 12, Tues. at 6:30 PM, Veterans Memorial Bldg, Clovis, CA

- Oct. 26, Tue. at 2:30 PM, American Legion 409, San Bruno, CA
- Oct. 27, Wed. at 6:30 PM, American Legion 820, Imperial Beach, CA
- Oct. 28, Thurs. at 10:30 AM, American Legion 53, Hemet, CA
- Nov. 3, Wed. at 6:30 PM, VFW 8310, Burbank, CA
- Nov. 8, Mon. at 6:30 PM, American Legion 75, City of Industry, CA
- Nov. 11, Thursday at 10:30 AM, VFW 6563, Fontana, CA
- Nov. 15, Monday at 6:30 PM, VFW 7041, Vista, CA

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NATIONAL AMERICAN LEGION CONVENTION ADOPTS CALIFORNIA, BANNING POST 428, ANTI-ACLU RESOLUTION

by Rees Lloyd
Special To *The Record-Gazette*

Delegates to The American Legion National Convention, representing some 2.7-million veterans, voted on Wednesday, September 1, to adopt and support the Mojave Desert Veterans Memorial Preservation Resolution -- popularly known as the "Anti-ACLU Resolution" -- submitted by the Department of California.

The Anti-ACLU Resolution, which originated from San Geronio Pass Post 428 in Banning, was adopted by resounding voice vote of thousands of delegates from all 55 Department of The American Legion National Convention in Nashville, TN.

The Resolution was sparked by the ACLU's federal lawsuit attacking the solitary cross at the Mojave Desert Veterans Memorial, which resulted in an injunction ordering the cross to be destroyed. The federal district court granted the ACLU's motion for attorney fees -- giving the ACLU \$50,000 in taxpayer funds for its lawsuit to destroy the Veterans Memorial Cross. The ACLU is expected to seek tens of thousands more in attorney fees for the appeal to the Ninth Circuit.

The cross has stood in a remote area of the Mojave Desert for some 70 years. It was set up on a rock outcrop in 1934, on what was then private land, to honor the service and sacrifice of veterans of World War I.

The Clinton administration incorporated the site into the Forest Service before he left office. The ACLU then filed suit, claiming the cross violates the First Amendment "establishment clause."

Congressman Jerry Lewis also achieved legislation which authorizes a land swap which would place the Veterans Memorial on private land -- in private hands -- of veterans. There can be no constitutional violation if



Left: Department Commander Fred Walton and NEC-MAN Willy Wilkin present checks totaling \$11,800 to National Commander John Brieden for the National Emergency Fund, bringing the Department of California's contribution this past year to \$28,694, or 114% of the established goal. These contributions express our gratitude for National's assistance to 31 members of the California Legion Family in last year's fire disasters, which totaled \$46,500. Right: Walton presents Brieden with the check.

a cross is on private land.

However, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeal ruled in favor of the ACLU's attack on the cross at the Mojave Desert Veterans Memorial on the basis that, although Lewis has achieved all necessary legislation to protect the Veterans Memorial, the land has not actually been exchanged yet due to government red tape.

General Brady, chairman of the Citizens Flag Alliance which has been fighting for a decade to gain constitutional provisions to protect the American Flag from desecra-

tion -- which President Bush has endorsed but Democrat nominee John Kerry opposes -- spoke in Nashville at a separate gathering of the Veterans For Bush organization not connected with the convention.

Medal of Honor winner General Brady, informed of the facts of the ACLU attack on the cross at the Mojave Desert Veterans Memorial, told the crowd that in his view the acts of the ACLU -- and of the judges who grant the ACLU's request for taxpayer-paid attorney fees in such cases -- are "outrageous."

"It's so easy to take a bath now, I just open the door and step in!"

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Left: white caps at the DEC (left to right) Richard Hisner, Ralph Jacob, Goldie Jackson, William Johnson, Bobby Mahaffey, Robert Munroe, Bill Mayer, Joanne Evans, Commander Fred Walton, Ben Kappa, William Reed, Bud Simmons, Mark Foxworthy, Jack Climer. Below from left to right: Tom Bock, Candidate for National Commander 2005-2006, addresses the DEC; Frank Ortiz, Candidate for Department Commander 2005-2006 also spoke to the DEC; Department Commander Fred Walton and Department President of the ALA Melanie Taylor at the Auxiliary meeting; David Meredith receives oath of office, Grand Chef de Gare for the 40/8.



DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA KICKS OFF A NEW YEAR IN POLICY AND PLAY



Clockwise from top: Yountville Baseball enthusiasts Richard Edgecombe, Michael Underwood and local Legionnaire helped organize and put on the tournament; the Legion riders with Department Commander Fred Walton, President of the ALA Melanie Taylor; Jerry Wilcox wins the pie-eating contest at the Yountville festivities; and a Boy Scout participates in the pancake toss at the Camporee at Rancho Alegre.





American Legion Auxiliary

Soaring to New Heights



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President



Bonnie Christner
Vice President



Lou Thompson
Secretary/Treasurer



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Madeline Lee
Advisory Committee

To submit articles, contact the department editor Alice Christensen at 559.299.9314 (phone/FAX) or via e-mail at alchristensen@sbcglobal.net

Message from President Melanie Taylor



I want to start by saying how proud I am to have been elected your Department President. This is a pretty awesome responsibility that I do not take lightly. I am looking forward to this coming year, making my visits to your District meetings and meeting each and every one of you.

I have chosen hot air balloons for my theme this year and I know that we will have a bright bold beautiful fun filled year this year as we go sailing around the state.

Our Department made membership goal this past year and I know that we can do it again this year. Vice President Bonnie's chase crew will be picking us up as we make our "touch and go" landings at various stadiums throughout the year.

August 14th and 15th we had our Department Leader's Training Seminar and Workshop in Clovis. It was well attended and I hope everyone learned more about our programs. Our Department Leadership

Chairman Sue Hooker is more than willing to come to your District and hold a Leadership Training Seminar, just give her a call she will be glad to come.

In the next few weeks I will be traveling to various Districts making my visitations and also visiting the southern hospitals on my VA tour. I have chosen the Veterans' Affairs & Rehabilitation program "Helping Hospitalized Veterans" for my special project this year. I am asking those who wish to make a donation to earmark it for "Melanie's Special Project". During my visits to the VA Medical Centers I will be asking for a Wish List from the Hospital Administrator and with your donations I hope to be able to fulfill some of the needed items at each facility.

Department Secretary/Treasurer Lou Thompson and I will be traveling to Indianapolis in October for the National Presidents/Secretary Conference and I hope to

bring home some creative ideas to help our Department grow this year. We need to set goals for our Department, where we want to be in 3, 4, or even 5 years from now. We need to have open minds and be willing to try something new. The old sayings "we never did it that way before" or "it won't work that way now" need to be deleted from our vocabulary.

This is the 21st century ladies and we need new ideas and young ladies to join our great organization in order for us to continue on in the coming years. BUT MOST IMPORTANTLY, WE NEED TO BE NICE TO EACH OTHER! PLEASE REMEMBER THE GOLDEN RULE: "DO UNTO OTHERS AS WE WOULD HAVE OTHERS DO UNTO US". We are here for the veterans, not to be snippy and rude to each other.

I just want to close this letter by saying again that I am looking forward to seeing each and everyone one of you during my visits. I do hope that you will attend and brag about Unit and District accomplishments. Thank you again for this appointment. Together we will "Soar to New Heights for The American Legion Auxiliary."

Devote October to help children reach new heights in education

By Linda Fercho
Education Chairman

October is Education month and President Melanie's theme "Soaring To New Heights for A.L.A." is perfect for Education. As we are always encouraging our youth to reach for the Stars and Soar to New Heights following their dreams and continuing their educations. Now it is our turn to make sure that all children receive an appropriate education

and help them soar by donating to the education scholarship fund, purchase Poppy Seals, making available the "Need A Lift" book, put out by the

Legion, encourage students to plan for college and apply for scholarship opportunities early in their senior year. I can't encourage you enough to purchase the "Need A Lift" book through Emblem Sales to distribute to all the your local High Schools and Libraries.

Another focus in Education that I would like to encourage you to get involved in, is the video and informational material available FREE to schools and \$5.00 to Units/Posts on "What Is A Veteran?". It simply amazes me how little our school age children know about these very special people that fought for their freedoms "The Veteran". I would like to see us get 1000+ of these FREE videos in our local schools.

This year I would like The American Legion Family to think about donating to a very special scholarship the "American Legacy Scholarship". This

scholarship is an unfortunate consequence of Operation Iraq Freedom and American's war on terrorism; many children of our active-duty military personnel are now members of single parent families. In most cases, this also means their chances to attend college have greatly diminished. Remember, these children are the direct descendants of people who died protecting our country. An education is a powerful way to show our thanks.

Please as the year progresses and you start receiving the College Education Scholarship applications be sure and read them over carefully. It is very important that the applicant signs all forms, adds their social security number, and has completed all the requirements.

Thank you in advance for all your hard work.

I can't encourage you enough to purchase the "Need A Lift" book.

Music month is September

By Genevieve F. Sarchiapone
Music Chairman

What an exhilarating feeling to be a Music Chairman. Congratulations on being appointed District and Unit Music Chairmen!

As per our Department President Melanie's theme for 2004 - 2005, "Hot Air Balloons" soaring up, up and away to new heights with musical notes rising up in the air for ALA.

The Music Chairman will be the Musical Director, District Chairmen will be the conductors and the Unit Chairmen will be the members of the Symphony to bring music to soothe, encourage, motivate and energize us in the fulfillment of our goals in all our programs for the veterans, their families, children & youth and community, state and nation. Music is the gratitude of the heart. No function or occasion be it happy or sad is complete without music with feelings of joy, peace and comfort.

There will be a "Best Song" contest again this year. Songs will be in accord to the President's theme and program. The lyrics will be to the tune of a well known song; and let us not forget our juniors. Winners will be announced at DEC in January 2005.

September is Music month, however lets have music all year round. With a song in my heart be musically happy!

Chaplain's Message

To make the Chaplain's List of Life current and accurate takes the effort of many. The family of loved ones would like the notice to be complete with all information filled in on the report.

Prayer book rules were in your post-Convention packets handed out in June. Prayers for President Melanie's Prayer Book should be submitted on an 8 1/2 X 11 white paper if possible. You may send in an extra copy, which will be forwarded to National Chaplain for the National President's book.

Jackie Lay -- Department Chaplain



District 14 Auxiliary members host the Leadership Training Seminar

By Sue Hooker
Leadership Chairman

A very big, "THANK YOU", to District 14 Auxiliary members for hosting the Department Leadership Training Seminar "Flight School", August 14 - 15, 2004. Alice Christensen, Chairman and Elizabeth Rogers, Co-Chairman, chose the space at the Clovis Veterans Memorial Building, Clovis, Ca., for the two day event. The seminar was well attended and hopefully everyone went away having learned something. We were trying for a somewhat different approach, than has been done in the past and this chairman is pleased with the cooperation from the Department Chairmen and District Presidents. Last year's chairmen shared the ups and downs of their chairmanships with the chairmen for this year, creating a, "Talking Procedure Book." Past Department President Ruby Kapsalis and Margaret Quinones conducted a training session with the District Presidents.

There will not be the usual Northern and Southern Leadership Workshops this year but this Chairman is more than ready to come to your District and conduct a Workshop or provide the information for you to do one yourselves. All but two Districts



The Leadership Training Seminar was led by the President Melanie Taylor, Secretary/Treasurer Lou Thompson, and Leadership Chair Sue Hooker

within the Department of California have certified instructors who will be able to hold or participate in a workshop. Attending a Leadership Workshop does not obligate everyone to become an instructor, so please consider attending and learn the basic re-

quirements of our programs, the rights of members, benefits available, basic protocol the importance of proper reporting and understanding of the Constitution and Bylaws. Forms needed for Leadership Workshops, will be included in a Unit mail out soon.

Volunteer on Make A Difference Day

By Peggy Vogle
Chairman, Junior Activities

Regardless of where a Junior Member lives or if she is active or not in a Junior Group, she can still be recognized as an active member by participating in the Patch Program. There are patches for Americanism, Community Service, Membership, Leadership and Physical Fitness. A Patch is earned by accumulating 100 points in each category. Earning points can be as simple as leading the Pledge of the Allegiance, doing yard work or writing a Thank You letter.

Make A Difference Day is the largest day of volunteer service. This year Make A Difference Day falls on Saturday October 23, 2004. Some of the places Juniors can help are at VA Hospitals, nursing homes and Senior Centers. Getting involved on this day also counts toward the Community Service Patch! More information is available at www.makeadifferenceday.com or call 1-800-416-3824.

Reminders on benefits for ALA members

By Lou Thompson
Secretary/Treasurer

Welcome to all members to the 2004-2005 Auxiliary Year. We have already met at the Department Leadership Training Seminar in Clovis. All Department Officers, Chairmen and District Presidents spent an entire day refreshing themselves on the policies and procedures of the ALA. They were provided with new ideas, coming away with enthusiasm for the coming year.

The Department Office Staff would like to remind all members that they may purchase the new roster. This booklet includes the names and contacts for all the Department Officers, Chairmen, District Presidents, Hospital Representatives and Deputies, Unit Presidents, Past Department Presidents, and more. If you wish to order this annual roster, send a request with your name and address along with a check for \$10 to the ALA, 401 Van Ness Avenue, Room 113, San Francisco CA 94102. Taxes, shipping and handling charges are included.

Members are reminded of the Department Web site at www.calegionaux.org. This site has everything to answer those questions about the organization, upcoming events, and all forms used by the Department of California. You will also find links to

National, The American Legion, and other official government sites.

As a reminder, the Department Office is no longer able to accept phone orders for supplies. Please send your requests in writing and include the minimum shipping/handling charge of \$3.20. As with any other correspondence with the office always include your name, address, phone, Unit and District numbers. The supply order form can be found on the Web site.

If you are interested in supporting the ALA without spending an extra cent, consider signing up for eScrip. This program allows members to make their usual purchases using grocery and credit cards while having a percentage of those purchases donated by the store to the ALA. Go to escrip.com and sign up using the ALA Group Number 234446. Another way to support the organization is to consider including it in your estate planning. Speak with your attorney about how you can leave a gift to the ALA, Department of California. It might even reduce the tax liability for your heirs.

Your dues are due before December 31 in order to maintain continuous membership and not become delinquent. It's a small price to pay to support our troops and veterans from previous engagements.

Poppy Committee sets goals for 2004-2005

By Lu Ann Capazzi
Poppy Chairman

My mailbox is blooming with Poppy orders and that is a good thing! I hope that each Unit Poppy Chairman has been reviewing last year's order and is planning to increase their Poppy order this year. We need to continue to grow and blossom!

At the Leadership Training in Clovis, I gave each District Poppy Chairman a booklet filled with ideas and plans for this year's campaign and the mini Plan of Work from our National Chairman. Please use this information at your District meetings and by all means, pass it down to your Unit chairman so they can have a successful program this year. Remember, Poppies is not just one time during the year.

We have three goals for our program - education, promotion of the Poppy Program and awareness and distribution.

Become bosom buddies with the Public Relations chairman in your Unit and let her help you spread the Poppy Story to your community as well as the Legionnaires, members and SALs in your Post. Use your Poppies in all your table and room decorations and tray favors that you take to the Veterans Hospitals and VA Homes. Your Juniors are very creative young ladies and are always willing to help. Make sure that you have a good address on your Poppy order so that when they are shipped to you in April there is no delay.

Start now to make plans on how and when you are going to distribute the Poppies. Let your PR chairman know when and where the distribution will take place so she can get her article into the newspaper as well as some timely radio blurbs.

We are going to have a "Bloomin' Poppy Hat Contest" at the DEC in January. So get your creative juices flowing and let's have a great parade. Each vote cast will be \$1 and will go to President Melanie's special project in the V A & R program, which is to buy special need items for the VA Hospitals and VA Homes.

October 1st is just around the corner - don't be late!

Youth and Children

Scout troops show skills and comraderie at Camporee

The 23rd Annual Department of California Scout Camporee took place 20-22 August 2004 at Rancho Alegre Boy Scout Camp near Lake Cachuma in the Santa Ynez Mountains. The following Scout Troops attended, showing Patrol scoring position and the Chartered Post:

Troop 314 - Timber Wolves Patrol (1st Place) Chartered by Albert E Schwab Post 555, Garden Grove, Ca.

Troop 41 - Rattlesnake Patrol (2nd Place) Chartered by Rosamond Post 490, Rosamond, Ca.

Troop 354 - Eagles Patrol (3rd Place) Chartered by Cecil Cox Post 147, Clovis, Ca.

Troop 551 - Wolverine Patrol (4th Place) Chartered by El Monte Post 261, El Monte, Ca.

Troop 551 - Dragon Patrol (5th Place) Chartered by El Monte Post 261, El Monte, Ca.

Troop 354 - Tigers Patrol (6th Place) Chartered by Cecil Cox Post 147, Clovis, Ca.

Troop 314, Timber Wolves Patrol was presented the 1st Place



Trophy and the "Ernie McAvan" Traveling Perpetual Trophy. A total of 39 scouts, 22 adult leaders and 12 guests were present. Al Blumer (Past Scouting Commission Chairman) and Jim Leyser (Editor, 'The California Legionnaire) paid a surprise visit on Saturday, 21st August. The Camporee was chaired by Lee Wise, Vandenberg Post 125 with the assistance of Scott Fuqua, Dept. Commander's Scouting Technical Advisor and member of Richard O. Reed Post 777.



Vice Commander Representing Woman

Patrica Jackson



Thank you to all of the Legionnaires who exercised their voting strength to support my "short-lived" candidacy for Vice-Commander

Representing Women Legionnaires for the Department of California. I promise to do everything within my power to execute my duties in an exemplary manner.

A special thanks to the immediate past Vice Commander, Janet Wilson, and immediate past 4th Area Vice Commander, Thomas Walsh, for their nomination and to past Vice Commander, Marilyn Rideaux, for immediately assuming the role as my aide.

It is my belief that I can not effectively advocate for women Legionnaires without extending my effort to all women, more importantly, all women veterans. As my first official visit six days after assuming my new position, I provided the key note speech at Villages of Cabrillo, a homeless program in Long Beach.

A few days later, I accompanied Past Vice Commander, Janet Wilson and five other Legionnaires to a nursing home visit with Comrade Judy Bell. We shared a KFC lunch prior to presenting Comrade Bell with several gifts, flowers, and her plaque, Women Legionnaire of the Year, 2004.

I attended: 19th, 23rd, 17th, and 24th District installations.

On July 21, 2004, I traveled to Des Moines, Iowa for the 14th Biannual Reunion of the National Association of Black Military Women, the dedication and open-

ing of the Fort Des Moines Memorial Park and Education Center and honoring the Iowa Tuskegee Airmen and rededication of the P-51 (plane flown during mission). A special recognition was also provided for World War II veterans. Fort Des Moines was one of the training sites for some of the Army female soldiers and first commissioned officers in 1943.

Yountville will be among the most memorable events, from baseball to dancing. The true highlight of my visit was spending time talking with one of the women Korean residents, Shirley. I presented her with a patriotic flower. Shirley was elated.

I would like to recapitulate the objectives shared with Commander Walton and my fellow Vice Commanders:

1) A town hall meeting inviting all women veterans at three strategic locations

2) Work closely with Deputy Secretary for Women Veterans, Sheryl Schmidt.

3) Contact Doctor Irene Trowell-Harris, Director of Veterans Affairs Center for Women Veterans to receive support coordinating visits to VA hospitals.

4) Work closely with Executive Team

5) Continue the scholarship provision and the woman Legionnaire of the Year Award. My initial fundraiser will be held during this DEC.

It is my overall goal to provide involvement in as many American Legion activities as humanly possible. My primary focus will be programs and projects targeting the women veteran population.

Jennifer Pason wins Legion competition

A 16-year-old high school junior set one new record and tied an existing perfect record in firing her way to the top in the 14th annual American Legion Junior Shooting Sports competition here.

Jennifer Pason of Milford, N.J., is a member of the Somerset Junior Rifle Club sponsored by Hopewell Valley American Legion Post

339, Hopewell, N.J. Pason set a new record in the Precision Final Shoot-Off recording 101.6 of a possible 109 points. She edged out the old record of 101.3 set by Bradley Wheeldon of Eubank, Ky., in 1999.

She also tied the perfect record of 800 in the Precision Prone competition.

Commander from Michigan

Cont. from Page 5

Infantry Division Association. Cadmus has two children, Nicole Kymberly and Brian Russell Cadmus.

Cadmus took the oath of office along with five other national officers. Serving as national vice-commanders are Marco A. Valenzuela, Arizona; Charles W.

Barrett, Georgia; Samuel Barney, Ohio; Wayne B. Richey, S.C.; and Linda M. Thayer, Vermont.

National Historian W. Frazier Brinley, Connecticut; National Sergeant at Arms Robert A. Mayrand, Michigan; and National Chaplain James T. Akers, Kansas; were appointed to their positions by Cadmus following the close of the national convention.

Boys State Governor thanks all Legionnaires

First and foremost I sincerely apologize for my absence at the American Legion Convention this year. I had a prior commitment and it was imperative that I be at that engagement. However, I want to thank you all so much for the priceless opportunity of attending and participating in California Golden Boys State 2004. I have to admit, it was one of the greatest and most indelible weeks that I have ever experienced which will carry me for a lifetime.

I was overwhelmed when first arrived at the Boys State. There were a myriad other young men, the best of California, each superior in his own right. One could feel the immediate sense of

competition and challenge already establishing itself right before our eyes. It was almost as if from those 980 young men, we created a paradigm of American society: comprised of different ethnicities, cultures, beliefs, pastimes, and creeds to effectively represent the great state of California.

The week was amazing and a true testament to the strength and most importantly, effectiveness of the Boys State Program. So often I heard my colleagues vivaciously cheer in the halls, "This is the best thing I've done in my life!" We did not merely learn of our government, we *were* the government. We did not just make new acquaintances and friends, we became

brothers. The American Legion was not only a group of teachers and mentors to us, but became fathers and true guiders of life. Thank you for reminding us that war, our individual conflicts, and the American flag stand for more than just compromise, more than just resolution, but undying hope for not a better tomorrow, but the best in future. I, as is every single other Boys Stater, am humbled and honored to be among each of you. Thank you, and may your legacy carry on.

Sincerely Yours,
Spencer Hwa-Bing Chen
Boys State 2004
Governor

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September

24 Southern California Town Hall and Veterans Board Meeting, West Los Angeles VA Medical Center Rm#1281

October

1 Secretary's Conference@Sacramento
6-9 13th Armored Division Asso. Reunion@Arlington, VA
10-12 97th Division, Military Police Platoon, annual reunion @ Laughlin, NV
13 Deadline for National Poster & Essay Contest
20-24 49th Fighter Group Association reunion @ Las Vegas
22-24 PCC Annual Convention@Sutter Creek, CA

December

10-18 National Commander's Visit. See Schedule below.

Past Commanders State Board Convention
October 23-24, 2004
Amador Post 108
11401 American Legion Dr.
Sutter Creek, CA
(209) 223-2963
Installation of new State Officers of the PCC

Convention in Palm Springs. Hotel rooms available at hotels near Riviera Hotel Convention Headquarters. Contact John M. Lea, Convention Chairman at 760.327.9154 (phone) or 760.327.1494 (FAX); email: Jlea605@aol.com

PVA poster contest: Grade school children are urged to enter a national poster and essay contest sponsored by the Paralyzed American Veterans (PVA). Students in first through sixth grade will compete against youngsters their own age. Each category will have 10 finalists and a winner. A grand prize winner will earn an all-expenses paid trip to Washington, D.C. for national Veterans Day activities. For details on the contest, access www.thankyouveterans.org.

American Legion National Commander to visit California

National Commander Thomas Cadmus is scheduled to visit California Dec 10-19, 2004. Please plan on attending one of the scheduled events.

Dec 10 (Friday)	Arrives San Francisco - overnight stay
Dec 11 (Saturday)	Dinner meeting - Santa Clara Post 419
Dec 12 (Sunday)	Dinner meeting - Salinas Post 31
Dec 13 (Monday)	Luncheon meeting - Monterey Post 41
Dec 14 (Tuesday)	Golf - Pebble Beach
Dec 15 (Wed.)	Dinner meeting - Santa Rosa Post 21
Dec 16 (Thursday)	Dinner meeting - Ventura Post 339
Dec 17 (Friday)	Dinner meeting - Newport Harbor Post 291
Dec 18 (Saturday)	Dinner meeting - Palisades Post 283
Dec 19 (Sunday)	Departs Los Angeles

Post Everlasting

Arnold Anderson

District 30 Adjutant Arnold J. "Andy" Anderson reported to Post Everlasting on July 30, 2004.

Services were held at Frye Chapel and Mortuary followed by American Legion Services and burial at the Brawley Cemetery.

Dick Urquhart

Post 862 Adjutant Dick Urquhart died in early August. He was former 3rd Vice Commander and was instrumental in Post 862's Boys State program. Services were held at O'Connor's Mortuary Chapel in Laguna Hills.

Department Commission Members for 2004-05 year

AREA DIST	TERM	MEMBERS	AREA DIST	TERM	MEMBERS
AEROSPACE			HOUSING (VETERANS)		
1	5	3 John W Wallace (28-5) - Vice-Chairman	1	6	3 Joe M Gomez (392-6)
2	13	2 Larry Leonardo (564-13)	2	28	1 Henry Hosea (591-28) - Chairman
3	11	1 Robert E Cozad (108-11)	3	15	3 Greg Dais (18-15)
4	17	3 Walter E Cleveland (653-17)	4	23	2 Raymond J Markle (335-23)
5	22	1 Richard I Mowrey (820-22) - Chairman	5	21	1 Herman A Grenados (739-21)
6	20	2 Thomas Christner (311-20)	6	18	2 Felix Nieves, Sr. (508-18) - Vice-Chairman
AGRICULTURE, NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY			LAW AND ORDER		
1	4	3 Ruth Cameron (42-4)	1	4	2 Stephen "Mike" Hooper (807-4)
2	10	1 Charles A. Bachman (292-10) - Vice-Chairman	2	8	3 Robert W Belt (456-8)
3	12	2 Charles P. Wendt (74-12)	3	14	1 Anthony N Guerrero (23-14) - Chairman
4	17	3 Felix W Jamison (273-17)	4	17	2 Gail E Tam Jr (381-17) - Vice-Chairman
5	22	1 James Penrose (434-22) - Chairman	5	29	1 Edward Alvarez (277-29)
6	16	2 Vincent A Fiske (339-16)	6	20	3 William S Evans (826-20)
AMATEUR RADIO			LEADERSHIP		
1	31	3 Kenneth W Vogele (119-31) Vice-Chairman	1	5	3 Tom Sarciapone (113-5)
		1 W6KWW	2	13	1 Gene B Fanucchi (318-13)
2	13	1 Lawrence R Doutherd (380-13)	3	12	2 Ray Alli (74-12) - Vice-Chairman
3	27	2 KD6SWL	4	19	3 Werner E Wolf (496-19)
		1 Ted Shelander (265-27)	5	22	1 Ralph E Huskey (867-22)
4	17	1 Andrew G Romanisky (309-17)	6	20	2 Edward Ordunez (520-20) - Chairman
		1 WA6WDX	LEGISLATIVE		
5	22	3 Larry R Ruegseger (365-22) Chairman	1	31	1 Gary Ross (84-31)
		1 WA6UTO	2	13	2 Jack S Licursi (89-13)
6	16	2 Emery S Starkweather (482-16)	3	12	3 Wesley ("Randy") Wharton (83-12) - Vice-Chairman
		1 W6ZKC	4	23	1 S Wayne Parrish (177-23) - Chairman
AMERICANISM			5	29	3 Arthur D Connell (222-29)
1	5	1 Charles Anderson (28-5) - Vice-Chairman	6	24	2 Roland F Cinciarelli (43-24)
2	8	1 Robert E Lando (40-8)	NATURALIZATION		
3	12	2 Cynthia A Nolen (83-12)	1	6	3 Joe E Sheldon (521-6)
4	19	3 Bert O Ladre (314-19)	2	28	2 Michael L Bloom (512-28)
5	25	3 William J Leinenbach (466-25)	3	27	2 Lois Galvin (684-27) - Vice-Chairman
6	16	1 Edward G ("Hank") Blaker (741-16) - Chairman	4	19	1 Steve F Valdez (496-19)
BASEBALL			5	25	3 Victor P Lopez (777-25)
1	31	1 Clarence Meyer (119-31) - Vice-Chairman	6	20	1 Chuck Eggleston (150-20) - Chairman
1	2	2 James Shepherd (197-2)	ORATORICAL CONTESTS		
2	26	1 A C Ralston (82-26)	1	5	2 Robert R Safrano (338-5)
2	9	2 Peter Swidzinski (246-9)	2	26	3 Allan D Hale (238-26)
3	15	3 Welby A Cramer (26-15)	3	12	1 Anthony S Dias (74-12) - Chairman
3	12	1 Richard T Edgecomb (74-12)	4	19	1 William V Musser (272-19)
4	19	3 James T Higuera (27-19)	5	25	2 Phillip H Heller (106-25) - Vice-Chairman
4	19	2 Robert W. Mitchell (352-19)	6	24	3 Miliza Milo (43-24)
5	29	1 Harold Hall (72-29) - Chairman	PUBLIC RELATIONS		
5	25	3 Robert E Beck (112-25)	1	5	2 David J Marquardt (21-5) - Vice-Chairman
6	24	2 Robert K. Ryan (283-24)	2	13	3 Francisco V Martinez (791-13)
6	16	3 Mel Swerdling (502-16)	3	15	2 Joe Viray, Jr. (124-15) - Chairman
BOYS' STATE			4	23	3 Roy C Allen (252-23)
1	6	1 David D DeVault (521-6) - Vice-Chairman	5	29	1 Raymond A Goss (132-29)
2	9	2 Laurence Kahn (517-9)	6	20	1 Larry E Bowman (308-20)
3	11	2 Bernard LaRue (632-11) - Chairman	PUBLISHING		
4	19	3 Paul E Weimers (359-19)	1	6	2 Joseph Sordillo (637-6)
5	29	3 Lee R Lloyd (555-29)	2	26	1 Paul Terry (410-26)
6	24	1 Victor Vidugiris (405-24)	3	11	3 Berton G McColl (16-11) - Vice-Chairman
CHILDREN AND YOUTH			4	23	3 Marilyn Rideaux (252-23) - Chairman
1	4	3 Brad Martin (807-4)	5	22	1 Carl Asher (149-22)
2	28	1 Charles N Schweitzer (593-28)	6	18	2 Margaret L McIntosh (442-18)
3	14	2 Elaine A Grover (147-14) - Vice-Chairman	RITUAL		
4	17	1 Thomas W Walsh (8-17) - Chairman	1	5	1 Jackson G Pressey (21-5) - Chairman
5	22	2 Ann M Pina-Brown (6-22)	2	26	3 Richard L Allen (82-26)
6	16	3 Jeff Mckendry (339-16)	3	27	2 Carol W Tucker (490-27)
COMMUNITY SERVICE			4	23	1 Charles Leonard (252-23) - Vice-Chairman
1	2	3 Janice L Price (720-2)	5	21	2 Gary Nance (328-21)
2	26	2 Wallace D Johnson (642-13) - Chairman	6	16	3 Phillip Porter (66-16)
3	15	1 Ed Soliven (124-15)	SCOUTING		
4	17	3 Woodrow L Baca (381-17)	1	5	2 Richard M Rosso (21-5) - Vice-Chairman
5	25	1 Thomas Russell (256-25) - Vice-Chairman	2	10	2 Donald Ogrodnik (117-10)
6	16	2 Gill Sattler, Jr. (125-16)	3	14	3 Alfred F Gamino (594-14)
CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS			4	23	3 William C Murphy (188-23)
1	31	3 Earl Chinnock (620-31)	5	21	1 Henry T Blackadar (53-21)
2	13	1 Robert H Harjes (99-13)	6	16	1 James H Berube, Sr. (56-16) - Chairman
3	11	3 John K Borders (249-11) - Chairman	SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION		
4	23	2 Ralph H Duncan (252-23)	1	5	2 William E Denson (338-5) - Vice-Chairman
5	25	2 John W Bohmfalk (422-25) - Vice-Chairman	2	28	3 James W Jackson (41-28)
6	18	1 John E Sampson (30-18)	3	14	1 Franklin D Wallace (147-14)
CONVENTION CITY			4	19	3 Johnny T Brown (314-19)
1	1	1 Glen A Mayer (746-1)	5	21	1 James F Blake (328-21) - Chairman
2	10	2 Ronald A Galvan (117-10)	6	16	2 Daniel Crow (741-16)
3	14	1 Richard C Nelson (147-14) - Chairman	VALLEY FORGE WORKSHOP		
4	17	1 Frank M Ortiz (381-17) - Vice-Chairman	1	31	2 Courtland D Bradbury (84-31)
5	22	3 Frank Manthei (6-22)	2	8	3 Jose L Delgado (1-8)
6	24	2 DeForeest B Wright, Jr (539-24)	3	11	1 Tino Adame (16-11)
COUNTER SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES			4	17	2 Evelyn Javaras (285-17) - Vice-Chairman
1	6	2 Edward B MacDonnell (383-6) - Vice-Chairman	5	25	3 Karen R Clark (299-25)
2	8	3 Michael T. Clark (1-8)	6	20	1 Julio Jimenez (582-20) - Chairman
3	11	1 John L Swaim (22-11)	VETERANS AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION		
4	17	1 David O Thomas (309-17)	1	31	2 Les Alden (587-31)
5	22	2 Benjamin D Hyde (460-22) - Chairman	2	10	1 Clyde Pearson (837-10)
6	18	3 Joseph J Unger (75-18)	3	12	3 Robert D Selby (148-12) - Vice-Chairman
DISASTER AND EMERGENCY SERVICES			4	17	1 Arthur W Zuhlke (309-17) - Chairman
1	2	3 George Dixon (720-2)	5	25	3 Joe La Paglia (497-25)
2	13	1 David J Laurel (380-13)	6	24	2 Harold F Tattan (283-24)
3	15	2 Michael V Cruz (26-15) - Chairman	VETERANS EMPLOYMENT		
4	17	1 Ozan J Evans (653-17) - Vice-Chairman	1	5	3 James B Kubicka (111-5) - Vice-Chairman
5	21	3 Iral C Evans (595-21)	2	28	1 Alvin B Chapin (512-28)
6	16	2 Wilbert E. Wilson (432-16)	3	15	2 Thomas D Hetherington (20-15)
FINANCE			4	23	2 Samuel Johnson (252-23)
1	6	1 David Kauderer (61-6)	5	22	1 Joel Gregg (310-22) - Chairman
2	9	2 John A O'Leary (340-9)	6	20	3 Martin Alcock (127-20)
3	11	3 Alan C Lennox (108-11) - Chairman	WAYS AND MEANS		
4	17	3 Harold E Yarnell Jr (381-17)	1	6	3 David Meridith (61-6)
5	25	2 R Doyle James (112-25) - Vice-Chairman	2	8	3 Jeremiah Morgan (456-8)
6	20	1 Michael A Gombar (150-20)	3	14	2 Charles L Parnell (159-14) - Chairman
FOREIGN RELATIONS AND NATIONAL SECURITY			4	19	1 Rudolph V Moreno (496-19)
1	6	1 Henry A Mazzotte (392-6) - Chairman	5	25	2 William E Wilkin (422-25) - Vice-Chairman
2	28	2 Charlie M Eskridge (694-28)	6	16	1 Dennis L Fercho (741-16)
3	12	3 Bill Dacus (83-12)			
4	19	2 George A Newell III (170-19)			
5	22	1 Marian Landis (460-22) - Vice-Chairman			
6	20	3 Robert S Russell (582-20)			

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