



Amador County Veterans Newsletter April 21st, 2025



**Ione Veterans
Memorial Park**

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CHAPLAIN'S CORNER



Father, this week as we gather at the Ione Veterans Memorial Park in honor of the men and women of our military forces, save us from indifference lest we mock those who lie in quiet places of rest, or their comrades in whose eyes are shadowed memories of the horrors of war.

Rather, let us dedicate ourselves to preserve the work they began that God's peace may yet come to all our troubled world. As we are willing to make sacrifices in war, so may we be willing to make sacrifices to ensure a just and lasting peace. Make us aware of the responsibility that rests upon us to create peace in our own hearts, in our homes, in our associations with people. Teach us that righteousness exalts a nation. Lead us and inspire us. Make us to walk in your way and grant us grace to serve you faithfully.
Amen.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"Act as if what you do makes a difference – it does." – William James

HISTORY THIS WEEK

4/21/1914:	U.S. marines occupied Vera Cruz, Mexico staying for six months.
4/22/1778:	Captain John Paul Jones of Ranger led landing party raid on Whitehaven, England.
4/23/1861:	Battle of San Antonio, TX.
4/24/1948:	Berlin Airlift begins
4/25/1898:	United States formally declared war on Spain
4/26/1989:	US minesweeper "Hobson" rammed the aircraft carrier "Wasp," and 176 were killed when the minesweeper sank.
4/27/1805:	Marines attack Derna

Memorial Day

We hope that you all consider being a part of the upcoming events this year, which include:

- Annual Commemoration at the Legion Hall in Sutter Hill – Monday May 26th
- Annual Flag Placements in Ione (May 18th @ 3PM, Plymouth, and Jackson cemeteries)
- VFW Post 8254 first Poppy Distribution of 2025

FROM THE VA



Crisis Line. Veterans experiencing a mental health emergency can contact the Veterans Crisis Line by calling 988 and pressing 1. Veterans, service members or their family members can also text 838255 or visit veteranscrisisline.net for assistance.

GENERAL INFO

Sacramento VA Medical Center
10535 Hospital Way
Mather, CA 95655-4200

Main phone: 916-843-7000
Mental health care: 800-382-8387

LINKS

[April 2025 Veterans Benefits Newsletter](#)
[March 2025 Veterans Benefits Newsletter](#)
[Federal Benefits Guide \(2025\)](#)
[How to report a veterans death to VA](#)
[Million Veteran Program](#)
[PACT Act and your VA Benefits](#)
[Survivors Pension](#)
[Women Veterans Care - Mather](#)

Free resource for Veteran research and data

*April 15, 2025 | Carrie M. Farmer and Rajeev Ramchand
Co-Directors and Senior Policy Researchers,
RAND Epstein Family Veterans Policy Research Institute*

The sharing of any non-VA information does not constitute an endorsement of products and services on the part of VA. Veterans should verify the information with the organization offering.

The [RAND Epstein Family Veterans Policy Research Institute](#) is a free repository of research and data about Veterans and the programs and policies that affect them. The mission of the Institute, which is housed within RAND—a nonpartisan, nonprofit research organization—is to leverage decades of research, expertise and strategic partnerships to enhance the lives of America’s Veterans, their families and caregivers. The Institute’s approach is grounded in empirical data and rigorous analysis, providing insights that policymakers, organizations and communities can trust and implement.

Recent research about caregivers, transition, Veteran families and suicide. In collaboration with its partners at the Elizabeth Dole Foundation, RAND experts brought renewed attention to [America’s hidden heroes](#)—military and Veteran caregivers—through research reports, public events, commentary and [congressional testimony](#).

RAND experts worked with The Heinz Endowments to help ensure that [federal](#) and [non-profit](#) Veteran employment transition assistance programs are effective and sustainable, while also identifying [ways to improve the military-to-civilian transition process](#).

In addition, the Institute released numerous studies to improve the lives of America’s Veterans including [single-parent Veteran households](#) and [Veteran families](#), while research on [respiratory health](#) and [alternative drug treatments](#) sought to promote Veteran well-being.

Research has also revealed how important state-level policies are for Veteran health and wellness. A recent study showed how state context is particularly critical for addressing [Veteran suicide](#). RAND experts worked with the [New York Health Foundation](#) to conduct an in-depth investigation about the needs of new Veterans in New York and offered ways that local policymakers and organizations could continue to work to improve the lives of Veterans in the state.

Veterans can sign up to attend webinars and receive new research findings. RAND hosts a free bi-monthly webinar series with an overview of a research topic and a discussion with experts. Recordings of recent webinars, which include discussions about transition and Veteran families, are available on the website (under Research and Policy Insights). Veterans can sign up for the Institute’s newsletter to receive information about new research and upcoming events: simply add your email address at the bottom of the home page at veterans.rand.org and click “subscribe.”

POW/MIA NOTIFICATIONS & PRESS RELEASES



Army Pfc. Andrew E. Hathaway, 18, killed during the Korean War, was accounted for April 3, 2025. In late 1950, Hathaway was a member of Company K, 3rd Battalion, 35th Infantry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division. He was reportedly killed on Nov. 28, after the Battle of the Ch'ongch'on River, Republic of Korea. Returning POWs reported that Hathaway was held at Camp 5 in Pyoktong, North Korea, where he died on an unknown date.

Army Air Forces Tech Sgt. Truman G. Causey, 33, who was captured and died as a prisoner of war during World War II, was accounted for April 4, 2025. In late 1941, Causey was a member of 17th Bombardment Squadron, 27th Bombardment Group, when Japanese forces invaded the Philippine Islands. Intense fighting continued until the surrender of the Bataan peninsula on April 9, 1942, and of Corregidor Island on May 6, 1942. Causey was among those reported captured when U.S. forces in Bataan surrendered to the Japanese. They were subjected to the 65-mile Bataan Death March and then held at the Cabanatuan POW camp. According to prison camp and other historical records, Causey died Nov. 15, 1942, and he was buried along with other deceased prisoners in the local Cabanatuan Camp Cemetery in Common Grave 721.

Army Sgt. 1st Class Leslie H. Solomon, 29, killed in action during the Korean War, was accounted for April 1, 2025. In December 1950, Solomon was assigned to Headquarters and Battery D, 15th Anti-Aircraft Artillery, Automatic Weapons Battalion, 7th Infantry Division. He was reported missing in action on Dec. 2 when his convoy was ambushed by enemy forces while in route to the vicinity of Hagaruri near the Jangjin (Chosin) Reservoir, Republic of Korea. The U.S. Army issued a presumptive finding of death on Dec. 31, 1953, and on Jan. 6, 1956, he was declared non-recoverable.

Army Pvt. Henry D. Bordner, 24, who was captured and died as a prisoner of war during World War II, was accounted for April 2, 2025. In late 1941, Bordner was a member of the 194th Tank Battalion in the Philippines, when Japanese forces invaded the Philippine Islands. Intense fighting continued until the surrender of the Bataan peninsula on April 9, 1942, and of Corregidor Island on May 6, 1942. Bordner was among those reported captured when U.S. forces in Bataan surrendered to the Japanese. They were subjected to the 65-mile Bataan Death March and then held at the Cabanatuan POW camp.

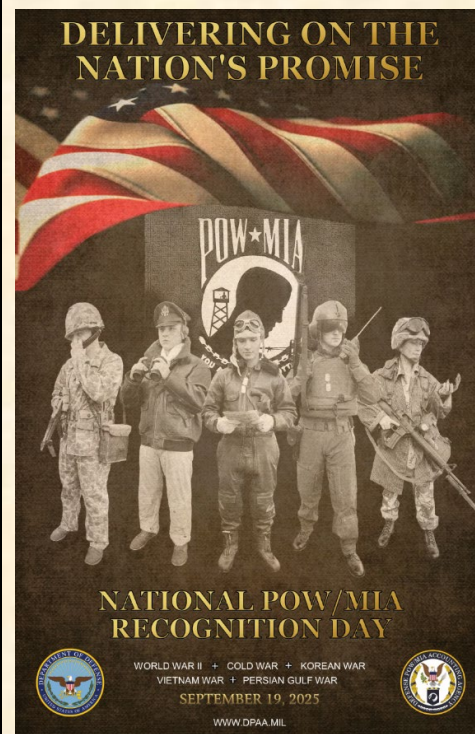
Army Pvt. Harland J. Hennessey, 24, of Boonville, New York, who was captured and died as a prisoner of war during World War II, was accounted for Sept. 23, 2024. In late 1941, Hennessey was a member of the 803rd Engineer Battalion, Aviation, when Japanese forces invaded the Philippine Islands in December. Thousands of U.S. and Filipino service members were captured and interned at POW camps. Hennessey was among those reported captured when U.S. forces in Bataan surrendered to the Japanese. They were subjected to the 65-mile Bataan Death March and then held at the Cabanatuan POW Camp #1. More than 2,500 POWs perished in this camp during the war. According to prison camp and other historical records, Hennessey died Nov. 1, 1942, and was buried along with other deceased prisoners in the local Cabanatuan Camp Cemetery in Common Grave 704. Hennessey will be buried in Boonville, New York, in July 2025.

UNACCOUNTED FOR

As of April 16th, 2025, there remain:

- **71950 – World War II**
- **7427 – Korea**
- 1573 – Vietnam
- 126 – Cold War
- 6 – Gulf War/Libya

Red Numbers indicate a decrease from the number of last report.



The POW/MIA Recognition Day Poster is out for September 19th, 2025.

We will have more information in future editions of the newsletter.

[February 22, 2025 story on DPAA Family Update in Sacramento](#)

Navy Fireman 1st Class Edward D. Bowden, 29, killed during World War II, was accounted for on April 1, 2025. On Dec. 7, 1941, Bowden was assigned to the battleship USS California, which was moored at Ford Island, Pearl Harbor, when the ship was attacked by Japanese aircraft. The USS California sustained multiple torpedo and bomb hits, which caused it catch fire and slowly flood. The attack on the ship resulted in the deaths of 103 crewmen, including Bowden.

Army Sgt. Ivor D. Thornton, 34, of Martinsville, Virginia, killed during World War II, was accounted for March 10, 2025. On June 6, 1944, "D-Day," Sgt. Thornton landed on Omaha Beach with Company H, 2nd Battalion, 116th Infantry Regimental Combat Team, 29th Infantry Division. As part of the second wave of the invasion, Company H disembarked its landing craft around 7:00 a.m. Fellow soldiers last observed Sgt. Thornton wading ashore, but he was not seen thereafter. On June 7, 1944, the day after the invasion, Thornton's unit unsuccessfully searched for him. Consequently, the War Department listed him as missing in action. On June 8, 1944, graves registration personnel recovered a set of remains from Omaha Beach that they were unable to identify. They interred these remains in U.S. Military Cemetery (USMC) Saint-Laurent-sur-Mer, adjacent to Omaha Beach, and designated them X-159 St. Laurent (X-159). Thornton will be buried in Arlington National Cemetery on a date yet to be determined.

Army Master Sgt. George C. Manring, 21, of Lake Wales, Florida, killed in action during the Korean War, was accounted for March 17, 2025. In September 1950, Manring was assigned to B Battery, 57th Field Artillery Battalion, 31st Regimental Combat Team, 7th Infantry Division. He was reported missing in action on Dec. 6, 1950, in the vicinity of Hagaru-ri, Democratic People's Republic of Korea (D.P.R.K., or North Korea), during the Battle Chosin Reservoir. Absent evidence of Manring's continued survival, the U.S. Army issued a presumptive finding of death of Dec. 31, 1953. Manring will be buried in Lake Wales, Florida, in May 2025.

Army 1st Lt. Robert P. Aikman, 40, killed during World War II, was accounted for April 2, 2025. In January 1945, Aikman was assigned to Battery D, 1st Battalion, 59th Coastal Artillery Corps. He was held as a prisoner of war by the Empire of Japan in the Philippines from 1942 to 1944 when the Japanese military moved POWs to Manila for transport to Japan aboard the transport ship Oryoku Maru. Unaware the allied POWs were on board, a U.S. carrier-borne aircraft attacked the Oryoku Maru, which eventually sank in Subic Bay. After a series of land and naval transfers, Aikman was transported to Takao, Formosa, aboard the Enoura Maru. The Japanese government reported that Aikman died on January 9, 1945, when U.S. forces sank the Enoura Maru. He was declared non-recoverable on March 22, 1949.

Current Identifications by Conflict for FY 2025

Unaccounted for DoD personnel are those who went missing during a designated conflict and who have not yet been accounted for.



WORLD
WAR II

55



KOREAN
WAR

26



COLD
WAR

0



VIETNAM
WAR

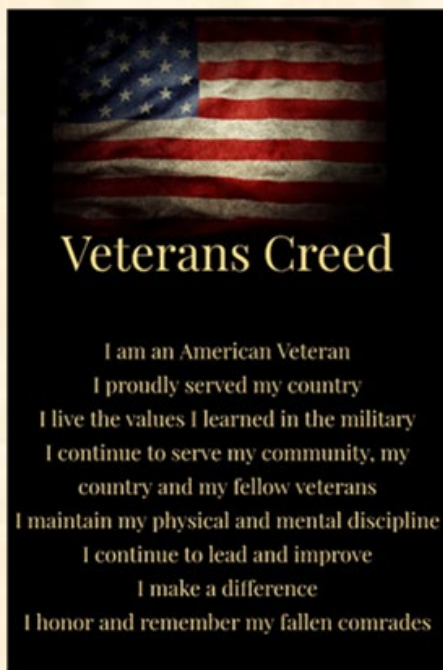
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COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER



Angela Sheble
Amador County
Veterans Service Officer
10877 Conductor Blvd., Ste. 700
209-223-6476
Email: asheble@amadorcounty.gov

Hours:
Mon, Tue, Wed (9-4)
by appointment
Thu (9-1) & (2-4) Walk-ins
Fri – No appointments



The Women Veterans step-by-step guide to benefits and services
Calling All Women Veterans, family members, caregivers and survivors!
April 11, 2025 | Missina Schallus, CWV Communications Manager

Have you recently transitioned from military service, or are you looking to better understand the benefits and services available to you or a Veteran in your life? Here's a step-by-step guide on how you can apply for your earned benefits and services.

- 1. Determine your eligibility.** Start by assessing your eligibility for various benefits. Visit VA's [Health Care](#) (877-222-8387), [Memorial Affairs](#) (800-535-1117), and [Disability Compensation](#) (800-827-1000) eligibility pages, among others, for detailed requirements.
- 2. Gather necessary documentation.** Gather essential documents, such as your discharge papers (DD Form 214), personal identification, any relevant medical records and supporting documents—like [VA Form 21-10210 Lay or Witness Statement](#), also known as a “Buddy Statement.” If you don't have these documents, you can request them online from the [National Archives](#), by calling 1-314-801-0800, or [mailing](#) an [SF 180](#) to:

National Personnel Records Center
1 Archives Drive
St. Louis, Missouri 63138

If you are unable to print, you can also get a copy of an SF 180 at your local [VA Office](#) or call 1-800-827-1000.

Transitioning service members should make copies of all medical records, including inpatient records from any hospitals you were admitted to or had surgery in. You may request paper copies of your medical records from the military hospital or clinic records office. If it's been more than two years since your last appointment, you'll need to request copies of your records from the [archives](#). You must request a copy of your medical records from each individual health care provider you have visited.

- 3. Find an accredited VSO.** Navigating VA can be complex, and that's where accredited Veteran Service Organizations (VSOs) come in. These organizations have trained professionals ready to assist you in understanding and applying for your benefits. You can find a list of [accredited VSOs](#) on VA's official website. Reach out to one today to ensure you have the support you need. You should never pay a fee to apply for your earned benefits and services; these are likely [scams](#).

- 4. Create a VA account.** If you haven't done so yet, set up an account [VA.gov](#). This will allow you to access and manage your benefits, track your application status and receive important updates. If you need assistance, you can call 1-800-827-1000 to speak to a subject matter expert.

5. Apply for benefits. Depending on the benefits you're seeking—[health care](#), [disability compensation](#), [education assistance](#), [burial and memorial affairs](#)—including [pre-need](#), [transition assistance](#), [Military Sexual Trauma](#), [Intimate Partner Violence](#) and [more](#)—you can submit your application online, by phone or in person at your nearest [VA office](#). If you have a [VSO](#), they can help you with this process, ensuring you complete your application correctly.

If you are a service member preparing to transition, you have the option to file a claim through the [Benefits Delivery at Discharge](#) (BDD) program 180 to 90 days before you leave active duty. This may help speed up the claims decision process so you can get your benefits sooner. An [Accredited Veteran Service Officer](#) (VSO) can assist you or you can file it online.

6. Explore women-specific resources. VA offers resources tailored specifically for [women Veterans](#). This includes [health care services](#), [mental health resources](#), [homelessness resources](#), [benefits](#), [burials and memorial affairs](#), [elderly Veterans](#) and [more](#).

You also have the option to reach out directly to your [VA Women Veteran Program Managers](#) (WVPM), who can help you connect with resources and steer you to the services you need. They are your advocates within the VA medical system. They help:

- Answer questions about available women's health services and claims.
- Create a welcoming and respectful environment for all women Veterans.
- Lead programs and services related to women Veterans' health care to ensure you receive comprehensive care.

You can also call 1-855-VA-WOMEN (1-855-829-6636) or text the [Women Veterans Call Center](#). The Women Veterans Call Center is your resource for information about a variety of services and benefits that you have earned and deserve through your military service. The Women Veterans Call Center can help with:

- How to reconnect with VA health care if you applied a long time ago but never used your benefits.
- How to connect with your local women's health contacts, including your local Maternity Care Coordinator or Women Veterans Program Manager, who will assist in coordinating all the services you need.
- How to find out what you are eligible for (including general questions about disability ratings) and other VA benefits like employment, education and home loans.
- How to refill your prescription or make an appointment.

There are Women Veteran Coordinators (WVCs) located in every [regional office](#) who function as the primary contact for women Veterans.

- WVCs provide specific information and comprehensive assistance to women Veterans, their dependents and beneficiaries concerning VA benefits and related non-VA benefits.
- They may assist you in the claims intake, development and processing of military sexual and personal trauma claims.

To learn more about your VA benefits and services available, including contact information, download the [2025 Veterans Benefits Guide](#) and the [VA Welcome Kit](#) to help guide you.

7. Track your claim. After you submit your claim you can track it via one of the below options: [Online](#), Calling 1-800-827-1000 (Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 9 p.m ET, or [Mobil App](#).

8. VA decision reviews and appeals. If you disagree with the VA benefits or claim decision, you can choose from [three decision review options](#) (Supplemental Claim, Higher-Level Review, or Board Appeal) to continue your case. If you aren't satisfied with the results of the first option you choose, you can try another eligible option.

9. Stay connected. Stay in touch, sign up for our [email](#), follow us on [Facebook](#) and [X](#) @VAWomenVets and [Pinterest](#) @DeptVetAffairs. We share information on benefits and services, events, stories, research, and more.

10. Utilize support services. If you have questions or need help, don't hesitate to reach out to us securely through [Ask VA](#) or your [VSO](#)! They can guide you through the application process and help clarify any uncertainties you may have.

Accessing your VA benefits is a key step toward receiving the support you deserve. It doesn't matter how long it has been—you can still apply! If you applied in the past and were denied, we encourage you to apply again. Don't wait any longer—start your application today, and let's continue to advocate for the rights and needs of women Veterans everywhere!



Post & Aux 8254



Post 8254. At the time of this release, the Post is out at the Military Vehicle Show in Plymouth. We hope to have some pictures to share next week.

Adding to the many ways we are sharing information, the Post now will have a new and much improved website. It is still under construction, but if you are interested in checking it out and providing feedback, you can [click here](#) to check it out.

Our friends in West Point have announced their annual Lumberjack Day on October 4th. This will be their 50th annual celebration. Make plans to get there.

Action Corps Weekly – April 14th, 2025

VFW Joins Domestic Military Toxic Exposures Roundtable: House Committee on Veterans' Affairs Ranking Member Mark Takano (CA-39) convened a roundtable with more than a dozen veteran organizations and advocacy groups to discuss toxic exposures on and around domestic military bases. VFW National Legislative Associate Director Nancy Springer shared insights on military firefighter exposure to per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), which stem from the use of aqueous film forming foam to extinguish fuel fires. She also stressed the need for Congress to carefully monitor the VA Presumption Decision Process that systematically evaluates presumptive conditions of service connection. [Watch the roundtable.](#)

VFW Testimony for House Subcommittee Hearing: VFW National Legislative Associate Director Nancy Springer provided a statement for the record for a House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs hearing on VA's efforts to decrease delays in processing claims. Springer explained that not fully evaluating a claimant's record and requiring unnecessary examinations or medical reviews causes delays. VA highlighted how its improved automated tools and enhanced training programs are accelerating the claims process. [Read the testimony](#) or [watch the hearing](#).

House Passes Six Veteran Bills: The House passed six bipartisan bills for veterans and their families. The VFW recently testified in support of [H.R. 1039](#), Clear Communication for Veterans Claims Act, that would simplify VA notice letters to make them more understandable to recipients; and [H.R. 1228](#), Prioritizing Veterans' Survivors Act, that would move the Office of Survivors Assistance to the Office of the Secretary to ensure prioritization of all survivor benefits. The VFW has supported the other bills in the previous Congress, and we will continue to monitor their progress. [Read more.](#)

Meetings

Post Phone
Post Hours
Next Event
Hot Dog Cart
Post Website
Poppy Drives

2nd Wednesday
Dinner @ 5:00 PM
Meeting @ 6:00 PM
209-274-0956
Tue-Fri (Noon-4)
Bingo – April 30th
MVCC Show
WWW.VFW8254.ORG
May 23rd – 25th
July 1st – 3rd
August 29th – 31st
Nov. 7th – 9th & 11th

VFW
#Still Serving
www.vfwcadist17.org
District 17 Meeting & Convention
Saturday, May 3rd, 2025
9:00 AM at Post 8254 * 215 S. Amador St., Ione
Uniform: VFW Garrison cap, Polo shirt and jeans.
Each Post must have a rep present.

VFW Post 8254 & Aux
Dinner & a Meeting
Wednesday, May 14th
Dinner: 5:00 PM
Meeting 6:00 PM
215 S. Amador St., Ione
209-274-4956



DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

CHAPTER 118

Meeting Date. The Chapter meets on the third Thursday of the month at 7:00 PM at the Ione Veterans Hall (207 S. Amador St.)

LINKS

[DAV California News Magazine - March](#)

[DAV National Website](#)

[DAV Twitch Video Games](#)

[Veteran Caregivers](#)

[Battle of Iwo Jima Veterans Share Reflections 80 years later.](#)

[Unraveling the mystery of VA rating math](#)

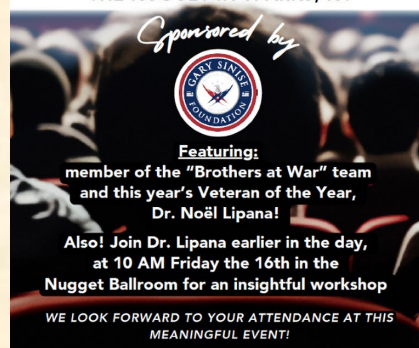
CONVENTION

103rd State Convention will be held May 14th to 17th at the Nugget Casino in Sparks, NV.



MAY 16, 2025 AT 6 PM

at the
**DAV CALIFORNIA CONVENTION
THE NUGGET IN SPARKS, NV**



H.R. 680, the Caring for Survivors Act of 2025, would increase financial support for eligible survivors of disabled veterans by increasing the Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) amount from 41% to 55% of the veteran's monthly compensation rate. In addition, H.R. 680 would reduce the existing 10-year eligibility requirement for DIC benefits to five years. The Caring for Survivors Act will make it easier for survivors of veterans rated totally disabled at the time of death to qualify for compensation and ensure that benefits are in line with compensation rates provided to survivors of federal civil-service retirees.

DAV supports H.R. 680, in accordance with DAV Resolution No. 25, which calls for improving and reforming DIC Benefits and No.142, which calls for the reduction of the 10-year eligibility rule for DIC.

We ask all DAV members and supporters to contact their representatives and urge them to co-sponsor and support H.R. 680, the Caring for Survivors Act of 2025.

Veteran caregivers play a vital role in supporting those who have served our nation. Many veterans face physical, emotional or psychological challenges resulting from their service, and caregivers ensure these heroes receive the care and assistance they need to maintain their health, dignity and quality of life. However, caregivers often find it difficult to understand Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) caregiver-related communications and program requirements. Likewise, they are frequently not recognized as an integral part of the veteran's care team.

H.R. 109, the Transparency and Effective Accountability Measures for Caregivers Act or the TEAM Veteran Caregivers Act, would require the VA to formally recognize caregivers through documentation in the veteran's health record, mandate standardized notification letters to ensure transparent communication regarding clinical determinations that impact caregivers and veterans, and provide a temporary 90-day benefit extension for veterans deemed ineligible under the VA Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers to safeguard their care during a transition period.

We strongly support H.R. 109, which is consistent with DAV Resolution No. 353, supporting legislation to improve and provide comprehensive services for caregivers of severely wounded, injured and ill veterans of all eras.

Please use the prepared email or your own letter and urge your Representative to cosponsor H.R. 109, the TEAM Veteran Caregivers Act.

AMERICAN LEGION

POST 108



Legislative. This week, we are asking Legionnaires to contact Congress to request support for the GI Bill Parity Act! This act proposes counting every day spent on weekend drills, annual training, attending military school, participating in an exercise, or responding to a disaster toward GI Bill eligibility. The American Legion supports this legislation, and we appreciate all the emails you have sent so far. **Go to the [Action Center](#) to quickly email a letter of support to your members of Congress.**

BILLS PASSED IN THE HOUSE. On April 7, several bills passed in the House via voice vote. The following bills have passed in the House and are now moving on to the Senate:

- H.R 1039: Clear Communication for Veterans Claims Act
- H.R 983: Montgomery GI Bill Selected Reserves Tuition Fairness Act of 2025
- H.R. 970: Fairness for Servicemembers and their Families Act of 2025
- H.R. 877: Deliver for Veterans Act
- H.R. 586: Vietnam Veterans Liver Fluke Cancer Study Act

Vietnam remembered

April 11th, 2025

In September 2003, the entire issue of The American Legion Magazine was dedicated to the Vietnam War. Check out the issue.

Nearly 30 years ago, North Vietnamese military forces took control of South Vietnam's capital, Saigon. Over the course of April 29-30, 1975, and with 800 U.S. Marines providing security, U.S. Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, and Army helicopters evacuated more than 7,000 people from Tân Sơn Nhứt Air Base, the U.S. embassy and other locations via Operation: Frequent Wind.

On that second day – April 30 – North Korean forces had total control of Saigon, bringing what is considered to be the official end of Vietnam War.

Throughout April, The American Legion will be sharing stories about the Vietnam War's final days. But nearly 22 years ago, in September 2003, we dedicated an entire issue of The American Legion Magazine to the war.

The issue "Vietnam Remembered" included articles on the heroes of the war, James Stockdale's perspective as a prisoner of war, a first-person account the Vietnam's Dustoff crews' efforts to rescue wounded soldiers by Medal of Honor recipient Patrick H. Brady, how the Vietnam War experience continued to shape how America fights wars, and much more. Check out the entire issue [here](#).

Post Leadership:

Post CDR: Mike Green (209) 267-9493
ALA Pres: Lisa Giordano (209) 712-8189
Sons CDR: Rick Boughner (916) 990-4252
Riders Dir: Pat Burkhardt (530) 635-3878

Office Information:

Rep: Kathleen Gast
Hours: Tue, Wed, Thu (10-2)
Phone: 209-267-9493

Meetings:

Post: 1st Thursday, 7:00 PM
Aux: 4th Thursday,
Sons: 2nd Monday, 6:00 PM
Riders: 2nd Monday, 6:30 PM

Dues:

Legion: \$50
Aux:
Sons: \$15
Riders: \$30

2025 Blood Drives: We are working on the dates. I hope to get the dates soon.

As for 2024, the Blood Drives netted a total of 455 units of whole blood. Thank you Amador County!

Please call 877-258-4825 to make an appointment. Or you can donate your blood as a 'walk-in'. The Blood Drive will be held at the American Legion Hall.

Karaoke. Jack Magee will be hosting Karaoke on the third Saturday of each month from 7:00 PM to Midnight.

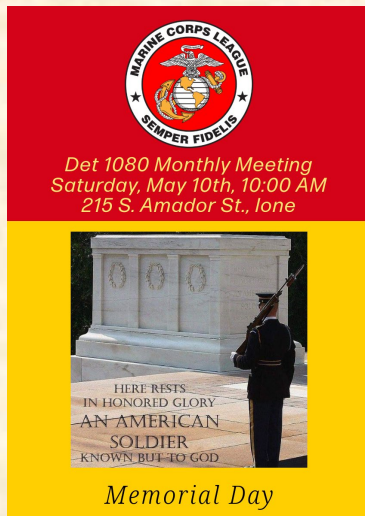
Bingo. Bingo will start up at the Legion Post on the Second Thursday of each month.

Links:

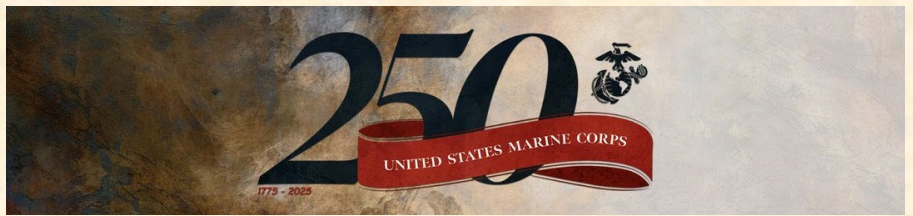
[Be the One Program](#)
[Scholarship Information](#)



Meetings First Saturday of the Month,
10:00 AM
Phone 209-274-4956
Post Hrs: Noon – 4:00 PM (Tue – Fri)
POC: Senior Vice Rick Boughner
M/C Ball: November 10th, Legion Hall
Next Event:



[Marine Corps League Membership Application](#)
[Marine Corps League Recommended Reading](#)



MARINE CORPS LEAGUE DET 1080

We hope to have some pictures from this weeks Military Vehicle Show in Plymouth in next weeks newsletter.

*Returning to the Ranks: Sgt. Dakota Meyer
reenlists into the U.S. Marine Corps*

17 April 2025 | LCPL Abigail Hutcheson, HQ Marine Corps

U.S. Marine Corps Sgt. Dakota Meyer, a Medal of Honor recipient, returned to service on the afternoon of April 17, 2025, in the Pentagon's Hall of Heroes.

"I believe the Marine Corps is, hands down, the best institution on the planet," said U.S. Marine Corps Sgt. Dakota Meyer, who was awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions during the 2009 Battle of Ganjgal in Afghanistan.

Meyer raised his right hand and swore the Oath of Enlistment, the same words he spoke in 2006 when he first joined the Corps. Meyer, a native of Columbia, Kentucky, served in the Marine Corps from 2006 until 2010, when he was honorably discharged after two deployments to the Middle East.

On the morning of his reenlistment ceremony, Meyer took part in a physical training event alongside Pete Hegseth, the Secretary of Defense, U.S. Marine Corps Sgt. Maj. Carlos Ruiz, the Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, Tulsi Gabbard, the Director of National Intelligence, and a group of Marines stationed at Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall.

"I think it's great that leadership from even the highest levels came out to work out with us," said U.S. Marine Corps Sgt. Brian Ruiz, a motor transport operator who participated in the PT event. "Hearing that [Sgt. Meyer] is reenlisting is super motivating. He has so much experience and so much to say. It's great."

When asked why he decided to reenlist, Meyer recalled a moment when he spoke at a noncommissioned officer course. While speaking to the Marines there, Meyer said, a sergeant asked him if he should reenlist. Meyer responded, 'Absolutely.' Later, reflecting on his response to that young Marine, Meyer asked himself, "How could I ask them to continue to serve and sacrifice without doing it myself?" This question ultimately led to his decision to reenlist.

In the end, Meyer's decision to reenlist was driven by a deep sense of responsibility, both to his fellow Marines and to himself.

"Still today, at my age, joining the Marine Corps is the single greatest thing that I have ever done," Meyer said.

TRICARE COMMUNICATIONS

Unlock Your Health: Need Help with Your TRICARE Benefit? A Beneficiary Counseling and Assistance Coordinator Can Help

April 18, 2025 | By TRICARE Communications

Did you know that [military hospitals and clinics](#) have support staff who can help you navigate your TRICARE benefit? These include [Beneficiary Counseling and Assistance Coordinators](#). You can find them at any military hospital or clinic.

Before you reach out to a BCAC, it's important to first contact your [regional contractor](#) for help with TRICARE issues. Most TRICARE questions and concerns—such as those about enrollment, claims, referrals, or provider networks—can be handled directly through them. If you've already reached out to your contractor and still need help, a BCAC is your next step. They can take a deeper look at your issue and help guide you toward a resolution.

To get help, start by contacting the appropriate resource:

- **Questions about TRICARE eligibility or updates to a military service record:** Contact your [Service Personnel Component](#) or the [DMDC/DEERS Support Office](#) (800-538-9552).
- **Questions about enrollment, claims, provider networks, or referrals:** Contact your [regional contractor](#) first.

So, when should you get in touch with a BCAC? Read below to learn more.

What does a Beneficiary Counseling and Assistance Coordinator do? BCACs can explain your TRICARE plan and how your benefit works. They work closely with regional contractors and claims processors to help resolve your concerns.

BCACs can address TRICARE-related questions, including:

- [Enrollment](#)
- [Referrals and pre-authorizations](#)
- [Claims processing delays](#)
- [Covered services](#)
- The [Military Health System Nurse Advice Line](#)
- Getting healthcare services outside the military hospital or clinic

“You may have questions or concerns about TRICARE enrollment, coverage, or costs that haven’t been resolved through traditional channels. BCACs are people you can contact, and even meet with in person,” said Calvin Keller, health systems analyst, Benefit Education, at the Defense Health Agency. “They’re committed to answering your questions and addressing your concerns.”

For example, you may have a question about your TRICARE eligibility or enrollment as shown in the [Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System](#). Maybe your record shows “No healthcare coverage plan” and you believe this is an error. After reaching out to the DMDC/DEERS Support Office, a BCAC can:

- Explain the different messages you see in your DEERS record
- Provide information on eligibility requirements
- Guide you on how to follow up with your sponsor’s Service Personnel Component



Links

[DEERS INFO](#)

[TRICARE 101](#)

[TRICARE Costs &
Fees Sheet](#)

[TRICARE Eligibility](#)

[TRICARE Overseas
Travel](#)

[TRICARE West](#)

BCACs don't determine or fix TRICARE eligibility—but they can be a valuable resource in navigating the process.

Why reach out to a BCAC? *If you feel lost after trying to resolve issues with your regional contractor or service, there are still other TRICARE experts who can help. Consider reaching out to a BCAC. BCACs will work with you to understand your concerns and explore possible solutions.*

Who can get help from a BCAC? *Do you still have questions after contacting your regional contractor? Any TRICARE beneficiary can visit or call a BCAC, even if you don't regularly get care at a military hospital or clinic, or live far from one.*

How do I find a BCAC? *You can meet with a BCAC in person by walking into their office. You don't need an appointment. If you can't get there in person, you can give them a call.*

Each military hospital or clinic has contact information for their BCAC. Find their information online on the [Find a Military Hospital or Clinic page](#). Or check out the [Customer Service Community Directory](#). You can also ask the hospital staff for their office location if you'd like to meet in person.

What's the difference between a BCAC and a patient advocate? *While both are there to support you, BCACs and patient advocates have different roles. BCACs help with TRICARE benefits. Patient advocates help with concerns or questions about healthcare services you received at a military hospital or clinic.*

They can:

- *Explain the Patient Bill of Rights and Responsibilities and give you a copy*
- *Explain military hospital or clinic policies, procedures, and operations*
- *Mediate concerns between you and your medical team*

It's important to know what resources are available to help you make the best healthcare decisions for you and your family. If you have questions or concerns about your TRICARE benefit, [unlock your health](#) by seeking help from a BCAC.

MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD



VANDENBERG SPACE FORCE BASE, Calif. (AFNS) -- Military readiness isn't just about the individual in uniform; it's about the strength and resilience of the entire family. This year, Natalia Serna, daughter of [Space Launch Delta 30's](#) senior enlisted leader Chief Master Sgt. Jay Harris and Maria Tapia, embodies this crucial connection as the U.S. Space Force's Military Child of the Year, recognized by Operation Homefront.

This prestigious award, presented annually for the past 17 years, recognizes the resilience, leadership and commitment of military children across all six branches of the armed forces.

"I was completely shocked. Being nominated was an incredible honor, but finding out I had won felt surreal," said Natalia. "I immediately thought of my family, my peers, and everyone who has supported me throughout this journey."

Natalia paved her path to this remarkable achievement with courage, adaptability and unwavering spirit. Throughout her father's deployments, she faced the challenges inherent to military life with grace, grit and determination.

"Military life isn't easy — TDYs, long separations, and frequent moves require constant adjustment. Our daughter has handled each challenge with remarkable strength," Harris said. "This award is an incredible honor and truly reflects the hard work, sacrifices, and heart our daughter has poured into her community and our family. For our family, it's a moment to pause and celebrate not just her accomplishments but the journey it took to get here."

Natalia's story resonated deeply with the judges throughout the multi-stage selection process. Her compelling essays and insightful interviews showcased not only her personal growth but also her passion for supporting other military youth and solidified her belief in the power of community and the importance of supporting one another.

"Natalia has great social skills," Tapia said. "She is constantly embracing new experiences that cultivate connections that enrich her life." Tapia credits their time in Germany as a pivotal experience for Natalia, familiarizing herself with the culture of six nearby countries local to Germany.

"She developed a strong desire to explore, travel and seek new information and experiences that have helped her become a well-rounded teen," Tapia said.

After attending seven schools in 11 years, the family says youth programs that support military kids as well as mentors who understand the constant changes that come with military life contributed to this achievement. For Natalia, she is just getting started.

"Being named Military Child of the Year for the Space Force motivates me to amplify my voice and use it to support other military children," Natalia said. "Whether it's advocating for and creating spaces where military kids feel heard and supported, I want to be part of the solution."

Natalia's story serves as a powerful testament to the indomitable spirit of military children across the globe. Her message to current and future military children emphasizes their inner strength.

"You are stronger than you realize. Constant moves, deployments, and the uncertainty can be tough, but those challenges also shape you into someone resilient, adaptable and capable of achieving incredible things," Natalia said.

Natalia stands as a shining example of resilience, leadership, and unwavering commitment to community — values that will undoubtedly guide her toward a bright and impactful future.

"This award solidifies my passion for leadership and pushes me to find new ways to give back," Natalia said. "Not just within the military community but beyond."

2025 DATES TO REMEMBER

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Time:</u>	<u>Location</u>
Feb 16:	Liversedge/Iwo Jima Remembrance	11:00 AM	Volcano
Feb 22:	DPAA Family Update		Sacramento
Mar 15 & 16:	Dandelion Days		Downtown Jackson
Mar 22 & 23:	Capital Air Show		Mather Field
Mar 29:	National Vietnam War Veterans Day		
Apr 16-19:	Military Vehicle Show (MVCC)		County Fairgrounds
Apr 26:	Ione Walk for the Troops	11:00 AM	Ione Veterans Memorial Park
May 1:	Loyalty Day		
May 3:	VFW National Day of Service		
May 8-11:	Ione Homecoming		Ione Main St./Howard Park
May 10:	Military Spouse Appreciation Day		
May 18:	Armed Forces Day		
May 19-20:	Veterans Homeless Resource Fair		Detert Park, Jackson
May 19-26:	Memorial Weekend Events		Various
Jun 6:	D-Day		
Jun 14:	Flag Day & Army Birthday		
Jun 21:	Ione Car Show		Main St.
Jul 4:	Independence Day & Volcano Car Show		
Jul 27:	Korea Armistice Day		
Jul 25-28:	Amador County Fair		Plymouth Fairgrounds
August	Cootie Hospital Visit	TBD	Veterans Home Yountville
Aug 4:	Coast Guard Birthday		
Aug 7:	Purple Heart Day		Plymouth
Aug 29:	79 th Birthday – Post 8254		Post 8254
Sep 2:	Labor Day & V-J Day		
Sep 11:	Patriot Day Ceremony		Ione Fire Department
Sep 11-14:	MVCC Fall Show		County Fairgrounds
Sep 18:	Air Force Birthday		
Sep 19:	POW/MIA Recognition Day		
Sep 29:	Gold Star Mother's Day & VFW Day		
Oct 7:	Start of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM		
Oct 13:	Navy Birthday		
Nov 3:	Turkey Drive	9:00 AM	Hook'd
Nov 3:	IVMP Shoot	9:30 AM	Camanche Hills
Nov 5:	Election Day		
Nov 10:	Marine Corps Birthday Ball	5:00 PM	Sutter Creek
Nov 11:	Veterans Day Parade & Events	10:00 AM	Main St. Jackson
Dec 7:	Pearl Harbor Day		
Dec 8:	IVMP Tree Lighting	7:00 PM	Ione Veterans Memorial Park
Dec 13:	National Guard Birthday		
Dec 13:	Wreaths Across America	9:00 AM	Ione & Jackson
Dec 14:	Ione Christmas Parade	11:00 AM	Main St. Ione
Dec 20:	Space Force Birthday		

NOTES:

- This is a living document subject to change as the events warrant...or corrections require. If text is red, that means it is a change from a previous copy.**
- Poppy Drives are held:** May 23rd – 25th, July 1st – 3rd, August 29th – 31st, and November 7th – 9th, and November 11th. All will be OUTSIDE OF WAL-MART from 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM.
- Unaccompanied Veterans Ceremony.** Held at 2:00 PM on the third Thursday of each month at the Sacramento Valley National Cemetery (Dixon) at Shelter 1.
- Blood Drives.** Getting the dates from the Legion, but the times are generally 11:30 AM – 5:00 PM.
- Ex-USS LUCID (MSO 458) working parties** are on the 2nd and 4th Saturday of the Month.
- Kaiser Truck.** Visits Post 8254 on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the Month. Expected times are 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM.

UPCOMING LOCAL EVENTS

APRIL 26TH

WALK FOR THE TROOPS

**Ione Walk for the Troops
Saturday, April 26th, 2025**



- 11 AM - Ceremony, after which we will walk to Bishop Hall
- Lunch, Raffle and Music
 - (\$20 per ticket)
- Five \$100 gift cards will be given as door prizes

**\$20 Lunch Ticket
can be purchased from:**

Robyn: (209) 304-8780
Skip: (209) 256-3158

or buy tickets at Robyn's Nest
106 W. Main St. Dr,
Ione, CA

ioneveteranmemorialpark.com

This is the Ione Veterans Memorial Park Committees' largest event which includes a full military ceremony supporting our fallen heroes, veterans, and those currently serving.

After the ceremony, there is the option to walk or ride to Bishop Hall for the lunch and entertainment.

MAY 8-11TH

IONE HOMECOMING

149th Ione Homecoming

RODEO

★ ★ ★ ★ ★
Show ★ ★ ★ ★ ★



May 10th

*Ed Hughes Memorial Arena,
Howard Park, Ione, CA*

**Call Christine Gold for Entries:
209-256-4111**

We begin the countdown to one of Ione's biggest events – the Homecoming. This poster is here because we will be having our display and Hot Dog Cart available at the Rodeo, and we look forward to seeing everybody there.

EVENTS OF MEMORIAL DAY



We hope that you all consider being a part of the upcoming events this year, which include:

- *Annual Commemoration at the Legion Hall in Sutter Hill*
- *Annual Flag Placements in Ione, Plymouth, and Jackson cemeteries*
- *VFW Post 8254 first Poppy Distribution of 2025 outside of WAL-MART*

Amador Veterans Reference Guide

Place	Name	Phone	Social Media or Website	E-mail
VFW/DAV	Rick Boughner	209-274-4956	www.facebook.com/vfw8254.org	Brady8246@sbcglobal.net
American Legion Post 108	Kathleen Gast	209-267-9493	www.alpost108amador.org	
Marine Corps League Det 1080	Rick Boughner	209-274-4956	www.facebook.com/MCLMotherlode	0311usmc8162@gmail.com
Ione Memorial Hall Rental	Megan Buchanan	209-274-0274		Hall Rental Info (Click Here)
County VSO	Angela Sheble	209-223-6476	Amador County Office CACVSO	asheble@amadorcounty.gov
Veterans Crisis Line:		988 (then press 1)	https://www.veteranscrisisline.net	
Caregiver Support Line:		1-855-260-3274		
Help for Homeless Vets:		1-877-424-3838		
Plymouth Vets Memorial Park:	Jim Wise			jwise@pacellp.com
Amador Interfaith Food Bank	Beth Stanton	209-267-9006	www.feedamador.org	bstanton@feedamador.org
CA Military Funeral Honor Program	CA NG HQ	916-616-6412		Nhut.t.le.mil@mail.mil

Office Hours

Legion Post 108 (Sutter Hill)	Kathleen Gast	Tue-Thu, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM	209-267-9493
VFW, DAV, MCL (Ione)	Rick B.	Noon – 4:00 PM	209-274-4956
Amador County Veterans Service Office	Angela Sheble	Refer to CVSO Page	209-223-6476

Emergency Contacts

Ione PD:	209-274-2456		Sutter Amador Hospital:	209-223-7500
Jackson PD:	209-223-1771		Amador Fire:	209-223-6391
Sutter Creek PD:	209-267-5646		Burn Day Hotline:	209-223-6246
Amador County Sheriff:	209-223-6500		American Red Cross:	www.redcross.org
Amador County Jail:	209-223-6522		FEMA Disaster Assistance:	Veterans disasterassistance.gov

Important Internet Resources

Amador County Emergency Info/Resources	Fisher House – DGMC Travis AFB	USS LUCID Project
California Department of Veterans Affairs	IRS Information for Veterans	VA Dental Information
California Veterans Resource Book	Marine Corps League Website	VA Disability Rates (2024)
DAV Death Benefits Guide	Military Order of the Purple Heart	VA Mather Website
Disaster Assistance for Veterans	National Archives for Veterans	Wood Angels
DOD Military One Source	National Park Service Benefits	Year-round veterans discounts
DPAA YEAR IN REVIEW 2024	Sew 4 Vets	
Exhale Farms	State Tax Information for Military Pay	
Federal Benefits For Vets, Dependents & Survivors	TRICARE	

AMADOR COUNTY VETERANS CALENDAR

APRIL 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Mar 30	31	Apr 1	2	3 7 PM Legion Mtg	4	5 10 AM MCL Mtg
6	7	8	9 9 AM Kaiser Truck 5 PM 8254 Mtgs	10	11	12 LUCID WKG PTY
13	14 6 PM Sons Mtg 6:30 PM Riders Mtg	15	16 Military Vehicle Show Plymouth 7 PM DAV Mtg	17	18	19
20 Easter Sunday	21	22	23 9 AM Kaiser Truck	24	25	26 LUCID WORKING PTY Walk for the Troops
27	28	29	30	May 1 Loyalty Day 7 PM Legion Mtg	2	3 VFW Day of Service 9 AM VFW D17 Mtg @ 82