



# Amador County Veterans Newsletter - June 2nd, 2025

## Contents

VA	2
POW/MIA	3
CVSO	5

## ORGANIZATIONS

VFW	6
DAV	7
LEGION	8
MCL	9
TRICARE	10

## SPECIAL

Memorial Day	11
D-Day	12
Midway	13

## REFERENCE

Dates	14
Reference Guide	15
Events	16
Commemorations	17
Calendar	18

## FROM THE CHAPLAIN – FDR D-DAY PRAYER

*Almighty God, Our sons, pride of our Nation, this day have set upon a mighty endeavor, a struggle to preserve our Republic, our religion, and our civilization, and to set free a suffering humanity. Lead them straight and true; give strength to their arms, stoutness to their hearts, steadfastness in their faith.*

*They will need Thy blessings. Their road will be long and hard. For the enemy is strong. He may hurl back our forces. Success may not come with rushing speed, but we shall return again and again; and we know that by Thy grace, and by the righteousness of our cause, our sons will triumph.*

*They will be sore tried, by night and by day, without rest until the victory is won. The darkness will be rent by noise and flame. Men's souls will be shaken with the violence's of war.*

*For these men are lately drawn from the ways of peace. They fight not for the lust of conquest. They fight to end conquest. They fight to liberate. They fight to let justice arise, and tolerance and good will among all thy people. They yearn but for the end of battle, for their return to the haven of home.*

*Some will never return. Embrace these, Father, and receive them, Thy heroic servants, into Thy kingdom.*

## QUOTE OF THE WEEK

*"They had no right to win. Yet they did, and in doing so they changed the course of a war...even against the greatest of odds, there is something in the human spirit – a magic blend of skill, faith and valor – that can lift men from certain defeat to incredible victory.*  
- WALTER LORD

\*\*\*\*\*

## MILITARY HISTORY THIS WEEK

- 6/2/2007: Navy dock landing ship USS Carter Hill confronts pirates off the coast of Somalia after they had hijacked a Danish merchant vessel, the MV Danica White.
- 6/3/1918: 4th Marine Brigade fought at Les Mares Farm, Belleau Wood, Chateau-Thierry, France.
- 6/4/1942: Japanese launch raid on Midway Island
- 6/5/1944: US 5th Army enters Rome
- 6/6/1944: D-Day
- 6/7/1942: Battle of Midway ends
- 6/8/1967: Israeli aircraft and torpedo boats attack the USS Liberty in international waters off Egypt's Gaza Strip.

# VETERANS ADMINISTRATION

## **Record breaking VA claims production brings backlog under 200K**

**May 22, 2025**

**Access to non-VA care no longer requires secondary approval**

**WASHINGTON** – The Department of Veterans Affairs announced today that its disability benefits compensation claims backlog is under 200,000 for the first time since March 5, 2023.

A VA claim is considered backlogged once it has been pending for more than 125 days. Since President Trump was inaugurated Jan. 20, the backlog has dropped from 264,717 to 198,378, a 25% reduction.

The backlog reduction VA announced today was made possible through a series of record-breaking production milestones, including:

- Processing [a million disability claims](#) during a fiscal year faster than ever before.
- The highest monthly production rate in VA history in April, with 256,178 claims processed.
- The highest daily production rate in VA history May 20, with over 15,000 claims processed.

### **Backlog Background Info**

- The Biden Administration oversaw a 24% increase in the backlog, from 213,189 on Jan. 20, 2021, to 264,717 on Jan. 20, 2025.
- VA's backlog reached its [highest point ever of 611,000 in March of 2013](#).
- VA achieved its lowest backlog ever of 64,738 in December of 2019.

**Editors Note. It is important to understand that this is a news report taken directly from VA.gov. There should be no inference about the politics of the day, it is a simple report – nothing more.**



## **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**

**May 2025 Veterans Benefits**  
**Newsletter**  
**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**

**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](https://veteranscrisisline.net) for assistance.



## POW/MIA

**Army Master Sgt. Donald P. Gervais**, 24, killed during the Vietnam War, was accounted for May 16, 2025. In the spring of 1968, Gervais was assigned to Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 9th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division. On May 1, he was the door gunner on an OH-6A Cayuse helicopter on a reconnaissance mission over the A Chau Valley, Republic of Vietnam. A nearby aircraft reportedly witnessed the helicopter hit a dead tree and crash into a ravine. Due to enemy ground fire and dense vegetation over the rough terrain, the aircraft was unable to conduct a visual reconnaissance of the crash site. A nearby infantry platoon attempted to investigate the area but were forced to withdraw when they encountered enemy fire. On July 25, 1978, the U.S. Army changed Gervais' status from Missing in Action to Killed in Action and posthumously promoted him to the rank of Master Sgt.

**Army Pfc. William E. Kutnock**, 20, missing in action during World War II, was accounted for May 16, 2025. In 1943, Kutnock was assigned to Company D, 4th Ranger Battalion, "Darby's Rangers." He was killed on Sept. 19 during Operation AVALANCHE, the amphibious invasion of Italy, after his unit encountered enemy fire on an overnight reconnaissance mission on the Maiori-Pagani Road toward the village of Sala in the commune of Corbara. After the firefight, his unit conducted a thorough inspection of the battlefield but could not locate his remains. The War Department issued a finding of death for Kutnock on Dec. 1, 1944.

**Army Technician Fifth Grade Daniel Wyatt**, 39, killed during World War II, was accounted for May 7, 2025. In the summer of 1944, Wyatt was assigned to Company E, 364th Engineer General Service Regiment, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. On July 7, he was one of eight service members killed in the Crisbecq Battery complex near Saint-Marcouf in Normandy, France, by an explosion that partially caved in the concrete roof of a captured enemy bunker that they were clearing.

**Army Staff Sgt. Junior J. Shelton**, 24, killed during World War II, was accounted for April 25, 2025. In 1944, Shelton was assigned to Company B, 1st Battalion, 115th Infantry Regiment, 29th Infantry Division. He was reportedly killed in action on Oct. 4 after his company encountered German enemy forces near Hatterath, Germany. His remains were not accounted for after the war.

**Army Pfc. Rodger E. Fields**, 20, killed during the Korean War, was accounted for May 15, 2025. In December 1950, Fields was assigned to Company D, 1st Battalion, 32nd Infantry Regiment, 7th Infantry Division. He was reported killed in action on Dec. 1, during the Battle of Jangjin (Chosin) Reservoir.

**Navy Capt. Thomas E. Scheurich**, 34, killed during the Vietnam War, was accounted for April 23, 2025. In March 1968, Scheurich was assigned to Attack Squadron THREE FIVE, Air Wing 9, USS Enterprise, Task Force 77, 7th Fleet. On March 1, he was piloting an A-6A Intruder aircraft with one other crew member, conducting a night strike mission over northern Vietnam. The last radio and radar contact with the aircraft was near the Gulf of Tonkin, over a series of islands known to have light anti-aircraft artillery. An air search failed to locate the aircraft and both crewmembers were declared missing in action. On April 28, 1978, the Navy reported Scheurich as Killed in Action. He was later posthumously promoted to the rank of Captain.

## POW/MIA UNACCOUNTED FOR



**According to DPAA, as of May 29<sup>th</sup>, 2025, there remain:**

<b>World War II:</b>	<b>71928</b>
<b>Korea:</b>	<b>7421</b>
<b>Vietnam:</b>	<b>1571</b>
<b>Cold War:</b>	<b>126</b>
<b>Gulf War/Libya:</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Total:</b>	<b>81056</b>

**Army Pfc. Charles N. Milam**, 20, missing in action during World War II, was accounted for May 8, 2025. In January 1944, Milam was assigned to Company F, 2nd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division. From late January through late May 1944, the 3rd Infantry Division fought in the Battle of Anzio in Italy. On January 31, Milam was reported missing during combat against German forces near the small hamlet of Ponte Rotto, close to the town of Cisterna di Latina (Cisterna). Members of his squad believed that he may have been killed in action by artillery at some point that day, but his body was not recovered. Having no evidence that Milam had survived the conflict, the War Department issued a presumptive finding of death on April 19, 1945.

**Navy Storekeeper 3rd Class Robert S. Garcia**, 23, killed during World War II, was accounted for on April 14, 2025. On Dec. 7, 1941, Garcia 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 approximately 102 crew members, including Garcia.

#### 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

**79**



KOREAN  
WAR

**32**



COLD  
WAR

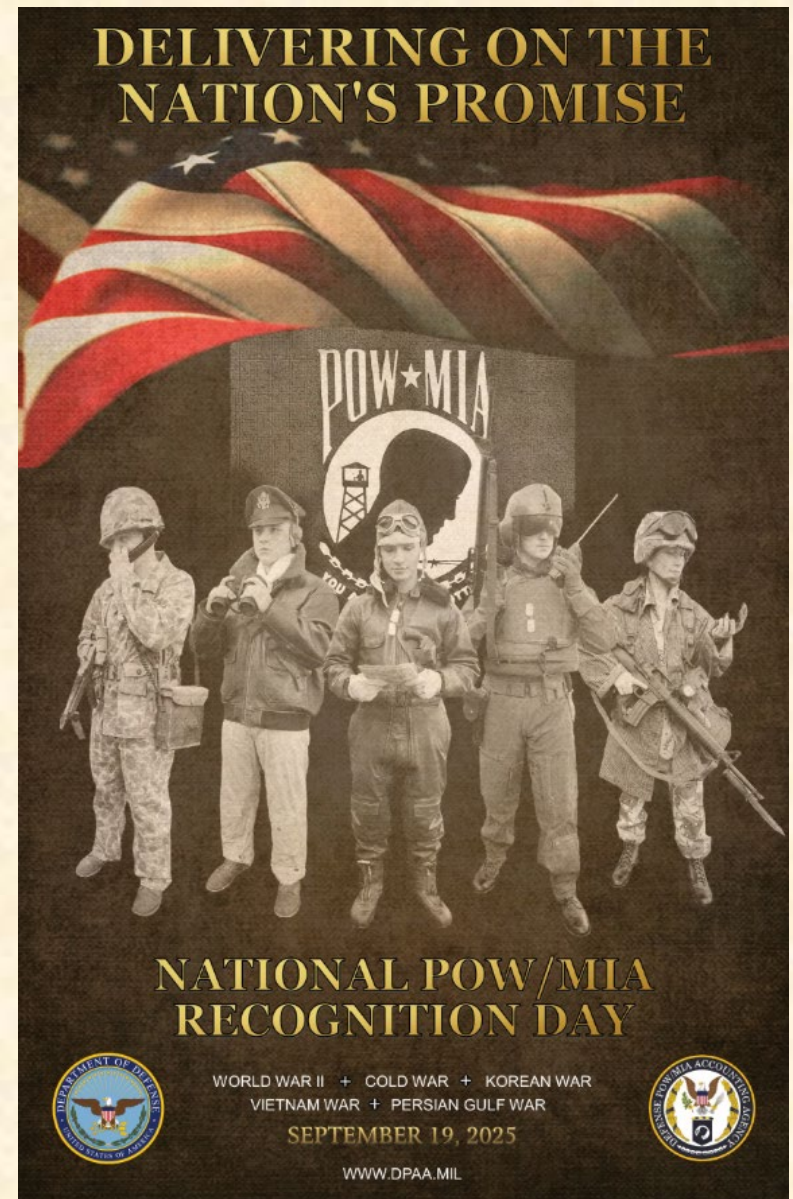
**0**



VIETNAM  
WAR

**3**

DoD 2025-09-15 10:00:00 AM



**Note:** It is our intent to host a small, open to the public commemoration of POW/MIA's on Friday, September 19<sup>th</sup>. We are putting together the details, but it will be a short event, most likely held at the Ione Veterans Memorial Hall with a time TBD. We further expect to have some light refreshments afterward.



# AMADOR COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER

## Live Whole Health #274: Jam-packed with fiber

May 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025 | Allison Hyzy, RD, LDN

Today we're digging into chia. And yes, we're talking about the same seeds that many of us grew on animal and character themed pots in the 1980s. Our past selves may be surprised by all of its culinary applications today, but we were missing out on chia's jam packed nutrition.

Chia seeds are a good source of fiber and contain omega 3-s (healthy fat), calcium and iron. Getting adequate fiber daily is a challenge for many Americans. In general, we are recommended to aim for about 25-38 grams per day (depending on age and gender). Fiber aids in satiety (feeling full after eating). It can help promote blood sugar and cholesterol control, and it helps with adding bulk to stool. A two-tablespoon serving of chia seeds contains 4 grams of protein, so not quite as much as an egg.

**Make a pudding or a jam (or a pet!).** What can we do with it other than growing green animals? My favorite ways are using chia as thickener to make chia pudding and chia jam. Chia pudding can be as simple as mixing 2 tablespoons of chia seeds and 1 teaspoon of sweetener with 4 ounces of your desired liquid (cow's milk, plant-based milk, milk blended with frozen fruit, etc.), covering it and allowing it to sit overnight in the refrigerator. Don't be fooled by their small size; to fully hydrate they require quite a bit of liquid. If you're looking to boost the fiber and omega -3s into your morning smoothie, add in 1-2 tablespoons and blend. They can also easily be added to pancake, muffin, quick bread and homemade granola recipes.

Check out this 4-minute video by VHA's healthy teaching kitchen to learn how to make mixed-berry chia jam. Berry chia jam is delicious on toast, English muffins, used in peanut butter and jelly, or mixed with Greek yogurt.

**Hungry for more?** Hungry for more information, tips and ideas for how to have a healthy relationship with [Food and Drink](#) and fuel your own wellness journey? Check out [Introduction to Food and Drink for Whole Health](#), [Healthy Tips on Eating Out and Grocery Shopping](#), or this [Veteran's experience with healthy cooking classes at her local VA](#). For more recipes, please visit VA's [Nutrition and Food Services](#).

### Mixed Berry Chia Jam

#### Ingredients

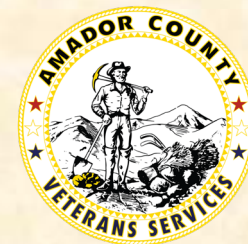
- 3 cups mixed berries (fresh or frozen)
- 1/4 cup honey or maple syrup
- 1/4 cup organic chia seeds
- 1/2 tsp vanilla extract (optional)
- 1/4 tsp cinnamon
- 1/4 tsp cardamom

#### Directions

1. Combine berries and honey in a small saucepan.
2. Cook over medium heat until berries begin to soften and burst, or about 5 minutes.
3. Add chia seeds and cook until very thick, or for about 15 minutes. Stir often.
4. Remove from heat and let cool; then add vanilla extract.
5. Add cinnamon and/or cardamom.

**Recipe Notes:** Store in the refrigerator for 2 weeks.

## INFORMATION



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

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

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**Seeking Veterans for Perimenopause and Menopause Survey:** The U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) is seeking input from veterans about VA care related to perimenopause and menopause. Veterans between the ages of 35 to 64 who are enrolled at a VA medical center and have accessed any care at VA or through community care related to perimenopause or menopause in the last 24 months are eligible to participate. Please take the brief and anonymous [GAO survey](#) by June 15, 2025.

# IONE MEMORIAL POST & AUX 8254

## Action Corps Weekly – May 26, 2025

**Take Action to Say NO to Putting Veterans in Debt:** Make your voices heard by taking action TODAY. Veterans should never go into debt to access their earned benefits! The VFW has repeatedly expressed concerns about charging veterans for initial claims assistance based on their future benefits, and thus, we strongly oppose [H.R. 3132](#), CHOICE for Veterans Act of 2025, as written. This would potentially put veterans into debt even before utilizing their benefits. [Tell your representatives](#) to vote NO when this bill is brought to the House floor for a vote.

**VFW Speaks at Star Act Press Conference:** The VFW stood alongside partner Veterans Service Organizations, supporters, and advocates to urge for swift passage of VFW-championed [H.R.2102/S.1032](#), Major Richard Star Act. America's veterans have served and sacrificed for this country, and the VFW is calling upon Congress to pass this commonsense bill to finally take care of medically retired veterans who were wounded in service. Former VFW National Legislative Director Pat Murray spoke at the press conference and stated, "Nearly three-quarters of Congress in both chambers, and on both sides of the aisle, support the Star Act. It certainly doesn't lack support for cosponsors. What it does lack, though, are votes for the bill." It is time for Congress to bring the Major Richard Star Act to the floor for a vote. [Watch the press conference.](#)

**VFW Meets with Committee Leadership:** VFW Washington Office Executive Director Ryan Gallucci and National Legislative Director Kristina Keenan had meetings with Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs Ranking Member Richard Blumenthal and House Committee on Veterans' Affairs Ranking Member Mark Takano to discuss the VFW's [legislative priorities](#) and our call to [Honor the Contract](#) to ensure that veterans receive the benefits they have earned and deserve as promised in military service contracts. Additionally, they discussed the need to improve VA's Foreign Medical Program and urged support for [H.R. 467](#), Foreign Medical Program Modernization Act of 2025. They also expressed disappointment that [H.R. 3132](#), CHOICE for Veterans Act of 2025, was passed out of the House committee. This legislation would benefit predatory, unaccredited claims consultants that the VFW calls Claim Sharks, and risks putting veterans into debt. Both ranking members committed to cracking down on these bad actors and discussed other potential federal solutions.

**VFW Provides Statement for Senate Hearing:** VFW National Legislative Director Kristina Keenan provided a statement for the record for a Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs pending legislation hearing. She provided input on proposals that include improvements to VA health care, research on brain injuries caused by low-level blast exposure, grants for transportation to medical appointments for rural veterans, enhanced access to service dogs, and expanded education benefits. One of the VFW's top legislative priorities covered in the hearing, [S. 649](#), Guard and Reserve GI Bill Parity Act of 2025, would allow reserve component service members to earn GI Bill benefits for every day served, including annual training, drill weekends, and short activations for natural disasters and border security operations. [Read the testimony.](#)

**House Passes Nine Veteran Bills:** The House passed nine bipartisan bills for veterans and their families. The VFW recently provided written testimony in support of [H.R. 1286](#), Simplifying Forms for Veterans Claims Act, that would improve VA forms sent to veterans regarding their claims for benefits; [H.R. 1578](#), Veterans Claims Education Act of 2025, that would inform and provide resources to veterans who file VA disability claims on how to seek free, accredited representation, and how to report unaccredited representatives who charge unauthorized fees for their services; and [H.R. 2201](#), Improving VA Training for Military Sexual Trauma Claims Act, that would provide annual sensitivity training to VA employees who process disability claims for conditions related to military sexual trauma. [Read more.](#)

**Post 8254.** The officers and membership of the post wish the graduating class of 2025. May you always have new opportunities come your way, and may you be always successful in your life. Happy Graduation!

- **Bingo.** The post hosted our monthly Bingo event on Wednesday, held at the Ione Veterans Hall. We had a very good amount of participation, and Commander Rick was in rare form. If you would like to enjoy the Bingo, we do have very strict laws and rules that we must abide by. For further information, please contact Commander Rick at the Post.
- **Purple Heart Day.** The 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Commemoration will be held on August 7<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM in Plymouth. More info to come.
- **Post 79<sup>th</sup> Birthday.** The post will be celebrating its birthday on Friday, August 29<sup>th</sup>.



**Meetings** are the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the Month. Dinner starts at 5:00 PM with the meeting starting at 6:00 PM sharp. Our meetings **DO NOT** last more than one hour 15 minutes.

## LINKS

[National Website](#)

[Post Website](#)

[Post Facebook Page](#)



Post 8254 & Aux Dinner & a Meeting  
Wednesday, June 11th  
Dinner: 5:00 PM; Meeting 6:00 PM  
215 S. Amador St., Ione;  
209-274-4956

\*\*\*\*\*  
June 14th - Flag Day - Two Events:  
Auxiliary Pancake Breakfast 8 AM - Noon  
Flag Retirement Event in the Evening





## DAV CHAPTER 118

***DAV strongly opposes H.R. 3132, the CHOICE for Veterans Act (Certified Help Options in Claims Expertise for Veterans Act). This bill would allow attorneys and agents to charge ill and injured veterans fees of up to \$12,500 or the amount equal to five times the monthly benefits increase, whichever is less, and if the claim results are favorable.***

*Currently, veterans can choose accredited veterans service organizations, agents and attorneys who provide free claims assistance. These experts ensure veterans receive knowledgeable representation without sacrificing any of their earned benefits.*

*H.R. 3132 weakens accreditation requirements, letting individuals assist veterans before meeting full qualification standards. This change risks unqualified representatives making costly mistakes and causing delays in securing benefits.*

*Although the bill includes some consumer protection measures, it lacks meaningful enforcement against deceptive practices or conflicts of interest and fails to stop unethical referrals to private medical professionals with financial ties to attorneys or agents.*

*Based on DAV resolution No. 324, we strongly oppose this legislation. Please contact your Representative and urge them to vote “No” on H.R. 3132 – and put the needs of ill and injured veterans and their families over the profits of predatory claims companies*



*Meetings are held on the Third Thursday of the Month at 7PM at the Ione Veterans Hall, 207 S. Amador St..*

*Commander: Gareth Hall*

### **LINKS**

[DAV Department Newsletter – Apr 25](#)

[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](#)

## AMERICAN LEGION – POST 108



**Legion Twitter.** Our Statement for the Record to [@SVACGOP](#) & [@SVACDems](#) shared our support for the Guard & Reserve GI Bill Parity Act, the Precision Brain Health Research Act, the Lactation Spaces for Veteran Moms Act & other [#veterans](#) legislation. Our SFR: <https://legion.org/information-center/news/legislative/2025/may/legion-delivers-statement-for-the-record-on-various-veterans-legislation...>

**Legion Twitter #2.** Currently, [@USNationalGuard](#) & reservists activated under state orders do not accrue eligibility for Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits. The Guard & Reserve GI Bill Parity Act of 2025 (HR. 1423/S. 649) addresses this inequity. Urge support from Congress.

**Legion Twitter #2.** “It felt a little different today. It’s a hallowed place, just incredible.” National Vice Commander Charles “Chuck” Robbins takes part in [#MemorialDay](#) wreath-laying ceremony. [@ArlingtonNatl](#), <https://legion.org/information-center/news/honor/2025/may/american-legion-family-honors-veterans-at-arlington...>



Commander	Mike Green	209-267-9493
Riders	Pat Burkhardt	530-635-3878
Sons	Robby B.	916-990-4252
Office	Kathleen Gast	209-267-9493
Hours	Tue, Wed, Thu	10 AM – 2 PM

	Dues
Legion	\$50
Riders	\$30
Sons	\$10

### **Meetings.**

- Post Meetings 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday 7:00 PM
- Riders: 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday, 6:30 PM
- Sons: 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday, 6:00 AM

**2025 Blood Drives:** June 2<sup>nd</sup>, August 4<sup>th</sup>, September 29<sup>th</sup>, and December 1<sup>st</sup>. As for 2025, the Blood Drives netted a total of 167 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:**

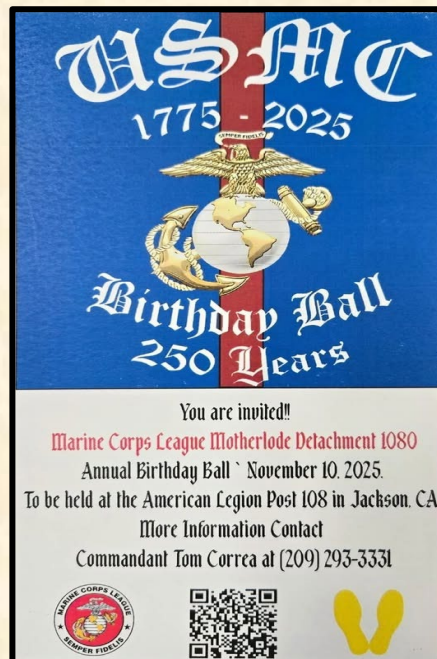
[Be the One Program](#)  
[Library & Museum](#)  
[Scholarship Information](#)



## MARINE CORPS LEAGUE MOTHERLODE DET 1080



Marine Corps Twitter. U.S. [#Marines](#), Nepali service members, and distinguished guests take part in the 10th Anniversary of Operation Sahayogi Haat Wreath Laying Ceremony at the Nepal Military Museum, Kathmandu, Nepal, May 12, 2025. On May 12, 2015, a UH-1Y Huey helicopter, Vengeance 01, crashed while attempting to rescue wounded civilians, resulting in the deaths of all eight individuals on board, including U.S. Marines and Nepalese soldiers: Lance Cpl. Jacob A. Hug, Sgt. Ward M. Johnson IV, Capt. Dustin R. Lukasiewicz, Cpl. Sara A. Medina, Capt. Christopher L. Norgen, Maj. Tapendra Rawal, Sgt. Eric M. Seaman, and Warrant Officer 1 Basanta Titara. [#USMC](#) [#SemperFi](#)



**Commander: Tom Correa**

### [Links](#)

[Marine Corps Website](#)

[Marine Corps League Membership](#)

[Application](#)

[Marine Corps League Recommended Reading](#)

### [Next Meeting](#)



**Marine Corps Ball will be held November 10<sup>th</sup> at a new location – the American Legion Hall in Sutter Hill.**

# TRICARE

## Summer Safety

A compilation of stuff to remind you about safety as the temperature gets much higher

### Prepare for Extreme Heat:

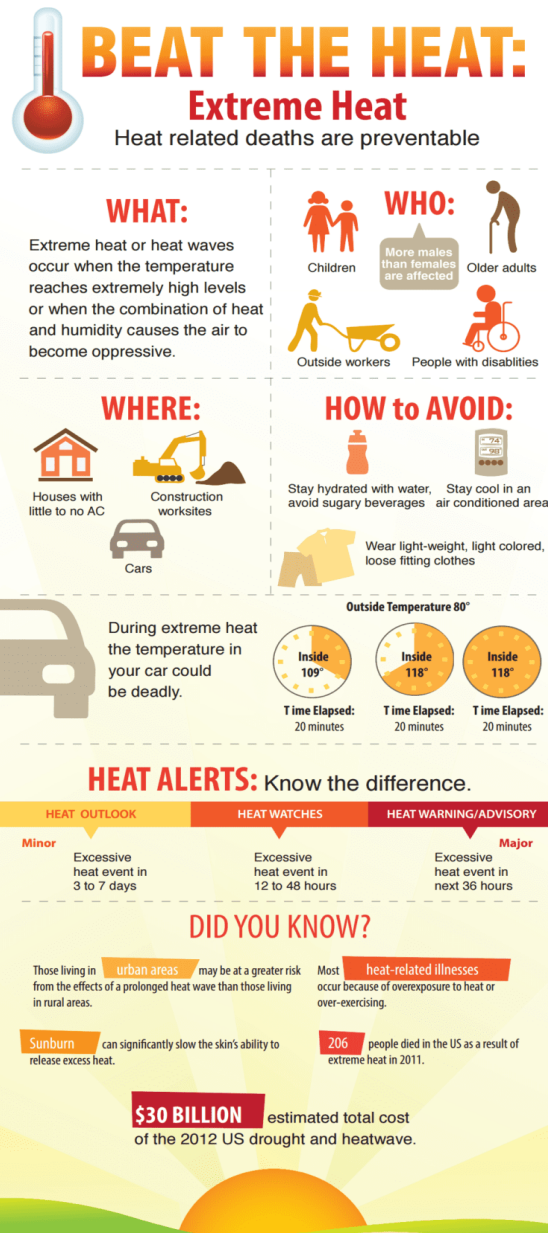
- Learn to [recognize the signs of heat illness](#).
- Do not rely on a fan as your primary cooling device. Fans create air flow and a false sense of comfort, but do not reduce body temperature or prevent heat-related illnesses.
- Identify places in your community where you can go to get cool such as libraries and shopping malls or contact your local health department to find cooling options in your area.
- Cover windows with drapes or shades.
- Weather-strip doors and windows.
- Use window reflectors specifically designed to reflect heat back outside.
- Add insulation to keep the heat out.
- Use a powered attic ventilator, or attic fan, to regulate the heat level of a building's attic by clearing out hot air.
- Install window air conditioners and insulate around them.
- If you are unable to afford your cooling costs, weatherization or energy-related home repairs, contact the [Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program \(LIHEAP\)](#) for help.

[www.ready.gov/heat#prepare](http://www.ready.gov/heat#prepare)

**FIREWORK, GRILLING SAFETY.** Fire department officials warned people against the use of fireworks, recommending attending a public firework show where the fireworks are handled by professionals. According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, an estimated 10,200 people are injured by fireworks annually.

In addition, fire department officials offered the following grilling safety tips:

- Only use grills outdoors
- Place grills away from the home and other structures
- Place grills on a flat, level surface
- Check grills for leaks
- Clean grills after use
- Never leave a grill unattended
- Wear appropriate clothing when grilling
- Keep a spray bottle on hand (for fat drips)
- Always have a fire extinguisher close by



### Links

[DEERS INFO](#)  
[TRICARE 101](#)  
[TRICARE Costs & Fees Sheet](#)  
[TRICARE Eligibility](#)  
[TRICARE Overseas Travel](#)  
[TRICARE West](#)

### News

May 29: [Unlock Your Health: How To Get Mental Health Care With TRICARE](#)

May 22: [Learn About TRICARE Health Plan Options for Young Adults > TRICARE Newsroom > TRICARE News](#)

May 20: [Getting Prior Authorizations for TRICARE Prescriptions: Your Questions Answered](#)

May 14<sup>th</sup>: [TRICARE Dental Program Offers Comprehensive Care for Children](#)



## ***MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND IN AMADOR COUNTY***



***Comrades Brian Miser and Gerald Faulk out and greeting customers at the Poppy Distribution, which we held from Friday-Sunday.***



***Members of the post and Scout Troop 477 performed the annual placing of the flags at veterans graves at the Ione Public Cemetery. In all there were over 200 flags placed.***



***The Commanders of the DAV, VFW, and Legion Posts were there to post the wreath at the annual Memorial Day Remembrance on May 26<sup>th</sup> at the Legion Park. In this picture, VFW Post Commander Rick Boughner and DAV Chapter Commander Gareth Hall lay the wreath.***



## D-DAY – JUNE 6<sup>TH</sup>, 1944

SUPREME HEADQUARTERS  
ALLIED EXPEDITIONARY FORCE



Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen of the Allied Expeditionary Force!

You are about to embark upon the Great Crusade, toward which we have striven these many months. The eyes of the world are upon you. The hopes and prayers of liberty-loving people everywhere march with you. In company with our brave Allies and brothers-in-arms on other Fronts, you will bring about the destruction of the German war machine, the elimination of Nazi tyranny over the oppressed peoples of Europe, and security for ourselves in a free world.

Your task will not be an easy one. Your enemy is well trained, well equipped and battle-hardened. He will fight savagely.

But this is the year 1944! Much has happened since the Nazi triumphs of 1940-41. The United Nations have inflicted upon the Germans great defeats, in open battle, man-to-man. Our air offensive has seriously reduced their strength in the air and their capacity to wage war on the ground. Our Home Fronts have given us an overwhelming superiority in weapons and munitions of war, and placed at our disposal great reserves of trained fighting men. The tide has turned! The free men of the world are marching together to Victory!

I have full confidence in your courage, devotion to duty and skill in battle. We will accept nothing less than full Victory!

Good Luck! And let us all beseech the blessing of Almighty God upon this great and noble undertaking.

*Dwight D. Eisenhower*

(This is the summation of the day from [www.army.mil](http://www.army.mil)):

***“On June 6, 1944, more than 160,000 Allied troops landed along a 50-mile stretch of heavily fortified French coastline, to fight Nazi Germany on the beaches of Normandy, France. Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower called the operation a crusade in which, “we will accept nothing less than full victory.” More than 5,000 Ships and 13,000 aircraft supported the D-Day invasion, and by day’s end, the Allies gained a foothold in Continental Europe. The cost in lives on D-Day was high. More than 9,000 Allied Soldiers were killed or wounded, but their sacrifice allowed more than 100,000 Soldiers to begin the slow, hard slog across Europe, to defeat Adolf Hitler’s crack troops.”***

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***“Our sons, pride of our Nation, this day have set upon a mighty endeavor, a struggle to preserve our Republic, our religion, and our civilization, and to set free a suffering humanity.”***

***President Franklin D. Roosevelt  
June 6, 1944***

***“These are the men who took the cliffs. These are the champions who helped free a continent. These are the heroes who helped end a war.”***

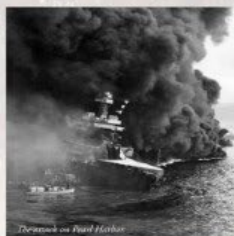
***President Ronald Reagan***





# BATTLE OF MIDWAY

## U.S. Involvement in World War II

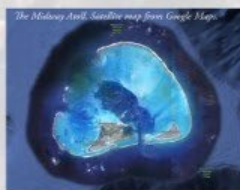


World War II began on September 1, 1939, when Nazi Germany invaded Poland. The U.S. remained neutral until December 7, 1941, when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor. The Japanese employed six carriers to destroy the U.S. Pacific Fleet at Pearl Harbor; however, none of the U.S. carriers were present at Pearl Harbor during the assault.

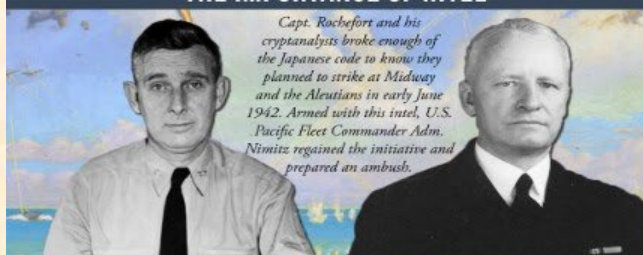
### PEARL HARBOR: BY THE NUMBERS

KILLED IN ACTION	TOTAL LOSS SHIPS	RETURNED TO SERVICE	CARRIERS LOST
2,008 U.S. NAVY	3	17	0
218 U.S. ARMY	USS ARIZONA (BB 39)	5 SHIPS SUNK, RAISED, AND REPAIRED	NONE OF THE SEVEN U.S. AIRCRAFT CARRIERS WERE AT PEARL HARBOR DURING THE ASSAULT.
109 U.S. MARINES	USS OKLAHOMA (BB 37)	12 SHIPS DAMAGED AND REPAIRED OR REBUILT	
68 CIVILIANS	USS UTAH (AG 16)		

The U.S. declared war against Japan on December 8, 1941. After several months of expansion, the Japanese Combined Fleet turned its sights on Midway, a small Pacific-based atoll, which then served as a U.S. sentry to Hawaii, refueling station, and landing point. The Japanese plan assumed the Pacific Fleet would arrive too late to defend Midway, but U.S. forces were waiting for them at "Point Luck."



### THE IMPORTANCE OF INTEL



**CAPT. JOSEPH J. ROCHEFORT**  
U.S. CRYPTANALYST

**ADM. CHESTER W. NIMITZ**  
PACIFIC FLEET COMMANDER

Capt. Rochefort and his cryptanalysts broke enough of the Japanese code to know they planned to strike at Midway and the Aleutians in early June 1942. Armed with this intel, U.S. Pacific Fleet Commander Adm. Nimitz regained the initiative and prepared an ambush.

## Battle of Midway: The Turning Point

### TIMELINE OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS JUNE 4, 1942

- 0700  
Enterprise and Hornet begin launching
- 0838  
Yorktown launches
- 1020  
Enterprise and Yorktown torpedo squadrons attack.
- ★ 1022-1026  
Enterprise and Yorktown dive bombers attack and hit Akagi, Kaga, and Soryu.
- 1208  
Japanese dive bombers attack Yorktown.
- 1441  
Torpedo planes attack Yorktown.
- 1445  
Yorktown hit.
- 1455  
Yorktown abandons ship.
- 1500  
B-17s take off from Midway.
- 1810  
Two B-17s attack BB and damaged CV.
- 1830  
Six B-17s attack damaged CV and DD.



U.S. and Japanese armed forces fought during the Battle of Midway, June 3-7, 1942 at and near the Midway Atoll in the central Pacific Ocean.



The victory at Midway represents a strategic turning point for the U.S. in Japan's war in the Pacific. Before the battle, Japan possessed naval superiority over the U.S. Afterward, opposing fleets were balanced and the U.S. soon took the offensive.

As a result of the battle on June 4th, the Japanese carriers Akagi, Kaga, and Soryu were hit and sank. The Japanese carrier Hiryo escaped the initial attack, but U.S. dive bombers found, bombed, and sank her.



### BATTLE OF MIDWAY: SUMMARY OF LOSSES

CARRIERS	1	4
AIRCRAFT	150	256
MEN	307	2,204

Midway was a great success in U.S. Navy history. The only strategic regret might have been failing to locate and attack Hiryo before its aircraft struck Yorktown.

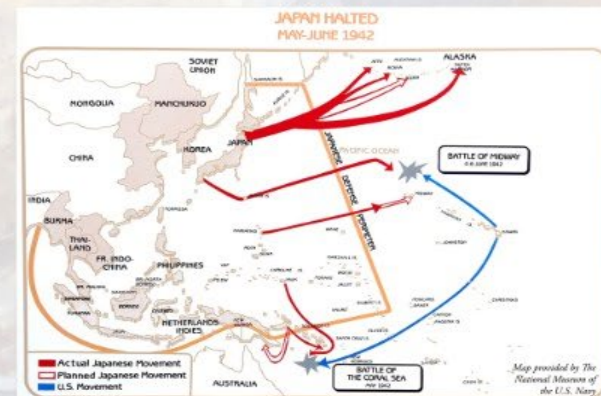


## Victory at Midway: Impact on World War II



The Battle of Midway marked a technical revolution in displacing gunnery with naval carrier airpower as a primary means of delivering ordnance.

Prior to the Battle of Midway, the Japanese conquered several territories and expanded their resources in the Far East and South Pacific. By early May, the Japanese had an extensive defensive perimeter.



### RESULTS OF THE VICTORY AT MIDWAY

- ✦ Japanese expansion halted, securing a central-Pacific guard post for Allied forces.
- ✦ Japanese losses at Midway made it possible for America's Navy to eventually reclaim maritime superiority in the Pacific theater.
- ✦ Naval Aviation proved to be a viable and necessary capability to win wars.
- ✦ Our Sailors' strength and resilience at Midway were a perfect illustration of the fighting spirit of America's Navy today.



## 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
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 & <i>Silver Star Service Banner Day</i>		
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 & Chili Cookoff		Main St. Ione
Jul 4:	Independence Day & Volcano Car Show		Volcano (Car Show)
Jul 27:	Korea Armistice Day		
Jul 31 – Aug 3:	Amador County Fair		Plymouth Fairgrounds
August	Cootie Hospital Visit	TBD	Veterans Home Yountville
Aug 4:	Coast Guard Birthday		
Aug 7:	Purple Heart Day	10:00 AM	Plymouth
Aug 29:	79 <sup>th</sup> Birthday – Post 8254	TBD	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	TBD	Post 8254
Sep 29:	Gold Star Mother's Day & VFW Day		
Oct 7:	Start of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM		
Oct 13:	Navy Birthday		
Nov 3:	IVMP Shoot	9:30 AM	Camanche Hills
Nov 10:	Marine Corps Birthday Ball	5:00 PM	Sutter Creek
Nov 11:	Veterans Day Parade	10:00 AM	Main St. Jackson
Dec 7:	Pearl Harbor Day		
TBD:	IVMP Tree Lighting	7:00 PM	Ione Veterans Memorial Park
Dec 13:	National Guard Birthday		
Dec 13:	Wreaths Across America & Ione Xmas Parade	9:00 AM	Ione & Jackson
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 23<sup>rd</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup>, July 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup>, August 29<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup>, and November 7<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup>, and November 11<sup>th</sup>. 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. In 2025, the remaining dates are June 2<sup>nd</sup>, August 4<sup>th</sup>, September 29<sup>th</sup>, and December 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Ex-USS LUCID (MSO 458) working parties** are on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of the Month.
- Kaiser Truck.** Visits Post 8254 on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the Month. Expected times are 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM.



# Amador Veterans Reference Guide

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

## 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:	<a href="http://www.redcross.org">www.redcross.org</a>
Amador County Jail:	209-223-6522		FEMA Disaster Assistance:	<a href="http://Veterans disasterassistance.gov">Veterans   disasterassistance.gov</a>

## Important Internet Resources

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

## UPCOMING EVENTS




*This is the first of two planned breakfasts this Summer. We will have this event at the Post from 8:00 AM to Noon, \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door. Tickets can be bought at the post.*


*There will also be a Flag Retirement Ceremony on the evening of June 14<sup>th</sup> with Troops 477 and 78 being involved.*





*Registration is NOW OPEN for the 2nd Annual Ione Car Show! Bring your classic, custom, or one-of-a-kind ride to Main Street and be part of a hometown tradition that's growing fast!*


 Saturday, June 21, 2025 | 9 AM – 3 PM

 Main Street, Downtown Ione

 \$30 registration includes an official 2025 Car Show t-shirt

 Deadline to register: June 1st

 Early check-in + Friday night mixer at Blue Stone Public House!

 Tap the link to register your vehicle and view the full itinerary.

<https://myione.com/2025-carshow>



## UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

### **FLAG DAY RETIREMENT JUNE 14<sup>TH</sup>**



*This is the second flag retirement of the year and we look forward to retiring many more flags this evening.*

### **PURPLE HEART DAY AUGUST 7<sup>TH</sup>**



*One of the bigger Commemorations, this ceremony is open to the public. It is a brief event honoring Purple Heart recipients.*

*We expect to have a joint VFW/Legion Honor Guard, a performance from Prior National Auxiliary Soloist Juliet Kennedy.*

### **9/11 REMEMBRANCE**



*This is an event put on by the Ione Fire Department. It will occur at 8:56 AM at Fire Station #1.*

*It is an extremely short event with a speech and the Post Honor Guard.*

## VETERANS CALENDAR – JUNE 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Jun 1	2	3	4 9 AM Kaiser Truck ↻	5 7 PM Legion Mtg ↻	6 D-Day ↻ School Ends	7 10 AM MCL Mtg ↻
8	9 6 PM Sons Mtg ↻ 6:30 PM Riders Mtg ↻	10	11 5 PM 8254 Mtgs ↻	12 MCL State Convention (Clovis)	13	14 Army B-day ↻ Flag Day ↻ LUCID WKG PTY ↻
15	16	17	18 9 AM Kaiser Truck ↻	19 7 PM DAV Mtg ↻	20 VFW State Convention	21 Ione Car Show
22 VFW State Convention	23	24	25 Legion State Convention (Visalia)	26	27	28 LUCID WORKING PTY ↻
29 Legion State Convention (Vi	30	Jul 1 8 AM VFW Poppy Distro	2 9 AM Kaiser Truck ↻	3 7 PM Legion Mtg ↻	4 Independence Day ⏸ Volcano Car Show	5 10 AM MCL Mtg ↻

As the schedule can attest, we have an ambitious schedule for the month of June and into the first week of July. In addition to our standard monthly meetings, we will have two events for Flag Day, and we also run up into convention season. Not listed on here is the fireworks booth for which we recently have assisted the IBCA in manning from June 28<sup>th</sup> through July 4<sup>th</sup>. If you have some time to volunteer, please contact Commander Rick Boughner.