



Amador County Veterans Newsletter - May 12th, 2025

<p>Ione, 1890 Photo Credit: Elk Grove Historical Society</p>	
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CHAPLAIN'S CORNER



"Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will repay him for his deed." – [Proverbs 19:17 \(ESV\)](#)

Father, open my eyes to the needs around me. Give me a heart of generosity, willing to serve and bless others as you have blessed me.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"Never bend your head. Always hold it high. Look the world straight in the eye."
– Helen Keller

HISTORY THIS WEEK

- 5/12/1943: U. S. captures the Marshall Islands
- 5/13/1846: Congress declared war on Mexico
- 5/14/1863: Battle of Jackson, MS, where the Union defeated Confederates
- 5/15/1862: Corporal John Mackie became the first Marine awarded the Medal of Honor.
- 5/16/1965: First U. S. gunfire support in Vietnam by USS TUCKER
- 5/17/1987: USS STARK attacked by Iraqi aircraft, killing 37, injuring 21
- 5/18/1953: USAF CAPT Joseph McConnell shoots down three enemy MIG-15's on his last day combat making him a "triple ace."

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 at 11:00 AM
- Annual Flag Placements in Ione & Plymouth (May 18th @ 3PM),
- **Annual Upcountry Commemoration at Pioneer Cemetery, Monday, May 26th**
- VFW Post 8254 first Poppy Distribution of 2025 (May 23rd – 25th).



From American Legion Twitter. Since 1999, [#MilitaryAppreciationMonth](#) has been an opportunity to honor the service & sacrifice of U.S. [#military](#) past & present, & their families. We look forward to seeing them honored this month, incl. on [#MilitarySpouseAppreciationDay](#), [#VEDay](#), [#ArmedForcesDay](#) & [#MemorialDay](#).

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

[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](#)

VA announces major survivor benefits reforms

May 5, 2025

The Department of Veterans Affairs today announced a three-pronged approach to eliminate barriers and streamline the process for how eligible survivors and dependents of deceased Veterans and servicemembers apply for and receive VA benefits and services. Specific improvements include:

- Starting this month, VA's [Office of Survivors Assistance](#) will be moved from the Veterans Benefits Administration to the Office of the VA Secretary, reversing a Biden-era decision that buried OSA under layers of bureaucracy.
- Starting this month, VA will create a "white-glove" survivor outreach team to guide and assist eligible survivors throughout their [Dependency and Indemnity Compensation](#) (DIC) claims process.
- Starting immediately, VA will begin work to identify areas where automation can be used to make the DIC claims process easier to navigate for survivors.

"The last thing survivors need in their time of grief is frustrating red tape and bureaucracy. That's why we are creating a better system to more quickly and effectively provide survivors the services, support and compassion they've earned," said VA Secretary Doug Collins.

Background information on the changes VA announced today is below.

Relocating OSA. In 2021, the Biden administration moved OSA from the Office of the VA Secretary to the Veterans Benefits Administration, creating a siloed system at odds with the intent of the [Veterans' Benefits Improvement Act of 2008](#). Starting this month, VA will reverse this decision and move OSA to the Office of the VA Secretary, where a staff of five full-time employees will advise the Secretary on all matters related to the policies, programs and legislative issues affecting survivors and dependents.

"White-Glove" Survivor Outreach Team. Under previous administrations, there were gaps in the survivor claims system and no defined outreach process for VA employees to gather information from survivors navigating the benefit process. VA's "White-Glove" Survivor Outreach Team will begin operations in May 2025 and consist of experts based out of the Philadelphia VA Regional Benefit Office. These experts will receive specialized training and guide and assist eligible survivors throughout every step of the DIC claims process with the goal of getting to "yes" on DIC claims decisions for eligible survivors.

Automation Improvements. VA now automates more than 1,000 DIC claims payments or adjustments per day and is in the process of ongoing enhancements to increase automation that will expedite survivors' claims and improve their experience. VA will also be identifying additional areas where automation can be used to make all benefits delivery processes easier to navigate for eligible surviving dependents.

POW/MIA NOTIFICATIONS & PRESS RELEASES



Army Cpl. George F. Sepsey, 24, killed during World War II, was accounted for on April 25, 2025. In late 1942, Sepsey was assigned to Company M, 126th Infantry Regiment, 32d Infantry Division, and deployed in present day Papua New Guinea. He was reportedly killed in action on Nov. 26, 1942, during a grueling fight against Japanese forces along the Sanananda Track.

Army Air Forces 2nd Lt. Nathaniel L. Hightower Jr., 27, killed during World War II, was accounted for on April 18, 2025. In the summer of 1943, Hightower was a member of 22nd Bombardment Squadron (Medium), 341st Bombardment Group (Medium), 10th Air Force during World War II. On Aug. 3, while serving as the co-pilot of a B-25C "Mitchell" bomber on a low-altitude bombing raid in Meiktila, Burma, his aircraft crashed. Of the six individuals aboard the aircraft, two survived and were captured by Japanese forces, while the remaining four, including Hightower, were killed. His remains were not recovered after the war, and he was declared MIA.

Army Air Forces Warrant Officer Junior Grade William J. McMichael, 36, killed during World War II, was accounted for April 3, 2025. In January 1945, McMichael was assigned to the Philippine Air Depot. 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, McMichael was transported to Takao, Formosa, aboard the Enoura Maru. The Japanese government reported that McMichael died on January 9, 1945, when U.S. forces sank the Enoura Maru.

Army Pfc. Nicholas Hartman, 20, killed during World War II, was accounted for May 2, 2025. In June 1944, he was assigned to 500th Medical Collecting Company, 60th Medical Battalion. On June 6, he was aboard Landing Craft Infantry (Large) 92, along with roughly 200 other servicemembers enroute to land on Omaha Beach. As LCI-92 steamed toward the shore, it struck an underwater mine which caused the craft to burst into flames. The craft was also hit by enemy artillery fire, causing an explosion that ignited the ships fuel stores and instantly killed everyone in the troop compartment.

Army Pfc. Edward J. Kramer, 23, killed during World War II, was accounted for on April 23, 2025. In the winter of 1942, Kramer was assigned to Company H, 2nd Battalion, 126th Infantry Regiment, 32d Infantry Division, and deployed in present day Papua New Guinea. He was reportedly killed in action on Dec. 27 near Buna Village while fighting the Japanese. His remains were not recovered after the war.

Army Air Forces 2nd Lt. Jason K. Goldwater, 27, killed during World War II, was accounted for May 1, 2025. In the summer of 1943, Goldwater was a member of 69th Bombardment Squadron, 42d Bombardment Group (Medium). He was killed on July 10 when his North American B-25C-1 Mitchell medium bomber crashed on takeoff from Carney Field, Guadalcanal, Solomon Islands. His remains were not recovered after the war, and he was declared nonrecoverable.

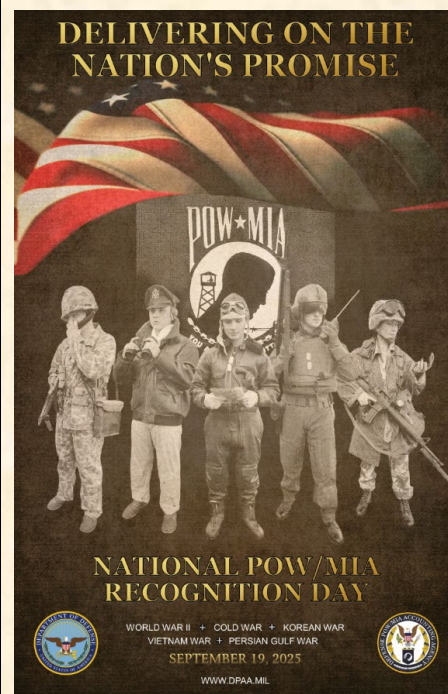
Army CWO Charles G. Benthien, 46, of Denver, killed during World War II, was accounted for Feb. 25, 2025. In April 1942, Benthien was assigned to the HQ, Philippine Department on the Bataan Peninsula, in the Philippines. He was held as a POW by the Empire of Japan in the Philippines until 1944 when the Japanese military moved POWs to Manila for transport to Japan aboard the transport ship Oryoku Maru. Unaware the allied POWs were on board,

UNACCOUNTED FOR

According to DPAA, as of May 8th, 2025, there remain:

- **71936 – World War II**
- **7422 – Korea**
- 1572 – 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](#)

a U.S. carrier-borne aircraft attacked the Oryoku Maru, which eventually sank in Subic Bay. Benthien was then transported to Takao, Formosa, aboard the Enoura Maru. On Jan. 9, 1945, the Japanese reported that Benthien was killed when U.S. forces attacked and sank the Enoura Maru. Benthien will be buried in San Diego in June 2025.

Army Sgt. Thomas J. O'Brien, 23, of Tipperary, Ireland, who died as a POW during the Korean War, was accounted for Sept. 27, 2024. In late 1950, O'Brien was a member of Headquarters Battery, 90th Field Artillery Battalion, Division Artillery, 25th Infantry Division. He was reported killed in action by tank fire on Oct. 26, 1950, after his unit was attacked by Korean People's Army (KPA) forces while moving through the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea). O'Brien will be buried in Riverside, California, on a date to be determined.

VFW Briefs DPAA on Recent Southeast Asia Site Visits: VFW Junior Vice Commander Tim Peters and staff from the VFW Washington Office visited with Kelly McKeague, director of the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA), to provide a briefing on Peters' recent visit to recovery sites in Thailand and Vietnam. The VFW has long-standing resolutions in support of DPAA's mission to provide the fullest possible accounting of our nation's missing, which is why VFW leaders routinely visit with the DPAA Detachments overseas to see firsthand how American service members, partner organizations, and local nations work to bring missing American service members home. Peters also took the opportunity to explore ways in which the VFW could provide further coordinated support to DPAA's mission in the coming years.

Honoring Vietnam POW/MIA: Members of the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, the Vietnamese Office for Seeking Missing Persons, and U.S. Ambassador Marc Knapper met in Vietnam for a repatriation ceremony acknowledging recent recovery and identification efforts for Americans still missing from the Vietnam War. This year marks the 50th anniversary of the war's end. [Read more.](#)



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

Unlocking Veteran tax exemptions in California

April 22, 2025 | Victoria Do and Ed McEvoy, Veterans Experience Office

- **Income:** Active duty residents stationed outside California pay no state income tax. Military pay is taxable if stationed in-state.
- **Other/Business:** Honorably discharged Veterans selling goods from a fixed location may avoid municipal, county, and state business license fees (excludes alcohol sales).
- **Property:** Honorably discharged Veterans or their surviving spouse or pensioned parent claim a \$4,000 property tax exemption unless the property value exceeds \$5,000 (\$10,000 for married couples). Veterans with 100% disability or their unmarried surviving spouse qualify for a larger exemption with basic and low-income tiers—check with the local assessor.

[Learn more about Veteran benefits in California.](#)

Post 8254. On Saturday, May 3rd, we hosted the District 17 Convention and it went very well. We welcome our incoming District Officers, including incoming District 17 Junior Vice Commander, our own Post Commander Rick Boughner, as well as District 17 Chaplain, Gareth Hall.

1. **Bowling League.** Our Summer League is beginning May 8th and will be every Thursday at 1:00 PM through August 28th. Please contact Jerry Brady if interested in bowling. You DO NOT need to be a veteran or an aux member to join the league.
2. **New Website.** Don't forget our website www.vfw8254.org. We are looking for constructive feedback.
3. **Ione Memorial Day Flag Placement.** Sunday, May 18th at 1:00 PM. This event is open to the public and will be performed at both the Ione Public and Catholic Cemeteries.
4. **Flag Day.** On Saturday, June 14th, our Auxiliary will be hosting one of two Pancake Breakfasts this Summer from 8:00 AM – Noon. This event will be open to the public.
5. **Flag Day #2.** Also on June 14th, the Post will conduct yet another Flag Retirement in partnership with Scout Troops 477 and 78. Time is TBD for now!
6. **Purple Heart Day.** The 5th Annual Commemoration will be held on August 7th at 10:00 AM in Plymouth. More info to come.

Action Corps Weekly – May 5th, 2025

VFW Urges Action on Suicide Prevention: The Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs held a legislative hearing on enhancing mental health services and programs. In a statement submitted for the record, VFW National Legislative Associate Director Meggan Coleman emphasized the importance of strengthening the Staff Sergeant Parker Gordon Fox Suicide Prevention Grant Program as essential to ensure the program's effectiveness in the unique communities it serves. She also expressed the VFW's recommendation to combine the four proposed bills into a comprehensive package to better address veteran suicide prevention efforts. [Read the testimony](#) or [watch the hearing](#), which begins at the 19:35 mark.

Oversight Hearing on State Veterans Homes: The House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Health held an oversight hearing on reform at State Veterans Homes. In a statement submitted for the record, VFW National Legislative Associate Director Meggan Coleman emphasized the importance for VA to proactively address the geriatric-specific needs of the aging veteran population, the growing demand for long-term care services, and the integration of mental and behavioral health support. She also stated that the VFW urges Congress to provide full funding for VA to eliminate the backlog of pending State Home Construction Grants to ensure facilities are available and safe for veterans. [Read the testimony](#) or [watch the hearing](#), which begins at the 26:11 mark.

Meetings

2nd Wednesday

Dinner @ 5:00 PM

Meeting @ 6:00 PM

209-274-0956

Post Phone

Post Hours

Next Event

Hot Dog Cart

Tue-Fri (Noon-4)

Ione Homecoming

Ione Homecoming Rodeo

Saturday, May 10th

Post Website

Poppy Drives

@ Wal-Mart

WWW.VFW8254.ORG

May 23rd – 25th

July 1st – 3rd

August 29th – 31st

Nov. 7th – 9th & 11th



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 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](#)

CONVENTION

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



H.R. 1860, the Women Veterans Cancer Care Coordination Act, would mandate the appointment of regional breast and gynecologic cancer care coordinators within each Veteran Integrated Services Network (VISN). These coordinators would be responsible for ensuring seamless communication and coordination between Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) clinicians and cancer community care providers.

This regional approach aims to provide tailored support, ensuring that veterans receive timely and appropriate care regardless of their location while monitoring services provided, tracking health outcomes and maintaining data on cancer care. This data-driven approach would help to identify trends, measure effectiveness of services and guide future improvements in care delivery.

We support H.R. 1860 in accordance with DAV Resolution No. 39, which calls for the VA to provide gender-tailored health care and specialized services to women veterans.

We call on DAV members and supporters to contact their representative and urge them to co-sponsor and support H.R. 1860. As always, we appreciate your support for DAV's legislative priorities

Many service-disabled veterans face challenges when transitioning to civilian life, particularly in securing stable and meaningful employment. Despite possessing valuable skills and experiences gained through military service, these individuals often encounter barriers such as personal qualification requirements and a lack of opportunities that align with their expertise.

H.R. 1242, the Hire Veterans Act, would address these challenges by creating a 5-year pilot program which would dedicate a pathway for service-disabled veterans to access employment within federal land management agencies. It would recognize the unique strengths and skill sets service-disabled veterans bring to the workforce that align with the needs of the National Park, Wildlife and Fish agencies.

We support H.R. 1242, the Hire Veterans Act in accordance with DAV Resolution No. 238, which supports identifying, reducing and removing barriers to a service-disabled veteran's employment.

Please contact your representative and urge them to cosponsor and support this important legislation. Thank you for your support and advocacy for service-disabled veterans, their families, caregivers and survivors.

AMERICAN LEGION POST 108



Legion Twitter. May is

#MonthOfTheMilitaryCaregiver. Always, but especially this month, we want to both thank & honor those behind-the-scenes heroes caring for our heroes. We recognize the sacrifices our caregivers make & the work they put in performing this invaluable role.

Legionnaires make Buddy Check to reconnect childhood friends. There is a very nice story I found about Buddy Checks and coordination between a media request as well as Legion Post 383 in Sacramento. Space doesn't allow me to put the whole thing on here, but it is a tremendous story that you can read by [clicking here](#).

Post Leadership:

Post CDR:	Mike Green	(209) 267-9493
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:	1 st Thursday, 7:00 PM
Aux:	4 th Thursday,
Sons:	2 nd Monday, 6:00 PM
Riders:	2 nd Monday, 6:30 PM

Dues:

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

2025 Blood Drives: June 2nd, August 4th, September 29th, and December 1st. *As for 2025, the Blood Drives netted a total of 167 units of whole blood. Thank you Amador County!*

2026 Blood Drives: February 2nd, April 6th, June 1st, August 3rd, September 28th, and December 7th.

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 we think in June.

Links:

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



Meetings First Sat of Month, 10 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: TBD



Det 1080 Monthly Meeting
Saturday, June 7th, 10:00 AM
215 S. Amador St., Ione



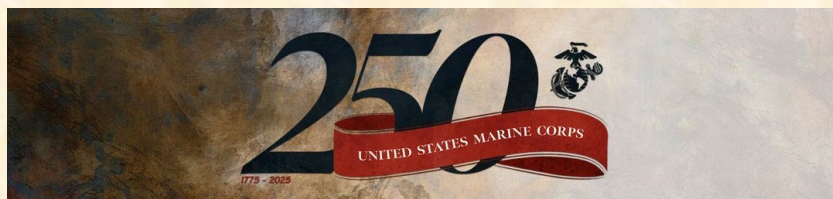
Summer Time!!!

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

USMC
1775 - 2025

Birthday Ball
250 Years

You are invited!!
Marine Corps League Motherlode Detachment 1080
Annual Birthday Ball November 10, 2025.
To be held at the American Legion Post 108 in Jackson, CA.
More Information Contact
Commandant Tom Correa at (209) 293-3331



MARINE CORPS LEAGUE DET 1080



Marines Twitter *The Crucible, conducted at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., serves as the culminating event of Marine Corps recruit training. This rigorous 54-hour exercise challenges recruits to demonstrate the teamwork, endurance, and knowledge acquired throughout their training in order to earn the title of United States Marine.*



Marines with [@MRFDarwin](#) take part in a counter-landing live-fire rehearsal with Philippine Marines with 3rd Marine Brigade, Philippine Marine Corps to Exercise Balikatan 25 at Rizal, Palawan, Philippines. Balikatan is a longstanding annual exercise between the U.S. and Philippine armed forces designed to strengthen the alliance, showcase the capable combined force, and demonstrate the commitment to regional security and stability.

TRICARE COMMUNICATIONS

Benefits During a Disaster

When the government issues a state of emergency, TRICARE may allow different processes than usual for your medical care. This might include:

- *Early prescription refills*
- *Blanket waivers for referrals and authorizations*
- *Other emergency benefits*

[TRICARE Disaster Alerts](#) will announce any emergency benefits.

Primary Care Manager Referral Waivers

- *If you're displaced during a disaster, you might not be able to get to your primary care manager if you need a referral for care.*
- *If a referral waiver is in place, you may not have to get a referral from your PCM to see a TRICARE authorized provider. The disaster alert will include which areas are in the waiver and other instructions.*

Emergency Prescription Refills. To get an emergency refill, take your prescription bottle to any TRICARE retail network pharmacy. To find a network pharmacy:

- Call Express Scripts at 877-363-1303.
- Search the [Find a Pharmacy tool](#).

If you can, visit the pharmacy where you originally filled the prescription.

- *If you use a retail chain, you can fill your prescription at another store in that chain.*
- *If your provider is able, they may call in a new prescription to any network pharmacy.*
- *You can ask for help at another pharmacy. But it's at that pharmacy's discretion to help you.*

Activated in Support of a Disaster? You may qualify for active duty healthcare benefits. Learn more about [benefits when you're activated](#).

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Links

[DEERS INFO](#)

[TRICARE 101](#)

[TRICARE Costs & Fees Sheet](#)

[TRICARE Eligibility](#)

[TRICARE Overseas Travel](#)

[TRICARE West](#)

RECENT ACTIVITIES

Ione Walk for the Troops

On April 26th, the Ione Veterans Memorial Park Committee the 13th annual Ione Walk for the Troops and as usual it was a fantastic event, and not even the weather could keep people away. We are deeply proud of this event, led by Post Auxiliary member Robyn Ornsby as well as Post member Skip Schaufel.



District 17 Convention

Today, May 3rd, was VFW District 17's District meeting hosted by Ione Post 8254. While we conducted normal District business, we also conducted final elections for District Officers elections and installations for 2025 - 2026. Congratulations to Ione Post Commander Rick Boughner for not only a 2nd term as post Commander, but also his election to District 17 Jr Vice Commander. Chaplain Gareth Hall was reelected to a 2nd term as post Chaplain, as well as District Chaplain. An enormous Congratulations to both of these gentlemen for their continued service to our veterans & our community. Congratulations to everyone in the VFW & Auxiliary who took office today. [#stillserving](#)



ASIAN/PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH

The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) is proud to honor our nation's Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander service members, veterans and their families throughout May for Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander Heritage Month.

The month's designation encompasses more than 50 ethnic or linguistic groups, living in the United States and its territories. Since the first Japanese immigrants arrived to mainland America on May 7, 1843, people from Asian countries, and islands throughout the Pacific Ocean and around the Pacific Rim have made significant and lasting contributions to our nation. History records even show that there were Asian Americans serving in the U.S. military as early as the War of 1812.

In 1978, Congress passed a joint resolution authorizing and requesting the president to proclaim the first 10 days of May 1979 as "Asian/Pacific American Heritage Week." President Jimmy Carter signed the resolution Oct. 5, 1978, thus becoming Public Law 95-419 which calls upon the people of the United States to mark the observance with ceremonies and activities. Asian/Pacific American Heritage Week expanded to a monthlong observance in 1990, and finally to an annual observance in 1992.

From the decorated Nisei soldiers of World War II to the courageous men and women serving today, Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander Americans have demonstrated unwavering patriotism, and their sacrifices remind us that our strength as a nation lies in our diversity.

The 1.4 million members of the VFW and its Auxiliary salute all Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander service members, veterans and their families for their indelible contributions to our freedom and our way of life.

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 & Silver Star Service Banner 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 & Chili Cookoff		Main St. Ione
Jul 4:	Independence Day & Volcano Car Show		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	10:00 AM	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. In 2025, the remaining dates are June 2nd, August 4th, September 29th, and December 1st.
- 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

EVENTS OF MEMORIAL DAY



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

- Annual Commemorations at the Legion Hall in Sutter Hill **and at Pioneer Cemetery**
- Annual Flag Placements in Ione (May 18th), Plymouth, and Jackson cemeteries
- VFW Post 8254 first Poppy Distribution of 2025 outside of WAL-MART on May 23rd, 24th, and 25th from 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM.

JUNE 14TH – VFW AUXILIARY PANCAKE BREAKFAST AND FLAG DAY EVENT



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


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


JUNE 21ST – IONE CAR SHOW





Post 8254 will be a participant in a couple of these events – the Hot Dog Cart will be present, and I believe that we may even supply a judge or two for the events.


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>

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
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

MAY 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Apr 27	28	29	30	May 1 Loyalty Day 7 PM Legion Mtg	2	3 VFW Day of Service 9 AM VFW D17 Conv
4	5	6	7 9 AM Kaiser Truck	8	9 Homecoming LUCID WKG PTY 10 AM MCL Mtg	10
11 Homecoming Mother's Day	12 6 PM Sons Mtg 6:30 PM Riders Mtg	13	14 5 PM 8254 Mtgs	15 7 PM DAV Mtg	16 DAV State Convention (Sparks, NV)	17 Armed Forces Day
18 1 PM Ione Flag Placement	19	20	21 9 AM Kaiser Truck	22	23 VFW Poppy Distro LUCID WORKING PTY	24
25 VFW Poppy Distro	26 Memorial Day	27	28	29	30	31