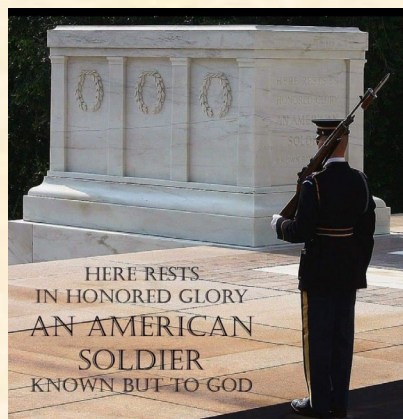




Amador County Veterans Newsletter - May 19th, 2025 (Memorial Week)



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CHAPLAIN'S CORNER



Heavenly Father, on this Memorial Day, we pray for those who courageously laid down their lives for the cause of freedom. May the example of their sacrifice inspire us in the selfless love of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Bless the families of our fallen troops and fill their homes and their lives with your strength and peace. We pray through Christ our Lord, Amen.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"This is the day we pay homage to all those who didn't come home. This is not Veterans Day, it's not a celebration, it is a day of solemn contemplation over the cost of freedom." —Tamra Bolton

HISTORY THIS WEEK

- 5/19/2002: Operation MOUNTAIN LION begins in Afghanistan
- 5/20/1951: USAF Captain James Jabara became the first Korean War ace and the first jet ace in aviation history after downing his fifth MiG.
- 5/21/1881: American Red Cross founded.
- 5/22/1968: USS Scorpion sinks with 99 men aboard
- 5/23/1939: US submarine Squalus sank off the coast of New Hampshire. A diving bell brought 33 survivors safely to the surface.
- 5/24/1846: General Zachary Taylor captured Monterey in the Mexican War.
- 5/25/1945: The US 29th Regiment secures Naha, Okinawa

Memorial Day

- Commemoration at 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, [Military Appreciation Month](#) 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 Survivor Benefits Reforms: The VFW applauds the decision by VA to move the Office of Survivors Assistance from the Veterans Benefits Administration to the Office of the VA Secretary. The VFW has advocated for this change over the last few years through congressional testimony. This decision will bring more focus on improving outreach and coordination of the full range of survivor benefits provided by VA. [Read more.](#)

VA statement regarding President Trump's executive order

May 9, 2025 | VA Website

After President Trump signed an [executive order](#) to provide better care to Veterans, improve accountability for such care, and establish a National Center for Warrior Independence for homeless Veterans, Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary Doug Collins released the following statement:

*"Under President Trump, VA is implementing a host of important reforms to improve care and benefits for our nation's heroes," said **VA Secretary Doug Collins**. "This executive order builds on the progress we've made so far and puts us on a path to fixing some of the department's most vexing problems.*

"After decades of mismanagement, VA has been leasing parts of its 388-acre West Los Angeles VA Medical Center campus to a wealthy and exclusive private school and the University of California, Los Angeles, baseball team. Today's executive order will enable us to ensure VA's West Los Angeles Campus is being used as intended: to benefit Veterans. Our goal is to turn the campus into a beacon of hope and a destination for homeless Veterans from across the nation who can travel there to find housing and support and start their journey back to self-sufficiency.

"Under President Biden, [VA failed to hold its employees properly accountable](#) and [actively fought](#) congressional attempts to make it easier to fire poor-performing workers – even as health care wait times and benefits backlogs increased. With this executive order, VA will become the most accountable agency in the entire federal government. We're going to celebrate the vast majority of VA employees who do a great job every day, hold employees accountable when they fall short of the mission and work to fix the wait-time and backlog issues that developed during the Biden Administration.

"New Hampshire is the only state in the contiguous United States without a full-service VA medical center. In response to this executive order, we will develop a plan to ensure that is no longer the case."

Additional announcements regarding VA's implementation of the EO are forthcoming. Read more about the EO [here](#).

POW/MIA NOTIFICATIONS & PRESS RELEASES

Army Cpl. Edwin C. Martin, 18, who was killed during the Korean War, was accounted for April 29, 2025. In 1950, Martin was a member of Company A, 1st Battalion, 9th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division. He was reported missing in action on Aug. 31, in the vicinity of Yongsan, Republic of Korea (South Korea) after his unit encountered enemy combatants attempting to cross the Nakdong River. He was never reported as a prisoner of war and subsequent searches of the battlefield failed to recover his remains. With no evidence of his continued survival, the Army issued a presumptive finding of death on Dec. 31, 1953. He was declared non-recoverable on Jan 16, 1956.

Army Pvt. Mack Homer, 20, killed during World War II, was accounted for May 7, 2025. In the summer of 1944, Homer was assigned to Company E, 364th Engineer General Service Regiment, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. On July 7, Homer was killed, along with seven other servicemembers, near Saint-Marcouf in Normandy, France, after an explosion partially caved in the concrete roof of a captured enemy bunker that they were clearing.

Army Pfc. St. Clair M. Gibson, 30, missing in action during World War II, was accounted for May 7, 2025. In September 1943, Gibson was assigned Company F, 2nd Battalion, 371st Infantry Regiment, 92d Infantry Division. He was reported missing in action on Nov. 18, 1944, after a battle in the northern Apennine Mountains near Seravezza, Italy. His remains were not recovered following the war.

Navy Ensign Joseph L. Richey, 21, killed during World War II, was accounted for on May 9, 2025. On Dec. 7, 1941, Richey 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 Richey.

Army Capt. Ralph L. Rowland, 43, of Santa Cruz, California, killed during World War II, was accounted for March 18, 2025. In May 1942, Rowland was assigned to Signal Company, Aircraft Warning, Philippines Department on the Bataan Peninsula, in the Philippines. He was held as a prisoner of war by 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. Rowland was then transported to Takao, Formosa, known today as Taiwan, aboard the Enoura Maru. The Japanese reported that Rowland was killed on Jan. 9, 1945, when U.S. forces sank the Enoura Maru. Rowland will be buried in Santa Cruz, California, on a date yet to be determined.

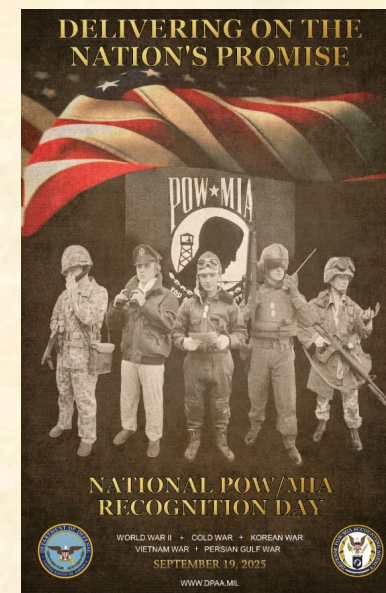
Army Pvt. Ben F. Leslie, 31, of Capitan, New Mexico, killed during World War II, was accounted for Feb. 14, 2025. In April 1942, Leslie was assigned to Battery H, 200th Coast Artillery Regiment. He was held as a prisoner of war by the Empire of Japan in the Philippines from 1942 to 1944 when the Japanese 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. The Japanese government reported that Leslie died aboard the Enoura Maru on January 9, 1945. Leslie will be buried in White Oaks, New Mexico, in July 2025.



UNACCOUNTED FOR

According to DPAA, as of May 16th, 2025, there remain:

World War II:	71930
Korea:	7422
Vietnam:	1572
Cold War:	126
Gulf War/Libya:	6
Total:	81056



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

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

Army Air Forces 1st Lt. George F. Wilson, Jr., 22, of Bountiful, Utah, killed during World War II, was accounted for Nov. 21, 2024. In July 1944, Wilson was assigned to the 601st Bombardment Squadron, 389th Bombardment Group, 8th Air Force, in the European Theater. On July 8, Wilson, the pilot of a B-17G "Flying Fortress" bomber, was killed when his aircraft crashed near Monchy-Cayeux, France, after being hit by antiaircraft fire. Surviving crew members reported Wilson had been hit by flak and was still on board when the aircraft crashed. Wilson will be buried in Bountiful, Utah, in July 2025.



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.](#)



VFW IONE MEMORIAL POST & AUXILIARY 8254

Info:

Commander: Rick Boughner (916) 990-4252
Meetings: 2nd Wednesday 5:00 Dinner
6:00 Meeting

Links

[Post Website](#)
[National Website](#)

Next Meeting



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

Action Corps Weekly

VFW Meets with House Committee Chairman: VFW Washington Office Executive Director Ryan Gallucci and National Legislative Director Kristina Keenan met with House Committee on Veterans' Affairs Chairman Mike Bost 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. They expressed support for bills introduced by the chairman, such as [H.R. 740](#), Veterans' ACCESS Act of 2025, and [H.R. 1041](#), Veterans 2nd Amendment Protection Act. The VFW looks forward to continuing work with Chairman Bost on these proposals and other important pieces of veteran legislation during the 119th Congress.

Senate Hearing on Future at VA: The Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs held an oversight hearing with Secretary Douglas Collins on the future at VA. Collins emphasized the need for reforms to better provide health care and benefits to veterans, and confirmed his commitment to reduce wasteful spending. He stated he would keep mission-essential jobs and phase out nonessential roles with the goal of a 15 percent reduction, and work to eliminate inefficiencies to reduce appointment wait times and the number of pending claims. [Read the testimony](#) or [watch the hearing](#), which begins at the 20:54 mark.

Events

June 14th – Flag Day Breakfast will be held 8:00 AM – Noon and is open to the public.

June 14th – Flag Retirement will be held in the evening around 7:00 PM in the backyard of the post. This a joint event between the Post and Scout Troops 477 and 78.

August 7th – Purple Heart Commemoration will be held in Plymouth at 10:00 AM. We will provide Chaplain, Honor Guard, and Past National Auxiliary Soloist Juliet Kennedy.

Pic of the Week





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](#)

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



Post Leadership:

Post CDR: Mike Green (209) 267-9493
Sons CDR: Rick Boughner (916) 990-4252
Riders Dir: Pat Burkhardt (530) 635-3878
Office Rep: Kathleen Gast 209-267-9493
Office Hrs: Tue, Wed, Thu 10 AM – 2 PM

Meeting Dates:

Post 1st Thursday 7:00 PM
Sons 2nd Monday 6:00 PM
Riders 2nd Monday 6:30 PM

Annual Dues:

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

Links

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

Events

Blood Drives: Jun 2, Aug 4th, Sep 29th, & Dec 1.

Karaoke: Third Saturday of the month – 7PM to midnight

Bingo. Bingo will start up at the Legion Post on the Second Thursday of each month we think in June.

News

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](#).

Congressional news. On May 6, the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs reported out 18 bills to be eligible for consideration by the full House of Representatives. The bills are:

- H.R. 1041: The Veterans 2nd Amendment Protection Act
- H.R. 3132: Certified Help Options in Claims Expertise (CHOICE) for Veterans Act of 2025
- H.R. 1815: The VA Home Loan Program Reform Act
- H.R. 1969: The No Wrong Door for Veterans Act
- H.R. 980: The Modernizing the Veterans On-Campus Experience Act of 2025
- H.R. 1364: The Automotive Support Services to Improve Safe Transportation Act of 2025
- H.R. 1458: The Veterans Education and Technical Skills Opportunity Act of 2025
- H.R. 1823: To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Comptroller General of the United States to report on certain funding shortfalls in the Department of Veterans Affairs
- H.R. 2201: The Improving VA Training for Military Sexual Trauma Claims Act
- H.R. 647: The Ensuring Veterans' Final Resting Place Act of 2025
- H.R. 1286: The Simplifying Forms for Veterans Claims Act
- H.R. 217: The Communities Helping Invest through Property and Improvement Needed (CHIP IN) for Veterans Act
- H.R. 1107: The Protecting Veteran Access to Telemedicine Services Act of 2025
- H.R. 1336: The Veterans National Traumatic Brain Injury Treatment Act
- H.R. 658: To amend title 38, United States Code, to establish qualifications for the appointment of a person as a marriage and family therapist, qualified to provide clinical supervision, in the Veterans Health Administration
- H.R. 1860: The Women Veterans Cancer Care Coordination Act
- H.R. 1578: The Veterans Claims Education Act of 2025
- H.R. 2625: The VERY Act of 2025

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE MOTHERLODE DET 1080



Post Leadership:

Commander: Tom Correa
POC: Rick Boughner (916) 990-4252

Links

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

Next Meeting



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



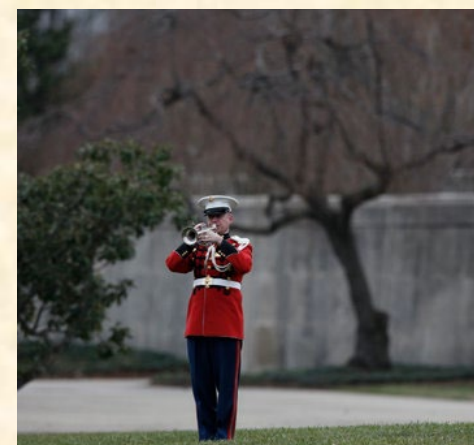
Summer Time!!!




News


Twitter from the Commandant. This week, I testified before the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense at the Oversight Hearing on the Navy and Marine Corps. This was my opening statement. You can also find my full written statement here: <https://cmc.marines.mil/Speeches-and-Transcripts/Transcripts/Article/4186803/statement-of-general-eric-m-smith-commandant-of-the-marine-corps-on-the-posture/...>

Marine Corps Twitter. [#MarineCorps](#) F-35B Lightning II aircraft with Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 211, Marine Aircraft Group 12, [@1stMAW Marines](#) fly over Wake Island en route to Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan. VMFA-211 joined VMFA-214 on the current Unit Deployment Program, which provides U.S.-based units with operational experience in U.S. Pacific Command. [#USMC](#) [#MarineCorps](#) [#Aviation](#)








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



TRICARE



Links

[DEERS INFO](#)

[TRICARE 101](#)

[TRICARE Costs & Fees Sheet](#)

[TRICARE Eligibility](#)

[TRICARE Overseas Travel](#)

[TRICARE West](#)

News

May 14th [TRICARE Is Your Partner in Mental Health Care](#)

May 13th [TRICARE Dental Program Offers Comprehensive Care for Children](#)

If you or someone you know is struggling or in crisis, help is available. Call or text 988 or chat 988lifeline.org. This resource connects you with trained counselors who can help you get the help you need, 24/7.

Suicidal thoughts can be experienced by anyone and are a serious mental health concern. Whether you're a service member, veteran, family member, or retiree, it's important to remember that mental health is just as crucial as physical health. Taking proactive steps

TRICARE® IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION



JANUARY 2025



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TRICARE STATESIDE CONTACTS

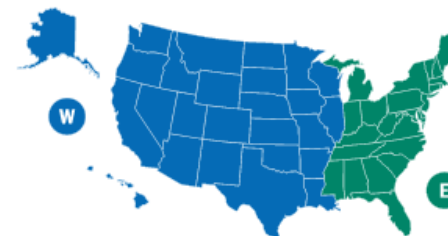


West Region
TriWest Healthcare Alliance
888-TRIWEST (888-874-9378)
www.tricare.mil/west



East Region
Humana Military
800-444-5445
www.tricare.mil/east

US Family Health Plan
www.tricare.mil/usfhp



TRICARE OVERSEAS PROGRAM

These are TRICARE Overseas Program Regional Call Centers. The call centers are available 24/7 to provide general information, connect you with language assistance, and answer your benefit-related questions.

Eurasia-Africa
+44-20-8762-8384 (overseas)
877-678-1207 (stateside)
tricarelon@internationalso.com
Medical Assistance
+44-20-8762-8133

Latin America and Canada
+1-215-942-8393 (overseas)
877-451-8659 (stateside)
tricarephi@internationalso.com
Medical Assistance
+1-215-942-8320

Pacific
+65-6339-2676 (overseas)
877-678-1208 (stateside)
sin.tricare@internationalso.com
Medical Assistance
+65-6338-9277

For toll-free, country-specific contact information, visit www.tricare-overseas.com/contact-us. Only call Medical Assistance numbers to coordinate emergency care overseas.

TRICARE AREA OFFICES

www.health.mil/tao

Eurasia-Africa
(Africa, Europe, and the Middle East)
888-777-8343, option 1
314-590-2999 (DSN)

Latin America and Canada
(Canada, the Caribbean Basin, Central and South America, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands)
888-777-8343, option 2
312-761-1153 (DSN)

Pacific
(American Samoa, Asia, Australia, Guam, India, Japan, New Zealand, the Northern Mariana Islands, South Korea, and Western Pacific remote countries)
888-777-8343, option 3
315-645-3199 (DSN)



OTHER IMPORTANT CONTACTS

TRICARE Pharmacy Program
www.tricare.mil/pharmacy
Express Scripts, Inc.
<https://militaryrx.express-scripts.com>
877-363-1303
877-882-3324 (specialty prescriptions)

Dental Programs
www.tricare.mil/dental
TRICARE Active Duty Dental Program
866-984-2337 (CONUS)
844-653-4058 (OCONUS)

TRICARE Dental Program
844-653-4061 (CONUS)
844-653-4060 (OCONUS)

TRICARE For Life
www.tricare.mil/tfl
866-773-0404

Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program
www.benefeds.gov

Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System
www.tricare.mil/deers
<https://milconnect.dmdc.osd.mil>
800-538-9552

Contact the DMDC/DEERS Support Office to check your TRICARE eligibility or for help with eligibility-related issues.

For a complete list of TRICARE contacts, visit www.tricare.mil/contactus.



A Registered Nurse is Only a Call or Click Away!



Web Chat



Video Chat



Call (Visit the web to find your location-specific number.)

In the U.S., call 800-TRICARE (800-874-2273), option 1.

MHSNurseAdviceLine.com

Find your DOD benefits number on your ID card.

Original Memorial Day Order

Headquarters Grand Army of the Republic,
Washington, D.C., May 5, 1868.

GENERAL ORDERS

No. 11

I. The 30th day of May, 1868 is designated for the purpose of strewing with flowers or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country during the late rebellion, and whose bodies now lie in almost every city, village, and hamlet churchyard in the land. In this observance no form or ceremony is prescribed, but posts and comrades will in their own way arrange such fitting services and testimonials of respect as circumstances may permit.

We are organized, comrades, as our regulations tell us, for the purpose, among other things, "of preserving and strengthening those kind and fraternal feelings which have bound together the soldiers, sailors and marines who united to suppress the late rebellion." What can aid more to assure this result than by cherishing tenderly the memory of our heroic dead who made their breasts a barricade between our country and its foes? Their soldier lives were the reveille of freedom to a race in chains and their deaths the tattoo of rebellious tyranny in arms. We should guard their graves with sacred vigilance. All that the consecrated wealth and taste of the nation can add to their adornment and security is but a fitting tribute to the memory of her slain defenders. Let no wanton foot tread rudely on such hallowed grounds. Let pleasant paths invite the coming and going of reverent visitors and fond mourners. Let no vandalism of avarice or neglect, no ravages of time, testify to the present or to the coming generations that we have forgotten, as a people, the cost of a free and undivided republic.

If other eyes grow dull and other hands slack, and other hearts cold in the solemn trust, ours shall keep it well as long as the light and warmth of life remains in us.

Let us, then, at the time appointed, gather around their sacred remains and garland the passionless mounds above them with choicest flowers of springtime; let us raise above them the dear old flag they saved from dishonor; let us in this solemn presence renew our pledges to aid and assist those whom they have left among us as sacred charges upon the nation's gratitude—the soldier's and sailor's widow and orphan.

II. It is the purpose of the commander in chief to inaugurate this observance with the hope that it will be kept up from year to year, while a survivor of the war remains to honor the memory of his departed comrades. He earnestly desires the public press to call attention to this order and lend its friendly aid in bringing it to the notice of comrades in all parts of the country in time for simultaneous compliance therewith.

III. Department commanders will use every effort to make this order effective.

By Command of -
John A. Logan,
Commander in Chief

N.P. Chipman, Adjutant General

ARLINGTON (by Trace Adkins)

*I never thought that this is where I'd settle down
I thought I'd die an old man back in my hometown
They gave me this plot of land
Me and some other men, for a job well done*

*There's a big White House sits on a hill just up the road
The man inside, he cried the day they brought me home
They folded up a flag and told my Mom and Dad
"We're proud of your son"*

*And I'm proud to be on this peaceful piece of property
I'm on sacred ground and I'm in the best of company
I'm thankful for those thankful for the things I've done
I can rest in peace
I'm one of the chosen ones
I made it to Arlington*

*I remember Daddy brought me here when I was eight
We searched all day to find out where my grand-dad lay
And when we finally found that cross
He said, "Son, this is what it cost to keep us free"*

*Now here I am, a thousand stones away from him
He recognized me on the first day I came in
And it gave me a chill when he clicked his heels
And saluted me*

*And I'm proud to be on this peaceful piece of property
I'm on sacred ground and I'm in the best of company
I'm thankful for those thankful for the things I've done
I can rest in peace
I'm one of the chosen ones
I made it to Arlington*

*And every time I hear 21 guns
I know they brought another hero home to us*

*We're thankful for those thankful for the things we've done
We can rest in peace
'Cause we are the chosen ones
We made it to Arlington*

*Yeah, dust to dust
Don't cry for us
We made it to Arlington*



MEMORIAL DAY

History of Taps

The creation of our country's most revered bugle call has been credited for many years to General Daniel Butterfield, commander of the Third Brigade, First Division, Fifth Army Corps of the Army of the Potomac during the Civil War.

It was believed that the general wrote the call in July 1862 while his brigade was camped in Confederate territory at Harrison's Landing on the banks of the James River in Virginia following the Seven Days Battle. Brigade bugler, Oliver W. Norton, first sounded the call there.

Years later, in 1898, Norton wrote about the creation and première of "Taps." He claimed that General Butterfield showed him some notes on a staff written in pencil on the back of an envelope and asked him to play them. General Butterfield made some revisions to the music and instructed Norton to sound this call in place of "Lights Out" that evening.

General Butterfield wrote in response to this that Norton's recollection was generally correct. He stated that he was knowledgeable of military bugle calls and could sound them himself. "Lights Out" did not seem as smooth, melodious, and musical as it should be, so he called upon some one who could write music to make the changes in the call (he claimed to be unable to read or write music).

Recently scholars have discovered that General Butterfield did not compose this new call but revised an earlier call with which he was familiar. The origin of that call which the General gave to Norton was found in an early version of "Tattoo" and was published in at least three drill and tactics manuals: the Winfield Scott manual of 1835, the Samuel Cooper manual of 1836, and the William Gilham manual of 1861.

The last five measures of the version of "Tattoo" very closely resemble the current day "Taps." Undoubtedly, General Butterfield was remembering this earlier call he had learned from his previous training as a regimental commander. He made revisions to it to suit him and had Norton sound the call. The new call spread quickly to other units in both the Union and Confederate armies. It began to be used for funeral ceremonies almost immediately, but it was not until 1891 that U.S. Army drill regulations made it mandatory for funerals.

Memorial Day Flag Protocol

Flag etiquette on Memorial Day is unique. At sunrise, flags are to be raised to full staff briskly, then lowered to half-staff position where they will remain until noon. If you are unsure how to properly lower your flag to half-staff, watch this short how-to video (see link below).

At noon, flags are to be raised to full-staff and will be displayed there for the remainder of the holiday. If you are unable to display the flag at half-staff on Memorial Day, proper flag etiquette requires that you display your flag with a black mourning ribbon to show respect and acknowledge the somber meaning of the day.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qog5ZsJF3sY>

MEMORIAL DAY STATEMENT

As veterans, we know that we gather not for barbecues, sales or the unofficial start of summer. We gather to remember. We gather to honor. We gather to pay tribute to the men and women who gave their last full measure of devotion to this nation. We gather for Memorial Day.

I'm a proud member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, an organization whose very existence is rooted in service, in remembrance, and in ensuring that the sacrifices of our fallen are never, ever forgotten. I've seen firsthand the power of this day, the weight of this day, and the importance of this day.

It's a day that, I fear, too many of our fellow Americans have forgotten. In the hustle and bustle of modern life, in the pursuit of leisure and recreation, the true meaning of Memorial Day can get lost. It becomes just another day off, or another reason for a long weekend. But for those of us who have served, for those of us who have lost friends and brothers and sisters-in-arms, it's so much more.

It's a day etched in blood, forged in sacrifice, and hallowed by the memory of heroes. It's a day to walk among the silent rows of white stones in our national cemeteries, to read the names etched in granite, and to feel the profound absence of those who should be standing here with us today.

Today, we think of the young men who stormed the beaches of Normandy, not for glory, but to defend the free world. We remember the American warriors who fought side by side in the frozen hills of Korea, not for conquest, but for the survival of democracy. We honor the young Americans who fought in the jungles and rice paddies of Vietnam, not for ideology, but for their comrades. And we remember the American heroes, male and female who fell in the deserts of Iraq and the mountains of Afghanistan, not for oil, but for the safety of our nation.

The people we honor today are sons and daughters, husbands and wives, fathers and mothers, brothers and sisters. They were ordinary people called to arms who did extraordinary things. They left behind families, dreams and futures, all for something larger than themselves. They died so that we might live. And that is why we must remember. We must remember the true cost of our freedom and that we owe them a debt that we can never repay. We must remember that freedom is not free ... and that it was purchased with the blood of our nation's truest patriots.

We must remember all of this and not just today, but every day. It's important that we teach our children their names and their stories, and that we visit their memorials and keep their memories alive. And we must continue to support their families and honor their legacy. If we forget ... if we stop telling their stories we dishonor their sacrifice and diminish their courage. If we forget, we risk repeating the mistakes of the past.

As veterans and members of the VFW, we are committed to ensuring that America never forgets. We are the keepers of the flame and the guardians of their memory. We are here to serve our communities, to continue to support our veterans and their families.

So, on this Memorial Day, I ask you to join us. Take a moment of silence. Say a prayer. Visit a cemetery. Fly your flag. And most importantly, remember. Remember our nation's heroes and their sacrifice. Remember their legacy, and the families they left behind. And let us resolve, together, to live lives worthy of their sacrifice, to build a nation worthy of their devotion and to ensure that their memory lives on, forever.

MEMORIAL DAY IN AMADOR COUNTY

**FOR THOSE WHO ARE GONE,
BUT NEVER FORGOTTEN.**



Show your support for those who gave all.
Get your VFW "Buddy"® Poppy, the
official flower of remembrance, here.

VFW
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

Distribution is going to be May 23rd, 24th, and 25th out in front of Wal-Mart. Stop by, say hello and get your poppy.



SOME GAVE ALL.
REMEMBER THEM THIS
MEMORIAL DAY



**OFFICIAL
COMMEMORATIONS**

SUTTER HILL/MARTELL
Monday, May 26th, 2025
American Legion Parking
Lot
Time: 1100

UPCOUNTRY
Monday, May 26th, 2025
Pioneer Cemetery
Time: TBD
POC: Jack Magee

ASIAN/PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH



Specialist Fujii was presented the Medal on July 5th, 2022 at the White House by President Joe Biden.

Congressional Medal of Honor To Specialist Five Dennis M. Fujii

“Specialist Five Dennis M. Fujii distinguished himself by conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity beyond the call of duty while serving as crew chief aboard a helicopter ambulance during rescue operations in Laos, Republic of Vietnam, during the period of 18 to 22 February 1971. Specialist Five Fujii was serving with the 237th Medical Detachment, 61st Medical Battalion, 67th Medical Group. The team's mission was to evacuate seriously wounded Vietnamese military personnel from the midst of a raging battlefield. The aircraft's primary approach to the bullet-infested landing zone was thwarted by heavy volumes of enemy fire directed at the specialist's helicopter. As the pilot made a second landing attempt, the enemy concentrated a barrage of flak at the air ambulance which damaged the craft and caused it to crash in the conflict area, injuring Specialist Five Fujii. Moments later, another American helicopter successfully landed near the wreckage of the specialist's airship and extracted all the downed crewmen except for Specialist Five Fujii, who was unable to board due to the intense enemy fire directed at him. Rather than further endanger the lives of his comrades aboard the second helicopter, Specialist Five Fujii waved the craft out of the combat area and remained behind as the only American on the battlefield. Subsequent attempts to rescue the specialist were aborted due to the violent antiaircraft fire. Specialist Five Fujii finally secured a radio and informed the aviators in the area that the landing zone was too hot for further evacuation attempts. During the night and all through the next day, Specialist Five Fujii disregarded his own wounds as he administered first aid to the allied casualties. On the night of 19 February, the allied perimeter came under ruthless assault by a reinforced enemy regiment supported by heavy artillery. Once again obtaining a radio transmitter, Specialist Five Fujii called in American helicopter gunships to assist the small unit in repelling the attack. For a period of over seventeen consecutive hours, Specialist Five Fujii repeatedly exposed himself to hostile fire as he left the security of his entrenchment to better observe enemy troop positions and to direct air strikes against them. At times the fighting became so vicious that Specialist Five Fujii was forced to interrupt radio transmittal in order to place suppressive rifle fire on the enemy while at close quarters. Though wounded and severely fatigued by 20 February, the specialist bore the responsibility for the protection and defense of the friendly encampment until an American helicopter could land and attempt to airlift him from the area. As his air ambulance left the battlefield, it received numerous hits and was forced to crash land at another South Vietnamese Ranger base approximately four kilometers from the specialist's original location. The totally exhausted Specialist Five Fujii remained at the allied camp for two more days until yet another helicopter could return him to Phau Bai for medical assistance on 22 February. Specialist Five Fujii's extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.”

www.cmohs.org

IONE HOMECOMING



Post 8254, Chapter 118, and MCL Det 1080 all participated in some of the events during this 149th annual three day event. Of the many things, we were represented as parade judges, we have our Hot Dog Cart on the Rodeo Grounds. We thank all who participated and those who stopped by to say hello.

At the Homecoming Parade on Saturday May 10th, we celebrate Post Auxiliary President Dolores Larrigan on her 80th CONSECUTIVE appearance at said Parade. Great job Dolores!

Our Scout Troop and Pack 477 also marched in the Parade and provided food at the events at Howard Park.



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 & <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 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 Burial 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 & POST FLAG DAY EVENT



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.

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