



Amador County Veterans Newsletter May 5th, 2025 (Happy 149th Ione Homecoming)



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CHAPLAIN'S CORNER



Lord Jesus, In the hustle of our daily lives, help us to seek and embrace the joy that surrounds us. Open our hearts [to recognize the blessings](#) in each moment, and grant us the wisdom to find delight in the simple things. May Your love fill our spirits, guiding us to share joy with others. Amen.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"I wanted to be like my father, who was a cattle man and a rodeo roper. And that was – he was my hero, and I wanted to be more like him." – Dave Brubeck

HISTORY THIS WEEK

- 5/5/1993: Operation CONTINUE HOPE begins in Somalia
- 5/6/1942: LTG Wainwright surrenders all U. S. troops in Philippines to Japan
- 5/7/1779: Continental Navy sloop Providence captures British brig Diligent off Cape Charles
- 5/8/1945: V-E DAY
- 5/9/1926: LCDR Richard Byrd and Floyd Bennett made the first flight over the North Pole
- 5/10/1775: The Green Mountain Boys capture Fort Ticonderoga, NY
- 5/11/1969: Battle of Hamburger Hill begins

Memorial Day

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

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



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

GENERAL INFO

[Sacramento VA Medical Center](#)
10535 Hospital Way
Mather, CA 95655-4200

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

LINKS

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

Live Whole Health #270: In season now, spinach and strawberries

May 1st, 2025 | Allison Hyzy, RD, LDN

Birds are chirping, flowers are blooming, and the days are getting warmer and brighter. Spring is here and it brings a wealth of fresh produce, with two standout stars: spinach and strawberries.

Spinach is a versatile, leafy green that is delicious raw or cooked and is a source of iron, folate and vitamin K. These nutrients support bone health and red blood cell production.

Strawberries are packed with vitamin C and anthocyanins, making them antioxidant powerhouses. They can help protect cells from oxidative stress and support your immune system.

Immunity, health and red blood cell function depends on iron. Did you know that consuming vitamin-C-rich foods like strawberries—along with plant-based sources of iron, like spinach—enhances the absorption of non-heme iron? Spinach and strawberries are a delicious and complementary pairing that together support immunity, heart health and red blood cell function.

Eating in season means better flavor and often better value. Try adding a handful of spinach to your favorite strawberry smoothie recipe, topping your favorite fish with a homemade strawberry salsa and a side of lightly sauteed spinach, or making a strawberry spinach salad.

Check out this 4-minute video by VHA's healthy teaching kitchen to learn how to make a delicious and quick strawberry spinach salad.



[*The recipe and full article can be read by clicking here.*](#)

POW/MIA NOTIFICATIONS & PRESS RELEASES



Army Sgt. Celestino Chavez, Jr., 19, killed in action during the Korean War, was accounted for April 15, 2025. In late 1950, Chavez was assigned to Battery D, 15th Anti-Aircraft Artillery, Automatic Weapons Battalion, 7th Infantry Division. He was reported missing in action on Dec. 2, when his convoy was ambushed by opposing forces in route to Hagaru-ri near the Jangjin (Chosin) Reservoir, Democratic People's Republic of Korea. The U.S. Army did not receive any indication that he was ever held as a prisoner of war and with no evidence of his continued survival, issued a presumptive finding of death on Dec. 31, 1953.

Army Cpl. Shirley B. Andrews, Jr., 18, killed during the Korean War, was accounted for April 15, 2025. In the fall of 1950, Andrews was assigned to Company F, 2nd Battalion, 38th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division. He was reported missing in action on Sept. 7 near Hwasan-dong, Republic of Korea. He was not reported as a prisoner of war and subsequent searches of the battle area failed to recover his remains. With no evidence of his continued survival, the Army issued a presumptive finding of death as of Dec. 31, 1953. He was declared non-recoverable on Jan. 16, 1956.

Army Pfc. Roland Lee Bowser, 20, of New Kensington, Pennsylvania, killed during the Korean War, was accounted for March 21, 2025. In November 1950, Bowser was assigned to M Company, 3rd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division. He was reported missing in action on Nov. 2, after his battalion's fighting-withdrawal from Unsan, Democratic People's Republic of Korea. After the war, returning prisoners reported that Bowser died in captivity at Camp 5 in Pyoktong, North Korea, in early June 1951. Bowser will be buried in Arlington National Cemetery, on a date yet to be determined.

Army Sgt. George M. Barbieri, 23, of Hicksville, New York, killed during the Korean War, was accounted for Feb. 26, 2025. In the winter of 1950, Barbieri was assigned to Service Company, 32nd Infantry Regiment, 7th Infantry Division. He was reported missing in action Dec. 2, near Twigae, North Korea. Lacking evidence of continued survival, the U.S. Army issued a presumptive finding of death of Dec. 31, 1953. Barbieri will be buried in Arlington National Cemetery, on a date yet to be determined.

Army Air Forces Pvt. Donald E. Bays, 21, of Hubbard Springs, Virginia, killed during World War II, was accounted for Dec. 20, 2024. In 1941, Bays was assigned to the Tow Target Detachment at Hickam Airfield on the island of Oahu, Hawaii. On Dec. 7th, Japanese aircraft attacked Oahu; in addition to the ships moored in Pearl Harbor, they bombed and strafed Hickam Field, and damaged or destroyed U.S. aircraft, hangars, barracks, supply buildings, and the base chapel. The attack lasted four hours. Bays was reportedly killed during this time. Bays will be buried in Lee County, VA in May 2025.

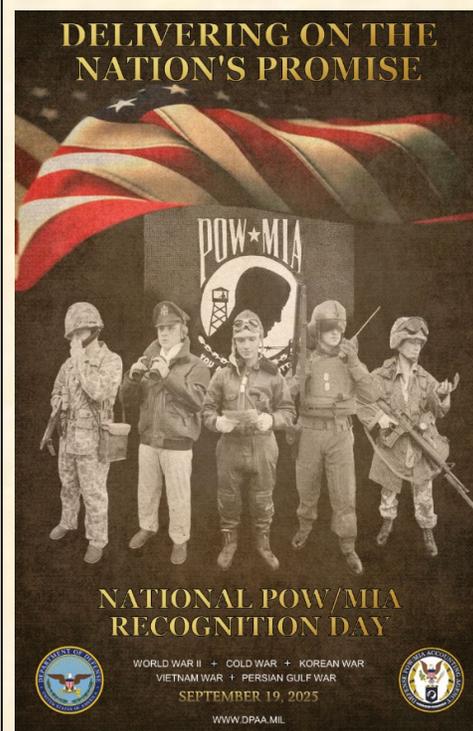
Army Air Forces 2nd Lt. Justice J. Buttala, 24, of Chicago, Illinois, killed during World War II, was accounted for on Jan. 14, 2025. In the spring of 1945, Buttala served as an observer aboard a B-29 "Superfortress" bomber assigned to 28th Bombardment Squadron, 19th Bombardment Group, 20th Air Force. On April 24, during a combat mission to Japan, the aircraft was shot down over Tachikawa, on the western outskirts of Tokyo. Buttala survived the crash but was held as a prisoner of war. He perished in the Tokyo Military Prison during a fire on May 26, 1945. Buttala will be buried in Alexandria, Virginia on a date yet to be determined.

UNACCOUNTED FOR

As of May 1st, 2025, there remain:

- 71942 – World War II
- 7423 – 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](#)

Army 1st Sgt. David D. Crouse, 55, who was captured and died as a prisoner of war during World War II, was accounted for April 22, 2025. In late 1941, Crouse was a member of 808th Military Police Company, when Japanese forces invaded the Philippine Islands in December. According to prison camp and other historical records, Crouse died Nov. 22, 1942, and was buried along with other deceased prisoners in the local Cabanatuan Camp Cemetery in Common Grave 807.

Air Force Capt. Howard E. O'Dell, 30, who was killed during the Korean War, was accounted for April 29, 2025. In the summer of 1950, O'Dell was a member of 36th Fighter-Bomber Squadron, 8th Fighter-Bomber Group, U.S. Fifth Air Force. He was reported missing in action on July 19, in the vicinity of Taejon, Republic of Korea (South Korea), after his aircraft crashed upon landing. He was never reported as a prisoner of war and subsequent searches of the battlefield failed to recover his remains. In January 1954, the Air Force determined that there was enough evidence to declare that O'Dell had died in combat.

Army Air Forces Cpl. William I. Berrier, 22, who was captured and died as a prisoner of war during World War II, was accounted for April 16, 2025. In late 1941, Berrier was a member of 21st Pursuit Squadron, 24th Pursuit Group, when Japanese forces invaded the Philippine Islands in December. According to prison camp and other historical records, Berrier died Oct. 24, 1942, and was buried along with other deceased prisoners in the local Cabanatuan Camp Cemetery in Common Grave 710.



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 & Aux 8254



Post 8254. So much to cover, so little space...

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. 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 Homecoming.** We will be present at the Homecoming – at the very least, we will have our Hot Dog Cart at the Rodeo on Saturday.
4. **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.
5. **Flag Day.** On Saturday, June 14th, our Auxiliary will be hosting one of two Pancake Breakfasts this Summer. There will be ore information to come on this, and it will be open to the public.
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 – April 28th, 2025

VA Announces May 1 End to Home Loan Relief Program: On April 23, VA announced it will stop accepting submissions to the Veterans Affairs Servicing Purchase (VASP) program effective May 1, 2025. This includes any new VASP Trial Payment Plans (TPPs), where borrowers demonstrate the ability to make their new monthly payments for three months before the loan is fully modified. However, active TPPs will continue through Aug. 31, 2025. If you are facing foreclosure on a VA-guaranteed home loan, speak to your lender before May 1. [Read more.](#)

Protecting Veterans from Bad Actors: Con artists often target veterans who receive significant VA benefits, such as Purple Heart recipients and those eligible for Special Monthly Compensation, specially adapted housing grants, or VA pensions. Common scams include identity theft, fraudulent investment schemes, and fake financial services that mimic legitimate free offerings. You can protect yourself by never sharing your VA account details and by authorizing benefits deposits only into bank accounts in your own name. Suspected fraud should be immediately reported to VA at 800.827.1000. [Learn more.](#)

VA Program Helps Veterans Manage Their Benefits: VA's Fiduciary Program protects veterans who are unable to manage their own VA benefits due to illness, injury, or age. If medical documentation or a court establishes incompetence, VA will assign a fiduciary who is usually a family member or friend selected by the veteran. This individual must then undergo an investigation to determine suitability. Veterans may appeal VA's determination of incompetence or its selection of a fiduciary. [Learn more.](#)

Meetings

2nd Wednesday
Dinner @ 5:00 PM
Meeting @ 6:00 PM
 209-274-0956
 Tue-Fri (Noon-4)
Ione Homecoming
Ione Homecoming
Rodeo Saturday, May 10th
10th
WWW.VFW8254.ORG
 May 23rd – 25th
 July 1st – 3rd
 August 29th – 31st
 Nov. 7th – 9th & 11th

Post Phone

Post Hours

Next Event

Hot Dog Cart

Post Website

Poppy Drives



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.



MAY 16, 2025 AT 6 PM

at the
DAV CALIFORNIA CONVENTION
THE NUGGET IN SPARKS, NV



H.R. 1970, the Providing Veterans Essential Medication Act, aims to address the financial burden faced by State Veterans Homes in providing high-cost medications to veterans, by directing the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to either reimburse state homes for these medications or furnish them directly, based on the preference of the facility.

As the demand for specialized and costly medications among veterans rises, State Veterans Homes often experience increased financial strain. High-cost medications, such as revolutionary cancer drugs, can exceed \$1,000 a day. It is crucial to guarantee that these homes receive sufficient funding and support to address the growing need for care. It is imperative that we prioritize the well-being of our nation's veterans and provide them with the necessary resources to live healthy and fulfilling lives.

We support H.R. 1970, in accordance with DAV Resolution No. 227, which calls on Congress and the VA to provide sufficient funding to support State Veterans Homes.

We call on DAV members and supporters to contact their representative and urge them to cosponsor and support H.R. 1970.

A Message from DAV California Chaplain Cynthia "Ceecee" Hibbs:

Fellow DAV Comrades and Family,

With the recent changes in our economy some of you may be feeling discouraged. It is time to confirm our identities and our trust in God as we pray for wisdom and guidance for our leaders, soldiers and country. Most importantly, we must remember who we are.

We are Disabled American Veterans. We are soldiers who have fought and continue to fight and survive wars. We have assisted over a million veterans each year and continue to assist veterans and their families in achieving benefits and health care.

DAV empowers veterans to lead high quality lives with respect and dignity. We are dedicated to keeping our promise to American veterans. Our core principles are comradeship, loyalty, devotion and service. We will continue our trust in God and country as we remain faithful to both our purpose and principles. Be encouraged and proud.

DAV's foundation continues to be successful for us and has lasted for over 100 years. Together our DAV family will pray and assist each other, no matter what the future brings, and we will continue for over another 100 years. We will continue to achieve success because as DAV, that is who we are and that is what we do.

May God continue to protect, bless and comfort our DAV families whether at home or abroad, active or retired, both old and young, as we continue our hope in him. God Bless DAV, Amen

AMERICAN LEGION POST 108



Legion Twitter. *This is kind of neat. A new memorial in D.C. will pay tribute to the sacrifices & heroic deeds of service animals & their handlers. The National Service Animals Memorial will honor dogs, horses, donkeys, mules, homing pigeons, dolphins, sea lions & others.*
<https://legion.org/information-center/news/honor/2025/april/a-monument-to-the-human-animal-bond>

New bill aims to protect U. S. Coast Guard veterans' benefits. North Carolina representative Don Davis introduced a bill Wednesday to protect U.S. Coast Guard veterans' benefits.

The Coast Guard Combat-Injured Tax Fairness Act, House Bill 2973, will guarantee that veterans receive their full benefits.

"It is essential that we prioritize the well-being of our U.S. Coast Guard combat-injured veterans, closing this loophole and ensuring they receive full benefits," said Davis. "We must not stop advocating passionately for our U.S. Coast Guard veterans, who have devoted their lives to serving our country. Together, we must work to ensure no veteran is left behind."

Without this bill, veterans won't receive the same tax refund on disability severance payments. Many veterans who received disability severance payments had taxes wrongly taken out of those payouts.

In 2016, Congress passed the Combat-Injured Veterans Tax Fairness Act to fix that issue. The law required the Department of Defense to track down any disability severance payments going back to January 17, 1991, and make sure those who were taxed unfairly could get their money back. Former Coast Guard members were left out of that fix due to a loophole. This new bill allows ex-U.S. Coast Guard servicemembers to be eligible for the same tax benefit.

The bill has been referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure for consideration.

Post Leadership:

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

Office Information:

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

Meetings:

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

Dues:

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

2025 Blood Drives: June 2nd, August 4th, September 29th, and December 1st.

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

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

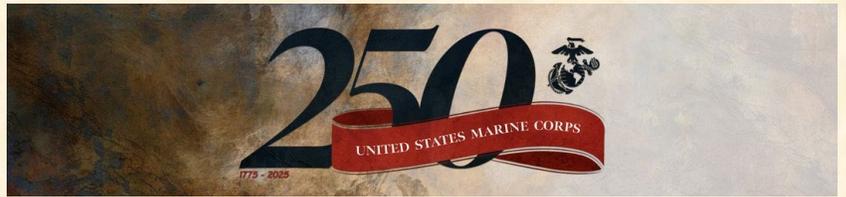
Please call 877-258-4825 to make an appointment. Or you can donate your blood as a 'walk-in'. The Blood Drive will be held at the American Legion Hall.

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

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

Links:

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



MARINE CORPS LEAGUE DET 1080

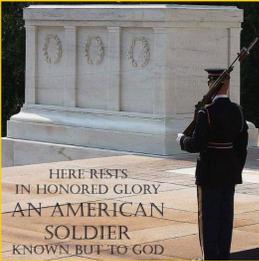
Meetings First Saturday of the Month,
10:00 AM
Phone 209-274-4956
Post Hrs: Noon – 4:00 PM (Tue – Fri)
POC: Senior Vice Rick Boughner
M/C Ball: November 10th, Legion Hall
Next Event: TBD



Marines Twitter: [#Marines](#) with [@31stMeu](#) participate in a forward observer competition at Camp Hansen, Okinawa, Japan. A forward observer is trained to call in, direct, and adjust fire, and functions as the eyes of the artillery, accurately plotting coordinates to allow their fellow Marines to engage the enemy.

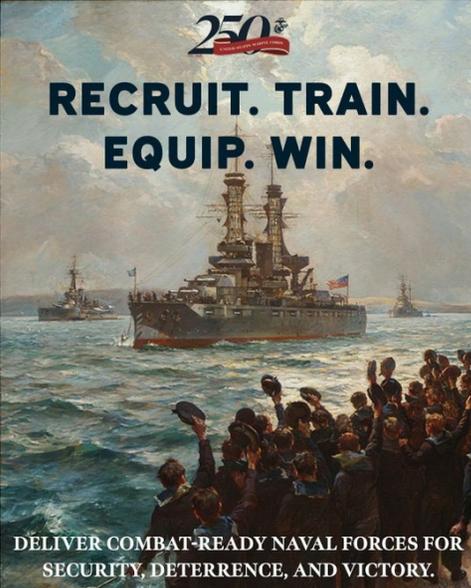


Det 1080 Monthly Meeting
Saturday, May 10th, 10:00 AM
215 S. Amador St., Ione



Memorial Day

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



250
RECRUIT. TRAIN. EQUIP. WIN.

DELIVER COMBAT-READY NAVAL FORCES FOR SECURITY, DETERRENCE, AND VICTORY.



U.S. Marine Corps
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





Marines Twitter #2. On this Date in 1798, the U.S. Congress established the Department of the Navy to create a dedicated executive department focused on naval affairs, responding to threats like the Quasi-War with France.

This move ensured expert leadership and oversight for naval operations. The Marine Corps, originally formed in 1775, was re-established in 1798 and placed under the Navy's jurisdiction, solidifying the enduring partnership between the [@USNavy](#) and [#MarineCorps](#).

For over two centuries, this collaboration has been pivotal in maintaining, training, and equipping combat-ready forces, exemplified by the Navy and Marine Corps team.

TRICARE COMMUNICATIONS

Want to Learn About TRICARE FOR LIFE? Check Out This Handbook

April 22, 2025 | By TRICARE Communications



Links

[DEERS INFO](#)

[TRICARE 101](#)

[TRICARE Costs & Fees Sheet](#)

[TRICARE Eligibility](#)

[TRICARE Overseas Travel](#)

[TRICARE West](#)

IMPORTANT: Do you currently live in the TRICARE [West Region](#)? Do you pay for your TRICARE coverage using a bank electronic funds transfer, credit card, or debit card?

If you haven't done so already, you must securely [provide your payment information](#) to the West Region contractor, [TriWest Healthcare Alliance](#), by **April 30**. If you haven't submitted payment to TriWest by April 30, **you and your family members will be disenrolled from your TRICARE plan on May 1**. This disenrollment is retroactive to your paid-through date. You'll receive a letter from DMDC informing you of the disenrollment. **Note:** You don't need to take any action if you have [TRICARE For Life](#), the [US Family Health Plan](#), or a TRICARE health plan overseas.

If you haven't made any payments for coverage this year, your disenrollment will date back to Jan. 1. This means you'll be responsible for paying the **full cost of any healthcare services** you or your family members have received this calendar year.

"We want to ensure that everyone who wants to keep their TRICARE plan has a chance to reinstate their coverage," explained Malcolm Jones, enrollment specialist, TRICARE Health Plan, at the Defense Health Agency. "But if you're disenrolled, you must take action now to reinstate your coverage—it won't be automatic."

Keep reading to learn more about your reinstatement options.

How to request reinstatement. Do you want to reinstate your TRICARE coverage? You can do so any time before **June 30**. Call TriWest at 888-TRIWEST (874-9378) and say that you've been disenrolled and would like to reinstate your enrollment. (**Note:** You can't request reinstatement via TriWest's portal.)

If you don't request reinstatement by June 30, you won't have TRICARE medical coverage.

To be reinstated, you'll need to provide your payment information to TriWest and **pay all overdue enrollment fees or premiums back to Jan. 1**.

Don't want to reinstate your coverage? If you don't want to reinstate your TRICARE coverage, you don't need to take any action. But remember: If you don't request reinstatement before June 30, you can only get care at a [military hospital or clinic](#) if space is available.

If you're eligible for [TRICARE Prime](#) or [TRICARE Select](#), you'll need to wait until the next [TRICARE Open Season](#), which begins in November, to enroll in a plan for coverage beginning Jan. 1, 2026. Or you'll need to wait until you have a [qualifying life event](#), which opens a 90-day period for you to enroll in a TRICARE health plan. (QLEs include major life changes like marriage, birth, or moving, as described in the [TRICARE Qualifying Life Events Fact Sheet](#).)

If you had a TRICARE premium-based plan, you won't be able to purchase coverage for 12 months from your disenrollment date. These plans include:

- [TRICARE Young Adult](#)
- [TRICARE Reserve Select](#)
- [TRICARE Retired Reserve](#)

Want to avoid the need to update your TRICARE payment method in the future? Consider switching to paying by allotment. To learn how to set up payment by allotment, check out the Defense Financing and Accounting Service's [Allotments page](#). If you have questions about your payment options, visit [West Region Payment Options](#).

Remember: Reinstating your TRICARE coverage now will ensure that you don't need to pay the full cost of your healthcare services this year.

V-E DAY (80TH ANNIVERSARY) – MAY 8TH



On May 8, 1945, Great Britain, the United States and other Allied countries celebrate [Victory in Europe Day](#). Cities in the U.S., U.K., and Western Europe, along with in the Soviet Union, Canada and Australia put out flags and banners, rejoicing in the defeat of the [Nazi war machine](#) during [World War II](#).

The eighth of May marked the day when German troops throughout Europe finally laid down their arms: In Prague, Germans surrendered to their Soviet antagonists, after the latter had lost more than 8,000 soldiers, and the Germans considerably more; in Copenhagen and Oslo; at Karlshorst, near Berlin; in northern Latvia; on the Channel Island of Sark—the German surrender was realized in a final cease-fire. More surrender documents were signed in Berlin and in eastern Germany.

The main concern of many German soldiers was to elude the grasp of Soviet forces, to keep from being taken prisoner. About 1 million Germans attempted a mass exodus to the West when the fighting in Czechoslovakia ended, but were stopped by the Russians and taken captive. The Russians took approximately 2 million prisoners in the period just before and after the German surrender.

Meanwhile, more than 13,000 British POWs were released and sent back to Great Britain.

Pockets of German-Soviet confrontation would continue into the next day. On May 9, the Soviets would lose 600 more soldiers in Silesia before the Germans finally surrendered. Consequently, V-E Day was not celebrated until the ninth in Moscow, with a radio broadcast salute from Stalin himself: “The age-long struggle of the Slav nations... has ended in victory. Your courage has defeated the Nazis. The war is over.”

We continue to honor the Greatest Generation – this day was the culmination of the Liberation of Europe.

We can never forget the Greatest Generation!

ASIAN/PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH



When the United States entered World War II, about 29,000 persons of Chinese ancestry were living in Hawaii and another 78,000 on the mainland. By war's end, over 13,000 were serving in all branches of the Army Ground Forces and Army Air Forces.

About one quarter of all Chinese-American soldiers served with the Army Air Forces. In 1943 the Army Air Forces organized some support units for the China-Burma-India theater, including the 14th Air Service Group, composed predominantly of Chinese-American personnel. Other Chinese-Americans trained as pilots and aircrew and fought in Europe and the Pacific. However, most were assigned to regular ground units.

An estimated 40 percent of Chinese-American soldiers were not native-born citizens. After Congress repealed the Chinese Exclusion Act in 1943, many took advantage of their military service to become naturalized.

One Chinese-American received the Distinguished Service Cross, Capt. Francis B. Wai.¹ He was born in Hawaii, where his father was Chinese and his mother Native Hawaiian. After graduating from the Punahou School in Honolulu and the University of California at Los Angeles, Wai enlisted in the Hawaii National Guard and was called to active duty in 1940. He earned his commission through officers candidate school in 1941 and was assigned to the 34th Infantry, part of the 24th Infantry Division. On October 20, 1944, his unit landed at Leyte in the Philippines. He was killed in action while leading soldiers off the beach against accurate and concentrated enemy fire.

For further information, see the following:

- Lim, Christina M., and Sheldon H. Lim. *In the Shadow of the Tiger: The 407th Air Service Squadron, Fourteenth Air Force, World War II*. Privately published, 1993.
- Takaki, Ronald. *Strangers from a Different Shore: A History of Asian Americans*. Boston, 1989.
- Wong, Scott K. "War Comes to Chinatown: Social Transformation and the Chinese of California." *The Way We Really Were: The Golden State in the Second Great War*. Ed. by Roger W. Lotchin. Urbana, Ill., 2000. Pp. 164-86.

Prepared 16 May 2000
by James C. McNaughton
Command Historian
Defense Language Institute
Foreign Language Center, Presidio of Monterey

¹ This award was later upgraded to the Medal of Honor.

U. S. Army Center of Military History

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:

1. **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.**
2. **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.
3. **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.
4. **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.
5. **Ex-USS LUCID (MSO 458) working parties** are on the 2nd and 4th Saturday of the Month.
6. **Kaiser Truck.** Visits Post 8254 on the 2nd and 4th 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 | 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 ↻ | 10 LUCID WKG PTY ↻ 10 AM MCL Mtg ↻ |
| 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 | 24 LUCID WORKING PTY ↻ |
| 25 VFW Poppy Distro | 26 Memorial Day ↻ | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |