

Neil La Sala
Commander 2023 - 2024
The Elegant 18th District

DECEMBER



Happy Holidays Legion Family,

We have had a productive year with our blood drives, veterans resource fairs, children and youth outreach and with our camaraderie building functions. Your unwavering support has allowed us to achieve our goals and we need to continue on our upward trajectory into the year 2024! However, before we begin the new year, we have two important events approaching. Please calendar these events and invite your family and friends to participate; the District 18 Legion Family Christmas Bash and Merrill's Marauders recognition ceremony 12/15, 1800 at Post 280 and the District 18 Christmas Morning Homeless Veterans Outreach at the West LA VA, 12/25, 1000. Please let me know if you are interested in participating and I will connect you with the Legion Family team responsible for organizing and executing the event. Also, if you know of a company (like your employer) or an organization that might be able to help us fund our Legion Family activities, please let me know and I will be glad to reach out to them!

Furthermore, I am very excited to announce the selection of our new District 18 Second Vice Commander, Comrade John C. Evanilla (Post 475). Jack has been a close friend of mine since 1980 and needless to say, his drive and motivation are something to behold! First Vice Commander Sam Cafiero, Adjutant Scott Sinclair, the District 18 Executive Committee and I consider it a blessing to have Jack onboard!

Additionally, please keep in mind that membership renewals and seeking new joins are essential to keeping our Legion going. At the present time, District 18 is only at 64% of its membership goal and ranked 24/30. If you have not renewed your membership, please do so at this time. Also, it is important that you do your part to promote our Legion values on a daily basis and to share what good the Legion Family does for our community. Please share this link with everyone for the specific purpose of keeping the American Legion alive:

<https://cadistrict18.org/join-or-renew-membership/>

Semper Fidelis,

Neil La Sala
American Legion Department of California
Commander- District 18
Adjutant- Post 280
626-833-8493/ntlasala@att.net



Elegant 18th District Commander & Members
@ Toyota Areen Hockey game



Greetings,

We are having a District 18 membership revitalization Friday January 12th and Saturday January 13th at East Pasadena Post 280.

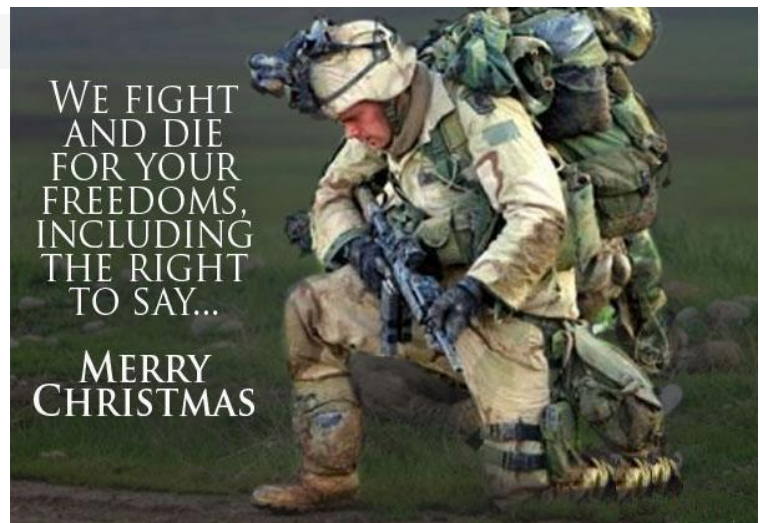
Let us give thanks for those that served, still serving and those who intend to serve in our United States military. Also let us remember December 7th is Pearl Harbor Day.

Space Force Birthday is December 20th. The newest branch of the U.S. Armed forces was officially instituted with the signing by the President.

Let us also remember to get our members' dues renewed. Our membership year is from July 1st to December 31st. That means our 2023 membership cards expire on December 31st.

Attached are the training slides to get more familiar with MyLegion website. Here are training videos for membership training. [MyLegion Training Series](#)

[MyLegion Training Series on Vimeo](#)



Monday – 11 December. 2023 District Executive Board meeting @ Post 280 E. Pasadena

★ Friday – 15 December 2023 District General Membership Meeting @ Post 280 E. Pasadena, 179 N. Vinedo Ave., E. Pasadena (626) 792-8838

Members, Officers, Friends; the annual district Christmas party will be right after the meeting, a gift exchange for all that want to participate bring a XMAS gift participate and enjoy a cheer with all, Happy Holidays...

The Elegant 18th District meetings are held at 7:30 p.m., Third Friday of each month, hosted by one of our 19 district posts.

Post Commanders, Vice Commanders, Adjutants are required to attend these meetings by either one or all of these elected officers who are duly elected and appointed officers of their respective post to represent their Membership...

Reports are required from each post representative on the development and compliance mandates as per American Legion. Only through your oath of office in service to your membership working together as one team will we all succeed for our Veterans.



Elegant 18th District

Department of California

P. O. Box 5256
El Monte, CA 91734



2023 - 2024



**From the desk of 2nd Vice/Chaplain,
Jack Evanilla**

From the Chaplains Corner

Good Holiday Season Legion Family!



Another calendar year (2023) is about to end....(but not the Legion calendar). It is December and Christmas is about, thirty-five days and counting. Soon if not already, everyone will be running about shopping, eating, event planning and doing all the Christmas stuff that we all do every year. But let's stop for a minute or two. Take a breath; a moment. Let us think about our fellow Veterans who are struggling, who are homeless, who are unemployed, and who have health issues and mental health issues. Try and say a prayer, attend a church service or attend a community soup kitchen to help our Veterans. This may just put a smile on their face. You may really be surprised that these little things may help.

Important military dates in December:

Pearl Harbor, Attack On—12-7-1941

US National Guard Birthday—12-13-1636

National Wreaths Across America—12-18-2023. First started in 1992.

Four Major Events (Military) That Happened on Christmas Day.

1776—General George Washington Famous Crossing of the Delaware.

1864---The First Battle of Fort Fisher.

1972---Operation Linebacker 11 In North Vietnam.

1896---" Stars And Strips For Ever" is written.

And now a Prayer for December 2023. This prayer is from my Dad's World War II Bible, dated March 6. 1941!

Actually, I have picked out two prayers;

Humbled in mind, and contrite of heart, may we find favor with Thee, O Lord; and may the sacrifice we this day offer up, be well pleasing to Thee, our Lord, and our God.

Come, Thou Sanctifier, O almighty and Eternal God, and bless this Month prepared for the glory of Thy Holy Name.

I would like to take this moment to thank you all, for allowing me to serve as Second Vice Commander (Ways & Means). My goal is to raise close to \$3000.00 by December thirty-first of this year. Thank you for your Confidence.

For those of you who don't know me, here is a little bio of myself:

Born in Pasadena, California at Saint Lukes. Grew up in El Sereno, California. My father was a WW II Veteran. He was in Pearl Harbor and England during bombings. I have been Married for 39 years , my wife's name is Charlie...she is a re-tired Nurse Practitioner-OB-GYN...(42 years). We have two twin girls-37 years old. I am a Cal State LA Graduate. Majored in Sports Medicine-Exercise Science. At Cal State is where I met Neil LaSala-1980, we are Fraternity Brothers (SAE). I have been in the food business for fifty years. I currently work for a Cheese Company part time. I served eight years in the Army National Guard, Field Artillery, Fire Direction Control. My Legion Post 475 Glendora. I am both Chaplain and Second Vice Commander. My wife and I have lived in Glendora for thirty-three years. I am a very humble and simple person. I like things done right....no ego attached. I feel debate-discussion is healthy to a point. One of my basic philosophies is that "there are no problems, only solutions".



JUDGE
ADVOCATE



Comments from the J.A./Scribe

BE THE
ONE



May your Holidays be filled with Happiness, Love & Accomplishment

My fellow Comrades, elected and appointed Officers,

All Posts Commanders & Adjutants go over your By-laws make sure they are up-to-date, if they are seven years or more it's time to update check and review what updates are needed, familiarize yourselves with your post by-laws and standing rules to include the Officer's Guide and Manual of Ceremonies. There is a lot of information in that book that can help you in your post business procedures and protocols. If you have any questions don't hesitate to call the district officer parallel to your title, if we don't have the answer, WE' will follow up through our Area 6 they can get the information from Department this is the proper and respective process to follow.

District asks for each post to comply with Department's administrative procedures and submit their reports timely. Your post audits were due 15 November 2023, if you have not submitted your audits, department has automatically placed you on probation, not to worry, as soon as you submit your audit, they will take your post off probation. We ask, when you submit your audits let the district Adjutant know in the form is a section that should let him know ASAP. all other reports should have been submitted since department convention this past June. the Judge Advocate together with the I. A., will review these matters to district Executive Board, as to how we may assist your Post, check the department weekly/monthly Administrative Compliance and reports to review your standings. Thanks

In Service,

Auggie G. - 18th District Judge Advocate/Scribe
Department Historian

age69vet@veriozn.net / (562) 706-0178

Send text or email – with name, post or district,
To know who are you?

CA Department Post Probation/Suspension Report
Posts in RED are on Suspension per Department Executive Committee
11/22/2023

Area	District	Post	Name	City	On Suspension	Post Data Report 2022	Post Data Report 2023	Consolidated Post Report	Certification of Post Delegates	Certification of Post Officers	Financial Audit (2019-2020)	Financial Audit (2020-2021)	Financial Audit (2021-2022)	Financial Audit (2022-2023)	Updated Bylaws (Bio Every 2 Yrs)	Balance Owed to Dept.	# of posts on probation	# of posts in district	# of posts on probation
		30	Charles P Rowe	Pomona															
		44	Monrovia	Monrovia															
		78	Ruth Powell	Claremont															
		180	Canyon City	Atena															
		241	Abraham Lincoln	Baldwin Park															
		247	Arcadia	Arcadia															
		261	El Monte	El Monte															
		397	Monterey Park	Monterey Park															
		748	Rayner Aguirre	San Gabriel															
		755	Quartermaster	Covina															
		790	West Covina	West Covina															
5	18	13	Pasadena	Pasadena													12	19	63.16%



18th District Meeting @ Post 241 Baldwin Park



The Elegant 18th attend local Hockey game with the SAL, ALA & other Districts



SAL of the year
Dan Braden-Sq.790

ALA Professor DeSigrest
Unit-261 El Monte

Rio Hondo elementary school
Vets Program

Post 180 Cook-off
local news media event



2023-11-09 Post 790 attends West Covina High School Veterans program





Around the District

Elegant 18th



District



11/11/11-Armistice Day a National Holiday, Honor & recognition to our Military & Veterans



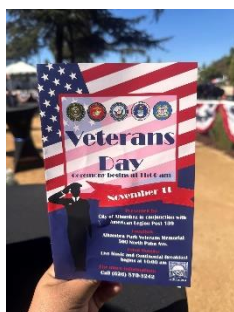
11/11/11 South El Monte Veterans Day Program Post 10



Post 139 Alhambra

Post 247 Arcadia

Post 755 Covina



The Elegant 18th District

Blood Drive
American Legion Post 790

Location: Hall
 330 N Azusa Ave
 West Covina, CA 91791

Friday, December 1, 2023
11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Please visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: ALP790 to schedule an appointment.



Streamline your donation experience and save up to 15 minutes by visiting RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass to complete your pre-donation reading and health history questions on the day of your appointment.



Schedule your blood donation appointment today!

1-800-RED CROSS | RedCrossBlood.org | Download the Blood Donor App

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Presents
The 15th Annual El Monte Community Toy Drive
 and
COMEDY SHOW
 Please Help us Put a Smile and
 The Christmas Spirit Into our
 Community Families
 December 2, 2023
 American Legion Hall
 4542 N. Peck Rd., El Monte 91731

Event Begins
 6:00pm
 Comedy Show Begins
 7:30pm
 DJ Baby J

Please Donate an Unwrapped Toy or Toys

ICE CREAM **DM** **FRIENDLY EL MONTE**

AMERICAN LEGION LACC

Tamale FESTIVAL

12-2-23
 Time: 11am-4pm
330 N Azusa Ave, West Covina, CA 91791

SHOP SMALL **ENTERTAINMENT**

AMERICAN LEGION POST 280
 Welcomes Families & Friends
 to Sunday Breakfast & Bake Sale
December 3rd - 9am to 11:00am

Scrambled Eggs, Chorizo and Eggs,
 Sausage, Potatoes, Bacon,
 Pancakes, Fresh Fruit, and more

Donation \$12.00
 Kids Under 12 Eat Free

Hosted by the American Legion & Auxiliary Unit 280
 179 N. Vinado Avenue
 Pasadena, CA 91107



AMERICAN LEGION DISTRICT 18 AND POST 280

Cordially invites you to our

Annual Legion Family Holiday Bash!

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2023

6:00 P.M. TO 9:00 P.M.

Dinner starts at 6pm (\$10)

Special Presentation recognizing WW II member of Merrill's Marauders at 7pm

Location:

**East Pasadena Post 280
179 N Vinado Avenue
Pasadena, CA 91107**

Dinner, dancing and prizes galore!

ask guests to bring an unwrapped gift for Toys for Tots**

American Legion Post 241
4725 Maine Ave Baldwin Park, CA

NEW YEARS EVE Celebration

DEC 31, 2023 5:00PM

**LIVE MUSIC
"FLASHBACK COWBOYS"**



\$60 PER PERSON

THIS INCLUDES
DINNER, DANCING AND
MIDNIGHT BUFFET



Steak and Lobster Dinner Served From 5 to 7 PM
Band starts at 8 PM to 1 AM

Tickets available at Post 241 Bar
Open to the public



11/11/09 West Covina American Legion Post 790 Initiation New Members





December 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 3 P-280 Breakfast	4	 5	6	 7 <i>Pearl Harbor Remembrance 1941</i>	1 LACC Mtg. Blood Drive @P790	2 LACC Tamale Fest. @ P790
10 Human Rights Day	11 D-18Mtg. @ P-280	12	13	14	15 Bill of Rights Dist. 18 Mtg. P280 Xmas Party	16 Battle of the Bulge 1944
17	18	19	20 LACC Bd.Mtg. Op. Just Cause 1989	21	22	23 Hanukah
24 USAF began strikes Laos 1964	25 Christmas Day D18 Visits WLAVA	26	27	28	29	30
31 New Years Eve Official end WWII						

The Voice of Elegance

District 18 THE AMERICAN LEGION
P.O. Box 5256
El Monte, CA 91734



**"MERRY CHRISTMAS AMERICA
WE'VE GOT YOUR BACK"**



**"WILL YOU WISH THE TROOPS
A MERRY CHRISTMAS?"**

Wish to receive the District
newsletter by Email, please notify
Editor Auggie G. at
age69vet@verizon.net

DISTRICT MEETING Friday December 15, 2023
Post-280 East Pasadena, @ 1930 hrs.

E- Bd. Mtg.
Monday 12/11/2023



American Legion Elegant 18th District
Membership, Report & SAL Membership Report



DISTRICT 18 Commander NEIL LA SALA (AREA 6)									
Department of California - 2024 MEMBERSHIP REPORT									11/22/2023
POST	Name	City	New	PUL	Members Paid	2000/DMS Transfers	Total Members	Goal	%
10	South El Monte	South El Monte	0	1	5	0	6	22	27.27%
13	Pasadena	Pasadena	0	14	32	0	46	86	53.49%
30	Pomona Charles P Rowe	Pomona	0	30	53	1	84	136	61.76%
44	Monrovia	Monrovia	0	11	10	1	22	85	25.88%
75									
78	Keith Powell	Claremont	0	10	31	0	41	67	61.19%
139	Alhambra	Alhambra	12	24	103	0	139	167	83.23%
180	Canyon City	Anaheim	2	27	77	0	106	151	70.20%
241	Abraham Lincoln	Baldwin Park	2	7	18	0	27	53	50.94%
247	Arcadia	Monrovia	0	25	47	1	73	107	68.22%
261	El Monte	El Monte	0	4	3	0	7	52	13.46%
279	Temple City	Temple City	2	9	33	0	44	43	102.33%
280	East Pasadena	Pasadena	7	38	73	0	118	167	70.66%
397	Monterey Park	Monterey Park	0	8	7	0	15	49	30.61%
431	Edison	Alhambra	0	1	10	2	13	20	65.00%
475	San Dimas - Glendora	Glendora	0	9	48	1	58	88	65.91%
508	Borinquen	Baldwin Park	3	13	57	0	73	94	77.66%
748	Royner Aguirre	San Gabriel	0	11	11	0	22	31	70.97%
755	Charter Cove	Covina	3	14	66	0	83	122	68.03%
790	West Covina	West Covina	3	63	143	1	210	254	82.68%
Total			34	337	834	7	1,212	1,898	63.86%
20									

DISTRICT 18 Commander JESSE BRADSHAW (AREA 6)							
Detachment of CA - 2024 MEMBERSHIP REPORT						11/22/2023	
Squadron	Name	City	New	Renewed	Total Members	Goal	%
13	Pasadena	Pasadena	0	0	0	0	0.00%
30	Pomona Charles P Buwe	Pomona	3	0	3	30	10.00%
75	La Puente	City of Industry	0	5	5	26	19.23%
139	Alhambra	Alhambra	0	16	16	33	48.48%
180	Canyon City	Azusa	14	27	41	57	71.93%
241	Abraham Lincoln	Baldwin Park	5	5	10	29	34.48%
280	East Pasadena	Pasadena	2	13	15	36	41.67%
755	Charter Cove	Covina	1	9	10	62	16.13%
790	West Covina	West Covina	5	4	9	36	25.00%
Total			30	79	109	309	35.28%
9							



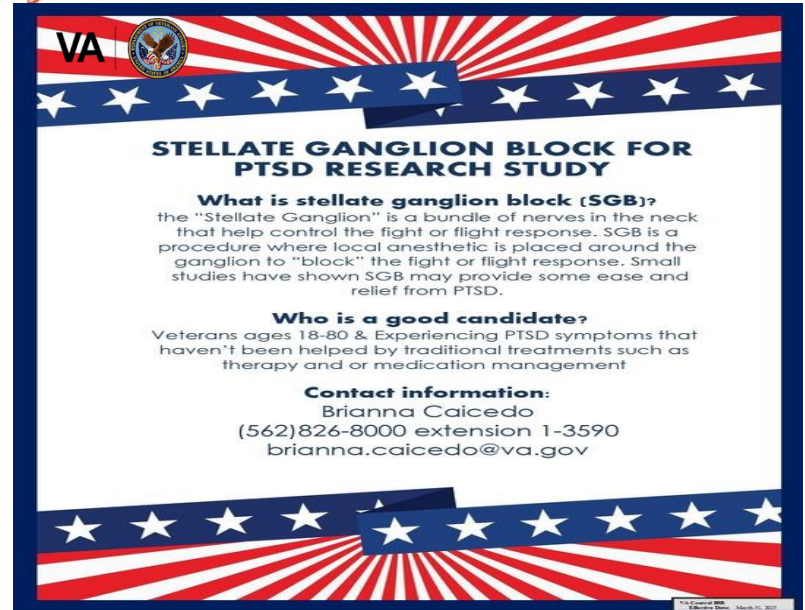
Annual Christmas Fundraiser

Sunday, December 17, 2023
Serving 11am till food runs out.
Donations: Unwrapped toy & can food or \$10 & can food per person.

All proceeds to be donated to: Firefighters Spark of Love Toy Drive and Veterans Village.

Santa will be visiting

American Legion Post 139
24 N. Stoneman Ave.
Alhambra, CA 91801
626-458-2723



VA

STELLATE GANGLION BLOCK FOR PTSD RESEARCH STUDY

What is stellate ganglion block (SGB)?
The "Stellate Ganglion" is a bundle of nerves in the neck that help control the fight or flight response. SGB is a procedure where local anesthetic is placed around the ganglion to "block" the fight or flight response. Small studies have shown SGB may provide some ease and relief from PTSD.

Who is a good candidate?
Veterans ages 18-80 & Experiencing PTSD symptoms that haven't been helped by traditional treatments such as therapy and/or medication management

Contact information:
Brianna Caicedo
(562)826-8000 extension 1-3590
brianna.caicedo@va.gov



American Legion Auxiliary Unit 261 El Monte

HOLIDAY DRIVE

Collecting items for the children & teens of Veterans and low income families.

Saturday, December 9, 2023
9:00 AM-12:00 PM

Please bring unwrapped items to the driveway of
11829 Killian St, El Monte, CA 91732

ITEMS NEEDED:

- TOYS
- HAIR ACCESSORIES
- GIFTCARDS
- SCARFS/ BEANIES

Contact: BETTY RAMOS (626)434-5561 TEXT ONLY

Greetings one and all

The 18th District Oratorical Contest will take place on Wednesday February 7th @ 7:00pm at Temple City Post 279. Please have all your Post speak offs completed by then. The 6th Area Speak off will take place on Saturday February 19th @ 1:00pm at Palisades Post 283. The Department Finals will be Sunday February 25th @ 1:00pm at Palisades Post 283.

The link for the assigned topics is : Oratorical Contest Assigned Topics | The American Legion

If you have any questions please contact me. Sas1469@gmail.com or 747-275-7778

Scott Sinclair
18th District Oratorical Chair

VA NEWS

Whole Health: Take Charge of Your Life and Health

Start your Whole Health journey with classes taught by fellow Veterans who will guide you on the Whole Health Pathway. "Introduction to Whole Health" is a 2-hour session that introduces you to the Circle of Health and other Whole Health resources. For a deep dive into Whole Health, sign up for "Taking Charge of My Life and Health" to explore what matters to you and work on your own personal health plan

Share your Wreaths Across America plans with us

The American Legion This year, Dec. 16 will mark the 31st National [Wreaths Across America Day](#). Annually, more than 1 million wreaths are placed across more than 4,000 locations in the United States and throughout the world, honoring the veterans buried at those gravesites.



The 1970's	Today
Long hair	Longing for hair
8 Tracks	Cataracts
KEGs	EKGs
Streaking	Leaking
Acid Rock	Acid Reflux
Seeds and stems	Fiber
Stayin' Alive (the song)	Stayin' Alive (the goal)
Hoping for a BMW	Hoping for a BM
Going to a new, hip joint	Getting a new hip joint
Rolling Stones	Kidney Stones
Bell bottoms	Big bottoms
Disco	Costco
Whatever	Depends
Rock n' roll all night	Sleep through the night
Think you know everything	Think you know your name

19 years old, no parents, supported himself by sharecropping and picking cotton. Awarded the Medal of Honor for holding back an entire German company with a machine gun, and leading a successful counterattack wounded and out of ammo, one of the most decorated veterans in US history.



20 years old, can barely fix a can of soup, has "ptsd" from offensive words, requires safe spaces, coddled into a perpetual state of immaturity, couldn't possibly own a rifle, never heard of Audie Murphy...

ONE ELECTRIC CAR BATTERY

500 Tons of Ore to refine 25 lbs. of Lithium
900 to 1000 gal. of fuel to move the ore
Lithium is refined by using sulfuric acid.
The mine at Thacker Pass requires 75 semi loads of acid a day.

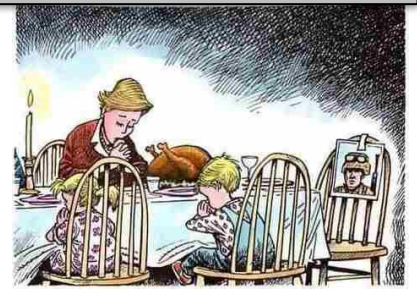
One electric battery for a Tesla requires
25 lbs of Lithium
60 lbs of nickle
44 lbs of Manganese
30 lbs of Cobalt
200 lbs of Copper
400 lbs of Aluminum, Steel and Plastic



To produce one battery takes tremendous amounts of energy supplied by coal, nuclear or gas fired power plants.
If you believe this is Green Energy, then we are all in trouble.

Need I say more?

Remember those who cannot be home / Those experiencing troubled times & families who have lost a loved one...



BE THE ONE "Buddy-Check"

