

# The Voice of Elegance

"The Elegant 18th District"  
THE AMERICAN LEGION  
DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA



## District 18 Commander's Message

Hello Everybody,

As we move into February, we reflect on the values, history, and sacrifices that define our nation and our American Legion mission.

### Americanism Month

February is Americanism Month—a time to reaffirm our love of country, loyalty to its ideals, allegiance to the U.S. flag, and commitment to preserving liberty for future generations.

### Four Chaplains –

Posts nationwide will observe Four Chaplains Sunday, remembering the heroic sacrifice of the Four Chaplains aboard the USAT *Dorchester* on February 3, 1943. Their selfless actions remain a powerful example of faith, unity, and service above self.

### Presidents Day

On Presidents Day, we honor all who have served as President of the United States and reflect on the leadership entrusted with guiding our nation.

### Sons of the American Legion Reminder

Posts with Sons of the American Legion Squadrons are reminded that Post Commanders and Post Adjutants may help with transmitting Sons memberships. The Sons of the American Legion is a program of The American Legion, and supporting their membership strengthens our entire Legion Family.

### Scam Awareness

Please remain alert to potential scams involving phone calls, emails, or text messages. If something does not seem right, take the time to verify the source before sharing information or taking action.

Thank you for your continued service to our veterans, our communities, and our country.

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For God and Country,

**The American Legion: Department of California**

**Samuel Cafiero**

*Commander 18 District  
Commander Post 180*

"A candle loses nothing by lighting another candle."  
– Erin Majors



**18<sup>th</sup> District 1<sup>st</sup> Vice,  
Domingo H. Almanzar Jr.**

## District 18th Vice Commander's Membership Report

Comrades,

I attempted to host a Membership Meeting on January 22nd with the 1st Vices from our District. I would like to express my gratitude to those who attended the meeting. However, as the grace period (GRACE PERIOD) comes to an end on January 31st, I will require the 1st Vices to make a concerted effort to complete the mission. We can only achieve this together, and I will be your adjutant for assistance.

It's time to focus on membership growth and ensure that our numbers reach 100% before the Convention. I want to remind everyone that the Legionaries grace period runs from January 1st to January 31st. Anyone who hasn't paid their 2026 dues by February 1st will be considered expired.

District 18th has recorded the following:

- - 36 new members
- - 296 PUFL members
- - 888 paid members
- - 5 transfers
- 
- The total number of paid members is 1220 out of 1570, which places District 18th at 77.71% of its goal and ranks 45th in the Department of California.

Post Highlights:

- - Post 279 in Temple City has the highest percentage at 102.27%.
- - Arcadia and Monrovia have strong performances with percentages of 93.75% and 93.75%, respectively.
- - Post 748 in San Gabriel has a percentage of 88.89%, and Post 10 in South El Monte has a percentage of 88.57%.
- - Post 790 in West Covina has the largest membership base with 239 paid members, accounting for 74.22% of its total.
- 

- Post needing attention:

- - Post 261 in El Monte has a low percentage of 62.86%.
- - Post 241 in Abraham Lincoln Baldwin Park has a percentage of 51.56%.
- - Post 397 has a percentage of 69.23%, and Post 431 has a percentage of 70.00%.

- District Totals: 77.71%

- Membership growth is steadily increasing, but we must focus on new renewals and outreach to close the gap.

- Every contact, renewal, and transfer helps us towards our goal 100%

So let's continue to call and reach out to our Veterans. Thanks

District 1ST VICE  
DOMINGO H ALMANZAR JR

For God and Country



From the desk of 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice  
Irvin Flores



## District 18 – 2nd Vice Commander's Report

Comrades,

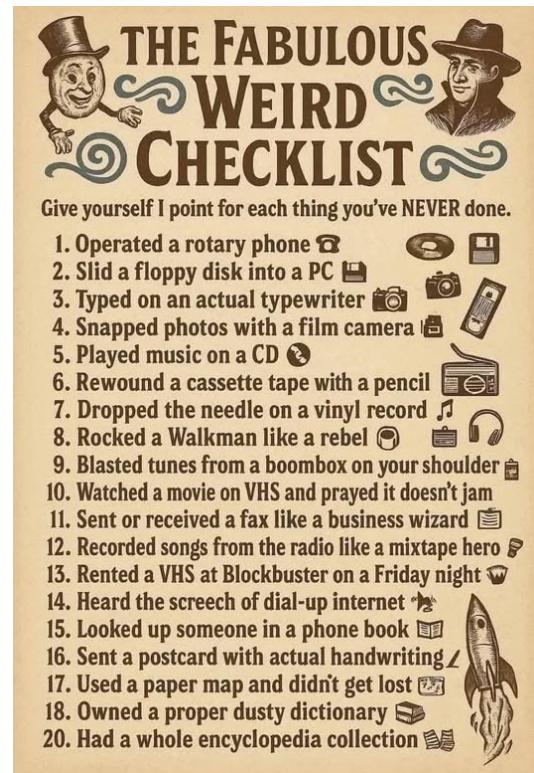
Your continued support shows the strength and unity of District 18.

I look forward to planning more activities that bring our members together in the same spirit of fellowship and fun.

Were entering a new year and coming to an end of this tenure time to prepare and complete our mandated annual reports on our commitment and service to our membership, this organization of what can been done and is accomplished for our Veterans their families and our communities.

Thank you for your support.

Semper Fi,  
Irvin Flores  
2nd Vice Commander



District Chaplain,  
Charles Weiskercher



### From the Chaplains Corner

#### February 2026:

**Scripture:** "Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." – *Joshua 1:9*

Military life demands courage, discipline, and sacrifice. Yet, even the strongest soldier can feel the weight of uncertainty, separation from loved ones, and the reality of danger. God's Word reminds us that true strength is not found in our own might, but in His presence. Your service was more than a duty—it was a calling to protect, serve, and stand for what is right. And in every battle, visible or unseen, God equips you with His armor: truth, righteousness, peace, faith, salvation, and His Word.

#### Prayer:

Lord, thank You for those who serve in our military with courage and honor as well as those who continue to serve you in the American Legion. Strengthen their hearts, guard their minds, and protect their steps. Remind them daily that You are their shield and stronghold. May they find peace in Your presence and hope in Your promises. Amen.





The American Legion Dept of California  
**Monthly Chaplain Zoom Call**  
 Every 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday at 630pm

*Chaplains of the Legion Family (Post, Unit, Sons, and Riders) are all invited to attend this monthly call by and for American Legion Family Chaplains.*

Zoom Call hosted by  
 Chaplain Kathy Cash, Dept of CA Chaplain  
 Questions: email -- [Chaplain@CaLegion.org](mailto:Chaplain@CaLegion.org)

Register at: [www.tinyurl.com/DeptChaplain](http://www.tinyurl.com/DeptChaplain)



## Teach Students About Veterans

Empower Wounded Warriors

-  **Veteran-inspired activities**
-  **Real warriors' stories**
-  **Take-home projects**
-  **+ more!**



2026 American Legion California Boys & Girls State Chair Roster District # 18

## Bergmann & Moore Virtual Service Officer Training 101



The Virtual training is offered as a self-paced, online course, available ten times in 2026. It serves as a solid introduction to the VA claims systems and processing. It covers 15 topics, including VA standards of Conduct, VBMS, Presumptive Service Connection, Chronic Conditions, Locating Records, and Evaluation, Compensation, and Pension (C&P) Exams. This training is highly recommended for POST SERVICE OFFICERS.

This course does **NOT** grant the attendee VA Accreditation as a VSO

2025 Class Dates	Nomination Dates	Class & Training Dates
January	12/22/2025 - 12/30/2025	1/5/2026 - 1/19/2026
February	1/20/2026 - 1/27/2026	2/4/2026 - 2/18/2026
March	2/20/2026 - 2/27/2026	3/4/2026 - 3/18/2026
April	3/20/2026 - 3/27/2026	4/2/2026 - 4/17/2026
May	4/20/2026 - 4/27/2026	5/4/2026 - 5/18/2026
June	5/18/2026 - 5/27/2026	6/4/2026 - 6/18/2026
July	6/19/2026 - 6/26/2026	7/3/2026 - 7/17/2026
August	7/20/2026 - 7/27/2026	8/4/2026 - 8/18/2026
September	8/17/2026 - 8/27/2026	9/4/2026 - 9/18/2026
November	10/20/2026 - 10/27/2026	11/4/2026 - 11/18/2026

To be considered for the Service Officer 101 course, you must first ensure that the Department has you listed as the Post Service Officer for your respective Post. During the nomination window dates, please email your intent to apply (include Post, your email and phone #) to the Department Service Officer, Matt Jackson, at [dso@calegion.org](mailto:dso@calegion.org)

Training powered by:



Post.	Chair	Email	Phone
10 - So. El Monte	JR Duarte	jrduarte22@gmail.com	(626) 592-3842
13 - Pasadena	Rich Castellano	rclovesjaz@aim.com	(626) 319-1909
78 - Claremont	Mike Murphy	murphymj1959@yahoo.com	(818) 482-1785
139 - Alhambra	Ralph Mondragon	ralph.mondragon@yahoo.com	(909) 204-9441
180 - Azusa	Billy Greenwell	No	
241 - Baldwin Pk	Scott Fowler	post241monitor@gmail.com	(626) 373-6582
247 - Ben Ophroek	commander	post247@gmail.com	(626) 824-0244
261 - E. L Monte	Dave Siegrist	davidstephen72@gmail.com	(626) 622-1786
279 - Temple City	Scott Sinclair	sas1469@gmail.com	(626) 674-7101
280 - E. Pasadena	Neil LaSala	nlasala@att.net	(626) 833-8493
397 - Monterey	PK Karen Suarez	post397mpk1@gmail.com	(626) 692-4918
431 - Edison	Ted Fife	fifeted@gmail.com	(909) 630-4659
475 - Glendora/SD	Joe Mercier	inmaero@aol.com	(626) 698-8153
508	Agustin Jimenez	ajime3@icloud.com	(626) 232-6557
748 - San Gabriel	Lucas Lee	americanlegion748@yahoo.com	(626) 641-3818
755 - Covina	Skip Dallen	skipdallen@yahoo.com	(323) 816-3172
790 - W. Covina	Rob Sotelo	aj.robertsotelo@gmail.com	(626) 377-1492

## BE THE ONE – Join the District leadership team



### AMERICAN LEGION TRAINING

The American Legion offers a variety of training programs and events designed to educate and prepare members and leaders throughout the organization.



**1-2026**

Apply Here

Between 1/5/2026 and 2/28/2026

### American Legion Post 237

Veterans Memorial Building  
301 Main Street, Pleasanton, California 94566

**27-29 March 2026**

- The course starts at 8:00 am on Friday, 27 March, and will conclude with graduation at 1:00 pm on Sunday, 29 March
- Registration opens on 5 January 2025 and closes at midnight on 28 February 2025. We encourage timely registration to ensure your spot and to help us prepare effectively
- Applicants have until 28 February to submit a completion certificate from The American Legion's online Basic Training Course and a resolution on a topic of their choice
- Applicants will receive mileage reimbursement for travel to and from their home Post @ .41 per mile, along with a \$50.00 per diem per day to cover expenses during the event
- Please send questions to [CALC@calegion.org](mailto:CALC@calegion.org)

# BE THE ONE

TO **ASK** VETERANS  
IN YOUR LIFE  
HOW THEY ARE DOING

TO **LISTEN** WHEN  
A VETERAN  
NEEDS TO TALK

TO **REACH OUT**  
WHEN A VETERAN  
IS STRUGGLING



**BETHEONE.ORG**

CALIFORNIA AMERICAN LEGION COLLEGE

# MINDSET MONDAY

YOUR JOURNEY TO GROWTH AND  
LEADERSHIP CONTINUES HERE!

Join our inspiring online training sessions designed to elevate your American Legion Experience. On the second Monday of each month, unlock new strategies, boost your confidence, and cultivate a winning mindset to make a lasting impact in your community.

DATE	CLASS	INSTRUCTOR
Dec 8th	TAL: Community Engagement & Impact	Vic Martin
Jan 5th	Labor Law Compliance	Attorney Diane Coderniz
Feb 9th	Maintaining my Post Tax Exempt Status	John Hudson
March 9th	Parliamentary Procedures: Tactical Motions	Diane Devries
April 13th	Post Adjutant: Administrative Excellence for Legion Posts	Chris Yates

Each class will start at 6:00 pm and are approximately 60 minutes with an added 30 minutes for Q&A. Register for your virtual seat today at <https://calegion.org/mindset-mondays-registration>



# Around the District

Elegant 18th



AMERICAN  
LEGION

COME CELEBRATE 100 YEARS WITH US



SATURDAY,  
FEBRUARY 21, 2026  
STARTS AT 2PM

BBQ PORK SANDWICHES, BAKED BEANS,  
POTATO SALAD & DESSERT \$12.00 PLATE  
SERVING FROM 2PM TO SOLD OUT.

FLASHBACK COWBOYS BAND WILL BE  
PLAYING FROM 4PM TO 7PM

50/50 AND RAFFLE OPPORTUNITIES



From Jack Evanilla  
18th District Americanism Chairperson

Historical Military dates in February.

- 1, 1967...Operation Prairie 11 began in Vietnam
- 2, 1944... 4th marine division captured Namur and 8 island in Kawajalein Atoll.
- 2, 1901...Army Nurse Corp est.
- 3, 1865...Hampton Roads Conference held, discuss to end Civil War.
- FEB. 4...FOUR CHAPLAINS DAY!
- 4, 1941...USO INCORPORATED.
- 9, 1945...battle of bulge concluded with Allied lines restored.
- 13, 1945...MARINE CORPS WOMEN'S RESERVE EST.
- 23, 1945...Flag raising on IWO JIMA.
- 24, 1991...Gulf conflict ground offensive began.
- 27, 1991...Persian Gulf Cease-Fire Day.
- 28, 1991...Persian Gulf Conflict ends.

Good February 2026 to all American Legion Family.

A \$400.00 check (AREA 6) WAS SENT TO DEPARTMENT. So far \$228.00 has been collected.

Special thanks to posts 180 and 755, legionaries and auxiliary for all their awesome donations..as the helmet was passed!

Special thanks to Chaplain Ted, post 13 who collected \$47.00.

Thankyou Area 6 Riders for passing the helmet, 17 January at post 180. Collected \$122.00 thankyou Ralph Wenzinger and Rochelle M. Billet-Smith.

Attended DAR meeting on 17, January for to explain the for H4Hs program. Their by-laws allow contributions to military Organizations. Will go back in February meeting.

American Legion Post 755  
Valentine's  
Dinner & Dance  
SATURDAY  
Feb. 14th 6pm - 10pm  
Dinner: Steak, baked potato, veggies, salad, dinner roll & dessert.  
\$25 for 1 ticket or \$40 for 2 tickets.  
RSVP: Text or call Martha at (626) 824- 1470  
20516 E. Arrow Hwy., Covina, CA 91724



## The Elegant 18<sup>th</sup> District

**09 February 2026 District Executive Board meeting @ Post 139 Alhambra, CA 7 p.m.**



**Friday – 20 February 2026** District General Membership Meeting @ Post 139 Alhambra, CA  
District & Post program All Post Officers should attend.

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 per Dept.**

Elegant 18<sup>th</sup> District meeting at Post 13 Pasadena, CA 16 January 2026



Elegant 18<sup>th</sup> District

**American Legion Post 280 Welcomes Families & Friends To Sunday Breakfast & Bake Sale**

**Sunday, February 1st 9 am to 11 am**

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

**Donation \$15**  
**Kids under 12 Eat Free**

**Hosted by American Legion Families Post 280**  
179 N. Vinedo Avenue  
Pasadena, CA 91107

**SUPER BOWLLX POTLUCK PARTY!**

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8TH**

**TIME: Doors open 1pm, Kickoff 3:30pm**

**PLACE: American Legion Post 280**

**COME JOIN YOUR FRIENDS & SUPPORT OUR VETERANS!!**

**BRING YOUR FAVORITE DISH TO SHARE! WEAR YOUR TEAM GEAR!**

**Join us Valentine's Day February 14, 2026 6:00pm**

**American Legion Post 280**  
179 N. Vinedo Ave  
Pasadena, CA

**Drink Special Buy 1 get 1**

**Sweets Provided**

**AMERICAN LEGION POST 755 SUPER BOWL PARTY!**

**FOOD & DRINK SPECIALS!**

**DRAFT BEER PITCHER SPECIALS**

**BEER TOWER DEALS! WHILE SUPPLIES LAST!**

**RAFFLES & PRIZES!**

**50/50 CASH DRAWING!**

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8TH — DOORS OPEN AT NOON —**

**20516 E. Arrow Hwy, Covina 91724 (626)966-7786**



# February 2026



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 <i>P-280 Breakfast</i>	2 <i>ALA-755 Monthly Food Drive</i>	3	4	5	6 <i>LACC Mtg. @ Dept. 4 Chaplains Program Sanger, CA</i>	7
8 <i>SUPERBOWL Post-280 Post 755</i>	9 <i>D18 E-Board Mtg. @ P139</i>	10	11 <i>Taco Wednsdays Post-755</i>	12 <i>Lincoln's Birthday</i>	13	14 <i>Party P-280 Dinner Post-755 Valentine's Day</i>
15	16 <i>President's Day</i>	17	18	19	20 <i>D-18 Mtg. @ P139 4 Chaplains Prgm. 755-Riders Karaoke Night</i>	21 <i>Post-180 100 Year Anniversary</i>
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

*The Voice of Elegance*

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



Wish to receive the District newsletter by Email, please notify  
Editor Auggie G. at  
[age69vet@verizon.net](mailto:age69vet@verizon.net)

**DISTRICT MEETING Friday FEBRUARY 20, 2026**  
**Post-139 Alhambra, @ 1900 hrs.**

E- Bd. Mtg. Post 139  
Monday 02/09/2026

The American Legion Department of California  
Four Chaplains Day Inter-Faith Service



#### Immortal Four Chaplains

Lt. Alexander D. Goode Lt. George L. Fox  
Lt. Clark V. Poling Lt. John P. Washington

On February 3, 1943, the Army transport ship U.S.A.T. Dorchester was torpedoed by a submarine and sank with 902 troops on board, including the Four Immortal Chaplains. While aiding and comforting the Army troops as the ship sank, the chaplains surrendered their life jackets that others may live. As the Dorchester sank, the four chaplains linked their arms and prayed. 672 died, leaving 230 survivors.

Friday, February 6th, 2026, at 2:00PM

Grace Community Church,  
1620 Church Avenue,  
Sanger, CA 93657

Reception following with light refreshments, R.S.V.P. 559-875-8387 or  
carolina@calegion.org on or before February 1, 2026



**Four U.S. Army chaplains of different faiths sacrificed their lives on February 3, 1943, when the USAT Dorchester was torpedoed. They gave their life jackets to soldiers and went down with the ship together, praying—a testament to interfaith unity and heroic selflessness.**

**FEBRUARY 21, 2026 AT 5PM  
CEREMONY FOLLOWED BY POTLUCK**

**American Legion Post 755  
20516 E. Arrow Hwy., Covina, CA 91724**

**FOR ALL WHO SERVED  
VETERANS BREAKFAST**

Hosted by Veteran Peer Access Network SD-1 for the San Gabriel Valley Veterans Alliance

Tuesday, February 3, 2026 | 8AM – 10AM

Kara's Korner Deli  
101 W. Foothill Blvd, Glendora, CA

Enjoy a FREE Breakfast & Connect with Veterans Resources!

Available Resources:

- Housing • Legal • Mental Health
- Service Connection Claims
- Vet Center • Department of Veteran Affairs
- and more

★ All Veterans Welcome! ★

For more info, contact:  
Veteran Peer Access Network – Joe Leal at 909-200-8960

**Military Veterans Affairs**  
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

**VPAN**  
VETERAN PEER ACCESS NETWORK

#### **Members Honored Veterans ‘FOUR CHAPLAINS’**

Make an all-out effort to attend your District & Department Four Chaplains program. A once-a-year program that honors those heroes that paid the ultimate price for the Freedom we all share and for our members who honorably served and then continued to serve their fellow Veterans through the American Legion as Members and Leaders to now, who have transferred to “POST EVERLASTING”. We ask you to show your respect and recognition to these members...your friends, your brothers & sisters-family!

**American Legion Post 755**  
(626) 966-7786  
20516 E. Arrow Hwy., Covina, CA 91724

Hours: Mon. & Thurs. 4pm-8pm, Wed., Fri., Sat. & Sun. 3pm - 8pm, Tuesday, closed

**FEBRUARY 2026**

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 50/50 Monthly Drawing	2 Left Right Center 6pm	3	4 Wed. Dinner 5-7pm	5	6	7
8 Superbowl Party	9 Left Right Center 6pm	10 Legion Meeting 6pm	11 Wed. Dinner 5-7pm	12 Aux. Meeting 6pm	13	14 Valentines Dinner/ Dance 5pm
15 Hot Dogs	16 Left Right Center 6pm	17	18 Wed. Dinner 5-7pm	19 SAL Meeting 6pm	20 Riders Karaoke 5-10pm	21 Four Chaplains Ceremony 5pm
22 SAL Breakfast 9am-12pm	23 Left Right Center 6pm	24	25 Wed. Dinner 5-7pm	26	27	28 February Bday Party/ Potluck 6pm

# MONTHLY FOOD DRIVE



Now through February 2nd

Drop Off Location: Box located at  
American Legion Post 755

Please join the Auxiliary in  
donating non-perishable and  
shelf stable foods to benefit  
those in need. All donations  
will go to Veteran's Village.

#### SUGGESTED ITEMS:

- Cereal/Oatmeal
- Peanut Butter
- Jelly
- Canned Fruit
- Canned Vegetables
- Boxed Mac and Cheese
- Pasta and Sauces
- Instant Mashed Potatoes
- Pickles
- Fruit Snacks
- Cookies
- Crackers/Chips
- Cooking Oil
- Seasonings

American Legion Post 755  
20516 E. Arrow Hwy., Covina, CA 91724

AMERICAN LEGION  
BORINQUEN POST 508



PRESENTS

SATURDAY 14TH FEB, 2026

# VALENTINE'S SALSA EVENT

SPECIAL PERFORMANCE BY  
**SUSAN HANSEN**

DJ NEW YORK RICAN "NELSON"

\$35 ENTRY INCLUDES DINNER  
6:00-11:30PM

TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW!

Julia McNeil Center (Celebrity Room)  
4100 Baldwin Park Blvd.  
Baldwin Park CA 91706

CONTACT STEVE (626) 827-4159 RICHIE (951) 206-9526

**American Legion Post 755**

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2026  
5 PM - 10PM

Open to All!

RIDER'S  
KARAOKE  
NIGHT

Drink  
specials!

20516 E. Arrow Hwy., Covina, CA 91724

**AMERICAN LEGION POST 755**

**PANCAKE BREAKFAST**

Prepared by SALS



OPEN TO ALL

Pancakes,  
bacon, coffee  
and fruit \$8

Sunday, Feb. 22, 2026,  
9 AM - 12 PM

20516 E. Arrow Hwy., Covina, CA 91724