

# State Headquarters News Update



## Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States Department of California

Sacramento, California

VOLUME 3 NO. 2

SEPTEMBER 15, 2009

### *SALUTE OUR VETERANS – ALL GAVE SOME – SOME GAVE ALL*

#### **OCTOBER COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION**

Please note the following is a *tentative agenda* for the upcoming Council of Administration. You can refer to the Department Website ([www.vfwca.org](http://www.vfwca.org)) for future updates.

#### **Friday, October 2, 2009**

3:00 PM – Hotel Check-in.

5:00 PM – School of Instruction for Canteen Operations  
(All Council members are required to be in attendance)  
*(Peacock 2 Room)*

6:00 PM - Foundation Board Meeting  
*(Jack's Room)*

7:00 PM – Pre-Council of Administration – Q&A (All Council members are required to be in attendance)  
*(Peacock 1 Room)*

#### **Saturday October 3, 2008**

9:00 AM – **Council of Administration Meeting**  
*(Peacock 1 Room)*

5:00 PM – Commander's Homecoming –  
No-Host Cocktails

6:00 PM - Dinner - *Dress: Casual/Aloha Wear*

#### **Sunday October 4, 2008**

Department for Home

The School of Instruction for Canteen Operations is **MANDATORY** for District Commanders. All others are invited to attend.

**District Commanders** – if you did not get your picture taken by Fred Romero at the June Council Meeting, please make sure you do so as these will be published in the upcoming California Veteran.

#### **PASSING OF MEMBERS AND THOSE IN NEED OF CARDS**

It is with deep sadness we report the following deaths:

Paul Goins, Board of Trustees, passed away when just after returning from National Convention. Sympathies go to Paul's widow Yvette and the Goins Family. Cards of condolence can be sent to Yvette Goins at 38621 – 22<sup>nd</sup> St. East, Palmdale, CA 93550. Cmdr. Jack Turner has appointed Larry Connolly to succeed Paul Goins as Chairman of the Board of Trustees for the remainder of the year and will appoint another one-year trustee in the near future.

Richard (Dick) Fenn, Teacher's Award Chairman, passed away in September, 2009 due to complications from kidney and other medical problems. Cards of condolence can be sent to Hisako Fenn at 3202 Stevely St., Long Beach, CA 90808. Sincere sympathy goes to Dick's widow Hisako and the Fenn family. Don Stonecipher will be replacing Dick as Teacher Award Chairman.

Daughter of our Dept. Jr. Vice Cmdr. Bobby Price passed away due to complications from a recent car accident. His granddaughter is still in a coma. Prayers are needed for the Price family. Cards can be sent to

Bobby and Julia Price at 121 Orange Ave., Space 25, Chula Vista, CA 91911

VFW Administrative Assistant Mary Kienlan recently underwent surgery. She will be returning to work in the next few weeks. Cards can be sent to Mary at the Department Office.

Past Department President Dora Mooneyham who served with Ray Ohrel passed away in September. The Department of California VFW wishes sincere condolences to these comrades and Past Department President.

## **Legislative Report Bill Manes, Director**

The State Legislature is now in the final week of the regular session for 2009. Friday, September 4, was the final day to amend any bills on the floor. Monday, August 31, started a period during the final two weeks that no committees were supposed to meet, but only floor sessions could be conducted. At least, that is the rule. However, any rule can be waived with "unanimous consent" and apparently that is being done. There are still many bills which were supposed to have hearings by the Senate Appropriations Committees but there are no reports of such committee actions.

It is also the time for fun and games in the Legislature. During these final days, the legislators frequently take bills that are ready for a final vote on the floor and use the "gut and amend" process to delete the entire bill and substitute something completely different. One of the reasons for doing this is that the substituted language would never have seen the light of day had it gone through the normal committee hearing process. By using this process to amend the bill, the author hopes to avoid the necessity of defending the proposal in committee hearings.

There are three bills on veteran's issues that have already suffered this fate:  
AB 1265 Sales and use taxes: consumers: itinerant vendors. (Fiona Ma, San Francisco)  
Would exempt an itinerant vendor, who is a service-connected disabled veteran, from collecting sales taxes on products being sold. In the words of the author, the bill "represents one small step towards recognizing our disabled veterans who have already made, or are making the transition from military to civilian employment." The bill had been passed by the Assembly and was waiting for a final floor vote in the Senate. As now amended, the bill would authorize the mayors of some cities to perform marriages. It can only be assumed that the author, from the City of San Francisco, is attempting to support the Mayor of that city in his efforts to perform "same sex marriages" in defiance of the Constitution of the State of California. Hopefully the Legislature will follow its own rules and send this bill back to committee

hearings since it is clearly a complete change from the original subject of the bill.

AB 1568 Veterans benefits. (Mary Salas, Chula Vista)  
Would allow the Department of Veterans Affairs to identify veterans enrolled in the Medi-Cal program who could receive medical benefits through the federal Veterans Health Administration that would either replace or supplement Medi-Cal benefits. The bill had passed the Assembly and was waiting for final committee hearing by Senate Committee on Appropriations. As now amended, the bill is on the subject of property tax exemptions for homeowners who lost or had damage to their homes in various fires during past years.

AB 1570 Veterans service providers. (Mary Salas, Chula Vista)

Would have set up a procedure for entities which wanted to contract with departments of the state government to receive a qualification and certification from the Department of Veterans Affairs before they could provide services to veterans. The bill had passed the Assembly and was waiting for a final floor vote in the Senate. As now amended, would set certain rules for approval of desalination plants in coastal areas. It should be noted that the original bill was of dubious value and probably would have faced a veto by the Governor. There is no similar requirement for entities that seek to contract with the state on matters other than services to veterans.

There has been progress on a couple of veteran's bills:  
AB 264 Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day. (Paul Cook, Yucaipa; and Ted Lieu, Torrance. Coauthors, Assembly: Kevin DeLeon, Los Angeles; Chuck DeVore, Irvine; Jean Fuller, Bakersfield; Danny Gilmore, Hanford; Diane Harkey, Laguna Niguel; Kevin Jeffries, Riverside; Roger Niello, Sacramento; Jim Silva, Huntington Beach. Coauthors, Senate: Dave Cogdill, Fresno; Dave Cox, Fair Oaks; Jeff Denham, Merced; Bob Huff, Glendora.)

Would require the Governor to annually proclaim March 30 as "Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day."  
Status: All problems have been resolved. Bill was enrolled and sent to the Governor on August 28.

AB 343 Pupils: military families. (Lori Saldana, San Diego. Coauthors: Anthony Adams, Hesperia; Kevin Jeffries, Riverside; Ted Lieu, Torrance; Roger Niello, Sacramento.)

Would ratify the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children to facilitate the enrollment, placement, advancement and transfer of the academic records of the children of military families, and would provide for the administration of that compact.

Status: Has now been passed by the Assembly and the Senate. Ready for enrollment and for the Governor.

Complete information on all state legislation involving veterans issues is available at the website:  
<http://www.califveterans.com>

### **Commander Turner Challenges Post, District and Personal Donations to the Gold Star Project**

The Department of California VFW donated \$5,000 towards the Project Gold Star. The Gold Star Family License Plates will be produced at no cost to the state's General Fund, so fund raising will be necessary. Donations at the Post, District and Individual level are encouraged and recommended – beat what your Department donated.

### **Update On Mojave Veterans Croiss Memorial**

Active duty soldiers from Ft. Polk, LA will be riding their motorcycles to California on Thursday, September 17 at approximately noon. There will be a flag ceremony, wreath laying and introduction of the "Cross Crusaders". RV's are needed for security, medical emergency and parking. Everyone is encouraged to come to this event. Remember to bring lots of water as it will be very hot. For further information please contact Mac McDaniel at (760) 379-2098.

*PLEASE NOTE ... Jim Bennett is now Service Committee Chairman*

### **POW/MIA PROGRAM**

Department POW/MIA Program will be held on Saturday, September 19, 2009, 10:00 a.m. at Riverside National Cemetery, 24495 Van Buren, Riverside, CA. Following the program will be a lunch at VFW Post 8547 beginning at 1:00 p.m. (\$7.00 donation) (22616 Alessandro Blvd., Moreno Valley). Hotel reservations can be made at Best Western Moreno Valley (951) 924-4546 Rooms are \$79-83/night. Any questions please contact Chairman Larry Stroud (951) 925-7009.

### **UPCOMING OFFICIAL VISIT INFO**

**DISTRICT 18 – September 25-27, 2009**

**District 11 – October 30 – November 1, 2009**

**District 13 – November 13 – 15, 2009**

**District 4 – January 8-10, 2010**

**For further details please visit [www.vfwca.org](http://www.vfwca.org) (Meetings and Events)**

### **CALIFORNIA VETERAN**

For those who do not have access to a computer or do not attend Post or District meetings, please contact the Department Office, 1510 "J" Street, Suite 110, Sacramento, CA 95814 and request that you be added to the hard copy mailing list. Stories (along with pictures) are encouraged. Please send pictures (with a short story detail) to Stephanie Martin at [martin@vfwca.org](mailto:martin@vfwca.org). **Deadline for next issue is October 10, 2009.**

### **WESTERN CONFERENCE**

**November 6-8, 2009**

**Bismarck, North Dakota**

**For more information visit [www.vfwca.org](http://www.vfwca.org) (Upcoming Events)**

### **WAY TO GO –**

**As of August 31, 2009**

**State Cmdr. Jack Turner has recruited 116 members and John Warner has recruited 93. Membership is everybody's responsibility, so sign up your neighbor, co worker, relative!**

### **OCTOBER / NOVEMBER COMMANDER'S ITINERARY (Tentative)**

#### **OCTOBER, 2009**

- 2-4 Council of Administration, San Diego / Cmdr. Jack Turner's Homecoming
- 9-11 Double 10 Parade, San Francisco
- 12 Columbus Day – Office Closed
- 16-18 District 12 Official Visit
- 23-25 District 24 Official Visit
- 30-1 District 11 Official Visit

#### **NOVEMBER 2009**

- 6-8 Western Conference, Bismarck, North Dakota
- 11 Veterans Day – Office Closed
- 11 Veterans Day Parade, San Diego
- 13-15 District 13 Official Visit
- 20-22 District 7 Official Visit
- 26-29 Thanksgiving Weekend  
Office Closed

## *Buddy Poppy - Veterans Day*



November 11<sup>th</sup> is quickly approaching and many VFW Posts take advantage of distributing Buddy Poppies during this week. Now is the time to place your Buddy Poppy Order using CAVFW Form 3a which was included in this year's Program Guide and can also be downloaded from the Department of California VFW website.

A flower that evokes the memories and emotions of war is the red poppy, which became associated with war after the publication of a poem "In *Flanders's Field*," written by Col. John McCrae of Canada. For more than 75 years, the VFW's Buddy Poppy program has raised millions of dollars in support of veterans' welfare and the well being of their dependents. Today, VFW Buddy Poppies are assembled by disabled, needy and aging veterans in VA Hospitals and domiciliary centers across the country and are distributed by VFW Posts and their Auxiliaries. The minimal assessment (cost of Buddy Poppies) to VFW units provides compensation to the veterans who assemble the poppies, provides financial assistance in maintaining state and national veterans' rehabilitation and service programs and partially supports the VFW National Home for orphans and widows of our nation's veterans.

Buddy Poppies can be ordered with or without payment. Please allow 4 to 6 weeks for processing. All orders are shipped to a street address (***No Post Office Boxes***). All invoices for poppies ordered prior to November 30<sup>th</sup> must be paid by December 31<sup>st</sup>. All orders received after January 1<sup>st</sup> must be paid by May 15<sup>th</sup>. This is a great time for the Ladies Auxiliaries and Men's Auxiliaries to get involved with their respective Posta in distributing Buddy Poppies.

Remember, each Post must meet the goal stated in the Buddy Poppy Program to get the 10 All-State Points. In addition to the goal, a post which exceeds their goal by 500 will earn an additional 10 All-State Points. In addition to the All-State Program, there are many other awards a Post or individual can participate in. Review this year's Program Guide for additional information.

Any questions, please contact the Department Office at (916) 449-8850