



**POST 77 WINS  
WOODLAND'S HIGHEST AWARD**



In addition to getting the City of Woodland's highest award, Post 77 also received awards from the local congressman, state senator and state Assemblywoman. Post 77 members (l. to r.) Vince Olvera, Marty Bernavage, Gil Garcia, Larry Martinez, Corbin Smith and Ed Trautt are presented with Post 77's honors by representatives from the office of Sen. Wolk, Assembly member Yamada, and Congressman Thompson.

**C**ongratulations to us all. In April, Yolo Post 77 was presented with the City of Woodland's highest award, the Community Service Award. Post 77 is only the third organization to ever receive the Community Service Award.

We can be proud of the 90 years of our service to the nation and community. Post 77 participation in the Woodland Cemetery Memorial Day program began in 1920. Starting in the 1920's, the Post held an annual "toy collection program to provide as cheerful a holiday as possible for Woodland boys and girls who otherwise would be deprived of the pleasure of a visit from Santa Claus." Beginning in the late 1920's, Post 77 sponsored a Sea Scouts troop and a Boy Scout troop in the 1930's. In 1934, Post 77 bought Clark Field so that it would continue as a baseball park and sponsored diagnostic clinics "for crippled children." During the 1930's and 40's, Post 77 held Constitution Day programs at local schools and maintained a community disaster mobilization program. During World War II, the Post provided activities for service men and women at the Post hall; World War I veterans of Post 77 staffed the Canteen and Service Center in Woodland for the benefit of those serving in World War II.

In making the award presentation to the Post at an April 2nd dinner, City Council member Jeff Monroe spoke about many of the Post's 38 current activities and programs, noting what an important part Post 77 plays in the community.

*Dave Isbell, Commander*

**MAY 25, 11 A.M. IS POST 77'S ANNUAL  
MEMORIAL DAY PROGRAM**

**M**emorial Day this year is Monday, May 25, the day we honor deceased American veterans. They made certain that we live in freedom.

At the Post 77 Memorial Day ceremony, we will celebrate their memory and their accomplishments. We ask Post 77 members, their families, and others in the community to join us for this solemn ceremony at 11 a.m., May 25 at the Woodland Cemetery, Cross Street entrance.

The main speaker for the Memorial Day ceremony will be Col. Ed Trautt, who served from World War II, through the Korean and Vietnam wars. A special tribute will be made on behalf of World War II members of the Merchant Marines. The Merchant Marines had the highest fatality rate of any of the services in World War II. Bill Hollingshead will speak about the history of veterans returning home from war.

Nadine Salonites and Post member Clarence Van Hook will sing. And a very important part of the program: dedication of the enhanced Veterans Monument.

Following the program, there will be a no-charge luncheon at the Post hall.

*Albert Castillo, Second Vice Commander*



- Dave Isbell, Commander**
- Edward Trautt, 1st Vice Commander**
- Albert Castillo, 2nd Vice Commander**
- Gary Leach, Adjutant**
- Corbin Smith, Assistant Adjutant**
- Warren Meyer, Financial Officer**
- Steve Waldeck, Treasurer**
- Vince Olvera, Sergeant-at-Arms**
- Gil Garcia, Chaplain**
- Zeke Plocher, Service Officer**
- Frank Eakle, Athletic Committee Chair**
- Larry Schapiro, Historian**
- Homer Swigert, Executive Committee**
- Ray Redmill, Executive Committee**
- Dave Kauderer, Judge Advocate**
- William Allardice, Legislative Advocate**

## MISCELLANEOUS GOINGS-ON

I am happy to report that Post 77 membership has pushed up to the 405 mark. Post membership for last year was 377. Thanks for your help.... May and June are busy months for the Post's student activities. (1) On May 15 – 18, we send a student to the American Legion Youth Environmental Conference. It is hosted by the U.S. Forest Service; (2) At May middle school graduations, Post 77 presents one girl and one boy at each of the schools the American Legion School Award. The winners are selected based upon leadership, scholarship and service to others; (3) Also in May, the Post will be presenting American Legion ROTC awards to the top ROTC students at Sacramento State and UC Davis in both academics and military excellence; (4) At Woodland High School and Pioneer High School graduations in May, Post 77 and the Post 77 Auxiliary will award college scholarships to graduating seniors; (5) In June, the Post will be sending seven students from high schools throughout the county to Boys State to learn about the workings of government. The Auxiliary will be selecting Yolo County high school girls for Girls State.... Maintaining its record of marching in the Winters Youth Day Parade for 68 years, the Post 77 color guard proudly participated in the April 25 parade. Other activities in April included honor guards for funerals, Firefighter of the Year awards, presentation at Woodland High School of information to students about the military's work from World War II to the present, participation in a Boy Scout Troop 68 Eagle Court of Honor, and bringing the widow of the Commander of the Tuskegee Airmen to speak at Woodland High School.... A good dinner each year is at the installation of new Post officers. This year it is June 27, 6 p.m. Why not join us for a free dinner? It is a thank you for your continued support of the American Legion. Also, here is the chance for World War II veterans to attend an installation of a Post 77 commander who is older than you! Post 77's commander beginning at this meeting and dinner will be Ed Trautt, age 94.... The Yolo County Office of Education will award high school diplomas to veterans of World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War who left high school early to serve in the military. Patti Robles has more information. She can be reached at (530) 668-3755.... The Post 77 honor guard again opened the season for the Woodland Little League.... Post members have again cooked and served meals for the homeless at the Wayfarers Center. We are scheduled to continue in May, June and beyond.... In celebration of Post 77's 90th birthday this year, the Post will be holding an open house as part of the September 12th Woodland Stroll Through History. This will include the history of Post 77, rifles and pistols from the Spanish-American War through World War II, Civil War re-enactors, and military uniforms and patches.... Speaking of 90 years ago, America's last World War I veteran, Frank Buckles, is still in good shape. Not so for the District of Columbia World War I Memorial which the District of Columbia Preservation League reports to be falling apart. How quickly they forget those who served in the War to End All Wars.... The City of Woodland recently put back flag pole holes at the Woodland Cemetery that had previously been removed due to road widening. For those who attend the Post 77 Memorial Day program on May 25, you will notice how great all the U.S. flags look flying throughout the cemetery, along with the over 1,000 small flags on the grave sites of veterans.... The Veterans Administration has recently provided Yolo County with a 2009 Dodge Caravan for use in taking veterans to medical appointments.

*Vince Olvera, Sergeant-at-Arms*

## EVENT CALENDARS

### MAY 2009

7th	7:00 p.m.	Yolo County Veterans' Coalition meeting at West Sacramento VFW
9th	9:00 a.m.	Post members to meet at Woodland Cemetery to find locations for small U.S. flags
16th	6:00 p.m.	Crab Louie dinner and the Mike Ward Band to benefit Post 77 baseball. \$15.
16-17		Area 1 meeting at Linda Post 807
20th	7:00 p.m.	Post Executive Committee meeting
24th		Put out small flags at grave site of each veteran at the Woodland Cemetery
25th	6:30 a.m.	Put up flags on Main St. and in the Woodland Cemetery roadways for Memorial Day
	11:00 a.m.	Memorial Day ceremony at the Woodland Cemetery
	12:00 Noon	Free community luncheon
	4:00 p.m.	Take down flags from Main St. and the Woodland Cemetery
26th	7:30 p.m.	Post 77 membership meeting (election of 2009-2010 officers)
30th	1:00 p.m.	Sons of American Legion meeting at the Post
	4:00 p.m.	Opening home game of Post 77 baseball team, Clark Field

### JUNE 2009

4th	7:00 p.m.	Yolo County Veterans' Coalition meeting at Post 77
6th	6:00 p.m.	Cook Your Own Steak dinner, plus the Bump City Band. \$15.
7th	10:00 a.m.	District 6 meeting at Post 77
14th	6:30 a.m.	Put up flags on Main St. for Flag Day
	4:00 p.m.	Take down flags from Main St.
17th	7:00 p.m.	Post Executive Committee meeting
17-21		State American Legion convention, Riverside
23rd	7:30 p.m.	Post 77 membership meeting
27th	6:00 p.m.	Installation of new Post officers and dinner. Dinner is free.

## AUXILIARY

### MAY 2009

5th	7:00 p.m.	Regular meeting
25th	12:00 noon	Auxiliary's annual Memorial Day luncheon. Open to the public.

### JUNE 2009

2nd	7:00 p.m.	Regular meeting
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Maria Hernandez-President  
Christine De Knikker-First Vice President  
Teddy Cooper-Second Vice President  
Arlene Sandoval-Secretary  
Mary Cogburn-Treasurer

*If you have any questions about the Post 77 Women's Auxiliary or would like a ride to an Auxiliary meeting, please call Maria Hernandez at 661-2210 or Mary Cogburn at 662-0624.*

## POST 77 MEMBERS IN UNIFORM



Air Force Technical Sgt. and Post 77 member William Blanton at Travis Air Force Base.

**A**sixteen year member of the Air Force, Tech. Sgt. William Blanton lives in Woodland with his wife, Shelly, and their three boys. Stationed at Travis Air Force Base, he is a Boom Operator on KC10 Extender aerial refueling aircraft. Sgt. Blanton's job is to control refueling operations through a digital, fly-by wire system. During refueling operations, fuel is transferred to the receiver plane at up to 1,100 gallons per minute. The KC-10 can combine the tasks of a tanker and cargo aircraft by refueling fighters and simultaneously carrying the fighter support personnel and equipment on overseas deployments. The plane can transport up to 75 people and nearly 170,000 pounds of cargo a distance of about 4,400 miles.

Sgt. Blanton was deployed in 1989 to support Operation Desert Shield/Storm, then later, in 2001, assigned as part of Enduring Freedom. He has also had assignments in Bahrain, Somalia as part of Restore Hope, and Germany, with another deployment coming up later this year.

Luckily for us, his wife, Shelly Schnepf Blanton's hometown is Woodland, and that is what brought Sgt. Blanton here. Post 77 member William Blanton already has had an incredible career in the military.

Tech. Sgt. Blanton, thanks for doing more than your part for America.

## WELCOME,

### NEW POST 77 MEMBERS

**F**red Messier, served in the Army, 1944-46, including in France and Germany.

Patricia Dinwittie was an Army nurse during World War II, serving on Guam and Saipan.

Pam and John Huston. Pam Huston was a Major in the U.S. Army, where she met husband John. John Huston, a Lt. Colonel, retired from the Army after 21 years.

Frank Chacon, Army Sergeant, wounded in Vietnam, 1968.

Sal Allosso served in the Army, including being assigned to the U.S. sector of Berlin in 1954-56, where he set up communication systems with the British and French sectors.

Larry Ray Jones, a veteran of the Army, found himself on patrol in Vietnam during the mid-1960's.

Ferdinand Hanson was first in the Minnesota National Guard starting in 1954 and then later he joined the Army, where he served in Korea near the DMZ.

Clinton Pedersen served in the Navy from 1998 through 2004, including time on an aircraft carrier in the Gulf.

## HELP NEEDED TO HONOR VETERANS BURIED IN THE WOODLAND CEMETERY

**O**n Saturday, May 9th, 9 a.m., Post 77 will be canvassing the Woodland Cemetery in order to locate all the veterans' graves so that U.S. flags may be placed out on Memorial Day at each grave site. Please join us on May 9th to help with that important project.

*Warren Meyer, Past Commander*

## WISE WORDS FROM TIGER WOODS SPEAKING INAUGURATION WEEKEND ABOUT MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES

**“T**ime and again, across generations, they have defended our safety in the dark of night and far from home. Each day – and particularly on this historic day – we honor the men and women in uniform who serve our country and protect our freedom. They travel to the dangerous corners of the world, and we must remember that for every person who is in uniform, there are families who wait for them to come home safely. Just as they have stood tall for our country – we must always stand by and support the men and women in uniform and their families.”

## MONEY FOR NURSING HOMES IS ANOTHER BENEFIT FOR VETERANS

**A**veterans' benefit for long-term care expenses is available to wartime veterans and their spouses. The Special Pension for Veterans' Aid and Attendance pays up to \$1,644 a month, \$19,736 annually, toward assisted living, nursing homes or in-home care for veterans 65 and older who served at least 90 days and one day during wartime — stateside or overseas. Veterans and their spouses can receive up to \$23,396 annually and spouses of deceased veterans, \$12,681. Approval comes in four to eight months. The process is streamlined for vets who are blind or have memory issues and widows with medical needs. Payments are retroactive. See Billy Wagster at the Yolo County Veterans Service Office, 120 West Main St., Woodland, (530) 406-4850.

*Zeke Plocher, Post Service Officer*

## IN MEMORIAM

**BOB GILLETTE  
JAMES KAREOFELAS  
WILLIAM SCHMAUDERER  
EDWARD GALLUP  
RICHARD RUSSELL**

**“Farewell, My Comrades.”**

## OUR PATRIOTIC PAST – MEMORIAL DAYS GONE BY



Pictured are the young women of the Woodland High School Junior Red Cross in 1946. During the war, The Ilex, the high school year book read, "Their time has been devoted this year to making comfort articles for the convalescents in government hospitals. Articles include fracture pillows, joke books, slippers, tin ash trays, and checker boards. Special mention should be made of the boys who have collected waste paper for the Red Cross during Activity Period. After seeing what the Junior Red Cross has done, we should all give them a big hand".

For Memorial Day ceremonies the Rifle Squad has always been a memorable unit of the American Legion Post 77. Pictured is the eight-man Rifle Squad plus the Squad Leader. Each member is wearing the branch uniform he wore before returning home. Third from the left is Joe Espigares, Jr., 1950-51 Post 77 Past Commander. Still tradition today, the squad fires a volley of rifle shots in honor of those who made the greatest sacrifice for their beloved country. Memorial Day May 1946



In this 1946 Memorial Day photo, the ceremony was inclusive of all who served their country. Among the American flags from left to right are the flags of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of both Woodland and Knights Landing and the banners of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Ladies Auxiliary of both Knights Landing and Woodland. The American Legion was chartered by Congress in 1919 as a patriotic, mutual-help, war-time veterans and community service organization. Yolo Post 77 began participating in the Memorial Day ceremonies in 1920. Prior to that they were conducted by the W. R. Seward Post No. 65, Grand Army of the Republic (Union Civil War Veterans) and Kenzie Camp No. 11, United Spanish War Veterans

*Photographs by Legionnaire Paul W. Hollingshead (1896 – 1974)  
Photos courtesy of Edward and Bill Hollingshead.  
Research and captions by Bill Hollingshead – Member of Yolo Post 77*

## POST 77 HELPS SO WE MAY REMEMBER YOLO COUNTY'S CIVIL WAR VETERANS



Memorial Day 1923 was when the last five members of the Yolo Chapter of the Grand Army of the Republic (Civil War veterans) were together. The five were, from left, Capt. W. Winnie, E.S. Farnham, Henry Hudson, Singleton Reynolds and Sam Montgomery.  
*Submitted by Ellas Jenkins*

The towering marble monument in the Woodland Cemetery appears to have no markings. With a brush of the hand over what looks to be an indentation, an inscription can faintly be felt. The worn down inscription reads “In Memory of Our Unknown Dead 1861 – 1866.” Neither the Woodland Cemetery nor the Yolo County Archives have a record as to exactly when it was placed in the cemetery, but period newspaper articles point to the 1890’s as the date. At one time, the monument was the location of Memorial Day ceremonies in Woodland. Veterans, members of Woodland’s Company F, a band, youth groups and others would march and ride from the National Guard Armory on Bush Street later (the Post 77) hall to this Monument honoring “unknown” Civil War soldiers. There the Memorial Day program would take place. Surrounding the Monument are the grave markers of numerous Civil War veterans.

That was all we knew until receiving a long-distance telephone call from the Memorial Officer for the Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War, an organization that notes that their association is “the legal heir of the Grand Army of the Republic” veterans organization. Memorial Officer Kirby Morgan told us that Yolo County at one time had a chapter of the Grand Army of the Republic, William H. Seward GAR Post 65. The last of its members, Boerstler Dutton, died at age 96 in 1937. Two of his pallbearers were Post 77 1922-23 Past Commander George Hazeman and the Post’s 1937-38 Commander, Dr. F. E. Evans. The Woodland Cemetery contains 97 known Civil War veterans, six of whom were in the Confederate Army. Would Yolo Post 77, he asked, take on the solemn duty of painting on the Civil War Monument’s inscription, over the faded words, “In Memory of Our Unknown Dead 1861 – 1866,” so that the Yolo County community would again know of Monument’s purpose? Post 77 has done that through the painting skills of Auxiliary member Kristine Rogers.

The significance of Post 77 helping to maintain our Civil War Monument was put to pen in Woodland years before 2009. August Silberstein, Adjutant of the Yolo County United Spanish War Veterans, Kenzie Camp No. 11, wrote in 1937 why remembering soldiers of the Union Army was so important. “The years after 1865 saw old wounds, raw with the memories of war, gradually healed. The nation once divided has been reunited to a new strength. This nation owes an undying gratitude to those men who fought from 1861 to 1865 that the United States might retain its unity and rise to the position of influence that it has attained since that time.... It will become increasingly easy to forget the service these men have rendered, and that much of the liberty and prosperity that we enjoy today, we owe to their struggles and sacrifices in that last century.”

What is more, these brave soldiers of the Civil War became an important part of the pioneer days of Yolo County. Here are just a few of their stories.

The Daily Democrat wrote upon the death of former Yolo County Sheriff Samuel Montgomery in 1923, who came to Yolo County in 1874: “His entire life was eventful, active and devoted to the betterment of conditions wherever he happened to be. In 1863, he welcomed the opportunity to enlist for service in the Civil War. He was a member of the California Volunteer Infantry, and served until the close of the hostilities in California and Arizona.”

And what better a legacy for Civil War veteran George Hartssock than noted in a 1900 newspaper article that he “was a man of sterling character, noted for his many good deeds.” In 1861, he enlisted in the 17th Indiana regiment and first served to December 15, 1862. The following February, Mr. Hartssock re-enlisted and marched with Sherman to Atlanta, where he was injured. As a result, starting nearly 30 years later, in Nov. 1892, he received a pension of \$16 per month. A U.S. Department of Interior record notes that “This pension being for disease of the right foot.”

A 1908 newspaper article about Civil War veteran John Mather’s death explained that he “was an exemplary citizen and the gallantry with which he withstood the fire of the enemy in war times was displayed in the quiet life he lived after the close of the war.” Mather enlisted out of Ohio at age 18 and rose through the ranks from Private to his promotion “for gallant and meritorious services” to Captain in June 1865. The book “Records of the Members of the Grand Army of the Republic” reports that for four years, Mr. Mather’s Company “never made a march, was never under fire, without his [Mather] being in it.” He fought in the battles of Pea Ridge, Chickasaw Bayou, Arkansas Post, Jackson, Mississippi, and the siege of Vicksburg. To his sadness, three of his brothers died in the Civil War. After his arrival in Woodland, he worked at the Guggenhome Packing House.

Gottlieb Metzger came to the U.S. at age six. He enlisted in the Sixth New York Infantry. After the war, he moved to Yolo County, where he was employed as a brewer, and later as a farmer in Guinda. “A native of the Fatherland, he proved himself to be an American above reproach in the dark days of the Civil War by rallying to the call of his adopted country,” a 1912 newspaper article about Mr. Metzger’s death read.

One of Woodland’s medical doctors, W. C. Wilson, was a Civil War veteran out of an Indiana unit. A newspaper article upon Dr. Wilson’s death in 1904 mentioned: “It was said that he suffered from the privations of the war so much that they were indirectly the

*continued on page 7*

## DEDICATION OF THE VETERANS' MONUMENT IS SET FOR MAY 25

Post 77's work on improving the Veterans' Monument at the Woodland Cemetery is finished. The Monument will be dedicated on Memorial Day, May 25th. We have been able to do this only with your assistance through donations. A special thanks to Herb and Ione Chandler and Jane and Richard Horgan for both of their \$1,500 donations. Others who generously donated are:

American Legion Post 77 Auxiliary  
 Zeke and Teddy Plocher  
 Carl and Evelyn Desendorf  
 Rev. Tony Montoya  
 Carl and Nadine Salonites  
 Steve and Sharon Hedington  
 Gary Wegener  
 William Sims  
 Larry Martinez  
 R. Stephen Waldeck  
 Jeff Monroe  
 Don Plank  
 David and Sharon Kocsis  
 Mitsuko Aoki  
 Tony Moddesette  
 Corbin and Carolyn Smith  
 Ron Gee  
 Rachele Arroyave and family  
 David and Dorothea Gee  
 Phil and Roz Tapia  
 Terry and Teresa Parkhurst  
 Margaret Nicolson  
 Ted Puntillo  
 Gary Leach  
 William and Diane Hollingshead  
 Don and Pat Campbell  
 Robert McGriff  
 Robert and Iona Griffith  
 Lawrence Hoppin  
 James Stevens  
 Clarence Walden  
 Larry and Charollette Germeshausen  
 Paul Hart  
 Ed Trautt  
 Brenda Amen Moreland  
 Frank Tafoya  
 Evelyn Dahl  
 Verne and Gene Cowan  
 Jack Lasoya  
 Lucy and Chris Lainas, Jr  
 John Burnham  
 Richard Landucci  
 Donald Ryan  
 Don Branigan  
 John Parker  
 Larry Rossier  
 Howard Broyles  
 Guy Cherry  
 Ann Busta  
 N. Smith  
 Dale Roberts  
 Frank Gardner  
 Juanita Mertz  
 A. E. McGinnis  
 Jackson Santos  
 Matt Lumia  
 Lee M. Ruanto  
 Mervin Hermle  
 Marilyn Knudson  
 Tom Lindberg  
 Walter Loewen  
 Phillip Cushing  
 Larry Reiff  
 S. H. Bender  
 Billy Ball  
 Karl Hanke

Dorene Aday  
 James Hecht  
 Henry Ochoa  
 Bill Rose  
 Schwarzgruber & Sons  
 Bob Schulze  
 Chester Stiles  
 Frank Carrion  
 Twyla Thompson  
 James Rathbone  
 Jim Newman  
 Vernon Danley  
 Marion Tucker  
 John Morelli  
 Mary Ann Herbert  
 Mary Jane Haws  
 Yvonne Peters  
 Loretta Frank  
 Elks Lodge No. 1299, Woodland  
 VFW Auxiliary, West Sac. #8762  
 Woodland VFW 1985  
 Winters VFW 11091  
 West Sacramento VFW #8762  
 Yolo County Marine Corp League  
 VFW #6949  
 AMVETS #9126  
 American Legion Post 77  
 Robert Gilbert  
 Hubert Damesyn  
 Frank Nichols  
 Pedro Savala  
 George Warner  
 James Kareofelas  
 S. G. Hildebrand  
 Leonard Enos  
 Marie Guerrero  
 Bennie Callis  
 Leroy Mooney Jr.  
 Margie Rosasco  
 Forrest Bond, DDS  
 Helen Thomson  
 Lillian Giese  
 Christine Ferrari  
 Leonard Enos  
 Jim Hull  
 George Stewart  
 Don Coles  
 William Kobane  
 Rudolf Zitmann  
 Jane Dewey  
 Larry and Patty Schapiro  
 V. Santoni & Co.  
 Rudolf Zitmann  
 Nora Knurck  
 Elaine Scott  
 Richard Henigan  
 Cal Michalak  
 Patricia Nickell  
 A.E. McGinnis  
 Juanita Mertz  
 George Berrettoni  
 G. W. Alexander  
 Pat Young  
 Daniel Parmenter  
 David and Tina Tafoya  
 Kaye Powell

## POST'S LIVING HISTORY DAY



The second annual living history program of American Legion Post 77 and Woodland High School was held on April 8th with many excited and interested students in attendance. The students interviewed Yolo County veterans and those currently in the Armed Forces to learn first hand about America's participation in World War II to the present conflict in Iraq. The students thereafter wrote reports and prepared oral presentations based upon their research and the results of the interviews. This Post 77/Woodland High School project is designed for students to hear about American military history and the impact of war upon individual soldiers, sailors and Marines. Approximately 170 students participated. Veterans and members of the Armed Forces who presented their experiences were, in the front row (l. to r.), Rev. Tony Montoya, Carl Desendorf, William Laquard, Sue Massey, Zeke Plocher, Ed Trautt, Al Castillo, and Reid Anderson. In the rear are Herb Chandler, Deacon Frank Chacon, Corbin Smith, Terry Meshew, Gon Vu, Vince Olvera, Ed Hiatt, Alvin Carr, Phil Tapia, Jeff Monroe, Terry Parkhurst, John Huston, Scott Montgomery, Dave Kocsis, Dan Parrish, Carl Salonites, Jack Fabiani, Adolf Medina, Gary Leach, Jack Newman, 1st Lt. Rebecca Mason, and Master Sgt. Scott Monnett.

**COOK YOUR OWN  
 STEAK DINNER**  
 Along with  
**WOODLAND'S FAVORITE  
 DANCE BAND**  
**"BUMP CITY"**

**SATURDAY - JUNE 6, 6:00 P.M.**  
**NO HOST COCKTAILS 5:00 P.M.**  
**WE'LL PROVIDE THE RIB EYE  
 STEAKS & THE BBQ'S,**  
**YOU DO THE GRILLING TO YOUR LIKING.**  
**INCLUDED IS SALAD, BAKED POTATOES,  
 ROLLS, CORN AND DESSERT ~ \$15.**  
**BRING FAMILY & FRIENDS**

## POST 77 HELPS SO WE MAY REMEMBER YOLO COUNTY'S CIVIL WAR VETERANS *continued from page 5*

cause of his death.” The article went on that “He will live in the memory of his comrades in the civil war as a brave and faithful soldier.”

Among those from Yolo County who fought for the South was John Winter. Mr. Winter “served in the Confederate army under General ‘Stonewall’ Jackson. At one time he was taken prisoner by the Yanks and was lined up to be shot. He broke and ran, successfully dodging the bullets that came whizzing after him and escaped in the woods.” (The Mail of Woodland, Nov. 23, 1922.) Another Confederate soldier, Thomas Reynolds, owner with his brothers of the Craft Hotel on Main St., became well loved in Woodland. Upon his death, it was written about him in the Sept. 18, 1915 issue of The Mail of Woodland: “Mr. Reynolds was one of the most charitable and big-hearted men in the community and was always ready to share his all with those in need.”

By 1929, with the passing of Civil War veteran Singleton Reynolds at age 86, who opened a confectionary shop upon his 1892 arrival in Woodland, there were only five members of the Grand Army of the Republic left in Yolo County. One of those remaining was E. S. Farnham, once a Commander of the Yolo County GAR Seward Post 65, who enlisted at age 16 and saw service in battles at Shiloh and Little Rock. When he died in 1931, The Mail of Woodland newspaper wrote: “Death yesterday noon ended the long and useful life of Erastus Sylvester Farnham, 87-year old Civil War Veteran, and pioneer farmer of Yolo County.... For 40 years Mr. Farnham had been clerk of the Spring Lake school board. In 1907 he was elected president of Farmer’s Mutual Fire Insurance company.... About a year ago he and Captain W. H. Winne [also a Civil War veteran] attended an American Legion banquet as guests of honor. They were cheered after brief talks.”

W.H. Winne, who lived until 1933, while called Captain in Yolo County, had been a First Lieutenant in the Union Army. Winnie was in 15 major battles of the Civil War, including Bull Run, Antietam, and the second Battle of Fredericksburg. He came to Woodland on May 7, 1868. Winnie received an honorary Captain’s rank from Woodland’s Company F. After that, he was called Captain Winnie by those throughout Woodland. In February 1930, The Woodland Daily Democrat reported about the Woodland Elk’s Club celebration of the 121st anniversary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln, where Winnie related the details of how “I once shook Abraham Lincoln’s hand and talked with him.” In 1861, Lincoln came to review the troops stationed at Bailey’s Crossroads in Virginia. At one point in the day there was a reception for the Mr. Lincoln which Lt. Winnie attended. After shaking the President’s hand, Winne said: “I’ve been too young to vote for you, Mr. Lincoln, but I certainly will next time.” Lincoln replied, “Thank you, sir.” At that time, Winnie could not have known that in April 1865, he would stand guard outside a little house in Washington, D.C. where Lincoln’s body lay in state. In 1930, Captain Winnie donated his Civil War sword he carried into battle to Post 77, where it still hangs.

Civil War veterans of Yolo County, they were all part of an important chapter in American history. Post 77 remembers them.

*Larry Schapiro, Post 77 Historian*

## FORMER SOLDIER SAYS OLD VETS ARE NEEDED BACK IN UNIFORM

From an anonymous former soldier via Post member Larry Martinez:

“I am over 60 and the Armed Forces thinks I’m too old to track down terrorists. They’ve got the whole thing backwards. Instead of sending 18-year olds off to fight, they ought to take us old guys. Young guys haven’t lived long enough to be cranky, and a cranky soldier is a dangerous soldier. An 18-year-old doesn’t even like to get up before 10 a.m. Old guys always get up early. Since I can’t sleep and I’m up already, I may as well be going after some fanatics. If captured, we couldn’t spill the beans because we’d forget where we put them. In fact, name, rank, and serial number would be a real brainteaser. They could lighten up on the obstacle course, however. I’ve been in combat and didn’t see a single 20-foot wall with rope hanging over the side. Let us old guys track down those dirty rotten terrorists. The last thing an enemy would want to see is a couple million old-timers with attitudes and automatic weapons.”

## NEW STATE LEGISLATION

The California American Legion is supporting some bills that have been introduced in the State Legislature. AB 38 waives the one-year residency requirement for service members separating from the military so that they do not have to pay the higher out-of-state tuition rates for community colleges and State universities.

AB 534 would require public schools to permit Armed Forces recruiters to attend and participate in career fairs at public schools.

AB 1077 would provide an exclusion from state income tax for retired pay and survivor annuities received by an individual as a result of the active service of a member of the Armed Forces of the United States.

SB 815 seeks to enact legislation to establish a program to provide student financial aid assistance to members of the California National Guard.

*Bill Allardice, Post 77 Legislative Advocate*



Winners of the Peace Officers of the Year awards, Jose Ramirez (l.) and Rocky Apperson previously served in the Armed Forces. Ramirez, of the Winters Police Department, was in the Navy. Apperson, an investigator with the Yolo County District Attorney’s Office, was a Marine.



American Legion  
 Yolo Post 77  
 523 Bush Street  
 Woodland, CA 95695

NON-PROFIT  
 ORGANIZATION  
 U.S. POSTAGE  
 PAID  
 PERMIT #55  
 WOODLAND, CA

Return Service Requested

### BASEBALL SEASON IS HERE AGAIN

The Yolo Post 77 Baseball program is about to start another season. The home opening games are on May 30, starting at 4:00 p.m., with two games against Manhart American Legion Post 391 of Sacramento.

Be on the look out in the mail for the season schedule and raffle tickets for fan appreciation night drawings, June 30, 6:00 p.m. After turning in the stub of the raffle ticket, the remaining portion can be used as a free ticket into a Post 77 home game.

A donation of \$2 per raffle ticket is suggested. Your donations are greatly needed to help support and continue this program in the tradition of Yolo Post 77 youth baseball.

Other home games will be:

- June 2 @ 7 p.m.
- June 11 @ 7 p.m.
- June 14 @ 3 p.m.
- June 24 @ 7 p.m.
- June 28 @ 4 p.m.
- June 30 @ 6 p.m.

*Frank Eakle, Baseball Committee Chair*

**Crab Louie Dinner and the  
 Mike Ward Band.**  
**No better way to spend an evening.  
 Help support Post 77 Baseball.**  
**May 16, 6 p.m., \$15**

### WANT TO JOIN THE NEW SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION SQUADRON TO MEET AT POST 77?

Post 77 will be conducting a Sons of the American Legion (SAL) Squadron formation meeting on Saturday, May 30, 2009 at 1:00 p.m. at the Post.

SAL membership eligibility is as follows: Men and boys of all ages who are descendants, adopted sons and stepsons of members of The American Legion, and such male descendants of veterans (i) who died in service during World War I, World War II, Korean War, the Vietnam War, Lebanon, Grenada, Panama, and the Persian Gulf War, (ii) during the time periods Congress has set for qualifying for American Legion membership, or (iii) who died subsequent to their honorable discharge from such service, are eligible for membership in the Sons of The American Legion.

SAL Area Commander Mark Smith will be present on May 30, 1:30 p.m. with information brochures and membership applications. Yolo Post 77 Adjutant Gary Leach will be present to serve as liaison between Post 77 and Squadron 77. SAL programs and a prospective schedule for future meeting days and times will be discussed.

If you are an American Legion member and also eligible for SAL, it is acceptable to belong to both organizations. Dual membership is encouraged!

Questions? Call Gary Leach, Post Adjutant, at 724-0324.