



ONE OF POST 77's BEST MEALS OF THE YEAR IS COMING UP ON MARCH 14

In celebration of the American Legion's 96TH birthday in March, Post 77 will hold its annual HAPPY BIRTHDAY, AMERICAN LEGION

Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner on Saturday, March 14, 2015 6:00 p.m.

If you are one of those people who likes good food, don't miss the Post's annual corned beef and cabbage dinner!

Post Commander/Chef Rich West Explains His Special Recipe: "For the Friday, March 14, 6 p.m., Post 77 St. Patrick's Day and American Legion's 95th birthday dinner, to obtain the best taste, we will be using pickling spices over a three-week period for coming of the briskets. No store-bought corned beef. Les Murillo and I will create a brine, submerge the brisket, and turn the brisket every two days in the refrigerator. The sweet cabbage will not be overly cooked. We will also serve red potatoes."

Get your tickets at \$15. for this highly popular corned beef and cabbage dinner by stopping at the Post clubroom or calling (530) 662-9772.

Happy Birthday
American Legion
born march 15-17, 1919.



American Legion Post 77

BINGO Every Tuesday Night

SESSIONS: 4:30PM & 6:30PM

523 BUSH STREET



THE AMERICAN LEGION AMATEUR RADIO CLUB. INTERESTED IN JOINING?

Are you an amateur "Ham" radio operator? Are you interested in Amateur Radio? Well, the American Legion has a group for you. The American Legion has formed a special entity to provide a forum for veterans who are engaged in this hobby that can provide emergency communications "when all else fails." The Legion's National Executive Committee has established The American Legion Amateur Radio Club (TALARC). Talk to other Legionnaire's across the country. You can get more information about TALARC by checking the American Legion TALARC page at legion.org/ham-radio. There you will find information about TALARC, the monthly nets (radio check-ins), computer check-in, Ham radio events, and more.

If you are not currently licensed, but are interested in obtaining a license, the Yolo Amateur Radios Society (YARS) conducts classes and licensing. You can obtain information from their site at yars.org. or check out the Yolo Amateur Radio Emergency Services (Yolo ARES) page at yoloares.org. Contact me if you have any questions at Cameron.Daniel@Wavecable.com.

Dan Cameron

STILL SERVING



2014 -2015
Legion Officers

- Richard West, Commander
- Kevin Phelps, 1st Vice Commander
- Juan Hernandez, 2nd Vice Commander
- Gary Leach, Adjutant
- Ted Mar, Immediate Past Commander
- Corbin Smith, Finance Officer & Assistant Adjutant
- Steve Waldeck, Treasurer
- Vince Olvera, Sergeant-at-Arms
- Ted Hillyer, Chaplain
- Billy Wagster, Service Officer
- Frank Eakle, Athletic Committee Chair
- Larry Schapiro, Historian, Newsletter
- Jim Webber, Executive Committee
- Frank Lucchesi, Executive Committee

EVENT CALENDARS

AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS CHAPTER 77

Officers:

Kevin Phelps, President
 Dan Neubauer, Vice President
 Kathy Neubauer, Adjutant
 Dan Neubauer, Chaplain
 Tony Spencer, Sergeant-at-Arms
 Tony Spencer, Road Captain
 Gary Melm, Safety Officer

MEETINGS AND EVENTS

JAN 3 9 AM Membership meeting
 FEB 7 9 AM Membership meeting
 MAR 7 9 AM Membership meeting

For information about motorcycling with the Post Riders, call Kevin Phelps, (530) 908-6403.

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

JAN 14 7 PM Membership meeting
 FEB 11 7 PM Membership meeting
 FEB 27 6 PM Tex-Mex dinner and dancing, \$20.
 (Tickets purchased after Feb. 20 will be \$25.)
 Proceeds will go for scholarships.

MAR 11 7 PM Membership meeting
 Carl Prutch, Commander, tel. 669-7975; Gary Leach, Adjutant.
 SAL meetings are held at Post 77 on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m.

AUXILIARY

Officers:

Maria Lopez – President • Silvia Hillyer – Vice President
 Arlene Sandoval – Secretary / Treasurer • Mary Cogburn – Chaplain / Historian
 Jackie Huff – Member of the Executive Committee

JAN 8 6:30 PM Executive meeting
 7:00 PM General meeting
 FEB 5 6:30 PM Executive meeting
 7:00 PM General meeting
 MAR 5 6:30 PM Executive meeting
 7:00 PM General meeting

For information about the American Legion Auxiliary, contact Maria Lopez at (530) 908-4087

WISE WORDS FROM JOHN HOEVEN

From the world wars of Europe to the jungles of the Far East, from the deserts of the Middle East to the African continent, and even here in our own hemisphere, our veterans have made the world a better place and America the great country we are today.

DECEMBER 2014

DEC 31 8 PM POST NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY WITH 1950'S BAND, HORS D'OEUVRES, CHAMPAGNE, GAMES, PARTY FAVORS, \$20

JANUARY 2015

JAN 8 6:30 PM VETERANS COALITION MEETING, VETERANS CENTER, DAVIS
 JAN 9 6 PM JEFF YOUNGMARK'S RIB KRAUTER DINNER (ONLY 100 DINNER TICKETS TO BE SOLD.)
 JAN 16 6 PM DINNER: ENCHILADA WITH RICE AND BEANS, TRES LECHE CAKE, \$12
 JAN. 21 7 PM EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
 JAN 24 7 PM ANNUAL ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT CRAB AND SHRIMP DINNER TO BENEFIT POST 77 BASEBALL (5:30 P.M. DOORS OPEN FOR NO-HOST BAR), \$40.
 JAN 28 7 PM MEMBERSHIP MEETING

FEBRUARY 2015

FEB 1 2:30 PM SEAN MILLER'S ANNUAL SUPER BOWL WATCHING AND POTLUCK AT THE POST, NO CHARGE
 FEB 5 6:30 PM VETERANS COALITION MEETING, VETERANS CENTER, DAVIS
 FEB 7 6 PM EVERYONE IS INVITED TO THE PAST COMMANDERS' DINNER, \$12.
 FEB 13 6 PM VALENTINE'S DAY STEAK DINNER, \$12
 FEB 16 6:15 AM MEET AT THE POST TO PUT UP FLAGS ON MAIN ST. FOR PRESIDENTS' DAY
 4 PM PICK UP FLAGS FROM MAIN ST.
 FEB 18 7 PM EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
 FEB 25 7 PM MEMBERSHIP MEETING

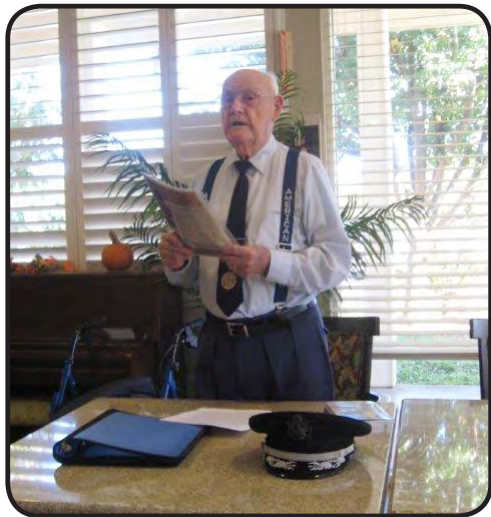
MARCH 2015

MAR 4 9 AM MEMBERS WHO SERVED IN A COMBAT ZONE WANTED FOR THE ANNUAL STUDENTS' INTERVIEW VETERANS PROGRAM AT WOODLAND HIGH SCHOOL
 MAR 5 6:30 PM VETERANS COALITION MEETING, VETERANS CENTER, DAVIS
 7:30 PM POST 77 PEACE OFFICERS OF THE YEAR AWARDS
 MAR 14 6 PM ANNUAL ST. PATRICK'S DAY CORNED BEEF AND CABBAGE DINNER, \$15.
 MAR 18 7 PM EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
 MAR 25 7 PM MEMBERSHIP MEETING

APRIL 2015

APRIL 2 7:30 PM POST 77 FIREFIGHTERS OF THE YEAR AWARDS

POST DOES MINI VETERANS DAY PROGRAMS AT CARE FACILITIES.



Representing Post 77, the flamboyant Past Commander Ed Trautt speaks to dozens of residents at the Californian Assisted Living home about the meaning of Veterans Day.

For those who were unable to attend the Post's annual Veterans Day program at the Woodland Courthouse, Post members fanned out across Woodland to bring the celebration of Veterans Day to shut-ins. Ed Trautt began the series of programs the day prior to Veterans Day at the Californian with his well-crafted speech, followed by the singing of patriotic songs.

On Nov. 11, Post 77 members performed a Veterans Day ceremony at Alderson Convalescent Hospital, including the National Anthem, a color guard, the Pledge of Allegiance and speeches. Don Campbell and Katy Marshall were the Post 77 color guard. Speaking were Vince Olvera, Katey Marshall and Carl Desendorf.

Post Executive Committee members Frank Lucchesi and Jim Webber made a return Veterans Day performance for the second year at St. John's Retirement Village. Jim and Frank presented Certificates of Appreciation for military service to all the veterans living at St. John's.

The Palm Gardens Assisted Living home had a large contingent of Post 77 members, Delbert Giese, Dan Cameron, Auxiliary Vice President Silvia Hillyer and Ted Hillyer. Delbert Geise spoke about Veterans Day and led the residents in the Pledge of Allegiance. Silvia Hillyer gave the opening prayer, followed by Ted Hillyer's presentation about how veterans

and their families should be appreciated for all their sacrifices. Ted convincingly explained that "Veterans Day is every day, as our brave men and women work to preserve our way of life 365 days a year." Next, the Post members visited Palm Gardens' "memory unit," where they conducted another ceremony, including for four World War II veterans. The Post 77 team got thanks galore from the residents, which in itself made it all worth it.

Post 77, an organization of veterans, does not forget veterans anywhere.



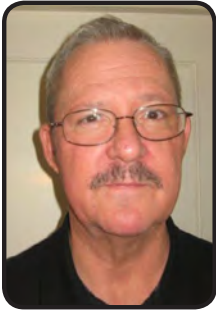
The keynote speaker for this year's Post 77 Veterans Day program was American Legion and VFW member Antonio Hernandez. He served three tours of duty in Iraq and is a Purple Heart recipient. Also participating in the program were Juan Hernandez, Joe Casillas, Bill Hollingshead, Ted Hillyer, and the Post 77 Rifle Squad. Second Vice Commander Juan Hernandez spoke about a veteran's view of Veterans Day: "Veterans Day provides a reminder of the nation's appreciation for those who have served in uniform. For almost 240 years, veterans have underwritten our freedom by their duty, honor and selfless service with little recognition or fanfare. As veterans we know what it is like to be standing watch far from our loved ones. We know the horror and inhumanity of combat. Thus we understand the devotion of those currently in the Armed Forces and that gives us all strength."

WARREN MEYER'S HISTORY OF OLD SAYINGS ORIGINATING FROM THE MILITARY

"The Whole Nine Yards." American fighter planes in World War II had machine guns that were fed by a belt of cartridges. The average plane held belts that were 27 feet (9 yards) long. If the pilot used up all his ammo he was said to have given it the whole nine yards.

"Buying the Farm." This is synonymous with dying. During World War I soldiers were given life insurance policies worth \$5,000. This was about the price of an average farm. So if a soldier died he "bought the farm" for his survivors.

FROM THE COMMANDER



Comrades, as 2014 comes to an end, I ask that we reflect upon the many activities and achievements by Post 77 over the past year and take the time to acknowledge our members, thanking them for their service. Each doing what they are able, together we remain strong.

Congratulations to Jim Webber who has received the Bob Dahl Legionnaire of the Year Award for his unending work and support of our Post. Jim served our Country as an Electronic Supply Specialist in the Army and has been a loyal Post 77 member for 35 years.

Continuing in the tradition of our Post, we continue to remain faithful to our Veterans and their programs. We can be proud that we have 4 members serving on the District level and 1 member who represents us at the State level.

Our Post has a voice! We extend an open invitation to each of you to attend our monthly Post meeting every 4th Wednesday at 1900 hours.

We are off to a busy start in 2015.

Our annual Crab Feed is scheduled for January 24th. Buy your tickets early as this event is very popular and is a major fundraiser to support American Legion Baseball.

The kitchen remodel is ongoing with completion targeted for this year. Support the Friday night dinners which help our Post raise funds toward these projects.

Tuesdays at the Post are active. Have you tried Bingo yet? We have hot dogs and hamburgers for sale and you will find Sharon busy paying out on Pull Tab wins!

I wish each of you blessings for good health and happiness in 2015. It is the love for this Country that provides a common bond and mutual respect for one another. Our thoughts turn gratefully to those who have made our freedoms possible, and, in this spirit, I sincerely thank you.

*Richard L. West
Commander, Yolo Post 77*



Post 77 members met with National American Legion Commander Mike Helms at the Fair Oaks Post 383 hall on December 12. Gathered around Commander Helm are (l. to r.) Gary Leach who

is serving this year as Alternate National Executive Committeeman, Vince Olvera, Post 77 Commander Rich West, District 6 Commander Al Castillo, Les Murillo and Ted Hillyer. Hailing from Norcatur, Kansas, the Commander served with the 82nd Airborne Division during the Vietnam War.

MISCELLANEOUS GOINGS-ON

Post member Carl Desendorf has been a leader and hard worker at the Post for decades. He unexpectedly died on Dec. 4. He was one of the nicest people around. I and so many others will miss him.... Just what we thought. Post 77 members going to the Sacramento Airport welcoming back members of the Armed Forces from Afghanistan is meaningful and appreciated. The mother of Army Specialist Micah Garley wrote us: "Thank you all so much for honoring our son. We can never express to you how much it meant to us all."... After the Dec. 4 City of Woodland Christmas tree lighting, the Post Auxiliary continued the spirit of Christmas going by providing hot chocolate, coffee and cookies to attendees.... With the Feb. 8 meeting of all the American Legion baseball team representatives in Area I, the work of the Post 77 Athletic Committee begins anew. We have a fine representation on the committee: Frank Eakle as chair, Val Mata, Doyle Gasperson, Steve Hedington, Frank Lucchesi, John Schaller, Jim Webber, Ron Hernandez and yours truly, Vince Olvera. The Post will be starting off with a Memorial Day tournament to be held at Pioneer High School. Wish the Post team luck for the upcoming season.... The Post hall was one of the locations for Toys for Tots collection. Post members came through with toys for needy children in this annual Marine Corps League project.... Four of five Woodland City Council members attended the Post's Veterans Day program: Mayor Tom Stallard, Vice Mayor Bill Marble (a member of Post 77), Jim Hilliard and Sean Denny.... The son of deceased Post 77 member Carl Salonites, Robert, wrote: "On behalf of the Carl Salonites family, I wish to sincerely thank American Legion Yolo Post 77 for providing the Honor Guard Rifle Salute at my father's burial at the Capay Cemetery."... American Legion Post 77 and Woodland High School are seeking veterans who served in a war zone to be interviewed by the students of the Woodland High School junior class on the morning of March 4. Each veteran participating will meet with three to four students who ask about the veteran's war-time experiences and the impact of the war upon members of the Armed Forces and citizens of the country where the war was waged. Please call Larry Schapiro at 304-6099 with questions or to sign up. I have gone each year and it is a great experience.... I hope you were able to make it to the Post Veterans' Day program. It was quite good. This year, the Yolo Community Band and the Douglass Middle School Choir sang and played together, as well as separately. An additional tribute to MIAs and POWs was added. Antonio Hernandez gave a fine speech from the perspective of those who served in Iraq and Afghanistan. All in all, it was a moving experience.... Don Harper, Chair of the California American Legion Legislative Committee sent us a note about the annual meeting in Sacramento with State legislators to discuss proposed veteran-related legislation. "The Legion Legislative Day is now confirmed. It will be Wednesday April 29, 2015 at the State Capitol. We are looking for a robust turnout this year."... Sean Miller is again organizing this year's Super Bowl party, Feb. 1. It is a pot luck. So, bring some food and come on over.... The Post has donated \$200 to buy wreaths that were placed on each veterans' gravesite at the U.S. cemetery in Dixon.... This year the Post again helped out the Woodland Holiday Parade by providing tables and chairs.

*Vince Olvera
Sergeant-at-Arms*

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF WORLD WAR I

This third in a series of articles continues to follow Woodland's Company F and others from Yolo County who served overseas in World War I. When members of Woodland's Company F, 2nd Regiment of the California Infantry returned from service in World War I, they helped form American Legion, Yolo Post 77 in 1919. To house Post 77, in 1922, the members purchased the Armory where Company F had trained before the war.

"Many of the F Company boys are being trained for machine gun work," the Woodland Daily Democrat reported on Dec. 4, 1917. (Dates that follow are from Daily Democrat articles unless otherwise noted.) Others from Yolo County who enlisted began to be sent to Europe in increasing numbers and they did well. Howard Dalghen, gun-pointer on the Cruiser Huntington, "was credited with the shot which sank a German undersea craft." (Dec. 10, 1917.)

Herbert Hope received the French Croix de Guerre war cross for acts of exceptional bravery. But what Hope had on his mind was that "our barracks are so cold we can't sleep, but wake up about 2:30 a.m. so stiff with cold that it's painful to move. During the day it thaws and we have mud. We stand in it, wash in it, sleep in it, and very often eat it." (Jan. 2, 1918.) Conditions were similar all over France. "I did know how many days had elapsed since I had a bath, but after keeping count for five weeks I gave up." (Sgt. H. G. Armstrong, Feb. 20, 1918.) In a letter, J.G. Morris explained another concern which if remedied would speed victory. "We can't win the war without candy." (March 28, 1918.)

Home sickness was prevalent. "It seems as though I have been gone ten years," wrote Russell Lowe of Woodland from France. (Jan. 4, 1918.) Also in France, Philip Smith expressed his feelings: "I would give two months' pay to just get one letter from you, just to hear all the news, what is happening and what did happen around Christmas time." (March 8, 1918.) Just behind the "firing line" in France, Woodlander George Zane, Jr. found a cluster of violets growing; he sent them home to his mother "so that she would know that even in the heart of the fray a bit of brightness came once in awhile." (June 1, 1918.)

Despite all the day-to-day hardship, Yolo County servicemen were enthusiastic in the fight to beat Germany. Meredith Gregory in a letter to his mother embodies that sentiment: "The people here have put up a wonderful fight and I am thankful that I am able to be here helping them with whatever I can." "Tell all my friends that I'm not coming back till we've caught and licked the Kaiser." (Clarence Fissell, June 6, 1918.) Yolo County women also showed their support for the war effort. The Red Cross in Woodland noted that "practically all of the nurses in this county have gone in the service." (Mail of Woodland, June 9, 1918.)

The fighting in France was intense. M.T. Menzies told of fighting the enemy with bayonets; "I was buried under about six inches of dirt one night by a bomb." (Sept. 13, 1918.) "At the front Fred Dieudonne succumbed after the explosion of a gas shell in his vicinity." (Sept. 17, 1918.) Dieudonne explained that "For one week after being gassed, I could not talk" and still "occasionally" my throat chokes up." (Mail of Woodland, Sept. 17, 1918).

*Larry Schapiro
Post Historian*

NEW LEGION MEMBER, AIRMAN MICHAEL PARKER, HAS HISTORICAL CONNECTIONS WITH POST 77

We wanted Airman First Class Michael Parker is very much enjoying his service in the Air Force. With his recent membership in the American Legion, he carries on the legacy of his grandfather, Post 77 Past Commander Richard Henigan (1984-85), and grandmother, JoAnne Henigan, 1986-1987 Auxiliary president. Post 77 selected Michael in 2010 to attend Boys State from Esparto High School. He told us back then "Boys State is an amazing program. I learned a lot. I felt it really changed my life." Michael still keeps in touch with some of the other attendees he met at Boys State. In a long shot, his best friend from Esparto ended up working at the same base where Airman Parker is now stationed.



Michael joined the Air Force in June 2013, after studying mechanical engineering at the University of Hawaii. He works as a Sensor operator, gathering intelligence and targeting with cameras and weapons on unmanned planes.

Thank you Airman First Class Michael Parker for protecting America.

MORE HONORS FOR VETS WHO SERVED IN KOREA DURING THE WAR, REPORTS THE CALIFORNIA AMERICAN LEGION

The government of South Korea is seeking to locate American veterans who served in Korea during the Korean War, June 25, 1950 to July 27, 1953 and those who participated in the United Nations peace-keeping operations until the end of 1955. This includes Navy service in a ship assigned in the Korean waters any time from 1950 to 1953, and nurses and those who held clerical and administrative positions in Korea.

South Korea wishes to present to those who fall into any of these categories the country's Ambassador for Peace Medal. "This is an appreciation in the form of the Korean Ambassador for Peace Medal from the Republic of South Korea for the sacrifices, service and friendship of our American service men and women who served in the Korean War," explains the Ambassador.

To obtain this medal contact the South Korea Consulate, 3500 Clay Street, San Francisco 94118, (415) 921-5946. Only a copy of your DD 214 is needed. Veterans will not have to sign anything to be awarded this medal. For deceased veterans, the next of kin may apply for the medal on behalf of the veteran.

You earned it. You should apply for the medal.

FROM THE LEGION RIDERS PRESIDENT

The American Legion Riders Chapter 77 has been steadily busy with poker runs and charity events the past few months. Several of us took part in Toys for Tots hosted by Roadrunners of Woodland and The Marine Corps League. Over 500 toys were collected this year. We also participated in a poker run hosted by Buckhorn Bar in Dixon. All of the proceeds went to Wreaths Across America to place wreaths at the Sacramento Valley National Cemetery in Dixon.

We recently held our elections for officers and have a change in guard. Kevin Phelps is the new President, Dan Neubauer will serve as Vice President, Kathy Neubauer is the Adjutant, and Tony Spencer the Sergeant at Arms. Congratulations to you all.

Also, welcome our newest members to our group: Roy and Chris Jones, Fred Ryner, and Carolyn Garret.

As always, if you or anybody you know who has a motorcycle (350cc or larger) and is eligible to be a Legionnaire, Sons of the Legion member, or Auxiliary member, come on out and join one of the finest groups around.

*Kevin Phelps - President
American Legion Riders Chapter 77*



From the book "The Rainy Season" by Tucker Elliot

"My dad once told me that his biggest challenge after returning from Vietnam had been coming to terms with his own callousness. He'd made a deal with the war and traded his humanity for a ticket home."

NEW STATE LAW CAN GET VETERAN'S MISDEMEANOR CHARGE DISMISSED

If a veteran or a current member of the military is suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder, substance abuse, or mental health problems "as a result of his or her military service," the person's misdemeanor can be diverted to services for treatment. After successful completion of the treatment program, the arrest "shall be deemed to have never occurred. The defendant may indicate in response to a question concerning his or her prior criminal record that he or she was not arrested..." (Penal Code section 1001.80.)

POST 77 ESSAY CONTESTANTS LET US KNOW WE ARE APPRECIATED

Post 77 held its annual essay contest in November. This year's topic was "Why is Veterans Day Important?" The students gave veterans great accolades in their writings. The following are parts of the winning essays.

The first place winner was Samantha Baker of Woodland High School. She wrote: "Veterans Day is special. A day where every veteran should hold their head high and never look down, for they know what a great cause they supported for this country. The true soldier fights not because of the hatred in front of him, but the love that is behind him. You gave up the time, dedication, hard work and it pays off with everything you have done for this country and America is beholden to you. We are thankful for your commitment."

Second place winner Sophie Salazar praised veterans for "their belief in something greater than themselves. Veterans should be proud of themselves for keeping our flag free and secure. May God bless America and the men and women who served in uniform."

Third place winner Devon Supriano reminded us that "From the American Revolution to our current war overseas, there were brave Americans fighting for us. We cannot thank them enough. They are heroes. What they have given for us, we can never give back. We can only show our thanks and appreciate their sacrifices. These men and women are the reason why we are free, and why we enjoy the freedoms we have."

Honorable mention went to Jennifer Saldana. "We should not thank veterans just one day. We should be thankful every day, especially to those who have lost their lives for us."

"We can thank veterans by flying an American flag, sending care packages, or doing anything to help them. Veterans Day is important because we need to thank our veterans, celebrate our freedom and show our appreciation," wrote Julia Jamison.

Kendall Kiesz was enthusiastic about the celebration of Veterans Day. "This day is important because it focuses on our love for our country, how veterans served for the common good, and the patriotism our veterans showed. They stood by our country no matter what and endured harsh conditions to keep us safe. When people ask why is Veterans Day important, I will look at them, smile and say because they fought for what is right."

Isn't it nice to know you are appreciated?

POST EVERLASTING

**CARL DESENDORF
ELDEE WIRTH**

"Farewell, My Comrades."



Santa joins the Post 77 Honor Guard in opening ceremonies for the 2014 Toys for Tots campaign, Post 77 members also donated toys. From left to right are Don Campbell, Frank Lucchesi, Gary Leach, Vince Olvera and Santa Claus.



Jim Webber is presented the Post 77 Legionnaire of the Year award by last year's recipient, Frank Lucchesi.



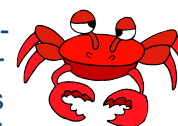
The Post 77 Color Guard and Post Chaplain Ted Hillyer opened the Yolo County Historical Society Oct. 2014 Cemetery Tour program. The program presented vignettes of Yolo County veterans' experiences in wars since the Mexican War of 1846. Included were the stories of two former Post 77 members, Margaret Nicholson and George Nakamura. Post 77 member Steve Venables played a World War I soldier buried in the Woodland Cemetery by telling the soldier's story. Member Larry Schapiro helped write some of the vignettes of World War I and World War II veterans.



Vince Olvera helped out at the Oct. 14-16 North Bay Stand Down for homeless vets. Here he is preparing to apply a dressing on a wound of one of the veterans. Any veteran can volunteer to help. Hundreds of homeless and underserved veterans come to the Stand Down each year in Dixon to get clothing, glasses, food, dental and medical care, and more. Vince also administered flu shots.

**LET'S KEEP THE POST 77
BASEBALL TRADITION GOING.
ATTEND OUR JANUARY 24
CRAB AND SHRIMP
FUNDRAISING DINNER**

Post 77 is holding its annual all-you-can-eat shrimp and crab dinner on Saturday, January 24 to raise funds to continue the Post's American Legion Baseball team and assist the American Legion Junior Baseball team in Davis of youth age 16 and under. The Post 77 baseball squad plays against teams throughout northern California, including many other Legion teams.



The crab and shrimp feed dinner is a fun event to be with friends and enjoy tasty seafood, while helping Yolo County students. Frank Eakle, Post 77 Athletic Committee chair, notes that the all-you-can-eat dinner will have plenty of good food, including crab, shrimp, salad, wine, seafood sauce, melted butter, and garlic bread. "The crab and shrimp will keep on coming," Eakle explains. "But without this dinner doing well, Post 77 will be unable to continue its support for summer youth baseball in Yolo County, including help to the Woodland High, Pioneer and Davis High summer baseball programs.

A ticket for this January 24 dinner at Waite Hall, Yolo County Fairgrounds, is \$40, and can be purchased at the Post 77 hall or by calling the Post at 662-9772.

Looking forward to seeing you there.



Auxiliary members participated in the Dec. 2014 Woodland Holiday Parade. Riding along in Santa's big toy wagon are Jackie Huff (left), Mary Cogburn, Bonnie Murillo and Auxiliary President Maria Lopez. Auxiliary marchers included Mary Lavorico, Arlene Sandoval and Silvia Hillyer. The Post 77 Color Guard led the parade for the 50th year in a row. Members of the Post Riders Chapter 77 were out in full force revving up their motorcycles.

NOTES FROM THE AUXILIARY PRESIDENT

We wanted to be dashing through the snow in a one horse open sleigh as part of the Auxiliary's participation in this year's City of Woodland Holiday Parade. As there was no snow in Woodland on the Dec. 6 parade day, you can see from the above photo we were as close to being in a sleigh as we could. But we got to do the "laughing all the way" part, as we rode and waived our way past ten of thousands. It was quite an experience.

Thank you Auxiliary members for your membership renewal. For those who have not yet sent in your membership, please do so.

Your membership supports veterans' programs, local student scholarships, sending young ladies to Girls State, community luncheons for Memorial and Veterans days, help for veterans at the Yountville Veterans Home, and more.

One of the "more" is cookies. On December 5, we participated in another community service, providing hot chocolate, coffee, and cookies to those attending the City of Woodland annual Christmas tree lighting ceremony.

Thanks to all for your help during 2014. As you know, we were very busy this year, volunteering, donating, helping veterans, and participating in various programs. I know many of you also donate to our veterans. If you do, please let me know at tel. no. 908-4087, so we can add it to our annual report to the Department of California Auxiliary.

Should you have ideas for additional activities, programs, or help for those in need in 2015, please let me know.

Maria A. Lopez - Auxiliary Unit 77, President

COMBAT STRESS PERSISTS LONG AFTER VIETNAM, STUDY FINDS

Most veterans who had persistent post-traumatic stress a decade or more after serving in the Vietnam War have shown surprisingly little improvement since then, and a large percentage have died, a new study finds. The study, financed by the Department of Veterans Affairs, confirms that the vast majority of veterans learn to cope with them. Yet most of those who do not – 11 percent, in the Vietnam sample – could live with traumatic stress for the remainder of their lives. More than 18 percent of those with PTSD had died by retirement age, about twice the percentage of those without the disorder. Veterans who enlisted before graduating from high school were at especially high risk of developing chronic PTSD, as were those involved in intimate, close-combat killing. (New York Times, August 7, 2014.)