



COMMANDER'S COMMENTS

Thank You to members and Post 77 Legion Riders who participated in the Winters Youth Day Parade. This was the 71st year that Yolo Post 77 was part of the parade. Our Post Firing Squad will help in the unveiling of a monument for Fallen Law Enforcement Officers at the County Court House, May 11 at 10AM. Election of new Post Officers will take place at our May membership meeting. Yolo Post 77 Memorial Day Ceremony will be at 11AM on May 27 at the Woodland Cemetery; flags will be out on Main St. and at the Cemetery, and lunch at the Post at noon. On June 15th at 6PM we will have a Dinner and Legion Officer Installation Night. Thank you for all who helped me and the Yolo Post 77 during the 2012-2013 year.

*Del Giese,
Commander*



All three of Yolo County's Losoya brothers are long-time members of American Legion Post 77. Here they are at the Post Hall (left to right), Jack, Mel and Romeo. All Navy vets, between them they served on six aircraft carriers, Midway, Yorktown, Boxer, Saipan, Princeton and Coral Sea. The U.S.S. Saipan, launched in 1945, was the smallest of the six carriers upon which the three served. The largest ship in the world from 1945 to 1955, the U.S.S. Midway is now docked in San Diego. Named the U.S.S. Yorktown while under construction to commemorate the Yorktown lost at the Battle of Midway in 1942, the carrier became the fourth in a line of ships bearing that name and earned 11 Battle Stars and a Presidential Unit Citation during World War II. The third ship to be named for the Battle of Coral Sea, this U.S.S. Coral Sea, decommissioned in 1990, was known as the "Ageless Warrior" for her 44 years of service. The U.S.S. Boxer served four combat tours in Korea and was awarded eight Battle Stars. Commissioned in 1945 too late to serve in World War II, the U.S.S. Princeton saw extensive service in the Korean War and the Vietnam War. The Losoyas sure have a lot of American history between them.



Post 77 Color Guard participated in the Winters Youth day Parade. Rumors have it that Jim Webber was able to stay in step due to the large L painted on his left shoe. The color guard was followed by the newly Chartered Chapter 77 of the American Legion Riders. A good time was had by all...



YOLO POST 77 BASEBALL
SEASON IS NEAR!



The Yolo Post 77 American Legion baseball program is about to start another season. This highly successful program is only able to continue with the support of the Post 77 members. Look for the season newsletter and schedule, with the annual raffle tickets in mid May your donations help to keep this program alive. Not only purchase the tickets, but plan to come out and see some of the outstanding baseball this season.

*Frank Eakle
Athletic Committee Chairman*

IN MEMORIAM
FRANCIS "DUFF" DUFFY
B. L. WADE

"Farewell, My Comrades."



Delbert Giese, Commander
 Ted Mar, 1st Vice Commander
 Richard West, 2nd Vice Commander
 Gary Leach, Adjutant
 Albert Castillo, Immediate Past Commander
 Kevin Phelps, Finance Officer & Assistant Adjutant
 Steve Waldeck, Treasurer
 Vince Olvera, Sergeant-at-Arms
 Ted Hillyer, Chaplain
 Billy Wagster, Service Officer
 Frank Eakle, Athletic Committee Chair
 William Allardice, Legislative Advocate
 Jim Webber, Executive Committee
 Frank Lucchesi, Executive Committee

**WANT YOUR MONTHLY POST 77
 NEWSLETTER IN COLOR?**

Each issue of the Post 77 newsletter can be emailed to you rather than mailed through the U. S. Postal Service. The emailed version comes in color. The mailed newsletter is in black and white. If you would like your Post 77 newsletter by email rather than through the mail, send us your name and email address at optout@yolopost77.com

EVENT CALENDARS
**REMINDER: REGULAR MEETING
 NIGHT HAS CHANGED!**

MAY 2013

SAT	MAY 4	LEGION RIDERS 9:00 AM
WED	MAY 15	EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING 7:00 PM
SUN	MAY 26	SMALL FLAGS AT CEMETERY
MON	MAY 27	MEMORIAL DAY
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FLAGS ON MAIN STREET & AVENUE OF FLAGS MEMORIAL DAY • CEREMONY AT CEMETERY 11:00 AM • LUNCHEON 12:00 PM
WED	MAY 29	REGULAR MEETING (ELECTION OF OFFICERS) 7:00 PM

JUNE 2013

SAT	JUN 1	LEGION RIDERS 10 AM
MON	JUN 14	FLAG DAY- FLAGS ON MAIN STREET
WED	JUN 12	EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING 7:00 PM
SAT	JUN 15	INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS AND DINNER 6-8 PM
WED	JUN 19	REGULAR MEETING 7:00 PM
	JUN 26-30	DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA CONVENTION

JULY 2013

THURS	JULY 4	INDEPENDENCE DAY-FLAGS ON MAIN STREET
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Please Check our website for updates to our Calendar
www.yolopost77.com

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION



May 8	7:00 p.m.	Sons Membership meeting
June 7	6:00 p.m.	Hawaiian Luau dinner & band \$15
June 12	7:00 p.m.	Sons Membership meeting
July 10	7:00 p.m.	Sons 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 • Arlene Sandoval – Secretary
 Donna Graham – Treasurer • Mary Cogburn – Chaplain
 Maria Hernandez – Sergeant at Arms • Connie Zenger - Historian

Membership Meeting 1st Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m.
 Executive Committee Meeting 3rd Tuesday of each month 6:00 p.m.

For Information on the American Legion Auxiliary contact Maria Lopez at (530) 908-4087 or Christine Rogers at (530) 908-5686

NO TEACHING CREDENTIALS, BUT POST MEMBERS TEACH STUDENTS MORE THAN A THING OR TWO

Woodland High School has extended a big thank you to all the Post 77 members who participated on March 27 in the sixth annual “Veterans Come to Woodland High School” program. Post 77 was again in charge of rounding up the veterans for this worthwhile event. Junior class students, broken up into small groups, asked questions of each veteran about his or her experiences during wartime. Students heard much more than they ever learned from reading their school textbooks about war, responsibility, patriotism and American history. And that’s why Woodland High School invites you veterans in for this.

The Post 77 old-timers who participated included veterans of who served during World War II, Korean War, Vietnam, the Cuban Missile Crisis, and Granada. In addition, members the younger generation who have stepped forward to serve the United States at war participated in this event. One was Post 77 member and former Army Staff Sergeant Laura McWade, who was stationed in Tikrit, Iraq during 2003 and again in 2006. “I’ve seen a lot of death. That’s hard to forget. But if I had to do it all over again, I still would want to have served in the Army. I learned discipline, confidence and, importantly, who I am and that I can handle most anything.” Woodland High School students asked the veterans what it was like upon their return to the United States. Sgt. McWade remembers that wherever she traveled in Iraq, it was necessary to look for bombs. “The bombs were hidden in debris on roads and on sides of the roads. When she first returned to Woodland, “I would break out in sweat on our roads and the freeways, especially when seeing a cup, can or other litter, as we had been taught in Iraq to always be on the lookout for roadside bombs. When we came back, there was lots of support and help. Now what is happening is that employers are questioning whether they want to hire an Iraq or Afghan vet because they feel those vets might freak out.”



Post 77 members (left to right) Jack Newman, a helicopter pilot in the Vietnam War, John Davis who commanded a Swift Boat on the rivers of Vietnam, and Joe Casillas, veteran of the World War II invasion of Okinawa, sign in at Woodland High School prior to telling of their war experiences to high school juniors. And they had stories to tell.

The students learned a lot about the United States’ surge war effort in Iraq during Post 77 member Randy Kilmartin’s time there in 2006-07. Kilmartin’s unit, with accompanying Iraqi forces, would surround villages so that no one could get out while they looked for terrorists. “I was about 30 miles from the border with Syria, where a lot of terrorists were crossing the border into Iraq. Informants would sometimes tell us who wasn’t from the village we were in and whether they were bad guys. But sometimes an informant was trying to get another family that they did not like in trouble.” On the other side, Army Lt. Col. Kilmartin noted, “terrorists were paying villagers to plant roadside bombs. Sometimes that was the only way for men to earn money for their families. Having what they considered a job was face saving.” “Serving in Iraq put life in perspective. You are happy to come back alive. I appreciate life more.”

What did the veterans think of Woodland High’s junior class students? World War II combat soldier Herb Chandler, long-time American Legion member and a regular at these annual programs explained, “The students were the best bunch I ever had. They asked a million questions.”

Some of the other Post 77 members who answered the call to participate were Buzz Walden, Larry Vogelesang, Evelyn Dahl, Dan Parish, William Blanton, Russ Osborn, Jack Newman, Michael Bailey, Al Martin, Romeo

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Losoya, Dan Kindelt, Bill Hunter, Vince Guerrero, Carl Desendorf, John Davis, Tom Charters, Gary Leach, Vince Olvera, and Joe Casillas.

Teacher Erica Chung, co-founder of the vet program at Woodland High School, along with history teacher Mike Owens, has observed the students and spoken with them about the program each year. She explained: "It is a joy to see the excitement on students' faces as they tell us about their interviews. It's an experience that impacts our students' lives and brings them a better understanding of things they learn about in history. Many former students reminisce about their own experience in the veteran interviews and it is an experience that they say they will never forget." Mike Owens found a benefit for everyone who participated. "The students learned and the vets enjoyed speaking with the students. You might say they all had a good educational experience."



Students are fixed on every word by Post 77 member Dave Newman, as he tells the real story of the Vietnam War, of boots on the ground, serving bravely and what men did to survive.

Post 77 held its Annual Firefighter and Law Enforcement recognition nights. Both events were standing room only as the best of Yolo County's Firefighters and Law Enforcement Officers were recognized by their respective departments. Each department's Chief's presented the awards and summarized each recipient's accomplishments. We would like to congratulate each recipient and look forward to next year's events.



Law Enforcement Officer of the year recipients for 2013



Firefighter of the year recipients for 2013



All the police chiefs in Yolo County, the District Attorney and the Sheriff are led in prayer by Post Chaplain Ted Hillyer at this year's Peace Officer of the Year awards. That can only be good.

AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS CORNER



Newly Formed Chapter 77 President Ted Mar recently presented Yolo Post 77 Commander Del Giese with the Chapter 77 Charter. It was received at the annual American Legion Riders Convention in Sutter Creek California. Below is Vice President Brian Hopper is sporting the official headwear of the ALR. To this he says "Oui Oui"



7TH ANNUAL ALR DOC CONVENTION

The 7th annual ALR DOC Convention was held in Amador County at American Legion Post 108 on April 12-14. Attending members were President Ted Mar, Vice President Brian Hopper, Adjutant/Treasurer Al Castillo, and Historian Kevin Phelps. Ted and Al rode up on the 12th to register us for the convention while the rest of us had to work. Saturday, the four of us met at Denny's on Sunrise and Hwy 50 and rode in sporting our newly claimed Chapter 77 status. The ride up was perfect and without incident. The meeting lasted most of the day and included a lunch/ride to Plymouth. We elected to stick around Post 108 and scope out the facility. Post 108's facility is top notch. They have a memorial wall honoring the fallen soldiers from WW1 to present and a gazebo so that you can sit and relax and enjoy the view of the valley. Also, they have a memorial library showcasing uniforms from the past, old sea rations, weapons, etc...as the meeting resumed, Officers were elected for each district and other policy changes were brought to the floor for discussion. Other items of interest included increased membership for AL and ALR, taking care of our own, and making the VA accountable for their actions. Special guests that attended were AL Dept of CA Commander Ken Kramlich, AL Dept of CA National Exec Committeeman Alan Lennox, AL Dept of CA Sgt-at-Arms Anthony Guerrero, and SAL Vice Commander Area 3 Philip (Tiny) Stuart. Each spoke briefly on topics such as policy and membership. All-in-all, good times were had by everybody, new friends were made, and the camaraderie amongst the group was priceless. Next year the event will be held in Solano County AL Post 208 Dixon, CA. Our plan is to have everyone ride to the event.

Kevin Phelps





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

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



**PULL OUT YOUR
 HAWAIIAN
 SHIRTS
 IT'S LUAU
 TIME!!! JUNE 7**

Hawaiian dinner and band will bring the tropics right to you. The Post 77 Sons of the Legion good-time event begins with dinner at 6 p.m. and music by the band "Permits Required" at 7:30 pm.

You won't need any 'permit' to attend. Just show up and have fun for only \$15.



Will work for food. Ruben Guerrero helps out at the annual April Happy Birthday American Legion corned beef and cabbage dinner.



After partaking in the main course of the Post 77 Auxiliary's Good Friday Tilapia dinner, Ruben Ramos and Mary Cogburn, past president of the Auxiliary, are first in line for dessert.

TAX BENEFITS FOR TIMES WHEN A VET'S PERCENTAGE OF DISABILITY INCREASES

Disabled Veterans may be eligible to claim a federal tax refund based on an increase in the Veteran's percentage of disability from the Veteran's Administration (which may include a retroactive determination) or the combat-disabled Veteran applying for, and being granted, Combat-Related Special Compensation, after an award for Concurrent Retirement and Disability.

To do so, the disabled Veteran will need to file an amended return, Form 1040X, to correct a previously filed Form 1040, 1040A or 1040EZ. An amended return cannot be e-filed. It must be filed as a paper return. Disabled Veterans should include all documents from the VA and any information received from Defense Finance and Accounting Services explaining proper tax treatment for the current year. Note: It is only in the year of the VA reassessment of disability percentage (including any impacted retroactive year) or the year that the CRSC is initially granted or adjusted that the Veteran may need to file amended returns. If needed, Veterans should seek assistance from a competent tax professional before filing amended returns based on a disability determination. For detailed information, visit: <http://www.irs.gov/Individuals/Military/Special-Tax-Considerations-for-Veterans>.

By Ted Puntillo, Post 77 member and Director of Veteran Services for Solano County.