



**VETERANS ADMINISTRATION  
ANNOUNCES ONLINE CLAIMS  
APPLICATIONS AND INCREASE IN  
AMOUNT PER HOME LOAN**

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) now accepts online applications from veterans, survivors and other claimants filing initial applications for disability compensation, pension, education, and vocational rehabilitation and employment benefits without the additional requirement to submit a signed paper copy of the application. VA will now process applications received through its online application website (VONAPP) without the claimant's signature at <http://www.va.gov/onlineapps.htm>.

The Department of Veterans Affairs has raised the ceiling for veterans on its no-down payment home loans to as much as \$729,000. VA home loans are available for veterans to purchase or construct single-family homes, and to purchase condominiums or cooperative apartments.

*Zeke Plocher, Post 77 Service Officer*

**MEMBERS COME THROUGH AGAIN  
IN FAIR PARKING FUNDRAISER**

A big thanks to those who assisted in Post 77's most important fundraiser of the year. It would be hard for the Post to get through the year without your help with Fair parking.

You parked 7,087 cars in five days! Saturday and Sunday were the busiest days, with almost 2,000 cars a day coming into the Fair's parking lot.

This year's daily parking chairmen were Warren Meyer, Zeke Plocher, Doyle Gasperson, Corbin Smith, Frank Eakle and Dave Isbell.

*Gary Leach, Overall Fair Parking Chair*

**PUT THIS ON YOUR CALENDAR:  
CALIFORNIA AMERICAN LEGION  
COMMANDER TO VISIT POST 77**

Al Lennox, the current American Legion Commander for the Department of California will be visiting Post 77 on November 25th, 7:30 p.m. He is looking forward to speaking with Post 77 members and answering any questions you may have. Please plan to attend.

*Terry Parkhurst, Past Commander*

**THOSE WHO ATTENDED  
BOYS AND GIRLS STATE WILL TELL  
OF THEIR EXPERIENCES AT THE POST'S  
SEPTEMBER 9TH MEETING**

Post 77 and Post 77 Auxiliary sent nine high school students to American Legion Boys and Girls State this summer. You can hear the students, on Sept. 9th, 7:30 p.m. at the Post meeting room, speak about what took place at Boys and Girls State and what the opportunity to attend meant to them.

This year's attendees were: Taryn Cadena, Jessica Sharp and Meghan Hyde to Girls State, and to Boys State Gabriel Rodriguez, Cole Ruiz, Jorge Preciado, Carlos Hernandez, Taylor Brickey and Ben Yordduangjun.

The American Legion conducts Boys State in the belief that young citizens who are familiar with the operation of our system of government will be better prepared to uphold its ideals and maintain it for future generations. Post 77 has participated in Boys State since 1939.

*Mary Cogburn, Girls State Chair and  
Warren Meyer, Boys State Chair*



- 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**

## EVENT CALENDARS

### SEPTEMBER 2008

4th	7:00 p.m.	Yolo County Veterans' Coalition meeting at West Sacramento VFW
6th	8:00 a.m.	Post members provide Honor Guard for Woodland Stroll Through History
9th	7:30 p.m.	Special meeting to hear from students who Post 77 sent to Boys' State
12-14	All day	Assisting homeless veterans at Veterans Stand Down, Camp Pollack
17th	7:00 p.m.	Executive Committee meeting
23rd	7:30 p.m.	Meeting for all members

### OCTOBER 2008

2nd	7:00 p.m.	Yolo County Veterans' Coalition meeting at Post 77
3rd	6:30 p.m.	"Cook your own steak" dinner
4th	10:00 a.m.	Post members provide Honor Guard for Cancer Society Relay for Life
15th	7:00 p.m.	Executive Committee meeting
14-16	All day	Veterans' Stand-Down, Dixon Fairgrounds, Post 77 members assist homeless veterans
21st	7:30 p.m.	Meeting for all members
31st	7:30 p.m.	Halloween party in the Clubroom

### NOVEMBER 2008

11th	11:00 a.m.	Veterans Day Program in front of the Yolo County Courthouse
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## AUXILIARY

### September 2008

2nd	7:00 p.m.	Regular meeting
9th	7:30 p.m.	Come and meet the high school students the Auxiliary sent to Girl's State

### October 2008

7th	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, call Maria Hernandez at 661-2210 or Mary Cogburn at 662-0624.*

## MISCELLANEOUS GOINGS-ON

The California American Legion, with hosting and other assistance from District 5 and our District 6, including the Auxiliaries, puts on a picnic each year for veterans at the Yountville Veterans Home. This year it was on Aug. 3rd. Our own Mary Cogburn was there for four days to help get the picnic ready, including providing some of the food. Also in attendance from Post 77 were Gary Leach and Terry Parkhurst. Terry gamely participated in the pie-eating contest.... Post 77 member Don Plank was seen working all day on Aug. 7th in the Post 77 kitchen preparing pots and pots of tri-tip and chicken for the Aug. 9th annual Yountville Veterans Home BBQ. He then drove the food to the Yountville Veterans Home and spent the day with the veterans. This is but one example of the long history of Don Plank volunteering to assist those disabled veterans. The food was paid for by the good folks of the North Central District of the Elks.... One of the Post's favorite people, Ruthie Saunders, unexpectedly passed away recently. Condolences to her husband, veteran Bob Saunders.... Thanks to those who put up flags on Main Street, Woodland on July 4th and retrieved them that evening: Bill Allardice, Mike Joy, Marty Bernavage, Don Campbell, Gary Leach, Dave Isbell, Corbin Smith, Larry Schapiro, and Vince Olvera.... For the upcoming football season, Post 77 will again be a sponsor of the Woodland Midgets Football Wolves. Post 77 Executive Committee member Ray Redmill will be our liaison with the team. Ray, a soft-hearted guy, has already paid for football cleats for a child who could not otherwise afford them.... Post 77 provided the Honor Guards for both the opening of the Norcal State Babe Ruth Baseball Tournament at Clark Field, Woodland and the July 4th celebration at the Woodland Senior Center.... Thanks for the donations to Post 77 from Carl and Nadine Salonites, Paul Hart and Marie Brannigan. Marie's daughter and husband, Pat, were both Army Sergeants.... On the front page of the American Legion's California Legionnaire newspaper, July-August edition, is a photograph of Post 77 member and Navy AE 3 Michael Leach aboard the aircraft carrier Abraham Lincoln in the Persian Gulf.... Post 77 members who are newly installed officers of American Legion District 6 are: Terry Parkhurst, Commander; Gary Leach, First Vice Commander; Corbin Smith, Executive Committee; Vince Olvera, Sergeant-at-Arms, and Larry Schapiro, Historian. Mary Cogburn of the Post 77 Auxiliary is the new District 6 Auxiliary President.... Opened on the grounds of the Yountville Veterans Home is the Pathway House. The Pathway House is designed to aid those getting out of the service who are having difficulties transitioning back to the community. The Pathway House can be reached at telephone number (707) 948-3031.... A future officer and a gentleman from Yolo County: Spencer Buck, 2008 graduate of Pioneer High School in Woodland, has received an appointment to the United States Air Force Academy by local Congressman Wally Herger. Spencer was an honor student, a Boy Scout and a school athlete. Some of the comments by the selection

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## MISCELLANEOUS GOINGS-ON

*Continued from page 2*

committee made note of Spencer's honesty, motivation, integrity and responsibility. That is certainly what we have seen from the current generation who have chosen to defend their country in its current time of need.... Corbin Smith has been working tirelessly to keep the progress going to finish the upgrading of the Veterans Monument in the Woodland Cemetery. The latest step has been the placement of the granite centerpiece. Next will be lights on the U.S. and Missing In Action flags.... Jeff Monroe of the Yolo County Sheriff's Department and a veteran was the keynote speaker at the recent Yolo County Veterans Coalition dinner. Jeff did a mighty fine job speaking on what is right with our country, invoking patriotism and the greatness of America.... The Veterans' Monument in the Woodland Cemetery, which Post 77 is now upgrading, will have thousands of dollars of bronze on it. The Sacramento Bee has recently reported a large number of thefts of metals from cemeteries. The City of Woodland has told us that theft of metal from the Veterans' Monument will be covered by the City's insurance policy with a \$1,000 deductible.

*Vince Olvera, Sergeant-at-Arms*

***If you would like a ride to monthly Post 77 meetings, please call Larry Schapiro at telephone number 304-6099***

### POST 77 GOLF TOURNAMENT ON SEPTEMBER 14

What better time can there be than playing golf with friends at the Post 77 golf tournament?

Location: Wild Wings Golf Course, Davis

Date: Sunday, September 14

Time: 8:00 a.m.

Four-man Scramble/Blind Bogey format. Green fees and golf cart included. Eighteen holes of golf will be followed by a steak luncheon at the Post 77 hall.

There are prizes and trophies for participants. Also, select a free gift of either a golf shirt or coaches jacket in the color of your choice.



To reserve a spot, call Dave Isbell at  
(530) 219-3174.



U.S. Congressman Wally Herger recently presented special awards at Post 77 to local war heroes in honor of their outstanding service to America. Certificates of Special Congressional Honor were presented to the families of Navy Seal Neil Roberts and Marine Staff Sgt. Jimmy Arroyave, both of Woodland, in commemoration of their lives given in the line of duty in Afghanistan and Iraq, respectively. Congressional Certificates of Honor were also presented to Yolo County World War II veterans and Post 77 members Lt. Col. Ed Hiatt and Sgt. Carl Desendorf for outstanding service in combat. Standing with Congressman Herger (third from the left) are (l. to r.) Ed Hiatt, American Legion First Vice Commander and retired Air Force Colonel Edward Trautt. To Congressman Herger's right are Carl Desendorf and family members of Neil Roberts, mother Jan Roberts, brother Devin Roberts and Neil's sisters, Erin Benedict and Jan McAnnely. Not pictured are the family members of Sgt. Jimmy Arroyave, wife Rachelle and children Vanessa, Natalie and Jimmy, Jr.

### CONGRESSMAN WALLY HERGER HONORS SOME OF POST 77'S WAR HEROES

Congressman Wally Herger, who represents part of Woodland and other areas of Yolo County, came to the Post 77 Hall on August 13th to present Congressional Certificates of Honor to members of Yolo Post 77. The honors went to Carl Desendorf and Ed Hiatt, both of Woodland. Carl fought with Patton's Army as it went through Europe, including being wounded in action. Sgt. Desendorf's unit was often at the point of General Patton's advance, as they were on VE-Day, where they had driven the furthest east in the European conflict, meeting the Russian Army in Austria. Carl spoke to those in attendance at the awards presentation about some of his many harrowing experiences.

Ed Hiatt was a B-29 pilot, including on 35 bombing missions over Japan, missions which averaged 15 hours each. Ed received the Distinguished Flying Cross, seven Air Medals with six Oak Leaf Clusters, and the Asiatic Pacific Campaign Medal with four Battle Stars.

Congressional certificates were also awarded to Navy Seal Neil Roberts, who died in battle on March 5, 2002 and Marine Staff Sgt. Jimmy Arroyave, who served over 10 years in the Marines upon his death in Iraq on April 15, 2004.

*Dave Isbell, Commander*

## POST 77 AUXILIARY

### 1936 APPLIANCE SHOW

It's hard to imagine the huge size of the original Legion Hall which was the original Armory. It had the flexibility of holding auto shows with 16 full-size automobiles. There were USO dances, basketball games and roller skating. The Hall even had second balcony seating. In the back of the Hall, there was a full kitchen and "home cooked" meals could be prepared and served fresh and hot. Around 6:00 p.m., the aroma of fresh brewed coffee filled both Bush Street and the alley that ran beside and behind the hall. Life was good.



### 1941 SCRAP METAL DRIVE

Kids line up at the Porter Theatre on College St., Woodland, stretching south to Main St. This was a typical scrap metal drive in Yolo County, with the gentleman in the suit giving out a free ticket to the Saturday matinee in exchange for a sack of scrap. This was one of the first recycling programs, though in this case it was to build a plane, gun, or tank to win WW II. The Homefront also did its part through rationing of coffee, sugar, butter, meat, eggs, shoes, rubber and gasoline. Few civilian cars were built from 1942 to 1945 during the war.



### 1946 NEW LEGIONARIES

Again, showing the size and versatility of the old Legion Hall, the 1946 new Post 77 members are shown at a sit-down banquet. The sign on the back wall reads:

TO "OUR BOYS" AND "OUR GIRLS" OF  
EVERY ARM AND BRANCH OF THE SERVICE  
... ARMY-NAVY-MARINE CORPS WELL DONE!

WELCOME HOME!

YOLO POST #77 AMERICAN LEGION.

The sign on the side balcony reads:

THIS BUILDING IS "HOME BASE" OF  
HEADQUARTERS CO. 184TH INFANTRY ...  
KISKA - KWAJALIN - LEYTE - OKINAWA.

*Photographs by Legionnaire Paul W. Hollingshead (1896 - 1974).*

*Photos, research and captions are courtesy of Bill Hollingshead - Member of Yolo Post 77.*

## YOLO POST 77 SALUTED IN THE HOLLINGSHEAD HISTORICAL PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBIT AT THE 2008 YOLO COUNTY FAIR

Legionnaire Bill Hollingshead displayed over 70 photographs taken by his father, Paul W. Hollingshead at a special exhibit at the Yolo County Fair. Bill said, "Dad, who passed away in 1974, was a proud lifetime American Legion member, joining in San Leandro and transferring to Yolo Post 77 when he and his wife Vera moved to Woodland."

The pre-war and World War II years on the Homefront were a huge part of Yolo County history and the American Legion was the cornerstone. Photos that drew the most attention at this summer's Yolo County Fair exhibit were Armistice Day parades, Courthouse ceremonies, the Legion Hall Movie Theatre, the huge Post 77 Hall interior and "War Dogs ... Dogs for Defense" from the Yolo County Pound. Bill Hollingshead continued, "The public was surprised that the first draftees were well before Pearl Harbor."

Bill Hollingshead explained, "In 2007 Post 77 Historian Larry Schapiro asked me to put a few of Dad's photos in the Legion newsletter. It became a feature page and this year Yolo Post 77 got a second place award for the best newsletter in California. I hope that my Dad's photos contributed to that honor."

### DID YOU KNOW?

Babe Ruth served as the American Legion's national baseball director. Ruth's last public appearance was in Spencer, Iowa promoting American Legion baseball, six weeks before his death.

## COOK YOUR OWN STEAK DINNER

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3, 6:30 P.M.

WE'LL PROVIDE THE  
RIB EYE STEAKS & THE BARBECUES.  
YOU DO THE  
GRILLING TO YOUR LIKING.  
INCLUDED ARE SALAD,  
BAKED POTATOES, ROLLS, CORN,  
& DESSERT ~ \$12.<sup>00</sup>

Bring Family and Friends.

## VINCE OLVERA IS VETERAN OF THE YEAR



The Yolo County Veterans Coalition, an organization of all the veterans' service organizations in the county, has selected American Legion Post 77 officer Vince Olvera (center) as "Veteran of the Year." The award was presented on Aug. 9th by Ted Puntillo (l.), California Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs and Post 77 member. Woodland City Councilman Jeff Monroe (r.), also a member of Post 77, was the main speaker at the award presentation and banquet. Vince Olvera, currently Post 77 Sergeant-at-Arms, has held many offices at Post 77, in addition to currently being an officer of the Veterans Coalition, an American Legion District 6 officer, and the veterans' representative on the Yolo County Board of Supervisor's Community Services Action Board. A Vietnam combat veteran, Vince has participated this last year in 36 Honor Guards at the funerals of Yolo County veterans, in addition to providing medical assistance to homeless and at-risk veterans and working with Boy Scout Troop 68 as the liaison of the troop sponsor, Yolo Post 77. He has also for years put up the flags on Main Street on patriotic holidays, as well as placing out flags at the Woodland Cemetery. Vince Olvera has additionally been active in many other community activities, including as a Little League umpire for over 30 years. Congratulations, Vince.

### POST 77 – A PART OF THE HISTORY OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

Just how soon after the formation of the American Legion in 1919 was Post 77 chartered? Answer: The American Legion was founded in Paris at the first caucus by members of the American Expeditionary Force on March 15-17, 1919. Later that same year of the formation of the American Legion, on October 11, 1919, Yolo Post 77 was issued its temporary charter. This was only months prior to Post 1, in Washington, D.C., receiving its temporary charter on May 19, 1919. Post 77 was awarded its permanent charter on October 25, 1921.

There are almost 15,000 American Legion Posts, and we are the 77th. That's a piece of history.

*Larry Schapiro, Historian*



Members of the Post 77 Baseball Committee shown here at the August 5th end-of-season dinner (front, l. to r.) are Vince Olvera, Frank Lucchesi, Val Mata, Zeke Plocher, and Frank Eakle, Committee Chair, (rear) Doyle Gasperson, John Contreras, Dave Isbell, and Gil Garcia. The Post 77 baseball team won first place in the League during the regular season. Coach Matt Castle finished his 13th season as head coach, during which the team's record has been an outstanding 257 won and 75 lost. During the off season the Baseball Committee will ponder the difficult question of who was the better baseball player, Hank Aaron or Babe Ruth.

**Post 77 Halloween Party**  
**October 31, 7:30 p.m.**  
**Costume Contest**  
 Music by  
**Bump City**  
 Light fare for your  
 munching pleasure   
**\$10**

**LOTS GOING ON IN THE CLUBROOM:  
 OCTOBER 3 STEAK DINNER;  
 OCTOBER 31 HALLOWEEN PARTY & BAND;  
 EXPANDED CLUBROOM HOURS**

The “cook your own steak” dinners at the Post have been so much fun that we are having another one, on October 3, at 6:30 p.m. The Post provides the food and you cook your choice of a rib eye steak on one of the outside grills. And where else can you get a rib eye steak dinner, with salad, baked potato, rolls, corn, and dessert, for only \$12?

Remember the Post 77 Halloween parties of years ago? This Halloween, October 31, 7:30 p.m., it's back. Come, with or without a costume, to the Post's Halloween party, featuring the Bump City band. Additionally, there will be a costume contest and snacks, all for \$10.

The Post 77 Clubhouse will be staying open later on Fridays. The new hours for Fridays are 1:00 p.m. to 11 p.m. This gives us more hours to meet with friends. See you on Friday night.

There are card games on weekday afternoons in the Clubroom. Come and join us.

*Pat, Bar Manager*



Picking up awards won at the American Legion state convention won by Post 77 are convention attendees (l. to r.) Gary Leach, Corbin Smith and Terry Parkhurst.

**POST 77'S “OTHER” BASEBALL TEAM**

Most attention during the baseball season is paid to Post 77's student baseball team of high school seniors and college students up to age 19. There are stories about that team throughout the season in the Woodland and Davis newspapers.

Not so frequently mentioned is the other baseball team sponsored by Post 77 – the Post 77 Junior Legion Baseball team of students age 17 and younger. The team, with its home base in Davis, plays other American Legion Junior teams throughout American Legion Area 1. This year the Post 77 Junior's came in second place in Area 1, a territory that runs from Lodi to the border with Oregon.

Additionally, Post 77 assists the Woodland Baseball Club and the Davis Blue Devils Baseball Club with paying their expenses. It's all in a day's work for the Post 77 Baseball Committee based upon your kind assistance in buying tickets each January to the Crab and Shrimp Feed.

*Frank Eakle, Baseball Committee Chair*



Post 77 member Ted Puntillo was recently appointed by the Governor to the position of Deputy Secretary of the California Department of Veterans Affairs. Ted is heading up the important Division of Veterans Services. Despite his busy schedule, he is still working on Yolo County veterans' events and projects. Excellent choice, Governor!



A long way from Woodland High School, Roy Martinez sits in the gun turret of his modified 1114 Humvee gun track rolling into Baghdad.

### **YOLO COUNTY PATRIOT IN UNIFORM**

Just returning from a 15-month tour of duty in Iraq is Woodland resident Roy Martinez. The son of Post 77 member Larry Martinez, Roy is a member of the Army's 82nd Airborne Division. Roy was gracious enough, on his short leave earlier this year in Woodland, to participate in making a presentation at this year's Post 77 Memorial Day program at the Woodland Cemetery.

Our thanks to Roy Martinez for his service to America under dangerous conditions.

### **POST 77 ENTERS THE 21ST CENTURY COMPUTER WORLD - MAY WE GET YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS?**

First there was the creation of the Post 77 website, [yolopost77.com](http://yolopost77.com). The Post is now connected to the California American Legion Department by computer. Next step: If you have an email address, we can reach you more speedily. Please provide us your email address if you have one, by calling Second Vice Commander Albert Castillo at (530) 668-0991 or emailing him that information at [acastillo@wavecable.com](mailto:acastillo@wavecable.com).

*Albert Castillo, Second Vice Commander*

### **25-FOOT FLAG POLE LOOKING FOR A HOME**

The flag post that has graced the Veterans' Monument in Woodland Cemetery for decades with its United States flag flying over veterans' funerals and annual Memorial Day events has been replaced by Post 77 with a modern aluminum pole. As a consequence, the wooden flag post is available to a Post 77 member at no cost. If you are interested, please contact Corbin Smith at (530) 662-9772.

### **GIL GARCIA RECEIVES HONOR OF AMERICAN LEGION LIFE MEMBER**

Up to one person a year can be made a Life Member of Yolo Post 77. This year, Gil Garcia was selected as a Life Member based upon his outstanding service to the American Legion. Gil has been Commander, first vice commander, second vice commander, and currently is Chaplain of the Post. He has served as a member of the Baseball Committee for over 40 years, on which he still serves. During that tenure, Gil was coach of the Post 77 baseball team, head of the Baseball Committee and long-time announcer for the Post's games, when he was not announcing Woodland High School baseball and football games for over 30 years. In fact, whenever there was a job to be done at Post 77, Gil Garcia has been there to do it.

Gil's connection with the Post goes back to World War II when on leave from the Navy, he went to dances in the old Hall. Later, in 1956, he and Mary held their wedding reception at the Post. In the family tradition, Gil's son, Mike, was first a bat boy for the Post team, then a player and finally coach.

Welcome to Life Membership, Gil Garcia.

*Homer Swigert and Ray Redmill, Post Executive Committee*



Gil Garcia (r.), long-time member of Post 77, who has held offices of Commander to coach of the Post baseball team to Chaplain, and many more, here receives the Post's honor of Life Membership from Post Commander Dave Isbell. Gil is the ninth Post 77 member to be designated a life member.

### **HISTORY OF THE BLUE STAR FLAG**

The Blue Star Flag first appeared in 1917, when Captain Robert L. Queissner, who had two sons serving on the front line, designed it as a tribute to their dedication and service. He proudly displayed this flag in the front window of his home and the flag quickly became the unofficial symbol of a child in the service. Also known as a Service Flag, the blue star stands for hope and pride.

*Gil Garcia, Chaplain*



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

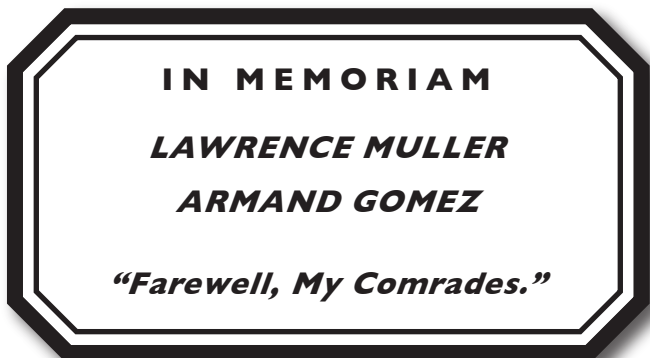
NON-PROFIT  
 ORGANIZATION  
 U.S. POSTAGE  
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 PERMIT #55  
 WOODLAND, CA

Return Service Requested

### HAVE A FRIEND JOIN POST 77

Do you have a friend or relative who has been in the U.S. Armed Forces, including the National Guard or Reserves? Please ask them if they would like to become a member of Post 77, which would help support our patriotic and community activities. If I can help you with that, give me a call, Ed Trautt, First Vice Commander, at (530) 758-6805. Thanks.

*Ed Trautt, First Vice Commander*



### LEGION HALL RENTAL

The Post 77 Legion Hall front room, back room and kitchen are available for rental for your special parties and events.

Contact Dave Isbell at (530) 219-3174 or (530) 662-9772