

# VFW 1st District of California



# DISPATCH



@vfwmighty1st

November 2018

[www.vfwcadist1.org](http://www.vfwcadist1.org)

Volume 18, Issue 4

## District 1, California welcomes National VFW Aux President

*VFW Comrades, Auxiliary, and Buddy Poppy Queens brought National VFW Auxiliary President Sandi Kriebel to tears with "God Bless America" in the San Diego airport terminal as they welcomed her to California.*



### USS Cole ceremony photos, Page 12



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## District 1 Commander Steven Williams



**Mighty First,**

I am still in awe. I approached the podium at our October District Meeting more proud than ever because of the attendance and more hopeful than ever that we would leave a stronger District than we entered the meeting with.

We still have a few Posts who aren't participating, but I feel like I'm not the first to notice. I will repeat what I have said on many occasions — we are not here for hats or Canteens. We are here to support Veterans and their families. Chasing a hat sometimes helps a Post, but your Commander and Quartermaster wear it, so how do the rest of the members who work so hard year-in and year-out get recognized? I was embarrassed the year I earned my All-American cap because so many more deserved it, and none of them could buy it because of some failed policy by someone who convinced our National VFW leaders that Commanders and Quartermasters were the only members who rated All-American recognition.

I will not sit still. I will not go away. I am here to represent you and will do whatever I can to help.

I am headed to Missouri Nov. 6 and will hopefully return with venison Nov. 16. I wish you all a happy safe holiday weekends.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY MARINES!

Semper Fidelis,  
Steven Williams, District 1 Commander  
[vfwd1commander@gmail.com](mailto:vfwd1commander@gmail.com)



## District 1 President Kathie Okolski



**Mighty 1st District Comrades, Sisters, and Brothers;** First, thank you to everyone, for the cards, calls, and text messages. I am hoping by the time you read this the cast will be off. Your kindness, love and support was touching. I am blessed to have you all in my life.

I would like to wish everyone a wonderful & blessed Thanksgiving. I am thankful, for my Loving Family, Friends, and Veterans. Love and prayers to you all. If you are traveling, safe travels.

My Pride in "The Mighty First District" continues, seeing all the wonderful work you all are doing. Please remember to send in your reports. We have a few that need to get their reports in to be 100%.

Now that we are into November, your quotas should all be paid, District dues go to District Treasurer Alicia Ketchum. Membership as of this writing is at 92.23% Thank you for keeping our membership strong.

I appreciate all of you and what you do for our Veterans and their families! I look forward to seeing all of you at the District meeting, and throughout the activities going on.

Thank you for doing what you do.  
Kathie

Events for month of November:

3rd — Veterans Walk, Post 2111

4-7th — National President Visit

8th — Inspection Jack Carlton 2111 6 p.m.

9th — SADIE HAWKINS Karaoke & Dance, 1512

6-10th — District Special Project fundraiser

10th — Veterans Day Parade

(Dept. President will be attending)

10th — Post 1774 Dinner fundraiser 6 p.m.

13th — Inspection Post 11387 Paradise Hills, 5 p.m.

15th — Job fair 10an-2pm Valley View Casino

16-17th — Dept. Commander/President homecoming Segundo Ca. (See Dispatch for details)

22-25 Thanksgiving Weekend

**"DRAGONFLIES: THE KEEPER OF DREAMS,  
INSPIRING PASSION & CREATIVITY  
FOR OUR VETERANS"**

## Poway hosts 'Go Navy' tailgate party



A sold-out crowd of more than 60,000 fans converged on the Navy-Notre Dame game in San Diego Oct. 27. District 1's VFW Post 7907 hosted a tailgate party which included Jr. Vice Commander Bill Kimble smoking 20 lbs of pulled pork, 15 lbs of turkey and 6 tri-tips, as the rest of the crew handed out hundreds of Buddy Poppies to include gold ones honoring the Navy's blue and gold team. Oh wait, those are Notre Dame's colors too - big score for gold Buddy Poppies!

Post 7907 Commander Bill Morrison said the day was a huge success, and they even signed up a Leprechaun — he is actually a Navy Senior Chief, but offered portion of his pot o' gold to become a member of the VFW! Navy ended up losing the game, but they covered the point spread against them, and the VFW gained a huge victory in camaraderie with the community and the veterans in attendance.



### *SDSU student vets lead memorial ceremony*

The SDSU Veterans Center hosted an amazing ceremony to honor the 239 SDSU Alumni who made the ultimate sacrifice in service to the country in WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Iraq and Afghanistan. Thank you SDSU Veterans Center for inviting us to join in honoring these great men and women, and thanks to District Student Veterans Chair Al Hewitt for his great work with our Student Veterans.



### Disclaimer

The "Dispatch" is the official publication of District 1, Department of California, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, and shall act as a periodical for the benefit and enrichment of all VFW Posts, Ship, and Auxiliaries in District 1.

As Department Officers, any and all communications from the District 1 VFW Commander and Auxiliary President are considered to be official as they have the privilege of membership on the VFW Department of California Council of Administration.

*District Dispatch Editor*

**Steven Williams**

**District 1 Commander**

**9122 Bubbling Wells Road**

**Lakeside, CA 92040**


**[vfwnoonedoesmore4vets@gmail.com](mailto:vfwnoonedoesmore4vets@gmail.com)**

**(619) 922-0330**



DONATE \$1

to show your support to America's service members, veterans and their families.



100% OF YOUR DONATION GOES TO THE VFW UNMET NEEDS PROGRAM,

providing assistance to veterans and military families for rent, mortgage, utilities and other basic necessities.





## Chaplain's Corner



**James Wright**  
**District 1**  
**VFW Chaplain**



**Sherri Mitchell**   
**District 1**  
**Auxiliary Chaplain &**  
**Buddy Poppy Chairman**

**G**reetings Everyone,

November is here, and Veterans Day is only a few short days away. The downtown San Diego Veterans Day Parade will take place Saturday, Nov. 10 at 11 a.m. I look forward to seeing you there.

I also mentioned at our District 1 Meeting that we will be presenting a citation to the family of Army SSgt. Sanagustin, who was killed in Afghanistan recently, soon. The date for this presentation has been tentatively set for Tuesday, 13 Nov. 13 at 6:30 p.m., and it will take place at VFW Post 4630 in National City, which is where this soldier is from. Please come out and show your support to the family if you can.

Prayer Requests: Please pray for a full recovery for Comrades Carl Anderson, Sam Shaw, and PDC Bill Kelly. Mr. Anderson of Post 2080 is currently an inpatient at Sharp Memorial Hospital because of cardiac problems, World War II Veteran Sam Shaw of VFW Post 4630 was recently discharged from the hospital, and PDC Bill Kelly recently had a toe amputated. If you are aware of any other sick members please let me know.

House Keeping Note: If you are a Chaplain in our District, please make sure that you are keeping a list of all deceased members from your Post. This list should be sent to the District Chaplain before May of each year so that they will be included in the June Joint Memorial Service which takes place at our Department Convention. You can also forward the names of the deceased members as they occur if that works better for you. Please also ensure that your QM is reporting these deceased members to our National VFW Office. Thank you.

Blessing to All,  
 Chaplain James

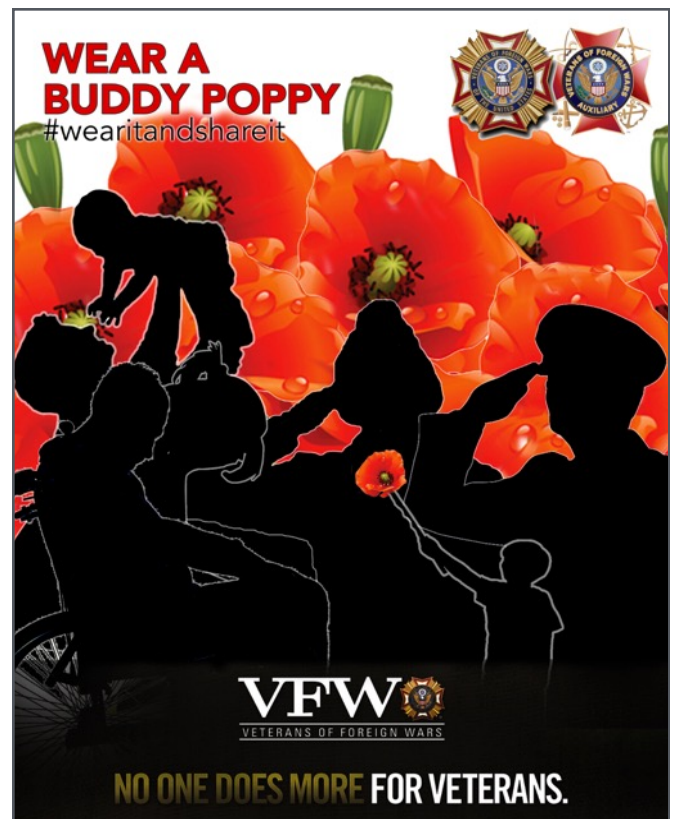
**C**omrades Brothers & Sisters

It is hard to believe it is November already. Time for holidays and family time. Please keep those who are not fortunate enough to be with family in your prayers.

For our Buddy Poppy contest, we are looking for table top center pieces. The only rule is that a Buddy Poppy is included in the entirety. We will be showing the winner at the January C-of -A in Sacramento. Judging for the center pieces will be at the Dec joint membership meeting at Don Diego Post on Dec. 10th. If you are unable to attend please let me know and I will make arrangements to pick up your entry.

God bless.

Sherri Mitchell  
 District Auxiliary Chaplain & Buddy Poppy Chairman  
 sherri@meshe.net  
 360-281-5677





**We Can Do It!**




**CA DEPARTMENT AUXILIARY PRESIDENT  
ELLIE MELLO @ CALIFORNIA**

**Welcome  
SANDI KRIEBEL  
PRESIDENT  
NATIONAL VFW  
AUXILIARY  
November 4-7**

Visit will include:

- \* Fort Rosecrans
- \* Cabrillo Point \* Veterans Museum
- \* Recruitment /Membership Drive
- \* Veterans Home Chula Vista \* USS Midway

**Staying at Crowne Plaza San Diego - Mission Valley**  
 2270 Hotel Circle N, San Diego, CA 92108  
 (619) 297-1101  
 Special rate of \$109.00+ tax



**RESERVATIONS**

**A Dedicated Website Is Available For Attendees To Book Hotel Rooms Online.**  
<https://book.passkey.com/e/49784683>

**PHONE NUMBER**

**1-888-233-9527**

**Ask for the “Veterans of Foreign Wars” rate or Group Code “VFW”**  
**Reservations hours are from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m., EST.**  
**Last Day To Make Reservations Will Be Oct.5. All Individual Reservations**  
**Have A 48-Hour Cancellation Policy.**

For detailed itinerary, contact Kathie Okolski, Kittnn1050@gmail.com

## District Service Officer

Comrades, Unmet Needs is the VFW's premiere Assistance Program and fairly unknown to most of you. Therefore, I decided to provide a short brief on the program.

Unmet Needs is there to assist active service or veteran families who have run into unexpected financial difficulties as a result of deployment or other military-related activity or injury. The program provides financial aid grants up to \$1,500 to assist with basic life needs. Grants are not a loan, so there is no repayment. The program folks pay the creditor directly.

The applicant must be the service member, veteran or eligible dependent listed under the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS). The financial hardship must be the following:

a) Current active duty, whose financial hardship is a result of a current deployment, military pay error or from being discharged for medical reasons.

b) Discharged on or after September 11, 2001, whose financial hardship is a direct result of your military service connected injuries and/or illnesses.

c) Discharged prior to September 11, 2001, are on a fixed income that must include VA compensation, and facing an unexpected financial hardship.

Anyone who has not served in the military or the financial hardship is caused by one of the following:

a) Civil, legal or domestic issues, misconduct or any issues that are a result of spousal separation or divorce.

b) Financial mismanagement by self or others, or due to bankruptcy.

Unmet Needs assists with any expenses that are classified as "basic life needs", which includes, but is not limited to the following: household expenses such as mortgage, rent, repairs, insurance, vehicle expenses such as payments, repairs, insurance, utilities and primary phone, food and clothing, children's clothing, diapers, formula, school or childcare expenses, and medical bills, prescriptions and eyeglasses – the patient's portion for necessary or emergency medical care only.

Note: The Unmet Needs Natural Disaster Assistance (i.e. flood, fire, earthquake and tornado) provides a \$300 grant. In order to qualify, service members/veterans must submit an application and a copy of their most recent DD-214 or orders.

Unmet Needs does not assist with any expenses that are not classified as "basic life needs," which includes, but is not limited to the following: credit cards, military charge cards, or retail store cards, cable, internet, secondary phones, taxes – property or otherwise, furniture rentals, or any expense not determined to be a basic life need.

The application for the Unmet Needs financial grant can be found online at <http://www.vfw.org/assistance/financial-grants>

Contact Info: Toll Free Number: 866-789-6333, Email Address: [unmetneeds@vfw.org](mailto:unmetneeds@vfw.org), Website: [www.vfw.org/assistance/financial-grants](http://www.vfw.org/assistance/financial-grants)

As always, I stand ready with your Post Service Officer to assist you.....Bud



**VFW**  
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

**ACTION CORPS**  
**WEEKLY**

[CLICK HERE TO JOIN TODAY!](#)

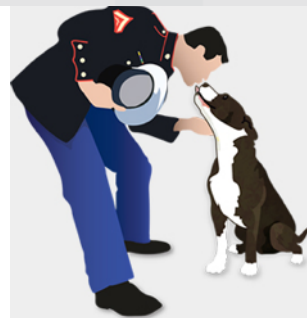
# Auxiliary Special Project

District President Kathie has combined her passion with Pets and Veterans for her Special Project. She has chosen D.O.D. (Dogs on Deployment) a local organization that helps our active duty military as well as our Veterans. This group helps our Veterans on so many levels, from finding temporary foster families while the owner serves our Country, to medical needs the pet requires. Please see the attached flyer or website. Your support of this program will mean more than you know, to our Veterans. Thank you for your continued support with all our Veterans.

[www.dogsondeployment.org](http://www.dogsondeployment.org)

Check out our Local and Regional Facebook Pages!

[San Diego Chapter](#)  
[Hawaii Chapter](#)  
[West Coast Region](#)



"For the common love of dog and country;  
Support your troops by boarding their pets!"

Everyone is invited to the 1st District Special Projects for Commander Steve & President Kathie, please see flyer on the next Page, July 31st Lakeside Boll Weevil.

James Waterman  
District 1 Auxiliary Special Project Chairman  
[diegovfwaux@gmail.com](mailto:diegovfwaux@gmail.com)



**DOGS ON DEPLOYMENT** is a 501(c)(3) non-profit that provides the largest military-pet fostering network—connecting pet owners with thousands of registered DoD Boarders throughout the nation. In addition, we distribute educational resources regarding responsible pet ownership tips and adoption resources.

The support from our community has contributed to hundreds of success stories, and allowed us to bestow over \$70K in financial aid\* to military members for help with their pet's care during emergencies or for general assistance. Visit our website to find out the many ways you can get involved and support your troops.



**SUPPORT**  
pets with financial needs

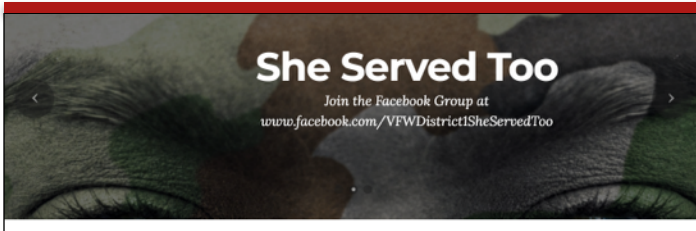


**CONNECT**  
boarders and service members



**REUNITE**  
service members and their pets

## Women Veterans



There are a few Women Veteran Get Togethers in the coming months and we hope you can join us.

### **SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 10**

**10-11:30 a.m.**

***Women Veteran Get Together - Make a challenge coin display.***

Home Depot Santee

255 Town Center Pkwy

Santee, California 92071

Free tickets through Home Depot.

More details:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/560861084367079/?ti=ia>

### **THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 15**

**6:30-8 p.m.**

***Women Veteran Get Together - Make a holiday card display***

Home Depot Santee

255 Town Center Pkwy

Santee, California 92071

Free tix through Home Depot.

More details:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/562316544211417/?ti=ia>

See more info and events on our FB page here:

<https://www.facebook.com/VFWDistrict1SheServedToo/>

Miranda Williams

District 1 Women Veterans Chairman

[randachan1976@gmail.com](mailto:randachan1976@gmail.com)



## Auxiliary Americanism



**VOTE TO SUPPORT VETERANS**

***Election Day November 6, 2018***

November is Military Family Appreciation Month and is a time set aside to recognize you, the military family. Over the month, families just like yours are honored and recognized for their commitment and contributions in support of our military and nation.

NOV. 11 — Veterans Day gives Americans the opportunity to celebrate the bravery and sacrifice of all U.S. veterans. Express thanks. Whenever you see someone in uniform, extend a simple word of gratitude or small act of kindness to show how much their service means to you.

The Marine Corps Birthday is celebrated every year on Nov. 10th. Semper Fi Marines.

Happy 243rd birthday!

Please keep reporting all you do for our Veterans, Youth and Military. Have a wonderful and blessed Thanksgiving.

*One Team, One Organization*

Laura Ashley

District Patriotic Instructor/Americanism Chairman





## Petition for National Suicide Lifeline pre-programmed on all cell phones



Suicide rates have been on the increase since 1999. Suicide rates have increase in every state and as a result almost 45,000 people died by suicide in 2016 according to the CDC.

What we will not know is if those people had the opportunity to speak to someone immediately. The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline has a number where anyone can call when one is in distress but, what if you don't know the 800 number? What if your situation will prevent you from searching the number?

I am proposing that a three digit number like 911 be created and become a default number on all cellphones. Perhaps, a number that is easy to remember and everyone get to know it. Hopefully in that manner, instead for searching or trying to remember the number, one picks up a phone, dials for help and the only difference is that when the number is dialed, a person is immediately connected to someone that is prepared to listen not someone asking "what is your emergency".

 [Sign this petition](#)

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline  
[www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org](http://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org)

## ADD TO YOUR CELL PHONE NOW



## Veteran & Military Suicide Awareness and Prevention

We may never understand the struggles and challenges of a veteran who has seen war. The physical and mental wounds they have endured leave many in dire circumstances. WE can make a difference by educating ourselves and others about the warning signs of suicide. We can help veterans and their loved ones by sending them in the right direction for help. Veterans Crisis Line can be their life line. For more information go to [www.veteranscrisisline.net](http://www.veteranscrisisline.net).

The Veterans Crisis Line connects Veterans in crisis and their families and friends with qualified, caring Department of Veterans Affairs responders through a confidential toll-free hotline, online chat, or text.

Veterans and their loved ones can call 1-800-273-8255 and Press 1, chat online, or send a text message to 838255 to receive confidential support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Support for deaf and hearing impaired individuals is available.

The Veteran & Military Suicide Awareness Blue Teardrop sticker is the VFW Auxiliary symbol to bring attention to the issue of Military suicide. Wear this teardrop to open the conversation. Printable sheet can be found online at [www.vfwauxiliary.org](http://www.vfwauxiliary.org)

**PLEASE STOP AND PUT IN YOUR PHONE RIGHT NOW....**

*"360 Degrees For Our Veterans & Their Families"*



# Fallbrook VFW & Auxiliary Post 1924



**Proudly Presents:**

## **The 100th Anniversary of Armistice Day**

**Veterans Day Parade & Celebration**

**Sunday, November 11, 2018**

### **VETERANS DAY SCHEDULE**

**9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.**

Staging in 1 block area of Main St, south of Fallbrook Street.

**10:00 a.m.**

Parade starts, along Main St from Fallbrook Street to Alvarado St.

**11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**

Veterans Day ceremony in Village Square, seating is available

**12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.**

Free lunch at VFW Post located at 1175 S. Old Stage Road.



**Participants Include:**

**Guest of Honor:**

**County Supervisor Bill Horn**

Marine Corps Mounted Color Guard,  
Military Vehicles,  
Fallbrook HS Marching Band,  
Boy and Girl Scout Troops,  
Fallbrook HS Marine Corps JROTC,  
Naval Sea Cadets Gunfighter Squadron and  
many other community organizations and  
Special Guests.

*Do you want to participate?  
contact the Parade Chairman,  
Chris Ingraham via email:  
[Commander@fallbrookvfw.org](mailto:Commander@fallbrookvfw.org)*



**Thank you, Veterans!**  
**FREE BBQ LUNCH**  
**for Santee Veterans & their families**

**Veterans Day - Sunday, November 11th 11-1 pm**  
at the **VFW Santee Post 9327**  
8516 Magnolia Avenue, Suite 203

**Special Ceremony at 12 pm**  
**in honor of your service to our country!**

For more information contact: [trotterdoorandtrim@gmail.com](mailto:trotterdoorandtrim@gmail.com)



★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ **VETERANS DAY** ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

**HONORING ALL WHO SERVED**



# VFW honors fallen Sailors of USS Cole for 18th straight year





# MIGHTY FIRST SADIE HAWKINS KARAOKE

## SPECIAL PROJECTS FUNDRAISER

Includes Raffles - 50/50 - Chasin' Fellers



# NOVEMBER 9

## 7:30-11:30 p.m.

### VFW Post 1512

6874 FEDERAL BLVD  
LEMON GROVE, CA 91945



Dinner Available - \$9  
Until 7 p.m. or food runs out  
Snacks provided after

COME SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL VFW &  
DISTRICT LEADERSHIP'S SPECIAL PROJECTS



Support Your  
**TROOPS**  
By Boarding Their Pets!

Active Duty | Veteran | Wounded Warrior  
Support for all military pets nationwide



# TRIPLE THREAT

East County

Combat PTSD - Alcohol - Drugs  
Veterans caring for Veterans

# CALIFORNIA VFW STATE HOMECOMING

Presented By:  
VFW State Commander Lamont Duncan  
&  
Auxiliary President Ellie Mello

## "The Roaring 20's Revisited"

Auto Driving  
Museum  
610 Lairport Street,  
El Segundo, CA

Saturday,  
November 17  
5pm

Contact:  
Traci Lewis Ventress:  
562-633-1996  
Sheri Carrington:  
619-721-4902



For more information, visit:  
<https://www.facebook.com/events/1543737142394896/>

District 1 Auxiliary presents

# *Sugar, Spice... Malice & Murder?* Thomas Jefferson High Dance/Sock Hop



## MARCH 30, 2019



### 5-8 p.m.

SABLE POST 2275, 136 Chambers St, El Cajon, CA 92020

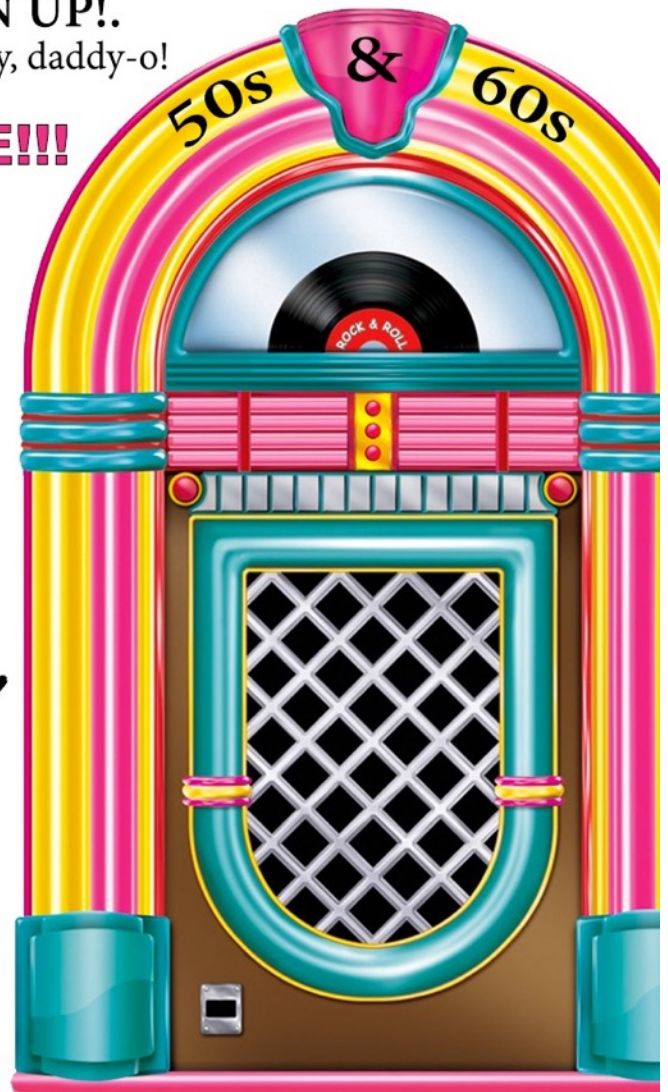
ANNUAL MURDER MYSTERY PLAY FUNDRAISER

If you would like to be a boss character in this play,  
please contact Sheri Carrington at: [flamingogirl1950@att.net](mailto:flamingogirl1950@att.net)  
Number of hip cat characters limited to 40 -- First come, First serve

**OCTOBER 28, 2018 FINAL SIGN UP!**

Fire up your classy chassis and email Sheri today, daddy-o!

**ONLY A \$25 FUN FEE!!!**





**Learn to line dance!**  
**At the Alpine VFW**  
**Post 9578**

Line dancing every other  
Sunday 5PM to 6PM

Starting September 9, 2018

**COST: DONATION ACCEPTED. THE  
DONATION GOES TO THE AUXILIARY  
CANCER FUND**

**This is an "ULTRA" beginner class**

Requirements: Two left feet and  
Comfortable Boots or Shoes

No Dance Partners needed

Open to men and women

Please no children

844 Tavern Rd Alpine, CA 619-445-6040





**1st District  
Veterans of Foreign Wars  
Department of California  
2018-2019 Year**

**NOVEMBER 2018**



2

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						<p>POST 2111 VETERANS WALK FOR VETERANS HOME CHULA VISTA</p>
<p>4 FALL BACK 1 HOUR DAYLIGHT SAVINGS ...  NATIONAL AUXILIARY PRESIDENT 1st DISTRICT...</p>	<p>5 NATIONAL AUXILIARY PRESIDENT 1st DISTRICT VISIT</p>	<p>6 NATIONAL AUXILIARY PRESIDENT 1st DISTRICT...  ELECTION DAY GET OUT T...</p>	<p>7 NATIONAL AUXILIARY PRESIDENT 1st DISTRICT VISIT 12:00 AM</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9 DISTRICT SPECIAL PROJECT FUNDRAISER SADIE HAWKINS DANCE POST 1512 7:30 - 11 PM</p>	<p>10 USMC 243rd BIRTHDAY 32nd Annual San Diego VETERANS DAY PARADE 11 AM</p>
<p>11 VETERANS DAY VETERANS DAY PARADE FALLBROOK POST 1924 10 AM MAIN ...</p>	<p>12 VETERANS DAY CELEBRATED  </p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14 SHIP 1774 AUXILIARY DINNER FUND RAISER</p>	<p>15 VOD/PP/ TEACHER DUE AT DISTRICT Great American Smokeout 2018</p>	<p>16 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER AND PRESIDENT HOMECOMING SEGUNDO CA</p>	<p>17 DEPARTMENT COMMANDER AND PRESIDENT HOMECOMING SEGUNDO CA 12:00 AM</p>
<p>18 National Apple Cider Day!</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>		<p>22 HAPPY THANKSGIVING INVITE A SERVICE MEMBER WITH NO PLACE TO GO FOR TURKEY</p>	<p>23 Black Friday</p>	
<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27 DISTRICT AUXILIARY MEMBERSHIP MEETING</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29 National Chocolates Day!</p>	<p>30 24 SHOPPING DAYS LEFT UNTIL CHRISTMAS</p>	