VFW 1st District of California

VFW DISPATCH

@vfwmighty1st

Membership as of

1 January 2023

Auxiliary: 97.87%

Comrades: 94.00%

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District 1 Commander John Lewis

Comrades,

Happy New Year and thank you for all the hard work in 2022. Looking forward to 2023 and I will be asking again for your commitment and dedication. We have now passed the halfway point into the VFW year and our focus must still be on membership and programs.

Great job to Post's that have made the 100% goal of membership and many of you have exceeded our expectations for community service and veterans' assistance. Commanders, you have been elected to your position because your Post believes in you and your leadership, now is the time to lead. Have a plan, stay focused and lead your Post to finish the year strong. I want each Post to work on communication, ensuring members are aware of what's going on, we will have new incentives coming up for recruiting new members, fundraisers and events throughout the district in the next few months that we are expecting maximum participation. Thank again for a great 2022 and a better year to come

With Comradery,

John Lewis, Commander,
VFW CA District 1

District 1 President Sheila Jo Toor-Snyder

Happy New Year 2023 to all!

Hoping everyone had a beautiful holiday season with friends, family, and everyone else who radiates in your lives!

December was busy with inspections, Wreaths Across America and Auxiliaries and their Posts having holiday parties to celebrate the season, remembering those who have passed and expand with ideas for 2023!

Senior VP Diana K and I did the wreaths across America at Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery, and I am sure that other Auxiliaries did the same at other memorial sites around San Diego County (Miramar etc.). We did photos and each placed 20 wreaths on the markers. Photos were sent to the Dispatch editors for everyone's view. If you have any photos from your time at Wreaths Across America, please be sure to send them to the Dispatch editor, or to me and I will forward on to the team.

This month a planned visit from National President Jane Reape will be in the Los Angeles area where Dept. President Mary Anne resides. Anticipated dates are January 19-21, with the itinerary in the works.

We also have our next Council of Administration meeting, January 27-29, which will also include the banquets for the Voice of Democracy winners from each District within California. This will be up in the Sacramento area, plans are in the works to get there with the Buddy Poppy display winner (2080/Lt. John Finn, Campo) and a gift basket for the Saturday night auction at Casino Night. Flights and hotel are done, should be a great event overall.

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SPECIAL DATES

JANUARY

- **January 1: New Year's Day**
- **January 14: Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen, and Teacher Awards Lunch at Post 2111, 11 AM - 2 PM**
  Contact Person: Myles Fry, 619-507-8709, mylessfry@gmail.com
- **January 16: Martin Luther King Jr. Day**
- **January 16: Past Commanders Club Meeting, Post 7907**
- **January 17: 5:30 PM; Membership Meeting, Aux. 7907, Poway**
- **January 19-21: National President Jane Reape visit in Los Angeles area.**
- **January 27-29: Council of Administration Meeting, Sacramento**
- **January 27-28-29: Mid Winter**

FEBRUARY: Black History Month

- **February 1: Chinese New Year**
- **February 2: Groundhog Day**
- **February 3: Four Chaplains Day**
- **February 4: USO Birthday**
- **February 5: District Meeting, Comrades, Alpine Post 9578, Aux. Lemon Grove Post 2082**
- **Week of February 14th: National Salute to Veteran Patients**
- **February 14: Valentine's Day**
- **February 19: U.S. Coast Guard Reserve Birthday**
- **February 20: President's Day**
- **February 28: Membership Meeting; TBD**

MARCH: Month of Military Caregiver
Women's History Month

- **March 1: Mardi Gras**
- **March 3: U.S. Navy Reserve Birthday**
- **March 4: Hug a G.I. Day**

District Chaplain Report

COMRADES,

The holiday season is upon us. Family and special persons in our lives are excited. However, we cannot forget the reason for the season. CHRIST WAS BORN!!

District one; we must not forget Comrades who have had losses, sickness and those recuperating during the year of 2022. Let's be in prayer as we remember them.

Comrades, enjoy the holidays, stay safe, and enjoy each other. Be thankful that God has blessed you to be present one more year with family and friends.

Chaplain, Samuel Cummings, is wishing each and every family a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Blessings are countless, but be thankful for each and every one.

Blessings be upon you,

Chaplain One, Samuel Cummings
(619)-838-0954

Auxiliary Chaplain Report

Father in the year of 2023, Thank you for all that you have given us, for all you have taught us. Wisdom Patience and Kindness. For all the good times still to come. Amen

Dear Friend,

Seasons come and seasons go,
And we remain a part
Of all the true nobility
We carry in our heart.
A friend to understand and care,
That's how it ought to be
And so I pry the road you walk
Is wide enough for me.

Author unknown

From the months of July to Dec we provided 57 cards. Upcoming zoom Chaplains coroner call. Hope to see you.

Christina Davis-Falls, District 1 Chaplain

Please send information to: **Chaplain.district1@gmail.com**

Voice of Democracy (VOD) / Patriot's Pen (PP) / Teacher Report

The VOD/PP/Teacher Awards Ceremony will take place at VFW Post 2111 on January 14 from 11-2.

Post 2111 will be serving Burgers and Fries for $8.

Please contact Myles Fry 619-507-8709 or mylessfry@gmail.com for any questions.

Myles Fry

Auxiliary Community Outreach Program

The Auxiliary Community Outreach Program focuses on the VFW Auxiliaries volunteer work in our communities. This program covers things that are not reportable in any other program. If you are volunteering as a Poll Worker with the Registrar of Voters that is reportable under the Legislative program not under the Auxiliary Outreach program. Make sure the organization is voted at your meeting on as a partner before the you can report volunteer hours with that organization.
Programs in San Diego looking for volunteers:

I Love A Clean San Diego - Beach or Canyon clean ups
Traveling Stories – Help children build their reading skills
Meals on Meals – Bringing meals to seniors

Check out www.volunteermatch.org for more opportunities near you.

Website/Social Media/Dispatch

The web/social media team is working on the Department and District websites. We are asking that if you notice something that needs to get fixed please email.

www.vfwca.org Members Only login in is your VFW number password is your last name. example Smith
The Dashboard is up but will have modifications in the future. Please check it for items you have submitted to make sure you have received credit. Please contact me if you have a problem. The weekly update from Department is also available in this section, so check it out to see what is being put out.

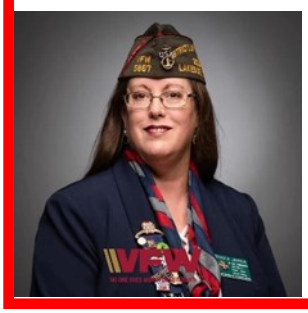
The reporting section is working, so continue to do reports. Reminder you won't see the reports on the dashboard until they are approved, they will however show on the All Program Reporting.

The updated **All State** and **ALL American** guides are available on www.VFWCA.org programs. We also have all the required forms under resources and forms

Watch our social media for updates. Please send us your Event flyers (not meals) so we can help promote them, and pictures after the events.

National is asking all post to have a public social media with two admins.
They are looking for you to share content from National, Department, District and the community service your post is doing, not just taco Tuesday or canteen happenings.

Facebook VFW CA Mighty 1st Dist & Aux
Department website www.vfwca.org
District website www.vfwcadist1.org



PDC Paula Jansen
619-261-0463
Paula.jansen@att.net

Chris Ingraham (Website)
951-365-7293
ingrahamcj@live.com

Tony Maffini (Social Media)
760-224-3076
Anthony.t.maffini@gmail.com

Richard Vannoy (Dispatch)
619-370-7840
editor@vfwcadist1.org

VFW
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

Partners In Patriotism

GIVE MONTHLY TO HELP OUR HEROES

UNWAVERING SUPPORT
FOR UNCOMMON HEROES

Partners in Patriotism is a win-win monthly giving option to make things more convenient for you ... and allow us to do the best job we possibly can for America's sons and daughters.

Partners in Patriotism is the most effective way to help our proud veterans, service members and their families. When you sign up, you support life-changing programs every month of the year. ***It's a great way to show you care!***

Partners in Patriotism:

- Keeps administrative costs down so more money goes to programs.
- Allows for better budget planning and program funding to help more veterans, service members and their families.
- Cuts down the amount of mail you receive. You will only receive the *VFW Supporter Quarterly* newsletters.

Sign Up Today!

NAME _____ PHONE # (_____) _____

ADDRESS _____ EMAIL ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE ____ ZIP _____

CHOOSE HOW YOU DONATE

☐ **Option 1: Credit Card**

☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard
☐ Discover ☐ American Express

ACCOUNT NUMBER

EXP. DATE

Amount to be charged: $ _____

☐ monthly
☐ quarterly
☐ annually

- Minimum amount is $10.00, processed on/or around the 20th of the month.

SIGNATURE

DATE

☐ **Option 2: Checking Account Deduction**

Please send us a voided check along with the completed information below and return it to:

VFW National Headquarters
406 West 34th Street, Suite 718
Kansas City, MO 64111

Amount to be charged: $ _____

☐ monthly
☐ quarterly
☐ annually

- Minimum amount is $10.00, processed on/or around the 20th of the month.

SIGNATURE

DATE

Return this form to VFW National Headquarters, 406 West 34th Street, Suite 718, Kansas City, MO 64111 or fax to (816) 968-1129. Questions? Please call Donor Services toll-free at 833-VFW-GIVE (833-839-4483), or email vfwfundraising@vfw.org. ***Thank you!***

NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.

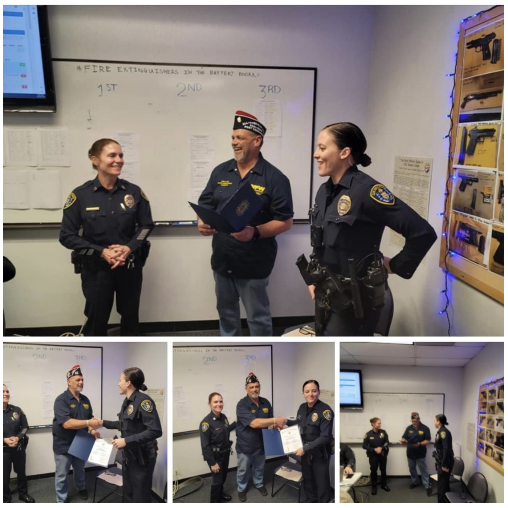
Honoring 24 Deported Veterans

VFW 7420 Comrades, American Legion 42 and San Diego Veterans for Peace Co. sponsored a Christmas celebration for our 24 deported veterans who live close to Tijuana Mexico. Complete with catered dinner, gifts for each family and gift cards.

Right: CDR Livier Lazaro handing gifts out to one of our deported veterans

December District 1 Events

Commander presents Post 1512's LE officer of the year award at SDPD SE division's morning watch call.



Right: Livy and Johnny Odom, Quartermaster, Post 7420

December District 1 Events

SIGN UP TO JOIN VFW ACTION CORPS

RECEIVE OUR WEEKLY E-NEWSLETTER AND ACTION ALERTS

Use camera mode to scan code

or

Text "VFW" to 50457

or

Visit vfw.org/JoinActionCorps

December District 1 Events

What a great time today at Post 9578! Beautiful people, yummy breakfast, and we painted some very cool rocks! Help Heal Veterans was there to distribute kits. It was wonderful! Hope everyone has a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! #vfwrocks #vfwcarocks #stillserving #Mighty1st #VFWCA #helphealvete... See more

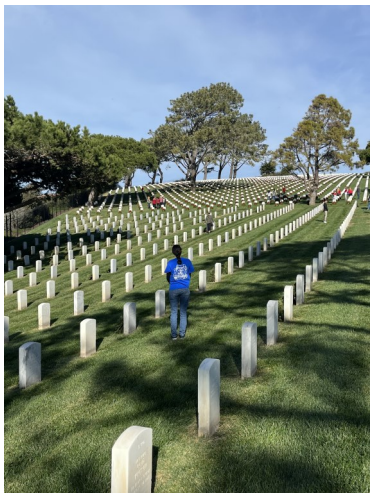
VFW Auxiliary Post 1513
Dec 17 ·

Thank you to all who came out to this years Wreaths Across America event. We hope we did you proud Loretta❤️🇺🇸

We are all set for the San Marcos Christmas Parade!!! We will be selling Hot Dog Lunches for $5. Parade starts at 1pm. Come down to the Post to check it out, remember Mission Rd will be closed

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA

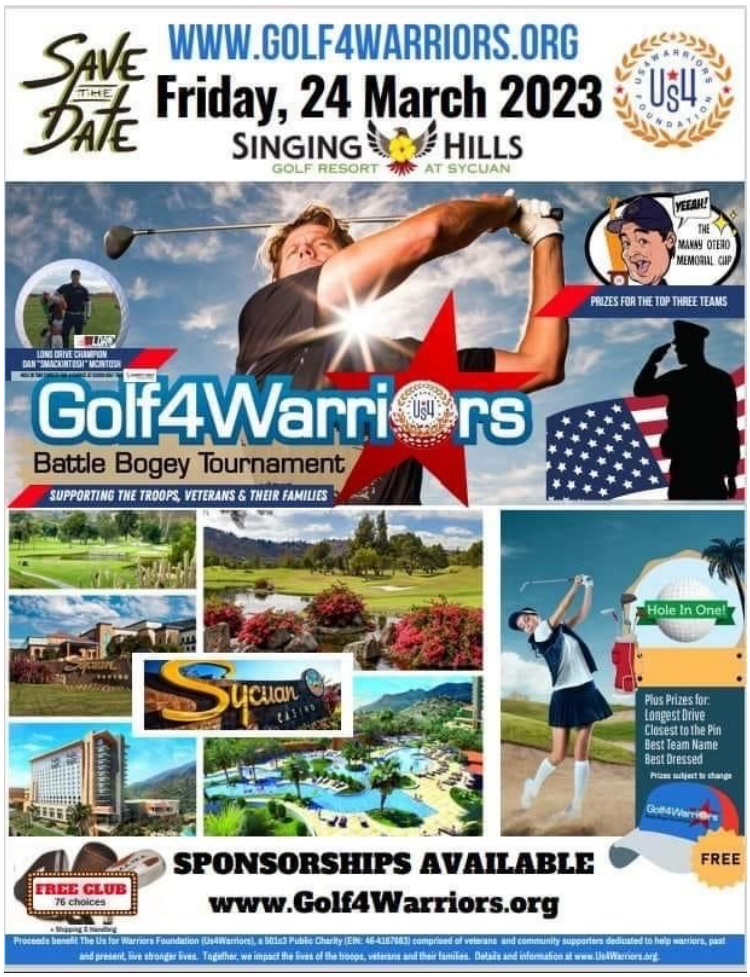
WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA

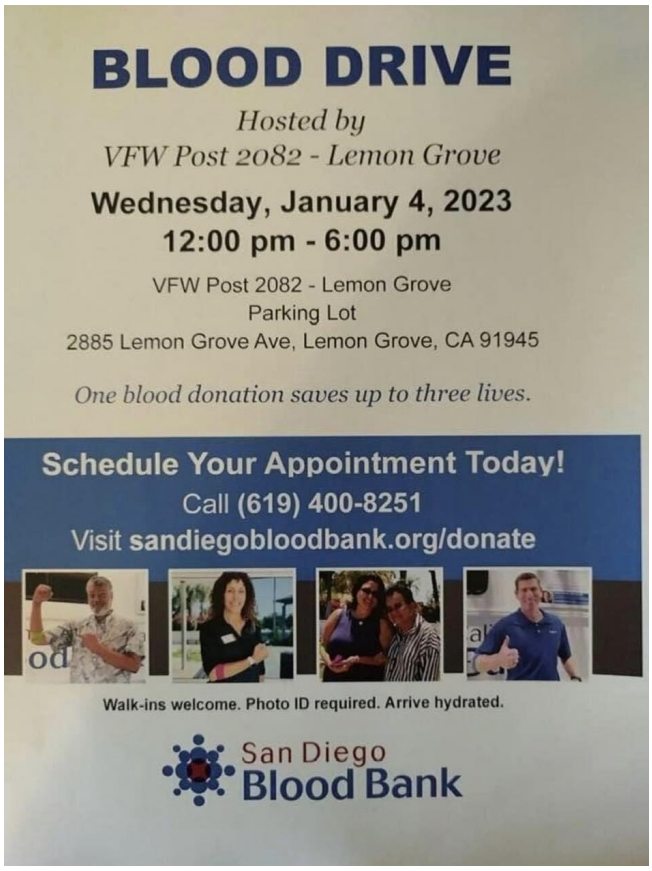


Erica, Aux. 5477 laying wreaths at Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery

Left: District 1 Comrades & Auxiliary along with Chula Vista Mayor John McCann, USN Veteran (Gentleman in center) participated in Wreaths Across America at Glen Abbey Cemetery.

UPCOMING EVENTS AROUND THE DISTRICT





UPCOMING EVENTS AROUND THE DISTRICT

Wreaths Across America's
Mobile Education Exhibit
visits (town/state)!

January 19, 2022
1pm-6pm
Lakeside VFW POST 5867
12650 Lindo Ln
Lakeside, CA

WREATHS *across* AMERICA

The Wreaths Across America Mobile Education Exhibit is a rolling exhibition that brings the local community, veterans, active-duty military and their families together through interactive exhibits, short films, and shared stories. The exhibit serves as a mobile museum, educating visitors about the service and sacrifice of our nation's heroes as well as to serve as an official 'welcome home' station for our nation's Vietnam Veterans. All veterans, active-duty military, their families, and the local community members are invited and encouraged to visit, take a tour and speak with WAA representatives and volunteers. They can also share more about the national nonprofit, and the work its volunteers do to support our heroes and their communities year-round.

Public tours for the MEE are free and open to the public with social distancing, sanitation and COVID-19 safety procedures in place to protect the health of all visitors in accordance with the CDCs recommendation for large gatherings stemming from concerns surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic. Members of the media, dignitaries, veterans and other interested groups are urged to come, ask questions, share stories and experience this one-of-a-kind exhibit.

Honor a hero at:

www.wreathsacrossamerica.org

Sunday, January 8th at 2pm

50/50 with Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society

UNO

"Newlywed" Fund

2 Rounds for 1 Hour Each

Round 1 = All Players
Round 2 = Top 4 Players from Round 1

$5 Donation

Half the Collected Total Pot to NMCRS Fund
Half the Collected Total Pot to Winner of Round 2

Not Required but you can bring an Appetizer to Share

SAN MARCOS AUXILIARY VFW POST 3795
212 West Mission, San Marcos 92069
760/744-3795

(Continued from Page 2)

Membership is moving upwards, and at our next Council of Administration is where and when we will find out if we can retain the large membership medallion which I've been wearing for our District 1 folks or must kindly relinquish it to another competitor (which District 1 really does not want to do!). Keep those membership rolls going, we're getting very close to hitting 100% overall and higher! As of December 19, 2022 – membership stats show us at **97.87% We have over 100+ annuals to go to hit 100%, but of course we don't stop there, we keep on moving forward! Keep on bringing in new folks!**

Our next District 1 events:

Tuesday January 17 at 530pm – membership meeting to be held at Auxiliary 7907, Poway. Thank you to Dawn and her team for stepping up!

Sunday February 5 at 9am – next District 1 meeting, pending confirmation (I will be contacting the gal who has this in her calendar) at Lemon Grove 2082. Everyone welcome, regular meeting, chairmen to provide a 3-minute presentation of updates on their programs. Please make sure to send a copy of your report to Evie Holland, District 1 Secretary, whether you are at the meeting or unable to attend.

Tues. Feb. 28: Membership meeting – TBD – more details next month. Teleconference will be available for both meetings – please ensure that at least 1 line officer or representative from your respective Auxiliary is either in person or online for the District meeting in February. Participation is highly recommended/suggested. Please keep your reports updated and submitted for credit on the black-out sheet and documentation. If you still need assistance on how to do them online, please let us know so we can send the tutorial for your team.

Audits should be pending for Oct./Nov./Dec. with the treasurers/trustees, please get together to have your Trustee #1 schedule your date(s)/time(s) to have those ready.

I was invited to a donation for the VAMC at 5867/ Carter Smith Auxiliary by President Diana K., in which I donated 2 bags of new socks, 1 each for men and women. Glad to assist in any way the District can provide! Thank you!

Continued prayers and healing kindness to Dist. 1 Commander Lewis's mother-in-law, who was seriously injured last month and needs medical care. Also, for Lola, Commander Lewis's wife (Auxiliary 7420), who has been taking care of her mother in this difficult time as well.

Our District fundraising team is working on 2 potential events coming up in the next 2 months to get everyone involved for their participation. Flyers and details pending... stay tuned!

Let's get 2023 off to a great start, keep that motivation going for everyone doing programs, outreach, all things possible for our veterans, families, and the community! We all have the strength, leadership, and courage to do and provide what is best for vets!

Loyally:

Sheila Jo / District 1 Auxiliary President