

VFW 1st District of California



DISPATCH



@vfwmighty1st



**Membership as of
1 April 2023**
Auxiliary: 98.76%
Comrades: 97.36%

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District 1 Commander John Lewis



Comrades,

We are in the month of April and have just a little over 2 months left in the year. Hopefully each post has been able to take advantage of the March Membership Madness incentive for membership recruiting. Please continue to push hard to spread VFW awareness across the district.

We also have a new incentive starting this month to reward the top 3 recruiters, see the info below in the Dispatch.

Nominations are open and elections will happen this month for next year's positions, also remember to elect your post delegates this month as well as paying both district and department membership dues.

Post Commanders, we will be following up on all post inspection discrepancies this month to ensure everything has been corrected and your post has a plan to continue success.

Upcoming events are plentiful, please pass the word and encourage maximum participation at the District convention on May 7th when we will elect new officers for next year and the Mass Installation on May 13th. We also have the privilege of hosting the Counsel of Administration on April 15th, please welcome our Comrades from Department and fellow districts.

Comrades, please remember to check on your fellow Veterans, reach out for those in need and remember never leave anyone behind.

With Comradery,

**John Lewis, Commander,
VFW CA District 1
714-887-6702**



District 1 President Sheila Jo Toor-Snyder



Hello to all Auxiliary brothers, sisters, and comrades!

Happy Springtime finally!

We are on the downhill slope towards the end of my tenure, 3 months to go and trying to get everything accomplished for future Department and other awards for our auxiliaries!

For those of you who received a document for All State President, I need them completed and sent to Rachel Luke, Department Membership Chairman asap for her review and consideration for District 1 awards.

You have until April 10 to get all reports submitted for Department and District chairmen – we need at least 1 full report for each of the programs to be accounted for so if you have not done so, PLEASE get a report submitted for validation and credit. The description needs to be detailed so the chairmen know what it is you/your Auxiliary did on behalf of/for or with veterans.

District 1 has been busy with many events and activities, including attending Miramar National Cemetery with the Patriot Guard Riders for memorial services for deceased veterans who have no local family or friends to be with their relatives. Thank you to Annette Bongiovanne, Color Bearer #2 for attending weekly to pay homage to those veterans who have no one to be there on their behalf.

I also want to thank Senior VP Diana Kulhanek and again, Annette Bongiovanne, for attending the Wreaths across America trailer display, again with the Patriot Guard Riders motorcycle club, as the event was at the San Diego Harley Davidson warehouse near Morena Blvd. in honor of Vietnam veterans. Diana brought her sheepdog, Bonney, decked out in patriotic gear, to be part of the festivities. Numerous guest speakers were there to say thank you to those in attendance.

Thanks to Mission Valley Auxiliary 3787 for having District 1 folks participate in a St. Patrick's Day parade down in Hillcrest area, and for those who attended in the rain! And our own District 1 Commander, John Lewis also marched in the parade!!

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SPECIAL DATES

APRIL: Month of the Military Child

APRIL: Conduct Post elections at Post Meeting

April 1: April Fool's Day

April 2 to May 2: Ramadan

April 5: Gold Star Spouses Day

April 5 – 13: Passover

April 9: Easter Sunday

April 9: National Former POW Recognition Day

April 14: U. S. Air Force Reserve Birthday

April 15: Department CofA

April 22: Earth Day

April 23: U. S. Army Reserve Birthday

April 30: National Military Brats Day

MAY: National Military Appreciation Month

MAY: Conduct District Elections

MAY: Install all newly elected and appointed 23/24 officers

First Full Week: Public Service Recognition Week

May 1: Loyalty Day

May 4: National Day of Prayer

May 6-12: National Nurses Week

May 7: District Convention

May 8: VE Day (Victory in Europe)

May 12: National Military Spouse Appreciation Day

May 13: District Mass Installation

May 13: Children of Fallen Patriots Day

May 14: Mothers Day

May 15: Armed Forces Day

May 21: National Armed Forces Day

May 22: Maritime Day

May 29: Memorial Day

JUNE: PTSD Awareness Month

June 6: Anniversary of World War II Allied Invasion in Normandy, France (D-Day)

JUNE 7-11: Department Convention, Anaheim, CA

JUNE 10: 23/24 Officers take office effective June 10, 2023

June 12: Women Veterans Day

June 14: Flag Day

June 14: U.S. Army Birthday

Week That Includes June 14th: National Flag Week



DISTRICT REPORTS

Auxiliary Chaplain Report

Brothers and Sisters,

This month I sent out 3 get well cards, one birthday card and four thinking of you cards. Please, PLEASE remind the presidents, secretaries and chaplains of the various auxiliary's that I am in the process of doing the memorial book 📖 I need the name of their auxiliary and the number of the auxiliary.. As well as the name of their deceased members ,at least by March 30. PLEASE send to Kathy at lovemyveteranstoo@gmail.com email.

All sisters and brothers to please take care of their health during this rainy, flu, cold season. Drive slowly ..

Don't forget to be Kind to one another🙏🙏 thanks 1 million for all of your support.

Kathy,
LoveMyVeteransToo@gmail.com

Chaplain Report

Hello Comrades!

March, the 3rd month of 2023, is springing us into the spring season.

Time change, along with different weather patterns will affect our daily activities more than we realize.

My thanks go out to all Comrades from various posts who responded to my monthly newsletter. I truly appreciate your involvement as a post Chaplain.

I didn't receive any information regarding deaths or sickness in District One.

Both Comrade Wright's mother and Comrade Morrison are improving.

Remember to pray for the deliverance of blessings to each and every one.

So until we meet next month, let's be in prayer for each other and all family members. Both my prayer line and text line are open if needed.

Remember AMAZON.COM, only delivers man made merchandise. Prayers and faith must come from you for your comrades and families.



VFW Chaplain One, Samuel Cummings

Text: (619) 418-1959 or

Email: samcummings628@yahoo.com

Stand Down Update

This year VVSD Stand Down will occur from Thursday, July 20, to Noon Saturday, July 22, in the Pechanga (Old Sports Arena) parking lot. The shift in days of the week was due to space and location availability. VVSD is asking if the VFW would like to cook our meal on Thursday, July 20, or Friday, July 21.

Stand Down Chairman Matt Foster is requesting if the VFW can do it for VVSD on Friday, July 21, 2023.

This will more than likely be discussed at the District meeting.

The District, at this time, will gladly start to accept your Auxiliary donations to help offset the food costs with this meal.



Jerry Koehmlein



A Reminder from Commander Lewis

DELEGATES

Per National Bylaws Section 222

(a) Delegate strength shall be one for every thirty members or fraction thereof in good standing. Delegates and alternates shall be elected in accordance with the Manual of Procedure.

(d) Each Post will pay, in advance, a National Convention registration fee of twenty-five dollars (\$25) which shall entitle the Post to a packet of convention information and materials and one identified registered delegate for the National Convention. Each additional delegate attending the National Convention will pay a ten dollar (\$10) delegate fee.

Per National Manual of Procedure Section 222

Delegates and alternates for the District Convention and Meetings, Department and National Conventions shall be elected at a regular meeting in April. Delegate strength will be based on members in good standing as of March 31st.

NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

Per National Manual of Procedure Section 217

Nomination. Prior to the opening of nominations, the Post shall decide which form of election shall be used, unless the Post Bylaws specify the manner of election. Any nominee shall have the opportunity to decline nomination for the office to which they have been nominated before nominations are closed. A member making the nomination of an absentee for any office shall have presented to the Adjutant, in writing, the consent of the member being nominated prior to the opening of nominations. Nominations of Post Officers shall open in March and remain open until the Post is ready to vote, provided, however, that when a poll system is used, as hereinafter described, nominations must be closed at the meeting prior to the election to allow the Adjutant to prepare a printed ballot.

Election. Post officers shall be elected in April. Balloting for Post officers may be conducted by open vote or written secret ballot (handwritten or printed) at a regular Post meeting, or, if required by Post Bylaws or authorized by Post vote prior to the opening of nominations, by a poll system. Absentee ballots and proxy votes are prohibited.

John Lewis
Commander
VFW CA District 1
714-887-6702
vfwcadist1.org

MEMBERSHIP INCENTIVE ANNOUNCEMENT

Starting 1 April, we will begin a new recruiting incentive. The District 1 VFW member that recruits the most new members between 1 April and 31 May will be awarded a cash prize of \$300.

Second place will receive \$100, and 3rd place \$50.

The members post must be at 100% by the end of the year to be eligible.

Commanders, please inform all post members.

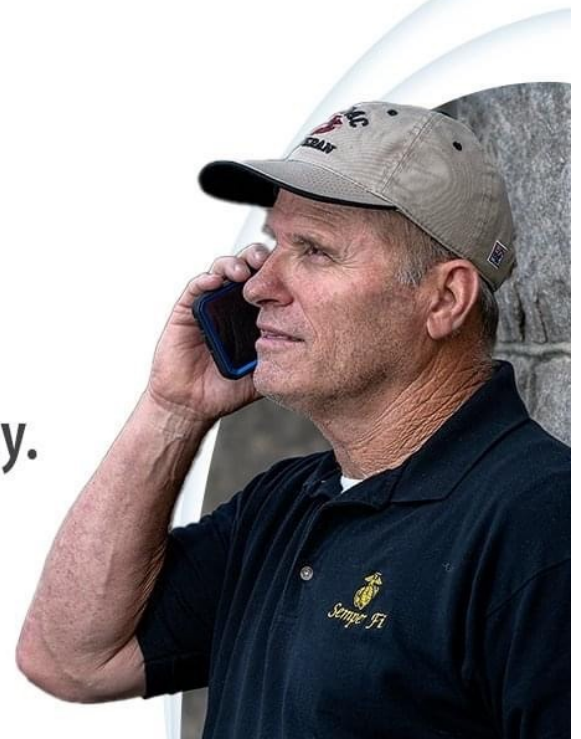
UPDATES WILL BE SENT OUT WEEKLY. GOOD LUCK



Be prepared.

Save the number in your phone today.

Dial 988 then Press 1



VFW 103rd Annual State Convention

June 7-11, 2023

DoubleTree by Hilton Anaheim/Orange County

100 The City Drive

Orange, CA 92868



Room Rates \$139 per night plus tax

Parking \$5 per night

Tentative Agenda:

- 6/7 - Various trainings (QM, Reporting, Inspections, Etc.)
- 6/8 - Council of Administration
- 6/9 - Business Sessions
- 6/10 – Business Sessions, Elections, Joint Installation, Reception
- 6/11 – 23-24 Council of Administration Meeting



When the clock struck midnight and rang in 2023, it brought several new laws that will honor and benefit many of California's 1.6 million military veterans. Governor Gavin Newsom signed all in 2022.

One law (AB2949) exempts vehicles with license plates issued to disabled veterans, Pearl Harbor survivors, prisoners of war, or to veterans who have received distinctions such as the Purple Heart or the Congressional Medal of Honor from paying tolls on roads, bridges, highways, vehicular crossings, and other toll facilities. Eligible veterans do not need to have a FasTrak account, although a FasTrak-enrollment requirement will be instituted in the future. The benefit does not apply to express lanes, including high-occupancy vehicle lanes.

Another cost-saving law (SB837) repeals the \$5 fee veterans previously paid for obtaining the word "VETERAN" printed on the face of their California Driver's License or identification card. This designation may grant individuals access to certain privileges, benefits, or compensation associated with being a veteran without carrying and producing a Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty (such as DD 214, DD 256, or NGB-22)

Present your discharge documentation to your local County Veterans Service Office, which will issue you form VSD-001 – Veterans Status Verification. This is what you present to the DMV office when you renew or replace your DL. Visit website www.cacvso.org to locate your nearest County Veterans Service Office.

VETERAN DRIVER LICENSE AND ID AVAILABLE



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

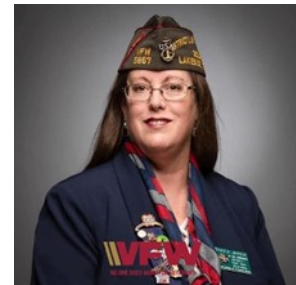
District website www.vfwcadist1.org

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



Buddy Poppy Display Contest

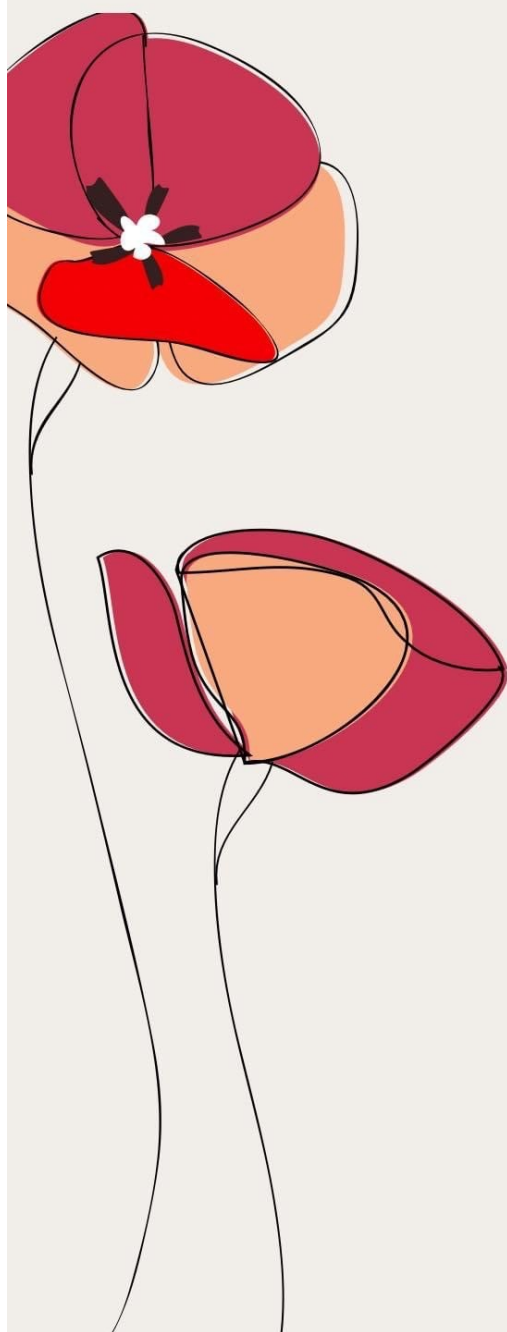
CATEGORY 1 - PUBLIC
PROMOTION

CATEGORY 2 - MEMORIAL OR
INSPIRATIONAL

CATEGORY 3 - ARTISTIC OR
DECORATIVE USE OF THE
POPPY

CONTACT

For all questions please contact Alexis Henshaw, Dept Buddy Poppy Chairman. If your Post or Auxiliary plan to submit a display at Department Convention please notify Alexis by May 1st 2023. alexishenshaw@hotmail.com





Partners In Patriotism
GIVE MONTHLY TO HELP OUR 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 grid

ACCOUNT NUMBER

Exp. date grid

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.

District 1 Events

Photos from events can be viewed
on the District 1 Facebook page:

[VFW CA Mighty 1st Dist & Aux](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS AROUND THE DISTRICT

VFW Post 3795 Auxiliary Presents



Saturday, April 29th

Momma Frida & the Boys Live 2-5pm



Full Meal \$13

**Nancy's Famous Meatloaf
with all the Fixings**

***Free meal with Housewarming Gift Donation*
(Minimum Value \$13)**

Game Starts at 5pm

\$20 Donation per Couple

Prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd

Proceeds Benefit: Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society



VIEJAS CASINO & OUTLET FUN DAY TRIP
 ALL DISTRICT 1, VFW's & VFW AUXILIARIES ARE INVITED
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5TH

A Viejas Motor Coach will pick you up at one of hopefully two locations, between 9am and 10am (#1-You can meet us at the SABLE post 9:30am in El Cajon, or from a location, #2 -TBD in the So. Bay if there are at least 10 from there attending.

Your friends and family are invited as long as,

Everyone attending must:

Be 21 of age or older. Have a Valid ID with them.

Sign up for a Casino card (if you don't have one already)

Gamble a minimum of \$20 per person, and win as much as you can! No Maximum

For \$25 per person, you will receive nibbles and a goody bag with gifts,

a chance to win up to \$1000 on a California Scratcher and

a special VIP Viejas Coupon Book that will be included just for you to go shopping

after you win in the Casino! We will also have a chance to win cash on the bus!

This is a District 1 Auxiliary sponsored, "TEAM FUN DAY", a chance for us all to get together and have some fun and get to know each other.

You need to **RSVP to VFWAUX3787@GMAIL.COM** space limited

and need to have the money in by 3/23/23. If you don't have an email or you have any questions please call **Julie Licari at 619-455-3314.**

Please include your legal name, phone number and email, so we can call you and confirm details and answer your questions.

Come have some fun!

UPCOMING EVENTS AROUND THE DISTRICT

KARAOKE CONTEST

at VFW Post 7907, 12342 Old Pomerado Rd, Poway

Competition dates:
 Feb. 3 @ 6pm
 Feb. 10 @ 6pm
 Mar. 3 @ 6pm
 Mar. 10 @ 6pm

GRAND FINALE
 Friday, APRIL 7 @ 6pm

Competition details:

- Open to the public
- Free song genre, selected by participants during 4 competition weeks
- PRIZES EACH WEEK for contestant with the most audience votes!
- 1 time entry fee of \$10
 *full details and rules available online

REGISTER ONLINE



\$400 GRAND PRIZE TO 4/7/23 FINALE WINNER

HOSTED BY **LAKESIDE VFW**

SPRING Craft Fair

APRIL 1 & 2
9am-2pm

HANDMADE CRAFTS, GIFTS, & MORE!

Fri Steaks 5-8pm (Preview Night)
Weekend Meals:
Sat Burgers 11am-2pm
Sun Breakfast 9am-1pm

12650 Lindo Ln, Lakeside CA 92040
Crafters contact vfw5867events@gmail.com

Photos with the Easter Bunny! 11am-12pm



Casino Night

APRIL 22, 2023

SILENT AUCTION / RAFFLE PRIZES

6PM COCKTAIL HOUR * 7PM GAMBLING

Tickets \$40 per person in advance / \$45 at door
 You get \$200 in gambling money!
 SCAN QR code above to register




VETERANS HELPING VETERANS

Veterans of Foreign Wars California Motorcycle Club

PRESENTS

CANYONS & CAMARADERIE

APRIL 22, 2023

REGISTRATION @0900

\$20 solo
 \$30 2 up
 Includes Meal

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA Biggs SAN MARCOS, CA

BENEFITING **STEP**
 SUPPORT THE ENLISTED PROJECT
teamstepusa.org

(Continued from Page 2)

As of March 20, 2023, District 1 has 14 Auxiliaries are 100% or higher in membership, and 7 Auxiliaries in the 90% or higher range. Our current membership is at 98.61% and we must keep pushing for 100%! We are currently behind District 3 by almost 2.5%! Thanks to everyone who helped get their annual members back in good standings! Thank you also to Ramona Auxiliary 3783 President Bob T. and his team for a great membership meeting for March. Lots of folks attended both in person and online to find out our updates. I recently mailed out Department 100% membership pins to a few Auxiliary Presidents, some of whom I do not get to see during our membership meetings.

Note:

Our next (and my last) District 1 Meeting will be held:

Sunday May 7, 2023

8:00 a.m. Memorial Service

9:00 a.m. Regular Business Meeting

VFW Post 5867 – Carter Smith, Lakeside

Requesting all Auxiliary presidents and/or reps to please bring a dish to share during the meeting. We will be having nominations/elections for District 1 officers under 'new business' and ask for as many Presidents and their teams to be in attendance.

District 1 Chaplain Christina will have the memorial books ready for the service, so please be prompt and a little early for the 8am start time so we can proceed without delay.

Our next membership meeting will be held:

Tuesday April 25

5:30 pm on site

6:15 pm online

VFW Post 7420 – Don Diego, hosted by Auxiliary President Veronica and her team.

Our membership team is working on the final membership dinner arrangements and will be in the May Dispatch and emailed out to those who have attended and paid. We also are asking those Auxiliaries who were contacted recently to have all their donations, dues, delegates fees (due by 3/30 to District 1 Secretary Evie), audits and other financial obligations accounted for. We want to strive for everyone to receive recognition for their Auxiliary's efforts in supporting veterans.

Please note that the Department Auxiliary's next meetings, called Council of Administration will be here in District 1 the weekend of April 14-16.

I'm still waiting on where Auxiliary session will be held, since many folks from within the State of CA will be here in our territory for this event. Once I have details, I'll send an email out to the Auxiliary Presidents to pass on to the members who may want to come to the meeting to sit, watch and learn.

District 1 Commander John's homecoming was on April 1st, and as of this date, I'm still working on mine. I'll send a separate email out to everyone as to the date/time/location for my reception/party, as it most likely will be off site and not at any Post.

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In closing, please keep my husband, Dave, in your prayers due to major health issues and in the hospital getting care. He was in the hospital for 2.5 days on the 1st round but was discharged too early and suffered a relapse. He was readmitted and will not be back home until he has been stabilized. Cards to my hubby would be greatly appreciated.

**Please send to:
Greth D. Snyder
PO Box 1045
El Cajon CA 92022**

I want to thank those Auxiliary members who contacted me to assist during my husband's hospitalization for dog sitting and other help as needed. Thank you also to Department Chaplain Kathie O, Aux 5867 for visiting hubby while in the hospital. He sends his sincere thanks.

Unfortunately, 1 of my dogs was put to sleep due to her medical issues (incurable). Thank you sincerely to Linda P./ Aux 9578 and Diana K., my Senior VP/ Aux 5867 for being with me during the dog's passing.

Speedy recovery to Past District Presidents Christine Edwards, Beth Flinn and Ellie Mello (Past Dept. President) on their illnesses.

For April:

Happy Blessed Easter and Passover to everyone.

Keep up the great work and efforts for our veterans and the Mighty 1st will always be who we as Auxiliary members are!

Respectfully:

Loyally:

**Sheila Jo Toor-Snyder
VFW District 1 Auxiliary President
phone: (619) 990-0536
email: sheila.district1@gmail.com**

