



The American Legion Twin Cities Post 313, Inc.  
Larkspur & Corte Madera, California  
www.americanlegion313.org



# Monthly Times

OUR MISSION: TO HONOR, SERVE AND SUPPORT OUR ARMED FORCES, VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES, WHILE PROMOTING PATRIOTISM IN THE COMMUNITY

Volume 83 Issue 12

December 1, 2011

## From the Commander . . .

**Free V.A. Benefits Workshop.** For its December 10, General Meeting, Post 313 is sponsoring an event of great importance to all its members and their veteran friends. From 10:00 a.m. to 12 noon, Sean Stephens, Marin County Services Officer, will present, "Benefits from the V.A. for Veterans." His discussion will include Pension with Aid and Attendance, Service Connected Disabilities, Agent Orange, and Health Care Benefits. Please invite your friends to join you at the American Legion Hall. Note: this December 10 meeting cancels the originally scheduled December 5 General Meeting.

Following Mr. Stephens' presentation, Post 313 will host a free lunch in the Club Room from 12 noon to 2 pm.

**Christmas Dinner, December 7.** This event promises to be the best ever, not only for the camaraderie and outstanding food but also for Cecil Green's special program. Reserve now; See the ad on page 4 for details.

**Check Presented to Fort Miley.** Post 313 member Bill Brennen presents a donation check from the members of Post 313, in the amount of \$2,000.00, to Owetdia Dupree, Chief of Voluntary Services at Fort Miley Veterans' Hospital. All funds will be used to assist hospitalized veterans at Fort Miley.



**Veterans' Week.** This week was spectacular, filled with many memorable, deeply moving events, including the College of Marin Veterans' Day Celebration on November 9; the beautiful evening honoring all Marin County vets at Marin Catholic High School; a special remembrance at morning Mass at St. Patrick's Church on November 11; and later on that day, the very inspirational ceremony at Civic Center, San Rafael, and our own fund-raising dinner for Fisher House that evening.

## The College of Marin Veterans' Day Celebration.

Bill Brennen, Dan Brennen, and Steve Bartley presented the colors at this celebration. Gene Plocki manned a special recruiting table and signed up new members for 313. Many vets stopped by to ask questions. It was a worthwhile event for all who attended.



**Building Better Citizens for America.** Honoring veterans and the JROTC of Novato, and held in Marin Catholic High School's beautiful new dining room and student center, this dinner on November 10 was elegant and very celebratory of the Marin veterans, who so generously served our country.

A Colors ceremony opened the formal program followed by a prayer. Susan Miller, Building Better Citizens for America President, welcomed the capacity crowd. Throughout the evening, wearing their dress whites, a quartet of young women from the *U.S.S. Hornet* regaled the crowd with a large repertoire of songs from the 30's, 40's, and 50's. An open bar and large plates of *antipasto* led into an excellent dinner. A live auction soon followed and, finally, the highlight of the evening, Joanna Doolittle Hoppes, granddaughter of Jimmy Doolittle, talked to the vets and their families about her grandfather and the book she has written about him. On leaving, each vet was given a copy of her excellent, inspirational book, *Just Doing My Job*. This whole event was free of charge, thanks to the generosity of several Marin County people who underwrote the cost.

Many from Post 313 attended, and we hope that next year, many more will attend.

**Marin's Official Veterans' Day Program.** These ceremonies were held at the San Rafael Civic Center and

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included music, a presentation by the Novato JROTC, and the main speaker, Staff Sergeant Matthew Moore, U.S. Marine Corps. The parade and outside ceremonies were cancelled because of rain.

**The Fisher House Fundraiser at 313.** This spirit-filled evening on November 11 began with cocktails at 5:00 p.m., followed by a delicious lasagna dinner and raffle. Following dessert, two representatives from the David Grant USAF Fisher House, Charlene Hall and Jane Hassanieh, presented a very moving film about the worldwide work of Fisher House, brought us up to date on their work at Travis, and answered questions.

Proceeds from the dinner, donations, and the raffle became a \$2,500.00 gift we will soon very happily present to the Travis Air Force Base Fisher House. One highlight of the raffle was the grand prize won by Don Fratus: a cruise on the 1943 Liberty Ship, the *S.S. Jeremiah O'Brien*. The evening was a greatly enjoyable success due to the work of many hands. We thank Bill Brennen, chairman, Dan Brennen, C.J. Carrillo, Bob Gonzalez, Will Kaefer, Pat LaTray, Bob Means, Lindsay Means, Gene Plocki, Jim Reilly, and those who helped with clean-up at the end. Special thanks to Mark Shafer for getting the cruise donation.

**Veterans' Bar Sunday.** On Sunday, November 20, the Veterans' Bar was open. It was fun to see the 49ers win again. Jake Merz plans to have the bar open on a regular basis. For future dates, check our web-site calendar. It was nice seeing Fernando home for the holidays. Thank you for your work, Jake.

**January General Membership Mtg.** Our January meeting will include Initiation of New Members and will be held on Saturday, January 14, 10 am—12 noon. We hope this day and time will be convenient for more members to attend.

**VA Visit and Donation, San Francisco.** Sometime this month, members of Post 313 will visit the VA Hospital in San Francisco and give the hospitalized veterans their \$10.00 chit books, redeemable in the hospital gift shop. Our total gift will be \$2,000.00. If you would like to be part of this event, please contact Gene Plocki.

**School Flag Lecture.** By popular demand, Cecil Green and Gene Plocki lectured about the American flag to a class of second graders at Our Lady of Loretto School in Novato on November 21. This is another program in which members would greatly enjoy being involved. The children are full of enthusiasm and great

questions and truly enjoy these presentations. See Gene Plocki if you would like to be part of nurturing little children in a great love and respect for their country and flag.

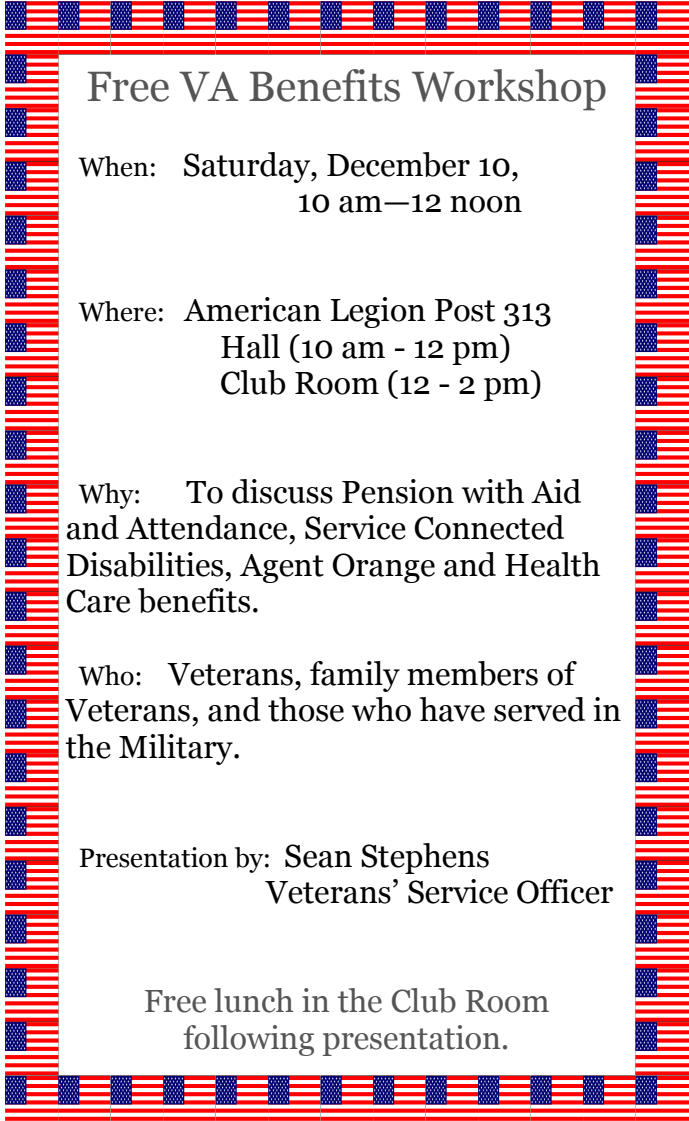
**Change in 3rd Vice.** Jim Reilly has resigned his position as 3rd Vice/Bar Manager for Post 313 due to health reasons. We thank Jim for his commitment and hard work in this position, and hope his health improves soon.

Tad Craig has stepped in to replace Jim in this position and we welcome him aboard.

**Auxiliary News** - Pauline Angleman

**Updates:** Our last meeting on November 11 was well attended. Checks were forwarded to Fort Miley and to Yountsville. Barbara got some packages off which should reach our troops for Christmas.

I hope that many of you will be able to attend our next meeting on December 13. See you then!



**Free VA Benefits Workshop**

When: Saturday, December 10,  
10 am—12 noon

Where: American Legion Post 313  
Hall (10 am - 12 pm)  
Club Room (12 - 2 pm)

Why: To discuss Pension with Aid and Attendance, Service Connected Disabilities, Agent Orange and Health Care benefits.

Who: Veterans, family members of Veterans, and those who have served in the Military.

Presentation by: Sean Stephens  
Veterans' Service Officer

Free lunch in the Club Room  
following presentation.

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## Post 313 Christmas Dinner

Wednesday, December 7

Activities begin at 5 pm; Dinner at 6 pm

Come celebrate with your fellow  
Vets and Guests

Choice of Roast Beef or Oven Roasted Salmon  
Dessert & Coffee

\$23.00 per person  
Table wine available at \$5 a bottle

Reserve early. Send check & menu selection by December 2 to  
Post 313, 500 Magnolia Ave.  
Larkspur, CA 94939

