

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

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"Still Serving America"

February 1, 2020

American Legion
Twin Cities Post 313, Inc.
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Officers and Staff

Commander	Kit Kubitz
Financial Officer	Chuck Heusser
1st Vice Commander	Tom Beck
2nd Vice Commander	Bob Rogers
3rd Vice Commander	Tom Berns
Past Commander	Bob Means
Sergeant- at-Arms	Furgus Wilson
Adjutant	Bob Gonzalez
Historian	Bob Bonderud
Member-at-Large	Bob Gonzalez
Member-at-Large	Bill Howard
Member-at-Large	Andy Guralas
Chaplain	Rev. Palmer O. Wilkins
Service Officer	Sean Stephens
Auxiliary Unit	
President	Elena Bartley
1st Vice President	Donna Ford
2nd Vice President	Maxine Cohen
Past President	Pauline Angleman
Secretary	Yolanda Fugate
Treasurer	
Historian:	Brenda McKown
Chaplain:	Margaret St. John

Commander Kit Kubitz

The February General Membership meeting and Executive Committee meeting will be Monday, February 3 at 9:30 a.m. Please attend and learn about Post 313 activities, if you can. The next Post 313 Breakfast will be Saturday, February 8 at 9 a.m. We discussed having a showing of the movie 1917 after the breakfast but decided it might be better as an evening event, which is still being considered.

Note this is a Leap Year, so there are five Saturdays in February 2020. If you haven't renewed your membership for 2020, you're probably getting messages from the American Legion. It's easy to renew your membership on line including a discount from \$599 to \$499 for Life Membership in you renew during the current cycle.

Veterans were well represented at a recent Town Hall for Congressman Jared Huffman, including Ernie Bergman of Vietnam Veterans of America. Ernie recounted his early experience as a litter bearer and hospital aide during which time he saw terrible wounds and casualties. He concluded that we need to avoid the horror of war whenever possible. Other Veterans asked questions about the Veterans Administration and vacancies in filling VA staff and about the VA and alternative treatments for PTSD such as cannabis. Congressman Huffman was also asked questions about climate change and carbon capture technologies. A number of people also asked about whether Tule Elk at Point Reyes should be limited for ranches. There were also questions on taxes, Proposition 13 changes, traffic on Highway 101, and immigration. Marin County Veterans Service Officer Sean Stephens attended and had ensured that many veterans attended.

Post 313 will shortly begin selecting representatives from Tamalpais and Redwood High Schools for California Boys State where young people can learn how to participate and lead in repre-

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~ February 2020 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Groundhog Day	3 9a Coffee (Clubroom) 9:30a E Board 9:30a General Membership Meeting (Clubroom)	4	5	6 9a Coffee (Clubroom)	7	8 9a Post Breakfast (Clubroom)
9	10 9a Coffee (Clubroom)	11 12p Auxiliary Luncheon (Clubroom)	12	13 9a Coffee (Clubroom)	14 Valentine's Day	15
16	17 Presidents Day 9a Coffee (Clubroom)	18	19	20 9a Coffee (Clubroom)	21	22
23	24 9a Coffee (Clubroom)	25	26	27 9a Coffee (Clubroom)	28	29

~ March 2020 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 9a Coffee (Clubroom) 9:30a E Board 9:30a General Membership Meeting (Clubroom)	3	4	5 9a Coffee (Clubroom)	6	7
8 Daylight Saving Begins	9 9a Coffee (Clubroom)	10 12p Auxiliary Luncheon (Clubroom)	11	12 9a Coffee (Clubroom)	13	14 9a Post Breakfast (Clubroom)
15	16 9a Coffee (Clubroom)	17 Saint Patrick's Day	18	19 9a Coffee (Clubroom)	20 Spring Begins (Northern Hemisphere)	21
22	23 9a Coffee (Clubroom)	24 World Tuberculosis Day	25	26 9a Coffee (Clubroom)	27	28
29	30 9a Coffee (Clubroom)	31				

For calendar updates, see the club room bulletin board & the post website, americanlegion313.org

For Veteran's Services, see [http:// www.co.marin.ca.us/depts/HH/main/ ag/ veterans.cfm](http://www.co.marin.ca.us/depts/HH/main/ag/veterans.cfm)

sentative democracies like Congressman Huffman's Town Hall.

Benefits for Veterans

Since 2017, Veterans have had access to the PX online. About 250,000 people have registered for a new benefit from the military exchanges that allows all honorably discharged veterans to shop online, officials with the Army and Air Force Exchange Service (AAFES) said Monday. In the past, exchange access -- both online and at brick-and-mortar stores on military bases worldwide -- has been reserved for active-duty troops and their families, Reserve and Guard members and their families, military retirees, 100 percent service-connected disabled veterans, and the families of fallen troops. Medal of Honor recipients are also given access. The new benefit, however, allows all honorably discharged troops to access the exchange services' online stores, regardless of how long they spent in uniform. To access the new benefit, each veteran must submit to VetVerify.org personal information, including his or her Social Security number. About 13 million veterans qualify for the new benefit, officials said. Products purchased through the exchanges are tax free, and a percentage of revenue benefits Morale, Welfare and Recreation programs. Post 313 Member Dave Stainbrook has already used the PX access program to buy a number of items and can advise other members how to use this program.

Another member of Post 313 inquired about how to use VA Loan Guarantees to purchase a house. Your commander reviewed the available requirements and advised the Member that it was necessary to have a Certificate of Eligibility and to use the Loan benefit for a residence in which the member intended to reside, even if the home would be shared with another relative. With a VA-backed home loan, the VA guarantees (or stands behind) a portion of the loan you get from a private lender. If your VA-backed home loan goes into foreclosure, the guaranty allows the lender to recover some or all of his losses.

Since there's less risk for the lender, they're more likely to give you the loan under better terms. In fact, nearly 90% of all VA-backed home loans are made without a down payment. Remember, you are eligible for a number of benefits as Veterans and can have a Veterans designation on your driver's license. And remember, you can include Post 313 in your charitable giving and estate planning. Post 313 supports a number of activities including Larkspur/Corte Madera Little League, Boys State, Gold Star Parents events and other volunteer activities.

We are now 75 years after victory by America and our Allies in World War II and have a few Post 313 members who served with the Greatest Generation. But each generation has its call to service. A new movie, *Last Full Measure*, tells the story of Air Force Pararescueman William H Pitsenbarger, who died saving the lives of members of the First Infantry Division in Operation Abilene in Vietnam in 1966.

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999 Fifth Avenue, Suite 320
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Post 313 Breakfast

Saturday, February 8, 2020

9:00 am in Club Room

\$5.00 (All you can eat!)

Includes fruit juice, scrambled eggs with cheese, pancakes, bacon, sausage & coffee.

Reservation: Signup in Club Room or Call Bill Brennen (415-927-0393)

Leave message at the Post (415-924-6283)

American Legion Post 313

500 Magnolia Street

Larkspur, CA 94939

American Legion recognizes February as Americanism Month

The American Legion has recognized the month of February as Americanism Month since 1960 when Resolution No. 163 was passed during the National Convention in Miami Beach, Fla.

“We established observance of an Americanism Month that calls upon each of us to pause and reflect on what it means to be an American, and to rededicate ourselves to taking action that will uphold a 100 percent Americanism,” said Richard Anderson, chairman of The American Legion's Americanism Commission. “In 1981, then-National Commander Michael Kogutek said, ‘There is no organization whose name is more closely linked in the minds of citizens with genuine Americanism than is The American Legion.’”

The Preamble to The American Legion Constitution states, “To foster and perpetuate a 100 percent Americanism.” Therefore, Anderson encourages the Legion Family “to reflect on what it means to be an American and our responsibility for fostering Americanism. Americanism should cultivate youth development, educational development, citizenship, community service, religious emphasis, and pride in our nation and the great symbol of our nation, Old Glory.”

A few of the many American Legion programs that fall under the Americanism pillar include Legion Baseball, Oratorical Contest, Boys State and Nation, Junior Shooting Sports, Scouting and flag education.

“Through our community involvement we can foster a culture of growth for serving our nation’s veterans and their families, for nurturing children and youth everywhere, for our organization and its programs, and for Americanism,” Anderson said.