

Harding-Blaine Post 321

"Flagship of the Fourth District"

Member of TEXALPA and NALPA

WWII Ship Keeps History Alive At Sea

Charlie's Chatter



Six times a year, history repeats itself off the coast of San Pedro, Calif., when the SS Lane Victory disembarks on a 26-mile, round-trip cruise that gives hundreds of passengers an up-close look at what life was like serving on board a World War II cargo ship.

A national historic landmark, the 455-foot-long Lane Victory is a floating maritime museum that sets sail twice monthly in July, August and September toward Catalina Island. Many of its crew are Legionnaires from across California, including chief ship's steward Jay Morales, adjutant of Post 8 in Los Angeles. Like other volunteer crewmembers, he spends two days a week, year-round, working on the ship, making sure supplies are stocked and the crew is fed.

"To me, this is something to do that has meaning," Morales says, who has volunteered on the ship for 11 years. "It's the duty, my duty, my responsibility or the responsibility of my generation. To make sure the sacrifices that those American Legionnaires in World War I, who created this American Legion, and those guys in World War II - it's important that we pass this



on to the next generation." Originally launched in 1945 from the Cal Shipyard of Los Angeles, the Lane Victory carried materials to U.S. service members during World War II and the Korean and Vietnam wars. In 1982, the U.S. Merchant Marine Veterans of World War II moved to acquire the ship to preserve it as a living memorial to the men and women of the U.S. Merchant Marine and U.S. Navy Armed Guard. The group also wanted to operate the ship as a working museum, dedicated to the maritime trades. The venerable "victory ship," named after a former slave who founded Lane College, was towed from San Francisco to San Pedro in June 1989.

During the cruise, tour guides tell the ship's wartime history in the personal terms of the Merchant Mariners and Naval Armed Guard veterans who served on the ship.

www.legion.org

I was so proud of the attendance from the Harding-Blaine Family during the Department Convention that was held in Corpus Christi the end of last month. Thank you for taking the time to attend. A special thanks to Commander Steve Cockerham for escorting me back to our meeting after I visited the Legionnaires. That was special. For those that were not able to attend the convention, Governor Rick Perry made a visit. The Auxiliary had two very special guests; Jan Pulvamacher-Ryan, National President and Peggy Monroe, Southern Division National Vice president. It was an honor to have these two distinguished guest visit our Department.

The American Legion needs your help!

HR 3329, the Homes for Heroes Act of 2007, introduced by Rep. Al Green (D-TX) was passed by the House of Representatives. The Senate version of the bill S.1084, needs your help in order to receive a vote on the Senate Floor.

On any given night there are more than 154,000 veterans across this nation that sleep on the streets. Veterans make up between 18-23% of the adult homeless population in the U. S. The bill would establish a

\$200 million assistance program for supportive housing and services for low-income veterans. It would expand the HUD_VA Supportive Housing (HUD_VASH) program by creating 20,000 vouchers, and authorize \$1 million in HUD grants to assist housing and service providers with the execution of their housing projects for veterans.

Time is running out, there are only three weeks left before Congress is on recess for a month. Only 18 senators have signed on as co-sponsors to S.1084. To insure the vote of the Senate, the American legion needs you to help them generate more support. The legion is urging all of us to contact our senators and tell them to support the Homes for Heroes Act.

Again, I would like to thank all of you that supported me during my term as Department President. It was an honor that I will always remember. Because of you, I was able to serve in this prestigious position.

*For God, Country and Veterans,
Charlie Dew*

**Department of Veterans Affairs
Mortgage Assistance**

Many borrowers, including veterans, are being hard-hit by recent events unfolding in the nation's housing and mortgage markets. It is the goal of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to help keep veterans in their homes. To this end, VA has established a toll-free number for veterans seeking assistance with their mortgages.

What VA can do for veterans with VA loans:

VA may be able to help avoid

foreclosure through counseling and or special financing arrangements.

VA may be able to intercede with the borrower on the veteran's behalf to pursue options that would allow a veteran to keep his/her home.

What VA can do for a veteran who has a non-VA loan:

VA can provide advice/counseling on how to work with their lender to avoid foreclosure

What VA cannot do:

VA cannot provide assistance with non-mortgage related issues (i.e. car payments, credit card debt, etc.)

Veterans in need of mortgage-related assistance should call VA at (877) 827-3702.

*Peter S. Gaytan, Director
National Veterans Affairs and
Rehabilitation Commission*



Commander's Corner

Hello Legion family, I apologize for the short article but Bonnie and I lost a family member recently, we have been pre-occupied. Legionnaires our 2009 membership cards are in please renew your membership. Our monthly Sunday brunch is going very well. If you have not tried it out yet, please come and see what you are missing. Brunch is held every 3rd Sunday of the month. Don't forget the Labor Day picnic at the Post home at noon on Monday September 1st. See you around the Post.

*For God, County & Veterans
Steve Cockerham, Commander*

**Elected Officers
2008-2009**

American Legion

Commander	Steve Cockerham
1st Vice	Bob Price
2nd Vice	
Adjutant	Jim Williamson
Asst. Adjutant	Terry Cloninger
Finance Officer	
Chaplain	Miguel Romeu
Judge Advocate	Fletcher Sharp
Historian	Charles Kessler
Service Officer	Jim LaBelle
Sgt-at-Arms	Jeff Armstrong
Exec. Committeeman	Reggie Gutierrez
Exec. Committeeman	
Past Commander	Ernie Rivard

American Legion Auxiliary

President	Judy Reyna
1st Vice	Renee May
2nd Vice	
Recording Sec.	Charlie Dew
Treasurer	Lavada Newell
Chaplain	Bernadine Smith
Correspond. Sec	Tamme Scholander
Historian	Sue Mains
Sgt-at-Arms	Phyllis Price
Asst. Sgt-at-Arms	Linda Wilmuth
Executive Comm.	Cindy Oldroyd
	Jean Kelly
	Cheryl Styers

Sons Of The American Legion

Commander	Bryan Vinson
1st Vice	Eddie Olivera Jr.
2nd Vice	Jimmy Gray
Finance Officer	Ray Hartline
Adjutant	Abel Silva, Jr.
Judge Advocate	David Dew
Chaplain	Jeff Saul
Historian	Danny Johnson
Sgt-at-Arms	Jimmy Jackson
Asst. Sgt-at-Arms	Mark Hamilton
Liaison	John Maguire
Past Commander	BR Evans

American Legion Riders

Director	Larry Lawson
Assistant Director	Phillip Durant
Secretary	Sue Lawson
Treasurer	Kimberly Potter
Chaplain	Michael Horak
Historian	Jorja Morgan
Sgt-At-Arms/Run Coord.	Randy Rouse
Membership	Becca Dees
Communication Chair	Wendy Rouse
Ride Captain	Dave Loba

Membership

Org.	Goal	Paid	%
AL	1116	979	87.7
ALA	285	252	88.42
SAL	210	211	100.4



UNIT 321

I would like to share with you some information about one of the American Legion Auxiliary programs. The Cancer research benefit is a Texas only participation program. The program originated in 1950 with an Auxiliary Memorial Endowment. In 1971 the program expanded to provide scholarships to post-graduate students searching for a cure for cancer. We believe that through the partnership, support and donations made by members across Texas they will find a cure through the dedicated efforts of the research work of post-graduate students at The University of Texas Biomedical Sciences Department. These students and participating Auxiliary members work together through the guidance of M.D. Anderson Hospital and the University of Texas Health Science Center. Each grantee must compete with fellow post-graduate students for the coveted honor of receiving an American Legion Auxiliary \$5,000.00 fellowship. There were eleven fellowships presented this past November. We would like to thank you for all of your past support on this very worthwhile program. Our 2009 membership cards and are accepting dues at this time.

*For God and Country,
Lavada Newell, Treasurer*

Trivia

What first Lady's funeral was held at New York City's St. Ignatius Loyola, where she had been baptized and confirmed?

(See Bartender for answer)

Memorial Park Veteran's Memorial Construction

Construction is moving along as planned and expected to be complete for dedication on Veteran's Day, November 11, 2008. The Memorial's progress can be seen in the Southwest corner of Custer and Spring Creek at Memorial Park. It will be a spectacular monument for Veterans and Families of all the Wars.

The Memorial Committee is planning that many Plano and military organizations will participate or be present including the American Legion, Sal, America Legion Auxiliary, and Legion Riders. I will learn more details at the August-September meeting with the City of Plano.

The layout and statues can be viewed at [www.plano.gov/Parks and Recreation/MemorialParkInformation](http://www.plano.gov/ParksandRecreation/MemorialParkInformation).

Clif Pratt, AL Representative

LABOR DAY

PICNIC



POST HOME

12 NOON



Squadron 321

Membership cards are in. Please renew. See Ray, Abel or Bryan and I will try to get your cards asap. Our board began the New Year with a great expectation of getting the programs worked. We need all the support we can get. Attend meetings the 1st and 3rd Thursdays at 6:00 pm and be informed. Legionnaires, help us out and sign up your sons and grandsons. Your support of us greatly helps us support you.

*For God and country,
Bryan Vinson*

American Legion

Paid Up For Life

**1/2 price drinks every
Saturday 10am till 9pm**

Chili Cook-Off "Bake Sale"

The Chili Cook Off Committee will be having a bake sale from noon – 5 p.m. on Saturday September 13th. Please bring baked good donations to the Post by noon on the 13th. Also remember, the 19th Annual Chili Cook-Off is on October 4th.

**Our Canteen Is
Now
WI-FI**



Wow, the last few months have passed by. We have had Department elections and local post elections. Please welcome our new ALR officers. The following is a short list of what we have been involved in and what's coming up.

A. We did a toy run for Cook's Children's Hospital, July 13, and received a lot of kudos from KLUV for the Post and the riders.

B. We have started putting together care packages for our deployed members, 4, from the post. Contact a rider or auxiliary person for a list of their needs if you would like to contribute. These items are fairly common and most of use them every day. We would like to send a package every ninety days.

C. On August 9, 2008 we are going, with help from the auxiliary, to have a Carroll Cloninger day at the post. This is on a Saturday and the ALR will be cooking fish and all the trimmings. All proceeds will go to Carroll to help offset some of her expenses. She has given a lot to the post family and its time to give some back.

D. Everyone will be gathering at the post at am on August 30, to ride to Seagoville to escort the traveling memorial wall to Kaufman. Kaufman has purchased one of the walls and it will be installed at the memorial park in

Kaufman.

E. The Legacy fund is a fund set up to offer scholarships to the children who have lost a parent in the service. Last year eleven scholarships were awarded at about \$4000.00 each. None of those were from Texas. It is my fear no one is aware of the program and they do not know how to apply for it. If you need info see the post Adjutant or myself.

F. We are working on the annual chili cook off for "Meals on Wheels" with Calvin. This year it will be on Oct. 4, registration and rules are posted on the post bulletin board. Calvin is the chairman.

American Legion Riders, Legionaries who ride for those who cannot.

Larry Lawson

ALR Director Post 321 Plano, Texas

SERVICE OFFICER

Another month gone by. For those eligible vets that have never applied for VA benefits need to apply ASAP. This also applies to Social Security benefits. If you are still working at that magic retirement age, but do not want to apply for Social Security you can just apply for Medicare Benefits. The retirement age for full SSI depends on your birth year. For Medicare you can apply 3 months before you turn 65. Most VA, Social Security and Medicare benefits can be done on line. All these benefits take time so do not wait until you are in need of immediate assistance.

For God, Country and Veterans

Jim LaBelle

WEAR RED ON FRIDAYS
SUPPORT OUR TROOPS

HONOR GUARD

All is going well with your Post Honor Guard.

Just prior to our last Honor Guard meeting on July 13th, Reggie Gutierrez and I traveled down to visit with Ernie Rivard at the Rehab place he's living in. Because of the chemo-therapy, he has not been allowed to shave, so he's sporting a full beard. He's also lost a LOT of weight.

It seems that within the past 60 days, while he was doing a nice job of recovering from the chemo, they discovered he had kidney stones and performed major surgery on Ernie.

This on top of his chemo recovery has taken a toll on Ernie, but while Reggie & I were there, he seemed cheerful. I know he would love to hear from his friends at the Post.

Ernie can be reached by telephone any time; the preferred time is after 1:00PM, when he's all finished with his lunch and his physical therapy.

His direct phone number is 972-572-4603. It's also on the Bulletin Board in the Post canteen.

Paul Salos, the Honor Guards "Frank Sinatra" is doing incredibly well with his appearances on the TV show "America's Got Talent". He won a slot in Las Vegas, and if he wins in Las Vegas (excellent chance of this!!) he would go to Hollywood/Los Angeles for the finals. Check out the program..it's on Tuesday evenings from 8 to 9 PM local on Channel 5, NBC. If he makes the finals, he'll need ALL our votes to help win!!!

We also have been fortunate that local veterans seem to be living longer...we haven't had any calls for funerals for some time, but rest assured, we'll be ready when those calls come in.

Thank you all for your continued support of the Post Honor Guard by attending the Friday Steak night

dinners, your patronage is MOST definitely appreciated.

*For God & Country,
Fletcher Sharp*

Pop's Points to Ponder

The month of August in my past has been very special to me. I married my wife in August of 1943 and this August will be 65 years of bliss and harmony. I also started working for the American Legion, National Headquarters in August of 1945. Also in August of 1945 Japan surrendered. In the 40 years of working for the American Legion I saw the value of organizational work. The combined strength of an organization is responsible for many good things. For example Congress is forced to listen to the leadership of strong organizations because of the votes that the organization can bring to an election. This is how the organization can get its needs before the leaders who make the budgets and policies that make the difference to the organization. It therefore behooves the organization to work as a unit. Now we are at the annual installation of officer's. This activity is duplicated for the state and national officers. The old officer's must work with the newly appointed officer's only in this way will the many programs you have benefit others. To do this you must also solicit involvement from the membership thus showing them the way to participate. It is only common sense that each participating member sees what is and can happen with involvement of membership. Our Canteen out there is basically a club, this is good for camaraderie. The real good we do is as an organization, this is to our community and programs for our veterans. This is why the organization was formed. The more involved we get with these activities we get people

talking about the good that the American Legion members are doing. This aids in gaining new membership. We need new members; nationally speaking we are losing 1% of membership per year. With all the new potential out there we can only blame ourselves for this loss. It is sort of human nature to sit on our laurels, we've got to take the "bull by the horns" and through positive actions gain great results. Did you know that over 7500 Legionnaire's in our country donated almost 1 million hours of their time at 167 V.A. facilities? This saved the V.A. (Taxpayers) \$1.7billion dollars. Their volunteer work occurred at V.A. Hospitals, outpatient clinics, nursing homes, state veterans homes etc. this is proof that volunteer efforts are valuable. How many volunteer hours or post hours does this post have and can we do better? If anyone here wants to get involved contact the Chief of Voluntary Service at your nearest V.A. Medical Center. This year, August 21st in Phoenix Arizona is the 90th National Convention. One of its goals is to raise \$350,000 for the American Legion Legacy Scholarship Fund. This is one program of many that our National Headquarters supports. They are totally involved with helping veterans. There is a concentrated effort to make an improved program to educate service personnel. Naturally Congress isn't interested in anything costing money. Yet they spend it on their own projects. A strong Legion support from 50 states will make it happen. See how it's necessary to work as a team and set aside personal dislikes. The answer is a team effort from Post to State to National.

Gene "Pops" Fattig

**19th Annual Chili Cook-off
October 4th
All Details at the Post**

Members Birthday's August 2008

1. DAKOTA HARWOOD, SHEA HILLIS
2. CARL FORD, DEBBIE MARTIN
3. CHARLES MCBRAYER, NOAH MCNABB, CHERYL OLDROYD, ROGER STORKAMP
4. GERALD DAVIDSON, P. DAVE HOCH, JOSEPH LONG, GEORGE OUSKA
5. MICHAEL HORAK, DAVID MORRISON, BILLY GREGORY
6. JAMES HEATON, CARRIE WHISENANT
7. LAUREN FAIR JR. BRADLEY LIVINGSTON
8. RICHARD HILL, GERALA KEILERS, ABEL SILVA JR
9. ANDREW FOWLER
10. DAVID PEIFFER, ANDREW SILVA
11. KAYLA GAGE, KENNETH HILLIG
12. BETTY KELLEY
13. WILLIAM HOOTEN
14. RICHARD CROSSETT, DAVID LOBA, EUGENE MUENCHAU
15. CHARLES MCCORMACK, MIGUEL ROMEU
16. CHARLES BARKSDALE, ROBERT CASE, BRANDY LITTRELL, THOMAS VOZ, LOREN WEYLAND
17. ROY CANNON, JOHN CHIURCO, MICHAEL PATIN
18. LINK COUNTS, PAUL PROCHASKA
19. RICHARD KILMER
20. JAIME LOZANO
21. RANDALL BELL, HENRY GRAY, LAWRENCE MARSHALL, PHYLLIS PRICE, RAY ROBINSON, BRYAN VINSON
22. JOSEPH CAHILL, STEVE COCKERHAM, TY HEARNSBERGER, JEFF KIRKHART, ROBERT LEDFORD, ROBERT MARTINEZ, HAROLD WRIGHT
23. DAVID BURLESON, ANDREW DIERLAM
24. RICHARD BRITT, MELISSA BURGESS, PAUL MILOS
25. JAMES BURNETT, RONALD STONE-WALL
26. LESTER BORDELON, JOHNNY COTTON, RONALD LEWIS, DAVID ROBINSON
27. JAMES CAMPBELL, RAY HARTLINE JR, DENNIS OTT, JAMES SCHWEBACH, JIM SCHWEBACH, JACK SILVERMAN, ALLEN WILLIAMSON
28. JAMES GRACE, DAVID MAY
29. THEO ROBERTSON
30. JERRY FEARS
31. W.J. PETERS, DORRIS EDWARDS

**If you see any error on this list,
contact : Adjutant at 972-423-5423**

DON'T FORGET THE BREAST CANCER 3-DAY IN NOVEMBER!

As most of you know from the June newsletter, I will be walking in the Breast Cancer 3-Day Walk the weekend of November 7 – 9. Each walker commits to raising \$2200 and I'm way short of that goal. I need help from my Legion family. Beginning August 1 and continuing for the whole month I will have a decorated jar behind the bar in the cantina. I need any donation that can be spared.

Please support me as I take an amazing journey in the fight against breast cancer! The Breast Cancer 3-Day is a 60-mile walk over the course of three days. Net proceeds benefit Susan G. Komen for the Cure and National Philanthropic Trust, funding important breast cancer research, education, screening, and treatment.

Thank you for your continued support.

Cindy Pearce

The Story of Taps

The 24-note melancholy bugle call known as "taps" is thought to be a revision of a French bugle signal, called "tattoo," that notified soldiers to cease an evening's drinking and return to their garrisons. It was sounded an hour before the final bugle call to end the day by extinguishing fires and lights. The last five measures of the tattoo resemble taps.

The word "taps" is an alteration of the obsolete word "taptoo," derived from the Dutch "taptoe." Taptoe was the command — "Tap toe!" — to shut ("toe to") the "tap" of a keg. The revision that gave us present-day taps was made during Amer-

ica's Civil War by Union Gen. Daniel Adams Butterfield, heading a brigade camped at Harrison Landing, Va., near Richmond. Up to that time, the U.S. Army's infantry call to end the day was the French final call, "L'Extinction des feux." Gen. Butterfield decided the "lights out" music was too formal to signal the day's end. One day in July 1862 he recalled the tattoo music and hummed a version of it to an aide, who wrote it down in music. Butterfield then asked the brigade bugler, Oliver W. Norton, to play the notes and, after listening, lengthened and shortened them while keeping his original melody.

He ordered Norton to play this new call at the end of each day thereafter, instead of the regulation call. The music was heard and appreciated by other brigades, who asked for copies and adopted this bugle call. It was even adopted by Confederate buglers.

This music was made the official Army bugle call after the war, but not given the name "taps" until 1874.

The first time taps was played at a military funeral may also have been in Virginia soon after Butterfield composed it. Union Capt. John Tidball, head of an artillery battery, ordered it played for the burial of a cannoneer killed in action. Not wanting to reveal the battery's position in the woods to the enemy nearby, Tidball substituted taps for the traditional three rifle volleys fired over the grave. Taps was played at the funeral of Confederate Gen. Stonewall Jackson 10 months after it was composed. Army infantry regulations by 1891 required taps to be played at military funeral ceremonies.

Taps now is played by the military at burial and memorial services, to accompany the lowering of the flag and to signal the "lights out" command at day's end.

"Old Glory"

The name "Old Glory" was first applied to the U.S. flag by a young sea captain who lived in Salem, Mass. On his twenty-first birthday, March 17, 1824, his mother and a group of local young ladies presented Capt. William Driver a beautiful flag. Driver was delighted with the gift. He exclaimed, "I name her 'Old Glory.'" Then Old Glory accompanied the captain on his many voyages.

Captain Driver quit the sea in 1837 and settled in Nashville, Tenn. On patriotic days, he displayed Old Glory proudly from a rope extending from his house to a tree across the street. After Tennessee seceded from the Union in 1861, Captain Driver hid Old Glory by sewing the flag inside a comforter. When Union soldiers entered Nashville on February 25, 1862, Driver removed Old Glory from its hiding place, carried the flag to the state capitol building, and proudly raised it for all to see.

Shortly before his death, the old sea captain placed a small bundle into the arms of his daughter. He said to her, "Mary Jane, this is my ship flag, Old Glory. It has been my constant companion. I love it as a mother loves her child. Cherish it as I have cherished it."

The flag remained as a precious heirloom in the Driver family until 1922. Then it was sent to the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C., where it is carefully preserved under glass today.

Support Our Troops