

SOTOYOME AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY  
SONOMA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA



# THE SOTOYOME NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2020

Post 111, Squadron 111, and Legion Riders Chapter 111, PO Box 281, Healdsburg, CA 95448

American Legion Auxiliary Unit 111, P.O. Box 174, Healdsburg, CA 95448

Visit our Website at <http://www.healdsburgamericanlegion.org/>

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Volume 88 Issue 2

## MIAP Fallens Ceremony Sacramento VA National Cemetery



### Important!!!!

If you can not drive and need a ride to a meeting or any Legion function, please contact any Legion team member and we will arrange transportation for you.

### SOTOYOME POST MEETINGS

**American Legion:** Thurs., February 13th @ 6:00 PM

Executive Board Meeting: Monday, February 3rd @ 6:00 PM

**SAL:** Thursday February 13th @ 5:00

**AL & SAL meetings at Villa Chanticleer Annex**

**Auxiliary:** Tuesday February 19th @ 10:00 AM  
(Eddy's House in Windsor)

**Legion Riders:** Tuesday February 4th @ 6:00 PM  
Mary's Pizza, Safeway Shopping Center Windsor



## THE AMERICAN LEGION

WAR-TIME VETERANS AND MILITARY MEMBERS  
DEDICATED TO A STRONG NATIONAL SECURITY,  
COMPASSIONATE CARE FOR VETERANS AND THEIR  
FAMILIES; COMMUNITY SERVICE, AND THE  
WHOLESDOME DEVELOPMENT OF OUR NATION'S YOUTH.

INVITE SOMEONE TO JOIN THE  
SOTOYOME AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY  
TODAY!

## FROM THE COMMANDER'S DESK

Commander Tim Madura



I hope all who attended the annual Crab Feed had a great time and enjoyed the delicious and generous amounts of crab, salad, garlic bread and drinks. We all had a great time socializing with old friends and making new ones. Many comments were made that ours is the best crab feed around. If you were not able to make it, please try to attend next year. We all shout out a big THANK YOU to the many volunteers who made it all happen. Sarah did a great job this year keeping it all on track and making it the success it always is. Thank you, Sarah.



This is the year of elections and we all have had seen and heard from many candidates about their positions on how to run our great country. Some of you may attend campaign functions to hear the positions of the different candidates. Others may have already made your decision on who that person is. When you are attending any of these functions, the Bylaws of the American Legion prohibit displaying the American Legion name or logo on any hat, shirt, vest, or clothing that you are wearing or carrying. Doing so could cause some people to think that the American Legion endorses a certain person or party. You may personally support the person or group, but we cannot have people think that the American Legion endorses anyone or any particular point of view. Support your party or candidate, but do so without an American Legion hat, cap, shirt, riders vest, flag or signs.

If you have not registered to vote, please take the time to get registered and get out and vote. A person who does not vote should not complain about how the country is getting along. If you vote, at least you have exercised your right to be able to choose what you think is best for our great country. The California Presidential Primary Election is March 3, 2020. In order to vote you must be registered. That can be done either online or by mail postmarked by February 18, 2020. Mail-in ballots are an easy way to vote without having to go to a polling location. Mail in ballots must be postmarked by March 3, 2020. If you forget to mail in your ballot or you wait until election day to cast your vote, you can drop off your mail-in ballot at your polling location.

Our regular meeting will be on February 13, the second Thursday of the month as always, at the Villa Chanticleer Annex. Meetings start at 6 PM but come early to socialize. I hope to see new members, old members and the same members. Thank you to all who attend the meetings. Don't forget to send in your due's renewal payment. Your membership counts just like your vote counts.  
~Tim

### ALR President Ron Krudop



January 8th Riders met Ron Collier at Chapel of the Chimes in Santa Rosa. For the first MIAP quarterly of the year. We escorted 11 veterans, meeting with Marin County new VRO. Together we drove to Dixon. In Dixon we met up with Sacramento Patriot Guard Riders. At SVNC we paid our respects to the 151 names read that day. All Riders need to do what they can to support the Annual Post Crab feed. Sarah has a list of all the duty assignments. Hope to see you there.

~Ron



### ALR Vice President Sarah Rafal



Greetings Legionnaires,  
I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season and was able to enjoy our annual crab feed. I'd like to say the crab feed tends to bring a lot of people out to volunteer and participate in our American Legion event. I only wish that during this upcoming year I see just as many people join us in our monthly meetings or volunteer for our other many worthy events. 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, FL. Richard Anderson, Chairman of the American Legion Commission stated, "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". I encourage all post members to participate or assist in our own Post programs such as, Boys State and Nation, Junior Shooting Sports, Scouting and flag education. See you all at our next meeting.

~Sarah



### Auxiliary President “Fast” Eddy Sauers



Well Ladies here goes another month. Thanks to all the ladies that showed up at our January meeting. It was a great meeting with a lot of feed back. Also want to let you know about our District Meeting coming up on April 19th in Cloverdale. Ladies put this on your calendar for future reference and we can carpool if you want.

We're getting started on our GIRLS STATE and would like some ladies to step in and do interviews for us with the girls. It doesn't take long for the interviews. Please call any of our officers and let them know or just call Shirleen or you can text us with your cell phone.

We have the POPPY PROGRAM coming up down the line and we always need assistance on that, so let's see if you can step up and help, even for an hour, would be appreciated. We always have the Post, Sons, and Riders there helping us, which we appreciate very much.

Remember our meeting has changed to the 3rd Tuesday of each month which will be February 18th. @ 10 a.m. at my house.

Also ladies I keep forgetting to mention I would like the dates of your birthday so we can put it in the Newsletter. Not the Year, just month and day so you can be acknowledged along with the other American Legion Family members. Well ladies I shall sign off. Have a nice VALENTINE'S DAY.

~Eddy



### SAL Commander Duke Callahan



The year 2019 is now behind us and we accomplished all of our goals. Now 2020 is again, time to set new goals. Recruitment will be on the minds of all of us legionnaires, sons of legionnaires, auxiliary, honor roll, legion riders, MIAP riders.

The new year will begin with our annual crab feed.

The SON'S meeting will resume after the legion meeting. See you there.

~Duke



### SAL 1st Vice Commander Gary McLerran



Just got back from Reno and Tahoe. My brother and I were in need of a road trip and the weather and traffic were light. No snow, but the mountains were post card perfect being crowned in white. I wanted to break in my four wheeler truck, but the roads were clear. I was telling my brother how great it would be to have a special Post 111 trip. We could take the train and play poker on the way up. I don't think a bike ride would work. Sorry Riders.

Oh yeah, I didn't gamble, so I didn't lose. We ate well and swam in the Peppermill heated pools. Can't you imagine all of us with our significant others representing the 111 at dinner and the payoff windows.

Winning,

~Gary

## Honors Team Coordinator Eddy Sauers



January was a quiet month for the Honor Team. We completed Military Honors for **George Comstock**, U.S. NAVY, with a full team at Shiloh Cemetery in Windsor. We had a new caller to shout rifle commands, **Mike Nunes**. Mike you did a excellent job for the first time. Than the following day three of us went to Rohnert Park to do Military Honors for **Jack Anderson**, U.S. Navy with folding of the flag and playing of Taps as requested by the family at Happy Living Retirement Center. **Tim Maloney** explained the opening procedures to everyone present and then we proceeded with playing of Taps (Eddy) with **Tim Maloney** and **Frank Teuschler** folding and presenting the flag to the son. The family was very pleased we could do it for them. Thanks to Tim Maloney and Frank Teuschler for stepping in.

We need to brush up on our flag presentation to the family and also on the opening speech when the Military is not present. Also need to practice the calling of the rifle orders. I think everyone knows the Taps. So we will be working on this on our next practice. I wish all the Honor Team. The Post, Sons, and Riders a **HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY**.

~Eddy



## Farewell



**Doug Newton receives an appreciation plaque from the Healdsburg Sotoyome Post 111 for his years of exceptional service to the Legion.**

## Locals 'Monkey' With Us on OP Razor, May 1971

By Kim Crumb



At some fifty meters from the Observation Post, the concave rectangle of the mobile radar system reminded me of a pool table sized claymore mine perched on a small two-wheeled trailer. As we closed on OP Razor, the door gunner on my side of the slick leaned out away from the helicopter, talking the pilot past the big rectangular antenna until the skids touched down onto the dirt. "Welcome to Razor." Shipley took the mail sack from me as I slid out of the cargo area. "Where each landing is a close shave." "You're not kidding. The way it's sitting, I bet the slick's blades didn't clear it by more than a couple feet."

He nodded in agreement. "You got batteries for our mortar's sights?"

"In my pack." At the far edge of the tiny hilltop pad I turned back for a better look at the radar emplacement. "This is the first time I've seen one of those. Is it good for anything?"

"The 'powers that be' say the system will warn us of any impending assault by the dreaded North Vietnamese Army. Of course, I have my own theory." "Which is?" "It's a worthless piece of junk, and they didn't know what to do with it. Ergo, voila!" Shipley shrugged.

"To bad we can't convince the 'powers' that beer is worthless. 'Ergo;' is that a new word?"

"Make that cold beer. And yeah, I've been saving 'ergo' for this special occasion." Holding up the mailbag, he smiled and nodded as we headed down to the FDC bunker.

"Radar's got a squad or more of NVA approaching the hill. The guns are up, I'll be with Morgan's squad." Shipley ducked into our small sandbagged bunker dug into the hillside. Snatching up his weapon, he hurried back out.

Dropping the cover-less copy of a four-month-old Rod & Custom magazine, I quickly followed after grabbing the number two radio along with my rifle. The last six days had passed slowly, with only the occasional supply helicopter to provide any diversion from the heat and boredom on our tiny base.

Across the narrow hilltop, the line soldiers who weren't in their fighting positions stood or crouched around the perimeter, weapons ready. I passed the gun pit where Smitty's crew was busy removing charges from mortar rounds. A couple dozen meters away at the far edge of the hill, Morgan's gun crew was doing the same. "Radar said ten, twelve NVA are moving up this side. Can't be too smart, coming up the steepest side." Smitty squinted in the bright sun.

Replying with a shrug, I continued to where Sergeant Martin stood, binoculars in hand.

"What we got, Sarge?" I stopped next to him. The platoon sergeant scanned the treetops just below. "Something ain't quite right here. Sir Charles, he's just not that stupid. I've got Smitty ready to fire. Morgan is standing by. Bravo's LT got the line doggies covering our rear, just in case."

"They're coming up the hill, really moving," the soldier next to the radar unit called over. The men who had been standing dropped to one knee, their rifles ready. "I don't hear anything." I double checked my weapon, noting Sergeant Martin was drumming the fingers of one hand on his holstered sidearm.

"A dozen NVA in broad daylight?" He turned to stare across the hill. Lieutenant Regis was pacing between two of the fighting positions.

"Fifteen miles per hour," the soldier at the radar called out. "They're running up the hill."

"Now, I really don't buy that. Nobody fire unless I say!" The deep voice of our platoon leader boomed across the OP. I figured that the NVA would have to be running balls out, up the steepest side. Ready, we stared down to where the dirt hillside, easily a steep fifty or sixty degree incline, vanished into the trees. Fifteen miles an hour would cover a quarter mile in one minute; an easy pace on a track, but not here. Sergeant Martin was right, something was funny about the whole situation.

Suddenly, something moved in the treetops. "Hold your fire!"

Five brown furry heads appeared, chattering furiously. "Monkeys!" Someone yelled. After a few moments, weapons still ready, we started laughing. "Incoming!" The yell was followed by more laughter.

As the number of primates increased, all began to throw things. Leaves, rocks...

"Shit." Shipley toed a brown object after it landed a few feet away. "The little bastards are throwing shit at us."

"NVA monkeys." Lieutenant Regis, Delta's platoon leader stopped next to Sergeant Martin. "We're watching real close. But I told my men, first one shoots a monkey, loses a month's pay."

"They're orangutans." Sergeant Martin grinned. "See the red top of their heads, red fur on their bodies? We probably set up on their hill and they want it back."

Cameras had replaced rifles and grenade launchers. One soldier threw a candy bar, which was deftly plucked from the air. The creature examined the wrapper, while nearby, two watched intently. More candy and bits from our c-rations were thrown. Soon the hairy red creatures were silent as they tore at wrappers or chewed.

"They're a lot like humans." I watched one snarl as it snatched a candy bar from another.

"Yeah, maybe too much," Sergeant Martin agreed.

# Doug Newton's Going-Away Party

January 4, 2020



## MIAP escort to Dixon

January 8, 2020



## Open letter to the Post from the Marin County Veteran Remains Officer

My name is **Jim Cook**. I am a new member of the American Legion, #111. I joined #111 because of the escorting of Veteran remains to the National Cemetery. At a #111 dinner, I met Tim Madura, #111 Commander and Ron Collier, Sonoma County VRO/MIAP rep. They advised of the quarterly MIAP escorts. I do not ride a motorcycle, but wanted to be involved in the escorts, so I participate driving a car. The car is generally last in the procession. These escorts, the America Legion's involvement and the MIAP movement have enhanced omnipresent pride and rekindled many repressed emotions in me. All I want to do is help. Ron Collier needed no MIAP help, but advised Marin County did not have a MIAP rep or a Veteran Remains Officer. I worked 30 years as a San Rafael police officer and have a lifetime worth of friends and contacts in Marin. The next day, I volunteered for the VRO position in Marin. Pending that appointment, I became a MIAP rep, working Marin. Ultimately, I met Jack Thornton, US Navy, who is the director of Mt Tamalpais Cemetery, San Rafael. Jack Thornton has been there forever. Jack and staff have kept and maintained the cremains of all who went unclaimed. All. When asked: Jack advised he had kept the cremains "just in case" a loved one or family would come looking. MIAP's mission. Jack gave me a book containing 245 names. Of that 245, 10 were veterans and 7 were determined eligible for burial, with Military honors. Upon returning the book to Jack, I asked if there were more unclaimed cremains. Jack: "Well, the book goes back to 2008. I have kept them since I started." Decades. Many decades. 1963. JC: And how many more might that be? Jack: "700, give or take". That adventure continues. Thank God for Jack Thornton, US Navy. These Vets' last chance to get 'home'. Rekindled emotions.

Last Wednesday, Jan 8, 2020, I escorted my first 2 eligible Veterans' cremains to Sacramento Valley National Cemetery. Prior to leaving Mt Tamalpais, I, as MIAP rep, claimed the cremains of Charles Hadhazy, US Army and Nick Kosakowski, US Army, as Family/Next of Kin, per MIAPs' procedure. Both Vets died in 2008 and had been on the shelf at Mt Tamalpais, unclaimed. As Jack Thornton handed me the cremains from the vault, many long repressed emotions slapped me up side the head. MIAP/family/NOK. Last chances. Tears. Pride. Happiness. After putting the cremains in my car, SRPD gave us a police escort out of town. SRPD staff was at curbside as we passed City Hall. More emotions. Mid escort, Hwy 37 CHP scales, I met up with the Sonoma MIAP contingent.....Ron Collier and Tim Madura plus others and motorcycles. Impressive. Emotional. For several months, by an act of good/bad luck, I have had with me a film crew, from Stanford University, who are making a documentary on Vets and MIAP.....filming everything. I was not handling the emotional aspects very well.....as if tears are wrong....all the while being filmed. Ron and Tim have done this before. Both helped with a nod, a hug and handshake. The escort then proceeded, in formation, to Dixon, Ca, where other MIAP escorts would assemble, prior to a huge contingent moving to the National Cemetery. Impressive. More emotions.

At the National Cemetery, the cremains are hand carried, by volunteers, through a flag line to a receiving area in the National Cemetery office. I had 2 Veterans. Ron had 12. As I released custody of Charles and Nick, to the volunteers, I realized the importance of the moment: 14 Veterans getting 'home'. More emotions. MIAP/family/NOK/home. Ron and I went to the receiving area to accept the cremains. Escorts/volunteers bring the Vets' cremains in and following a 3 second hand salute the cremains are received by National Cemetery staff. Nick and Charles are escorted in first then Ron's 12. Emotional First in....last out. Ron has years of experience. I am a mess. Tim is Tim. Tim makes several of the 14 transports, as he has in the past. Tim brought in the last of 14. Tim looked at me: sunglasses on, tears running down my cheeks. Tim took a standing position next to me. Have I mentioned I am a mess. No words necessary. Documentary being filmed. Tim standing next to me. A rock.

Once processed by staff: and after the taking of the cremains, one by one, to a vault.....there is a bit of paperwork. Staff removed Ron's 12 eligibles first and Ron followed staff to the vault. Nick and Charles were still on the countertop. Tim started to follow Ron. Tim took 2 steps, paused, turned to me, asking: Are you OK? I am now even more of an emotional mess. Saying: "I need to stay with Nick and Charles". Instantly, Tim executed a perfect 'rear march', saying: "I will stay with you." We stayed with Nick and Charles until staff took them to the cemetery vault. Tim then put his hand on my shoulder and we went out to the Military honors service.

JC: "Thanks Tim, you are a class act."

Charles and Nick are my first two eligibles. There will be more. MIAP has the process figured out. Ron Collier/Sonoma County has it figured out. The American Legion has it figured out. Marin County is learning. Tim is Tim, our commander. A class act. Tim is offered the lead of my escort/parade, always and forever.

## **American Legion Sotoyome Family Leadership Team 2019-2020**

### **Post 111 American Legion**

Commander **Tim Madura** 707-815-6983  
1st Vice **Dave Meyers** 707-481-1196  
2nd Vice **Terry Perry** 707-838-9790  
Adjutant **Steven Bowne** 707-578-4775  
Finance **Steven Bowne** 707-578-4775  
Assist. Finance **Miguel Correa** 707-291-1096  
Judge Advocate **Jerry Jaramillo** 707-239-1811  
Sgt. at Arms **Tony Grado** 707-527-8233  
Service Officer vacant  
Historian **Ed Doitteau** 707-312-0033  
Bar Manager **Frank Teuschler** 707-431-2328  
Chaplain **Jerry Jaramillo** 707-239-1811  
Webmaster **Ed Doitteau** 707-312-0033  
Jr. Past Comdr. **Lance Ballenger** 707-481-0003  
Executive Bd.: **Frank Teuschler** 707-431-2328  
**Harold Bagdonas** 707-480-5379  
**Doug Newton** 707-217-6309 **Frank Jerins**

### **Unit 111 American Legion Auxiliary**

President **Eddy Sauers** 707-620-8683  
1st Vice **Linda Clary** 707-433-5800  
2nd Vice **Mary Matthews** 707-838-8702  
Sec/Treasurer **Shirleen Perry** 707-838-9790  
Executive Bd.: **Helen Sager** 707-696-2691  
**Jan Shusda** 707-838-4593

### **Squadron 111 Sons of The American Legion**

Commander **Duke Callahan** 707-291-9418  
1st Vice **Gary McLerran** 707-526-4786  
2nd Vice **Mitch Laing** 707-975-1541  
Adjutant **Steven Bowne** 707-578-4775  
Finance **Steven Bowne** 707-578-4775  
Chaplain **Jerry Jaramillo** 707-239-1811  
Sgt. at Arms **Terry Perry** 707-838-9790  
Judge Advoc. **Doug Newton** 707-217-6309  
Historian **Ed Doitteau** 707-312-0033  
Jr. Past Comdr. **Ed Doitteau** 707-312-0033  
Executive Bd.: **Tim Madura** 707-815-6983  
**Tom Garske** 707-695-2334

### **Chapter 111 American Legion Riders**

President **Ron Krudop** 707-765-0373  
Vice Pres. **Sarah Rafal** 707-322-9806  
Secretary **Mitch Laing** 707-975-1541  
Treasurer/Adj. **Steven Bowne** 707-578-4775  
Assistant Treasurer **Miguel Correa** 707-291-1096  
Sgt. at Arms **Ron Dillow** 707-755-4692  
Chaplain **Ed Howell** 707-292-8033  
Road Captains **Chuck Whitmore** 702-305-4023  
**Matt Sagaser** 305-923-1652  
Safety Officer **Gary Greenough** 707-484-6400

## **FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS**

***Happy Birthday  
from the  
American Legion Family***



1st—**Steven Ramassini**  
2nd—**Ed Baker, John Pender**  
4th—**David Wyss**  
5th—**Ed Scherrer**  
6th—**Richard Kray**  
7th—**Jim Winchester**  
8th—**Frank Monticelli**  
10th—**Cheryl Ogle**  
14th—**John Brazil**  
15th—**John Reinero**  
18th—**Steve Griswold**  
20th—**David Beck, Nelson Weller**  
21st—**Robert Baker**  
24th—**Trisha Lay**  
25th—**Phil Chiminello, Ben Gibson,  
J. Turoa Tahauri**  
26th—**Ronny Wallace**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						<b>1</b> <b>Crab Feed</b>
<b>2</b> Groundhog Day	<b>3</b> Post/Unit Board Meeting 6 PM	<b>4</b> ALR Meeting 6 PM Windsor	<b>5</b>	6	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> <b>Five Star Training Napa 10:00</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> Lincoln's Birthday	<b>13</b> Post 111 Legion Meeting 6:00	<b>14</b> <b>Valentines Day</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> <b>President's Day</b>	<b>18</b> Auxiliary 10:00 AM	<b>19</b> United Vet Counsel 7 PM SR	<b>20</b> Honors Team 3 PM Annex	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Mardi Gras Carnival	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>

## March 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> Post/Unit Board Meetings	<b>3</b> <b>VOTE!</b> ALR meeting 6:00 Mary's Pizza Windsor	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> District 5 meeting, Napa Post	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> Post 111 Legion Meeting 6:00	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> <b>American Legion Birthday</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> Auxiliary 10:00 AM	<b>18</b> United Vet Counsel 7 PM SR	<b>19</b> Honors Team 3 PM Annex	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> <b>Vietnam Veterans Day</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>				

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### CHAPLAINS CORNER

Need someone to talk to?  
You or someone in the family ill?  
Know of a Veteran who needs help?  
Start with a phone call to your Chaplain.

Post: **Padre Jerry Jaramillo** 707-239-1811  
Auxiliary: **Mary Matthews** 707-688-6554  
Squadron: **Jerry Jaramillo** 707-239-1811  
Riders: Father **Ed Howell** 707-292-8033



Legion Members and Family, if you are in need of prayer  
or a hospital or home visit, my phone is open 24/7 (707)  
239-1811

**Jerry Jaramillo**

[hondokid1@yahoo.com](mailto:hondokid1@yahoo.com)

### NEW MEMBERS

**Alex Plemmons**

### The Sotoyome Newsletter

The Official Monthly Publication of the  
Sotoyome American Legion Family

Steven Bowne: Publisher/Editor

[steven5382@comcast.net](mailto:steven5382@comcast.net)

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