



# Post 117 Newsletter

POST 117 Family News



December 2013 - July 2014

## Commanders' Corner

Commanders Corner

I've started a new term as your post commander and I am looking forward to moving the post in a positive and productive direction in the coming year. We have a great team of officers at our post all of which are working hard to make our post the very best. We are very fortunate to have Mike Nettles who just received an award for producing the 3rd best newsletter in the State, Thanks Mike for all your hard work.

My goal is to increase fundraising and bring everyone together, Auxiliary, Sons, ALR and Post so we can all grow and prosper. Any suggestions and help would be greatly appreciated and will benefit all of us. Let's have a great year!!

Rich Biddlecome



**EVERY 4th SUNDAY! Breakfast @ Post!**

Look for your Raffle tickets that are enclosed for this years Post Drawing! (need not be present to win) Benefits Youths Activities.

## Dates to mark on Calendars!

- December 25th Christmas Day!
- December Meetings BLACKED OUT!
- January 1st Happy New Year!!! 2014
- February 2nd 2014 Super Bowl Party!
- February 8th Four Chaplains Inter Faith Service.
- February 14th Valentines Day!
- March 22nd Native Son's Shrimp Feed dinner.
- April 1st Fools Day! Elevator finished (LOL Ha!)
- April 11-13th ALR 8th Convention in Escondido CA
- May 3rd ALR area 2 Livermore VA picnic.
- May 10 District 10 picnic for the Livermore VA.
- June 14th Flag Day and Flag Retirement Ceremony at Lone Tree cemetery 10:30am.
- June 19-22nd American Legion State Convention in Santa Clara.
- July 1st All your Legion family membership dues are DUE for 2014-2015! (Note Legion dues now \$35)
- July 27th Yountville State VA Picnic 10am
- August 9th ALR Horseshoe Tournament @ Kennedy Park Hayward 10am.

**\*LOOK For the your Yellow Raffle Tickets and send them back ASAP!**

## Picture Rama



## 4th Annual Toys4Tots Fundraising Dinner Success!

On Saturday, December 7, 2013, Post 117 had its 4th Annual Toys4Tots Fundraising Dinner. The cost for the dinner helped raise funds for the ALR Area 2 Livermore VA Hospital picnic 3rd May 2014. There was a United States Marine at the post to greet everyone and there gifts brought to this event. This year brought extra joy thanks to a new member, Tom Deals' donation of two bicycles which were raffled off and won by two wonderful families.

The toys donated were distributed throughout the Bay Area to children in need. The money raised from this event goes directly to our activities with the veterans at the VA hospital in Livermore.

The menu for the event was a delicious honey baked ham, green bean casserole and French bread.

I hope to see you there for this years!



**Rumor still has it that the work on the Post Elevator will start in July 2014?!!**

## American Legion Riders escort Wounded Warriors Bicycle Ride from SF to LA

For the past 6 years the American Legion Riders have been there at the start of the grueling bicycle ride that takes them this year from Palo Alto VA to Los Angeles in 7 days. The ALR rides along side these brave determine warriors all the way down the Pacific Coast Highway. With the ALR motorcycles decked out with flags waving in



the wind helps keep the traffic away and the bicyclists safe. Your District 10 ALR has been there every year since the start of this Golden State Challenge as they call it. A challenge it is and for those wounded warriors' that take on the challenge it helps heal their wounds and makes them know they can overcome all obstacles that are put in front of them. It

is truly our honor to be along side these American Hero's. The week started in Palo Alto and will end at Santa Monica pier in Los Angeles.



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## Four Chaplains Inter-Faith Service

A San Francisco Bay Area Inter-Faith Service will be held in the St Mary's Cathedral 1111 Gough St SF Saturday afternoon, February 8th, 2014 at 2:00 pm in observance of "Four Chaplains' Day".

Selected High School Jr. ROTC cadets will participate in the service, which marks the 70th anniversary of the heroic four chaplains who gave up their life jackets so that others might live and went to their deaths when the troop transport "USS DORCHESTER" was torpedoed off the coast of Greenland.

Post 117 and Riders Chaplain Steven Johnson went to his first service

this year here are some of his comments:

"Well I thought that the service was well done and informational. The Jr. ROTC were very respectful and it was good to see that many respectful children in one spot." "It was well attended even with the poor weather. I'll plan on going to another next year."

**Join us @ the Post for Breakfast every 4th Sunday \$6 for a great meal \$5 for Veterans!**



## Super Bowl Party 2014

We rang in the New Year and tried your luck in one of the Super Bowl Pools with our comrades at Post 117 Canteen! It was a pot luck and lots of fun for all that came.

This year Super Bowl game was far from a game, with the over powering Seahawks punishing the Denver Broncos and nearly shutting them out! There were still a few happy members that happened to get the correct numbers in the pools.

Maybe at next years game you may be one of the first to ride the new Elevator!

## Post 117 Auxiliary President Plans on bringing back Ice cream Social

Your Auxiliary has been trying to gain momentum this year. With spring right around the corner the new Auxiliary President Susan Marr will bring back the Ice Cream Social. We will be able to enjoy a scoop or two after our Post meetings, the fourth Friday each month, for a small donation.

Sue is also planning to host a dinner at the Post in May., to help support their charitable programs and our Post 117 family.

Please come every fourth Friday to your monthly meetings and enjoy a desert and the company of our Post 117 family. We all share the same goal to support our Troops and Veterans!



Lone Tree Cemetery Alameda County Flag Retirement Center, Hayward Hills



## Flag Retirement Ceremony

Thanks to Governor Brown signing Bill 197 the Flag Retirement Bill, we will resume the flag retirement ceremony's. Twice a year the weekend closest to Flag Day in June and Veteran's Day in November. There is a short and respectful ceremony held at 10:30am in the Lone Tree cemetery theater. We try to gather local Boy Scouts, Cubs, Girl Scouts, and Brownies to do a ceremonial burn of one flag that represents flags that have been collected. The ceremony is open to the public for viewing and educational purpose for all.

The collection of retired flags are then scheduled for escort by the American Legion Riders to a crematorium for their final retirement. Afterwards their ashes are then brought back to Lone Tree Cemetery for placement in a place of honor.

The Post now has a place to deposit tattered flags in the lobby of our Veterans' Memorial Building. It looks like a Mail Box but is for tattered flags only!



## Squadron 117 Sons of American Legion Meets

The Commander of the Sons of the American Legion Squadron 117 for the past 3 or 4 years has been Jack Adams. He will be looking for some of the present members to step up and become officers. He plans on having meetings at least twice a year so it won't be a lot of work. It is a very rewarding to be a part of the Legion family and to see it grow. Don't hesitate to call Jack at 510-755-4739 and put your hat in the ring. Myself and other Legion members will always be there to help you succeed. Thanks in advance,

Jack Adams SAL Commander Squadron 117



Have a Flag Pole installed in your yard by SAL members / District 10 Legion Riders for a donation of \$100 for 16' pole



## Fly Our Flag same day of install.

- 16 ft aluminum pole or 20ft for an extra donation
- New 3X5 American Flag.
- Mounted in a lockable receiver.
- Solar light system also available for an extra donation.