

American Legion  
 Gilroy Post #217  
 74 West 6<sup>th</sup> Street #D  
 Gilroy, Ca. 95020



Non-Profit  
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January/February  
 2014 Edition



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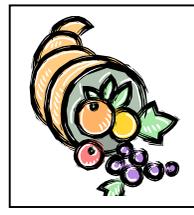


ASSORTED INFORMATION: starting in January, yes this month, Post #217 members are still free everyone else is \$10, the cost of food is too great to continue to provide free meals for everyone, you pay at the door and get your ticket...remember this newsletter goes out every 2 months not every month, it will be mailed during the first week of the current month, this edition will be mailed the first week of January... deadline for RSVPs is the Friday before the social as are the cancelations, call the Adjutant 408-607-3280... **once again we remind you not to bring your own wine or other booze from home, it's the law..**if you're interested in renting the Veterans Hall contact the new executive officer for the South Santa Clara Valley Memorial District, Christen West @ 408-838-7239 she will provide you with all of the particulars...in this issue we have provided you, our members, a menu of the proposed meals that are planned on being served for each month, this may be subject to change...recently we lost a great friend and patriot in Past Commander Raymond Valadez, our profound sympathies and condolences go to his family and friends and as well as to the families of all of our members who we have lost in the recent past...word is that some of our members are not attending our business meetings and socials because of their inability to drive at night, should you know of someone in that predicament please offer to pick them up and drive them to our event, lets help each other out...in this issue we have also included information on the disposal of tattered flags, a letter from a combat Marine and a non-emergency care fact sheet read them and stay informed...it's not too early to start planning for our 93<sup>rd</sup> anniversary scholarship dinner and members recognition night, tell your friends, seating may be limited.

**Beginning January 2014 All Members Are Still Free  
 Everyone Else Is \$10, Guests, Wives And All Who Are Not Members.**

*Here is the menu that you have requested*

- January 16<sup>th</sup> ..... Baked Chicken, Vegetables, Green Salad, Scalloped Potatoes, Desert
- February 20<sup>th</sup> .....Spaghetti, Garlic Bread, Green Salad, Desert
- March 20<sup>th</sup> .....Corned Beef And Cabbage, Baked Potato, Green Salad, Desert
- April 17<sup>th</sup> .....Baked Ham, Mashed Potatoes, Green Salad, Desert
- May 15<sup>th</sup> .....Home Made Tacos 4 Different Choices, Beans, Rice And All The Fixings
- June .....Anniversary Dinner Menu To Be Announced
- July 6<sup>th</sup> .....Members Only Barbeque 1 pm
- August .....Dark No Socials No Meeting



**Coming Events**

JANUARY  
 2<sup>ND</sup>  
 BUSINESS MEETING  
 7:00 PM  
 SOCIAL JANUARY  
 16<sup>TH</sup>..7 pm

FEBRUARY  
 6TH  
 BUSINESS MEETING  
 7:00 PM  
 SOCIAL  
 FEBRUARY 20<sup>ST</sup> 7pm

March  
 6TH  
 BUSINESS MEETING  
 7PM  
 SOCIAL 20<sup>TH</sup> 7 PM

APRIL  
 3RD  
 BUSINESS MEETING  
 17<sup>TH</sup> SOCIAL 7PM

MAY 1<sup>ST</sup>  
 BUSINESS MEETING  
 SOCIAL 15<sup>TH</sup>

JUNE NO SOCIAL  
 JULY 6<sup>TH</sup> 1PM  
 MEMBERS ONLY  
 BARBQUE

JUNE JULY AUGUST  
 NO SOCIALS

FOR YOUR SOCIAL  
 RSVP  
 CALL  
 ADJUTANT  
 RAY SANCHEZ  
 408-607-3280  
 OR SIGN THE SLIP



**Important Numbers To Remember**

- Veterans Administration Health Care .....877-222-8387
- Act Addiction.....866-717-1978
- Billing Inquiries.....866-3472353
- Homeless Hotline.....877-424-3838
- Pharmacy .....800-311-2511
- Suicide Lifeline.....800-273-8255
- Telephone Care.....800-455-0057
- VA Benefits .....800-827-1000
- Women's Program.....650-852-3229
- Patient Advocate Stephen Rogers .....650-493-5000 ex 63543



**If you are having trouble receiving this newsletter check with your mailman  
 there have been many instances of improperly delivered mail...**

# Bay Area Mortuary Offers Flag Cremations To Honor Veterans

*Bay Area Mortuary pays respect to military veterans by offering flag cremation with honorably discharged veterans.*

Bay Area Mortuary announced today that they will be honoring two sources of American pride - our veterans and our flag. Bay Area Mortuary will be helping local residents retire American flags and honor veterans at the same time by cremating old American flags with honorably discharged military veterans.

The U.S. Flag Code states, "The American flag, when it is in such condition that it is no longer a fitting emblem for display, should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning".

John Sparrar, formerly with the U.S. Marine Corps Reserves and currently serving with the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, owns Bay Area Mortuary, "Since you can't display or throw away flags that are faded, torn or tattered, we wanted to let people in the community know there is a way to retire their old flags and pay tribute to our fallen soldiers."

The Stars and Stripes are a symbol of our freedom and a reminder of the sweat, blood and tears that it took to build this country. Just like us all, the flag has a life-span and every flag should be decommissioned honorably.

The program offers veterans' families the option of having their loved one cremated with a donated, retired American flag. Bay Area Mortuary, in San Jose, is open for donations of tattered, stained or faded flags of any size for disposal in accordance with law, which designates that they be burned. "A lot of times flags end up in the trash or lying in somebody's closet somewhere," Bay Area Mortuary General Manager Andrew Sparrar said. "This is a nice way to honor both the flag and our veterans."

Families who opt to have a flag cremated with their loved one still have the option to take home a brand new American flag, just as with any traditional veteran's burial service.

Cremating a veteran with the American flag, the symbol that he or she fought for, is a way to honor those who have served our country not just on Memorial or Veterans Day but all year round.

To donate your old flag for a veteran, you can drop your flag off at Bay Area Mortuary Administrative Offices located at 2175 Stone Avenue, Suite 5, Monday through Friday between the hours of 9:00am and 5:00pm. For more information, contact KC Caunday at Bay Area Mortuary 408-998-2202 or on the web at [www.BayAreaMortuary.com](http://www.BayAreaMortuary.com).

## Non-VA Emergency Care Fact Sheet

At some time in your life, you may need emergency care. This document explains what VA might be able to do for you. When it is not possible for you to go to a VA Medical Center, you should go to the nearest hospital that has an emergency room. If you are in an ambulance, the paramedics will usually take you to the closest emergency room.

### What is an emergency?

A medical emergency is an injury or illness that is so severe that without immediate treatment, it threatens your life or health.

### How do I know my situation is an emergency?

Your situation is an emergency if you believe your life or health is in danger.

### If I believe my life or health is in danger, do I need to call the VA before I call for an ambulance or go to an emergency room?

No. Call 911 or go to the nearest emergency room right away.

### When should I contact the VA regarding an emergency room visit?

You, your family, friends or hospital staff should contact the nearest VA medical center as soon as possible, preferably within 72 hours of your emergency, so you are better aware of what services VA may or may not cover. Provide VA with information about your emergency and what services are being provided to you. Ask VA for guidance on what emergency charges may or may not be covered, so you can plan accordingly.

### If the doctor then wants to admit me to the hospital, must I obtain advance approval from the VA?

- If the admission is an emergency-NO, although prompt notification of the VA is necessary.
- If the admission is not an emergency-YES

### If a VA bed is available and I can be safely transferred, do I have to move to the VA hospital?

**YES**, if you want VA to continue to pay for your care. If you refuse to be transferred, VA will not pay for any further care.

### If I am admitted to the hospital as a result of an emergency, how much will VA pay?

This depends on your VA eligibility. VA may pay all, some, or none of the charges. Some highlights are listed in the next column.

### For service-connected conditions, here are some of the criteria that must be met:

1. Care or services were provided in a medical emergency, and
2. VA or another federal facility were not feasibly available, and
3. VA was notified within 72 hours of the admission.
4. Ask your local VA Medical Center's Non-VA (Fee) Care Office for further eligibility guidance.

### For non-service-connected conditions, here are some of the criteria that must be met:

1. Veteran is enrolled in the VA Health Care System, and
2. Veteran has received health care services from VA within the previous 24 months, and
3. Veteran has no other health insurance coverage.
4. Ask your local VA Medical Center's Non-VA (Fee) Care Office for further eligibility guidance.

### How do I know if I have a service-connected condition?

A service-connected condition refers to an illness or injury that was incurred in or aggravated by military service and has a rating assigned by the Veterans Benefits Administration.

### How long do I have to file a claim for reimbursement for emergency medical care?

File your claim with the nearest VA Medical Center quickly because time limits usually apply. For non-service-connected care, the time limit is 90 days. Again, consult your local VA Medical Center for more information.

### Will VA pay for emergency care received outside the United States?

VA will only pay for emergency care outside the U.S. if your emergency is related to a service-connected condition. For more information about care provided outside the U.S., contact the Foreign Medical Program (FMP) at (877) 345-8179, or go to the FMP website at: <http://www.va.gov/hac/forbeneficiariesfmp>

## From a Recon Marine in Afghanistan

From the Sand Pit. It's freezing here. I'm sitting on hard cold dirt between rocks and shrubs at the base of the Hindu Kush Mountains, along the Dar'voi Pomir River, watching a hole that leads to a tunnel that leads to a cave. Stake out, my friend, and no pizza delivery for thousands of miles.

I also glance at the area around my ass every ten to fifteen seconds to avoid another scorpion sting. I've actually given up battling the chiggers and sand flees, but the scorpions give a jolt like a cattle prod. Hurts like a bastard. The antidote tastes like transmission fluid, but God bless the Marine Corps for the five vials of it in my pack.

The one truth the Taliban cannot escape is that, believe it or not, they are human beings, which means they have to eat food and drink water. That requires couriers and that's where an old bounty hunter like me comes in handy. I track the couriers, locate the tunnel entrances and storage facilities, type the info into the handheld, shoot the coordinates up to the satellite link that tells the air commanders where to drop the hardware. We bash some heads for a while, then I track and record the new movement.

It's all about intelligence. We haven't even brought in the snipers yet. These scurrying rats have no idea what they're in for. We are but days away from cutting off supply lines and allowing the eradication to begin. But you know me, I'm a romantic. I've said it before and I'll say it again: "This country blows, man. It's not even a country. There are no roads, there's no infrastructure, there's no government. This is an inhospitable, rock pit shit hole ruled by eleventh century warring tribes. There are no jobs here like we know jobs.

Afghanistan offers two ways for a man to support his family: join the opium trade or join the army. That's it. Those are your options. Oh, I forgot, you can also live in a refugee camp and eat plum-sweetened, crushed beetle paste and squirt mud like a goose with stomach flu, if that's your idea of a party. But the smell alone of those 'tent cities of the walking dead' is enough to hurl you into the poppy fields to cheerfully scrape bulbs for eighteen hours a day.

I've been living with these Tajiks and Uzbeks, and Turkmen and even a couple of Pusthuns, for over a month-and-a-half now, and this much I can say for sure: These guys, all of'em, are Huns...actual, living Huns. They LIVE to fight. It's what they do. It's ALL they do. They have no respect for anything, not for their families, nor for each other, nor for themselves. They claw at one another as a way of life. They play polo with dead calves and force their five-year-old sons into human cockfights to defend the family honor. Huns, roaming packs of savage, heartless beasts who feed on each other's barbarism. Cavemen with AK-47's. Then again, maybe I'm just cranky.

I'm freezing my ass off on this stupid hill because my lap warmer is running out of juice, and I can't recharge it until the sun comes up in a few hours. Oh yeah! You like to write letters, right? Do me a favor, Bizarre. Write a letter to CNN and tell Wolf and Anderson and that awful, sneering, pompous Aaron Brown to stop calling the Taliban 'smart'. They are not smart. I suggest CNN invest in a dictionary because the word they are looking for is 'cunning.' The Taliban are cunning, like jackals and hyenas and Wolverines. They are sneaky and ruthless, and when confronted, cowardly. They are hateful, malevolent parasites who create nothing and destroy everything else. Smart. Pft. Yeah, they're real smart.

They've spent their entire lives reading only one book (and not a very good one, as books go) and consider hygiene and indoor plumbing to be products of the devil. They're still figuring out how to work a Bic lighter. Talking to a Taliban warrior about improving his quality of life is like trying to teach an ape how to hold a pen, eventually he just gets frustrated and sticks you in the eye with it. OK, enough. Snuffie will be up soon, so I have to get back to my hole. Covering my tracks in the snow takes a lot of practice, but I'm good at it.

Please, I tell you and my fellow Americans to turn off the TV sets and move on with your lives. The story line you are getting from CNN and other news agencies is utter bullshit and designed not to deliver truth but rather to keep you glued to the screen through the commercials. We've got this one under control. The worst thing you guys can do right now is sit around analyzing what we're doing over here, because you have no idea what we're doing, and really, you don't want to know. We are your military, and we are doing what you sent us here to do.

**Saucy Jack Recon Marine in Afghanistan Semper Fi "Freedom is not free...but the U.S. Marine Corps will pay most of your share."**