

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



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January/February 2015
Edition

2015 Post 217 Officers

Commander
Bobby Armendarez
408-310-9419
1st Vice Commander
Camilo De La Cueva
408-230-4987
2nd Vice Commander
Jose Garza
408-763-6732
Finance Officer
Nick Marquez
408-848-5099
Adjutant
Ray Sanchez
Sgt-at-Arms
Jose Delgado
Chaplain
Steve Charvez
408-710-1655

Assorted Information... please remember to talk to your friends and family about the Legion and the advantages of membership we need all the help we can get when it comes to new members...want to know about the business part of the Legion, attend the business meeting they usually take 30 minutes and we provide snacks afterwards, meet the new members at the same time...at the last meeting the members voted to stop paying the dues for new past commanders and those 85 years of age, those who are receiving free membership will continue to do so, if your waiting to hit 85 years like we are I guess we're out of luck, the cost to the post for providing this benefit is very expensive...the post is still having trouble getting financial records from the bar council we don't know how much revenue the bar is generating nor where the money is going...for the benefit of the new members please note that this newsletter goes out every 2 months not every month and all business meetings take place on the first Thursday of the month and the socials take place on the third Thursday of the month, members are free guests are \$10, deadline for the RSVPs is the Friday before the social...at our March meeting we will have the District conduct their meeting please show your support by attending and meet your district officers...in this issue we have included information regarding the disposal of tattered flags please read it and save the information...its not too early to think about attending our anniversary dinner and scholarship fundraiser this event has been a sell out every year...thanks to all who renewed their membership many were early and we really appreciate it, for those who have not your expiration date is in January...An Important Name And Number To Remember

Patient Advocate

Stephen Rogers.....650-493-5000 Ex 63543

This is the person to call when you have problems with the VA medical system, billing issues, appointment problems or doctors who are problematic. If he can't help contact your United States Senator Diane Feinstein or Barbra Boxer these elected officials are known to fast track veterans problems.

Coming Events

All business meetings and socials begin at 6:00 PM

January
No business meeting
Social January 15th

Business meeting
February
5th
Social
19th

Business Meeting
March 5th
Social
19th

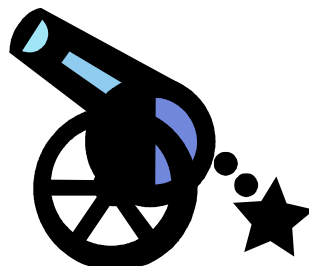
Business Meeting
April 2nd
Social 16th

Business Meeting
May 7th
Social 21st

Business Meeting
May 7th
Social 21st

Business Meeting
June 7th
Installation
Of officers
No Social

July and August
No Meetings or Socials
July 5th
Members only bar b que
Early bird renewals
1:00 PM



**Remember
February 14th
is Valentine's Day
bring home something nice for your honey**



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 Sparrer, 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 Sparrer 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.

Defenders Lodge Guide Palo Alto Division



Who can stay in the Defenders Lodge?

Defenders Lodge is designed to serve the following (reference statute 38 U.S.C 1708(b)):

- A Veteran with an appointment at VA Palo Alto receiving health care or a C&P examination.
- A member of the family or friend (referred to as Significant Other or (S.O.) who accompanies a Veteran to provide the equivalent of familial support.
- Veteran and S.O. are required to travel either 50 miles or more, or at least 2 hours from their home to the VA Palo Alto Health Care System, unless there are travel difficulties due to the health status of the Veteran, inclement weather, road conditions, or mode of transportation used by the Veteran (i.e. shuttle rider).
- * Veteran and S.O.s who are physically stable, with no recent history of falls or gait instability.
- Veteran and S.O.s who are medically stable and manage their own medications and other medically related needs.
- Veteran and S.O.s who are psychiatrically stable with no acute symptoms for at least 30 days.
- Veteran and S.O.s who are free of drug & or alcohol problems for at least 30 days.
- Veteran and S.O.s who are capable of total self-care, or are accompanied by a caregiver.
- Veteran and S.O.s who are respectful of other people, with no history of threatening or assaultive behavior.

Significant others . . .Please note:

There are no provisions in the new law to lodge S.O.s that are not accompanying a Veteran for care. However, we will continue our current practice of placing S.O.s on a pending list.

Pending List

The pending reservation list is for guests approved to stay at the Defenders Lodge who do not have a reservation. Pending reservation listed guests must present themselves at the end of the day between 4:30 and 5 p.m. at the Defenders Lodge to be assigned a bed if space permits. Veterans are given priority for available beds.

•There is no guaranteed bed for those on the pending reservation list*

How do I apply for Defenders Lodge?

Your doctor, nurse or other health care provider who is familiar with your health care needs will refer you by means of an electronic consult (Hometel) request.

Room Accommodations:

Rooms have two beds, so you will have to share the room with a roommate if you don't require a caregiver. Also, please be respectful and courteous of other Defenders Lodge guests and your roommate.

When do I check-in & check-out if approved to stay in the Defenders Lodge?

- Defenders Lodge check-out hours are at 9a.m.
- Guests must arrive to check-in between 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. on non holiday

- weekdays and between 2 p.m. - 4 p.m. on weekends and holidays.
- Approval for late arrivals will be given ONLY in cases of emergent circumstances or due to late plane arrivals. Late arrivals are allowed only up until 6:30 p.m. AND WITH PRIOR APPROVAL.
- After-hours check-in must go to the Administrative Officer of the Day located in Building 100, 1st Floor, Room A1 -134.

What do I bring?

- Your usual medications that are self-administered.
- Personal hygiene articles and clothing
- Meals are not provided. Bring cash in case you need extra food, bus fare, etc.
- Alarm clock
- Earplugs
- EXTRA PILLOWS AND BLANKETS. Only one pillow and one blanket is allowed per guest.
- Food, drinks (NON-ALCOHOLIC) and utensils. These items will not be provided. There is a community microwave and refrigerator on site as well as vending machines.

Who is eligible for meals?

Only the following people are eligible for meals: Veterans undergoing radiation or chemotherapy, Veterans who permanently reside in Alaska or Hawaii, Veterans plus one S.O. who are being referred under Tri-Care contract and one meal for Veterans who are not allowed to eat or drink prior to a procedure.

Please Note: Defenders Lodge, the VA or its staffer volunteers are not responsible for any lost or stolen personal property.

How long can I stay in the Defender's Lodge?

Veterans undergoing extensive treatment or procedures, such as an organ transplant or chemotherapy are eligible for temporary lodging for the duration of the episode of care.

Lodging will be available the night BEFORE the day of the scheduled care, if the Veteran leaving home by 8 a.m. would be unable to arrive at the health care facility by the time of the scheduled care.

Lodging will be available the night of the scheduled care if, after the completion of the care, the Veteran would be unable to return home by 7 p.m. If Veteran or S.O. becomes medically unstable, or experiences an emergency, he/ she will report to the ER or call 911. Veteran or S.O. will not resume staying in Defenders Lodge until medically cleared by a physician.

Restrictions

- No smoking in the rooms and in or near the building. You are to smoke in the designated smoking areas only. If you violate this policy, you face a possible federal fine (ticket) and you will be asked to leave the Defenders Lodge. You will also be restricted for six months.
- You cannot store your medications in the community refrigerator.
- No alcoholic beverages or illicit drugs No firearms or weapons
- No personal items such as hotplates, coffeemakers, stereos, boom boxes, etc.
- No pets. Only approved service dogs allowed.
- No guests under the age of 18

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