

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



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March/April 2015  
 Edition

Visit our website  
[www.americanlegion217.org](http://www.americanlegion217.org)

**2015 Post 217  
 Officers**

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**1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander**  
**Camilo De La Cueva**  
**408-230-4987**  
**2nd Vice Commander**  
**Jose Garza**  
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**Finance Officer**  
**Nick Marquez**  
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**Adjutant**  
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**Sgt-at-arms**  
**Jose Delgado**  
**408-427-5824**  
**Chaplain**  
**Steve Charvez**  
**408-710-1655**

**Assorted Information...**if you would like to see our newsletter in color visit our website [www.americanlegion217.org](http://www.americanlegion217.org)...back to renewals if you paid your dues and have your membership card do not pay again, the National office is very slow in acknowledging your payment, when you get your notice ignore it...not too soon to think of holding an office, nominations are in April and May with elections in May and installation in June, talk to the commander...welcome to all new members and remember all officers are available to answer any questions you may have regarding the post...**in this issue we have some beautiful pictures painted by Joe Kline a very talented local artist, when you visit our website you will see them in color, our thanks to Joe for allowing us to publish them in our newsletter and thanks also to Charles Jackson for writing the accompanying article...**if you ever had the yearning to write that famous novel think about getting started right here, we are looking for volunteers who would like to write an article or articles for our newsletter remember that's how Ernest Hemingway, John Grisham and all the others got started,..remember to attend the South Santa Clara Valley Memorial District meetings, third Monday of the month, they maintain and manage the Veterans building, stay informed and feel free to add your comments and opinion, let your voice be heard...

**Coming Events**

**All business meetings and socials begin at 6:00 PM**

**March 5<sup>th</sup>  
 Business Meeting  
 Social 19<sup>th</sup>**

**April 2<sup>nd</sup>  
 Business Meeting  
 Social 16<sup>th</sup>**

**May 7<sup>th</sup>  
 Business Meeting & Election  
 Social 21<sup>st</sup>**

**June 4<sup>th</sup>  
 Installation of Officers  
 NO SOCIAL**

**July 5<sup>th</sup>  
 Members only  
 bar-b-que  
 1:00 PM**

**July & August  
 no meeting  
 no social**



**For Your Information**

**For The Benefit Of Our New Members**

Call in your RSVP for the socials 408-607-3280, deadline is the Friday before the social. Members are free guests are \$10.

The bar-b-que in July is for the early bird membership renewals and for members only.

Feel free to volunteer and help us set up tables and chairs for the socials arrive at the hall about noon and stick around after the social and help us clean up.

Not too early to save June 13<sup>th</sup> for our 94<sup>th</sup> Anniversary dinner/scholarship fundraiser and recognizing our veteran of the year.

St Patrick's Day March 17<sup>th</sup>





“Riders of the Storm”

By Joe Kline

Since serving as a door gunner and crew chief on the Huey in Vietnam in 1970 he has painted over 50 pictures-almost all of military aircraft

**below: the top painting is the enhanced version of the bottom painting which can be seen at our Legion website [www.americanlegion217.org](http://www.americanlegion217.org)**



Bringing Air Combat to Life  
By Charles Jackson

You can almost hear the whine of the engines and the thump of the motor blades. So real are the paintings of Gilroy’s Joe Kline that they now grace the walls of thousands of veterans nationwide.

Joe has done over 50 original paintings, almost all of military aircraft, but the most unique part of what he does is making relatively low cost customized prints of the paintings. To date he has done over 8,000 such prints.

To do so, he has 1,000 full color lithographs made of the original, usually about 20”x28” in size. Then he can customize the print by hand painting it with the buyers colors, insignia and squadron markings. These scenes apparently have tremendous meaning to the men who lived the battle scenes or ones similar to them.

Joe’s works have also illustrated many books, magazines and other publications and are in the collections of the US Air Force Aviation, the Legion of Valor Museum, the Smithsonian Air & Space Museum and many other galleries and aircraft museums. He traces his interest in aviation to his father who was a B-25 bombardier with the 340<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group in the Mediterranean Theater in World War II and his own experiences as a Huey helicopter crew chief with the US Army’s 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division during the Vietnam War. More of his art work is available for viewing at [www.joeklineart.com](http://www.joeklineart.com).

