

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



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November/December
2014 Edition



Post #217 Officers

Commander
Bob Armendariz
408-310-9419

1st Vice Commander
Camilo De La Cueva
408-230-4987

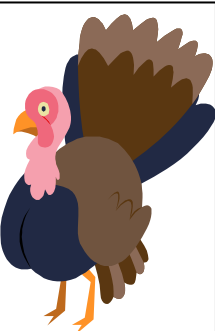
2nd Vice
Commander
Jose Garza
408-763-6732

Finance Officer
Nick Marquez
408-848-5099

Adjutant
Ray Sanchez
408-607-3280

Chaplain
Steve Charvez
408-710-1655

Sgt-at-Arms
Jose Delgado
408-427-5824



ASSORTED INFORMATION...fyi never leave membership renewals or applications in the bar, send them to the Adjutant for quicker results and so they don't get lost...in the past months we have lost members who had served our post for many years including George Besson 70 years, George Parrish 57 years our long time members, others we lost include Rod Still, Joseph Deck, Jack McCarthy, Todd Bejsovec, Roger B. Anderson, these members were dedicated and served our post very well we will miss them tremendously...in case you didn't get the word business meetings and socials start at 6 PM...the South Santa Clara Valley Memorial District which maintains and manages the Veterans building is in negotiations with our post to start charging rent, the first proposal is \$360 per month which sounds unfair considering we only use it twice a month but yet the other post which uses it considerably more times will pay the same amount if you have concerns be sure to attend the post meetings and express your views...it's been said that members don't read this newsletter consequently they call the Adjutant for information that has been published time and time again so here we go, if you are 85 years of age or more the post will pay your dues keep in mind you have to notify the Adjutant...in this issue we re-ran the article on what the post does in the community just in case you missed it last time and because we're proud of what we do!!!it's hard to imagine that it's that time again so here we go, Happy Thanksgiving and because we won't publish until January here's wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year..**remember to send in your Veterans Tribute form it's in this issue**

Ever Wonder What Your American Legion Post #217 Does In The Community And With Veterans Affairs? Check Us Out..These Are Just Some Of The Projects We Work On.

We award scholarships to Gavilan College students
We sponsor a community outreach for area veterans
We provide free meals for veterans as well as members on Veterans Day
We provide scholastic certificates and medallions to outstanding students at all middle schools at their graduation ceremonies
We donate to worthy veteran charitable causes as well as to individuals in need of temporary help with housing and finances
We alternate annually providing Memorial Day Remembrance at the local cemetery and sponsoring the parade
The post also lays out flags on Memorial Day and Veterans Day at the cemetery
With the Boys State program we support and provide financial assistance to high school students. The program teaches them the workings of government. Our last student earned a trip to Washington DC
We work with local scouts teaching them flag protocol
We award free memberships to all who are past commanders or are 85 years of age and recognize members for their longevity with a dinner and awards each year

**Coming Events
2104**

6:00 PM

Business meeting
September 4th
Social
September 18th

Business meeting
October 2nd
Social
October 16th

Business meeting
November 6th
Social
November 20th

Business meeting
December 4th
Social
December 18th

2015

January 1st
No Business meeting
Social
January 15th

Business meeting
February 5th
Social
February 19th

Business Meeting
March 5th
Social
March 19th

**All Business Meetings
And Socials Always
Start At 6 PM**

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



An Important 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 please contact your United States Senator Diane Feinstein or Barbara Boxer, these elected officials have been known to fast track veterans problems.

You Could Have Heard A Pin Drop!

Hearing the PIN DROP... interesting! Now how about some info on THE PIN HEAD???

JFK'S Secretary of State, Dean Rusk, was in France in the early 60's when DeGaulle decided to pull out of NATO. DeGaulle said he wanted all US Military out of France as soon as possible. Rusk responded, "Does that include those who are buried here?" DeGaulle did not respond.

You could have heard a pin drop.

When in England, at a fairly large conference, Colin Powell was asked by the Archbishop of Canterbury if our plans for Iraq were just an example of 'empire building' by George Bush.

He answered by saying, "Over the years, the United States has sent many of its fine young men and women into great peril to fight for freedom beyond our borders. The only amount of land we have ever asked for in return is enough to bury those that did not return."

You could have heard a pin drop.

There was a conference in France where a number of international engineers were taking part, including French and American. During a break, one of the French engineers came back into the room saying, "Have you heard the latest dumb stunt Bush has done? He has sent an aircraft carrier to Indonesia to help the tsunami victims. What does he intend to do, bomb them?"

A Boeing engineer stood up and replied quietly: "Our carriers have three hospitals on board that can treat several hundred people; they are nuclear powered and can supply emergency electrical power to shore facilities; they have three cafeterias with the capacity to feed 3,000 people three meals a day, they can produce several thousand gallons of fresh water from sea water each day, and they carry half a dozen helicopters for use in transporting victims and injured to and from their flight deck. "We have eleven such ships; how many does France have?"

You could have heard a pin drop.

A U.S. Navy Admiral was attending a naval conference that included Admirals from the U.S., English, Canadian, Australian and French Navies at a cocktail reception, he found himself standing with a large group of officers that included personnel from most of those countries. Everyone was chatting away in English as they sipped their drinks but a French admiral suddenly complained that, whereas Europeans learn many languages, Americans learn only English. He then asked, "Why is it that we always have to speak English in these conferences rather than speaking French?"

Without hesitating, the American Admiral replied, "Maybe it's because the Brit's, Canadians, Aussie's and Americans arranged it so you wouldn't have to speak German."

You could have heard a pin drop.

For half a century, the world has applauded John Glenn as a heart-stirring American hero. He lifted the nation's spirits when, as one of the original Mercury 7 astronauts, he was blasted alone into orbit around the Earth; the enduring affection for him is so powerful that even now people find themselves misting up at the sight of his face or the sound of his voice. But for all these years, Glenn has had a hero of his own, someone who he has seen display endless courage of a different kind -

Annie Glenn. They have been married for 71 years. He is 93; she turned 95 on Friday.

This weekend there has been news coverage of the 50th anniversary of Glenn's flight into orbit. We are being reminded that, half a century down the line, he remains America's unforgettable hero.

He has never really bought that.

Because the heroism he most cherishes is of a sort that is seldom cheered. It belongs to the person he has known longer than he has known anyone else in the world.

John Glenn and Annie Castor first knew each other when -- literally -- they shared a playpen. In New Concord, Ohio, his parents and hers were friends. When the families got together, their children played.

John -- the future Marine fighter pilot, the future test-pilot ace, the future astronaut -- was pure gold from the start. He would end up having what it took to rise to the absolute pinnacle of American regard during the space race; imagine what it meant to be the young John Glenn in the small confines of New Concord.

Three-sport varsity athlete, most admired boy in town, Mr. Everything.

Annie Castor was bright, was caring, was talented, and was generous of spirit. But she could talk only with the most excruciating of difficulty. It haunted her. Her stuttering was so severe that it was categorized as an "85%" disability - 85% of the time, she could not manage to make words come out.

When she tried to recite a poem in elementary school, she was laughed at. She was not able to speak on the telephone. She could not have a regular conversation with a friend.

And John Glenn loved her.

Even as a boy he was wise enough to understand that people who could not see past her stutter were missing out on knowing a rare and wonderful girl. They married on April 6, 1943. As a military wife, she found that life as she and John moved around the country could be quite hurtful. She has written: "I can remember some very painful experiences --especially the ridicule."

In department stores, she would wander unfamiliar aisles trying to find the right section, embarrassed to attempt to ask the sales clerks for help. In taxis, she would have to write requests to the driver, because she couldn't speak the destination out loud. In restaurants, she would point to the items on the menu.

A fine musician, Annie, in every community where she and John moved, would play the organ in church as a way to make new friends. She and John had two children; she has written: "Can you imagine living in the modern world and being afraid to use the telephone? 'Hello' used to be so hard for me to say. I worried that my children would be injured and need a doctor.

Could I somehow find the words to get the information across on the phone?"

John, as a Marine aviator, flew 59 combat missions in World War II and 90 during the Korean War. Every time he was deployed, he and Annie said goodbye the same way. His last words to her before leaving were "I'm just going down to the corner store to get a pack of gum." And, with just the two of them there, she was able to always reply "Don't be long."

On that February day in 1962 when the world held its breath and the Atlas rocket was about to propel him toward space, those were their words, once again. And in 1998, when, at 77, he went back to space aboard the shuttle Discovery, it was an understandably tense time for them. What if something happened to end their life together? She knew what he would say to her before boarding the shuttle. He did -- and this time he gave her a present to hold onto. A pack of gum.

She carried it in a pocket next to her heart until he was safely home.

Many times in her life she attempted various treatments to cure her stutter. None worked.

But in 1973, she found a doctor in Virginia who ran an intensive program she and John hoped would help her. She traveled there to enroll and to give it her best effort. The miracle she and John had always waited for at last, as miracles will do, arrived. At age 53, she was able to talk fluidly, and not in brief, anxiety-ridden, agonizing bursts. John has said that on the first day he heard her speak to him with confidence and clarity, he dropped to his knees to offer a prayer of gratitude.

He has written: "I saw Annie's perseverance and strength through the years and it just made me admire her and love her even more." He has heard roaring ovations in countries around the globe for his own valor, but his awe is reserved for Annie, and what she accomplished: "I don't know if I would have had the courage."

Her voice is so clear and steady now that she regularly gives public talks. If you are lucky enough to know the Glenns, the sight and sound of them bantering and joking with each other and playfully finishing each others' sentences is something that warms you and makes you thankful just to be in the same room.

Monday will be the anniversary of the Mercury space shot, and once again people will remember, and will speak of the heroism of Glenn the astronaut. But if you ever find yourself at an event where the Glenns are appearing, and you want to see someone so brimming with pride and love that you may feel your own tears start to well up, wait until the moment that Annie stands to say a few words to the audience.

And as she begins, take a look at her husband's eyes.

WOW!!! What a story

GILROY VETERANS TRIBUTE

Please submit one photograph of the veteran in uniform along with this completed questionnaire. Because of space limitations, we can display only one photo per veteran. Each photograph used will be carefully handled, scanned, and returned to the submitter.

Please return this completed form with photo to Joe Kline, Public Information Officer, at Gilroy City Hall, 7351 Rosanna Street, Gilroy. Submission can also be sent via e-mail to joe.kline@ci.gilroy.ca.us

Photos will be on display at Gilroy City Hall November through December. The tribute will also air on Cable Channel 17 during this time.

Name of Veteran: _____

Military Branch, Rank, Unit: _____

Military Job: _____

Where Stationed: _____

Dates of Service: _____

Submitted by: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____