

Sometimes, it's not really just luck.

Elmer Bendiner was a navigator in a B-17 during WW II. He tells this story of a World War II bombing run over Kassel, Germany, and the unexpected result of a direct hit on their gas tanks. "Our B-17, the Tondelayo, was barraged by flak from Nazi antiaircraft guns. That was not unusual, but on this particular occasion our gas tanks were hit. Later, as I reflected on the miracle of a 20 millimeter shell piercing the fuel tank without touching off an explosion, our pilot, Bohn Fawkes, told me it was not quite that simple." On the morning following the raid, Bohn had gone down to ask our crew chief for that shell as a souvenir of unbelievable luck. The crew chief told Bohn that not just one shell but 11 had been found in the gas tanks. 11 unexploded shells where only one was sufficient to blast us out of the sky. It was as if the sea had been parted for us. A near-miracle, I thought. Even after 35 years, so awesome an event leaves me shaken, especially after I heard the rest of the story from Bohn. "He was told that the shells had been sent to the armorers to be defused. The armorers told him that Intelligence had picked them up. They could not say why at the time, but Bohn eventually sought out the answer. "Apparently when the armorers opened each of those shells, they found no explosive charge. They were as clean as a whistle and just as harmless. Empty? Not all of them! One contained a carefully rolled piece of paper. On it was a scrawl in Czech. The Intelligence people scoured our base for a man who could read Czech. Eventually they found one to decipher the note. It set us marveling. Translated, the note read:

"This is all we can do for you now..."
"Using Jewish slave labor is never a good idea."



**Veterans Community
Outreach Program**

For All Area Veterans

We'll Be Waiting For You On

MAY 3, 2014

at the

Veterans Memorial Building

74 West 6th Street Gilroy

10 am to 3 pm

**Bring Your DD214 And Check Us Out With The
Following.....**

**Palo Alto VA Medical Team...Enrollments And
Eligibility As Well As Examinations**

**Santa Cruz County Mobil Vet Center Readjustment
Counseling Services...Readjustment Counseling For
Combat Veterans And Their Families, PTSD, Military
Sexual Trauma And More.**

**California Veterans Service Officers...VA benefits,
claims, education assistance and more!**

Businesses Job Fair to provide you with possible
employment opportunities along with other service
providers

Event information
408-607-3280
hairweare@charter.net



Celebrate With Us

American Legion Post #217

93RD Anniversary

1921-2014

**Join Us For A Special Dinner As We Honor Our Legion Members
Who Have Served Our Post For Many Years**

June 7, 2014

5:30 pm Veterans Memorial Building

74 West 6th Street • Gilroy

**This Special Dinner Event Is Open To The Public
Pre-sold tickets only...ARRIVE EARLY ...Limited Seating**

\$10. Per person

Make checks payable and mail to:

American Legion Post #217

74 West 6th Street #D

Gilroy, Ca. 95020

Please Write The Address Carefully & Correctly

Event information

Ray Sanchez, Adjutant

408-607-3280

hairweare@charter.net

All proceeds benefit Legion scholarship fund

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



Non-Profit
 US Postage Paid
 Gilroy, Ca. 95020
 Permit #234
 Returned Service Requested



May-June-July-August
 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 Delgado
 408-427-5824

Finance Officer
 Nick Marquez
 408-848-5099

Adjutant
 Ray Sanchez
 408-607-3280

Chaplain
 Steve Charvez
 408-710-1655

Sgt-at-Arms
 Al Schmidt
 408-778-0208



ASSORTED INFORMATION...here we go again beginning in July you will start receiving your membership renewal notices, pay your dues one time and one time only, in spite of the fact that the national office will continue to send you renewal notices, if you paid once do not pay again!!!this will be the last newsletter until September, do not call the Adjutant to tell him you have not received your copy...the Veterans Outreach Project is on May 3rd show some support and attend even if you don't need any of the services being offered...tickets are available for the June 7th Anniversary dinner, we sold out last year so purchase early, read the flyer in this issue...don't forget socials start at 6:00 PM and members are free everyone else is \$10...keep in mind if you are 85 years of age or more let the Adjutant know, we will pay your dues our mind reading skills are no longer working so you have to inform us...some of the information in this newsletter may seem familiar, that's because the news takes a while to sink in so we have to keep reminding everyone over and over again...if you want to help set up tables and chairs for the socials contact Nick Marquez, 408-848-5099...have a great summer and we'll see you September or sooner...

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

SOCIAL STARTS AT 6:00 PM

Coming Events

JANUARY
 2ND
BUSINESS MEETING
 7:00 PM
SOCIAL JANUARY
 16TH 7 PM

FEBRUARY
 6TH
BUSINESS MEETING
 7:00 PM
SOCIAL
 FEBRUARY 20ST 7pm

March
 6TH
BUSINESS MEETING
 7PM
SOCIAL 20th 7 PM

APRIL
 3RD
BUSINESS MEETING
 17TH SOCIAL 7PM

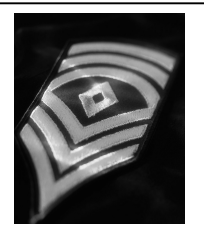
MAY 1ST
BUSINESS MEETING
SOCIAL 15TH

JUNE NO SOCIAL

JULY 6TH 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 Care800-455-0057
 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....