



PHILIP MARMOLEJO POST 650 SENTINEL

AMERICAN LEGION
DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA

VOLUME 11 ISSUE 7
JANUARY 2009

Philip Marmolejo Post 650 1532 North Church Street Redlands, CA 92374 909 792-6783

Editor: Steve Thomas

Email: calegionpost650@earthlink.net

LEGISLATION REVIEW NAVY TIMES - ALEX KEENAN

Inside this issue:

Commanders Corner	2
1st Vice Commander	3
Post Everlasting	3
Post Officers	
Auxiliary President	4
Auxiliary Officers	4
Newsletter Supporters	5
VA Emergency Care	6
Altruisms	6
Calendar	7

We've reached the end of another year that the Times considers a successful one for our military retirement community. Accomplishments include improvements in our Survivor Benefit Program — in terms of scrapping a large payment cut when a beneficiary reaches a certain age — and “paid-up” premiums for some older retirees. Another landmark was the new law reducing the age at which some reservist retirees can begin drawing retirement checks. Some say this doesn't go far enough, but it's a start, and now that it's on the books, there is a foundation to build on. We've also continued to convince Congress not to allow the Pentagon to raise Tricare fees and deductibles for working-age retirees under 65. And we're getting a hefty increase in our cost-of-living allowance beginning in January, 5.8% — the biggest hike in many years. Thanks for these achievements go to all retirees and the many military advocacy groups who represent us on Capitol Hill. In 2009, we will face a continuing battle to maintain the benefits we have earned, propose new commonsense solutions and educate a new administration and Congress about the needs of the military retirement community. Here are

some of the things we can think about in 2009:

- Figuring out a way to allow retirees to transfer their unused education benefits to family members under the new GI Bill program.
- Improving the VA home loan program to prevent foreclosures, especially for our disabled retirees. Some are totally disabled and cannot work to make up for today's increased cost of living.
- We need to ensure our veterans and retirees have stable and affordable housing without the fear of foreclosure.
- Creating better access to our VA medical facilities, with the expansion of long-term care.
- Overhauling the VA appeal process for disabled retirees and veterans and finding a way to cut the huge backlog of claims. More inquiries were received this year about the still-cumbersome VA claims process than just about any other subject. This process really needs to be streamlined.
- Maintaining reasonable costs for our health care coverage. Most of us realize that costs under

(Continued on page 3)

Special Points of Interest:

- Unit Meeting 1st Wednesday 7:00PM
- Post Meetings 2nd and 4th Wednesday 7:30PM
- SAL Meeting 3rd Wednesday 7PM
- Post Website—www.calegionpost650.org

POST 650 SENTINAL

COMMANDER'S CORNER
HENRY MENDOZA

Well comrades its hard to believe but here we are 2009. Your post officers hope you had a wonderful Xmas with families and friends. We also want to wish you a "HAPPY NEW YEAR". Did you come to our Xmas dinner dance December 20th, Wow! what great food and a great band. Our chef John Segovia did a marvelous job on food preparation, Delicious!

Robert Hernandez and band were great, they played anything you wanted to here, everybody danced the night away. Thanks Bob!

Comrades I know its been tough for some of our members during the last few months with layoffs and the economy, should you need us for help please let us know.

We have a District Meeting at Post 650 on Sunday January 4th at 10am please attend if you can. A lunch will be served.

At this time I want to thank all my officers for there support these last 6 months and of course our members. I think we have accomplish a great deal in community service. All for the good of the Legion.

A special thanks to the Auxiliary all your help in providing the great steak night and all the other events we have at the Post, thank you ladies.

We hope to start breakfast on Sundays again real soon, looking for a volunteer cook. At least once a month.

We lost our second vice Alex (Shamu) Torres due to illness and we miss you both very much!

Well till we meet again, "A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR" to all

2009 ANNUAL AMERICAN LEGION MEMBERSHIP FEE IS NOW DUE

Renew now at \$30.00.

Please make check payable to: American Legion Post 650 and mail to:

American Legion Post 650, P O Box 413, Redlands, CA 92373

NAME: _____ MEMBER NO. _____

ADDRESS: _____ CITY _____

ZIP _____

Thank You for your kind attention to this matter

LEGISLATION REVIEW (CONT)

(Continued from page 1)

Tricare eventually will have to increase. The fees haven't changed since the program was created in the mid-1990s. Regardless of what happens, retirees should demand to be kept informed of the facts so we have a full understanding of what's going on. Tricare is commended for its efforts to get information to beneficiaries through its revamped Web portal.

1ST VICE COMMANDER

STEVE THOMAS.

Comrades,

We are doing well with membership. Post 650 met the early bird goal of 75% before Veterans Day. We need to get to the 100% goal next. We only have 29 to go to meet the goal. Just a reminder membership in the American Legion is delinquent after January 31 and may effect any benefit programs based on current membership. Please check your membership card to ensure it has year 2009 on it. If not it is definitely time to renew.

Great news for Post 650, we have received the Sons of the American Legion Charter for Squadron 650. They will have their first meeting Jan 21 at 7PM. If you have a son or grandson not otherwise qualified for American Legion membership they can join the Sons and get most of the same benefits of Legionnaires. The Dues are on an annual basis the same as ours July thru June, but not as costly. They conduct their own programs as the Legion does. We have an enthusiastic core group of Sons but the more the better. Also Legionnaires who are descendants of Legionnaires can hold dual membership in the sons. Let's all help to get them off to a good start.

Members Transferred to Post Everlasting



Alfredo Roque



POST OFFICERS

Commander: Henry Mendoza

1st Vice : Steve Thomas

2nd Vice: Alex Torres

Adjutant: Norm Cosme

Finance Officer: Al Alaniz

Judge Advocate:

Ralph Serrano Sr.

Chaplain: Ed Chacon

Service Officer: Ray Becerra

Historian: TBA

Sgt at Arms: John Vindiola

Asst Sgt at Arms: Paul Ramirez

Executive Board:

Larry Holguin

Vincent Leyvas

Chuck Rodriguez

Joe Ruiz

Board of Directors:

Richard Alcantar

Alex Garcia

Fred Venegas

POST 650 SENTINAL



AUXILIARY OFFICERS

- President - Silvia Alcantar
- 1st Vice - Dolores Mendoza
- 2nd Vice - Virginia Reiss
- Secretary - TBA
- Treasurer - Linda Navarro
- Chaplain - Shannon Mendez
- Parliamentarian -
Jean Eisenauer
- Sgt At Arms - Angie Viveros
- Marshall - Carolyn Sanchez

AUXILIARY PRESIDENT

Silvia Alcantar

We hope that everyone had a glorious Christmas & we wish you all A Very Prosperous New Year!

Our Unit accomplished many wonderful projects this past year. We received a great letter from The Dept of California thanking us for all the donations for our Veterans & their families. As I mentioned in our last Newsletter, one way of helping our Troops overseas is cutting coupons, while watching T.V. you could be cutting coupons that our Troops desperately need. You're an Auxiliary member this is one way of helping out!

Thanks to all members who have paid their dues, we have have met all of our Goals, thanks to Dolores Mendoza for all of her hard work in membership.

We donated 11 sleeping gowns to the women Veterans @ The Bar stow Home and articles of Afghans, slippers, wheelchair bags, magazines, books with approximate value of \$600.00. It means a great deal to our Veterans to know that you are concern for their welfare.

Many of our members mailed Christmas cards to a recovering American Soldiers.

I personally want to thank William Duerbig for donating 50 lb of Wrigley items to our Troops in Iraq. We also welcome him as a new member to our post. If anyone has a someone in the military and would like any of Wrigley items please call me, we have some left over.

On January 04Th, 2009 our Auxiliary hosted the 25Th District meeting @ Post 106. Thank you all for your continuing support and for being a part of a unique group of women, joined by the spirit of Volunteerism and dedication to our Veterans and our community.

Please keep our Troops in your prayers
For God & Country

2009 ANNUAL AUXILIARY MEMBERSHIP FEE IS NOW DUE

Renew now at \$20.00. Juniors renew at\$4.00

Please make check payable to: Auxiliary Unit 650 and mail to:

Deloris Mendoza, 720 Ardmore Ave, Redlands, CA 92374

NAME: _____ MEMBER NO. _____

ADDRESS: _____ CITY _____

ZIP _____

Thank You for your kind attention to this matter

Newsletter Club

Acero, Donald	2008	Gonzales, Frank	2008	Salazar , Joe	2008
Acosta, Joe	2010	Holguin, Larry	2011	Sepulveda, Ben, CM	2008
Richar Alonzo	2009	Hietala, Howard	2009	Serrano, Ralph	2008
Araujo, Marcos	2016	Leivas, Richard	2010	Serrano, Ralph Jr	2008
Chacon, Ed	2011	Lopez, Fred	2010	Thomas, Steve	2011
Chavez, Manuel	2010	Lozano, Rudy	2010	Torres, Tony, CM	2010
Cosme, Christopher	2009	Macias, Victor	2009	Venegas, Freddie	2010
Cosme, Norm	2009	Madsen, Norman	2009	Villapando, Ben	2010
Cosme, Robert	2009	Mendoza, Henry	2008	Vindiola, John	2010
Cosme, Chris	2009	Ortega, Gilbert	2010	West, Richard	2010
Eisenauer, George	2009	Padilla, John	2011	Wild, Ruben	2010
Dixon, Ennis	2010	Ramirez, Lorenzo	2008	Wilson, Henry	2008
Garcia, Alex	2009	Ramos, Daniel	2013	Zavala, Pete	2010
Gonzales, Ed	2008	Rivera, Ernesto	2013		
Gonzales, Nellie	2010	Rowles, Mike	2010		

Post 650 Hall Rentals

Open Rentals

Sun. thru Fri.	\$350.00 Deposit \$200.00
Sat.	\$600.00 Deposit \$200.00
Memorials	\$200,00

Member Rentals

Sun. thru Fri.	\$150.00 Deposit \$200.00
Sat.	\$275.00 Deposit \$200.00
Memorials	\$75,00

There is a \$100 Security Charge on all Rentals for your safety and the safety of the Post.

YOUR ADVERTISEMENT HERE

1/8 Page (Business Card) 12 Issues	\$50.00
1/4 Page 12 Issues	\$90.00
1/2 Page 12 Issues	\$170.00
3/4 Page 12 Issues	\$210.00
Full Page 12 Issues	\$300.00



Cell Phones for Soldiers
Drop Off Site
American Legion Post 650

POST 650 SENTINAL

VA EMERGENCY CARE

At some time in your life, you may need emergency care. For veterans enrolled in the VA Health Care system 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. A medical emergency is when you have an injury or illness that is so severe that without immediate treatment, the injury or illness threatens your health or life. Use your best judgment in deciding whether or not it is a medical emergency. If you believe it is call 911 or go to the nearest emergency room. You do not need to call the VA before you obtain emergency care. However, if you are admitted, your family, friends or hospital staff should contact the nearest VA medical center as soon as possible to provide information about your emergency room visit. If the doctor wants to admit you to the hospital, and it is not an emergency you must obtain approval from the VA. You, a friend, a family member, or someone from the non-VA hospital must call the closest VA medical center and speak to the patient transfer or patient administration representative. This must be done within 72 hours of your arrival at the emergency room. If a VA bed is available and if you can be safely transferred, you must be moved. If you refuse to be transferred, the VA will not pay for any further care.

VA will not pay for emergency care if you are in jail. Usually the jail has responsibility for providing you with medical care. VA will only pay for emergency care outside the US if your emergency is related to a service-connected condition. Contact the VA Health Administration Center at (877) 345-8179. You can find more information on the Foreign Medical Program at <http://www.va.gov/hac/hacmain.asp>. All claims should be filed with the nearest VA medical center as quickly as possible. Time limits usually apply. You may have to pay for a portion of your emergency care dependent on several factors which vary according to the care you received. Your local VA medical center's patient benefits counselor can explain these and other factors and their impact on your particular circumstance. You can also get answers to your questions on the Health Administration Center Internet website at <http://www.va.gov/hac/hacmain.asp> under Non-VA Care. [Source: <http://www.nonvacare.va.gov/emergencycare.asp> 16 Dec 08)

ALTRUISMS

1. If you don't have a sense of humor, you probably don't have any sense at all.
2. Seat belts are not as confining as wheelchairs..
3. A good time to keep your mouth shut is when you're in deep water.
4. Scratch a cat and you will have a permanent job.
5. There are worse things than getting a call for a wrong number at 4 AM. -It could be a right number.
6. I've reached the age where the happy hour is a nap.
7. Why is it that at class reunions you feel younger than everyone else looks?
8. Be careful reading the fine print. There's no way you're going to like it.
9. Do you realize that in about 20 years, we'll have thousands of old ladies running around with tattoos?
10. The trouble with bucket seats is that not everybody has the same size bucket.
11. There are no new sins; the old ones just get more publicity.
12. Money can't buy happiness -- but somehow it's more comfortable to cry in a Corvette than in a Yugo.
13. After 60, if you don't wake up aching in every joint, you are probably dead!
14. Always be yourself because the people that matter, don't mind. And the one's that do mind don't matter.

January 2009

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 New Years Day	2	3
4 Dist 25 Meeting Post 650 10:00AM	5	6	7 Auxiliary Unit 650 Meeting 7:00PM	8 Line Dancing	9 Auxiliary Mid Year Ridge crest	10 Auxiliary Mid Year Ridge crest
11 Auxiliary Mid Year Ridge crest	12	13	14 Post 650 Meeting 7:30PM	15 Line Dancing	16 Auxiliary Steak Night	17 Area 5 Meeting Brawly
18 Area 5 Meeting Brawly	19 MLK Day	20	21 SAL 650 Meeting 7:00PM	22 Line Dancing	23 PCC Meeting Post 422 Rialto	24
25	26	27 Viet Nam Peace Accord 1973	28 Post 650 Meeting 7:30PM	29 Line Dancing	30	31

Philip Marmolejo Post 650
1532 North Church Street
P. O. Box 413
Redlands, CA 92374
Editor email:
calegionpost650@earthlink.net

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
San Bernardino, CA
Permit No. 1177

For God and Country We Associate
Ourselves



KEEP AMERICA STRONG