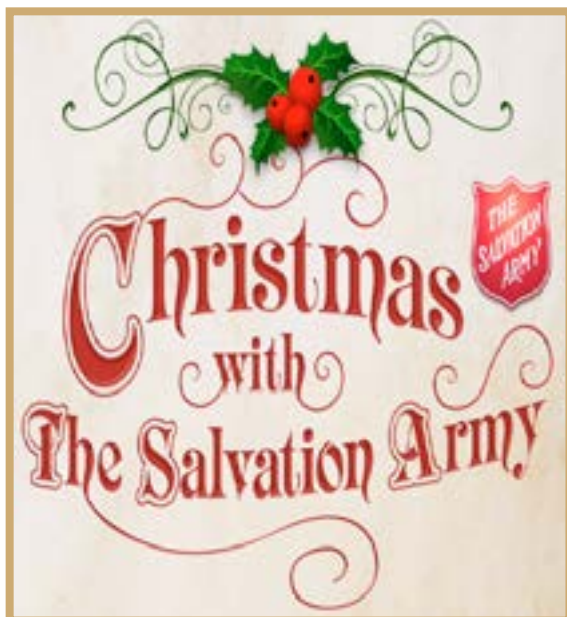




DECEMBER 2023



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**VOLUNTEER
BELL RINGERS
NEEDED!**

Ring a bell...help change a life

**MAJORS NEIL AND RUBINA NAVARRO
760/324-2275 TO VOLUNTEER**



In Loving
Memory
of

JACK WOOD

Salvation Army Advisory Board Member,
Philanthropist, 2018 VEAP Honoree,
Navy Submariner,
Friend



11th ANNUAL VETERANS EXPO PLANNING UPDATE MEETING

Mark your calendar...11th Annual Veterans Expo Planning Meeting December 5th.

Preparations for the 11th Annual Veterans Expo in April of 2024 will be picking up steam with the second planning meeting scheduled for Tuesday December 5th. Meeting starts at 1PM at the Cathedral City Corps of The Salvation Army located at 30-400 Landau Blvd right next door to Veterans Village. Just a reminder that all are invited whether you are a military or civilian benefits provider or a veteran or potential volunteer who is just interested in learning about the veterans expo or just wanting to interact and network with other organizations to better help veterans and the community.

At this meeting, we plan to finalize the location, outline the plan for the day of the event, work on a list of potential exhibitors, identify possible sponsors and establish some working committees. Acrisure Arena is no longer a possibility; however, the Riverside County Fairgrounds in Indio and the Cathedral City Corps are still possible. Wherever we end up holding the Expo, it should be a special day for all who attend.

The 10th Annual Veterans Expo was held back in October 2022 at the Salvation Army Corps in Cathedral City. It included a traditional opening

ceremony honoring two local veterans, a wonderful lunch, and the moving, Gallery of Heroes. Visit the great cross-section of service representatives on the exhibit floor, covering everything from education to end of life planning... and everything in between. As advertised, it's also a great opportunity for a veteran and/or their family members to learn about benefits, everything from Social Security and the DMV to Disability and VA loans. The 11th Annual Veterans Expo will provide access to pertinent information as it has for the past 10 years.

At this meeting, you will be able to learn about how your organization (or you) can become involved as a sponsor, exhibitor or volunteer. Best of all, you will get to interact with a number of other great organizations including the Salvation Army and learn how you can work together to provide services to those most in need.

Paperwork is available in this ReadBack. Submit an application to be an exhibitor and if you, or a family member, have not yet signed up for the Gallery of Heroes, you will be able to start that process. Come prepared to roll up your sleeves and pitch in.

If you have any questions about the December 5th meeting or about the Veterans Expo, contact Bill Young at major-bill1@aol.com or 760-861-0037.



CHRISTMAS: A TIME FOR GIVING

During the Christmas season, there are many organizations who could use your Christmas and on-going donations.

In the spirit of supporting our veterans, our troops and our nation, we ask you to consider helping these "hands on" organizations as you can. It's a good feeling to pay it forward.

Most of these logos have links for you to explore.

"Giving, not getting, brings the full joy of Christmas. We feel more kindly towards others. We reach out in love to help those less fortunate. Our hearts are softened, enemies forgiven, friends remembered and God obeyed."



TRICARE COSTS ARE GOING UP AGAIN IN 2024

Military service members, families and retirees will pay more for Tricare in 2024, with modest increases generally amounting to about 3%.

Costs also went up moderately this year.

The 2024 increases for many using Tricare Prime and Tricare Select will mainly be to their annual enrollment fees and deductibles, with smaller increases in copayments for medical services.

Tricare open enrollment season, which allows members to change their health insurance coverage for the upcoming year, runs from Nov. 13 to Dec. 12. Guard and reserve members, as well as transitioning troops and young adults enrolled in Tricare plans, will also see price increases in 2024.

Tricare costs depend on which Tricare "group" a military member belongs to. A member's Tricare group is determined by when they first entered the military. Group A consists of those who entered service before Jan. 1, 2018, while Group B are those who entered after that date.

There are no annual enrollment fees for active-duty families in either Tricare Prime or Tricare Select, but retirees will see an increase in the upcoming year.

Group A retirees enrolled in Tricare Select will see their annual enrollment fees increase from \$345 to \$355.92 for a family and from \$171.96 to \$177.96 for an individual.

Group A retirees using Tricare Prime will see the enrollment fees for a family plan increase from \$703.92 to \$726, while the single plan will go from \$351.96 to \$363 annually.

Retirees in Tricare Group B will see similar increases. Enrollment fees for a family plan will rise from \$852 to \$879, while the individual plan will go from \$426 to \$438.96.

Annual deductibles will also increase in 2024. The deductible is the amount those using Tricare Select must pay out of pocket before Tricare makes any payments.

Group A active-duty family members and retirees will see no changes to the deductible amount.

A military member with the rank of E-4 or below in Group B will see their family deductible increase from \$121 to \$125, while families with sponsors E-5 and above in Group B will see their deductible rise from \$365 to \$377.

Individual military members in Group B will also see their deductibles rise in 2024, from \$60 to \$62 for E-4 and below and from \$182 to \$188 for E-5 and above.

Most copayments also will go up in the upcoming year. Active-duty Tricare Select users with a family in Group A will see the cost of a primary care visit increase by \$2, going from \$25 to \$27. The primary care copay for Group B family members will stay at \$18.

Retirees using Tricare Select will see a primary care visit go from \$34 to \$36, while those using Tricare Prime will pay \$25 next year, up from the current \$24.

The catastrophic cap is Tricare beneficiaries' maximum out-of-pocket cost for all health care provided each year. It limits beneficiaries' liability in the case of a serious illness or injury. Once a beneficiary has paid this much in copayments or pharmacy charges during the year, Tricare will pay the rest in full.

Group A retirees using Tricare Select will see this cap increase in 2024 from \$4,028 to \$4,157.

While the cap for active-duty family members in Group A who have either Tricare Select or Tricare Prime will remain the same at \$1,000 annually, those in Group B will see it increase from \$1,217 to \$1,256.



and

The Rest of the Story

The boy had fallen, running home after school, and skinned his left knee. It was no more than a scratch - there wasn't even a tear in his trousers - but by night the knee started to ache. Nothing much, he thought, being 13 and the sturdy son of a frontiersman. Ignoring the pain, he knelt in his nightgown and said his prayers, then climbed into bed in the room where he and his five brothers slept.

His leg was painful the next morning, but he still did not tell anyone. The farm kept the whole family relentlessly busy; always he had to be up at six to do his chores before school. And he must be thorough about them or he would be sent back to do them over again, no matter what else he had to miss, including meals. In their household, discipline was fair but stern.

Two mornings later the leg ached too badly for him to drag himself to the barn. It was Sunday and he could remain behind while the rest of the family drove to town. He sat in the parlor and half dozed until his brothers returned from Sunday school. Mom and Dad did not come home with them because Sunday was parents' day off; the boys did the housework and cooked the big meal of the week, while father and mother stayed on for church service. But by the time dinner was ready, the boy had climbed into bed. The shoe had to be cut off his swollen and discolored leg. Why on earth hadn't he told somebody? Go quick and fetch the doctor!

Mother bathed the knee and foot and thigh, applied poultices and wiped the boy's sweating forehead with a moist, cool cloth. She was an intense and vital woman. Confronted with this angry infection, she remained serene. Mom had nursed her brood through accidents and ailments from toothaches to scarlet fever; one son she had lost, but that only made her calmer and more determined when she had to fight for the others.

Old Doc Conklin examined the leg and pursed his lips. "It's not likely we can save it!"

The invalid sat up stiffly. "What's that mean?" he asked huskily.

"It means," explained the doctor gently, "if things get worse we'll have to amputate."

"Not me!" stormed the boy. "I won't have it! I'd rather die!"

"The longer we wait, the more we will have to take off," urged the doctor.

“You won’t take any off!” The boy’s voice broke with an adolescent crack, as his mother turned away, shaken. But there was no adolescence in the eyes that defied the doctor’s reproachful gaze. Dr. Conklin stalked out, nodding to the mother to follow him. As he stood in the hallway explaining to both parents about what could and probably would happen, they could hear the boy calling for his brother: “Ed! Ed! Come up here, will you?”

The brother heard the sick lad's voice, high-pitched in pain: "If I go our of my head, Ed, don't let them cut off my leg. Promise me, Ed - promise!"

In a moment Ed came out and ran to the kitchen. When he returned his mother said, "Ed, what's your brother asking for?"

“Fork! To bite on; keep from screaming.”



MILITARY TRIVIA (Navy, Marines)



Though tattoos are discouraged in today's NAVY, they weren't always.

For hundreds of years, sailors tattooed themselves as souvenirs to communicate their travels and their trials. Find a short (and non-comprehensive) list below of imagery you may encounter among saltier sailors, including the meaning of each tattoo:

Swallows: Home (each denotes 5,000 miles at sea)
 Compass/Nautical Star: Never losing one's way (each denotes 10,000 miles at sea)
 Trident: Special warfare
 Rose: A significant other left at home
 Twin screws or props on one's backside: Propels one forward through life
 Rope: Deckhand
 Octopus: Navy diver
 Dolphin: Wards off sharks
 Sharks: Rescue swimmer
 Polar bear: Sailed the Arctic Circle
 Dragon: Sailed the Pacific
 Fouled anchor: Sailed the Atlantic
 Turtle: Crossed the equator
 Gold dragon: Crossed the International Dateline
 Gold turtle: Crossed the International Dateline and the Equator where they intersect
 Emerald fouled anchor: Crossed the Prime Meridian
 Meridian and the Equator where they intersect
 Full-rigged ship: Sailed around

Cape Horn
 Helm: Quartermaster
 Pin-up girls: Company at sea/port call
 Hula girls: Sailed to or ported in Hawaii
 Dagger through a swallow: Signifies a lost comrade
 Pig and chicken: Superstition to keep from drowning
 The words "HOLD FAST": Signifies a deckhand's tight grip on the lines



31 of the 45 men who've served as President of the United States have served in the military

One U.S. President, Theodore Roosevelt, even received the Medal of Honor. And only one - James Buchanan - never became an officer.

Fewer than 100 people have received the title of honorary Marine

The title of honorary Marine can only be bestowed by the Commandant of the **MARINE CORPS**. In order of seniority, the list of honorary Marines includes:

Chuck Norris (rank unknown but also unneeded)
 Brig. Gen. Bob Hope
 Master Sgt. Bugs Bunny
 Cpl. Jim Nabors,
 star of Gomer Pyle, U.S.M.C.
 Gary Sinise

Only female Marines are authorized to carry umbrellas in uniform

The license plate of the Commandant of the Marine Corps reads "1775"

Marines in uniform are not authorized to put their hands in their pockets

The Marine Corps mascot is an English bulldog named Chesty

The mascot is named after after Marine Lt. Gen. Louis B. "Chesty" Puller, the only Marine to earn five Navy Crosses.

Marine Corps Col. John Glenn was the first American to orbit the Earth

The Marines' first land battle on foreign soil was in Libya

During this battle, 600 Marines stormed the city of Derna to rescue the crew of the USS Philadelphia from pirates.

California has a veteran population of about 1.7 million prior service members. The next highest veteran population is in Texas, with 1.5 million prior service members.

The English Bulldog, also known as "Teufel-hunden" or "Devil Dogs," is the unofficial mascot that symbolizes the ethos of the warrior culture of the U.S. Marines. The Marine Corps earned this unofficial mascot during World War I, when many German reports called the attacking Marines "teufel-hunden," meaning devil dogs. "Teufel-hunden" were the vicious, wild and ferocious mountain dogs of German Bavarian folklore.

VIETNAM WOMEN'S MEMORIAL

"That my hands can shape the clay which might touch the hearts and heal the wounds of those who served fills me with humility and deep satisfaction. I can only hope that future generations who view the sculpture will stand in tribute to these women who served during the Vietnam era."

- Glenna Goodacre, sculptor of the Vietnam Women's Memorial, 1993

The healing sculptor Glenna Goodacre envisioned came to fruition.

Thirty years have passed since the memorial was dedicated.

Today, the memorial is seen by over 4 million visitors a year. It has come to stand as more than a bronze statue to salute the more than 265,000 women who served as members of the U.S. Armed Forces during the Vietnam War; it is regarded as a milestone in the journey for all women veterans, as well as those now serving, and others – like volunteers with the Red Cross and the USO – who provided support for U.S. military operations throughout the war.

Veterans Day commemorations on the National Mall on November 10 and 11 were divided into three segments: the annual candlelight gathering at the Vietnam Women's Memorial on Friday night that included prayer, poetry, testimony and camaraderie; a Saturday morning storytelling session there; and the afternoon's main event, the annual Veterans Day Observance at the Wall (the Vietnam War Memorial). Carlson Evans, an American Legion member who now lives in Helena, Mont., was the keynote speaker and reflected on the road she and her fellow veterans have traveled since the idea for a women's memorial occurred to her in 1983.

She told how men and women of the Vietnam War volunteered for 10 years to raise funds, demand approval and see the project through, despite "threats and frequent warning signs that this truly was an impossible dream. The journey began smoothly until the adversaries saw we were serious and began fighting us at every step.

"Mahatma Gandhi said, 'First they ignore you.' They did. 'Then they laugh at you.' They did. 'Then

they fight you.' They did. 'Then you win.' That's our 10-year story. We won."

American Legion National Vice Commander Mark Shreve of Georgia, who placed a wreath at The Wall to conclude the ceremony on Veterans Day, said the women's memorial and the Legion's support fit a long-held value of the nation's largest veterans organization: "A veteran is a veteran," he said.

No other monument of its kind stood on the National Mall prior to effort. "Our statue was a first, the first monument in the history of the United States placed on the National Mall honoring women's patriotic service," Carlson Evans told the crowd. "We made history."

Goodacre, who passed away in 2020, intentionally sculpted no unit insignia or even branch identification into the statue, which features three women and one wounded man.

"We wanted the civilian women who served in support of the armed forces to also feel that they are connected to us, as women veterans, having served wherever we got sent, and that they too are part of this statue," Carlson Evans said. "(Goodacre) wanted us to circle the statue. She wanted us to be able to walk around it and connect with each figure."

"Through Glenna's work, each of the women portrayed lives in us because we live in them.



Through this statue, we share our Vietnam experiences with others. The healing continues for all."



Congressman Raul Ruiz has authored legislation to rename the outpatient VA clinic in Palm Desert in memory of local veteran and advocate, Seymour “Sy” Kaplan. That legislation comes to fruition at the December 8th dedication of the Palm Desert, VA Clinic at 1:30 pm, when the facility will be dedicated To Sy and the community.

Sy was a decorated World War II veteran who served as the commander of the Disabled American Veterans Chapter 78 in the Coachella Valley. Sy, who also served as a member of Dr. Ruiz’s Veterans Advisory Board, is credited with bringing this VA clinic to Palm Desert through his advocacy and leadership in the community. He passed away in 2019.

Dr. Ruiz’s H.R. 7925 passed the House floor on November 15, 2022. He said, “I can think of no better way to honor his (Sy’s) legacy than to ensure his name is forever etched into our Desert’s history at a place where our veterans receive quality care”. Ruiz’s legislation is supported by veterans’ organizations in the Coachella Valley and throughout the State of California. We see no better way of honoring this man than naming the new clinic after him”. It is located on Monterey and Dinah Shore, sharing the parking lot with Costco.

Sy enlisted in the Army at age 17, and at 18 was inducted at Camp Upton, N.Y. He served as a tank commander in the 14th Armored Division until deployment to Iran/North Africa for 60 days. Next, he was sent to Tunisia at the Kasserine Pass under General George S. Patton in the 1st and 2nd Armored Divisions. He went on to Sicily and Italy where he was first wounded and was awarded his first Purple Heart. He next went to Mt. Casino, shipped on to Marseilles and was at Épernon, France location of the huge Allied Cemetery.

He was assigned to the Combat Army Engineers throughout the Battle of the Bulge. He was wounded again near Heidelberg and was awarded his second Purple Heart. He recuperated in France and then was sent home as the war ended. Additionally, Sy earned 3 Battle Stars.

The members of the community of Sun City owe a debt of gratitude to his actions, and to see his name on the new Palm Desert Veterans Outpatient Clinic will make us all proud as our veterans will reap the benefits of his kindness in the caring for their health.

Great job, Sy! We salute you!

by Al Greco

December Dates in Military History

December 4, 1992: President George W. Bush orders troops to Somalia to help distribute humanitarian aid to starving Somalis. 28,000 American troops deployed.

December 6, 1865: Thirteenth Amendment ratified officially ending slavery in the United States. "Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as punishment for crime where the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States or any place subject to their jurisdiction."



December 7, 1941: Pearl Harbor Day. Lest we forget ...

December 8, 1941: The United States declares war on Japan.

December 13, 1636: The National Guard is officially formed. On that date, officials governing the Massachusetts General Court in Salem, Massachusetts Bay Colony officially declared that all able-bodied men were required to join the local militia.

December 19, 1907: Colonel Ruby G Bradley, one of the most highly decorated women in military history is born.



December 20, 1989: Captain Linda Bray becomes first woman to lead troops into battle when she ordered soldiers to fire on Panamanian Defense Forces in "Operation Just Cause." At the time, Captain Bray was the Commander of the 988th Military Police Company.

December 21, 1945: General George S. Patton dies at the age of 60 the result of a freak car accident in Bavaria, Germany.

December 25, 1896: John Philip Sousa pens "Stars and Stripes Forever." By a 1987 Act of Congress, the song becomes the official National March.



December 27, 1917: Harlem Hellfighters, the first all-black U.S. combat unit is shipped overseas during WWI. The 369th Infantry Regiment, a part of the 15th Infantry Regiment of the New York National Guard was made up initially of 200 residents of Harlem. The 369th fought alongside the French at many locations during the war for some 191 days and gained a reputation as great fighters but at a heavy price as one-third of the unit died in combat. The French government honored them by awarding the French Croix de Guerre.

A GOOD SOLDIER and The Rest of the Story

Resolved, there was Ed, standing before the sickroom door. "Guess we'll wait and see how he looks by tonight, eh, Doc?" said the father.

For two days and nights Ed stood guard, sleeping at the threshold, not leaving even to eat. The fever mounted, and the suffering boy babbled in torment, but the older brother showed no weakening of resolve, even though the discoloration of the swollen leg was creeping toward the pelvis, just as the doctor had predicted. Ed remained firm because he had given his promise, and also because he shared the frontiersmen's horror of being less than physically perfect.

The parents knew that their son would never forgive an amputation, and Ed's attitude continued to be decisive, time after time, when the doctor returned. Once in helpless rage, Dr. Conklin shouted, "It's murder!" and slammed the front door. Nothing but a miracle could save the boy now!

Mother, father and watchful brother Ed shared the same thought, as their anxious eyes turned from the doorway. Had they forgotten their faith in the turmoil of their fears? Why, this sick boy's grandfather, that vigorous and inspiring old farmer-minister who had been leader of the River Brethren colony in Pennsylvania, had always believed in healings wrought by faith. Now, in this desperate hour, the three went to their knees at the bedside. They prayed, taking turns in leading one another. Father, mother and at last Edgar, would rise and go about the farmwork and rejoin the continual prayer. During the second night the other four brothers would join in the prayers from time to time.

The next morning, when the old doctor stopped by again, his experienced eye saw a sign. The swelling was going down! Doc Conklin closed his eyes and made a rusty prayer of his own - a prayer of thanksgiving. Even after the boy dropped into a normal sleep, one member of the family after another kept the prayer vigil.

It was nightfall again and the lamps were lighted when the boy opened his eyes. The swelling was way down now, and the discoloration had almost faded. In three weeks - pale and weak, but with eyes clear and voice strong - the boy could stand up.

And Ike Eisenhower was ready to face life.

And now you know the Rest of the Story.



President Dwight David Eisenhower



TWO AMAZING PLACES TO VISIT WHILE YOU'RE HERE

Do you enjoy visiting military museums?
Are you a fan of classic airplanes or
military vehicles such as WWII tanks?
There are two museums in the Coachella
Valley that are well worth your spending
2-3 hours (or more) walking through. The

Palm Springs Air Museum and the General Patton Memorial Museum
are both in our area and both top notch.

The Palm Springs Air Museum located at 745 Gene Autry Trail in
Palm Springs is open from 10AM to 5PM daily. It has been in operation
since 1996. There are no ropes to keep you from interacting with
vintage airplanes on display, most of which are still in flying condition.
There are also numerous other unique displays covering such areas as
POW/MIAs and women in aviation. The main focus is on WWII aircraft,
but you will find many from later eras such as Viet Nam and even the
F-117 Nighthawk Stealth Fighter! A number of the aircraft and vehicles
have even been used by motion picture companies in movies. On most
Saturdays during the season, you may even catch an interesting talk
by a knowledgeable guest speaker on subjects such as Pearl Harbor,
early aircraft carriers or Vietnam (see the calendar section of the
ReadBack). You even have the opportunity to fly in a "Warbird". Call
760-778-6262 or go to www.palmspringsairmuseum.org to learn more.

The General Patton Memorial Museum is located at 62510 Chiriaco
Summit, east of Indio off the I-10 at exit 173. It was established in 1988
and has really been upgraded in the past 4-5 years. Well worth the
drive, the museum takes you back to the lifetime of General George
S. Patton focusing on WWII. It's located where the tank training site
Camp Young was in the Desert Training Center during the 1940s.
Outstanding and unique displays of weaponry, uniforms and vehicles.
Tank rides are available here by reservation. (Yes, the kids can touch
them.) Come see everything Patton. It's open from 9AM to 4:30PM
daily (except Thanksgiving and Christmas). Be sure to allow 2-3
hours to walk through the area ... more if you are really a history buff.
As a bonus, they have a really good moderately priced restaurant
right next door. To learn more call 760-507-4143 or go to www.generalpattonmuseum.com Note: Do not confuse this museum with
the General Patton Museum of Leadership at Ft Knox, Kentucky. They
both have similar websites. See You There!!

CHRISTMAS SHOPPING??

The Ultimate Military Gift Guide 2023

If you're looking to support veteran-owned businesses, there's no better way than buying from them; that's why we put together this handy military gift guide. If you find a business or product you love, telling your friends about it runs a close second. If you're looking to support veteran-owned businesses, there's no better way than buying from them; that's why MILITARY.COM has put together this handy military gift guide.

https://www.military.com/off-duty/ultimate-military-gift-guide-2022.html?ESRC=discounts_231123.nl&utm_medium=email&utm_source=discounts&utm_campaign=20231123&spMailin-gID=10267975&spUserID=NTQxMzYyM-Dk1NTAxS0&spJobID=1860480937&spReportId=MTg2MDQ4MDkzNwS2

Sam's Club

Military ID
Required
Categories
Apparel and Accessory Discounts Arts and Recreation
Dining Discounts Electronics
Discounts Flower and Gift
Discounts Grocery Discounts
Home and Garden Kids and
Baby Personal Care and Health
Pets Professional Services Tax
Preparation
Redemption Type
Online & in store
Available to
Active duty Retiree Veteran
Reserve/National Guard Dependent



DISCOUNT



Stock up on arts and crafts supplies by using military discounts at Michaels and Jo-Ann Fabric.



Big Lots offers a 10% military discount for active-duty military, veterans and family members. Promotional offer valid in stores only for active military personnel and veterans who are enrolled in Big Lots Rewards. Must show valid military ID at time of purchase. Visit the Big Lots website for more details.

Looking for holiday decor and entertaining essentials to host family, friends and guests for holiday dinners and seasonal celebrations? Kohl's offers active-duty military, veterans and their immediate families a 15% discount on in-store purchases on Mondays.



Mr. Willard's Closet
Open in December on
the 11th and the 21st.
10am until noon.



BITS AND PIECES

Supervisor Perez and the Riverside County Department of Veterans' Services expands services. Starts this month, with the field visits to Mizell Center in Palm Springs and the Blythe VFW once a month.

Information: Darin Schemmer
tel: 760-863-8211

ALL WELCOME

Dedication of the Sy Kaplan VA
Clinic on December 8, 1:30pm

72700 Dinah Shore Blvd.

Sponsored by Congressman Ruiz

Information: Michael Bailey

michaelbailey@mail.house.gov
(951-765-2304)



<https://newsroom.tricare.mil/News/TRICARE-News/Article/3600573/holiday-resilience-how-tricare-supports-your-mental-health>

PRACTICAL GUIDES FOR HOLIDAY MENTAL HEALTH



MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM
VEAP
AND
THE OFFICERS AND STAFF
OF
THE SALVATION ARMY,
COACHELLA VALLEY

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



2 - Pearl Harbor – The sinking of the U.S.S. Oklahoma. 1PM. Palm Springs Air Museum. 745 N. Gene Autry Trail. 760-778-6262.

2 - Brotherhood Bridge Foundation Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser. 8AM to 10AM. Applebees. 3820 Mulberry, Riverside. www.brotherhoodbridge.org

5 - Planning Meeting for the 11th Annual Veterans Expo. 1PM. Cathedral City Corps of the Salvation Army. 30-400 Landau Blvd. All welcome. Great source of networking. Bill Young at majorbill1@aol.com or 760-861-0037.

5 - Monthly meeting of Chapter 78 of the Disabled American Veterans (DAV). 5PM. Mega Café (formerly CoCos) Palm Desert, 78375 Varner Road, just off the I-10 at Washington. 760-600-0684.

5 - Monthly meeting of VFW Post 3699. 6:30PM. American Legion Post 739 Hall. 44200 Sungold, Indio. Contact Lenny at 760-668-5988.

6 - American Legion Post 739 Potluck Christmas Party. 6-8PM. American Legion Post 739 Hall. 44200 Sungold, Indio. Americanlegion739@gmail.com see attached flyer for more details.

7 - Pearl Harbor Day (1941) Fly your flag proudly.

7 - Special Legislative Breakfast. American Legion Post 79, Riverside. 2979 Dexter Drive, Riverside. Guest speaker, Honorable Judge Randall Stamen, Veterans Treatment Court. 8AM. Artie Allen at 301-364-8040 or artie.allen3@yahoo.com See attached flyer.

7 - Palm Springs Chapter of the

Air and Space Forces Association (AFSA) monthly meeting. Lots of new programs/projects for 2024. 8:30 to 9:45AM. Palm Springs Air Museum. All welcome. Live and via zoom. Bill Young at majorbill1@aol.com

8 - Special Dedication Ceremony for Naming of the Palm Desert VA Clinic for Sy Kaplan. 72700 Dinah Shore Drive, Suite 200, Palm Desert. Formal Ceremony. All welcome. 1:30PM. Info: Michael Bailey at Michael.bailey@mail.house.gov or 760-566-5939.

8 - VSSN Winter Wonderland. Free event for military and veteran families. 5:30 to 9PM. Promenade, Temecula. info@vetsupportnet.org

9 - Keep Calm & Carry On: A "Brit's" experience of WWII. 1PM. Palm Springs Air Museum. 745 N. Gene Autry Trail. 760-778-6262.

11 - Mr. Willard's Closet. Cathedral City Corps of The Salvation Army. Grand re-opening! . 10AM to Noon. Deanna Young at 760-832-2883 or readback.veap@gmail.com

12 - Palm Springs Chapter-MOAA Christmas party. Reservations NLT December 5th. Indian Wells Golf Resort, Vue Restaurant. 44500 Indian Wells Lane. 5:30PM. Robert Ramirez at rramirez@dc.rr.com or 760-409-5357. See attached flyer.

13 - VA Field Visit to Mizell Senior Center. 480 S. Sunrise Way, Palm Springs. 9AM to 2PM. . 760-863-8266. See attached flyer.

16 - Wreaths Across America comes to the Riverside National Cemetery. Remembrance wreaths

16 - DAV Chapter 28 Military Veterans Food Giveaway. Drive-through pantry. 9AM to Noon.

4351 University Avenue, Riverside. More info at 951-369-8626. See attached flyer.

16 - VFW Post 1534 Hosts the Marine Corps Holiday Luncheon honoring 50 active duty Marines and sailors and their families. 10:30AM to 3PM. 1 Club House Drive, Desert Hot Springs. Mary Riser at 760-289-8320. See attached flyer

16 - Flattops – The History of the Aircraft Carrier. Palm Springs Air Museum. 745 N. Gene Autry Trail. 1PM. 760-7786262.

20 - VA Field Visit to Blythe. VFW Post 2987. 148 N. 1st Street. 9AM to 2PM. 760-863-8266. See attached flyer.

21 - Mr. Willard's Closet Open. Last day before Christmas. 10am-noon.

21 - Veterans Services zoom meeting. 9AM. Great source of information for veterans, their families and services providers. Contact Anita Worthen at abird82@aol.com in advance.

22 - Input for the January VEAP ReadBack due.

25 -



1 - New Year's Day

2 - Monthly meeting of Chapter 78 of the Disabled American Veterans (DAV). 5PM. Mega Café (formerly CoCos), Palm Desert. 78375 Varner Road just off the I-10 at Washington. 760-600-0684.

2 - Monthly meeting of VFW Post 3699. 6:30PM. American Legion Post 739 Hall. 44200 Sungold, Indio. Con-

tact lenny at 760-668-5988.

3 - Monthly meeting of American Legion Post 739. 7PM. American Legion Post 739 Hall. 44200 Sungold, Indio. Contact Steve at 760-969-0035.

4 - Palm Springs Chapter of the Air and Space Forces Association (AFSA) monthly meeting. 8:30 to 9:45AM. Palm Springs Air Museum. Live and via zoom. All welcome. Bill Young at majorbill1@aol.com

6 - The wartime Master of Suspense: Hitchcock and the Second World War. Palm Springs Air Museum. 745 N. Gene Autry Trail. 1PM. 760-778-6262.

8 - Mr. Willard's Closet. Cathedral City Corps of The Salvation Army. 30-400 Landau Blvd, Cathedral City. 10AM to Noon. Deanna Young at 760-832-2883 or readback.veap@gmail.com

10 - Riverside County VA Field Visit to Mizell Senior Center. 480 S. Sunrise Way, Palm Springs. 9AM to 2PM. Come learn about your benefits. All services free. 760-863-8266.

12-14 Mil-Tree Presents "Weaving Our Stories ... The Path Home." Free event over the weekend. To sign up or learn more go to www.mil-tree.org/tapestries-of-transformation

13 - Combat Contrails: Vietnam. William B. Scott. Palm Springs Air Museum. 745 N. Gene Autry Trail. 1PM. 760-778-6262.

15 - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (Holiday)

Check Local Listings...

there's more!

GALLERY OF HEROES AT THE EXPO

**We need you, your family
and friends in the Gallery of
Heroes...**

**Just share a copy of your U.S. military
photo, or you in uniform, and a brief bio
including :**

- **Branch of Service**
- **Rank**
- **Duty**
- **Years Active**
- **Whatever else you would like to share**
- **(If Military Hero is deceased, or KIA,
please so indicate)**

**Email to: ReadBack.VEAP@gmail.com
OR Mail copies to:**

Editor

44665 Monaco Circle

Palm Desert, CA 92260

Questions: deanna Young 760/832-2883



V.E.A.P.

VETERANS EASY ACCESS PROGRAM

RIVERSIDE COUNTY VETERAN TRANSPORTATION & SUPPORTS (VETS) PROGRAM

TRANSPORTATION ASSISTANCE FOR LOCAL VETERANS TO MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS

THE PROGRAM IS OPEN TO ANY VETERAN RESIDING IN RIVERSIDE COUNTY
WHO DOES NOT HAVE MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION.

ALL DESTINATIONS MUST BE MEDICAL-BASED AND COULD INCLUDE: LOMA
LINDA VA HOSPITAL, VA COMMUNITY HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS, PALM
DESERT VA CLINIC, AND FEDERALLY QUALIFIED HEALTH CENTERS.



TO REQUEST A SERVICE, VETERANS CAN CALL
951-867-3800



Post



739



YOU can help make a disadvantaged child's Christmas all the more **SPECIAL** this year by dropping off an **UNWRAPPED** gift at the Post .

For kids of all ages... a basketball, soccer or football, board games, dolls, cars and trains, books and art supplies, et cetera

★ **In partnership with the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve** ★

**Herman Granados American Legion Post 739
44200 Sun Gold St., Indio, CA 9220**



A festive poster for the American Legion Post 739's Christmas Party. The background is blue with a white central panel. At the top, a green pine branch with gold and red ornaments and white lights is decorated. The American Legion seal is visible on the branch. On the left, a large, cheerful Santa Claus in a red suit and white beard is pointing towards the text. At the bottom, three gingerbread men are shown: one on the left, one in the center holding a green and white striped candy cane, and one on the right holding a holly leaf. The text is centered on the white panel. The title 'POTLUCK CHRISTMAS PARTY' is in large, colorful, block letters. Below it, the text '...bring your favorite dish or dessert!' is in a smaller, italicized font. The date and time 'Wednesday, December 6th 6 to 8 PM' are in bold black text. Below that, 'Santa!' is in large, colorful letters, followed by 'Presents for the kids!', 'Music! Raffles!', and '& more!' in various colors. A red and white striped candy cane is positioned next to 'Santa!'. At the bottom, a red-bordered box with a green inner border contains the address '44200 Sun Gold St., Indio, CA 92201' in white text, with a string of colorful lights above it.

American Legion Post 739's

POTLUCK
CHRISTMAS PARTY

...bring your favorite dish or dessert!

Wednesday, December 6th
6 to 8 PM

Santa!
Presents for the kids!
MUSIC! Raffles!
& more!

44200 Sun Gold St., Indio, CA 92201

Riverside County
Veterans' Advisory Committee Presents:
“Legislative Breakfast”

Thursday, December 7th @8am-10am

*******PLEASE ARRIVE EARLY*******

Location: American Legion Post 79
2979 Dexter Drive, Riverside, CA 92501

Guest Speaker: The Honorable Randall S. Stamen,
Riverside County Veterans Treatment Court

Topic: “Justice Involved Veterans”

Justice Legal Panel:

- Riverside County Veterans Court (The Honorable Judge Randall S. Stamen and Staff)
- Riverside County District Attorney's Office (Chief Deputy District Attorney Jennifer Garcia)
- Riverside County Public Defender's Office (Deputy Public Defender, Scott O'Meara)
- Riverside County Sheriff's Office (Assistant Sheriff Herman Lopez)
- Veterans Justice Outreach, VA Loma Linda (Laura Rodriguez)

Legal Clinic:

- Veterans Legal Institute (VLI) (Deputy Executive Director Katie Binkley)

The Legislative Breakfast is "Open to the Public", Attendance is Free, Refreshments will be provided.

Point of Contact: Artie Allen 301-364-8040 Cell artie.allen3@yahoo.com

Webpage: <https://veteranservices.co.riverside.ca.us/Veterans-Advisory-Committee>



VSSN
VETERANS SUPPLEMENTAL
SUPPORT NETWORK

PROMENADE
TEMECULA

Walmart
Save money. Live better.

Sam's
CLUB

PECHANGA
RESORT CASINO

California
PIZZA KITCHEN

CHARLEY'S
BRIAN'S STEAK

CINNABON

DUNKIN'

Temecula
VET CENTER

Southwest Riverside County Veterans
League Detachment 1057

FREE TOYS, FOOD,
DESSERTS, JUMPERS,
GIVE AWAYS,
CAN FOOD DRIVE,
ARTS & CRAFTS, AND
MORE

QR Code



WINTER WONDERLAND 2023

FRIDAY DECEMBER 8

Free event for military and veteran families. More info @vetsupportnet.org.

5:30-9:00 PM \ PROMENADE TEMECULA



VSSN
VETERANS SUPPLEMENTAL
SUPPORT NETWORK

VSSN
VETERANS SUPPLEMENTAL
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SUPPORT NETWORK



PSC-MOAA CHRISTMAS PARTY DECEMBER 12 @ 1730

DINNER BUFFET:

FIELD GREENS W/BABY TOMATOES, CUCUMBERS, FETA CHEESE, LOCAL DATE
VINAIGRETTE.

ROASTED GARLIC MASHED POTATOES

FRENCH BEAN SAUTE

CARVING STATION: SAGE RUBBED BREAST OF TURKEY

HERB CRUSTED PRIME RIB

ASSORTED SAUCES

PARKER HOUSE ROLLS, BUTTER

DESSERT: NEW YORK STYLE CHEESECAKE W/FRUIT COMPOTE.

COST: \$65.00 PER PERSON

DRESS: COAT AND TIE.

ENTERTAINMENT WILL BE PROVIDED.

RSVP NO LATER DECEMBER 05, 2023 (A RESERVATION MADE IS A
RESERVATION PAID)

ROBERT Q. RAMIREZ AT RRAMIREZ@DC.RR.COM 760/409-5357
MAKE CHECKS TO PSC-MOAA, MAIL TO PSC-MOAA P.O. BOX 372,
LA QUINTA, CA 92247

LOCATION: INDIAN WELLS INDIAN WELLS GOLF RESORT VUE
RESTAURANT. 44500 INDIAN WELLS LN

GIFTS: PLEASE BRING AN UNWRAPPED TOY FOR TOYS FOR TOTS AND EACH PERSON
BRING A WRAPPED GIFT TO EXCHANGE WITH MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE (\$20.00
COST RECOMMENDED).

Cpt. John Schleimer
PSC-MOAA President





Marine Corps Holiday Luncheon 2023

honoring 50 active duty Marines & Sailors and their families

Saturday, December 16th

Doors open at 10:30

Program from 11:30 to 3:00

with music, corn-hole, billiards & lots of raffles!



FREE

Lunch for **ALL Veterans** includes

BBQ ribs, baked beans, salads, rolls, desert & drinks



If you'd like to help out, please bring a \$25 gift card for one of our active duty military men and women and/or white cotton t-shirts for our Loma Linda VA veterans



Please **RSVP** for both the luncheon and if you're bringing a gift card to:

Mary Ryser
(760) 289-8320



Joseph L. Stone VFW Post 1534

1 Club House Dr., Desert Hot Springs 92241



CHARLOTTE W FAY

CHAPTER 28



EVERY THIRD SATURDAY
DRIVE-THRU PANTRY
09:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Charlotte W Fay
DAV CHAPTER 28
4351 University Ave
Riverside, California 92501



WHAT SHOULD YOU BRING
Military/Veteran Identification

PANTRY SCHEDULE 2023

JUNE 17, 2023	NOVEMBER 18, 2023
JULY 1, 2023	<u>DECEMBER 16, 2023</u>
AUGUST 19, 2023	
SEPTEMBER 16, 2023	
OCTOBER 21, 2023	

CALL FOR MORE INFO 951-369-8626

darrin.dav28pantry@gmail.com

ann.dav28pantry@gmail.com



The Salvation Army's
Veterans and Community Expo
April 6, 2024

EXHIBITOR APPLICATION
(Please Print)

Assigned Booth #

ORGANIZATION NAME: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

REPRESENTATIVE(contact): _____

Booth Attendants: (no more than two):

Attendant #1: _____

E-Mail: _____ Phone#: _____

Attendant #2: _____

E-Mail: _____ Phone#: _____

BOOTH:

A booth is free of charge and is defined as: 1ea 8' pipe and drape booth and/or 1ea 6' table, 2ea chairs, 1ea table drape, 1ea customized booth sign. All are the property or assigns of The Salvation Army.

Sign and mail, or sign and email this Application to: (deadline to submit is Friday, March 1)

Deanna Young EXPO
30-400 Landau Blvd.
Cathedral City, CA 92234
readback.veap@gmail.com

DONATIONS:

All donations of any kind are appreciated. If you desire to donate to the event through the Veteran's EasyAccess Program and The Salvation Army, please make your donation out to "The Salvation Army", with "VEAP" or "VET EXPO" and Cathedral City noted on the memo line. These donations may be arranged for or mailed to:

The Salvation Army - EXPO Attn: Major Navarro
30-400 Landau Blvd.
Cathedral City, CA 92234

All participants must read and sign this event's Liability Waiver:

I, the above named Exhibitor understand that I will only be authorized to place my display materials within the area assigned to me (the booth) as indicated. Additional materials, displays, exhibits or stand-ups that go beyond the designated booth space must be approved prior to the event and will only be accommodated as possible and with approval. Any items placed in the pedestrian right-of-way or any unauthorized area are my organization's liability and responsibility.

I further understand that any type of sales or collection of solicitation of monies is strictly prohibited at the event. Additionally, I certify that I am insured for liability and have a valid business license or permit to do business (if applicable).

Please acknowledge that you have read and understand this agreement with your signature below:

Responsible party: _____ (please print)

Signature: _____ dated: _____

THE SALVATION ARMY DAVIS CENTER



2023 BLESSING BOX PROGRAM



THANKSGIVING AND CHRISTMAS MEAL BOX
CAJA DE COMIDA DE ACCIÓN DE GRACIAS Y NAVIDAD

CRITERIA/CRITERIOS:

- FAMILY OF 3 OR MORE LIVING IN THE SAME HOUSEHOLD/ LA FAMILIA TIENE AL MENOS 3 EN CASA
- PLAN NOT TO ATTEND THE COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING DAY LUNCH/ NO ASISTIRÁS AL ALMUERZO DEL DÍA DE ACCIÓN DE GRACIAS
- ONLY ONE ADDRESS PER FAMILY (NO MULTIPLE FAMILIES WITH THE SAME ADDRESS)/ UNA FAMILIA POR DIRECCIÓN
- SHOW PROOF OF ID, ADDRESS, INCOME, AND HOUSEHOLD MEMBER ID/ COMPROBANTE DE IDENTIFICACIÓN, DIRECCIÓN, INGRESOS Y MIEMBROS DEL HOGAR.
- MUST ONLY APPLY FOR EITHER THANKSGIVING OR CHRISTMAS BLESSING BOX/SÓLO SE PUEDE APLICAR PARA UNA CASILLA (UNA U OTRA)
- PICK-UP FOR THANKSGIVING BOX ON MONDAY, NOVEMBER 20TH FROM 1:00PM - 3:00 PM/ RECOGIDA DE CAJAS DE ACCIÓN DE GRACIAS EL 20 DE NOVIEMBRE 1:00PM-3:00PM
- PICK-UP FOR CHRISTMAS BOX ON TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19TH FROM 10:00AM-12:00PM / RECOGIDA DE CAJAS NAVIDEÑAS EL 19 DE DICIEMBRE 10:00AM-12:00PM



TO APPLY PLEASE VISIT OUR
FAMILY SERVICES OFFICE
M-F BETWEEN 1PM-3PM

PARA PRESENTAR SU
SOLICITUD, VISITE LA OFICINA
DE SERVICIOS FAMILIARES DE
LUNES A VIERNES DE 1:00 P. M.
A 3:00 P. M.

30-400 LANDAU BLVD. CATHEDRAL CITY CA, 92234 | 760-324-2275



FREE LEGAL CLINICS FOR VETERANS

The Riverside County Veterans' Services & Veterans Legal Institute (VLI) now offer a free legal clinic for at risk and low-income veterans and their dependents.

Veterans are invited to schedule a virtual or telephonic one-on-one meeting with a VLI attorney for free legal advice, assistance, and resources in the areas of:

- Healthcare
- Consumer Law
- Discharge Upgrades
- Estate Planning
- Bankruptcy
- Expungements
- Immigration
- Landlord-Tenant
- License Renewals
- Other Civil Legal Issues

WHEN: Every **third Tuesday** of the month
from **9:00am to noon**.

2023 ~~April 18, May 16, June 20, July 18, Aug 15~~

2023 ~~Sept 19, Oct 17, Nov 21, Dec 19~~

Appointments: Interested veterans must call (951) 955 - 3060 to schedule an appointment for legal assistance.

• «» MIL-TREE PRESENTS «» •

WEAVING OUR STORIES: THE PATH HOME

A VETERAN RETREAT IN JOSHUA TREE SUPPORTED BY COMMUNITY MEMBERS

FRI. EVENING JAN. 12 THROUGH SUN. JAN. 14

THIS IS A FREE GATHERING

THE EXPLORATION AT THIS RETREAT:

- **STORIES:** DISCOVER TALES & TRADITIONS ROOTED IN CULTURE
- **DISCUSSION:** VETERANS AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS SHARE THEIR STORIES
- **PIECE IT TOGETHER:** COMBINE ALL EXPRESSION INTO A SHARED MOSAIC
- **GROUP REFLECTION:** HOW DO WE BUILD A NEW COMMUNITY TOGETHER

THIS RETREAT IS LEAD BY MIGUEL RIVERA, BEN DENNIS, DELORES MONDRAGON AND ELDER KIM MARCUS

TO SIGN UP OR FOR MORE INFORMATION:
WWW.MIL-TREE.ORG/TAPESTRIES-OF-TRANSFORMATION



THIS IS THE FIRST PART OF THE CALIFORNIA CREATIVE CORPS PROJECT

• «» TAPESTRIES OF TRANSFORMATION «» •

OTHER UPCOMING ACTIVITIES WILL INCLUDE WORKSHOPS IN DRUMMING, STORYTELLING, ACTING AND MOVEMENT, AND A FINAL PERFORMANCE EXPLORING THE JOURNEY HOME FROM SERVING OUR COUNTRY, STARTING IN FEBRUARY ENDING IN MAY 2024

THIS ACTIVITY IS MADE POSSIBLE IN PART BY A GRANT FROM THE INLAND SOCIAL CREATIVE CORPS, A COMPONENT FUND AT THE INLAND EMPIRE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION, AND BY THE CALIFORNIA ARTS COUNCIL, A STATE AGENCY.





PASS AREA VETERANS EXPO

OPEN TO ALL MILITARY, VETERANS, FAMILY AND FRIENDS

January 20 2024 | 10 00 a.m. - 1 00 p.m.

LOCATION:

Albert A. Chatigny Sr. Community Recreation Center
1310 Oak Valley Parkway, Beaumont, CA 92223

INFORMATION & RESOURCE EVENT

Have your questions answered and update your knowledge about the current benefits available to you and your loved ones.

BRING YOUR DD214 WITH YOU TO THE EVENT

