



CHARLES SPEIR

The Eagle

*Veterans of Foreign Wars News Letter, Karl H Kreh, Post 1123
420 Adm. Callaghan Lane, Vallejo, CA 94591
January – April 2025*

VFW POST 1123 COMMANDER

Commander's Corner

As usual, VFW Post 1123 members always impress me with their level of participation for events that seek to increase membership and events that honor veterans. For example, five post members supported ten Cadets from the Jessie Bethel HS NJROTC program in placing and retrieving American Flags on veteran's graves at All Souls and Sky View Cemeteries. Furthermore, five Post 1123 members assisted about sixteen Scouts BSA and Girl Scouts with placing and retrieving American Flags on veteran's graves at Sunrise Cemetery. Altogether, over 2000 flags were placed and retrieved in a week. A job well done. Thank you everyone.

Our "Buddy Poppy" Program was also a great success that brought our members and the community together, allowing us to showcase the benefits that VFW membership provides to prior and current members of the military. This is also a great way to attract new member as well as increase comradeship with existing members. In fact, we were able to sign up two new members, including seven possibles. Cross your fingers. With your support, we were able to have enough people to set up tables at four locations, two in Vallejo and two in American Canyon for three days. We also raised over \$1600 for veterans in need. Remember, as our membership ages (me included) it is important that we attract younger members.

Finally, in response to our support of Fisher House on Travis AFB, The Fair Field Rotary Club donated \$6,000 to VFW Post 1123 for our general fund. My thanks to our Chaplin, Celina Perez and our new member Kari Lane for attending a Rotary meeting and accepting the check for us. Thank you, ladies for representing our organization in public.

Scouting

We are now the Chartered Organization for Venture Crew 222. If you are not aware, Venturing is a co-ed scouting program for youth between the ages of 14 and 20. These youth can do more than a regular Scout Troop, including such activities as: supervised pistol shooting or driving off-road vehicles. These are just a few examples of the things they can do. If you are interested in helping or have any ideas about new activities, just ask. They are always looking for things to do. The name of the game is high adventure.

Socials, Dinner Committee, Buddy Poppies comments

The January, February and March socials will be held 1/20/25, 2/18/25 and 3/17/25. The January dinner will be Italian night, February dinner will be Fried Chicken and March will be St. Patricks Day Corned beef. The cost of Corned Beef has gone up significantly. It will cost us \$20 per person. We will vote on a possible raise just for St. Patricks day in our February meeting. Please make your reservations. If you attended our December dinner, you probably made your reservation for the January dinner. You can also call Ray Hart at (720) 548-7148 make the or Email us at vallejovfwpost1123@gmail.com.

Fisher House

We have expanded the type of help we are providing to Fisher House at Travis AFB. This will allow our members with limited access to Travis AFB, an opportunity to provide items in smaller quantities that are not provided by our VFW post on monthly food donations.

Such as: Miscellaneous Items

Paper Towels	Ziploc Bags 1 gal	Household cleaning supplies	Aluminum foil
Dryer sheets	Trash bags 39 gal	Dishwasher soap	Latex-free disposable gloves
Kleenex	Lysol disinfectant spray and wipes	Toilet Paper	Travel size deodorant
Hair comb/brush	Hair ties/Bobby pins	Travel size hand sanitizer	Toothbrush and paste
Nail clipper	Emery Boards	Batteries (AA)	Postage stamps

Non-Perishable Food Items:

Individual Cereal servings (assorted)	Bottled Water	Snack Chips (personal and regular size)	Coffee K-cups (assorted)	Tea Bags (assorted)
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This does not replace the monthly food donation provided by our post, but will supplement it. Whenever you have an opportunity to purchase any of these items in any quantity, you can bring them to the Vet’s Hall either on meeting, Socials or Tuesday morning 9 AM to 11 AM and we will store them there. We will then include these items in the next month’s food donation. This will give more of our members without easy access to Travis AFB an opportunity to assist Fisher House. Kevin Milton and Hank Howard receive a commendation from Fisher House recently.

Buddy Poppies

We need to receive as many members as possible to participate in distribution of Buddy Poppies on be May 17th and 18th. We would like to participate at 2 Safeway’s at Admiral Callaghan and Lincoln Road in Vallejo and Walgreens and Walmart in American Canyon. We’ll need 12 volunteers for Vallejo and 6 for American Canyon. During veterans Day drive we gained around \$1,600 from the public.

We really need as many members that can participate to turn out.

Chaplains Corner

Dear Comrades,

As we embark on a new year, I am reminded of the core values that unite us as veterans and members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW). We share a bond forged through service, sacrifice, and dedication to the principles of freedom and democracy. It is this bond that strengthens our mission to support veterans, military families, and our community in Vallejo. In this season of reflection and renewal, I encourage each of you to remember the importance of fellowship and service. Whether it’s through a friendly conversation with a fellow veteran, volunteering at a community event, or offering a helping hand to those in need, we continue to embody the spirit of camaraderie that defines our organization.

This year, let us also turn our attention to the younger generation. As veterans, we have a

unique opportunity to serve as mentors and role models. By sharing our experiences and wisdom, we can inspire youth to take pride in their country and uphold the values that make our nation strong.

As your Chaplain, I am here to offer spiritual support and encouragement. If you or someone you know is in need of assistance—be it emotional, spiritual, or practical—please don't hesitate to reach out. Together, we are stronger, and together, we will continue to uphold the VFW's mission of honor and service. Let us move forward with unity, purpose, and an unwavering commitment to our fellow veterans and the Vallejo community.

Yours in service and faith,
Chaplain Celina Perez

Vallejo Veterans of Foreign Wars

Deceased members since July 2024

Bunyan W Johnson Age: 93 Life Member DOR: 01/03/2025 He joined the VFW 5/7/2004.

Junior Vice Corner.

As we begin this new year, I would like to reflect on last year's social gatherings, meetings, and fundraising events. I am thankful for the people I met and the friendships we forged. I am deeply grateful and honored to have received the Life Membership Award from Post 1 123. Since joining, I have been consistently impressed by the dedication of the veterans I've encountered. I hope to continue serving our nation's veterans to the best of my ability. One way I plan to do this is by sharing helpful information and resources. One such resource is PGA HOPE, a program open to all veterans, regardless of golfing experience, that brings veterans together for camaraderie and enjoyment. Finally, let me express my gratitude to my fellow veterans—this nation's freedom is a testament to your bravery and service. Semper Fi

Surgeon's Corner: Notes from Sick Bay

Happy New Year! Best wishes for a healthy and productive 2025.

CPR Training?

A Navy friend of mine recently suffered a cardiac arrest. Thanks to quick action by nearby people, he survived with his mind intact. When you think about how old most of us are, you realize that some sort of cardiac event among our friends and comrades is a distinct possibility. Guidelines for effective CPR have recently been changed, mostly to encourage non-first responders to quickly begin the CPR sequence, including the use of an Automated External Defibrillator (AED). We are thinking about putting on a CPR training session at the Veterans Memorial Building. If we do this, would you sign up? Let me know in an email to thomalsnyder@gmail.com or call (707) 643-7074

Winter Respiratory Disease Update

Solano County statistics as of Saturday 11 January: reported Covid cases are low at 137 for the month, compared with about 250 at this time last year. While the risk of catching Covid is relatively low, the risk of serious illness, if you get it, is high. I strongly recommend that you get your Covid shot if you haven't done so in the last 2 months. Cases of influenza are rising, but with about the same number, ~350-400 per month, reported over the last three months. This compares with about 175 last year. People 70 and older suffer the highest infection rate, and the flu can make you pretty sick (or even cause death). There's a good flu shot out there, and I recommend that get yours, if you haven't already done so.

Respiratory Syncytial Virus ("RSV") is the "new bug on the scene". It mostly infects children, where it's generally a pretty mild thing. But in older folks (= us!), it's a

different matter. Reported cases, at ~160 for the month are low, but higher than last year (~125). There is an effective shot for RSV. The VA recommends that you discuss RSV immunization with your health care professional.
Stay healthy! Tom Snyder

Judge Advocate Corner:

Longevity Pins

All motions (except those for recruit approval, draping the charter and post minutes) will be done under Old Business or New Business. In addition, a motion request form needs to be completed and turned into the Post Adjutant, Steven Feller Life Membership Program AND THE 2024 WINNER IS: Willie Escobedo. Willie will have his Life Membership to the VFW paid for by the Post. Willie and another member qualified by meeting the programs. Minimum requirements. A drawing was held at the December Post social and Willie won the draw. Congratulations Willie! If you are not a life member and would like a chance to have the Post pay for a life membership. Go on the Post's web page or contact Bob Schwerin Longevity Pin Program There are over 100 members who have not yet received their pin. A mass mail out will be done soon. If you have moved within the last year, please contact me (707 704-6967 or e-mail at SchweriniiiL@comcast.net) with your new address so the mailout can be successful. Scholarship Program The Don Dunn Scholarship program application revision is in its final stage of review. The application will be ready for distribution to local seniors this month.

Adjutant's Corner How to Use the Website Open your browser (Google, Edge, Firefox, etc.) Enter <https://www.vfw1123.org> in the address bar. Look at the upper right corner & click Login Look at the menu that pops up & click Members Only Enter your Member ID & Password (your last name) **Member ID example: 9876543 & **Password example: Feller Welcome to the MEMBERS ONLY section of our Website! You will see a **Directory, POST INFO, MEETING MINUTES**, & other incomplete links. **Department Directory** is new & not implemented by myself. It looks like something our Department had plugged into each Posts website. **POST INFO** is a compilation of documents related to our Post. This includes our *Post Bylaws, Articles of Incorporation, Life Membership Program Application, Fisher House Program & Longevity Pin Program*. Additionally, there is a full electronic copy of the new *2025 National Bylaws & Rituals (Podium Edition)*.

MEETING MINUTES is a comprehensive list of our previous Meeting Minutes. The list is current & goes back to January 2022. You will notice at the top I have extracted the *Motions from the current year* & they can be accessed quickly.

Everything else is under construction & will be updated over time. If you look at the **top menu** (the same menu with the Login button), you will notice **Home, About, Programs, Resources, News, Contact & Login**. I have looked around but haven't done very much yet. If you click **Home** & scroll down you will see

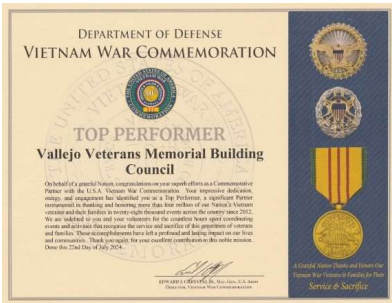
Nestor's Corner



Willy Escobedo, Junior Vice Commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Carl H. Kreh Post 1123 of Vallejo and American Canyon, left, was all smiles as he was awarded his life membership by Post Commander Charles Speir (center) and Post Judge Advocate Robert Schwerin. Escobedo served in the United States Marine Corps from 2004-12 with two meritorious tours of duty each in both Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. The www.VFW1123.org meets on 1st and 3rd Mondays, 7 p.m., at 420 Admiral Callaghan Lane, Vallejo. (Courtesy of Nestor Aliga)



Event Manager Dwight Richardson is cordially inviting everyone to the Super Bowl Watch Party and feast on delicious barbecues on Feb. 9 at 3 p.m. at the Vallejo Veterans Memorial Building (VVMB), 420 Admiral Callaghan Lane, Vallejo. To attract more customers while raising much-needed funds for the survival of VVMB, Richardson has these upcoming events: a) Hamburgers every Thursday, 6 p.m.; b) Karaoke Singing every Friday, 6 p.m.; c) starting Jan. 28, Tacos every Tuesday, 4 p.m.; d) Open Microphone on Jan. 30, 6 p.m. Please text (510) 377-5165 for details (Courtesy of Nestor Aliga)



Recently, the Vallejo Veterans Memorial Building Council (VVMB) received the "Top Performer" award from US Army Major General Edward J. Chrystal, Director of the Department of Defense (DOD) Vietnam War Commemoration Office. Since 2013, the VVMB has been conducting annual "Welcome Home Vietnam War Veterans" commemorations and have honored hundreds of local Vietnam War veterans with personalized federal, state, county, city, and/or VVMB certificates of appreciation along with DOD-supplied lapel pins, bumper stickers, and tin pins. (Courtesy of Nestor Aliga)

<https://www.timesheraldonline.com/?s=Vallejo%2FVacaville+Arts+and+Entertainment+Source%3A+Faces+and+Places&orderby=date&order=desc>



On Dec. 14, Event Manager Dwight Richardson, left, was all smiles as several Veterans, family members, and friends visited to watch the Army Navy Football Game and feast on delicious barbecues at the Vallejo Veterans Memorial Building (VVMB). The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Carl H. Kreh Post 1123 and The American Legion (TAL) Mare Island Navy Yard Post 550 sponsored the party. Richardson is planning more events to attract more Veterans

while raising much-needed funds for the survival of VVMB. Donations can be sent to VVMB at 420 Admiral Callaghan Lane, Vallejo, CA 94591. (Courtesy of Nestor Aliga)



WWII and 99-year old veteran Luther Hendricks proudly shows the certificate of appreciation that he received from Michele Kwok — Executive Director, Pacific District, National Cemetery Administration — on Nov. 11 at the Mare Island U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs Cemetery. The certificate reads in part, “You answered our beloved country’s call to duty and proudly served with patriotism, distinction, and honor. As a Black WWII veteran, your double service and sacrifice — fighting fascism abroad and fighting racism at home — urged President Truman to sign Executive Order 9981 to integrate the U.S. Armed Forces ... You are an inspiration to all Americans.” (Courtesy of Nestor Aliga)



Bill Mares — a decorated Vietnam War veteran, life-member of www.VFW1123.org, and retired Vallejo businessman — recently donated 22 framed pictures of Mare Island-built ships to the Vallejo Veterans Memorial Building. The beautiful pictures will soon be displayed for the public to appreciate at 420 Admiral Callaghan Lane. Over 500 ships were built and thousands more were repaired during Mare Island Naval Shipyard’s historic lifetime. (Courtesy of Nestor Aliga)



On Oct. 21, Vallejo City Manager Andrew Murray, 5th from right, attended the Veterans of Foreign Wars Carl H. Kreh Post 1123 monthly 3rd Monday of the month dinner at 420 Admiral Callaghan Lane. Veterans and families appreciated Murray’s community outreach as he patiently listened to citizens’ concerns. Please visit www.CityofVallejo.net for details. (Courtesy of Nestor Aliga)



Kari Lacy, with the Veterans of Foreign War Post 1123, plays TAPS during the Veterans Day event inside the Vallejo Veterans Memorial Hall on Monday. (Chris Riley/Times-Herald) <https://www.timesheraldonline.com/2024/11/11/vallejo-gathers-to-honor-all-veterans/>



Celina Perez, Rooted in Vallejo: Local Veteran and her Promise to Public Service. Founder of First Chance Vallejo, Celina Perez supports underserved youth and fosters change.

As a teen, Perez spent some time in Juvenile Hall. Then she made the transformative decision to join the military. She faced adversity... from these moments, however, Perez emerged a better version of herself — one that craved a career in public service and the “kick-ass” mentality to carry it out. “It made me realize that any of my dreams can happen,” she said. In those seemingly unbearable moments, she’d remind herself; “If I can get through these things I can get through anything.” In October, as a member of Team Rubicon — a veteran-led humanitarian organization serving communities in times of crisis — Perez joined operations to aid with the Hurricane Helene impact. While deployed in Coffee County, GA alongside a team working to clear debris and open up roads, Perez was surprised by what she saw. Within this disaster-struck community, somehow, a

sense of unity remained. She was blown away. Even in the face of absolute disaster, “I saw how their community rallied together to make stuff happen,” she said. Seeing such, “made me really hopeful for Vallejo...” <https://www.timesheraldonline.com/2024/11/09/rooted-in-vallejo-local-veteran-and-her-promise-to-public-service/>

VFW Post 1123 Officers Information		Phone
Commander	Chuck Speir	707-645-0231
SRVCMDR	Burdette Shields	707-330-0713
JRVCMDR	Willy Escobedo	707-657-8760
Quartermaster	Ray Hart	720-548-7148
Adjutant	Steven Feller	707-373-9046
CHAPLAIN	Celina Perez	707-652-9925

Carl H. Kreh VFW Post 1123 2025 Post Calendar of Events and Meetings				
1-Jan-25	New Years day	9:00		
2-Jan-25	Vallejo Veterans Council Mtg	19:00	Vets Building	
6-Jan-25	Post 1123 Mtg	19:00	Vets Building	
7-Jan-25	Tuesday Coffee Morning	8:00	Vets Building	
14-Jan-25	Tuesday Coffee Morning	8:00	Vets Building	
20-Jan-25	Martin Luther King Day - Social	18:00	Vets Building	
21-Jan-25	Tuesday Coffee Morning	8:00	Vets Building	
2/1/2025	District Meeting	9:00	Sonoma Post	
3-Feb-25	Post 1123 Mtg	19:00	Vets Building	
4-Feb-25	Tuesday Coffee Morning		Vets Building	
6-Feb-25	Vallejo Veterans Council Mtg	19:00	Vets Building	
11-Feb-25	Tuesday Coffee Morning	9:00		
12-Feb-25	Lincoln's Birthday	9:00	Vets Building	
17-Feb-25	Presidents Day Social	18:00	Vets Building	
18-Feb-25	Tuesday Coffee Morning	9:00	Vets Building	
25-Feb-25	Tuesday Coffee Morning	9:00	Vets Building	

3-Mar-25	Post 1123 Mtg	18:00	Vallejo	Nominations
4-Mar-25	Tuesday Coffee Morning	9:00		
6-Mar-25	Vallejo Veterans Council Mtg	19:00	Vets Building	
9-Mar-25	Daylight Savings Time Begins			
11-Mar-25	Tuesday Coffee Morning	9:00	Vets Building	
17-Mar-25	St. Patrick's Day Dinner - Social	18:00	Vets Building	
18-Mar-25	Tuesday Coffee Morning	9:00	Vets Building	
25-Mar-25	Tuesday Coffee Morning	9:00	Vets Building	
29-Mar-25	National Vietnam War Day	9:00	Vets Building	
1-Apr-25	Tuesday Coffee Morning	9:00	Vets Building	Nominations
3-Apr-25	Vallejo Veterans Council Mtg	19:00	Vets Building	
8-Apr-25	Tuesday Coffee Morning	9:00	Vets Building	
15-Apr-25	Tuesday Coffee Morning	9:00	Vets Building	
21-Apr-25	Social	18:00	Vets Building	Vallejo
22-Apr-25	Tuesday Coffee Morning	9:00	Vets Building	
29-Apr-25	Tuesday Coffee Morning	9:00	Vets Building	