

The American Legion Twin Cities Post 313, Inc.
Larkspur & Corte Madera, California

www.americanlegion313.org



Monthly Times

OUR MISSION: TO HONOR, SERVE AND SUPPORT OUR ARMED FORCES, VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES, WHILE PROMOTING PATRIOTISM IN THE COMMUNITY

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"Still Serving America"

JuLY 1, 2016

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Commander Bob Means

July is here. I hope to see many of you at the annual Fourth of July Pancake Breakfast. Stop by the Post 313 Gin Fizz Booth hosted by the legendary Tad and Elena Craig.

Hosting the quarterly District 5 meeting was a success. Thanks to our volunteer crew.

Your Commercial Kitchen Committee has recently met with the County as they continue their efforts to upgrade the facility.

The Post ends the fiscal year at 93% of our membership goal and with over \$77,000 in the bank. The Post shows a profit year to date.

Wishing you all a pleasant and safe summer.

American Legion testimony tackles pending legislation

The American Legion's Director of the Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Division Lou Celli testified June 23rd on Capitol Hill concerning pending legislation for the VA Appeals Modernization Act and the Working to Integrate Networks Guaranteeing Network Access Now Act (WINGMAN).

During his testimony, Celli highlighted collaborative efforts of The American Legion, the Department of Veterans Affairs and other service organizations that led to the creation of veteran-centric legislation, including the Appeals Modernization Act, aimed at preserving and improving claimant's rights during the appeals process.

Celli concluded his statement conveying The American Legion's willingness to work alongside lawmakers to ensure the "most beneficial, veteran-centric legislation is passed."

If enacted, the Appeals Modernization Act of 2016 would improve and

(Continued on page 3)

Monthly Times

~ July 2016 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Canada Day	2
3	4 Independence Day 8a 4th of July Pancake Breakfast	5	6	7 9a Coffee (Club Room)	8	9
10	11 9a Coffee (Club Room)	12 12p Auxiliary Unit Meeting (Club Room)	13 8:30a Post 313 Breakfast (Club Room)	14 9a Coffee (Club Room)	15	16
17	18 9a Coffee (Club Room)	19	20	21 9a Coffee (Club Room)	22	23
24	25 9a Coffee (Club Room)	26	27	28 9a Coffee (Club Room) 9:30a Executive Board Meeting (Club Room)	29	30
31						

~ August 2016 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 9a Coffee (Club Room) 6:15p General Membership Social (Clubroom) 7:15p General Membership Meeting (Clubroom)	2	3	4 9a Coffee (Club Room)	5	6
7 International Friendship Day	8 9a Coffee (Club Room)	9 12p Auxiliary Unit Meeting (Club Room)	10 8:30a Post 313 Breakfast (Club Room)	11 9a Coffee (Club Room)	12	13
14	15 9a Coffee (Club Room)	16	17	18 9a Coffee (Club Room)	19	20
21	22 9a Coffee (Club Room)	23	24	25 9a Coffee (Club Room) 9:30a Executive Board Meeting (Club Room)	26	27
28	29 9a Coffee (Club Room)	30	31			

For Veteran's Services, see <http://www.co.marin.ca.us/depts/HH/main/ag/veterans.cfm>

<http://americanlegion313.org>

streamline the appeals process for disability claims by addressing flaws in the system. As a result, this will allow the existing appeals to receive a decision from VA in an efficient manner.

WINGMAN, if passed into law, will grant employees of members of Congress access to the VA's Veterans Benefits Management System to assist constituents with questions regarding the status of their claims for benefits. The American Legion opposes this legislation because claims and appeals management is a highly technical process that requires intense ongoing training and VA Regional Office support, which this bill does not provide.

American Legion Action Alert: Contact Your Congressman

(Updated May 12, 2016) Action on this issue has moved to the Senate after the House of Representatives disappointingly failed to include the full repeal in this year's FY2017 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). The Senate Armed Services Committee is now considering their version of the NDAA and we are doubling down on our efforts to get this included in the final bill. Please contact your Members of Congress requesting their cosponsorship and support for the full repeal of this unfair penalty on this nation's disabled veterans.

(March 24, 2016) Veterans provide the backbone of liberty for our nation. Our gratitude for their sacrifice is immense. The freedom we enjoy today is a direct result of their sacrifices. The retirement benefits that military retirees receive are but a small portion of the debt this nation owes them. VA service-connected disability compensation is another.

But for more than 100 years before 1999, all disabled military retirees were required to fund their own veterans' disability compensation by forfeiting one dollar of earned retired pay for each dollar received in veterans' disability compensation. Since 1999, Congress has enacted legislation to progressively provide relief for this unfair offset between military retired pay and disability compensation. However, Congress has not yet provided all disabled military retirees this relief. This is patently unfair and The American Le-

gion has long supported measures to correct this unfair situation.

The American Legion calls this unfair practice by the federal government the 'Disabled Veterans' Tax', and we adamantly oppose this unfair 'tax' on our wounded, injured, and ill retired veterans who suffered their disabilities because of their military service to this country.

The American Legion Family is encouraged to use the TAL Action Center to contact their Senators and Representative to ask their cosponsorship and support for these proposals.

The American Legion will not rest until all of our retired, service-disabled warriors receive both of the benefits they earned due to their selfless sacrifice and duty to our nation.

Veterans Housing & Services (VHS) Fundraiser
VHS is holding a fundraiser at the San Rafael Elks Club on **7/29, 6:30—9:30pm** featuring Quartet Andoni performing American classics by Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin plus standards spanning many genres . This evening of beautiful music promises to be fun! Tickets are \$20 prepaid (tax-deductible). The Elks Club will run a no-host bar and provide complimentary appetizers for attendees. Purchase tickets online at:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/quartet-andoni-veterans-fundraiser-tickets-26086426203>

Post 313 Breakfast
Wednesday, July 13, 2016

8:30 am in Club Room
\$5.00 (All you can eat!)

Includes fruit juice, scrambled eggs with cheese, pancakes, bacon, sausage & coffee.

**Reservation: Signup in Club Room or
Call Bill Brennen (415-927-0393) or
Leave message at the Post (415-924-6283)**

American Legion Post 313

500 Magnolia Street

Larkspur, CA 94939



64ND ANNUAL IDEPENDENCE DAY PANCAKE BREAKFAST

7:45 am Flag Raising, with Boys Scouts and Girl Scouts

8 - 11 am Breakfast

Pancakes, Sausages, Fruit, Coffee, OJ & Milk

\$10 Adults/\$5 Kids

Famous 1928 Legion Recipe Gin Fizzes \$5

THE AMERICAN LEGION TWIN CITIES POST 313
500 Magnolia Ave (Corner of Ward) Larkspur
In the city parking lot across from the Left Bank Restaurant



<http://americanlegion313.org>