

VETERANS DAY IS YOUR DAY

November 11th is a national holiday for the purpose of honoring you. There will be flags up and down Main Street, Woodland. Politicians from across the country will be bestowing praise. Flags will be flying high and newspapers will remind us of the sacrifices veterans made. And there's our Post 77 Veterans Day program at the Courthouse and a luncheon for you at the Post hall afterwards.

The citizenry's respect for vets is perhaps at its highest since the start of the Korean War. The Library of Congress wants to videotape our stories. High schools ask us to come and speak to their students. Members of the community thank us for our service in the military.

Get together with fellow veterans on November 11, 11 a.m. at the Post 77 Veterans Day program in front of the Yolo County Courthouse. There will be music starting at 10:15 a.m. and tributes to you throughout the ceremony. You deserve it.

Al Castillo, Commander

**FLAGS NEED PLANTING
ON VETERANS DAY**

Post 77 members responded to the call on Memorial Day to put up our over 200 flags on the roadways of the Woodland Cemetery. There was a whole bunch of you who helped do that.

Please come on November 11, Veterans Day at 7 a.m. for us to again create the beauty of United States flags unfurled for all of Woodland to see.

Mike Phillips, Second Vice Commander



Post 77 has been videotaping, with the assistance of Air Force Staff Sgt. Leray Smedley of Beale Air Force Base, Post 77's members' stories about their time in the military and after for placement in the Library of Congress "Veterans History Project" permanent collection. Here Dave Newman, with SSgt. Smedley videotaping, talks about his time in the Vietnam War. Others who have been recorded at the Post are Ernie Head, Ed Trautt, and Steve Moreno.



Speaker at the Nov. 11 Veterans Day program is Col. James Crump, Air Force (retired), Western United States President of the Tuskegee Airmen, Inc. Association.



- Albert Castillo, Commander
- Marty Bernavage, 1st Vice Commander
- Mike Phillips, 2nd Vice Commander
- Gary Leach, Adjutant
- Edward Trautt, Immediate Past Commander
- Corbin Smith, Finance Officer & Assistant Adjutant
- Steve Waldeck, Treasurer
- Vince Olvera, Sergeant-at-Arms
- Edward Trautt, Chaplain
- Zeke Plocher, Service Officer
- Frank Eakle, Athletic Committee Chair
- Larry Schapiro, Historian
- Dave Kauderer, Judge Advocate
- William Allardice, Legislative Advocate
- Dan Cameron, Executive Committee
- Delbert Guise, Executive Committee

MISCELLANEOUS GOINGS-ON

The American Legion has designated Woodland as the location for this year's Legion northern California student oratorical contest. The students' speeches can be heard at the Woodland City Council chambers Feb. 20, 1 p.m.... The Post has donated \$100 to help keep the Woodland Christmas parade from being cancelled this year due to lack of funds. If enough money is raised to hold the Christmas parade, Post 77 members will be leading the parade as the Post has done in every Woodland Christmas parade.... Students from throughout Yolo County who Post 77 sent to American Legion Boys State this year came to a Post membership meeting and told of their experiences at Boys State. Boys State attendees were Pioneer High School students Sebastian Anaya and Bernardo Alfano, Michael Mahoney and Brayden James of Woodland High School, John Rameriz of Davis High School, Jack Kelly of Davis's Da Vinci High School, Winters High School student Jesse Carbez and Michael Parker, Esparto High School. Michael Parker told Post members at the meeting, "Boys State is an amazing program. I learned a lot. I felt it really changed my life." Brayden James called Boys State "By far the best experience of my life. I met so many students from throughout California. We are still in contact." Michael Mahoney found Boys State "one of the most amazing weeks in my life. I gained experience in public speaking, leadership and working with others." Jack Kelly found the Boys State experience "probably the most important week of my life." Sebastian Anaya said that "Boys State is one of my favorite experiences. I learned a lot."... The Post clubroom has free internet access for laptop computers.... When you determine your United States flag is too worn or ripped to any longer be usable, drop it off at the Post hall. The Post retires flags twice a year according to the National American Legion ceremony and procedures....The Post will again be sending local students to the spring State American Legion Youth Environmental Leadership Conference.... The winner of the Post's annual Woodland High School junior class essay contest will read her or his essay at the Post 77 Veterans Day program on Nov. 11. This year's essay topic is "What America Means to Me." First, second and third places winners will receive \$100, \$75 and \$50.... For a second year, Vince Olvera is American Legion District 6 Boy Scouts director.... Mary Cogburn is back from Los Angeles where she traveled for American Legion Auxiliary training, as if Mary does not already know everything there is to know.... Post 77 will be awarded the Woodland League of Women Voters' annual "Democracy Works" award on Nov. 9, 6:30 p.m. at Vince's restaurant. All members are invited.... Past state American Legion Commander Dave Eby is a member of Post 77's Sons of the American Legion Squadron.... Post member Joe Spencer rides with the Patriot Guard motor cycle group, which welcomes home veterans and helps at funeral services.... The Woodland City Council turns to Post 77 regarding veterans and military honors. The latest is on Nov. 9, at 6 p.m. when the City Council will present its Veterans Day proclamation to Post 77. Catch us on Cable channel 21 or stop by and participate.

Vince Olvera, Sergeant-at-Arms

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

November 10 7:00 p.m. Sons Membership meeting

December 8 7:00 p.m. Sons Membership meeting

Carl Prutch, Commander, tel. 669-7975; Robert Roe, Adjutant

EVENT CALENDARS

NOVEMBER 2010

- 2nd 6:00 p.m. Post 77 members receive Veterans Day Proclamation from the Woodland City Council
- 4th 7:00 p.m. Yolo County Veterans' Coalition meeting at VFW, West Sacramento
- 6th 6:00 p.m. Annual Veterans Day turkey dinner, \$12
- 9th 6:30 p.m. Post receives the 2010 Woodland League of Women Voters "Democracy Works" award, Vince's restaurant
- 12th 5:00 p.m. Post members serve dinner to homeless at Wayfarer Center that Post cooks earlier in the day
- 11th 7:00 a.m. Post members to put up flags on Main St., Woodland and at the Woodland Cemetery for Veterans Day
- 11:00 a.m. Post 77 Veterans Day program at Yolo County Courthouse
- Noon Free buffet luncheon at the Post hall
- 4:00 p.m. Members take down flags from Main St. and Woodland Cemetery
- 12th 5:00 p.m. Post members serve dinner to homeless at Wayfarer Center that Post cooks earlier in the day
- 13-14 All day American Legion Area 1 meeting at Willits Post 174
- 17th 7:00 p.m. Post Executive Committee meeting
- 23rd 7:00 p.m. Post 77 membership meeting

DECEMBER 2010

- 2nd 7:00 p.m. Yolo County Veterans' Coalition meeting at Post 77 hall
- 5th 10:00 a.m. American Legion District 6 meeting at the Post 77 hall
- 10th 5:00 p.m. Post members serve dinner to homeless at Wayfarer Center
- 11th
- 7:30-10:30 a.m. Breakfast at the Post hall, \$5
- 1:00 p.m. Christmas party for children and grandchildren of Post members and those now serving
- 15th 7:00 p.m. Post Executive Committee meeting
- 21st 7:00 p.m. Post 77 membership meeting
- 25th Have a Merry Christmas

AUXILIARY

NOVEMBER 2010

- 2nd 7:00 p.m. Membership meeting
- 11th Noon Auxiliary prepares and serves community open house free Veterans Day buffet luncheon at the Post hall
- 20th 6:00 p.m. Auxiliary taco dinner, \$10

DECEMBER 2010

- 5th 10:00 a.m. District 6 Auxiliary meeting at the Post 77 hall
- 7th 7:00 p.m. Membership meeting

Auxiliary officers:

Christine Rogers, President • Maria Lopez, First Vice President
Lorraine Childers, Second Vice President • Arlene Sandoval, Secretary
Maria Hernandez, Chaplain • Mary Cogburn, Sergeant-at-Arms

If you have any questions about the Post 77 Auxiliary or would like a ride to an Auxiliary meeting, please call Auxiliary President Christine Rogers at 908-5686 or Mary Cogburn at 662-0624

VETERANS' DISABILITY UPDATE

The U. S. Veterans Administration has issued three new disability benefits questionnaires for physicians of veterans applying for VA disability compensation benefits. Intended to streamline the claims process, the new guides are "a major step in the transformation of VA's business processes that is yielding improvements for veterans as we move to eliminate the disability claims backlog by 2015," according to VA Secretary Eric Shinseki. Shinseki has set the goal of processing all claims in fewer than 125 days, with a decision quality rate of at least 98 percent. These first three questionnaires, of 79 planned, cover B-cell leukemia, Parkinson's disease and ischemic heart disease, the three new conditions covered under a regulation that took effect October 30 making them presumed eligible for disability claims for Agent Orange exposure. (Capital Flyer, Oct. 28, '10.)

Study: Sleep Apnea Usually A Problem For Combat Vets With PTSD. "Combat veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) almost universally suffer sleep problems -- with more cases of sleep apnea than might otherwise be expected -- US Army researchers found. In a group of 135 young, otherwise healthy combat veterans with PTSD, 98.5% reported sleep complaints, Nick Orr, MD, and colleagues at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center... reported." (MedPage Today, Oct. 31, '10)

Study Of VA Patients Finds Depression Raises Risk Of Death From Surgery. "A study in the Archives of Surgery finds that, if you are already depressed before the procedure, you may be at an increased risk of dying afterward. Over 35,000 patients of the Veterans Health Administration admitted to surgical intensive care units were studied. Underlying psychiatric illness was associated with increased risk of mortality for thirty days after surgery. This was true especially for those with depression and anxiety. Those with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder showed no higher risk." (ABC Medical Minute, Oct. 22, '10)

Zeke Plocher, Post Service Officer

WANT YOUR MONTHLY POST 77 NEWSLETTER IN COLOR?

Each issue of the Post 77 newsletter can be emailed to you rather than mailed through the U. S. Postal Service. The emailed version comes in color. The mailed newsletter is in black and white.

If you would like your Post 77 newsletter by email rather than through the mail, send us your name and email address at optout@yolopost77.com.

IN MEMORIAM

MATTHEW LUMIA

"Farewell, My Comrades."

THANK YOUs

Post 77 member Jim Hunter has been helping the Post throughout the year. The latest is he and Lori cooked a Swiss steak dinner at the Post using his special recipe. Jeff and Stephanie Youngmark donated the meat, John Perry the corn, and County Line Warehouse the rice. Now that's a team.

Member Gary Wegener has been working on a dinner at the Post to welcome back from a year in Iraq Brig. General Donald Currier and other members of the 49th MP Brigade from Fairfield. Good luck on getting that together Gary.

Hats off to Connie Zerger. She installed a drain pipe from the roof of the hall near the kitchen door. Prior to that, the rain water pooled up on the roof. And what's more, Connie cooked a delicious chicken and dumpling dinner at the Post hall on Oct. 22.

Thank you Don Plank for taking apart, thoroughly cleaning and lubricating the kitchen electric slicer. Now the slicer works better than Don does. Don also donated a food processor to the Post.

The Yolo County Veterans Coalition has donated \$200 towards the Post's free community luncheon to be held Nov. 11th, noon, Veterans Day.

Thanks to Post member Gale Marlow's family for cooking the Post's last two dinners for the homeless at the Yolo Wayfarer Center. The family members: Mrs. Catherine Marlow, daughter Naomi Marlow, and granddaughters Deidra Mims and Kendra Morrison.

Corbin Smith, Assistant Adjutant



Post 77 member Rev. Tony Montoya provided the opening prayer for the Post's 9/11 - Patriot Day program on September 11. Other presenters were Post Commander Al Castillo (l.) and Sons of the Legion Commander Carl Prutch.

THE LOYAL LADIES OF THE LEGION AUXILIARY

Formals and Formality

In days gone by married women were addressed as Mrs. and then their husband's first name.

Photo of the Yolo Post 77 American Legion Auxiliary Officers taken by Paul W. Hollingshead on April 18, 1949.



Left to right, Mesdames Tom Barrios, Clifton Blevins, H.M. Stafford, Sr., Lowell Davis, (unknown), Eldon Bell, (unknown) Lawrence Conley, George Bloom, Gilbert Dodds, Raymond Bell, Harry Shellhammer and Paul Hollingshead



Junior Members

of the Yolo Post 77 American Legion Auxiliary were the daughters and grand daughters of the Auxiliary members.

They participated in celebrations, ceremonies, and patriotic events including photos with the Auxiliary members selling the Veterans Poppies to the city dignitaries.

Paul W. Hollingshead
photo taken 1951

Research and captions
by Legionnaire Bill Hollingshead



EACH VETERANS DAY LET'S NOT FORGET TO REMEMBER WWI VETS

Nov. 11, 2010 is America's 91st Veterans Day. Now a tradition in Woodland, in all those 91 years, American Legion Post 77 has brought to our community its Veterans Day program (previously Armistice Day). Post 77 members will again do so at 11 a.m., Nov. 11 at the Yolo County Courthouse, 725 Court St., Woodland.

The first Armistice Day/Veterans Day on Nov. 11, 1919 was set aside as a time to eulogize those who died in World War I. While there is but one U.S. World War I veteran still alive, we should continue remembrance of their legacy of successfully fighting tyranny under very difficult circumstances.

The German forces used poison gas. When World War I began, the enemy had over 100,000 machine guns. Also new in war was the incorporation of machine guns into aircraft, plus the use of grenades and tanks. There were many occasions when close combat fighting was necessary, as one side or the other charged out of trenches and fought at close quarters. Death was seen most everywhere.

World War I servicemen from Yolo County experienced all this. From our then small county, with a population listed in the 1910 Census as 13,925, 38 died. Many were wounded, with some receiving severe, permanent injury.

Those from Yolo County not only served in the infantry, but in the full scope of positions utilized during World War I. "Sergeant Grover Stevens repaired planes for Capt. Eddie Rickenbacker." (Woodland Daily Democrat, Feb. 12, 1919.) Rickenbacker was America's ace of aces, bringing down 27 German planes.

Jack Elder of Woodland served on a submarine. "When we submerge the hatches are all battered down and there is scarcely room enough to eat and sleep." (Woodland Daily Democrat, Jan. 25, 1919.)

Winters resident Ray Williams "was a member of the only U. S. gas regiment. Less than 50 percent of Williams' regiment escaped the casualty list. The business of the gas regiment was the placing of smoke screens to protect the advancing infantry, the drenching of enemy positions with gas and the reducing of machine gun nests by the use of thermite shells... which spreads a white lead over the area where it explodes." (Woodland Daily Democrat, Mar. 4, 1919.)

Esparto rancher Ed McCloud served as an airplane machine gun operator as part of U. S. Naval Aviation. "We had underground hangars and lived in dugouts most of the time. I felt safer in one of those planes up 18,000 feet than I did back at the station at Dunkirk." (Mail of Woodland, Mar. 15, 1919.) Dave Berry did his own shooting at a German aircraft. "With rifle fire he and a number of his comrades succeeded in bringing down an enemy plane. They had figured the deed almost impossible but one shot evidently hit the vital spot on the plane's mechanical arrangement." (Woodland Daily Democrat, July 8, 1919.)

Carey Croll was with the 15th Balloon Co. "The good days the balloon did quite a bit of observing." (Woodland Daily Democrat, Jan. 24, 1919.) Corporal Herman Rominger of Dunnigan was a sharpshooter in the 62nd Infantry. (Mail of Woodland, Feb. 28, 1919.) Fred Parker spent "several months in the mine planting service in the Hawaiian Islands." (Mail of Woodland, Feb. 27, 1919.)

"Gerald J. Fitzgerald, Woodland boy served as a horseshoer." Fitzgerald said, "It used to be we would pull into a town or woods at daybreak and leave the same night. It sure got on our nerves." (Woodland Daily Democrat, Mar. 10, 1919.) Ben Neuschel, a veteran of the Spanish-American war, was a member of the Navy during World War I. He "made six trips from New York to France on a transport." (Woodland Daily Democrat, Mar. 1, 1919.)

Clarence Fissel drove ammunition trucks. He was twice cited by his commanding officer for outstanding service. Ray Dafoe of Winters, a member of the 364th infantry, was a mechanic. Captain R. E. Griffin commended Dafoe, writing that "In spite of severe illness he remained with the company during the entire engagement, refusing to go to the rear." (Mail of Woodland, Jan. 22, 1919.)

Additionally, Yolo County women, such as Leah Rhodes of Winters, served overseas as Red Cross nurses. (Woodland Daily Democrat, May 24, 1919.)

They all did their part for America.



Carl Desendorf salutes after he raised the United States flag at a recent Woodland High School home football game, a job he has volunteered to do for many years. But that is only part of his volunteer work.

SERVICE IS PART OF POST MEMBER CARL DESENDORF

For another year, on behalf of Post 77, Past Commander Carl Desendorf, at age 92, has raised the flag before all Woodland High School home football games. He also undertakes one of the least favorite Post Memorial Day assignments of cleaning out the many flag pole holes on Main St. to ready placement of the Post's flags on Main St., Woodland. For undertaking these and many other duties over the years, Carl was awarded the Post 77 Legionnaire of the Year award.

Carl Desendorf's support for his country began as a World War II Army scout for General George Patton. Scout meant walking alone down roads and through fields and trees to get German soldiers to shoot at him so that Patton's Army could learn where the enemy was located. If not shot and even when he was wounded, Desendorf ended up on the ground as the battle waged between the two sides. He remembers: "I was a walking target. I waited hours for the firing to stop, sometimes overnight, sometimes crying, sometimes praying."

After the battles, General Patton would come to talk to the soldiers. On multiple occasions, Carl Desendorf got in those group conversations, speaking with the crusty general about what should have been done in the battle and what could be bettered for the future.

Learning German from his mother and father turned out to be good fortune in the war effort. From Africa, through France, Germany and into Austria, Sergeant Desendorf acted as an interpreter for questioning of captured German soldiers and officers.

When Carl returned to Woodland after the war, he brought his bride, Army Sergeant Evelyn Desendorf. They met at the Army Air Corps' Moody Field in Texas and were married before he was shipped overseas.

Some may remember the Carl Desendorf Polka Band, where he played the accordion, violin, and string bass. His group performed throughout northern California until the 1960's, including in San Francisco, Fresno, Oakland, Sacramento and at the Post 77 old Woodland armory.

Thanks Carl for all your service.



Esparto High School chose Michael Parker as the Post 77 Boys State student selection from Esparto. He is pictured here at the Sept. 14th Post 77 membership meeting with his grandmother, JoAnne Henigan. JoAnne was Post Auxiliary president in 1986-87 and granddad, Richard Henigan, is a Post Past Commander from 1984-85. Grandson Michael aspires to attend West Point. Along with thanking Post 77 for sending him to Boys State, Michael Parker exclaimed: "Boys State is an amazing program. I learned a lot. I felt it really changed my life."

FROM THE POST WEBSITE GUY



The Computer: some people classify it as the big box that sits on their desk collecting dust and makes pretty pictures. Some say they have to wait until their grandkids come over to show them how to use it. For some of us, it's something we use daily and cannot live without.

If you are not aware, American Legion Yolo Post 77 not only has it's own website, we also have our own Facebook page. Information about events is listed on our Post website, as well as our Facebook page. In using the Post Facebook page, you can leave messages and ask questions.

You can find the Post 77 website at yolopost77.com. It contains information about the Post, including upcoming events, newsletters, photographs, contact information and more. It also has links to American Legion National website, State Legion website, District 6 website, American Legion Riders, our Facebook page, Post 77 baseball, and other sites of interest.

If you're not a member of Facebook, it is easy and free to join. Just go to the Facebook home page and sign up at facebook.com. Once registered you can look for American Legion Yolo Post 77 or go directly to the site at facebook.com/#!/group.php?gid=106475572719831. Next time you're on your computer, save the Post 77 page and our Facebook page to your "favorites" group and check out what's going on.

Photos on the Post 77 homepage change frequently. You may just see your face or other interesting photos on the page. Some photographs may bring back fond memories. If you have a photo you would like to post on the Post 77 homepage, send it to me at Cameron.Daniel@Wavicable.com.

Daniel Cameron, Post Executive Committee



Post 77 Adjutant Gary Leach (r.) stands with State American Legion Commander Mark Foxworthy at the Sept. Area 1 meeting. Gary also serves this year as Area 1 Commander.

HAVE A FRIEND JOIN POST 77

Do you have a friend or relative who has served in the U.S. Armed Forces, including the National Guard or Reserves? Please ask them if they would like to become a member of the American Legion, which would help support the Legion and Post 77's patriotic and community activities.

As you can see in this newsletter, past issues, and in local newspapers, there is a lot a vet can be proud about in joining the American Legion. If I can help you with that, give me a call, Marty Bernavage at (530) 219-2237. Thanks.

Marty Bernavage, First Vice Commander



Sons of the American Legion Squadron 77 Commander Carl Prutch took first place for best costume at the Post's Halloween party and dance on October 29th. The "Kiss and Tell" band was outstanding. A good time was had by all.



EDITORIAL: END THE DENIAL OF MEDICAL CARE TO THOSE WHO SERVED ON SECRET ASSIGNMENTS

Most of our Vietnam veterans obtain proper medical care from the Veterans Administration for their war injuries. Many receive disability payments and counseling.

But there are thousands of American servicemen, some of our most heroic in the Southeast Asian war, who have always been rejected for receipt of any medical assistance and other routine benefits - some since 1961.

Why is this happening to disabled vets more than 35 years after the last American combat troops left Vietnam? This travesty exists because the United States is still keeping much of its clandestine CIA war actions involving American servicemen secret.

Member after member in Post 77 have stated that they are not permitted to discuss what they did in Southeast Asia. One Post member received a letter a few months ago reminding him that he is still not permitted to talk about his covert war assignments in Vietnam. The reward for his service, no medical care for his Vietnam War injuries because the Army denies he was ever in Vietnam. His DD-214 claims that he instead served in Germany. In reality, the extent of that so-called service in Germany was waiting at an airport in West Germany for a flight to Vietnam.

The Army does not explain where or why this Post 77 member got plaques from both General Westmoreland and President Nixon. Or why he was issued a passport that allowed him into countries without being stopped or searched. It read: "The Secretary of State of the United States of America hereby requests all whom it may concern to permit the citizen of the United States named herein to pass without delay or hindrance and in case of need to give said citizen all lawful aid and protection."

Wikipedia, the web encyclopedia, notes that the United States Army Security Agency, composed primarily of soldiers with the highest scores on Army intelligence tests, maintained a Special Operations Detachment to conduct clandestine combat operations. "ASA troops were not allowed to discuss their assignments with outsiders - in fact, they could not talk among themselves about their duties unless they were in a secure location"

We call upon the President and the Joint Chiefs of Staff to rectify the injustice of American soldiers not receiving medical services because their injuries took place on secret assignments. No secret assignments have to be disclosed for these servicemen to receive the medical care that they deserve and need. Anything other than that would be an outrage.

AMERICAN LEGION **BREAKFAST**

Have breakfast at the Post on Saturday morning, December 11th from 7:30 a.m. to 10 a.m.
Eggs, Sausage, Biscuits & Gravy
All for \$5



American Legion
 Yolo Post 77
 523 Bush Street
 Woodland, CA 95695

NON-PROFIT
 ORGANIZATION
 U.S. POSTAGE
 PAID
 PERMIT #55
 WOODLAND, CA

Return Service Requested

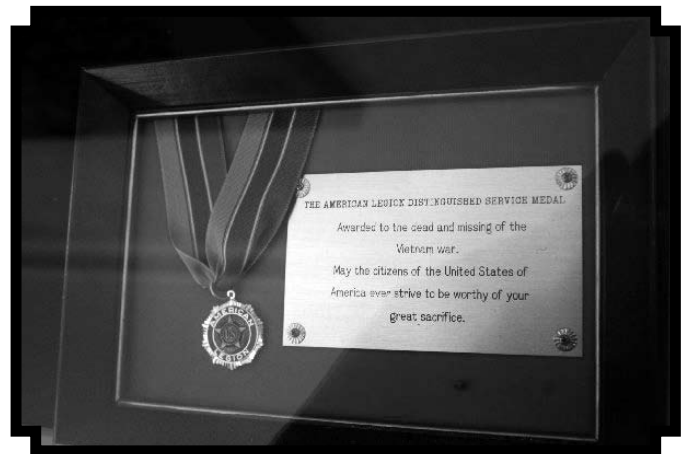
**WISE WORDS FROM
 WAYNE NEWTON**

“The men and women in the military and their families are the people who pick up the tab for the life we have. They are the true heroes of our country.”

*This is the big one.
 A Post 77 tradition.
 The annual Veterans Day
 turkey dinner at the Post.
 Saturday, Nov. 6,
 6 p.m., \$12.
 You'll love the turkey, stuffing,
 gravy, mashed potatoes,
 salad and dessert.*

WELCOME, NEW POST 77 MEMBERS

- Ed Lynch, Army, Korean War
- Arnold Bishop, Navy, 1962-65
- Jose Hernandez, Army, Korean War
- Joe Andrade, Navy, 1967-71



The American Legion's Distinguished Service Medal, awarded to the dead and missing of the Vietnam War, hangs in the museum at the Arlington National Cemetery. "May the citizens of the United States ever strive to be worthy of your great sacrifice."