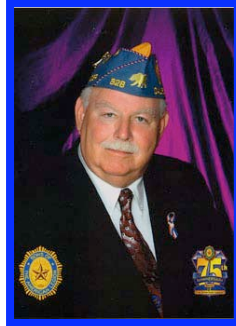




FEBRUARY 2008

THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN CALIFORNIA CONNECTION



**ROD PERKINS COMMANDER
SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION
DETACHMENT OF CALIFORNIA**

WHO INFLUENCED YOU?



**Father of
Rod Perkins
Bryon L.
Perkins
M.P U.S.
Army.1940**

**February 2008
Issue 3**

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It does not matter if you are 18 or 80; each of us had positive influences on the winding and often bumpy road to becoming a responsible adult. As a child, we were fed, sheltered and protected from the harsh reality of the outside world. As we grew we were given a steady diet of knowledge, respect and nurturing from our parents and if we were lucky, our grandparents. By the time, we were in elementary school outside influences, schoolteachers, church, youth groups and friends entered our circle. By the time, we were in middle school we knew it all and felt that any further knowledge would be useless. We believed that our parents hindered us from being the master of the world, the slayer of the dragon and the saving of the fair maiden. Through high school, puberty, a few thousand pimples and nearing the day we

would be pushed from the nest, we came to the realization that our parents had prepared us for the outside world and were a lot smarter than we had wanted to give them credit.

The man that I am today is a direct cause of the influence my father, Bryon L. Perkins, had on me. My father was not perfect, but he was a loving husband, father and provider to his family. He was a VETERAN who served proudly in the United States Army (1939-1945) and defended his country. When he returned from the Pacific Theatre he brought back with him jungle rot on his arms and the guilt of surviving. All of the men on his 155 Howitzer Crew were killed in action when the artillery piece blew up. Though my father was mentally and physically scared from this incident, he managed to lead a

normal life, and he showed me what a father should be. Whether we were fishing, hunting or camping on a Boy Scout field trip, he spent time with me and each day was a learning process.

On a summer day in 1993, that learning ended when my father died. My two sons, both Eagle Scouts and who were in the United States Army at the time, helped carry him to his grave at Riverside National Cemetery. I can only hope and pray that I have influenced my children half as much as my father influenced me.

May we all be inspired to think back on the positive influences we received in route to adulthood.

For God & Country

Rod Perkins,
Commander
Sons of The American
Legion
Detachment of California



FUND RAISER FOR 421



SCHOLARSHIPS



In 2005, the Sons of the American Legion, Squadron 421, established a scholarship fund to be awarded each year in the amount of \$ 1,000.00. As a part of the American Legion, the countries largest veterans organization, we firmly believe that we need to serve our community. One of the best ways to do this is to provide a scholarship fund, to assist a worthy student, in need of funding, to continue education beyond the high school level. Our program is rather unique in that we do not discriminate in any way, all applications will be reviewed and judged on the merits of the application.

The program is known as the James Nonnemacher Scholarship Fund and is sponsored by the Sons of the American Legion Squadron 421 Highland, CA. Last year's winning candidate was Andrew Nguyen and he is now studying chemical engineering in Santa Barbara and is doing very well. Fund raising for the program is an on going process. This year we are asking friends and local businesses for a \$ 25.00 contribution to help support the fund. 100% of the contribution will go to the fund, zero expenses are deducted since

all of our work is done on a volunteer basis. In return for your tax-deductible contribution, your name or business name will appear in our awards presentation program. Each name will be announced, but not the amount of the contribution.

Please help us by making your check payable to: Sons of the American Legion – 421 and mark the memo area “scholarship fund only”. Checks may be given to any Sons or Legion member, myself, or mailed to the address shown below.

Many thanks for your generous support.

Bob Black
Chairman
James Nonnemacher
Scholarship Fund

Mail Address:
5985 Orange Knoll Ave
San Bernardino CA 92404

Special Event

Squadron 421 is holding a Pancake breakfast on Sunday, February 10, 2008 at the Highland Post. We cordially invite you to join at his event. Menu will be All You Can Eat Pancakes, sausage or bacon, coffee and orange juice.

This event is held to help support the annual "Jim Nonnemacher Scholarship Program", which awards a \$1,000 scholarship to a worthy student from the local area.

Breakfast runs from 8:00 am until noon. Along with the breakfast, we will be holding some raffles at this event.

I hope that your schedule will allow you join us for this event. If you want to pre-purchase tickets for this fund-raiser, we have individual tickets for \$5.00 each or books of five for \$25.00.

Thank You.
James Nonnemacher
Scholarship Committee



FROM THE ADJUTANT



GREETING:

It is hard to believe that yet another new Legion year is upon us. Time does go by so very fast.

The Detachment recently held its annual fall Detachment Executive Committee meeting in August. For those of you that did not have the chance to attend, it was indeed a fine meeting held under the direction and leadership of Detachment Commander, Rod Perkins. It was very exciting to see that all of our new Committees and Commissions are working well together for the benefit of the Sons. New and exciting ideas are coming forward including our first challenge coin and a youth training and leadership camp program. No doubt, you will be hearing much more about these new ideas in the coming months.

Once again I would like to remind all of the squadrons that per capita

dues will increase January 1st 2008. This means that any membership transmitted after January 1st will be at the new rate of \$ 8.00 rather than the old rate of \$ 6.50.

More on a sad note. We are all sorry to report the passing of our long time and well-respected member Ray Osborne. Ray was the 1st Area Vice Commander at the time of his passing. He will be greatly missed.

I would like to thank everyone for the opportunity to continue on for the current year as your Adjutant. It is indeed an honor and privilege to serve.

Bob Black
Adjutant
Detachment of California
Sons of the American
Legion
10460663@msn.com

HUMAN INTEREST



CEMETERY AT YOUNTSVILLE

Have you ever been on a single-minded journey, only to discover something beautiful that you did not know existed. That was the situation I found myself in two months ago. My wife and I were touring the California Veterans Home, Yountville, California. Our two guides, both Paramedic's, were showing us this beautiful facility and grounds when we observed a small wooden sign with the word "Cemetery" with an arrow pointing up a hill. Having no knowledge of a cemetery on any Veterans Home grounds I inquired and was told that the cemetery was as old as the Veterans home. Our guides drove us to the cemetery entrance. The gate that would have allowed us to drive into the cemetery was locked; however, the walk in gate was open. Not wanting to keep our guides from their duties any longer I stated that my wife and I would return to the cemetery later. When our tour was completed we thanked our guides and then returned to the cemetery entrance. My impression at this point was that the cemetery was about an acre or no larger than a small town cemetery that we have all seen. I took a few pictures from in front of the entrance and proceeded onto the hallowed grounds. As I walked up a hill and past several Headstones I crested a hill, my breath was taken away by what laid before me. Acre after acre of beautiful manicured grounds with over 1400 headstones of our fallen hero's. This hidden masterpiece I later learned is the final resting place of three Congressional Medal of Honor Recipients.

- Leonard, Joseph U.S. Marine. Philippine Insurrection 1899
- Moriarity, John U.S. Army. Indian Wars 1869
- Stickoffer, Julius U.S. Army. Indian Wars 1870

We all retain memories that are life long and rewarding. My visit to the Cemetery at the California Veterans home, Yountville, California is and will continue to be one of those memories. As a side note I inquired if the paramedics were in need of any equipment. They stated they could use an additional backboard with spider straps and a new medical bag. In short order the Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of California, had purchased and shipped the needed equipment to the Yountville Veterans Home.

Rod Perkins, Commander
Detachment of California
Sons of The American Legion



Post Everlasting

Judge Advocate



IT WITH GREAT SORROW THAT WE INFORM YOU ABOUT THESE GREAT MEN WHO HAVE GONE TO POST EVERLASTING.

THEY WERE ALL GREAT ASSETS TO THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION AND WILL BE MISSED BY ALL OF US.

Let everyone know what your Area, District or Squadron is doing Please send in your articles to the Public Relations Chairman Gary Nance for the next California Connection. The Connection will go out before the State Convention
garydetcal@aol.com

Gary Bryant

It is with deep regret that I inform you that the Twenty-third District and Jackie Robinson Post 252 has lost its Commander. Gary Bryant was pronounced decease on Thursday, January 17, 2008 while in the hospital to reduce the swelling in his legs and arms due to excess fluid.

Gary was a past recipient of our Detachment of California Son of the Year Award in 2006.

Cards can be sent to his mother:

Annie Mae Bryant,
4612 9th Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90043

Ray Osborne

September 8, 2007

A native of Sacramento, passed away September 5, 2007 at the age of 76, in the Veterans

V.A. Hospital, Reno, Nevada. He was active in the American Legion and The Sons of The American Legion and held responsible positions in both. He Served as Commander of Rio Linda Post 521 and attended Department Conventions as a Delegate for the post and the Son's. He is survived by his wife Mary Lou , Two Sisters Marion Esteves of Sacramento, Tony Allen of Yrika, CA., Daughter Lynn Rae Martin of Portland, Cindy Lange of Ark, Sue Batchler and Paula Anderson of Langcaster Ca. Cynthia Brown, of Orangevale, CA., Dwight

Case, of Rio Linda, Catherine Moore, and David Case of Weed CA. Step children and many grand children and great grand children. He was loved by all.

Ernest Michael Ridley

July 30, 2007

Of Charles Eggan Squadron 832, Sacramento Jan 1, 1965-July 28, 2007

Tragically taken from us and delivered to his loving mothers arms. Proceeded in death by his mom Ileene Velasquez. Ernie had many special friends in his life's journey, including his co-workers at the Railroad Cafe and fellow members of SAL post 447 for 30 years and post 832 for three years. Besides his friends and family, Ernie's greatest joy was fishing and playing Santa for the kids. Survived by his dad Bob Velasquez (Darlene), sisters Lois Garman (Patrick), Nancy Skow (Robin), and Vicki Judge (Howard), brothers Karl Rodriguez (Juanita), Scott Noe' (Brenda), and Allen Ridley (Dawn), and by many nieces, nephews, aunts and uncles. —A memorial service was held at Post 832 American Legion, 1500 Auburn Blvd. on Tuesday, Aug. 7, at 2:00 PM. Ernie was cremated and will reach his final resting place with a private family Celebration of his life in Calaveras County.

GREETINGS TO ALL FROM THE J/A

I know it may seem a little early for talk of Convention however when it comes to resolutions, now is the time to start them. Resolutions effecting the Detachment should be written by anyone. We like to see resolutions presented to the Squadron and District for approval prior to being sent to the Adjutant for numbering and assignment prior to Convention. While resolutions can be done at the last minute, they have a greater chance of being rejected while going through the system, which does not give them time to be re-presented at convention. I am available to assist anyone in this process as are any member of the Constitution and By-laws Committee.

For God and Country

Steve Fisher
Judge Advocate





FROM THE VA&R COMMISSION CHAIRMAN

VA&R Program



Bob Bedell
VA&R Commission Chairman

The Sons of The American Legion Detachment of California is committed to a strong VA&R Program for 2007-2008. In 2006-2007, members of the Detachment of California donated over 4.5 million dollars in goods and services and in excess of 15,000 hours to VA&R related programs.

The role of the Detachment VA&R Commission is to insure the administration of all VA&R related programs and projects that are set forth by the National S.A.L. VA&R Commission. In short it is our job to insure that we work the VA&R Program in California. Secondly, but just as important, is to insure that the hours and dollars donated in California by members of the S.A.L. are accurately reported to Detachment and National Headquarters at the

end of each year.

In addition we will continue to support California Veterans Homes and the VA Medical Centers. The Detachment of California continues to remain involved with the National Cemeteries and the new projects scheduled for construction in California.

Last year we made an extra effort with Fisher Houses and we will continue direct support to the West LA Fisher House Foundation.

As the year progresses the Detachment VA&R Commission will be providing additional information to Squadrons through the California Legion web site as well as the California Connection, California Legionnaire, and direct mailings.

Squadrons are encouraged to

develop VA&R activities that fit the make-up and the financial resources of their membership as well as assist their individual Posts with projects specific to the Post and the community.

February 6, 2008 Update

Many events have taken place since my November update. During the Christmas Holidays, veterans at the VAMC in Loma Linda, CA participated in an arts and crafts project with officers and members of the American Legion Family. This was quite a fun and certainly different project. The owner and employees of Primal Elements (www.primalelements.com) brought their handmade soap operation to the VAMC. Primal Elements is a company that specializes in handmade soaps, candles, and personal care products.

[Continued on Page 6](#)

VA&R HAPPENING IN 2007-2008

Some of the new things that are happening in 2007-2008 are as follows:

- The VA&R Section of the Consolidated Squadron Report Form (CSR) will be updated for 2007-2008. More space will be provided on the CSR as well as additional items of reporting will be added. Some of the changes will allow for the designation of the level of the report i.e. Squadron, District, or Detachment and for reporting hours as well as dollars, goods, and services to report relative to National Veterans Assistance Day.
- We will continue to work with "Homeless Veterans" through US Vets and Homeless Veterans Task Force. A little know fact is that 23% of homeless Americans are veterans. See www.nchv.org.
- We will continue to support Veterans Suicide Prevention. The National Hotline is 800 273-8255.
- *This year we will promote "National Veterans Assistance Day" throughout California. The date May 17, 2008, which is Armed Forces Day.*
- We will emphasize assistance with Creative Arts Festivals at VA Medical Centers. The S.A.L. is a "Gold Sponsor" of the Creative Arts Festival. We will work to acquaint our members with the Bowlers Veteran's Link – www.bowlforveterans.org



**Sons of the American Legion
Detachment of California
Junior Vice Commander Report
(January 2008)
Submitted by: LaVon "LC" Chalk**

As Jr. Vice Commander I would like to recognize Squadron #804 from East Los Angeles. On August 18, 2007, they sponsored a golf tournament at the Monterey Golf Course. The turnout was "fantastic". The community and City Personnel (Gloria Madina, County Council Women) put forth an effort to assist the Squadron become more recognized within the community. This was all due to the leadership of Commander Robert Benavidez.

I would also like to give recognition to my Squadron Commander, Gary Bryant, Squadron #252 for his past five years in raising money for the Child Welfare Program via the Ballroom Dancing fundraiser. Ballroom dancing is held every Tuesday night from 7:00 pm to 11:00 pm. The donation is \$5.00. All are welcome to come out and join Squadron #252 in learning ballroom dancing and the latest western/line dances.

I would also like to offer my prayers to all and ask that all other Detachment officers keep Commander Gary Bryant in their prayers. He has been hospitalised for the past week and a half. Due to his illness, his return to Squadron duties is unknown at this time.

Upcoming Events

The 23rd District's Second Annual Gospel Fest will be held in the month of May. Additional details will be forthcoming.

The 23rd District has decided to sponsor a dinner dance gala honoring Legionnaires and Auxiliary members of Squadrons #252 (Jackie Robinson), #188 (Inglewood), #228 (Benjamin J. Bowie), #578 (Chappie James), and #335 (South Gate) who have supported and provided extraordinary commitment and guidance over the years. Additional details regarding this event will be forthcoming as well.

[Continued From Page 5](#)

**Sons of The American Legion Detachment of California
Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission
February 6, 2008 Update**

This is a company with a social conscience who places veterans at the top of their list when it comes to community involvement. The guys all met at the VAMC and with the assistance of Commander Rod Perkins, Chaplain & VAVS Rep., Bert Bertrand, and of course my children and I, learned how to make homemade soap with a Christmas theme and we all helped the men and women at the VAMC make as much soap as they wanted for Christmas Presents. We hope to continue with this project with our next trip to the CDVA Home in Chula Vista, CA.

The officers and members of SAL District 25 went all out over the holidays by making gift baskets for the men and women veterans at the VAMC in Loma Linda as well as cooking holiday meals at the CDVA Home in Barstow, CA. I am told that our own John Mejia, Detachment C&Y Commission Chairman just might have been inside the Santa Claus suit.

Pacific Palisades Squadron 283 had a unique fundraiser to the West LA Fisher House Foundation. They did a dinner theatre event at their Post with the help of some of the local acting talent as was able to raise \$3,500.00. They plan to do this again in the future.

The American Legion Family in District 29 all met at the VAMC in Long Beach, CA on Christmas morning and shared gifts and Christmas cheer with the men and women veterans. These are the acts of kindness that defines who we as members of The American Legion Family are.

These are just a few of the stories out there. I would like to encourage everyone to share some of the things that they have been working on since the holidays. You can send me an email at rbedell336@aol.com or Gary Nance at Garydetcal@aol.com and will do our best to help get this in the next California Connection.

Bob Bedell, PDC/VA&R Commission Chairman
Sons of The American Legion Detachment of CA



EVENTS



Scott and Sherrie are the proud Grandparents of Avery Lee (Cullings) Schrader was born to Sarah (Cullings) Schrader (Aux 291) on December 22, 2007. Baby, mother, father Matt Schrader and grandparents Scott & Sherrie Cullings (SAL 291, Aux 291) are all doing fine. Happy Birthday Avery!

WE in the Legion family wish Avery Lee and the rest of the family all the best

SAL Scholarship Annual Fundraiser

The 4th Annual Steven Cullings Memorial BBQ & Dance will be held Saturday April 26, 2008 at Perris Post 595. The hours will be 4 to 9 pm with live country music, a full BBQ, raffles and Chicken #*@^ BINGO. Tickets can be purchased from Bernie Foley at Post 595, from most of the Detachment officers or by calling 800-655-0149. Tickets are \$15. As in the past, the first \$1,000 funds the SAL Jr. Member of the Year scholarship. All other proceeds from this year's event will benefit the SAL Youth Leadership Training Program. Put together a "Fun Bus" from your Post and come join the party! Hope to see you all there!

Finance Officer



DETACHMENT FINANCE OFFICERS REPORT

Comrades,
I would like to thank the Commander and the Detachment of California for the opportunity to serve once again as your Finance Officer.

All financial records are current and up to date in accordance the financial guidelines as approved by the Detachment of California. All current expense reimbursement vouchers have been approved, processed and forwarded to Department for payment.

Current financial income revenues as of the 31st of December 2007 are at 59.09 % with current paid expenses at 38.94% of our approved budget for the 2007-2008 fiscal year.

Various Detachment approved programs, that are financed from the Ways and Means Account are in process and are currently progressing as follows:

- (1) Child and Youth Program - SAL / American Legion Challenge Coins, over 1,500 coins sold, proceeds to finance the SAL Youth Leadership Training Program
- (2) VA&R Program - 4th Annual Carl R. James Memorial Trout Derby @ Irvine Lake, Saturday, April 19, 2008, Guaranteed Prize of \$500.00 for the Largest Trout
- (3) Child and Youth Program - SAL 75th Anniversary Painting, \$1,000.00 Raised by auction @ National Convention - Reno, NV and donated to Fisher House
- (4) Child and Youth Program - SAL Youth Leadership Training Conference @ Temescal Gateway Park, Pacific Palisades, May 9th thru 11th 2008

Also, as a reminder, Detachment Reimbursement Voucher Forms can be download via the Internet @ www.calegion.org/html/sal-forms.html.

All vouchers should be properly filled out and have all original receipts, Map Quest mileage documents and invoices attached to your voucher. Please forward to the following address:

Donald R. Bedell
Finance Officer
15733 Passage Avenue, Apt #2
Paramount, CA 90723

All expense reimbursement vouchers will be processed in a timely manner to accommodate our officers and comrades.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me by E-mail at: drbedell@hotmail.com or Telephone (562) 688-9559.

For the Good of the Sons,
Donald R. Bedell
Finance Officer

IRVINE LAKE 

1621 Santiago Canyon Rd.
Silverdale, CA 92676

Circle City Roofing
Norco, CA

No Fishing License Required

Boat Rentals Available

Sons of The American Legion
4th Annual
Carl R. James Memorial
Trout Derby
A Fundraiser for America's Veterans
Saturday, April 19, 2008
Gate opens at 6:00 AM
Weigh-In at 5:30 PM

Guaranteed \$500.00 for Largest Trout
Lic. 2nd, & 3rd Prize Categories as Follows:

Heaviest Trout - Adult
Heaviest Stringer of Trout - Adult
Heaviest Trout Male/Female - Under 12 yrs of age
Heaviest Stringer Male/Female - Under 12 yrs of age

MAIL COMPLETED REGISTRATION FORMS TO:
Sons of The American Legion
15733 Passage Ave # 2
Paramount Ca., 90723-5254

Pre-Registration is Required
Call 951 532-1230 for Additional Info

Pre-Registration Form - 2008	
Sign up Fee:	\$10.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Adult Fishing	\$10.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Child (12 yrs & Under)	\$10.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Senior (65 & Over)	\$10.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Senior (65 & Over) & 1st	\$10.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Senior (65 & Over) & 2nd	\$10.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Senior (65 & Over) & 3rd	\$10.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Senior (65 & Over) & 4th	\$10.00
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<input type="checkbox"/> Senior (65 & Over) & 46th	\$10.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Senior (65 & Over) & 47th	\$10.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Senior (65 & Over) & 48th	\$10.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Senior (65 & Over) & 49th	\$10.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Senior (65 & Over) & 50th	\$10.00

Please Make your Check Payable to:
Sons of The American Legion
For Additional Info Call
951 532-1230

Deadline for Registration is: 4/16/2008

Fourth Annual Steven Cullings Memorial Western BBQ & Dance

Saturday, April 26, 2008
4:00pm - 9:00pm
LIVE Country Music
American Legion Post 595
600 South D Street, Perris, CA
Dinner includes: Western BBQ & Fixings
\$15.00 per person

Pre-sale tickets available by calling 1-800-655-0149
Large Raffle
Proceeds fund a \$1,000 Scholarship in Steven's name & benefit the SAL Youth Leadership Training Program
Reservations available @ Perris Inn (soon to be Holiday Inn) 951-943-5577

Sponsored by: Sons of the American Legion, Detachment of California



Steven Cullings
12/06/1967 - 02/23/2003
Junior Member of the Year 2002



**GARY NANCE HISTORIAN & P. R. CHAIRMAN
SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION DETACHMENT OF CALIFORNIA**



ordered 20 coins and with in 2 hours had to order another 20, and squadron 291 ordered 300 coins and with in 30 minutes and sold over 70 coins Lets all get onboard so we can make our goal.

As most of you know we have a fundraiser for the Youth Training Camp. The challenge coins that we have been selling are doing very well. We have sold most of the original order and have ordered a second round. Over 90% of the sales have been from the 5th area. Now it is time for the rest of the state to get on board. We need to raise approximately \$12,000 and are about half way there. If the rest of Legion family would help by ordering and selling the coins, we will make our goal. Don't forget the Post, unit or Squadron will make money as well.

You can find the order form on line or E-mail me garydetcal@aol.com. If you don't have E-mail you can send a letter to me. My address is Gary Nance PR Chairman Detachment of California 12607 Philadelphia St. Whittier, California. 90601

We will have a table at the DEC and State Convention selling the coins at \$10.00 each, or you can bring in an order for ten or more coins and get them for \$8.00 each.

It has been proven that once someone sees the coin they will want to buy one. I'll give you some examples, Squadron 328 ordered 50 coins to start and within 4 days they had to reorder another 20 and now have sold over 100, Squadron 421

GET YOUR MESSAGE OUT

If you have an event coming up and you want the different Squadrons or Post to join in send the information to me via E-mail and I will have it posted on the S. A. L. Web Sight. You can list events that take place all the time or just a special event. This is an easy to get your information out to everyone.

Another way to get your events out to every one is to e-mail me and I will put it into the next California Connection. Keep in mind that the Connection only comes out once every three months. So make sure you give me enough lead-time to list the event and make it a success.

**CALIFORNIA CONNECTION
SEND IN ARTICLES TO**

GARY NANCE
SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION
P. R. CHAIRMAN
DETACHMENT OF CALIFORNIA
PHONE: 310-739-7184
FAX: 951 681-9461
E-MAIL:
garydetcal@aol.co

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY

Don't be the last Squadron or Post to have the coins for sale. Get your orders in today.

For God and Country

Gary Nance
PR Chairman
Detachment of California