



# THE MESSENGER

Newsletter of the American Legion Post 0318 and  
The American Legion Auxiliary Unit 318

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1504 Minnesota Avenue, San Jose, CA 95125-4445, (408) 926-9946

## From the Commander

By Garry McLeod

I can't believe that it is already December and going into the Holidays. We had a great time at the Italian American Fiesta and Arts and Tapestry booths. I want to give a big thanks to those members who came out and helped run the booths. The Color Guard did another great job at the Founders Day Parade. We had a dinner on Oct 17th for the youth we supported last year, Boys State, Youth Environmental, Cub Scouts and the Scouting Venture Crew. Walt "Sarge" did a great job at the Toys for Tots drive in December. Even though it rained cats and dogs he passed out Coffee and muffins to those who braved the weather and showed up. Remember the Four Chaplains Ceremony we host in February. We will continue the Public Safety Dinner honoring local Law Enforcement and Fire Fighters this March 20<sup>th</sup> so mark your calendars.

## Membership

By Walt "Sarge" Carbaugh

We made 101%. The last count was 202 members for the 2008/2009 year. We are now at 55.83% for the 2009/2010 year that is 115 paid members. I will need volunteers to help staff booths for recruiting events for this coming year. If you know of some place to set up or would like to participate contact the post phone number. We have received several calls from members about their membership cards. I am working with Gene to get all outstanding issues resolved. As of his printing we should have all renewals submitted to Department that we have received. If you're not sure give me a call.

## Storied Rescue Ship in Need of One

February 16, 2009

The Virginian-Pilot

NORFOLK, Va. -- The 66-year-old steel ship now docked at Little Creek Naval Amphibious Base doesn't look like much. Rust smudges its hull, which in some places is dull white and gray elsewhere. But this ship, originally a Navy salvage tug known as the Zuni, is a survivor of historic

battles and epic storms, and those who love it aren't ready to let it fade into obscurity -- or be shredded into razor blades. They want to take it to sea as a training vessel for scout groups and high school junior ROTC programs, and offer cruises down memory lane for veterans groups. Seven years ago, a private donor purchased the ship at auction and turned it over to the nonprofit Zuni Maritime Foundation. Two months ago, a tug boat pushed the Zuni into a slip at the amphibious base. Now its members are on the hunt for volunteers. "Don't think just because you're 60, 70, 80 years old we don't want you," said Tom Robinson, the foundation's director of public relations. "We've got volunteers who were stationed on her at Iwo Jima. We've got volunteers who are in their 80s, World War II vets, with walkers and canes and oxygen bottles. Once they get on deck, they're 19 years old again." Harry Jaeger, a retired Navy senior chief petty officer who is the foundation's director of operations, didn't serve aboard the Zuni. But he spent four years in the late 1950s on two of the Zuni's sister ships. He navigates the 88 spaces spread across seven decks as if he never left. Traveling through submarine-infested Pacific waters during World War II, the Zuni towed ships that were damaged by Japanese torpedoes to safety. It took part in the invasion of Iwo Jima, where after almost a month of fighting, it was beached during a salvage operation and had to be salvaged itself. In 1946, the Coast Guard took possession of the 205-foot-long ship, which it renamed Tamaroa and put into service as a medium endurance cutter on the eastern seaboard. The "Tam" was a workhorse until it was decommissioned in 1994. It responded to the sinking of the cruise ship Andrea Doria in 1956, near Nantucket. In 1991, during what later became known as "The Perfect Storm," the Tamaroa plucked three mariners from a distressed sailboat while battling 40-foot seas -- and hours later, rescued the crew of a downed National Guard helicopter also responding to the storm. Jaeger tells the stories with pride. "I call it the ship with nine lives," Jaeger said. Volunteers have been coming

aboard for weekend work projects since 2005, when the ship was located in Baltimore. It was towed to Newport News in 2007, then spent time at a Norfolk shipyard. In December, Little Creek's commanding officer approved bringing the Zuni to Pier 12 at the amphibious base. Volunteers have scavenged parts off Ghost Fleet ships and rebuilt the intercom from scratch. The captain's chair on the bridge came off the Stark, a decommissioned frigate. The wheel and helm of the old-fashioned wooden ship came from a sister ship, the Seneca. Some things aren't new: The officer's wardroom still boasts its original metal table, and the Tamaroa's final watch quarter and station bill remains posted along a passageway, listing the crewmembers and their duties. A few years ago, an Eagle Scout installed a set of canvas bunks, the kind Jaeger remembers from the 1950s. The four massive engines are operational, Jaeger said. The ship needs about eight weeks in dry dock and \$200,000 of exterior cosmetic work, Robinson said. He hopes to convince local shipyards to make in-kind donations. He and Jaeger, who both live in Richmond, also are making the rounds of Hampton Roads veterans organizations, trying to drum up volunteers. They also get some interest from passersby on the Little Creek pier, where the Zuni sits between a coastal patrol boat and an old Military Sealift Command cargo ship. Senior Chief Petty Officer Russ Englehard's curiosity recently was piqued by the steel relic. An engineman, Englehard spent a recent lunch hour touring the ship with Jaeger. Much of the tour took place by flashlight; the ship hasn't been hooked up to shore power yet. Afterward, Englehard warmed up in the ship's office, eating a sandwich made by Jaeger's wife, Shirley. Asked what he thought of the vessel, Englehard chose his words carefully. "It's got quite a bit of work to do," he said. "But still, I think it's worthwhile." Jaeger knows there's much to be done, but he's thrilled to be at Little Creek. "As far as we're concerned," he said, "we're back in the Navy." © Copyright 2009 The Virginian-Pilot. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed.

### **Activities:**

By Randy Richmond

We will be contacting local High Schools for the Boys State and Youth Environmental Conference. We will be sending one student to each this year. If you would like to assist with selection contact the post phone number. We have a Luncheon Social

scheduled for Sunday, December 20, 2009 starting a 1300 (that's 1pm for you non-military types)

### **Health and Welfare**

By Norman Tevis

I have reported that the following comrades Legionnaires have reported to Post Everlasting. Glenn M Allen 21 Years, Arthur H Cassetta 17, Gary Garman 2, Freed P Koslosuski 10, and George P Swenson 16. They were members of our Post and will be missed. Please keep them in your prayers. If you hear of any comrade that is ill or in distress, please contact me. On February 6, 2010 we are sponsoring the Four Chaplains Ceremony (Honoring the four Army chaplains that sacrificed their lives for others to live on that fateful night on the USAT Dorchester) at Saint Frances Cabrini Church on Camden Avenue, It starts at 10 am. We could use any help your willing to give. This is a non-denominational service.

### **'Brothers at War': An Iraq Movie Worth Seeing**

By Gabe Ledeen

As a Marine veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom, I care a great deal about how Americans perceive the war and those of us who served in it. It is no secret that Hollywood has exclusively produced films opposing the war, portraying us as criminals, mental-cases, victims, and simpletons. By and large these movies failed to attract audiences, even as they were praised by the anti-American European fraternities and their L.A. and New York groupies. The success of HBO's "Taking Chance" demonstrates that Americans are in fact interested in the Iraq War, are willing to watch movies about it, and want to know more about those who fought against incredible odds and proved the naysayers wrong.



I was recently privileged to attend a pre-screening of a film that shows Americans exactly what we've been missing. "Brothers At War" dares to give viewers an honest and intimate look at a family that supports two brothers on the front lines, from the perspective of a sibling who decided not to serve in the military. Freshman filmmaker Jake Rademacher follows his brothers to Iraq to try and understand their commitment, and to see for himself what they experience when they deploy "over there" for so many months at a time. Throughout the film we witness the tensions between the brothers as they try to discover a way to communicate with each other despite the ideological divisions. There are moments of frustration, anger, and skepticism as they confront each other, and there are moments of love, tenderness, and genuine respect as they come to understand one another through these shared experiences.

Jake brings the audience into the most intimate of moments, and allows unscripted access into the hearts of his family members and the soldiers he encounters. While out on a five day surveillance/reconnaissance patrol along the Syrian border, Jake documents the close fraternity of the team members and artlessly conveys their human qualities to viewers who may never have met men like these. He interviews several of the young men, and their sincerity belies a trust that is not easy to acquire in such a short time. They trusted him simply because he was not out there to prove some archetype of the American soldier, he was there to let them speak for themselves.

Most Iraq veterans will applaud the range of scenes portrayed in the documentary, which doesn't fall prey to the temptation to go heavy on the action and skimp on character development. He shows us life on a large forward operating base, a duration patrol in the scorching desert heat, a family reuniting at a Midwestern airport, a sniper mission in an Iraqi town, a partnered patrol with Marines and Iraqi soldiers, and more. Each time, and with each new cast of characters, he allows his subjects to paint their own portraits in brilliant detail. It is evident that Jake is learning as he is filming, and he is not ashamed to show his own development from an action-seeking yet naïve journalist to one humbled and keenly aware of the courage and dedication of our servicemen and women. As I heard him say to another journalist, "I learned who my brothers were from their brothers-in-arms."

The film tells the story of the Rademacher family on both sides of the ocean and chronicles the experience without an agenda. "There really didn't seem to be an overt message," said one viewer after the screening. "It's just the story, and one that most people don't know and but really need to see." It is this honesty and obvious lack of spin that elevates this movie and allows the audience to relax from the hyper-vigilance required to filter today's media offerings. There is no need to come to this movie with an understanding of the "Anbar Awakening," or the "surge," and there is no cause to leave feeling angry or tricked. It's a movie about Americans and their families, about who our soldiers and Marines are, and about what it's like for them to go to war. It's a movie that you should see, and a story that you need to hear.

"Brothers At War" opens in limited release March 13th, and will open in wider release on March 27th. For more information, including theaters and show times go to [www.brothersatwarmovie.com](http://www.brothersatwarmovie.com).

### **Veteran's Memorial - San Jose, CA**



"The Memorial was designed by the architectural firm Manhattan Projects in New York City, chosen through a competitive selection process conducted by the City of San Jose's Public Arts Committee. The Memorial was dedicated on November 11, 1997.

The Veterans Memorial consists of 76 flags on 30 ft. steel poles, representative of military personnel information. They also reflect the tiers of white headstones in a military cemetery. The white flags represent the anonymity of each who serves - white is a sign of peace. The snapping fabric in the winds, contrasted with the serene canopy of white banners, reflects the military strength which preserves our peace.

The etched glass panels tell, through excerpts from

letters home, the experiences of local veterans during the various wars. The figures in the panels cast shadows on the pavement in front of, or behind the panels, depending on the time of day.

*The Veterans Memorial, located on Park Avenue at the Guadalupe Rive*

*If you get a chance go by the park and just read the panels if nothing else they are very moving. I am surprised that more is not done here – The Editor*

### **Auxiliary Unit 318:** by Patricia McLeod

Dear Sisters Your elected officers remain the same as last year, thank you for your continued support. We had a great 2008-2009 year. Our Easter fundraiser was very successful. See's candy is still as popular as ever. As part of our Easter VA &R project, we received a donation of music CD's prepared by a local radio station. We gift wrapped each individual CD. And together with the Post 318's delightful and ever so cute Cub Scouts, our members delivered the gaily wrapped CD's and inspirational cards to patients at the Palo Alto VA Hospital. Special at-a-girls go to Annetta Robertson and Susie de Peirro for all their hard work with this rewarding project. We hope to do it again this year.

We also had great time hosting the Girl State Tea at the Post. Ask the volunteers how hot it can get in May!

This year we have collected and shipped over \$3,732.00 worth of manufactures coupons (to date) to military families living overseas. This is a great project for our stay-at-home members.

Our members continue to support ARC Operation Care and Comfort packaging. We assist with assembly of the care packages and donation of supplies. The monthly Care packages go directly to units deployed in Iraq and Afghanistan. Over 200 tons of Care Packages have shipped to date.

Condolences are extended to the families and friends of sisters: Philomena Paradiso, Margaret Gerhart, Kathryn Moog, C. Robinson, Helen Rogacs and Lorraine Marcuson. In loving memory we keep them.

Remember to contact the Chaplain, if you know of an Auxiliary sister who needs words of encouragement, cards or well wishes. Contact [alaunit318@yahoo.com](mailto:alaunit318@yahoo.com) or at the post home address. A special get-well soon goes to our sister R. Burkhead. She was injured during Boot Camp. She deploys overseas in the spring. Please keep her in your prayers.

We adopted a Girl Scout troop. Leader Jeannie has her hands full with more than 22 Brownies. They handed out U.S. Flags at the Founder's Day Parade. And attended the Flag Etiquette Training sponsored by our Unit. We supported their Make A Difference Day project - planting bulbs at our Post home and other community locations.

We have two new members, B. Colletta and G. Phelps. Welcome aboard. We also have a new Membership Chair A.J. McLeod. She will have all the information/cards out in a more timely fashion. We currently are at 50% so be sure to take a moment and send in your membership. Still the same great rate of \$15.00.

We won a lottery for a free community Christmas tree to decorate in downtown San Jose's Christmas in the Park. Some of you might remember the displays at the funeral home in Willow Glen. Our theme is Red, White and Blue. We will be using Legion Poppies of course. This is a wonderful opportunity to provide information and outreach to the thousands of people that come and see the free outdoor Christmas displays during the holiday seasons.

We held Fundraisers benefiting our programs including Second Harvest Food Bank, we were able to donate 78 lbs of canned goods.

We participated in a Blanket Drive with the Legion's Boy Scouts and together filled a mini-van with blankets.

We solicited donations and have made two Girl State reservations. We will be interviewing prospective citizens in the spring.

Several of our members volunteered at VA Palo Alto's Christmas Craft Night. They helped the patients create and assemble Christmas mobiles and festive ornaments and decorations. Everyone had a great time.

Currently we are working on Toys for Tots donations drop offs at our Post Home.

Our Sewing Circle members are making walker and wheelchair tote bags for the patients of the VA Hospitals and Med Centers. They need a sewing machine. Do you have one, loan or gift? We can arrange pick up. They have set a goal of 100 this year; a machine of their own will help achieve that. It doesn't have to be fancy.

I'll leave you with this comment from S. Dini, "I love our state government of "checks and balances. The checks are bouncing, and the budget is never balanced."

## American Troops on patrol in Iraq



God bless them all  
Merry Christmas and happy New Year to everyone.

**The following businesses have supported the American Legion Post and Aux. 318. Please try and support them:**

### The Sound Spectrum

Phone (800) 9-BEST-DJ  
[sounds@mr.music.com](mailto:sounds@mr.music.com)

### Willow Glen Ace Hardware

2253 Lincoln Ave, San Jose, CA 95125  
[richard@willowglenace.com](mailto:richard@willowglenace.com)  
(408) 267-0223 fax 408/267-4277

### Slice of Heaven Day Spa & Boutique

408.280.7546 Carrie Griffin Airbrush Makeup  
Skin Care Specialist/Facials & Massage

### Game Night

Do you feel lucky? How about making your own luck by meeting with other members for a night of cards. Friday, January 22, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. at Post

### Scouting Update

By Larry Hecht  
Cub Scout Pack 207 is doing well; they participated in the Founder's Day parade with our Color Guard by handing out American Flags to the spectators. The new Venture Crew 207 is off to a slow start. They are recruiting 14 to 20 year olds for Civil War Reenacting. Their first activity will be at Alcatraz Island demonstrating the period when the Island was used by the military. We have now sponsored a Troop 207 Boy Scout Troop which will be meeting at the post. This makes the whole Scouting family we sponsor on their 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday year.

## Color Guard

By Walt "Sarge" Carbaugh

If you are interested in joining the Color Guard contact me at 408/646-5535 No experience necessary, we will teach you.

## Post/House updates

By Edie Siarot

We are looking forward to replacing the windows (six interior windows, four side and two rear) with double-pane windows. We are negotiating to have the parking lot resurfaced and the hall hard wood floor refinished. This past month at the November work party we replaced tiles in the kitchen and bar area (thanks to all who showed up and helped). This is on top of our routine maintenance activity. We had a professional building inspector conduct an inspection of the post to see where we at. I am very pleased to announce that for a building that is 69 years old we received an outstanding bill of health. Other than a few minor issues the hall is in great shape.

## 2008/2009 Staff

### Post 0318

#### **Commander:**

Garry McLeod (408) 772-8827

#### **1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander:**

Walt "Sarge" Carbaugh (408) 646-5535

#### **2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander:**

Randy Richmond (408) 892-5290

#### **Sgt at Arms:**

Eugene Casanova (408) 892-5241

#### **Adjutant:**

Gene Fanucchi (408) 506-9643

#### **Chaplin:**

Norman Tevis (408) 266-5080

### Auxiliary Unit 318

#### **President:**

Patricia McLeod (408) 926-9946

#### **Secretary/Treasurer**

Annetta Robertson (408)244-9624

#### **The Newsletter Editor**

Garry McLeod

Always open to contributions

[Post318@aol.com](mailto:Post318@aol.com)

The deadline for submissions for the next issue of the Messenger is January 15, 2010. Please submit in Word format.

## **December 2009**

- 17 Executive meeting cancelled this month
- 20 Combined Legion/Auxiliary Social at the Post, Noon. Ham supplied, Legion please bring sides and Auxiliary bring the desserts
- 23 Legion meetings dark this month

## **January 2010**

- 8 House Meeting at the post, 7 pm
- 10 Operation Care and Comfort at the post, 10 am until completed
- 20 Dist 13 Meeting, Los Altos Post, 6 pm
- 21 Executive Meeting at the post, 7 pm
- 22 Post Game Night (Cards) at the Post, 6:30 pm
- 24 Auxiliary meeting at the post, 1:30 pm
- 27 Legion meeting at the post, 7:30 PM

## **February 2010**

- 6 Four Chaplains at St Francis Cabrini, 10 am
- 7 Operation Care & Comfort @ post, 10 am till we getter done
- 12 House meeting at the post, 7 pm
- 13 Auxiliary Sweet Heart at the post
- 15 Casino Day at Menlo Park VA, 10 am
- 18 Executive meeting at the post, 7 PM
- 24 Legion meeting at the post, 7:30 PM
- 28 Auxiliary Meeting at the post, 1:30pm

## **March 2010**

- 5 District 13 meeting at Post 217 Gilroy, 7pm
- 12 House meeting at the post, 7pm
- 14 Operation care and comfort at the post, 10am
- 18 Executive meeting at the post, 7pm
- 20 Public Safety Dinner at the post, 5pm
- 24 Legion Meeting at the post, 7:30pm
- 28 Auxiliary meeting at the post, 1:30 pm



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San Jose, CA 95125-4444

