

# THE AMERICAN LEGION

NEWARK - WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP

POST & AUXILIARY #837



## April/May/June 2011

### 2011 CALENDAR

**Post meetings** are held at the Veterans Memorial Bldg. (VMB), corner of 2nd and E St., Niles District, Fremont.

**District meetings** rotate within the District every third Wednesday.

Tue. May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 7:00 pm  
Executive Meeting

Sun. May 8<sup>th</sup>  
Mothers Day

Sat. May 15<sup>th</sup>  
Armed Forces Day

Tue. May 17<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 pm  
Business Meeting  
Election of Post Officers

Mon. May 30<sup>th</sup>  
Memorial Day – **Observed**

Tue. Jun. 7<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 pm  
Executive Meeting

Tue. Jun. 14<sup>th</sup>  
Flag Day

Jun. 18-25<sup>th</sup>  
Boys State

Sun. Jun. 19<sup>th</sup>  
Fathers Day

Tue. Jun. 21<sup>st</sup>, 7:00 pm  
Business Meeting

### AUXILIARY NEWS

Thank you all for the great attendance at the St. Patty's Day Dinner/District meeting. I have only been with the Auxiliary for about three years and I think this was the biggest turn out I have seen. Thanks to all who worked in the kitchen for the wonderful food. Wasn't the band great???? Even the band has grown in the last few years.

There will be a Homecoming Luncheon for Madam Department President Pilar Reyes on Saturday April 16<sup>th</sup>, at the San Leandro Veteran's Building, 1105 Bancroft Avenue, San Leandro. The luncheon will be at 12:30pm - reservations are required and the cost is \$10.00. Hoping we can get a great turn out to welcome Madam President Pilar home.

It is time for election of officers. If you have anyone you would like to nominate for a position please bring that person's name to the next meeting which will be April 19<sup>th</sup>.

The district is hosting a BBQ at the Livermore VA Hospital on May 21<sup>st</sup>. The volunteers are asked to be there around 9am to help set up the tables and help wheel any patients out and to help serve. The lunch will be around 11:30. With clean up you should be out of there around 1pm or so. From what I understand this is a great function and a great way to meet the vets and their families, also to see what they may need. Hope you all can help out.

Susan Peters

### COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Let's take care of some administrative business first. Many of you long ago paid your American Legion Membership dues for the upcoming year (July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012). Later, you received your membership card confirming the Legion's receipt of your payment. Then, a "2nd Notice" reminder to pay your dues for next year arrived in your mailbox; and the frustration began. Don't give it a second thought. If you have your membership card, no further action is needed; and the Legion knows you are paid up. These 2<sup>nd</sup> Notice reminders are automatically mailed out from National Headquarters to **ALL** legionnaires, regardless of whether or not you have already paid your membership fee. We at your local Post cannot stop these mailings. So, if you received your membership card, you are good to go. If not, then please heed the notice and send in your membership dues to support the American Legion's many veterans and community programs, to entitle you to personal participation in all Legion activities and to keep your continuous membership intact.

I hope you were able to make our annual District 10, St. Patrick's Day Banquet at the Veterans Memorial Building (VMB) at which the East Bay Posts were entertained by our very own Venture Crew 224 Scout Band and our resident military historian, Jim Hollabaugh, who narrated another masterful slide show, this time on the WWII "Code Talkers". The meal was delicious and all enjoyed the Legion's birthday cake for dessert. It's not too earlier to note on your calendar next year's Banquet -- March 21, 2012!

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## The Unknown Soldiers By Tom Sileo – Director of Story Development, USO

"We are not at war," a veteran who served in the Army for eight years told me Wednesday in Maryland. "Only some of us are."

I wasn't initially sure how to feel about that statement. The painful events of the next 48 hours showed that he was on to something.

Beginning at about 10 p.m. eastern on the night of March 30, casualty notices from the Pentagon began filling my inbox. In all, at least six U.S. soldiers, all serving with the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), based out of Kentucky's Fort Campbell, were killed on March 29 in Afghanistan's Konar province. The families of the fallen have been in my thoughts and prayers ever since the e-mails started pouring in.

When I mentioned this last night on The Unknown Soldiers Facebook page, the online community, while universally supportive of our troops and their families, also demanded answers from the national press.

"Not one thing was mentioned by the media," one fan wrote, as another asked: "Why have we not heard of this?"

Outside of an Associated Press wire write-up and a very short CNN wire article, the national media has all but missed another major story from Afghanistan. Fighting is clearly heating up on the eastern front, and remains heavy in the south. But the conflict in Libya is "newer," giving news executives an excuse to focus on Libya in the pursuit of ratings, ignoring the ongoing struggles in Afghanistan and Iraq.

The lives of all six men killed on Tuesday demand more attention at the national level, as their stories, being told almost entirely by small local TV stations and newspapers, show us.

### **Staff Sgt. Bryan Burgess**, 29, Cleburne, Texas

Staff Sgt. Burgess had a wife and two children, and was in the middle of his third combat tour, having served in Iraq twice. Before leaving for what would be his final deployment, Burgess sat down with his kids and showed them a map of Afghanistan.

*"There were camels all over the map and when he would call, he would tell them that he had been busy with his [troops] chasing the camels,"* the fallen hero's mother, Linda Pearce, told the local newspaper. *"I thought he was serious, but it wasn't camels he was talking about. It was his way of talking to the children about the fighting."*

### **Pfc. Dustin Feldhaus**, 20, Glendale, Arizona

Pfc. Feldhaus was gravely wounded alongside Staff Sgt. Burgess, and both later died at Bagram Airfield. Feldhaus was proud of his military service.

*"He would fight for his country and he would die for his country,"* high school teacher Tari Stanford told the station. *"That's the kind of guy he was."*

### **Sgt. 1st Class Ofren Arrechaga**, 28, Hialeah, Florida

Sgt. Arrechaga, an infantryman who joined the military seven months before the 9/11 attacks, was awarded the Bronze Star for his uncommon valor. He is survived by his wife, Seana, and two children.

### **Staff Sgt. Frank Adamski III**, 26, Moosup, Connecticut

Staff Sgt. Adamski is survived by his wife, Danielle, and their one-year-old daughter. His death has stunned the community, while also illuminating the incredible patriotism of a hometown hero.

*"He simply had a love for life and a passion for whatever he was doing,"* high school football coach Patrick Smith told the paper. *"In high school it was playing football, studying and making friends. Later on it was his dedication to the military."*

### **Spc. Jameson Lindskog**, 23, Pleasanton, California

Reading a family account of the death of Spc. Lindskog, who was killed in the same incident that took the lives of Sgt. 1st Class Arrechaga and Staff Sgt. Adamski, felt like a punch in the stomach and brought tears to my eyes. The soldier's mother, Donna Walker, told The Contra Costa Times that her son, a combat medic, was caring for the wounded when he was shot and killed.

*"Jameson, as a medic, went to help others,"* the devastated mom told the newspaper.

This disgraceful, tragic attack reminds us who we are fighting in Afghanistan. The Taliban and al Qaeda are savage butchers who murder children, enslave women, and shoot at medics on the battlefield.

### **Pvt. Jeremy Faulkner**, 23, Griffin, Georgia

Pvt. Faulkner was excited to return home in a few weeks to meet his recently born nephew. On Thursday, his family made the tragic journey to Delaware's Dover Air Force Base for his dignified transfer ceremony.

"He was so sweet in high school," Jessica Miller posted in a Facebook tribute group dedicated to Faulkner. "He was always smiling everytime I [saw] him in JROTC class. He will be greatly missed!"

Are we a nation at war? I still believe the answer is yes. Yet we are also a nation at a crossroads. We cannot think about war only when it's convenient or when someone from our town is killed. To stand by as this pattern develops not only dishonors the brave men and women volunteering to fight, but puts at risk everything they fight for.

To me, being a nation at war means uniting behind our troops and paying attention to their sacrifices. The time for America to do both is now.

## April/May/June 2011

2011 Post Dues are due!  
If you have sent in your renewal payment and have not yet received your card, please contact the Post Adjutant or Commander.

### American Legion Jacket drawing:

Did you know that the post holds a drawing for an official American Legion Jacket at each business meeting? The names are selected at random and each current member of our post has an equal chance of winning. Just being a paid-up member earns you a shot at the prize. The only catch is that you must be present at the meeting when the drawing is made in order to win the jacket.

### Keep In Your Thoughts:

- Robert Gilbeau – Is recovering from eye Surgery.

### Miscellaneous Information:

Useful web sites for National, Area, and District Information:

- [www.calegion.org](http://www.calegion.org): the Department of California American Legion web site.
- [www.calegionaux.org](http://www.calegionaux.org): Department of California Ladies Auxiliary web site.
- [www.VA.gov](http://www.VA.gov): U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.
- Alameda County Veteran's emergency services number: 211.

Post Everlasting:  
No new information.

### Announcements:

Hello everyone,  
It is time to collect prayers again. Please help by submitting your favorite prayers, scripture verse, poems, song or something in a church bulletin, something you have read and found inspirational, or something you wrote. Give the title, the author, the source. All members are encouraged to give the Unit chaplain something for the prayer book. The Unit Chaplain does not make the Unit Prayer Book alone.

Also, keep in mind the In Loving Tribute Fund. This program will give Units, Districts, and individual members, their families, and friends an opportunity to contribute to our organization on occasions when they wish to share their thinking of your feelings either in joy or sorrow. It can be for a memorial, birthday, anniversary, and holiday or any occasion when they would like to honor someone. A card is sent from the Department office to the person you indicate. Please call for the form and for more detailed information.

Maria Cruz, Chaplain  
American Legion Auxiliary Unit 837  
36006 Brandywine Street  
Newark, CA 94560-1516  
H: 510-793-8886  
Email: [titagacruz@aol.com](mailto:titagacruz@aol.com)

### Announcements:

The Auxiliary has signed up for S.H.A.R.E.S program. You use a card at either Lucky's, Sav-Mart or FoodMax - show the card while the cashier is ringing up your groceries - and the Auxiliary will get back 3% from qualified purchases. Please notify Susan Peters 510-656-6848 if you are interested in getting a card.

### Donations:

The post has donated over \$1,500 towards sending High School Juniors to the California Golden Boys State Program and the California Golden Girls State Program.

Our post has donated over \$1,000 to the Peninsula Scout Band.

### Veteran's Info:

New VA Fremont Outpatient Clinic  
39199 Liberty Street. Hrs: 8-4  
Ph. 1-800-311-2511

Oakland VA Behavioral Health Center  
525 21st Street.

MI/POW Day Sept. 16<sup>th</sup>, 2011  
Union City Veteran's Memorial Park

Veteran's Day Parade 2011  
Place: TBA, Nov. 11th, 2011.

## Post 837 Muster

The Post has approved a calendar of events for the next twelve months. The list can be modified, as needed, to meet the requirements and needs of the Post and the community; but we want to make sure that the calendar includes activities for the members to enjoy and that we also promote our Post through good works in our community.

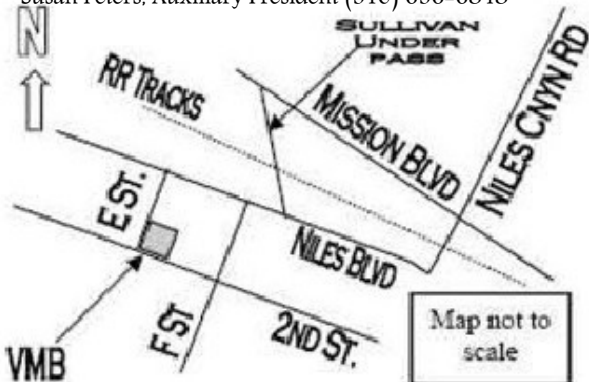
May 17,	2011: Activity and Food (General Meeting); election of Post Officers.
May 30,	2011: Memorial Day Honor Guard at Cemeteries.
June 23 – 26,	2011: American Legion Department of California State Convention (Ontario, CA).
June 18 – 25,	2011: Boys State.
July 4,	2011: Fremont Fourth of July Parade (in Irvington District).
August,	2011: Armed Forces Day at the "A's". Major League Baseball fun! Details TBD.
August 16,	2011: Installation of the Post's 2011-2012 officers at the general meeting.
August 26 - 1 <sup>st</sup> ,	2011: American Legion National Convention (Minneapolis, MN).
August 28,	2011: Post Fund Raiser Hot Dog Sale at the 47th annual Niles Antique Fair and Flea Market.
September,	2011: Event TBD.
October,	2011: Jim Hollabaugh military history presentation
November 25,	2011: Niles "Festival of Lights" parade. 6:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
December 11,	2011: Holiday Party at the VMB, 4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
January,	2012: "Veterans' Night Out" at the VMB (in lieu of the normal business meeting).
February,	2012: Veterans' Activity (date and details TBD).
March,	2012: Niles Little League Opening Ceremony.
March,	2012: Boys State Interviews at the VMB.
March,	2012: District 10 meeting at Post #837. Dinner, Scout Band Concert, and Presentation.
March,	2012: Hosting Bingo Night for the veterans at the Livermore VA Hospital.
April,	2012: Veterans' Activity (date and details TBD).

**THE AMERICAN LEGION - Newark Post No. 837**  
**“WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP POST & AUXILIARY”**

Serving Fremont, Newark, and Union City

P. O. Box 2051  
 Fremont California  
 94536-0051

Dick Wenzel, Commander (510) 683-9519  
 John Hageman, Adjutant (Unlisted)  
 Susan Peters, Auxiliary President (510) 656-6848



Current Resident or

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American Legion Post #837 meetings are held at 7 p.m. on the 3rd Tuesday of every month at the Veterans Memorial Building (VMB), 2nd & E St., (one block off Niles Blvd., in the Niles area) in Fremont. Tel: (510) 790-2853.

**Post Officers for 2010-2011**

- Commander - Dick Wenzel
- Adjutant - John Hageman
- 1st. Vice Comdr. - Mike Mensinger
- 2nd. Vice Comdr. - Les Mensinger
- Finance Officer - Nate Hirigoyen
- Service Officer - Mike Sullivan
- Chaplain - Art Hansen
- Sgt. at Arms - Jim Conard
- Historian - Walter Schrank
- Judge Advocate - Jim Hollabaugh
- Ass't Judge Adv. - Matt Edwards

**Newsletter**

Editor..... Mike Mensinger  
 Email: ALpost837@hotmail.com

**Please send all correspondence to:**

P.O. Box 2051  
 Fremont, CA 94536-0051

For change of address, phone number, or membership status, send a notice to the above address, Attention: Adjutant.

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Your Post has also been busy raising the flag at the Niles Little League Opening Ceremonies and hosting bingo at the Livermore VA Hospital. Next up will be providing the Honor Guard Rifle Salute at the Memorial Day Ceremonies at Fremont's cemeteries and delivering several of the Tri-Cities' outstanding high school juniors to the American Legion Boys State leadership conference in Sacramento this June.

Finally, if you would like to participate in Fremont's 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade, please let me know; because our antique military vehicles have plenty of seats!

Join us at our monthly general meeting at the VMB at 7:00 p.m. on the month's third Tuesday. All veterans are welcome!

Dick Wenzel  
 Commander