



Star Post 309 News

JULY 2021



On behalf of the entire Star Post 309 Family, we wish our members, our families, and our friends a very happy 4th of July celebration of our Nation's Independence.

During this time, we should reflect on the many freedoms we enjoy because of the sacrifices made by our service members and veterans. We should never take for granted our liberties, and always remember that freedom isn't free.

The month of June culminated with the American Legion Department of California 102nd Convention. Because of the restrictions at the time of planning, the convention had to be held virtually. As one of the larger Posts in membership in the state, we had a delegation of 18 members. Your delegation represented the Star Post 309 very well, and helped decide some of the resolutions that came before the convention. These resolutions are voted on, and if passed, forwarded to the National Convention for consideration. The resolutions center on advancing our causes for the benefit of veterans and their families. For a full listing of the resolutions, visit <https://calegion.org/resolutions/>



At the convention, several awards are presented for a variety of causes in keeping with the pillars of the American Legion. One such award is the American Legion Department of California Law Enforcement Officer of the Year for Valor. This award is voted upon by the Law and Order Commission. In a unanimous vote by the commission, Deputy Claudia Apolinar was selected as the 2021 Law Enforcement Officer of the Year for Valor.

The events surrounding Deputy Apolinar's actions should not be lost on anyone.

Her bravery and courage after having been shot in the face, and her resilience to keep herself and her partner alive were nothing short of extraordinary. Deputy Apolinar exemplifies the best qualities of the men and women on the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. Star Post 309 was proud to have nominated her for this award, and even more proud that she was selected as the honoree.

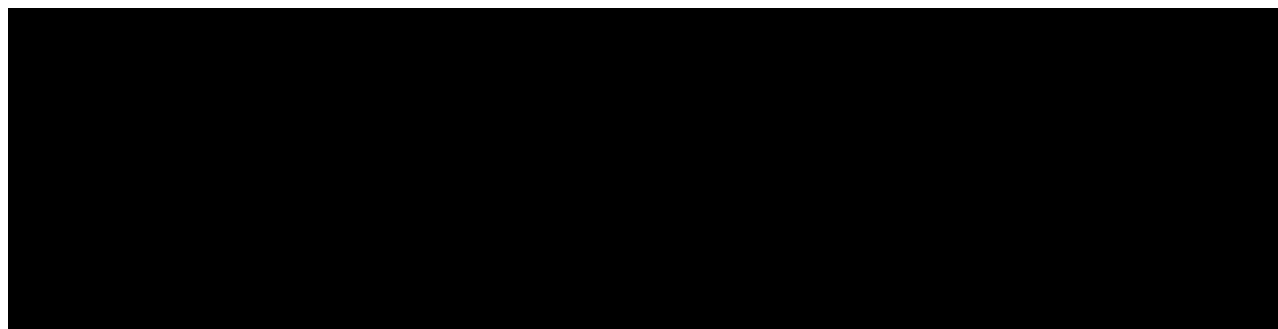
To view a video of the award presentation, visit <https://vimeo.com/567857838>
You can also read a longer transcript and view the video at the [Calegion.org](https://www.calegion.org) website

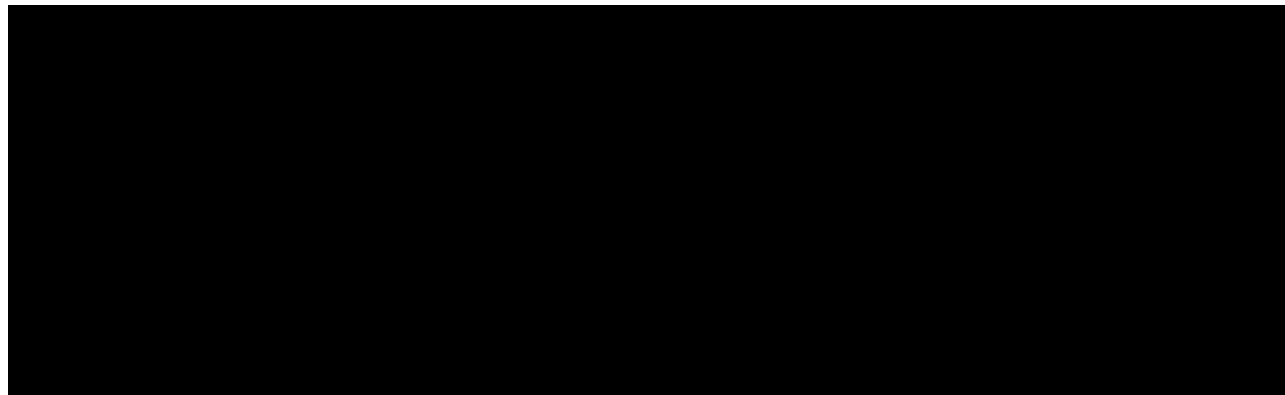




The American Legion's Preamble to its Constitution lays the framework for the Legion's mission. The clauses are specific and describe an aspect, pillar, or tenet of our organization's mission. One of the clauses is, "To maintain law and order."

Normally the Preamble is recited at the start of every Legion meeting. Because of the virtual aspect of this convention, the Preamble was pre-recorded. Each clause was uttered by a different American Legion member. How appropriate that the phrase, "To maintain law and order" was stated by our very own, Sheriff Alex Villanueva.





Star Post 309 received several awards at the convention. Among them were the Media Award for Post Newsletter, Membership Award for achieving over 100% of the year's membership goal, Gold Brigade Award for bringing in over 50 new members to the American Legion, Law and Order Program Award, and the Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award for Deputy Claudia Apolinar. We want to thank our delegates for representing the Post, and we hope that next year we can once again attend in person.

We want to give a special congratulations to our new Department Commander, Mr. Autrey James. Autrey is a former police officer who later became a deputy district attorney with Alameda County. Commander James hopes to bring to our organization new life and new direction. His motto, "One Team, One Fight," should inspire us all to continue progressing forward and advocating for our veterans and their families.

Our Star Post member Hugh Crooks is a Past Department Commander. He had the honor of swearing in Autrey. The image below sends a powerful message. It depicts the great strides our organization has made in terms of diversity. Hugh was only the second African-American Department Commander having served in that capacity from 2011-2012. The first African-American Department Commander was Charlie M. Eskridge who served from 2006-2007.

Now, our outgoing Department Commander Ed Grimsley (right), our Past Department Commander Hugh Crooks (left), and our current Department Commander Autrey James (center) are setting the example and paving the road for our future legionnaires.



A reminder that ticket sales have opened for our **Veterans Day Ball** scheduled for **November 6, 2021**. Click on the flyer below to access ticket sales.

Volunteers for the planning committee can email Oscar Martinez at oscar.martinez@starpost309.com.



A vertical poster for a Veteran's Day Ball. At the top, a banner with red, white, and blue stripes features several military seals: the U.S. Army, U.S. Marine Corps, U.S. Navy, U.S. Air Force, and U.S. Coast Guard. Below the banner, the text "Inaugural" is in a large, elegant script. Underneath, "Los Angeles Sheriff's Star Post 309" is in a smaller, sans-serif font. The main title "VETERAN'S DAY BALL" is in large, bold, gold capital letters, followed by "FORMAL ATTIRE" in a smaller, sans-serif font. The date and time "NOVEMBER 6, 2021 6:00 P.M. - 12:00 A.M." are in gold, flanked by two small gold stars. A gray horizontal bar contains the text "CEREMONY • DRINKS • MUSIC • CIGARS" in white. Below this, "QUIET CANNON" is in large, bold, gold capital letters, followed by the address "901 VIA SAN CLEMENTE, MONTEBELLO, CA 90640" in a smaller, sans-serif font. Another gray horizontal bar contains the text "FOR TICKETS: WWW.STARPOST309.COM/VETERANS-DAY-BALL" in white. Below this, there are two columns. The left column has the title "GUEST OF HONOR" in gold, followed by a portrait of Alex Villanueva in a light blue uniform, and then his name "Alex Villanueva, Sheriff" in white. The right column has the title "GUEST SPEAKER" in gold, followed by a portrait of Sgt. 1st Class Leroy Petry in a dark blue uniform, and then his name "Sgt. 1st Class Leroy Petry" and "Medal of Honor Recipient" in white. At the bottom, the phrase "Saluting Our Veterans" is in a large, elegant script. The background is dark blue with a pattern of white stars. The top and bottom corners feature decorative circular patterns with red, white, and blue stripes.

Developing our Future Leaders

Two pillars of the American Legion guide our Post when it comes to developing our future leaders: Americanism and Children & Youth. In keeping with these tenets, Star Post 309 supports those organizations and events which help mold our youth into better and more productive citizens.

This year, Star Post 309 sponsored eleven young men to attend Boys State. Even though it was held in a virtual setting, the participants enjoyed everything about it.

One of the participants shared this photo with us. Since most of these boys had to navigate online learning in high school, the Boys State virtual program was less of a challenge for them...they actually know how to mute and unmute themselves.



Another program we wholeheartedly support is the [Young Marines](#). One chapter in particular, [Southland Young Marines](#), is facilitated and led by our Star Post member Fred Bocanegra, and his wife, retired LASD Sergeant Trish Bocanegra. Trish also serves

as the Secretary for our American Legion Auxiliary, Star Unit 309.

We want to thank our Star Post member John Kolter for assisting with obtaining backpacks and other equipment for the Southland Young Marines. We also thank his supervisor, Sergeant Todd Kammer, for approving this donation. We know the equipment will be put to good use. In one of the photos below, some of the older veterans will reminisce on the canteen, tin holder, and canteen sleeve that used to buckle onto your web belt. Not photographed are a couple of boxes of MREs the YMs received. We're sure they will enjoy those when they get a chance to rip them open and snack.

The young men in white t-shirts are this year's new recruits. One of them is the son of a retired LASD sergeant. One of the young men in the fatigues is son of an active LASD sergeant.





Women's Veteran Day

Women Veterans Day, also referred to as Women Veterans Recognition Day and Women Veterans Appreciation Day, is the anniversary of the day the Women's Armed Services Integration Act was signed into law by President Harry S. Truman on June 12, 1948. Prior to then, only women nurses could serve in the regular and reserve forces during peacetime.

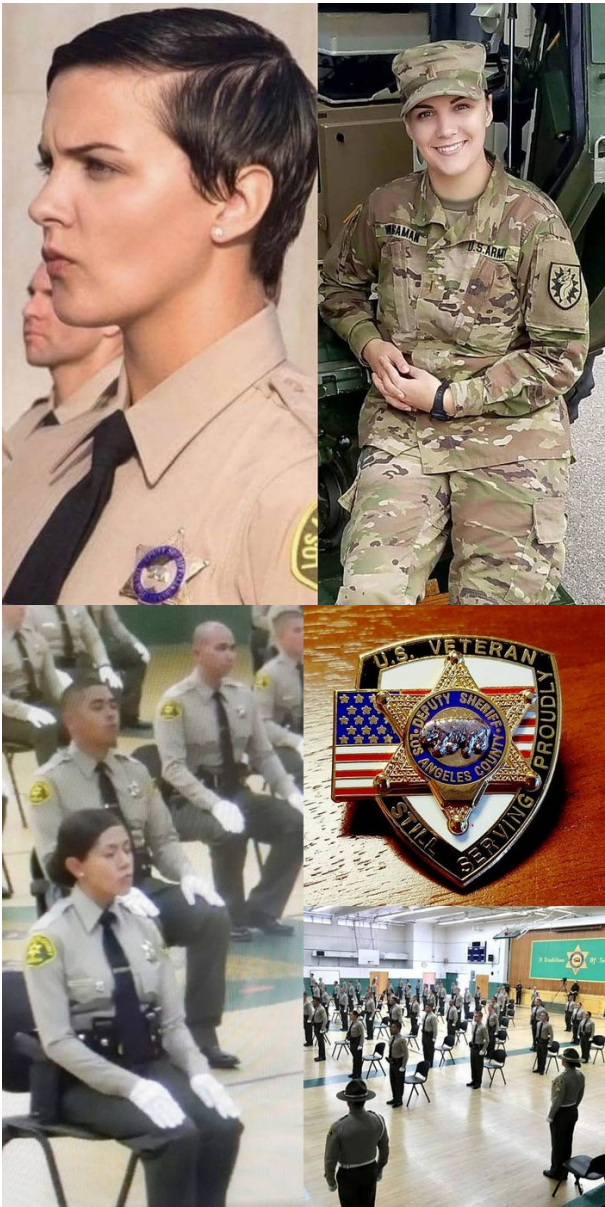
There are currently almost two-million women Veterans in the United States, Puerto Rico, and Territories/Foreign, according to the VA. The American Legion supports any initiatives

that help ensure women Veterans are treated with the respect and dignity they have earned and deserve.

Our Star Post 309 family would like to acknowledge all of our women veterans, and show our gratitude for your service. Depicted in the photographs and collages below are only some of the women veterans in Star Post 309. Thank you for your service!



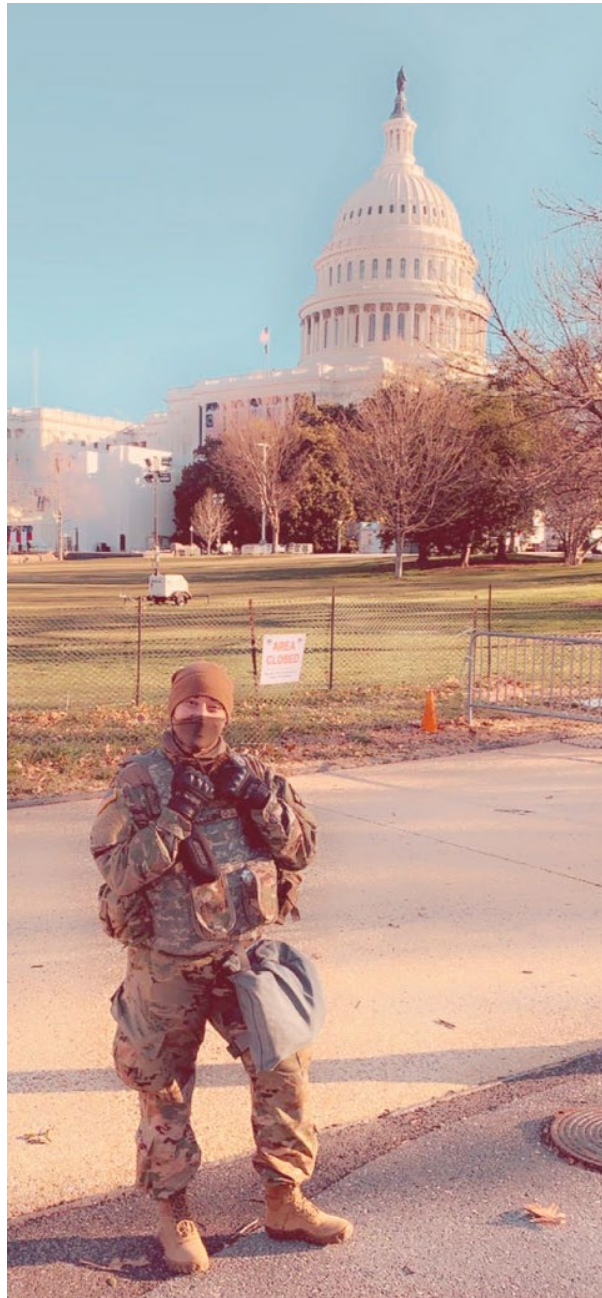






Crystal Morelos US Army National Guard

Deployed to protect the Nation's Capitol
January 2021





Brittany Ibrahim
US Army National Guard

2013-2014 G Co. 1-160th, Santa Ana, CA
2014-2019 A Co. 40th BSB, Bell, CA

MOS: 88M, Motor Transport Operator

Georgina Carmona
US Navy
2003-2017

Afghanistan 2011-2012
Mineman E-5



Updates, Events, and Info

The poster features a background image of a brown horse running in a field. In the top left corner is the circular seal of the American Legion, featuring a star with 'US' in the center and 'AMERICAN LEGION' around the perimeter. The title 'Warriors Road' is written in large, bold, yellow letters with a black outline at the top right. Below the title, the event details are listed in various colors and fonts: 'Star Post 309 Day at Warriors Road' in blue, 'Saturday - July 10, 2021' in red, '10:00 AM - 1:00 PM' in black, and 'Fancy B Ranch' in black. The address '10189 Foothill Blvd, Sylmar 91342' is in black. To the right of the address is a large yellow star with the American Legion seal in the center, with 'STAR POST' above it and 'NO. 309' below it. At the bottom, the RSVP information and a description of the organization are provided in black text.

**Star Post 309 Day
at Warriors Road**

Saturday - July 10, 2021

10:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Fancy B Ranch

10189 Foothill Blvd, Sylmar 91342

RSVP Only - Email info@starpost309.com
**Light lunch will be provided to members
and family.**

**Warriors Road is a veteran-operated 501(c)(3)
non-profit offering equine therapy to veterans
and first responders.**

We had previously changed the date for this event. It is now scheduled for **July 10 at 1000** hours. If you plan to attend, we ask you to please RSVP to info@starpost309.com so that we get a good headcount. Lunch will be provided. This is a family-friendly event, so kids are welcome as are family members. Children under age 7 should be closely monitored.

All participants will be asked to sign a waiver upon arrival. Please wear appropriate clothing and closed toe shoes, boots preferable, for your safety.



Recently we put an all-call request for one of our Star Post 309 members, Daniel Rico who is going to enter the next Deputy Academy Class starting July 15. Daniel is a security officer and USMC veteran, and lives in the South Bay area. The academy will be at the College of the Canyons.

The response to his request to rent a room in the SCV was overwhelming. In true fashion, our members and supporters offered suggestions and assistance.

Daniel wants everyone to know that he is grateful and appreciative to be part of a supportive family. He has found a place in the SCV, and is looking forward to his success in the academy.



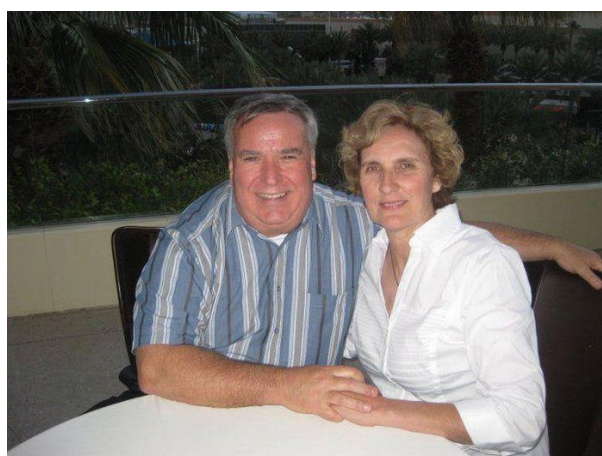
The 100 Miles for Hope Breakout Challenge has begun!

The American Legion has added a special one-month challenge to its second annual 100 Miles for Hope. During the month of July, American Legion Family members can support their departments in the 100 Miles for Hope Breakout Challenge. Our Department of California has challenged other Departments in the American Legion. With the highest concentration of veterans in the nation, there is no reason we can't come out on top.

Register using the Kilter app on your phone to track your progress. Help raise funds by registering. Entry fee is only \$20. This event is open to everyone, so get your family members involved. [CLICK THIS LINK](#) to register and choose California as your team.

Monday July 5 at 1:00 PM is the Celebration of Life for our dearly departed Pete Ramirez.

West Covina Elks Lodge
841 W Merced Ave, West Covina



We received late notification that Star Post member and retired LASD Deputy Eugene Eggers passed away on March 30, 2021.

Eugene was a member of Class 173, and had served in the US Air Force. Services were previously held.

Star Post member Joe Wong, USMC and Korean War veteran, attended the anniversary commemoration of the start of the Korean War on June 25. Here he is photographed (lower right) with members of the ROK Veterans.



Star Post member Timothy Adams, Custody Assistant and instructor at the CA Academy, will be turning in his greens for blues. He has been accepted into the LAPD academy starting July.

A US Army combat veteran and Purple Heart recipient, Tim has been a staunch supporter of his fellow veterans. We will miss Tim, and we wish him all the best moving forward. And yes, he intends to stay with Star Post 309.



Want a quick and easy way to support our Veterans?

For those with an Amazon account (and who doesn't have one?), we ask you to designate your charity choice through the Amazon Smile program. For each purchase you make on Amazon, they will donate to our American Legion charity. Moreover, that money stays in our state through the Department of California. These funds pay for our Veteran Service Officers.

Go to Smile.Amazon.com. Look for the supporting tab. Choose your charity as

The American Legion CA Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Foundation

It's that simple!



Star Post 309

Officer Installation Dinner

Join us at our Post Officer Installation Dinner

Saturday, July 24, 2021

Social hour and dinner - 5:00 PM

Installation - 6:00 PM

Temple City Post 279

9522 E Las Tunas Drive, Temple City 91780

Ample parking in the rear parking lot. The meeting room is upstairs, and can be accessed from the rear staircase. Those requiring assistance should park in the front and enter through the door on Las Tunas. There is an assistive device to ascend the staircase.

Dinner will be served. Suggested donation is \$10 and can be paid at the door.

RSVP is Required! Email info@starpost309.com

No-host bar, Cash only.


TEMPORARY COMMANDER


TEMPORARY ADJUTANT

1927

American Legion Basic Training



Basic Training

How Does it Work?

Course Structure

Learn more about the American Legion by taking the [online Basic Training course](#). This is the Legion's official training course intended for all members, especially those who would like to be part of the leadership team for Star Post 309.

For the benefit of our newer members, we have on our [Star Post 309 website](#) numerous resources for your benefit. We also encourage all of our members to read our **Star Post 309 Member Handbook** which includes our governing bylaws.

Follow us on our social media pages:

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[American Legion Auxiliary Star Unit 309](#)
[Instagram @starpost309](#)



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