

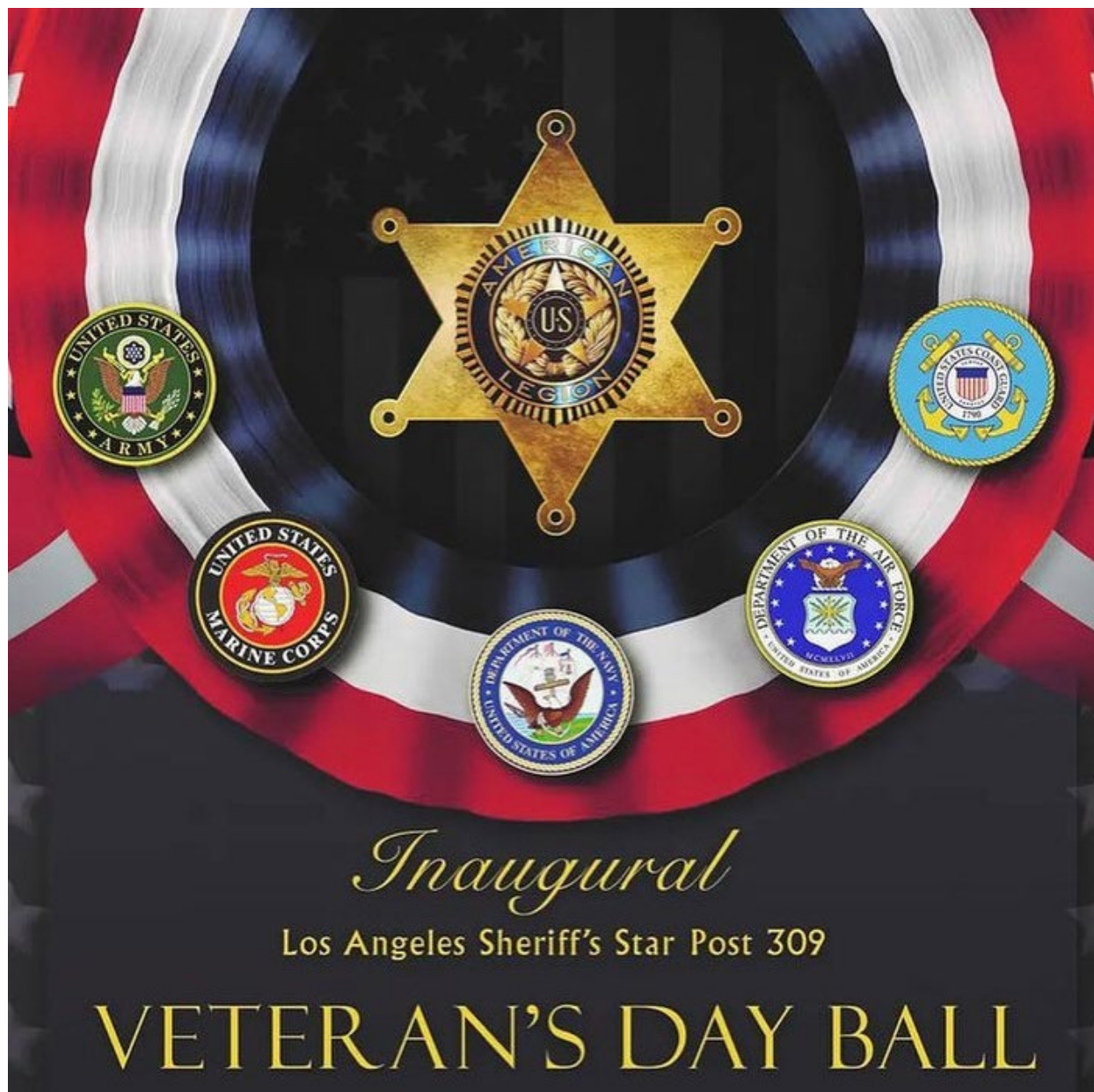
Veterans Day

Special Edition

Mid-November Veterans Day Newsletter



On behalf of the Star Post 309 family, we wish all veterans a very happy Veterans Day.



American Legion posts around the world were called to honor veterans during the Veterans Day holiday. Star Post 309 took the opportunity to honor all our veterans, both past and present.

On November 6, Star Post 309 celebrated a Veterans Day Ball, a gala to honor those who serve and many others who continue to serve. A black-tie affair, the Ball gave attendees an opportunity to dust off their best formal wear, enjoy the camaraderie, and revel with their fellow veterans, families, and supporters. A multitude of Star Post members were joined by several other American Legion members who attended in support of the event. A large number of 309 members donned their mess dress and dress blues for the event. The large contingent of Army, Marines, and Navy dressed in their

blues was truly a spectacle to behold. The cigar bar, where freshly rolled cigars were offered to our guests gratis, turned out to be a great hit, as did the photo booth and DJ provided by Air Force veteran, Steve Ferreira.

Among the many Star Post and LASD members present, we had the honor of having with us that evening Department Commander Autrey James, Department Adjutant Barbara Lombrano, our Area 4 Vice Commander Nick Rosa, and our District 17 Commander Danielle Duffaut. Joining us from other posts were Los Angeles Post 8, Pomona Post 30, Hollywood Post 43, Ronald Reagan-Palisades Post 283, LAPD Post 381, and Post 731. We also had the pleasure of hosting the Secretary of the Department of California Veteran Affairs, Dr. Vito Imbasciani, and our Law Enforcement Officer of the Year, Deputy Claudia Apolinar. Regardless of their affiliation, all came together as veterans.

The Guest of Honor for the evening was our very own Star Post member Sheriff Alex Villanueva. Our Distinguished Guest Speaker was Major General (retired) Peter Gravett, US Army. Peter Gravett is also retired LAPD, but we didn't hold that against him. Both delivered moving speeches about the need for veterans to take care of each other. In special recognition, Post Commander Oscar Martinez acknowledged as the most distinguished guests of the evening, all past and present LASD members. When asked to stand to be recognized, it was incredible to see that the majority of attendees stood to be honored.

Our originally scheduled guest speaker, LTC William Swenson, a Medal of Honor recipient, could not attend due to suddenly being called away on a presidential detail. We suppose past Presidents carry a bit more clout than Star Post 309. Nevertheless, LTC Swenson recorded a video message delivering his regrets for not being able to attend. In his message, he reminded all American Legion members that it is our obligation and that we are duty-bound to serve our veterans. His words were poignant and direct as he gave us this charge, "I urge you to continue working toward a day where our veterans will never have to worry about being homeless, never have to worry about want or need, and will always have a place where they are loved and appreciated."

Thank you, LTC Swenson. We will live up to our obligation, and never stray from that duty.

For those inquiring about photographs, we will have them very soon. But for now, please enjoy some of these pics. Please also view the video message from LTC Swenson by using the link below.

<https://vimeo.com/643251191>





























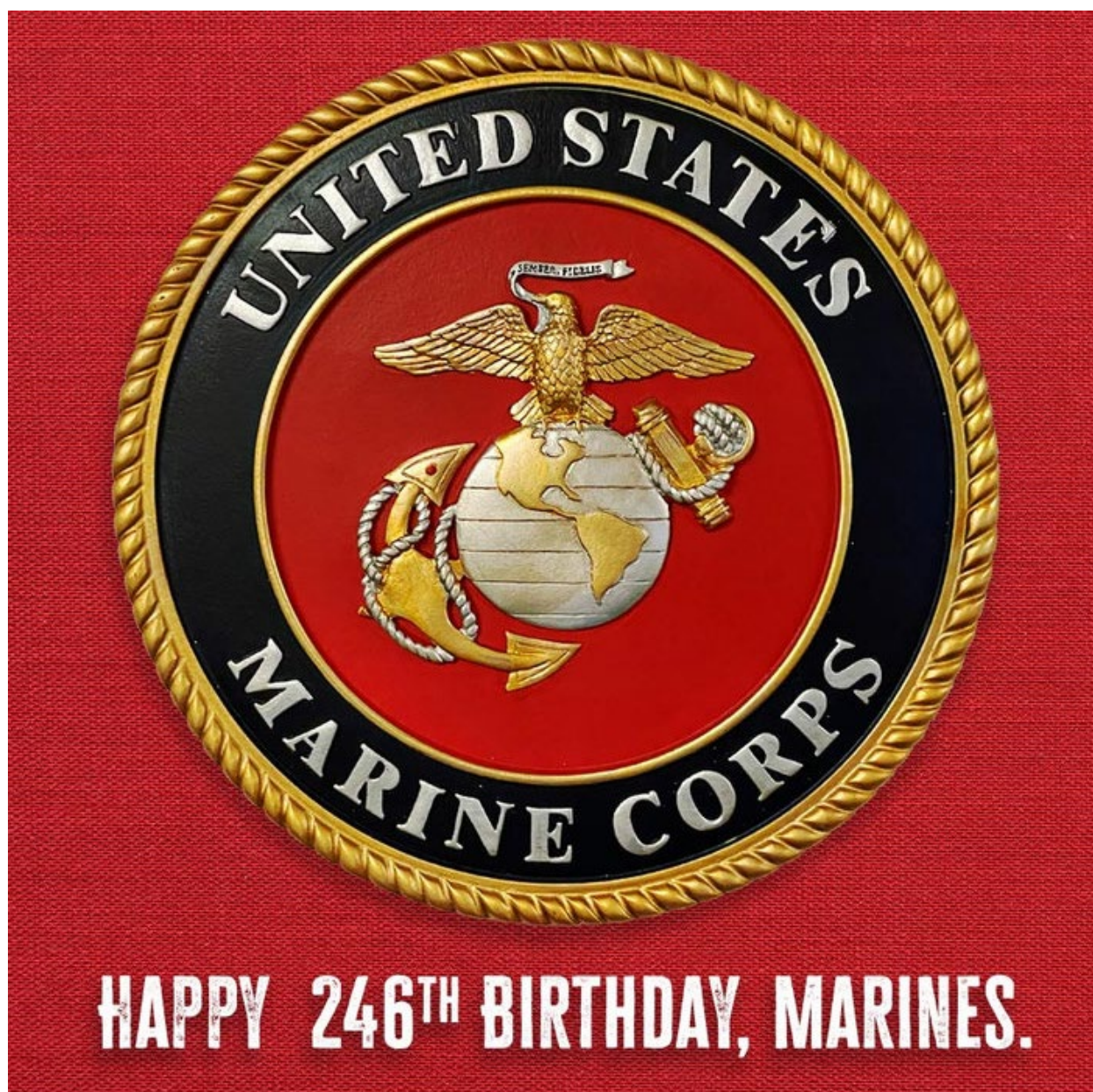












Post Commander Oscar Martinez is a Marine Corps veteran who served in combat in both Iraq and Afghanistan. He made it a point to ensure that our Sheriff's Department commemorated the Corps' 246th birthday in style. Star Post 309 was happy to sponsor the event and purchase the cake for the cake-cutting ceremony at the Hall of Justice. We were honored to have Sheriff Villanueva attend. Star Post members represented the guest of honor, the eldest Marine (Chief Jack Ewell), and the youngest Marine (Jeff Paniagua) in the cake-cutting ceremony.

This was but one of numerous cake-cutting ceremonies held at various units throughout the Sheriff's Department, as Marines came together to celebrate with a traditional cake-cutting ceremony.













The Sons of the American Legion have embarked on a mission to place one million US flags in honor of veterans. Squadron 309 accepted that challenge and coordinated a Flying Flags for Heroes event on Veterans Day. Held at the Rose Hills Memorial Park in Whittier, members of the Star Post 309 family – Legion, Sons, Auxiliary, and Riders – convened with a mission to place flags at the gravesite of veterans. Star Post was joined by Girls Scout troops, the Southland Young Marines, Legion members and Legion Riders from our sister posts, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department personnel, LA County Council Commander Jere Romano, and veteran advocates who came out in droves to support this cause. Our Squadron Commander Marc Saunders, 1st Vice Commander and Americanism Committee member Alex Kay, and Squadron 309 member Dennis Kee facilitated a great program.

In all, 2,500 flags were placed at the gravesites of veterans hailing from World War I to the present Global War on Terror including OIF and OEF. It was truly awe inspiring to see so many from diverse backgrounds come together to unite for one cause.

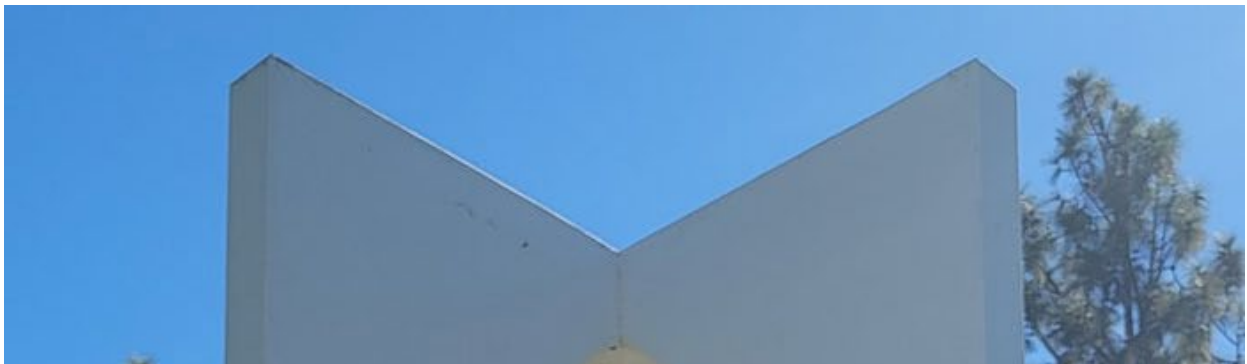
The Sons of the American Legion (SAL) is a program of the American Legion intended for sons, grandsons, and male descendants of veterans. It provides another opportunity of volunteerism and service to veterans without having to be a veteran themselves. There are several "dual members" who are both veterans and Sons; however, that is not a requirement. If you'd like more information on becoming a Son or having your sons join (all ages are

accepted from youth to adults), please email Squadron Commander Marc Saunders at marc.sonspost309@gmail.com. Visit <https://casons.org/> for more information.

















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