



Star Post 309 News

MAY 2021

May is designated as **Military Appreciation Month** where we acknowledge the men and women who have served and those who continue to serve in our Nation's military.

Although the entire month is designated to honoring past and present military members and their families, there are several, specific military holidays sprinkled throughout Military Appreciation Month itself, including Loyalty Day, VE Day, Military Spouse Appreciation Day, Mother's Day, Armed Forces Day, and Memorial Day. For a complete breakdown of each of these days, visit the USO webpage at <https://www.uso.org/stories/2699-what-is-military-appreciation-month>.

Star Post 309 will be participating in one form or another during many of these special days of recognition. Our Memorial Day observance for LASD members will take place at our **75th Annual Tree Planting Ceremony** honoring our Past Commander Thomas Vetter. This will be an in-person event to be held at the Star Post Memorial Wall at the Pitchess Detention Center.

Tom Vetter's family has confirmed their attendance. We are also pleased to announce that Sheriff Alex Villanueva will also be present to honor our fallen military veterans.

Unfortunately due to the Ranch Dining Room being closed, and because of public health guidelines, there will be no lunch served afterward. All attendees at the event will be asked to maintain social distancing and observe other guidelines. It is expected to be sunny and warm, so please plan accordingly.

We ask that you please RSVP for this event. Email info@starpost309.com to confirm the number in your party.

May 21 at 10:00 AM

Pitchess Detention Center
29340 The Old Road, Castaic 91384

Star Post 309 will also be participating in the annual **Tribute to Veterans and Military Families**. This event is sponsored by Supervisor Kathryn Barger, an avid supporter of law enforcement and military veterans, and is usually held at Arcadia County Park. This year the tribute will be held virtually. Participants are asked to register [online](#).

Star Post 309 will have the honor of conducting the POW/MIA Remembrance Ceremony for the virtual presentation.

Ticket sales have opened for our **Veterans Day Ball** scheduled for **November 6, 2021**. We have confirmed that our Guest Speaker will be Medal of Honor Recipient, Sergeant First Class Leroy Petry, US Army. Thanks to those who have already purchased your tickets. If you still haven't purchased yours, click on the flyer below.

For the Veterans Day Ball, we have secured the location, the DJ, cigar vendor, a photo booth, hotels, and other items. There are still several other things we need to do. We are looking for volunteers to assist with centerpieces (Auxiliary member Jo Anna Medina has volunteered to chair this project), assist at check-in, keepsake gift (such as an etched glass), photography, and any other ideas that a party-planning minded person can think of. If interested in volunteering, email Oscar Martinez at oscar.martinez@starpost309.com. In the very near

future, we will hold a planning committee meeting to continue with our preparations.



THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS UNIT AND THE AMERICAN LEGION LOS ANGELES SHERIFF'S STAR POST 309 INVITE YOU TO THE 75TH ANNUAL

TREE PLANTING CEREMONY

HONORING THE LIFE OF OUR STAR POST 309 PAST COMMANDER



THOMAS VETTER
STAR POST COMMANDER 1966
RETIRED LASD COMMANDER, EOW JANUARY 16, 2021

FRIDAY, MAY 21, 2021 AT 10:00 A.M.
PITCHESS DETENTION CENTER
29340 THE OLD ROAD

The Star Post Memorial Wall is located next to the main firing range.
Due to public health restrictions, no lunch will be served.



RSVP Required by May 19, 2021 to:
Lt. Ernie Bille at eobille@lasd.org or Sgt. Oscar Martinez at o2amarti@lasd.org to be placed on guest list.

Tribute to Veterans & Military Families

Honoring those who've served our country and county

Saturday, May 29

Virtual program: 9-10 a.m.

Breakout sessions: 10 a.m.-12 p.m.



Kathryn
BARGER
37 District Supervisor • County of Los Angeles



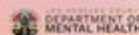
Military Veterans Affairs
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

CAL VET
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System

THE VETERAN PEER ACCESS NETWORK



DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH

Inaugural
Los Angeles Sheriff's Star Post 309

VETERAN'S DAY BALL

FORMAL ATTIRE

NOVEMBER 6, 2021

6:00 PM - 10:00 PM

6:00 P.M. - 12:00 A.M.

CEREMONY • DRINKS • MUSIC • CIGARS

QUIET CANNON

901 VIA SAN CLEMENTE, MONTEBELLO, CA 90640

FOR TICKETS: WWW.STARPOST309.COM/VETERANS-DAY-BALL

GUEST OF HONOR



Alex Villanueva, Sheriff

GUEST SPEAKER



Sgt. 1st Class Leroy Petry
Medal of Honor Recipient

Saluting Our Veterans

During our April 17, 2021, virtual Star Post 309 meeting, we held the first round of nominations for Post Officers for Legion year 2021-22. The following nominations were submitted:

Post Commander – Oscar Martinez
1st Vice Commander – Jason Crosswhite
2nd Vice Commander – Fred Bocanegra
3rd Vice Commander – Terry Black
Executive Committee – Derrick Thompson
Executive Committee – Chuck Norris
Executive Committee – Andrew Rosso

The second round of nominations and elections will be held following our Tree Planting Ceremony. Star Post 309 is an all-volunteer, non-profit veteran service organization. The men and women who take leadership positions within the Post do so by giving of their time for the benefit of our members. We encourage all of our members to participate in a commission or leadership role. To learn more about volunteer opportunities in Star Post 309, we encourage you to read our **Star Post 309 Membership Handbook** found on our website.

During our meeting, we had the honor of hosting our distinguished guest, Ms. Barbara

Lombrano who is the interim American Legion Department of California Adjutant. Ms. Lombrano presented our Post with the All-Time High Post Award – Five or more consecutive years.

This award is for posts who have set an all-time high in their membership for the year. After a post has won the award for five consecutive years of all-time membership highs, it may continue to win the award each year thereafter as long as each year's membership sets a new all-time high. Membership in Star Post 309 has risen from approximately 250 members in 2015-16 to surpassing 720 members in 2020-21, including the creation and establishment of an Auxiliary Unit, Sons of the American Legion Squadron, and most recently an American Legion Riders Chapter.

Also during the meeting, we had the privilege of recognizing a young American. Star Post Member Mitchell Jones introduced his son, Matthew Thomas Jones. Matthew had recently been promoted to Eagle Scout at Troop 2 Riverside. Matthew's project entailed planting a butterfly garden to be located on a designated parcel of land located on the Jurupa Mountain Discovery Center, Jurupa Valley California. This garden would provide a natural habitat and environment for various butterflies to live and flourish. For his efforts and dedication to service, Star Post 309 presented Matthew with a commemorative American Legion Eagle Scout medal, certificate, and patch. We offered Matthew our congratulations and our support to continue his dreams of entering the Naval Academy.



This is to certify that records submitted to the National Headquarters of The American Legion show that

Los Angeles Sheriff's Star Post 309
Department Of California

Has established an

All-Time High

In membership for **5** consecutive years
 from **2016-2020** inclusive.

In Witness Whereof, this certificate is given in recognition of the outstanding record of said post, under the hand of the National Commander, and duly attested by the National Adjutant, at Indianapolis, Indiana, this 18th day of March, 2021.

James W. "Bill" Oxford

 James W. "Bill" Oxford
 National Commander

Daniel S. Wheeler

 Daniel S. Wheeler
 National Adjutant



In Memoriam

Retired Deputy Donald A. Kalberloh transferred to Post Everlasting on March 26, 2021.
Donald joined the Sheriff's Department on March 21, 1962, and retired on March 17,

1983, from the Academy, Weapons Training.

Donald was a Navy veteran and served on the USS Iowa during the Korean War. He was a 56-year member of Star Post.

Services:

Monday, June 7, 2021, 2:00 pm
El Camino Memorial Park
5600 Carroll Canyon Road
San Diego, CA 92121

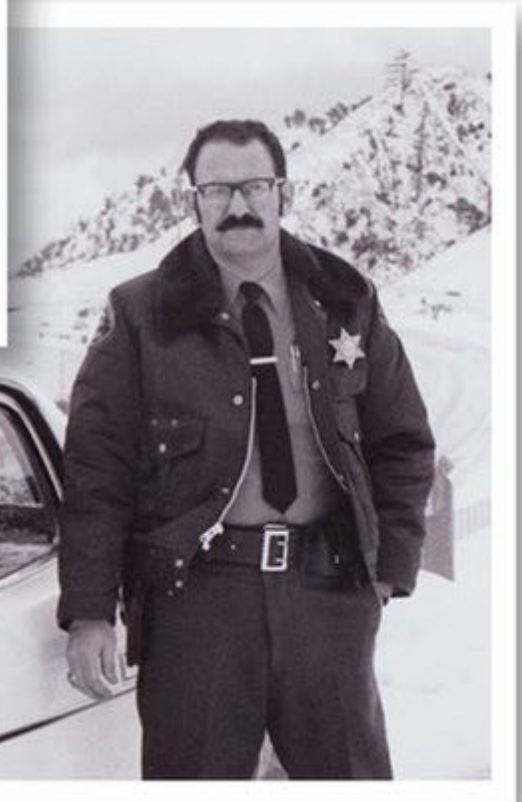
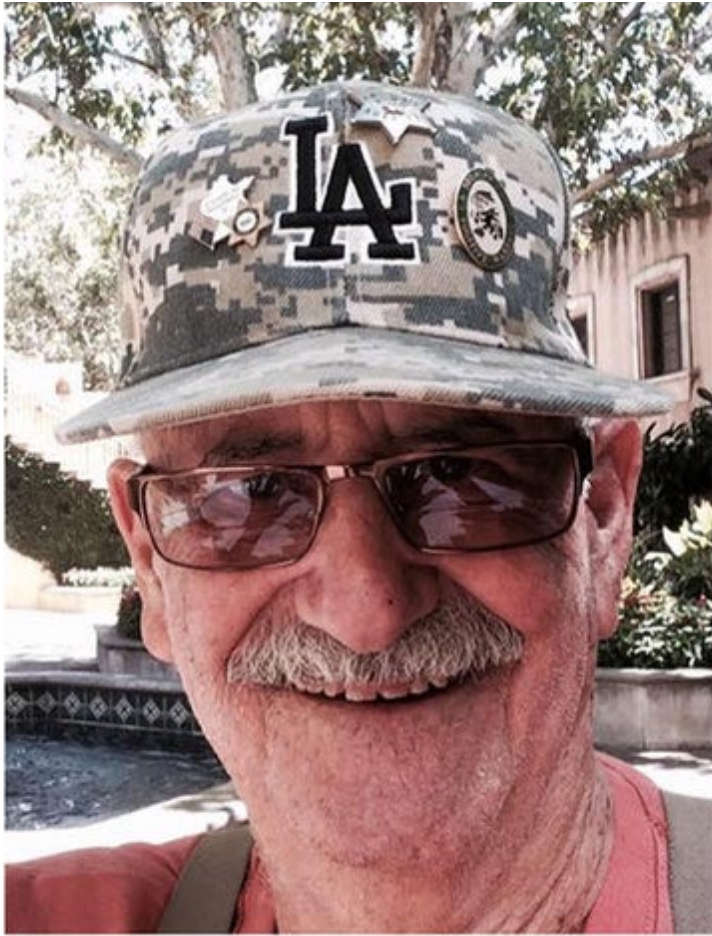


Retired Video Technician and Retired Reserve Deputy Richard N. Teeman transferred to Post Everlasting on April 22, 2021. Richard joined the Sheriff's Department on September 10, 1968, and retired on March 17, 1998, from Scientific Services Bureau (photo lab).

There are a plethora of historical LASD photographs credited to Richard, many of which are still circulated today.

Richard was a veteran and served in the Army. He was a 43-year member of Star Post. Thanks to Marc Saunders for creating the terrific photo collage to honor his departed friend.

(Small, illegible text visible at the bottom of the page)



Retired Sergeant Billy Malone passed away at the Veterans Home in Norman, Oklahoma, and transferred to Post Everlasting on April 18, 2021. Billy was 92 years old. He would have been 93 on April 28th. Billy had been in the home for the past eight years battling thyroid cancer.

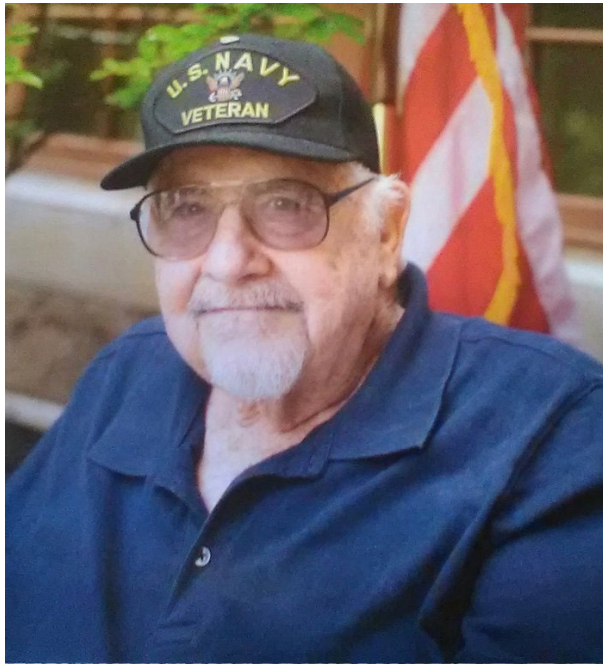
Billy worked East Los Angeles Stations and was a member of Academy Class 77. He joined the US Navy in 1945 when he was 17 years old. Billy was part of the group that took part in the testing of the atomic bombs at Bikini Atoll. For a time, he was the president of the [National Association of Atomic Veterans](#). With his passing, there remains one Star Post 309 member who is a World War II veteran, Fred Gustin.

There is a great story published in an online news service from 2015. The following is an excerpt. The entire story can be found at <https://www.swtimes.com/article/20151001/NEWS/310019885>.

World War II veteran Bill Malone has had a life of compelling experiences. The (then) 87-year-old was pursuing a high school degree in California when he enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1945, one of seven brothers to enter the military.

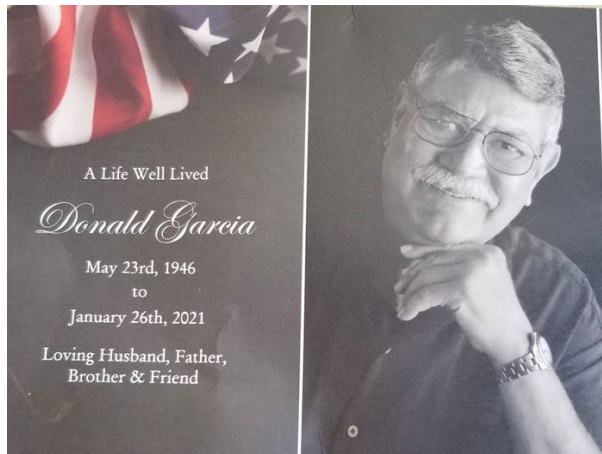
He served on the aircraft carrier USS Independence during Operation Crossroads and later participated in the first post-war detonation of nuclear weapons. Malone later suffered from cancer-related to his radiation exposure.

But for all of Malone's experiences, there was one thing he needed to get complete: earning his high school diploma. So Wednesday morning, surrounded by three generations of his family at the Norman Veterans Center in Norman, Oklahoma, Malone accepted a degree from Norman High School Principal Scott Beck. "I finally feel like I accomplished something," Malone said with a smile.





On April 28, 2021, many retired "Bulldogs" from Homicide Bureau came out to a memorial service for Don Garcia. Don had transferred to Post Everlasting on January 26, 2021; however, this was the first opportunity his wife, Susan, had to bring Don's friends together. Gil Carrillo was instrumental in gathering together many of those in attendance. There was no shortage of love and support for Susan during this memorial event for Don.





AMERICAN LEGION



CELEBRATING AMERICAN VETERANS

The world-famous Magic Castle in Hollywood has a division within known as the “Outreach Committee,” which focuses on sharing the art and craft of magic with many different non-profit groups around the nation throughout the year, and this month they are sharing the Art & Craft of Magic with [#Veterans](#).

On Friday, May 7th, 2021, at 3 PM PST, they will be hosting a special complimentary virtual show for all American Legion Posts & Veterans across the country with Academy of

Magical Arts Magicians performing from different states!
This event is completely FREE but has limited participation availability. Click on the image above to register.

Star Post 309 Members in Action with the Veterans Mental Evaluation Team



The LASD Mental Evaluation Team is comprised of specially trained deputies who are teamed up with a LA County Department of Mental Health clinician. Their job is to respond and assist persons suffering from a mental health crisis. The Veteran MET or

VMET consists of [LASD](#) deputies who are military [veterans](#) to assist when our veteran community members are in need.

We are proud to boast there are several Star Post 309 members working in MET/VMET. As veterans, they have a better understanding of how to deal with veterans in crisis. From left to right: Deputy Maxwell USAF, Deputy Yateem USMC, Deputy Cordova USN, Deputy Miranda USA, Sergeant "Bojo" Bojorquez USN, Sergeant Duncan USAF & USA Retired and DMH Clinician LaRoya USA.

This photograph was shared on our social media pages. It garnered much positive attention from our veteran community, so much so that the LA Veterans Collaborative has requested VMET to participate in their next virtual collaborative on May 12, 2021.

The Los Angeles Veterans Collaborative (LAVC) is a structured network of public, private, and government agencies from across multiple sectors working together to improve the lives of veterans, service members, and military families in Los Angeles County. Our mission is achieved by strategically coordinating and improving veteran access to services, reducing barriers to care, and influencing policy to improve the lives of veterans and their families.

Administered by USC Military and Veterans Programs, the Los Angeles Veterans Collaborative comprises community stakeholders and representatives from more than 300 organizations coordinating services and addressing the needs of veterans and military families in the Los Angeles area. [Registration](#) is free.



Resources and Information

Although a sensitive topic, it's important to know there are services available to those who may have lost a loved one during the pandemic. In early April, FEMA will begin providing financial assistance for funeral expenses incurred after January 20, 2020, for deaths related to coronavirus (COVID-19) to help ease some of the financial stress and burden caused by the pandemic.

Through this program FEMA is reimbursing up to \$9,000.00 per funeral and a maximum of \$35,000 per application. You may qualify if:

1. You are a U.S. citizen, non-citizen national, or qualified alien who paid for funeral expenses after January 20, 2020, and
2. The funeral expenses were for an individual whose death in the United States, territories or the District of Columbia, may have been caused by or was likely the result of COVID-19.

For more information about this assistance, visit <https://www.fema.gov/disasters/coronavirus/economic/funeral-assistance>

A reminder that the COVID vaccine is now available to ALL veterans regardless of age.

On March 24, President Biden signed the [SAVE LIVES Act](#) which authorizes the VA to provide the COVID vaccine to veterans who are not enrolled in VA health care, veterans on the Foreign Medical Program, some registered veteran caregivers, recipients of Civilian Health and Medical Programs, and veteran spouses as well.

Updates, Events, and Info



On May 29, our friends at Ronald Reagan Palisades Post 283 will host an **American Legion Range Day** from 9 AM to 1 PM at the Oak Tree Gun Club in Newhall.

They will provide a space to all veterans wanting to participate; however, you must bring your own firearm and ammo. A light lunch will be provided.

Visit <https://fb.me/e/SQ0rQ66i> for more information.



Have you ever wanted to be the Dodgers Military Hero of the Game? Well, now is your chance!

The Dodgers organization is looking for service members/veterans to honor as the Military Hero for a game.

This is what they need:

1. Full name
2. Highest rank achieved
3. Branch of service
4. Current status – active duty, reserve, retired, veteran

5. They are looking for service members with deployments – provide your military background including MOS and why you should be considered as the Military Hero of the Game, including significant citations/awards – limit 200-250 words
6. Military entry date
7. List of deployments – locations and years
8. List awards

Also need the following:

1. Photographs in uniform
2. Provide a 15 to 20-second video of you waving at the camera as if you were waving at the fans on the field. See framing guide for more info.

If using a phone, make sure that the phone is held in landscape mode (horizontal) and frame to capture your mid-torso to just above your head. Ensure there is more light in the foreground than in the background (don't be backlit).

Send the requested information to info@starpost309.com. We will send it to the rep and you could be the lucky one picked. Include your best contact phone number so they can contact you.



LA Kings Salute to Service Tickets Request Form

The Los Angeles Kings hockey team is offering free tickets to fully vaccinated military veterans. Use this link to make your request

- <https://lakings.formstack.com/forms/salutetoservice>



The American Legion has launched its new website **mylegion.org**. This is a newly revamped site where members can access their membership information and profile, print a replacement membership card, and access the Flag and Emblem American Legion store. Veterans can also find valuable resources, links to discounts, and locate veteran service officers in their area, all in one manageable site.

American Legion Basic Training

The screenshot shows the top navigation bar of The American Legion website with the logo on the left and 'Join', 'Renew', and 'Donate' buttons on the right. Below the navigation bar are menu items: ABOUT, PROGRAMS, SERVICES, MEMBERS, MEDIA, and CONTACT, along with a search bar. The main content area features a large image of a man in a white shirt and cap saluting in front of an American flag. Overlaid on the image is the text: 'Basic Training' in large white font, followed by 'Learn about The American Legion in this self-paced online course' in smaller white font. To the right of the image is a grey box containing the following text: 'Basic Training Course', 'Price: Members Free, Nonmembers \$9.95', 'What you get: A printable Certificate of Recognition. The redesigned lapel/cap pin can be ordered from Emblem Sales after you pass the course.', and 'Estimated Effort: Approximately 120min, but there is no time limit. You may return and access the course as many times as you want.' Below this text is a yellow 'Enroll' button.

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:

[Star Post 309 Facebook](#)
[American Legion Riders Chapter 309](#)
[American Legion Auxiliary Star Unit 309](#)
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