



THE SOTOYOME NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2012

Post 111, Squadron 111 and Legion Riders Chapter 111, PO Box 281, Healdsburg, CA 95448
Unit 111, American Legion Auxiliary, PO Box 174, Healdsburg, CA 95448

Honoring Sgt Essex



In many ways the members of our Motor Escort Team are like volunteer firemen. When the call comes they ride. Here they are on Hwy 101 at Limerick Lane, just south of Healdsburg.

The mission was to escort Sgt Essex and his family from the Santa Rosa

Airport to Lake County.

Essex was serving in the U.S. Army, and was assigned to A Company, 2nd Battalion, 25th Combat Aviation Brigade, 25th Infantry Division, based at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii.

He was the door gunner on a Black Hawk helicopter that crashed in Afghanistan's Kandahar province on Thursday, Aug. 16,

Polenta and Beef Stew

A new tradition begins Friday, October 26th with the introduction of a Polenta and Beef Stew Dinner sponsored by Sotoyome Unit 111 and Sotoyome Squadron 111.

POLENTA AND BEEF STEW DINNER

Friday, October 26, 2012 6 - 8pm

Dinner includes:

Polenta topped with cheese and Beef Stew
Salad and Bread

Adults \$10

Child (6-12) \$6

With advance ticket reservations. Call Tom and Nancy at 707-481-9169.

Adults \$12 and Child (6-12) \$8 at the Door

Soda, Wine and Beer available for a donation to the Post's Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Fund.

Desserts available for a donation to the Auxiliary Emergency Fund and the Son's of The American Legion Children's Welfare Fund.



The ladder trucks of the Healdsburg and Windsor Fire Departments were on the Limerick overpass along with a small crowd waving flags.

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Sotoyome Post 111, The American Legion

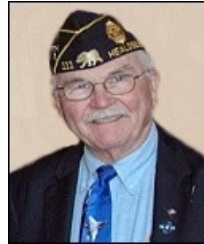


From the Top

Tom Grimes, Post Commander

Adjutant Bud Simmons is stepping down but not leaving Post 111. He has been a driving force

within the Sotoyome American Legion Family for the past several years. I have asked him to remain as an advisor to me and the Post.



Bud remains active within the American Legion, serving on the Department Finance Commission, representing Area 1.

At this point two of our board members and I will be sharing the adjutant duties.

Bob Taylor will be handling the membership applications and renewals. This should streamline the process. Chaplain Bill Stiles has volunteered to assist Bob and handle the recording duties. This will give us the opportunity to identify an adjutant for the 2013-14 year.

Harold Bagdonas has taken over the Boys State program and the scholarships. I have asked him to look at other youth related programs: the Oratorical Contest for high school age youth and the Veterans in School program.

The Oratorical Contest presents participants with an academic speaking challenge that teaches important leadership qualities, the history of our nation's laws, the ability to think and speak clearly, and an understanding of the duties, responsibilities, rights and privileges of American citizenship. Young orators earn some of the most generous college scholarships available to high school students. Over \$138,000 in scholarships can be awarded each year at the Department and National levels. We need to give the opportunity for local high school age youth to participate.

The American Legion believes that our military veterans are living textbooks of American history. We would like to build on our relationship with schools in Geyserville, Healdsburg and Windsor. Adding more programs gives opportunities for more members to get involved.

Finally, I'm honored to announce that Frank and Carol Teuschler have stepped forward to lead the 2013 Crab Feed along with Ken Sandoval. They will do a great job.

We have 1/6 through the program year. Where has the time gone? Thank you to everyone who is helping make this a successful year.



American Veterans Traveling Tribute - The Wall - is Coming

The Bear Flag VFW Post 1843, Sonoma, will be hosting the *Cost of Freedom Tribute* November 7-11, 2012. The showcase piece is a 360 foot long 80% scale replica of the Vietnam Memorial Wall in Washington, D.C..

The Cost of Freedom Tribute honors Firefighters, Law Enforcement, WWII, Korea, Vietnam, a special 9/11 tribute, and a Gold Tag wall with the names of all the fallen heroes since the Global War on Terrorism began.

The Wall will arrive Wednesday afternoon, Nov 7th. The Opening Ceremony will be at 1 pm Thursday, Nov 8th. Friday Nov 9th will be Law Enforcement and Firefighter Recognition Day. The Veteran's Day Celebration will be Saturday, Nov 19th and the Veteran's Day Observance will be Sunday, November 11th.

Sotoyome Post 111 is one of the sponsors of the event.

Post Service Officer Notes

Stan Shusda, Post Service Officer

Steve Piotter, Assistant Service Officer

Stan Shusda has stepped forward to serve as our Post Service Officer. He has served as a service officer with the VFW and has experience with the VA system. Steve will be working with him. We are trying to develop depth in our leadership.

Stationed at Camp Lejeune? The VA is looking for military personnel and family members who spent 30 days or more aboard Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. Health officials believe as many as 1 million people may have been exposed to tainted groundwater at Camp Lejeune from 1957 to 1987. We are waiting for more details how the program will work.

Attention Post 111 Members:

2013 Membership Cards

If you have mailed in your dues please don't panic. We should have your membership card mailed by Mid September.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3 LABOR DAY	4	5	6	7 40 & 8 Meeting 8pm	8
9	10 Past Presidents Card Party Noon Post/Unit Board Meetings 7pm	11 ALR Meeting 6pm Windsor	12	13 Post/Unit 7pm	14	15 Newsletter Input Due
16 40 & 8 Flea Market	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 5th District Post 21 SR 30 Area 1 Meeting Susanville	24	25	26 Bingo at Yountville 10am	27 Honors Team 7pm Annex	28 Sotoyome Social Pot Luck 6:00pm Bingo following	29 Area 1 Meeting Susanville

October 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Post/Unit board mtgs 7pm	2	3	4	5 8 & 40 Meeting Noon 40 & 8 Meeting	6
7	8 Past Presidents Card Party 1pm	9 ALR Meeting 6pm Windsor	10	11 Post/Unit 7 pm	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24 Bingo at Yountville 10am	25 Honors Team 7pm Annex	26 Sotoyome Social Pot Luck 6:00pm Bingo following	27
28 Membership Breakfast	29	30	31			



Sotoyome American Legion Family 2012-2013 Leadership

Post 111 The American Legion

Commander	Tom Grimes	481-9169
1st Vice	Ken Sandoval	838-7068
2nd Vice	Warren Luke	332-3843
Adjutant/Finance Officer	Bob Taylor	894-0857
Chaplain/ Asst		
Adjutant	Bill Stiles	433-3733
Judge Advocate	Doug Newton	217-6309
Sgt. at Arms	Tricia Lay	695-0345
Asst Sgt at Arms	Tony Grado	
Service Officer	Steve Piotter	217-6236
Historian	Harold Bagdonas	843-4790
Jr. Past Cdr	Dave Richey	568-7278
Executive Board	Frank Jerins	
	George Sager	433-2044
	Frank Teuschler	431-2328
	Roy Caporale	894-8954
	Stan Shusda	838-4593

Unit 111 American Legion Auxiliary

President	Nancy Evers	481-9169
1st Vice	Linda Karnstedt	529-1243
2nd Vice	Gail Gibson	431-1348
Secretary	Marie Canale	431-0563
Treasurer	Melanie Taylor	894-0857
Chaplain	Bettie Crandall	838-4035
Sgt. at Arms	Judy Chavez	894-4636
Marshall	Eddy Sauers	838-9429
Historian/Junior Pass Pres.		
	Rose Sandoval	838-7068
Executive Board	Virginia Hawley	838-6395
	Virginia Wallace	838-8702
	Thelma Frey	546-7791

Squadron 111

Sons of the American Legion

Commander	Al Delsid	894-5603
1 st Vice	Mark Archambault	292-6746
Adjutant	Tom Grimes	481-9169
Finance	Bob Taylor	894-0857
Chaplain	Al Delsid	894-5603
Historian	Harold Bagdonas	843-4790
Sgt at Arms	Ron Collier	239-6703
Jr. Past Comdr	Tom Grimes	481-9169

Chapter 111 American Legion Riders

President	Ron Collier	239-6703
Vice	Mitch Laing	623-9179
Secretary	Doug Newton	217-6309
Treasurer	Steve Bowne	578-4775
Sgt at Arms	Terry Perry	878-9790
Ride Captain	M. Archambault	292-6746
Jr. Past President	Gary Greenough	837-8384

Honor's Team

The **Honor's Team** is looking for a few Good Men and Women. Our team is called upon weekly to render the final honors for our fellow Veterans. They also march in local parades and conduct other flag ceremonies.



Practices are held at the annex on the 4th Thursday each month, starting a 7pm.

Call George Sager at 433-2044 for more information or visit one of the practice sessions.

Chaplain's Corner

From Post Chaplain Bill Stiles

Please call me to report comrades who have passed away or are hospitalized at 707-433-3733.



Membership Recruiting Idea

Ideas can come at any time. This month I was cleaning out magazine pile. Normally I tear the address off for shredding and toss the magazines in the recycling bin. I had just pulled the cover off an American Legion Magazine when I realized we could collect magazines, but a label prompting the Sotoyome American Legion Family over the address box and then place them in local (Geyserville, Healdsburg and Windsor) waiting rooms.

So, save your magazines, American Legion and others, and bring them to the meetings. You can also call me at 707-481-9169 and I will pick them up. Let's try this for a new months and evaluate the results.

Commander Tom

Remembering...

Since the last newsletter we have said a final goodbye to the following members of our American Legion Family.

Robert H. Meyer US Army - WWII

Please let your Chaplain know when you become aware of the death or illness of one of our Legion family members. You can also let one of the board members know and they will pass the word.



Sotoyome Unit 111, The American Legion



Auxiliary Happenings

Nancy Evers, President, Unit 111

Did you notice the article on the Polenta and Beef Stew dinner on the first page.

This is a new tradition for us. We will be working with the Sons of The American Legion and the post.

This is a fund-raiser for us and the Squadron. The bar will be open and soda, wine and beer will be available for a donation to the Post's Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Fund that supports the monthly Yountville Bingo game.

Desserts will be available for a donation. They will be split between our Emergency Fund and the Sons of The American Legion Children's Welfare Fund. We will need help making desserts so dig out your favorite recipes.

We are in the middle of our 2013 membership renewal cycle. Don't forget to mail in your 2013 dues.

The next four months will be busy. October will be our annual Youth Recognition Month. We will be hosting the Girl and Boy Start participants at the October 11th meeting. The Pasta Feed will be November 8th and the annual Christmas Party will be December 13th.

Like to eat and laugh? Then consider participating in the monthly Pot Luck and Bingo Social Night on the 4th Friday of the month. We have great food every month following by an hour or so of Bingo and laughs. If you keep forgetting, invite someone to come with you. That way you can remind each other.

Supporting Our Soldiers

Healdsburg has a long history of supporting our troops and the mission continues. Yes, thousands of troops are still coming home, but thousands of men and women will remain in harms way and the boxes are still going out. Visit the Healdsburg Supporting Our Soldiers website at <http://www.healdsburgsos.org/> to see what is needed for the boxes. Future packing dates will be listed on the calendar page. You can also call Mary St. Claire at 707-433-9034.

POT LUCK AND BINGO!

Friday, September 28, 2012

Dinner at 6:00 pm, followed by Bingo.
Bring your favorite potluck dish and a salad or dessert.
Guests are welcome!

25 cents per card per game. Bring Quarters!

Notes from 1st Vice Linda

Giant Steps and Veterans

At 7pm, prior to the beginning of our regular Legion and Auxiliary meeting, we will have a presentation by Giant Steps who will explain the therapeutic horseback riding program available to all veterans who meet the qualification requirements free of charge. Giant Steps is the largest year round riding center in the North Bay accredited by the Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship located on Lakeville Highway in Petaluma. They currently have a weekly class that serves veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder as well as a monthly horsemanship and riding clinic with a group of veterans from a local VA. The participants receive recreational, social, physical and cognitive benefits as they learn horsemanship and riding skills. "Veterans come to Giant Steps for peace, companionship and recreation. Interacting with the natural world and animals leads to a state of well-being that goes beyond being free of illness."

MEMBERSHIP IN YOUR AUXILIARY can PAY!!!

Incentives are being provided this year to get your American Legion Auxiliary membership renewal in "EARLY". The membership fee is going to be reimbursed for three lucky names drawn randomly from those that get their renewal in by October 1, 2012. That is a \$21 "prize". From those that get their membership renewal in from October 2 thru November 1, 2012, four lucky winners will receive a \$5 Starbucks gift card. Future incentives will be announced but to get the best ones - renew early. Remember your membership entitles you to a number of discounts and services - the list can be found on the auxiliary website [CLICK HERE TO SEE THE SERVICES OR DISCOUNTS<http://www.calegionaux.org/membership/member%20discounts%20and%20services.pdf>](http://www.calegionaux.org/membership/member%20discounts%20and%20services.pdf). A sheet showing the discounts and services will be handed out at the next meeting.



One way we are showing this is to pay the annual dues for active duty personnel. We also recognize that the members of the National Guard, Air National Guard and the reserve components face frequent deployments and we have included them in the program.

Talk to us if you have a family member on active duty or serving in the guard or reserve.

Welcome to the Sotoyome American Legion Family

The following new members have joined since the last newsletter

Sotoyome Post 111

Michael Frandsen, USMC, Grenada .

Villa Chanticleer Update

The Healdsburg Parks and Recreation Commission has established a Subcommittee to evaluate the Villa Chanticleer operational efficiencies, revenue opportunities and marketing strategies. The study includes the historical factors, agreements and contractual obligations. We are working the subcommittee to ensure our interests are considered and incorporated into the final plan. Right now the commission is planning to propose to the city council that the city solicit Requests for Proposal (RFP's) to lease the Villa Chanticleer to a private operator while preserving the existing contractual agreements with such groups as the American Legion.

A number of configurations have been discussed and your leadership is monitoring the public meetings and remaining in discussions with the commission and the Parks and Recreation leadership. Our goal is to remain in the Annex and retain use of the Villa as we currently do (four times a year).

Paid up for Life (PUFL)

Members of the American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary have the opportunity purchase a Paid Up for Life membership. This eliminates the annual dues and the risk of the dropped if you forget to pay. Other benefits include not having to worry about any future dues increases. The program automatically covers any future dues increases.

Members of the Post can get additional information for Finance Officer Bob Taylor at 707-894-0857. Auxiliary members should contact Linda Karnstedt at 707-657-4416.

Sotoyome Youth Recognition Night

Thursday, October 11, 2012

7:00pm at The Villa Chanticleer Annex, Healdsburg

Join us for dinner as we honor our youth

ANALY HIGH SCHOOL

Nathan Kuhn - Boys State

CLOVERDALE HIGH SCHOOL

Jaclyn Richardson - Girls State

GEYSERVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

Emily Sloma - Girls State

Orlando Castro - Boys State

Luis Gonxalez - Boys State

HEALDSBURG HIGH SCHOOL

Luci Garcia - Girls State

John Bursick - Boys State

Kenneth Evans - Boys State

Stefan Masselink - Boys State

WINDSOR HIGH SCHOOL

Brianne Logasa - Girls State

Armando Cruz - Boys State

Mason Holt - Boys State

Bradley Scheiner - Boys State

Zachary Schneider - Boys State

POST SCHOLARSHIPS

American Legion Scholarship Award - Max Manoukian, who attended Boys State. In 2010.

Brent Gibson Vocational Scholarship Award - Jacob Alger.



**FOR THOSE THAT FOUGHT FOR IT
FREEDOM HAS A FLAVOR
THAT THE PROTECTED
WILL NEVER KNOW!**



Sotoyome Son's Update

Al Delsid, Squadron Commander

Some of you may have read about the two soldiers from the 82nd Airborne Division who were seriously injured in Afghanistan. On June 7, 2012, 21 year-old PFC Stefan LeRoy from Santa Rosa rushed to help another injured soldier when he stepped on an IED. PFC Stefan LeRoy had both his legs partially amputated, a fractured arm and an eye injury.



Again in Afghanistan, Sgt. Monte Bernardo of Petaluma, lost parts of three limbs in a bomb blast on July 4, 2012. Both soldiers are currently recovering at Walter Reed Medical Center in Bethesda, Md. and are only a few rooms apart. The families wish to maintain their privacy at this time. You can check the progress of PFC Stefan LeRoy at caringbridge.org/visit/StephanLeRoy. Donations to support Sgt. Bernardo can be sent to: Bernardo Recovery Fund, PO Box 168561, Irving, Tex., 75016-8561.

Post 111 has offered to provide an escort from the airport to home by the American Legion Riders and an honor guard when they arrive at home. The offer for the escort and honor guard has been given but there has been no response at this time. I will keep in touch.

At the present time nearly 50% of the membership has renewed for 2013. Let's continue to set the example for the rest of the Sotoyome American Legion Family and for the other Squadrons in District 5.

We will need your help to promote and assist with the Polenta and Beef Stew Dinner on October 26th.



Sotoyome Chapter 111, ALR

Ron Collier, President

We are an association, a group of American Legion, Sons of The American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary members who ride for a cause.



American Legion Riders met and had a group ride to Clearlake VFW on Sunday August 5th. We had 11 bikes and 13 riders for a fun day of riding.

The group left Bad Ass Coffee approximately 0900 and went Mark West to Calistoga, over Mt St Helena and to Clearlake. The VFW has a monthly breakfast 1st Sunday of the month and was well worth the low cost and ride! Various breakfast items all made-to-order served by VFW Members. The patio and bar was also open.

After our breakfast feast the group headed out Knoxville-Berryessa Road toward Lake Berryessa. This road out of Lower Lake is partially well maintained until you get past the Mine then its a very interesting tight single lane road with pot holes and drop offs which make for interesting riding. During the rainy season there are several crossings always flowing but we just had one with water this ride.

Once we got to Lake Berryessa and regrouped, some continued on to Turtle Rock while others headed to Pope Valley over Angwin and to Calistoga for eats at Busters or continued on home.

Overall this was a great afternoon ride and a wonderful "excuse" to visit our "brothers and sisters" at Clearlake VFW. Next up is Gary's Cider Ride Sunday August 26 again from Bad Ass Coffee at 0830 to Cloverdale, Booneville and Philo, a stop for Cider Tasting then on to the Coast Hwy and down Hwy 1 for BBQ at Bones BBQ in Gulala.



Sotoyome Squadron 111

Sons of The American Legion

By Their Side with Honor and Pride



Still Serving...
And Riding!

American Legion Riders



Like The Legion and Sotoyome Post 111

Stay connected and informed about The American Legion and Sotoyome Post 111

www.legion.org/facebook

www.facebook.com/sotoyome.post

Sonoma County Veterans Service Office

3725 Westwind Blvd, Suite 101, Santa Rosa, CA 95403
(707) 565-5960

PO Box 4059, Santa Rosa, CA 95403

Westwind Blvd is located near the Main Terminal at the Charles M. Schulz (Sonoma County) Airport From Hwy 101: exit Airport Blvd. Left on Westwind Blvd and right into the parking lot.

Sotoyome Post 111 The American Legion

PO Box 281

Healdsburg, CA 95448

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Post 111, Auxiliary Unit 111, Son's Squadron 111, Legion Riders Chapter
A proud part of the Healdsburg Community since 1920

If you know of a veteran and his/her family in need, please call Commander Tom Grimes at 707-481-9169 or Stan Shusda at (707)838-4593

THE BACK PAGE



Bravo-Zulu to Stan Shusda, Frank Teuschler and George Sager and the others from the Sotoyome American Legion Family who helped put on the summer picnic for the 40 & 8 on Saturday, August 25th.

Bravo-Zulu also to American Legion Rider President **Ron Collier**. Ron is the Sonoma County volunteer Veterans Remains Officer. He organized a training session for local Missing In America Program (MIAP), also on Saturday, August 25th. The Friday, August 24, 2012 issue of *The Press Democrat* had a great article about the program.

Also **Bravo-Zulu** to Past Unit 111 President **Rose Sandoval** who organized a service project for Kim Anderson in Petaluma. Kim, who lost her parents two years ago, has been active in Unit 28 in Petaluma and with the Snow Cone booth at the 40 & 8 Flea Market. Rose was assisted by Unit President **Nancy Evers** and **Made-line Thoreson** from Unit 111 and Commander **Tom Grimes** and 1st Vice Commander **Ken Sandoval** from Post 111. The team cleaned Kim's front yard and a good portion of her back yard.

A reminder: If you receive your newsletter by email, please print and share it with other family members.

The Sotoyome Newsletter

The Official Monthly Publication of the
Sotoyome Post 111 and the Sotoyome American Legion Family

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THE AMERICAN LEGION
The World's Largest Veterans
Organization
MEMBERSHIP Is our Lifeblood
INVITE SOMEONE TO JOIN US
TODAY