

**SOTOYOME AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY
HEALDSBURG- GEYSERVILLE - WINDSOR**



THE SOTOYOME NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2015

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

Visit our Website at <http://www.healdsburgamericanlegion.org/>

“Friend us on Facebook” Search for Healdsburg American Legion Post 111



ALR Mitch presents a \$3790 check to Jenny Dailey, the sister of Chris Gathercole. The annual ALR Memorial Ride raised this money for his daughter Emma's education fund.



SAL Commander Matt Foreman and Post 2nd Vice Commander Steven Bowne serving lunch at the annual American Legion Picnic at the California Veterans Home, Yountville.

Four pictures
from this
summer.



Tony Grado enjoying sky diving he won at the ALR Benefit Ride honoring Chris Gathercole



Presenting Nancy and Tom Grimes.
Married July 18, 2015

Sotoyome Post 111, Reuel Miller, Commander

Sisters and Brothers of Post 111, as summer comes to an end we have a lot on our plates this Fall.

Post 111 had a nice showing at the Yountville Picnic. Thanks to all.

Get your Tickets and push hard for the Paella Feast Friday Sept. 4, 2015 5:30- 9:30pm. <http://www.villachanticleer.com/paella-feast.html> There will be Live Music by "Twice as Good" and the famous "Tylers Oyster Bar will be open on the patio.. The proceeds from the Dinner will be going to the Fireworks and Post 111 Scholarship Programs.

Junior Shooter Sign-ups will be Monday September 14, 2015 @ the Annex 5-9pm. In conjunction with the sign ups we will have our first "**Hamburger Night**". **\$7.50 for Burger, Chips, and Soft Drink**. Bonus that night: now that Comcast is in the Annex we will be showing NFL Football 4:10pm Philly Eagles vs Atlanta Falcons followed by the SF 49ers vs Vikings at 7:20pm .

The Junior Shooters will have their first shoot On September 21, 2015 6pm First Shoot 6-8pm.

September 28, 2015 Hamburger Night.

We have reached the half way point with the selling of raffle tickets for the Winchester 280. Tickets are \$5.00 each. See Steve Bowne for your tickets.

We have booked the Villa for a Car Show July 10, 2016. Put the date on your calendars as this will be a all hands on deck event to raise money for all our Legion Programs.

The Board has approved a \$5,000.00 Relief Fund. This fund will be funded by 5% of money raised.

We now have a maintained Facebook page. "Healdsburg American Legion Post 111". Please go online and like our page. We will be using this page to keep you all up to date. If you wish to continue to receive updates via email let me know. reuelmiller@comcast.net

September Board meeting is Tuesday September 8, 2015 7pm @ the Annex.

Never Forget, Never Quit, & Keep on Charging. Reuel Miller



Remembering...

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

Jerry Engelberg, US Navy, WWII

Please let us 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.

Squadron 111, Matt Foreman, Commander

Thank you to everyone who has paid their 2016 dues. As of Aug 12th, 34 members have renewed their membership and 6 new members have joined. We are currently at 60.1%. Best ever for this date. Thank you to everyone who has already renewed. Be and **EARLY BIRD** and join us at the Nov. 12th **EARLY BIRD** Dinner as our guest.

Sons of The American Handbooks are being distributed as renewals are processed.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 ALR Meeting 6pm, Windsor	2	3	4 Twice as Good Paella Feast At the Villa	5
6	7 Labor Day	8 Post/Unit board mtgs 7pm	9	10 Post/Unit 7pm	11	12
13	14 PP Card <u>Party 12 Noon</u> Jr Shooter Signups Hamburger Night Mon Night Football 5-9 pm	15 Newsletter Input Due	16	17 Honors Team 7pm Annex	18	19
20	21 Jr. Shooters Meeting 6 - 8 pm	22	23	24	25	26
27	28 Jr Shooters Hamburger Night public invited 5:30pm - 8:30pm	29	30 United Vet Cncl 7pm SR			

October 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5 Post/Unit board mtgs 7pm	6 ALR Meeting 6pm, Windsor	7	8 Youth Recognition Night 7:00pm	9	10
11	12 PP Card <u>Party 12 Noon</u> Jr Shooters Meeting 6 - 8 pm	13	14	15 Honors Team 7pm Annex	16 NEWSLETTER INPUT DUE	17
18	19 Jr. Shooters Hamburger Night public invited 5:30pm - 8:30pm	20	21	22	23	24
25	26 Jr Shooters Basic Rifle Lesson 6pm - 8pm	27	28 United Vet Cncl 7pm SR	29	30	31

Sonoma County Veteran Service Office Benefit Update

“Aid and Attendance” Benefit

by Chris Bingham, Sonoma County Veterans Officer and Sotoyome Post 111 Service Officer

Aid and Attendance is a special monthly pension benefit available to wartime veterans and surviving spouses of deceased wartime veterans who have in-home care or who live in nursing-homes or assisted-living facilities. The basic criteria for the Aid and Attendance benefit include the inability to feed oneself, to dress and undress without assistance, or to take care of one's own bodily needs. People who are bedridden or need help to adjust special prosthetic or orthopedic devices may also be eligible, as well as those who have a physical or mental injury or illness (such as Alzheimer's/dementia) that requires regular assistance to protect them from hazards or dangers in their daily environment.

For a wartime veteran or surviving spouse to qualify for this special monthly pension, the veteran must have served at least 90 days of active military service, one day of which was during a period of war, and be discharged under conditions other than dishonorable. Wartime veterans who entered active duty on or after September 8, 1980, (October 16, 1981, for officers) must have completed at least 24 continuous months of military service or the period for which they were ordered to active duty.

If all requirements are met, VA determines eligibility for the Aid and Attendance benefit by adjusting for un-reimbursed medical expenses from the veteran's or surviving spouse's total household income. If the remaining income amount falls below the annual income threshold for the Aid and Attendance benefit, VA pays the difference between the claimant's household income and the Aid and Attendance threshold. Many elderly veterans and surviving spouses whose incomes are above the congressionally mandated legal limit for a VA pension may still be eligible for the special monthly Aid and Attendance benefit if they have large medical expenses, including nursing home expenses, for which they do not receive reimbursement.

The Sonoma County Veterans Service Office conducts informational seminars on this benefit on a weekly basis, where we explain the entire process. Contact our receptionist at 565-5960 to reserve a spot in our next seminar. There are many state and federal benefits and programs available to veterans and their dependents. To find out if

you are eligible for any of these benefits, please contact our office. We can and will assist you in completing all required application forms. We see clients on a drop in basis from 8:30 to 10:00 Monday through Thursday. Other times are by appointment. Please contact our office at 565-5960 for more information.

Contact your local county Veterans Service Officer if you live outside of Sonoma County.

Chaplains Corner

Post: Warren Luke 707-332-3843

Unit: Linda Clary, 707-433-5800

Squadron: Reuel Miller, 707-874-1951

Riders: Ed Howell, 707-292-8033

Need someone to talk to?

You or someone in the family ill?

Know of a Veteran who needs help?

Start with a phone call to your Chaplain.



THE AMERICAN LEGION

WAR-TIME VETERANS AND MILITARY MEMBERS DEDICATED TO A STRONG NATIONAL SECURITY, COMPASSIONATE CARE FOR VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES; COMMUNITY SERVICE, AND THE WHOLESOME DEVELOPMENT OF OUR NATION'S YOUTH.

**INVITE SOMEONE TO JOIN THE
SOTOYOME AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY
TODAY!**

SURVIVOR'S CHECK LIST FOR VETERANS

The following checklist should be reviewed by military retirees and their beneficiaries on an annual basis. This checklist is designed to equip you and your loved ones with knowledge and information that may prove helpful. While it may be impossible to truly prepare for the overwhelming emotions and dilemmas that arise with the loss of a loved one, it does help when most of the below issues have been put into place.

This check list is in two sections: Section A: Covers what you need to do NOW to have records immediately available upon the death of a military retiree, thus making things as smooth as possible for survivors. Suggest setting up a special file/folder for these items. Section B: Covers what needs to happen when the military retiree dies.

SECTION A: RECORDS AND ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN PRIOR TO THE DEATH OF A VETERAN. Set up a file. Make sure that your survivors – spouse, children, and executor – know where it is. Keep it up to date. What to include:

_____ : The veteran's DD - 214 form. Have 10 copies of this form in your files. NO earned veteran benefits, to include burial etc. can be received without the agency involved being provided a copy of this form. Know where this form is located if it's not in your special file.

_____ : Ensure that a Will for the veteran (and spouse) has been prepared and is up to date. Be specific about your desires for the distribution of assets in the estate. No Will means that your estate ends up in the State Court system, even if there is a surviving spouse. Copies of both Wills should be in a location that is known by the surviving spouse, children of the family, and family attorney, if not in your file.

_____ : Strongly consider having a Revocable Trust established for the veteran's (and spouse's) estate. Without the trust, probate can take up to one year to settle and is expensive. Check local State laws, for they vary widely in this area.

_____ : Prepare and execute an End of Life Directive ("Living Will") that clearly states the veteran's (and spouse's) preference relative to life support. If this document is not available to the doctor or hospital where the veteran (or his spouse) is being treated and may require life support, these persons/agencies are required to continue a life support program. Make copies! If the patient is discharged, the "Living Will" will be destroyed; you'll need another for the next hospitalization. If no "Living Will" is available the surviving spouse can normally make the decision to continue or stop the life support process. Include also the veteran's (or spouse's) desire for casket burial or cremation.

_____ : Have a life insurance file readily available with location known by at least two other people (children) other than surviving spouse. Include the veteran's military medical files and any Veterans' Administration (VA) benefit award correspondence.

_____ : Have a financial file readily available with bank accounts, retirement accounts, stocks/bonds, income tax returns, credit card accounts, investments, real property documents, etc. This can include employment information (pension, 401(k) accounts, medical plans). If these are kept in a safety deposit box, insure at least two people other than the spouse (children), know the location and number of the deposit box, as well as where the first key to that safety deposit box is located. Make a list names and addresses of former employers. Insure two persons have the home safe combination.

_____ : Have a personal file readily available with funeral arrangement preferences, medical records, contact information on children and other close relations, personal property inventory and home insurance policies, and so on. A "letter of instructions" telling what you want done with your possessions – pets, furniture, jewelry, art works, military memorabilia – will be useful.

_____ : If any of the above financial or other related information/data resides in the veteran's (or spouse's) home computer, insure that required passwords and PIN numbers (include security codes for credit cards) are written down or put on a removable computer thumb/flash drive. Either data storage system has to be stored in a secure location, with at least two people (children) other than the surviving spouse knowing this location.

Part B will be covered in the next issue of the newsletter.

ALR Chapter 111, Mitch Laing, President

American Legion Riders Chapter #111 continues to grow and stays involved in events that support our Military and

Veterans.

The Chapter is chartered for any Rider who is a member of any Sonoma County Post, Auxiliary or Squadron. We also have Riders from Napa County Posts join us when they can.

We have conducted Welcome Homes in Petaluma, Sonoma and other parts of Sonoma County as well as a Welcome in Napa.

Several ALR joined with others to honor Fallen Veterans for Graveside Services locally, in Lake County and is also ready to escort fallen veterans to Sacramento Valley National Cemetery and participate in MIAP and the quarterly Veterans without Families Ceremonies, just held July 8th.

To celebrate our successful Memorial Ride we held a BBQ at Post Commander Reuel Miller's property outside of Occidental that included a BBQed Chicken and TriTip, Fried Fish, plus great side dishes as provided by the attendees and even live music with the Market Farmer Band.

After the lunch break the band sang a Congratulations Song to Newlyweds Tom and Nancy Grimes who danced for us all!

August 2nd riders from several ALRs gathered and rode into the California Veterans Home at Yountville to honor the Vets.

ALR Chapter #111 meets the first Tuesday of the month at Marys Pizza in Windsor at 6pm

Please attend if interested in joining and participating in Honors and Rides.

Sotoyome Unit 111, Eddy Sauers, President

Here we are starting a new year with the American Legion Auxiliary and the Sotoyome American Le-

gion Family. I'm hoping we can see a lot more members participating this year. I talked to quite a few ladies when I was membership person. Love to see more new faces and we can do more exciting new things this coming year. I've got some exciting ideas up my sleeve but I need your HELP. Also ladies to remind you of getting YOUR MEMBERSHIP DUES IN EARLY. I was still calling people in July for their dues.

Now I want to give you a HEADS UP what's coming in the months ahead. We are having a PAELLA FEAST in SEPTEMBER, YOUTH RECOGNITION NIGHT in OCTOBER, EARLY BIRD DINNER in NOVEMBER, and in DECEMBER we have two events; CIOPPINO DINNER and OUR CHRISTMAS DINNER with a great RAFFLE. There is no excuse why you can't come to these EVENTS. We will pick you up and take you home. What a deal!

Remember, we have munchies after our meeting on the 2nd Thursday. It is good time to be with other members and caught up things. It a good social time with everyone including our POST, This keeps our AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY going.

Okay LADIES I'm asking one more great favor. that is I'm looking for a HISTORIAN for our unit. I know there is alot ladies out there that can help us on this. Please help us and step forward. I would be very appreciated if you can.

I Hope I didn't ask too much but I'm thinking of our Auxiliary to keep it viable and we just can't do it with just a few of us. Give me a call, I would love to hear from you and why you can't be at YOUR MEETINGS or YOUR EVENTS.

Auxiliary Membership:

A Friendly reminder, It's that time of year again. We all need to re~new and recruit so we can meet our goals this year. Our dues is \$21. and can be brought to our meeting or sent to Melanie Taylor at 457 Muscat Drive, Cloverdale, CA 95448

From Your 1st Vice ~Shirleen Perry

Sotoyome American Legion Family

2015-2016 Leadership Team

Post 111 The American Legion

Commander	Reuel Miller	707-874-1951	reuelmiller@comcast.net
1st Vice	Lance Ballenger	707-396-1331	Lance@ahlbornco.com
2 nd Vice	Steve Bowne	707-578-4775	steven5382@comcast.net
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Finance	Bob Taylor	707-894-0857	CHIEFHFD@aol.com
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Sgt. at Arms	Tony Grado	707-527-8233	wenton@sbcglobal.net
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Chaplain	Warren Luke	707-332-3843	lukeski40@sbcglobal.net
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Marshall	Thelma Frey	707-546-7791	
Jr Pass Pres.	Linda Karnstedt	707-529-1243	lindakarn@sonic.net
Executive Board	Virginia Hawley	707-838-6395	
	Virginia Wallace	707-838-8702	
	Thelma Frey	707-546-7791	

Squadron 111 , Sons of The American Legion

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Adjutant	Tom Grimes	707-481-9169	coachtom.grimes@gmail.com
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Jr. Past Comdr	Mitch Laing	707-623-9179	madmitch55@gmail.com

Chapter 111 ALR

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Chaplain	Ed Howell	707-292-8033	edhowell@sonic.net
Past Pres	Ron Collier	707-838-3262	redlightron@comcast.net

LEADERS, Please let Adjutant Tom Grimes (707-481-9169 or email coachtomgrimes@gmail.com) know if you need to change your phone or email address.

Revised 8/12/2015

Sotoyome Post 111 The American Legion
PO Box 281
Healdsburg, CA 95448

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Mark Your Calendar:

Jr. Shooters Hamburger Night Two Nights in September!

**Join Us Monday Evening, September 14th
Junior Shooters Hamburger Night,
Monday Night Football and
signups for the Jr Shooters Program
5pm to 9pm**

**Then on the following Monday, September 21st we
will have our first shoot. 6 pm - 8 pm**

**On Monday, September 28th
Junior Shooters Hamburger Night,
5:30 pm - 8:30 pm**

Pot Luck and Bingo Is Back!

**Join Nancy and Tom
at 1342 Pinon Drive
Friday, Sept 18, 2015**

Dinner at 6:00 pm, followed by
Bingo.

Bring your favorite potluck dish, a
salad or dessert.

Guests are welcome!

Call 707-491-9169 for more
information

The Sotoyome Newsletter

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