

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



# **THE SOTOYOME NEWSLETTER**

## **OCTOBER 2016**

Post 111, Squadron 111 and Legion Riders Chapter 111, PO Box 281, Healdsburg, CA 95448

Unit 111, American Legion Auxiliary, P.O. Box 174, Healdsburg, CA 95448

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Volume 82 Issue 10



**Ken Sandoval Memorial August 27, 2016  
Honors Team**

**l to r: Dave Richey, Ken Cody, Frank Teuschler, George Sager, Linda Clary,  
Dave Myers, & Eddy Sauers**

### **Chaplains Corner**

Post: Reuel Miller, 707-874-1951

Auxiliary: All Officers will take turns

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  
WHOLESUME DEVELOPMENT OF OUR NATION'S YOUTH.**

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

Commander Lance Ballenger



Looking forward to October, the Legion and our affiliates are gearing up for this falls busy schedule. We close out September with the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 9/11 attacks recognized as Patriot Day, POW/MIA National recognition Day, Wings over Wine Country Airshow and Gold Star Mother's Day.



It is hard to believe that it has been fifteen years since the attack on our homeland by Islamic extremism. This event catapulted our Country, and the Allies that stand with us, into a Global War on Terrorism, the invasion of Iraq and the War in Afghanistan. Our Post continues our efforts in supporting our newest generation of War Veterans, Active Duty and those who gave the ultimate sacrifice and their families that they left behind. We will never forget, nor rest while our Country endures these difficult times. In support of our Heroes, please

make time to attend our Riders 7<sup>th</sup> annual Fundraiser coming up on the 8<sup>th</sup> of October for one of our local KIA warfighters.

The POW/MIA recognition Day hosted by Post 111 was very successful thanks to the well planned efforts of **Harrold Bagdonas**. Speakers ranged from US Congressman to a former POW who was imprisoned with her family at the age of 9 years old by the Imperial Japanese. **Jean-Marie Hessket's** incredible story reminded us of all of the indescribable suffering, hardships, resolve and the endurance of the American Spirit that carried these folks through perilous times. Unfortunately we missed out on having **Darrel Schumard** present to speak about his time as a POW in the European Theater from WW2 due to slip and fall accident. We all pray and hope that 93 year old Darrel has a speedy recovery and is back to 100% soon.

A special thanks goes out to all the Volunteers at our Legion/VFW booth at the Airshow. Again, members of our familiar STP (*Same Twelve People*) crew to include **Frank Teuschler, Eddy Sauers, Steven Bowne, Dave Myers, Reuel Miller, Ken Cody, Tony Grado, Tim Madura, Frank Jerins, Dave Richey, Harold Bagdonas** and **Julia Sutton**. Please, come out and pitch in! We need your help... We were able to sell many raffle tickets for the Junior Shooters, BBQ tickets for the KIA fundraiser and sign up a slew of new Legionnaire's and Riders to include some young Veterans, while educating the public as to our Mission.

Speaking of young Veterans, it is the duty and responsibility of each of us to respect one another, regardless of any of the denominators that separate us under the umbrella of our common bonds which ultimately bring us together. Many of us have differing backgrounds, service types, years, and even decades between our times served in the Military, be it Land, Sea or Air. We must always remain cognizant that with the changing times that *the way it was* may not be the same as today. Our young Vets returning from the recent conflicts are coming home to challenging times where the VA system has many ongoing issues of failed policies which lead to bureaucratic red-tape and postponed care in dealing with service connected disabilities, to include PTSD. Although this concern is improving, we remain to have an unsettling 20 Veterans committing suicide nationally every single day. Every effort that we strive for as a Veteran Organization is to provide for our Veterans in need. Our newest generation of Veterans remain to smell the smoke of gunpowder, hear the sounds of explosions, and see the brutality of combat like it was still present today. Many of them lost comrades on the battlefield and endured the traumas and hardships that War brings with it.

The priority of our organizations are to make every effort to show them our unyielding support while graciously welcoming them into our group as our own blood. It is not unknown that this new generation at times feel unwelcome into Veteran organizations, as it was for previous members to include our Vietnam Vets. Whether that stereotype has any merit today, it is a sentiment nonetheless for some of these folks. We must double and triple our efforts in conveying our desire to have them included in our organizations, for they alone will be the generation to carry on the legacies that the American Legion upholds and preserves. Reach out to them and do not wait idly by for them to extend their hands first. Thank you.

~Lance



**Auxiliary President Linda Karnstedt**



Dear Auxiliary Members of Unit 111. It came to your board's attention that not everyone was getting their monthly Legion/Auxiliary newsletter mailed however we have been assured you will get this month's newsletter mailed if you haven't gotten it in the past. Just to be able to keep you informed of the upcoming activities or meetings for the next few months I will take this opportunity to let you know what is coming up. Since the next 3 months – October, November, and December – all involve FOOD, we wanted to make sure you know about the potlucks and the pasta dinner. October is our annual Girl's and Boy's State Student Recognition on Thursday October 13 at 7pm in the Annex. We ask that everyone attending bring a side dish or salad AND a main dish enough to feed 8. Since the students and their families are not asked to bring any food this way we insure we have enough food to serve everyone. Also the 7th Fallen Warrior Memorial Ride & BBQ will be held at the Picnic grounds from 12-3 on Saturday October 8. BBQ tickets are \$10. Contact Mitch Laing 707-623-9179 or Steven Bowne 707-578-4775 for tickets, donations and further information. November's meeting on Thursday November 10 is our Early Bird Membership Pasta Dinner. If you have paid your dues or pay that night the meal is free. We hope everyone will be able to attend and an RSVP would be nice so we can make sure we have plenty to eat. You can call any of the officers to let them know if you will be coming. December 8 is our annual Christmas Potluck Dinner and the Auxiliary Raffle to support the Pathway House. Turkey will be provided and everyone is asked to bring a side dish and a salad. Don't forget to also bring items for the raffle table. If you will be bringing youngsters, to insure they get a present from Santa, please let one of your officers know in advance. If there will be little ones coming then Santa will be there at 6pm. Dinner and Raffle will be at 7pm. PLEASE let us know if there are specific things you would like to be informed of. Your board sincerely wants to let you know you are important to our organization.

Sincerely, **Linda Karnstedt**, President



**ALR President Ron "Campy" Dillow**



Well another month is gone. How fast they go by. There is just about a week to go for the ride and BBQ. I told you all it will come fast. Hope you all have had time to get all the tickets sold and secure donation. If not please work hard the next week to get every thing in on time. I did the ride one more time with Matt & Steve to make such all is well on the road. I am sure everyone will enjoy the 2 1/2 hour ride through backroads of Sonoma, Napa, and Lake Counties.

~ **Campy**



## National POW/MIA Recognition Day

The event was held at Santa Rosa Memorial Park 1900 Franklin Avenue on September 16th. There were about 97 guest attend the event. Participating were Post 111 Riders; American Soldier Freedom Riders; VVA with POW/MIA trailer.

There was a few glitches in getting the program going. Just two days before, our Master of Ceremonies was injured in a bicycle accident so an alternate was needed. Post 111 Commander **Lance Ballenger** stepped up to the task and did an outstanding job.

The Post 111 honor team performed flawlessly presenting the flags and the rifle team was spot on. Guest Speakers were US Congressman Mike Thompson who read President Obama's Proclamation and presented a framed copy to **Lance Ballenger**, then he told of his experience in the service while stationed in Vietnam.

California State Senator Mike McGuire read Governor Brown's proclamation and presented a framed copy to **Lance Ballenger**, then he spoke about what the CA government is doing to get housing and better care for veterans.

Sonoma County Supervisor Shirlee Zane spoke about recently getting 60 homeless veterans into The Palms Inn which has recently been converted to lodging for homeless people. The County is also working on other locations to get more veterans off the street and into lodging. She had a gold award to present to WW2 POW **Darrel Schumard** for his contribution to support veterans in Sonoma County. **Darrel** was not available because of a fall he had a few days before. He also was to be a guest speaker.

**Mrs. Jean-Marie Heskett** and her son **Michael McCoy** spoke about her family's internment in the Philippines when the Japanese Military conquered the country and placed 36000 civilians into internment camps. **Jean-Marie** was only 6 years old at the time. They were held for 36 months until the US Army freed them. Her son has written a book about his mother's experience. "**Through My Mother's Eyes**" available through Amazon or in Barnes & Noble book stores. Work is in progress to produce a movie.

The Missing man table was explained by **Dave Richey**.

Legion 111 Rider Chaplain **Father Ed Howell** provided he Invocation, reading and Benediction.

Miss **Abby Volz** sang the National Anthem.

The Windsor Performing Arts Academy singers provided the ending song "Bring Him Home".



l to r: **Commander Lance Ballenger, Harold Bagdonas and Father Ed Howell**

Submitted by **Harold Bagdonas, Post 111 POW/MIA Chairman**





Wings over Wine Country Air Show Sept. 24th & 25th





October 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						<b>1</b> <b>Chili Billy Run</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> <b>Board Meeting</b> <b>7 PM Annex</b>	<b>4</b> <b>ALR Meeting</b> <b>6 PM Windsor</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> <b>VFW</b> <b>7 PM Annex</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> <b>Memorial Run Windsor Town Green</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> <b>Jr. Shooters Annex</b> <b>6:00 PM</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> <b>Post meeting</b> <b>7 PM Annex</b> <b>Honors Team</b> <b>5:30 PM Annex</b> <b>Youth Recognition</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> <b>Jr Shooters Ukiah Gun Club</b>
<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> <b>Newsletter Input due</b>	<b>19</b> <b>United Vet Counsel</b> <b>7 PM SR</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> <b>Annex Breakfast</b>
<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> <b>Navy Day</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> <b>Halloween</b>					

These contributors support the Sotoyome American Legion Family.



**Reuel Miller**  
NRA Certified Instructor  
# 183327345  
RIFLE - PISTOL - PERSONAL PROTECTION  
NRA Level 1 Coach  
CA DOJ Firearm Safety Certificate Instructor  
Office 707-874-1951    3440 Joy Rd, Occidental, CA 95465  
Cell 707-303-0575    email: reuelmiller@comcast.net

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## American Legion Sotoyome Family Leadership Team 2016-2017

### Post 111 American Legion

Commander	Lance Ballenger	707-396-1331
1st Vice	Ken Cody	707-536-5562
2nd Vice	Tim Madura	707-815-6983
Adjutant	Reuel Miller	707-975-1541
Finance	Bob Taylor	707-894-0857
Asst. Finance	Steven Bowne	707-578-4775
Judge Advocate	George Sager	707-433-2044
Sgt. at Arms	Tony Grado	707-527-8233
Service Officer	Chris Bingham	707-565-5960
Historian	Harold Bagdonas	707-843-4790
Chaplain	Reuel Miller	707-975-1541
Bar Manager	Frank Teuschler	707-431-2328
Jr. Past Comdr.	Reuel Miller	707-874-1951
Executive Bd.	Doug Newton	707-217-6309
	Tricia Lay	707-695-0345
	Roy Caporale	707-894-8954
	Stan Shusda	707-838-4593
	Frank Jerins	

### Unit 111, American Legion Auxiliary

President	Linda Karnstedt	707-529-1243
1st Vice	Shirleen Perry	707-838-9790
2nd Vice	Judy Chavez	707-857-0024
Secretary	Marie Canale	707-431-0563
Treasurer	Melanie Taylor	707-894-0857
Chaplain	All Officers will take turns	
Sgt. at Arms		
Marshall		
Jr Past Pres.	Eddy Sauers	707-838-9429
Executive Bd.	Linda Karnstedt	707-529-1243
	Nancy Grimes	707-529-2271
	Judy Chavez	707-857-0024

### Squadron 111 , Sons of The American Legion

Commander	Matt Foreman	707-340-0315
1st Vice	Dave McAleece	707-838-2676
2nd Vice	Ken Cody	707-536-5562
Adjutant	Steven Bowne	707-578-4775
Finance	Bob Taylor	707-975-1541
Chaplain	Reuel Miller	707-874-1951
Sgt. at Arms	Terry Perry	707-838-2432
Judge Advocate	Doug Newton	707-217-6309
Historian	Harold Bagdonas	707-843-4790
Jr. Past Comdr.	Mitch Laing	707-975-1541
Executive Bd.	Mark Archambault	707-292-6746
	Ron Collier	707-239-6703
	Mitch Laing	707-975-1541

### Chapter 111 American Legion Riders

President	Ron (Campy) Dillow	707-753-0575
Vice Pres.	Ron Krudop	707-765-0373
Secretary	Doug Newton	707-217-6309
Treasurer /Adj.	Steven Bowne	707-578-4775
Sgt. at Arms	Terry Perry	707-838-9790
Chaplain	Ed Howell	707-542-1135
Road Captains	Matt Foreman	707-340-0315
	Joe Manning	707-501-9880
Past President	Mitch Laing	707-975-1541

## **Missing in America Project**

Please don't forget that we will be honoring our Fallen's in Dixon on October 12, @ 1400 hrs. at the Sacramento Valley National Cemetery Quarterly event.

We will be meeting at Pleasant Hill Cemetery in Sebastopol on the morning of October 12th and escorting three fallen veterans:

Mr. Edward Robinson, Air Force 1960-1961 and passed on 6/12/16,

Mr. Frederick Reeves, Army 1943-1945 and passed on 8/1/16 and

Mr. Robert Bassett, Navy 1966-1972 and passed on 6/25/16.

Please support if you can.

~**Ron Collier**

Sonoma County Veterans Remains Officer

[redlightron@comcast.net](mailto:redlightron@comcast.net)

Cell 707-239-6703

## ***7th Annual Fallen Warrior Memorial Ride***

The ALR Annual Fallen Warrior Memorial Ride and BBQ is 8 October 2016. This year's event is "**Cesar's Ride**" in honor of Caesar Viglienzzone, US Army, 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne. Caesar was KIA by an IED 1 February 2006 in Iraq. Registration for the ride opens 8:30 am at Café Noto, 650 McClelland, Windsor @ The Windsor Town Green. \$20.00 for riders, \$10.00 for passenger. It will be about a 2 ½ hour ride through the beautiful country roads of Sonoma County. This ride is open to all riders and motorcycles and will end at the Villa Chanticleer for a delicious Tri-Tip BBQ for \$10.00. There will be many raffle prizes to help raise money for the event. Any raffle prizes are welcome as is cash, checks and gift cards. Check with your friends and businesses to help with a donation. Flyers are available from Mitch at 707-975-1514 or

[madmitch55@gmail.com](mailto:madmitch55@gmail.com). Please contact myself, Steve Bowne or Lance to pick up any items or bring to the Villa on 8 October. Even if you do not ride, please come out and support the event and enjoy a great Tri-Tip BBQ. This Benefits Homes For Our Troops.

~**Tim Madura**

**Sotoyome Post 111 The American Legion**  
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## A Note from the Veterans Service Officer:

Unfortunately, many Veterans and their dependents are unaware of services and benefits available to them based on their service to our nation. Often a client will visit our office for assistance with one issue and discover during an in-depth interview that there are other issues to be addressed and other potential benefits they are eligible for. Our goal is to ensure that every client has access to all benefits they have earned through their service to our nation. I and the Veteran Service Office staff are here to provide Veteran benefit information, claims assistance and referral to other pertinent community services to veterans and their families. Our office is open Monday through Thursday from 8:00AM to 5:00PM. From 8:30 to 9:45, we see clients on a drop in basis (please arrive before 9:15 to ensure that we have time to see you before we start seeing our scheduled appointments). From 10:00 - 5:00 we see clients by appointment only. Please call (707) 565-5960 to schedule an appointment.

**Christopher D. Bingham**  
Sonoma County Veterans Service Officer



**Occidental Bloodhounds**

### The Sotoyome Newsletter

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Steven Bowne: Publisher/Editor  
[steven5382@comcast.net](mailto:steven5382@comcast.net)  
707-578-4775

Bob Taylor: Circulation  
[chiefhfd@aol.com](mailto:chiefhfd@aol.com) 707-894-0857

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