

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



THE SOTOYOME NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2017

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 83 Issue 2



**Commander Ballenger and family in Washington DC for the inauguration of our
45th President Donald J. Trump on January 20, 2017**

Pictures of their odyssey on pages 5-8.

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
WHOLESALE DEVELOPMENT OF OUR NATION'S YOUTH.**

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

Commander Lance Ballenger



The Legion is gearing up for our largest fundraiser this month being the **Crab Feed**. Please make it a point to come out and join the Legion on the 4th...and invite your neighbors and friends. January was a relatively quiet month for our Post so not too much action to discuss. I would like to add a note about one of our members, **Dave Meyers**. Dave has been undergoing treatment for cancer and having to bounce back and forth to San Francisco on a regular basis. Our Officers & Board unanimously voted to help Dave out with his fuel costs in the spirit of taking care of our own. That being said, Dave has been one of those guys who is at every function, volunteering his time and being of service without missing a beat. As well Dave, with our other die hard Member, **Eddy Sauers**, has been a staple at most every single Funeral Service that our Honor Guard is

called for, honoring our passing Brothers and Sisters. Dave wanted to offer a heartfelt thank you to our group for the assistance as well our support in seeing him through these difficult times. Please keep this feisty Marine/Soldier in your thoughts and prayers.

As noted last month my Family and I were fortunate enough to be able to attend the 58th Inauguration in Washington DC. It was quite the trip that included stops in New York City and Philadelphia. We spent quite a bit of time at the 9/11 Memorial Site, which even 16 years later was difficult to hold back the tears walking that hallowed ground. They did a magnificent job with the Memorial Museum that leaves one speechless, shocked and stunned, bringing the events, relics and historical nightmares of that day front and center once again, and for my daughters, for the first time. The Site left an indelible impression on our family. For myself, the last time I stood on that spot was at 1 World Trade Center on the observation deck 110 stories above what is now ground zero at 14 years of age. The silver lining is that the Freedom Tower commands strength and omnipotence over the site like a beacon of light conveying a message that you cannot chip, dent or even scratch the American Spirit. We also had an opportunity to stand with Lady Liberty and introduce my kids to their **Great Grandpa Ralph Marisco's** heritage who made his way to Ellis Island, at 14, on the ship Cameronia escaping from then Fascist Italy to become a first generation American in 1923. In Philadelphia we stood feet from the Liberty Bell as well had an opportunity to stand in the room where the Declaration of Independence was signed at Independence Hall. A great amount of mesmerizing history in that city.

Between the tours of our Nation's Capital, The Library of Congress, visiting the Smithsonian and Holocaust Museums in Washington DC, the one truly great highlight was Arlington National Cemetery where I proudly wore my Post #111 cover as we toured the massive and beautiful site. Most of the kids that participated in the Presidential Parade were in attendance, and clearly a damned good bunch, where I was thanked for my service more in three hours, than all combined since 1992.

Watching the changing of the guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier by the 3rd Inf Regiment (Old Guard), wreath laying ceremony, JFK's eternal flame and the unparalleled history was something to witness. Observing the exacting facing movements, perfect uniformity and unmatched professionalism of the Guard's Men, I pondered how our own **Steven Bowne** braved the frigid winters with glass like shined shoes standing at attention for hours on end. A tough duty assignment, but I would imagine something to look back on and be proud of.

What can I say about the Inauguration that our Main Stream Media hasn't lied about. I kid, partially... I can tell you that it was quite the event with a massive amount of good, warm and kind folks that came out into the frigid cold to witness our great Republic in a 'somewhat' peaceful transfer of power. Regardless of your political affiliation or beliefs, I would encourage everyone to witness this event if you can manage to swing it. It was very impressive and reiterates that the United States of America is a special place unlike any other Country on the Planet. If some folks don't feel that way, then that is truly a shame...they are missing out on the empowering charge that Liberty, Freedom and Democracy provides both ourselves and those around the World that benefit from our way of life. ~**Lance**

Auxiliary President Linda Karnstedt



We are starting off the new calendar year with lots to activities in the works. Hopefully by the time you read this you will have enjoyed our annual crab feed. This will be the first year I will miss it since joining the auxiliary in 2007 - bummer. We will be doing interviews for our Girl's State delegates in early February and March will have our annual "Birthday" Dinner. In planning for our poppy sales in May we thought we'd try and get more businesses involved. So if you have a business or know of one that would be willing to have some poppies for donations in their business please let one of the board know. The poppies are made by the veterans at Yountville and are paid for by them, so our sales allow us to pay for the poppies both for this year and next. We will be having the essay contest again this year to support the Americanism program. In May we will have the honor of hosting the Girls State luncheon again and will have a very special guest in attendance as the National ALA President will be in our district. It will be a busy next few months supporting all the things we stand for to help support veterans, active military, and their families. I would love to see more members at the meeting so if you need a ride please call one of your board members, To the board - we will meet at 6:30 pm on Thursday February 9th prior to the regular meeting at 7:00 pm.

~Linda



ALR President Ron "Campy" Dillow



Well I have nothing to report. I am tired of all this rain and have been unable to ride. Hope we can get out this weekend as it's going to be sunny and in the 60s. Looking forward to the Crab Feed on the 4th. Other than that, not much going on. Remember, Tuesday February 7th at 6:00 pm is the next ALR meeting at Mary's Pizza in Windsor.

~Campy



SAL Commander Matt Foreman



To all of The American Legion families, I hope that the New Year is treating you well. Spring is just around the corner. I am looking forward to a great year, honoring and serving our members of the military. I hope that we can obtain all of our goals. In regards to the SAL meetings, the third Thursday of every month, the Villa is available for meeting's. One will be scheduled soon. Reminder that March 25th is our SAL District 5 meeting and our 5 Star training program. The training date is tentative, but once confirmed, I am hoping all Sons will participate. Thanks again. ~Mattman



American Legion Sotoyome Family Leadership Team 2016-2017

Post 111 American Legion

Commander	Lance Ballenger	414-205-6661
1st Vice	Ken Cody	707-536-5562
2 nd 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



Ron Krudop and Terry Perry
Fallens Ceremony
Sacramento Valley VA National Cemetery
January 11, 2017



Junior Shooters instruction at Ukiah Gun Club
January 29, 2017
l to r: Ashlynn Ballenger, Lance Ballenger,
Reuel Miller and Matt Foreman









February 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 VFW 7 PM Annex	3	4 Crab Feed
5	6 Board Meeting 7 PM Annex	7 ALR Meeting 6 PM Windsor	8 United Vet Counsel 7 PM SR	9 Post meeting 7 PM Annex Honors Team 5:30 PM Annex	10	11
12	13 Junior Shooters Practice 6:00 Annex	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21 Newsletter Input due	22	23	24	25
26	27	28				

These contributors support the Sotoyome American Legion Family.



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Arlington National Cemetery

Arlington National Cemetery is the final resting place for many of our nation's greatest heroes, including more than 300,000 veterans of every American conflict, from the Revolutionary War to Iraq and Afghanistan. Since its founding in 1866, Arlington National Cemetery has provided a solemn place to reflect upon the sacrifices made by the men and women of the United States Armed Forces in the name of our country.

Photo by **Lance Ballenger**

The Sotoyome Newsletter

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