

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



THE SOTOYOME NEWSLETTER

MAY 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

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

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

Volume 83 Issue 5

Sotoyome Post 111 Honors Team at Sacramento Valley VA National Cemetery



Front row l to r: **Linda Clary, Lance Ballenger, Al Delsid, Eddy Sauers, Dave Myers, Harold Bagdonas**

Back row l to r: **Bob Taylor, Frank Jerins, Tim Madura, Frank Teuschler, George Sager, Dave Richey, Ken Cody**

Story on Page 5

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



Last month marked the first time that Post #111's Honor Guard had the privilege of hosting the MIAP event which laid to rest over 140 unclaimed Veterans at Sacramento Valley National Cemetery. In conjunction with our Riders, Members of the Post and Auxiliary, the Honors Team performed the 21 gun salute, taps and the American Flag folding and presenting to the Next of Kin that attended. The event went off without a hitch and we have been told that our Team was the first to include a full service for an MIAP quarterly event. We are expected to be invited back to Honor our Fallen Veterans again as they were very pleased with our efforts given the professionalism and appearance of our Honor's Team.

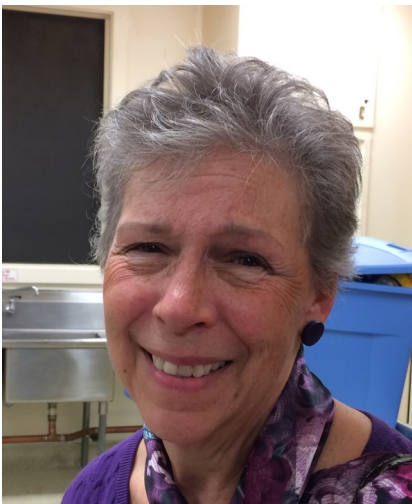


Many of the Veterans Interred were War Veterans from the Gulf to WW2. There were a number of these Veterans who served in WW2, Korea and Vietnam combined, the Trifecta Warriors I call them. The thought of such distinguished War Fighters who have given so much of themselves to then be set aside on a dank shelf to collect dust in Mortuaries dotted throughout Cities and Towns of our Country is heart wrenching. MIAP (Missing in America Project) is a Non-Profit 501(C)3 that counts on donations to do the great work that they do. If you can donate, please do so generously. MIAP Website-<http://www.miap.us>.

Providing honor, respect and dignity for these forgotten Heroes who have served our Country is our obligation to our Military Brothers and Sisters. Unfortunately the efforts of financing what should be unquestionably our Governments Duty, falls into the hands of the Private Sector driven by Veterans caring for Veterans...once again.

Next month please look ahead to kicking off a busy spring-summer schedule with all of our Counties Parades and of course the big one, Memorial Day. Please come out and participate. As always, Post 111 is always open to more of our Members being involved, thanks. ~**Lance**

Auxiliary President Linda Karnstedt



May will be a busy month for our Unit. Since May is Poppy month, we will be sending out the poppy letter as well as having a table outside Walmart in Windsor on Wednesday May 10th as well as on Thursday and Friday the 18th and 19th from 10 am to 2 pm. We would welcome any Post member to help hand out poppies as it is important for the public to connect with veterans during this time. Please let **Judy Chavez**, our Poppy Chairman, know if you will be able to help out. Our Unit will again host the District 5 Girl's State delegate's luncheon on May 21st. Then of course the Memorial Day celebrations later in the month. Hope to see you at the monthly meeting on May 11th.



To the board: We will meet at 6:30pm before the regular meeting. See you then, ~**Linda**

Nike Missile Base Ride

There were approximately 30 riders involved with an outing, orchestrated by **Gary Greenough**, to the Nike Missile Base at the Marin Headlands on April 1st.

The ride began at Bad Ass Coffee in Larkfield with riders from Chapter 111 and some motorcyclists from the Patriot Guard Riders leaving that location at 09:00.

The group had a scheduled stop at Joe's Café on Redwood Highway in San Rafael where additional riders joined the convoy for breakfast.

After dining, the motorcade proceeded south on Highway 101, exited just prior to the Golden Gate Bridge, and continued on a scenic highway to the missile base which is part of the Golden Gate National Recreational Area.

The weather was ideal, highlighted with sunshine and the highway provided unobstructed views of San Francisco and the coastline of the Marin Headlands.

The group received a tour of the missile site conducted by Nike Veterans who provided a first-hand account of their experience at the missile site.



Nike Missile Base ride



MIAP escort and Fallens Ceremony

On April 12, 2017, Post 111 Honor Guard had the distinct honor of providing the Honor Guard ceremonies at Sacramento Valley National Cemetery, Dixon, California, for the M.I.A.P Quarterly Fallen Memorial Ceremony. The final farewell to 147 forgotten Veterans. The post honor guard provided the traditional gun salute with great precision, led by **George Sager**. The unfolding and folding of the American Flag was completed by **Bob Taylor** and **Frank Teuschler**. **Bob Taylor** presented the flag to the designated person receiving the flag. **Bob Taylor** also presented an additional flag to the grandson of a Vietnam veteran that was recently interred at the cemetery. **Steve Bowne** and two other helpful American Legion members read the 147 names of our deceased veterans that included their name, rank and conflict that they were part of. **Ron Collier** struck the bell after each name was read, for their final farewell.

The American Legion Riders of Post 111 were the final escort for 4 Sonoma County M.I.A.P. Veterans. The riders collected 4 veterans at Pleasant Hills Memorial Park and Mortuary in Sebastopol. Each of the veteran's cremations were covered with an American flag, and left Pleasant Hills in the care of **Ron Collier**. **Terry Perry** led the M.I.A.P. escort. When the escort arrived at the Sacramento Valley National Cemetery, the 4 veterans were carried into the processing center under a flag line provided by the American Legion Riders and the Patriot Guard. These Veterans will be laid to rest in the following weeks after the final processing is complete. Their names will be read, and the bell rung, for their final farewell in 3 months at the next M.I.A.P. ceremony. This Quarterly Fallen Memorial Ceremony was a first for the American Legion to completely officiate at these ceremonies and Post 111 has led the way. Post 111 Honor Guard extends its gratitude to **Commander Lance Ballenger** and **Ahlborn Fence and Steel Company** for providing a bus that transported most of the Honor Guard to the ceremony and back safely. Thank you, Commander Ballenger and Ahlborn Fence & Steel. Submitted by **Tim Madura**



11th Annual American Legion Riders Convention

Chapter 111 sent four delegates to the convention in Hollister held from April 21st-23rd. President **Ron “Campy” Dillow**, **Tim Madura**, **Mitch Laing** and **Steven Bowne** were among 260 delegates and guests from around the State participating in the event.

There were resolutions presented and approved by the membership which will impact per capita dues and provide a manual to assist Chapters with implementing a uniform guide for rider safety.

The Department Executive Committee remained virtually unchanged except for new Vice Presidents in Areas 1 and VI and a new Sgt. At Arms.

There are now over two thousand American Legion Riders in the State and that number continues to grow. It was emphasized that the Legion Riders are the face of the American Legion and members should conduct themselves accordingly.

Next years convention will be held in San Diego County (Oceanside).

Chapter 111 will begin to explore the feasibility of hosting the 2019 Convention in Sonoma County possibly in conjunction with other area Posts and Chapters.



l to r: **Mitch Laing**, **Ron “Campy” Dillow**, **Steven Bowne**, **Tim Madura**

MIAP mission to San Andreas

On April 27th, Sonoma County Veterans Remains Officer **Ron Collier** and eight American Legion Riders, rode to San Andreas to secure the remains of Army veteran Sgt. Michael Edward Malone who served in Viet Nam from 1968-1970. After taking possession, the riders provided an escort to Sacramento Valley National Cemetery for Sgt. Malone's internment and full military honors to be held at a Quarterly Fallen's Ceremony on July 12th.



Top left: ALR Staging in Cotati
Bottom left: **Ron Krudop** at San Andreas.

Top right: The three Amigos
Bottom right: **Terry Perry** delivering Sgt. Malone for internment.

Bobby Gray Memorial Ride

On April 29th, riders from Chapter 111 met and rode from Petaluma to participate in the Bobby Gray Memorial Ride put on by Post 521 in Rio Linda. The ride benefited local veterans and St. Jukes Hospital. Attending the event were ALR riders **Ron "Campy" Dillow**, **Ron Krudop**, **Keith Caldwell**, **Terry & Tori Fry**, & **Steven Bowne**. ALR associate **Greg Seifter** also rode with the group.



News Flash!

American Legion Post #111 takes back Oak Mound Hill

Veterans from Post #111, Healdsburg, showed up in numbers to attack the over-grown vegetation on the Oak Mound section of the Healdsburg cemetery. The work crew officially reported to duty at 0830 hours, armed with nothing but string trimmers. A daunting task, but the crew was up to the challenge. By 1200 hours a huge swatch was cleared, and this historic section of the cemetery was once again accessible to all visitors. Many veterans, along with City of Healdsburg founders, are buried in this section of the cemetery that was established in 1859. It was heart warming to see what a determined group of individuals can accomplish on a Saturday morning.

Thanks go out to the American Legion and all of the following that took part in the cleanup efforts: **Mark Archambault; Ron Collier; Matt Foreman; Tony Grado; Wendy Grado; Jerry Jaramillo; Dave McAleece; Doug Newton; Terry Perry; Shirleen Perry; and Eddy Sauers.**

Submitted by **Jim Dreisback**

Project Manager

Healdsburg Museum and Historical Society



American Legion Sotoyome Family Leadership Team 2016-2017

Post 111 American Legion

Commander	Lance Ballenger	415-205-6661
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



Photo by Roger Elliot

Butter and Eggs Parade Petaluma

On a warm and beautiful Saturday April 29th Post 111, Honor Guard members, **Harold Bagdonas**, **Ken Cody** and **Tim Madura** participated in the Petaluma Butter and Eggs Parade. A color guard led the way in front of Harold driving his truck pulling a trailer for Veterans that felt that they could not walk the parade route. **Ken Cody** carried the American Flag, **Tim Madura** carried the POW/MIA flag and a VFW Veteran carried the VFW flag.

Submitted by **Tim Madura**

Sons of American Legion is a Vital part of the Legion Family.

Founded in 1932, Sons of The American Legion exists to honor the service and sacrifice of Legionnaires. All male descendants, adopted sons and stepsons of members of The American Legion, and such male descendants of veterans who died in service during World I, World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, Lebanon, Grenada, Panama, the Persian Gulf War and the War on Terrorism, or who died subsequent to their honorable discharge from such service, shall be eligible for membership in the Sons of The American Legion. There shall be no forms or class of membership except that of active membership. The key word above is **ACTIVE** Membership and we need to have our Sons Squadron be more active. It's Time to Step Up and become involved with The Post, in Our Community and to support our Veterans. Become involved and be an Active Member of the Sons Squadron #111.

Submitted by **Mitch Laing**

The Lost Graves of Tarawa



The following excerpt is from the American Legion May 2017 magazine article titled The Lost Graves of Tarawa by Ken Olsen.

HONOR GUARD Meanwhile, in Healdsburg, Calif., the family of another lost Tarawa Marine, Pfc. John Saini, contacted American Legion Post 111 finance officer Bob Taylor about using its hall for a small family funeral reception. Taylor reserved a larger building instead – the nearby Villa Chanticleer – and tried to convince Saini’s niece that it was the minimum amount of space needed to accommodate everyone who would turn out for the memorial service.

“Family members don’t always realize how big a deal it is to veterans to have somebody brought home after 70 years,” Taylor says. “They don’t think it means anything to anybody outside of the family.”

Post 111 contacted the local newspaper, and by the day of the service even San Francisco TV stations were covering the story. **American Legion Riders** escorted Saini’s casket 90 miles from the San Francisco airport to Healdsburg. Along the route, fire departments had their ladder trucks stationed on overpasses with U.S. flags hoisted from the top rung and firefighters saluting the passing motorcade. For Taylor, Healdsburg once again felt like the small town that adopted a U.S. battalion during the Korean War.

Both the funeral and reception were packed. Hundreds of people attended. “It’s about the Legion showing up and honoring a veteran,” Taylor says. “It’s who we are.”

Liz McDowell, Saini’s niece, was stunned.

“The American Legion got to work and sure enough, everything fell into place,” McDowell says. “They did so much more than we ever hoped for. I can’t put it into words how grateful we are.”

Hiete, who attended, was also impressed. And he knew that Post 111’s effort was a model for what other Legion posts should do to welcome the lost Marines of Tarawa home. “There’s no better way for the local community to know about The American Legion than to have it participate in these funerals,” he says.

May 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Board Meeting 7 PM Annex	2 ALR Meeting 6 PM Windsor	3	4 VFW 7 PM Annex	5	6 Windsor Day Parade 9 AM
7	8 Junior Shooters Practice 6:00 Annex	9	10 Poppy Sales Walmart United Vet Counsel SR	11 Post meeting 7 PM Annex SAL 6 PM Honors Team 5:30 PM Annex	12	13
14	15	16	17	18 Poppy Sales Walmart	19 Poppy Sales Walmart	20 Area I AL meeting Hopland
21 Area I AL meeting Girls State Luncheon Annex	22	23 Newsletter Input due	24	25	26 Mattie Washburn School Flag Ceremony 9 AM	27 Pacific Coast Air Museum WWII & Korean Vets 9 AM- 2 PM
28	29 Memorial Day	30	31			

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



SANTA ROSA'S OLDEST TRANSMISSION SHOP
SRH
SANTA ROSA HYDRAMATIC
TRANSMISSION SERVICE
ON THE CORNER OF COLLEGE AND CLEVELAND
104 College Avenue • Santa Rosa, CA 95401
Tel: 707.542.0303 • Fax: 707.542.0164
www.srhydramatic.com

Steve Ferguson
Dr. Brad Parsons

JOHN V. REYES
Internet Manager
Bus. Phone (707) 433-3318
Cellular (707) 477-8807
Fax (707) 433-7353
jreyes@vbbn.com

W.C. SANDERSON FORD
453 Healdsburg Ave.
HEALDSBURG, CA 95448-0875



Super Duty Trucks



Lic. #793504 C13 C23 C51
Jeremy Crockett
1230 Century Court • Santa Rosa, CA 95403
Cell (707) 326-3298 • Tel (707) 326-3298 • Fax (707) 573-0788
Jcrockett@ahlbornco.com • www.ahlbornco.com

RON'S FLEET SERVICE
Specializing in truck and farm tires
RON DILLOW
Owner
P.O. Box 1130
Rohnert Park, Ca. 94928
707-753-0575





Bus. 542-8148
Res. 544-6343
gary@senneffinsurance.com Fax 542-0539
Gary Senneff
Agent
State Farm Insurance Co.'s
Auto - Life - Fire - Health
474 Larkfield Center
(In the Larkfield Shopping Center)
Lic #0473031
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

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

RETURN SERVICE GUARANTEED

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
Paid
Permit No. 104
Healdsburg, Calif.



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

Join us for the
Annual Patriotic Assembly

Mattie Washburn Elementary would like to invite any active or retired military
servicemen and servicewomen to be an honored guest.

The Sotoyome Post 111 Honor Guard will be presenting a Flag Ceremony.
The children will be singing patriotic songs in recognition of Memorial Day.

Friday, May 26

9:00- 10:30AM

Mattie Washburn Elementary Playground

75 Pleasant Ave. Santa Rosa CA

Uniforms welcome!

Please park in the second parking lot behind the school



The Sotoyome Newsletter

The Official Monthly Publication of the
Sotoyome American Legion Family

Steven Bowne: Publisher/Editor
steven5382@comcast.net
707-578-4775

Bob Taylor: Circulation
chiefhfd@aol.com 707-894-0857

©2017 All Rights Reserved