

NEWSLETTER
April 2022

GEN. WILLIAM STARK ROSECRANS VFW POST 3261

1822 W. 162nd St., Gardena, CA 90247

Phone (310) 324-6161



"It's not the dues you pay to be a member, it's the price you paid to be eligible"

POST CALENDAR

Monthly Post Meetings: Second Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. at Post 3261. Membership meetings are held on Zoom. Send your email address if you'd like to participate.

Bingo: Every Wednesday- Doors Open at 4:30 p.m. – Starts at 6:30 p.m.

L.A. County COVID guidelines are followed at Post 3261.

**CANTEEN
Open Mon - Sun
2 – 10 p.m.**

Join our Great Bartenders
Sweeney and Nakia!

TACO Tuesday 4-9 PM

- Tacos \$1.50
(Asada & Chicken)
- Wet Burrito \$7.00
(Asada or Chicken)
- Nachos \$5.00
(Asada or Chicken)

BINGO Wednesday

Doors open @ 4:30 p.m. Starts at
6:30 p.m.

Kitchen Hours: 5 - 9 PM

MENU

- Hot Dogs / Hamburgers
- Cheese Toast / Patty Melt
- Taco Salad / French Fries
- Desserts: Brownies & Pineapple
Upside Down Cake

**RENT THE HALL FOR
YOUR NEXT PARTY OR EVENT!
(Capacity: 250 Persons)**

Security Deposit - \$500
(Required to hold the date)

Sunday (3-10 pm) - \$950

Monday-Thursday - \$550

Friday & Saturday - \$2,000
(Bar Closes at Midnight)

Patio (10 am – 6 pm)- \$650
(No Kitchen)

**REMINDER: LA County
COVID guidelines
are followed**

James "Jimmy C" Carradine - Commander's Comments

The election of post officers was held at our April 12, 2022, membership meeting with a quorum present to vote. Members voting were in good standing with the VFW as verified by the Quartermaster Norman "Norm" Chibana. The following Post Officers have been re-elected, newly elected or appointed by the Post Commander to VFW Post 3261:

- Post Commander – James "Jimmy C" Carradine – reelected
- Senior Vice Commander – Noe Rubio – reelected
- Junior Vice Commander – Juan C. Guerrero
- Quartermaster – Norman "Norm" Chibana
- Chaplain – Michael J. McArdie
- 1st Year Trustee – Elvin Carter – newly elected
- 2nd Year Trustee – Horace Yonamine – reelected
- 3rd Year Trustee – Patrick F. Tubal – reelected
- Adjutant – Norman "Norm" Chibana – appointed by Post Commander
- Service Officer – Larry "Skip" Anglin – appointed by Post Commander
- Judge Advocate – Vincent K. Warren – appointed by Post Commander

I congratulate each reelected member and our newly elected 1st Year Trustee Elvin Carter.

Our Easter Egg Hunt was a success! We received many outstanding comments from the parents who attended with their children. We are especially proud here at Post 3261 since this was the first community Easter Egg Hunt since the 80s. The Easter Bunny (Star Manning) was a hit with the kids along with the three Bouncers provided by Inglewood VFW Post 2122, and face painting by Donneka Ballard – Paint-a-Face LA who did an outstanding job and didn't leave until the last face was painted.

Our thanks goes out to the all the people at Post 3261 for their donations and services to make this an outstanding event for the kids.

Commander's Comments, Continued.

Easter Egg Hunt Donations

Innovative Inspections Services, Inc.
 Party on Western
 David Burke
 Herman Blue
 Chris
 Darrel Spears
 Larry "Skip" Anglin
 Carlos Phillips
 Billy
 Don Reed
 Jimmy Carradine
 VFW Post 3261 (Norman Chibana)
 Sherry Leeth
 John
 Inglewood VFW Post 2122 (Bouncers)

Easter Egg Hunt Volunteers

Marshaun Logan
 Stacy Foxworth
 Gina McKenzie
 John Spencer (Spencer)
 Lynda Love
 Nancy Vigil
 Dennis Krotzer
 Jasmin Chavez
 Mary
 Jenny Martinez
 Juan Guerrero
 Pedro Avila
 Larry "Skip" Anglin
 Zeus Rubio
 Noe Rubio
 Star Manning

Good food and fun were had by all at the joint ***Backyard BBQ with Posts 3261 and 1961*** (see the *Back Yard BBQ pictures page 8*). Several local Gardena officials stopped by including Mayor Tasha Cerda, Mayor Pro Tem Rodney G. Tanka, and Councilmember Mark Henderson. Unfortunately, we had to move the BBQ inside due to windy weather conditions.

Several members from Post 1961 and Post 3261 including myself, were presented with "comforting and healing" Quilts of Valor for Veterans touched by war.

We are having some website difficulties with google sending us to the vfw3261.org website. Hopefully, the problems will be resolved by the next newsletter.

Also I can't stress enough the importance of providing your **email address if you wish to continue to receive Post 3261 Newsletter by mail. Once the website is fully operational newsletters will be mailed only to members that have submitted a request with an email address.**

Happy Easter!



POST 3261 SPONSORED A COMMUNITY EASTER EGG HUNT WITH EASTER BASKETS, FOOD, FACE PAINTING, BOUNCERS AND FUN FOR ALL THE CHILDREN!!





ARMY VETERAN RODOLFO PEREZ HERNANDEZ IS VETERAN OF THE DAY

Rodolfo Pérez Hernández was born in April 1931 in California. His parents were immigrants from Mexico, and Hernández left school at a young age to aid in picking crops to help support his family, which included a brother and two sisters. He enlisted in the Army in 1948 at age 17 to further provide for his family. After basic training, he was assigned to Company C, 2nd Battalion of the [187th Airborne Regimental Combat Team](#) and eventually deployed to Korea.

In May 1951, Hernández and his platoon were defending a position code named “Hill 420” near [Wontong-Ni, Korea](#). The enemy force outnumbered them, and they attacked with artillery, mortar and machine gunfire. The platoon took heavy casualties and soon ran low on ammunition. Hernández himself received a head wound from enemy artillery fire, and his rifle had become unusable due to a ruptured cartridge. Hernández exited his foxhole armed with several grenades, his inoperable rifle and a bayonet, and charged at the enemy position. With the bayonet, he killed [six enemy soldiers](#) and halted the enemy attack, allowing the rest of his platoon to rally and counterattack. Hernández was knocked unconscious because of several wounds caused by shrapnel, bayonets and bullets.

Hernández was initially thought to be deceased by his comrades before [regaining consciousness](#). He was rushed to a hospital and was found to have part of his skull lost, resulting in the right side of his body becoming paralyzed. A bayonet wound had also severely damaged his jaw. Hernández had to relearn to walk and talk because of his injuries, and he had to learn to write with his left hand because of his paralyzed right side. President Harry S. Truman presented the [Medal of Honor](#) to Hernández at the White House on April 12, 1952. He was just days away from turning 21.

After returning from Korea, Hernández studied at Fresno City College in California, working toward a degree in business administration. He eventually married, and he and his wife had three children. For much of his life, Hernández worked as a counselor at VA (then known as the Veterans Administration) in Los Angeles, helping his fellow Veterans. He retired in 1979 and took up golf. Hernández died in December 2013 at the age of 82 and is buried at [Sandhill State Veterans Cemetery](#) in Spring Lake, North Carolina.

We honor his service.

VFW COMMEMORATES THE END OF THE GULF WAR, CELEBRATES ITS VETERANS

UN recognized end to the conflict sealed a definitive victory for the United States military

WASHINGTON — February 28, 1991, marks the formal end to the Persian Gulf War and the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) continues to celebrate the veterans of the conflict. The courage of these brave men and women who fought to liberate a nation more than 7,000 miles away from American shores left an indelible mark on history.

On April 11, 1991, less than 90 days after the U.S.-led offensive against Iraq known as Operation Desert Storm began, the United Nations Security Council declared the conditions of Resolution 687 in effect, making the cease fire official and formally ending the Persian Gulf War. The definitive victory elevated the United States as the preeminent global superpower and the number one partner of choice for its allies around the world.

More than 700,000 American soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines, and Coast Guardsmen served in Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm. Of that number, 467 were reported wounded and 374 paid the ultimate sacrifice, two whose remains have yet to come home. Even now, we may never know the total cost of the conflict as Gulf War illness and other effects of toxic-exposure continue to take the lives of those who served there.

The VFW and its Auxiliary commemorate this historic day in American history and honor all Gulf War veterans. We stay committed to the fight for their healthcare and benefits on Capitol Hill and say “thank you” for their service and sacrifice more than 31 years ago.

SOURCE: Washington Wire: Capitol Hill Briefs By Dave Spiva – April’s VFW Magazine.

CONGRESS PASSES ‘ENSURING VETERANS’ SMOOTH TRANSITION ACT’

The U.S. House of Representatives passed a VFW-supported bill that would require automatic VA healthcare enrollment for troops transitioning out of the military.

The *Ensuring Veterans’ Smooth Transition Act, H.R. 4673* would require VA to enroll every transitioning veteran into the VA health care system. However, service members are allowed to opt-out of the enrollment and instructions will be given to others who want to unenroll.

The *Ensuring Veterans’ Smooth Transition Act*, also known as the *EVEST Act*, states that if signed into law by President Joe Biden, it would be required to take effect by Aug. 1, 2022.

One of the goals of the *EVEST Act* is to take a step toward preventing veterans from losing their lives to suicide. It also makes the VA health care enrollment process much easier by making it seamless, according to a House VA Committee press release.

The *EVEST Act* also would notify VA of the enrollment within two months of veteran leaving the military. The Biden Administration supports the effort to pass the bill in the Senate, according to a White House press release.

The Congressional Budget Office, or CBO, estimates that about 250,000 service members would be automatically enrolled and remain enrolled in VA’s health care system by 2026, with 58,000 being enrolled this year. Over those four years, the CBO also estimates that the cost will be \$3.1 billion if H.R. 4673 is passed by the Senate and signed into law.

SOURCE: Washington Wire: Capitol Hill Briefs By Dave Spiva – April’s VFW Magazine.

ONLY MY SISTERS UNDERSTAND

An active-duty Navy veteran and VFW member shares how a non-profit in Colorado helped her connect with like-minded female veterans.



Female veterans and members of Challenge America's Military Sisterhood Initiative (MSI) pose during the program's first MSI Summit in December 2017 in Snowmass, Colorado. Photo courtesy of Challenge America.

While browsing her page, a post by a fellow female veteran introduced Williams to the Military Sisterhood Initiative (MSI), an online peer support network for female veterans whose membership exceeds 4,500 members.

"I checked it out and found it was something I wanted to be part of," said Williams, a member of VFW Post 5867 in Lakeside, California, near San Diego. "I joined in April 2020, and my first impression was that there were lots of women like me in the initiative — women who wanted the camaraderie of other women veterans."

Williams's need for that connection with other female veterans is the reason Colorado-based Challenge America created MSI in 2016.

Challenge America is a national nonprofit leveraging technology and the creative arts to improve the lives of veterans and their families.

"We had conducted a lot of research on women veterans but had never had a program specifically for them," Challenge America's Executive Director Dallas Blaney said. "We hosted focus groups and decided it was a thing that could have a positive impact on that population."

Through Challenge America, which was created in 2009 in Basalt, Colorado, and oversees multiple programs like MSI, Blaney added that female veterans are offered a platform they can trust and stand behind.

"I think the greatest impact this program has is creating a network for women veterans that they can trust," Blaney said. "Women veterans, from our research, don't trust many platforms or even men, but they trust themselves, and this platform provides that level of trust."

Through MSI's current platform, women veterans like Williams are welcomed to summits and online meetings that offer a means to forge friendships by sharing stories, playing games, hosting book clubs, cooking and chatting about an array of topics.

For the lieutenant commander, a more than 27-year active-duty Navy veteran who served aboard the USS Ronald Reagan (CVN-76) in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2009, MSI provides a safe space to unburden herself.

"I appreciate the friendships, support and shared experiences MSI affords women veterans," Williams said of the platform. "While I have shared experiences with my brother veterans, too, there are some stories and struggles that only my sisters-in-arms understand."

Steadily growing its reach across 50 states and 21 countries in its six-year history, MSI, Blaney says, will soon surpass 5,000 members and add several useful workshops in 2022.

- SOURCE: By Ismael Rodriguez Jr. Senior Writer, VFW Magazine, March 30, 2022

QUILT OF VALOR PRESENTED AT BACKYARD BBQ EVENT SPONSORED BY VFW POST 3261 AND POST 1961

On March 27, 2022, VFW Post 3261 and Post 1961 held a BBQ for post members & families along with members and families from the Women's Club and Auxiliary of Post 1961.

Although the BBQ was moved indoors because of bad weather conditions, it provided an opportunity for the Quilts of Valor Foundation to honor service members of Post 3261 and 1961 touched by war with comforting and healing Quilts of Valor.



Pictured left to right: Les Higa, Steve Moriyama, Ron Ikejiri (rear), Paul Tarujmoto, (front) Barbara Laughlin (rear), Jimmy Carradine (front), Mike Laughlin(rear), Gardena Mayor Tasha Cerda (front), Larry "Skip" Anglin (rear), Elvin Carter (rear) Mayor Pro Tem Rodney Tanaka (front), Juan Guerrero (rear) Anthony Dixon (rear), Vincent "Kirk" Warren (rear) Robert Sueyoshi (front) Norman Chibana (front), Noe Rubio (front) and Franklin Hayakawa (front)



Pictured left to right: Gardena Mayor Pro Tem Rodney Tanka, Franklin Hayakawa(Post 1961) Paul Tarumoto (Post 1961) Robert Sueyoshi (Post 1961) Jimmy Carradine (Post 3261) Barry Butterworth (Post 3261) and Gardena Mayor Tasha Cerda.



Pictured left to right: VFW Post 3261 Commander Jimmy "C" Carradine and VFW Post Commander 1961 Steve Moriyama

AIRBORNE HAZARDS AND OPEN BURN PIT REGISTRY

VFW wants all veterans who served in specific overseas operation to join the Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry.

Veterans of the following operations can apply:

- Operations Desert Storm
- Operation Desert Shield
- Operation New Dawn
- Operation Iraqi Freedom
- Operation Enduring Freedom

Eligible veterans are encouraged to join the registry even if:

- They don't believe they were exposed to specific airborne hazards.
- They are not experiencing symptoms or illnesses believed to be related to exposures.
- They have not filed a VA claim for compensation or applied for VA health care.
- They are still a service member or have returned to military service.

Participation will not negatively impact VA claims or the ability to receive VA health care, according to VA.

VA presumptive conditions for burn pit, or particulate matter exposure, are:

- Asthma
- Rhinitis
- Sinusitis

According to VFW, exposure to burn pits might also be associated with:

- Asthma
- Emphysema
- Chronic bronchitis
- Chronic obstructive pulmonary disorder, or COPD

VFW asks any veteran who has not filed a claim for these conditions or had their medical records and previous VA disability claims reviewed to contact a VA-accredited VFW service officer help.

Find a nearby VFW service officer at www.vfw.org/service-officers.

To register, visit www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/burnpits/registry.asp.

SOURCE: Washington Wire: Capitol Hill Briefs By Dave Spiva – April's VFW Magazine.

INDEPENDENT BUDGET PUTS VETERANS INTERESTS FIRST

VFW, along with Disabled American Veterans (DAV) and Paralyzed Veterans of American (PVA), released the latest edition of *The Independent Budget (IB)* in February. The proposal is a recommendation from the three groups as how to best fund VA over the next two fiscal years.

The *IB* is used as a guide for Congress as it debates the upcoming VA budgets for fiscal years 2023 and 2024. The latest recommendation by VFW, DAV and PVA is a total VA budget of \$140.1 billion for 2023.

The proposed budget includes \$122.2 billion for the Veterans Health Administration, or VHA. The groups recommended a VHA budget of \$5 billion more for the following year.

The proposed 2023 VHA budget gives \$490 million to the caregiver program and \$395 million to the homeless veterans' programs. The *IB* also recommends a total of \$150 million for women veterans' health care. This includes \$120 million for VA to continue providing women-specific services.

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The *IB* recommends an additional \$10 million in 2023 for addressing deficiencies in the VA health care system for women. Funds are to ensure more women-friendly health care facilities.

The *IB* also recommends a total budget of 3.9 billion for the Veterans Benefits Administration, or VBA, next year. That includes about \$251 million for the Board of Veterans' Appeals, or BVA. Highlights in the VBA budget include:

- \$125 million for funding the Veteran Employment Through Technology Education Courses, or VETTEC, veteran retraining programs.
- \$100 million for information technology funding to reduce backlogs and revamp the current delivery of benefits system for more than 4 million disabled veterans and their survivors.

"For more than 30 years the [VFW, DAV and PVA] have co-authored the *IB*, offering substantive solutions and policy recommendations that ensure the timely delivery of specialized health care, as well as appropriately earned benefits for the men and women who served," said Bob Wallace, executive director of the VFW Washington Office. "While this year's report is now complete, it is now imperative that Congress and VA work together, along with veterans service organizations and other veterans stakeholders to put veterans interests on the top of their list."

The full *Independent Budget* for this year is available at www.independentbudget.org.

SOURCE: Washington Wire: Capitol Hill Briefs By Dave Spiva – April's VFW Magazine.



VFW Action Alert: The Senate Must Pass the Honoring Our PACT Act

The Honoring our PACT Act passed the House in March with a broad bipartisan vote and now it is time for the Senate to do its job

Background

The *Honoring our PACT Act* passed the House in March with a broad bipartisan vote. Now it is time for the Senate to do its job.

The *Honoring our PACT Act* is **THE** comprehensive solution to provide access to VA health care and benefits to toxic-exposed veterans. Supported by more than 40 veteran organizations, this historic legislation would help millions of veterans by establishing a permanent presumptive framework to address any toxic exposure, foreign or domestic, past, present, and future.

It would provide VA health care access for all veterans exposed to hazards, create a concession of exposure for airborne toxins, and establish a list of presumptive conditions associated with burn pits and other exposures.

This legislation would help Post-9/11 veterans, Persian Gulf War veterans, K2 veterans, Atomic veterans, and Vietnam veterans, including those who served in Thailand, Cambodia, and Laos.

We urge the Senate to pass the *Honoring our PACT Act* as soon as it is brought to the floor.

Take Action

[Contact your senators](#) and tell them to vote **YES** when the *Honoring our PACT Act* is brought to the Senate floor. Toxic-exposed veterans cannot afford to wait any longer for health care and benefits.

We must act now!

WILLIAM STARK ROSECRANS VFW POST 3261

OFFICERS

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Senior Vice Commander – Noe Rubio

Junior Vice Commander - Juan C. Guerrero

Quartermaster – Norman "Norm" Chibana

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