

THE MARAUDER

APRIL 2013



75TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION SPECIAL COLOR EDITION



COMMANDER'S MESSAGE OF THE MONTH

Hello Comrades,

Let me begin this Marauder with a personal reflection... Just the other day, I was listening to the Judd's song called "Grandpa Tell Me About the Good Old Days." Hearing this 1986 hit was amazing for me; it took me back to what the song's message is all about. The lyrics to this song's chorus goes:

*"Did lovers really fall in love to stay?
Stand beside each other come what may?
Was a promise really something people kept,
Not just something they would say and then forget?
Did families really bow their heads to pray?
Did daddies really never go away?
Whoa oh Grandpa,
Tell me 'bout the good ole days."*

The content of this song is extremely meaningful, talking about real values that have faded over time. In reminiscing, I want to share these reminded values to the American Legion... Because we are truly a family, we should sit down at dinners and pray together as one. We need to help one another. We need to stand together, through good times and tough times. What would really be great for us are some good-old-fashion work ethics. As Commander of Post 555, it is my responsibility to observe and speak on the status of our Post. From what I have taken in, I'm afraid that at the rate and direction we are going, the future of the Legion is not so bright. In about 10 years, there may not be an American Legion. This is very significant and should be addressed. How can we resolve this? It is our duty to pass on our values. It is simple -- we need to get the younger generation involved. Just look around, the VFW recently had to merge with other VFW's so they can stay active! Members are dwindling and no new members are being recruited. This is not effective for our future. What would really be beneficial for the American Legion is if current members hold their morals firmly, and for new members to take on the traditional values we promote. We can tell them about the Good Old Days. Be aware of your power; every one of us is a recruiter. Please reach out to all, whether a neighbor or a stranger, and ask them if they are Veterans to recruit them. Thanks for your attention. Our future depends on it.

On that note, I want to bring up a feeling of pride. As I said on Monday, let's take pride in our post. It is your post and we all need to do our part to make Post 555 not only successful, but also an enjoyable one. It is then we can be proud. We should all be able to hold our heads up high and say, "I helped make a big difference in building that post." It will be a great feeling. As you know our 75th anniversary is upon us! This is a huge milestone for us all. Let's make this a great event by getting the word out and participating in our celebration. We need to invest a little of our time in our post and make it the best post ever.

For God and Country,

Jose Amezcua



CHAPLIN'S REPORT

Hello everyone, we have some more sad news another Member Walter Stephenson a 25 year Veteran of the US Navy from 1950 to 1975. Has pasted on to the Post Everlasting.

I would like to mention I know it's a very emotional time but when one of your Love ones passes on please try if you can to get me some

information so we can Honor the Member. Well here we go again with John Clifton's (Utah Jack's) Diary. Remember the dates will go back a little but still very interesting information.

June 19th
1944: Mon-

day, Shortly after dawn GQ the alarm went off, we were at GQ all day and night eating rations. Some plane came in from every angle and it wasn't long before we were throwing everything we had at them. We were east of the formation and the Carriers were off of the port bow, five planes came in

and dropped bombs on the Bunker Hill and was causing some damage to the planes on deck and besides the deck itself. The five planes were shot down but a plane came in the east of us to strike us, then turned suddenly to the left we then shot it down. All together our



planes and ships shot down 175 to 200 Jap planes and our losses were small in comparison. (Amen)

June 20th 1944: Tuesday, Today we continued searching for the Japs, at 1545 Hrs. we got contact with them about 200 miles WNW from us we launched about 400 planes from our

carriers to attack them. At 1800 Hrs. we received word that we have sunk one of their Carriers and that they still were going strong. The Jap fleet we were in contact with now has five Carriers, six to ten Cruisers, two Oilers and a lot of Destroyers. We received no more word as yet and at 2200 Hrs our Planes started coming back, well what was left of them. We had to turn around into the wind and every ship had to turn on their lights so that the plane could land. We lost a lot of plane because they ran out of fuel and some missed the Carriers and hit the water. Some planes were on fire all over the deck.

**God Bless America and the American Legion Family (Definitely our Troops)
Please stay Healthy (Amen)**

Andy Timko Post 555 Chaplain

ADJUTANT'S REPORT

Although there is concern regarding the American Legion membership as a body, I am pleased to report that Albert E. Schwab, Post 555 of the American Legion is fairing a bit better. Our Post has, once again met, and exceeded the membership goal set by the District. As of March 21, 2013 we have 242 members, for 100.41%. I have an additional 5 members to report to the Department. Congratulations to all of our Post members on achieving another 100% year. We cannot, however, become complacent. We will need to continue our efforts to grow as a Post. Please continue to recruit new members, and get yourself involved in Post activities.

Thanks to everyone who pitched in to help with the 75th Anniversary Celebration! Lil and the Ladies Auxiliary did a wonderful job in decorating the Post as well as providing a feast

for all to enjoy. Oscar was standing in front of a grill flipping burgers and hot dogs all day, Bob got drafted and worked the outside beer bar, Rudy, also drafted, found himself inside selling soft drinks. Charlie had the power point up and running, Ed and Andy manned the main club bar. Jenny and Kaye were running around all over the place making sure stuff got done. The Scout Troop made some great tasting Dutch Oven deserts. The American Legion Riders stood watch over the Wall of Remembrance 24 hours a day for all three days it was at our Post. A Special thanks to the Westminster High School Marching Band for their performance of musical pieces from the Lion King, as well as the National Anthem.

For all who help in any way to help pull off the event, I thank you. I am sorry if I missed getting your name in here, but I know you

were there and I know that the event would not have been a success without your help.

For God and Country,

**Jim Sewell
Adjutant
Post 555**



AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS

CHAPTER 555

Chapter 555 of the American Legion Riders met on Saturday morning, March 23, 2013 before our Post 75th Anniversary celebration began. It was election day for the Chapter and many Riders were present at the meeting to cast their vote for the leadership of the Chapter for the next year.



The new officers are:

President: Jim Sewell
Vice President: Marlene Flores
Secretary: Debbie Churchill
Treasurer: Chuck Johnson
Sgt at Arms: Mike White

The new Jr. Past President, Len Guillen, was kind enough to present each of his board members with a skull full of Vodka. He did not leave his Road Captain out, and presented "Wild" Bill Carr with a Velcro Road Captain patch. Ask Bill about it!

As the new President of the Chapter, I would like to thank each and every member of the Chapter for the support given to the Post, especially during the 75th Anniversary Celebration. The following members participated in the event planning, Wall escort, set up, guard duty (24 hours a day) and break down of the Wall of Remembrance that was set up for three days in front of the Post.

Charlie Bates (Post 75th Anniversary Historian), Bob Trudeau (Managed the Guard of the Wall), Len Guillen and Wild Bill Carr (Set up the Wall Escort), Lee Mastro, Dr. Don Hollands, Don Wood (Woody), Marlene Flores, Terry Doyle, Fast Dave (Wall Escort). On Friday morning, Wild Bill, Terry Doyle and Kathy, Bob Trudeau helped to set up the wall. Terry Doyle and Kathy, and Mike White stood guard on Friday night, Gary Logan and Mike Pelitt and the Southeast County Young Marines did so on Saturday night. The wall breakdown was done at sunset on Sunday and Jeff Gallagher, Bob Trudeau, Terry Doyle and Kathy, Dove, Geno, Tony, Bob, Dale, Commander Tony Amezcua helped out. The last section of the Wall was presented to the Post by Vision2Victory. There are, unfortunately, additional names to add so they will be re-doing that section. Our Post is blessed to now be the caretaker of this piece of history. Many more members of the Chapter and Post helped out, please forgive me for not listing you individually. We, as a Chapter, will continue our support of this Post and do all we can to assist in promoting the American Legion and Veteran causes.



For God and Country, Jim Sewell, President Chapter 555



Post 555, THE BEGINNING

County's 'Baby' Legion Post



--Press-Telegram Photo.

The new Midway City Post of the American Legion became the "baby" post of Orange County last night with the official charter presentation by J. Fred Dukes of Buena Park, Twenty-first District Commander. Officers and visiting Legionnaires taking part in the presentation are seen above. Left to right, Harold Spafford, First Vice Commander; Henry Mixer, Adjutant; E. A. Holley, Second Vice Commander; D. G. Braybrooks, Historian; Harry D. Hall, Sergeant-at-Arms; P. H. Marshall, Chaplain, and Robert F. Keller, Commander, all of the new Midway City Post, and District Commander Dukes, Ralph Nicodemus, District Vice Commander; A. B. Baldwin, District Adjutant, and Russell Norton, County Council Commander.

While compiling historical information for the 75th Anniversary event that was held March 23, 2013, I would like to provide a brief history of our Post. Fortunately, our Post has kept a couple scrap books since the beginning (1938). There is one that provides a chronological history from 1938-1950s. This book is filled with newspaper articles. However, when articles were saved in the scrap book, they failed to include dates. One can get an general idea when significant historical events were occurring. Reading those articles gave a clear picture of the events which started Post 555. Most significant is a summary of minutes from 1938-1948. This summary showed the struggles and achievements the Post was going through during those years. There are also complete copies of the "Westminster Gazette".

During those times, communities were growing and the Post was growing with them. The community embraced the Post as a contributor to the community and a place where our returning servicemen would belong and become part of the community. It must have been exciting

and challenging to be part of this history in the making. Below are highlights of history of our Post. I invite all members to check out the scrap book-it's a treasure.

1938-1940s

Post 555 Midway City was started in February 1938 and became chartered on March 22, 1938. The first Commander was Robert Keller. They began with 18 members, 12 as charter members. At that time without a hall they used the city community center for its meetings.

The Auxiliary was chartered the same year and its first President was Robert Keller's wife.

There was a tradition started by the Tustin Post, that any new Post that was started in Orange County would be first considered as a "Baby Post" in which a baby kit was provided; diapers, milk bottle,

rattle and safety pins. Seal Beach Post was the first, Costa Mesa Post the second. If no other Post started by January 1, 1940, the kit would be returned to Tustin Post. It turned out it was returned to Tustin.

The current property was purchased in 1938. Post 555 had purchased a recreation building from Standard Oil of Huntington Beach for \$500. In 1946 it was moved in pieces to its current location. Post meetings were held in the new building after 1946. The exact date that they moved in is not clear.

It was interesting that they had planned on a complete recreation center surrounding the Post; Tennis and handball courts, horseshoe pits and a softball diamond all for the public to enjoy. Not sure what happened with that plan.

1950s-

On May 30, 1950, the building was officially dedicated as Post 555 American Legion Hall.

2001

Post 555 was renamed Albert E. Schwab American Legion Post 555 after Private First Class Albert E. Schwab, USMC Medal of Honor.

2006-2007

In 2006, Chapter 555, American Legion Riders was formed by John Chizmar and was chartered in 2007.

Midway City Auxiliary Officers



(Cut Courtesy Long Beach Press-Telegram)

Officers of the newly organized Midway City American Legion Auxiliary pose for their photos in the delightful outdoor living room of their president, Mrs. Robert Keller. Seated in beach chair, Mrs. Keller. In other chair, Mrs. Vera Beno, second vice president. Standing, left, Mrs. Dorothy Stone, historian; seated, left, Mrs. Lillian Mixer, secretary-treasurer; right, Mrs. Nina Taylor, sergeant-at-arms; standing, right, Mrs. Margaret Fryer, first vice president.

POST 555, THE BEGINNING

MIDWAY CITY POST NO. 555

American Legion

announces the

Grand Opening

of their new clubhouse

SATURDAY, SUNDAY AND MONDAY
JUNE 7-8-9, 1947

—

Saturday, June 7th at 8 p.m.

Gala Opening and Past Commanders Ball
 Special Entertainment During Intermission
 Sponsored by Past Commanders
 Admission \$1 per person

—

Sunday, June 8th, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Public Open House
 Music and Refreshments
 Sponsored by Ladies Auxiliary

—

Monday, June 9th, 7:30 p.m.

Formal Dedication of Building
 Joint Initiation by Post and Auxiliary
 Public Welcome

(Printed by Huntington Beach News)



2011
 Sons of American Legion-Squadron 555 was formed and became part of Post 555, James Eubanks, Commander.

2013
 We now have over 241 members which

exceeds our goal. We all should be proud of this accomplishment and part of the history of this post.

Charles Bates
 Sgt at Arms, E-Board Member

New Legion Post to Be Christened

Commander Robert Keller to Receive Charter at Midway City.

MIDWAY CITY, April 9.—Orange County's "infant" Legion Post will receive its christening here in a colorful ceremony scheduled to start at 8 P. M. Monday night.

Among the features will be formal presentation of the charter for Post No. 555, American Legion. The document will be formally turned over to Commander Robert Keller by J. Fred (Pop) Dukes of Buena Park, Commander of the Twenty-first District.

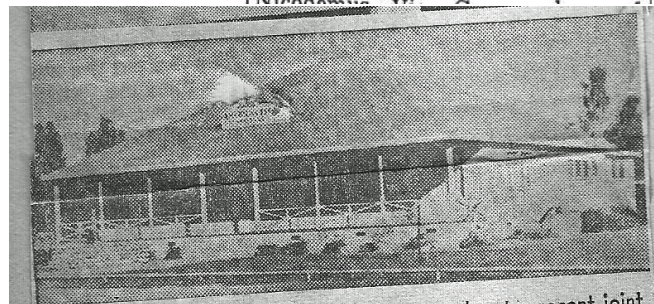


ROBERT KELLER

Also to be installed by Department Commander Joseph Long of Riverside are Harold Spafford, First Vice Commander; Emmet Holly, Second Vice Commander; Harry Hall, Sergeant at Arms; Gene Mixer, Adjutant; Dale Braybrooks, Historian, and Hugh Marshall, Chaplain. Other Legion officials expected to attend are Don McIntosh, Fifth Area Commander; "Dinny" Dinsmore and "Nick" Nicodemus.



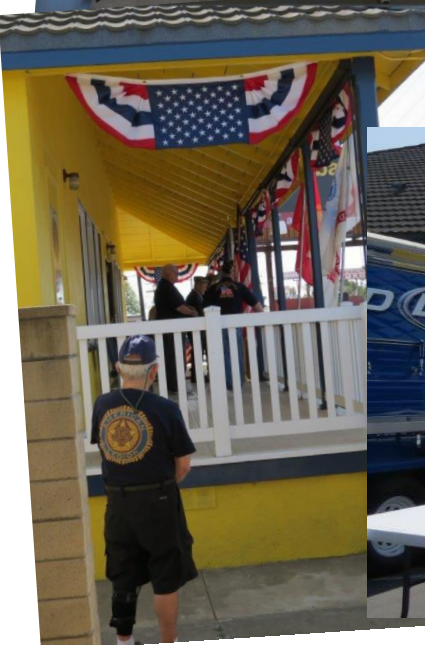
JOHN ROVICK (left), host of Los Angeles' KTTV "Sheriff John's Lunch Brigade," receives American Flag from Post & Unit #555, Midway City, Calif., for featuring the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag on his popular daily children's TV show.



CO-OPERATING—After cutting this cake at a recent joint meeting of the American Legion and Auxiliary, in Midway City, Commander George Rainey and Auxiliary President Lucille Wolfe (top photo) worked on plans for the dedication of the clubhouse, pictured below. After a four-year drive toward the dedication of the clubhouse on Huntington Beach Blvd., state, county and local veteran officials will join for the ceremonies the afternoon of Memorial Day, May 30, for placing of a plaque on the fountain in front, dedicating the building to war dead. Rainey will preside and Superior Judge Franklin West of Santa Ana will be the speaker.

75TH ANNIVERSARY IN PHOTOGRAPHS

(PHOTOS COURTESY OF DEBBIE HAYES)





APRIL 2013

SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

	1 Post E-Board 5:00PM	2 Auxiliary 7:00PM	3 40/8 7:30PM	4	5 Auxiliary Dinner 5:30	6
7	8 Post 555 Meeting 7:00PM	9	10	11	12	13
14	15 SAL E-Board 6:00PM SAL Meeting 7:00PM	16	17	18	19 Post Dinner 5:30PM	20 POST 266 Meeting 9:00AM
21	22 ALR E-Board 5:00PM	23	24	25	26	27 ALR Meeting 8:30AM MOPH 11:00AM
28	29	30				

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday to you! If you're birthdate falls in April, come to the Triple Nickle for a drink on the house! Not on the list? Contact the Post Adjutant and give him your birthdate!

Sedlak,	Edward
Mosby,	William
Kunkel,	Cobern
Dosch,	Dean
Stephan,	William
Dwyer,	Patrick
Seibert,	William
Crumm,	Chester
Childs,	David
Ryan,	William
Malinis,	Fidel
Ponti,	Charles
Needham,	Harold
Eglett,	Charles
Rude,	Albert
Sewell,	James



DATES TO REMEMBER

- April 1: Post 555 E-Board
- April 2: Auxiliary Meeting
- April 5: Auxiliary Dinner
- April 8: Post 555 Meeting
- April 15: SAL E-Board and Meeting
- April 19: Post Dinner
- April 22: ALR E-Board
- April 27: ALR Meeting



Auxiliary Dinner

Friday, April 5, 2013 at 5:30 PM



MENU:

**PORK CHOPS, POTATOES, VEGETABLE,
ROLL, SALAD AND DESSERT**

\$7.00

POST DINNER

FRIDAY, APRIL 19, 2013 AT 5:30 PM

MENU:

**SPAGHETTI AND MEATBALLS AND ITALIAN SAUSAGE, SALAD,
BREAD, AND DESSERT.**

\$7.00



POST 555 OFFICERS

Commander:	Tony Amezcua	Treasurer:	Oscar Perez
1st Vice:	Jenny Hayden	Adjutant:	Jim Sewell
2nd Vice:	Vacant	Sgt at Arms:	Charles Bates
E-Board:	Gus Sifuentes	Asst SaA:	Ed Sedlak
E-Board:	Andy Timko		
E-Board:	Charles Bates		



AUXILIARY UNIT 555 OFFICERS

President:	Lil Perez
1st Vice:	Kay Hamby
2nd Vice:	Sue Nott
Secretary:	Naoko Gorsuch
Treasurer:	Marie Dillard
Chaplain:	Bonnie Seibert
Sgt at Arms:	Rita Smith



CHAPTER 555 OFFICERS

President:	Jim Sewell
Vice-President:	Marlene Flores
Secretary:	Debbie Churchill
Treasurer:	Chuck Johnson
Sgt at Arms:	Mike White



SQUADRON 555 OFFICERS

Commander:	James Eubanks
1st Vice:	Cameron Mathis
2nd Vice:	David Schenewerk
Finance:	Bryan Schenewerk
Legion Advisor:	Bob Dillard
E-Board:	Tom Bradley
E-Board:	john Cruz



ALBERT E. SCHWAB POST 555

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