

STAR POST NEWS

THE AMERICAN LEGION
LOS ANGELES SHERIFF'S STAR POST 309



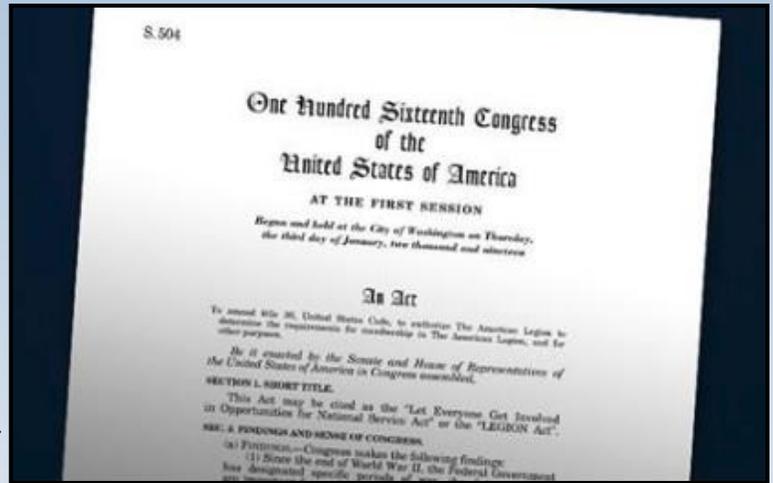
JULY 2019

THE LEGION ACT

In a significant legislative victory for The American Legion, President Trump signed a bill July 30 that declares the United States has been in a state of war since December 7, 1941.

The American Legion sought the declaration as a way to honor approximately 1,600 U.S. service-members who were killed or wounded during previously undeclared periods of war.

The LEGION Act (Let Everyone Get Involved In Opportunities for National Service Act) also opens the door for approximately 6 million veterans to access American Legion programs and benefits for which they previously had not been eligible.



“Recognizing the service of these wartime veterans is the right thing do and it is long overdue,” National Commander Brett Reistad said. “The families of those who were killed or wounded during these wartime acts should take pride in knowing that we recognize their sacrifice and service. Moreover, we are proud to welcome any of the six million living veterans from the previously unrecognized periods into our organization and call them ‘Legionnaires.’”

Now that the legislation has been signed, The American Legion’s eligibility criteria immediately changes from seven war eras to two: April 6, 1917, to Nov. 11, 1918, and Dec. 7, 1941 to a time later determined by the federal government. No other restrictions to American Legion membership are changed. More than 1,600 members of the U.S. Armed Forces were killed or wounded in periods of time not designated as war eras since the end of World War II. The newly signed Let Everyone Get Involved in Opportunities for National Service Act of 2019 – The LEGION Act – honors those veterans, their spouses and descendants, extending membership eligibility in The American Legion Family to hundreds of thousands who had previously been excluded.

The LEGION Act offers American Legion membership eligibility to any U.S. military veteran who served at least one day of active military duty since Dec. 7, 1941, and was honorably discharged or is serving now. Because the American Legion was chartered by Congress, it took a law signed by the President to change our organization’s constitution.

What does this mean for you? If you are already a member, this has no effect on your membership. But what it does do is open the door to the many veterans who are now eligible to join. If you have previously been told you were ineligible because your enlistment dates fell out of the specified eras, we encourage you now to sign up for membership. In our Sheriff’s Department family, this means that all who served outside of the Vietnam Era and all those who served during the Cold War can now be members of Star Post 309. Contact us at info@starpost309.com for membership information. We look forward to having you in our ranks as members of our American Legion family. Excerpts for this story were taken from Legion.org.

Installation Luncheon

On July 27, the newly elected and appointed Officers of the Los Angeles Sheriff's Star Post No. 309 were installed into their respective posts. Star Post 309 is lucky to have a Past Department Commander in the form of Hugh E. Crooks Jr. He and the newly elected District 17 Commander, George Aguilar, and Past District 17 Commander Jimmy Cummings, along with Past Commander of Post 8, Danielle Duffaut, conducted the installation ceremony. Installations, just like a military change of command, symbolize the passing of responsibility from one slate of officers to the next. They usually occur in June and July Legion-wide.

Just before the ceremony, Star Post hosted a BBQ lunch. We thank our Legionnaire Bob Lee for helping set up the display, and for organizing everything for lunch which was catered by The Mission BBQ. This is not your ordinary catering service. They're focused on helping the homeless and "smoking out hunger" through their various charitable works. We will be teaming up with them again during the holiday season, where we'll hold our Holiday Luncheon with the focus of helping the homeless veteran population.

As part of our installation meeting, three of the four boys whom Star Post sponsored to Boys State, and one young lady sponsored to Girls State, shared with the assembly their experiences about these great educational programs. All of the participants hail from Wilson High School in Los Angeles and are involved in either the Law or Police magnet programs at the school.

Star Post offers this scholarship opportunity to any high school junior who is a son or daughter of a Star Post member. Because we had no interested family members apply this year, we sought candidates at Wilson High School. These students would not otherwise have an opportunity to participate in this program, let alone pay for any of the expenses related to travel and housing. We recognize this and offer them an opportunity to participate at absolutely no cost to them. For some of these students, this was the first time they ventured out of county to Sacramento.

While the opportunity remains, Star Post will continue to sponsor these young men and women to attend Boys State and Girls State. Want to help? One way is by participating in our charity golf tournament. This is where we raise funds to continue our Legion programs and enhance the lives of our veterans and their families. Boys State and Girls State occur in June, so be on the lookout for our next announcement beginning in March of next year.

You can find more photos of the event on our website.



From L-R: Bob Lee, Esmé Alamillo-Gadut, Jason Crosswhite, Hugh E. Crooks Jr., Ernie Bille, Patrick Gadut, Oscar Martinez, Kari Mercer, Chuck Norris, and Pete Ramirez. Not pictured Terry Black, Ron Nybakken.

Swearing in of Officers



WELCOME TO THE FAMILY

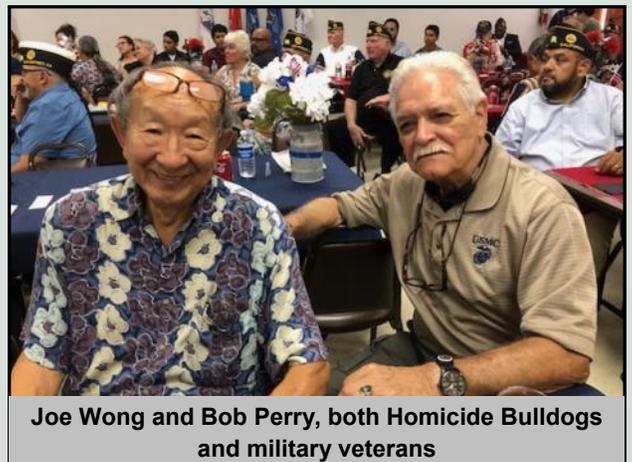
Since the start of the new Legion year on July 1, Star Post 309 has already made a significant impact with our new membership drive. We've had two Academy classes, 437 and 438, with a significant number of veterans join. Becoming a member of the American Legion Star Post 309 is a choice, and one that many of these new veterans make by enrolling in Star Post. For those who don't immediately join, we still afford them the same services as we would to any veteran. Besides, they eventually come around. For instance, one of our newer members, who is probably one of the oldest new members we've had, finally joined Star Post 309. We welcome Joseph Wong to our family. Joe, a Marine from the Korean War era, was a Bulldog and worked Homicide back in the day. He and Bob Perry joined us at our recent Installation luncheon. Sorry it took so long to get you in, but we're glad to have you.

Congratulations to all the newest members of Star Post 309. Some of these new members were transferred from Post 1000 (member at large) into Star Post. We look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events.

Anthony Dorado
Luis Castaneda
Jose Noguera
Jeremiah Haro
Gabriel Munoz
Brandon Austin
Andrew De Jong
Joseph Wong
Norman Hoskins
Roger Nicodemus
Thomas Layton

Gustavo Solis
Mikah Lopez
Ariel Diaz
Kevin Paliakara
Paul Morales
Yalun Wang
Nicolas Muriedas
David Petrocelli
Dirk Blansfield
Kenneth Sutherland
Charles Vannoy

Justin San Juan
Alfonso Clemens
Luis De La Torre
Carlos Rodriguez
Favian Anguiano
Kevin Aguirre
Joceline Silva-Torres
Kristopher Krouse
Mark Duran
Mike Doucet



Third Annual Charity Golf Tournament

The American Legion Los Angeles Sheriff's Star Post 309

Invites you to participate in our charity
golf tournament

Monday, September 16, 2019
California Country Club
1509 Workman Mill Rd., Whittier

\$120 per player
\$30 lunch only option

Shotgun starts at 7:00 AM

Food and beverages served
throughout the course

Lunch banquet immediately follows

Visit starpost309.com to register

Proceeds benefit veteran and youth programs.
Star Post 309 is a recognized 501(c)19 veteran
service organization

GOLF
FORE
KIDS



UPCOMING EVENTS

We still have room for players in our upcoming charity golf tournament on Sept. 16. If you plan to play, we ask that you please register early.

On August 28, Star Post 309, in conjunction with the LASD Military and Veteran Affairs Unit, will host a Veteran Resource Fair. We thank the Professional Peace Officer Association - PPOA - for hosting the event at their annual pre-Labor Day BBQ employee luncheon. The event will take place at Biscailuz Center. Veteran service providers will be on hand to help with any veteran related resources. Look for our Star Post table.

If you are a PPOA member, you eat lunch for free. If you're not a PPOA member, but are a veteran, stop by our table for a free meal ticket compliments of PPOA and Star Post 309.



**Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department
Military and Veteran Affairs Unit**

ATTENTION ALL MILITARY VETERANS & RESERVIST

VETERAN RESOURCE FAIR

**HELD IN CONJUNCTION WITH 19TH ANNUAL
PPOA BBQ**

**Where: BISCAILUZ TRAINING ACADEMY
1060 N. Eastern Ave, L.A.**

When: Wednesday, August 28, 2019 from 1000-1400

CalVet representatives along with US Department of Veterans Affairs and Veteran Services Officers from the Los Angeles County Military & Veteran Affairs will be present to discuss the claims process.

**FREE LUNCH PROVIDED TO ALL VETERANS
PROVIDED BY PPOA**

**For more information, please contact Deputy Carlos Levario
(clevari@lasd.org)**



Have questions on how to join? Email us at info@starpost309.com. If you know a veteran who qualifies for membership, please share this newsletter and our information with him/her. Star Post 309 is a recognized tax exempt 501(c)(19) veterans organization. Questions about this newsletter can be directed to info@starpost309.com. **Mailing address: Star Post 309, 10 W. Bay State St. #913, Alhambra, CA 91802.** Tax ID 95-XXXXXXX