



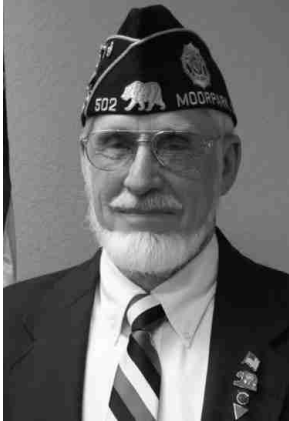
Moorpark Post 502



The American Legion • Sixteenth District •

Nov / Dec 2009

Commander's Message



Jim Carpenter

American Legion Post 502 Commander

Greetings again to all my fellow Legionnaires;

WOW! These have been really busy months! We are constantly striving to keep Moorpark Post 502 very visible to all Legionnaires and in the eyes of the public. You have an active post, be proud of it!

May: (16) We had a wonderful turnout for the dedication of the new Veterans Memorial. What a beautiful memorial it is! We cannot thank the City of Moorpark enough for building this tribute to all the men and women who have served and presently are serving

in our great nations military forces, to defend freedom throughout the world.

(16) After the dedication ceremonies we had our annual Veterans Appreciation BBQ which also had a good turnout to enjoy your 1st Vice Commanders' great cooking skills.

Note: mark your calendar for this event on Armed Forces Day every year; you owe it to yourself to share in the great food and comradeship of your fellow veterans.

(25) Memorial Day Observance, our first event at the new site, was very well attended and a very meaningful experience. If you missed it you shouldn't have!

June: (01) Your Post hosted the Ventura County Council meeting at the Grinder Restaurant. This is a meeting at which representatives from all the Posts' in Ventura County attend. Since we were the host post it was an opportunity for our members to come and learn more about how the legion functions.

(05) Your Adjutant (Pete) and I attended the Los Angeles County Council meeting and **(06)** the Homecoming Dinner for the outgoing 16th Dist. Commander, Dan Crow.

(07) We attended the 16th District meeting (includes all posts in Ventura, Santa Barbara & San Luis Obispo Counties) and now our very own Peter Duncan is the 2nd Vice Commander for the district. (Congratulations Pete, we have a VIP in our post)

(11) The American Legion School Award was presented to the top male & female student of each of the schools eighth grade graduating classes by Past Commander, Bruce Thomas, Adjutant Pete Duncan and I. How gratifying it is to recognize these outstanding students in front of their classmates and everyone in attendance.

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Commander's Message

(18-21) Pete and I attended the Annual Department Convention in Riverside, CA. This is where representatives of posts from the entire state come together to report the results of activities for the year and to elect the state officers for the upcoming year. I am happy to announce that **Dennis Fercho** (one of Ventura County's very own from Camarillo Post) has become the new **Department Commander for California**. Congratulations Dennis.



Ventura County Council hosted by Oak View Post 686. Department Commander, Dennis Fercho (l) and Post 502 Commander salute the Flag at the conclusion of the meeting. (Photo: Pete Duncan)

(19-27) **Matias Friz** from Moorpark High School (representing our Post 502) attended the Legion's Boy's State program in Sacramento. We received a very nice letter of appreciation from Matias, thanking us for providing him the opportunity to be a part of this amazing program. We have invited him and his family to come to the Post's Christmas Dinner to share his experiences with us. We look forward to this and hope that they will be able to attend.

July: (03) Moorpark Fireworks Show was spectacular and your Post was there! Manning our booth was Pete Duncan, Jim Beaver, Darwin & Carol Long doing a great job. This is a great event which provides us great exposure to the community by giving out small U.S. Flags, answering questions and just being very visible to the public.



July 3rd Moorpark Fireworks Extravaganza The Mayor and Dale Parvin stopped by the booth to visit with Vice Commander, Jim Beaver. (Photo: Pete Duncan)

(06) We attended the Ventura Co. Council meeting in Oak View.

(14) Our Post's meeting took place.

(17-19) Pete and I attended the 40 & 8 Grand Voiture du California Promenade (state convention) at McClellan, CA. **Congratulations to Peter Duncan** again, he is now the new **Grand Conducteur for the State of California**.

(Similar to 2nd Vice Commander)

Way to go Pete! (We have a double celebrity VIP in our post.)

(22) 40 & 8 Promenade at the Camarillo Post.

(29) We attended the Fifth Wednesday dinner at Oak View Post.

August: Due to numerous vacationing key American Legion members there was no County Council meeting or 40 & 8 Promenade this month.

(11) Post meeting.

September: (02) I attended the City Council meeting during which the Veterans Memorial's Flagpoles were incorporated into the city's Flag Policy Ordinance.

(08-11) 40 & 8 Nationale Promenade in New York was attended by Pete Duncan and his wife Darlene.

(08) Post Meeting;

(13) Pete and I attended The 16th District meeting in Pasa Robles.

(14) Pete and I attended The Ventura County Council meeting in Ojai.

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Commander's Message

(19-20) We attended the 6th Area meeting in Pomona both days.

(23) 40 & 8 Promenade in Ojai; (27) 40 & 8 4th District Cheminot meeting in Culver City. (30) We attended the Fifth Wednesday dinner at Oak View Post.

October: (03) Moorpark Country Days Parade & Street Faire was in full swing and we were there. Manning the Post's booth was Kevin Panet, Darwin Long and I making sure that everyone knows who we are.

(05) Pete and I attended The Ventura County Council meeting in Camarillo.

(10-11) We also attended the 40 & 8 Grand Cheminot (state meeting) in Palm Springs.

(13) Post 502 meeting; (28) Moorpark will host the 40 & 8 promenade at The Grinder.

COMING UP - DON'T MISS THESE IMPORTANT EVENTS!

November: (07-08) Civil War Reenactments. We will have our booth at this great event which gives us the opportunity to show thousands of people who we are and possibly recruit new members. This is a two day event and if anyone can spend a few hours helping to man the booth please let us know right away. It is a lot of fun and you will enjoy it.

(11) Veterans Day Ceremonies: we will change the flags at the old memorial site on the corner of Moorpark Ave. & L. A. Ave. at 0800 hrs as we usually do. We will then proceed to the New Memorial site and have the main ceremony at 1000 hrs.

PLEASE ATTEND THE CEREMONY TO SHOW YOUR APPRECIATION AND SUPPORT FOR ALL VETERANS.

This is one day that all eyes turn to us and the people do remember!

December: (01) our Annual Post Dinner at the Grinder Restaurant, DO NOT MISS THIS FUN EVENT! Once again we will be able to order individually from the menu!

Membership:

By now you have received your dues renewal notice for 2010, if your card still has 2008 on it you need to contact Jim Beaver (1st Vice Commander) immediately!

This is very important; your fellow veterans are counting on your support!

(If you are having difficulty with the dues we can help, please call me at 901-2133.)

Next Post Meeting:

I encourage you all to come to our next Post Meeting on

Nov. 10th at the Moorpark Chamber of Commerce Bldg., High Street & Moorpark Ave. @1900 hrs.

(7:00 pm for those of you who have forgotten how to tell real time.)

This important meeting will be the day before we have our Veterans Day Ceremonies and the last chance for any updates, please attend!

Come and participate in the planning for the future, WE NEED YOUR VOICE!

Thank you for your support, I salute you all,
Jim Carpenter



July 17, 2009 - 40 & 8 Meeting - McClellan, CA

Post Commander, Jim Carpenter wearing one of his many hats. In this case, the chapeau of the 40 & 8. Jim was helping to raise money for the Special Awards Program. (Photo by Pete Duncan)

Post Adjutant's Report



Pete Duncan

American Legion Post 502 Adjutant

Membership: Yes! It is that time of the year again – membership. National began sending the membership renewals out in July. I know what you're thinking, "Why do they start in July, I just paid my membership of 2009 and already they're looking for next year." Just so you will know, National does not do this to annoy you. They do it because, with three million members around the world, and knowing that at best, only 80% will have taken care of business by the beginning of the year, they must start beating the bushes as early as possible. That being July. Why July? Because the process cannot begin until after the National Convention which takes place in July.

I ask two things of you. 1) Please get those dues in and 2) Please get those due in. BTW: We have a small contingency fund and with the economy as it is, many do not need any additional financial burden hanging over their head. If you need a little help, call the Finance Officer, me - Pete Duncan at 805-529-0215 and we will work something out. We do not want to lose a single member.

Veterans' Day: This year Veterans' Day falls on a Wednesday, November 11, 2009. Mark your calendar and please join us at the Moorpark Veterans' Memorial on the corner of Spring Road and Flinn Avenue across the street from the Moorpark PD.

Beginning at 10:00 A.M. we'll change the colors, remember and honor those in uniform and those who made the ultimate sacrifice. The Keynote Speaker this year will be Jon Miller. Jon is a native Californian, and spent over 12 years in the US Army, has called Moorpark home for six years, is married and has three children. Mr. Miller recently made a bid for the City Council Seat vacated by Mayor Parvin.

We will also change the colors at the corner of Los Angeles and Moorpark Avenues beginning at 8:00 A.M.

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Editor's Comments



Jim Beaver

American Legion Post 502 1st Vice Commander

Name the Newsletter

We have received three entries to our Name the Newsletter contest.

From Post 502 members:

Larry Bull "MPK-VET".

Darwin Long "The 502 Post".

From Unit 502 member:

Bonnie Panattoni "Freedom News".

Which one should it be?

Let Me Hear From You

As editor of the Post 502 Newsletter I encourage your input on what you like about your newsletter and please comment on ways that it can be improved. You can contact me at JBeaver8414@yahoo.com or phone me at 805 529-1848.

Post 502 Officers

Moorpark Post 502 Officers

Commander Jim Carpenter (805) 523-7721

1st Vice Commander Jim Beaver (805) 529-1848

2nd Vice Commander John Bickerstaff
(805) 529-0523

Adjutant Pete Duncan (805) 529-0215

Chaplain John Bickerstaff (805) 529-0523

Web Master / Service Officer Kevin Panet
(805) 991-7431

Adjutant's Report

Christmas/Holiday Dinner: Tuesday, December 1, 2009. That's right! It's getting close. Here's how we will do it this year. Please notify Pete Duncan, me (805-529-0215) or Post Commander, Jim Carpenter (805-523-7721), or Vice Commander, Jim Beaver (805-529-1848) and let us know that you will be attending our gala (dinner). Let us know how many in your party, we need a count. The past few years we asked for a deposit. Things worked out well when we did that. This time, no deposit. Please, do not make me regret that. We will order directly from the menu, there will be separate checks and a no host bar. The dinner will be at the Grinder Restaurant (805-529-2288) located on the northwest corner of Los Angeles and Moorpark Avenues in the Moorpark Town Center. (see flyer below)

Commentary: As can be seen from the Commander's Message, we keep busy. I wish I could explain the motivation behind what we do. Unfortunately, it is hard to put into words. I guess the short answer would be that we have a common goal and it takes its root in the phrase, "Veterans helping Veterans". For most, their experience in the military was filled with many different emotions. When I found myself having to report to a new duty station, I had only one thought in mind, where would I be sleeping that night. The emotion that would be evoked by that thought would be overwhelming and of the many things I had to choose from, it was that first night that caused me the greatest anguish. It started in Marine Corps Boot Camp. I rode a Greyhound bus from Los Angeles to San Diego, California. I'm not going to bore you with the typical boot camp horror stories, of which there were many. I will just say that the experience left an impression of immense proportion indelible etch in my memory.

That first night in boot camp left me feeling very much alone and isolated. A funny thing though, to this day I still have an uneasy feeling about "where will I be sleeping" when I travel. But here's the kicker, after boot camp, I never went to a new duty station where I did not already know somebody there. It was only in boot camp, only that first night, which left me feeling alone. After that, it was more like "how many jarheads will I run into from my past". Even then, I would be thinking, "where will I be sleeping?"

On the day of my discharged I walked out of HQ in Yuma, Arizona, into, are you ready for this, "the bright sunlight" of a Friday morning in February. Got into my Mercury Cougar and drove 300 miles west to L.A.; A month later I was married and six years after that, a father. I never looked back to that sunny Friday morning or the four preceding years. Never, that is, until about 15 years later when the dynamics in my life forced me to remember something I had left behind. Again, I will not

bore you with the details but it can be summed up in one or two words, camaraderie and perhaps, purpose.

Comradeship is a reference to a fellow soldier or friend. For me, my time in "Service to Country" was pockmarked with simple chores that encompassed a range of emotion that spread from the mundane to total terror. My ability to go into one end of the military and come out the other end was only made possible by those that traveled with me. I think it is safe to say, that the spirit that drives me to do the things I do is the product of that short journey through the military. A journey made possible with the support of my future wife and all those who journeyed with me. After so many years, there remains a kinship amongst us. This is why I do what I do – Veterans help Veterans.

A Final Word: Come to a meeting, the powers that be are trying to increase your dues. I'm fighting like mad to prevent that from happening but it seems I am in the minority.

Pete Duncan
Post 502 Adjutant
805-529-0215

American Legion Auxiliary

Unit 502



Isabel Lake (L) celebrates her 92nd birthday with Unit 502 member Sherian Buczkowski (C), and friend Flo Butler.

Photo: Faye Beaver



— To All Who May Read —
*The Commander Of Moorpark Post 502
The American Legion
Mr. James Carpenter*

&

*The President Of Moorpark Unit 502
American Legion Auxiliary
Ms. Patricia Miranda*

*Request the Pleasure of Your Company
On*

Tuesday, December 1, 2009

From 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM

*To Celebrate Our Annual Christmas / Holiday
Dinner and Gathering*

At The

*Grinder Restaurant
1 Moorpark Avenue
Moorpark, California*

*To Reserve A Seat You Will Need Notify us by Phone, E-mail or Snail-mail
Please Provide the following Information by November 29, 2009*

Name • Phone Number • Number Attending

Last year we had an excellent turnout, a great time
And even did a little good for the Community and the Vets.
Please mark your calendar and join us for the last gathering of the year.

Provide the Following Information by
Sunday November 29, 2009 to Reserve A Place at the Table

Name - Phone Number - Number Attending

Contact us at

Post Phone Number: 805-523-3355 (leave a message)

or

Post E-mail Address: MoorparkPost502@aol.com

or

Mail to: Post 502, PO Box 156, Moorpark, CA 93020-0156

- We Order Directly From The Grinder Menu •
- The Grinder Will Provide Separate Checks That Will Include Tax & Gratuity •

Moorpark Post 502 Christmas / Holiday Dinner 2009

If you need a ride or have some extra room for a passenger or two let us know and we will try to match you up. Call Jim Carpenter at (805) 523-7721 or Pete Duncan at (805) 529-0215.

We do not do a gift exchange but if you wish, we ask that you bring a non-perishable food item, to be delivered to the Food Pantry and/or, toiletries or skivvies (his or hers) for the Veterans Home in Saticoy.

How to get to the Grinder Restaurant

From Thousand Oaks: Take the 23 Freeway north. Exit at New Los Angeles Avenue. Turn left and go under the freeway. Continue for about 1.2 mile going past Moorpark Avenue. Turn right into Moorpark Town Center. The Grinder is in the southeast corner of the Shopping Center (Corner of Moorpark and Los Angeles Avenues.)

From Simi Valley: Take the 118 Freeway west and exit at New Los Angeles Avenue. Bear to the right (west) and continue for about 1.2 mile going past Moorpark Avenue. Turn right into Moorpark Town Center. The Grinder is in the southeast corner of the Shopping Center (Corner of Moorpark and Los Angeles Avenues.)

From Camarillo: Take the 118 heading east from Somis. The 118 will become Los Angeles Avenue. At Moorpark Avenue, turn left (north) and go a very short distance turning left into Moorpark Town Center. The Grinder is in the southeast corner of the Shopping Center (Corner of Moorpark and Los Angeles Avenues.)

From Fillmore: Take Highway 23 into Moorpark driving past City Hall and over the RR tracks. Continue for about .4 mile and turn right into Moorpark Town Center. The Grinder is in the southeast corner of the Shopping Center (Corner of Moorpark and Los Angeles Avenues.)

Seasons Greetings

The American Legion
Moorpark Post 502
PO Box 156
Moorpark, CA 93020-0156

POSTAGE HERE

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Mailing Address

A Message of Interest From The American Legion Moorpark Post 502

**Next Post Meeting will be the Christmas / Holiday Dinner at the Grinder
Tuesday, December 1, 2009 (Look Inside)**

**Visit Our Website at
www.MoorparkPost502.org**