



BEACH NEWS

February



2023



AMERICAN LEGION HUNTINGTON BEACH POST 133

**Next meeting is
February 8
6:30 PM social,
7:00 PM meeting,
at Memorial Hall,
1718 Orange Ave.**



Commander Russ Dohrmann

Well, here we are in 2023, and at the end of January already. I'll bet that I'm not the only one that has noticed that sometimes it seems like the days go by at warp speed.

Let's look in the rear-view mirror and see what we've recently accomplished. It's been a year of challenges and occasional struggles, but our post has persevered and continued to build on our list of achievements.

Here's a few of the notable ones from July of 2022 to the present, including a little background data to verify how much progress we've made in our efforts to assist our fellow Veterans who are dealing with hard times. As you know, we typically assist needy Veterans by helping with housing, car repairs and vehicle registration, utilities, gas cards, food cards, bus passes and homeless packages.

During fiscal 2020-2021 we provided a total of \$37,400 in aid, and in 2021-2022 we provided \$37,600. Notably, from the beginning of our current fiscal year to date, we've already provided \$21,972 in aid, expending an average of \$3,660 per month to address Veteran's needs.

Here's some additional achievements:

Our Veterans Resource Center statistics:

July-2022 to December 2022, we had 133, interactions with Veterans, using 451 volunteer hours.

58 Veterans attended library programs.

Beginning in November John Castillo came on board as our post Veteran Service Officer. John has sixteen years of experience as a certified VSO. His services are funded by our Post and therefore there is no cost to the Veterans he helps. John works four hours a month at the VRC handling up to six Veterans during each visit.

Another great feature of our VRC is our new organization called the Edison Helping Heroes Club. This group is providing much needed, and greatly appreciated, help at the VRC. Over the past several months they have assisted us with the Veterans History Project, buddy checks, Veterans Resource Center awareness calls, Veterans Day support, Veterans Service Officer appointments and other projects. The boosters have already contributed 66 volunteer hours, and, have made 278 calls. Thank you, Edison HS Helping Heroes boosters.

Memorial Hall:

On December 3rd the city formally dedicated our new home called Memorial Hall. We had a good showing from our Post and from the community. I'm so excited about moving into our new home, hopefully we'll be in by our February Meetings.

Birthday:

Our Post is now 103 years old as of December 18 and we celebrated our birthday at the Elks Lodge with friends and family and several VIPs.

American Legion open house day:

This will be a great opportunity to invite the city in to see what the American Legion is all about and what we've been up to. We'll provide details as the day gets closer.

In closing, I wish you and yours a wonderful 2023 and we hope to see you at our next meeting on February 8th at 6:30pm for our social half hour before the meeting begins at 7PM

POST 133 OFFICERS:

Russ Dohrmann, Commander
949-510-4151

Elaine Parker, 1st Vice
714-421-0860

Frank Passarelli, 2nd Vice
714-402-1923

Jim Rossman, 3rd Vice
714-267-7094

Dennis Bauer, Adjutant
714-536-3855

George Focht, Finance Officer
714-842-2410

Jim Seiler, Judge Advocate
714-910-8833

Tom Welch, Chaplain
714-968-7732

Frank Passarelli, Serv. Officer
714-402-1923

Jim Seiler, Historian
714-910-8833

Norm Sumner, Sgt-At-Arms
714-848-5488

John Gontarz, Asst. Sgt-At-Arms
714-884-5327

BOARD MEMBERS:

Bill Jeffords

Bob Laizure

John Gontarz

Bud DeWees



UNIT 133 AUXILIARY NEWS Tina Bauer President



The weather has been a challenge for all of us, but we definitely need the rain in California; remember to bundle up for the colder temperatures. Happy Valentine's Day and President's Day enjoy your celebrations with family and friends as you stay safe. Our membership has grown to almost 200 members this year. Thank you to our renewing members and welcome to our new members; to date 165 Unit 133 members have paid their membership for year 2023; membership will be expiring for 35 members who have not renewed for the current membership year. **As a reminder if your membership card does not read 2023, please send in your payment of \$30.00 immediately to keep your membership current; or pay online (with a credit card) at the American Legion Auxiliary National website alaforveterans.org.** Remember our membership year is July 1st to June 30th. Please contact me if you have questions about your membership status and how to bring your membership current if you owe for more than 1 year. Your generosity helps us to maintain the much needed support for our Veterans and their families.

Although we did not meet in December we had a very busy month bringing holiday cheer to our Veterans at the Tibor Rubin VA Medical Center, Long Beach (LBVAMC). We offered our HB Auxiliary and Legion support to help with many programs and outreach events at the LBVAMC. For Christmas we provided twenty-five holiday gift cards for \$100.00 each for those who are receiving services from the Post 9/11 Military2VA Case Management Program (Veterans Transition Center and Care Management Program) for distribution to the young men and women, who are in need; provided toys and games for the children whose parents are receiving outpatient on-site services, and adopted local veterans and their families through the VA Center for Development and Civic Engagement (Voluntary Services Department)- Operation Santa program providing them with requested items to enhance their holidays.

GIRLS STATE UPDATE: Delegates to the ALA Girls State program are selected by American Legion Auxiliary units, which work with local high school educators and counselors to select young women demonstrating leadership qualities. California Girls State is a leadership program of the American Legion Auxiliary designed to increase awareness and knowledge of governmental processes while learning about the duties, privileges, rights and responsibilities of citizenship. Delegates come away with a greater appreciation of the American Flag and of the sacrifices made by our veterans. While at Girls State, they make friends with girls from around the state and

have a fun week they'll remember for the rest of their lives. Our Unit 133 Girls State Interview Team led by Carolee Focht will conduct interviews for the 2023 Girls State Session in the next few weeks. In addition, Unit 133 members will participate in the interview process and serve as hostess meeting with parents and the students waiting to be interviewed sharing information about the American Legion Auxiliary and the Girls State Program we support. High School Juniors from the 6 local high schools we support; Edison HS, Fountain Valley HS, Huntington Beach HS, Marina HS, Ocean View HS and Westminster HS (new this year) participate in this program we have been supporting since 2004. We started with just two high schools Edison HS and Huntington Beach HS and have expanded to the six HS we support today.

The American Legion Auxiliary and the American Legion offer many educational scholarships for those who have direct connections to veterans and can be found on the National websites for both organizations, many have a March 1st due date. The American Legion Auxiliary Department of California offers educational scholarships for California residents attending a college or university in the fall. Each scholarship has different requirements and the completed application needs to be submitted to HB Unit 133 before March 1st. Educational scholarships include general assistance, continuing/re-entry students, non-traditional students, and scholarships for junior members who will be graduating and attending college in the fall. There are also Nursing Scholarships available for veterans or family members of veterans who are planning or currently enrolled in an accredited nursing school pursuing a recognized nursing degree which have a deadline to HB Unit 133 of March 31st. All the requirements and applications for all the scholarships can be located at the American Legion Auxiliary Department of California website <https://calegionaux.org>; locate the Resources tab, the drop down menu under scholarships will list education scholarships and nursing scholarships.

Happy Birthday wishes to HB Unit 133 members who are celebrating birthdays in February. Our next Unit 133 meeting will be February 8th, 2023; join us at 6:30 p.m. for refreshment social and 7:00 p.m. for our meeting at our new location Memorial Hall located at the City of Huntington Beach, 17th Street Park on Orange Avenue. After 3 years we are excited to be meeting at the same location and time as Post 133, in separate rooms.

At our February and March 2023 meetings (2nd Wednesday of the Month) we will have our Valentines, St. Patrick's Day, Easter and spring scarves in addition to our Patriotic scarves. The scarves are only \$10.00 and the proceeds support our Veterans and their families, Girls State and our community.

Please contact me via email or phone if you would like more information about our scarves fundraiser, questions about our programs/activities, membership for family and friends, or volunteering. I look forward to seeing you at our next meeting.

Tina Bauer, e-mail: alahuntingtonbeachunit133.com
or 714-655-7333

Long time Post 133 member and officer, Harlan Price passed away January 8, 2023 at the age of 91. He retired from the Air Force, and was a 16 year member of Post 133.



**POST 133 HONOR GUARD
RECENT CEREMONIES**

- Dec 3 Colors: Memorial Hall
- Dec 17 Colors & Taps: Wreaths Across America
- Jan 21 Celebration of Life: Kenneth Frederickson
- Jan 30 Military Honors: Harlan Price

**1st Vice Commander
Elaine Parker**

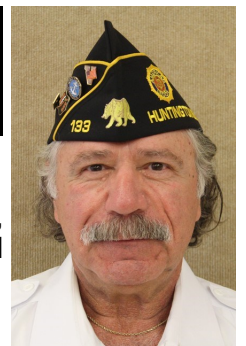


MEMBERSHIP:

2023 membership dues of \$45 (July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023) is due. 362 have paid their dues thus far. We need the rest of you to renew.

You may renew online at www.legion.org/renew or by check. Make your check payable to American Legion POST 133 and mail to: American Legion Post 133, P.O. Box 133, Huntington Beach, CA 92648.

**2nd Vice Commander
Frank Passarelli**



SOCIAL CALENDAR:

Coffee: 9:00 AM February 3, & 20, at McDonald's, Goldenwest and Yorktown.

Lunch: 11:30 AM February 22, Don Ramon's 7148 Edinger, HB

The **Veteran Resource Center (VRC)** is open Monday thru Thursday 2-6pm, and Friday 9am-1pm. On February 7, in the central library Talbert Room from 6-7pm we will have a veteran service Officer explain survivor benefits for spouses and family members.

We also have a veteran service officer who visits the VRC once per month to help our veteran with benefit claims. This is by appointment only. Contact Robert McClish or Frank Passarelli for an appointment.

Sons of the American Legion (SAL) Squadron 133

Squadron 133 has received their 2023 membership cards. It is time to pay your dues, make your check payable to American Legion Post 133, with SAL in memo. Squadron 133 is welcome to attend Post 133 meetings and social events. See social calendar above.

AMERICAN LEGION HUNTINGTON BEACH RIDERS 133

American Legion Riders Chapter 133 organizes local rides throughout the month. Please check our website and Facebook page for all our upcoming events. If you are interested in joining us on any rides, or becoming a member of the Riders please email ALRchapter133@gmail.com or call (714) 393-1904 www.alrchapter133.com



American Legion Post 133
 P.O. Box 133
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Oratorical was held on Jan 09. The Post speech contest was held one week ahead of the Jan 14 District Oratorical. Judges Cmdr. Russ Dohrmann, George Focht, Frank Passarelli, Elaine Parker, Dennis Bauer & Reggie Chun, listened to Edison High School junior Samson R. give a speech, titled "Faith (in our citizenry) is Freedom." Samson's second speech explained the importance of the 6th Amendment (an accused's right to a speedy jury trial of one's peers). Samson's delivery and content was impressive so the Judges picked him to win the first place prize, of \$300.



BOYS STATE

Post 133 Boys State 2023 delegate interviews will be held on Saturday Feb. 18, 8:30 am at Memorial Hall, and Judges are needed to evaluate the potential delegates. The Boys State program is in its 87th year, and is a participatory program where students become part of and learn the roles and operation of local, county & state government. The Post will sponsor 4 juniors from Huntington Beach & Fountain Valley High Schools (except Marina HS) for the Statewide June 16 to 25, coed, civic government & leadership program, which is held on the Cal. State Univ. Sacramento campus. The Post pays for the delegates' transportation, & room & board. The program is widely respected, and all past delegates state that it was a great, unforgettable experience. If you have any questions or want to volunteer to be a judge, please let Legionnaire Reggie Chun at uh-kane13@gmail.com.