



BEACH NEWS

January-February



2025



AMERICAN LEGION HUNTINGTON BEACH POST 133

Next meetings are
January 8
and
February 12
at 7:00 PM
at Memorial Hall
1718 Orange Ave.



Commander Jim Ghormley

Happy 2025 American Legion Huntington Beach Post 133 Legionnaires! The 2024 Holiday Season is still here and in full swing! Our family is visiting and celebrating with us. We are having a wonderful time! We attended a showing of the Nutcracker Ballet at Segerstrom Center on 18 Dec 2024 with our eldest granddaughter. The show was amazing!

Our calendar New Year promises to be a good one. Planning for HB 133 summer Car Show begins in January. The Show is one of our biggest fund raisers garnering \$13,000.00 to \$15,000.00 each year for veteran support. This event is labor intensive and requires as much support from our membership as possible. Our 3rd Vice Commander Jim Rossman is chairman of the Show. Contact him after 1 January 2025 and volunteer to help.

This is a big year (all of 2025) for military branch birthdays. Three services will celebrate their 250th birthdays: US Army, 14 June 1775; US Navy, 13 October 1775; US Marine Corps, 10 November 1775. Other branch birthdays are: US Coast Guard, 4 August 1790 (235 years); US Air Force, 18 September 1947 (78 years); US Space Force, 20 December 2019 (6 years). We come from the finest military in the history of the world. Your American Legion membership means you were part of those forces watching over our nation and our way of life. Your membership also means you continue to provide support to our veterans who kept the watch with you and to those still serving.

One of the ways you can actively participate in the Post 133 mission of helping veterans is to volunteer for shift duty at your Veterans Resource Center (VRC). Center hours at 1400 to 1800 Monday through Thursday and 0900 to 1300 on Friday. Shifts are in 2-hour increments. Our Post needs 10 volunteers per week to cover those shifts. Please consider becoming part of your Post VRC volunteer staff. The VRC is located in the Huntington Beach City Central Library at 7111 Talbert Avenue. To volunteer, contact Noella Passarelli at 714-756-0236. You will experience at great deal of satisfaction volunteering your support to the VRC!

Huntington Beach American Legion Post 133 cannot exist without your membership and volunteer help. We are very grateful to those who continue to pay dues and provide other support. As part of your support, consider attending Post meetings. The general meeting is the second Wednesday of each month at Memorial Hall. We very much value your membership and would very much appreciate having at the meetings! See you there.

POST 133 OFFICERS:

Jim Ghormley, Commander
562-355-7223

Elaine Parker, 1st Vice
714-421-0860

David Biegel, 2nd Vice
714-421-6077

Jim Rossman, 3rd Vice
714-267-7094

Dennis Bauer, Adjutant
714-536-3855

George Focht, Finance Officer
760-401-4645

Tom Welch, Chaplain
714-968-7732

Frank Passarelli, Serv. Officer
714-402-1923

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

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

BOARD MEMBERS:

Bud DeWees
Gary Robles



UNIT 133 AUXILIARY NEWS Tina Bauer President



As we begin 2025, we will have many projects to be accomplished, and we are looking forward to continued support and volunteers from our Unit 133 members. Our first meeting of the year will be Wednesday, January 8, 2025. Please join us at 6:30 p.m. for a social and 7:00 p.m. for our meeting; you will make new friends, learn about our activities, programs and volunteering. We continue to meet at Memorial Hall located at the city of Huntington Beach 17th Street Park on Orange Avenue.

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. We offered our HB Auxiliary and Post support to help with many programs and holiday events including last minute requests for help. We provided holiday gift cards for those veterans 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 receiving outpatient on-site services, and adopted a local veteran and their family through the VA Center for Development and Civic Engagement (Voluntary Services Department) - Operation Santa program providing them with requested items to enhance their holidays. Thank you to Unit 133 members who contributed donations to the family we adopted. All of the activities we support throughout the year at the Long Beach VA Healthcare System are from the Unit 133 poppy funds which we receive each May when working with our HB Post 133, HB 133 SALS, and HB Rider 133 members to distribute the hand-made red crepe poppies for donations.

As a reminder, although we have added many new members this year, we still have Auxiliary Unit 133 members who have not sent in their renewals. **If your membership card does not read 2025, please send in your payment of \$40.00 immediately to keep your membership current (payable to American Legion Auxiliary HB 133); pay online (with a credit card) at the American Legion Auxiliary National website alaforveterans.org; or contact me to pay with Zelle directly to our auxiliary bank. As a reminder our membership year is July 1st to June 30th.** Your generosity helps us to maintain the programs to support for our Veterans and their families, our youth, and our community.

January is a busy time for our Unit 133 Girls State Chairperson Noella Passarelli who will begin the process contacting the high schools (Edison, Fountain Valley, Huntington Beach, Los Amigos, Marina, and Ocean View) we support to promote the program with the principals, teachers and students. In January the students are identified, February we interview and select a delegate and alternate

from each school, and then work with the girls and their parents to complete applications and submit on-line by the mid-March due date. Unit 133 members who would like to participate in the interview process and serve as hostess meeting with students (February 13, February 18, February 25 (4 – 8 pm), please contact Noella Passarelli at 714-756-0236 or via email n.passarelli83@gmail.com. We would not be able to support our schools without the generous donations from our members and everyone who supported our Holiday wreath fundraiser and fall Quartermania event that helps with payment for the Girls State fees for our delegates. We would appreciate your help to contact any businesses or organizations who could support funding for this program; the Huntington Beach Elks and the Huntington Beach Kiwanis have provided past grants.

Once again this year we will be providing valentine gift bags to the Long Beach VA Community Living Center (CLC). At our January meeting we will be decorating the gift bags; we are doing 15 this year. We have a specific list of items for the gift bags; please let me know if you would like to donate items to help fill the bags.

The American Legion Auxiliary and the American Legion offer many educational scholarships for those with direct connections to veterans and information can be found on the National websites for both organizations, many have a March 1st due date. The American Legion 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 and nursing scholarships.

At our monthly meetings in 2025 (2nd Wednesday of the Month) we will continue to have holiday, seasonal and Patriotic scarves. The scarves are \$10.00 and the proceeds support our Veterans, Girls State and our community.

Wishes to all our members who are celebrating birthdays and special occasions in January and February.

As we begin 2025, I would like to wish our HB Legion Family a Happy New Year, filled with good health, happiness, and peace. Please contact me if you have any questions about our activities, membership for family and friends, or volunteering. I look forward to seeing you at meetings.

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

Bob Laizure served on the battleship USS Maryland, where he started as a radio operator. Eventually, Bob found himself at the front lines of battle, manning one of the ship's 20mm anti-aircraft guns as they sailed into some of the most intense naval battles of WWII. Reflecting on his decision to serve, Bob once shared, "I wasn't eager for war, but I knew I had a duty. I wanted to do something that mattered, something that would make my family proud."

The Battle of Leyte Gulf. "I can remember looking up and seeing that plane coming down," Bob recalled, vividly remembering the chaos and sheer terror of the moment. Some of the men around him tried to escape, but Bob held his ground, preparing for the impact. When the plane struck, it hit with devastating force, just ten feet away from his position. The blast tragically took the lives of three of his fellow crew members standing nearby and sent Bob hurtling against the gun mount, his face and arms scorched by the explosion.

Despite being burned and injured, Bob's sense of duty overcame the pain. He immediately focused on clearing live ammunition off the deck, knowing that any stray rounds could ignite and cause even greater destruction. His quick actions and clarity under fire prevented further explosions, saving countless lives on board. Bob then worked alongside his shipmates to stretcher the wounded to safety, even using mattress covers as makeshift body bags for those who had fallen.

For his bravery and unwavering resolve that day, Bob was awarded both the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star with a "V" for valor. He carried on because of his commitment to his crew and his mission.

When Bob returned home, he continued to live with the same sense of duty and integrity. He trained as a TV technician, eventually working with a computer manufacturing company and starting his own janitorial supply business. Well into his 80s, Bob remained active, driven by his commitment to contribute to his community.



**1st Vice Commander
Elaine Parker**



MEMBERSHIP:

I wish everyone Happy Holidays and a good 2025. Almost 70% members have paid their \$50.00 FY2025 dues. If you have not, please pay via credit card to mylegion.com or send a check to American Legion Post 133, P.O. Box 133, Huntington Beach, CA 92648.

**2nd Vice Commander
David Beigel**



SOCIAL CALENDAR:

Coffee: Jan. 3, & 20 and Feb. 7 & 17 2025.

Lunch: Jan. 22 at 11:30 AM at Buon Gusto, 4911 Warner Ave, #109, HB, and Feb. 26 at 11:30 AM at Fortune Cookies, 18774 Brookhurst St, FV.

Veterans Resource Center (VRC)

Hours are Monday—Thursday 2 to 6 PM, and Friday 9 AM to 1 PM.

We now have a certified VSO representative on site the 2nd and 4th Saturday of each month by appointment only. To schedule an appointment please contact Frank Passarelli.

January 14 at 6 PM in central library Talbert room presentation on CalVet and homeless.



American Legion Post 133
P.O. Box 133
Huntington Beach, CA 92648



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Veterans Day Ceremony

