



BEACH NEWS

May



2024



AMERICAN LEGION HUNTINGTON BEACH POST 133

**Next meeting is
May 8 at 7:00 PM
at Memorial Hall
1718 Orange Ave.**



Commander Jim Ghormley

Well, spring 2024 is over half done. The Endless Summer is getting close! Barbara and I are enjoying the new stuff around our home. We had a wonderful Easter season. Both our daughters (one from Virginia and the other from Seattle, WA) visited us during first two weeks in April along with our youngest granddaughter. We had a wonderful time doing short trips, shopping, and picnics. Looking forward to their next visit.

Your American Legion Huntington Beach Post 133 continues to be quite busy. Your Post hosted a Vietnam War Veterans Day event at the Huntington Beach Central Library on Friday, 29 March 2024 from 1000 to 1300. The event was very successful. There were approximately 40 attendees, several support organizations, and plenty of food and friendship. A special thanks to Noella Passarelli and members of Auxiliary Unit 133 for the planning, setup, and leading the event. Your Post will be hosting the same event next year. Look for the announcement in January, February 2025 timeframe.

Support for veterans through the Veterans Resource Center and Post legionnaires continues at a rapid pace. A total of 32 veterans were served during the month of March. Services included direct support for rental payments, food purchase cards, gas purchase cards, auto repair and license fees, and transportation. Year to date, your Post has provided direct, individual support to 309 veterans. Post 133 veteran outreach is famous throughout our Southern California geography. Your Post also works with other American Legion posts in the local area (mainly Long Beach and Newport Beach) to assist veterans in dire need. Just a reminder for all our Post members that you have the availability of a Veteran Service Officer (VSO) at the VRC the second and fourth Saturdays of every month for appointments (0900 to 1300). The VSO is the go-to person for VA benefits. He is able to assist veterans with navigating the VA application process.

On Saturday, 13 April 2024, your Post hosted our first social gathering. The event was held at Memorial Hall and was open to all Post 133 members and their families. We had 18 participants at the event which included wonderful grilled hamburgers and hot dogs, soft drinks, and dessert. All had a very good time. A special thank you to our Adjutant, Dennis Bauer and his committee for the planning and execution of the event. While the numbers present were small, this social was a success as it gave us some experience to build on the next social. We will advertise more widely and much further in advance the next time. Watch for the announcements. Join us!!

Membership is steady. The Post as of the meeting of 10 April 2024 has 471 members, with 386 dues paid. We will lose over 40 members this year because of non-payment of dues. If you have not already done so, remember to pay your dues as soon as possible. Our members are the life blood of Post 133. Join us at the Post meetings. They are held the second Wednesday of every month at Memorial Hall.

Next events include Memorial Day, 27 May 2024, and our car show, 11 August 2024.

POST 133 OFFICERS:

Jim Ghormley, Commander

562-355-7223

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:

Bud DeWees

Bob Laizure

Gary Robles

David Biegel

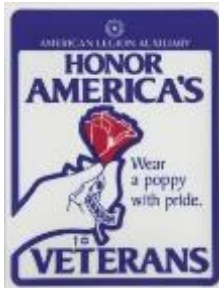


UNIT 133
AUXILIARY NEWS
Tina Bauer President



Remember, honor, and support our nation, state, and community veteran heroes on National Poppy Day® May 24, 2024 and on Memorial Day May 27, 2024

MAY is also designated as POPPY Month to HONOR AMERICA'S VETERANS - the red poppy is a nationally recognized symbol of sacrifice worn by Americans since World War I to honor those who served and died for our country in all wars. It reminds Americans of the sacrifices made by our veterans while protecting our freedoms. We wear a poppy to honor those who have worn our nation's uniform. The American Legion Auxiliary Poppy Program connects the visual image of the poppy with the sacrifice of service made by our veterans since the program's inception in 1921.



At this time of year we seek donations in exchange for poppies, the memorial flower of The American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary. This memorial poppy is not only a personal tribute to those who gave their lives for our country, but it honors our living veterans. When you wear this little red flower it helps to keep alive the kind of patriotism so necessary in this great country of ours.

This red-crepe paper memorial poppy of the American Legion Auxiliary is hand-made made by veterans and others in California. This year the Edison High School, Hero's Booster Club, who learned last year how to make poppies, organized a group of students to meet weekly and make 3,000 poppies for HB Unit 133 to distribute in May 2024. We purchased the supplies for the students and they will also volunteer to help distribute poppies for donations.



Symbolism of the Poppy: The red petals stand for the vast outpouring of blood; the yellow and black center, the mud and desolation of all battlefields. The green of the stem is symbolic of the forests, meadows and fields where generations of Americans have perished to make this land free. The stem represents the courage and determination of our fallen warriors.

We distribute poppies throughout the community in May with emphasis near Memorial Day in exchange for donations, and 100% of all donations received are used exclusively for rehabilitation of veterans, assistance to their families, and support for active-duty military with medical needs. Since 2005, HB Unit 133 has provided \$7,000 to \$10,000 each year to support veterans and their families in need identified through the Tibor Rubin VA Medical Center Programs and in partnership with our American Legion Huntington Beach Family.

Wear Your Poppy with Pride throughout the Month of MAY and on Memorial Day, May 27, 2024 - We are asking for our American Legion Family Huntington Beach (Unit 133, Post 133, Chapter 133 and Squadron 133) members to help distribute poppies for donations.



We have over 5,000 poppies to distribute this year. If you are able to help, we will be organizing teams to get out in our community weekends in May including Memorial Day weekend. Volunteers are needed; please contact me to help by volunteering for a morning or afternoon shift to help distribute poppies for donations. Our Memorial Day Ceremony, at the HB Pier is a great place to share our poppies and collect donations. Please think about joining us between 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM to help with poppy distribution to raise donations for our veterans. If you have an event for poppies or would like to distribute poppies to neighbors, businesses or other groups for donations; contact me and I will provide you with poppy information and materials. If you are unable to join us in person this year, please contact me if you would like some poppies and they will be mailed directly to you; so you can wear a Poppy with Pride.

NOMINATIONS – At our April meeting we discussed our Unit 133 positions for officers for 2024 – 2025. The elected officer positions are President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Secretary, and Executive Committee. At the May meeting we will have additional discussions, nominations and then we will vote. We also are voting for delegates to attend the American Legion Auxiliary 2024 Department Convention (June 27 – 30, 2024) in Visalia, California. Please contact me if you have an interest in serving in any position with our Unit. All members are encouraged to get involved. Our Unit achievements are a direct result of the continued commitment and participation of all members. Your time and effort is appreciated.

Wishing all our members who have birthdays in May - a very happy and special day celebrating. Please contact me if you have any questions about our activities. Thank you for your continued support of our programs.

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

Post 133 Helping veterans

Robert McClish and Dennis Bauer along with Edison HS students Helping Heroes cleaned and moved a veteran’s furniture into storage. Before and after pictures.



Sons of the American Legion (SAL)

Please note that July 1, 2023 is the beginning of the new membership year. Our dues remain at \$30. Contact Dennis Bauer with membership questions: 714-642-8846. We now have 69 members.

1st Vice Commander Elaine Parker



MEMBERSHIP:

FY2024 ends 30 June 2024. FY2025 starts on 1 July 2024 and due will now be \$50.00. National is raising dues July 1 by \$5, therefore Post 133 dues will go up to \$50. We reached 83% of members paid for FY2024.

Please renew online at www.legion.org/renew or make a check payable to American Legion Post133 and mail it to: American Legion Post133, P.O. Box 133, Huntington Beach, CA 92648.

2nd Vice Commander Frank Passarelli



SOCIAL CALENDAR:

Coffee: 9 AM May 3 & 20 at McDonald’s, Goldenwest north of Yorktown.

Lunch: May 22 at 11:30 AM at Kathy May’s Central Park, enter from Edwards St.

Veterans Resource Center (VRC)

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

We have started having a VSO representative on the 2nd and 4th Saturday of each month with a certified VSO representative by appointment only please contact Robert McClish or Frank Passarelli to make an appointment.



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



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MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY MAY 27 AT 11:00 AM AT PIER PLAZA

Pictured below left is the old Memorial Hall demolished in 1974.



Pictured below right is the new Memorial Hall, home of Post 133.

