



# BEACH NEWS

May



2025



## AMERICAN LEGION HUNTINGTON BEACH POST 133

**Next meeting is  
May 14  
at 7:00 PM  
at Memorial Hall  
1718 Orange Ave.**



### Commander Jim Ghormley

Another fiscal year (FY) is rapidly coming to a close. The American Legion FY is from 1 July to 30 June each year. The most significant action to take place at the end of each FY is elections for leadership positions and board member positions. There are eight elected positions. Nominees for these positions are elected to the board by American Legion Huntington Beach Post 133 (Post 133)

membership. In addition, there are seven appointed positions to the board. Nominations begin at the March regular Post 133 meeting and end with elections at the May meeting. Installation of new officers then takes place at the June meeting with a special dinner and ceremony. All Post 133 paid members are invited to attend.

I have been privileged to be your Post 133 Commander for the past two years. The experience has been one of the highlights of my life. I was humbled to be asked to accept nomination for a third year, but must step aside for personal reasons.

In my time as commander, I was supported by an incredible board made up of amazing individuals whose only American Legion goals were to ensure the health of Post 133 and provide support to the 10,000 plus veterans in Post 133 area of responsibility which includes Huntington Beach, Costa Mesa, and Fountain Valley. Many board members are members of other community nonprofit groups, giving Post 133 additional community exposure and support.

Besides being shored up by the fantastic members of my board, I was supported by the wonderful members of Unit 133 Auxiliary. This group of very dedicated individuals continues the American Legion mission by providing direct support to veterans, community organizations, city initiatives, and other nonprofits. They provide very specific and detailed support to all Post 133 functions and initiatives. Many Auxiliary members are affiliated with other community support organizations further enhancing the fine reputation of Post 133.

As I have experienced, it takes an entire American Legion Post, Auxiliary, volunteers, and community leaders to raise a post commander. I have been raised by the best. From the bottom of my heart, thank you so very much for all your support and training to me as your American Legion Huntington Beach Post 133 Commander.

**Memorial Day ceremony May 26 at HB Pier Plaza  
at 11:00 AM**

#### 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**



**Wear Your Poppy with Pride throughout the Month of MAY and on Memorial Day, May 26, 2025** - 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.

**Remember, honor, and support our nation, state, and community veteran heroes on National Poppy Day® May 23, 2025 and on Memorial Day May 26, 2025**

**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 handmade by veterans and others in California.

**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, 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 over \$6,000 each year to support veterans and their families in need identified through the Tibor Rubin VA Medical Center Programs in partnership with our American Legion Huntington Beach Family.

**NOMINATIONS** – At our April meeting we discussed our Unit 133 positions for officers and committee program coordinators for 2025 – 2026. 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 2025 Department Convention (June 26 – 29, 2025) in Visalia, California. Appointments for Chaplain, Sergeant-at-Arms and our committee program coordinators will be made at a later date by the Unit President. 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.

**GIRLS STATE UPDATE** The American Legion Auxiliary District 29 held the Girls State Orientation Tea for all Orange County Girls State Delegates on Sunday, April 13, 2025. We had parents and their daughters, and Auxiliary members eager to learn about the program they were selected to attend shortly after school closes in June. The ALA CA Girls State Session is held at Sacramento State University. We are looking forward to talking with our 2025 Girl State and Boys State participants, meeting their families, and hearing about their experiences at the Labor Day BBQ and picnic, Monday September 1, 2025 at the Lake Park Clubhouse.

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, membership for family and friends, or volunteering. Thank you for your continued support of our programs.

Tina Bauer, e-mail: [alahuntingtonbeachunit133.com](mailto:alahuntingtonbeachunit133.com) or 714-655-7333

Three of our Boys State delegates in the last three years have entered the US Military Academies.

Our American Legion Boys State and American Legion Auxiliary Girls State programs are a vital part of our Post's Americanism programs. As the sole high school program, the summer leadership and citizenship programs are an important community mission to educate our young high schoolers about the American way of government and how our legislative functions operate.

Prominent Boys State alumni include Astronaut Neil Armstrong, President Bill Clinton; Vice President Dick Cheney; Senators Richard Lugar and Joe Lieberman; Alabama football coach Nick Saban, basketball legend Michael Jordan; and many more.

Many Eagle Boy Scouts and Gold Award Girl Scouts are admitted into the US Military Academies, and being a Boys or Girls State delegate can also be an important leadership training for those who aspire to be community or military leaders of the future.

In the last three years, three of our Boys State delegates were admitted into elite US Military Academies: West Pointer Brandon T. of Fountain Valley High, is in his 3rd year (Cow) at the US Military Academy at West Point, hoping to graduate in May, 2026. Mr. Kai P. of Huntington Beach High, entered the US Coast Guard Academy in 2024. Elliot Y. of Cabrillo Point Academy will enter West Point this fall 2025, as a 2029 graduate. Legionnaire Reggie Chun wrote letters of recommendation for these three fine young men, and he received word that they received military academy acceptance letters. The Boys & Girls State programs can be a crucial leadership avenue to encourage our high schoolers to serve their country in the military or in the public service sector.

Reggie Chun

**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 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of each month by appointment only. To schedule an appointment please contact Robert McClish at 562-201-0239.

**1st Vice Commander  
Elaine Parker**



**MEMBERSHIP:**

We are at 82% paid for Membership Year 2025 which is from July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025. We welcomed 6 new members. Thank you to all who paid - good job

You can pay online at [mylegion.org](http://mylegion.org) or send your check (\$50.00) made payable to American Legion Post 133 and mail to American Legion Post 133, PO Box 133, Huntington Beach, CA 92648.

**2nd Vice Commander  
David Beigel**



**SOCIAL CALENDAR:**

**Coffee:** May 2, & 19 at McDonalds at 9 AM.

**Lunch:** May 28 at Kathy May's at 11:30 AM.



**August 10, 2025**

**9am - 2pm**

GoldenWest Plaza

7012 - 7232 Edinger Avenue, HB CA 92647

Live Music, Opportunity Drawings and more...

**Proceeds Benefiting Veterans**

or more info:

Im Rossman

phone: 714-267-7094

mail: jrossman480@gmail.com

American Legion HB Post 133 is a 501(c)(19) #95-6196622

To register:





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



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## A VITAL RESOURCE FOR VETERANS

*By Betty Iseri*

Located to the right of the reference desk on the first floor of Central Library is a helpful resource for veterans—the Veterans Resource Center. Established in December 2018 with a small grant, volunteers from the American Legion Post 133 (one of the oldest continuously serving posts in the U.S.), who are veterans themselves, staff the center. Information about federal, state, and local programs is offered to veterans on topics such as housing and education.

Volunteers staff the office weekdays for 2-hour shifts. Help to access military records to get benefit compensation, funeral benefits, widow benefits, even access to an emergency fund for financial needs, and more is available. Frank Passarelli, a veteran of the Vietnam War and a reservist, mans the center during the week and mentioned instances of helping veterans find homes, and pay bills such as cars and cell phones. He stated that many veterans are helped by the center—approximately 1,000 per year since the center opened.

Special events, too, are sponsored such as the March “National Vietnam Veterans Day”, where veterans were honored for their service. Should you know a veteran who needs some assistance with some facet of their life, the center is a good place to utilize.

**Hours:** Monday – Thursday 2:00 – 6:00 PM and Friday 9:00 – 1:00 PM

**Contact:** 714-375-5111 or HBPVetcenter@gmail.com



*Frank, Veterans Resource Center Volunteer*