

VFW Meeting time is 10:00 a.m. every third Saturday

All are welcome to all the meetings. **BRING YOUR FRIENDS AND FRIEND VETERANS TO THE COMMUNITY TALKS HELD EVERY THIRD WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH** presented by the American Legion. People attending will have the option to leave or stay for the rest of the meeting after the speaker's presentation. If you need a ride to the meetings, please call an officer. Meetings are at the **Veterans Building, 930 Ward St., Martinez**

Our Post extends our deepest sympathy to the families of these three comrades. They will be deeply missed.

Robert Edward Smith



Robert Edward Smith Sept. 13, 1930 - Mar. 29, 2008 Martinez Resident for 25 years Robert passed away after a long illness surrounded by his loving wife of 56 years, Elizabeth; his son, Daniel Caruso, and his daughters, Sherry Wheeler and Lori Smith. He is survived by his brother, Gerald Smith of Brooklyn, New York; and five grandchildren, Alanna Wheeler, Xavier, Elizabeth, Robert and Michael Garcia and predeceased by his grandson Charles R. Wheeler III. He was born in Brooklyn, New York, the son of Sylvester Smith and Esther Mathilda DeBoer. He joined the US Marine Corps at age 17 and later served in the US Army, retiring as a chief Warrant Officer 3 after 24 years of combined service. His service included two tours of duty in Germany and embassy duty in Montevideo, Uruguay. A veteran of the Korea and Vietnam conflicts, he was a member of the Chosin Few and American Legion Post 29 in Martinez. Bob settled in the Bay Area and began his second career as a special agent with the US Department of Agriculture, Office of Inspector General, from which he retired after 20 years. He loved his family and friends and the ocean, vacationing in Hawaii and Mexico. He

also enjoyed crossword puzzles, fishing and crabbing in the Bay Area waters. In recent years he was a Meals on Wheels volunteer. Memorial Services will be held at Cedar Lawn Memorial Park, 48800 Warm Springs Blvd, Fremont, CA on Saturday, April 12 at 1:00pm. Published in the Contra Costa Times on 4/6/2008.

Arthur G. Carter



Arthur G. Carter, USN (Ret.) Arthur G. Carter, 77, of Martinez passed away on Tuesday, February 5th at the VA hospital in Martinez. Arthur was born on June 13th, 1930 to Dolly and George in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Arthur was on active duty with the U.S. Navy from 1950 to 1970 and served in Vietnam. He earned numerous medals and honors including the purple heart. After an honorable discharge from the Navy in 1970, Arthur went on to further serve his country by working at Mare Island Naval Shipyard as a nuclear electrician instructor. Arthur would eventually retire from federal service in 1993. Arthur is preceded in death by his wife of 33 years, Dorris and two brothers James and Frank. He leaves to mourn his passing a son, Cedric Carter, sister Rosa Woods and granddaughter, Adrianna Carter as well as many other nieces, nephews and numerous friends. Visitation will be held on Friday, February 15th from 2-8pm. Quiet hour at Cooley and Riolo Mortuary in Vallejo, 707-644-3882. Funeral services will be held on Saturday, February 16th at 1pm at Union Baptist Church in Vallejo, with Reverend Charles A. Brown officiating. The church is located at 128 Encerti

Ave. Burial will be held in the VA National Cemetery in Dixon, CA. Published in the Contra Costa Times on 2/13/2008.

This is one of the best explanations of why God allows pain and suffering that I have seen...

A man went to a barbershop to have his hair cut and his beard trimmed. As the barber began to work, they began to have a good conversation. They talked about so many things and various subjects. When they eventually touched on the subject of God, the barber said: "I don't believe that God exists."

"Why do you say that?" asked the customer. Well, you just have to go out in the street to realize that God doesn't exist. Tell me, if God exists, would there be so many sick people? Would there be abandoned children? If God existed, there would be neither suffering nor pain. I can't imagine a loving God who would allow all of these things."

The customer thought for a moment, but didn't respond because he didn't want to start an argument. The barber finished his job and the customer left the shop.

Just after he left the barbershop, he saw a man in the street with long, stringy, dirty hair and an untrimmed beard. He looked dirty and unkempt. The customer turned back and entered the barber shop again and he said to the barber: "You know what? Barbers do not exist." "How can you say that?" asked the surprised barber. "I am here, and I am a barber. And I just worked on you!" "No!" the customer exclaimed. "Barbers don't exist because if they did, there would be no people with dirty long hair and untrimmed beards, like that man outside."

"Ah, but barbers DO exist! That's what happens when people do not come to me." "Exactly!" affirmed the customer. "That's the point! God, too, DOES exist! That's what happens when people do not go to Him and don't look to Him for help. That's why there's so much pain and suffering in the world."

This was sent to me by Arthur Carter a couple months before his death.

Carl A. Edwards - Post Quartermaster

Harry Peccianti



Harry Peccianti Aug. 12, 1923 - Dec. 10, 2007 84, born in Martinez. Survived by wife of 61 years, Shirley; daughter, Lynn; son, Douglas; grandchildren, Denise and Rex; and great-grandson, Lucas. Published in the Contra Costa Times on 12/18/2007.

Harry Peccianti Born August 12, 1923 Lifetime Resident of Martinez Harry Peccianti died following a very lengthy illness. Survived by his wife of sixty-one years, Shirley (both graduated with the Alhambra Class of '42), also survived by his devoted and loving family: daughter Lynn P. Vehnekamp in Conroe, TX; son Douglas (Dianne); grandchildren Denise and Ben (Sarah), and was blessed with the special time spent with his seventeen month old great-grandson Lucas, all in Sacramento, and many nieces and nephews. Harry was the youngest of six siblings: Frank, Angelo, Edith, Melvin and Leo. They were orphaned when he was only seven years old. His mother died in 1925. They stayed together in the family home on Castro St., finding ways to support themselves and each other. All six joined the armed forces during WWII. Harry served in Nijmegen, Netherlands in Oct. 1944, then was sent to Belgium being seriously injured during the Battle of the Bulge for which he received the Purple Heart and many commendations. He was a paratrooper serving with the 82nd Airborne Division. The

family was highly honored when the WWII scrapbook at the Martinez Museum was dedicated to the Peccianti siblings. Harry was "the very friendly" butcher at Laird's Market for thirty-six years ... many will remember him. He will be deeply missed and forever loved by his family and many special friends. To honor his wishes, funeral services will be withheld. Published in the Contra Costa Times on 12/30/2007.

CERTS

On Wednesday, January 16, 2008 Sergeant Eric Ghisletta of the Martinez Police Department discussed major crime issues in the City of Martinez, and the City's Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program funded by FEMA. The (CERT) Program educates people about disaster preparedness for hazards that may impact their area. In Martinez we should be ready for flooding or earthquakes. CERT trains residents in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations. Using the training learned in the classroom and during exercises, CERT members can assist others in their neighborhood or workplace following an event when professional responders are not immediately available to help. CERT members can also support emergency response agencies by taking a more active role in emergency preparedness projects in their community.

I personally attended the CERT training and graduated on the 11th of March. They gave us a back pack and a basic set of gear to get us started so we can organize teams in our neighborhoods. If we can get enough veterans interested in being leaders in the community we should be able to increase our membership substantially. With veterans that have been trained in the military service this should be a natural leadership opportunity for veterans, and to give back to the City, County, State, and Federal Communities. The American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) along with the Spanish War Veterans and a couple other groups of veterans that met in the Martinez

Memorial Building had a similar type of setup during the World Wars. We have however lost the pride in our organization in doing that type of community service. We are trying to rebuild our Post and need your help. If you talk to your neighbors and if they are interested in the CERT Program have them call Carl Edwards at (925) 372-0133.

Almost anybody could work with this program as there are jobs for recordkeeping, communications, medical, logistics, planning, operations, and many other jobs. Spouses of the veterans could belong to the Auxiliary, and also the children could form a Sons or Daughters of the VFW or American Legion as we grow. So if you know any veterans that do not belong to the organizations, this is the time we could organize and do some good for the community and gain recognition like they had in yesteryear.

This is my own opinion and I believe that we could make a great organization even greater, but it takes people in numbers to do it. Lets not have another New Orleans in Martinez or Contra Costa County!!!

Carl A. Edwards - Quartermaster; phone (925) 372-0133

Thanks for your generous donation

John Sparacino made a generous donation to the post and we would like to thank him. It is important to have fund raisers throughout the year in order to pay the bills. Our insurance is the largest bill which runs \$540.00 per year. So thanks again John.

By-laws for the Martinez Veterans Memorial Building

The By-law committee has made the final changes and sent them to American Legion Post 29 and VFW Post 1351 for final review and to be voted on. After approval the American Legion will supply three members to serve on the Board of Directors, and the VFW will supply two members. Next year the VFW will supply three members and the American Legion will supply two and they will rotate there after.

MEMBERSHIP

NEW MEMBERS WELCOME: George T. Zamaria, Jr. - Thomas is a Vietnam Veteran and served with the U.S. Army 1963 - 1966.

Rafael Q. Cardoza - Rafael is a Vietnam Veteran and served with the U. S. Marine Corp 1969 - 1971.

It is always gratifying to add new members to our roster. They are the future of the VFW and our Post. If you have a friend or neighbor who is a veteran, please invite them to join us.

There are still a few members who have not renewed their membership. Some may have forgotten. Some may have died. Some may need help. So if you know any of these men we need your help. Let us know their status. We have been calling those that we have phone numbers; however, we have lost contact with some.

Missing and Unpaid members

First Name	Last Name	Paid Thru	First Name	Last Name	Paid Thru
John	Curey	12/31/2003	Bruno	Duca	12/31/2003
Edgar	Fowler	12/31/2003	David	Ustick	12/31/2003
L.	Viglienzone	12/31/2003	Errol	Blansett	12/31/2006
William	Collins	12/31/2006	Hugh	Mc Donald	12/31/2006
Ron	Wright	12/31/2006			

Memorial Day Services

Monday, May 26, 2008 The Alhambra Cemetery, Carquinez Scenic Dr., Martinez, CA. 9:00 a.m.
Monday, May 26, 2008 All Veteran's Monument, Corner of Alhambra Ave.
And Berrellesa St., Martinez, CA. 10:00 a.m.

Refreshments will be served at the Martinez Veteran Memorial Building at 930 Ward Street following the ceremonies. We hope to see you there.

There will be a ceremony at the Costa County Veterans Memorial Monument, a 45-foot concrete tower with inlaid friezes of soldiers, 1:00 p.m. Monday May 26, 2008. The monument was originally built to honor county residents who gave their lives in the World War I. Located on Contra Costa Boulevard, just off Highway 680, Pleasant Hill.

SPEND THE DAY AT GOLDEN GATE FIELDS

Who: Ladies Auxiliary to Veterans of Foreign Wars.

What: Day at the Races ..Golden Gate Fields.

When: May 22, 2008 11:00 ish

Why: Annual means of raising funds in order for the Auxiliary to continue supporting programs for Veterans and students.

Price: \$30.00 per person includes parking, good food, & racing program.

This is a good time to meet and spend time with members from the district. We do have fun cheering for the winners and groaning loudly when our horse loses.

Make your checks payable to LAVFW 25th Dist. and mail to:

Betty Clark
335 LeRoy Ave.
Pinole, Ca. 94564

Please order your tickets by May 5, 2008. Your tickets will be mailed to you immediately. Bring your friends or who you want. This is a fund raiser!!! If you have any questions call 510-724-0158. Review enclosed information.

Thank you for your support.

Betty Clark

Turf Club Dress Code

All guests including children are requested to dress in a smart casual style. Stylish denim or festive hats are welcome as is stylish casual footwear including tennis shoes.

We strongly discourage: sweat pants/suits, T-shirts, baseball hats, and thong style shoes. Guests who arrive in shorts of any style, tank tops (sleeveless shirts), or clothing with offensive logos will be denied access into the Turf Club.

Date last revised: 10/12/07

Golden Gate Fields Turf Club Buffet

Market Street Salad Bar

Tossed Salad Greens

English Cucumber ~ Baby Tomato ~ Red Onions ~ Chopped Eggs

Shredded Cheddar ~ Marinated Veggies ~ Garlic Croutons House Dressing Assortment

Classic Caesar salad

Tuscan Pasta Salad

Gemelli Pasta ~ Kalamata Olives ~ Sweet Peppers and Onions Feta ~ Sun Dried Tomatoes ~ Balsamic Dressing

Seasonal Selection of Fresh Fruit

With California Berries Crisp Garden Cole Slaw

Hearts of Romaine ~ Reggiano ~ Caesar Dressing

Turf Club "Carving Board"

Oven Roasted Prime Rib of Beef

Au Jus ~ Creamy Horseradish Sauce

Spice Rubbed Breast of Farm Raised Turkey

Natural Gravy ~ Basil Aioli

On The Hot Side

Golden Gate's House Recipe Fried Chicken

Chef's Specialty Pasta of the Day

Chef's Seasonal Fresh Selection

"East Bay" Style Cajun Jambalaya

Served with Dirty Rice

Market Fresh Catch of the Day

Cheesy Chive Mashed Potatoes

Medley of Seasonal Fresh Vegetables

Fresh Baked San Francisco Roll Assortment

Creamery Butter

Sweets and Such

Peach Cobbler

Assortment of Cakes and Mini Sweets

Including Mini Cookies, Brownies, and Blondies

Turf Club Package includes:

Parking ~ Admission & Reserved Seating ~ Daily Racing

Program ~ Buffet Meal ~ Tax & Gratuity

(Prices & Menu selections are subject to change: Last updated 12/28/06)

Things being done at the Memorial Building



(1) This picture should give you an idea of the new floor that was laid on the lower floor of the Martinez Veteran Memorial Building. There has also been a new furnace put in to replace the original furnace that was placed in the building when it was built.



(2) Left National Commander-In-Chief, George J. Lisicki spoke at Special Dinner, in February, which was hosted by the VFW 25th District in the Antioch Post's building.



(3) Above: California State Commander David B. Norris spoke at the District meeting the next day at the Antioch Post Building in Antioch.



Newsletter



**January thru May, 2008
Issue #8**

**VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS
SIDNEY SEVERNS POST 1351
P.O. Box 1069
Martinez, CA 94553-0106**

Commander Mens VFW	-	Daniel E. Pereira Martinez, CA. 94553 Ph. 925-335-9064	President Women	Carrie Baker 925-708-8326
Senior Vice Commander	-	Harold Sell Bethel Island, CA. 94511 Ph. 925-684-2422	Treasurer	Sandi Evans 925-408-8391
Junior Vice Commander	-	George Colbert Martinez, CA. 94553-1207 Ph. 925-228-3249	Secretary	Lillian Golino 925-372-7042
Quartermaster	-	Carl A. Edwards Martinez, CA. 94553-4812 Ph. 925-372-0133	Trustee	Jean V. May 925-685-7591
Service Officer	-	Thomas Zamaria Martinez, CA. 94553 Ph. 925-372-8305		
Officer of The Day	-	Leland W. Hamilton Martinez, CA. 94553-3540 Phone. 925-228-6601		