



# Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States Sacramento Mountain Post 11999



## *What's Happening in the Mountains?*

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### December Events:

#### December 4<sup>th</sup>

International Volunteer Day

#### December 6<sup>th</sup>

Post Officer Call @  
Comrade Duncan's House  
10:00 am

#### December 7<sup>th</sup>

National Pearl Harbor  
Remembrance Day

#### December 8<sup>th</sup>

MOC Christmas Party,  
PT 20, Alamogordo

#### December 10<sup>th</sup>

MOC Scratch, PT 20,  
Alamogordo

#### December 15<sup>th</sup>

Post Business Meeting  
Cloudcroft Senior Center,  
9:00 am

State Level Youth  
Scholarship Competition  
judging begins

#### December 24<sup>th</sup>

Christmas Eve

#### December 25<sup>th</sup>

Christmas Day

Comrades and Sisters,

As another calendar year comes to a close I want to wish all of you the heartiest holiday greetings from all of the officers of Sacramento Mountain VFW Post 11999! I hope everyone had a safe and happy Thanksgiving with family and friends, and will soon be enjoying a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Our post was honored to have our newest member, James Cano, attend our meeting in November. Comrade James is a Staff Sergeant with NM National Guard D Co. 2/200 Infantry, one of our adopted units, and was home on leave from his unit's mission in Baghdad Iraq. All of our members expressed their gratitude to our comrades in D Co. for their active service and wish them Godspeed with the remainder of their mission. D & C Co. should be returning in March of 2008.

Two other continuous VFW members attended our November meeting and have asked to transfer into our post. I would like to personally welcome comrades William Conlon & William Hayes to the Sacramento Mountain Post and hope they will enjoy their time with us.

Our Post has continued with its recruiting efforts. With our newest members figured in we are now at over 122%! We still need to find new members, and encourage them to get involved with our post and the communities. This post serves more than 9 different mountain communities, and there is so much we could accomplish if we weren't spread so thin. Let's continue to seek out veterans who are eligible to join our organization. I want to welcome our two newest WWII members, Dick Hirsch and Bob Millar. Yes Bob is my very own dad! He is very involved with many groups and organizations in his home town of Green Valley AZ, so involved, that we thought he might like to join his son's post in another state, that way he would not feel too obligated to volunteer with his local post. Now he is free to help out when he can, and not feel too guilty if he can't. I guess the apple doesn't fall too far from the tree when it comes to community involvement.

Many of our members attended the Veteran's Day program at the Cloudcroft Schools. Comrade Billy Sharp was the honored speaker and gave a wonderful speech in spite of a faulty intermittent microphone. His preaching experience gave him the poise to never falter in his delivery. Great job Comrade Sharp! Comrade Brian and a few others attended the program at Chaparral Middle School in Alamogordo on Friday. He reports that this is a fantastic program and more of our members should attend this enjoyable event.

Our annual spaghetti dinner that Friday night was a huge success. Many of our comrades pitched in with the prep and meal. The Boy Scouts & Cubs Scouts were invaluable assistants during the event. I wish to extend a special thank you to Comrades Brian Pantier & Jack Smith for spearheading the dinner this year. Comrade Brian put in some very late hours getting the sauce ready days before the event. Thank you Comrades!

On Veterans Day itself our post held a Buddy Poppy distribution in Ruidoso, NM. The local Wal Mart graciously allowed us to set up outside their entrance, and we raised considerable donations for veterans' services in our community. Again I would like to personally thank Comrades Brian Pantier, Jerry Smith & Donna Millar for giving up their Sunday and their for assistance during the distribution.

Our local Youth Scholarship program has been completed for the year. We had two young ladies enter our Patriot's Pen (grades 6-8) Written Essay competition, Joyce Simpson & Angel Jordan. Each girl was from a different local school, so they each received first place and will advance to the state level of the competition. In the Voice of Democracy Audio Essay (grades 9-12) we were pleasantly surprised to receive twelve entries! We were fortunate to have the Timberon Home Extension Club act as judges for the competition, and Simon Rimmele was selected to represent our post as the 1<sup>st</sup> Place winner in the state level of competition. One teacher was nominated for the National Citizenship Education Award. Mr. Wendell Lane from Cloudcroft High School will be our post representative at the state level. I wish all of our contest winners good luck, and hope to see many of them when I attend the National Youth Scholarship & Community Service Conference in Washington D.C. this spring.

Over the past 5 months our post has contributed quite a bit to our local communities. As of the end of November our totals are as follows:

<b>Total Number of Projects:</b>	70
<b>Total Number of Hours:</b>	1339
<b>Total Number of Miles:</b>	12,876
<b>Total Donations:</b>	\$2,922.00

Let's keep up the fantastic work for the remaining 7 months of this year!

With the start of the New Year approaching I would like to inform our members that I will be throwing my hat into the ring for State Surgeon. I will be making a formal announcement at the District 3 meeting in January, and again state wide, at the Department of New Mexico Mid-Winter Conference in February. It is my intention to advance through the chairs at the state level and become your State Commander for the 2012-13 year. I hope to have all of your support in the future with this endeavor and I hope that you, the membership, will allow me to remain as your Post Commander at least through 2010. By that time we will definitely need to find another to take my place. Yet another reason to increase our membership base.

I am still attempting to make this monthly letter into a post newsletter. I have tried to include a column in this mailing that lists upcoming events and activities. Some of our members do not have access to e-mail or the internet, and I wish to reach as many as possible. Also I know many of you are very busy within your own communities, and if you had a little warning, a list of events might help you find a moment to help us out with some event or activity.