

Keep Me Posted

Quarterly News

Post 105 Redwood City, 651 El Camino Real

AMERICAN
LEGION

2025 Jan-Mar
Vol.6

Commander's Message

HAPPY NEW YEAR. Here's hoping 2025 is the best year yet! I hope this newsletter finds you & your family in good health and ready to enjoy & embrace the new year.

January is usually a slow month for our Post. Our General Meeting will be on Wednesday, January 8, 2025. For the Legion, dinner will be served by 2nd Vice Leo McArdle at 5:00pm for the Auxiliary and 5:30 PM for the Legion with TAL general meeting at 7:00 PM. We'd love to see you, so please join us if you can. If you can't come down, there will be a Zoom link, so please join us virtually.

Bingo has been a lifesaver for the Post. The income from renting twice a week allows us to keep the Post running, fix the leaks in the roof, and take care of all the general maintenance that comes with a 75-year-old building. Rentals have been very consistent--between 2-5 a month. These additional rentals assist in paying all our expenses. A lot of our rental successes is due to 2nd Vice Leo doing a great job managing the rentals.

Be safe and hope to see you in the new year!



Cmdr. Smith paying respects at the annual Wreaths Across America, Golden Gate National Cemetery.



Enjoying a hearty SOS Breakfast



George Smith

Building Update

The Building Project has one major issue to be resolved--the \$750,000.00 zero percent interest loan from Redwood City. If the project doesn't come to fruition, the loan will not be due for repayment until CalTrain or another entity wants to buy it. I'll have more information in the very near future.



Post, AmVets, VVA, et al annual holiday lunch at Harry's Hofbrau



John & Pauline, stalwart couple who contribute so much time to P105.

Family Updates

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY



Peggy Toye

Autumn filled the Unit's calendar with events and ceremonies. In October, ladies volunteered at the annual Redwood City Elks Lodge Packing Day--a record 400 care boxes for deployed soldiers and 300 bags for in-need veterans. The event was co-led by Carol B and Tom G, both of P105 and the Elks.



Far right are Pauline, Amy (BSM), Arlene and Cindy representing U105 at the Elks event. Brava, ladies.

Donations this quarter included Glowforge laser cutter supplies for the VA-Menlo Park's Art Center. Via a grant from the Peninsula Hills Women's Club, facilitated by Carol R, we donated \$500-worth of gift cards to the VA-Menlo Park Bldg. 331 to purchase supplies for veteran patients.

U105 donated food to CSM's Veterans Resource & Opportunity Ctr. VROC rep Marcus & student veterans accepted the delivery from Arlene, Peggy, Cindy & Mary.



D26 members fulfilled the wishes of VA-Menlo Park Bldg 331 patients. Gift bags are for short-term patients. L-R: U105 Peggy, U474-Coastside Susan, U238-Pacific Janice, U474 Janet, U82-San Mateo Bea, U105 Cindy, Arlene & Carol B, and U585-San Carlos Marci.

HOLIDAY EVENTS

Wreaths Across America, Dec 14. Volunteers braved the rain and heavy winds at Golden Gate National Cemetery for the annual laying of wreath. Many Post 105 Family members participated.



Sons Cmdr. Patrick assisted in logistics at Golden Gate National Cemetery on Dec. 14, Wreaths Across America. In the background are boxes of wreaths to be unpacked by volunteers. 2nd Vice Cmdr. Leo grappling in the rain with the plethora of soggy wreath containers set for recycling.



LaReine & George and members couldn't get enough chilly weather so they volunteered Dec 14 in the evening at the Lighted Boat Festival at Half Moon Bay.



Upcoming Activities

VA, Veterans & military family events, volunteer & social opportunities for Post 105 Family members & friends.

Jan 4, Sat. Wreaths Across America Cleanup. Volunteers needed at Golden Gate National Cemetery at 8AM.

Feb 2, Sun. "Noises Off." San Mateo High Play, ALA 4th annual social theater event--a highly acclaimed farce. Post Family welcomed. Tix price will be shared in TAL & ALA calendars when made available. Showtime at 2PM.

March. Officer Nominations. TAL Executive Committee makes recommendations for 2025-2026 which will be presented to members in April.

April 6, Sun. Auxiliary hosts CA Dept. President's Visit. Post 105 hosts Madam President Linda Hayes for a catered lunch. All five Bay Area Districts invited. Details will be shared on TAL & ALA websites. 10AM

Every Tuesday & Thursday. Bingo. Check the [Blog](#) or [Post Website Calendar](#) for details.

Family Update

AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS

As we approach the new year, the Riders continues as one of the four faces for our Post by participating in Final Honor Details as well as community events. Highlights last year included 23d Marine Regiment 4th Marine Division New First SGT. Promotion Ceremony, 1st SGT to SGT Major Promotion Ceremony, Marine Corps SGT Major Ceremony at Skylawn Memorial Park, and Rider Training.



Andrew Trapani

Our assistance included P105's Car Show, Repatriation Escort US Navy Recruit Adams, Peninsula Day Camp, Italian Catholic Federation Color Guard, Flag Retirement Ceremony at Cypress Lawn Memorial Park, USMC Amphibious Tractor Fundraiser, Veterans Day Ceremony, Flag Day Plaque Presentation at Cypress Lawn Memorial Park, and the 4th of July Parade.

2024 Stats, April 1 - November 29

ALR CA Dept. Miles	Chap. 105 Group Miles	ALR CA Dept. Hrs.	Missions Completed
5,617	15,149	1,354	63



A moment of rest for the Riders and Marine Corps League after the commemoration at the gravesite of the first Marine SGM laid to rest at Skylawn Memorial Park.



Honor detail for a Marine Vet: Firing Detail, Taps, folding and presenting the American flag to the family.

IN SERVICE TO COMMUNITY



P105 Family donated six turkeys and eight hams to the VA-Menlo Park veteran residents for their Thanksgiving meals. Pictured, back: Legionnaires Michael, William, George, VA Volunteer Specialist Alberto, Legionnaire Curtis, Auxiliary's Peggy & Legionnaire Leo. Front: Rider Andrew and Legionnaire/Rider Ken.



The Family provided stuffed toys to the Redwood City Police & Fire Departments and the San Mateo Sheriff's Office. These toys will be given to children to comfort them on emergency calls. Because the Fire Dept. had to leave for a call during our presentation, they are absent from this picture. The donation idea from Riders Director Andrew Trapani was enthusiastically received; Post 105 Family plans to donate annually.



Riders, USV, AmVets & Nat. Guard pay tribute to Army Vietnam Veteran Louis Yee Louie at the Hoy Sun Cemetery in Colma.

Veterans Spotlight

For ‘Ponce’ Gonzalez, a chance meeting at an Ohio bookstore changed the trajectory of his life and gained him a lasting friend. Ponce grew up in OH and was drafted in 1965. Having scored well in the Naval entrance testing, he quickly rose to the rank of 3rd class Petty Officer and served as a Gunfire Control Technician providing gunfire support for the Marines in Vietnam. Ponce was subsequently promoted to 2nd class and was given the assignment to manage the anti-aircraft systems on the Newport News CA 148 four MK-56 systems and TDS MK-5 target designation systems. When identifying himself and his service to fellow Vietnam veterans, he’s been thanked by Marines for providing gunfire support. Ponce separated from the Navy with the rating of E5, Petty Officer, 2nd class.



Ponce Gonzalez, c.'69 & c.'14

Between deployments in 1968, he was invited by a high school friend to accompany him to Columbus Technical Institute’s college bookstore to buy books for the upcoming quarter. While in the store, Harold Brown, Director of the college’s Engineering Department, engaged Ponce in a conversation. Not knowing he was speaking to one of the original, renowned Tuskegee Airmen, Ponce recalled, “Dr. Brown said that the government spent a lot of money to educate me for my technical job and that I should take advantage of that training and improve my knowledge by attending Columbus Tech.” Brown asked what ship he was serving on, his assigned division and then they parted ways.

Returning home after his second deployment in July ‘69, Ponce was told to report to sick bay for a physical. The Corpsman Doc Lanier told him he was approved for early release to attend Columbus Tech; however, Ponce hadn’t applied for admission. Taking advantage of this early release, Ponce used the GI Bill and lived frugally (skipping meals) and graduated from Columbus Tech with a degree in electrical engineering. He estimates more than 75% of his classmates were veterans as well.

He embarked on a career in telecommunications with the Bell System, Northern Telecom, and Tandem Computers, to name a few companies. Through the years, he maintained his friendship with Brown who attended Ponce’s wedding. When Ponce asked Brown if he influenced Ponce’s acceptance into Columbus Tech, Brown demurred and responded that he was “too old to

remember that far back.” Ponce & two classmates called Dr. Brown (and via Zoom) annually to sing him ‘happy birthday’ until Brown’s passing at age 98 in 2023. Ponce returned to Ohio to deliver a eulogy for his long-time friend.

Two veterans & two generations tied together by grace and commitment to country. -P. Toye



Harold Brown, 1924-2023

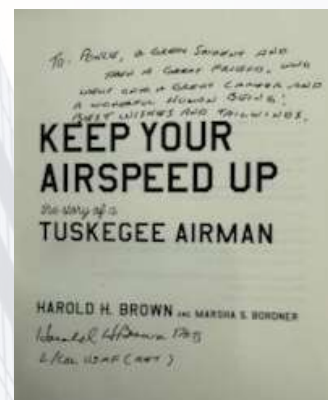
excerpts from *The NY Times* Jan. 28, 2023

“Harold H. Brown, who as a teenager overcame racial prejudice in the American South to become an Army Air Corps fighter pilot during World War II—a member of the famed Tuskegee Airmen.” While flying over Austria, shrapnel from one of his targets disabled his plane, necessitating him to bail out. He landed and was almost lynched by Austrian locals but was saved by a local constable. As a POW, he was captive with fellow American prisoners—his first desegregated living experience. “Dr. Brown flew 30 missions during the war in Europe and later served in the Korean War. He spent 23 years in the military before retiring” as a lieutenant colonel in 1965, earned a doctorate and became a college administrator.”



Media Updates

Keep current on what’s happening at your Post. Check our [website calendar](#) and [105 Blog](#) for the latest & greatest news. To receive the blog via email, send your full name and email address to alpost105rwc@gmail.com.



VETERANS DAY CEREMONY

With a rain forecast, P105's Ceremony Team pivoted and moved the entire day's event to the Post without a hitch. Outdoor facilities were canceled, dignitaries informed, and the Post readied for the Monday ceremony. Newark Wind Symphony and Kennedy Middle School entertained with inspiring & patriot tunes.



U.S. Marine Corps 23d Regiment



Ed Kiryczun
Keynote Speaker



Newark Wind Symmphony led by Legionnaire Michael



Cmdr. Smith speaks
with attentive MC Stan.



Back: N. Fernandez for State Sen. Becker,
FC Vice-Mayor S. Jimenez, RWC
Councilwoman D. Howard.
Front: RWC Vice Mayor L. Espinoza-Garnica,
SM Co. Supv. N. Corzo, SM Co. Vet.
Commissioner D. Vaillancourt, CA
Assemblywoman D. Papan & P. Molina for
Congressman Mullin



Celebrating the Honorees



Members and the general public entertained by live music
while awaiting the program commencement .



Thanks to Scouts of
America who guided
attendees from
Courthouse Square
to the Post 105 due
to rain.

Veterans Day photographs courtesy of
William Jackson, Jr. and Joe Kirby

It Takes a Village to Organize a Veterans Day Ceremony



Int'l Nat. Brotherhood of Electrical Wkrs, Local 617



American Legion Post 105 RWC Family & Guests



P105 Birthdays

January

- 1 Scott W
- 3 David F
- 6 George S
- 7 Paul M
- 8 Darrell
- 8 James H
- 8 William W
- 9 Dennis L
- 11 Gerald G
- 15 Harold B
- 15 Jeffrey N
- 19 Don D
- 24 Gene T
- 24 John C
- 25 Gordon G
- 26 Robert W
- 27 Warren S
- 28 Thomas G



February

- 1 Alan R
- 2 Alfredo C
- 7 Frank M
- 8 Leonard B
- 9 Robert F
- 9 John F
- 10 Robert S
- 11 Edward F
- 12 Tumu L
- 13 Keith K
- 13 Larry W
- 13 Merrill M
- 13 Stacy J
- 15 Gerard D
- 17 James S
- 17 Peter G
- 21 Alvin P
- 22 Carolyn T
- 22 Jessie S
- 24 John R
- 28 Ashley A
- 28 Leo G



March

- 2 Joyce B
- 8 Dale B
- 8 Thomas G
- 9 Moises M
- 14 Walter A
- 14 Carl P
- 19 Daniel D
- 22 Gerald W
- 23 Stephen C
- 23 Jeffrey F
- 26 Carol B
- 27 Paul H
- 28 Michael M
- 30 Steven B



Recurring Meetings

Legion mtg: 2nd Wednesday, 7pm. 5pm dinner.
<https://americanlegionpost105rwc.org/>
 Auxiliary Unit mtg: 2nd Wednesday, 6pm. <https://www.alaunit105rwc.com/>
 American Legion Riders Chapter mtg: 2nd Tuesday, 6pm, 5pm dinner. [Facebook page](#)
 Sons of the American Legion Squadron mtg: 2nd Tuesday, 6pm, 5pm dinner.
 Commander's Coffee: last Wednesday/month, 9am-12noon.
 Potential speaker at 10am, TBD.
 District 26 Auxiliary mtg: 1st Saturday, 10am.
www.tinyURL.com/AuxDistrict26

Post Family Officers

Telephone: 650-365-1337
 Legion: CommanderPost105@gmail.com. ALA: ALAPresident105@gmail.com.
 Sons: alscommander105@gmail.com (revised Oct 2023)
 Riders: ALRDirector105@gmail.com.

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Mary, Wendy & Carol R helmed the info table during the Veterans Day Ceremony.



George & Pat at the SOS Breakfast



Lighted Boat Festival, Half Moon Bay: Andrew gave instructions, drones lit up the sky, and festival lighted boat contest.



P105 Fdn President William received an appreciation certificate from Riders Director Andrew.



Some of P105 Family representing at the 9th SM County Veterans Commission Lunch



Foster City GS Scouts voted to create holiday cards for VA patients.



USMC 23d Regiment completes another carwash fundraiser.

GLOSSARY

- ALA, Auxiliary: American Legion Auxiliary
- ALR, Riders: American Legion Riders
- Department/District: State- and County-level Legion Family administration, respectively
- P105 Family: Legion, Auxiliary, Sons & Riders
- SAL, Sons: Sons of the American Legion
- SMCBMSM: San Mateo County Blue Star Moms
- TAL: The American Legion
- TBD: To be determined.
- VA: Veterans Administration (govt. agency)