

Dean K. Phillips Memorial
 Post 5061
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The Silver Star



Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 5061

February 2021



Commander's Corner

Greetings! First, I would like to congratulate our Post submissions to District 1 in the Patriots Pen and Voice of Democracy contests for our young people. Kyle Markel won first place for Voice of Democracy, and Jace Elliot won third place for Patriots Pen! Wish Kyle luck at the Department level contest! I'd also like to inform everyone that there will be no Post meeting this month (February 10). The membership wanted to hold off another month to allow more of the most vulnerable among us to get a chance to be vaccinated for protection against COVID-19. On that note, if you'd like to keep up with vaccination information, call 1-877-CO VAX CO (877-268-2926). I urge everyone to get vaccinated. This is a very serious illness and well worth protecting yourself. At the risk of overly repeating myself, please understand that we are not out of this yet, so please be respectful of your fellow veterans and wear a mask when walking into and around the Post, maintain distancing from folks outside of your household, and respect other's sensibilities concerning precautions we all should take. We will continue to take temperatures and have everyone sign in. Please be safe! We are almost there!

With Respect,

Jim Kruse, Commander

Post Officers

Post Commander: Jim Kruse
Sr. Vice Commander: Steve Coca
Jr. Vice Commander: Tammy Greene
Quartermaster: Tom Yepsen
Adjutant: TBD
Chaplain: Manuel Sais
Judge Advocate: Carl Miller
Surgeon: Mario Rodriguez
Service Officer: Carl Miller
Trustees: Delbert Bowen, Mario Rodriguez, Bill Costa
Home Board: Charlie Dominguez, Lee Bonney, Joe Gomez, Carl Miller, Steve Coca
Canteen Manager: Jerry Jones
Bingo Manager: Tom Yepsen
Hall Manager: Joe Tafoya

Auxiliary Officers

President: Michael Casagranda
Sr. Vice: Tim Gilmore
Jr. Vice: Bernadette Sannino
Treasurer: Juliana Mancuso
Secretary: Kathy Kurtenbach
Chaplain: Roxi Nielsen
Conductress: Christine Dominguez
Trustees: Christine Dominguez, Roxi Nielsen, Tim Gilmore
Guard: Joe Tafoya

Auxiliary News

I published a letter last month from an Auxiliary member whose father passed away from COVID. In order to move forward we should take the necessary precautions the Commander has insisted be followed by each member visiting the Post. A new strain has surfaced recently and is more contagious and 30% more deadly than the original airborne virus. Provided that our members follow the strict guidelines set by our Commander, we might be able to avoid catastrophe. With the introduction of vaccines, infections should decline. Each of you can have a positive effect by following the guidelines set down by the Commander. Each of us need to take precautions and wear a facemask to prevent the virus from resurfacing at the Post. Members should be able to consider the Post to be a safe place. With the introduction of a new strain, nobody knows whether you can be re-infected. Please show respect for others by practicing safe distancing wearing a mask and practicing proper hygiene.

Michael Casagranda
President

Post Members: Did you pay your dues? Check your membership card for your anniversary date.

Auxiliary Members: Membership dues were due by December, 31, 2020.



VFWPost5061.org

Navy Ship T-Shirts

Search for your ship name and you'll find your ship

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- Cruisers: <https://rebrand.ly/cruiser-671e3>
- Sub: <https://rebrand.ly/8ac5b>

No Post Meeting in February

All Ad payments are due NOW to Tom Yepsen. Annual payment is \$50. Unpaid ads will be removed by the March newsletter.

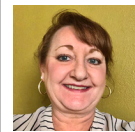


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If an Auxiliary member becomes ill or loses a family member, please let our Auxiliary Chaplain, Roxi Nielsen, know as soon as possible. (303-517-7774)



Taps

This Month in Military History...

February 2, 1848 - The war between the U.S. and Mexico ended with the signing of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo. In exchange for \$15 million, the U.S. acquired the areas encompassing parts or all of present day California, Nevada, Utah, Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado, Wyoming, and Texas. The treaty was ratified on March 10, 1848.

February 4, 1861 - Apache Chief Cochise was arrested in Arizona by the U.S. Army for raiding a ranch. Cochise escaped and declared war, beginning the period known as the Apache Wars, lasting 25 years.

February 9, 1943 - During World War II in the Pacific, U.S. troops captured Guadalcanal in the Solomon Islands after six months of battle, with 9,000 Japanese and 2,000 Americans killed.

February 10, 1942 - The first Medal of Honor during World War II was awarded to 2nd Lt. Alexander Nininger (posthumously) for heroism during the Battle of Bataan.

February 15, 1898 - In Havana, the U.S. Battleship Maine was blown up while at anchor and quickly sank with 260 crew members lost. The incident inflamed public opinion in the U.S., resulting in a declaration of war against Spain on April 25, 1898, amid cries of "Remember the Maine!"

February 20, 1943 - German Field Marshal Erwin Rommel broke through American lines at Kasserine Pass in North Africa as inexperienced U.S. Troops lost their first major battle of World War II in Europe, with 1,000 Americans killed.

February 23, 1942 - During World War II, the first attack on the U.S. mainland occurred as a Japanese submarine shelled an oil refinery near Santa Barbara, California, causing minor damage.

February 23, 1991 - In Desert Storm, the Allied ground offensive began after a devastating month-long air campaign targeting Iraqi troops in both Iraq and Kuwait.

February 27, 1991 - In Desert Storm, the 100-hour ground war ended as Allied troops entered Kuwait just four days after launching their offensive against Saddam Hussein's Iraqi forces.

February 28, 1994 - NATO conducted its first combat action in its 45 year history as four Bosnian Serb jets were shot down by American fighters in a no-fly zone.

The Solomon Islands Campaign: Guadalcanal

American forces first landed on the Solomon Islands of Guadalcanal, Tulagi, and Florida on the morning of August 7, 1942. After some fierce fighting, the US Marines cleared Tulagi and Florida by August 9. The main forces on Guadalcanal met little resistance on their way inland to secure the airfield at Lunga Point, which was soon renamed Henderson Field after Loy Henderson, an aviator killed at the Battle of Midway. Almost immediately, however, Japanese naval aircraft attacked transport and escort ships, and Japanese reinforcements arrived in the area.

Over the following days, the first of many deadly naval battles occurred—the Naval Battle of Savo Island. The fight for control of Guadalcanal, its critical airfield, and the seas around them continued for months with both sides losing men, ships, and aircraft and with neither side able to drive the other off the island.

During the first amphibious invasion in the Pacific, the United States made many initial mistakes, including not having the proper resources on the beaches to move men and matériel inland. The logistical challenges of transport and supply across the Pacific were also immense. Difficult jungle terrain, inhospitable weather, lack of infrastructure, and a foe that fought to the death gave the United States its first taste of what was to come throughout the Pacific war. It seemed that every time the United States inched closer to victory, the Japanese would resupply Guadalcanal by night and be ready for more fighting the next day.

The battle at sea also heated up in the fall of 1942. On October 26, American and Japanese naval forces clashed off the Santa Cruz Islands. Japan secured a tactical victory, sinking the carrier Hornet, but paid a severe price in aircraft and skilled aircrew. Then from November 12–15, in the frantic Naval Battle of Guadalcanal, American sailors and airmen blocked Japan's last effort to knock out Henderson Field from the sea, at heavy cost. As one Japanese officer noted, "This was the fork in the road." While fighting continued on the island, the Japanese withdrew their final men and left the island to the Allies in February 1943.

The Solomon Islands Campaign cost the Allies approximately 7,100 men, 29 ships, and 615 aircraft. The Japanese lost 31,000 men, 38 ships, and 683 aircraft. Over the next two and a half years, US forces captured the Gilbert Islands (Tarawa and Makin), the Marshall Islands (Kwajalein and Eniwetok), the Mariana Islands (Saipan, Guam, and Tinian), Iwo Jima, and Okinawa. With each island taken from the Japanese, the United States moved closer to Japan. Growing superiority at sea and in the air, as well as in the number of fighting men, gave the United States increasing advantages. Nonetheless, wherever US forces met Japanese defenders, the enemy fought long and hard before being defeated.