

History of
Whittier Post No. 51

The American Legion
Whittier, California



For 2017-2018

**By Fred J. Shacklett
Post Historian**



History of Whittier Post 51, 2017-2018

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WHITTIER POST NO. 51
THE AMERICAN LEGION
WHITTIER, CALIFORNIA
FOR 2017 to 2018
BY: Fred J. Shacklett**

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History of Whittier Post 51, 2017-2018

Dedication

Arturo “Art” Castro
Post 51 Commander 2008-2009
Department of California Commander 2017-2018



This Post 51 History book is dedicated to the memory of our friend and comrade Art Castro. His unswerving dedication to the community, legion programs, and our nation’s veterans, is a testament to his leadership and serves as an inspiration to us all.



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Preamble to the Constitution of The American Legion

For God and Country, we associate ourselves together for the following purposes:
To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America;
to maintain law and order;
to foster and perpetuate a 100-percent Americanism;
to preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in the great wars;
to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation;
to combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses;
to make right the master of might;
to promote peace and good will on earth;
to safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy;
to consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.



Introduction

About the American Legion

The American Legion, www.legion.org, is the largest wartime veterans service organization in the United States with 2.4 million members in nearly 14,000 posts in almost every community in America. The Legion, established by an act of Congress in 1919, was instrumental in getting the original GI Bill through Congress and the creation of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

The American Legion is based on four fundamental pillars; a strong national security, veteran's affairs, Americanism, and youth-oriented programs. The work of the Legion promotes improvement of their local communities and the advancement of veteran awareness across the nation.

About Whittier Post 51

Whittier Post 51, a 503(c)(19) non-profit veteran's corporation; was chartered in 1924 and at present has over 300 registered members. Post 51 is located at the Whittier Senior Center, 13225 Walnut Street, Whittier, California.

General meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM. Annual dues are \$40.00 per year. Commander Louie Adame is the Post Commander for the 2017-2018 legion year. Visit us on our website whittierpost51.org for the latest information on events and activities. And if you are on Facebook, please friend us.



Whittier Post 51
13225 Walnut Avenue
Whittier, CA 90602

The post meets on 3rd Tuesday of every month, usually in Room 6.
Email: alwhittierpost51@yahoo.com Website: whittierpost51.org



Introduction Continued – Famous Post 51 Member, Richard M. Nixon

Richard M. Nixon (January 9, 1913 – April 22, 1994) who served as the 37th President of the United States, from 1969 until 1974. During his first year in office, then President Nixon received the American Legion's Distinguished Service Medal in 1969. He was a WWII veteran serving in the U.S. Navy from 1942 to 1946. He was also a PAID-UP-FOR-LIFE (PUFL) member of Whittier Post 51.



Vice President Richard M. Nixon of the United States addressing the 35th national convention of The American Legion at its opening session in St. Louis, Mo., August 31, 1963.





Chapter 1 – Roster of Post Officers

By vote at the general meeting held on June 20th, 2017, the officers shown below were either elected or appointed to their respective post positions.

Post 51 Officers 2017 - 2018



GILSOTO
AREA 4 VICE COMMANDER



LOUIE ADAME
POST 51
COMMANDER



PAT DOWD
ADJUTANT



DENNIS KNIGHT
1ST VICE COMMANDER



JEAN CARRILLO
2ND VICE COMMANDER



AL GRAMADOS
CHAPLAIN



CARLOS ZAMORANO
ASST. ADJUTANT



NICK RANGEL
SGT AT ARMS



BOB SAINZ
ASST SGT AT ARMS



FRED SHACKLETT
HISTORIAN



FRANK VENTURA
BOY SCOUT LIAISON



BYRON HOBBS
FINANCE OFFICER



AARON MENDOCZA
POST BUGLER



FRED AIKEY
ASST. CHAPLAIN



Chapter 2 – Roster of Post Commissions

Whittier Post 51 supports the following Department of California commissions.

Americanism Commission - Al Granados

To develop and maintain a spirit of 100% Americanism among Legionnaires and residents of the State of California. To put into effect the Americanism programs of The American Legion; to coordinate any overlapping plans dealing with Americanism; and to develop an overall policy of Americanism. To act as liaison between all youth and adult organizations and to assist in sponsoring activities of Americanism throughout the State of California; and to coordinate the programs of the Posts and Districts of The Department of California with all public, private, and parochial schools and any other organization pursuing the ideals of Americanism.

Boys State – Gil Soto and Patrick Dowd

To operate Boys' State for the development of good citizenship in the communities. The Boys' State Commission shall prepare an annual budget of all its operations and shall include all funds received and expended to the Finance Commission which in turn will be presented with the Department budget to the Convention.

Constitution and By-Laws Commission - Fred Shacklett

To structure, produce and carry on the Community Service Commission betterment program for The American Legion local community in which a post is situated and represents; to identify, promote, support and encourage those program activities and events by the posts throughout the Department, not covered by other commissions or committees.

Leadership Commission - Louie Adame

To encourage members to utilize their innate potentials, and develop within those potentials, the enthusiasm to function for the best interest of The American Legion, at all levels. Louie Adame is also the Dept Commissioner.

Media and Communications Commission - Fred Shacklett

The Media & Communications Commission works internally to educate, motivate and inform The American Legion Family of the mission and programs of The American Legion for the purpose of making them promoters of and participants in the activities and aims of The American Legion. The commission works externally to build awareness of and support for the primary mission and purpose of The American Legion, especially among individual citizens, the United States Congress, media, national and local government agencies and corporate America.

Oratorical Commission - Byron Hobbis

To consider legislative matters, make recommendations to the Department Convention and the Executive Committee, and generally supervise the legislative program of the Department during the session of the State Legislature.



Scouting Commission - Frank Ventura

To foster and promote the scouting program throughout the State among the Posts of The American Legion of this Department, including such activities as the Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, Venturing, Sea Scouts, Exploring and Girl Scouts.



Chapter 3 – One-Year Post History and Narrative

Installation of Officers, Whittier Senior Center, Whittier, CA

July 9, 2017

Post 51 held its annual installation of officers at the Whittier Senior Center at 2:00pm. The Installation Officer was Art Castro, Dept of California Commander, assisted by Gil Soto, Area 4 Vice Commander.

Elected Officers were:

Post Commander	Louie Adame
1 st Vice Commander	Dennis Knight
2 nd Vice Commander	Jean Carrillo
Service Officer	Jean Carrillo acting
Finance Officer	Byron Hobbis
Sergeant at Arms	Nicholas Rangle
Asst Sergeant at Arms	Bob Sainz

Appointed Officers were:

Adjutant	Patrick Dowd
Asst Adjutant	Carlos Zamerano
Chaplain	Al Granados
Asst Chaplain	Fred Aikey
Historian	Fred Shacklett
Post Bugler	Aaron Mendoza

4th of July at York Field Whittier, CA

July 4, 2017

Post 51 attended the annual City of Whittier 4th of July celebration at York Field. Holding down the fort at our recruiting booth were Dennis Knight and Fred Shacklett.

All other recruiting events are shown in Appendix F.

California Boy's State

July 18, 2017

Post 51 sent four high school juniors to this year's American Legion California Boys' State program. The delegates were Patrick Fitzgerald, California High; Carlos Flores, Whittier; Christian Isralelian, and Kyle Lien, La Serna.

The delegates from Whittier Post spent a week at University of California Sacramento learning how city, county and state government work. They do this by actually forming their own city, county and state governments.

The delegates run for offices at the city, county and state level, they publish their own newspaper, author and pass their own bills. Then they get to visit the state capitol and sometimes meet the governor.



History of Whittier Post 51, 2017-2018

For this year, there were one thousand boys participating in this program that was started in 1936 and became a national program in 1937. The delegates get to meet other boys from around the state, learn what other boys are doing and they get to bring those experiences back to their school. This program falls under the Americanism and Children and Youth programs of the American Legion.

1st Post 51 Meeting of 2017 Recognition

July 18, 2017

Whittier Post 51 held its first meeting of the 2017-2018 year at the Whittier Senior Center, Whittier, CA. Post Commander Louie Adame presided with Chaplain Al Granados and Adjutant Pat Dowd present.

Also, at this meeting the 1st Vice-Commander, Dennis Knight and Adjutant, Patrick Dowd received recognition certificates for their efforts in recruiting for the 2016-2017. Whittier Post 51 ended the year at 101% of our goal of 284 members.

Congratulations to both Dennis and Pat.

POW/MIA Ceremony Presented at Whittier Senior Center

September 15, 2017

Post 51 presented a POW/MIA ceremony to members of the community at post home, the Whittier Senior Center, Whittier, CA.

Funeral for Noted Post 51 Member Jose G. Ramos

September 16, 2017

US Army combat medic and American Legion veteran Jose G. (Guadalupe) Ramos, who bicycled his way across the country in the year 2000, on behalf of his fellow veterans, was laid to rest at Rose Hills Cemetery, with full military honors. The funeral services were at Saint Mary of Assumption Church in Whittier CA, with family, friends, and veterans from a dozen organizations present.

Also in attendance were representatives from the former Republic of Vietnam army, who presented a South Vietnam Flag to the family in honor of Jose. Jose died Sunday September 3, 2017, from complications from treatment of his liver cancer. His family was with him at the time of passing. He was 68.

José G. Ramos, the driving force behind the WHVVD crusade and a distinguished Vietnam War veteran, wanted his fellow vets to get the recognition they deserved. So, began the dream and the campaign to establish a day of recognition. In 1998, Ramos had participated in a 16-day, 1250-mile bicycle ride through Vietnam. From that experience, he decided to organize a bicycle ride across the United States to promote his plan.

Two years later, Ramos rode his bicycle from Whittier to Washington, D.C., to ask then-President George W. Bush to proclaim March 30 a holiday remembering Vietnam veterans. Although the



White House did not receive him, he was not deterred. In 2004, Ramos again led a bike ride, this time from Irwindale to Washington, D.C., with seven other cyclists.

Meeting with Congresswoman Linda Sanchez (CA-38) was a pinnacle moment. She became a strong ally and Ramos became a member of her veterans advisory committee.

“Jose will always be remembered for his tireless work to gain national recognition for Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day,” Sanchez said in a written statement. “He became a powerful advocate for veterans in our community and across the country ... and inspired many, including me, to help give Vietnam veterans their long overdue ‘welcome home.’”

On September 29, 2009, California became the first state in the nation to sign a bill making March 30 Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day. The bill was introduced by Vietnam veteran Assemblyman Paul Cook (D-Yucca Valley) at the urging of Ramos and the Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) California State Council. The California governor at that time, Arnold Schwarzenegger, signed into law, making March 30th Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day in the state of California. Ramos was at the governor’s side as the proclamation was signed at the Twenty-Nine Palms Marine Corp base.

Then in 2011, the US Senate, along with 38 states and Puerto Rico also recognized March 30th as Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day. On March 30th of that year, a proclamation signed by Governor Edmund Brown of California, states in part, “On Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day, we honor the immeasurable sacrifices and contributions our Vietnam War veterans have made to protect the life, liberty and happiness of every Californian and every American. All veterans deserve our deepest respect. May we always remember the heroism and courage of those who have served and those who continue to serve.”

Also amended that year was the California Education Code, which states March 30 of each year is designated and set apart as Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day, a day having special significance pursuant to Section 37222. This code section reads in part, “On Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day, all public schools and educational institutions are encouraged to conduct exercises recognizing the contributions of all those involved in the Vietnam War and remembering the sacrifices they made for their country.”

In a statement from Whittier Post 51 Commander, Louie Adame, he said, “Jose was a mover and shaker throughout the veteran community. His legacy, his work and the organization he founded will continue. Vietnam veterans owe a debt of gratitude to Jose’s commitment for recognition and acceptance”.

He is survived by his wife, their children, Eric Ramos and Jema Herrera; four grandchildren, Dennis Ramos, Janelle Ramos, David C.J. Herrera and Jacob A.J. Herrera; and his brother, Ray Ramos, and sister, Conchita Quinonez.



Post 51 Attends Dinner Honoring Art Castro, Past Dept Commander

September 21, 2017

Post 51 was present at an Area 4 wide dinner honoring Art Castro, past Department of California Commander (2017-2018). Commander Castro was forced to resign from his elected position in early August due to health reasons.

Also present at this meeting were members of District 17, District 19, and District 23. Current Department of California Commander Robert Heinisch also was in attendance with members of his staff.

Post 51 supports 1st Area 4 Caucus Meeting for 2017-2018

October 7, 2017

Post 51 members attended the first 2017-1018 4th Area Caucus held at South Bay Post 187.

Post 51 Attends Inaugural meeting on Post 61

November 9, 2017

Members of Post 51 with the support of District 19, supported the first general meeting of Battleship IOWA BB-61 onboard the ship. This is the first time in American Legion history that a post has been established on-board a battleship.

The process of creating and getting Post 61 established took almost 5 years. It was the brain child of Past Department Commander Art Castro, who negotiated the legal and administrative details with owners of the battleship, the Pacific Battleship IOWA Museum, Inc.

Post 51 Supported the National Commander in Historic Visit

December 12, 2017

On a warm November day, the first-ever female, American Legion National Commander, Denise Rohan, made a historic visit during her December 2017 California Tour to inaugurate the first-ever legion post onboard a battleship. That ship was the Battleship IOWA Museum, BB-61, permanently moored just south of the San Pedro World Cruise Terminal. Never in the history of the legion has there been a legion post onboard a battleship. Also, this is the only battleship museum on the west coast of the United States.

The Commander was escorted to the venue by various chapters of the Legion Riders from throughout Southern California. As is the navy tradition for all dignitaries arriving on a naval ship, she was escorted by Commander Terry Bonich, then welcomed by saluting side-boys and piped on-board by George Melgarejo the 2nd Vice Commander Post 61, a former Navy Boatswainmate.

The primary purpose of Commander Rohan's visit was two-fold. First, to sign the official documents to inaugurate the American Legion Battleship IOWA Post 61. And secondly, this event presented inaugural documents for Korean Bunker Post 829 to its new Commander, Jason Choi.



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The process of creating and getting Post 61 established took almost 5 years and was the brain child of Past Department Commander Art Castro. Commander Castro witnessed the entire event via a Skype session from his hospital room at the Long Beach VA Hospital. The Pacific Battleship Center and District 19 continued negotiations throughout 2015, 2016 and 2017, with interim agreements established in mid-2017.

In the formal signing, Commander Rohan approved the official Memorandum of Understanding between the legion and the non-profit operators of the battleship, the Pacific Battleship Center.

Commander Rohan was accompanied by an entourage of legion and state dignitaries, including Calif. Assembly and Senate representatives, our Calif. National Committeeman, Janet Wilson, Counsel General of the S. Korean Consulate Los Angeles, Department of California Commander, Robert Heinisch, Department Historian Wayne Yee, Past Department Commander Hugh Crooks, Area 4 Vice Commander Gil Soto, and other legion officers. Officiating the event was master-of-ceremonies Nick Rosa, Jr. Past Cmdr. District 19.

Dept. Commander Robert Heinisch presented the Post 61 Commander with its framed charter and constitution. The original Post 61 charter was hand carried from Sacramento, CA, which closed earlier this year.

The inaugural event was attended by approximately 100 invited guests, representing most of District 17 and District 19,

Attending for Post 51 were Commander Louie Adame, Chaplain Al Granados, Area 4 Vice Commander Gil Soto, Assistant Sgt at Arms Bob Sainz, and Historian Fred Shacklett.

See post 51 website for additional photos of this event.

Whittier Christmas Parade 2017

December 9, 2017

Post 51 participated in the 65th annual Whittier Uptown Association Christmas Parade. A staple of the Whittier holiday season, the parade is filled with Music Bands, Equestrians, Drill teams, Vintage Automobiles and a variety of entries. The theme for this year was based on the holiday favorite, the Candy Cane. The parade lasted slightly over two hours.

The route for the parade started at Hadley and Greenleaf Avenues, then traveled down Greenleaf and ended at Mar Vista and Washington Avenues.

For Post 51 this is one of the more notable events. The day starts with an assembly at the Whittier Senior Center about 8:00am, then a brisk walk to the staging area at Hadley and Greenleaf. Several members of the post were then treated to a Veteran's-only breakfast provided by the First Christian Church.



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The Jeeps were provided by Bruce Hern from his network of military vehicles. Doc was even greeted by the two of the Laker's girls before the start of the parade.

The highlight of the parade was a first timer making its debut, a fully restored M2A1 Half Track, which was an instant crowd pleaser.

Please visit our website for more parade photos.

Whittier College Veterans Club

December 22, 2017

The Whittier College Veterans Club is striving to revamp the school's veteran status as it was dissolved almost a decade ago.

The Veterans club has already successfully reinstated our name to the school officials, faculty, and other students. The main goal as a club is to bring awareness to any misconceptions that many have about our military and veterans. Already, the school has graciously allowed us to celebrate the Navy and Marine Corps birthdays, and this past Veteran's Day, by donating a cake to us for each event. Members of the Veterans club are hoping to branch out of the school as well, by giving back to our community, by reaching out to our local Legion Posts, local schools, the Boy and Girl Scouts, and to let Whittier College.

The club also strives to have fun by playing in the school's intramural activities and are in the beginning stages of reaching out to other schools with Veterans' associations to help build networks that will put Whittier College on the Veteran map. Whittier College Campus Safety, whose commander is a Marine veteran, has even donated to our club unclaimed confiscated bikes to us so that our club may repair, clean, and give them out to veterans in need. The club meets most Tuesdays at 4:30 PM in the library or at a given location within the school. The public is invited to come to our meetings or functions. If you have any questions, please contact our Vice President Raymond Johnston at rjohnsto@poets.whittier.edu, or me at amendoz2@poets.whittier.edu.

Post 51 Visits Ceres and Laurel Elementary Schools

November 9 and December 12, 2017

Whittier Post 51 was invited by Ceres Elementary on 11/9/2017, and Laurel Elementary on 12/12/2017 for their observances of Veterans Day. Post officers visited with students and faculty. The students presented the post with a handmade banner. Attending for Post 51 were Bob Sainz, Nick Rangel, Byron Hobbis, Pat Dowd and Dennis Knight.

Veteran's Day Whittier City Hall

Date: December 10, 2017.

Along with members of the local community, State and local city leaders, law enforcement, and boy scouts, Post 51 members with other veterans, attended this annual Whittier event. Several World War II veterans were also present and honored. Commander Louie Adame was one the noted speakers.



Representing Post 51 were Louie Adame, Alfred Lugo, Nick Rangel, Jean Carrillo, Byron Hobbis, Bob Sainz, Norman Chavez, Diana Palmer, Dennis Knight, Gil Soto and Patrick Dowd.

Oratorical Contest – Area 4 Winner Announced
Andrew Charroux takes top honor for Area 4.

February 24, 2018

Montebello Post 272 hosted the Area 4 Oratorical Contest on February 24, 2018. The Area 4 contestants were Katelynn Stinson and Andrew Charroux. They were sponsored by Whittier Post 51 (District 19) and Allied Post 302 (District 17) respectively. District 23 was not represented at this year's event.

Katelynn is a student at California High School in Whittier, CA, and Andrew is a student from John Marshall Senior High School, Los Angeles, CA.

The Area 4 Oratorical Commissioner, Byron Hobbis, presented Andrew with a scholarship check.

The next step for Andrew will be the Department Oratorical on March 3rd in Clovis, CA. There will be 6 contestants representing each California Area.

The winner of that contest will move up to regional. Then the five regions will compete at the National event later in the Spring season, with an opportunity to win up to \$18,000 in scholarship funding.

The Legion Oratorical Contest is focused on high school students in grades 9 through 12. The oration must be on any aspect of the United States Constitution, with emphasis on a citizen's duties and obligations to our government.

Contestants must deliver their prepared oration without notes or props, in no fewer than eight minutes and no more than 10 minutes. Additionally, each contestant is given a second topic drawn at random, that is to run no fewer than three minutes and no more than five minutes.

Flag Ceremony for a Veteran

Vietnam Veteran David Herrera Honored.

January 21, 2018

Post 51 presented a Flag Folding Ceremony for Vietnam Army veteran, David Herrera, who transferred to Post-Everlasting on December 25, 2017. The beautiful ceremony was held at Bible Baptist Church of SGV La Puente. Those attending were very appreciative of the excellence and professionalism with which Post 51 performed the ceremony.

“It made me proud of our American Legion Post 51” said Whittier Commander Louie Adame. Also, in attendance were Post 51 Chaplains, Al Granados and Fred Aikey, Assistant Adjutant, Carlos Zamorano, and Sgt-at-Arms, Nick Rangel.



Four Chaplains Ceremony Performed

Held at Whittier Senior Center

February 6, 2018

Members of the Whittier community were treated to the annual Post 51 Four Chaplains observance ceremony held at the Whittier Senior Center on Walnut Avenue.

The Four Chaplains also sometimes referred to as the "Immortal Chaplains" or the "Dorchester Chaplains", were four United States Army chaplains who gave their lives to save civilian and military personnel, as the troop ship SS Dorchester sank on February 3, 1943, during World War II.

They helped others board lifeboats and gave up their own life jackets when the supply ran out. The chaplains joined arms, said prayers, and sang hymns as they went down with the ship.

The observance is held annually on February 3rd, and is a national American Legion sponsored event.

Post 51 Assistant Chaplain Fred Aikey officiated the ceremony and gave a lecture on the importance of remembering the sacrifices these chaplains made to save their fellow soldiers.

Assisting in the ceremony were Louie Adame, Commander, Patrick Dowd, Adjutant, Bob Sainz, Asst. Sergeant-at-Arms, and Jean Carrillo, 2nd Vice Commander.

On display were photographs of the four chaplains, the ship, and other artifacts.

On December 19, 1944, all four chaplains were posthumously awarded the Purple Heart and the Distinguished Service Cross. Additionally, members of Congress later authorized a special medal, the Four Chaplains' Medal, approved by a unanimous act of Congress on July 14, 1960, through Public Law 86-656.

The medals were presented posthumously to the next of kin of each of the Four Chaplains by Secretary of the Army Wilber M. Brucker at Fort Myer, Virginia, on January 18, 1961.

Post 51 Attends Salute to Heroes Prayer Breakfast

March 1, 2018

The San Gabriel Valley Regional Chamber of Commerce held a prayer breakfast on March 1, 2018 to honor local area first responders and noted heroes of the community.

Past Post 51-member Jose G. Ramos, and founder of Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day, Inc. (WHVVD), was also awarded a recognition certificate for his commitment to veterans of the community.

Accepting on his behalf, were his wife Sylvia Ramos, her Daughter-In-Law Wanda Ramos and Louie Adame, President of WHVVD.



Jose passed away on Sunday September 3, 2017 from complications from treatments of liver cancer.

Attending the breakfast were Louie Adame (Post51) , Pat Dowd (Post51), Sylvia Ramos and Wanda Ramos and table sponsor Bruce Lazenby, Executive Director Business Development, Rose Hills Memorial Park & Mortuary. Not pictured Adrian and Martha Morales.

Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day

Honoring Jose G. Ramos, the Founder of WWVVD, Inc.
Sierra High School, Whittier, CA
April 8, 2018

April 8th, Post 51 members supported an annual event held at Sierra High School in Whittier. This year's program honored the founder of WHVVD, Inc., Jose G. Ramos, who passed away in 2017.

A fund raiser was held for the purpose of raising funds for a permanent memorial. WWVVD Inc. is attempting to raise \$5000 for the Jose G. Ramos Bicycle Monument memorial to be located at Peace Park at Whittier City Hall.

Over 20 organizations and vendors were represented, including the Veteran's Administration, Pointman Ministries, Khmer Cambodian Army members, and other veteran groups.

WHVVD Inc. President Louie Adame gave the opening remarks. Stephanie Stone, Chief Deputy Military and Veterans Affairs, County of Los Angeles, was the Master of Ceremony. Invocation was by Pastor Daniel Hernandez of Point Man International Ministries. The national anthem was sung by Hannah Ridge, a student at California High School in Whittier.

Honored speakers were Ivan Sulic, Field Deputy for LA County Supervisor Janice Hahn (4th District) who was unable to attend, Linda Sanchez, U.S. Representative, 38th Congressional District, Dr. Ralph Pacheco, President of the Board of Trustees for the Whittier Union High School District and Dr. Bob Archuleta, Council Member City of Pico Rivera.

WHVVD Inc. President Louie Adame, made an announcement that next year's event would be known as Welcome Home Veterans, but will still be managed by the WHVVD, Inc. organization. Mr. Adame also read a letter from California Governor, Jerry Brown that officially proclaimed March 30th as Vietnam Veterans Day throughout the state. A copy will be placed on our website in the near future.

Mr. Adame was also presented with a proclamation from the California Legislature and Janice Hahn's office, by Ivan Sulic for WHVVD's commitment to veterans in LA County.

Post 51 manned a canopy table, handed out literature, and talked to any and all veterans, friends, and family members.



The afternoon concluded with music from Jerry Salas and the “ROCK FOR VETS” Band.

The event concluded with a flag retirement provided by Boy Scout Troop 546 of Whittier.

Post 51 Supports 3rd Area 4 Caucus

May 5, 2018

At the third Area 4 Caucus, Post 51 was present to show support for our Post 51 member and Area 4 Vice Commander, Gil Soto. The meeting was held at Chinatown Post 628, Los Angeles, CA. Lunch for the group was held at the Golden Dragon Restaurant across the street. Post 51 Members present were Byron Hobbis, Louie Adame, Diana Palmer, and Fred Shacklett

Post 51 Attends Special Meeting of District 19

On-Board the USS IOW BB-61

May 9, 2018

This special meeting of District 19 was convened for the special purpose of retrieving a US Flag being flown on board the ship. This flag is planned to be presented to the family of Art Castro, at his memorial service, on 17 May 2018. Art is a past Post 51 Commander, past District 19 Commander, and past Dept of California Commander, among other offices held within the American Legion.

Also, at this meeting past District 19 Commander, Nick Rosas, presented a commemorative shirt to Post 61 Commander, Terry Bonich. The shirt was embroidered with Terry’s name. The uniquely colored shirt was unveiled by past Dept Commander Art Castro, during the 2017 Dept Convention in Riverside, CA.

Memorial Service for Art Castro

Past Dept of California Commander (2017-2018)

May 17 -18, 2018

Thursday evening, May 17th, Post 51 officers and members, along with other Legion members paid their respects and tributes to past Dept of California Commander, Art Castro. Legionnaire Castro transferred to Post Everlasting on April 26th, 2018 at his home in Whittier, California. His memorial service was held at White Emerson Mortuary in Whittier, CA.

Noted attendees included Robert Heinisch, current Dept of California Commander, and his staff. Hugh Crooks, past Dept of California Commander, Gil Soto, Area 4 Vice Commander, Louie Adame, Post 51 Commander/Area 4 Adjutant, Richard Ramierez, District 19 Commander, and Nick Rosas, Past District 19 Commander.

The service was accented by an honor guard provided by the Knights of Columbus, commanded by Robert Sainz (Post 51 Asst. Sergeant at Arms).

On Friday, May 18th, Legionnaire Castro’s motorcade was escorted from Whittier to the Riverside National Cemetery, by Chapter 803 of the Legion Riders, where he was laid to rest with full military honors.



The reception was held at Montebello Post 271, Gil Ramierez Post Commander.

Election of Post Officers for 2018-2019

Whittier Senior Center, Whittier, CA

May 24, 2018

At its final general meeting for the 2017-2018 legion year, Post 51 members nominated, then voted for their candidates. Also elected were two Executive Board members, as well as delegates to the 100th Legion Convention.

Officers elected were:

Post Commander	Louie Adame
1 st Vice Commander	Dennis Knight
2 nd Vice Commander	Diana Palmer
Service Officer	Gil Soto
Finance Officer	Byron Hobbis

Appointed Officers

Adjutant	Patrick Dowd
Asst Adjutant	Carlos Zamorano
Chaplain	Al Granados
Asst Chaplain	Fred Aikey
Historian	Fred Shacklett
Sgt At Arms	Bob Sainz
Asst Sgt At Arms	Nick Rangle
Post Bugler	Aaron

Executive Board of Directors

Jean Carrillo

Rich Warner

Louie Adame
Patrick Dowd
Fred Shacklett
Gil Soto

Delegates to Convention (9 authorized)

Of note at this meeting, Gil Soto notified the membership that three lost Post 51 documents; 1.) Application for Post Charter, 2.) the post Temporary Charter, and 3.) a Supplement to the Original Charter were discovered on May 15th, in the back of a storage cabinet owned by the Whittier Chapter of American War Mothers. The documents had not been seen for almost 30 years and were thought to be lost, after the Whittier 1987 earthquake.

Post 51 had shared space with the War Mother's organization at the Whittier Senior Center. Both the post and War Mother's were forced to temporarily move due to re-carpeting and renovation work at the center. The post thanked the War Mothers for the discovery and returning the lost documents. See Appendix G for copies of the three lost documents.



Another highlight of this meeting was a poem written and presented by Post 51 member Ray Lopez titled, "I Am Also Memorial Day". He has a hobby of writing and poetry. A copy of his poem is shown in full in Appendix H.

Supporting Local Schools

St. Marianne Catholic School

May 21, 2018

Principal Armando Carvalho from St. Marianne Catholic School received a donation of \$50.00 check by Chaplain Al R. Granados representing the American Legion Whittier Post 51. The donation will benefit the school and especially the students. St. Marianne School has been educating young minds since 1953 to become disciplined, well-round and academically prepared individuals who live out the Gospel message and make a difference in the world

Memorial Day 2018

Whittier City Hall, Whittier, CA

May 28, 2018

Beginning at 9:00am, members of Post 51, the community and veterans from around the area, gathered in front of Whittier City Hall for the annual recognition of veterans and active duty service personnel. Attendees from Post 51 were Louie Adame, Dennis Knight, Gil Soto, Joe Gonzales, Frank Ventura, Fred Shacklett, Patrick Dowd, Jean Carrillo, Diane Palmer, Norman Chavez, Howard Payne, Henry Bouchot, Al Granados, Walter S.

Rose Hills Memorial Park and Cemetery, Whittier, CA

May 28, 2018

At 11:00am, members of Post 51 and the surrounding community gathered at Rose Hills Memorial Park for its annual program that saluted active duty and veterans from the Whittier area. Attending for Post 51 were Joe Gonzales, Bob Sainz, Fred Shacklett, Gil Soto, Diana Palmer, Nick Rangel, Byron Hobbs, Patrick Dowd, Louie Adame Norman Chavez, Frank Ventura, and Dennis Knight.

Uptown Whittier Car Show

June 2, 2018

Post 51 participated in the annual Uptown Whittier Car Show by pitching a canopy and setting up a recruitment table. Attending for Post 51 were Louie Adame, Dennis Knight, Patrick Dowd, Fred Shacklett, Diana Palmer, and Norman Chavez. Military vehicles were provided by Bruce Hearn and his group of SoCal military vehicle enthusiasts. Of note was WWII USS ARIZONA Pearl Harbor survivor, Lauren Bruner, who stopped by and setup camp next to our booth. Lauren is one of only five remaining ARIZONA survivors.

Ceres Elementary School,

Whittier 5th grade promotion to 6th grade.

June 6, 2018.



History of Whittier Post 51, 2017-2018

Dennis Knight, Bob Sainz, and Patrick Dowd of Post 51 attended the 5th grade graduation event at Ceres Elementary School in Whittier. Students were going from 5th grade into the 6th grade. Post 51 was invited by the school principle, Mrs. Gonzalez. Pictures of the event are in Chapter 4.

Oakmont Retirement Home

Flag Folding
June 14, 2018

Members of Post 51 were invited by Lynne Iseli Director of Activities at Oakmont, to perform a flag folding event at Oakmont Retirement Home in Whittier. Attending for the post were Patrick Dowd, Byron Hobbis, Dennis Knight, Frank Ventura, Raymond Lopez, Bob Sainz, and Louie Adame.

Central Park Community Concert

June 15, 2018

Our membership team setup a booth at the Whittier Central Park for their weekly Summer concert series. Attending for Post 51 were Dennis Knight, Byron Hobbis and Gil Soto.

Bingo Night at West LA Veteran's Hospital

At the L1 Ward.
June 16, 2018

Several times a year, Post 51 hosts a Bingo game at the L1 Ward of the Veteran's Hospital in Long Beach, CA. Attending for the post were Jean Carrillo, Diana Palmer, Dennis Knight, and Byron Hobbis. The ward had 11 patients participate. Food, fun and prizes were had by all everyone playing.

Dept of California 100th Anniversary Convention

Held at McClellan Park, Sacramento, California
June 21 – 25, 2018

The 100th Anniversary of the American Legion in California was celebrated this week with it's annual Department Convention held at McClellan Park in Sacramento, CA. The convention was attended by representatives of all 30 districts. McClellan Park is the former McClellan Air Force Base, which was home of the AF Material Command (AMC), supporting various depot maintenance operations for aircraft like the F-111 Fighter Bomber and A-10 Warthog, until it was closed in the 1990s.

Highlighted this year was special editions of the Dept of California 100th Anniversary coin. A special auction was held for serial number 0001 through 0005. Number 0001 auctioned off for \$1100.

Elected as the Commander of the Department, was Larry Leonardo, former Dept Sgt at Arms.



History of Whittier Post 51, 2017-2018

Post 51 will also be represented this year in the CALPA organization, with Fred Shacklett elected as Vice President Area 4 and Gil Soto elected to the Board of Directors Area 4.

Gil Soto was replaced as Area 4 Vice Commander, by Peter Bernard, District 18, Los Angeles Police Post 381.



Chapter 4 – One-Year of Photographs

This section provides highlights of the events noted in Chapter 3, in photograph format.



Post 51 Installation of Officers July 9, 2017. Bob Sainz, Post 51 Asst Sgt At Arms escorts incoming Commander Louie Adame around the room (Photo Post 51/Pam Shacklett)



Post 51 Installation of Officers July 9, 2017. Officers for 2017-2017 L/R Dennis Knight, Jean Carrillo, Patrick Dowd, Al Granados, Fred Shacklett, Frank Ventura, and Nick Rangel. Installing Officer was Art Castro, Dept Commander, standing back right. (Photo Post 51/Pam Shacklett)



History of Whittier Post 51, 2017-2018



July 4, 2017. Recruiting on 4th of July at York Field Whittier, CA. L/R Fred Shacklett and Dennis Knight. (Photo Post 51)



July 4, 2017. Recruiting on 4th of July at York Field Whittier, CA. Fred Shacklett with July 4th Reveler. (Photo Post 51/Fred Shacklett)



History of Whittier Post 51, 2017-2018



July 18, 2017. California Boy State Participants 8/5/2017. L to R, Post 51 Commander, Louie Adame, Jack Fitzgerald (Cal High School), Kyle Lien (La Serna High School) and Area 4 Vice-Commander, Gil Soto. (Photo Post 51/Fred Shacklett)



July 18, 2017. 1st Post 51 Meeting of 2017-2018 year. Commander Louie Adame addressing attendees at 1st meeting of the new legion year. (Photo Post 51/Fred Shacklett)



History of Whittier Post 51, 2017-2018



July 18, 2017. Recruiting Recognition. Dennis Knight (L) with Cmdr. Adame (R) showing awards. (Photo Post 51/Fred Shacklett)



July 18, 2017. Recruiting Recognition. Pat Dowd (L) with Cmdr. Adame (R) showing awards. (Photo Post 51/Fred Shacklett)



History of Whittier Post 51, 2017-2018



Sept 14, 2017. POW/MIA Ceremony Whittier Senior Center. Post 51 members at POW/MIA Ceremony L/R Dennis Knight, Nick Rangel, Bob Sainz, Jean Carrillo, Al Granados. (Photo Post 51)



Funeral for noted Post 51 Member Jose G. Ramos 9/16/2017. Jose in his home with plaque of the WWVVD organization that he founded. (Used with Permission. Photo Credit San Gabriel Valley News)



History of Whittier Post 51, 2017-2018



Funeral for noted Post 51 Member Jose G. Ramos 9/16/2017. Honor Guard carries remains of Jose G. Ramos into Saint Mary of Assumption Church in Whittier CA, with family, friends, and veterans from a dozen organizations present. (Photo Post 51/Fred Shacklett)



Sept 16, 2017. Funeral for Noted Post 51 Member Jose G. Ramos. Honor Guard at burial site for Jose Ramos (Photo Post 51/Fred Shacklett)



Dinner Honoring Art Castro 9/21/2017. Post 51 members with Art Castro L/R Front Row, Bob Sainz, Diana Palmer, Nick Rangel, Art Castro, Pat Dowd, Gil Soto, Fred Shacklett. Back Row, Norman Chavez, Dennis Knight, Joe Gonzales, Jean Carrillo, Carlos Zamorano, Al Granados, Byron Hobbis, Louie Adame (Photo Post 51/Pam Shacklett)



Dinner Honoring Art Castro 9/21/2017. The Post 51 dinner table attendees. (Photo Post 51/Fred Shacklett)



History of Whittier Post 51, 2017-2018



*Dinner Honoring Art Castro 9/21/2017. Art Castro (Post 51) carves his cake with a sword.
(Photo Post 51/Fred Shacklett)*



First 4th Area Caucus of 2017-2018. Gil Soto (Post 51) 4th Area Vice Commander addresses the caucus attendees. (Photo Post 51/Fred Shacklett)



History of Whittier Post 51, 2017-2018



First 4th Area Caucus of 2017-2018. Byron Hobbis (Post 51) Oratorical Chairman for Area 4 makes his report to the Caucus meeting. (Photo Post 51/Fred Shacklett)



Battleship IOWA Post 61 Inaugural Meeting 11/9/2018. Opening ceremony with placement of POW/MIA flag. Post 51 attended. (Photo Post 51/Fred Shacklett)



History of Whittier Post 51, 2017-2018



Battleship IOWA Post 61 Inaugural Meeting 11/9/2018. Area 4 Vice Commander Gil Soto (Post 51) addresses attendees at inaugural meeting of Post 61.



National Commander in Historic Visit to USS IOWA BB-61, 12/12/2017. National Commander Denis Rohan arriving at the Battleship IOWA, BB-61. (Photo Post 51/Fred Shacklett)



History of Whittier Post 51, 2017-2018



National Commander in Historic Visit to USS IOWA BB-61, 12/12/2017. Commander Rohan signing Memorandum of Understanding. Looking on are (L/R) Post 61 Commander Terry Bonich, David Harman of the Battleship Center, Gil Soto Area 4 Vice Commander and Richard Ramirez the Commander of District 19. (Photo Post 51/Fred Shacklett)



National Commander in Historic Visit to USS IOWA BB-61, 12/12/2017. Post 61 Charter presented to Terry Bonich, Post 61 Commander by Robert Heinisch, Dept Commander. (Photo Post 51/Fred Shacklett)



History of Whittier Post 51, 2017-2018



National Commander in Historic Visit to USS IOWA BB-61, 12/12/2017. Commander Rohan speaks to IOWA attendees. (Photo Post 51/Fred Shacklett)



National Commander in Historic Visit to USS IOWA BB-61, 12/12/2017. Commander Rohan addressing attendees (Photo Post 51/Fred Shacklett)



History of Whittier Post 51, 2017-2018



National Commander in Historic Visit to USS IOWA BB-61, 12/12/2017. Post 51 attendees and other District 19 members with Commander Rohan. (Photo Post 51/Fred Shacklett)



Whittier Uptown Association Christmas Parade 12/9/2017. Attending Breakfast for Post 51 were (L/R) Fred Shacklett, Louie Adame, Bob Sainz, Jean Carrillo, Diana Palmer, Joe Gonzales



History of Whittier Post 51, 2017-2018



Whittier Uptown Association Christmas Parade 12/92017. Post 51's member, World War II veteran, "Doc" Ed Pepping was the point man for our group in the lead Jeep. (Photo Post 51/Fred Shacklett)



Whittier Uptown Association Christmas Parade 12/92017. Doc Pepping and the Laker Girls. (Photo Post 51/Fred Shacklett)



Whittier Uptown Association Christmas Parade 12/9/2017. Nothing Says Christmas, like a Half Track. (Photo Post 51/Fred Shacklett)



Post 51 members and other veterans at Ceres Elementary 11/9/2017. (Photo Post 51/Patrick Dowd)



History of Whittier Post 51, 2017-2018



*Veteran’s Day Whittier City Hall 12/10/2017. Louie Adame was one of the noted speakers.
(Post 51 Photo/Gil Soto)*



*Veteran’s Day Whittier City Hall 12/12/2017. Attending Whittier’s Veterans Day Event are L/R
Patrick Dowd, Norman Chavez (Photo Post 51 Gil Soto)*



History of Whittier Post 51, 2017-2018



Veteran's Day Whittier City Hall 12/10/2017. Local WWII Veterans with City of Whittier Mayor Joe Vinatieri. (Photo Post 51/Fred Shacklett)



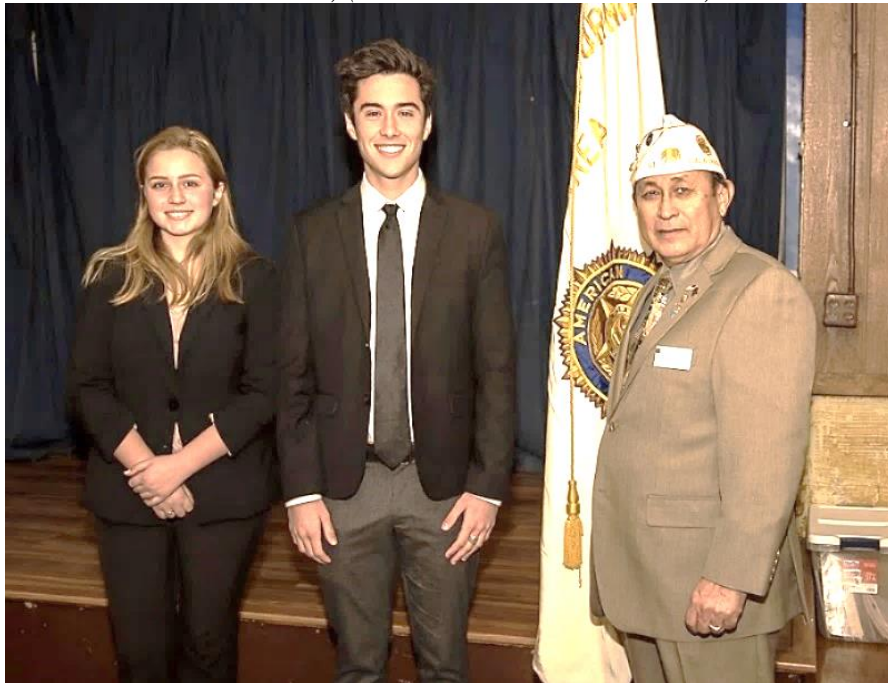
Laurel Elementary School 12/12/2017. L/R Nick Rangel, Pat Dowd, Bob Sainz, Dennis Knight, Byron Hobbs.



History of Whittier Post 51, 2017-2018



Area 4 Oratorical Contest 2/24/2018. L to R, Gil Soto (Area 4 Vice Commander), Katelynn Stinson, Byron Hobbs (Oratorical Commissioner), Andrew Charroux and William Stokes (District 17 Commander) (Photo Post 51/Fred Shacklett)



Area 4 Oratorical Contest 2/24/2018. L/R Contestants Katelynn Stinson, Andrew Charroux and Gil Soto, Area 4 Vice Commander. (Photo Post 51/Fred Shacklett)



Flag Ceremony for Veteran David Herrera 1/21/2018. Folding the flag L/R Louie Adame, Carlos Zamorano, Nick Rangel. (Photo Post 51/Fred Aikey)



Flag Ceremony for Veteran David Herrera 1/21/2018. Theodora Herrera accepts flag from Louie Adame, with Al Granados looking on. (Photo Post 51/Fred Aikey)



The Four Chaplains

Four Chaplains Ceremony 2/6/2018. L/R Alexander D. Goode, George L. Fox, Clark V Poling, and John P. Washington. (Illustration courtesy Four Chaplain.org)



Four Chaplains Ceremony 2/6/2018. L/R Louie Adame (holding poster), Asst. Chaplain Fred Aikey, Patrick Dowd, and Bob Sainz. (Photo Post 51 Gil Soto)



Four Chaplains Ceremony 2/6/2018. Members of the public listening to Four Chaplains lecture. (Photo Post 51/Gil Soto)



Salute to Heroes Prayer Breakfast 3/1/2018. Awardees showing their certificates. Accepting for Post 51 former member Jose Ramos is his wife Sylvia, third from right. (Photo Post 51/Pat Dowd).



Salute to Heroes Prayer Breakfast 3/1/2018. Jose's Certificate (Photo Post 51/Pat Dowd)



Salute to Heroes Prayer Breakfast 3/1/2018. Attending the breakfast were L/R Pat Dowd Post 51 Adjutant, table sponsor Bruce Lazenby, Louie Adame Commander Post 51, Sylvia Ramos and Wanda Ramos and Executive Director Business Development, Rose Hills Memorial Park & Mortuary. Not pictured Adrian and Martha Morales. (Photo Post 51/Pat Dowd).



WHVVD Event Sierra High School. (L/R) Louie Adame and Norman Chavez. (Photo Post 51/Fred Shacklett)



WHVVD Event Sierra High School. Louie Adame gives opening remarks as Dr. Bob Archuleta, Linda Sanchez, and Stephanie Stone look on. (Photo Post 51/Fred Shacklett)



History of Whittier Post 51, 2017-2018



WHVVD Event Sierra High School. (L/R) Ivan Sulic, Stephanie Stone, Bob Archuleta, Linda Sanchez, Louie Adame, Hannah Ridge. (Photo Post 51/Fred Shacklett)



WHVVD Event Sierra High School. Ivan Sulic presents proclamation to Louie Adame. (Photo Post 51/Fred Shacklett)



History of Whittier Post 51, 2017-2018



WHVVD Event Sierra High School. L/R Frank Ventura, Gil Soto, Bob Archuleta, Bruce Hearn, Dennis Knight, and Norman Chavez. (Photo Post 51/Fred Shacklett)



WHVVD Event Sierra High School. Jerry Salas and the Rock For Vets Band. (Photo Post 51/Fred Shacklett)



History of Whittier Post 51, 2017-2018



WHVVD Event Sierra High School. Boy Scouts retire a US Flag (Photo Credit: Post 51, Byron Hobbis)



Post 51 Members at Area 4 Caucus 5/5/2018. L/R Fred Shacklett, Pat Dowd, Byron Hobbis, Gil Soto, Louie Adame, Diana Palmer, Bob Sainz.



History of Whittier Post 51, 2017-2018



USS IOWA BB-61 US Flag Retrieval 5/9/2018. L/R Richard Ramirez (District 19 Commander), Terry Bonich (IOWA Post 61 Commander), Ray Gard (District 19 1st Vice Commander), (Photo Post 51/Fred Shacklett)



History of Whittier Post 51, 2017-2018



USS IOWA BB-61 US Flag Folding 5/9/2018. L/R George Melgarejo (Post 61 1st Vice), Richard Ramirez (District 19 Commander), Terry Bonich (IOWA Post 61 Commander), (Photo Post 51/Fred Shacklett)



USS IOWA BB-61 US Flag Retrieval 5/9/2018. Received by Terry Bonich (R). L/R George Melgarejo (Post 61 1st Vice), Richard Ramirez (District 19 Commander), Terry Bonich (IOWA Post 61 Commander), (Photo Post 51/Fred Shacklett)



History of Whittier Post 51, 2017-2018



USS IOWA BB-61 Special Meeting 5/9/2018. Terry Bonich (IOWA Post 61 Commander) accepts embroidered Dept California Commemorative Shirt from Nick Rosas (Past District 19 Commander, L/R Nick Rosas, Terry Bonich (Photo Post 51/Fred Shacklett)



USS IOWA BB-61 Special Meeting 5/9/2018. Members of hosting Post 61 stand with Area 4 Vice Commander Gil Soto (Post 51). L/R, George Melgarejo, Terry Bonich, Gil Soto, Jennifer Harman, and Post 61 Unidentified Member (Photo Post 51/Fred Shacklett)



History of Whittier Post 51, 2017-2018



Memorial Service for Art Castro. Knights of Columbus (left Bob Sainz Post 51) stand guard over casket of Art Castro at Emerson White Mortuary Whittier, CA 5/17/2018. (Photo Post 51/Fred Shacklett)



Memorial Service for Art Castro. Pall Bearers arriving at Committal Area Riverside National Cemetery with Patriot Guard rendering colors 5/18/2018. (Photo Post 51/Fred Shacklett)



History of Whittier Post 51, 2017-2018



Memorial Service for Art Castro. Navy Honor Guard giving US Flag to family of Art Castro, Riverside National Cemetery 5/18/2018. (Photo Post 51/Fred Shacklett)



Memorial Service for Art Castro. Pall Bearers with casket of Art Castro at Committal Area, Riverside National Cemetery 5/18/2018. (Photo Post 51/Fred Shacklett)



History of Whittier Post 51, 2017-2018



Memorial Service for Art Castro. Pall Bearers for Art Castro L/R Richard Ramirez District 19 Commander, Nick Rosa District 19 Past Jr. Commander, Gil Soto Vice Commander Area 4, and Wayne Yee Dept Calif Historian, Riverside National Cemetery 5/18/2018. (Photo Post 51/Fred Shacklett)



May 21, 2018. Principal Armando Carvalho from St. Marianne Catholic School receives \$50.00 check from Al Granados, Post 51 Chaplain. (Photo Post 51/Al Granados)



History of Whittier Post 51, 2017-2018



Post 51 Memorial Day at Whittier City Hall 5/28/2018. Louie Adame speaks at the City Hall memorial event. (Post 51 Photo/Fred Shacklett)



Post 51 Memorial Day at Whittier City Hall 5/28/2018. Post 51 Members L/R Dennis Knight, Joe Gonzales, WWII Veteran Howard Payne, Gil Soto (Post 51 Photo/Fred Shacklett)



History of Whittier Post 51, 2017-2018



Post 51 Memorial Day at Whittier City Hall 5/28/2018. L/R Al Granados, Frank Ventura, Jean Carrillo, Dennis Knight (Post 51 Photo/Fred Shacklett)



Post 51 Memorial Day at Whittier City Hall 5/28/2018. L/R Joe Gonzalez, Unknown, Diana Palmer, Gil Soto (Post 51 Photo/Fred Shacklett)



History of Whittier Post 51, 2017-2018



Post 51 Memorial Day at Rose Hills Memorial Park 5/28/2018. L/R Joe Gonzales, Bob Sainz, Fred Shacklett, Whittier Mayor Joe Vinatieri, Gil Soto, Diana Palmer, Sgt Major Nick Rangle, Byron Hobbis, Patrick Dowd, Rose Hills Employee, Louie Adame Norman Chavez, Frank Ventura, Dennis Knight (Post 51 Photo/Pam Shacklett)



Post 51 Memorial Day at Rose Hills Memorial Park 5/28/2018. Joe Gonzales and Gil Soto salute Post 51 wreath. (Post 51 Photo/Fred Shacklett)



History of Whittier Post 51, 2017-2018



Post 51 Memorial Day at Rose Hills Memorial Park 5/28/2018. Flyover of WWII Vintage Aircraft. (Post 51 Photo/Fred Shacklett)





History of Whittier Post 51, 2017-2018

Post 51 Memorial Day at Rose Hills Memorial Park 5/28/2018. L/R Joe Gonzales, Mrs Gil Soto, Gil Soto (Post 51 Photo/Fred Shacklett)



Post 51 Memorial Day at Rose Hills Memorial Park 5/28/2018. Honor Guard saluting memorial wreaths. (Post 51 Photo/Fred Shacklett)



History of Whittier Post 51, 2017-2018



Uptown Whittier Car Show 6/2/2018. Post 51 members Dennis Knight (L) and Patrick Dowd (R), with WWII USS ARIZONA Pearl Harbor survivor Lauren Bruner (Center). (Photo Post 51/Fred Shacklett)



Uptown Whittier Car Show 6/2/2018. Nothing says car show like a 5 ton, 6x6 restored M818 Tractor Truck (Photo Post 51/Fred Shacklett)



Uptown Whittier Car Show 6/2/2018. Recruiting Booth, attending were L/R Dennis Knight, Norman Chavez, Fred Shacklett. Not pictured Louie Adame, Diana Palmer and Patrick Dowd. (Photo Post 51/Fred Shacklett)



Ceres Elementary School Graduation Ceremony, June 6 2017. (Photo Post 51/Patrick Dowd)



History of Whittier Post 51, 2017-2018



Ceres Elementary School Graduation Ceremony, June 6 2017. L/R Patrick Dowd, Bob Sainz, Dennis Knight (Photo Post 51/Patrick Dowd)



Ceres Elementary School Graduation Ceremony, June 6 2017. L/R Bob Sainz, Patrick Dowd, Dennis Knight, Mrs. Gonzalez School Principle (Photo Post 51/Patrick Dowd)



History of Whittier Post 51, 2017-2018



Oakmont Retirement Home Flag Folding 6/14/2018. L/R Patrick Dowd, Byron Hobbis, Dennis Knight with flag, Frank Ventura, Lynne Iseli Director of Activities at Oakmont, Raymond Lopez, Bob Sainz, and Louie Adame. (Photo Post 51/Byron Hobbis)



100th Dept of Calif. Convention 6/22/2018. McClellan Conference Center, Sacramento, CA 6/21/2018. (Photo Post 51/Fred Shacklett)



History of Whittier Post 51, 2017-2018



100th Dept of Calif. Convention 6/22/2018. View of the Convention Floor. (Photo Post 51/Fred Shacklett)



100th Dept of Calif. Convention 6/22/2018. Louie Adame accepts the Outstanding Law and Order Program Post Award. (Photo Post 51/Fred Shacklett)



History of Whittier Post 51, 2017-2018



100th Dept of Calif. Convention 6/22/2018. L/R Danielle DeFoe Convention Sgt At Arms with Nick Rangle Post 51 Sgt At Arms. Nick was her 1st Sgt when they were on active duty. (Photo Post 51/Fred Shacklett)



100th Dept of Calif. Convention 6/22/2018. The District 19 Delegates. (Photo Post 51/Fred Shacklett)



History of Whittier Post 51, 2017-2018



100th Dept of Calif. Convention 6/22/2018. Louie Adame with the Post 100% Membership Award for 2017-2018. (Photo Post 51/Fred Shacklett)



100th Dept of Calif. Convention 6/22/2018. Louie Adame, Leadership Commissioner, gives speech at the Convention. (Photo Post 51/Fred Shacklett)



History of Whittier Post 51, 2017-2018



100th Dept of Calif. Convention 6/22/2018. Gil Soto, outgoing Area 4 Vice Commander, gives remarks from the podium to convention delegates. (Photo Post 51/Fred Shacklett)



100th Dept of Calif. Convention 6/22/2018. Gil Soto, Area 4 Vice Commander accepts award from CALPA President Mildred Wright-Pearson on behalf of South Bay Post 284. (Photo Post 51/Fred Shacklett)



History of Whittier Post 51, 2017-2018



100th Dept of Calif. Convention 6/22/2018. The newly elected CALPA officers for 2018-2019. (Photo Post 51/Fred Shacklett)



100th Dept of Calif. Convention 6/22/2018. The CALPA Awardees for 2017-2018. (Photo Post 51/Fred Shacklett)



Appendix A – Revised By-Laws 10/16/2017

Post 51 re-issued the post By-Laws, effective 10/16/2017, to fall in line with Department of California recommendations. Shown below is the first page only. For a complete copy, contact the post Adjutant, or visit our website, whittierpost51.org. The By-Laws Committee members were Fred Shacklett, Rich Warner and Norman Chavez. A Big thanks for their assistance in this long overdue rewrite.

BY-LAWS OF WHITTIER POST 51
The American Legion
Department of California, Area 4, District 19

PREAMBLE

For GOD AND COUNTRY, we associate ourselves together for the following purposes: To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America; to maintain law and order; to foster and perpetuate one hundred percent Americanism; to preserve the memories and incidents of our association in the Great Wars; to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the Community, State and Nation; to combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses; to safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of Justice, Freedom and Democracy; to consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.

ARTICLE I – NAME

Section 1. The name of this organization shall be WHITTIER POST NO. 51, The American Legion, Department of California, Area 4, District 19, located at Whittier, California, and here-in-after referred to as Post. The Articles of Incorporation, No. D-0965370, for this Post are on file with the Secretary of State under date of September 22, 1921, and amended March 9, 1955.

Section 2. The corporate powers of the Corporation, WHITTIER POST NO. 51, The American Legion, Department of California, shall be exercised, conducted and controlled by the membership thereof or by the Board of Directors.

Section 3. The usual, regular and normal business of the WHITTIER POST NO, 51, The American Legion, Department of California, and its powers and functions as an integral part of the American Legion, shall be exercised, conducted and controlled by the membership thereof or by the Executive Committee, in the manner in these Articles and By- Laws of the American Legion.

ARTICLE II- OBJECTIVES

Section 1. The objectives and purposes of this Post shall be to promote the principles and policies as set forth in the foregoing Preamble, the Articles of Incorporation and amendments thereto, and the National Constitution By-Laws and Department of California By-laws of The American Legion.

Section 2. These By-Laws replace and supersede all previous versions and authorized amendments, which have been incorporated herein.



Appendix B – Post Everlasting 2017-2018

The following Post 51 comrades were reported as having transferred to Post Everlasting during this past legion year. Our heartfelt thanks go out to their dedication to the American Legion and our prayers go to their families, friends and loved ones.

Last	First	Init	Suffix	War Era	Yrs Cont	Branch of Service	Date Terminated
Ayres	Francis	L		Korea	12	US Navy	8/20/2017
Castro	Art			Korea	17	US Navy	4/18/2018
Gonzales	Juan						9/9/2016
Gonzales	Paul	J		Korea	11	US Navy	11/4/2017
						Unknown Branch of	
Locke	William	G		WWII	10	Svc	1/30/2017
Longe	Glenn	F		Korea	23	US Navy	7/7/2017
Loust	Gilbert	M		Korea	1	US Army	11/13/2017
Loya	Genaro	A		Korea	10	US Army	3/1/2017
						Unknown Branch of	
Magana	Pete	C		Korea	3	Svc	3/20/2017
Manis	Richard	L		Korea	5	US Navy	8/14/2017
Ramos	Jose	G		Vietnam	1	US Army	9/3/2017
Ridge	Robert	N	SR	Korea	6	US Navy	12/18/2017
						Unknown Branch of	
Thompson	Richard	O		Korea	30	Svc	9/15/2017
Tucker	Harold	R		Korea	14	US Air Force	6/13/2017



Appendix C - Post 51 Theme Song

Lyrics by Al Granados, Post 51 Chaplain

III POST 51

"MARCHING ON"

BY: AL R. GRANADOS 2017

MARCHING ON TO MOUNTAIN HIGH
ALWAYS SERVING - UNTIL WE REACH THE SKY
WE WILL SERVE TO THOSE IN NEED
WE WILL BE THERE WITHOUT RETREAT
FOR WE ARE POST FIFTYONE THAT KEEPS ON FIGHTING
TO SERVE EACH ONE

WE LIFT OUR VOICES IN SOLEMN PRAYER
FOR WE ARE GRATEFULL FOR GOD IS THERE
WHEN THINGS GET TOUGH THINGS BEGING TO FALL
FOR GOD AND COUNTRY, WE MUST STAND TALL

VETERANS NEED A BRAND NEW START
WE WILL LEAD THEM WITH A SIN-CERE HEART
THEY WILL NEVER BE LEFT ALONE
THANK YOU LORD - FOR BRING THEM HOME.

WHEN THER'E DOWN AND DARKNESS STRIKES
WE WILL KEEP THEM WITHIN OUR SIGHTS

TOUCHING HEARTS AND HOLDING HANDS

TO KEEP THEM UNTIL THE END



Appendix D - Minutes of General Meetings

For the twelve months of legion year July 2017 – June 2018, all Post 51 general meeting minutes are available on our website at whittierpost51.org.

The following dates are available.

July 18, 2017
August 15, 2017
September 19, 2017
October 17, 2017
November 21, 2017
December 19, 2017
January 16, 2018
February 20, 2018
March 20, 2018
April 16, 2018
May 24, 2018
June 12, 2018



Appendix E – Membership Statistics

Post 51 Membership Statistics as of 5/18/2018, shown on line 2 of the attached report.

Total New Members 6

Paid Up for Life (PUFL) members 28

Total Post Membership: 297

Post 51 Standings in District 19

District 19									
Membership Report 07/01/2017-05/18/2018									
District	Post	New Members 2018	PUFL Members 2018	Pd Members online_Members pd via online transmittal 2018	Members Pd via transmittal 2018	Post 1000/DMS Transfers 2018	Total Membership 2018	2018 Goal	% 2018
19	POST 0027	0	22	6	24	0	52	73	71.23%
19	POST 0051	6	28	61	178	24	297	294	101.02%
19	POST 0061	9	28	22	14	9	82	70	117.14%
19	POST 0120	0	13	7	15	0	35	59	59.32%
19	POST 0134	4	6	10	48	1	69	75	92.00%
19	POST 0170	0	21	32	82	1	136	190	71.58%
19	POST 0184	14	35	68	156	29	302	267	113.11%
19	POST 0187	0	14	0	0	0	14	37	37.84%
19	POST 0270	0	16	19	71	3	109	147	74.15%
19	POST 0272	11	22	20	200	1	254	343	74.05%
19	POST 0314	1	39	25	70	3	138	196	70.41%
19	POST 0323	0	1	1	8	0	10	21	47.62%
19	POST 0341	1	5	5	41	0	52	106	49.06%
19	POST 0352	4	4	8	45	14	75	69	108.70%
19	POST 0359	4	26	35	120	3	188	228	82.46%
19	POST 0411	5	10	10	37	2	64	113	56.64%
19	POST 0465	3	1	3	14	0	21	31	67.74%
19	POST 0477	0	6	0	0	0	6	23	26.09%
19	POST 0496	16	80	105	339	12	552	658	83.89%
19	POST 0560	0	19	5	24	0	48	82	58.54%
19	POST 0723	10	6	5	47	2	70	80	87.50%
19	POST 0804	8	8	6	37	0	59	86	68.60%
19	POST 0833	6	3	8	22	1	40	34	117.65%
19	District Total	102	413	461	1592	105	2673	3282	81.44%



Appendix F – Recruiting Events

Data provided by Dennis Knight, 1st Vice Commander.

Dennis Knight

Page 1

MEMBERSHIP DRIVES							Page	of
Description of event	Names	Dates	Apps	members	Hours	Miles	Cost	
1) YORK FIELD = 4th JLV	FILED DENNIS	7-4-17	37		6 HRS	1		
2) CONCERT CENTRAL PK	DALE FRANK DENNIS	6-26-17	12		3 HRS	3		
3) SR CENTER	DENNIS	6-29-17	8		2 HRS	3		
4) CONCERT = PAWELL PK	LOUIE DENNIS	6-29-17	13		3 HRS	3		
5) CONCERT = ✓ ✓	DENNIS	7-6-17	8		3 HRS	3		
6) ✓ = CENTRAL PK	FRANK G.L DENNIS	7-10-17	11		3 HRS	3		
7) LIBERTY PLAZA	DENNIS	7-13-17	8		3 HRS	3		
8) PARKHILL PK = CONCERT	✓	7-13-17	13		3 HRS	3		
9) CONCERT = CENTRAL PK	LOUIE DENNIS	7-19-17	9		3 HRS	3		
10) ✓ ✓ ✓	DALE DENNIS	7-24-17	5		3 HRS	3		
11) ✓ PAWELL PK	DENNIS	7-27-17	6		3 HRS	3		
12) ✓ CENTRAL PK	LOUIE DENNIS	7-31-17	6		3 HRS	3		
13) ✓ ✓ ✓	FRANK G.L DENNIS	8-5-17	5		3 HRS	3		
14) LIBERTY PLAZA	DENNIS	8-12-17	2		3 HRS	3		
15) SR CENTER	DENNIS	8-17-17	3		3 HRS	3		
16) ✓ ✓	DENNIS	8-31-17	3		3 HRS	3		
17) SANDY PE SPAINES TOWN CENTER	FILED DENNIS	9-8-17	13		3 HRS	3		
18) SR CENTER	DENNIS	9-14-17	5		3 HRS	3		
19) POW-MIA CELEBRATION	LOUIE, BOB, MICK JEAN, DENNIS	9-15-17	5		1 HR	3		
20) SR CENTER	DENNIS	9-21-17	3		3 HRS	3		
21) ROSE HILLS	FRANK G.L DENNIS, AL, BRIBBI, MURRAY, DENNIS	9-22-17	8		2 HRS	5		
22) SR CENTER	DENNIS	9-28-17	3		2 HRS	3		
23) LIBRARY = WHITTIER CENTER	8 MEMBERS	9-28-17	5		2 HRS	5		
24) FIRST BAPTIST = DOWNEY	INGRAPH DENNIS	9-30-17	7		5 HRS	10		
25) CARLSTOWN = PAWELL PARK	JEAN, DANNI, DENNIS	10-2-17	19		6 HRS	3		
24) CARES ELECTRONIC	POB, LOUIS, GIL BRYAN, DENNIS	10-5-17	5		1 HRS	4		
25) SR CENTER = WHITTIER	DENNIS	10-5-17	3		2 HRS	3		
...								



DENNIS KNOTT

Pg 2

MEMBERSHIP DRIVES							Page ____ of ____	
Description of event	Names	Dates	Apps	members	Hours	Miles	Cost	
1) ROSE HILLS WELCOME HOME VETS	LOWE, DENNIS	11-7-17	2		1 HR	8		
2) L-1 BINGO VA HOSPITAL	JEFF, DIANA, DENNIS	11-4-17	8		1 HR	18		
3) CARLES ELEMENTARY	G.L. LOWE, PAT BRADY, DENNIS	11-9-17	5		1 HR	3		
4) SR CENTER = WHITTIER	DENNIS	11-9-17	3		2 HRS	3		
5) CITY HALL = WHITTIER	G.L. PAT, LOWE, JEFF, DENNIS, NICK, BRADY, PAT, BOB, DENNIS	11-11-17	5		1 HR	3		
6) LAURA ELEMENTARY	PAT, BOB, DENNIS	11-13-17	5		1 HR	3		
7) SR CENTER = WHITTIER	DENNIS	11-16-17	3		2 HRS	3		
8) SR CENTER = WHITTIER	DENNIS	12-7-17	3		2 HRS	3		
9) ✓ ✓ ✓	DENNIS	12-14-17	3		2 HRS	3		
10) ✓ ✓ ✓	DENNIS	1-4-18	5		2 HRS	3		
11) ✓ ✓ ✓	DENNIS	1-11-18	2		2 HRS	3		
12) ROSE HILLS WELCOME VETS	MOLLY, LOWE, DENNIS	1-16-18	1		1 HR	5		
13) SR CENTER WHITTIER	DENNIS	1-18-18	2		2 HRS	5		
14) ✓ ✓ ✓	DENNIS	1-25-18	3		2 HRS	5		
15) ✓ ✓ ✓	G.L. PAT, BOB, DENNIS, JEFF, BOB, LOWE	2-6-18	15		1 HR	3		
16) ✓ ✓ ✓	DENNIS	2-8-18	3		2 HRS	3		
17) ✓ ✓ ✓	DENNIS	2-15-18	2		2 HRS	3		
18) ✓ ✓ ✓	DENNIS	2-22-18	2		2 HRS	3		
19) ✓ ✓ ✓	DENNIS	3-1-18	2		2 HRS	3		
20) ✓ ✓ ✓	DENNIS	3-8-18	1		2 HRS	3		
21) ✓ ✓ ✓	DENNIS	3-15-18	2		2 HRS	3		
22) ROSE HILLS = WELCOME HOME VETS	PAT, LOWE, G.L. FRANK, BOB, DA	3-15-18	15		5 HRS	8		
23) SR CENTER WHITTIER	DENNIS	3-22-18	2		2 HRS	3		
24) RIO HONDO COLLEGE	LOWE, DIANA DENNIS	4-2-18	17		1 HR	6		
25) WELCOME VIETNAM DAY = WHITTIER	PAT, LOWE, G.L., BOB, FRANK, BOB, DA, OK	4-8-18	27		7 HRS	2		
26) ART OPENING = VIEWING	11 MEMBERS	5-17-18	0		2 HRS	3		
...								



Appendix G – 1919 Original Post 51 Documents

These three assumed lost Post 51 documents; 1.) Application for Charter, dated 8/19/1919, and 2.) the post Temporary Charter, dated 9/12/1919 and 3.) a Supplement to the Original Charter dated 2/28/1968, were discovered on May 15th, 2018 in the back of a storage cabinet owned by the Whittier Chapter of American War Mothers. The documents had not been seen for almost 30 years and it was assumed they were lost after the 1987 Whittier Earthquake.

APPLICATION FOR POST OF AMERICAN LEGION

Provisions of Constitution Adopted at St. Louis Caucus, May 8-10, 1919

ARTICLE II.
MEMBERSHIP.

All persons shall be eligible to membership in this organization who were in the military or naval service of the United States during the period between April 6, 1917, and November 11, 1918, both dates inclusive, and all persons who served in the military or naval services of any of the governments associated with the United States during the World War, provided that they were citizens of the United States at the time of their enlistment and are again citizens at the time of application, except also those persons who separated from the service under terms amounting to dishonorable discharge, and except also those persons who refused to perform their military duties on the ground of conscientious or political objection.

ARTICLE VI.
THE LOCAL UNIT.

The Local Unit shall be termed the Post, which shall have a minimum membership of fifteen. No Post shall be received into this organization until it shall have received a charter. A Post desiring a charter shall apply to the State Organization and the charter shall be issued by the National Executive Committee whenever recommended by the State Organization. The National Executive Committee shall not issue a charter in the name of any living person.

*Ed Palmer
Box 465
Whittier, Calif.*

INSTRUCTIONS (Read carefully).—Each local group will designate a representative to sign the certificate at the foot of this application and to receive the charter when issued. No application can be considered unless properly executed by at least fifteen men. Applications must be made in triplicate, one original and two copies. All three will be forwarded to the State Chairman. The original application will be returned by indorsement to the Local Post with the charter. One copy of application will be retained by State Headquarters, and the other by National Headquarters.

To: H.G. Mathewson
Temp State Chairman of the American Legion (State of California.....)

We, the undersigned, hereby certify that we have served in the military or naval forces of the United States, between April 6, 1917, and November 11, 1918, and are entitled to membership in THE AMERICAN LEGION under Article II of the Constitution, as above quoted. We hereby request the issuance of a charter for the formation of a Post at Whittier to be known as Whittier Post, State of California, No. 51. On the issuance of a charter we hereby agree to organize and maintain a Post under the above name with a minimum membership of fifteen. We hereby further agree to uphold the principles of THE AMERICAN LEGION and to comply with all rules and regulations prescribed by the State and National Organizations of the Legion.

NAMES	ADDRESSES
<u>R. C. Coomis</u>	<u>R. F. D. #2 Box 33 Whittier</u>
<u>R. W. Hughes</u>	<u>721 no ave b. S. Long</u>
<u>J. E. Todd</u>	<u>Alamodora</u>
<u>D. E. Crawford</u>	<u>4203 Hubbard ave Los Angeles</u>
<u>M. Hughes</u>	<u>By Star Oil Co. Whittier</u>
<u>Elmer Pittman</u>	<u>R. F. D. #2 Box 23 Whittier</u>
<u>Wesley F. Stock</u>	<u>432 S. Millar Ave Whittier</u>
<u>W. S. Lewis</u>	<u>139 S. Millar Ave N.</u>
<u>R. L. Mathewson</u>	<u>Box 37, about Street East Whittier</u>
<u>Ray Blum</u>	<u>938 st whittier</u>
<u>Richard Blum</u>	<u>938 st whittier</u>
<u>John Gordon</u>	<u>Summit Hill</u>
<u>Oscar Jullberg</u>	<u>San Gabriel 122 B. 1007</u>
<u>Charles K. ...</u>	<u>421 W. Adams St. Los Angeles</u>
<u>Albert Edward Mathewson</u>	<u>123 N. Friends Ave. Whittier</u>

Whittier, California..... August 19th 1919..... 19.....
(Place) (Date)

I hereby certify to the accuracy and good faith of the above application. The charter when issued is to be mailed to me at the address below.

Ed. Mathewson 123 N. Friends Ave., Whittier, Cal
(Signature) (Address) (SEE OTHER SIDE)

N. B.—This copy will be returned by the National Executive Committee through the State Organization to the local Post when charter is granted.

Original Application for Post of the American Legion, dated August 19, 1919.



History of Whittier Post 51, 2017-2018



Original Temporary Charter for Whittier Post 51, dated September 12, 1919.



THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

The American Legion

*Supplemental Charter
for Incorporated American Legion Posts*

To whom it may concern:

WHEREAS, it appears that, pursuant to the authority extended by the National Executive Committee of The American Legion, a charter was heretofore duly issued to
WHITTIER Post No. 51, Department of CALIFORNIA
of The American Legion, and

WHEREAS, it further appears that since the issuance of said original charter said Post has incorporated under the Laws of the State of CALIFORNIA for the sole purpose of protecting the individual members thereof from liability in the event of litigation against said Post, and

WHEREAS, said Post has, since its incorporation, continued its allegiance to the National Constitution and By-laws of The American Legion and the Constitution and By-laws of the CALIFORNIA Department thereof, and the rules, regulations, laws and orders promulgated in pursuance thereof, and has also continued to reap the benefit of its membership in said organization, and

WHEREAS, the National Organization of The American Legion and the CALIFORNIA Department have continued and will continue to recognize said Post as a subordinate Unit of The American Legion and of said Department regardless of its incorporation, and

WHEREAS, the said Post in its corporate capacity has applied for a Supplemental Charter, and in and by its said application has acknowledged it is and will continue to be bound by all the provisions of the Constitutions and By-laws of The American Legion and the Department of CALIFORNIA and any and all amendments thereof and supplements thereto, or repeals thereof now existing or which in the future may be adopted, as well as all the rules, regulations and orders heretofore or hereafter promulgated in pursuance thereof;

NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to the powers now vested in the National Organization of The American Legion, it hereby issues this Supplemental Charter to the WHITTIER Post No. 51, Department of CALIFORNIA in its corporate capacity.

By the granting of this Supplemental Charter to said Post authority is hereby extended to said Post in such corporate capacity to continue the exercise of its powers as such in the same manner and to the same extent that such powers were exercised prior to such incorporation, and this instrument, unless revoked or suspended, shall be conclusive evidence of the lawful existence thereof.


By the acceptance of this Supplemental Charter said Post in its corporate capacity hereby acknowledges irrevocable jurisdiction and declares itself to be in all things subject to the National Constitution and By-laws of The American Legion and the Constitution and By-laws of the Department of CALIFORNIA and any and all amendments thereof and supplements thereto or repeals thereof now existing or which in the future may be adopted, as well as all the rules, regulations and orders heretofore or hereafter promulgated in pursuance thereof, and further said Post in its corporate capacity pledges itself through its members to uphold, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States of America and the principles of true Americanism for the common welfare of the living and in solemn commemoration of those who died that Liberty might not perish from the face of the earth.

By the issuance of this Supplemental Charter the National Organization of The American Legion and the CALIFORNIA Department thereof hereby recognize the continuity of said Post as a subordinate unit of The American Legion and of said Department since the issuance of its original charter, and that said continuity as a Post shall not be broken by the issuance of this supplemental charter unless and until terminated as herein provided.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, this Supplemental Charter is given under the hand and seal of the National Commander, duly attested by the National Adjutant at National Headquarters of The American Legion in Indianapolis, Indiana, this 19th day of FEBRUARY, 1968, and countersigned by the Commander and Adjutant for the Department of CALIFORNIA, at SAN FRANCISCO, this 28th day of FEBRUARY, 1968.

Countersigned:
Frank E. Henry
DEPARTMENT COMMANDER

Edward Mackay
DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT



Attest:
William C. Halbreath
NATIONAL COMMANDER

Wm J. Hauck
NATIONAL ADJUTANT

Original Supplement to Post Charter, dated February 28, 1968.



Appendix H – Poem “I Am Also Memorial Day”, by Raymond Lopez

I Am Also Memorial Day

I have walked through
the valley of death
Among the dark shadows
in the brush
Their dog tags singing
through the sounds of the trees
Songs about their young lives on this earth
their happiness, their sorrow
And their many questions
of why it had to end so soon.

And I wonder to myself
when I would join them?

I have traveled the brown waters of hell
Satins express way of the doomed
Spirits popping above and below the water line
with the currents unpredictable flow
They are screaming the same constant cry, Why me?
followed by a majestic moment
An occasional cool soothing breeze
whisking above the murky warm waters
Bringing remembrances of their prom nights,
first cars, girlfriends, loved ones, and home
But there is still darkness
in the water.

And I wonder
when I will sink into it?

I have flown the skies of God over mountains,
valleys and hillsides of the abyss
While delivering man's dreadful
dose of death
Bombs delivered by giant wing spanned eagles
bullets and rockets delivered from flying locus
All trying to save the brave warriors below
while taking casualties of our own
The serene moment returning from a mission unharmed
is tranquil and peaceful
But still sorrow fills the heart



History of Whittier Post 51, 2017-2018

of questions I am unable to answer
The questions of why friends are dying
while protecting those below.

And the ultimate question
when will it be my turn to arrive at the abyss?

America created a special day
for these young Americans, whose sounds
Traveled by land, by water
and by god's skies.

On Memorial Day, these moments
are relived by many veterans
Moments which echo through the chambers of survivor's guilt
via the small passages of horror.

Memorial Day is meant for those
who gave the ultimate sacrifice
It is not reserved for department stores sales,
car dealer bonanzas, or even politicians.

It is their day and their day only!

But sorrow fills my heart
for those I still remember
And of a war I am still unable
to understand.

And on that day, I will honor the fallen
as they should be honored
But also in a quiet and invisible way I will honor my own self
for a part of me also died in that war.

For I believe that
in a respectful way
And to myself only
I am also Memorial Day.

- Raymond Lopez -
Vietnam '69



Biography of Whittier Post 51 Historian Fred Shacklett

Fred Shacklett is an eight-year member of the American Legion, having served as the 2nd Vice Commander (2013-2014), 1st Vice Commander 2014-2015, Adjutant (2015-2016), Judge Advocate (2016-2017), and is currently the post Historian (2015 to present). He has served as the Judge Advocate of District 19 (2016-2018) and Historian for Area 4 (2017-18).

Fred is a 4-year member of California American Legion Press Association (CALPA) and the National American Legion Press Association (NALPA). Fred is a graduate of the American Legion Extension Institute (2012). He is the editor of the Post 51 bi-monthly newsletter called “Answering the Call” and is the post Media and Communications Commissioner.

During his Navy career, Fred was trained in shipboard navigation and Amphibious Operations. His Navy rating (MOS) was that of a Quartermaster, final rank Petty Officer 2nd Class, QM2(SW) paygrade E-5.

Additionally, he served with distinction while embarked in the USS Hancock (CVA-19), part of Task Force 76, which participated in the April 1975 rescue of approximately 500 American personnel in Operation Eagle Pull from Phnom Penh, Cambodia, which was then followed by the rescue of approximately 7000 US personnel in Operation Frequent Wind from Saigon, South Vietnam.

His military service included assignments with the Assistant to the Master Chief Petty Officer of the Command at Naval Air Station Alameda, CA and an assignment with the Admiral’s staff, Commander US Navy Philippines. Fred’s other duty stations were the USS Oriskany (CV-34) during its final cruise in late 1976 and the USS Enterprise (CVN-65) in 1977, until his transfer to the Naval Reserve in late 1978, then separation from active duty and receiving an Honorable Discharge.

His military awards are Meritorious Unit Commendation, Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation, Good Conduct Medal, Sea Service medal, National Defense Service medal, Humanitarian Service medal (2 awards), Expeditionary Forces medal (2 awards), Vietnam Service medal, Republic of Vietnam Campaign medal and the Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialist badge.

Outside of the Legion, Fred is an engineering manager and a two-time Technical Honors recipient at Raytheon Company with 21 years of dedicated service. He has a bachelor’s degree in Mechanical Engineering from the UC Berkeley and post graduate studies with certifications in Technical Program Management, Change Management and Systems Engineering from UCLA. He is married and resides in Santa Fe Springs with his wife, Pamela and enjoys his time with his family, including two grandchildren.



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