

# Veterans of Foreign Wars

## Dixon Post 8151

Veterans Memorial Building

231 No. First Street

Dixon, CA 95620

707-678-6905



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## January 2002

2001-02 Officers		Committee	Chairperson	
Commander	Jim Harris	Civic Disaster Program	Jim Harris	707-678-6905
Quartermaster	Don Williamson	Membership	Mark Richards	707-678-2234
Adjutant	Mike Hagerman	Poppy Program	Woody Hood	707-678-3777
Sr. Vice Cdr.	Steve Alexander	Fundraising	Joe Echternach	707-678-8311
Jr. Vice Cdr.	Mike Brown	Public Affairs	Steve Alexander	707-678-9337
Chaplain	Bob Ikleman	Health and Safety	Mike Brown	530-574-1598
Trustee	Ed Collins	Youth Programs	Don Williamson	707-446-0527
Trustee	Bill Fairfield	Support Programs	Woody Hood	707-678-3777
Trustee	Heber Holbrook	Surgeon General	Joe Echternach	707-678-8311

### Commander's Comments

I am sorry to announce that the steak dinner planned for January 19<sup>th</sup> has been canceled due to conflicting Veteran Memorial Hall arrangements. We will let you know when the next scheduled date is. See you at the next monthly meeting on Oct 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:30. Come early to socialize and catch up on the latest interesting military, benefit, and programs information.

### Congress Gives Vets Short Shrift

Despite an overwhelming number of co-sponsors in support of ending the unfair ban against concurrent receipt of veterans benefits, Congress elected last Wednesday to continue the longstanding injustice toward military retirees by requiring that their military retired pay be reduced by an amount equivalent to their VA disability compensation.

Congress has "symbolically" authorized concurrent receipt, but the law will not become effective unless the president and congress enact legislation to take \$40 billion from another program to pay for the cost. It appears likely that none of our elected officials in Congress will introduce legislation to take \$40 billion from one of their pork-belly government programs.

Congress did, however, enhance special compensation for severely disabled retirees. Eligibility will be extended for disabled retirees, receiving 60 percent service compensation on Feb 1, 2002. Payments to retirees who are 80 percent to 100 percent disabled will be increased by a mere \$25 on Jan 1, 2003. Then there will come another measly \$25 increase, which will become effective Oct 1, 2004, for retirees who are 70 percent to 100 percent disabled.

All interested parties must express their dissatisfaction with their congressional representative, and urge them to support HR 303.

### Poppy Program "Thanks"

Many thanks to Woody Hood and his volunteers who so graciously sat in front of local businesses, mainly Safeway, during the last four day Veterans Day weekend. These donations go to the Veterans Assistance fund which is used to help distressed veterans in need of emergency funds for such things as gas money, medical bills, food, clothing, etc.. Woody is very dedicated to this cause. The poppy cans volunteers collected about \$500.00 (exact amount not available at press time).

**Health and Safety Update**  
 Chairperson Mike Brown's tips for  
 Safety Precautions After Work Hours

- Travel to parking lots in pairs.
- Be aware that the street and parking garages may have little or no lighting.
- Be aware that traffic signals also may be affected by the emergency outage and, therefore, may not work. Exercise extreme caution at intersections and light-rail crossings.
- Develop a contingency plan for dependent care in case your normal arraignments are disrupted. Be aware that in emergency situations, your dependents care provider's phones may be affected by the power outage.
- Make sure the battery for your cellular phone is charged.
- If walking, take precautions to ensure that you are visible to motorists.
- Be aware that your home automatic garage doors will not operate without electrical power. Know how to manually open the door.
- Secure additional flashlights for your home and, whenever possible, avoid using candles for emergency lighting.
- Follow defensive driver procedures and techniques.

**New Year's Resolutions From A to Z**

Arrive early at monthly VFW meetings	Join a VFW Committee	Sit at Safeway with a poppy can
Bring family and friends to VFW functions	Keep your promises	Toss out things you don't need. Better yet, donate them to charity
Come to the monthly VFW meeting	Laugh at least once every day	Understand and appreciate diversity
Do someone a favor	Maintain a healthy weight	Volunteer your time to VFW committees
Exercise and eat right	Never miss a monthly VFW meeting	Write letters in support of Veterans issues
Floss after every meal	Organize a VFW fundraiser	Xerox your letters above and send them to politicians!
Give non-driving veterans rides	Pass out VFW applications	Yield the right of way in traffic
Have a garage sale	Quit smoking	<b>Zzzzzzzz</b> – Get plenty of sleep
Invite veterans to join the VFW	Recycle, then donate proceeds to the VFW	

**Happy New Year Comrades**

January 2002						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 New Year's Day	2 American Legion Monthly Meeting 7:00 P.M	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17 VFW Monthly Meeting 7:30P.M.	18	19
20	21 Martin Luther King Jr. Day	22	23	24	25	26
27 Signing of Vietnam Peace Accord 1973	28	29	30	31		