



**BRANCH 163 SIRs**

**WELCOME**

**JUNE 2025**



**Another great group of loyal citizens and Patriots. Enjoy your friends – they don't last forever; enjoy your meal-it doesn't either.**

### **BRANCH 163 MOTO "BRING A FRIEND"**



Several of our members heeded our call to bring guests and we did in fact get three, one of whom took a member application with him. Thanks men for stepping up!

## NEW MEMBER APPLICATION

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We can impress other men about SIR if we just can expose them to one of our meetings and introduce them to other members at the table. Make sure you stimulate conversation and interest in the guest to make him feel at home and truly welcome.

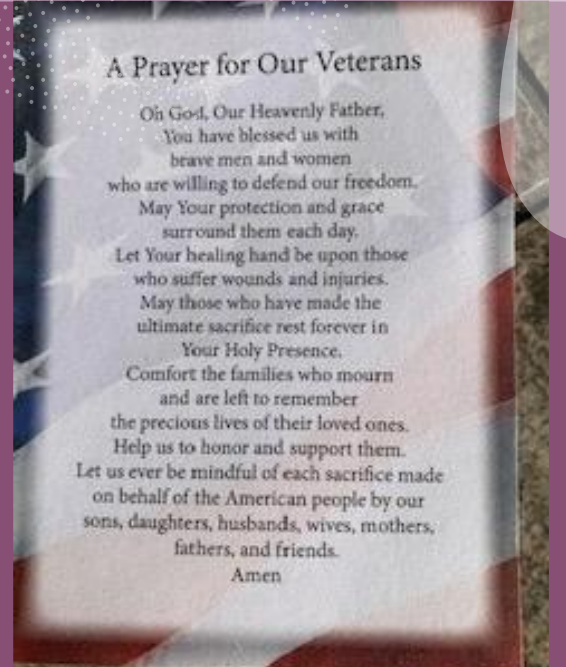
### *ENLISTMENT OATH: (Given when inducted into the military):*

*“I, (your name), do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; and that I will obey the orders of the President of the United States and the orders of the Officers appointed over me, So Help me God.”*

***GOD Said in Romans 13: Everyone must submit himself unto the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which GOD has established. The authorities that exist have been established by GOD. He who rebels against the authority, is rebelling against what GOD has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgement on themselves!***

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# AMERICAN LEGION PRAYER FOR ALL OUR VETERANS



## JUNE MONTHLY ACTIVITIES

**5<sup>th</sup>, Thursday, Honor Flight Breakfast, Elks Lodge, 8 AM**

**12<sup>th</sup>, Thursday, Lunch Out, Marie Calendar's, 11 AM**

**15<sup>th</sup>, Sunday, Father's Day, Grillin' all day!**

**19<sup>th</sup>, Thursday, SIR main Luncheon, Hodels, McAbee/Carter,**

**And guests, and friends, and pests. 11 AM Kern Room**

**30<sup>th</sup>, Monday, Pool Buddies, Bank-shots, 11**





## **SIR LUNCH -OUT**

We always have a great time with food and friendship on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday Lunch-Out. Next time at Marie Calendars June 12<sup>th</sup> at 11AM

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## **SPEAKERS FOR NEXT LUNCH- 19 JUNE**

### **Bakersfield Music Hall of Fame**



## TO THOSE WHO ENDEAVOR MOST



BRUCE CORWIN, Regional State Rep, presents awards for Meritorious Service:  
Big Sir Jim Shapazian; Membership chair Jim Smith. **Thankyou Men!**



## DON'T FORGET 50/50 DRAWING

- ALWAYS a WINNER
- Sometimes twice
- As you see with SIR member
- Herb Hochstatter



### **Big Sir Jim Shapazian**

Gentlemen, as you know, we are rapidly approaching summertime. The temperature is going up and the ACs are going on. I had a solar system installed last spring so I hope that it is enough to reduce our energy bill this summer as the bill in August of last year went over \$1000 for the first time. I'm sure there are others out there that have installed solar. I would be interested in hearing your results on your electric bill.

The month of June brings us graduations, parties and BBQs. We have a Jr. High graduation and High School graduation this year. Both are grandkids and we love them to pieces. I'm sure some of you experienced the same with some even as great grandkids. We look forward to see them experience life and hope they don't make the same mistakes we made along the way.

Look forward to seeing you all this month at our monthly luncheon. It will be a special treat with 2 local personalities that will tell us about their Bakersfield Music Hall of Fame. Remember, wives and girlfriends are invited in June so hopefully we can fill up the Kern Room and have a great time. See you there.



## **LONG-TIME MEMBER “BLACKIE BLACKLEDGE”**

If you don't know Blackie, he is the tall distinguished looking gentleman, usually in one of the rear tables with that notable black moustache. He has been a SIR member for nearly 27 years now and has seen many changes come and go in Branch 163. Why SIR? Former member and good friend, Tye Boyd, brought Blackie to a function and was insistent that he join the ranks which he did and has attended regularly ever since. Thanks Blackie.

Blackie Blackledge was born in Laurel, Mississippi in 1935 and even though he doesn't look it he will turn 90 in August. His father was a successful cotton farmer and taught Blackie good decision – making skills. The family is of English descent and, in fact, can be traced back to a Castle bearing the family name! How many of you can do that?!

Blackie went through high school in Laurel, graduated, and went off to college in Miami, Florida. His best friend begged him to transfer to Odessa Tech in



Midland, Texas which he did. While in school and working on his degree Blackie got a job with Dowell Division of Dow Chemical which was doing a lot of 'Fracking' at that time and were known for their leading technologies in well-bore cementing.

Offering a good career and pay advancement, Blackie accepted a transfer to Farmington, N.M. where he worked the 4-corners area. He also worked in the Denver area before being transferred to Bakersfield in the spring of 1960.

As fate would direct, Blackie would find his soul mate, Judy an LSU graduate, teaching here in Bakersfield. They were married in 1964 and have one son, Scott, who resides near Sacramento. They have a close relationship and visit as often as they can.

By 1964 Dowell had expanded throughout the state and assigned Blackie as their chief sales engineer manager distributing their cement and materials technology to companies drilling for oil and gas and needing to properly seal the bore hole. In 1970 Blackie was promoted to Sales Manager for all of California and Alaska, a position he maintained until retirement in January 1986, a span of some 26+ years.

Blackie and family enjoyed traveling through the 48 states in their motor home and have fond memories of those trips plus two others to cover all 50 states.

He also loves cars and because he was able to, Blackie bought a new car every year. He also had antique car restorations on going which included Model A's, '39 ford w/'47 Mercury engine; other Fords, Lincolns, Olds, T-bird's, five T's, and a Jaguar. Today his keeper is a 1931 Ford Model A Cabriolet (convertible) with every accessory available. He has gifted this one to his Son Scott. Today as in the Photo, Blackie drives a Lincoln Continental Town Car not only because of its roominess but also for lower back support.

When you see Blackie ask about cars; his eyes light up!

Thanks again Blackie for your continued support of SIR.