

*THE ALPINE SUN SHOPPER – November 3, 2011*  
*Tattered Tidbits: Alpine Historical Society*

**HONORING OUR VETERANS**

On November 11<sup>th</sup> the United States will once again honor all of those who have fought to defend our country. While it is tempting to merely celebrate the day because it's a holiday, most of us remember the sacrifice and loss that so many of our veterans and their families have experienced. The freedom that each and every American enjoys is the result of those who now serve and who have served in our military.

Veteran's Day was set as a U. S. legal holiday to honor the end of World War I which officially took place on November 11, 1918. Legislation was passed in 1938 that declared November 11 to be "dedicated to the cause of world peace and to be hereafter celebrated and known as Armistice Day." In 1954, after having been through both World War II and the Korean War, the 83<sup>rd</sup> U. S. Congress, at the urging of the veterans service organizations, amended the Act of 1938 by striking out the word "Armistice" and inserting the word "Veterans." With the approval of this legislation on June 1, 1954, November 11 became a day to honor American veterans of all wars.

While Americans remember and respect our veterans every day of the year, this is a special day to truly reflect upon what our veterans have given us. In Alpine there has always been support of war activities. The upstairs room in the Town Hall, now the Alpine Woman's Club building, was used as a gathering place for the women of Alpine to meet, roll bandages and knit socks for the war effort during World Wars I and II. Old timers tell of watching soldiers driving through the village while children sat in trees along the main road watching and waving as the young men left for war. Then, the sad stories of the sobbing of loved ones when some of these young men did not return.

In 1926, Captain Harry Jeremiah Parks called Alpine his home. While a very young soldier serving in the Civil War, Harry was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor. The medal was presented to Harry by President Abraham Lincoln in a face-to-face ceremony. The unusual part of this story is that, at the time the award was presented, Harry was but sixteen years of age.

Another well-known and loved Alpine military figure was Sergeant Major Betty Noble. Betty, of Alpine's famous Willows Resort Walker family, boarded a train on July 21, 1943, to attend boot camp at El Toro. Serving from June 1943 until November 1945, when women were released from the Corps after World War II, her heart remained with her beloved Marines. When women were authorized to become regular marines, she returned to the Marine Corps in March 1949 and served throughout her 24-year career at a variety of duty stations. She achieved the rank of sergeant major, the third woman to reach this rank.

Shortly after World War II began, an Honor Roll was erected to honor Alpine's veterans who loyally served in the Armed Services. Jim Hinds and David Carey recall that John "Coca Cola" Jones, former owner of Campbell Ranch, erected the Honor Roll and maintained it. The memorial was located on the corner of Alpine Boulevard and Victoria Drive. Jim found a photo in a 1959 edition of *The Alpine Sun* showing the sign which had fallen over due to strong winds; a 1962 photo shows the corner without the sign. A photo of the Honor Roll shows nineteen-year old Frank Williams with his hand placed upon his name. The photo was taken seven months before young Frank's death at the Battle of the Bulge during World War II. It is a poignant reminder of the losses sustained in our community—and in our country. The photo was donated to the Alpine Historical Society by Frank's brother, Roy Williams.

Today, there is a new Wall of Honor in Alpine to recognize Alpine and Mountain Empire Veterans. Its beauty carries on the tradition of a proud community honoring its own. As more and more tiles are being

added, one can see the commitment of Alpine residents to preserving and maintaining our country's freedom. In October, Alpine veterans were honored and were invited to ride in the Viejas Day Parade—there was excitement and thanks in the air! Perhaps it would be good for each of us to visit Alpine's Wall of Honor, at the corner of the Alpine Community Center on Alpine Boulevard, on November 11<sup>th</sup> this year and reflect on the sacrifice young people continue to make for our country as well as the sacrifices made by those that came before us. We are truly a nation blessed.

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*Pictured above: Frank Williams at Wall of Honor*