



The Chanticleer

New 159 website - www.branch159.sirinc2.org

Program: The Clovis High School Choir

Date December 11, 2014

Place Ramada Inn
324 W. Shaw Avenue

Social Hour 11:00 AM

Luncheon: 12 Noon

\$19 per person

Well we got a taste of the upcoming year by holding our monthly luncheon at Pardini's. Parking was the main problem. However as we spend more time there, we will be able to solve it. One suggestion that was brought up: the handicapped parking was not enough. That can be solved by providing more handicap parking. As for the rest of us who believe we walk further, well it been said that it's all in our head, we walk just as far at the Ramada. It's left up to your head to solve that. The speaker was good, although he was somewhat political, he is correct to some of us.



Big SIR James

It is so sad about Dennis Costello passing away. He was a great man with terrific enthusiasm. He was great Little Sir and would have made a wonderful Big Sir.

There have been some changes this year that have tested our resolve. First we now have dues or assessments. At last count there were less than 10 of you who had not paid the twenty dollar yearly dues. Also we have a new membership chairman. That is a tough job, especially having to replace Roger Deal, who had done that position for so many years he was an expert. Hang in there John Crawford, you know what you are doing.

Have a very Merry Christmas and have a great New Year. Remember that the next luncheon will be at the Ramada and then we return to Pardini's.

Thank you to MG (Ret.) John T. Crowe for some thought-provoking and useful remarks at the November luncheon. Thanks as well to the arrangements committee - Ron Travis, George Gianopulos, and Allan Baxter, with the Air Force ROTC Program at Fresno State - for the patriotic salute to our veterans during the November luncheon meeting. Though the hall was cramped, our spirits soared.



Little SIR Charlie

The *spirit of the season* will also be the theme of *Ladies Day* in December. You and your lady will want to be there for another treat, produced by Sir Shane Peterson and his crew.

For many of us, this is a tough time. Dennis Costello was an important guy - a special kind of pal - to so many of us. His loss dims the light a bit. Through the gloom, however, we will struggle back to an upright posture and rebuild against the losses. That, fellow SIR, is the task of 2015! Perry and I will endeavor to lead the way.

In the meantime, we do the most for the memory of Dennis and the others by closing ranks in unbreakable friendship, and all the more tightly. Together, we thus make retirement more and more meaningful for ourselves, and for our families.

Fellow roosters, I will see you at *Ladies Day*, if not sooner!

The 2015 assessments are now due.

The assessments pay for;

The printing of our Chanticleer, administrative meetings, state assessments, & Wine for our raffles

Please make checks for \$15 payable to; SIR Branch #159
Mail to; Shane Petersen 3245 E. Sample Fresno, Ca. 93710

Attendance

In November, 2014, SIR Branch #159 had 255 active members with 170 of those members attending the November 13, 2014 luncheon. This represents 67% of the members in attendance. There were 85 members absent of which 44 were excused. Members are expected to attend the monthly meeting or to notify the Attendance Chairman when the wish to be excused. Three consecutive unexcused absences or six unexcused absences in a twelve month period constitutes a jeopardy to membership. If you are unable to attend a future meeting, PLEASE call 447-5388 or send an email to DukMarshall@aol.com When you call or email please include your NAME and BADGE NUMBER

Duke Marshall, Attendance Chairman

GOLFERS CORNER

Belmont Golf & Country Club was the venue of our first of the month individual match in November. On CTP hole #2 Lee Moy was close at 3' 2". Bob Wiens followed at 5' 1". On CTP # 13 it was Rich Lewis low at 7' 10" with Bob Moore in 2nd at 10' 4". In the 1st flight, Area 29 Golf Director Butch Evans placed 1st with a net 76 followed by Mike Moyle with net 77. In flight 2 Mick Carrera was low with a net 68, Don Avakian in 2nd with net 69. In the 3rd flight Big Sir James Noriega had the low net of the day with a fine 63. Bob Rathburn was next with 70. Larry Psaltis grabbed low honors in the 4th flight with a net 72, Rich Fimbres following with net 75. In flight 5 Al Baez won in a tiebreaker with Sal Morales, both at net 73. Likewise in flight 6 Louis Shuemaker came out on top in a tiebreaker with Bill Leavitt, both with net 69. In the 7th flight

**Reminder : The December Meeting will be held at the Ramada Inn
and all future meetings will be held at Pardini's**

it was Patti O'Neill on top with net 78, Fred Ketcham in 2nd with 82.

Golfers please note that in December we will be having 3 matches on a Wednesday. Those will be Fig Garden on the 10th (day before our luncheon), Riverside on the 24th (day before Christmas) and finally Dragon Fly on the 31st (day before New Year's). Our monthly match formats will be tweaked a little to accommodate our annual 'Holiday Cup' event (AIRways and Riverside)...with a novelty match bringing the year to an end on the 31st.

Thanks go to Bob Moore who started out as the November monthly chairman but then ran into some physical difficulties. We appreciate his effort as we do all the monthly chairmen and assistants that volunteered during the year. Joe Cabral did a great job of assisting in NOV. Big Sir James Noriega will serve as chairman for DEC. James will be assisted by Stan Littleworth.

Life is so fragile. Our thoughts and prayers go out towards the family of our dear friend, golfing buddy and former Little Sir, Dennis Costello, who passed in November. An inspiration to us all...Dennis will be sorely missed.

Bridge Scores

Nov 4 1st. Ron Vieira, 2nd. Russ Mott, 3rd. Allen Bertelsen, 4th. George Rurik, 5th. Jim Lund
Consolation: Gene Tognazzini

High score 5510

High table: 1650

Ron Vieira George Rurik

Nov 18 1st. Gene Tognazzini, 2nd. Ron Vieira, 3rd. Jim Lund, 4th. Bob Cleveland, 5th. Fred Wrazel, 6th. George Rurik, 7th. Allen Bertelsen, 8th. John Williford

Consolation: Russ Mott

High score: 4530

High table: 1810

Ron Vieira Bob Cleveland

Computer Group

Due to holidays and other activities, there will be no Computer Group meeting in December.

Dale Reichard,
Computer Group Chairman

Caller's Corner

Dennis Costello was our past Little Sir and caller. When he became Little Sir he came to me right away to say he wanted to continue being a caller. He was our caller up to the day he was hospitalized. His wife, Sue, called to tell me he was sorry that he could not do it anymore.

Dennis was a special guy and he will be missed by all his friends.

Ron Travis

Birthdays

Don Avakian, Don, Blosser, Bo Bolin, Don Corley, Joe D'Amico, Vic Froehmer, Frank Kurihara, Stan Littleworth, Carl Mhoon, Chuck Royse, George Rurik, Tom Ryno, Ed Smiley, Fred Stein

Anniversaries

Peggy & Rick Aranja SR
Betty & Norm Bainter
Diane & Bud Burrows
Val & Lee Fanucchi
Barbara & Perry Huffman
Becky & Scott Lang
Judi & Rich Lewis
Helen & Ken Lust
Linda & Gene Marshall
Lasara & Manuel Nunez
Debbie & Rick Pezzi
Phyllis & Michael Rumley
Karen & Gene Tognazzini
Leslie & Jack Whitaker

SIR OF THE MONTH – CHARLES BARRETT

Charles Barrett was born in Ft. Benning, GA in 1943, during World War II. His father was training other paratroopers there preparatory to going off to the Pacific Theater to fight the Japanese. He, his father, did go through the campaigns in the Philippines with the 11th Airborne Division - Leyte and Luzon, made three combat jumps, earned three purple hearts, and served briefly in the occupation of Japan. While Maj. Barrett was overseas, Charles, his sister Frances, and his mother Cappie waited in her native Texas.

After the war, the family went east to Cambridge, Massachusetts, where his father attended the Harvard University Law School, and was admitted to the bar. Moving west this time, the family settled in Monterey, CA for five years of 'bridging the gap'. But the San Joaquin Valley attracted the family. Ray Barrett, Chucks father, chose to establish his own law practice here, in the town he considered "the little city with a big future." Charles was less certain of that. But his father used to say,



“Charles, Fresno lies in the fruited plain beneath the purple mountains majesty.” Charles liked that.

Bullard High School was followed by a stint in the National Guard. They sent him to Infantry OCS at his native Ft. Benning, GA. His request to go on active duty led to Ft. McClellan, Alabama, then to Panama's Jungle Operations Course, and then on to Vietnam.

April 1969 brought him to Pleiku Province in the so-called **central highlands**. Five months as Platoon Leader of the 3rd/C/1/35th Inf., 4th Inf. Div. was followed by two months as the Battalion S-5 Air, and another five months as the Reconnaissance Platoon leader for the 1st Bn. 35th Inf. (the **Cacti** from their distinctive insignia). [He may think he won the war. Don't spoil him, OK?]

When his Vietnam service ended, he was assigned to Ft.

Lewis, WA, and there he was Company Commander, first of 6th Quartermaster company, and then of Charlie Company, 2d Battalion, 2d Infantry, 9th Inf. Div (**Note: We'll give you a quiz on all these military designations later!**)

It was there he completed his 5-years of service in the Army of the United States, received his Honorable Discharge, and became a civilian again. Having married Midge (his wife of 51 years) and becoming the father of toddlers, Mark and Sean, he and his family decided to go back to Fresno and focus on an education with the help of the GI Bill. This was just the same as his father had done, decades earlier.

Lower division work was done at Fresno State. Upper division work in history was done at the University of Southern California. Law schooling was at the UOP McGeorge School of Law in Sacramento. Upon graduation, he was promptly admitted to the state and federal bar, initially working for the Calif. Department of Education, Office of Special Education.

Returning to Fresno with his family (Fresno is also home to Midge), Charles worked first for Dale Blickenstaff, and then for Ed Hunt as a prosecutor in the District Attorney's office. After five years, however, he and another prosecutor opened their own office, **“. . . in order to get rich!”** He likes to say, however, that, **“A funny thing happened about that ‘getting rich’ part. Besides, I was no damn good outside of court.”** Thus he took another courtroom job with Public Defender's Office, and stayed there another 20 years, and then retired.

Sponsored by Ray Ensher, Charlie joined SIRs #159 in 2007. He enjoys Golf a great deal but says he enjoys the fellowship of adult men - few of whom listen to 'rap music' - even more. Charlie handled the Sunshine Desk for a year or two, and has recently been designated Little Sir. The Big Sir position looms next year, 2015. Charles Barrett brings a vast, diverse set of experiences to #159. And we know we will benefit greatly as he takes the helm of this thriving, active, challenging organization, SIR Branch #159!

Perry's Puns for December

(1) Merry (safe) Christmas Message for the holiday

With the Holidays upon us I would like to share a personal experience with my friends about drinking and driving. As you may know some of us have been known to have brushes with the authorities from time to time on the way home after a "social session" out with friends. Well, two days ago I was out for an evening with friends and had several cocktails followed by some rather nice red wine. Feeling jolly I still had the sense to know that I may be slightly over the limit.

That's when I did something that I've never done before - I took a cab home. Sure enough on the way home there was a police road block, but since it was a cab they waved it past. I arrived home safely without incident.

This was a real surprise as I had never driven a cab before, I don't know where I got it and now that it's in my garage I don't know what to do with it.

(2) A woman finds Aladdin's magic lamp. She starts rubbing it and a Genie comes out as usual. The woman looks at the Genie and asks him to grant her the following wishes:

- I want my husband to have eyes only for me
 - I want to be the only one in his life
 - I want that when he gets up in the morning I'm the first thing he grabs and takes me everywhere he goes."
- The Genie turned THE LADY into an iPhone 6!

Sunshine Report

Lots of business in the Sunshine department this month. First I'd like to thank Lee Moy for adding a dimension to Sunshine. His e-mail cards are accenting the positive side of "Sunshine" including Birthdays, holidays and anniversaries. Well done Lee!

In other news, we of course are all very saddened by the passing of our friend, fellow SIR and officer in the branch, Dennis Costello. He fought a hard battle against a horrible, insidious disease.

Other men on the sick list; Bob Moore had a stint put in and may need open heart surgery. Howard Boston fell and broke his hip, not an easy recovery for a 90 year old. Stan Silva is home on Oxygen, something we may all need if we continue the "Bad air days". Fred Stein is recovering from pneumonia, and Dan Ybanez had a stroke. Not sure how his recovery is coming.

Please let me know if you have knowledge of a downed fellow SIR. I can be reached at (559)960-8294. Or e-mail; ronwilson7777@sbcglobal.net

Ron Wilson Chairman

October Bowling Scores

The new fall league has started and we invite any SIR member to come join us – Friday afternoons, 1 PM Sierra Lanes. Anyone interested please contact Duke Marshall @ 447-5388 or just show up and we will get you started. We will look for you..

DATE		NAME	SCORE	Branch
3-Oct	Hi H Series	Vic Froehmer	686	159
	Hi H Game	Vic Froehmer	282	159
10-Oct	Hi H Series	Duke Marshall	631	159
	Hi H Game	Terry Schneider	254	159
17-Oct	Hi H Series	Bill Ripley	630	175
	Hi H Game	Bill Ripley	223	175
24-Oct	Hi H Series	NO BOWLING		
	Hi H Game			
31-Oct	Hi H Series	Duke Marshall	640	159
	Hi H Game	Hugh Cox	233	159



Fresno Branch # 159 Inc.

1749 N Ring Ave.

Fresno, Ca., 93723-9253

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Nonprofit Org.

U S Postage

Paid

Fresno, CA 93706

Permit #2627

Branch 159 December Golf Schedule

Chairman James Noriaga 432-5423

Thur 12/4	10AM	SG	Madera Muni
Wed 12/10	9:30AM	TT	Fig Garden
Thur 12/18	10 AM	SG	Airways
Wed 12/24	10AM	SG	Riverside
Wed 12/31	10AM	SG	DragonFly

January Info

January's speaker will be Mark Grossi; he writes the Earth Log column in the Bee

January Menu (Buffet)

- Spaghetti & Meatballs
- Caesar Salad
- Garlic Bread
- Fruit salad
- Assorted Desserts

Philosophy of marriage:

At the beginning, every wife treats her husband as GOD...
 Later, somehow don't know why...
 alphabets get reversed!



BRANCH #159 ---



Sons in Retirement
presents

The Annual Holiday Ladies Day Luncheon

Ramada Inn:

Thursday, December 11, 2014
 11 AM: Social Hour
 12 Noon: Lunch & Program



Luncheon Choices-

- Roast Turkey with Herb Dressing
- Baked Ham with Yams
- Whipped Potatoes & Gravy
- Waldorf Salad, Dessert, Beverage



**- FEATURING -
 THE CLOVIS
 HIGH SCHOOL CHOIR**

-- DOOR PRIZES FOR THE LADIES --

\$19 Per Person

SIR #159 Annual Holiday Ladies Day Luncheon 2014

Reserve by mailing check to:

Shane Petersen
 3067 E. Warner Ave.
 Fresno, CA 93710

Name: _____

Guest: _____

Turkey Ham

Turkey Ham

*Make checks payable to "SIR Branch #159"