

# SEABREEZE

NEWPORT HARBOR POST 291 OF THE AMERICAN LEGION



*Dear Reader,*

*This issue was delayed in final production, so some activities noted as upcoming have already passed. Our apologies for not being more timely.*

*SeaBreeze Staff*

**NOVEMBER - DECEMBER, 2020**





AL POST 291



ALA UNIT 291



SAL SQUADRON 291



ALYC



HONOR GUARD

## Newport Harbor Post 291 of The American Legion Family

SEABREEZE - VOL. 58 DEC 2020

### NEWPORT HARBOR POST 291 OF THE AMERICAN LEGION



#### CHRISTMAS MENU

*Served with a small Salad and  
your choice of Apple or Pumpkin Pie.*

*Prime Rib Au jus and Cream of Horseradish 22  
Anna Potatoes and Green Beans .*

*Turkey Breast with Stuffing 18  
Green Beans and Mashed Potatoes.*

*Ham 18  
Anna Potatoes and Green Beans.*

GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE.

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#### SEABREEZE

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# From your Commander

Jon Reynolds

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## Holidays We Can Still All Enjoy!

Although Post 291 and its members — along with most other organizations and individuals in the State and country — are under severe restrictions because of the pandemic, we can all be thankful for many things this Holiday Season. We're still here! And — within the limits allowed and by following good health and safety practices — there are still plenty of family-oriented activities to enjoy in the spirit of the season.

What a year 2020 has been! — And it's not over yet! Yes, the Post is unable to host the many traditional holiday events this year that normally occur during this time; but 2021 holds great promise of enabling a return to a more nearly normal environment — after the vaccine is widely deployed and we all get shot up with it. In the meantime, the Post will continue to follow current health and safety protocols — including masks and social distancing — to keep our Post members and their guests and our Post employees as safe as possible.

## Current Post Operating Rules

As you're all aware, Orange County has not only moved back into the Purple Tier, but is also in the Southern California Region for which the State's Stay At Home Order is in effect. As a result, "new" rules now in effect for the Post are:

- Post 291 is closed — except for:
  - o Administrative services at the Front Office window.
  - o Drive-thru takeout food and beverage service. — Note that dining at the Post is no longer permitted (neither inside nor outside). So please keep on taking advantage of the takeout service and enjoying the superb food offerings of Chef Ulises Dominguez and his highly skilled staff.
  - o Marina — which is open, and slip renters and dry storage renters have access to and use of their vessels.
- Post parking lot:
  - o Takeout food and beverage customers must pick up their order and depart.
    - It's not a "picnic area."
  - o Parking is available only for:
    - Employees on duty.
    - Post Officers and Post Family representatives on official business.
    - Marina slip renters.
- Drive-thru takeout food and beverage service is available daily — and open to the public — 11:00 to 6:00 pm Monday through Friday; 12:00 noon to 5:00 pm Saturday; and 10:00 am to 5:00 pm Sunday.
- No in-person meetings may be held at the Post.
- All Post 291 Family meetings must be held by videoconference (webinars) — and will continue indefinitely as the primary method for holding Post meetings.

## Recent Post Activities

Notwithstanding the current severe restrictions on operations, the Post has been able to provide some critically needed services and pleasant dining opportunities to Post members and Post staff.

- **CPR Training.** Thanks to the dedicated efforts of Post member Joe Munday, the American Heart Association conducted Cardio Pulmonary Rescue (CPR) training attended by ten Post members and Post staff members on Saturday 21 November. This kind of training is essential to the welfare of our members and staff, and the Post will continue to emphasize its importance and to enable the training.
- **Thanksgiving Dinner.** With excellent weather, an incredibly delicious traditional Thanksgiving Dinner, and dining on the patios still permitted at the time, Thanksgiving was a supremely enjoyable day at the Post.
- **VA Popup Clinic.** On Saturday 12 December, the Veterans Administration staff from Long Beach provided free flu shots on a drive-thru basis in the Post parking lot. — This event was rescheduled from an earlier date because of inclement weather.
- **Awards and Recognition.** Two Post 291 program organizations received special recognition for their work:
  - o The American Legion Yacht Club was awarded the prestigious and coveted honor of Club of the Year for 2020 by the Southern California Yachting Association (SCYA).
  - o SAL Squadron 291 received a National award as the largest SAL squadron in The American Legion.
  - Congratulations to both of these outstanding Post 291 programs and to their respective leaders, ALYC Commodore Bruce Batcheller and SAL Squadron 291 Commander Tim Sullivan!

## On Going Post Operations

Post 291 continues to thrive — but your continuing support is urgently needed.

- **Takeout Food and Beverage Service.** It's especially important that Post Family members — as well as the public — take advantage of and routinely use the superb drive-thru takeout food and beverage service

the Post provides. Not only is the food affordable, delicious, and nutritious, the food operation keeps Post employees employed and brings in additional income for the Post.

- **Member Dues.** Member dues are an essential source of income to keep Post 291 going and enabling it to provide basic services to our American Legion members. — Please ensure that you renew your Post 291 membership for 2021 as soon as possible. And, of course, now membership can be renewed online at the Post website at [www.al291.com](http://www.al291.com) as well as by stopping by the Post Front Office window, which is open during regular business hours from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm Monday through Friday.
- **Support to Military Veterans Needing Assistance.** Made possible by your generous contributions to the Veterans Emergency Assistance Fund, support to military veterans needing assistance continues — under the skilled direction of Service Officer Cory Vigil.

## Other Post Activities

- **Christmas Dinner.** Post activities this year related to Christmas will be very limited, but the Post restaurant will once more provide an outstanding Christmas dinner — available for takeout only. Further details will be published on the Post website as the date approaches.
- **Meetings by Videoconference.** Post official meetings will continue to be held, but only by videoconference until the current pandemic is resolved.

Please continue to follow good health and safety practices and enjoy this Holiday Season!

For God and Country!

Jon Reynolds  
Commander  
Newport Harbor Post 291 of The American Legion





ALA UNIT 291

## Letter from the Auxiliary Unit 291

Cindy Edes, President

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### Season's Greetings from the Auxiliary,

It has been quite a year to say the least. A two-week shutdown in March became 32 weeks and still counting of a grinding halt to our economy and freedom as we know it. Many people are suffering from not only the Corvid illness, but the unintended consequences in its wake. The Auxiliary has strived to continue to support our military families and our community. With the help and generosity of the Legion families, we have managed to bring some much-needed joy into the lives of others.

In October, we asked people visiting the Post, for donations of food, personal hygiene items and cash to support our holiday Troop Shipping event which took place November 7th. Despite a rain drenched Saturday, we packed 94 boxes and sent them to our troops overseas. The great nephew of an Auxiliary member serving with the Marines in Japan received four boxes. "Holy Cow," was his exclamation when he and his buddies popped open the boxes of goodies. They were very grateful to be remembered especially this time of year. A big thanks to Lily Romanow and Janice Flanagan for all their hard work in buying and organizing. Lily and Janice will also be shopping for our family of four we are adopting for the holidays.

Our Auxiliary along with the other Legion families, donated a large sum of money to the American Legion Post 289 Riverside, which had been burglarized during a remodel. An estimated \$30,000 of tools and materials were stolen. With cash donations and volunteer labor, this Post was able to be open for Veterans Day.

We made our annual donation to the OC Rescue mission to help feed the hungry and donated to Strong Families/Strong Children and STEP (Support the Enlisted Project) for their annual pajama clothing drive for military children.

Proceeds from our Poppy sales in May have been helping to stock the empty pantry shelves at the VA in Long Beach for our homeless Vets. A big thanks to Peggy Bengry for her monthly grocery shopping trips and deliveries to the VA.

Bea Foster and her elves, are sponsoring a children's holiday party at Camp Pendleton on December 19<sup>th</sup>. We are again asking our members to participate in a toy drive for children ages 1 to 17. We will have our collection barrels out again for donations with posting of the items needed on our Facebook page ALA Unit 291.



Lastly, we are starting to sell our Valentine raffle tickets for the drawing on February 14<sup>th</sup>. This is our only fundraiser for this year and possibly for 2021. The tickets are \$10.00 each but you have five chances to win, \$5,000, \$4,000, \$3,000, \$2,000, and \$1,000. All Legion Family members received a packet in the mail with tickets. Buy some for yourself, sell some to family and friends. There will be tickets at the bar for sale, and you may see an elf or two on the weekends and the Boat Parade evenings selling tickets as well. As part of our Valentine theme, we will also be selling See's Candies in January just in time for our Valentine's Day drawing.

We are continuing to meet via Zoom with our next general membership meeting January 14<sup>th</sup>, at 5:30pm. Please follow us on our Facebook page, ALA Unit 291, for all the latest news and happenings.

Please support all the Legion Families in their fundraising efforts. Nothing is more empowering than being of service to those in need. We must all strive to be caring, be helpful and support one another.

Cynthia Edes,  
President Unit 291 Newport Harbor



**ALA UNIT 291**  
**Troop Shipping**  
**November 7th, 2020**

## Comments

Bob Wine, Finance Officer

It's budget time. According to the Post's bylaws, an annual budget for the coming year must be submitted for approval before the end of the current year. In normal times, this is a routine activity for the finance committee, but how do they create a meaningful budget when things are far from normal? When the 2020 budget was prepared last year, no one could have predicted that the Post would close down on March 18<sup>th</sup>, and only partially re-open a week later. Consequently, the budget was wildly off base. And what about the 2021 budget? How does one predict when the Post will be fully open, and predict the revenue and expenses before and after it does open? Hopefully, we can make educated guesses so we won't be terribly wrong, but it's still important to be as accurate as possible so we can plan for whatever the anticipated outcome may be.

As I mentioned in a previous SeaBreeze, the Post is in a stronger financial position than most enterprises because of our programs, our marina, and our membership. Our food and beverage operations, however, are currently operating at a net loss, especially since our outside patio dining had to close down. The curbside service is still worth continuing because it pays most of its direct costs and keeps our employees working, and we don't want to lose our team, but this situation is starting to impact our cash reserves. To help offset this, former service officer Chase Wickersham recommended that we implement a donation program called "Planned giving", which contemplates donations that include appreciated securities and other assets. This will be gradually expanded, but to kick it off you should have received an email from me recently which explains how a donation of appreciated securities can be transferred to the Post, giving the donor a tax-deductible gift while avoiding a tax if the securities were otherwise to be sold. (Cash gifts are still gratefully accepted, too.) Either way, please remember the Post in your charitable giving this year.

Merry Christmas.

Bob Wine





# American Legion Boys State/Nation

Jim Updike, Third Vice Commander

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*One of the most respected educational programs of government instruction for U.S. high school students.*

As we approach the end of a year fraught with challenges brought about by a pandemic the likes of which we haven't seen since 1918, the phrase "that which doesn't kill us makes us stronger" comes to mind.



The leadership and volunteers of your Post families certainly have been tested this past year and it's gratifying to see how we've come together by adapting and overcoming. We are in a much better position to face the challenges of 2021 and give our Veterans a Post they so richly deserve.

One of my prime responsibilities this year was our Boys State program. Late in 2019 we set a goal of sending 25 young men in their junior year of high school to the California State Boys State. In March, just as we were getting ready to interview 31 young men, the COVID restrictions were put into place and we found we were no longer able to conduct the face-to-face interviews as we had always done in the past.

In the spirit of 'adapting and overcoming', we set up a series of phone interviews over a period of two days and were able to interview each of the 31 candidates and select 25 delegates.

Our sense of accomplishment was short lived, however. In April, as the pandemic worsened, the American Legion, Department of California, was forced to announce the cancellation of the 2020 session of Boys State. While this was most definitely a disappointment for the young men selected as delegates, each was given a Boys State pin and certificate showing they had at least been selected for the program.

As we approach 2021, we are again setting our sights high with a goal of selecting 25 young men for the 2021 session of California Boys State. Our primary source of attracting candidates are the schools surrounding our Post area. As a result of the COVID restrictions, many schools have greatly reduced their programs and it will be a challenge to get schools to nominate candidates.

We are looking to interview the candidates in February and, at this point, it's unlikely we will be able to do in person interviews once again. However, by now we are so used to holding virtual meetings, it's become almost second nature. I am convinced that, just as we were able to hold effective interviews last year, a virtual interview process will give us the ability to make excellent selections.

I want to thank everyone for their support this past year.



## HOLIDAYS, EVENTS, OBSERVANCES

### December 2020

Civil Air Patrol (USAF Auxiliary) Birthday	December 1
#GivingTuesday	Tuesday after Thanksgiving
National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day	December 7
U.S. National Guard Birthday	December 13
National Wreaths Across America	December 14
Hanukkah Begins	December 10 throughout 18
Christmas Day	December 25
Kwanzaa	December 26 – January 1
New Year's Eve	Tuesday, December 31



ALA UNIT 291

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[www.ala291.com](http://www.ala291.com)



**Valentine's  
Day**

# Chaplain's Corner

Ken Wilson

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DECEMBER, 2020

Greetings Legionnaire family,

What will this season mean for you?

In Judeo – Christian history, we move into a season of hope and faith. The holidays (holy days) that fill December include Hanukah, Christmas and Kwanzaa. These religious and cultural celebrations focus on light, faith, love, hope and family. However you interpret the holidays, may you each have faith, hope and love permeate your soul and family gatherings.

There is another day we memorialize, Dec. 7th. The day USA officially entered WWII. When I watch old movies and documentaries about WWII, I see young men and women putting on uniforms never knowing if they will live or die or come home broken in spirit and body. Many of the movie and documentary themes focused on courage, love, faith and hope. They were known as “The Greatest Generation” penned by Tom Brokaw. “America’s citizen heroes and heroines who came of age during the Great Depression and the Second World War and went on to build modern America. This generation was united not only by a common purpose, but also by common values—duty, honor, economy, courage, service, love of family and country, and, above all, responsibility for oneself.”

What will history say about our generation? You can make your own list but I want to highlight just a few history making realities our generation has experienced. We grew up facing the assassination of a President, Civil Rights movement with Martin Luther King’s assassination, First Man on the Moon, Vietnam War, Watergate, Environmental challenges, Overseas manufacturing, Dot.com development, Housing crash, First Black President, Covid 19 quarantines, lighting speed Covid vaccines and now a legal battle to see if our voting system has been corrupted by foreign and domestic players.

Will we be called a “great generation” that did not give into bitterness and hate, retribution and entitlement, fear overcoming courage, worry in place of peace? Will we grow weary in doing good or offer hate instead of love? Will we grow in or lose our faith?

May we focus on the hope this seasons brings to each of us!

Chaplain Ken Wilson  
For God and Country.



## Veterans Resources

Fellow Veterans,  
We have four local resources for our medical and related questions such as benefits, health issues and burial.

### VA Hospital of Long Beach

Department of Veteran Affairs  
Tel: 562.826.8000

### Laguna Hills VA Clinic

23719 Moulton Parkway  
Laguna Hills, CA 92653 - Tel: 949.587.3700

### Anaheim VA Clinic

2569 W. Woodland Dr.  
Anaheim, CA 92801 - Tel: 714.763.5300

### Santa Ana VA Clinic

1506 Brookhollow Dr, Suite 100  
Santa Ana, CA 92705 - Tel: 714.434.4600

### Riverside National Cemetery

22495 Van Buren Blvd.  
Riverside, CA 92518  
Tel: 951.653.8417 · Fax: 951.653.5233

### County Veteran Service Office

1300 South Grand Ave.  
Santa Ana, CA 92705 - Tel: 714.480.6555

### County Veterans & Military Families

#### Collaborative OCMFC

Coordinator Jeff Pagano  
Email: [paganoj@uci.edu](mailto:paganoj@uci.edu)  
Tel: 949.824.2435

### Ken Wilson, Chaplain

Email: [kenw49@hotmail.com](mailto:kenw49@hotmail.com)  
Tel: 949.230.2826

### Cory Vigil, Service Officer

Email: [al291veteranassistance@gmail.com](mailto:al291veteranassistance@gmail.com)  
Tel: 949.673.5070 Ext. 117

## Online Meetings

### POST 291

**The Post 291 General Membership meetings  
are being held as a webinars.**

*We are providing a link and registration  
via Constant Contact to our members.*

*Check out meetings information in our calendar  
[www.al291.com/calendar](http://www.al291.com/calendar)*

To update your email contact,  
LEGION MEMBERSHIP  
(949) 673-5070 Ext. 105  
Email: [membership@AL291.com](mailto:membership@AL291.com)



DEC  
25

*The celebration of modern Christmas - with traditions of decorating trees, singing carols and giving gifts - has its roots in the South. In 1836, Alabama reportedly became the first to make Christmas a state holiday, according to the History Channel, followed by Louisiana and Arkansas in 1838.*



*There are no upcoming events scheduled  
for the months of December/January at  
the Post. Please keep checking our website  
[www.al291.com](http://www.al291.com) for updates.*



## Drive -Tru Dining New Hours

### POST 291 DRIVE-THRU

MONDAY THRU FRIDAY 11:00 - 6:00 PM

SATURDAY 12:00 - 5:00 PM

SUNDAY 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Sunday Breakfast 10:00 am – 12:00 pm | Lunch 12:00 - 5:00 pm





## Commodore's Update

Bruce Batcheller, ALYC Commodore

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### Greetings from the Bridge at the American Legion Yacht Club!

As we wrap up this bizarre year of ups and downs, we look to next year as a beacon of hope for us to get back on the water and socialize again. At ALYC, we made it through this year by adapting our methods of gathering to online, and we kept as many activities on the calendar as possible. We still enjoyed cruises to Catalina and Dana Point, and hosted the Old Glory Boat Parade on July 4<sup>th</sup>. We also launched our Model Yacht program, which we were able to manage very safely, and continued our regular summer sailing series. We had a record number of attendees for Youth Sailing, bringing more of our youth into the ranks of our sailors. And our experienced sailors haven't missed a beat with our club-owned boats, which we have safely managed all year and kept available for use every day. Most recently we held the first ever Harbor Challenge fishing tournament, in combination with the Reel Warrior Foundation. Over 50 veterans joined in the fun and received some fantastic donated prizes. We owe many thanks to the Post 291 SAL squadron for their help and contributions with this event.

Since March we have conducted several General Meetings and social nights via Zoom, and these went surprisingly well. We know it's not the same, and we miss seeing everybody in person, but your health is most important! We will continue to make the best of it, so please join us at our upcoming online events such as our Social Night on January 9 our annual business meeting and Change of Watch on January 16.

We are in the midst of renewing memberships for 2021, so please get on that by the end of December so as not to have a lapse in your membership. If you have questions on renewing or joining, please contact us at [membership@alyc.com](mailto:membership@alyc.com).

We held our annual elections November 12<sup>th</sup>, and elected a new slate of officers to help lead this club for 2021, including five members who are serving on the board for the very first time. These elections were held entirely online, which proved to be very simple, accurate, and convenient, and also permitted some of our members who live outside the immediate area to participate. These new members are sworn in to office in December to start serving their 12-month term. We expect your 2021 board to continue on the great traditions of past leaders to bring all of you the best opportunities to connect with other veterans and their families, online, on water, and in the club. We look forward to 2021 and hope to see the salt spray in your faces soon!

Fair Winds,

Bruce Batcheller

Commodore 2019-21



## ALYC Selected as Club of the Year

Bruce Batcheller, ALYC Commodore

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As we close on 2020, we do so with the best news possible: ALYC was awarded “Club of the Year” by the Southern California Yachting Association (SCYA). This marks the second consecutive year ALYC has received this coveted award, and the club earned this distinction in the first year as part of the Senior Category, a competitive group of the largest and most prestigious clubs within SCYA.

“I am just so proud of our club to come together during this crazy year and put forth a concerted effort to maintain as much activity as we could manage safely,” commented Bruce Batcheller, Commodore of ALYC. “Through the leadership of the officers and directors and volunteers, and the spirit of our members who participated in our activities, we all rose to the occasion to get it done. I am not at all surprised that a group of veterans accepted the challenge and overcame the obstacles to see ALYC to the top scoring position.”

This award goes only to the club that earned the most points on the criteria predetermined by SCYA. The criteria are wide ranging and cover items like hosting of regattas, cruises, youth sailing, charitable endeavors, club officer attendance at SCYA events, and many other items.

This is only the second time ALYC has received the award in consecutive years. They have now won it 11 times out of the 26 years since the award was initiated in 1994.



# Honor Guard Newport Harbor Post 291

Brian Fleming, Commander

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## Greetings from the Newport Harbor American Legion Honor Guard team.

As the year draws to an end, and hopes for a light at the end of the tunnel, we continue to find ourselves struggling with what's to come. We're living in a questionable time that we all find it difficult to know what businesses are open and what public services are available to us or not. But one thing I want to make sure is clear, our Honor Guard Team is fully operational and willing to continue providing our services... no matter what state the country is in.

In recent years, our team has averaged approximately 80 events each year that we offered our services for. This past year, we were only given the opportunity to provide one-third of our norm. As the pandemic was announced and businesses and services were shutting down, it was just assumed that we would not be able to offer our services. But as a team that provides funeral services, we are considered an essential service in regards to the religious and cultural ceremonies protected by our 1<sup>st</sup> amendment rights.

I would like to get the word spread so that people know the military honors service can still be provided, and if possible, we're willing to help. As an all-volunteer team of Veterans, we offer the full military honors service; including the rifle volleys, a bugler to play TAPS, and a flag folding and presentation detail. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have questions in regards to an Honor Guard service.

As I take a moment to reflect on what our team has done this past year, I am reminded of how grateful I am for the men and women that have served by my side as members of the Honor Guard and Color Guard teams. I want to recognize the members of the Newport Harbor American Legion Honor Guard team as they continue to selflessly volunteer their time. Their confidence, perseverance, and total dedication is essential to our success as we continue to serve our brothers and sisters in their final hour. It takes a special kind of commitment that makes our team unique and respected throughout the Post and the American Legion as a whole.

The uncommon devotion and loyalty of the members of our team is inspirational and is a direct reflection of their professional character and their keen personalities. Although our active duty service is behind us, the patriotic responsibility embedded in our hearts and souls remains strong. Each of us are a representative of our own unique piece of history, ranging in era of service from the Korean War to recent conflicts in the Middle East; complete with all five branches of the United States Armed Forces and a wide range of technical skills and experience. No matter what the background is, we continue to stand together with our common purpose and we will forever share that special bond that makes us family. I am honored to have each and every one of them within our ranks.

And on that note, I would like to announce is that we are continuously looking for new members to join our team. We do not require past experience, but we do welcome Veterans from all branches of the Armed Forces and all eras of conflict and peace time. We will provide the uniforms and the training, if you can provide the heart and dedication to volunteer your time. If you are a Veteran and a member of the Newport Harbor American Legion, you've met the most basic requirements. The members of the team are not compensated for their participation, but are involved solely as a patriotic duty to honor our country, our active duty service members, and our Veterans (past and present).

If you are interested in learning more about the Honor Guard or if you are interested in joining the team, please visit our website [www.honorguard291.com](http://www.honorguard291.com) or contact the main office at (949) 673-5070 Ext. 100. They will get you in contact with me.



**All you need is Heart and the Dedication to Volunteer your time**



## **The American Legion Newport Harbor** **HONOR GUARD**

**is looking for NEW MEMBERS to join the team.**

Come Join one of, if not the largest, most active  
Veteran based Honor Guard teams in Orange County.

- As an all-volunteer team of Veterans, we offer the full military honors service; including the rifle volleys, the playing of TAPs, and a flag folding and presentation detail.
- The current team is comprised of all branches of service and eras of service; from the Korean War to current conflicts in the Middle East.
- All levels of experience welcome; including no prior experience.
- Uniforms are issued on behalf of Newport Harbor Post 291.
- Participation is solely based on your availability.



***Visit the team website [www.honorguard291.com](http://www.honorguard291.com)***

**Contact Honor Guard Commander Brian Fleming Jr.  
951-757-6400 | [bffleming291@gmail.com](mailto:bffleming291@gmail.com)**



◆ Newport Harbor POST 291 of The American Legion ◆

# POST 291 DRIVE-THRU

**MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY 11:00 - 6:00 PM**

**SATURDAY 12:00 - 5:00 PM | SUNDAY 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM**

Sunday Breakfast 10:00 am – 12:00 pm | Lunch 12:00 - 5:00 pm



Chef Ulises Dominguez

## TODAY'S MENU



**ASSORTED HOLIDAY COOKIES & FRESH BAKED GOODS**

Take Out Only.

Daily... [www.al291.com](http://www.al291.com)