

# **HISTORY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS**

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## **THE AMERICAN LEGION FOR 2020 TO 2021**



**By:**

**Garnel E. "Al" Alford**

**State Historian**

## INTRODUCTION

The American Legion is a patriotic, nonmilitary, nonpartisan organization to which all of those who served honorably in the Armed Forces of the United States of America during World War I, World War II, the Korean War, Vietnam War, Lebanon/Grenada, Panama, and The Persian Gulf Wars from August 2, 1990, to the cessation of hostilities as determined by the U.S. Government, are eligible for membership.

This Organization thrives today by the efforts put forth by a group of officers who served in the American Expeditionary Forces in France in World War II, who are credited with planning the Legion, The American Expeditionary Forces Headquarters asked these officers to ideas on how to improve troop morale. One officer, Lieutenant Colonel Theodore Roosevelt, Jr., proposed an organization of veterans. In February 1919, this group formed a temporary committee and selected several hundred officers who had the confidence and respect of the whole Army.

The American Legion was born at a caucus of the American Expeditionary Force (A.E.F.) in Paris, France. This caucus was the result of a proposal by Lieutenant Colonel Theodore Roosevelt, Jr., to a group of representatives of the A.E.F. division and service units. Roosevelt's vision resulted in the founding Paris caucus of March 15-17, 1919, and subsequent organizational caucus held May 8-10, 1919, in Saint Louis, Missouri. His unwavering service during these vital times won him the affectionate title, "Father of The American Legion."

As the weary, homesick delegates assembled for the first Paris caucus, they brought with them the raw materials with which to build an association of veterans whose primary

devotion was to God and Country. In the minds of those veterans of the A.E.F. were a number of lofty ideals, uppermost among them:

1. Creation of a fraternity based upon the firm comradeship born of wartime service and dedicated to fair and equitable treatment for all veterans, particularly the disabled, and the widows and orphans whose loved ones paid the ultimate price for freedom.
2. Maintaining national security for America, including a universal military training program for the prevention of future world conflict; and
3. Promotion of patriotism and the combating and materialistic and totalitarian ideologies that recognize neither the honor nor the dignity of the individual.

Even though The American Legion was formed overseas, organizers realized members of the armed services had no choice whether they served in the United States or overseas. Accordingly, it was decided that membership in the American Legion should be open to all who served honorably in the armed forces in World War 1.

### **SUMMARY HISTORY: DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS**

The Texas Department of the American Legion is a nonpolitical and nonpartisan organization. Its principal aim is to secure legislation for the benefit of veterans in Texas, including adequate hospitalization, physical and vocational rehabilitation, and preference in public jobs. The organization also supports legislation for assistance to underprivileged children. The first meeting to organize the American Legion in Texas took place in San Antonio Texas. The legion was founded by service veterans from World War I at a meeting held in San Antonio on San Jacinto Day, April 21, 1919. On April 21-22, 1919,

representatives met at the Gunter Hotel and Main Street (now Fox Tech) High School. Col. Claude V. Birkhead was elected first chairman. The organization was originally known as the Texas Division of World War Veterans, but the name was changed a short time later to Texas Department, American Legion, to conform to the constitution adopted by the national organization in December 1919.

Among the most important concerns of the early members was the need to secure adequate hospital facilities for sick and injured former servicemen. Donations were collected from posts and individuals throughout the state, and within a short time more than \$500,000 was raised. In 1921–22 the Department built the American Legion Memorial Hospital at Legion, Texas, with funds raised through legion activities, supplemented by state aid. The hospital was sold to the United States in 1925 and became a Veterans Administration facility.

While rehabilitation for veterans remained the number-one goal of the legion through the early 1920s, the agenda was soon expanded to include employment, legislation, and the care of needy families, widows, and orphans of veterans. In 1920 the American Legion Auxiliary, composed of the wives and widows of veterans, was formed, with the purpose of augmenting and supporting the organization's activities. During the early 1920s, the Legion also turned its attention toward fighting what it perceived as a growing tide of anti-Americanism. The Americanism committee at the 1923 convention called for "vigilance against teaching in public or private schools in Texas false or 'doctored' history, or subversive doctrine" and "against textbooks tainted with foreign or special propaganda and careful study of textbooks used in schools." It also endorsed a measure adopted at the national convention calling for the "total cessation of immigration until assimilation

shall catch up with immigration." The legion also sponsored a variety of civic projects. Some posts erected community Christmas trees or made donations to the needy; others sponsored parks and playgrounds, built swimming pools, and equipped lighted baseball parks. After 1923 most of the posts in the state also sponsored local Boy Scout troops and took part in scouting activities. During the 1920s and early 1930s legion posts throughout Texas also began to sponsor baseball teams and oratorical contests. Beginning in 1938 the Americanism program organized an annual The American Legion Boys State convention (see Lone Star Boys' State and Bluebonnet Girls' State), held each summer in Austin, to promote citizen education for young men.

Between 1919 and 1942 membership in the legion ranged from 10,540 to 37,709. In 1942 veterans of World War II were made eligible, and after the war large numbers of returning joined the organization. Black Texas veterans were made eligible in 1945, though at first they were confined to a separate district-at-large, with the posts sponsored and guided by existing white posts. In the period just after World War II, when the demand for veterans' services exploded, the legion lobbied for additional hospitals, rehabilitation facilities, and other benefits. Korean War veterans began joining the organization in large numbers in the mid-1950s, and in 1979 Vietnam veterans were made eligible for membership. By the early 1990s the statewide membership was 90,000. Subsequently, the legion continued its earlier charitable activities and added new ones, including programs for abused children, the intellectually disabled, missing children, and drug-abuse prevention. The state organization has been headquartered in Austin since 1927.

## **COMMUNITY RESUME: VETERANS IN TEXAS**

<b>Rank</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Veteran Population</b>	<b>Veterans as % of State Population</b>	<b># of Veterans Who Served in Wars After Sep 11, 2001</b>	<b># of Vietnam era Vets</b>	<b>Veteran Labor Force Participation Rate</b>	<b>% of Veterans Living In Poverty</b>
41	Texas	1,435,787	6.8%	396,060	471.690	78.0%	6.5%

Military veterans in Texas number 1,435,787, the study based on Census Bureau data found. Among the veterans, 6.5 percent live in poverty, and 1,806 of them are homeless, according to 24/7 Wall St.

A 2020 “The Center Square” – Texas study found Texas adults who have served in the military account for 6.8 percent of the state’s population, the 16th lowest percentage among the 50 states, according to an analysis by the website 24/7 Wall St.

In accordance with a 2016 study conducted by the state of Texas, The Texas Veteran Population has a greater percentage of Texas veterans are non-Hispanic whites (66.9 percent) and African Americans (13 percent) compared to nonveterans (45.7 percent and 11.8 percent, respectively). Approximately 17 percent of the Texas veteran population is Hispanic. While female veterans made up only 10 percent of the total Texas veteran population, the female veteran population has grown considerably over time. These changes can especially be seen when period of service is considered.

According to the report, the ten states with the largest veteran populations in 2014. And generally, states with the largest populations also had the largest numbers of veterans. States with the smallest populations had the smallest numbers of veterans. Texas had

the second largest veteran population of all the states. The states with the fewest numbers of veterans were Vermont, Wyoming, and North Dakota.

State	Veterans	Civilian Population Age 18 and Older	Percentage of Veterans in 18 and Older Population
California	1,693,602	29,521,047	5.7%
Texas	1,496,724	19,753,531	7.6%
Florida	1,461,722	15,785,763	9.3%
Pennsylvania	821,624	10,083,267	8.1%
New York	773,063	15,498,859	5.0%
Ohio	759,737	8,950,281	8.5%
Virginia	690,427	6,352,059	10.9%
North Carolina	673,384	7,573,326	8.9%
Georgia	651,283	7,558,160	8.6%
Illinois	639,445	9,878,277	6.5%

Table note: 2014 ACS summary table data

While the median age of a veteran in Texas is 63, approximately half of the estimated 22,000 Texas residents separating from the military in fiscal year 2015 were 24 years old or younger. The median age of a nonveteran is 42. An analysis of the time period in which a majority of Texas veterans served in the military partially explains the age difference between the veteran and nonveteran populations, with the greater number of Texas veterans from earlier periods of service inflating the average age of the veteran population. The veteran and nonveteran populations also differ according to education level. At every level of postsecondary educational attainment, a greater percentage of the veteran population has achieved that level of education compared to the nonveteran population.

Texas offers many special benefits for its military Service members and Veterans including property tax exemptions, state retirement benefits, Veterans Land Board loan

program, Texas National Guard Tuition Scholarship Program, Veterans' employment preference, vehicle license plates, as well as hunting and fishing license benefits. Eligibility for some benefits may depend on residency, military component, and Veteran disability status.

The Texas Veterans Commission has trained Claims Benefit Advisors that can assist Service members, Veterans, retired Service members and their Families find and apply for military/ Veterans benefits under federal, state, and local laws. All their services are free of charge.

**(STATE HISTORIAN): GARNEL E. "AL" ALFORD**

The Department of Texas State Historian is Legionnaire Garnel E. "Al" Alford. Al Alford is a retired Air Force Lieutenant Colonel born in Sumter, South Carolina. He graduated from Northern Burlington High School in Columbus, New Jersey. After graduation, Al Alford attended Kansas State University in Manhattan Kansas before enlisting in the Air Force as a Cardiopulmonary Laboratory Technologist. His advanced education includes Bachelor's Degree from Texas State University; two master's degrees in Health Care Management and Management Information Systems from Texas State University; and Fellowship in Advanced Information Engineering from the Air Force Institute of Technology. Al Alford is the CEO of his own Information Technology consulting company.



**Figure 1: Historian Al Alford**



He is the Past 20<sup>th</sup> District Commander and current Post 828 Commander in San Antonio TX.

## **PREAMBLE TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE AMERICAN LEGION**



**For God and Country, we associate ourselves together for the following purposes:**

**To uphold and defend the Constitution of The United States of America; To maintain law and order; To foster and perpetuate a one hundred percent Americanism; To preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in the Great Wars; To inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community state and nation; To combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses; To make right the master of might; To promote peace and good will on earth; To safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of Justice, Freedom and Democracy; To consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.**

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## THE PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG



**I pledge allegiance to the flag of  
The United States of America**

**And to the**

**Republic for which it stands,**

**One nation under**

**God,**

**Indivisible with liberty and justice for all.**

## CHAPTER 1 – ROSTER OF DEPARTMENT OFFICERS

This section includes the following roster of Department Officers, Executive Committee, photographs, and biographies:

### SECTION 1.1: DEPARTMENT OFFICERS



**Commander –  
Jeff Perkins**



**Vice Commander  
Roger Folmar**



**Historian  
Garnel "Al" Alford**



**Treasurer –  
David Paris**



**Judge Advocate  
Dan Corbin**



**Chaplain –  
Robert Harvey**



**Sergeant-at-Arms  
Billy Winters**



**Assistant  
Sergeant-at-Arms**



**National Executive  
Committeeman  
C.W. "Butch" Sparks**



**Alt. National Executive  
Committeeman  
Kenneth Mueller**



**Immediate Past  
Department Commander  
Lloyd Buckmaster**



## SECTION 1.2: DIVISION AND DISTRICT COMMANDERS



Figure 2 - 2nd Division Commander –  
Andy Lowen

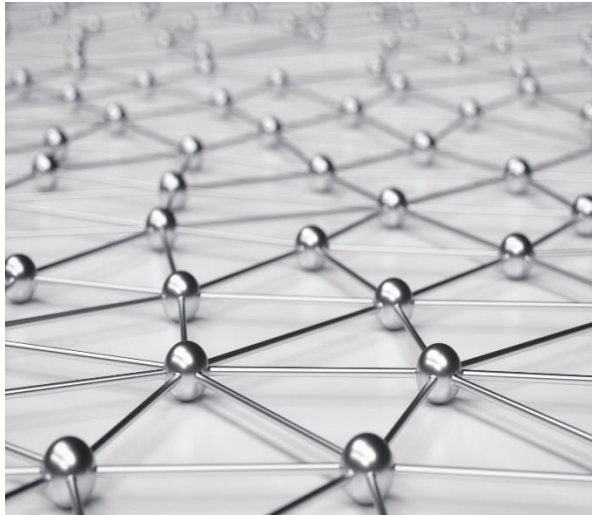


Figure 3 - Division 1 District Commander

### DIVISION 1 – Andy Lowen (Post 66) – Sulphur Springs TX

Division	District	Commander: Gene Toohey
1	01	Glenn Willis (Mt. Pleasant)
	03	Jack Lambert Jr. (Longview)
	04	Jason Castleberry (Commerce)
	05	Alan Caesar (Dallas)
	12	Joseph W. Campbell (Colleyville)
	13	Peter Eekhoff (Burkburnett)
<p><b>Note: My apologies to all.</b> Due 2020 COVID-19 Restriction at 2020 Fall DEC and early departures during Winter Storm @ 2021 DEC – we were not able to obtain a current group picture</p>		

**DIVISION 2 – BRYAN COLEMAN (POST 560) – HOUSTON TX**



Figure 2 - 2nd Division Commander – Brian Coleman

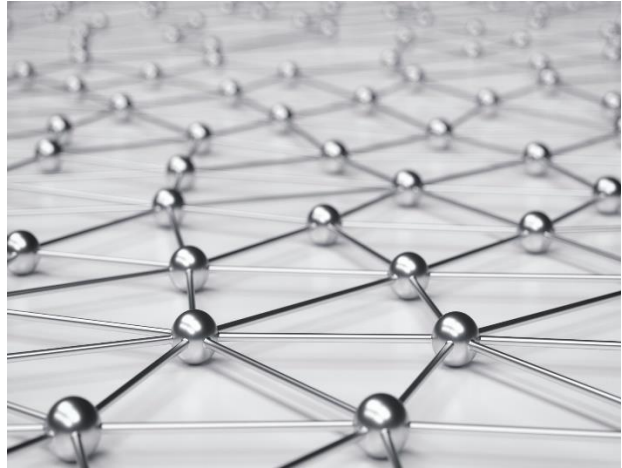


Figure 5 - Division 2 District Commanders

Division	District	Commander: Sheila Schulte
2	02	Tilford H. Thorckveen (Lumberton)
	06	Steve Kim (College Station)
	07	Jeanette Merritt (Conroe)
	08	Richard J. Voorhies (Richmond)
	11	Joseph M. Twohig Jr (Rockdale)
	22	Joseph L. Thomas (Pasadena)
<p><b>Note: My apologies to all. Due 2020 COVID-19 Restriction at 2020 Fall DEC and early departures during Winter Storm @ 2021 DEC - we were not able to obtain a current group picture</b></p>		



Figure 6 - Fall 2020 DEC conducted in person with social distancing



Figure 7 - Division 3 District Commanders

**DIVISION 3 – ROBERT MASTEN (POST 10) – SAN ANTONIO TX**

Division	District	Commander: Robert Masten
3	09	Richard Huntley (League City)
	10	Jay Jernigan (Georgetown)
	14	John Schendel (New Braunfels)
	15	Simon A. Muniz (Harlingen)
	20	John Hafner (St. Hedwig)
	23	Elton Page III (Cotulla)
<p><b>Note: My apologies to all. Due 2020 COVID-19 Restriction at 2020 Fall DEC and early departures during Winter Storm @ 2021 DEC - we were not able to obtain a current group picture</b></p>		

**DIVISION 4 – DONALD SHERMAN (POST 344) – CLAUDE TX**



Figure 3 – 4th Division Commander – Don Sherman



Figure 9 - Division 4 District Commanders

Division	District	Commander: Donald Sherman
4	16	David Crozier (El Paso)
	17	Dan Robertson (Benbrook)
	18	Lewis Field (Amarillo)
	21	James Reynolds (Bandera)
<p><b>Note: My apologies to all. Due 2020 COVID-19 Restriction at 2020 Fall DEC and early departures during Winter Storm @ 2021 DEC - we were not able to obtain a current group picture</b></p>		

## **CHAPTER 2 – ONE-YEAR DEPARTMENT EVENTS CHRONICLE**

The Department of Texas one-year chronicle started 101<sup>st</sup> Anniversary Convention of the Department of Texas in Austin Texas with the induction of Department Officers in July 2020. In that the 2020-2021 year was as memorable and productive as it was, it is most difficult if not impossible to detail in this brief report all that our Department achieved. Our members and committees were very active and productive.

- ❖ As of July 2020, the Department was ranked by National at 98.42%, making Texas 11th among the 55 Departments.
- ❖ Texas had 600+ young men received an innovative, first ever, excellent virtual experience in citizenship at Boys State that became a model for other American Legion Departments to adopt.
- ❖ We have started new Posts and revitalized Posts that had been considered “dead” all under the looming umbrella of COVID-19.

At the beginning of the election year the Executive Committee laid out its goals and objectives for the year with an emphasis on increasing membership and participation by less active members in the Post. Some of our many activities are outlined below.

### **SECTION 2.1: YEAR OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

The COVID-19 crisis presented unique challenges. Texas American Legion posts faced difficult struggles keeping relationships and communicating with its members. Communication was especially difficult for older members, because they were more technologically challenged and could not depend on the normal “word-of-mouth transfer”

or expensive print media. Local American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars posts have struggled financially and socially.



**Figure 4 - Fall 2020 DEC conducted in person with social distancing**

We learned to “adapt and overcome” in all parts of the organization, organizational updates, calls for volunteers or announcements were mostly given during conference calls and “Zoom” meetings. Regular monthly meetings were canceled in the pandemic. The “in-person” meeting

provides the opportunity to socialize and bond. Despite the loss of the socialization element, The American Legion Department of Texas did an excellent job of passing down information and making sure everyone knows what’s happening,”

Many Texas posts managed to muster a handful of events and fundraisers to fund most of the post’s income. COVID-19 affected most posts ability to operate and host “in-person” fundraisers and therefore, were affected financially. Large galas were canceled and replaced with internal fundraising methods. Some posts took advantage of relaxed Texas Alcohol and Beverage Commission guidelines allowing them to take advantage of qualifying to operate as a restaurant instead of a private club and bar.

Post in Texas lost \$100,000’s in revenue as a result of the coronavirus shutdown and an inability to sell food and beverages at their canteen or rent their facilities. Banquet hall rentals could earn the post up to \$2,400 per weekend. Under the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission, veteran posts are classified as a bar, regardless of whether they

derive 51% or more of their funding from alcohol sales. The post's canteen closure also prohibited people meeting on the premises.

When you close a post you aren't just affecting the ability of posts to provide a safe, friendly atmosphere senior veteran to socialize, you affect the ability of the post to conduct normal business supporting veterans in the community or performing standard business. With the advocacy of the American Legion and VFW, the TABC developed special rules to allow veteran facilities to reopen as restaurants. Many Posts were able to reopen their canteens in September 2020 under a TBC restaurant permit. The new permit allows operation with the sale of food as long as 51% of their revenue was from "non-alcoholic" sales. However, often cost opening a post as a restaurant were very costly.

The DEC met and adjusted its Constitutions and By-Laws to allow for virtual meeting and voting at virtual meetings throughout the Department of Texas. Meetings for thousands of members across Texas were moved to applications such as Zoom for several months. AS we emerge from the COVID-19 crisis and relaxation of rules restricting numbers for social gathering, some posts are using both virtual and "in person" meetings to increase attendance.

## **SECTION 2.2: WOMEN VETERANS IN TEXAS**

(15 June 2021) 2021 marks the 101<sup>st</sup> year of the ratification of the 19th Amendment giving women the right to vote. The American Legion was a step ahead of the nation as it allowed women members to vote since its beginning in 1919. It is with respect and admiration that we recognize American Legion women veteran's service to our country and our veteran community.

The women veteran's legacy can be traced back through the centuries. From the Revolutionary War to present day conflicts, women have proudly served in the U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and Coast Guard as nurses, pilots, engineers, soldiers, and other specialties. During the Revolutionary War, Margaret Cochran Corbin took hold of her husband's gun after he suffered a fatal shot and continued to fight. It wasn't until April 14, 1926, that Margaret received full military honors.

Cathay Williams, a.k.a. William Cathay, was the first known African American woman to serve in the U.S. Army in the 19th century. Cathay Williams is quoted to say: "... only two persons, a cousin and a particular friend, members of the regiment, knew that I was a woman. ...I wanted to make my own living and not be dependent on relations or friends." Women were allowed to enlist in the U.S. military during the final two years of World War I. It was the service of these women that helped propel the passage of the 19th Amendment, June 4, 1919, guaranteeing women the right to vote.

During World War I, about 35,000 women officially served as nurses and support staff. During World War II, 140,000 women served in the U.S. Army and the Women's Army Corps (WAC) performing critical jobs such as military intelligence, cryptography, and parachute rigging. Over 1,000 women flew aircraft for the Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP).

It wasn't until World War II that women gained recognition as full-fledged members of the military. From the WASP, WAC, Coast Guard Women's Reserve (or SPARs), Marine Corps Women's Reserve and the Navy's WAVES (Women Accepted for Volunteer



Emergency Service), women proved that this was their war too and that they embodied the “We Can Do It” attitude.

During World War II, the Women’s Army Corps’ first black officer, Maj. Charity Adams, led the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion, an all-female, all-African American unit responsible for inspecting every piece of mail sent from the U.S. to Europe. President Harry S. Truman, on June 12, 1948, signed into law the Women’s Armed Service Integration Act establishing a permanent presence of women in the military.

During the Korean and Vietnam Wars, some 7,500 women served – mostly as nurses. It wasn’t until 1976 that the first females were admitted to the service academies, and in 1980 Andrea Hollen received her diploma from West Point, becoming the academy’s first female graduate.

In 1990, nearly 40,000 American military women deployed for Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. Today, over 700,000 women have served during post-9/11 war, including Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Many more firsts have occurred for women in the 21st century military. Cpt. Kathleen McGrath became the first woman to command a U.S. Navy warship and Col. Linda McTague became the first woman commander over a fighter squadron in the U.S. Air Force. During Operation Iraqi Freedom, Sgt. Leigh Ann Hester became the first woman in history awarded the Silver Star for direct combat action. And, in December 2015, Defense Secretary Ashton Carter announced all U.S. military combat positions open to women.

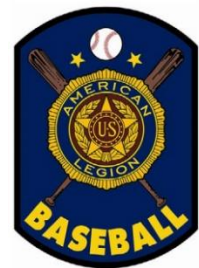
During the 85th Texas Legislature, which began on January 10, 2017, Senate Bill 805 established June 12 as Women Veterans Day to recognize the role of women in the armed forces and to commemorate their sacrifices. Women veterans continue to be an inspiration not only to other women, but to their sons and daughters who understand that the greatest gift is to serve others and to serve their country.

There are currently almost two-million women Veterans in the United States, Puerto Rico, and Territories/Foreign, according to VA. To help achieve the goal of giving women veterans the respect they deserve, the Department of Texas advocates for a safe workplace free of harassment and discrimination.

Today there are still many women Veteran history lessons to be taught. The first Women Veterans Day was celebrated on June 12, 2018, and is currently a state-recognized commemoration in Texas, California, Hawaii, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Ohio, Oregon, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Wisconsin.

### **SECTION 2.3: TEXAS AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL TOURNAMENT**

(17 July 2021) American Legion baseball is part of our Community service and has always been a core value of The American Legion. Department of Texas posts around the state sponsored teams. Congratulations to everyone that participated in the 2021 baseball



program and made it one of the most successful events in over 7 years. There were 6 senior teams registered this year. The State tournament was held in League City TX and hosted by Post 554 League City. This was the first time a post has sponsored a

tournament in over 7 years. The first time a representative from all 4 divisions in over 7 years. The representatives were from the 1st Division Post 25 Texarkana, 2nd Division Post 490. Houston, 3rd division had 2 teams Post 554 League City and Post 37 McAllen, 4th Division Kerrville Post 208.

The tournament was a 5-team double elimination tournament. League City 554 was the winner and has advanced to the National Regional Tournament in Fairfield, California. There were two scholarships presented this year. The Department Academic \$500.00 High School scholarship was presented to Albert Garza.

Thanks to the Sons of the American Legion Detachment of Texas for their \$500.00



**Figure 5 – League City Department of Texas Champions sponsored by Post 554**

scholarship donation for the outstanding player award and it was presented to Grant Albert Pfaff. During the National Regional game 1 League City Post 554 played Petaluma CA and was defeated by the score of 10-4. Game 2 League City 554 won their game against Herriman Ut by the score of 6-3. Game 3 League City won against Albuquerque NM score 5-4. Game 4 League City defeated Henderson NV 6-3.

In Game 5, League City lost a heart breaker to Honolulu HI 4-3. Thanks to the Manager's/Coaches and players even though they didn't win the Regional Tournament were all winners. A big "thank you" to the teams for their performance and representing the American Legion Department of Texas well.

Everyone knows that baseball is one of the American Legion programs that builds character and will change lives. "Just Ask" the old pros and they will tell you, "Baseball is a game of character." Does it achieve its purpose? Yes, it does, better than any other program.

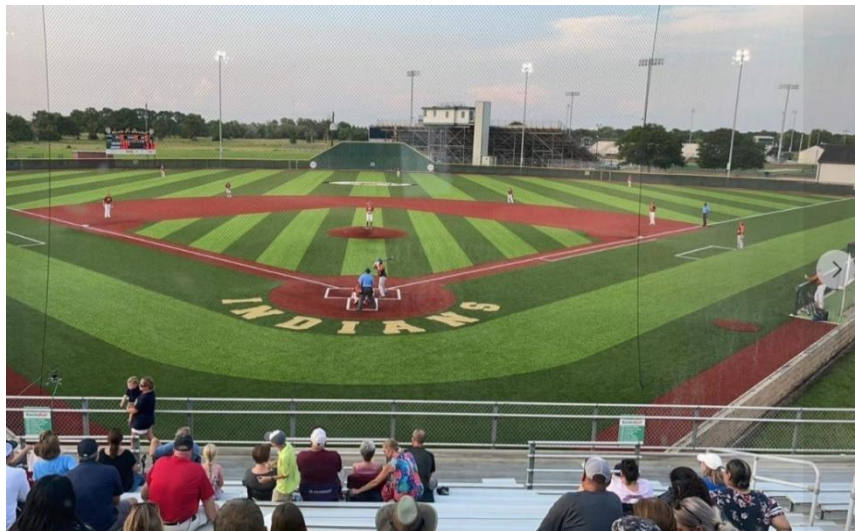


Figure 6 - League City played NV and won 6-3.

## **SECTION 2.4: POST 159 INTRODUCES VETERANS SECTION IN THE BRYAN CITY CEMETERY**

(5 September 2020) Bryan, Texas is best known for being part of the home community of Texas A&M. With all the small-town characteristics of friendliness and welcome, Brazos Valley also claims over 3000 veterans as its citizens. Over 730 of these men and women are members of Post 159 under the command of Tom Marty and these individuals were and are part of the committee that worked to introduce a Veterans Section in the Bryan

City Cemetery. Graves for 800-plus veterans and their spouses are now part of the City Cemetery and the first veteran was buried with full military honors on September 5th. Working together with other veteran groups, the Legionnaires saw a need and made it happen. The Post 159 Honor Guard performed honors for the first internment and will continue. The group averages over 75 burials per year. [Legion Times – Submitted by Geri Hince]



### **SECTION 2.5: POST 178 RECOGNIZED ON AMERICAN LEGION DAY**

(16 September 2020) The American Legion celebrated its 101st anniversary on Wednesday, September 16, 2020. To honor of the anniversary, the Peter J Courcy Post 178 was recognized for its contributions to the city at the Frisco City Council meeting on September 15, 2020. A proclamation from the city was presented by Mayor Jeff Cheney to Fred Rogers, Post 178 Commander. Also attending the presentation was Mary Bush, the mother of Peter J. Courcy, the post's namesake. The proclamation noted that members of the American Legion are dedicated to upholding the ideals of freedom and

democracy, while working to make a difference in the lives of fellow Americans. It also noted that Post 178 has received national recognition for “Post Excellence” for its sustained service to the community. [Legion Times – submitted by Ed Reed]



**Figure 7 - Fred Rogers, Post 178 Commander, and Mary Bush, mother of Peter J. Courcy, the post’s namesake, display Frisco City Council Proclamation for American Legion Day that was presented by Jeff Chaney Frisco Mayor**

## **SECTION 2.6: TEXAS NRA BOARD MEMBER RICK FIGUEROA ADDRESSES VETERANS**

(September 25, 2020) American Legion Post 164 in Katy hosted a discussion on the 2nd



**Figure 14 - Rick Figueroa, NRA Board and Post 164 Commander James McGuire of The American Legion**

Amendment. The American Legion (national) recently celebrated over 100 years of national service promoting Veterans and Rehabilitation, National Security, Americanism, and Children and Youth, known as The Four Pillars. The American Legion has 14,000 posts nationally, comprising 2.4 million members. The American Legion membership

known as Legionnaires is comprised of war-time veterans and is supported by the Auxiliary Units made up of spouses, and the Sons of the American Legion for children and grandchildren of veteran members. The local American Legion Jonathan D. Rozier Post 164, named after the first killed-in-action (KIA) soldier from Katy during the War on Terror was founded in June of 2002 and has been very active with Boys and Girls State, Flag Retirements, Funeral and Burial ceremonies, Honor Flight Houston, Wreaths Across American, Junior Shooting Sports Program, Breakfast With a Veteran, and is ramping up more community oriented programs to include blood drives, voter registrations, First Responder service days, community awards, and more.

The American Legion executive committee has begun to welcome community speakers to share perspectives on veterans and how alignment may be mutually beneficial to veterans and local post communities at-large.

Excerpt from Mr. Figueroa speech: ““We were fortunate to have a NRA Board member from Texas in our area,” said Andy Valadez (a U.S. Marine Veteran), PR Officer for the Katy post, “We wanted to invite Mr. Figueroa who has been very active in business and his role as a leading board member and influencer helping to educate the nation about our gun rights.”

“It was my honor to speak to the warriors of the American Legion about our country and freedom!” said Rick. The NRA recently granted a Champions Choice T200 Sporter Class Air Rifle, six position firing lane and compressed air-tank valued at \$4,300 to the American Legion Post 164 Junior Shooting Sports Program. The veterans post is in the process of setting up a program for Junior Shooters at their location in Katy.

## **SECTION 2.7: FILM ON TEXAS BOYS STATE PROGRAM WINS EMMY!**

(12 September 2021) A documentary on the Texas Boys State Program won an Emmy for Best Documentary Special. The sensational winner of the Grand Jury Prize for documentary at this year's Sundance Film Festival, Boys State is a wildly entertaining and continually revealing immersion into a week-long annual program in which a thousand Texas high school seniors gather for an elaborate mock exercise: building their own state government.

Filmmakers Jesse Moss and Amanda McBaine closely track the escalating tensions that arise within a particularly riveting gubernatorial race, training their cameras on unforgettable teenagers like Ben, a Reagan-loving archconservative who brims with



**Figure 8 - Figure 16 - Texas High Schoolers attend Texas Boys State Program**

confidence despite personal setbacks, and Steven, a progressive-minded child of Mexican immigrants who stands by his convictions amidst the sea of red. In the

process, they have created a complex portrait of contemporary American masculinity, as well as a microcosm of our often-dispiriting national political divisions that nevertheless manages to plant seeds of hope. Apple and A24 present Boys State, a Concordia Studio production The film is directed and produced by Aman The film is directed and



produced by Amanda McBaine and Jesse Moss through their Mile End Films. The film’s executive producers are Laurene Powell Jobs, Davis Guggenheim, Jonathan Silberberg, and Nicole Stott. Shannon Dill serves as co-executive producer. The filmmaking team includes editor Jeff Gilbert, director of photography Thorsten Thielow and composer T. Griffin. [Indie Wire; Submitted by Tyler Hersko]

## **SECTION 2.8: FRISCO CITY COUNCIL HONORS 2021 AMERICAN LEGION POST 178 BOYS STATESMEN**

(17 August 2021) The 2021 Post 178 Texas Boy Statesmen were honored at the Frisco City Council meeting on August 17, 2021. Larry Wilhelm, the Program Committee Chairman, presented the seventeen statesmen to Mayor Jeff Chaney and council members. Mayor Cheney proclaimed the day as “Frisco Boys Statesmen Day.” He further recognized the vital role high school principals, counselors, and teachers play in the nomination process of prospective delegates.

The group of seventeen incoming seniors who attended the 2021 Texas Boys State virtual program from June 27 through July 2, 2021, received a proclamation. Thomas Davies, who attended a week-long program in Washington, D.C., received an individual proclamation for being selected a Boys Nation Senator.



*Figure 9 - American Legion Peter J Courcy Post 178 2021 Texas Boys Statesmen Accepting Frisco City Council Proclamation. Photo by Jeanie Beal*

The American Legion Boys State program began 85 years ago and is among the most respected and selective educational programs of government instructions for high school students. It is a participatory program where each delegate becomes part of the process of his local, county, and state government. The American Legion Boys Nation is a weeklong educational program held in Washington, D.C. on the structure and function of federal government.

Since June 2014, including the 2021 selected young men, Post 178 has sponsored 141 Texas Boys State delegates. The highly competitive Texas Boys State and Boys Nation programs support mentoring youth, which is one of the Four Pillars of The American Legion.

## **SECTION 2.9: POST 593: AFTER 77 YEARS, REMAINS OF MISSING MARINE RETURNED**

William M. Randolph, Post 593, Converse, Texas hosted a reception for family and guests of a World War II Marine whose remains were recovered after 77 years. The reception followed the interment of the remains at Ft. Sam Houston National Cemetery.

Al Suarez, Mayor of Converse, Walter Geraghty, 3rd Division Vice Commander, Department of Texas, the Marine Honor Guard and Justin LeHew, COO of History Flight, were in attendance to honor PFC JL Hancock who was killed in battle during WWII. History Flight is dedicated to researching, recovering, and bringing home America's servicemen who have been listed as Missing in Action (MIA) during past American conflicts.



**Figure 10 - Interment of PFC J.L. Hancock at Ft Sam Houston**

The following information was taken from PFC Hancock's obituary. "On 24 Feb. 2021, the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) announced that Marine Corps Reserve Pfc. J.L. Hancock, 21, killed during World War II, was accounted for on 17 Feb. 2021, after 77 years. John Loss Hancock was born in the small Texas Panhandle town of McLean on 8 May 1922. Hancock enlisted in the Marine Corps at Oklahoma City on 17 February 1942 – he gave his initials, so military documents also refer to him as "J. L. Hancock" – and was soon on his way to boot camp in San Diego. Hancock would serve with B/1/6 for the entirety of his time in the Marines. He participated in action at Guadalcanal in January and February 1943; while he escaped wounds or serious injury,

he did contract malaria and the recurring infection would trouble him during the months his regiment spent in New Zealand.



**Figure 11 - PFC J. L. Hancock's extended family with Justin LeHew, COO of History Flight. Mr. LeHew recovered the remains of PFC Hancock from the gravesite**

In October 1943, Hancock and his company boarded ships at Hawke's Bay, New Zealand and shipped out for their next operation – the invasion of Betio in the Tarawa atoll, part of the Gilbert Islands. After a day of hard fighting, Baker Company dug in and prepared a night defense. They were in an exposed position, and that night

a force of several hundred Japanese troops hit their lines, breaking through in a few places and causing chaos and mayhem through the night and into the early morning hours of 22 November. Ultimately, the Marines held, but paid a stiff price for maintaining their positions. Over the three days of intense fighting at Tarawa, approximately 1,000 Marines and Sailors were killed and more than 2,000 were wounded, while the Japanese were virtually annihilated.

One of the casualties of 22 November was PFC J. L. Hancock. He was hit in the head by pieces of shrapnel and died in the field – sadly, just thirty minutes before the last Japanese resistance was overcome. Later that day, Hancock and nearly thirty other men – many from his own First Battalion, 6th Marines – were laid to rest in a trench grave near where they fell. The location, known as “Row D” of the East Division Cemetery, renamed

Cemetery 33, was later obliterated and the grave sites lost to the shifting sands of the tiny island.

In 1946 the U.S. Army Graves Registration Unit came back to Tarawa to identify the many grave sites and move them to a more formal gravesite on the island. Some had been buried in individual graves while others were buried side by side in trenched graves. The unit was only able to locate about half of the fallen soldiers to inter them in the new gravesite. Later in 1946, the unit moved their bodies to Hawaii for identification and return to their families. Over 500 of the Marine's remains including those of PFC J.L. Hancock were never located and were declared "non-recoverable" on 4 October 1949.

His family had a memorial marker placed in McLean Cemetery, McLean, TX, in hopes that one day JL would be found and returned home. His parents would later be laid to rest next to his marker. Hancock's remains were recovered from Betio by the non-profit organization History Flight in 2019. Archaeologists excavated a burial feature known as "Row D" of Cemetery 33 and uncovered more than thirty potential Marine remains. Original burial rosters for the roll included thirty names, plus two unidentified Marines.

JL's remains were among those recovered by the History Flight team and sent back to the United States for laboratory analysis. In May 2020, his family was contacted and offered the opportunity to provide a Family Reference DNA Sample. At long last, on 17 February 2021, PFC JL Hancock was officially accounted for and was returned to his family and laid to rest on 4 August 2021 at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery in San Antonio, TX."

The family of J.L. who came to honor him didn't know each other or J.L. and had only spoken by telephone briefly before attending the memorial service. Having the reception

at Post 593 after interment gave the family a chance to get to know one another and to visit with each other. Justin LeHew was asked to speak and to give an accounting of what transpired to make this day happen. It turns out that Mr. LeHew was actually the one who recovered the remains from the gravesite on Tarawa. That night, which just happened to be the monthly General Membership Meeting night for the Post, when the Post commander read the POW/MIA ceremony, chills were felt and a renewed meaning of the words in the ceremony were understood: "Resolution 288, adopted at the 67th American Legion National Convention, calls for designating a POW/MIA Empty Chair at all official meetings of The American Legion as a physical symbol of the thousands of American POW/MIAs still unaccounted for from all wars and conflicts involving the United States. Accordingly, at this time the sergeant at arms will place the POW/MIA flag on the empty chair – a reminder for all of us to spare no effort to secure the release of any American Prisoners from captivity, the repatriation of the remains of those who died bravely in defense of liberty and a full accounting of those missing. Let us rededicate ourselves for this endeavor." Welcome home PFC Hancock and thank you for your ultimate sacrifice. [Legion Times – Submitted by Post 593 Commander Dennis Ducharme]

## **SECTION 2.4: POST 178 MEMBER WINS \$10,000 GRAND PRIZE**

Steven M. Valdez, U.S. Air Force, Retired, and a member of American Legion Post 178 in Frisco, Texas, recently won the \$10,000 Grand Prize in the Reignite Patriotism Sweepstakes. On July 2, 2020, American Legion State Commander Jeff Perkins pulled the winning ticket at Departmental Headquarters in Austin, Texas. Ten (10) winners were drawn that shared a total of \$15,000.

Steven is a 'Paid Up for Life' member and has been with the American Legion for two years. "I am proud to have served my country for more than twenty (20) years. As a



veteran and a member of Post 178 I hope to continue serving my country."

[Legion Times – Submitted by Ed Reed]

**Figure 12 - Department of Texas Reignite Patriotism Sweepstakes winner Steven Valdez, Post 178 member, accepting \$10,000 check from Bill West, Department of Texas Adjutant**

## **SECTION 2.10: DISTRICT 20 BUDDY CHECKS**

(15 October 2020) While many were preparing for annual Halloween festivities, Executive Committee members of the 20th District and Fred Brock American Legion Post No. 828 performed Buddy Checks on their active and inactive members at the Post. The Buddy Check program, which was launched in March 2019, encourages posts to reach out to veterans in their areas – members, former members, and others – to see what The American Legion could do for them, especially during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. According to the National Department, the Buddy Check program is perhaps more important now than ever before with COVID-19 affecting the nation. "We look out for our members; active or inactive," said Post Commander Al Alford. "Buddy Checks" provides the Post with another system to check on our members, keep them informed, and to assist them when needed." Assisting Post 828 in making Buddy Checks was

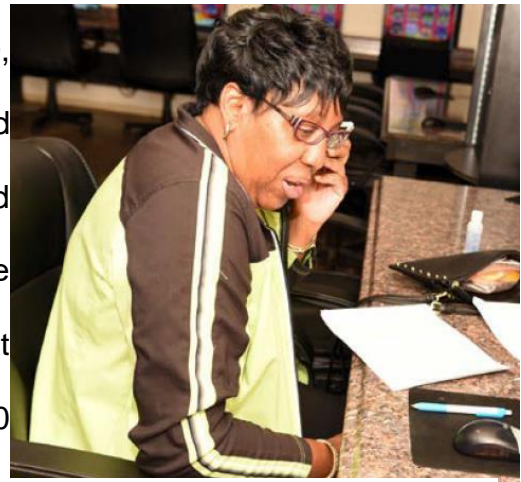


**Figure 13 - District 20 Vice Commander Danny Muth of William M. Randolph American Legion Post No. 593 in Converse, Texas, assisted Post 828 in conducting Buddy Checks and completed member data forms**

Legionnaire Danny Muth of William M. Randolph American Legion Post 593 in Converse, Texas, and District 20 Vice Commander. “As a member of the 20th District Executive Board, it is important that we assist the Posts within the District,” said Muth. “Buddy checks and membership

drives are two of the most important events that the Posts of the 20th District can be

doing.” According to Muth, the Buddy Check program is an important tool for American Legion Posts to reach out and check on the health and welfare of their members in these trying times. “With the isolation caused by COVID-19, it is even more critical to reach out to our members and all veterans to ask about their needs and requirements,” said Muth. “Sometimes just a phone call is all that is needed to let our veterans know that we are there for them.” The Post made more than 250



**Figure 14 - Post 828 Chaplain Patricia Wimberly conducts Buddy Checks at the Post**

calls. In talking with the inactive members, many stated they would reinstate their membership by

visiting the Post, which is currently open on Mondays, Fridays, and Saturdays from 4 p.m. to midnight. (Legion Times – Submitted by Post 828 Judge Advocate Burrell Parmer)

## **SECTION 2.11: DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS SUPPLIES HURRICANE RELIEF TO NEIGHBORING POST 27**





**Figure 15 - State Adjutant Bill West (Top Row - R; and other Department of Texas Legionnaires)**

(12 September 2020) Texans, however, seem to have a certain cell which immediately triggers a “how can we help” mentality, and inclement weather has met its match on the Texas coast and in Houston. It has met its match with Texas Legion Family

members across the board. 2020 has been a year to remember in large part due to the Covid virus, but hurricanes and tropical storms have really hit the southern part of our nation. We not only ran out of names, but in some cases, we ran out of supplies and volunteers. Under the leadership of Commander Jeff Perkins, the American Legion of Texas has been on the forefront of efforts to get supplies to those who need them. A single phone call and an email resulted in a caravan hitting the road to their sister state of Louisiana with the needed goods and volunteers.



**Figure 16 - Figure 21 - 7th District Commander Jeanette Merritt (2nd L) & Past District Commander Sheila Schulte (2nd R)**

September 11 and 12, 2020, Department Commander Jeff Perkins, Past 2nd Division Commander Sheila Schulte, 7th District Commander Jeanette Merritt, ALA Members Beverly Slone, Holly Heatly, Janey Arista and SAL member Tom Arista, loaded up 2 pickup trucks and a u-haul

truck with pet food, baby food, diapers, wipes, cleaning supplies, mops brooms, fans, clothing, water, assorted can goods, beans and rice, household and kitchen items, along with gift cards to the DeRidder American Legion Post 27 in DeRidder, Louisiana. They were met by their Legion Family Members to off load the vehicles. "I drove down from Yukon on Thursday 10 September to Commander Perkins and loaded up my truck Friday 11 September," said Sheila

Schulte. "I then traveled to Conroe to 7th District Commander Jeanette Merritt's, then we drove to The American Legion Department of Texas to load up more donations from all over the State of Texas. We then headed to DeRidder, Louisiana and back to Conroe, Texas... By the time I got home I put 1,178 miles on my Truck."

## **SECTION 2.12: POST 159 COMPLETES THE 100 MILES FOR HOPE CHALLENGE**

Earl Graham Post 159 completes the 100 Miles for Hope Challenge on Veteran's Day. 20 members of American Legion Post 159, in Bryan Texas along with 7 members of the College Station Noon Lions club walked the last mile in Veteran's Park. At 7am on November 11th these early risers gathered to walk the last mile together. They walked two laps along the Lynn Stuart Pathway and Memorial sites

The two laps passed Memorials dedicated to all the conflicts the military has been involved in. The last lap finished at the Louis L. Adams Memorial plaza and Wall of Honor. There, over 6000 names of veterans have been inscribed. This year Post 159 had the name of National Commander Bill Oxford added to the wall. Post Commander Tom Marty thanked all those who took up the challenge and put in the time to make this an

overwhelming success. Taking care of veterans and their families is what we are all about and every level answer the call. Inclement weather is not a big deal when compared to the help and the positive spirit brought to the table by the American Legion and Texas.



*Figure 17 - Post 159 Commander Tom Marty (far L) and other Legionnaires participate in “100 Miles”*

## **SECTION 2.13: POST 593 – THE SUPPORT NEVER STOPS**

(01 Jan 2021) Since the beginning of 2020, The American Legion Post 593 has never rested and continues to serve their Veterans, Community, State and Nation. Covid19 may have closed our Canteen for a period of time, but our Post lived up to our motto, “Do what you can when you can”. Behind the scenes, our “Veterans Helping Veterans” program never let up and we were able to help various Veterans and the Community as a whole. A few of the projects included painting an entire house in less than 6 hours, building a deck for a disabled Korean Veteran, clearing tons of brush to help the community create a fire break, and repairing several fences of Veterans in our community. In between these events, several volunteers and a gracious flooring company donated their time and money to remodel our hall. This in itself is already bringing in business that enables us to do more in the near future. The Support Never Stops!

Besides our annual events like Blue Santa, Rolling Run, Scouting events, CASI Chili Cookoffs, and feeding our Veterans from Audie Murphy VA Hospital, each one of our members is proud to be called a volunteer. The selfless service of our members and their family is awesome. We could not have done it without the help from them and members in the community. The Police Department, Fire/EMS Department, and the Mayor's office have been some of our biggest supporters. They were the eyes and ears in the community that allowed us to identify and take care of our Veterans.



***Figure 18 - Michael Goymerac, Henry Creech, Paul Goymerac, Tina Goymerac, Jimmy Mayes, Amy Reed. October 2020 at Post 593, received the award during one of our Meals-to-Go events.***

As Veterans Day approached, many of us were humbled by the outpouring of support and well wishes we received. As a result of our collective support, the City of Converse recently won the prestigious Texas Municipal League

Excellence Award for City Spirit. Competition was not just against all the smaller communities; other competitors included the large metropolitan areas like Dallas, San Antonio, and Houston. Hats off to The American Legion Post 593 and the City of Converse. [Legion Times – Submitted by Chief Valdez]

## **SECTION 2.14: VETERANS DAY HONORED AROUND TEXAS**

**FRED BROCK POST 828 JUNIOR NCO RECEPTION:** (11 November 2020) Fred Brock American Post No. 828, located on the city's East Side, hosted its annual Veterans Day Ceremony at the Post's event center. This year, in support of the 50th Anniversary of Celebrate America's Military, the Inaugural Junior Non- Commission Officers Reception,



**Figure 19 - More than 250 Veterans, family members, and guests visited the Post 828 during its Veterans Day Ceremony and Junior Non-Commissioned Officers Reception held during the 50th Anniversary of Celebrate America's Military (including District Judge Elizabet Chestney (C) and City Councilman Greg Brockhouse (5<sup>th</sup> from R) and Post 828 Cdr Al Alford**

presented by Aligned Mortgage, was held in conjunction with the ceremony. Those attending the event were required to wear face coverings and practice social distancing to prevent the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19). More than 250 veterans, family members, elected officials and candidates for political office attended the event.

“Aligned Mortgage is very proud to be here amongst Veterans and their families,” said retired Navy Master Chief Paul St. Sauver, military liaison for Aligned Mortgage. “We are proud to serve as this event’s presenting sponsor and looking forward to supporting in 2021. Department of Texas Cmdr. Jeff Perkins had visited Post 828 on Nov. 6 and provided a video message for the event.” Post 828 thanks the following sponsors: (Silver) Moussa Temple No. 106 (Prince Hall Shriners), (Bronze) USAA, First Command, Noble Gentlemen of San Antonio, Claude W. Black Center Advisory Board, Silver Eagle

Beverages, Kielbasa Smoked Meats, Coca-Cola Southwest Texas Beverages, Canopy by Hilton San Antonio Riverwalk, Marriott Plaza Hotel, and the San Antonio Observer. Additional supporters included H-E-B which provided gift bags for Veterans of the Post.



*Figure 20 - Retired Navy Master Chief Paul St. Sauver, military liaison for Aligned received a certificate of appreciation from Post 828 Cmdr. Al Alford.*

Special thanks to the Post's Auxiliary, Legionnaires, and Sons of the American Legion who volunteered to setup, cook, and serve all the guests who attended the event.

### **TURNBOW-HIGGS POST 240 (STEPHENVILLE TX):** Post 240 Stephenville's

Turnbow-Higgs American Legion Post 240 conducted its annual Veterans Day program on Wednesday, Nov. 11, at the Erath County Courthouse. The keynote speaker was Stephenville Mayor Doug Svien, who was elected in 2018 following seven years of service on the Stephenville City Council.



*Figure 21 Stephenville Mayor Doug Svien*

### **SECTION 2.15: EQUEST - HOOVES FOR HEROES**



At Dallas-based Equest Hooves for Heroes, the team— ran by retired US Navy fighter pilot Jeff Hensley—is focusing on one area that needs significant attention: post-deployment assimilation. Equest's HOOVES FOR HEROES empowers veterans and military families to take charge of their civilian transitions and assume new roles as civic leaders.

Thanks to generous grant funding, charitable donations from area American Legion posts,



**Figure 22 – Equest provides transition services for Veterans**

and underwriting, Equest Veterans Program services are offered at no cost to active duty service personnel, members of the Guard or Reserve, honorably discharged veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces, and their immediate family members. Equest's programs are individually tailored to meet the unique needs of the client. Equest's goal is to leverage the power of the horses to ease the participant's transition to civilian life and help them realize their potential as civic assets and community leaders.

Among the benefits:

- Improved self-awareness
- Greater self-confidence
- More effective communication skills
- Fellowship and camaraderie
- Healthier relationships
- Opportunities to serve the community
- Enhanced emotional regulation

This program is supported by a grant from the Texas Veterans Commission Fund for Veterans' Assistance. The Fund for Veterans' Assistance provides grants to organizations serving veterans and their families. Since its inception five years ago, Hooves for Heroes has helped 900 military members, first responders, and their families through a therapeutic horsemanship program that empowers veterans and military families to take charge of their civilian transitions and assume new roles as civic leaders. This special program combines mental-health counseling with a five-pronged approach that includes horsemanship 101, therapeutic riding, carriage driving, hippotherapy, and Equine facilitated counseling (EFC).

## **SECTION 2.16: ROYSE CITY POST 100 VIETNAM VETERANS TRIBUTE**



**Figure 23 - Royse City American Legion Post #100 Members**

National Vietnam Veterans Day marks the 48th anniversary of when the last American combat troops leaving Vietnam in 1973. To recognize Vietnam veterans in the area, Royse City's American Legion Post #100 organized a Vietnam Veterans Tribute. Mayor Pro Tem Clay Ellis read a proclamation. After the reading of the proclamation and there was serving of refreshments, the Royse City Fire and Police

Departments, the American Legion Riders, and members of the Dallas Model A Club driving in a mini parade at Royse City Medical Lodge in honor of a Vietnam veteran who is a resident there.



parade at Royse City Medical Lodge at 2 p.m., in honor of a Vietnam veteran who is a resident there.



**Figure 24 – Royse City Veterans Memorial**

## **SECTION 2.17: HOLIDAYS AROUND THE DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS**

### **Post 174 Delivers Gift Cards To Williamson County Veterans Services Office:**

In keeping with the second pillar of The American Legion, “National Security,” Post 174 member BJ MacMillan delivered \$980 worth of HEB and Walmart gift cards to the Veterans Services Office of Williamson County. An excerpt from the second pillar states, “Enabling a decent quality of life for troops and their families – active duty and reserve-component alike – that includes reasonable compensation, benefits, health care, childcare and family support programs. The Legion adamantly opposes any degradation of benefits.” Sherry Golden, Director of the Williamson County Veterans Services Office, accepted the gift cards presented by MacMillan. Golden stated her Office had just run out of gift cards and were thrilled to receive replacements.



**Figure 25 - Post 174 member BJ MacMillan delivers gift cards to Sherry Golden, Director of the Williamson County Veterans Services office in Georgetown, Texas**

The Veterans Services Office provides eligible veterans, dependents and survivors direct and general support and assistance in obtaining all benefits to which they are entitled from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, state of Texas and Williamson County. Providing gift cards to Veterans who are in great need is sometimes the quickest way to provide relief to them for purchasing groceries and other critical necessities.

## **SECTION 2.18: WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA**

Post 178 Continues A Tradition - Wreaths Across America: It began more than eleven years ago. CPL Peter J. Courcy, 101st Airborne Division, son of Frisco residents Chris and Mary Bush, was killed in action on February 10, 2009, in Afghanistan. On that fateful day, he was supporting Operation Enduring Freedom IX when he lost his life to a suicide vehicle borne improvised explosive device. Since his death, the Bush family has been instrumental in organizing the Wreaths Across America event at the Dallas-Fort Worth



***Figure 27 - When placing a wreath on each gravesite, the volunteer Announced the name details on each gravestone***



***Figure 26 - Removing the wreaths from the gravesites and loading them on trucks for disposal***

National Cemetery where Peter is buried. The first year roughly 25 mostly family members placed 250 wreaths on gravesites. The following year 800 wreaths were placed. In 2019,

43,400 wreaths were placed, enough for every grave in the cemetery. In 2020, despite COVID-19, more than 36,700 wreaths were placed

Post 178 was chartered in 2014. With the Bush's permission, it adopted Peter as its post's namesake that same year. For the past seven years, it has participated in the Wreaths Across America activities at the DFW National Cemetery. As in past years, wreath activities included three days: first for unloading, the second for placing, and the third for removal. This past year included more than 3,600 boxes of wreaths. Despite COVID-19 protocols, more than forty post veterans contributed to the event's success. Mission accomplished! Wreaths Across America reminds all of us how important it is to REMEMBER the Fallen...HONOR those who serve...TEACH our children the value of Freedom.

the 24<sup>th</sup> Annual "For The Kids Toy Run" benefiting the local Salvation Army. More than 450 bikers from around the region joined together dressed in leathers and Christmas attire. Bikes were decorated with stuffed animals, wreaths, and garland.

## **SECTION 2.18: AMERICAN LEGION POST 671 – LAUNCH OUTREACH FOR VETERANS**

HUTCHINSON COUNTY, Texas (KVII) — Veterans at Carl M. McAndrews American Legion Post 671 in Hutchinson County are working on a plan to help fellow veterans who are reluctant to seek help deal with post military life.

"The ultimate goal is to find all veterans and get them signed up for the benefits they've earned," said Shane Allen, disabled veteran. "Veterans are my passion and there are

several counties that don't even have a veteran service officer. Those are the counties we want to travel to and get out and reach the veterans.”

To accomplish that task the American Legion Post 671 would use a donated RV or donated trailer and truck as transportation. There are some other requirements before Shane Allen can become a certified veteran service officer.

“We're hoping to get him with the state,” said Kevin Black, 18th District Commander for American Legion. “We have to have an appointment with the county judge, and he has to be approved by county commissioners. He will then have to work a minimum of 1,000 hours a year.”

## **SECTION 2.19: POST 671 - HITTING HOMELESSNESS AT THE COMMUNITY LEVEL**

On property owned by American Legion Department of Texas 18th District Commander Kevin Black sit three RVs. Two of those are owned by American Legion Post 671 in



**Figure 28 - American Legion Department of Texas 18th District Commander Kevin Black (R)**

Hutchinson County, Texas, and are the start of what Black and Post 671 hope will be a partial solution to veteran homelessness in the area.

The RVs are used to provide housing for veterans who have slipped into homelessness for various reasons. It was three years ago that Black first helped a Korean and Vietnam War veteran who had lost both his house and wife within two weeks. “Literally he had nothing but his car and his Chihuahua,” said Black, the current commander and a Paid-Up-For-Life member of Post 671.

An apartment was arranged for the veteran in Amarillo, but Black said the man hated living so far away. “So, I just asked him, ‘Would you mind living in an RV if I built an RV park?’” Black said. “Literally a month later we had him in an RV, and it’s just cascaded from there.”

Black has since moved in two more veterans into two other RVs on his property. “We’re hoping this year I’m going to get anywhere from 67 to 200 acres donated to us,” Black said. “If that happens, we’re going to build a bigger RV park where we can bring in the public and help grow with this.”

The project recently was featured on ABC7 News as part of its new feature “Invisible”, which is a weekly effort to raise awareness about the homelessness issue in Amarillo and in the Texas Panhandle. It’s helped bring Post 671’s efforts more into the public eye, with Black saying there is potential for a large grant and the possibility of building tiny homes for veterans on any donated property.

“If we get the right property, we may even build a new (post facility),” Black said. “We’ve got a lot going on.”

The RVs, Black said, have the ability to provide an immediate answer to a veteran facing homelessness. “A true homeless person cannot get benefits because they don’t have a physical mailing address,” he said. “This gives them that address.”

Black said that veterans who struggle transitioning into the civilian world can see other problems, such as post-traumatic stress disorder, amplified. The goal with Post 671’s project is to help alleviate that stress while working with both the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Veterans Resource Center in Amarillo.

“Most of the people at the VA, the service providers, we have each other’s phone numbers and message each other seven days a week, it seems like,” Black said. “This is working great so far. It’s just something we can do here in our community.”

## **SECTION 2.20: MLK DAY PARADE**

**MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY PARADE:** (15 January 2021) Post 828

has been located at the head of the annual Martin Luther King Day parade since its inception on January 19, 1987, by the Commission and the City of San Antonio. On that January 1987



date, the Commission and the City of San Antonio held its first official Martin Luther King, Jr. March. Each year, a variety of educational, inspirational, and celebratory events honor one of the nation's most revered civil rights leaders. San Antonio hosts the largest march in the nation, with approximately 300,000 participants. Each year, a variety of educational, non-profit, inspirational, and celebratory events honor one of the nation's most revered civil rights leader.

Due to COVID 19 concerns, The City of San Antonio's Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission continued its commemoration of the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. with a virtual Celebration and March. Directed by filmmaker Ya'Ke Smith.



*Figure 29 – Fred Brock Post 828 Members participate in Virtual MLK Day Observance*

## **SECTION 2.21: ORATORICAL CONTEST**

**ORATORICAL CONTEST:** The Oratorical Scholarship Program in Texas began in October 2021 when high school students entered competition to qualify for the National Oratorical Program, with an ultimate award of \$160,000 in scholarships. Post, Districts, and Divisions orchestrated contests throughout the state held Oratorical contests.

The winner of The American Legion, Department of Texas state oratorical contest is Jacob Groninga from the 1st division. Jacob was sponsored by Post 655. Jacob will receive a \$2000 scholarship from department. Due to Covid, The American Legion national has canceled the national contest so each state champion will receive an additional \$5000. Congratulations to all orators at all levels and we hope to see more participants next year. Also thank you to the 20th district for hosting the contest this year.



*Figure 30 - (L-R) State Commander Jeff Perkins, State Auxiliary President Brenda Towers, State Oratorical Contest Winner Jacob Groninga and SAL Det. Commander Tom Arista*

Orators for the 2021 The American Legion, Department of Texas. By Division. **(L – R):**

**1 Jacob Groninga - Post 655**

**2 Trevor Tobey - Cro**

**3 Tanner David - Post 115**

**4 Max Simnacher - Post 575.**



**1. POST 178 ORATORICAL CONTEST**

**WINNER RECOGNIZED BY FRISCO**

**CITY COUNCIL**): Legion Harbani Kohli, a junior at Reedy High School, was presented a Certificate of Recognition by City of Frisco Mayor Jeff Cheney at the March 16, 2021, City



Council Meeting for her outstanding performance for winning the American Legion Post 178 Oratorical Scholarship Speech Contest and the 4th District contest earlier this year. For winning the two contests, she received \$750 scholarships. At the contests she delivered two orations, a prepared oration and a randomly assigned constitutional topic



**Figure 31 - (L-R) Harbani Kohli, Junior, Reedy High School, Jeff Cheney,**

oration. Ms. Kohli impressed the judges with her prepared topic oration, titled “We Are the People, and assigned topic oration, Article III, Section 1 concerning the Supreme Court.

## **SECTION 2.22: FRISCO CITY COUNCIL PROCLAIMS MARCH 29 VIETNAM WAR VETERANS DAY**

American Legion Post 178 veterans received a standing ovation at the March 16, 2021, Frisco City Council Meeting as Mayor Jeff Chaney cited a proclamation declaring March 29 as National Vietnam War Veterans Day in Frisco, Texas. The proclamation honored the service and sacrifices of US Armed Forces personnel who were on active duty regardless of location from November 1, 1955, to May 15, 1975. More than 9 million Americans served during that time, as well as, 2.7 million in Vietnam. More than 58,000 names are memorialized on a black granite wall in our Nation’s capital. 304,000 were wounded. 1,253 are Missing In Action (MIA), and 2,500 were Prisoners of War (POW).

Mayor Cheney declared that those who served their country deserve the heartfelt acknowledgment and profound gratitude of their countrymen. He urged all citizens to thank and honor each Vietnam veterans and their families who served their country faithfully and courageously and to show a generation of veterans the respect and support

of a grateful nation. More than 300 of the 600 members of American Legion Post 178 are Vietnam Era veterans.

### **SECTION 2.23: VACCINE HUB AT EARL GRAHAM AMERICAN LEGION POST 159, BRYAN TEXAS**



*Figure 32 - L- R) Jeff Chaney, City of Frisco Mayor and Post 178 Veterans Ed Reed, Ted Ruybal, Terry Gilbert, Rick Redden, Larry Wilhelm, and Larry Marshall.*

On Saturday March 27th, Earl Graham American Legion Post 159 opened their doors to welcome 160 community members to receive their first dose of the Moderna Covid-19 Vaccine.

Commander Tom Marty said that he was approached by the Red Cross and asked if the post was available to host a pop-up vaccine location to better reach underserved members of the community. After a quick vote by the post executive committee, with unanimous approval the post went into action.

Community volunteers started arriving in the post parking lot at 7am and the hub was not going to open until 9am. Members of the post along with Red Cross volunteers organized

the post hall as a clinic and provided the vaccine to those that wished to receive the shots. Auxiliary member Marcie Collins who is also a Red Cross volunteer said that the post stepping forward was one of the reasons she and her husband stayed involved with the Legion here in Bryan and how proud she was to see all the work that went into making



**Figure 33 - Vaccine Hub at Earl Graham American Legion Post 159**

this happen. All those receiving their vaccine at Post 159 will return on April 24th to receive their second dose. Commander Marty stated that “this is what Post 159 is all about, we do not operate a canteen, we are here to serve veterans and this community as a whole.” The Legion motto is “Veterans serving Veterans.” We take it one step

further; we are here to serve all those that live in the Brazos Valley.

## SECTION 2.24: AMERICAN LEGION POST 178 AWARDS HONORARY LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP



**Figure 34 - Burnie Sutter wearing the French Legion of Honor in 2018 - Photo courtesy of the Richards Family**



**Figure 35 - Sandi Richards, Daughter of Burnie Sutter Honorary Life Member Certificate on behalf of her father.**



Post 178 recently awarded an Honorary Life Membership to

Frisco resident Mr. Burnett L. Sutter, an US Army World War II veteran. Mr. Sutter was a

soldier in the” Tough Hombres,” 90th Division, 358 Regiment, M Company that landed at Utah Beach, Normandy, France, in June 1944. For his military service in France, he was awarded the French Legion of Honor medal in 2018.). Mr. Sutter will reach a birthday milestone when he celebrates his 100th birthday on April 7, 2021.

Additionally, a drive-by birthday car parade was completed on Saturday, April 10 at 10:30 – 11:15am at the Saddle Brook Memory Care Community, Frisco, TX. Mr. Sutter becomes the most senior of the six World War II veterans in the more than 600- member American Legion Post 178. Post 178 is proud to have Mr. Sutter in its ranks!

## **SECTION 2.25: AMERICAN LEGION POST 178 - NATIONAL VIETNAM WAR VETERANS DAY COMMEMORATIVE**

Vietnam veterans of American Legion Post 178 attended the National Vietnam War



Veterans Day “Welcome Home” Commemorative on March 29, 2021, at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Frisco, Texas. The event commemorated the sacrifices of Vietnam veterans and their families. More than 350 members of American Legion Post 178 are Vietnam Era veterans. Join the

nation... thank a Vietnam Veteran!

The event, sponsored by VFW Post 8273, included a “Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Ceremony” and was a part of the United States of America Vietnam War Commemorative

Partner Program. It honored all veterans who served on active duty in the United States Armed Forces at any time from November 1, 1955, to May 15, 1975, regardless of location. No distinction was made between veterans who served in-country, in theater, or who were stationed elsewhere during the Vietnam War period.

The keynote address was given by guest of honor Major General James E. Livingston, MOH, USMC (Ret). A Medal of Honor recipient, General Livingston is the most highly decorated Marine Infantry Officer from the Vietnam War.

## **SECTION 2.26: AMERICAN LEGION POST 178 – PRESENT COLORS AT TEXAS MOTOR SPEEDWAY INDYCAR RACE**

(1 May 2021) The American Legion Post 178 Color Guard presented the nation's colors on Saturday, May 1, 2021, at the GENSEYS 300 NTT INDY CAR SERIES at Texas Motor Speedway. The evening open wheel racing event was wheel-to-wheel racing at speeds over 200 mph,

The American Legion is sponsoring the No. 48 Honda in the NTT INDYCAR SERIES represented by a combination of Seven-Time NASCAR Cup Series Champion Jimmie Johnson and former Indianapolis 500 Winner and Series Champion Tony Kanaan. "We're excited about partnering with The American Legion because it represents a very important relationship with an organization dedicated to supporting veterans," said Chip Ganassi, team owner of Chip Ganassi Racing.

The American Legion, the nation's largest and most powerful organization of wartime veterans and their families, is using its presence in Indy car to elevate awareness and

introduce a new modern brand expression. The new logo will not replace the historic American Legion emblem, but rather complement it by honoring the history, heritage, and symbols which Legionnaires hold dear. The American Legion hopes to bring attention to some of the most important issues facing today's veterans, including veteran suicide, and honoring those who paid the ultimate sacrifice in defense of our freedoms. (Legion Times – May 2021)



*Figure 36 - Post 178 Color Guard (L-R) Delbert Parsons, Larry Marshall, John Ricca, Ted Ruybal, Larry Wilhelm (Color Guard Captain), Terry Gilbert*

## **SECTION 2.27: AMERICAN LEGION POST 159 – HONORS 70-YEAR MEMBERSHIP OF MEMBER**

American Legion Post 159 in Bryan, Texas honored Legionnaire Joe Ferreri with a certificate from National Commander Bill Oxford for 70 years of dedicated service to the American Legion. Legionnaire Ferreri is 101 years old and served in the Navy during WWII.



**Figure 37 - Post 159 Commander Tom Marty with Legionnaire Joe Ferreri (seated)**

Legionnaire Ferreri worked as a mechanic and electrician stationed at Pearl Harbor. Ferreri said that it was his job to get those ships back in action when they suffered damage. After the war Ferreri return to his native home of Bryan, Texas and joined post 159. Legionnaire Ferreri said, that he was immensely proud of his service to his

country and all his time as a member of the American Legion. (Legion Times – May 2021)

## **SECTION 2.28: AMERICAN LEGION POST 235 & 462 – JUNIOR SHOOTING: BURLESON TEXAS LEADS THE WAY!**

(April 2021) American Legion Post 235 in Burleson, Texas treated its District 6 Convention to some very special guests at their spring conference. District Commander Steve Kim welcomed the Blue Thunder Air Rifle Team from Burleson High School. The four



**Figure 38 -Post 462 Junior Shooting Team from Glen Rose TX at 6th District Convention hosted by Post 235**

high school cadets are part of the Texas 801st JROTC Program and were welcomed by the 70 participants at the 2-day meeting. American Legion marksmanship medals were

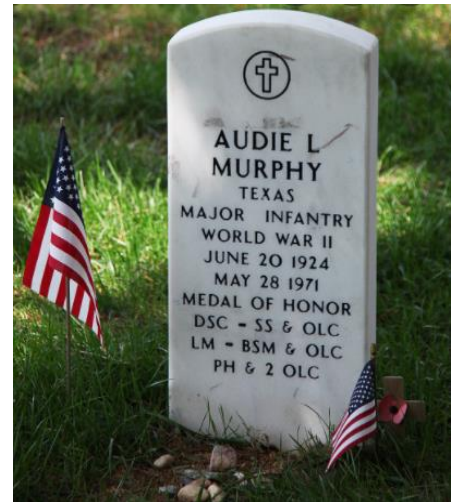
presented long with Post 235 certificates. One shooter, Madison Landers, also received the State Gold Medal for her performance while her teammates received the bronze.

Post 235 Commander Sandy Mason cites the junior shooting program in cooperation with the JROTC continues to impact on the Post family and the community of Burleson. (Legion Times – submitted by Geri Hince)

## **SECTION 2.29: AUDIE MURPHY DAY – GREENVILLE TX**



GREENVILLE, Texas - To honor and remember our nation's military heroes, Audie Murphy Day was held on Saturday, May 22nd. This



annual event, which is free and open to the public, is hosted by the Audie Murphy/American Cotton Museum to celebrate Audie Leon Murphy, the most decorated combat soldier of

World War II, as well as military veterans and those currently serving our country. Audie Murphy Day, May 22nd, centers on the life of Audie Murphy, a native son of Hunt County, war hero, Hollywood film star and accomplished songwriter.

Some of our featured speakers will include Marjorie Lewis, a professor at University of North Texas who wrote the book *When the Men Were Gone* which takes place during WWII, actor Michael Dante who was in Apache Rifles and Arizona Raiders with Audie



and is best known for his starring role in Winterhawk and historian and retired teacher Mike West.

Audie Murphy American Legion Post 336 located in Leon Valley (San Antonio Metroplex) was chartered on 30 Sept. 1937. What makes the Post unique: The Post was mostly inactive until Sept. 2008. From Sept. 2008 to Dec. 2008



Figure 39 - Audie Murphy Post 336 Commander Spenser Spriesterbach (R) and Legionnaire William England (L) recruiting

The Post grew from 12 members to 66 members. On 15 Dec. 2008 the first official Post meeting was held at the Leon Valley City Hall with approximately 30 members in attendance. Presiding over the meeting was Walter Geraghty. (Legion Times – May 2021)

## **SECTION 2.30: GOLD STAR FAMILIES MEMORIAL MONUMENT**

The Gold Star Families Memorial Monument dedication ceremony was held on May 13, 2021, at Frisco Commons Park, Frisco, TX. The Post 178 Color Guard had the honor of presenting our Nation's colors. Gold Star Family members and relatives are those who have sacrificed a loved one for our freedom. The monument honors the families of servicemen and women who sacrificed their lives while serving in the military. It is located to the west of the Veterans Memorial.

The Gold Star Family Memorial was created by Medal of Honor Recipient Hershel “Woody” Williams to remember those families who have made the ultimate sacrifice. The public was invited and encouraged to attend the groundbreaking and dedication celebrations.



**Figure 40 - Gold Star Families Memorial Monument, Frisco Commons Park, Frisco, TX. Photographer-Vice Commander Ed Reed**

The memorial monument is a two-sided tribute made of black granite. One side bears the words: Gold Star Families Memorial Monument, a tribute to Gold Star Families and Relatives who

sacrificed a loved one for our Freedom. The other side tells a story through the four granite panels: Homeland, Family, Patriot, and Sacrifice.



**Figure 41 - Post 178 Color Guard (L-R) Commander Fred Rogers, Ted Ruybal, Larry Wilhelm, Color Guard Captain, and Terry Gilbert. Photographer-Jeanie Beal**

The monument provides a place of permanence for Gold Star Families to gather and utilize the monument through outreach events. It can also educate the public about Gold Star Families’ enduring sacrifices and the ultimate sacrifice made by their loved ones.

## SECTION 2.31: TWENTY AND FOUR SOCIETY

**TWENTY AND FOUR SOCIETY:** The 20-4 is the Honor Society of women Legionnaires. They are all women veterans who served our country as a member of the US military services during a designated wartime period. They are members of The American Legion. All members of the Twenty and Four have rendered service to The American Legion consisting of active leadership as an elected officer, appointed officer, or chairman of a standing committee or have qualified for membership in the Twenty and Four by outstanding and/or continuous service in the programs of The American Legion. In the state of Texas, the number of female Legionnaires is growing daily but Echelon (name for state level group... similar to a Chapter) currently has less than 40 members. The purpose of the 20-4 is to celebrate and to educate all on the roles of females in our military and to share information on our past, our present and the future of our sisters in arms. A primary goal of the Twenty and Four is to help disabled and needy women veterans. Assistance provided may include guidance in the filing of disability claims, referrals to community programs, employment, housing, clothing and personal care items, and financial assistance. They also provide assistance and comfort to women veterans in hospitals and nursing homes. They visit and call, providing personal care items as needed and loving friendship. Some groups sponsor job fairs and information programs, and all share a sense of sistership and leadership. They also promote the programs of The American Legion, supporting aid to veterans and active duty service members, their families and the community. They do this through fundraising, recruiting, and participating in local post and community activities. Please note they need your help to make these

goals become real in the Lonestar State. Legionnaire Gerry Hince is the Director of National and Texas.

### **SECTION 2.32: MEMORIAL DAY COMMEMORATIONS**

(May 31, 2021) The members of American Legion Posts throughout Texas participated in commemorative ceremonies honoring our nation’s veterans. As the nation remembers those members of the military no longer with us this weekend, American Legion Family members across the nation are stepping up to lead Memorial Day observances in their communities, towns, and cities. The events include parades, ceremonies, and the placing of U.S. flags on veterans’ graves – along with a few less-traditional events.

### **SECTION 2.33 TEXAS MERCI BOXCAR 70TH ANNIVERSARY PILGRIMAGE**



**Figure 42 - Voyageurs Militaire and Dames came from all around Texas (over 2,500 miles travelled) to attend the 70th Anniversary of the Texas Merci Boxcar.**

” To preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in the Great Wars” During the First World War, French boxcars carried American Doughboys to the front. These wartime boxcars, which held either 40



**Monday 31 May**

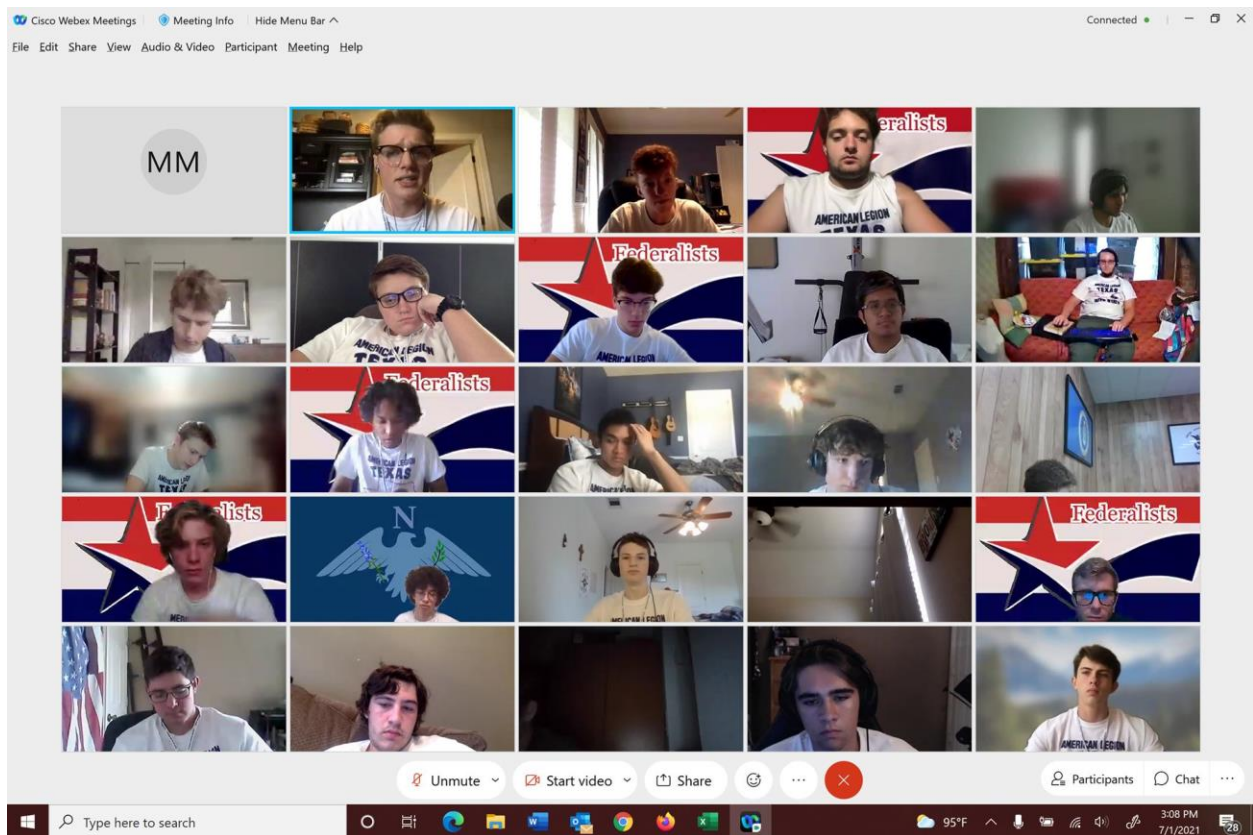
men or 8 horses, were emblazoned with a "40/8"; a symbol readily understood by American veterans of that era. The boxcars were also used during the Second World War and afterwards repurposed for a spectacular demonstration of gratefulness from the people of France. It was called the Train de la Reconnaissance Francaise" or simply the "Gratitude Train." In February 1949, the American Legion Department of Texas, the 40 & 8 Grand Voiture du Texas and many others welcomed the Texas Merci Boxcar which was part of the French Gratitude Train of 1949. Hundreds of gifts from the people of France came in the boxcar. Some items were distributed out to children at an orphanage in San Antonio and others distributed throughout Texas. A moderate selection of the gifts is stored in the Briscoe Museum of Military History in Austin, Texas and the Texas Merci Boxcar itself was put under the care of the 40 & 8. For 70 years the boxcar has been cared for by members of the Grand du Texas and was housed at American Legion Travis Post 76 until 2014 when it was moved into the Great Hall of the Texas Military Forces Museum at Camp Mabry, Austin, Texas. Laden with 40 provincial coats of arms from the historic regions of France in 1949, the Texas Merci Boxcar is a popular exhibit at the museum, and all are encouraged to see it whenever possible. Voyageurs Militaire and Dames came from all around Texas (over 2,500 miles travelled) to attend the 70th Anniversary of the Texas Merci Boxcar. In 1950 the Grand Voiture du Texas met for the 1st annual pilgrimage and thought they should do this each year. As they have done since 1950 members of the Forty & Eight veterans organization held their Annual Pilgrimage here in Austin. This year is the 70th Annual Pilgrimage held! Little fanfare surrounded their memorial service where they read off the names of members who passed over the last 12 months. Their dedication should be noted as nearly all members of this

organization travel at their own expense. For more information about the boxcar or 40 & 8 in Texas visit their website at [texasboxcar.org](http://texasboxcar.org).

## SECTION 2.34 BOYS STATE 2021



(3 July 2021) Each year The American Legion sponsor high school juniors to attend Boys State program. Boys State has been a program of The American Legion since 1935, when it organized to counter the fascist-inspired Young Pioneer Camps. American Legion Boys State, participants are exposed to the rights and privileges, the duties, and the responsibilities, of a franchised citizen. The training is objective and practical, with city, county, and state governments operated by the students elected to the various offices.



**Figure 43 - Department of Texas 2021 Boys State Virtual Platform**

In 2020, the Texas Boys State program went virtual – the first virtual Boys State program

in the country. Given the ever-changing state of the pandemic and public health, plans the 2021 session, was conducted via a second virtual session.

The Texas Boys State program was conducted 27 June – 3 July 2021. Originally scheduled to meet on the University of Texas campus June 6-12, the pandemic shut down the university and prompted Texas Boys State leadership to consider an online session.

After receiving approval from the Department of Texas' executive committee, staff went to work crafting a schedule that would hew as closely as possible to the regular face-to-



**Figure 45 - Boys State Staff is 100% volunteers - (L) Jerry Cheatom and (R) Joel Dunsworth**

face schedule while addressing the idiosyncrasies of an online-only schedule.

The Boys State staff did a technology stress test three or four days before the program just to make sure things weren't going to break.

During Boys State session there were moments where someone would enter the

room and they weren't on mute ... a dog was barking! Because attendees were at home



**Figure 44 - General Assembly with Keynote Speaker -Davis Guggenheim- Executive Producer of the Boys State movie, and Oscar winning Director.**

may have contributed in a way to an actual heartier virtual experience (for the statesmen).

## CHAPTER 3 – SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

The Sons of The American Legion was created in 1932 as an organization within The American Legion. Their main mission is to sponsor programs that its parent organization, The American Legion, does to improve veterans communities, such as scholarships, veterans help programs (i.e. ending veterans homelessness), and youth sports. They also promote national security, patriotism, and devotion to veterans. The Sons of the American Legion's mission to serve veterans, the military and their families is carried out through its hundreds of outreach programs delivered by its members, volunteers and national headquarters. The S.A.L. is made up of men of all ages whose parents or grandparents served in the United States military and became eligible for membership in The American Legion. Together, members of The American Legion, The American Legion Auxiliary and the Sons of The American Legion make up what is known as The American Legion Family.

Interesting facts About the S.A.L.:

- ✚ There are currently more than 300,000 members of the Sons of The American Legion.
- ✚ The current membership is an all-time high for the Sons of The American Legion.
- ✚ Membership in the Sons of The American Legion has increased each year for more than the past 33 years. This is in spite of the fact that, on average, only three out of every four members of the Sons renew their memberships annually.
- ✚ The average age of members of the Sons of The American Legion is now 33.
- ✚ There are more than 6000 members of the Sons of The American Legion here in Texas.



- ✚ In addition to all 50 states, there are Detachments of the Sons of The American Legion in The District of Columbia, France, Puerto Rico, Philippines, and Mexico
- ✚ The current National Commander of the Sons of The American Legion is Raymond Giehl Jr. from Indiana.
- ✚ The current Detachment of Texas Commander of the Sons of The American Legion is Joe McPeters from Squadron 453 in Dallas Texas.
- ✚ It is possible to hold a memberships in The American Legion, the Sons of The American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary (when married to a veteran).
- ✚ Since 1988, SAL has raised more than \$5 million for The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation. SAL members have volunteered over 250,000 hours at veterans hospitals and raised over \$915,688 for VA hospitals and VA homes.
- ✚ SAL members have volunteered over 250,000 hours at veterans hospitals and raised over \$915,688 for VA hospitals and VA homes.
- ✚ Membership eligibility for the Sons of The American Legion if you are:
  - Male descendant (includes adopted sons or stepsons) of a member of The American Legion, or
  - Male descendant of a veteran who died in service during World War I, World War II, Korean War, Vietnam War, Lebanon, Grenada, Panama, or the Persian Gulf War, or
  - Male descendant of a veteran who died subsequent to their honorable discharge from service any time since World War II.

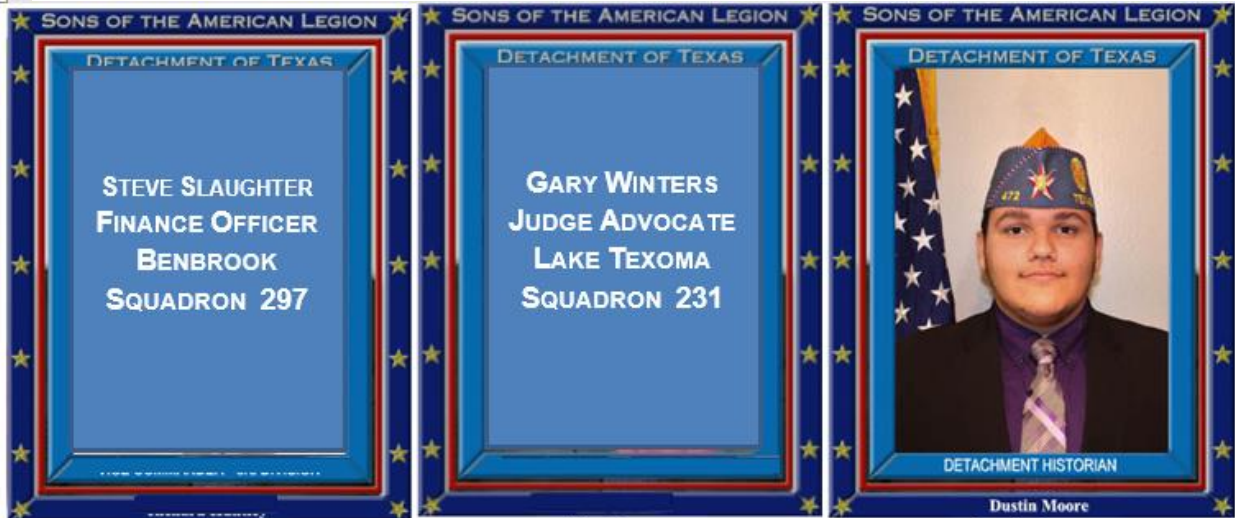
### **SECTION 3.1 S.A.L. OFFICERS**



**Richard Huntley**  
 Vice Commander 3<sup>rd</sup> Division  
 League City Squadron 554

**Ken Dorsett**  
 Vice Commander 4<sup>th</sup> Division  
 Odessa Squadron 430

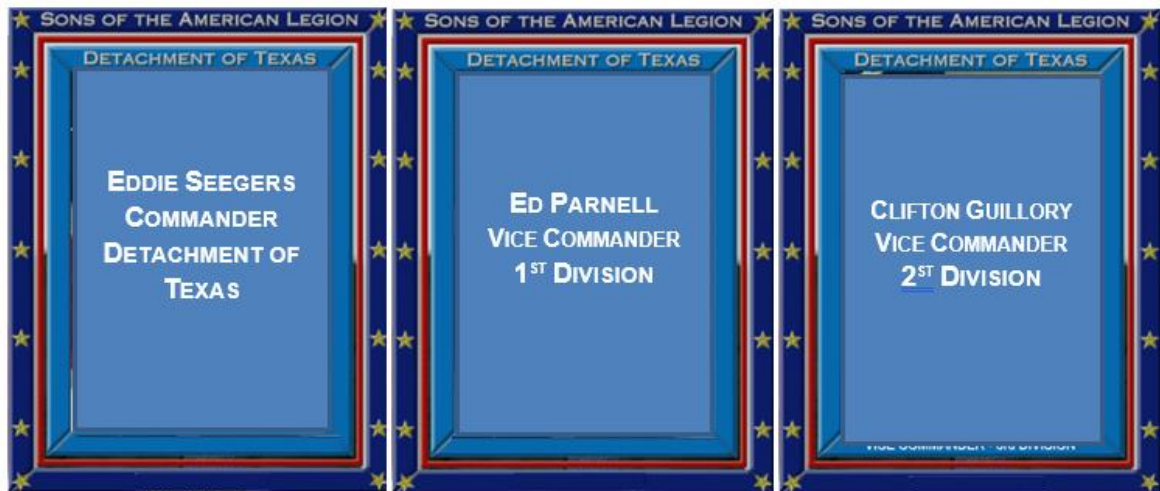
**Kevin Winkelmann**  
 Adjutant  
 Houston Squadron 654



**STEVE SLAUGHTER**  
 FINANCE OFFICER  
 BENBROOK  
 SQUADRON 297

**GARY WINTERS**  
 JUDGE ADVOCATE  
 LAKE TEXOMA  
 SQUADRON 231

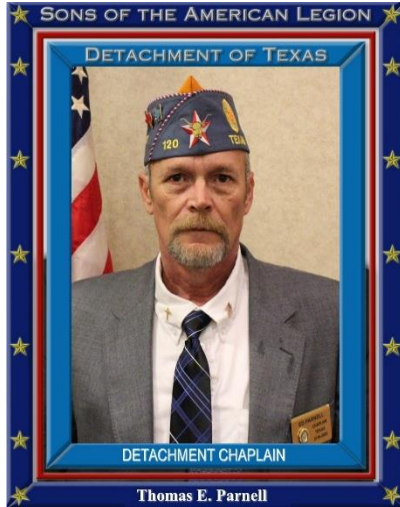
**Dustin Moore**  
 DETACHMENT HISTORIAN



**EDDIE SEEGER**  
 COMMANDER  
 DETACHMENT OF  
 TEXAS

**ED PARNELL**  
 VICE COMMANDER  
 1<sup>ST</sup> DIVISION

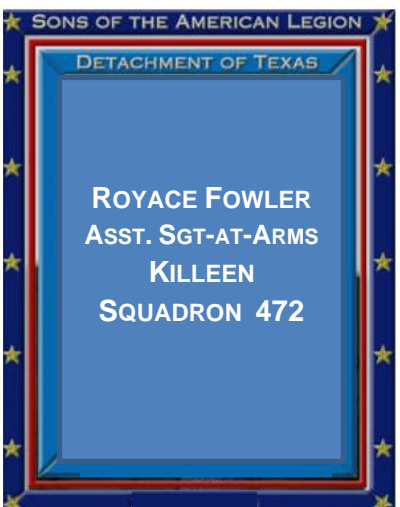
**CLIFTON GUILLORY**  
 VICE COMMANDER  
 2<sup>ND</sup> DIVISION



**Ed Parnell**  
**Chaplain**  
**Wichita Falls Squadron 120**



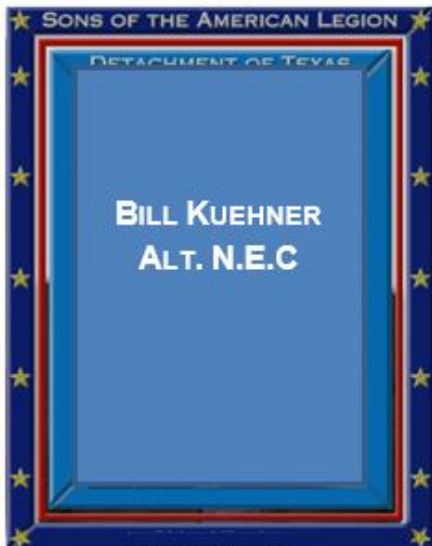
**Zachary Jennings**  
**Sergeant-at-Arms**  
**Willis Squadron 618**



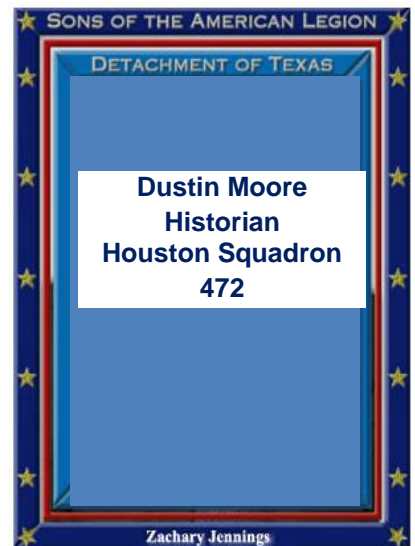
**ROYACE FOWLER**  
**ASST. SGT-AT-ARMS**  
**KILLEEN**  
**SQUADRON 472**



**JOHN JOHNSON**  
**N.E.C**  
**PLANO**  
**SQUADRON 321**



**BILL KUEHNER**  
**ALT. N.E.C**



**Dustin Moore**  
**Historian**  
**Houston Squadron**  
**472**

Zachary Jennings

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**DETACHMENT OF TEXAS WEBSITE: SALTEXAS.ORG**

## CHAPTER 4 – DEPARTMENT HISTORY

The Texas Department of the American Legion is a nonpolitical and nonpartisan organization. Its principal aim is to secure legislation for the benefit of veterans in Texas, including adequate hospitalization, physical and vocational rehabilitation, and preference in public jobs. The organization also supports legislation for assistance to underprivileged children.

The legion was founded by service veterans from World War I at a meeting held in San Antonio on San Jacinto Day, April 21, 1919, for the purpose of organizing a branch of the American Legion in Texas. 572 veterans of the World War attended the meeting. Col. Claude V. Birkhead of San Antonio was elected first chairman of the temporary organization and until Department Convention was held. . The organization was originally known as the Texas Division of World War Veterans, but the name was changed a short time later to Texas Department, American Legion, to conform to the constitution adopted by the national organization and incorporated by the Texas Secretary of State on December 31, 1919.

The following temporary rules were established at the April 21 meeting:

- No post will be named after a living person.
- Representations at the State and National conventions be based on the number of members paid up before October 1, 1919
- Temporary charters were to be issued by Department Headquarters
- Each post must have an adjutant
- Post officers must include Commander, Vice Commander, Adjutant, Finance Officer, Historian, Chaplain

The first Department Convention was held in Dallas Texas, October 10 – 11, 1919 with Commander Burkhead presiding. Among the most important concerns of the early members was the need to secure adequate hospital facilities for sick and injured former servicemen. Donations were collected from posts and individuals throughout the state, and within a short time more than \$500,000 was raised. In 1921–22 the Department built the American Legion Memorial Hospital at Legion, Texas, with funds raised through legion activities, supplemented by state aid. The hospital was sold to the United States in 1925 and became a Veterans Administration facility.

While rehabilitation for veterans remained the number-one goal of the legion through the early 1920s, the agenda was soon expanded to include employment, legislation, and the care of needy families, widows, and orphans of veterans. In 1920 the American Legion Auxiliary, composed of the wives and widows of veterans, was formed, with the purpose of augmenting and supporting the organization's activities. During the early 1920s, the Legion also turned its attention toward fighting what it perceived as a growing tide of anti-Americanism. The Americanism committee at the 1923 convention called for "vigilance against teaching in public or private schools in Texas false or 'doctored' history, or subversive doctrine" and "against textbooks tainted with foreign or special propaganda and careful study of textbooks used in schools." It also endorsed a measure adopted at the national convention calling for the "total cessation of immigration until assimilation shall catch up with immigration." The legion also sponsored a variety of civic projects. Some posts erected community Christmas trees or made donations to the needy; others sponsored parks and playgrounds, built swimming pools, and equipped lighted baseball parks. After 1923 most of the posts in the state also sponsored local Boy Scout troops

and took part in scouting activities. During the 1920s and early 1930s legion posts throughout Texas also began to sponsor baseball teams and oratorical contests. Beginning in 1938 the Americanism program organized the annual Boys State convention (see Lone Star Boys' State and Bluebonnet Girls' State), held each summer in Austin, to promote citizen education for young men.

Between 1919 and 1942 membership in the legion ranged from 10,540 to 37,709. In 1942 veterans of World War II were made eligible, and after the war large numbers of returning joined the organization. Black Texas veterans were made eligible in 1945, though at first they were confined to a separate district-at-large, with the posts sponsored and guided by existing white posts. In the period just after World War II, when the demand for veterans' services exploded, the legion lobbied for additional hospitals, rehabilitation facilities, and other benefits. Korean War veterans began joining the organization in large numbers in the mid-1950s, and in 1979 Vietnam veterans were made eligible for membership. By the early 1990s the statewide membership was 90,000. Subsequently, the legion continued its earlier charitable activities and added new ones, including programs for abused children, the intellectually disabled, missing children, and drug-abuse prevention. The state organization has been headquartered in Austin since 1927.

### **SECTION 3.1 THE LEGACY OF THE “800” SERIES POSTS IN TEXAS**

The American Legion has always touted the fact that they were progressive in social issues such as Women's ability to vote prior to passing by Congress June 4, 1919, and ratified on August 18, 1920, the 19th amendment guaranteeing all American women the right to vote.



In the past, African Americans proudly and willingly served our nation despite the treatment towards Black Americans, particularly, but not exclusively, in the southern United States. These men instilled in their children and community the love of country, people, and service to this nation. They believed that their service would pave the way



toward making equality a reality as opposed to an ideal expressed in the Constitution of our nation.

In 1921, the Constitution and By-Laws: Article 3, Membership of the American Legion Department of Texas stated "... all persons except those of African

descent, residing in Texas shall be eligible to active membership." That was later revised and in 1949 American Legion Department of Texas Constitution and By-Laws: Article 3 stated "Eligibility for membership in the American Legion, Department of Texas, shall be the same as prescribed by the National Constitution except Negroes shall belong to posts composed exclusively of member of that race under direction and supervision of the local post."

1941 during the Department Executive Committee, Department Commander Andrew Dilworth outlined a policy to organize posts for the Colored Veterans of the World War. Ultimately, on April 6, 1942, the DEC adopted a constitutions and by-laws for organizing Colored Veterans of the World War in Texas, patterned after the Department of Florida Plan. In order to organize a post, it must be sponsored by a local white post, and have a

member of the white post sit in all meetings, and the white post must review, and ratify all minutes from the Colored Post meetings.

June 6, 1942, Color Veterans of the World War in Texas, held their first convention in Hearne, TX. During the meeting they elected J. E. Armstead, Commander, and their headquarters will be located in Houston, TX. Department Commander Andrew Dilworth was present and addressed the convention on July 4, 1943, Color Veterans of the World War in Texas, held their annual convention in Houston, TX. Commander J.E. Armstead was reelected. (1) August 1944 Color Veterans of the World War Commander J. E. Armstead attend the Department Convention and provide a report at the Convention.

September 1945 at the 27th Department Convention it was adopted and approved at the DEC in October to organize a separate district know as District 22. The membership will be composed entirely of eligible veterans of African descent. These Posts were organized under the sponsorship and with the consent of an existing white post which were made up of members other than those of African descent. The letter "A" was added to the number of the sponsoring post. J. E. Armstead of Houston, former commander of the Colored Veterans of the World War, was appointed district commander and organizer. This plan came from the Department of Tennessee, when some Department of Texas officials attended a meeting of the Southern Departments in Birmingham, Alabama in April 1945.

On July 20, 1946, during the Colored Veterans of the World War convention in San Antonio, J. E. Armstead, organized the 22nd district. The District would consist of 77 posts



and total membership of 4,570. In 194, during the Department Convention, 22nd District Commander J. E. Armstead, reported a total of 5, 026 member is the district.

J. E. Armstead was listed as the District 22nd Commander once Color Veterans was given membership, 1945 to 1954. After 1954 District 22nd was not listed with a Commander until 1959. The 1959 Commander was Anton Biley, Jr. from Post 313 in Houston.

**OTHER MAJOR MILESTONES:**

- ❖ First Black Department Commander James W. White, Post 801 (1974 – 1975)
- ❖ First Black Department Vice Commander - Howard Lee Marks, Post 817 (1985 – 1986)
- ❖ In 1986 there were 53 Colored Posts with the number starting with 800. List of Post are on (2) Page 489, in the book called The American Legion Department of Texas 1919 – 1986.
- ❖ 1957 District 265, 26, 27, 29 had Colored District Commanders, they all were from Posts that had numbers starting with 800.

**CURRENT 800 SERIES POSTS:**

- ❖ As of 1 August 2021

<b>Post Number</b>	<b>Namesake</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>Membership Goal</b>
800	George W. Carver	San Antonio	27
802	Tommie Robinson	Dallas	27
808	Booker T. Washington	Lubbock	15
814	Tommy Harris	Brenham	15
817	Dorie E. Miller	Beaumont	306

<b>Post Number</b>	<b>Namesake</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>Membership Goal</b>
827	Herman E. Rochelle	San Antonio	19
828	Fred Brock	San Antonio	324
832	Colonel Louis A. Carter	El Paso	283
835	George Washington Carver	Angleton	27
838	Emmanuel L. Young	Fort Worth	159
842	Price Fennell	Tyler	45
844	Anthony-Menefee-Steper	Henderson	17
849	Wallace Taylor	Weimar	15
850	Laredo	Laredo	26
878	George A. Thompson	Marshall	43

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*Reference: from A History of the American Legion Department of Texas Vol II 1949-1969 compiled by Quincy A. Main; State Historian*

## CHAPTER 4 – TEXAS AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS (ALR) PROGRAM

Texas American Legion Riders chapters are well known for their charitable work, which has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for local children's hospitals, schools, veterans homes, severely wounded servicemembers and scholarships. Riders are members of the American Legion, Sons of American Legion, or the American Legion Auxiliary.

### SECTION 4.1 ALR BACKGROUND

ALR started at Post 396 in Garden City, Mich., in the fall of 1993. Chuck "Tramp" Dare and post commander Bill "Polka Bill" Kaledas had an idea to start an association of motorcycle enthusiasts within the Legion. The two Legionnaires – both longtime riders – wanted to create an environment where members of the Legion family could come together to share a common love for motorcycles. The Department of Michigan agreed with the concept and provided the two riders and 19 other founding members instructions on how to manage the program at the post level. The members of Post 396 soon adopted a resolution for a new program called the "American Legion Riders."

The American Legion recognized Garden City Post 396 as the "founding chapter" with a commemorative plaque in 2007.

The National Executive Committee officially adopted The American Legion Riders (ALR) as a national program with



Figure 46 - American Legion Riders Display at Alamo Post 2 - San Antonio TX

Resolution 35 (October 2007) and Resolution 32 (May 2011). As a subordinate organization of The American Legion, all riders chapters must take certain steps to protect their right to wear the trademark patch and to use the words "Legion Riders" as a description of their activity.

#### **SECTION 4.1 ALR BACKGROUND**

The National Executive Committee officially adopted The American Legion Riders (ALR) as a national program with Resolution 35 (October 2007) and Resolution 32 (May 2011). As a subordinate organization of The American Legion, all riders chapters must take certain steps to protect their right to wear the trademark patch and to



**Figure 47 - Jack D. Levy Post 573 American Legion Riders Harker Heights TX**

use the words "Legion Riders" as a description of their activity.

Department of Texas ALR Advisor Mark Thomson (Past Department and National Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms) provided an excellent report on the American Legion Riders of Texas for the last two years. The report is inclusive of many actions , to include:

- ❖ Department ALR Advisor reported at the 2021 Department Convention Department of Texas Legacy donations of \$23,500 dollars. While the figures were less that past efforts, ALR is determined to investigate better Legacy fund raising activities.
- ❖ Pony Express: The cancellation of the National Legacy Run and National Convention due to the Covid restrictions left a void in the efforts to raise scholarship funds. The

American Legion Riders State Directors of the following states: California, Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, Oklahoma, Missouri, and Indiana coordinated together and developed a run. Texas supported it with over 10 Riders that traveled to meet the group in Oklahoma City with four Texas Riders continuing on to Indianapolis. The run started in California to Indiana to give over 83,000 dollars to the National Commander. Online donations for the rest of the year exceeded \$500,000.

- ❖ 11th Annual ALR State Rally: Hosting the Rally was MIA Post 231 this year. Chapter 231 was selected by Directors or their representatives in attendance at an earlier Rally using unwritten procedures developed 5 years ago to select the location two years in the future and to permanently date the Rally for the third weekend in June. The Rally this year was a huge success and surpassed previous numbers. There were 31 Chapters in attendance, 193 tickets purchased and riders came from as far as El Paso. Next year's 2022 Rally will be at Mansfield Chapter 624 and then in 2023 at Chapter 58 in El Paso. A \$1,000 donation will be sent from Rally proceeds to the National Legacy Fund.
- ❖ 3rd Annual LoneStar Legacy Run: Hosted each year by Crosby Post 658. Started Monday June, 21st with 10 riders traveling for 5 days and many miles throughout North Texas with special sights each day ending at the State Rally on Friday. Fund raising efforts prior to and during the Run raised over \$14,000 for the scholarships.

#### **SECTION 4.1 2020 - 2021 TEXAS ALR CHAPTERS**

Below is a table of American Legion Rider chapters that are registered in the Texas American Legion Riders Chapters Website. It is not all inclusive of all Chapters in the the state.

A Texas American Legion Riders website was created by the vision of the Texas ALR State Advisor to help with communication flow between the American Legion, American Legion Riders, and the Community. ALR Chapters can post their open events for anyone to see/join, share pertinent ALR news from across the state that is worthy of public share, enable getting the word out to the community and to military veterans about the American Legion and the AL Riders Program, help with recruiting new members (American Legion, Sons of American Legion, AL Auxiliary, and AL Riders), and share information/guidance updates as they are modified/adopted by National Leadership.



Chapters are encouraged to go to <https://www.texasalr.org/texas-alr-chapters> and register.

Registered Texas American Legion Riders Chapters			
Director: Sam Rios Road Name: MONSTER Div 4 Dist 16 Anthony ALR #122: 221 Poplar St Anthony, TX 79821	Director: Basilio Rosales Road Name: BASS Div 1 Dist 12 Arlington ALR #60: 601 W Pioneer Pkwy Arlington, TX 76010	Director: Patty Pierce Road Name: ROCKET Div 3 Dist 10 Bastrop ALR #533: 3003 Loop 150E Bastrop Texas 78602	Director: Art Rutherford Road Name: SASQUATCH Div 1 Dist 12 Bedford ALR #379: 1245 N Industrial Blvd Bedford, TX 76021
Director: Chris Mimi Fish Armstrong Road Name: Div 2 Dist 11 Belton ALR #55: 101 W Avenue A Belton, TX 76513	Director: Charles Johnson Road Name: CHARLIE Div 3 Dist 23 Castroville ALR #460: 1305 Fiorella St Castroville Tx 78009	Director: Jan Cloud Road Name: CLOUDY Div 1 Dist 5 Cedar Hill ALR #111: 952 N Hwy 67 # 204 Cedar Hill, TX 75104	Director: Davis Dozier Road Name: WINGNUT Div 4 Dist 18 Claude ALR #344: 601 Campbell St Claude, TX 79019
Director: Jody Steward Road Name: HUSTLER Div 2 Dist 6 Cleburne ALR #50:	Director: Paul Goymerac Road Name: Div 3 Dist 20	Director: Terry Farmer Road Name: Farmer Div 2 Dist 6 Corsicana ALR #22:	Director: Paul Blaylock Road Name: Div 2 Dist 7 Crocket ALR #134:

## Registered Texas American Legion Riders Chapters

313 W Chambers St Cleburne, TX 76033	Converse ALR #593: 326 Legion Dr W Converse Texas 78109	632 N Beaton St Corsicana, TX 75110	1000 Brazos Street Crockett, TX 75835
Director: Gary Alston Road Name: Rooster Div 2 Dist 8 Crosby ALR #658: 14890 FM 2100 Crosby, TX 77532	Director: Herman Yentz Road Name: HERMINATOR Div 1 Dist 5 Dallas L.F. ALR #453: 2755 Bachman Dr Dallas, TX 75220	Director: James Harlan Road Name: LUCKY Div 1 Dist 5 Denison ALR #62: 419 W Crawford St Denison, TX 75020	Director: Mike Stewart Road Name: STEWY Div 1 Dist 5 Duncanville ALR #81: 418 E Red Bird Ln Duncanville, TX 75116
Director: John Palmer Road Name: FOREMAN Div 4 Dist 16 El Paso ALR #58: 4724 Vulcan Ave El Paso, TX 79904	Director: Allen Coleman Road Name: COLE WORLD Div 4 Dist 16 El Paso ALR #832: 2400 Bassett Ave El Paso, TX 79901	Director: Jim Johnson Road Name: RICO Div 2 Dist 11 Elm Mott ALR #121: 722 Leroy Pkwy Elm Mott, TX 76640	Director: Terry Silva Road Name: JT Div 2 Dist 6 Ennis ALR #361: 706 Rumbo Rd Ennis, TX 75119
Director: Bill Putman Road Name: DR FEELGOOD Div 1 Dist 12 FW ALR #516: 6801 Manhattan Blvd Fort Worth, TX 76120	Director: Shilo Buckner Road Name: BUCKY Div 1 Dist 12 FW South ALR #569: 400 W Felix St Fort Worth, TX 76115	Director: Pending Info Road Name: Div 2 Dist 11 Gatesville ALR #42: 214 Watts Ln Gatesville, TX 76528	Director: Bill Pooler Road Name: Wild Bill Div 2 Dist 6 Grandbury ALR #491: 3409 Davis Rd Granbury, TX 76049
Director: Larry Lee Road Name: Div 1 Dist 12 Haltom City ALR #655: 2817 Carson St Fort Worth, TX 76117	Director: Tim Harness Road Name: Tim Div 2 Dist 11 Harker Heights ALR #573: 225 Cox Dr Harker Heights, TX 76548	Director: Jaime Caratini Road Name: Div 3 Dist 20 Helotes ALR #309: 11844 Bandera Rd Helotes, TX 78023	Director: Thomas Purinton Road Name: CHUCHU Div 4 Dist 16 Horizon City ALR #598: 141 Ellsworth Dr, El Paso TX 79928
Director: Doug Harvey Road Name: N/A Div 2 Dist 7 Huntsville ALR #95: 1919 American Legion Dr Huntsville, TX 77320	Director: Jody Castro Road Name: Div 2 Dist 22 Katy ALR #164: 22125 Kingsland Blvd #164 Katy, TX 77450	Director : Andy Anderson Road Name: MATRIX Div 4 Dist 21 Kerrville ALR #208: 3725 Hwy 27 Kerrville Texas 78028	Director: Randy Glass Road Name: Conga Div 2 Dist 11 Killeen ALR #223: 208 S Park St Killeen, TX 76541
Director: Chris Smith Road Name: Div 3 Dist 9 League City ALR #554: 1650 Hwy 3 south League City, TX 77573	Director: Joe Kelley Road Name: Chief Div 4 Dist 18 Lubbock ALR #575: 6628 66th St Lubbock, TX 79424	Director: Steve Rawson Road Name: Div 1 Dist 4 Mabank ALR #310: 113 The Lee Way Mabank, TX 75147	Director: Mike Phillips Road Name: WHITE INDIAN Div 1 Dist 12 Mansfield ALR #624: 2951 FM917 Mansfield TX 76063
Director: Sam Adams Road Name: PREACHER Div 1 Dist 1 Marshall ALR #267:	Director: Greg Clark Road Name: Shade Tree Div 2 Dist 11 McGregor ALR #273:	Director: RJ Waller Road Name: Div 1 Dist 4 McKinney ALR #96: 1505 N Church St	Director: Carolyn Suazo Road Name: Div 1 Dist 5 Mesquite ALR #504:

Registered Texas American Legion Riders Chapters			
1904 Bomar St Marshall, TX 75670	202 S Jefferson Ave McGregor, TX 76657	McKinney, TX 75069	130 E Main St Mesquite, TX 75149
Director: Daniel Lindsey Road Name: N/A Div 4 Dist 16 Midland ALR #19: 1306 E Taylor Ave Midland, TX 79701	Director: Lancy Boyer Road Name: LB Div 2 Dist 6 Midlothian ALR #388: 111-143 W Ave E Midlothian TX 76065	Director: Eddie Pierce Road Name: EASY Div 4 Dist 17 Mineral Wells ALR #75: 75 American Legion Dr Mineral Wells, TX 76067	Director: Andy Lowen Road Name: Div 1 Dist 1 Mt Vernon ALR #243: 1557 County Rd SE 4265 Mt Vernon, TX 75457
Director: Leon Humphries Road Name: Div 4 Dist 16 Odessa ALR #430: 2701 E 8th St Odessa Tx 79761	Director: Mike Navarro Jr. Road Name: LT Div 3 Dist 15 Pharr ALR #101: 417 S Cage Blvd Pharr, TX 78577	Director: Dave Sweeney Road Name: DIRTY DAVE Div 1 Dist 4 Plano ALR #321: 1236 J Ave Plano TX 75074	Director: Norm Erkie (acting) Road Name: Div 1 Dist 4 Pottsboro ALR #231: 133 Army Ave Pottsboro, Texas 75076
Director: KC Ashmore Road Name: Div 1 Dist 4 Rockwall ALR #117: 609 S Goliad St #821 Rockwall TX 75087	Director: Jason Rose Road Name: Div 4 Dist 17 Roscoe ALR #227: 224 Loop 544 Roscoe, TX 79545	Director: Shane Johnson Road Name: TROPHY Div 1 Dist 4 Royce City ALR #100: 300 Erby Campbell Blvd Royse City, TX 75189	Director: Jeff Kline Road Name: TAZ Div 1 Dist 13 Sanger ALR #268: Po Box 38 Sanger Texas 76266
Director: Herb Fish Road Name: NO STRANGER Div 3 Dist 9 Schulenberg ALR #143: 1015 West Ave Schulenburg, TX 78956	Director: Jeff Messinger Road Name: WIZ-KID Div 3 Dist 14 Seguin ALR #245: 618 E Kingsbury St Seguin Texas 78155	Director: Chad Lepp Road Name: Div 4 Dist 18 Shamrock ALR #68: 124 S Iowa St Shamrock, TX 79079	Director: Victor Lincoln Road Name: GRINCH Div 1 Dist 12 Southlake ALR #14: 1501 Corporate Cir #100 Southlake Tx 76092
Director: Jim Rabon Road Name: Div 3 Dist 9 Texas City ALR #89: 3028 29th St N Texas City, TX 77590	Director: Richard Cole Road Name: TANK Div 2 Dist 8 Tomball ALR #127: 14408 Alice Rd Tomball, TX 77377	Director: Kim McCarthy Road Name: Div 1 Dist 3 Tyler ALR #12: 5503 American Legion Rd Tyler, TX 75708	Director: Curtis Wilson Road Name: Div 3 Dist 9 Victoria ALR #166: 1402 E Santa Rosa St Victoria, TX 77901
Director: Pending Info Road Name: Div 3 Dist 9 Wharton ALR #87: 221 Croom Dr Wharton, TX 77488	Director: Wayne Lester Road Name: Dakota Div 2 Dist 6 Whitney ALR #522: 303 FM2604 Whitney, TX 76692	Director: Craig Rause Road Name: RIZZO Div 1 Dist 13 Wichita Falls ALR #169: 4605 Lakeshore Dr Wichita Falls, TX 76310	Director: Joe Vaccarella Road Name: Div 1 Dist 13 Wichita Falls ALR #202: 1101 E Scott Ave Wichita Falls, TX 76301

## SECTION 4.1 2020 - 2021 TEXAS ALR CHAPTERS

### 1. TEXAS ALR STATE ADVISOR: MARK THOMSON (JULY 2019 – JUNE 2021)





**Figure 48 - Mark Thomson (2019-2021 ALR Advisor)**

The State Advisor serves as a liaison between the ALR Chapters, Posts, and the Department of Texas. He will be the main contact for any questions or concerns regarding the formation of any new ALR Chapters, and also serve as a resource and support contact for current Chapters and Posts. One of his

main goals this year is to create a better line of communication that keeps all Chapters informed and connected so that everyone can better support each other in our mission.

**NOTE:** Mark Meysembourg was selected in 2021 by Commander Brett Watson to serve as the Texas American Legion Riders Advisor. He is currently a member of American Legion Post 299 in Woodville, Texas. He retired as a SFC from the US Army in



**Figure 49 - Mark Meysembourg**

1998. He's been married for 38 years and have 3 sons, all of whom currently serve in the military (1 Air Force and 2 Army). He's been an active member for 18 years in the American Legion.

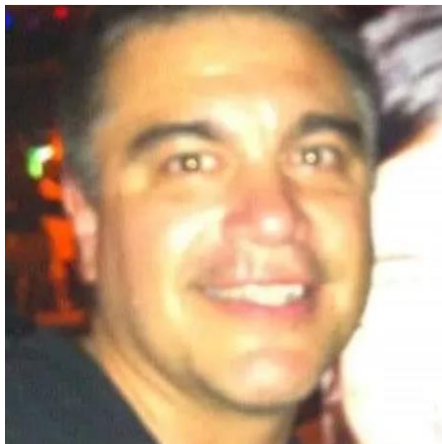
## **2. TEXAS ALR DIVISION LIAISONS**



**Figure 50 - Andy Lowen  
(1st Division ALR Liaison)**



**Figure 58 - Brad Halliday  
(2nd Division ALR Liaison)**



**Figure 59- Jay Grady  
(3rd Division ALR Liaison)**



**Figure 51 -John Palmer  
(4th Division ALR Liaison)**

## CHAPTER 5 – CONSTITUTIONAL COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS

### SECTION 5.1: AMERICANISM COMMISSION

- **Chairman:** Reno Reiley
- **Vice Chairman:** Johnny Washburn
- **Division Commander:** Any Lowen
- **Division Members:**
  - **Division 1** - Michael Griffith (2021)
  - **Division 2** - Everett Ison (2021)
  - **Division 3** – Reno Reiley (2023)
  - **Division 4** – Johnnie Washburn (2022)

#### SECTION 5.1.1: SUB-COMMITTEE CHAIRS

- **Boys State Chairman:** Casey Thompson (2021)
- **Boys State Director:** Scott Armstrong (2021)
- **Baseball Chairman:** Don Toohey (2021)
  - a. **Baseball Director:** Espiridion Zuniga (2021)
  - b. **Baseball Member:** Cyndi Miller (2021)
- **Boys Scout:** Eric Mayer (2021)
- **Sal Advisor:** [VACANT]
- **Oratorical/School Awards:** Fred Rogers (2021)
- **Community Service/Education:** Jim McGuire (2021)
- **Children and Youth:** [VACANT]
- **Junior Shooting:** Tom Marty (2021)

- **American Legion Riders:** Mark Thompson (2021)

## **SECTION 5.2: BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

- **Board of Trustees Chair:** Walter Ivie
- **Department Commander:** Jeff Perkins
- **Department Adjutant:** Bill West
- **Past Department Commanders Members:**
  - Butch Sparks
  - John McKinny
  - John Hince
  - Lloyd Buckmaster

## **SECTION 5.3: CONVENTION CITY COMMISSION**

- **Chairman:** Harry Woodstrom
- **Vice Chairman:** David Olson
- **Division Commander:** Robert Masten
- **Division Members:**
  - **Division 1** – Bobby Baker (2022)
  - **Division 2** – Harry Woodstrom (2023)
  - **Division 3** – Arturo Escobar (2024)
  - **Division 4** – David Olson (2021)

## **SECTION 5.4: FINANCE AND BUDGET COMMITTEE**

- **Chairman:** Steve Cook
- **Vice Chairman:** Tom Parry
- **Division Commander:** Brian Coleman

- **District Commander:** VACANT
- **Division Members:**
  - Tom Parry (2021)
  - Lynn Sparks (2021)
  - Steve Cook (2022)
  - Brian Coleman

## **SECTION 5.4: LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION**

- **Chairman:** Clifton Guillory
- **Vice Chairman:** Ralph Langley
- **Division Commander:** Don Sherman
- **Division Members:**
  - **Division 1** – Chris Holt (2021)
  - **Division 2** – Clifton Guillory (2021)
  - **Division 3** – Robert De La Garza (2022)
  - **Division 4** – Ralph Langley (2023)

## **SECTION 5.5: LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE**

- **Chairman:** Gene Toohey (2022)
- **Vice Chairman:** Ron Cherry
- **Division Commanders:**
  - **Division 1** – Gene Toohey (2022)
  - **Division 2** – Tom Harlan (2021)
  - **Division 3** – Ron Cherry (2021)
  - **Division 4** – Jimmy Mitchell (2021)

## **SECTION 5.6: MEMBERSHIP, ORGANIZATION & POST ACTIVITIES COMMISSION**

- **Chairman:** Bret Watson
- **Vice Chairman:** Mary Diaz
- **Division Commanders:**
  - **Division 1** – Andy Lowen
  - **Division 2** – Bryan Coleman
  - **Division 3** – Robert Masten
  - **Division 4** – Donald Sherman
- **Division Members:**
  - **Division 1** – Terry Cloninger (2021)
  - **Division 2** – Mary Diaz (2023)
  - **Division 3** – Douglas Norton (2022)
  - **Division 4** – Bret Watson (2021)

### **SECTION 5.6.1: SUB-COMMITTEE CHAIR**

- **Membership:** Roger Folmar (2021)
- **Uniformed Organization:** Larry Opperman (2021)
- **Constitution and By-Laws:** Walter Herman (2021)
- **Awards/Trophies:** Kimberly Biggerstaff (2021)

## **SECTION 5.7: NATIONAL SECURITY COMMISSION**

- **Chairman:** Glenn Scott (2023)
- **Vice Chairman:** Terry Bigley
- **Division Commander:** Andy Lowen

- **Division Members:**
  - **Division 1** – Vacant (2022)
  - **Division 2** – James Dinkins (2021)
  - **Division 3** – Reno Riley (2021)
  - **Division 4** – Glenn Scott (2023)

### **SECTION 5.7.1: SUB-COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN**

- **Military Affairs:** Phil Westerman (2021) – El Paso TX
- **Foreign Relations:** [VACANT]
- **Aerospace:** [VACANT]
- **Law & Order:** Celia Torres (2021) – El Paso TX
- **Disaster Preparedness:** Mark Monroe (2021) – Katy TX

### **SECTION 5.8: PUBLIC RELATIONS AND PUBLICATION COMMISSION**

- **Chair:** Ruber Banks (2021)
- **Vice Chair:** [Vacant]
- **Division Commander:** Andy Lowen
- **Division Members:**
  - **Division 1** – David Harvey (2021) – Emory TX
  - **Division 2** – Susan Marty (2021) – College Station TX
  - **Division 3** – Christine Reed (2021) – San Antonio TX
  - **Division 4** – Ruber Banks (2022) – El Paso TX

### **SECTION 5.9: TRAINING COMMITTEE**

- **Chairman:** Tom Marty
- **Vice Chairman:** Karen Paris

- **Division Commander:** Gene Toohey
- **Members:**
  - Ray Areola (2021) – Fort Worth TX
  - Tom Marty (2021) – College Station TX
  - Karen Paris (2022) – Universal City TX
  - Ronnie Pietzsch (2022) – Weatherford TX
  - Barry Schoenhals (2021) – Darrouzett TX
  - John McKinney (2021) – Dripping Spring TX

## **SECTION 5.10: VETERAN AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION COMMISSION**

- **Chairman:** Richard Britton (2021)
- **Vice Chairman:** Joe Page (2021)
- **Division Commander:** Don Sherman
- **Division Members:**
  - **Division 1** – Joe Page (2021) – Ft Worth TX
  - **Division 2** – Sheryll Ann Jones (2022) – Houston TX
  - **Division 3** – Gabriel Lopez (2023) – Laredo TX
  - **Division 4** – Richard Britton (2021) – El Paso TX

### **SECTION 5.10.1: SUB-COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN**

- **Hospital & VAVS:** Cedric Patterson (2021) – Crosby TX
- **Veterans Preference & Employment:** Bob Gear (2021) – Round Rock TX
- **Homeless Veterans:** Norman Bearden (2021) – Amarillo TX
- **Women Veterans Outreach:** Mary Westbrook (2021) – Bonham TX



## **SECTION 5.11: COURT OF APPEALS**

- **Presiding Judge:** Walter Herman (2021)
- **Members:**
  - Walter Herman (2021) – Alpine TX
  - John Brieden (2021) – Brenham TX
  - C.W. Sparks (2022) – Pearland TX

## **SECTION 5.12: TEXAS AMERICAN LEGION DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION**

- **President:**
- **Vice President:**
- **Members:**
  - **Department Commander** – Jeff Perkins
  - **Department Judge Advocate** – Dan Corbin
  - **DEC** – Vacant (2021)
  - **DEC** – Joseph Thomas (2020)
  - **BOT** – Jim Fleming (2021)
  - **BOT** – John Hince (2021)
  - **F & B** - Tom Parry (2021)
  - **F&B** – Steve Cook (2021)
  - **Americanism Commission** – Reno Reilly (2021)
  - **Department Treasurer** – David Paris

## **SECTION 5.13: MUSEUM DIRECTOR**

- Bill Moore – Snook TX

## **SECTION 5.14: THE AMERICAN LEGION 2019 COLOR GUARD CHAMPIONS**

- Harrisburg Post 472 – Houston TX

## **SECTION 5.15: GNUTS CLUB**

- Emperor XLIV – Johnnie Washburn

## **SECTION 5.16: TWENTY AND FOUR**

- Director VIP – Gerry Hince (Bryan TX)

## **SECTION 5.17: TEXAS AMERICAN LEGION PRESS ASSOCIATION (TXALPA)**

- **President** – Rachael Watson (Weatherford TX)
- **Secretary** – Cindy Miller (Temple TX)

## **SECTION 5.18: PAST DISTRICT COMMANDERS CLUB**

- **President** – Sheila Shulte (Cyress TX)
- **Secretary** – Lynn Sparks (Pearland TX)

## **CHAPTER 6 – COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **6.1 VETERANS AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION COMMISSION**

The Department VA&R Commission was called to order utilizing Zoom virtual software by Chairman Britton. The Waco region office is open again but has limited phone service due to the TVC secretary only works Monday through Thursday from 8:30 to 12:30 p.m. In-person hearings are being scheduled to be held at the regional office. We will still do virtual hearings. Adjutant West reported that the Houston division office was only open for DSOs on Wednesday and Thursday from 9:00 to 3:00. And due to the new VA computer policy, they are waiting to be issued VA computers so that they can start working on claims and cases. Chairman Britton emphasized the need to start pushing the VAVS program across the Department and the need more volunteers. We need to continue to improve the women veterans programs and make them feel welcome in our posts and organization.

#### **6.1.1 HOSPITAL & VAVS**

**Hospital VAVS:** Chairman Cedric Patterson reported that the VAVS -- and this would be Annual Joint Review, not AGR -- Annual Joint Review needs to be submitted by all hospital reps. Chairman Patterson stated that there was 8 one submission for the volunteer annual award for the year 2021. The award was for Irene Enfante was nominated by the 2nd Division. Cedric Patterson nominated Enfante for Volunteer of the Year award seconded by John Brieden.

Motion carried. Adjutant West informed the commission that the 2019 and '20 volunteer awards will be presented during the Department Convention.

### **6.1.2 VETERANS PROF. & EMPLOYMENT**

Preference and Employment Chairman Bob Gere reported to the commission that as of 25 November 2020, there were 7.5 percent unemployment rate for veterans in the state -- for veterans and the state rate for nonveterans was 8.1. COVID 19 impact on Texas economy showed the total unemployment insurance claims filed since 3-14-2020 to be 6.9 million, which is 38.7 billion dollars being paid to Texas unemployment insurance claimants. The American Legion Department of Texas is a "we hire vets" employer.

**Employer Nominees:** There were 33 nominations for the 2020 employer 9 awards. There were no submissions for the homeless veterans award for this year. The selection for the 2020 awards were:

- ❖ DVOC, T. Hubbard in Abilene.
- ❖ LVER, Lee Ware, Fort Worth.
- ❖ Small employers: Nardis Gun Club, San Antonio.
- ❖ Medium employer: Cyber Defense, Round Rock.
- ❖ Large employer: M1 Support Systems Services in Denton.
- ❖ Local Office Workforce Solution Lower Valley of El Paso.

- ❖ Enhance Lives of Disabled Veterans, Veterans Outreach, Inc.  
Georgetown
- ❖ 18 employers of older veterans: Joy Downtown Flowers and Greenery.

**Veteran Career Fairs:** Chairman Gere reported that the Department of Texas partnered with American Legion National Texas Veterans Commission and the Texas Workforce Commission to hold its first ever virtual Veterans Career Fair. There were over 200 employees – employers and over 700 veterans seeking participation across the 2 state and nation.

On February 9th, the Department, in conjunction with partners listed above, hosted its virtual town hall. John McKinney reported this virtual town hall, the state of Texas submitted and had a booth, a virtual booth. John McKinney had 73 visitors to the Texas American Legion booth. Nine out of 10 veterans, family members, job seekers participated in the event. We had veterans participating as far away as Guam, Japan, Milan Italy, Germany, Australia, South Africa, Botswana, and two active-duty sailors participated while underway at sea.

### **6.1.3 HOMELESS VETERANS**

Homelessness is one of the most challenging problems we face in our society but is also one of the most solvable ones. Approximately 40,000 veterans are without shelter in the U.S. on any given night. The leading cause of homelessness meaning veterans is PTSD, social isolation, unemployment,

substance abuse. Veterans account for 11 percent of the homeless adults in the U.S. Texas continues to rank No. 3 in the nation for homeless -- for homelessness, California and Florida being one and two.

#### **6.1.4 WOMEN'S OUTREACH**

Women Veterans Outreach Chairman report was given by Cheryl Wilson Jones. She stated many female veterans are not treated well and often aren't considered veterans. Most female veterans have no idea what the American Legion does for veterans and that they could be members of the organization and don't have any idea of how we could assist them. Female veterans are seeking more VA help. She encouraged everyone to put an emphasis on recruiting more female veterans into the organizations. Women want to serve just like men. As of 2018, women made up 9 percent of the veteran population. Women veteran suicide is on the increase, and we need to get more focus on their issues and help reduce the suicide rate.

#### **6.2 TRAINING COMMITTEE**

The Department Training Committee was called to order on Friday, January 29th, 2021, utilizing Zoom virtual software by Chairman Tom Marty. The committee addresses training topics of the '20, '21, and fall DEC. One was TABC update on operating under COVID restrictions and how to obtain a food and beverage permit; how to conduct a buddy check; MyLegion training on the new changes; legislative update for the year's session; and membership training.

Chairman Marty also addressed Legion College. The 6th District held a college Department Legion College at Bryan Post 159 on June 12th and 13th. The 12th District is holding a Department Legion College at Fort Worth Post 569 on April 10th and 11th. Chairman Marty reported that National is holding the 2020 National Legion College on November 19th, 2021. Due to a technical glitch, National did not receive our application so we will not have a representative at the 2020 class. The 2021 National Legion College will be held December 12th through the 17th, 2021. The 2021 application will be available on the National website on February 5th. All 2021 applications must be completed and mailed to the Department by June 15th, 2021, to be considered by the Training Committee at the Department convention meeting.

### **6.3 BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Board of Trustees was called to order February 12th, 2021, in the Omni South Park Hotel, Austin, Texas, by Chairman Walter Ivie. David Paris gave the treasurer's report, and John McKinney moved to accept the report. Motion carried.

Adjutant West reported that the repairs to the HQ building windows was completed and once the wall was removed, other problems were found and corrected. We had to have the outside of the building painted with a waterproofing paint to seal the cracks in the stucco finish.

Finance and Budget Chairman Steve Cook stated there were no reports at this time. Adjutant West read the first reading before the board of John C. Phelps, Post 45 Clarksville, 1st District, 1st Division. John Hince moved to table the first reading of John C. Phelps, Post 45, Clarksville, until all the paperwork was corrected. Motion carried.

Adjutant West Charter discussed charter cancellation procedures. Department Commander Jeff Perkins moved to accept the procedures for the cancellation of squadron charters. Motion carried. John Hince moved to pay the expenses of the Board of Trustees. Motion carried.

Department Commander Perkins moved to recommend to the Department Executive Committee to rescind the approval of the merger of Griffith-Zann Post 594, Houston into Edward H. White, II Post 521, Pasadena. Seconded by John McKinney. Motion carried.

Department Commander Perkins moved that any funds that were expected or expended be returned to the Griffith-Zann Post 594. Seconded by John Hince. Motion carried with one NA vote by C.W. Sparks.

Department Commander Perkins moved that we contact all members of Griffith-Zann Post 594 that were transferred to the Edward H. White, II Post 521, and allow them to transfer back to Griffith-Zann Post 594. Motion carried. Department Commander moved to conduct the revitalization effort under the supervision of the Department. Motion carried. John Hince moved that all parties involved in the merger of Griffith-Zann Post 594 and Edward H. White, II Post 521 receive a detailed list of all funds that need to be returned to Griffith-Zann Post 594 and that said, funds be returned within 90 days. Motion carried.

John Hince moved that the Department Commander appoint an ad hoc committee to look at developing a standard operating procedure or guidelines for the use of department vehicles. Specifically, the use by the Department Commander and Department Vice



Commander with emphasis on these areas: What is authorized travel? Are you visiting a post function and/or a meeting or are you just visiting the bar? Should the Legion vehicle be driven to and from your place of employment? Should drinking alcohol and driving a Legion vehicle be allowed? Should the Legion vehicle be used to campaign for other Legionnaires, auxiliary members, or sons of the American Legion members? No smoking be allowed in Department vehicles. Motion carried

Adjutant West reported on the status of Snyder Post 181 that was requested at the fall DEC to sell their property. After title search was performed, the property was found to belong to the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Motion carried.

## **6.4 AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS**

See Chapter 4

## **6.5 FINANCE AND BUDGET COMMITTEE**

The Finance and Budget Committee was called to order on Friday, February 12th, 2021, at the Omni South Park Hotel in Austin, Texas, by Chairman Steve Cook. Department Treasurer Paris then gave the treasurer's report Tom Perry moved. To approve. Motion carried. Tom Parry moved to add to the Chase bank account. Guy Nealis (7th District.) Motion carried.

Chairman Cook presented the proposal for PCI to produce the oral history project which would provide a yearbook and digital vault. Lynn Sparks moved to recommend to the Department Executive Committee to pass at this time on the proposal. Motion carried.

Rich Huntley (9<sup>th</sup> District Commander) move to have the SAO budget be submitted after the rescheduled mid-winter DEC, be submitted to the Americanism Commission and the Finance Committee for review and approval via electronic means, that the resolution be accepted, and the SAO budget be presented to approval via E-mail vote of the DEC. This was set aside -- made -- left open at the last DEC meeting so that it could be corrected. that a resolution to accept the SOA, the updated SOA budget, be presented by approval via E-mail vote of the DEC. Motion carried.

## **6.6 LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION**

The Legislative Commission was called to order on Friday, January 29th, 2021, utilizing Zoom virtual software by Chairman Clifton Guillory. There being no quorum for the commission meeting, Chairman Guillory continued it as a discussion to present information to the members in attendance for possible action by the Department Executive Committee. Chairman. Department Adjutant West gave an update on the 2021 legislative session. contacted the Capital offices and due to the current COVID 19 situation, this year's sessions were done virtually with limited invited testimony to the Capital for various committee meetings. We will need all our members to call and E-mail their local representative and senators on our issues. We will send a list to the District and Division commanders and the Department Hubmaster to get out to the posts so that they can share it with their 10 members.

Chairman Guillory called on Department Adjutant West to brief the current list of proposed bills we are watching. After some discussions we were adding Senate bill 100 and House bill 230 to the list. And the list is attached.

## **6.7 LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Long-Range Planning Committee is called to order on February 11th in the Omni South Park Hotel, Austin, Texas by Chairman Ron Cherry. Chairman Cherry began a discussion on the Review of the Department Objectives. Gene Toohey moved to recommend changing the dates of the heading and first paragraph to 2020-2021 of the Department Objectives to the state of Texas Department Executive Committee. Motion carried. Under discussion, it was suggested that the LRPC work with the other committees and commissions to provide reports and feedback on if we are meeting our objectives and benchmarks. We need to look at the organization as a whole to see what changes have occurred since the adoption of the Department Objectives and the Department Strategic Plan to make any needed changes in the future.

Chairman Cherry began the discussion of the review of the Department Strategic Plan, Gene Toohey moved to recommend to the Department to continue with the current version of the Department Strategic Plan. Motion carried.

Chairman Cherry began the discussion on the redistricting plans for the 9th District. Gene Toohey presented a plan for splitting the 9th District into two separate Districts. Rich Huntley stated that the 9th District was looking at a plan they are creating or splitting the districts. It was suggested that the 9th District submit their plan to the committee so it can be reviewed and for the 9th District at its spring convention review all plans and provide feedback and a plan for the -- to the committee to review and present at the Department District Committee Meeting. Motion carried.

## **6.8 MEMBERSHIP, ORGANIZATION & POST ACTIVITIES COMMISSION**

The Membership Organization of Post Activities Commission, February 11, 2021. The Membership Organization and Post Activities Commission was called to order Friday, February 12th, 2021, at the Omni Austin South Park Hotel in Austin, Texas by Chairman Bret Watson. The Membership Chairman Department Vice Commander Roger Folmar gave report on the current membership, and we are behind. We need to work to obtain 90 percent retention of previous years' members. For 2020, we have over 45,000 expired members in the database. Lists were provided to the division commanders to help identify those members and those needing assistance.

Chairman Watson began the discussion on headquarters Post 345 dues. Mary Diaz moved to recommend to the Department Executive Committee to set the 2022 dues to \$40. Motion carried.

Chairman Watson discussed the National Commander's call to action plan for 2021, 2022. Chairman Watson discussed the usage report from mylegion.org. We still have over 173 posts that are not using mylegion.org.

The expired numbers are going up. We are getting a lot more phone calls saying they're not renewing because, one, they don't want to belong to that local post because they smoke or drink and then they just quit. Butch Sparks, NECman. A lot of Division Commanders realize I get a membership report every week from National. A new item on that report starting last week was expired members. And to Bill's point, last week, Texas had 7,823, I think similar of expired members. And that's people who haven't paid. Okay? Texas ranks third, not in a great position, but third in the number of expired members behind California and Florida.

Voce Commander Roger Folmar named Robert Masten (3<sup>rd</sup> Division) as top Division Commander. There's a trophy in the headquarters where his name will be engraved. The following District Commanders have qualified for the District Commander 100 percent award. Tim Slinkard (1st District) and John Hafner (20th District).

Cash awards for posts retaining 105 percent of their membership goal for 2021 by December 31<sup>st</sup>: (1) 10th District, Post 183 (Bartlett) and Post 213 (Buddha); (2) 21<sup>st</sup> District – Post 289 Goldthwaite; (3) 4<sup>th</sup> District – Post 265 (Lake Kiowa); and (4) 13th District – Post 268 (Sanger).

### **6.9.1 UNIFORMED ORGANIZATION COMMITTEE**

[No Input].

### **6.9.2 CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS**

See Judge Advocate Report

### **6.9.3 AWARDS/TROPHIES**

Kimberly Biggerstaff, Awards and Trophy Committee Chairman, read the Awards Committee meeting committee minutes. Kimberly Biggerstaff moved to accept the Awards Committee report with the following change to the Texas Post Excellence Award qualification requirements: Section 4, by adding No. 10. Any other youth program recorded on CPR. Seconded by Mary Diaz. Motion carried.

Kimberly Biggerstaff moved to recommend to the Department Executive Committee to reset the Post all-time membership goal number to the 2021 final membership report number as of June 1st, 2021, and that any post that is currently achieving a new all-time

high each year, that their continuous all-time high years will be carried over. Seconded by Mary Diaz. Motion carried.

Kimberly Biggerstaff moved to recommend to the -- to recommend to the Department Executive Committee to replace the membership award manual using the new format. Seconded by Mary Diaz, Motion Chairman.

## **6.10 TRAINING COMMITTEE**

The Department Training Committee was called to order on Friday, January 29th, 2021, utilizing Zoom virtual software by Chairman Tom Marty. Chairman Marty had a moment of silence for committee member Ronnie Pietsch who recently passed. Chairman Marty started discussion on training topics for the '20, '21, fall DEC. (1) TABC update on operating under COVID restrictions and how to obtain a food and beverage permit. wo, how to conduct a buddy check.; (2) My Legion training on the new; (3) legislative update for the year's session; and (4) membership training.

Chairman Marty addressed the Department Legion College. The 6th District is holding a Department Legion College at Bryan Post 159 on June 12th and 13th. The 12th District is holding a Department Legion College at Fort Worth Post 569 on April 10th and 11th. Chairman Marty reported that National is holding the 2020 National Legion College on November 16th through 19th, 2021. Due to a technical glitch, National did not receive our application so we will not have a representative at the 2020 class. The 2021 National Legion College will be held December 12th through the 17th, 2021. The 2021 application will be available on the National website on February 5th. All 2021 applications must be

completed and mailed to the Department by June 15th, 2021, to be considered by the Training Committee at the Department convention meeting.

Chairman Marty asked for any other matters. The subject of conducting virtual training for members was discussed and was being looked at for the Department to hold.

## **6.11 NEC REPORT**

Report by Butch Sparks: Due to the COVID 19 pandemic, National meetings have been held utilizing a virtual format. Commissions and committees that normally meet before the Fall National Executive Committee meeting held virtual meetings. The fall NEC meeting was held virtually on October 14th and 15th 2020. During this meeting, resolutions were presented and approved by the NEC. Although all the resolutions are of interest to the Department of Texas, we are highlighting several that may have direct impact on Texas. They are Resolution 19, titled: Updated Program Guidelines for the American Legion Riders. Resolution 34, titled: Direct Membership Solicitation Program Update. Resolution 35, titled: Insurance. After the NEC, a clarification letter from the National Judge Advocate was received. I then E-mailed this resolution and clarification letter from the Judge Advocate to the division commanders and the Department of Judge Advocate.

An emergency meeting was held on November 17th, 2020, to discuss a resolution submitted by the Marketing Commission titled No. 48, Indy Car Sponsorship. The resolution was approved. Based on a continuing threat of COVID 19 pandemic, the Washington conference was canceled. However, the National Commander will still be providing his congressional testimony. We also have been informed that the spring meetings will be held virtually on May 5th and 6th, 2021.

On a sad note, you may or may not be aware of the passing of Randall Fisher from the Department of Kentucky. Mr. Fisher visited us at one of our conferences and was a candidate for National Commander for the years for the year '22-'23. He was a fine gentleman and a super Legionnaire. Additional information on National reports can be found on [archives.legion.org](http://archives.legion.org). I encourage all of you to visit the site. There's a lot of info there. Hopefully, we will return to some state of normalcy in the near future.

## **6.12 JUDGE ADVOCATE REPORT**

See Appendix E.

## **6.13 RESOLUTIONS**

**(1) DEC RESOLUTION 1-2021:** Background Screening of All Program Staff Members for all Department Youth Programs.

Whereas all youth programs in the American Legion Department of Texas rely heavily upon dedicated volunteers willing to contribute time and skills for executing essential programs; and

Whereas in February 2018, the Protecting Young Victims from Sexual Abuse and Safe Sport Authorization Act of 2017 which is public law 115 to 126 was signed into law; and

Whereas this bill amends the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990 to extend the duty to report suspected child abuse, including sexual abuse immediately to law enforcement and adults who are authorized to interact with minor and amateur athletes by any amateur sports organization that participates in interstate or international amateur athletic competition; and



Whereas background screening clearly prescribes policies, instruction, and oversight for all effective elements of volunteer management that can help uphold the integrity and safety of youth program, mitigate the risk and liability to an organization; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the American Legion Department of Texas and Department Executive Committee in regular meeting assembled in Austin, Texas, on February 14th, 2021, that the American Legion Department of Texas implement procedures that will require background screening for all volunteers selected to staff any Department level youth program; and be it further

Resolved that said background screening will be conducted annually prior to the start of each program; and be it finally

Resolved that said background screening will be conducted by vendors authorized by National or Department organizations.

Commander Thomas, 22nd District makes a motion that the resolution be accepted.  
Motion carried.

**(2) DEC RESOLUTION 2.2021: Background Screening Procedures and Policies For American Legion Youth Programs**

Whereas the economic news released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics U.S. Department of Labor shows that nearly 20 percent of all volunteer hours worked through the United States since 2011 were contributed toward education or youth-related organizations; and

Whereas youth programs in the American Legion rely heavily on dedicated volunteers willing to contribute time and skills for executing essential functions of the program; and

Whereas the aftermath of recent high-profile allegations of child sexual molestation across the United States has demonstrated the importance of ensuring protection of all vulnerable population; and

Whereas February 2018, the Protecting Young Victims from Sexual Abuse and Safe Sports Act of 2017, public law 115 to 126 was signed into law; and

Whereas this bill amends the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990 to extend the duty to report suspected child abuse, including sexual assault, immediately to law enforcement and adults who are authorized to interact with minor amateur athletes by amateur sports association that participates in interstate and international amateur sport, amateur athletic competition; and

Whereas background screening clearly established policies, instruction, and oversight for all effective elements of volunteer management that can hold the integrity and safety of youth program and mitigate the risk and liability to an organization; now, therefore be it

Resolved by the American Legion Department of Texas and Department Executive Committee in regular meeting assembled in Austin, Texas on February 14th, 2021, that the posts of the American Legion Department of Texas are strongly urged and encouraged to establish background screening and procedures and policies similar to those of the National or Department and National organizations for volunteers supporting youth programs conducted within their sports -- with their program.

Commander John Hafner, 20<sup>th</sup> District makes a motion that the resolution be accepted. Motion carried. Commander Kim 6<sup>th</sup> District seconded. Motion Carried.

**Discussion:** In your DEC packets is the risk management policy of the American Legion Department of Texas for Enhanced Protection of the Department Children Youth Programs. If you go to National's website, they have one for -- they're all separate. There's one for baseball. They have one for junior shooter sports, and they have a group ball. Bill West talked to their risk management manager and said, can a Department put it in one policy, if we include all that information that's required? The answer was yes.

Adjutant West compiled this and sent it to the Judge Advocate. He looked at it and we sent it up to their risk management manager, too, and said, look it over. What issues do you have, do you see? Because we have to have this. We can no longer use National's. Our insurance company will not let us use National's anymore Sexual Abuse and Molestation (SAM) is something every post should have. If you conduct any children in youth sport, you should have it. We have it at the Department, it's not expensive. Well, it's like \$3,000. That's expensive for a post. but it protects the post because this stuff happens.

**(3) DEC RESOLUTION 32021: Insurance Requirement**

Whereas the American Legion's charter is codified in 36 U.S.C 21701 and under the statutory code the American Legion may establish and maintain offices to conduct its activities:

- a. Sue and be sued.
- b. Establish state, territorial, and post

- c. Have the exclusive right to manufacture and control the adopted organization's emblems; and

Whereas the American Legion, its states, territorial, and post organizations have the exclusive right to use the name of the American Legion or American Legion collectively named; and

Whereas the names, emblems, trademarks, and copyrights of the American Legion comprise the American Legion intellectual property collective trade names; and

Whereas the American Legion's trade names consist of assets requiring legal and financial protections through insurance coverage; and

And whereas recommended that the American Legion states, territorial, and post organizations have their own protective insurance coverage; and

Whereas the National Executive Committee passed Resolution 35 insurance requirements, May 14, 15, 2020, requiring that when departments, Department-chartered intermediate bodies, and posts or other organizations using American Legion's name or trademark and a liability insurance policy is obtained, the group utilizing this insurance policy shall specifically in the insurance policy hold the American Legion nameless and named as an additional insured on any and all insurance policies; now, therefore be it

Resolved American Legion Department of Texas and Department Executive Committee in a regular meeting assembled in Austin, Texas, February 14, 2021, that the American Legion owns, controls, protects, and defends the Legion's trademarks. This resolution is necessary to dictate protective standards over the trademark names; and be it further

Resolved that the American Legion and the American Legion Department of Texas via insurance policies, protect itself and its trademark names from liability and subsequently strongly urges all American Legion posts within the Department to do the same; and be it further

Resolved that due to the needs to protect the American Legion's trade names from liability, it shall be required forthwith that when any American Legion post or organization uses the American Legion's name or trade names and a liability insurance policy is obtained, the group utilizing this insurance policy shall be named specifically in the insurance policy and hold the American Legion and the American Legion Department of Texas harmless and named as additional insured on any and all insurance policies; and be it further

Resolved that the American Legion Department of Texas Adjutant or designee has completed the authority to independently investigate, confirm, and report that any and all liability insurance policies purchased by the American Legion posts and/or organizations shall specifically state that the American Legion and the American Legion Department of Texas is held harmless and named as an additional insured on any and all insurance policies.

Commander Kim, 6<sup>th</sup> District makes a motion that the resolution be accepted. Seconded by Commander Thomas 22<sup>nd</sup> District. Motion Carried.

## CHAPTER 7 – PAST DEPARTMENT COMMANDERS



Figure 52 -Past Department Commanders Luncheon @ Fall DEC (2018): Back Row (L to R): John Brieden, John Hince, Paul Dillard, Jim Prendergast, Walter Ivie, Jim McNair, John McKinny; Front Row (L to R) Jim Fleming, Lynn Sparks, Ron Cherry, John Morris

**1919 Claude V. Birkhead,  
San Antonio (D)**

**1920 Henry Hutchings,  
Fort Worth (D)**

**1921 Guy O. Shirey,  
Fort Worth (Resigned) (D)**

**Jay A. Rossiter, Houston (D)**

**1922 Wayne B. Davis,  
San Antonio (D)**

**1923 John C. Townes,  
Houston (D)**

**1924 Dr. M. W. Sherwood,  
Temple (D)**

**1925 Mark McGee,  
Fort Worth (D)**

**1926 Dr. W. T. Dunning,  
Gonzales (D)**

**1927 Ray C. Winters,  
Abilene (D)**

**1928 Walton D. Hood,  
Harlingen (D)**

**1929 Rufus F. Scott, Jr.,  
Paris (D)**

**1930 Ernest C. Cox,  
Austin (D)**

**1931 Hal L. Brennan,  
Laredo (D)**

**1932 V. Earl Earp,  
Monahans (D)**

**1933 Carl E. Nesbitt,  
Mineola (D)**

**1934 L. Van Perkins,  
Cameron (Resigned) (D)  
M. J. Benefield, Odessa (D)**

**1935 H. Miller Ainsworth,  
Luling (D)**

**1936 Ernest S. Goens,  
Tyler (D)**

**1937 Drury M. Phillips,  
Huntsville (D)**

**1938 Dr. W. J. Danforth,  
Fort Worth (D)**

**1939 Vincent Chiodo,  
Houston (D)**

**1940 Lou J. Roberts,  
Amarillo (D)**

**1941 Ed Reidel, Austin (D)**

**1942 Andrew Dilworth, San  
Antonio (D)**

**1943 Charles J. Maisal,  
Odessa (D)**

**1944 Sam D. Forman, Jr.,  
Houston (D)**

**1945 Henry Love,  
Fort Worth (D)**

**1946 Herman Nami,  
San Antonio (D)**

**1947 Bertram K. Giesecke,  
Austin (D)**

**1948 George S. Berry,  
Lubbock (D)**

**1949 William McCraw,  
Dallas (D)**

**1950 Capt. A. Schafli,  
Seguin (D)**

**Joe Spurlock, Fort Worth (D)**

**1951 Wm. F. (Bill) Elkins,  
Austin (D)**

**1952 Charles C. Gibson,  
Amarillo (D)**

**1953 Albert D. Brown,  
San Antonio (D)**

**1954 L. E. Page,  
Carthage (D)**

**1955 E. L. Jackson,  
Cisco (D)**

**1956 Charles L. Downey,  
Pleasanton (D)**

**1957 Joe Matthews,  
Fort Worth (D)**

**1958 Warren G. Moore,  
Tyler (D)**

**1959 J. Walter Janko,  
Somerville (D)**

**1960 Donald I. Peters,  
Houston (D)**

**1961 Pete E. Turner,  
Midland (D)**

**1962 Aubrey Bullard,  
Waco (D)**

**1963 Vince F. Taylor,  
Dripping Springs (D)**

**1964 John McKelvey,  
Austin (D)**

**1965 Lewis W. Emerich,  
Houston (D)**

**1966 Clayton Mann,  
Wichita Falls (D)**

**1967 Jack W. Flynt,  
Dimmitt (D)**

**1968 William G. Nami,  
Cuero (D)**

**1969 Robert P. Walsh,  
San Antonio (D)**

**1970 Henry H. Hill,  
Kingsland (D)**

**1971 B. B. Hester,  
Houston (D)**

**1972 Gil Moody, Austin (D)**

**1973 James P. Holly,  
Nederland**

**1974 C. Lynn Steward, Fort  
Worth (D)**

**1975 James W. White,  
Houston (D)**

**1976 Larry Lahaie,  
Henderson (D)**

**1977 C.G. McKinzie,  
Lubbock (D)**

**1978 Harvey H. Holcomb,  
Odessa (D)**

**1979 George H. Skelly,  
Columbus (D)**

**1980 Mike D. Mireles,  
San Antonio (D)**

**1981 Harry C. Riggs,  
Plainview (D)**

**1982 Lee Guy,  
Breckenridge (D)**

**1983 Waggoner Carr,  
Austin (D)**



**1984 Charles E. Sonntag Jr.  
(D)**

**1985 G. Ward Moody,  
Austin (H) (D)**

**1985 John D. Morris,  
Houston (D)**

**1986 Hebert W. Odell,  
Fort Worth**

**1987 John W. J. Richter,  
Brenham (D)**

**1988 E.H. "Hank" Narmour  
(D)**

**1989 Lindon Williams,  
Baytown (D)**

**1990 Archie Heathington,  
Granbury (D)**

**1991 Derek Shultz, Bryan (D)**

**1992 Patsy Palmquist,  
Edinburg (D)**

**1993 Ronald P. McCluskey,  
El Paso (D)**

**1994 John Brukner, Houston (D)**

**1995 William Farmer,  
Waxahachie (D)**

**1996 John A. Brieden, III,  
Brenham**

**1997 Delbert Fuhrman,  
Kingsland (D)**

**1998 William B. Long,  
Mineral Wells (D)**

**Ronald G. Cherry,  
San Antonio**

**1999 Daniel Whealen,  
Universal City (D)**

**2000 Donald F. Simons,  
Bryan**

**2001 James Young,  
Houston (D)**

**2002 Conrad Roberson,  
Odessa (D)**

**2003 Clayton Hueske,  
Waco (D)**

**2004 Bob Walls, Mineral  
Wells (D)**

**2005 Dellano T. Simmons,  
Vidor**

**2006 James Prendergast,  
Duncanville**

**2007 C. W. "Butch" Sparks,  
Pearland**

**2008 Paul E. Dillard, Lake  
Kiowa**

**2009 James McNair, El Paso**

**2010 Don Daft, Wallis (D)**

**2011 Kenneth Mueller,  
Brenham**

**2012 J. G. “Lupe” Garza,  
Richmond (D)**

**2013 Daniel A. Corbin,  
Killeen**

**2014 James Fleming, Anna**

**2015 Lynn Sparks, Pearland**

**2016 John McKinny,  
Dripping Springs**

**2017 Walter Ivie (Austin)**

**2018 John Hince (Bryan)**

**2019 Lloyd Buckmaster (San  
Antonio)**

**2020-2021 Jeff Perkins, Rowlett**

## CHAPTER 8 – PAST NATIONAL COMMANDERS

1919-1920 Henry D. Lindsley, Dallas (D)

1922-1923 Alvin M. Owsley, Dallas (D)

1948-1949 S. Perry Brown, Austin (D)

1972-1973 Joe L. Matthews, Ft Worth (D)

1981-1982 Jack W. Flynt, Dimmitt (D)

2003-2004 John A. Brieden III, Brenham



Figure 53 - Past National Commander - John Brieden

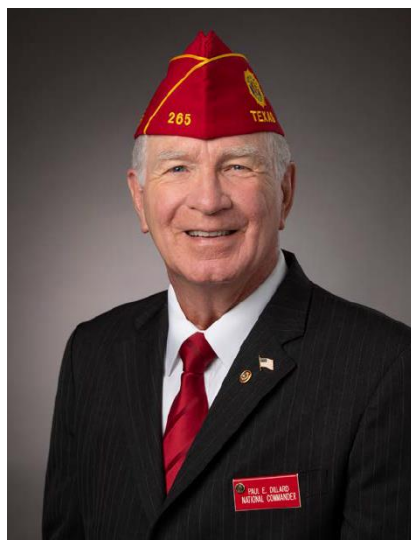


Figure 60 – 2021 – 2022 National Commander Paul Dillard

## APPENDIX A – THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Board of Trustees is in charge of all Trust Funds and all properties, real, personal, or mixed, the legal title to which is now vested, or may hereafter vest, in the.

This year's members are:

**2019** – James McNair

**2020** – Jim Fleming

**2021** – Lynn Sparks

**2022** – John McKinny

**2023** – Walter Ivie

**2024** – John Hince

## APPENDIX B - DEPARTMENT ACTIVITIES



Historical Winter Storm hits Austin at end of 2021 Mid-Winter Conference



Figure 61 – Department Adjutant Bill West performing vehicle maintenance (7/7/2021)



Figure 62 – Cdr Jeff Perkins (R), District 20 Cdr John Hafner (L), award Post 593 Cdr Paul Goymerac and Ed Richards Oratorical Scholarship Program Special Certificate of Appreciation



Figure 63 - Post 178 Color Guard post colors at 2020 Fort Worth Veterans Council Veterans Day commemoration.



Figure 65 - Four Star General (Ret.) Vincent Brooks now addressing the delegates in our penultimate plenary session.

Figure 64 - National Commander Bill Oxford and wife visit Texas Mid-Winter Conference





**Figure 66 - Commander Perkins at Sweepstakes Drawing**



**Oxford from North Carolina with his wife and Aid arrive in Texas for his official visit. Also present are Department Commander Perkins, Vice-Commander Folmar, NECMAN and Alternate Sparks, and Mueller. And other legionaries and Auxiliary member.**



**Figure 54 – 9<sup>th</sup> District Commander Rich Huntley fulfils (L) "shoeshine" Challenge with 20<sup>th</sup> District Cdr John Hafner (L) and 3<sup>rd</sup> Division Cdr Robert Masten (c) at Department Convention (10 July 2021)**



**Figure 70 - James "Tyler" Watson( R) receives award as the "Youngest Delegate " to 2021 Department Convention from State Cdr Perkins**



**Figure 69 - Past Department Commander Herb Odell (R) receives award as the "Oldest Delegate " to 2021 Department Convention from State Cdr Perkins**



**Figure 71 - Fall 2020 DEC delegates attend COVID-restricted meeting in September 2020**



**Figure 72 - 3rd Division Cdr Robert Masten receives Membership Award from State Vice Cdr Roger Folmar at 2021 Mid-Winter Conference**



**Figure 73 - 9th District Cdr Rich Huntley receives Membership Award from State Vice Cdr Roger Folmar at 2021 Mid-Winter Conference**



**Figure 74 - Historical Winter Storm hits Austin at end of 2021 Mid-Winter Conference**



**Figure 76 - State Cdr Perkins (R) and 20th District Cdr John Hafner (L) awards Special Certificate of Appreciation to Post 593's Ed Richards (2nd L) and Post 593 Cdr Paul Goymerac (2nd R) for their work with Oratorical Scholarship Program**



**Figure 75 - Past Department Cdr Lloyd Buckmaster (R) and Department Auxiliary President Brenda Towers (2nd L) attend 20th District Spring Convention**



**Figure 77 – 6th District Cdr Steve Kim address 2021 Mid-Winter Conference discussion on Post merger**



**Figure 78 – Past National and Department Cdr John Brieden address 2021 Mid-Winter Conference on post merger issues.**



**Figure 79 - 2021 3rd Division Convention held in San Antonio TX at Alamo Post 2 May 2021**



**Figure 80 - State Cdr Perkins congratulates 3rd Division Cdr Masten on successful convention**



## **APPENDIX C: DEPARTMENT COMMANDER – JEFFREY ALAN PERKINS (2019 – 2021)**

Department Commander Jeff Perkins has been an inspirational leader of the Texas American Legion. Jeff was born in Granite City, Illinois on May 28, 1956. His youth was spent growing up in Troy, Illinois. He graduated from Triad High School in 1974 and enlisted in the U. S. Coast Guard in September 1974. After graduating from basic



**Figure 81 - Department of Texas Commander  
Jeff A. Perkins**

training in Alameda, California, he attended Storekeeper “A” School at Petaluma, California. During his twenty year career, Jeff was stationed in Yorktown, Virginia, St. Louis, Missouri, Seattle, Washington, Cheboygan, Michigan, New York City, New York and Ketchikan, Alaska.

Jeff retired on September 30, 1974, from the U. S. Coast Guard as a Senior Chief Storekeeper and moved to Orlando, Florida. One year later, Jeff moved to Rowlett, Texas and was employed by Dallas Peterbilt, Inc. as the Service Administrator for the next five years. Shortly after leaving Dallas Peterbilt, Inc., Jeff required three back surgeries.

He has been working for Homeland Security since 2002 as an Accounting Technician. Jeff at the same time has been attending night school to obtain his accounting degree.

Jeff joined The American Legion in September of 2004 at Post 111 in Cedar Hill, Texas. He was elected Post Commander from May 31, 2007, until his requested transfer to Post 511, Dallas, Texas on April 8, 2008. Jeff was Post Commander at Post 511 from May

2008 until June 2010. From June 2009 until June 2011, Jeff served as the 5th District Adjutant. On June 27, 2011, he was installed as the 5th District Commander for the Department of Texas. He is currently serving as the Post Commander for Post 511 since June 11, 2012. He also is a dual member for the Sons of The American Legion at Post 511. Jeff has attended Commander School at the Department of Texas as well as completing The American Legion Extension Institute Course. He is a Paid-Up-F-or-Life (PUFL) member of The American Legion.

Commander Perkins is well known both in and outside the Department of Texas for his initiative to create The Texas Fallen Heroes Memorial Wall. The project took Commander Perkins 4 1/2 months to research and put together at his personal expense. Since building the "wall," Commander Perkins has travels to numerous events, Posts, District meetings, and state conventions displaying the now, well known wall.



**Figure 82 - Commander Perkins and his "Texas Fallen Heroes Memorial Wall"**

**COVID-19:** Commander Perkins skillfully managed the Department of Texas through an unprecedented period of crisis during the current COVID-19 crisis. As the coronavirus

pandemic continued, Perkins rallied Texas members in several key areas. The American Legion is keeping Legionnaires, Legion Family members and communities that it serves apprised of how the Legion is being of assistance to communities statewide. The temporary shutdown of restaurants and businesses affected the operations of American Legion posts all over the state of Texas. The pandemic caused State Headquarters to cancel upcoming events and meetings, such as the 2020 state convention, District and Division conventions, and other planned events. Following the lead of National, Texas Headquarters/state officers were asked to remain in office another year until a formal convention could be held. As a result, Commander Perkins eagerly continued in the role Commander for another year as we worked our way through these trying times.

Under Commander Perkins leadership and oversight, we established virtual meeting to take care of essential business, resolved issues and disagreements among state leaders, and overall, held “Team Texas” together as a cohesive team managing Department of Texas issues. Throughout the COVID-19 emergency, we have seen the amazing



**Figure 83 - Commander Jeff Perkins speaks during a transition workshop at Fort Hood in Killeen, Texas (1/13/2020)**



**Figure 84 - Commander Jeff Perkins speaks to veterans during the Mega Career Fair at Fort Hood in Killeen, Texas (1/14/2020)**

commitment American Legion posts have to ~~toward their communities.~~ There are many outstanding programs and activities being conducted throughout the state.

Jeff currently resides in Rowlett, Texas. He has two daughters, Jennifer, and Elizabeth, and they are both married. His grandchildren' names are Isabelle, Jillian, Leonardo and Michael. Jeff has his own business and uses his talents raising funds for The American Legion and the Texas Memorial Wall.

## APPENDIX D: NATIONAL COMMANDER – PAUL E. DILLARD

PHOENIX (Sept. 2, 2021): Paul E. Dillard was elected national commander of the nearly two-million member American Legion today in Phoenix, during the organization's 102nd national convention. He first joined the nation's largest veterans organization in 1969. A native Texan, Dillard graduated from Whitesboro High School in 1965 before joining the U.S. Navy and serving in Vietnam through four campaigns including the Tet



offensive. He later received an honorable discharge as a radarman second class petty officer from the Navy Reserve before attending Grayson County Junior College and East Texas State University. Dillard worked several years in the manufacturing business as an Engineer, Plant Manager and Director of Manufacturing in Tennessee. Upon returning to Texas, he accepted a sales representative position with Sherman Foundry and became its airplane pilot. A career change was made when he and his wife, Donna, began their family and he entered into the insurance business specializing in Employee Benefits and later forming Dillard & Gann Insurance. As a paid-up-for-life member of Post 265, Lake Kiowa, Texas, Dillard served as post commander, vice commander, adjutant, and judge advocate. He coached American Legion Baseball for more than 10 years and served as his post's Boys State Chair. He served the 4th District as commander and vice commander and served the department as sergeant-at-arms, Membership & Organization chairman, National Security chairman, Uniformed Organization chairman, Board of Trustees chairman, and he served on the Finance Committee and the Long-

Range Planning Committee. He was elected as Department of Texas (state) commander in 2007. His theme as national commander is “No Veteran Left Behind.” On the national level, Paul has served as Alternate National Executive Committeeman, consultant to the Insurance Committee, Distinguished Guest Committee, Children and Youth Committee, Media, and Communications Council. He has served as chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, chairman of the Veterans Employment & Education Commission and chairman of the Legislative Commission. He was elected as national vice commander in 2013. He married Donna in 1983. They have two sons, William and his wife Allison, and Jonathon and his wife Karri and two grandsons Jarrett and Lukas. All are members of the American Legion Family. Donna has been an active and dedicated member of the American Legion Auxiliary for several years and has served in numerous positions of leadership at all levels of the organization, including department president in 2017 – 2018.

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*From Article in The Legion Times, Official Newspaper of the American Legion, Department of Texas (September 2021, Volume 103, Issue 2); Contact - John Raughter, (317) 630-1350, jraughter@legion.org*

## APPENDIX E: POST CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

**Judge Advocate Special Interest Item:** Some posts have not updated 10 their Constitution and Bylaws in many years. In the last few years important changes have been made to the recommended Post Constitution and Bylaws, including Preamble, eligibility for membership, disciplinary procedures, social media and Internet, and virtual meetings. Therefore, I recommend that the Department Executive Committee instruct the Department Adjutant to send a letter to all posts notifying them that if their Constitution and Bylaws have not been updated subsequent to October 1st, 2020, their old Constitution and Bylaws will be revoked at the Department Executive Committee meeting in July.2021.

Post	Approved	Disapproved	Post	Approved	Disapproved
Post 511 (Dallas)		X	Post 52 (Houston)	X	
Post 285 (Mason)	X		Post 116 (Lovita)	X	
Post 408 (Edinberg)		X	Post 313 (Boerne)	X	
Post 817 (Beaumont)	X		Post 183 (Bartlett)	X	
Post 614 (Galveston)	X		Post 113 (Lufkin)	X	
Post 407 (El Paso)	X		Post 430 (Odessa)	X	
Post 163 (Weatherford)	X		Post 378 (Maynard)	X	
Post 22 (Corsicana)	X		Post 10 (San Antonio)	X	
Post 500 (Abernathy)	X		Post 9 (Cameron)	X	

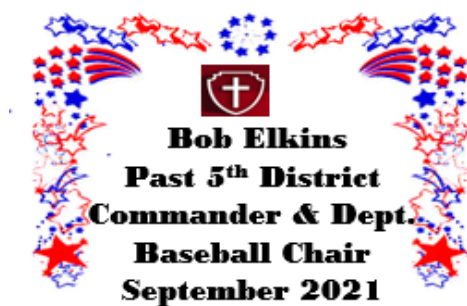
Post	Approved	Disapproved	Post	Approved	Disapproved
Post 539 (St. Hedwig)	X		Post 48 (Brenham)	X	
Post 278 (Granbury)	X		Post 250 (Bridge City)	X	
Post 94 (Flatonia)	X		Post 575 (Lubbock)	X	
Post 850 (Laredo)	X		Post 405 (Benavides)	X	
Post 194 (Anna)	X		Post 110 (McKinney)	X	
Post 99 (Kingsville)	X		Post 266 (Franklin)	X	
Post 597 (Carrollton)	X		Post 288 (Groesbeck)	X	
Post 271 (Rosenberg)	X		Post 324 (Houston)	X	
Post 526 (Holland)	X		Post 185 (Bishop)	X	
Post 2 (San Antonio)	X		Post 842 (Tyler)	X	
Post 244 (Fredericksburg)	X		Post 459 (Hempstead)	X	
Post 235 (Burleson)	X		Post 309 (Helotes)	X	
Post 53 (Dallas)	X		Post 50 (Cleburne)	X	
Post 364 (Corpus Christi)	X		Post 640 (Anderson)	X	
Post 352 (Anderson)	X		Post 336 (San Antonio)	X	
Post 61 (Abilene)	X		Post 650 (Harper)	X	
Post 424 (Dallas)	X		Post 569 (Fort Worth)		X
Post 21 (The Colony)		X	Post 268 (Sanger)	X	



<b>Post</b>	<b>Approved</b>	<b>Disapproved</b>	<b>Post</b>	<b>Approved</b>	<b>Disapproved</b>
Post 29 (Sherman)		X	Post 49 (Orange)	X	
Post 72 (Lumberton)	X		Post 104 (Anahuac)	X	
Post 593 (Converse)	X		Post 182 (Little Elm)	X	
Post 174 (Georgetown)	X		Post 460 (Castroville)	X	
Post 134 (Crockett)	X		Post 227 (Roscoe)	X	
Post 174 (Georgetown)	X		Post 602 (Fayetteville)	X	
Post 127 (Tomball)	X		Post 512 (Dayton)	X	
Post 586 (Houston)	X		Post 383 (Columbus)	TBD	
Post 379 (Bedford)	X		Post 85 (Palestine)	X	
20th District	X				

## APPENDIX F: 2020 – 2021 POST EVERLASTING

With sincere regret, we announce that the Supreme Commander has called to the Post Everlasting the following prominent Legionnaires from the Department of Texas for Calendar Year 2020 – 2021:





**We offer "TAPS" to honor these Legionnaires and their families for their tireless service to our veterans:**

**Day is done,**

**Gone the Sun from the lakes,**

**from the hills,**

**from the sky,**

**All is well, Safely rest, God is nigh.**

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THE AMERICAN LEGION  
Department of Texas

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([TXLEGION.ORG](http://TXLEGION.ORG))