



THE LEGION TIMES

Official Newspaper of The American Legion, Department of Texas

January 2021 • Volume 102, Issue 6



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Message from the Commander

The American Legion was created for the Four Pillars.

We cannot allow COVID-19 to destroy The American Legion. We are not a bar or canteen. We are here for the Four Pillars. Each member of every post should ask, "How have we supported the Four Pillars since the outbreak of COVID-19?"



Hopefully more of them can say my post has done this or my post has done that. What will your post consolidated report indicate? Will it indicate that your post was actively working the Four Pillars, or will it simply indicate that your post closed their doors and did nothing?

No one, not even the State Commander, can predict how long this will continue, but the State Commander has not stopped serving the Department. I make my Buddy Checks to keep up with our veterans. I receive phone calls from family members when COVID-19 attacks one of our members. I hope that they receive the support that they need. I am proud of those that offer assistance such as delivering meals to them or just call and check on them. I believe that the Buddy Check program is the most important thing that our post can be doing in these terrible times. We should be contacting all the veterans that we know and not just members of The American Legion. They all count and need our support.

The Department of Texas is getting ready for the Mid-Winter DEC. Bill West, the State Adjutant, is working with the Omni to keep all the attendees as safe as possible. I have issued call-ins to all the necessary personnel so the Department can continue to function.

(continued)

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The Department's Constitution and By-Laws does not allow voting during virtual meetings and that is the reason for the call-ins. The Department's Constitution and By-Laws can only be changed at the Department's Convention. The recommended changes to the C&BL's will be presented to the membership at the Department Convention for their approval.

Before closing, I say again, the Buddy Check program is the most important program that our post can be conducting in these terrible times. Please make the calls before it is too late.

Our obligations to our veterans and their families should never wavier. It is our responsibility to ensure they are taken care. This is the time to simply say, "Thank you for your service". So, call or visit those that might feel like they have been forgotten or having a bad day and need a pick me up comment. They earned it. The National Commander calls it a Buddy Check. I call it letting them know that their sacrifices are not forgotten, and they are not forgotten. Please take the time and make the call.

I pray that all our veterans, families, and active-duty personnel are safe around the world. I ask that everyone stay safe and protect yourselves as we fight this COVID-19 virus.

This year will be based on Devotion to Mutual Helpfulness to support The Four Pillars and to support each other.

Send your ideas to: cdrtxlegion@gmail.com and I will share them with the rest of the Department of Texas.

Thank you for your support and ideas,
Jeff Perkins
Department Commander
Department of Texas
God Bless the United States
God Bless The American Legion Family



2020-2021 DEPARTMENT OFFICERS

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Kenneth Mueller, Alternate National Executive Committeeman
William West, Department Adjutant
Robert Harvey, Department Chaplain
David Paris, Department Treasurer
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Al Alford, Department Historian
Billy Winters, Department Sergeant-at-Arms
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Lloyd Buckmaster, Immediate Past Department Commander
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Edward Reyes, Department Service Officer
Michael Lacy, Department Service Officer
Ron Peterson, Department Service Officer
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John Hafner, 20th District Commander
William Bess Jr, 21st District Commander
Joseph Thomas, 22nd District Commander
Elton Page III, 23rd District Commander

ARTICLE SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Do you have an article or news announcement to share with the rest of the Department of Texas? If so, please follow these guidelines for submissions.

- Submit your text in Word format (.doc, .docx) or as a text file (.txt or .rtf) or as a PDF.
- Give your article a title! Create the headline and save with a proper file name so we can easily recognize it.
- Tell us who the author is, whether it's you or if you are just forwarding it to us.
- Attach any photos and/or artwork for articles separately (NOT embedded in your text file) as high resolution JPGs, 300 dpi, or better. Please name these files accordingly so we can track them along with your article.

Let us know in your e-mail of any corresponding captions, name of the photographer, etc.

- Please spell check everything! Especially people's names, web addresses, etc. We do our best to catch typos, but sometimes they still slip by. You can help us greatly here by simply running your spell check function in your word processing software.
- E-mail everything directly to times@txlegion.org by the 20th of every month, for it to appear in the following issue. This way we have plenty of time to work with in case we need to clarify anything with you.

We hope you enjoy this issue, and hope you continue to help us grow The Legion Times!

WHAT IS THAT I AM HEARING? - Baseball Registration Opens January 1 2021

That is the sound we are hearing as the baseball season is now getting ready to begin! Register online at baseball.legion.org

Registration fees for Senior Teams are \$50.00 for National Registration \$35.00 administration fees and \$300.00 for Department Registration.

Insurance fees are either \$130.00 season personnel accident insurance or \$200.00 for year-round insurance coverage. General Liability insurance cost are \$120.00.

Fees for Junior Teams are \$25.00 for National Registration, \$35.00 administration fees, and \$150.00 for Department registration. Insurance fees are either \$110.00 for season personnel accident insurance or \$160.00 for year-round insurance. General Liability insurance cost are \$82.00. Insurance purchases will be available February 16 2021.

As part of the education and training requirements of Public Law 115-126, the Protecting Young Victims from Sexual Abuse and Safe Sport Authorization Act of 2017, all coaches, managers and volunteer staff members must complete the Abuse Awareness course either thru Protect Youth Sports or USA Baseball. All coaches, managers and volunteer staff members must also have completed and passed a background check.

The American Legion Department of Texas Baseball program has been around since 1926, when a team from Decatur won the state title.

We need every Post in the state to get involved within their community to sponsor a team. We can make baseball great again in the state of Texas by working with the various organizations, schools and coaches to find players and build teams.

This year it is very important that the State of Texas get involved and register many teams and compete, otherwise if there is not enough participation the Department of Texas may discontinue the Baseball program.

Everyone knows that baseball is one of the American Legion programs that 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. We will be available to help you. All you have to do is "Just Ask". You may contact me or anyone of the members listed below and they will be glad to help you.

How to start an American Legion Baseball Team

1. Go to the American Legion Department of Texas Web Site and click on programs.
2. Under Programs Select Baseball.
3. Scroll thru the site it will tell you the web site for National American Legion Baseball.
4. Download the Insurance Policy National Requires.
5. Download the National Baseball Rules.
6. Download the State Baseball Rules.
7. Registration Starts the 1st of January of every year.
8. Under the National web site there are many informational programs about Baseball.
9. If you have questions please contact the Baseball Chairman, the Baseball Committee member, and the Baseball Director listed below.

Our contact information:

Don Toohey
ddt2e@rocketmail.com

Baseball Committee Member
Cyndi Miller
cmiller23@live.com

Baseball Director
Espiridion Zunga
espiridion.zunga@yahoo.com



American Legion Post 178 Veteran Achieves Milestone
Submitted by Ed Reed. Photos by Jeanie Beale

A 50-year anniversary is a milestone for anyone. It is particularly significant when it involves membership to the American Legion, a military veterans organization. Rich Jochem, a Post 178 Army veteran, recently celebrated his 50-year anniversary as a member of The American Legion.

Not surprisingly he owns the longest membership tenure of the more than 675 members of Post 178. Since retirement, he and his wife, Joann, travel both in and out of the country. He also volunteers at the Cavanaugh Flight Museum.

He joined the U.S. Army in 1963 and the American Legion in 1968. When asked why he became a member and renewed all those years, he replied “I was proud of my military service and maintaining my membership enabled me to share fellowship with other veterans.” For more information about Post 178 visit friscolegion.org



Fred Rogers, Post 178 Commander, presents veteran Rich Jochem his American Legion 50-year membership pin.



The American Legion 50-Year Pin.

AMERICAN LEGION POST 178 PROVIDES HOLIDAY CHEER

Frisco's American Legion Post 178 and the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 178 provided Christmas gifts and cookies to the men and women at the Texas State Veteran's Home in Bonham, TX.

The Legion and Auxiliary members were assisted by generous donations from students at Oak Point Elementary in Little Elm, which was organized by Jill Harrer, the Special Education teacher to kindergarten and 4th grade students. The children contributed 17 boxes of items that included food, lap blankets, personal hygiene items, games, puzzles, and candy. The students also wrote letters to the folks residing in the Bonham facility.

Due to the COVID-19 virus, Post 178 and its members donated over \$2,400 to assist in purchasing of such items as a basketball goal, tether ball, miniature golf set-up, and a projector with an outside screen to show movies.

Bonham staff members were also remembered with homemade cookies from Scott and Dedorah Dillingham.

All gifts were delivered before Christmas which made their day a little brighter and provided holiday cheer!

Georgetown's Veterans Service Organizations Donate Largest Contributions Of Winter Clothing To Homeless Veterans Of Central Texas

Members of American Legion Post 174 and Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 8587 of Georgetown delivered their largest contribution of clothing and bedding to Health Care For Homeless Veterans Program Of The Central Texas Veterans Health Care System at the VA Hospital in Temple, Texas.

This was a herculean effort in the middle of a pandemic of which the United States had not experienced since the Spanish flu of 1918. The collection this year included the addition of two local businesses who greatly contributed to this effort. A collection container was placed at David's Barbershop at 3010 Williams Drive #228, and, at Mel's Lone Star Lanes at 1010 North Austin Avenue.

This effort was the culmination of 12 months of collection of donations through the above two business as well as a third collection container located at the VFW Post at 1000 North College Street.



(L-R) VFW Post 8587 member Jim Holden, American Legion Post 174 member Frank Espinosa, Jr., VFW Post 8587 member Barry Richard, and, Mrs. Barbara Richard stand in front of the largest contribution of clothing and bedding earmarked for distribution to homeless Veterans of Central Texas.

34th Commemorative MLK March to be held Virtually

Story and photos by: Burrell Parmer, Post Judge Advocate



To honor Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., members of Fred Brock American Legion Post No. 828, along with H-E-B, and the San Antonio Black Nurses Association gathered in front of the post to be filmed as part of the 34th Commemorative Martin Luther King Jr. Virtual March, a film directed by Ya'Ke Smith of Exodus Film Works.

SAN ANTONIO – (Jan. 1, 2021) Due to coronavirus (COVID- 19) pandemic concerns, the 34th Commemorative Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. March will be celebrated virtually. The San Antonio Martin Luther King Jr. Commission, chaired by Renee Watson, director, Small Business and Entrepreneurship Department for Bexar County, is prioritizing the health and safety of the community and visitors while continuing to honor and celebrate Dr. King.

The Commemorative MLK Virtual March, a film directed by Ya'Ke Smith of Exodus Film Works will air from 10 a.m. to noon on MLK Day on News 4 San Antonio and TVSA 21. The film will include city officials, clergy, civic, business, and other organizations.

According to Watson, because of COVID-19 and the way it has been ravishing the community, it would be irresponsible to have a march on MLK Drive, therefore it will be held virtually. And she is asking everyone to stay home, watch it and be safe.

On Dec. 10, 2020, Smith filmed in front of Fred Brock American Legion Post No. 828 to honor and salute front-line workers, the military, and veterans.

One of the highlights of the movie will be the Rosa Parks Bus provided by VIA Transit and family members of those who have been murdered over the past several years to include many activists.

Instead of having one national speaker, three local pastors will be featured to include Rev. Dr. Patrick Jones, president, Baptist Ministers Union of San Antonio & Vicinity; Rev. Dr. Jerry William Dailey, chairman, Community of Churches for Social Action; and Rev. Dr. Lester Gillespie Sr., president, Ministers United for Ministerial Development San Antonio Chapter said Watson.



Post 828 Cmdr. Al Alford is interviewed about the American Legion's participation in the 34th Commemorative Martin Luther King Jr. Virtual March, a film directed by Ya'Ke Smith of Exodus Film Works.

"I have been task with recreating a cinematic retelling of the MLK March and because of the global pandemic, we don't want 350,000 people to come out honoring Dr. King on that day," said Smith, a native of San Antonio and graduate of Sam Houston High School. "We want to create a film that is in many ways in keeping with the spirit of the march, the march's celebratory nature, and something we hope will keep people excited enough to stay home, watch the film and not come out."

Smith, who is a film professor and associate dean at the University of Texas-Austin, said being a part of the project means a lot to him.

"The march has been an integral part of my life for as long as I can remember," said Smith. "I marched in the Sam Houston High School Band and before that I marched with my church. I've always been part of the march in some way."

"I realize that even though we are filming this specifically for 2021, this will be something that will live on for a very long time," Smith continued. "It will be something for the world to see. I am proud that my brand will always be tied to this project along with my cinematic vision."

According to the MLK, Jr. Commission's website, walking on the MLK Drive or the sidewalk will be prohibited. Any activity in Pittman Sullivan Park or MLK Park must be in accordance with City of San Antonio's permission for outdoor gatherings.

American Legion Names Speech Contest Winners

Submitted by Ed Reed

Four high school students from the Frisco area were named winners and received \$250 college scholarships at the American Legion Post 178 Oratorical Scholarship Contest. The competition was held in the Council Chambers at Frisco's George A. Purefoy Municipal Center on Saturday, December 12. The four orators will now compete at the district contest in Royse City on January 2, 2021 against other contest winners from the 4th District.

Each contestant delivered a prepared oration as well as an oration on a randomly assigned constitutional topic. All contestants impressed the judges with their speaking skills and presentation content.

The four winners in alphabetical order were Anmol Dubey, a freshman at Liberty High School, Emma A. Ko, a junior at Club 19:14 Home School, Harbani K. Kohli, a junior at Memorial High School, and Jedaiah D. Ward, a freshman at Club 19:14 Home School.

Since 1938, The American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship Program has encouraged the nation's high school students to study the U.S. Constitution and to hone their public speaking skills.

Learn more about the American Legion Peter J Courcy Post 178 at friscol legion.org



Oratorical Speech Contestants: (Front Row L - R) Fred Rogers, Post 178 Commander, Anmol Dubey, Liberty High School, Jedaiah Ward, Club 19:14 Home School, Emma Ko, Club 19:14 Home School, Lakshita Soma, Heritage High School. (Back Row L - R) Ed Reed, Post 178 Oratorical Program Chairman, Harbani Kohli, Memorial High School, and Dan Stricklin, Frisco Councilman Elect.

Fort Worth 2020 Veterans Day Parade by Ken Cox, TX 12th District Historian, Hubmaster



2020 Tarrant County Veterans Day parade Opening Ceremony

Since its beginning neither wars nor pandemics have kept us from honoring our veterans with a parade. The parade is organized by the Tarrant County Veterans Council partnering with the City of Fort Worth, Panther Island Pavilion, Tarrant County College and Buyers Barricades with financial support from the DAV and the North Texas Military Foundation.

The 101st Annual Parade was spearheaded by Council President Dan Zmroczek (Post 379), Parade Director Ken Cox (Post 516), Public Affairs Officer Bruce Zielsdorf (Post 626), Secretary/Treasurer Pixie Wetmore (Unit 297), Parade Marshal Bill Putman (Squadron 516) and many more committee members. After many modifications to comply with the multiple changes this year it resulted in a very impressive parade.

The parade was opened by Fort Worth Mayor Price followed by induction of new Army Recruits by the Fort Worth Recruiting Office Commander Captain John M. Torres, opening prayer by David Fenn (Legion 12th District Chaplain), singing the National Anthem by Shelly Knapp, Three Volley Salute by the Post 379 Honor Guard,

Taps played by Roland Paquette, Bells of Peace ceremony by the Daughters of the American Revolution with introduction by Jim Hodgson (Post 14) and a fly-over by the Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 112, NAS Fort Worth JRB, TX.

Over 50 organizations were represented in the parade with floats, military vehicles, trucks, jeeps, corvettes, motorcycles and cars led by Mike O'Connell's (Post 655) big flag bike accompanied by ten Fort Worth Police Motorcycle Officers that are all veterans. Although they had no marching bands, military or JROTC formations this year they still had over 150 vehicles and instead of attracting large crowds' downtown it followed a scenic route along the Trinity with plenty of room for spectators to social distance along the trails and tailgating along Forest Park Boulevard with excellent media coverage.

Copy of live stream at the parade can be viewed [HERE](#). (Video by the Fort Worth Aviation Museum)

American Legion Texas 12th District Webpage: www.12dis.org

Tarrant County Vietnam War Era Memorial Groundbreaking ceremony November 19, 2020

At least 220 county residents died as a result of the conflict in Vietnam. Currently, there's no local monument to honor those killed in Southeast Asia, but this effort hopes to soon change that situation.

A permanent display in Fort Worth's Veterans Memorial Park on Camp Bowie Blvd. designed by local students, will honor American service members for their sacrifices, as well as commemorate the loss to the families and loved ones.

The proposed monumental effort - led by Jim Hodgson, executive director of the Fort Worth Aviation Museum - is backed by a coalition of Tarrant County officials, the Fort Worth Parks Dept., national and local veteran's service organizations, as well as patriotic groups and individuals across North Texas.



Tarrant County Vietnam War Era Memorial Groundbreaking ceremony November 19, 2020

[Above with permission from the monument website www.vieteramemorial.org and additional commentary by Ken Cox, Texas American Legion 12th District Historian]

The memorial was planned to have the dedication ceremony to coincide with the National Medal of Honor Society's annual conference held in Fort Worth but the pandemic interrupted the schedule resulting in the groundbreaking during the convention. The attached picture includes the chairman Jim Hodgson (TX Post 14), Chaplain David Fenn (12th District Chaplain and Post 516 Commander), TX Post 379 Honor Guard and more Legion Family committee members.

For information or to become a supporter: www.vieteramemorial.org/

For more pictures go to www.12dis.org/scrapbook/20201119VWVMemorial/

Iconic Fighter Jet Refurbished and Unveiled by the American Legion Post 521

“One More Mission” - Coating Society of Houston Members Take Project to Completion

Pasadena, Texas (December 17, 2020) – On July 29, 1984 American Legion Post 521 received a F4D Fighter Jet from the Air Force Reclamation Center and dedicated it to all POW's and MIA's from all wars and conflicts involving the United States of America. Recently, the Post reached out to the Coating Society of Houston for assistance in refurbishing this iconic piece of memorabilia, which was showing extreme decay due to local weather conditions.

“We have been working getting this plane restored for several years and were finally able to find a group that was willing to donate their time and materials to helping us,” said Joseph Thomas, 22nd District Commander of the American Legion Department of Texas.

The F4D model manufactured by McDonnell Douglas was used extensively during the Vietnam crisis. It is an all-weather fighter bomber or interceptor with capabilities of delivering combinations of munitions.



A brief history on the F4 Fighter Bomber can be viewed here: <https://youtu.be/vTm3sPgJoYU> (YouTube 14:09 min.)

Pete Mitchell, project co-manager, stated, “It has been interesting talking to various people about what we are doing with this restoration. We have a lot of veterans that we work with in this group and it has never really been a focal point. In doing this project it has really hit home how this has affected not only our veterans, but those in the community.”

The Coating Society of the Houston Area was established in 1956 as a charitable organization with the purpose of promoting education and best practices in corrosion control and to expand the knowledge and proper use of protective coatings to mitigate the effects or corrosion in industry.

The American Legion Post 521 meets every 1st Monday of the month. Members business meeting starts at 7:00PM at 2221 Preston Road, Pasadena, Texas 77503. The gathering is open to current members and new prospective members.

The American Legion was founded in 1919 in Indianapolis, Indiana and has gone on to create an illustrious history established on four pillars - Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation, National Security, Americanism, and Children & Youth.

To review a complete schedule of activity of American Legion Post 521, please visit: <https://www.facebook.com/AmericanLegionPost521>



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TEXAS LONE STAR RECRUITER PIN

Have you earn yours??



Awarded to Legionnaires for recruiting "NEW" members into The American Legion. This award is based upon the total accumulative number of New Members the Recruiter has signed up into The American Legion from the inception of this award through their Legion career. The pin will be awarded starting with the #1 for the first new member and then increase in increments of 5 (5, 10, 15, 20, etc.) based upon the accumulative total of new members recruited. Once the recruiter is awarded a pin level, he/she will work for the next higher pin level and once a pin level has been achieved a duplicate pin level will not be awarded.

CONTACT YOUR POST ADJUTANT TO GET YOURS!

Renew your membership online

Please continue to support your fellow veterans, troops, their families, youth and our nation.



Your annual dues help support programs in your community and across the nation. American Legion programs and services include: Troop Support, Child Welfare Foundation, Heroes to Hometowns, American Legion Baseball, Department Service Officers, Family Support Network, Flag Advocacy & Etiquette, Junior ROTC & ROTC, Operation Comfort Warriors, Scholarships, Veterans Job Fairs, and many others.

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