



# THE LEGION TIMES

Official Newspaper of The American Legion, Department of Texas

January 2024 • Volume 105, Issue 6



## CONTENTS

<i>Message from the Commander</i>	1 - 2
<i>Membership Corner</i>	2
<i>Chaplain's Corner</i>	4
<i>Pearl Harbor 82nd Anniversary Ceremony</i>	5
<i>Post 178 Continues Wreaths Across America Tradition</i>	6
<i>Post 828 Donates Pajamas, Socks to Nursing Home</i>	7
<i>Post 178 Shares Holiday Cheer with Veterans</i>	8
<i>Post 174 Celebrates Christmas</i>	9
<i>Troop 1096 Giving Back to Chartered Organization</i>	9
<i>Post 828 Volunteers at Local Holiday Gift Giveaway</i>	10 - 11
<i>Post 178 Aims to Reduce Veteran Suicide</i>	12
<i>Post 21 Supports 'Senior Paws'</i>	13
<i>Post 178 Names Oratorical Scholarship Contest Winners</i>	14
<i>Post 174, Pack 151 Christmas Stroll Parade</i>	15
<i>Post 828 Spreads Neighborly Love</i>	16

## Message from the Commander

### Fresh Beginnings

Father Time has struck once again and we close the calendar of 2023 and open another year that brings a fresh beginning. In the east at Times Square we witness the "Ball Drop," in the central we listen to "Nashville's Big Bash," in the mountains "The Mile High Tree" in Denver, and finally in the west along "Freemont Street" of Las Vegas numerous celebrations usher in the New Year with fresh beginnings. What will we do across The Department of Texas in 2024 that will enhance the well-being of Texas Veterans, their families, our military, and our communities by our devotion to mutual helpfulness?



**Well-Being of Veteran Resources:** To continue the mission of Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation a local American Legion Post must have the tools readily available to assist a Veteran with their medical, mental and physical challenges and needs. A Post that has an effective and competent Post Service Officer provides many avenues that fulfill this obligation. Referrals of the Post Service Officer to the Department Service Officers is the first escalation step to gain further assistance when helping a Texas Veteran with their specific needs. As Legionnaires we can volunteer our time at the various VA healthcare facilities like a VA Hospital, Vet Centers, Community Care Networks, CBOC's and State Veterans Homes.

**Veterans Families:** The various Children and Youth Programs are one of the easiest methods that provide growth opportunities for school aged Veterans Children. Texas Boys State, Oratorical, Scouting, Junior Shooting Sports, ROTC Medals and School Awards provide various avenues to work with the local schools and identify children who can participate and represent your individual Posts within your community. Many of these students have a direct family relationship with Veterans who are Legionnaires or better yet provide potential new members to The American Legion family.

**Our Military:** One of the first things that proves The American Legion supports our military is when The American Legion paid the US Coast Guard their active military pay when Congress did not pass a new physical budget. Another component of support is through Troop Support. This provides Family Support Network for military and veteran families during deployments. In Texas we actively visit military bases like Fort Cavazos with the mission of educating active-duty personnel. During these visits The American Legion provides information about resources available, along with Service Officer information and education as referenced above.

(continued)

# THE LEGION TIMES VOLUME 105, ISSUE 6 JANUARY 2024

Executive Director  
William West

Editor  
G. Adams

Send all correspondence  
and submissions to:  
The Legion Times  
PO Box 140527  
Austin, TX 78714  
T: 512.472.4138  
F: 512.472.0603

[www.txlegion.org](http://www.txlegion.org)

E-mail: [times@txlegion.org](mailto:times@txlegion.org)

The Legion Times assumes no  
responsibility for material  
submitted and reserves the right to  
edit any submissions.

Editorial deadline is the 20th of every month  
for inclusion in the following month's issue.  
We typically publish on the First Friday  
of each month, with few exceptions.

Subscription is included in the annual  
American Legion, Department of Texas dues.  
Contact the American Legion, Department of  
Texas for extra copies, or copies for  
non-legionnaires.

The Legion Times  
is the official publication of the  
American Legion  
Department of Texas  
Member of:  
American Legion Press Association  
Texas American Legion Press Assoc.  
Texas Press Association.

The Legion Times is published online  
12 times a year by the  
American Legion,  
Department of Texas

Our Communities: It has been an honor to travel across Texas these past few months and witness all the countless community events that recognize, pay tribute and celebrate Texas Veterans. Most recently the Wreaths Across America program that has three purposes: 1. To Remember the Fallen 2. To Honor Those Who Served and 3. To Teach the Next Generation the Value of Freedom. Other programs that provide community support and visibility include the holidays like Independence Day, Veterans Day and Memorial Day. It is simply a wonderful example of Veteran Community outreach to see the American Legion activities like parades in floats and free lunches and dinners at the local American Legion Posts. And most recently the holiday seasons, which brings local Posts close to their communities by providing Thanksgiving and Christmas Meals and gifts to families within the community through Veteran love, care and donations. These generous acts of kindness embody a deeper and fuller meaning of Veterans caring for their local communities.

Many countries say America is a blessed Nation. There are numerous individuals all across the world who would love to enjoy a few of the freedoms we experience everyday here in the United States of America. As we bear witness of all the opportunities we have to be relevant in the lives of Veterans, their families, our military and communities, it is our responsibility as Legionnaires to do our best to provide acts of mutual helpfulness. Thank you for all that you do.

As we usher in the New Year of 2024 The American Legion Department of Texas wishes each and every-one of you and your families a healthy and prosperous fresh beginning. Happy New Year!

Gene Toohey  
State Commander  
The American Legion  
Department of Texas  
[socogun@yahoo.com](mailto:socogun@yahoo.com)  
(303) 718-4819



## Membership Corner

**Submitted by Chris Holt**

As of 19 Dec 2023 the Department is 77.5% National Goal. This marks 4 straight goals you have achieved. It is also worth noting more and more Posts are achieving 100% goal on a daily basis at this point. Many District Commanders are feverishly working to stay ahead of the curve. Many Posts are working on achieving Post Excellence Awards. Remember, to get the Post Excellence, you need to have 10% new membership. Several Posts have the boxes checked already, but lack the new membership. No worries, there is still time.

Remember as you get out to get your candidates for Texas Boys State, use that time to recruit possible new members for the entire family. This year's DC Conference, the Representatives will not be in session, and the National Commander will be giving his testimony on 13 Mar 2024 now. This is a great opportunity to talk to potential new members, that it's a great year to join the Post in order to go with your Post to your representative's office since they will be in their home district when the DC Conference is going to be taking place. Remember if you need help or need ideas getting renewals or new members, please reach out to me or the Commander.

# 2023-2024 DEPARTMENT OFFICERS

Donald "Gene" Toohey, Department Commander

Kenneth Mueller, National Executive Committeeman  
John Hince, Alternate National Executive Committeeman  
Gerry Hince, Immediate Past Department Commander  
William West, Department Adjutant  
Cheryl Williams, Department Chaplain  
Gary Sanders, Department Treasurer  
J.D. Langley, Department Judge Advocate  
Shirley Platt, Department Historian  
Celia Torres, Department Sergeant-at-Arms  
Don Toohey, Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms  
Michael Simon, Director of Internal Affairs  
Michael Lacy, Department Service Officer  
Ron Peterson, Department Service Officer  
Allen Sharp, Department Service Officer

## DEPARTMENT VICE COMMANDERS

Joseph Campbell, 1st Division  
C.W. Sparks, 2nd Division  
Rich Huntly, 3rd Division  
Lewis Field, 4th Division

## DISTRICT COMMANDERS

Andy Lowen, 1st District Commander  
Milton Chatham, 2nd District Commander  
Pat Taylor, 3rd District Commander  
Sheillie White, 4th District Commander  
Keith Wilkerson, 5th District Commander  
Steve Kim, 6th District Commander  
Steve Storey, 7th District Commander  
Dwight Rumph, 8th District Commander  
Bradley Stavinoha, 9th District Commander  
Douglas Norton, 10th District Commander  
Cyndi Miller, 11th District Commander  
David Etter, 12th District Commander  
Forrest Beadle, 13th District Commander  
Jose Lopez, 14th District Commander  
Albert Cavazos, 15th District Commander  
Tony Morgan, 16th District Commander  
Jeffrey Eaton, 17th District Commander  
Karl Barfoot, 18th District Commander  
Terry Landrum, 19th District Commander  
Danny Muth, 20th District Commander  
Jeff Meurer, 21st District Commander  
Jim McGuire, 22nd District Commander  
Brian Kanke, 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.
- The ideal word count for our format is 200 - 500 words (maximum), preferably with no double spacing.
- Give your article a TITLE! Create a 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 your article separately in your email. DO NOT simply embed them in your Word or PDF file. Larger photos are best, and high resolution JPG files of 300 dpi or better are preferred. Please name these files accordingly so we can track them along with your article.

- Let us know in your e-mail of any corresponding photo captions, name of the photographer, etc. Please note that due to spacing and layout requirements, we may not be able to use every photo submitted (preferably 2 - 3 photos per article).

- Please spell check everything! Especially people's names, web addresses, etc. We do our best to catch typos, and make corrections, but sometimes they still slip by. You can help us greatly by simply running the spell check function in your word processing software.

- We publish on our Website on the FIRST FRIDAY of the Month, with few exceptions. E-mail everything directly to [times@txlegion.org](mailto: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 and improve The Legion Times!*



## Chaplain's Corner

### 'It's a New Season'

Happy New Year Comrades! It is my hope that you are enjoying the holiday season as we embark on 2024. Wow, how time flies when you're having fun!

As I write this communication to you, I consider all of the year's crowning achievements and the year's low points – the fact that we made it to see 2024, the deaths of friends and family that have been endured, the illnesses that we have gone through, the excitement of the birth of a new baby or grandbaby, or the graduation of a loved one. The year 2023 has been filled with some highs and some lows. The spectrum of emotion and experiences has taught us to be flexible, adaptable, and ready to pivot at a moment's notice. Thank God it is over and that we made it!



Cheryl Williams  
State Chaplain  
Department of Texas 2023-2024

I am contemplating the future of each of the Legionnaires in the state of Texas, especially your spiritual future. I have concluded that at the outset of 2024, the Lord of Hosts is reminding us that it's a New Season. We have shed the old attire of last year and are now dressed in the attire of a new season. A new season of opportunity. A new season of innovation and creativity, a new season for impact, a new season to set goals and achieve target dates, a new season to check on your buddy, a new season to revitalize your post and a new season to BE THE ONE to step up and lead.

The Old Testament Prophet, Isaiah, tells us in chapter 43 and verse 19 "Behold, I will do a new thing; now it shall spring forth; shall ye not know it? I will even make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert." Let me encourage you to look and witness that our Father is about to do something new in our lives. He is about to do something new within our family. He is about to do something new within our American Legion, not just at the Department level but at the national level. God is about to lead us into uncharted waters, and He is going to use YOU Comrade to accomplish this work.

Perhaps you can now understand my excitement as I pen this missive. The excitement of the good things that are around the corner. Not just "good things" but that God is going to be the One to open the Red Sea of our lives and usher us into a new season. This year affords each and every one of us the chance to do something that we have never done before, and I encourage you to take full advantage of the opportunity.

Happy New Year Comrade. Your new season looks good on you!

Be The One... Lord, here am I; send me.

Your Chaplain,  
Cheryl Williams



## Pearl Harbor 82nd Anniversary Ceremony

Submitted by Shirley Platt - Department Historian



The Pearl Harbor 82nd Anniversary Ceremony was held at the Doris Miller Memorial in Waco, TX on December 7, 2023 at 11:55am. Legion members from Post 133 - Temple and Post 273 - McGregor were in attendance. The Bronze reliefs by sculptor Eddie Dixon include the Navy Cross and Naval Citation. Three images depicting the life of Doris Miller are on display at Bledsoe-Miller Park in Waco.

The first depicts Miller's family life as the son of sharecroppers Henrietta and Connery Miller along with his sporting life as an A.J. Moore High School star football player and champion boxer in the US Navy. The second depicts Miller moving the mortally wounded Captain of the USS West Virginia to safety during the attack on Pearl Harbor. The final depicts battleship row in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii on December 7, 1941. The Reflection Pool perimeter shows names from different branches of the United States military who were honored by family members to help support the building of the Doris Miller Memorial.



The guest speaker was Bruce Copney, Past Commander/Founder of the Multicultural SD1 Doris (Dorie) Miller American Legion Post 213 in Brooklyn, NY.

The Cultural Arts of Waco - Doris Miller Project Team is responsible for this wonderful tribute.





## American Legion Post 178 Continues Wreaths Across America Tradition

Submitted by Ed Reed



Every December, since 2014, American Legion Post 178 veterans have gathered with others at Dallas/Fort Worth National Cemetery to “remember our fallen U.S. veterans, honor those who serve, and teach children the value of freedom” by placing wreaths on veterans’ graves.

Nationally, December 16 will mark the 31st National Wreaths Across America (WAA) Day. This year, more than 2.7 million evergreen wreaths will be placed on gravesites at 4,000 locations in the United States and around the world, honoring buried veterans.

American Legion family members have long supported WAA events throughout the country, participating in community events and even leading local efforts. Such is the case for the Chris and Mary Bush family.

Their son, Army Corporal Peter J. Courcy, a Frisco High School graduate, was killed in action in Afghanistan in 2009 and is buried at the DFW National Cemetery. American Legion Post 178 is named for Frisco resident Peter J. Courcy. The Bush family annually supports WAA efforts at the cemetery.

For the ninth consecutive year, American Legion Post 178 participated in the 2023 National Wreaths Across America Day activities at the DFW National Cemetery. Veteran volunteers assisted with the unloading of 4,405 boxes of wreaths on December 15 and the “full coverage” placement of more than 54,500 wreaths on December 16.

Post 178 members will also assist with the removal of wreaths on January 15, 2024. The mission of Wreaths Across America is in part conducted each December with the placement of sponsored veterans’ wreaths on the headstones of those who served our country.

## **Fred Brock Post 828 Donates Pajamas, Socks to Elderly in Nursing Home**

*Story by Post Commander Burrell Parmer*

SAN ANTONIO – (Dec. 13, 2023) – To support the elderly in local nursing homes for the Christmas Holiday, Fred Brock American Legion Post No. 828 donated 40 pairs of pajamas and 100 pairs of socks to the Normandy Terrace Healthcare and Rehabilitation Center located on the East Side.

The donation, which was received by Activities Director Cyndi Gonzalez, will be provided to 20 residents, many of whom are Veterans.

“Post 828 is pillar on the East Side,” said Post 828 Chaplain Pat Wimberly, a retired U.S. Air Force nurse.

“It is important for us to look out for our elders, especially those who are residents of nursing homes.”

According to Post First Vice Commander Marcellus Hutchinson, the elderly require more care and attention.

“Providing pajamas and socks will raise their spirits and make the most of the time they have left more comfortable,” said Hutchinson, a Navy Veteran. “They are entitled to comfort, which we hope that the donations of pajamas and socks will provide.”

The mission of Fred Brock Post 828 is to enhance the well-being of San Antonio’s veterans, their families, the military, and the community by its devotion to mutual helpfulness.



*Members of Fred Brock Post 828 drop off gift bags filled with pajamas and socks for 20 residents of Normandy Terrace Healthcare and Rehabilitation Center located on the East Side*



*Post 828 Chaplain Pat Wimberly (left) with Activities Director Cyndi Gonzalez of Normandy Terrace Healthcare and Rehabilitation Center*



## American Legion Post 178 Shares Holiday Cheer with Veterans

Submitted by Ed Reed



*L-R: Post 178 members John Allen, Pete Abene, Tim Schmidt, Ron Bircher, and Marty Martel display banners made by elementary students for the veteran residents*

Peter J Courcy Post 178 has collected and delivered gifts each year since 2014 to the Clyde M. Cosper State Veterans Home in Bonham, Texas. The 152 men and women residents received and enjoyed items that the state simply does not provide.

Little Elm Oak Point and Brent Elementary Schools also collected donations. Jill Harrer, a dyslexia therapist at Brent, again led efforts to encourage student donations which included banners and personal letters to veterans written by the students. The Little Elm North Texas Collegiate Academy fifth grade class also donated boxes that included colored t-shirts and blue jeans.

Post 178 and its members donated funds to purchase items which included a Pop-A-Shot Arcade with seven basketballs and two goals, as well as clothing and personal hygiene items. Donations from Post 178 and Auxiliary Unit 178 amounted to \$3,000.

Post 178 members John Allen, Pete Abene, Tim Schmidt, Ron Bircher, and Marty Martel traveled sixty miles on December 4 to deliver seventy boxes of requested items along with more than four hundred home-baked cookies by the Dillingham family. After unloading the boxes of donations, the five Post 178 veterans cooked and served hot dogs and hamburgers for the residents and staff.



## American Legion Post 174 Celebrates Christmas

Submitted by BJ MacMillan, Commander, Post 174

On Saturday, December 9th, American Legion Post 174 celebrated Christmas at the Tejas Meat Supply Company in Georgetown, Texas. We had about twenty-five members and guests present. We enjoyed assorted sandwiches and a queso bar for lunch. The big fun came when we played the white elephant game. Door prizes were presented during the entire event.

Before we ended the lunch, we took the time to present our outgoing Historian, Stephanie Nimitz, with a Certificate of Appreciation, a Post coin, and an Army WWII American Legion pin. The Post also took one last collection of donations towards gift cards for Veterans in urgent need. Everyone had an enjoyable time, and all left with a prize!



## Troop 1096 Giving Back to Chartered Organization

At their last December meeting, Troop 1096, chartered by Post 174, made Christmas cards to send to all the Post 174 members. They received a grant from Spread the Will Foundation to do something for their Chartered Organization. They asked the Post Commander if they could hold a party for them. The Commander explained how some members can no longer attend events for several reasons so they would not reach all the members. The Scouts decided to make Christmas cards for all the members and use the grant money for postage. The Scouts had a big time making the cards and completed 189 cards in two hours. They mailed them two days later. Post members were delighted to receive the cards.





## Fred Brock Post 828 Volunteers at Local Holiday Gift Giveaway

Story by Post 828 Commander Burrell Parmer

SAN ANTONIO – (Dec. 20, 2023) – The Claude W. Black (CWB) Center Advisory Board in cooperation with District 2 Councilman Jalen McKee-Rodriguez, and the Desert of Texas Charitable Foundation hosted the 45th Annual Claude W. Black Community Center Holiday Gift Giveaway at the center.

The event, which was opened to the public, was designed to provide low-income families with joy during the Christmas Holiday.

Annually, Legionnaires of Fred Brock American Legion Post No. 828, its Auxiliary and Sons of the American Legion volunteer at the event.

“This event provides a perfect time for many of us to come together and give back to our community,” said Legionnaire Tavarus Glover, who also serves as president of the CWB Advisory Board. “Additionally, the event allowed business, civic, and social organizations to combine forces to help our families in the area who are struggling this holiday season.”

For Tesha Leggett, of Auxiliary Unit 828, being at the event was amazing.

“It is awesome to see the smiles of the children as they were in line waiting to pick a toy for Christmas,” said Leggett, a register nurse and member of Theta Eta Chapter of Chi Eta Phi Sorority, Inc.

(continued next page)



Santa Claus visited with the children during the 45th Annual Claude W. Black Community Center Holiday Gift Giveaway hosted by the Claude W. Black (CWB) Center Advisory Board in cooperation with District 2 Councilman Jalen McKee-Rodriguez, and the Desert of Texas Charitable Foundation (Photo by Post Commander Burrell Parmer/828)



Legionnaires of Fred Brock American Legion Post No. 828, its Auxiliary and Sons of the American Legion volunteered at the 45th Annual Claude W. Black Community Center Holiday Gift Giveaway



Legionnaires of Fred Brock American Legion Post No. 828 (L-R) Burnell White Jr., Larry Smith, and Luis Baez volunteered at the 45th Annual Claude W. Black Community Center Holiday Gift Giveaway



“It was also a blessing to see so many organizations participate such as the Soros of Alpha Pi Zeta Chapter of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. and the Prince Hall Shriners of Moussa Temple No. 106.”

The giveaway was presented by H-E-B and supported by the following sponsors: Amerigroup, Disabled American Veterans Chapter 128, Moussa Temple No. 106 (Prince Hall Shriners), Noble Gentlemen of San Antonio, Family Service Financial Center, Alpha Pi Zeta Chapter of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., Alamo City Lions Club, The Major Law Firm, City of San Antonio Human Services, Bill Miller’s BBQ, San Antonio Observer, and Carla Walker.

The Claude W. Black Center Advisory Board was established to support programming at the Claude W. Black Community Center and to serve as a resource for coordinating community services and fostering partnerships that promote economic self-sufficiency, family strengthening, and enhance the quality of life for children, families and seniors living on the East Side.

The mission of Fred Brock Post 828 is to enhance the well-being of San Antonio’s veterans, their families, the military, and the community by its devotion to mutual helpfulness.



*Post Commander Burrell Parmer of Fred Brock American Legion Post No. 828 gives Santa a ride to the 45th Annual Claude W. Black Community Center Holiday Gift Giveaway*



*Paul Harris (right), member of Fred Brock Sons of the American Legion Squadron 828, assist members of Alpha Pi Zeta Chapter of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., wish distributing toys to children*



*Legionnaires Burnell White Jr. of Fred Brock American Legion Post No. 828 and president of the Desert of Texas Charitable Foundation (DTCF) purchasing toys*



*Legionnaire Tavarus Glover of Fred Brock American Legion Post No. 828 grilled hotdogs for families attending*



## **American Legion Post 178 Aims to Reduce Veteran Suicide**

**Submitted by Ed Reed**



While participating in Frisco Merry Main Street festivities on Saturday, December 2, 2023, American Legion Post 178 volunteers informed attendees and distributed information about reducing the rate of veteran suicide. The American Legion is leading a nationwide initiative – “Be the One” – to eliminate the stigma related to mental health treatment, and in turn, lower the number of veterans who die by suicide every day.

The number of veterans who die by suicide every day is estimated to be between 17 and 22. The American Legion and its 12,000 posts nationwide have elevated “Be the One” to be its top priority, empowering veterans, servicemembers, their family members, and civilians to act appropriately when a veteran may be at risk. The initiative intends to bring more awareness to the problem while providing resources to those who may be able to help save the life of a veteran.

Post 178 veterans who volunteered at Frisco’s Merry Main Street included Larry Wilhelm, Terry Gilbert, Joanne Schumm, Ted Ruybal, Thor Anderson, Bill Drake, John Stammreich, and Ed Reed.

***If you know a veteran who needs immediate help, please refer him/her to the Veterans Crisis Line – Dial 988 then Press 1.***



## Post 21 Supports “Senior Paws”

By Patricia A. Zuczek, Post 21 Adjutant

When Mary Garcia learned there were senior members of her community using their own food to feed their pets, she knew she had to do something.

Mary C. Garcia, Commander of American Legion Post 21 of The Colony, TX attended a city council meeting in October where one of the speakers was Christine Herrera from Denton County Meals on Wheels. Her presentation indicated that Meals on Wheels recipients often forego eating their own meals to use the food to feed their pets instead. While Meals on Wheels is a non-profit program assisting seniors with food insecurities, there is no funding for pet nutrition. Senior Paws is a 100% donation-based program, with a goal of supporting the needs of pet-owning Meals on Wheels clients.

When they learned about this situation, the Events Committee took this as a call to action and quickly organized a fundraiser at the annual Christmas party. Post 21 and Squadron 21 members, families, and friends exhibited the spirit of giving by donating generously to a pet food drive and raffle for the Senior Paws program. Most veterans are animal lovers and understand the bond between pets and their owners for companionship and emotional support.

On December 21st, Commander Garcia and member Karen Bruce presented the Denton County Meals on Wheels organization with a hefty supply of dog food, cat food, and a check for over \$1,100. Mr. Max Calder, Director of Operations, was overwhelmed with gratitude. He said the donation to Senior Paws came at the perfect time as contributions were declining. Knowing that our senior citizens and their precious pets will find comfort and peace during the holidays is one small way the Post 21 family continues to fulfill our mission of service.



## Post 178 Names U. S. Constitution Scholarship Speech Contest Winners

Submitted by Ed Reed



Front Row L-R: Terry Gilbert, Vice Commander, Oratorical Chair; Scarlett Sweckard, Smeet Jaokar, Neha Ramachandran, Kaaviya Shenbaharaman; Ed Reed, Post 178 Commander. Back Row L-R: Varad Kulkarni, Sankeertana Malakapalli, Dhyana Ramakrishnan, Jyothirmayi Seelam, Rudrani Dutta, Elizan Ramos.  
Photo by Larry Wilhelm.

The American Legion Post 178 Oratorical Scholarship Contest had a record number of high school orators participate in its 2023 contest. Four winners were selected from eleven orators and each received a \$500 college scholarship to any college of their choosing. The contest was held at The Grove at Frisco Commons on Saturday, December 9. The four winning orators will now compete at the district contest in Royse City on January 7, 2024, along with other post winners from the 4th District.

Each contestant delivered a prepared oration as well as an oration on a randomly assigned constitutional topic. The four winners selected were Scarlett Sweckard, Smeet Jaokar, Neha Ramachandran, and Kaaviya Shenbaharaman.

The American Legion Oratorical Scholarship Program began in 1938 and encourages high school students to study the U.S. Constitution and improve their public speaking skills. Post 178 annually holds this contest for high school students to develop deeper knowledge and appreciation for the U.S. Constitution. The contest presents an academic speaking challenge that teaches important leadership qualities, the history of our nation's laws, the ability to think and speak clearly, and an understanding of the duties, responsibilities, rights, and privileges of American citizenship.



## Post 174 Joins Pack 151 in the Christmas Stroll Parade

Submitted by BJ MacMillan, Commander, Post 174



Abe Harrison American Legion Post 174 joined their chartered Cub Scout Pack 151 in the Georgetown Christmas Stroll Parade on December 2, 2023.

The theme this year was the Grinch stole Christmas. The trailer the Post members rode was decorated with Grinch banners, ribbons, and lights.

The Cub Scouts rode on their cub-mobiles decorated with the Grinch's stolen presents. The Cubs did a fantastic job decorating their cub-mobiles. It was a larger group than last year, and everyone enjoyed it.





## Fred Brock Post 828 Spreads Neighborly Love

Story by Post 828 Public Affairs

SAN ANTONIO – (Dec. 21, 2023) – To spread Brotherly, Sisterly, and Neighborly Love, the Legionnaires of Fred Brock American Legion Post No. 828 went door-to-door to donate turkeys to residents in the immediate vicinity of the Post.

According to Post Commander Burrell Parmer, the Post has been in existence for more than 75 years and some of the neighbors grew up around the Post.

“We found it fitting that we share good will not just to the community at large, but to our closest community, which are our neighbors,” said Parmer. “They were very grateful for us to knock on their doors, speak, and share in our blessings.”

Parmer said with many lives being touched by programs of the Post every year, there is no amount of love too small or too large to give and share.

Joining Parmer in visiting with the neighbors were 1st Vice Commander Marcellus Hutchinson, Chaplain Pamela Wimberly, and Sgt-at-Arms Fernando Rover.

The Post, which received a Temporary Charter as Post 420-A on Jan. 1, 1946, is named in honor of San Antonio native, U.S. Army Sgt. Fred Brock of the 598th Field Artillery Battalion, 92nd Infantry Division, who died in the line of duty at Fort Huachuca, Arizona, on August 18, 1943.

On Aug. 23, 1950, Fred Brock Post No. 420-A was granted a Full Charter and was redesignated as Post No. 828.

Fred Brock Post No. 828’s mission is to enhance the well-being of San Antonio’s veterans, their families, the military, and the community by its devotion to mutual helpfulness.



To spread Brotherly, Sisterly, and Neighborly Love, the Legionnaires of Fred Brock American Legion Post No. 828 went door-to-door to donate turkeys to residents in the immediate vicinity of the Post







# THE "MERCİ" TRAIN

## *A Show of Goodwill and Gratitude*

2024 is the 75th Anniversary of the Merci Train when the people of France showed their appreciation in an extraordinary way.

The American "Doughboys" of WWI were transported in small boxcars referred to as "Forty & Eights" and would carry either 40 men or 8 horses and thus marked Hommes 40 / Chevaux 8.

On February 2, 1949, France sent 49 of these WWI boxcars to the United States. Each magnificently decorated and filled with gifts. Today only 43 boxcars remain from the Gratitude Train and are on display all over the United States. For more information scan the codes below or visit [WWW.MERCITRAIN.ORG](http://WWW.MERCITRAIN.ORG)

**The Texas 75th Anniversary Celebration Event**  
will be at 1200, Friday, March 22, 2024

Texas Military Forces Museum, Camp Mabry, Austin, TX  
and at 1400, Friday March 22, 2024, at the  
Capitol Visitor Center, 112 E 11th Street, Austin, TX







# RENEW ONLINE NOW!

**Renew your American Legion Membership quickly and easily online!**

Simply visit the web address shown below, and follow the easy instructions.

You can renew your membership and even print out a temporary membership card.

Quick and secure credit card payment.



 **www.legion.org/renew**



DIR-ONLN-SLP-04/2013

## 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.

Thank you for ensuring that The American Legion remains the most powerful voice in America on behalf of veterans, servicemembers, their families, and communities across the nation.

Go to [www.legion.org/renew](http://www.legion.org/renew)



Domains • Hosting • Design & Support

<https://midcitydigital.com>

10% OFF with coupon code TXLEGION





# You Served Us Now Let Us Serve You



## ClearTrust.

CLAIMS LLP

Asbestos Bankruptcy Trusts

Claims Services Law Firm

- An effective option for those with or **without a cancer diagnosis.**
- An affordable cost - **10% plus expenses after settlement.**
- An addition to VA Benefits - **compensation that that doesn't not require that the veteran go to court.**

The ClearTrust Claims, LLP Asbestos Trusts Compensation Eligibility Form requires a bare minimum of information necessary for us to determine if older veterans may qualify for trust compensation.

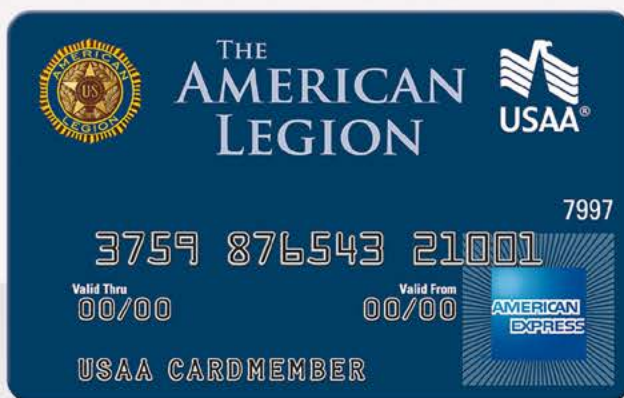
Contact us by calling (202) 449-7681, or sending an email to [info@cleartrustclaims.com](mailto:info@cleartrustclaims.com).



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



USAA is proud to be the  
**Preferred Provider**  
of Insurance and Financial Services  
to The American Legion



## GET THE CREDIT CARD THAT SUPPORTS THE AMERICAN LEGION.

With your everyday purchases, you can help support The American Legion. Get The American Legion USAA Rewards™ American Express® Credit Card and take advantage of:

- **0% introductory APR for 12 months** on balance transfers and convenience checks posted in the first three months after account opening (10.90% to 25.90% variable APR after 12 months on these balances)<sup>1</sup>
- **No annual fee**
- **Earn 1 point for every dollar spent and 2X points on gas and groceries<sup>2</sup>. Plus, now you can extend your support by redeeming your rewards points for a donation to The American Legion**



**APPLY TODAY.**

**[usaa.com/legionamex](http://usaa.com/legionamex) or 1-877-699-2654**

**USAA means United Services Automobile Association and its affiliates. USAA products are available only in those jurisdictions where USAA is authorized to sell them.**

<sup>1</sup>**Offer subject to approval.** As of 12/1/15, regular APRs on purchases, cash advances and balance transfers are 10.90% to 25.90%, depending on your credit history and other factors. APRs vary with the market based on the Prime Rate. There is a transaction fee of 3% on cash advances (\$200 maximum on each balance transfer and each convenience check) and 1% on foreign transactions. Rates and fees subject to change. If you transfer a balance or write a convenience check with this offer, all purchases will be charged interest until you pay the entire balance in full, including any transferred/convenience check balances. After that, you will have a grace period on purchases when you pay your entire statement balance each month by the payment due date. <sup>2</sup>Earn 1 point for every \$1 in purchases plus 1 additional point on every \$1 in purchases that the merchant properly codes as gas and grocery purchases. Grocery purchases at warehouses, discount stores, department stores or other non-grocery store locations are not eligible for the additional 1 point reward. Rewards points terminate if account is closed or delinquent or program ends. Other restrictions apply. USAA Rewards Program terms and conditions will be provided with your card. Purchase of a product other than USAA auto or property insurance, or purchase of an insurance policy offered through the USAA Insurance Agency, does not establish eligibility for, or membership in, USAA property and casualty insurance companies. American Express is a federally registered service mark of American Express and is used by USAA Savings Bank pursuant to a license. The American Legion receives financial support from USAA for this sponsorship.

This credit card program is issued by USAA Savings Bank, Member FDIC. © 2016 USAA. 225913-0116





# Prepared and confident



Choose the medical alert service that has saved more lives than any other

**There's a Lifeline medical alert solution for you**

Lifeline offers a range of choices to help you maintain your independence. Whether you need the go-anywhere protection of **GoSafe\*** or the peace of mind offered by **HomeSafe**, Lifeline has you covered.

**Special offer for Legionnaires**

Save up to \$70 with free activation and free shipping

**1-855-495-4356**

[www.thelit.com/lifeline-medical-alert-services](http://www.thelit.com/lifeline-medical-alert-services)

innovation  you



Endorsed by  
Your Department of  
The American Legion

© 2015. Button signal range may vary due to environmental factors. For new customers only. Not to be combined with any other offer and subject to change without notice. Monthly fees and applicable taxes apply. Other fees may apply. Minimum stay on service may be required. \*Coverage outside the home provided where AT&T wireless network coverage is available.

**PHILIPS**  
**Lifeline**



The Legion Times  
PO Box 140527  
Austin, TX 78714

T: 512.472.4138  
F: 512.472.0603  
[times@txlegion.org](mailto:times@txlegion.org)



BEVERAGE DISTRIBUTORS

## We Buy Houses!



- All Cash
- Fast Close
- As Is (no repairs to make)
- Estate
- Foreclosure
- No commission to pay
- Best price for your house

Call Mike  
682-351-0040  
[rubycoproperties.com](http://rubycoproperties.com)

## GET UPDATED!



More than 165,000 subscribers  
now receive the American Legion's

## WEEKLY E-NEWSLETTER!

News • Features • Interviews • Photo Galleries  
Exclusive Videos • Interactive Features • Reunions

## YOU'RE JUST A CLICK AWAY!

Go to [www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org) and click on "Get Updated!"



THE AMERICAN LEGION  
ONLINE UPDATE