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**Message from the Commander**

*This is my last article as the Commander for The American Legion – Department of Texas (but not my last article). I have had one of the most rewarding experiences this past year and I have been able to work with some of the best people in the state. My hope and prayers have been to help the Department make lots of small improvements that will help the organization grow and meet the needs of our Veterans and the Community. Now:*



**Mentoring in a Veteran Service Organization**

Mentoring is one of the most powerful ways a veteran service organization can strengthen its members, preserve institutional knowledge, and prepare future leaders. In an organization like The American Legion, mentorship is built on shared service, trust, and a commitment to helping veterans, families, and communities thrive. Experienced Legionnaires understand the challenges of military transition, post leadership, benefits navigation, and community service. By guiding newer members, they help transform willingness to serve into meaningful action.

A mentor does more than give instructions. A good mentor listens, encourages, shares lessons learned, and helps another veteran find opportunities to grow. That may mean inviting a new member to join a committee, explaining how post meetings work, helping someone prepare for an officer role, or connecting a veteran with programs that support employment, education, wellness, or family needs. Mentorship also builds confidence by reminding veterans that their military skills – discipline, teamwork, adaptability, and leadership – remain valuable in civilian and volunteer life.

For The American Legion, mentoring is also a strategy for long-term success. Active mentorship encourages participation, reduces isolation, strengthens camaraderie across generations, and develops leaders who can carry forward the organization's mission. It helps bridge the experiences of Vietnam-era veterans, Gulf War veterans, post-9/11 veterans, and today's servicemembers. When members invest in one another, the post becomes more than a meeting place; it becomes a network of purpose, service, and mutual support.

*"When another veteran took the time to guide me, I did not just learn how the post worked – I learned that I still had a mission and a team that believed in me." – S. Mike Lacy*

Mentor success can be seen in practical outcomes. A new member who was unsure about attending meetings may become an active volunteer after being personally welcomed and introduced to others. A younger veteran interested in leadership may gain confidence by shadowing a post officer, later chairing a committee or organizing a community event. Another veteran may receive guidance on benefits, employment resources, or service projects and then return to help others facing the same questions. These examples show how mentoring turns individual experience into shared progress.

*(continued)*

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*"My mentor showed me that leadership in The American Legion  
is not about having all the answers; it is about serving others,  
learning together, and helping the next veteran step forward."  
— A fellow Legionnaire*

Every veteran has something to teach, and every veteran can benefit  
from guidance. By making mentorship intentional, veteran service  
organizations ensure that experience is shared, new leaders are  
developed, and the tradition of service continues for generations.

In summary, mentoring strengthens veteran service organizations  
by turning experience into guidance, guidance into confidence, and  
confidence into continued service. Whether helping a new member  
feel welcome, preparing future leaders, or connecting veterans with  
needed support, mentors help preserve the mission and values  
of organizations like The American Legion. Through intentional  
mentorship, each generation of veterans helps the next continue  
the legacy of service, leadership, and community commitment.

Now is the time to act. If you are an experienced Legionnaire, reach out to a newer member  
and offer your guidance. If you are new to the organization, ask questions, seek out a  
mentor, and look for a place to serve. Post leaders can make mentorship part of every  
meeting, committee, and program by intentionally connecting members across generations.  
Together, we can strengthen our posts, develop future leaders, and ensure that The  
American Legion remains a strong voice for veterans, families, and communities.

The American Legion has so much to offer and there is role in the organization for YOU!

*Rich Huntley*  
Department Commander

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## **History of The American Legion — DID YOU KNOW?**

*Submitted by Shirley Platt, Department of Texas Historian*

The fifth annual convention of The American Legion, Department of Texas, was  
convened 27-30 August 1923, in Galveston, with eighteen districts reporting. The  
convention opened 28 August with Miss Mary Jordan, guest soloist, leading the  
delegates in mass singing. President Coolidge wired salutations and best wishes for  
a successful Legion convention in Texas.

As the National Convention was to be held in San Francisco in October 1923, the  
Department of Texas delegates decided to go up in a massive unit by rail. The rail  
also carried National Commander Alvin Owsley (Texas), and the Old Gray Mare Band  
of Brownwood (Isham Smith-Scott Brothers Post No. 196). Later it was reported  
back in Texas that a beautiful girl from the Lone Star State, mounted on the "only  
and original Old Gray Mare," rode into San Francisco's civic auditorium at the head  
of the band which escorted the national commander to the platform during  
opening ceremonies. That may be true, and it is also said that only in Texas do  
we find "Cowboys and Longhorns." And that may be true, too. But where else,  
indeed, but in Texas, would a horse be in a band!

*Extracted from "The American Legion Department of Texas 1919-1986" Copyright 1987*



# 2025-2026 DEPARTMENT OFFICERS

## Richard Huntley, DEPARTMENT COMMANDER

John Hince, National Executive Committeeman  
Bret Watson, Alternate National Executive Committeeman  
Tom Marty, Immediate Past Department Commander  
William West, Department Adjutant  
Jimmy Mitchell, Department Chaplain  
Gary Sanders, Department Treasurer  
William Wallace, Department Judge Advocate  
Shirley Platt, Department Historian  
Jerry Tatman, Department Sergeant-at-Arms  
Michael Wheeler, 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

Andy Lowen, 1st Division  
Steve Kim, 2nd Division  
Jose Lopez, 3rd Division  
Chris Holt, 4th Division

## DISTRICT COMMANDERS

Johnny Norris, 1st District Commander  
Cheryl Williams, 2nd District Commander  
Kim McCarthy, 3rd District Commander  
Michael Olivarez, 4th District Commander  
Tynetta Runnels, 5th District Commander  
Russ Foster, 6th District Commander  
Terry Batson, 7th District Commander  
Irene Infante, 8th District Commander  
Deborah Waldrop, 9th District Commander  
Phillip Kelly, 10th District Commander  
John Potts, 11th District Commander  
Chad Page, 12th District Commander  
Chris Garcia, 13th District Commander  
Gea Clausier, 14th District Commander  
Edward Villafranca, 15th District Commander  
Ramon Montano, 16th District Commander  
Chris Grantham, 17th District Commander  
Reyna Ruiz, 18th District Commander  
Kevin Bright, 19th District Commander  
Eric Mayer, 20th District Commander  
Don Gray, 21st District Commander  
Robert Harvey, 22nd District Commander  
Jose Gamez, 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 text in Word format (.doc, .docx) or as a plain text file (.txt or .rtf). ONE ARTICLE PER EMAIL PLEASE.
- The ideal word count for our format is 200 - 500 words (maximum), 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 or artwork for your article separately in your email. DO NOT 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 or Word doc of any photo captions, the name of the photographer, etc. Please note that due to spacing and layout requirements, we might not be able to use every photo or caption 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. Submissions received after the 20th will be considered, but may be held over or discarded due to space and layout restrictions.

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

## Fred Brock Post 828 Hosts Joint Installation of Officers Ceremony

Story by Past Commander Burrell Parmer

SAN ANTONIO – (June 16, 2026) – Fred Brock American Legion Post 828 Family consisting of Legionnaires, Auxiliary, and Sons of the American Legion (S.A.L.) held their Joint Installation of Officers Ceremony at the Post located at 3415 Martin Luther King Drive on the East Side.

Past Department of Texas Vice Commander (3rd Division) Danny Muth installed Post Commander Amanda Parham (second term) and her elected officers while Past Department of Texas Auxiliary President Rosie Cherry installed Auxiliary Unit President Pamela Money (fourth term) and her elected officers.

Parham installed the Post's Board of Trustees while Muth installed the S.A.L. Squadron Commander Wendel Nance (third term) and his elected members, respectfully.

Prior to the installations, the membership and guests had the opportunity to hear from seven high school seniors from Sam Houston, Highlands, and Breckenridge High Schools who attended Texas Boy State on the campus of the University of Texas, Austin, June 7- 12.

(continued)



The Fred Brock American Legion Post 828 Family held their Joint Installation of Officers Ceremony at the post event center. Past Department Vice Commander (3rd Division) Danny Muth (593) installed the following Legionnaires: Commander Amanda Parham, 1st Vice Commander Vonetta Beale, 2nd Vice Commander Glenn Robinson, Financial Officer Jerry Farmer, Adjutant Pamela Oliver, Chaplain Patricia Wimberly, Judge Advocate Karl Lanier, Service Officer Marcellus Hutchinson, Executive Placement 1 David Harris, and Executive Placement 2 Artist Moore



Fred Brock American Legion Post 828 Commander Amanda Parham installed the members of the Board of Trustees: Keith Toney, Michael Nathaniel, Ricardo Allen, Billy Hill, and Calvin Bateman during a Joint Installation of Officers Ceremony at the Post Event Center.



Past Department Vice Commander (3rd Division) Danny Muth (593) installed Squadron Commander Wendel Nance and the elected officers of the Sons of The American Legion Squadron 828 during a Joint Installation of Officers Ceremony held at Fred Brock American Legion Post 828

Additionally, Highlands High School graduate Jerri 'Ana Smith was presented with a certificate of appreciation for her singing the national anthem at Post events. She was also awarded \$500 in student aid as she will be attending Our Lady of the Lake University in the fall.

Joining the Post Executive Committee for the first time is Navy veteran Vonetta Beale, who will serve as first vice commander, and Army veteran Artist Moore, who will serve as executive committeeman placement two.

The mission of 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.

The Post, which received a Temporary Charter as Post 420-A on Jan. 1, 1946, is named in honor of San Antonio native, Army Sgt. Fred Brock of the 598th Field Artillery Battalion, 92nd Infantry Division, who died in the line of duty at Fort Huachuca, Ariz., on Aug. 18, 1943. On Aug. 23, 1950, Fred Brock Post No. 420-A was granted a full charter and was redesignated as Post 828.

Hours of operation are Monday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday from 4 pm – midnight.

For more information about Fred Brock Post 828 visit [www.fredbrockpost828.org](http://www.fredbrockpost828.org) and follow on Facebook: [American Legion Fred Brock 828](https://www.facebook.com/AmericanLegionFredBrock828)



Past Department President Rosie Cherry installed Auxiliary President Pamela Money and her elected officers during a Joint Installation of Officers Ceremony held at Fred Brock American Legion Post 828



Local high school seniors, who recently returned from attending Texas Boys State at the University of Texas-Austin, spoke about their experiences during a Joint Installation of Officers Ceremony held at Fred Brock American Legion Post 828



Highlands High School graduate Jerri 'Ana Smith was presented with a certificate of appreciation and a \$500 student aid check during a Joint Installation of Officers Ceremony held at Fred Brock American Legion Post 828

## Post 472 Renaming 67th to MSG Joe E. Ramirez Blvd

Submitted by Natividad Corona, Post 472 Historian

On June 26, 2026, a historic event happened in Houston's East End neighborhood of Magnolia Park. The renaming of 67th St. to MSG Joe E. Ramirez Blvd. MSG Ramirez served in the U.S. Army stationed in South Korea. The North Koreans captured him and was a P.O.W. for 2-1/2 years. After his release he continued to serve his country for a total of 22 years in the Army.

Later at American Legion Harrisburg Post 472, he started the Honor Guard and the Color Guard which continues today. His legacy continues to inspire others to serve for the greater good for our country and our community.

Over 100 people attended the renaming of the blvd. Also in attendance were Joe Ramirez Jr., son of MSG Ramirez, Houston Mayor John Whitmire, Houston City Councilman Joaquin Martinez, 2-star Army General Rick Noreiga, Marine LtCol. Robert "Hammer" Glover (Ret) and American Legion Post 472 Color Guard.



## A Community's Promise to Our Troops: You Are Never Alone

Submitted by Patricia A. Zuczek, Post 21 Adjutant

Commander Mary Garcia of Holley-Riddle American Legion Post 21 had a vision.

As she watched the uncertainty unfolding around the world, listened to parents anxiously concerned about the safety of their sons and daughters serving overseas, and witnessed the nightly news filled with reports of international conflict, she felt called to bring the community together in prayer, hope, and unity.

That vision became reality on Tuesday evening, June 16, as the Healing Hearts Community Prayer Vigil touched the hearts of everyone in attendance.

What began as a gathering of individuals quickly became a community united by faith, hope, and love. Together, they lifted up our active-duty military, veterans, military families, neighbors, and our nation in prayer. They may have arrived at the vigil as strangers, but they left connected — drawn together by faith and reminded that we are never alone when we stand together.

Every prayer offered, every song sung, and every message shared carried the same powerful theme: unity, faith, love, and unwavering support for those who serve and the families who stand beside them. Pastor Dono Pelham beautifully tied the evening together, reminding everyone that God's presence is revealed when His people gather in faith. "For where two or three are gathered together in My name, there am I in the midst of them." — Matthew 18:20

Several participants shared heartfelt prayers for the safety of their loved ones serving in uniform. Stephanie Manchen, President of Blue Star Mothers of America – Yellow Rose TX20, spoke from the heart. As the mother of a son currently serving on active duty, she expressed the emotions felt by military parents everywhere, recalling the day she watched her son leave for boot camp. "I was so extraordinarily proud, yet had a knot in my stomach as I watched him walk away," she shared. "This was the first of many goodbyes. These are the sacrifices Blue Star Families make, saying goodbye to our children time and again. This is what we do for our country."

*(continued)*





Post 21 Legionnaire Chastity Hamer shared another touching reminder of the power of community support. She reported that the 50 care packages assembled by members of Post 21 and the Blue Star Mothers had recently reached her son and his fellow sailors serving aboard his Navy ship. Those simple packages carried much more than snacks and supplies—they delivered encouragement, love, and a reminder that an entire community stands behind them.

Army Reservist First Sgt Anna Ma experienced both sides of community support while in the military. “Years ago, as a young soldier away from home for the first time, I remember receiving kind words, and prayers and chocolate chip cookies from strangers I had never met.

It told me I was not forgotten. Fast forward 13 years later and the position I’m in as a First Sergeant reinforces my belief in community support as the well-being of my soldiers is my top priority. Your support as a community reassures today’s soldiers that they are not alone.”

Everyone who attended — neighbors, veterans, military families, members of surrounding American Legion Posts, and friends from across the community — left knowing that their presence mattered. Their prayers mattered. Together they departed with hearts filled with gratitude, strengthened by hope, and reminded that no one walks this journey alone.

This beautiful evening was made possible through the collaboration of American Legion Holley-Riddle Post 21, Blue Star Mothers of America – Yellow Rose TX20, Life Changing Faith Fellowship Christian Church of Frisco, and Sarah Kincaid Cook Chapter, NSDAR. We are also deeply grateful to the many volunteers whose servant hearts made the evening possible, including members of Post 21, Sons of the American Legion Squadron 21, Scout Troop 226, and the Young Men’s Service League.

The Healing Hearts Prayer Vigil demonstrated what makes both American Legion Post 21 and the City of The Colony such a special community. We do more than honor our heroes with words — we surround them and their families with love, prayer, compassion, and unwavering support.

Together, we are stronger. Together, we heal.  
Together, we stand united.



## Post 164 Family Supports Houston Honor Flight

Submitted by Sandy Krum, Commander, Post 164



On May 30th, the Post 164 family along with the combined Honor Guard of American Legion Post 164 and VFW Post 9182 participated in the welcome home of the returning veterans on Houston Honor Flight #37. We filled the area outside of TSA with cheers and welcome home wishes. What a pleasure it was for Post and Auxiliary members to be able to recognize another group of veterans' returning home after their tour of Washington D.C. memorials to veterans.

Amongst the returning veterans were several WWII and Korean War veterans and veterans from the Vietnam War. If you get a chance to witness one of these, you will be back again.

The Post 164 Family is proud to be able to support this great cause.

## Post 164 Supports Boys State

Post 164 is pleased to say that we sent 50+ boys to the 2026 Boys State week. The boys arrived at Post 164 on Sunday June 7th to load on the buses provided by Harris County Precinct 4. A special thank you to Commissioner Leslie Briones.

Thank you to the Post members who were on the buses to act as chaperone and assist with the check-in process.

The boys were responsible for loading and unloading their own luggage.

Have a great week boys.



## Texas Boys State Makes All-American Men

*Submitted by Clifton Guillory, Chairman, Texas Boys State*

Texas Boys State has long been a forge for future leaders, shaping young men into engaged citizens with a clear sense of service. The program, rooted in civics education, invites high school juniors to simulate the workings of state government, from drafting policy to running campaigns. Through structured activities and friendly competition, participants learn teamwork, communication, and ethical leadership — traits that underpin responsible citizenship.

A central strength of Texas Boys State lies in its emphasis on public service. Amidst debates and mock elections, attendees discover how policy decisions affect communities, reinforcing the value of public duty over personal gain. They practice critical thinking, collaborate across diverse backgrounds, and confront real-world issues with empathy and rigor. This experiential approach helps transform theoretical knowledge into practical competence.

Moreover, the experience often fosters lifelong networks. Alumni circles and mentor relationships provide ongoing guidance, encouragement, and opportunities for growth. The program also highlights the importance of integrity and accountability, encouraging young men to lead by example and uphold democratic principles in their everyday lives.

As these young men move forward — into colleges, careers, and communities — the skills honed at Boys State can translate into measurable impact. They emerge not just with a resume of leadership roles, but with a mindset grounded in service, responsibility, and a commitment to the common good. In that sense, Texas Boys State genuinely helps shape all-American men who contribute thoughtfully to society, advocate for justice, and inspire others to participate in the civic process.

### Post 174 Flag Day Event

*Submitted by Amery Vasso, Commander, Post 174*

On June 14th, 2026 members of Abe Harrison Post 174 in Georgetown, Texas gathered at the Georgetown square to conduct their annual Flag Day and Army Birthday observance.

For the fourth consecutive year the Post passed out complementary American Flag lapel pins to the public. With the presentation of the pin the members explained Flag Day and added a bit about the Army's 251st birthday.

The members passed out over 500 pins during the event.



*Members gather together before they began to disperse around the Georgetown Square to pass out the pins. From left to right: Post Member Sara Vasso, Post Finance Officer Bill Catron, Post Commander Amery Vasso, Post Members Andy Tischer and Mike Tischer. Not picture were Post Members Jim Berke and Ray Geurink, and Auxiliary Member Michelle Berke.*

## Stephenville's Turnbow-Higgs Post 240 Open House Flag Day Celebration

*Submitted by Roger Easter, Post 240 Historian*

NATIONAL FLAG DAY, SUNDAY JUNE 14TH, doubled as an open house celebration of Flag Day, highlighted by a proper flag retirement-by-burning demonstration conducted with the participation of local Scouts. The ceremony was both instructional and reverent, an ideal reminder of the values we safeguard. The evening also included the annual Post Everlasting Memorial Service, honoring the following members who transferred to Post Everlasting during the past year; Jerry Brown, 38-year PUFL (Paid Up For Life) member; Clarence Bostock 13-yr PUFL member; David Cadena, 2-yr member; Douglas Eberhart, 29-year PUFL member; Guy Marble, 3-yr member; Clayton Roberson, 39-yr member; and Tom Smith, 39-yr PUFL member and Past Post 240 & District 17 Commander. All were Vietnam veterans. This solemn tribute underscored the continuity of service that binds Post 240 across generations.



*Legionnaires Sid Moon and JJ Conrad and Scouts begin the Post Everlasting ceremony*



*Legionnaire, Walter Dotson assisting scout with proper disposal of used flag by burning*

## Post 174 Scout Leaders Earn Wood Badge

Submitted by BJ MacMillan, Adjutant, Post 174

On May 21st, two leaders in Troop 1096 chartered by Post 174, were presented with their Wood Badge beads.

The key three of Troop 1096 are now all Wood Badge qualified. Melissa Diaz and BJ MacMillan attended Wood Badge training together November 2025. A celebration was held prior to Troop 1096's most recent Court of Honor.



## Post 174 Troop 1096 May Camp Out

Troop 1096 chartered by Post 174 camps at Camp Tahuaya in May. The Troop enjoyed swimming, hiking, and fishing.

The Scouts completed their annual swim tests while working on the Swimming Merit Badge. They enjoyed hiking and checking out nature.

Finally, they went fishing, one of their favorite activities. They caught some small fish and thoroughly enjoyed the outdoors.



## Post 472 Honors Memorial Day Heroes

Submitted by Natividad Corona, Post 472 Historian



May 25th, we had our Memorial Day Service honoring those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country.

Commander Ponce De Leon introduced Eagle Scout Christian Martinez, who spoke about his quest to gather donations of toiletries that veterans could use. He achieved his mission and delivered the toiletries to the V. A. Next semester he will be a high school senior.

Next, Houston City Councilman Joaquin Martinez spoke of his brother being in the military and his death. He also spoke of what the American Legion means to him.

Next, former Post Commander Robert Rocha spoke of his years of service to the American Legion.

Next, 2-Star General Rick Noriega spoke of the importance of The American Legion to the community.

Then gathered Vietnam, Iraq, and Afghanistan veterans for a group picture saying, "we are many, but we are one".



## Quilts of Valor at Post 164

Submitted by Sandy Krum, Commander, Post 164



During our monthly Breakfast with a Veteran, several Post 164 members were honored with a Quilt of Valor.

Legionnaire William Kennison was honored with a quilt, as well as our Commander Sandy Krum presenting him with the American Legion Medal of Merit for his tireless work as our past Adjutant and Army veteran (pictured left).

Legionnaire Jim Scoggin, a Naval Aviator (center), and Legionnaire Bobby Steph, a Marine veteran (right), were also honored.

### Post 164 Breakfast with a Veteran

On June 6th, the Post 164 Family held its monthly Breakfast with a Veteran. This is a chance for area veterans to come and get a great breakfast and meet with other veterans. This month we fed 117 people at our all you can eat breakfast.

We also want to thank the Katy Elks Lodge for the use of their hall and kitchen.

Our Auxiliary also conducts a raffle. This month was Father's Day themed.



## 3rd Division, Department of Texas Hosts Annual Convention

Story by Legionnaire Burrell Parmer, Texas American Legion Press Association



SAN ANTONIO – (May 30, 2026) – Legionnaires from South Texas journeyed to Alamo American Legion Post 2 to attend the 3rd Division Convention convened by Department Vice Commander (3rd Division) Jose Lopez (155).

Prior to the convening of the conference, the Legion Family held a memorial service to honor those members who entered Post Everlasting.

After the opening ceremonies, attendees heard remarks from divisional leadership of the Auxiliary and Sons of The American Legion followed by Department Commander Richard Huntley (554), Past Department Vice Commander (3rd Division) Danny Muth (593), Department Vice Commander (4th Division) Chris Holt (425), and Past Department Commander Jeff Perkins (291).

With reporting completed by the district commanders, Lopez called up five posts with the highest goal percentage for the year, rewarding each with crisp one hundred dollar bills.

Following the distribution of cash rewards, the division elections were conducted: Commander: Eric Mayer (10) and Vice Commander: George Doles (439).

*(continued)*



20th District Commander Eric Mayer (10) was unanimously elected as the next department vice commander for the 3rd Division (Photo by Legionnaire Burrell Parmer, Texas American Legion Press Association)



Department Vice Commander for the 3rd Division Jose Lopez (155) convened the 3rd Division Convention held at Alamo American Legion Post 2 (Photo by Legionnaire Marcellus Hutchinson, Post 828)



Department of Texas Commander Richard Huntley (554) attended the 3rd Division Convention held at Alamo American Legion Post 2. Huntley lauded the leadership and programs conducted by the division (Photo by Legionnaire Burrell Parmer, Texas American Legion Press Association)



Past Department of Texas Commander Jeff Perkins (291) attended the 3rd Division Convention held at Alamo American Legion Post 2. Perkins spoke on the importance of raising funds for cancer and post-traumatic stress disorder research (Photo by Legionnaire Marcellus Hutchinson, Post 828)

According to Lopez, it was an amazing experience leading the largest division within the Department of Texas with over 16,000 members, 434 posts covering 56 counties.

“Traveling to some of our remote towns and posts gave me a feeling of satisfaction, especially after hearing that it has been a long time since someone from division or department had visited their post,” said Lopez. “With just the mere size of the division, email, text, and calls were essential to maintain communication with post leadership.”

Lopez said that the highlight of his tenure was getting out to as many posts as he could and visiting with Legionnaires and participating in their activities and events, whether it was breaking bread, beverage and conversation, administering the oath of office, or just being down to earth and enjoying some good ole song and dancing or participating in karaoke.

“Within the district and post leadership, it is evident that there is a sense of excitement,” Lopez continued. “Leadership continues to evolve, including becoming more open minded and receptive to technology, creating opportunities to improve communication, and working with community partners to grow participation and patriotism.”

Special thanks to Post 2 and Auxiliary Unit 2 for hosting the 3rd Division Convention.



Department Vice Commander for the 3rd Division Jose Lopez (155) presented a cash reward to Post Commander Lenore Hackenyos of Mico American Legion Post 380 for their high percentage of membership goal of 127.27 percent at the 3rd Division Convention held at Alamo American Legion Post 2 (Photo by Legionnaire Marcellus Hutchinson, Post 828)



Past Department Vice Commander for the 3rd Division Danny Muth (593) attended the 3rd Division Convention held at Alamo American Legion Post 2. Muth spoke about the various American Legion programs and finding that passion to support them (Photo by Legionnaire Burrell Parmer, Texas American Legion Press Association)

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# AMERICAN LEGION

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