



# *the* LEGION TIMES

Official Newspaper of The American Legion, Department of Texas

March 2007 \* Volume 88, Issue 5



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## Message from the Commander

February was a very busy month for Legion activities. It started with the Mid Winter Conference in Austin. WOW! What a super conference. On behalf of our Department President, Robbi Ruppert, Richard Bartholomew, S.A.L. Detachment Commander, and myself: Thank You! Thank You! Thank You! I believe all attendees left the conference with more knowledge of our organization and met many old friends and made many new ones.

We had over 500 of our "Legion Family" at the conference. What a super crowd. We had many training seminars and workshops. Hopefully this is the start of something big. If you have suggestions on how we can improve the Mid Winter Conference or suggestions that may help with the Department Convention, please pass them on to us. We want to build on this conference and with everyone's help we can have an even better Department Convention with thousands in attendance.

Now is the time to encourage your membership to make plans on going to the Department Convention in Irving. The attendees at Mid Winter should encourage all of their Legion Family friends to join them in Irving. I promise you it will be entertaining, educational and enjoyable. Please check out our website at [www.txlegion.org](http://www.txlegion.org) or call Department Headquarters for more information.

Our Department Oratorical Contest concluded with the Department Contest in San Angelo. A big thank you goes out to all that went out and rounded up the contestants from across the state to participate in this outstanding Children and Youth Program.

Special Thanks goes out to our Department Chairman Jim Heath, who has put 23 plus years of hard work, dedication, and his own funds to assure this program continues.



# **THE LEGION TIMES**

## **VOLUME 88, ISSUE 5**

### **MARCH 2007**

**Executive Director**  
**William West**

**Editor**  
**F.G. Adams**

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and submissions to:**  
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**The Legion Times assumes no  
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There were no losers, just super young men and women who worked hard in telling us about the Constitution. Each time I attend one of these contests, I learn something about this country's founding document, and more importantly get a better feeling toward our youth in this country. It is not too early to start canvassing schools for contestants in next years contest.

March is the starting point for Spring Conventions throughout the state. I encourage each of you to attend and support your District and Division Conventions.

March also is the birthday of our great organization. This year we celebrate our 88th anniversary of those "Dough Boys" dream to assure veterans, their families, and the communities across the land got the help and support they need. Our veteran family owes them a great deal of gratitude for the programs they have put in place for us. We must work hard in supporting our programs to assure that their dream is continued today and years to come. I hope each of you take time out of your busy schedules to participate in celebrating our 88th Birthday.

We still have a busy agenda for the remainder of this year. American Legion Baseball is upon us as well as Boys State. I ask each of you to work with your Post, District, Division and Department chairs to get our youth involved in these great programs.

Boys State gives High School Juniors an opportunity to spend a week at the University of Texas in Austin in June, learning about our government process. We have 1008 slots and with everyone's help, I hope each of these slots is filled. If you need assistance with Boys

State, please contact Department and they will refer you to the appropriate person.

American Legion Baseball is also a great Children and Youth program that gives youngsters an opportunity to spend their summer playing ball. More importantly it helps them learn good citizenship and the basics of team work. As with Boys State, if you need assistance, please contact Department Headquarters for assistance.

Last but not least, we need to continue to work on membership. Membership is the life line of our organization. If you have not paid your membership dues, please do so. Your membership is important to assure we can sponsor all of the programs and help veterans, such as yourself. If you have paid your dues, go out and recruit a new member.

Please continue to share your "DEEDS of MERIT" with us so that we can share them with everyone. Although we volunteer without asking for awards or attention, we must share our positive experiences with the rest of society so they will have a better understanding of what we do and why we do it.

If you have an item, please forward them to the Department Webmaster at [times@txlegion.org](mailto:times@txlegion.org) for inclusion in Your Legion Times.

We are here to serve you.

For God and Country

Butch

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# 2006-2007 DEPARTMENT OFFICERS

C. W. "Butch" Sparks, Department Commander  
James McNair, Department Vice Commander  
Charles Denson, Chaplain  
Kenneth Mueller, Treasurer  
Julian Weisler, Judge Advocate  
William Moore, Historian  
Glenn Scott, Sergeant-at-Arms  
Ronald Cherry, NEC  
Conrad Roberson, Alt NEC  
James Prendergast, IPDC  
William West, Adjutant  
Bob Squyres, Director of Internal Affairs  
Edward Reyes, Department Service Officer (Houston)  
Joe Petrillo, Department Service Officer (Houston)  
Kimberly Parmer, Department Service Officer (Waco)  
Raymond Wildman, Department Service Officer (Waco)

## DIVISION COMMANDERS

Bob Roberts, 1st Division Commander  
George Bannon, 2nd Division Commander  
Paul Altherr, 3rd Division Commander  
Johnnie Washburn, 4th Division Commander

## DISTRICT COMMANDERS

Jimmy Walker, 1st District Commander  
Jerry Millwood, 2nd District Commander  
Larry Mims, 3rd District Commander  
Mark L Thomson, 4th District Commander  
Mike Phelan, 5th District Commander  
Glen Newman, 6th District Commander  
John Palasota, 7th District Commander  
Dana Young, 8th District Commander  
Don Daft, 9th District Commander  
Dan Musgrove, 10th District Commander  
John D Davis, 11th District Commander  
Walter Starr, 12th District Commander  
John Seyfert, 13th District Commander  
James R Carney, Jr., 14th District Commander  
Oscar Flores, 15th District Commander  
James (Dave) Crowder, 16th District Commander  
Ronnie Pietzsch, 17th District Commander  
Barry Schoenhals, 18th District Commander  
Joseph Kelley, 19th District Commander  
Al B Saunders, 20th District Commander  
Billy Rollwitz, 21st District Commander  
Lynn E Sparks, 22nd District Commander  
Emery Deem, 23rd District Commander

## DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTER NEWS

### Upcoming Events

American Legion Birthday Mar 15th - 17th  
District Spring Conventions  
Division Spring Conventions

Reports due to Dept HQ -  
Eagle Scout of the Year - March 1st  
Post Data Forms - April 15th

### Post Data Forms

The New 2008 Post Data form have been sent out to all Post in the Department. You will notice this form is different that past forms, please take the time to file out he entire from and return it to Department Headquarters by April 15, 2007.

### Consolidated Post Report

The 2006 - 2007 Consolidate Post Report forms have arrived at Department and will be sent out to your Posts within the next couple of weeks, so please watch for it.

The report is one of the most important reports that your Post will submit for the year. It not only shows National and Congress what we do, but it can show the State of Texas and your local community just what you do for them.

The CPR is do back to Department Headquarters by June 1, 2007 so we can process them to send to National Headquarters and for the Department Convention. If you have any questions please contact your District Commander for assistance.

## **American Legacy Scholarship Fund Legacy Card Campaign**

The American Legion's "Blue Star Salute - An Armed Forces Day Celebration" will culminate with community activities honoring our servicemen and women on Armed Forces Day on May 19, 2007. A part of this salute is to raise public awareness for the need to assist the children of our men and women in uniform who died on active duty.

In the Blue Star Salute - An Armed Forces Day Celebration Event Planning and Promotion Guide, you can find information on how the Legacy Cards are to be "sold" by local retailers for a one-dollar donation. The guide can be downloaded from the Legion's web site at [www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org) All proceeds will go to The American Legion American Legacy Scholarship Fund.

Post commanders and adjutants - If you have not already received the latest DVD, How to Conduct a Successful Blue Star Salute, send your request to [pr@legion.org](mailto:pr@legion.org). They're free and very informative.

## **Heroes to Hometown Program**

The Department is working to setup a H2H Network here in the State of Texas. We have asked each Division to provide a H2H Coordinator and each District to appoint a H2H Director. We are also asking each Post to appoint a H2H Chairman, so we can better assist these returning service-members.

More information can be obtained from the National Website [www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org) under the Military Support tab located on the left side of the webpage

## **2007 Department Convention Information**

The 89th Annual Department Convention will be held in Irving, Texas June 26 – July 1, 2007.

The American Legion and the SAL housing and meetings will be in the Westin Hotel. The Auxiliary will be housed and meet in the Sheraton Hotel.

Westin Hotel  
\$82.00 per night room rate.  
4545 West John Carpenter Freeway  
Irving, TX. 75063  
972/929-4500

**DO NOT MAIL YOUR RESERVATIONS INTO DEPARTMENT!  
RESERVATIONS DEADLINE - JUNE 2, 2007**

Pre registration forms can be found on the Department Website; pre registration fee is \$25.00 on site is \$35.00. More information and schedule to come, watch the Department Website and Legion Times for details.

Veterans Benefits Seminar – American Legion Post 351 located on Hwy 250 in Hughes Springs, TX (Across from Reeder-Davis Funeral Home) will host a Veterans Benefits Seminar on Saturday, May 19th.

Registration will start at 9:00 am, and all counseling will be on a "first come – first served" basis. However, all wishing counseling will receive help.

Representatives from the VA Regional Office in Waco, TX, the American Legion, TX Veterans Commission, TX Veterans Land Board, and others will be on hand to discuss and help with any questions and claims.

For more information contact the following: Bobby Baker, Post Commander – 903 645 5812 or 903 720 2316.

National Commander 100% Plus Pins for Post, District, and Department Commanders -

Any Post, District, or Department that obtains 100% or more by the Legion Birthday, March 15, 2007, will receive a set of specially commissioned National Commander 100% Plus pins for the Commander, Adjutant, and Membership Chairman at the Post and District levels.

The Membership must be here in Department Headquarters by 4pm on March 15th, postmarks will not count.



## NEED A LIFT? Comes to the Web

NEED A LIFT? Booklets will soon be available on the Legion's web site. The American Legion is proud to announce this new tool for locating college financial aid. Students can view, search and print material found in NEED A LIFT? at no cost simply go to: [www.needalift.org](http://www.needalift.org)

## Economic Division Rolls Out 2007 Job Fairs

The American Legion has a formal Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with [Recruitmilitary.com](http://Recruitmilitary.com) and [Military.com](http://Military.com) that will allow The American Legion to have a presence in all of their job fairs around the country.

The main purpose of these job fairs is to provide veterans more outlets for employment while promoting The American Legion. This is an extremely important opportunity that could have an incredibly positive impact for veterans and our organization.

All departments have been notified of upcoming job fairs in their states. They are strongly encouraged to participate.

The Economics Division is requesting that all departments:

1. Prepare staffing for the upcoming events in your respective departments at least 2 months in advance (Prepare to give out many Legion information materials and the services that are available to veterans).
2. Once you have organized which post will participate let our division know we will send you additional pamphlets and handouts to assist you if you require them).
3. Send out fliers, e-mails, faxes, fliers, and notifications of the upcoming job fairs at least 1 month in advance. Notify everyone within your department all the way down to each individual. Spread the word even if you are employed, YOU CAN HELP OTHERS!
4. Reach out to your local National Guard and Re-

serve units and notify them of the upcoming job fair. Contact them and promote the job fair at every drill.

5. Reach out to returning veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan.

Here is list of dates and location for the State of Texas if you or your Post, District or Division would like to participate please contact the Department Headquarters or visit [www.recruitmilitary.com](http://www.recruitmilitary.com) or [www.military.com](http://www.military.com)

Houston, April 5, 2007	11:00 am – 3:00pm
Dallas, April 12, 2007	11:00 am – 3:00pm
Austin, April 16, 2007	11:00 am – 3:00pm
Dallas, July 12, 2007	11:00 am – 3:00pm
San Antonio, July 16, 2007	11:00 am – 3:00pm
Houston, August 30, 2007	11:00 am – 3:00pm
Austin, October 30, 2007	11:00 am – 3:00pm
Dallas, November 14, 2007	11:00 am – 3:00pm
Dallas, November 29, 2007	11:00 am – 3:00pm

## Resolution Creates Medal of Honor Day

A resolution passed recently by the U.S. Senate designates March 25, 2007 as "National Medal of Honor Day." The day is set aside to acknowledge the more than 3,400 individuals who have received the nation's highest honor. According the Medal of Honor Society, there are presently only 111 living individuals who have received the Medal of Honor. For more information, visit the Home of Heroes website and the Congressional Medal of Honor Society website.

**Your ad could be here!**  
**For more details e-mail us at [times@txlegion.org](mailto:times@txlegion.org)**

**If you have an event or announcement for us to place in the next issue of the Legion Times?**  
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## **The American Legion Auxiliary**

Eighteen million dollars. . .Ten million hours of service. . .that is what American Legion Auxiliary volunteers contribute in just ONE year! Since our organization was founded more than seven decades ago, the Auxiliary has certainly earned its place in the community. And, as the largest patriotic women's service organization in the world, the Auxiliary has proven its worth in hundreds of ways.

In our Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation program, more than 100,000 hospital, field and home service volunteers give millions of hours to assist veterans. In addition, they provide funds to purchase essential equipment and supplies in 171 VA medical centers and other veterans' facilities. Our members actively support legislation to improve veterans' benefits. Auxiliary volunteers make and provide holiday gifts and plan parties throughout the year to cheer hospitalized veterans. They furnish transportation, food, clothing, and most important of all, loving care for home-bound veterans.

The Auxiliary's Poppy program for veterans is the oldest, and probably the most well known, of our many programs. Auxiliary volunteers distribute millions of poppies every year in return for donations, large and small. The contributions are used exclusively to assist veterans and their families. The crepe paper poppies are made by hospitalized veterans, thereby providing a small income, therapy and help to build the veteran's self-esteem. In the community, the little red flowers remind the world that we have not forgotten the sacrifice of our veterans. We proudly wear this beautiful symbol in memory of those who died to preserve the freedom we enjoy.

Each year, the Auxiliary contributes millions of dollars and volunteer hours to individual projects for children, in addition to the thousands of dollars which are donated to The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation to provide grants for various children's programs.

Quality education for all people is very important to our

members. The Auxiliary gives approximately \$1 million each year for scholarships which enable young people to continue their education.

Since the Girls State and Girls Nation programs were established, more than 1 million young women have been given the opportunity to experience the workings of state and federal government. At these sessions, high school juniors learn leadership, patriotism, self-worth and confidence which helps prepare them to take their places as productive and successful members of our society.

These are just some of the things that the American Legion Auxiliary does for veterans, communities and young people. We welcome every eligible woman to join us. It is your opportunity to share the joy, and the rewards, of doing something good for yourself and your community.

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**The American Legion Auxiliary Department of Texas Headquarters office wishes The American Legion a very Happy Birthday. There will be celebrations all over Texas for this great event.**

**Membership – Three new units were chartered the last week of February. We are glad to welcome these new members to the Auxiliary, Nocona 220, Somerset 443 and 489 Leakey. They join the other new units, Arlington 60 in which chartered in early February and Lumberton 72 and Vidor 112 that were chartered last fall. This makes a total of six new units so far for the 2006-07 administrative year. There are two more in the 4th district that should be chartered this month. Thanks to all the posts that made these new units possible. We look forward to more units being chartered in the future. Without new units and new members, our organization cannot grow and our future would look pretty dim. Please make sure your eligible**

*(continued on page 8)*



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Dallas, TX*

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YOU ARE AUTHORIZED TO INSERT A \_\_\_\_\_ PAGE ADVERTISEMENT IN YOUR SOUVENIR PROGRAM COMMEMORATING YOUR 2007 DEPARTEMENT OF TEXAS CONVENTION. I/WE AGREE TO PAY THE TOTAL SUM OF \$ \_\_\_\_\_ IN ADVANCE.

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(Auxiliary, continued from page 6)

female relatives join our organization. Or make sure they have renewed their membership. We depend on our renewing members, too. Our goal of 95% is March 27th. Our membership stands at 88.66%. We have one district that is over 100% and has been in first place for several months. There are ten districts that need less than one hundred members to reach that elusive 100%.

Poppy – Over 25,000 poppies have been mailed out to units and posts for their spring distribution. The poppy makers at the Temple VAMC are staying busy-keeping our office supplied in poppies so there is no delay in getting the orders filled. There are both men and women who make poppies for the Auxiliary. We certainly appreciate their hard work in keeping us supplied with the beautiful red and green flowers.

Districts are gearing up for their spring conventions; June and the Department Convention is just around the corner. We have begun adding convention information to our website. As we get closer to June information will be added and published in our bimonthly bulletin. We are looking forward to a great time in Irving.

Please call, e-mail or fax, if you have any questions regarding what you've read or about the Auxiliary in general. We'll be glad to help.

Phone: 512-476-7278

Fax: 512-482-8391

e-mail: [alatexas@txlegion.org](mailto:alatexas@txlegion.org)

website: [www.alatexas.org](http://www.alatexas.org)

**Paula Raney**  
**Department Secretary**

## **ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S AMERICAN HISTORY TRIVIA**



1. C. John Adams
2. A. Lexington-Concord
3. C. Almighty God
4. C. Nathan Hale and Benedict Arnold
5. A. Captain John Paul Jones
6. D. 15
7. A. Virginia and Maryland
8. C. July 2, 1776
9. D. 1787
10. C. 1789

Have an event or announcement for us to place  
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E-mail us at [times@txlegion.org](mailto:times@txlegion.org)





## Texas History Trivia!

*Test your knowledge, and check back next month for the answers!*

March 2nd was Texas Independence Day. In remembrance of the heros who gave their lives for the freedom of Texas, here's a fun quiz about The Battle of the Alamo.

1. Which man left the Alamo twice to deliver messages and returned both times at great risk, only to die soon after the second return, while defending the fort?

- A. William Barret Travis
- B. James Butler Bonham
- C. Almeron Dickenson
- D. Green B. Jameson

2. Lieutenant-Colonel Travis sent messages requesting help from both Texas and the United States, and on March 1st 32 men from this town arrived under the cover of darkness to help in the defense of the Alamo. Which?

- A. Gonzales
- B. San Antonio
- C. San Jacinto
- D. Goliad

3. Lieutenant-Colonel William Barret Travis commanded the Alamo when the fort fell, but earlier on he had shared command with another man. Who shared command of the Alamo until his illness caused him to hand full command of the fort to Travis?

- A. James Bowie
- B. James Walker Fannin
- C. David Crockett
- D. Juan Seguin

4. With what rank did the famous David Crockett enlist and die as at the Alamo?

- A. Sergeant
- B. Colonel
- C. Private
- D. General

5. Which famous defender of the Alamo is believed to have been the first to have died?

- A. Sam Houston
- B. James Bowie
- C. William Barret Travis
- D. David Crockett

6. For how many days were the defenders of the Alamo besieged before Santa Ana finally took the fort?

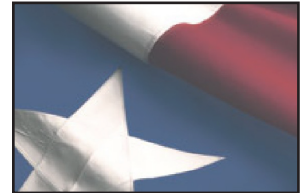
- A. 13 days
- B. 28 days
- C. 9 days
- D. 2 months

7. This Mexican officer attempted to spare the lives of the Texans, not only at the Alamo but at other battles during the war as well, but his pleas were ignored. He would later die defending his artillery at San Jacinto.

- A. Castrillón
- B. Urrea
- C. Cós
- D. Almonte

8. Approximately how many men defended the Alamo?

- A. 100
- B. 350
- C. 400
- D. 250



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announcement you would like to  
see in the next issue?***

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BY THE 20th OF EVERY MONTH  
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in the next issue!***

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The Legion Times!  
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