Hello Legionnaires! Welcome to our WONDERFUL PATRIOTIC WORLD OF AUXILIARY!

The Legion and SAL Commanders and I have just about completed our VA Hospital tours, with just one more trip left..... Big Spring and Amarillo VAMC’s. I wish all of you could have the chance to visit, (I mean tour) our Texas VA Hospitals and see what they have to offer. We have such a large populace of Veterans in Texas, and our Texas VA’s are among the best in the country. The improvements in the last 5-10 years are amazing. In my opinion, every one of our VA’s is ‘top-of-the-line’. SAL Commander Albert and I attended the “Salute to Veterans” on February 13th in Waco VA & Temple VA, accompanied by “Miss Texas 2008”, Rebecca Robinson. I am not too sure if any of the male patients noticed that Albert and I were there.

The Waco VA has a Women’s Trauma Unit, which is unique to this area. There are women veterans with a completely different set of issues, and these are addressed in this special unit. Lady Legionnaires; monetary donations, and donations of women’s health care items are needed. If anyone is interested in donating, please contact Sherry Hughes, Chief of Voluntary Services Sherry.Hughes@va.gov

Monday March 30th -- DAY #1

Make a note..... that is the first day of the 6 day “Texas Challenge”. This is the Road to Recovery “R2R” program that is co-sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary, American Legion Riders, VFW, USO and several other organizations. This outdoor cycling program is an activity that nearly all injured Veterans with mental or physical disabilities can participate. We can help make a difference for these Wounded Warriors as they take on this 6 day ride from BAMC in San Antonio – ending on April 4th in the DFW area. They stop in San Marcos, Austin, Ft. Hood, Waco, Cleburne and end Ranger Stadium in Arlington. It will be a group of approx. 60-70 riders.

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Special guests to be traveling along the way are expected to be: the Mayor of Houston, State Senator Rodney Ellis, Karl Rowe, George W. Bush, Governor Rick Perry, Roger Staubach, and actor Adam Baldwin. Check the web site www.TheRoad2Recovery.org for more information, or contact Auxiliary VA&R chairman Diana King at dianaking4222@sbcglobal.net to make a donation or sponsor a rider.

“Serving or Veteran Warriors through the USO”
ALA Department President, Mickie Prendergast

Central Texas Veteran’s Hall of Fame Grand Opening

The Joe Kott Post 317 in Jarrell, TX had the grand opening of the new Central Texas Veteran’s Hall of Fame in January 2009. As stated at the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony, Valeree Bertram said that this is but one reminder of the liberties and freedom we have been granted because of the men and women presented in this hall of fame room. What we have here is a reminder of decades past where we have seen our men and women stand side by side on faraway battle fields in defense of the free world.

Post 317 wanted to honor the men and women who dedicated their lives, whether it was war time or peace time, they protected and are protecting our way of life. Not all Veteran’s have seen war, but a common bond that they share is an oath in which they expressed their willingness to die defending this nation.

This Hall of fame is our relatives, friends and neighbors that dedicated their life through whichever branch of service they chose. One common ground is that his brotherhood is something very special. We are blessed to remember and represent them. This will be a place that we can bring our families to so that they also may remember our local heroes.

It holds over 600 pictures of Veterans ranging from WWI to our present day conflict. It also contains actual war pictures and memorabilia donated from Veterans. We will continue to accept pictures and items. We would like this to become a place that everyone is proud of and will be ever changing and growing.
Do you have an article or news announcement to share with the rest of the Department of Texas? If so, please follow these basic guidelines for submissions.

• Submit your text in Microsoft Word format (.doc) or as a text file (.txt or .rtf). Save your file as the same name of the article, so we can easily keep track of it. And be sure to make it clear who the author is, whether it’s you or if you are just forwarding it to us.

• WE LOVE ARTICLES WITH PHOTOS, or any other kind of images! Submit photos and/or artwork for articles separately (not embedded in the article) as high resolution (300 dpi, or better) JPGs. Please name these files accordingly so we can track them along with your article. Let us know in your e-mail of any corresponding captions, and/or name of the photographer if necessary.

• Spell check everything! Especially people’s names, web addresses, etc. We do our best to catch typos, but sometimes they still slip by. You can help us greatly here by simply running your spell check function in your word processing program.

• E-mail everything directly to us at times@txlegion.org by the 20th of every month for it to appear in the very next issue. This way we have plenty of time to work with in case we need to clarify anything with you.

We hope you enjoy this issue, and hope you continue to help us grow The Legion Times!
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To All Texas Members of the American Legion Family:

You can now obtain American Legion License Plates in the state of Texas. These plates are available to all Texas members of the American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, and Sons of the American Legion.

Go to the location where you purchase your license plates, (usually your County Seat) and they will copy your membership card as part of the procedure for obtaining these plates. At that time your cost for these special plates (in addition to whatever your usual amount) will be $30.00, $22.00 of which the Texas American Legion Foundation will receive. Your plates will then be ordered and you can pick them up in about three weeks.

If you have personalized plates you can keep the same number or letter(s) and it will be put on the Legion Plates. Your personalized fees, in such an instance, would remain the same plus the $30.00 for the American Legion plates.

The money received by the Texas American Legion Foundation through this program will be used for the currently supported scholarship programs. These include the Oratorical Contest Scholarship (on the U.S. Constitution), the Junior Shooting Scholarship, the Eagle Scout Scholarship, the Cindy Mae Girls State Scholarship, the Baseball Scholarship, the Boys State Senior Counselor Scholarship, and several other scholarships.

Texas American Legion License Plates are a good promotion of the American Legion Family. Thank you for your participation in this program so we (the Texas American Legion family) can continue our good work through so many of our scholarship programs which help our youth of today and leaders of the future.

For God and Country,
Ronald Cherry ~ President
Texas American Legion
Development Foundation
Blood Donor Center, Lifetime Achievement Award

Connie Jo Popham-Purchis of Floresville American Legion Post 38, was recognized on 19 February 2009 by the Akeroyd Blood Donor Center, at Fort Sam Houston, with a Lifetime Achievement Award. Connie Jo has donated 55 gallons of blood and aphaeresis (platelets) over the past fifteen years.

Connie Jo stated that it was such an honor to receive this award. I would like to encourage anyone who can donate, to please do so. It is a wonderful feeling to know that you are helping save a life. I get great joy and satisfaction just knowing that I am still serving, by helping our Troops.

Connie Jo lives on the Rockin’ P Ranch in Fairview with her mother (Lea Popham) and her son (Travis). Both Lea and Travis are very proud of Connie Jo. Connie Jo is also a member of the Floresville SPJST Lodge 107, where she is the Youth Leader.