Message from the Commander

We are facing very difficult times. With the coronavirus, as leaders, we have difficult decisions to make that no other leaders before us had to. It involves meetings, committees, and conventions. Do not think you are by yourself in making these decisions. Ask for assistance and opinions on what to do from those that you trust. As your State Commander, I work with the State Adjutant and the State Judge Advocate. They are the experts on CB&L's and legal advice. I still talk to others for their advice but in the end; the decision is mine. I ask all Post Commanders, District Commanders, and Division Commanders to make the best decisions possible. First and foremost, consider the safety of our members. I do not take this lightly as your State Commander. I believe and encourage the Buddy Check. We need to take care of all our members whether they attend meetings or not. If they need food or just need interaction and know they matter is important. Members are number one. This includes the Sons of the American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary. We are a family.

We already know that Boys Nations and Junior Shooting has been cancelled by National. The Department of Texas has not cancelled any of the programs yet; but I will have to make some tough decisions in the near future on our programs.

Please work with your Post Commanders, District Commanders, and Division Commanders to get through these difficult times. They need your support whether you agree with their decisions or not.

If anyone has an idea or suggestion on what we can do to fight this battle, our greatest challenge of the time, please send your suggestions to: cdrtxlegion@gmail.com.

I pray that all our veterans, families and active duty personnel are safe around the world.

This year will be based on FUN and Devotion to Mutual Helpfulness to support The Four Pillars and to support each other. Send your ideas to: cdrtxlegion@gmail.com and I will share them with the rest of the Department of Texas.

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

As I write this the Great State of Texas is under siege by the Corona Virus (COVID-19). Depending on where you live, we are under different guidelines; some are under shutdowns of various types, others continue business as always. As individuals, most are “social distancing” ourselves from others.

At this time little is known about COVID-19, President Trump and others have compared it to the great pandemic of 1917-1919, known as the Spanish flu. While the actual origination of this flu is uncertain, this was during World War 1 and news was highly censored. The first recorded case occurred in Camp Funston, a U.S. Army training ground at Fort Riley. A mess cook reported to the infirmary on March 11, 1918, by noon, that day, more than 100 soldiers had reported to the infirmary. Several dozen soldiers died there that Spring. It received the name “Spanish flu” when King Alfonso XIII contracted it. Since Spain was neutral, Spanish newspapers broke the news to the world. Before the pandemic was over several famous people had come down with the Spanish Flu, including President Woodrow Wilson during the peace talks. The public was told he merely had a cold, but his personal physician was worried about his true condition in April 1919.

The Spanish flu came in three waves, some say there were four. The second wave, which occurred in the fall of 1918, was the deadliest. The Spanish flu was different from cases of other flu and viruses, and unlike COVID-19, which at the moment appears to disproportionately affect older people, the Spanish flu was particularly lethal to young men and women—though especially men—in their 20s and 30s. It is estimated that one-third of the world contracted the Spanish flu, and upwards of fifty million died worldwide.

How did they handle the Spanish flu? The same as we are; social distancing, shutting down churches, restaurants, movie theaters, gathering places, quarantines, etc.

What can we do? Check on our elderly legionnaires and neighbors. They are taking this very seriously and frankly, they are scared. Scared because they are alone and scared to get out in public. Many don’t have anyone that cares for them. We can be that person, let them know we care, see if they need anything. Most of all support and encourage them.

Our Heavenly Father, we thank You that You have protected our country, in the past. We ask that You once again extend Your protecting hand over us, that we will get through this new threat. Give us Your peace in this time of uncertainty. AMEN.

My email address is rlh.wings@yahoo.com and my cell phone is 713-569-0959. Do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of any assistance to you or your post.

SERVICE TO GOD AND COUNTRY
Robert L. Harvey
Department Chaplain 2019-2020
www.texaschaplains.org
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.
- Name your article! Create the headline and save with a proper file name so we can easily recognize it.
- Tell us who the author is, whether it’s you or if you are just forwarding it to us.
- Please attach any photos and/or artwork for articles separately (NOT embedded in your text file) as high resolution JPGs (300 dpi, or better). Please name these files accordingly so we can track them along with your article.
- Let us know in your e-mail of any corresponding captions, name of the photographer, etc.

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

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

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

Governor Abbot has extend the “Stay at Home” for all non-essential business because of the COVID-19 virus until May 1, 2020.

The Department Headquarters closed on Wednesday, March 25, 2020 and will tentatively reopen on May 1, 2020. During this time all Posts are encouraged to process their membership using the MyLegion.org website.

During these difficult times all Post should be conducting “Buddy Checks” with all their members to check and see how they are doing and if they are in need of any assistance.

We are working on the various upcoming department events and programs, and as decisions are made, we will communicate them to you through email and the department website.

For Posts or Districts that need to submit Temporary Financial Assistance applications, please submit to billw@txlegion.org for processing. While the National Headquarters is also on shelter in place restrictions, some of their key personnel are available for assistance.

Please remember to continue to practice safe social distancing measures. As an organization that has been around for over 101 years we have seen our country go through hard times before, we will get through this together and come out stronger as we have always done.

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**CARES Act Information for Post Assistance**

Information for all American Legion Posts about the Paycheck Protection Program under the “CARES ACT” and how to file.

The Paycheck Protection Program prioritizes millions of Americans employed by small businesses by authorizing up to $349 billion toward job retention and certain other expenses.

Small businesses and eligible nonprofit organizations, Veterans organizations, and Tribal businesses described in the Small Business Act, as well as individuals who are self-employed or are independent contractors, are eligible if they also meet program size standards.

Applications for the new Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) are being accepted starting April 3. For application instructions, loan requirements and other details, download the CARES Act & PPP Loan Overview available online at https://home.treasury.gov/cares
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Check or money order also accepted
Mail to : American Legion PO Box 140527 Austin, TX. 78714
100th Anniversary Order Form

The American Legion is celebrating our 100th Anniversary and the Department of Texas has several commemorative items available for purchase to mark this milestone!

Please see our order form on the previous page. Just fill out and mail to the Department Headquarters with your check or money order and we will send the items to you.

AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at smile.amazon.com, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to your favorite charitable organization.

Simply go to smile.amazon.com, sign into your normal Amazon account and then type in “American Legion Charities Inc” in the search box when the prompt comes up. Amazon will remember your selection, and then every eligible purchase you make at smile.amazon.com will result in a donation.

The AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price from your eligible AmazonSmile purchases.

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American Legion Charities Inc

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Public Foundations

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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

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 Hometown, 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
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).¹
- No annual fee
- Earn 1 point for every dollar spent and 2X points on gas and groceries. Plus, now you can extend your support by redeeming your rewards points for a donation to The American Legion.

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¹ 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 or 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. 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.

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Your Department of The American Legion
What if you were Bob?

George and Bob both go on a solo fishing trip to a beautiful, but remote, town in Alaska every summer. While enjoying the idyllic scenery, they both notice chest pains — they are having a heart attack!

What happens next?

They call 9-1-1 and are admitted to the hospital.

George has Emergency Assistance Plus

Bob does not

Both require

Medical evacuation to a facility that is able to properly treat their condition

Medical specialists to monitor their care

Travel assistance to bring a loved one to their bedside

A driver to drive their car/RV back home since they are unable to drive

George pays $0

Bob pays $16,000

George pays $0

Bob pays $400

George pays $0

Bob pays $1,100

George pays $0

Bob pays $1,800

George’s Total: $0

Bob’s Total: $19,300!

Emergency Assistance Plus is an emergency medical transportation service that goes beyond health and travel insurance. It covers expenses for medical transportation, medical evacuation and travel and companion assistance — services that your insurance usually does NOT pay for. You must call EA+ during your emergency so EA+ can make the arrangements for you.

*This is only an outline of the plan’s features. Please read your Member Benefit Guide carefully to understand all the services available to you, as well as any terms, conditions and limitations.

Learn more about how you can be protected by EA+. Call today to speak with a customer service representative at 1-888-310-1547. Or to apply online, visit www.thellt.com/Emergency-Assistance-Plus
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