Message from the Commander

First and foremost, I hope The American Legion family is safe and staying healthy.

The Department Executive Committee has been busy in April. First, they passed Resolution #1 and authorized the Boys State Committee to proceed with a virtual Boys State. The Boys State committee has been working since January to create the virtual Boys State program in case UT cancelled it, which they did. The Boys State committee worked diligently to keep our Boys State program alive this year. Please process your Boys State applications.

Then the Department Executive committee passed Resolution #3 to cancel the Department Convention in July and District Commanders School. This was not an easy decision. All Department Officers will stay in office for the year 2020 – 2021. Division and District Commanders who do not desire to stay in office, will have to resign so their replacements can be sworn in.

Virtual elections are not authorized for post’s elections. There are ways to conduct elections even in these times. Information will be provided on how to conduct these elections. I will have the Department Judge Advocate provide the process.

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

The month of May appears to have more special days than any other month. One of the most important holidays for us as Legionnaires is Memorial Day. This holiday is always observed on the last Monday in May.

Over the years, we have all heard about this holiday and everything has been said. Our chaplains have offered Memorial Services, we have attended Memorial Day events. Memorial Day is the unofficial beginning of summer. Some have had parties, picnics, trips to the beach, and other diversions.

With all these activities let us not forget the true purpose of Memorial Day. This date was set aside to honor those military men and women that gave their lives to protect us and secure our freedoms.

In our major wars and conflicts the following numbers of casualties were incurred:

- American Revolutionary War: 25,000
- War of 1812: 15,000
- Mexican American War: 13,283
- Civil War (total): 655,000
- Spanish-American War: 2,446
- Philippine-American War: 4,196
- World War I: 116,516
- World War II: 405,399
- Korean War: 36,516
- Vietnam War: 58,209
- War in Afghanistan: 2,216
- Iraq War: 4,497

This is by no means a complete list of all that died in conflicts and incidents. The omission of the remaining is by no means to say that their deaths were less important in protecting our freedoms.

When Memorial Day arrives let’s not forget the true reason and importance of this day. We need to make sure we give these valiant men and women the honor and respect that they deserve. They paid the ultimate price for us.

Every Memorial Day a national moment of remembrance is observed at 3 P.M. your local time. This allows for the remembrance to continue throughout the whole day. No one can say it’s too early or too late for them.

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!
We Need Help Now
submitted by Jim Sutton

We are living in very turbulent times, both from a political and climate perspective. Our National Government (Congress) is functioning at about 20% capacity. We also have forces in our Country trying to push us into being a socialistic country.

We are experiencing Climate Change, what causes it is up for debate. Whatever the cause, we must start to be prepared for the results (floods, fires, tornado’s, hurricanes, etc). As a large State Organization, we appear to be not ready for a major disaster. We as an organization it seems, needs to learn to be proactive rather than reactive in both areas of need.

I am about to say a few things that some members of the Department will not like. I do this, because I want to do what is best for the Legion in Texas and we need to start down the road of being proactive. I will start where I think we can be of immediate help.

We all know that in any organization you must keep increasing your membership because of Post Everlasting, dropouts, lack of funds and many other valid reasons to stay a viable organization. We (Legion) have become a stagnant organization by our inability to attract young veterans.

Listed below are some of the statements made by young veterans.

Use emails, not envelopes.
Get the Post into this Century.
Stop smoking inside the Post.
We need to be involved.
Don’t act like a retirement home.
ALWAYS be friendly.
Don’t make them feel like an intruder.
Have some young officers.
Most current VSO’s are antiquated.
Do NOT have bigotry & discrimination.
Posts must learn humility.

The Department, Divisions, Districts, Posts have available to it a proposal for a new officer position to address the shortage of younger veterans should they decide to avail themselves of the opportunity. This new officer position would specialize in recruitment/retention of young members. We have many intelligent and experienced Members/Veterans of the Department that can refine solutions that are available now. Contact your Post, District, Division Commanders, so that we can start being proactive now.

Why May 15th is So Important for So Many Post Finance Officers

Each Post is having to be reactive and hopefully proactive to this national crisis we’re facing. At the same time, we’re coming up on May 15th. What’s the importance of this date? Many of our American Legion Texan Posts use the calendar year as their fiscal year. May 15th is the date your IRS Form 990 is due—the 15th day of the fifth month after the close of your fiscal year. So, if you are the Post Finance Officer and your Post uses Jan-Dec, Dec 31st is the end of the fiscal year. May 15th is the 15th of the fifth month after Dec 31st.

Many, many Posts qualify for what we know as the 990-N, the electronic filing response, since they had gross revenues under $50,000. This is completed on a computer and the IRS has excellent instructions on their website.

If the Post has gross receipts less than $200,000 and total asset less than $500,000 at the end of the year, it can file Form 990-EZ, instead of the Form 990. If your Post also has a 501(c)(3) corporation (usually for scholarship funds), a separate Form 990-T will be required. Lastly, for a Post with gross receipts of $200,000 or more, or total assets at the end of the year is $500,000 or more, the Form 990 must be completed.

Regardless, please ensure to double-check all entries and, if filing a paper copy, sign your form and keep a copy for the Post records.

Remember, you owe it to your Post to ensure you do not cause the Post to lose it’s non-exempt status by either not filing or filing late.
SAN ANTONIO – (April 17, 2020) Willie E. Foster Sr. passed away on April 9, 2020 at his home on the city’s east side. He was born on April 17, 1922, to the parentage of Mack and Annie Foster in Fort Worth.

Foster graduated from Wheatley High School and attended Cuney Elementary and Douglas Middle Schools. His early employment included chauffeuring for Judge J.R. Wilson and in 1942, he joined the U.S. Army serving during WWII. He was discharge from the Army in 1946 at the rank of sergeant (quartemaster). Afterwards, he worked on Fort Sam Houston Army Base, Kelly Air Field and at the Fort Sam Houston Hospital.

Foster was a dedicated member of Mt. Sinai Baptist Church where he was a deacon and usher until his health declined.

He was a long-time member of Fred Brock American Legion Post No. 828 located on the city’s east side.

Foster was a freemason with Star Tom Lodge No. 100 (Prince Hall Affiliated), an honorary past grand high priest with Shiloh Royal Arch Chapter No. 16 (Holy Royal Arch Masons), a sublime prince of the Royal Secret with Lone Star Consistory No. 113, (Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite), and a life member of Moussa Temple No. 106 (Prince Hall Shriners).

Always dressed to the nines, Foster loved his family and the American Legion.

Foster leaves to cherish his memory, his children: Willie E. Foster, Jr., Gladys Horns, and Angela Foster; his beloved companion, Iryia Comer; and a host of grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great great-grandchildren.

Foster’s memorial service was held at Mt. Sinai Baptist Church officiated by Rev. Dr. Garry L. Roberts on April 17, which would have been Foster’s 98th birthday. Final arrangements were provided by Lewis Funeral Home with internment at Fort Sam National Cemetery.

Prior to his memorial service, Foster’s remains were brought to Fred Brock American Legion Post 828 as a final farewell to a great legionnaire.
The active duty military prior to retirement will usually consider the option of living near a military installation for savings on the use of Base/Post BX services, commissary shopping privileges, MWR retail facility and the free medical heath care of the local military installation. However, the active duty health care system is changing. The recently formed Defense Health Agency is spearheading this move, as they manage the services medical care for all services. This move will impact 200,000 retirees and active-duty family members. Of those, about 80,000 are active-duty family members and the remaining 120,000 are retirees and their families. This move has already started with at least 11 clinics moving to active duty only and an additional three clinic slated to close completely.

The positive news is that the retirees and active-duty family members will be absorbed into the local community, if possible. Before the facilities/clinics can make this change, the plan is to shift the retirees and active-duty family members to off base/post care. The other bad news is that retirees forced to see doctors in the civilian community will incur more cost under the Tricare Prime Program. For off base care, the projected cost is $20.00 per visit and $31.00 for specialty care. This does not include the cost of pharmacy services. At this point, it is noted that clinics that are open for active duty only, can still obtain pharmacy services for retirees and active duty families. Those clinics that close will no longer provide any pharmacy services to veterans and active duty families. The retirees in this case must bear the cost of their prescriptions. There is still more cost to come as there will be a $600.00 per family annual registration fee for Tricare Prime. Some good news is that active-duty families on Tricare Prime, will carry no out-of-pocket costs.

This is a lot of information to absorb. The next question to come is how does this affect us in Texas? Of the 38 facilities/clinics, four of them are located in Texas. The first one is Goodfellow Air Force Base, Texas, outpatient clinic, closing to non-active duty patients. The second is Dyess Air Force Base, Texas, outpatient clinic closing to non-active duty patients. Third is Fort Hood, Texas, Fort Hood Medical Home, and Charles Moore clinic, closing to non-active duty patients. And lastly, Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, Texas, outpatient clinic closing to non-active duty patients. There are no numbers given on how many people this will effect by location, so we do not know how many Texans this will effect. For more information on this subject, you can look in to the Army website, look for article, “Here’s the List of Military Clinics That Will No Longer Serve Retirees, Families” by Amy Bushhazt.

**New Benefits for Veterans**

After the constant erosion of benefits to veterans it feels good to report an upturn of benefits. We welcome the positive news that starting in January 2020, the Department of Defense expanded in-store military exchange and commissary shopping privileges as well as MWR retail facility use to all who have 1) veterans with service-connected disabilities, 2) Purple Heart recipients, 3) Former Prisoners of War. For more information please see - Shopmyexchange.com/vets.
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Renew your American Legion Membership quickly and easily online!

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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 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.

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