Message from the Commander

Another month has rapidly gone by and everyone has been busy with conventions and elections.

Some conventions have been great and others have been very poor. If you have not attended training on “How to conduct a meeting” presented by Dan Corbin, Department Judge Advocate, you need to do so. Some of the district meetings are worse that the worst post meetings. I am sorely ashamed.

Most elections have went well and I congratulate the newly elected officers. Remember to be a division or district officer you must have completed the basic ALEI course before you can be installed. Installation will be at the department convention on July 15.

We are still behind goal on membership. Please keep contacting the 2018 members who have not renewed and pressing for new members. There are still many veterans who are not members of our great organization. JUST ASK.

June 1st is the deadline for Consolidated Post Reports to be at department headquarters. You can do it online or in pen and ink. These reports are very important and your post cannot receive department awards unless you submit it.

Also don’t forget to certify you post immediately after your post elections.

Both the Consolidated Post report and the certification forms can be printed off the web site at txlegion.org.

It has been a real pleasure being your department commander. I feel I have come up short of my expectations. I will continue to try to serve you well until July 15. I will always be a proud Legionnaire.

God bless the America and God bless the American Legion.
Lloyd O. Buckmaster
Department Commander
2018-2019
“FOR GOD AND COUNTRY” - Your Chaplain loves that phrase. It says it all for me as an individual and to us as an organization. We use it on stationary, on web sites, in speeches and in our Preamble.

I am asking you today to take the time to think about those four words when it comes to you and our Legion family. Are we putting them in action, in our programs and in our own lives ...or are we merely repeating them in unison for the start of a meeting?

When you put your uniform on...your cap...do you remember we are an organization built on values and virtues? Does your Post home reflect caring for others and positive behavior by Legion family members? The fact that you are a bar post does not mean you are going to hell...just like a meeting that starts with a prayer does not guarantee positive behavior across the board. We must live the words we say and our Legion must reflect that four-word phrase above...FOR GOD AND COUNTRY.

When putting together programs, are we ensuring we start and end with prayer or are they omitted on programs or are they last minute fillers?

Thank you to 6th, 7th and 9th Districts and 2nd Division for ensuring God and Country was front and center.

“If God is with us, who can be against us?”, that old (and yes, your Chaplain is a senior citizen!) phrase offers hope for today and tomorrow.

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY
Chaplain Gerry May Hince
Department Chaplain 2018-2019
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.
- 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!

Lloyd Buckmaster, Department Commander
James Watson, Department Vice Commander
C.W. Sparks, National Executive Committeeman
Kenneth Mueller, Alternate National Executive Committeeman
William West, Department Adjutant
Gerry Hince, Department Chaplain
David Paris, Department Treasurer
Dan Corbin, Department Judge Advocate
Al Alford, Department Historian
Mark Thomson, Department Sergeant-at-Arms
Billy Winters, Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms
John Hince, Immediate Past Department Commander
Michael Simon, Director of Internal Affairs
Edward Reyes, Department Service Officer
Michael Lacy, Department Service Officer
Ron Peterson, Department Service Officer
Allen Sharp, Department Service Officer

DIVISION COMMANDERS

Gene Toohey, 1st Division Commander
Sheila Schulte, 2nd Division Commander
Ted Weeks, 3rd Division Commander
Kenneth Simonton, 4th Division Commander

DISTRICT COMMANDERS

Andy Lowen, 1st District Commander
Tilford Thorkveen, 2nd District Commander
Patrick Taylor, 3rd District Commander
Steven Ferrell, 4th District Commander
Ronald Jones Jr., 5th District Commander
Julie Rhoden, 6th District Commander
Ed Jarvis, 7th District Commander
Richard Voorhies, 8th District Commander
Charles Miller, 9th District Commander
Jay Jermigan, 10th District Commander
William Mahon, 11th District Commander
Michael Regan, 12th District Commander
Christopher Holt, 13th District Commander
John Schendel, 14th District Commander
James Ryan, 15th District Commander
David Crozier, 16th District Commander
Michael Bob Starr, 17th District Commander
Donald Sherman, 18th District Commander
William Youngren, 19th District Commander
Walter Geraghty, 20th District Commander
James Reynolds, 21st District Commander
Joseph Thomas, 22nd District Commander
Hector Alva, 23rd District Commander
SAN ANTONIO – (May 27, 2019) On this Memorial Day Weekend, Fred Brock American Legion Post No. 828 honored the memories of those who made the ultimate sacrifice dating back to World War I.

The Post held a Memorial Day Program which featured guest speaker, U.S. Army Col. Christopher V. Wynder of Hampton, Va., the provost marshal and protection director assigned to U.S. Army Installation Management Command located on Fort Sam Houston.

Special guests included the Hon. Ron Nirenberg, mayor of San Antonio who delivered remarks and Lawrence G. Romo, national commander of American GI Forum and former U.S. Selective Service System director.

“I’m here to say thank you on behalf of the million and a half people who share this city,” said Nirenberg. “San Antonio respects its military veterans and we honor those who have made the ultimate sacrifice.”

Wynder, a proud graduate of Florida A&M University, thanked the Post for allowing him to address them and provided names of those servicemen and women from the San Antonio area and outlining counties who laid down their lives in the call for freedom.

“The fourth Monday in May is a solemn occasion because it is that time of the year that we remember and recognize all the fallen servicemembers of wars past and present,” said Wynder. “It has been said that we should not grieve over the fallen but we should honor them.”

After Wynder’s remarks, Post Cmdr. Al Alford on behalf of Post No. 828 provided Wynder with membership into the Post. Additionally, Wynder’s name will be added to the Post’s Veteran’s Wall of Honor.

During final remarks, Alford reminded all of the American Legion’s Centennial and of the pillar programs: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation, National Security, Americanism, and Children & Youth. Each of which encompasses a variety of programs that benefit the nation’s veterans, its service members, their families, the youth of America and ordinary citizens.

(continued next page)
**Legion Riders and Mayor:** SAN ANTONIO – (May 27, 2019) The Hon. Ron Nirenberg (center), mayor of San Antonio takes a moment to take photographs with Legion Riders of Fred Brock American Legion Post No. 828 prior to a Memorial Day Program held at the Post.

**Veterans Wall:** SAN ANTONIO – (May 27, 2019) Post Cmdr. Al Alford of Fred Brock Post No. 828 shows Col. Christopher V. Wynder, the provost marshal and protection director assigned to U.S. Army Installation Management Command where his nameplate will be on the Post’s Veteran’s Wall of Honor at the conclusion of a Memorial Day Program where Wynder served as the keynote speaker.
The National Day of Prayer was created in 1952 by a joint resolution of Congress, and signed into law by President Harry S. Truman. In 1988, the law was unanimously amended by both the House and the Senate and signed into law by President Ronald Reagan on Thursday, May 5, 1988, designating the first Thursday of May as a day of national prayer. Every president since 1952 has signed a National Day of Prayer proclamation.

The theme for the 2019 National Day of Prayer on May 2, 2019 is Love One Another. The theme comes from the words of Jesus in John 13:34, “Love one another. Just as I have loved you.”

This year for the second year in a row the Royse City American Legion Post participated in it’s city’s event. In attendance were numerous members of the post and of course the post Chaplain James Otis who provided a prayer for our military and veterans.

Over the recent months there are numerous reason’s to pray for our veterans and military whether it is to pray for our homeless veterans, veterans suffering with PTSD or to pray for the families of slain soldiers. Our military and veterans have endured and continue to endure suffering for their service to our country. Using the platform of this event can help raise awareness for the struggles of our brothers and sisters in arms while also looking to god for guidance and assurance that everything is in his hands.
Post 199 Deport, Texas Flag Retirement

On Thursday May 9th, American Legion Post 199 in Deport, Texas had the honor of hosting Boy Scout Troop 6002 to conduct a ceremonial retirement of US Flags. Troop 6002 under the leadership of Scoutmaster Mike Taylor had six scouts participating supervised by eleven adult leaders. The ceremony began with a welcome and flag retrieval of a flag to be retired. Mike Taylor, Scoutmaster of Troop 6002, explained the symbolic meaning of the different parts of the American flag. The white represents purity that is in all our hearts. It represents the honor deep inside our soul. The red stands for the men and women in the armed forces who have served or died to keep freedom alive. It also stands for those on our soil who have died to protect the rights of others. The blue stands for valor and courage that binds our fifty states together. The blue field is indicative of God’s heaven under which it flies. This is why the fifty stars on the same blue field represent the fifty United States of America. Our flag is more than colored cloth shaped into a design, it represents us, you and I. The scouts then presented members of the American Legion with grommets that had previously been removed and polished from the flags being retired that evening. We then retired around 75 American flags by burning them while demonstrating respect. We finished the ceremony by saluting the last flag to be retired to the sounds of Taps being played. Scouts in attendance were Dakota Berquist, Michael Bright, Clay Weems, Keith Weems, Coy Wilkins, and Xander Wilson. Post 199 is under the leadership of Commander Robert Ogg. The Post is honored and thankful to the Boy Scouts for performing this service. Post members present include Robert Ogg, Post Commander, Johnny Norris, Adjutant, Sammy Larue, Chaplain, Carol Denison, Wesley Tallant, Nate McClain, Dell Hayes, Rick Poston, and Johnny McCain.

MEMORIAL BENCH DEDICATION
VA NATIONAL CEMETERY, HOUSTON, TEXAS

On Saturday, June 1, 2019 a memorial bench dedication ceremony was held at The VA National Cemetery in Houston, Texas. Post 490 Chaplain Robert Harvey presided over the dedication. Speakers included Greg Treacy, 22nd District Service Officer; Butch Sparks, National Executive Committee; and Joseph Thomas, 22nd District Commander.

The American Legion Post 490 donated the memorial bench to The Veterans Administration (VA) National Cemetery located in Houston, Texas. The bench, in coordination with the VA Cemetery staff, was placed at a location where families, friends, and visitors can pause to reminisce stories about their loved ones and pay their respects to the 85,000 plus veterans buried in these hallowed grounds. It will also remind visitors of The American Legion’s dedication to veterans for the past 100 years. Nearly 100 Post 490 members are at eternal rest in this cemetery. A big thank you to the VA Cemetery staff, Past State Commander Lynn Sparks and the Post Chaplain Robert Harvey for making this project possible.

Left to right: Joseph Thomas, Ron Bastion, Robert Harvey, Terry Contella, Butch Sparks, Ron Harter, Lisa Harter, Ed Kascak, Anne Kascak, Rick Smith, Lynn Sparks, Greg Treacy, and Mark Loftin. Picture taken by Sherri Contella.
The American Legion
Veterans Job Fair Registration

Date: Tuesday, July 9th, 2019
Time: 10:00 am – 2:00 pm Career Fair

Location: Westin Dallas Fort Worth Airport
4545 W John Carpenter Fwy, Irving, TX 75063

Admission: Free for Veterans, Transitioning Service Members, Active Duty, National Guard, Reservists and their Spouses. Free for employers.

Employers: Please register at the following URL:

Employers: Please contact Margaret Young at 972-573-3531, email: margaret.young@tvc.texas.gov or register at:
Garrison Cap Bag

LAPEL PIN

CHALLENGE COIN

GARMENT BAG

Corner Stone

with or without pocket

Circle One

LAPEL PIN................. $ 4.00
COIN........................ $ 8.00
Garment Bag........... $20.00
Garrison Cap Bag.... $ 8.00
Embroidered Shirts
MENS

SM MED LARGE XL
2XLG.................... $38.00
3XLG............... $40.00
4XLG............... $42.00

LADIES $36.00

SM MED LARGE XL
2XLG.................... $38.00
3XLG............... $40.00
4XLG............... $42.00

Enter Quantity in box
TOTAL ITEMS CHECKED_____.

Check or money order also accepted
Mail to : American Legion PO Box 140527 Austin, TX. 78714

TOTAL AMOUNT ___________
100th Anniversary Order Form

The American Legion is fast approaching 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.

American Legion Charities Inc

The purchase price is the amount paid for the item minus any rebates and excluding shipping & handling, gift-wrapping fees, taxes or service charges. From time to time, Amazon may offer special, limited time promotions that increase the donation amount on one or more products or services, or provide for additional donations to charitable organizations.

Please Note: Only purchases at smile.amazon.com – not at www.amazon.com or the mobile app – support any charities.
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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 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.

Go to www.legion.org/renew
Choose the medical alert service that has saved more lives than any other

There’s a Lifeline medical alert solution for you
Lifeline offers a range of choices to help you maintain your independence. Whether you need the go-anywhere protection of GoSafe* or the peace of mind offered by HomeSafe, Lifeline has you covered.

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Save up to $70 with free activation and free shipping
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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.
- 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 has Emergency Assistance Plus

George pays $0

George pays $0

George pays $0

George’s Total: $0

Bob does not

Bob pays $16,000

Bob pays $400

Bob pays $1,100

Bob pays $1,800

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
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)
- 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

APPLY TODAY.
usaa.com/legionamex or 1-877-699-2654

USAA means United Services Automobile Association and its affiliates. USAA products are available only in those jurisdictions where USAA is authorized to sell them.

*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/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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