Message from the Auxiliary President

As quickly as it began with a rap of the gavel – now the year that stretched before me is ending as you read this.

I convey my deep gratitude to each of you for electing Dan Corbin to serve this year as The American Legion Department of Texas Commander. His innovative ideas and inspiring comments have been great motivators to all of us. As Texas Legion membership is over 100%, it is obvious that with your help the Texas Legion has indeed “Spread the Word” and brought Legionnaires back to the basics of programs for the veterans and the Children and Youth of our state. Cmdr. Dan attended every VA Hospital Tour this year. He arrived early to visit with the hospitalized veterans and asked relevant questions of the Administrators. It has been a Great year for the ALA working with Commander Dan and visiting the events and posts around Texas with him and his wife, Linda. Thank you, Commander Corbin, for sharing this year as the ALA Served with a Song in our Hearts. We continue to strive for the triple digits in membership and again ask for your help.

I thank each of you for your support, your assistance, your courtesies and your kindnesses all year. It has filled my heart with memories that will live forever and I am grateful for having had this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to represent the Department of Texas American Legion Auxiliary as 12 – 13 President.

July’s farewell song is Andy Williams’ “May Each Day”. The lyrics are: “May each day in the week be a good day, May the Lord always watch over you. May all of your hopes turn to wishes and may all of your wishes come true... The weeks turn to months and the months into years, there’ll be sadness and joy, there’ll be laughter and tears...May each day of your life be a good day and may all of your days be as lovely as the ones you shared with me this ‘year’ and good night.”

Serving with a Song in my Heart, in the Spirit of Service not Self

For God and Country,
Marty Peters
2012 – 2013 State President American Legion Auxiliary Department of Texas

Please allow me to present to all of you the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Texas State President for 2013 – 2014, Christine Trahan of Beaumont Unit 33:

On July 14, 2013, my year as the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Texas President will begin, I look forward to working together with the American Legion, the Sons of the American Legion and the Legion Riders. As my theme for Department is “Together We Can Make a Difference” and yes, we can make a difference if we all work together as one. Isn’t it a wonderful thing that we’re all different? Each of us has strengths and skills to share. And when we link our individual strengths together, we’re invincible. The following is what we, the American Legion Auxiliary are about.

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The American Legion Auxiliary
Founded in 1919, the American Legion Auxiliary is the world’s largest women’s patriotic service organization. With a membership at nearly 800,000, local American Legion Auxiliary units have a strong presence in more than 9,000 communities nationwide. The American Legion Auxiliary’s mission is to support The American Legion and to honor the sacrifice of those who serve by enhancing the lives of our veterans, military, and their families, both at home and abroad.

For God and country, we advocate for veterans, educate our citizens, mentor youth, and promote patriotism, good citizenship, peace and security.

Mission Statement
In the spirit of Service, Not Self, the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary is to support The American Legion and to honor the sacrifice of those who serve by enhancing the lives of our veterans, military, and their families, both at home and abroad. For God and Country, we advocate for veterans, educate our citizens, mentor youth, and promote patriotism, good citizenship, peace and security.

Vision Statement
The vision of the American Legion Auxiliary is to support The American Legion while becoming the premier service organization and foundation of every community providing support for our veterans, our military, and their families by shaping a positive future in an atmosphere of fellowship, patriotism, peace and security.

A Legacy of Service Not Self is Born
A group of 20 officers who served in the American Expeditionary Forces in World War I were asked to suggest ideas on how to improve troop morale. One officer, Lt. Col. Theodore Roosevelt Jr., proposed an organization of veterans, which we know today as The American Legion. The original purpose of The Legion was to “preserve the memories and incidence of our association in the great war,” helping those who had served in foreign wars to reintegrate into their hometowns while still remaining connected to those with whom they had served abroad.

The Legion served as a support group, a social club and an extended family for former servicemen. After two planning caucuses held by a committee of officers who had the confidence and respect of their military comrades, they designed a constitution to govern the group and set up headquarters in New York City to begin work on its programs of relief, employment and Americanism.

After the formation of The American Legion, a number of women’s organizations wanted to become the official affiliation of The American Legion. The women who had served so faithfully during the trying days of the war wanted to continue to serve. After careful consideration, the committee agreed that a new organization should be made up of the women most closely associated with the men of the Legion, and that these women would serve with the Legion, in peace as they had in war.

The committee decided to build a new organization from the ground up, so the Auxiliary could then carry forward the phases of Legion activities more suitably performed by women.

In less than one year, 1,342 local units of the Women’s Auxiliary to the American Legion had been organized in more than 45 states.

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Purposes
In fulfillment of our Mission, the American Legion Auxiliary adheres to the following purposes:

• To support and advocate for veterans, active military and their families
• To support the initiatives and programs of The American Legion
• To foster patriotism and responsible citizenship
• To award scholarships and promote quality education and literacy
• To provide educational and leadership opportunities that uphold the ideals of freedom and democracy and encourage good citizenship and patriotism in government
• To increase our capacity to deliver our Mission by providing meaningful volunteer opportunities within our communities
• To empower our membership to achieve personal fulfillment through “service not self”.

Values
Our statement of values is predicated on the founding purposes:

• Commitment to the four founding principles: Justice, Freedom, Democracy, Loyalty
• Service to God, our country, its veterans and their families
• Tradition of patriotism and citizenship
• Personal integrity and family values
• Respect for the uniqueness of individual members
• Truthful open communication in dealing with the public and our members
• Adherence to the adopted policies and rules

For God and Country,
Christine R. Trahan
Department President 2013 - 2014

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SPACE IS LIMITED AND SALES ARE UNDERWAY SO MAKE YOUR PLANS TODAY!
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! Include 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!
The idea for this month’s column came from M. B. Ingersoll, Past Commander, American Legion Riders Post 135, Greater Fort Worth.

He had been talking to other veterans he knew about the celebration of National patriotic holidays honoring those serving or have served in the United States Armed Forces. Aside from the complaint of such holidays becoming as being commercialized as Christmas now is. There seemed to be a general consensus among his friends that many do not understand the reason for the holidays. No wonder, with little emphasis being placed on United States history in our public schools.

He points out that during many church services and civic events, veterans are asked to stand and be recognized – which makes sense on Veterans Day, a day specifically set aside to honor those who served in the military. It is a federal holiday that is observed on November 11 and coincides with other holidays such as Armistice Day and Remembrance Day which are celebrated in other parts of the world. The significance of November 11 is that major hostilities of World War I formally ended at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918, with Germany signing the Armistice.

But does it makes sense to have veterans stand and be recognized on holidays such as Memorial Day and Armed Forces Day? For many of us who understand the reason for those holidays, it may be an embarrassing for them when they are asked to stand and be recognized.

While there is no standardized legal definition of “military veteran,” most dictionaries define “veteran” as “A person who has served in the armed forces, or an old soldier who has seen long service.” Note the past tense.

Armed Forces Day replaced the separate Army, Navy, Marine Corps and Air Force Days. It stemmed from the armed forces unification under the Department of Defense. The Marine Corps League continues to support Marine Corps Day but supports Armed Forces Day as well – like they say, “Once a Marine, always a Marine.” The intent of the holiday, however, is to pay tribute to the men and women who are currently on active duty serving in the Armed Forces of the United States, not veterans – that’s what Veterans Day is for.

The suggestion was made if there are no active duty personnel to be recognized at an event, one might choose to recognize those families who have family members on active duty. However, the point is: it is a day commemorating those on active military duty, not those veterans who have served their country and are no longer on active duty.

Memorial Day is another misunderstood holiday. It started as an event to honor Union soldiers who died during the misnamed “Civil War” and was inspired by the way people in the Southern states honored their dead. The holiday has long since been extended to honor all men and women who died in any war or military action. Again, the point being: it is a day commemorating those who died while in the service of our country – not living veterans.

As Chaplains, you might consider reciting prayers that are reflective of the occasion and the meaning behind the specific holiday being observed. At the same time, you are in an ideal position to educate others along these same lines.

Harvey H. Klee
Department Chaplain 2012-2013
www.texaschaplains.org
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LIT FAST FACTS:
★ Founded in 1966 to provide Legionnaires with high-quality insurance products at low group rates.
★ Serves 48 American Legion Departments.
★ Over 675,000 members enrolled.
★ As of 2010, paid over $500,000,000 in claim benefits to Legionnaires and their families.
★ As of 2010, paid over $55,000,000 in allocations back to participating Departments.
★ Your Department has its own representative called a Trust Director who actively oversees the workings of the LIT.
★ Managed and administered by A.G.I.A., Inc.

FEATURED PLANS:*
★ Emergency Assistance Plus — 24-hour emergency and medical back-up plan to help Legionnaires handle almost any crisis away from home that health insurance usually will NOT cover. This includes Medical Evacuation, Medical Assistance, Travel Assistance, and Assistance for Companions.
★ Hospital Indemnity — Pays Legionnaires for hospitalization resulting from a covered injury or illness. Benefits help pay for the expenses not covered by primary insurance.
★ Cancer Care — Pays Legionnaires benefits for the treatment of cancer, including coverage for hospital room and board, chemotherapy, drugs and medicine, radiation therapy, nursing care, surgery, and much more.
★ Travel Accident — Pays death benefit for travel-related accidents. Also pays a daily benefit for hospitalization resulting from a travel-related accident.
★ Accident Protection — Pays benefits for covered accidents. You get round-the-clock protection — 24 hours a day, anywhere in the world.
★ Medicare Supplement — Pays Legionnaires age 65 and over benefits to supplement what Medicare doesn’t cover, such as deductibles and co-payments.
★ LifeLock — LifeLock, the leader in identity theft protection, helps protect Legionnaires’ identity — even if your information falls into the wrong hands. As a LifeLock member, if you become a victim of identity theft because of a failure in LifeLock’s service, they’ll help you fix it at their expense, up to $1,000,000.
★ Long Term Care — Pays cash benefits for nursing and/or home health care. Benefits pay for skilled, intermediate or custodial care in a nursing home.
★ Auto and Homeowners — Valuable automobile coverage for all your vehicles. Choose liability limits, and receive discounts for a safe driving record, low mileage, multiple vehicle coverage, and for being over age 50.
A WORD ABOUT LEGIONNAIRE INSURANCE TRUST

The Legionnaire Insurance Trust (LIT) was formed in 1966 with two primary goals: to provide Legion families with low-cost insurance protection, and to provide a source of revenue to participating Legion Departments.

The Trust has been so successful in its forty-three years that today over 2,000,000 Legionnaires in 48 participating Departments are enrolled in this unique program.

Also, in the same period of time, hundreds of millions of dollars in claim benefits have been paid to Legionnaires and their families through the LIT; and over $52 million in allocations have been paid to participating Legion Departments.

The first Trust insurance plan to be offered was the Hospital Income Protection plan, a program designed to pay fixed dollar amounts for periods of hospital confinement. Over the years, other insurance coverage offered included: Cancer, Accidental Death, Travel Accident, Critical Illness, Disability Income, Emergency Assistance, Long Term Care, Medicare Supplement, Discount Cards, Dental, Whole Life, Auto, Homeowners, Identity Theft, and Home Health Care.

Since its creation, AGIA has worked closely with the Trust to develop insurance programs especially designed for Department members and their families. We are proud to serve you through the Trust and invite your inquiries and suggestions on any aspect of our activities.
The American Legion Riders in association with The Royal British Legion Riders Branch and The Canadian Veteran Freedom Riders held the Fifth Annual Allied Memorial Remembrance Ride on July 6, 2013. With more Department’s Legion Riders and patriots from more Nations participating, the “Allied Ride” is becoming more popular every year. This year the South African Legion has taken on the duties to bring the Allied Memorial Remembrance Ride to South Africa.

The 2013 Texas Ride is dedicated to Honor and Remember Flight Lieutenant Leslie Broderick who passed away April 8, 2013 in South Africa. He trained at the #1 British Flying Training Squadron in Terrell, Texas and was in the 4th class held here. His obituary in The Telegraph (linked below) includes details of his POW experience in Germany’s Stalag Luft III. A plaque designed in his honor was carried on the ride to Terrell with pictures taken at the British Museum, the area of his flight training. The plaque with pictures of the event, plus a few items to go with it, will be sent to Johannesburg, South Africa, where a group of Riders will take the plaque and formally present it to his surviving family members in a ceremony in Scottburgh, South Africa.

(continued, p. 9)
Mike Ecklund from Terrell led the procession across Highway 80 to the British Memorial at Oakland Cemetery playing the Bagpipe. This year we had the honor of R.A.F. Squadron Leader Craig O’Donnel in attendance. At the ceremony he was invited to speak and gave an excellent talk expressing how well our nation’s military interact in service, socializing and to honor our fallen. Dale Sherman played “Last Post”, the British version of Taps and British, Canadian and American representatives place the wreath honoring those buried in Terrell and around the world for the Allied Forces. The ceremony concluded with a flyover from Mark Hardin and his son.

Link to the obituary:

Link to contacts, pictures and more details:
www.12dis.org/scrapbook/20130706amrr

Submitted by Ken Cox, District 12 Historian:
hub@txlegiondist12.org

Squadron Leader ODonnell (United Kingdom), Chris Retos (Canada) and Ken Cox (United States) laying the Memorial Wreath.

Debbie and George “Tank” Sherman with RAF Sqn Ldr Craig O’Donnell and Mom Displaying the plaque to be presented in South Africa from the Texas Ride.
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A perfect memento for reunions, special veteran events, relatives, friends or even strangers who have served honorably. A memento like this will be a family heirloom to be passed down from generation to generation.

Giving Back
A portion of the proceeds from the sale of the Vetcoin will be used for scholarship awards to children and dependents of those veterans killed in action or permanently disabled.

About the coin
The inscription on the reverse side is encircled with a laurel wreath representing distinction and honor and joined together with a ribbon representing those who paid the supreme sacrifice. The five stars represent the five Armed Services of the United States.

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The Vetcoin is not authorized or endorsed by any member of the Armed Forces or any other component of the Department of Defense
American Legion Posts conducting Flag retirement ceremonies are nothing new. However, Jonathan D. Rozier Post 164 of Katy, Texas conducted their ceremony in conjunction with the Elks of Katy, Lodge #2628 on June 15. The indoor portion of the combined event begins with the years old ceremony and traditions established by the Elks. It is a patriotic telling of the history of our nation’s flag from the “Bunker Hill” and “Don’t Tread On Me” flags up to the current 50 star version of Old Glory. Members of Post 164 along with local Boy Scouts of Troop 73 acted as flag bearers as the flag’s history was read to those in attendance. Upon completion of the Elks’ Flag Day ceremony those in attendance mustered outside for the beginning of The American Legion’s Flag Retirement Ceremony. Once assembled and with West I-10 Volunteer Fire Department standing by, the acting Sergeant at Arms began the presentation of worn and unserviceable U.S. flags. The Legionnaires who participated were Commander Greg Clock, 1st Vice Commander Ron Defoor, 2nd Vice Commander Monte Ikner, Acting Chaplain Ernie Cormier, Honor Guard members Wallace Klekar and Sheryll Jones and acting Sergeant at Arms Paul Dudkowski. Once the ceremonial flag was placed in the fire and ceremony completed, the public was invited to assist in placing the flags in the designated fire. When the last flags were being placed in the fires, the Katy Elks brought out sandwiches and all the fixings and topped it off with a highly decorated cake celebrating Flag Day.

This combined event begins several weeks prior at neighborhood grocers where members of Post 164 collect unserviceable flags from the public for two consecutive Saturdays. The Post also has a flag drop off location at the local VFW Post. In all, some 300 flags were deemed unserviceable and condemned to retirement. The real uniqueness of this year’s event was bringing the story of the American Flag from its humble beginnings to a fitting retirement of our current 50 star version. A true cradle to grave story.
VETERANS
BENEFIT/OUTREACH
FAIR
SATURDAY, JULY 20, 2013
9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

SPONSORED BY:
AMERICAN LEGION POST 320
LOCATION: GILMER CIVIC CENTER, GILMER, TX
1925 N. WOOD ST. (NEXT TO WAL-MART)

Counselors from the Veterans Administration, Texas Veteran’s Commission, Texas Veterans Land Board, Texas Workforce Commission, and many more Local and State Agencies which can and do provide services to Veterans and a Veteran’s Family, will be on hand to discuss and help with any questions, claims, and basic benefits available.
Doors open at 9:00 am, and all counseling will be on a “first come – first serve” basis. However, all wishing counseling will receive help. All Veterans, Spouses of Veterans, or the family members of a Veteran are encouraged to attend.
ALL SERVICES ARE FREE!!

For more information contact one of the following:
Bobby Baker – 903-720-2316, Jerry Holsworth – 903-399-2818
From The American Legion, Department of Texas

Department Sponsored Insurance Programs

The Legionnaire Insurance Trust has been The Department of Texas’s sponsored member benefits program for 7 years and continues to fulfill our members needs while being the only such program to benefit our Department.

For more information on the products and services provided by the Legionnaire Insurance Trust,

Call: 1-855-297-2218

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