Message from the Commander

We are about to start a historical year for The American Legion Department of Texas. As your newly elected State Commander, I have chosen as my motto: Comradeship and Devotion to Mutual Helpfulness. Yes, I have chosen the 10th clause of The American Legion Preamble. The Founding Fathers all fought in one war – side by side of each other and their comradeship is what created our great organization. Today, we share a different form of comradeship, for we have fought in many different wars. We have comradeship with those that we served with. Yes, we have made friends with other veterans within our post but that is not the same kind of comradeship as The Founding Fathers had. We are one organization building comradeship not just within our Post but between posts, districts, and division. This type of comradeship will require one main ingredient – FUN. Yes, The Founding Fathers had fun when they returned from the War. I will not ask anyone to work membership. We must find a way to have FUN while increasing our membership. Invite the post nearest to you to compete in a friendly way for increasing the membership of both posts. See which one can sign up the most members or transfer in the most from Post 345 or have the highest retention rate. This can be accomplished while having FUN at a picnic or hosting a pool tournament at one of the posts or other games such as darts or washer tournament. The two post can compete for an hour on membership and then compete on whatever they decide to do for the rest of the day while having FUN and sharing ideas.

The devotion to mutual helpfulness will show as their post’s membership grow and by the sharing of ideas. The Founding Fathers assigned us The Four Pillars as our guiding principles. Each post has their own ideas or ways for successfully supporting each of the Four Pillars. Share those ideas with your comrades while having FUN. We are the largest veteran organization in the world, and we have the most ideas on how to support The Four Pillars. I ask that you share those ideas with not only the comrades at your post but all the posts in your district, division or the department.

I will travel as much as I can throughout the Department of Texas to have FUN working with all my comrades at all the different posts this year. My goal for membership is 60,000 members. That is a lot of FUN. We can obtain this goal while having FUN.

I challenged the Sons of The American Legion Division Commanders to reach 100% of their membership goal by March 1st. If they reach their goal, then the Detachment Commander and the State Commander will have to get into the dunking booth and raise money for Children Welfare. If the commanders do not reach their goal, then each one of them will have to enter the dunking booth to raise the money for Children Welfare. I await their answer. I will probably make the same challenge to The American Legion division commanders. The idea is just to have FUN while increasing our membership.

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

First, I thank Department Commander Jeff Perkins for my appointment and the Department Executive Committee for approving it. Secondly, I wish to thank Past Department Chaplain Gerry Hince for her kind words of encouragement and guidance. During the past year, she has exhibited the qualities of a true Chaplain. I also thank Past Department Chaplain Harvey Klee for his books that have helped guide me, and our visit at last year’s convention.

As your new Chaplain, I plan to continue my predecessor’s dedicated work. Going into our second century we must build upon the foundations that our founders began. Let us work together providing strength and teamwork.

A brief history of me. I’m a Paid Up For Life Member of the American Legion, serving in various capacities at my local Post. Served in the Air Force. Currently I’m an ordained minister and served as a traveling evangelist for many years. I have raised two daughters, which taught me patience and long-suffering. My plan is to work with the Department Commander, Department Officers, and Department Executive Committee, with the desire to be there to help our members as much as possible. We are all here for you. With your help, we will make the coming year a great one for The American Legion Department of Texas.

We have three patriotic days this month. U.S. Coast Guard birthday on August 4th. Ironically, this will also be the first full month for our new Commander, a Coast Guard Veteran. The second day is Purple Heart Day, which is on August 10th. Then on August 14th is V-J Day. It would be nice if our Posts did something to honor Purple Heart recipients, in their neighborhood, acknowledging the sacrifice they made for our freedom.

“Every sunset gives us one less day to live. But with every sunrise, God gives us one more day of hope. Always have faith and hope for the best.”

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!
Following the July 4th closing act of Stephenville’s Texstar Ford Summer Concert series, Post 240 Legionnaire Rondoe Smith and Texstar Ford owner, Doug Montgomery read and announce the winner of Turnbow-Higgs American Legion Post 240 raffle. And…. The winner is Legionnaire Thomas Shields, of Hackettstown, New Jersey. Thomas is the proud new owner of a Remington Model 783, .308 with scope.

(L) Legionnaire Rondoe Smith and Doug Montgomery finally decipher the name and announce the winner. (R) Rondoe doing the two things he loves best; singing the National Anthem into a microphone that looks like a smoked turkey leg; and selling raffle tickets at the American Legion Tent set-up. Photos by David Swearingen of The Flash Today - Erath County

Turnbow-Higgs American Legion Post 240 acknowledges and appreciates the time, talent and effort Legionnaires Rondoe Smith and Walter Dotson devoted to setting up exhibit (Legion Tent & Table) and selling 103 raffle tickets.

Post 240 expresses its gratitude and appreciation to all who generously supported Post 240 via purchasing raffle tickets. We are a 501c19 non-profit organization and your support is critical to Post 240’s achieving the goals set forth in The American Legion Four Pillars of service which are: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation; National Security; Americanism; Children & Youth.
It is has been a very busy year for the American Legion Family here in Texas. This year, as submissions came in to the TEXALPA contest, I found that many Post families are working hard for the greater good not only in our local communities but throughout the great state of Texas.

The purpose of the Texas American Legion Press Association is to foster publications and advance the standards and practices of communications within The American Legion Family, Department of Texas in the Department, Divisions, Districts, and Post Families, or affiliated organizations as may be represented by the membership.

Some of our objectives are to:

a. promote understanding, cooperation and an exchange of ideas among members.
b. promote the development and application of improved methods and programs of communications.
c. demonstrate the practical values of effective communications and public relations, both internal and external.
d. encourage the professional development of members.
e. assist in promoting the purposes and programs of The American Legion and the American Legion Family.

If you or someone in your Post Family is working hard to make your members and the community aware that you are there to support our veteran’s and military men and women, you need to be a part of TEXALPA.

So, with that being said, membership in TEXALPA is only $5.00 per year and in order to help TEXALPA help the American Legion recognize you for your efforts in promoting the American Legion Family and all of our programs through communications such as newsletters, websites and social media, you need to be a member.

You can find more information on the Department website under affiliates.

The Winners this year were not so easy to determine for the judges. All submissions were sent to employees of a Texas magazine who have degrees in Marketing, Communications, Website Design and Public Relations. Submissions were graded on a point scale and placed accordingly. The most submissions were for the Newsletter and let me tell you folks, there are some awesome newsletters being distributed out there on behalf of the Legion Family. For those who submitted last year, I would like to thank you for taking the time to read your judging criteria feedback. Many of you took the constructive criticism and ran with it. Your newsletters this year were bigger and better and I am proud of you for taking the time to make our organization better.

Congratulations to all the winners. It has been an honor to serve as the TEXALPA President this year. I look forward to the future and what our Legion Family has to come.

Rachael Watson
President

This year, award recipients are as follows:

**Category of Newsletter:**

TEXALPA
Chuck Donaldson Award 2019
1st Place
“The American Legion News”
Laramore-Osborne Post 100
Royse City, Texas
Editor – Jason Castleberry

TEXALPA
Chuck Donaldson Award 2019
2nd Place
“Legion 163 Times”
Parker County Post 163
Weatherford, Texas
Editor – Rachael Watson

**Category of Website:**

TEXALPA
Dan Fallon Award 2019
1st Place
H.U. Wood Post 245
Seguin, Texas

TEXALPA
Leonard Mills Award 2019
2nd Place
William M. Randolph Post 593
Converse, Texas

**Category of Facebook:**

TEXALPA
Patsy Palmquist Award 2019
1st Place
Laramore-Osborne Post 100
Royse City, Texas

TEXALPA
Patsy Palmquist Award 2019
2nd Place
William M. Randolph Post 596
Converse, Texas

**Category of Scrapbook:**

TEXALPA
Jim Landers Award 2019
1st Place
Laramore-Osborne Post 100
Royse City, Texas
Celebrating our 100th Anniversary of the American Legion of Texas

LAPEL PIN .................. $ 4.00

COIN ............................ $ 8.00

Garment Bag ........... $20.00

Garrison Cap Bag .... $ 8.00

Embroidered Shirts

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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.

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.

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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.

Go to www.legion.org/renew
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!

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 has Emergency Assistance Plus:

- They call 9-1-1 and are admitted to the hospital
- 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.thell.com/Emergency-Assistance-Plus
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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:

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- **No annual fee**
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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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