Message from the Commander

Where is The American Legion family spirit that has existed since 1919? Yes, there were a lot of good times, but they also had their share of tough times. The American Legion spirit survived the Great Depression and all our members being across the seas in World War II. The American Legion spirit is inside each and everyone of us. It is not represented by a structure with The American Legion emblem on it. That is just a building. The SPIRIT is in the members. I am asking all members of The American Legion family to reach deep inside themselves and remember why this is the greatest organization in which to belong. We have members that need our assistance. Some just need a buddy check call so they know that they have comrades that are worried about them. Others may be out of work and need a helping hand. Some might just want someone to talk to. We could be checking on our First Responders to see if they need any assistance. The problems that are arising from COVID-19 is just another test to show our WILL cannot be broken.

Now is the time to start planning our programs for the fall. The Chairpersons for Oratorical and Get Out to Vote should be working on their plans. This is an election year, and this could be one of the most important committees and have a huge impact on this country. We cannot promote any candidates, but we have the program to encourage responsible citizenship to get out and vote.

I pray that all our veterans, families and active duty personnel are safe around the world. I ask that everyone stay safe and protect yourselves as we fight this COVID-19 virus.

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

I have been writing these articles for a year now. I hope that they have been enjoyable for you the reader. My goal has been to share my thoughts and ideas with you, to which I hope I have succeeded.

There are a few days of note this month. Commander Perkins would never forgive me if I failed to mention this day, August 4th when the US Coast Guard was established in 1790. On August 7, 1782, the Purple Heart Medal was established. Additionally, on this day in 1964, the Vietnam War began.

This year we start the American Legion under different circumstances than ever before. Not since 1918 has the United States ever suffered anything like our current situation, pandemic, and shutdowns throughout the country and the world. This is challenging us as individuals as never before. We will overcome this challenge by remaining strong. The American Legion Family has faced challenges before, and we will conquer this one also. For these trying times, I offer the following prayer.

Almighty God,
We offer our heartfelt thanks for the many blessings that You have bestowed upon our great country and our Legion Family. Realizing that You are the author of everything we acknowledge Your omnipotent power. We ask that the hand of our Heavenly Father will guide our leaders in the path that they should go. Enable us the wisdom to help our fellowman. In these times, “Let every man be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath.”

The American Legion, Auxiliary and Sons of the American Legion Chaplains, awake to a new morning, facing the unknown of what the day will hold, uncertain of where You, our Lord, will lead us. During these times give us the ability to guide and aid our Legion Family members as we go through these challenging times.

We place this prayer humbly at your feet, thanking You in advance. 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.

• Give your article a title! 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.

• 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!

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2019-2020 DEPARTMENT OFFICERS

Jeff Perkins, Department Commander
Roger Folmar, Department Vice Commander
C.W. Sparks, National Executive Committeeman
Kenneth Mueller, Alternate National Executive Committeeman
William West, Department Adjutant
Robert Harvey, Department Chaplain
David Paris, Department Treasurer
Dan Corbin, Department Judge Advocate
Al Alford, Department Historian
Billy Winters, Department Sergeant-at-Arms
Willis Gray III, Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms
Lloyd Buckmaster, 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

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Bryan Coleman, 2nd Division Commander
Robert Masten, 3rd Division Commander
Donald Sherman, 4th Division Commander

DISTRICT COMMANDERS

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Tilford Thorkveen, 2nd District Commander
Jack Lanier, 3rd District Commander
Steven Ferrell, 4th District Commander
Alan Caesar, 5th District Commander
Steve Kim, 6th District Commander
Jeanette Merritt, 7th District Commander
Richard Voorhies, 8th District Commander
Richard Huntley, 9th District Commander
Jay Jernigan, 10th District Commander
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Kevin Black, 18th District Commander
Walter Geraghty, 20th District Commander
William Bess Jr, 21st District Commander
Joseph Thomas, 22nd District Commander
Elton Page III, 23rd District Commander

ARTICLE SUBMISSION GUIDELINES
Poverty in America has an impact on us all. You have probably heard the saying that “You are one lost job away from being homeless”. For most Americans who live paycheck to paycheck this is true. Poverty has no discrimination. It doesn’t care if your black or white; veteran or civilian, young or old. One bad decision or circumstance could put anyone into homelessness. That is why it is one of the biggest issues facing our country. Even when an economy is thriving you see people on the corner of the street in every major city trying to find a way to pay for a bottle of water or their next meal.

On July 3rd members of the American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, and Junior Auxiliary of Post 100 provided just a little bit of relief to a nearby homeless encampment. The post provided 25 care packages that contained blankets, water, food and bath wash kits to people in need. When they arrived at this encampment and began talking to the people in charge they found out that they had no water and had been drinking from a stream. In addition to that they found out they had someone snuck into their camp and had burned part of it down the week prior. Seeing and visiting with people in this condition puts life in perspective. We need to reflect on just how good we have it and understand there are so many people that have no idea where their next meal is coming from.

The members of Post 100 have now taken this program under their wing and will begin to do more to support the homeless. We may not have the answers to fix it but we can provide some relief and maybe just make it a little more bearable for them. We want to encourage other posts to get more involved. It could be as simple as providing a bottle of water or pair of socks to the homeless.
The American Legion Riders is one of the most visible arms of the American Legion. They attend parades and youth events and have motorcycle rides around the communities in which they live. But they also provide another valuable service to the community by riding as a funeral escort for our heroes who have passed onto post everlasting.

On July 2nd members of Royse City Chapter 100 came together to provide the funeral escort of a Navy veteran who had passed away. The family had requested an escort and our members were more than willing oblige.

We want to thank our members who supported this effort. The family thanks you for your support.
The American Legion was founded in 1919 in Indianapolis, Indiana and has gone on to create an illustrious history established on four pillars - Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation, National Security, Americanism, and Children & Youth.

Katy, TX Post 164 recently installed its new slate of officers and has opened its new post location at the West I-10 Volunteer Firefighter station (22125 Kingsland Drive, Katy, Texas). The legion plans to make use of its part of the 5,000 square foot facility available to support veterans and the local community as resource for its aggressive agenda to promote American values.

The post meets every 4th Wednesday starting at 6:30PM for a social mixer and then business meeting at 7:30PM. The gathering is open to current members and new prospective members. The post plans to feature guest speaker Texas-based Rick Figueroa, 2020/2021 NRA Board Member, August 26th to discuss the 2nd Amendment and Veterans.

“The Covid lockdown created some challenges for our post membership as many of our members are in their 60’s and 80’s (an at-risk group for the disease), but you aren’t going to keep veterans down who have survived war,” says Commander James McGuire, “We rallied to support our community with burial and honors services, flag retirements where we disposed of over 500 flags in the community properly, and performed ‘buddy checks’ with our members to see if they or their families needed anything.”

(continued next page)
The organization is known for supporting the Boy Scouts, Boys and Girls State, helping veterans qualify for benefits, providing honor guards at funerals, ceremonies with Wreaths Across America, supporting Honor Flight Houston, and their own motorcycle group the American Legion Riders who raise money for children of veterans in need.

The American Legion Junior Shooting Sports (air rifle) program offering 6 competition firing lanes is in the works and something that will be beneficial to the youth as it provides excellence in leadership and discipline.

New officers were installed June 14, 2020 and are listed here: Jim McGuire (Commander), Johanna Zollmann (1st Vice Commander), Phil Malsbary (2nd Vice Commander), Bill Kennison (Adjutant), Harry Woodstrom (Finance Officer), Ron De Foor (Chaplain), Jody Castro (Service Officer), Butch Sparks (Judge Advocate), Mark Moore (Sergeant at Arms), Alex Rose (Executive Committee), Forest Croom (Executive Committee), Andy Valadez (Public Relations Officer) and Desi Scott (Historian).

The American Legion Jonathan D. Rozier Post 164 is one of the most active posts in the Greater Houston area and part of the 22nd District American Legion in Texas comprised of 13 posts through-out our region. To review a complete schedule of activity of American Legion Post 164, please visit our website at: www.LegionPost164KatyTX.org
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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.

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