These are not the best of times; but we must stick together. Make your buddy calls and check up on those members that we have not been able to sit and talk with. They are only a phone call away. If you see a veteran on the street, ask them how they are doing. STAY POSITIVE!!

What is the real membership goal of the Department of Texas? The Founding Fathers set our goal to help all veterans and their families; not just a number provided each year. Our goal is 1.7 million veterans in the State of Texas. Our goal as set by the Founding Fathers can only be reached if we go beyond what is expected by just a number. Our real goal is to assist all veterans. Membership will grow from that. If we change our way of thinking and work together; we can achieve what the Founding Fathers goals are. We have the tools and knowledge to grow membership. Now is the time to regain our desire, our drive, and a positive attitude to assist all veterans.

Let us 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
September 11, 2001 is a day that should never be forgotten. We all have days that stand out in our minds, we remember exactly what we were doing on those days. Mine are John F. Kennedy’s assassination, Nixon withdrew our troops out of Vietnam, and of course the heinous attack on America.

September 11 is Patriot’s Day – a day set aside as a reminder of the four coordinated terrorist attacks by the Islamic terrorist group al-Qaeda on the United States on the morning of Tuesday, September 11, 2001.

In this time that we are living, we should remember and reflect on this day, that we came together as Americans. With the pandemic, widespread rioting, and friend turning against friend, isolated and unemployed—we need to unite as Americans and stand together, not against one another.

With all that is going on, we need each other more than ever. On this Patriot’s Day and National Day of Service and Remembrance. I offer the following prayer from the United States Air Force Chaplain Corps Book of Prayers.

Almighty God, who hast given us this good land for our heritage: We humbly beseech thee that we may always prove ourselves a people mindful of thy favor, glad to do thy will. Bless our land with honorable industry, sound learning, and pure manners. Save us from violence, discord, and confusion, from pride and arrogance, and from every evil way. Defend our liberties; preserve our unity; fashion into one united people the multitudes brought hither out of many kindreds and tongues. Endue with the spirit of wisdom those to whom in thy name we entrust the authority of government, to the end that there be justice and peace at home, and that through obedience to thy law we show forth thy praise among the nations of the earth. In the time of prosperity fill our hearts with thankfulness, and in the day of trouble suffer not our trust in thee to fail. 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!
Why should our post be involved in The American Legion Oratorical Scholarship program?

The program is noted for developing a deeper knowledge and appreciation for the U.S. Constitution among high school students. It also teaches important leadership qualities, the history of our nation’s laws, the ability to think and speak clearly, and an understanding of the duties, responsibilities, rights and privileges of American citizenship.

Yes, we agree this program is important to the future leaders of our nation - how can our post get started?

That is a great question and there are many resources to help with a successful program. Here are a few.

1. A complete step by step guide to conducting an Oratorical program at post level is provided on the department of Texas website – txlegion.org. Click on the Training tab and scroll down to the Oratorical document. You can also find more details by clicking on the Programs tab and selecting Oratorical.

2. A Chairman’s Guide and program brochure is available from the Department. Contact Mamie Hughes at mamieh@txlegion.org or call 512-472-4138. Or go to the national website legion.org/oratorical/about and print the material.

3. Each district and division has an appointed Oratorical Chair with the responsibility to promote and encourage participation in the program with posts. These leaders are skilled in the program and all you need do is ask for their help.

4. Still need help or direction? Contact Fred Rogers, frrtx@icloud.com or 972-977-9342.

Why is it called a scholarship program?

The program provides a great way for high school students that excel in the contest to earn scholarships. Some posts, most districts and divisions provide scholarship funds for the winners at their level. The department of Texas awards the following scholarships to the department finalist: 1st place - $2000, 2nd place - $1,500, 3rd place - $1,000 and 4th place = $500. The department winner will receive and additional $1,500 provided they participate in the quarter finals at the national contest. Finally, scholarship awards are presented to the 3 finalists of the national contest as follows: 1st place - $18,000, 2nd place - $16,000 and 3rd place $14,000.
Steven M. Valdez, U.S. Air Force, Retired, and a member of American Legion Post 178 in Frisco, Texas, recently won the $10,000 Grand Prize in the Reignite Patriotism Sweepstakes. On July 2, 2020, American Legion State Commander Jeff Perkins pulled the winning ticket at Departmental Headquarters in Austin, Texas. Ten (10) winners were drawn that shared a total of $15,000.

“I thought it was a hoax at first but after calling Fred Rogers, Post 178 Commander, who validated my win, I became totally excited. I had never won anything before,” Steven said. Steven retired from the U.S. Air Force in 1990 after serving more than 22 years. During his career he maintained numerous types of aircraft, F-100, F-4, and T-38. He is also a Vietnam veteran (1969-1970) having served at Phu Cat, north of Saigon.

After retirement, he continued his career in the aircraft industry. His civilian maintenance and inspection experience included assignments with DynCorp, Lear Siegler, Skytech Aviation, and Business Jet Access. He is currently a Chief Inspector with Global Aircraft Service in Addison. He also owns and manages Aircraft Records Consultant, LLC in Carrollton.

Steven is a ‘Paid Up for Life’ member and has been with the American Legion for two years. “I am proud to have served my country for more than twenty (20) years. As a veteran and a member of Post 178 I hope to continue serving my country.”
High Order Solutions, LLC. (HOS) is a veteran owned and veteran-focused business in Frisco that provides business solutions for all industries. Their focus recently earned the 2019 American Legion National Award for Outstanding Small Employer of Veterans. The award was presented to Brian McClung, HOS-VP-Operations, by Bill West, the Department of Texas Adjutant. HOS also won the Department of Texas award.

Brian McClung said “HOS is honored to have been selected. We make every effort to recruit, employ, and retain our nation’s veterans. These American Legion awards recognize the value veterans bring to the workplace.”

HOS assists its veterans by providing free training, internships, and job placement services, as well as assistance for veteran-owned start-up and existing businesses. Part of the HOS mission is to mentor veterans on in-demand technical skills so they can find meaningful work and ‘continue the mission’ of giving back to their community and country.

The American Legion Employer of Veterans Award program has several participant requirements: 1) at least 10% of workforce must be veterans, 2) been in business for the last 5 years, 3) cannot restrict employment to just veterans, and 4) must be a private sector employer. Currently, veterans and other family members represent approximately 50% of the HOS workforce.

HOS coordinates closely with the local Texas Veterans Commission to post job opportunities as well as provide training class information for veterans. Tracy Griffard, the Veteran Employer Liaison for McKinney, Frisco, Allen, and Prosper, nominated HOS for the award.

HOS is also involved with the EOD (Explosive Ordinance Device) Warrior Foundation (EODWF), a non-profit that supports the EOD community by providing financial assistance and support to wounded EOD veterans and their families. HOS is also a 2019 winner of a ‘Hire Vets Medallion Award’ for hiring unemployed and transitioning veterans.

HOS is expanding its veteran’s mission by creating a dedicated, non-profit entity, VetsDesk, which will make available even more resources for retraining and job placement.

“A large majority of our highly trained and professional staff comes from the toughest stock there is...the U.S. Military.” said Brian McClung. Fred Rogers, Commander of the American Legion Post 178 in Frisco, replied, “I couldn’t agree more!”
“The Legion’s ‘Get Out the Vote’ program encourages all Americans to register and vote in all elections. In addition, Legionnaires, posts, districts and departments are encouraged to fully involve themselves in the electoral process by serving as poll volunteers, poll workers and by encouraging and assisting others to register and vote.”

Since its inception, The American Legion has emphasized that members have a responsibility to exercise their right to vote. The National Executive Committee has even gone so far as to recognizing the act of voting as the “truest form of Americanism.” (Resolution No. 4: Support for Voter Registration and Voter Program, 2007) This same resolution encourages members to not only vote, but to fully involve themselves by assisting others in registration and voting.

This year has been like no other. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we have had to make lifestyle adjustments in all aspects of our society. We have seen Legion events canceled at an unprecedented level. Some of our most important programs have been severely impacted. Our membership is an aging population, and many have health issues that put them at an even greater risk. But each and every one of us has put ourselves in harms way before by way of our military service. Our nation is calling again, and some of us may be still be able to answer.

We are approaching what may be considered by many to be the most important election in our lifetime, regardless of which side of the political spectrum you fall. Ensuring that all eligible voters have the opportunity to cast their ballots, regardless of political affiliation, is one of the most important things we can do.

Across the nation we have already seen some elections adversely affected by the reduction of available election volunteers. The July run-off election saw several voting sites closed in the San Antonio area because they could not field enough poll workers. It is anticipated that the general election will see even more situations like that due to the pandemic. It doesn’t have to be that way.

I would urge every Legionnaire to evaluate the possibility of volunteering as an election poll worker. For some the risk is too high. Others may have jobs that preclude their participation. And yes, some may be ineligible since they are not even registered to vote themselves. But many are eligible and have the time. If you live in a large metropolitan area, you can just about guarantee there is a need. Most major counties now have websites up soliciting for poll workers. The Texas Secretary of State even has an online training program for poll workers:

https://www.sos.state.tx.us/elections/onlinepollworker.shtml

Contact your local county elections office and ask about becoming a poll worker. You answered our nation’s call once before. Many of you can do it again.
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
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)¹
- No annual fee
- Earn 1 point for every dollar spent and 2X points on gas and groceries². 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

¹Offer 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 (2/20 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/balance transfer or 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. ²Earn 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.

This credit card program is issued by USAA Savings Bank, Member FDIC. © 2016 USAA. 225913-0116
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.

Special offer for Legionnaires
Save up to $70 with free activation and free shipping
1-855-495-4356
www.thelit.com/lifeline-medical-alert-services

© 2015. Button signal range may vary due to environmental factors. For new customers only. Not to be combined with any other offer and subject to change without notice. Monthly fees and applicable taxes apply. Other fees may apply. Minimum stay on service may be required. *Coverage outside the home provided where AT&T wireless network coverage is available.
We Buy Houses!

- All Cash
- Fast Close
- No repairs to make
- Estate
- Foreclosure
- No commission to pay
- Best price for your house

Call Mike
682-351-0040
rubycoproperties.com