AMERICAN LEGION
Department of Texas

THE LEGION TIMES

Official Newspaper of The American Legion, Department of Texas

September 2024 • Volume 106, Issue 2

CONTENTS

Message from the Commander	1
Membership Corner	2
History of the American Legion	2
Post 828 Supports Back-to-School Jamboree	4 – 5
Legionnaire Receives Award from Tarrant County Sheriff's Office	6
Post 174 Installs Officers	7
Post 828 Awards Student Aid to Judson High School Graduate	8
Post 174 Scouts Had a Busy Summer	9
Post 490 Back to School Campaign	10 – 11
Post 174 Honors William Harrah	12
Post 174 Fitness Presentation	12
Supporting the Symbol: American Flag Retirement	13

Do you have an article or announcement for The Legion Times?

If so, please send all submissions to times@txlegion.org by the 20th of every month to appear in the following issue.

Message from the Commander

It's September and the weather here in Texas is quite hot to say the least. By the time you read this article, a large number of legionnaires and I will have returned from the National Convention. As many as 35 legionnaires are first timers to the convention. That might be since it was near and in New Orleans. For those that have not had the opportunity to participate in a National Convention, the Department of Texas always has a great time.

As I write this the Department just completed the District/Division Commander's school, held in Austin. This three-day course provides incoming officers with information on what they can expect over the course of their term in office. I have been an instructor for this course for the last seven years. I'll tell you that I always learn something new from those in attendance. The give and take during the training provide a new outlook, how what works in some areas of the state, and might allow for others to view topics with a new set of eyes.

I know our membership chairman is working hard with the District Commanders and the Department is making progress in achieving our national goal for the second year in a row. Membership is a by-product of the community involvement that each of us makes in our community. By working the programs of the American Legion and the four pillars of the Legion, we show others around us what the Legion stands for. Younger veterans are looking for an outlet to service and be involved. We must allow them to join us in this noble effort and provide that outlet. For over 100 years the Legion has been that organization. We must continue to work the four pillars and those programs that provide the services the American Legion is know for. The Department motto this year is "Growth through Service" Let us all work to achieve that goal. By doing so we will continue to grow our membership and provide our communities with Veterans willing to help where we can. Thank you for your continued support of the American Legion, Department of Texas.

Tom Marty
Department Commander
American Legion, Department of Texas

AMERICAN LEGION
BE THE ONE

The Legion Times
Volume 106, Issue 2
September 2024

Executive Director
William West

Editor
G. Adams

Send all correspondence and submissions to:
The Legion Times
PO Box 140527
Austin, TX 78714
T: 512.472.4138
F: 512.472.0603

www.txlegion.org
E-mail: times@txlegion.org

The Legion Times assumes no responsibility for material submitted and reserves the right to edit any submissions.

Editorial deadline is the 20th of every month for inclusion in the following month's issue. We typically publish on the First Friday of each month, with few exceptions.

Subscription is included in the annual American Legion, Department of Texas dues. Contact the American Legion, Department of Texas for extra copies, or copies for non-legionnaires.

The Legion Times is the official publication of the American Legion Department of Texas
Member of:
American Legion Press Association
Texas American Legion Press Assoc.
Texas Press Association.

The Legion Times is published online 12 times a year by the American Legion, Department of Texas

Membership Corner

We are off to a great start for membership year 2025. Several Post have already made their 100% goals as of 19 Aug 2024. I would like to remind everyone we are shooting for being 10% ahead of every goal this year. For example, the 50% goal date is 11 Sept. We are shooting for 60% for 11 Sept. This will help for our big goal of hitting 90% goal by Christmas. The good news there is already a big buy in from many Post in the Department to accomplish this and it is showing.

An issue that we are still facing is Posts are still having their membership transmittals sent back to their Post for failing to follow the instructions on the transmittal page. I encourage each one of you to harass your local Post to start using Mylegion if they are not already. You have the right to ask the question on how your leadership is processing Post Membership. Remember, Posts are not allowed to hold on to your paid money for membership for more than 30 days. I would also encourage each person to renew their membership online. If you renew online, you can print your own membership card from your own Mylegion account.

I also encourage you to check with your leadership as to who is running your Oratorical contest this year at the Post Level. The Oratorical is a membership growing program for the entire Legion Family. We owe it to the Family for every post to promote this program. It is also never to early to start working the Boys State Program. Last year we had more Posts particiate in programs and our membership increased. The Programs work. Work with the Department Chairs of these great programs and let's build The Department of Texas American Legion to be the best in the Nation, not just in membership, but all around.

Go for 2,

Chris Holt
Membership Chair
c.j.holt98@gmail.com

HISTORY OF THE AMERICAN LEGION IN TEXAS - DID YOU KNOW?

ORGANIZATION OF THE TEXAS DEPARTMENT

A Caucus met at the St. Anthony Hotel in San Antonio, Texas, on San Jacinto Day, April 21, 1919, for the purpose of organizing a branch of The American Legion in Texas. Five hundred and seventy-two veterans of the World War, some of them still in uniform but the majority discharged and in civilian clothes, attended this meeting. Claude Birkhead of San Antonio was elected Chairman of the Temporary Organization and served in this capacity until the first department convention was held. The Caucus adopted the name "Texas Division of World War Veterans." and this organization was recognized at the St. Louis Caucus as the official state organization of The American Legion in Texas.

Committeemen from various districts were selected for the purpose of bringing about a permanent organization, organizing posts, and presenting charters. Eligibility for membership was stated.

Temporary rules provided that:

- No post be named for a living person;
- That representation at state and national conventions be based on the number of members paid up before October 1, 1919;
- Temporary charters were to be issued by Department Headquarters;
- Each post must have an adjutant;
- Post officers must include a commander, vice commander, adjutant, finance officer, historian, and chaplain;
- Sixty percent of all state and post officers must be former enlisted men.

This ruling regarding enlisted men produced one of the most intense arguments at the following department convention in Dallas. The question was finally submitted to a committee of former enlisted men, who reported back to the convention that "the enlisted men could take care of themselves at that or any future convention," and recommended that all such references be abolished. The report was adopted and sent on to the national convention, and from that time on the question of rank in the Legion was never mentioned.

The first Department Convention was held in Dallas, Texas, October 10 to 11, 1919, at the Adolphus Hotel.

Extracted from: "The American Legion in Texas" 1919–1949 - Written by Carrie Wilcox, Department Historian, Copyright 1951.

Submitted by Shirley Platt
Department Historian

2024-2025 DEPARTMENT OFFICERS

Tom Marty, Department Commander

John Hince, National Executive Committeeman
Bret Watson, Alternate National Executive Committeeman
Gene Toohey, Immediate Past Department Commander
William West, Department Adjutant
Jeanette Merritt, Department Chaplain
Gary Sanders, Department Treasurer
J.D. Langley, Department Judge Advocate
Shirley Platt, Department Historian
Glenn Scott, Department Sergeant-at-Arms
Jerry Tatman, Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms
Michael Simon, Director of Internal Affairs
Michael Lacy, Department Service Officer
Ron Peterson, Department Service Officer
Allen Sharp, Department Service Officer

DEPARTMENT VICE COMMANDERS

David Etter, 1st Division
Clifton Guillory, 2nd Division
Danny Muth, 3rd Division
George McHorse, 4th Division

DISTRICT COMMANDERS

Andy Lowen, 1st District Commander
Cheryl Williams, 2nd District Commander
Kim McCarthy, 3rd District Commander
Michael Olivarez, 4th District Commander
Keith Wilkerson, Sr., 5th District Commander
Russ Foster, 6th District Commander
Steve Storey, 7th District Commander
George Snell, Jr., 8th District Commander
Bradley Stavinoha, 9th District Commander
Phillip Kelly, 10th District Commander
Cyndi Miller, 11th District Commander
Chad Page, 12th District Commander
Forrest Beadle, 13th District Commander
Timothy Yarborough, 14th District Commander
Albert Cavazos, 15th District Commander
Andres Ramos 16th District Commander
Jeffrey Eaton, 17th District Commander
Karl Barfoot, 18th District Commander
Terry Landrum, 19th District Commander
Eric Mayer, 20th District Commander
Jeff Meurer, 21st District Commander
Terry Contella, 22nd District Commander
Brian F. Kanke, 23rd District Commander

ARTICLE SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

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 text in Word format (.doc, .docx) or as a text file (.txt or .rtf) or as a PDF. ONE ARTICLE PER EMAIL PLEASE.

• The ideal word count for our format is 200 - 500 words (maximum), preferably with no double spacing.

• Give your article a TITLE! Create a 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 your article separately in your email. DO NOT simply embed them in your Word or PDF file. Larger photos are best, and high resolution JPG files of 300 dpi or better are preferred. Please name these files accordingly so we can track them along with your article.

• Let us know in your e-mail of any corresponding photo captions, name of the photographer, etc. Please note that due to spacing and layout requirements, we may not be able to use every photo or caption submitted (preferably 2 - 3 photos per article).

• Please spell check everything! Especially people's names, web addresses, etc. We do our best to catch typos, and make corrections, but sometimes they still slip by. You can help us greatly by simply running the spell check function in your word processing software.

• We publish on our Website on the FIRST FRIDAY of the Month, with few exceptions. 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 and improve The Legion Times!

Fred Brock Post No. 828 supports Back-to-School Jamboree on San Antonio's East Side

Story and photos by Post Commander Burrell Parmer

SAN ANTONIO – (Aug. 2, 2024) – Members of Fred Brock American Legion Post No. 828, joined by numerous organizations and volunteers, supported the 19th Annual Back-to-School Jamboree hosted by the Claude W. Black Center Advisory Board in cooperation with H-E-B and the Desert of Texas Charitable Foundation (501(c)3) at the Claude W. Black Community Center.

Post Commander Burrell Parmer (right) and 1st Vice Commander Amanda Parham of Fred Brock American Legion Post No. 828 with District 2 Councilman Jalen McKee-Rodriguez at the 19th Annual Back-to-School Jamboree held at the Claude W. Black Community Center (Photo by Tesha Leggett/828 Auxiliary)

Hundreds of supply-filled backpacks were made available for distribution along with a hotdog luncheon. Vendors provided free resource information while the Prince Hall Masons and Shriners conducted Voter Registration & Education for adults.

Tosha Myrick, a mother of two, brought her youngest child to receive school supplies at the jamboree.

"This was excellent and is very helpful to the community," said Myrick, originally from California. "To have so many organizations come together is a blessing."

Myrick's daughter, Tristyn, a high school junior, was appreciative to receive school supplies which will help her excel in school this year.

(continued)

Hundreds of children received a backpack and school supplies during the 19th Annual Back-to-School Jamboree held at the Claude W. Black Community Center

Hundreds of families received free resource information during the 19th Annual Back-to-School Jamboree held at the Claude W. Black Community Center

Thanks to the following sponsors and supporters: H-E-B, Wellpoint, The Major Law Firm, Frost, Devoted Health Plans, Noble Gentlemen of San Antonio, Moussa Temple No. 106 (Prince Hall Shriners), Fred Brock American Legion Post No. 828, Alpha Pi Zeta Chapter of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Inc., WestCare, San Antonio Ivy Educational Fund, Inc., City of San Antonio Human Services, Kiolbassa Smoked Meats, and San Antonio Observer.

"Coming to together as a community is what it is all about," said Legionnaire Tavarus Glover, Advisory Board president. "This type of activity demonstrates our community's resolve to be a village and look out for the best interest of our youth. Thanks to all the volunteers who supported this year's event as well."

The Back-to-School Jamboree, along with other events hosted throughout the year, is the Advisory Board's way of accomplishing its mission of enhancing life, one family at a time.

Members of Fred Brock American Legion Post No. 828, joined by numerous organizations and volunteers, supported the event hosted by the Claude W. Black Center Advisory Board in cooperation with H-E-B and the Desert of Texas Charitable Foundation (501(c)3) held at the Claude W. Black Community Center. Pictured left to right: 1st Vice Commander Amanda Parham, Paul Harris of Sons of the American Legion Squadron 828, and Tesha Leggett of San Antonio Auxiliary Unit 828

The Advisory Board was established to support programming at the Claude W. Black Community Center and to serve as a resource for coordinating community services and fostering partnerships that promote economic self-sufficiency, family strengthening, and enhance the quality of life for children, families and seniors living on the East Side.

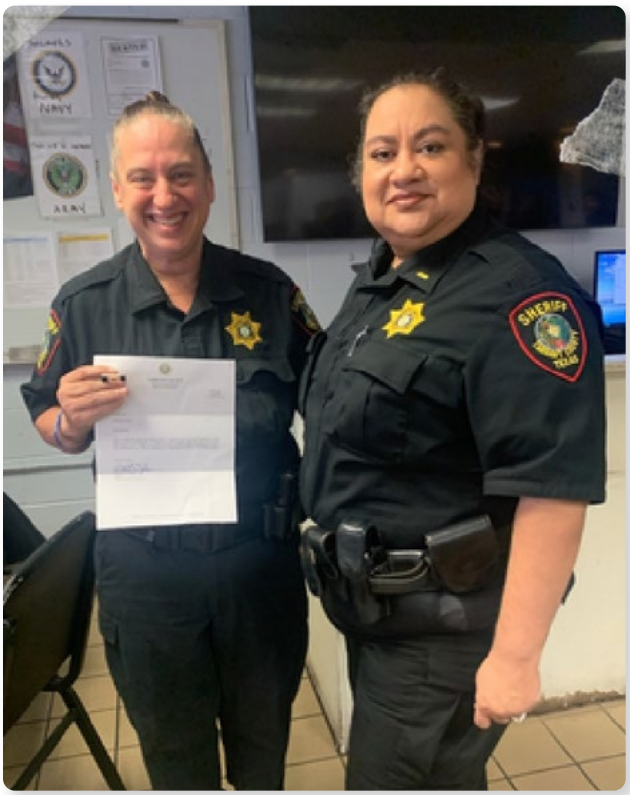
The mission of Fred Brock Post 828 is to enhance the well-being of San Antonio's veterans, their families, the military, and the community by its devotion to mutual helpfulness.

Legionnaire Booker Arradondo of Fred Brock Post No. 828 conducted Voter Registration & Education for adults during the 19th Annual Back-to-School Jamboree held at the Claude W. Black Community Center

Post Service Officer Marcellus Hutchinson of Fred Brock American Legion Post No. 828, joined by his daughter and grandchildren, attended the 19th Annual Back-to-School Jamboree held at the Claude W. Black Community Center

Post 655 Legionnaire Receives Awards from Tarrant County Sheriff's Office

Submitted by Chad Page, Commander 12th District



Amy King, a Detention Officer in Tarrant County, Texas and Member of Donald N Thompson Post 655, Haltom City, Texas is a shining example of Veterans continuing to serve Veterans and their Communities. She was awarded the Community Service Ribbon and Humanitarian Ribbon from the Tarrant County Sheriff's Office.

She works 60+ hours a week for the Sheriff's Department but still finds time to be an outstanding Legionnaire.

She is the past Service Officer and is currently the post Adjutant at 655. She continues to excel at the performance of these duties, still filling the position of Service Officer along with her Adjutant duties. She assists Veterans in navigating the VA benefits system and shows great compassion to her fellow Veterans. As the Adjutant of the Post, she is responsible for the meeting minutes and the general record keeping of the Post such as maintaining our insurance documents, State documents, health department records, and membership. She processes all the memberships every year and is one of a handful of Adjutants in the Department of Texas to achieve 100 percent membership each year that she has served in that capacity.

In addition to these officer responsibilities she assists with Saturday morning breakfast, Wednesday lunch for Veterans, and fund-raising dinners throughout the week.

In addition to her duties at the local Post she is also District 12 Judge Advocate where she utilizes her paralegal degree to provide procedural advice for all 10 Posts in Twelve District and assists in any investigation or disciplinary action when a Legionnaire has violated policy.

Her dedication and heart felt desire to serve Veterans and the programs of the American Legion have allowed her to be recognized at the State and National level where she is the first female to serve on the Texas American Legion Development Foundation Board of Directors.

To honor her Father's Service in the Vietnam War she is also a dual member and assists and volunteers with the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 655. She averages 20 volunteer hours a week which averages 960 hours a year. Her dedication and service are why she has been awarded many accolades including Legionnaire of the Year for Post 655 for 2023, and a special recognition from the Auxiliary for spear heading a holiday food drive for underserved military families at JRB Naval Air Station Fort Worth.

She is involved in the Tarrant County initiative to combat homelessness, specifically homeless veterans. She has received her certification to work with homeless veterans through the Patriot House, an operation of Presbyterian Night Shelter. She participates each year in the Veteran homeless stand down run by VA, where several hundred homeless veterans are identified and provided with clothing, boots, and the opportunity to get health and mental services. Although she was in the middle of her academy training last fall, she was able to squeeze the time in to help with the unloading of supplies for the stand down and took her lunch break to come over to the stand down to work with veterans.

She is a Veteran of both United States Navy and United States Army. She does both of those military branch's proud with her continued Service to America as an outstanding Legionnaire.

American Legion Post 174 Installs Officers

Story by BJ MacMillan, Post Adjutant • Photos by Frank Espinosa, Jr.

Abe Harrison American Legion Post 174 held an installation dinner on August 3rd at the Palomino Restaurant in Georgetown. About fifty-four members and friends attended the event. Special guests included the 3rd Division Department of Texas Vice Commander, Danny Muth; the 10th District Vice Commander, Michael Strand; and two BSA Scout Leaders, Melissa Sharpe-Diaz, and Thomas Diaz both with Troop 1096. The official business of the meeting was completed first. The outgoing Commander, BJ MacMillan, spoke about the increases in membership, post fellowship time, community activities and awareness of the Legion which were all accomplished because the Post members worked together as a team. She recognized the two Scout leaders, Melissa, and Tom, with certificates of appreciation and unit coins. Continuous Membership awards were given to Sara Vasso, 15 years, and Frank Espinosa, 30 years. The following officers and members were given the new Legion branded coins: Amery Vasso, William Catron, Robert Hogg, Ray Geurink, Michael Meccia, Fred Keebler, Frank Espinosa, Cathy Kohn, Don Willhouse, Janice Clark, Marilyn Campbell, Larry Voegtle, and David Perez. Russell Miller was then presented the Legionnaire of the Year 2024 Post Award. The President of the Auxiliary, Joan Miller, and her group were recognized for all they did in support of Post 174.

Danny Muth, the 3rd Division Department of Texas Vice Commander, conducted the installation of new officers including Amery Vasso, Commander; Ray Sanchez, 1st Vice Commander; David Perez, 2nd Vice Commander; BJ MacMillan, Adjutant; William Catron, Finance Officer; Robert Hogg, Service Officer; Ray Geurink, Staff Judge Advocate; Michael Meccia, Chaplain; Cathy Kohn, Historian; Fred Keebler, SGT-at-Arms. Danny Muth then congratulated the outgoing Commander for the Post earning the National Post Excellence Award and exceeding the membership goals. He then spoke about his goals for the Division and encouraged the Post to continue the work they have been doing in the community.

Dinner was then served and enjoyed by all.

Fred Brock Post 828 Awards Student Aid to Judson High School Graduate

Story by: Fred Brock Post 828 Public Affairs

SAN ANTONIO – (Aug. 8, 2024) – Fred Brock American Legion Post No. 828 is dedicated to the advancement of today's youth. Success in a competitive world involves education and training.

Continuing to assist college students with the costs of attaining a higher education, the Post awarded a local high school graduate with financial aid during Moussa Temple No. 106's (Prince Hall Shriners) Past Potentate CW Bankston Memorial Student Aid Program held at the Masonic Temple on the East Side.

The awardee was Mollesia McDaniel, a graduate of Judson High School, who will be studying Kinesiology at the University of Texas at San Antonio.

"Moussa Temple has been a long-time supporter of Fred Brock Post, and we wanted to bless one of their student aid recipients this year," said Post Commander Burrell Parmer. "In addition to presenting aid to Mollesia, the Post also awarded financial aid to two nursing students and another graduate of Sam Houston High School in July."

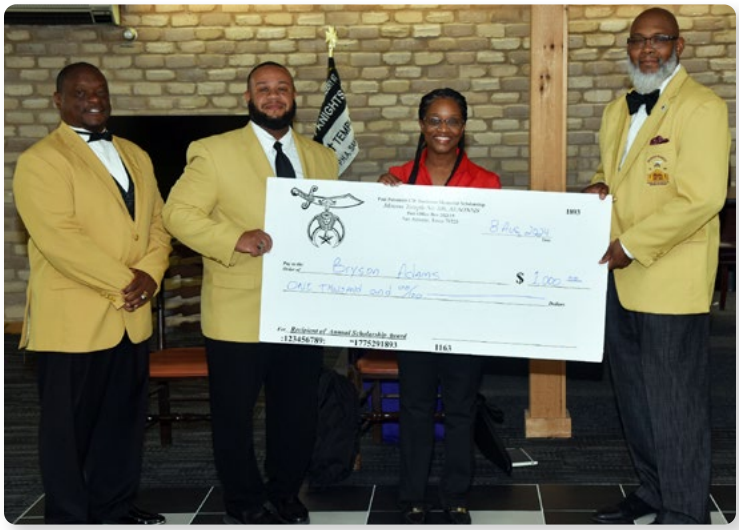
Post Commander Burrell Parmer of Fred Brock American Legion Post No. 828, joined by fellow Legionnaires and Sons of the American Legion, presented student aid in the amount of $500 to Mollesia McDaniel, a graduate of Judson High School, who will be studying Kinesiology at the University of Texas at San Antonio during the Past Potentate CW Bankston Memorial Student Aid Program held at the Masonic Temple

Prior to the Post's presentation, the Nobles of Moussa Temple, led by Illustrious Potentate John Janice Jr., awarded McDaniel with $1,000 in student aid and another $1,000 to Sam Houston Graduate Bryson Adams.

"Providing student aid is not just important to Moussa, but also to the Ancient Egyptian Arabic Order Nobles Mystic Shrine, Inc. as a whole," said Janice, a member of Fred Brock Sons of the American Legion Squadron No. 828. "It is important to Moussa because it shows everyone that we are thoroughly invested in the youth in our community. They are our future, and we must assist them in any way that we can to ensure that our future is in great hands."

Moussa Temple No. 106 is a fraternal, non-profit organization created on Aug. 2, 1921, in the City of San Antonio. The Temple is comprised of men, mostly military veterans, who are committed to providing an environment of friendship and fellowship.

The mission of Post 828 is to enhance the well-being of San Antonio's veterans, their families, the military, and the community by its devotion to mutual helpfulness.



Nobles of Moussa Temple No. 106 awarded $1,000 in student aid to Bryson Adams of Sam Houston High School, who will major in Agricultural Science at Florida A&M University during the Past Potentate CW Bankston Memorial Student Aid Program held at the Masonic Temple. Accepting the student aid check on her son's behalf was Tasha Adams

Nobles of Moussa Temple No. 106 awarded $1,000 in student aid to Mollesia McDaniel, a graduate of Judson High School, who will be studying Kinesiology at the University of Texas at San Antonio during the Past Potentate CW Bankston Memorial Student Aid Program held at the Masonic Temple

Post 174 Scouts Had a Busy Summer

Story by BJ MacMillan, Post Adjutant • Photos by Frank Espinosa, Jr.

Post 174 charters three scout units, two Troops and a Pack. Pack 151 is getting ready to start the normal meeting program August 27 with a Den meeting. During the summer they conducted a rainwater regatta and a bottle rocket launch. Both were fun events for the Cubs.

Troop 1096 has been busy recruiting and completing service projects. They held a movie night showing "SGT Stubby" in Florence. The Vera Bank on the main street gave the Troop permission to use their property for the event. They had games before the movie started with prizes. They served popcorn, snow cones, and water for refreshments. One of their Scouts, Joaquin Diaz, gave a PowerPoint presentation about the three main kinds of bees in this part of Texas to a group at the Florence, TX, Library.

After answering questions, he took the group outside to make bee watering stations. Joaquin was named the Capital Area Council Scout of the Week for this service project! The Troop assisted the Post with the conduct of their quarterly breakfast, leading the Pledge of Allegiance and helping with set-up and clean-up. They also spent a day helping Share the Will Foundation in Round Rock distributing shoes for school kids. Two of their Scouts completed NYLT (National Youth Leadership Training) this summer.

Troop 151 had a busy summer with a patrol completing the Northern Tier high adventure trek. The Troop attended Kia Kima summer camp in Hardy, Arkansas. Troop 151 conducted their summer Court of Honor on August 6th. Among the 21 Scouts present, there were 25 rank advancements, and 131 Merit Badges presented.

South Houston American Legion Post 490 Back to School Campaign

Submitted by Rene Sanchez, Commander Post 490

South Houston American Legion Post 490 launched its Annual Back to School Campaign. This program, in line with the American Legion's Children and Youth Pillar, has three main objectives: strengthen the family unit, support organizations that help children in need, and provide hope and opportunity for young people facing difficult challenges.

Lisa Bodden (Auxiliary Unit 490) led this year's program. Ms. Bodden and Ed Horton (Post 490 Children and Youth Chair) have successfully coordinated this initiative for several years.

The Auxiliary Ladies, the Legionnaires and their families including children and grandchildren had an enjoyable — as well as gratifying — time filling backpacks with school supplies.

There were lists for each school grade and as you can see folks had to focus and ensure they filled backpacks correctly.

It was an outstanding team effort and everyone, including a 3-year-old, contributed. In fact, Austin (8), one of the grandkids, said he would love to do it again next year.

(continued)

Lisa and Ed would like to express their gratitude to the following organizations. We thank them for providing the American Legion Post 490 Family the opportunity to assist them in making a meaningful impact on our local communities.

Sarah's House (Emergency Shelter - Pasadena) *– Post 490 cannot thank this wonderful organization enough! Thank you for welcoming our Auxiliary President on a Sunday and for the photo opportunity.*

Pasadena Independent School District *– Post 490 thanks the district for allowing us to collaborate with your schools.*

Jessup Elementary School *– Ms. Lisa Bemus (Counselor) and the school staff were so welcoming and kind. Post 490 genuinely appreciates them allowing us to take a picture in such a beautiful, decorated hallway.*

Fred Roberts Middle School *– Mr. Mike Evans (Counselor) Thank you for the welcoming committee and for this great photo opportunity with such an amazing background.*

Jackson Intermediate School *– Post 490 thanks your staff for the opportunity to assist and take this lovely photo.*

Pasadena High School *– Ms. Mary Ames (Counselor) – thank you for the kind words and the excellent photo opportunity.*

Special thanks and recognition to American Legion Post 521 for allowing Post 490 to use their facility for this event as well as others!

We deeply appreciate it!

American Legion Post 174 Honors William Harrah

By Amery Vasso, Post Commander

What started as a visit to recognize the continuous membership of one of Post 174's members turned into a fascinating look into the American Legions past.

Commander Vasso was welcomed to the Harrah home by Mr. William Harrah and his wife Joanne. At this time Mr. Harrah shared some interesting history regarding his continuous membership.

Mr. Harrah, a Korean War veteran, noted this recognition is in a way off by a few years. Commander Vasso inquired, how so?

Mr. Harrah then shared that his father, Cal Harrah, was a founding member of Post 35 in Oklahoma City, OK and joined the American Legion in 1919. Moreover Mr. Harrah and his father were both members of the American Legion from 1954 to 1974 the year the senior Harrah passed away. This interesting fact establishes a continuous membership thread for the Harrah family from 1919 to the present. Commander Vasso then understood the initial point that Mr. Harrah made.

After listening to some additional history and an enjoyable conversation with Mr. Harrah and his wife, Legionnaire William Harrah was presented with his 70-year continuous membership certificate, a 70-year pin, and a Post 174 commemorative coin by Commander Amery Vasso.

American Legion Post 174 Fitness Presentation

Submited by BJ MacMillan, Adjutant, Post 174

On July 20th, American Legion Post 174 held their quarterly Coffee & Conversation Fellowship breakfast at VFW Hall. After a hardy breakfast, Michael True, a manager from Anytime Fitness, Georgetown, gave an excellent presentation. First, he showed us exercises using our body weight to help strengthen legs and work on flexibility.

Using a backpack, Michael demonstrated strength exercises for arms and shoulders. Lastly, he demonstrated exercises using resistance bands to strengthen our upper body. Michael handed out detailed instructions for all the exercises and answered questions.

Afterwards he gave everyone a free 30-day pass to Anytime Fitness. Our Boy Scout Troop 1096 was there to help as well!

SUPPORTING THE SYMBOL

Young and old come together for American flag retirement

Courtesy Victoria Advocate • Article & Photos by Ashley Rambo • Submitted by Toni Nardini

Eagle Scouts, Boy Scouts, U.S. Army Veterans all in ceremonial uniforms, placed hundreds of worn American Flags to rest in a fire pit at the Bloomington VFW.

On Tuesday, July 17, Boy Scouts Troop 364 of Victoria came together with American Legion, the Victoria and Bloomington VFW posts to organize a mass flag retirement ceremony for the Crossroads.

Joaquin Ramon, 13, and his fellow scouts come together at least once a year to conduct an official flag retirement ceremony. However, this year, the sheer amount of donated flags was almost overwhelming. So with the help of the American Legion branch in Victoria, and the local VFWs, they decided to go all out this year.

Ramon said working with the veterans and the American Legion was exciting.

“We get to learn stuff and be enthusiastic” about their place in these organizations, said Ramon.

“We collected over 1,000 flags,” said Ernie Pemberton, Post Commander of the Bloomington VFW Post.

Pemberton served for twenty-one years for the U.S. Army, but said this was his first official community flag retirement, but his Bloomington VFW is no stranger to holding community events. They also work with the Salvation Army to collect and distribute food to struggling families and speak at the local schools.

“Flags are going to get tattered, it’s going to happen,” said Pemberton. Those worn flags are sometimes simply thrown away, which is not the proper way to end the flag’s service.

“These ceremonies honor the symbol of our country,” he said.

But working with the public also brings different benefits to the vets themselves.

“It fosters unity with the community and brings together many different organizations,” said Pemberton. And these organizations all provide support to those who volunteer to protect our country.

Some vets are almost hidden in the community, so the more visible and active the VFW, the more likely it is our lost and struggling vets learn about their support system.

Representing the American Legion and the Military Veteran Peer Network, Oscar Pulido also attended the flag ceremony.

The MVPN stretches all over Texas and offers support and education on mental health for veterans who feel lost.

“We can give them a plan and support with the demons call” as a result of protecting our country, said Pulido.

The MVPN welcomes and encourages all assistance to support our veterans.

The flag retirement was also attended and helped by Victoria County Commissioner of Precinct 1, Danny Garcia.

Garcia was very excited to assist with this ceremony.

Watching Troop 364 and our vets come together was the picture of unity and the stepping stones of young boys growing into capable and dutiful young men.

“My son is a combat vet, and I see here what my son and all others have sacrificed to make our country free,” said Garcia. “This is a way to honor them and give back and support them.”

As young boys who have learned discipline and duty as scouts worked together to lay the symbol of our country to an honorable rest, the ceremony was a coming together of past and future service men giving the country its due respect.

3rd Annual Fundraiser for American Legion
Veteran & Community Programs

CHARITY GOLF

AMERICAN LEGION
POST 179
WALTON F. HOFFMANN

20 24

TOURNAMENT

9/20/2024

Landa Park Golf Course

180 Golf Course Dr.
New Braunfels, TX 78130

Registration

Single Player $125
Twosome $250
Foursome $500
Includes Golf, Cart, Light Breakfast, Tea, Coffee, Lunch, Gift Bag

americanlegioncharitygolf.com

3rd Annual Fundraiser for Veteran & Community Programs

CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT

AMERICAN LEGION POST 179 WALTON F. HOFFMANN

20 24

9/20/2024

Landa Park Golf Course

180 Golf Course Dr.
New Braunfels, TX 78130

Sponsorship Opportunities

Platinum, Gold, and Silver Sponsors receive recognition for their sponsorship level and company name on a banner at the event; company name, logo, and sponsorship level on event promotional materials; company featured / linked on Post and event websites in order and prominence of level of support; and:
$10,000 Platinum Presenting - Entry fees and upfront awards ceremony reserved table(s) for 16, participation in awards ceremony
$5,000 Gold - Entry fees and awards ceremony reserved table for 8
$2,500 Silver - Entry fees and awards ceremony reserved table for 4

Bronze, Contributing, and Foundation Sponsors receive company info featured on area of event and Sponsor page on event website; and:
$1,000 Bronze - Name on event flyers, entry fees for 1
$500 Contributing - Name on event flyers
$250 Foundation

Donations of auction items, prizes, gift bag items, and cash donations of any size are also appreciated. Deadline for name on promotional materials is July 19, 2024.

americanlegioncharitygolf.com

IT MATTERS WHERE YOU SHOP!

You Support Your Military Community When You Use Your Exchange Benefit

Veteran Shopping Benefits

- All honorably discharged Veterans shop tax-free for life at ShopMyExchange.com
- Disabled Veterans can shop in-store at PXs and BXs too

Why It Matters

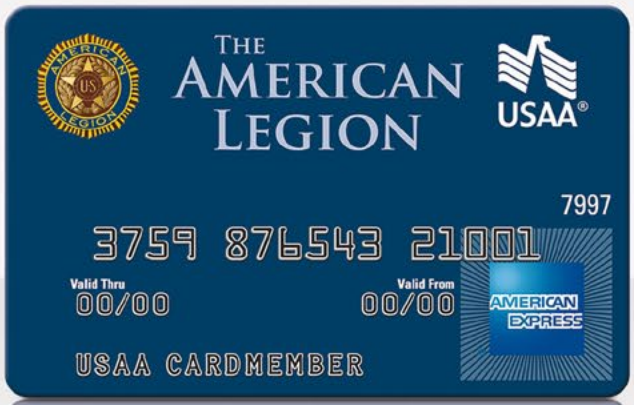
- Shop tax-free with military-exclusive pricing
- 100% of Exchange earnings support Soldiers, Airmen, Guardians and families

ShopMyExchange.com/vets

EXCHANGE

SCAN for more!

USAA is proud to be the
Preferred Provider
of Insurance and Financial Services
to The American Legion



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 groceries[2] **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.

[1] **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. [2] 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.

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

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE PLUS

LEGIONNAIRE INSURANCE TRUST PROGRAM

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE PLUS® (EA+®):

Any time you have an accident or sudden illness while traveling away from home, Legionnaire Emergency Assistance Plus provides a crucial safety net that helps coordinate and provide for emergency medical transportation your health or travel insurance generally will NOT cover. EA+ steps in to provide Medical Evacuation, Transportation Home, Medical Assistance, Travel Assistance, and Assistance for Companions.

Legionnaire Members save 30% off the broad market rate.

ANNUAL RATES:

Worldwide protection for you when you travel away from home $129
Protect you and your family *(that's only $60 more!)* $189

WHAT YOU GET WITH EA+

EA+ provides more than 20 emergency medical assistance services while you're traveling away from home. Here are some of the great services members have access to.

Medical Evacuation (by air and/or ground) if deemed medically necessary, to get you to a more appropriate hospital if your current facility can't properly treat your medical condition.

Transportation Home after hospitalization via a one-way airline ticket, arranged and provided by EA+.

Nurse Escort provided if deemed medically necessary to provide continued medical care during your trip home.

Ticket Home for a Traveling Companion if *EA+* evacuates you from one hospital to another, transports you home, or you pass away while away traveling.

Vehicle Return if you can't drive your vehicle back home because your documented medical condition prohibits it and your companion can't drive it either.

Return of Deceased Remains service if you pass away while traveling.

One Round-Trip Economy-Class Airline Ticket to bring a loved one to your bedside if you're traveling alone and become hospitalized.

For more information, visit
www.TheLIT.com/Emergency-Assistance-Plus
Or call: 1-888-293-4008

Emergency Assistance Plus® (EA+®) is not insurance, it is a membership plan. This is only an outline of the plan's features. Hospitalization (admitted as an inpatient) is a requirement to be eligible for some services. All services must be arranged and provided by EA+. Please read the EA+ Member Guide carefully to understand all the services available to you, as well as any rules and regulations. Visit www.TheLIT.com/Emergency-Assistance-Plus to view a sample of the EA+ Plan details.

©2024 AGIA

RENEW ONLINE NOW!

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.

VISA MasterCard DISCOVER

DIR-ONLN-SLP-04/2013

www.legion.org/renew

TEXAS LONE STAR RECRUITER PIN

Have you earned 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

MCD
MID CITY DIGITAL
Domains • Hosting • Design & Support
https://midcitydigital.com
20% OFF with coupon code TXLEGION

AMERICAN LEGION
Department of Texas

The Legion Times • PO Box 140527 • Austin, TX 78714
T: 512.472.4138 • F: 512.472.0603
times@txlegion.org

DELIVERING QUALITY SINCE 1906
BEN E. KEITH CO.
BEVERAGE DISTRIBUTORS

We Buy Houses!
- All Cash
- Fast Close
- As Is (no repairs to make)
- Estate
- Foreclosure
- No commission to pay
- Best price for your house

Call Mike
682-351-0040
rubycoproperties.com

GET UPDATED!
More than 165,000 subscribers now receive the American Legion's
WEEKLY E-NEWSLETTER!
News • Features • Interviews • Photo Galleries
Exclusive Videos • Interactive Features • Reunions
YOU'RE JUST A CLICK AWAY!
Go to www.legion.org and click on "Get Updated!"
THE AMERICAN LEGION ONLINE UPDATE