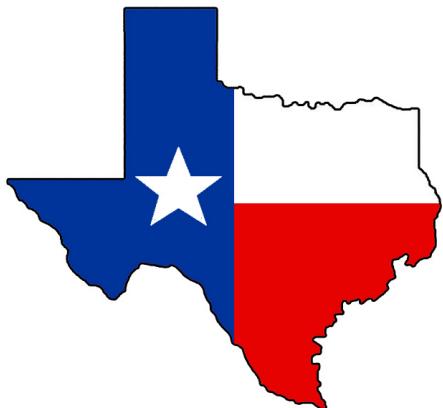




THE LEGION TIMES

Official Newspaper of The American Legion, Department of Texas

October 2008 * Volume 90, Issue 3



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**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 and it
will appear in the following issue.**

Message from the Commander

Greetings to our American Legion Family. I want to thank all of you for a wonderful Home Coming Program and attendance. We had a great sit down Dinner with all the trimmings, lots of fun and Roasting. I realize that some of you were unable to make due to Hurricane IKE and hope you are recovering rapidly. Our Department Adjutant and his roasting Team did a splendid Job, and kept every one laughing. Past Division Commander Harry Hicks JR, did a job on me and every one enjoyed that.



Our National Headquarters came through with Temporary Emergency Funds for those active and up to date members, with a membership card of our American Legion Family, when properly documented up to \$ 1500.00.

We had a very productive Department Executive Committee Meeting, Set the 2008-2009 Budget and made Committee Appointment as required. I am concerned about Post Certifications and Membership. We are not where we should be, some of you are working very hard and I really appreciate that but Division, Districts and Post Commanders need to establish some face to face meetings to find out what our problems and fix them. I thank all of you for your undivided support

**JAMES MCNAIR
DEPARTMENT COMMANDER
“RESULTS COUNT”**

THE LEGION TIMES
VOLUME 90, ISSUE 3
OCTOBER 2008

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and submissions to:
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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.

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

Message from M&O Chairman

As we start October it is time to look in the mirror and see if you are putting forth the effort to get your Post and The Department of Texas where we need to be. Everyone has been working hard in most cases but we need to turn it up a little so everyone reaches their goals. Work a little harder and smarter.

Fall D.E.C. went very well with a lot of information given out. The membership workshop on Saturday morning was very informative and created a lot of good ideas. Thanks to Don Daft and Bill Heuske for a job well done.

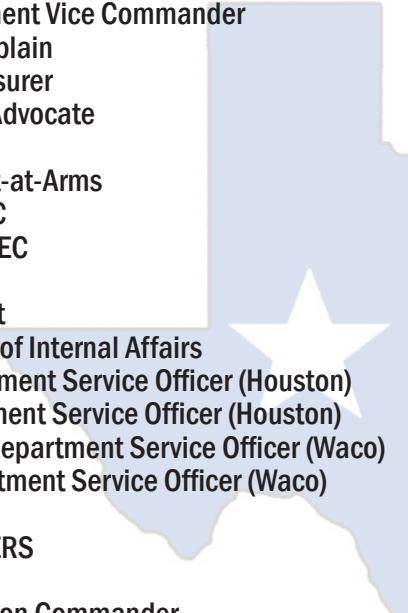
It is time for everyone to be selecting their Oratorical contestants for this year. Being active in this type programs is what creates membership. If you haven't started on Oratorical you are fast running out of time to get it done. District contest start in January. Back to the Commanders slogan, EFFORT EQUALS RESULTS, RESULTS COUNT. It applies to everything we do.

One last thing before I close. Everyone is aware of devastation of Hurricane Ike and how many people were affected. The National Emergency Fund immediately came to the aid of any American Legion or S.A.L. member who had a legitimate claim and it has drained funds to send money to many Texans. Now is the time for every Post, Squadron, District and anyone else who can help to step up and help replenish these funds. It doesn't matter the amount, just do what the Post can afford to do. Let's show Texas can come to the aid of others.

Wayne Basden
M&O Chairman
Dept. of Texas

2008-2009 DEPARTMENT OFFICERS

James McNair, Department Commander
Bob Roberts, Department Vice Commander
Charles Edwards, Chaplain
Kenneth Mueller, Treasurer
Daniel Corbin, Judge Advocate
Cyndi Miller, Historian
Austin Berry, Sergeant-at-Arms
Conrad Roberson, NEC
Jim Prendergast, Alt NEC
Paul E Dillard, IPDC
William West, Adjutant
Bob Squyres, Director of Internal Affairs
Edward Reyes, Department Service Officer (Houston)
Michael Lacy, Department Service Officer (Houston)
Seymour Overstreet, Department Service Officer (Waco)
Don Bridschge, Department Service Officer (Waco)



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Bill Workman, 2nd Division Commander
Rosa Cavazos, 3rd Division Commander
David Olson, 4th Division Commander

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Wayne Lawhorn, 3rd District Commander
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Bobby Ray, 6th District Commander
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Albert Cavazos, 15th District Commander
Ruben Banks, Sr, 16th District Commander
George Simpson, 17th District Commander
Roosevelt Sullivan, 18th District Commander
Daniel Spence, 19th District Commander
Joe Duarte, 20th District Commander
Billy Rollwitz, 21st District Commander
Terry Messinger, 22nd District Commander
Jesus E Cantu, 23rd District Commander

Public Relations / Publication Commission

The PR/Publications Commission wants your news. We want you to submit those local activities your post is involved in so we can all learn from each other. It is "Good for the Legion" to let the community know just what we do for veterans and their families, the local community and the communities outside where we live.

Since Gustav and Ike, much has been done for the communities that were affected by these Hurricanes. Share your stories and photos, both the giver and the receiver. The Legion work is being done and the PR/Publications Commission wants to brag on what you do; what you will do and what you plan to do.

While you're submitting your information, check out your Post, District and/or Division website and make sure you have not listed anybody's address or phone number. NEC Resolution 98-1 states that these websites will not provide personal information. It's OK to put the post address and phone number but make sure whoever answers the phone will provide the correct information.

The PR/Publications Commissions hopes that other Commissions, Committees, and Activities of The American Legion will submit information on what they are doing and what they are all about.

Send articles, pictures, flyers, etc to the Department of Texas at billw@txlegion.org and times@txlegion.org. Check out the Department website for more information on the style and format of submissions.

If I can be of assistance, email me at kparis@stic.net.
Karen Paris

Message from the Auxiliary President

Well the long hot days of summer are behind us, and we all hope and pray that so are the hurricanes. Our hearts and prayers go out to all of you that suffered with minor and major damage during the most recent hurricane, IKE.

We just completed a very successful DEC. Some of our usual participants could not attend because of IKE, and they were definitely missed.

The American Legion Auxiliary conducted a "Program Fair" on Saturday, in lieu of an actual 'sit down' meeting. Each one of our program chairpersons, from "Americanism" to "Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation" set up a "Table" with material and information. Participants went from table to table collecting information to take back to their Units and Districts. Some tables even had games where one had to answer a quiz relating to the program to win a prize.

We were delighted to see many Legionnaires stop by, to see why the Auxiliary was having so much fun! Saturday evening a joint homecoming was held for Legion Commander McNair, SAL Commander Arellano, and your Auxiliary President. I wish every member could have been there. It was a GREAT event! We three were asked to appoint someone to 'introduce' each one of us. I did not know that word had two definitions- the other definition is - ROAST . Commander Arellano skated by, Commander McNair, got a little roasted – but, I got absolutely cooked –well done!

My very dear friend Marty (Mrs. Ken Peters) did an absolutely fantastic presentation that had members rolling on the floor. She apparently contacted my children, for some interesting facts on my life. What made the stories so extra funny is the fact that they were true! A big thank you to Bill West for putting this evening together for us! It turned out great !

I'd like to remind you again, that my special project this year is our TEXAS USO's Until you have been there, you probably can't fully understand what an important part the USO plays in a service persons life- especially those that are being deployed to Iraq or Afghanistan.

USO's are NOT government funded- they are funded strictly by donations. Now, more than ever, they need your donations. The Auxiliary website www.alatexas.org has posted a list with addresses of each one of the USO's in TEXAS.

If you do not have a USO in your area, please donate to the DFW/USO. It is through that USO that several hundred soldiers pass each day, on their way to overseas. There is where they have their last memories of being on American soil.

In October Commander McNair, Commander Arellano, and my self will begin visiting all the VAMC across Texas. Local Commanders, or any Legionnaires, are encouraged to join us when we come to your area hospital. The hospital tour schedule is also posted on the Auxiliary website. I hope to see you there!

Serving our Veteran Warriors through the USO
Mickie Prendergast, ALA President



Living a Life that Matters as a Member of the American Legion

Ready or not, someday it will all come to an end. There will be no more sunrise, no minutes, hours or days. All the things you collected, whether treasured or forgotten, will pass to someone else. Your wealth, fame and temporal power will shrivel to irrelevance.

It will not matter what you owned or what you owed.

Your grudges, resentments, frustrations and jealousies will finally disappear.

So, too, your hopes, ambitions, plans and to-do lists will expire.

The wins and losses that once seemed so important will fade away.

At the end, it won't matter where you came from, or on what side of the tracks you lived.

It won't matter whether you were beautiful or brilliant.

Even your gender and skin color will be irrelevant.

So what will matter? How will the value of your days be measured?

*What will matter is not what you bought, but what you built,
not what you got, but what you gave.*

What will matter is not your success, but your significance.

What will matter is not what you learned, but what you taught.

What will matter is every act of integrity, compassion, courage or sacrifice that enriched, empowered or encouraged others to emulate your example.

What will matter is not your competence, but your character.

What will matter is not how many people you knew, but how many will feel a lasting loss when you're gone.

What will matter is not your memories, but the memories that live in those who loved you.

What will matter is not how long you will be remembered, but by whom and for what.

Living a life that matters doesn't happen by accident.

It's not a matter of circumstance but of choice.

*Let us as members of the American Legion choose to live a life that matters.
As we together continue to build better lives for our fellow veterans and their families,
we should always be willing to ask,
what difference can your life make in what really matters?*

I extend to all of you God's blessings.

**Dr. Charles W. Edwards, Jr., State Chaplain
The American Legion, Department of Texas**

American Legion Memorial Golf Tournament

Onion Creek Post 326

The 20th Annual Onion Creek American Legion Post 326 Memorial Golf Tournament was successfully conducted at the Onion Creek Club on May 8, 2008.

The net profit from this year's charity event was \$29,739.

The Post Executive Committee will determine over the next 12 months how the money raised will be used to support a variety of veterans and community projects including Heroes to Hometowns (H2H), Fisher House, Post Scholarship Fund, American Legion Boys/Girls State, American Legion Baseball and Others.

So far the Post has donated \$5,400 to Fisher House at Brooke Army Medical Center Lackland AFB to provide assistance to families visiting wounded veterans at military hospitals. In addition Post 326 has awarded \$13,000 in scholarships to deserving and qualified seniors at Hays HS, Akins HS, and Bowie HS (2 ea \$4,000 four year scholarships and 5 ea \$1,000 merit scholarships).



The opening ceremony was highlighted with the presentation of colors by the Hays HS USMC JROTC Color Guard and singing of the National Anthem by the Intrigue Quartet.

124 golfers signed-up for the tournament and they enjoyed a beautiful day of golf followed by a buffet lunch and the award of individual and team prizes.

Over 60 Post volunteers contributed their time, talents, and efforts to ensure the tournament was conducted as efficiently as possible.

Onion Creek American Legion Post 326 wants to thank all tournament participants (sponsors/contributors, players, and volunteers) for making this the most successful event to date.

The 21st American Legion Memorial Golf Tournament is scheduled for May 7, 2009 at the Onion Creek Club. Mark your calendars!

223 individuals, businesses and organizations donated cash and/or goods and services to this year's charity event. The Post received a total of \$20,303 in cash donations and \$33,223 in the donation of various goods and services. The donations of the goods and services were used for general support (e.g., players handbooks, brochures etc.) as well as for prizes and items for the silent auction, raffle, and goodies bags. See the Post 326 web site at www.alegiononioncreek.org for a complete listing of the 2008 sponsors/contributors.

A silent auction was also conducted in conjunction with the tournament and was open to the general public. The silent auction was also a big success and hit an all time high in sales.



Round Rock Squadron #447 Raises Money at 1st Annual Golf Tournament

The Round Rock Squadron #447 donated a check in the amount of \$1,066, and 12 Josh dogs, to be given to kids that are about to have surgery. The Josh dogs are a stuffed animal that comes with a book about Josh having a surgery, and how the doctors made him okay. More info at <http://www.joshandfriends.com>. The squadron raised the money at their first annual golf tournament at Mustang ranch golf course in Taylor.



Front, left to right, round rock squadron # 447 commander Luke Robinson, receiving the check is Andrea Ballard Children's Miracle Network coordinator. Back row, left to right 10th district Sons of the American Legion commander Brad Pack, Detachment commander Albert Arellano from Lake Whitney, Ashley Davis child life specialist with Dells Children's Miracle Network Hospital, and Steve Vandall detachment children and youth chairman.



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