Message from the Commander

“Leaders are made, they are not born. They are made by hard effort, which is the price which all of us must pay to achieve any goal that is worthwhile.” Vince Lombardi was talking about the need to work hard for success.

It is time for the True Leaders of The American Legion to step up and make the difference. The Founding Fathers were true leaders. The American Legion survived the Great Depression because of True Leaders. These are difficult times that demand changing the way we think or things we do. We are required to not only make tough decisions but also to think outside of the box. Are you one of those leaders? You do not have to be a post commander or a district commander or even an officer of the post. You must be that one person with an idea and want to make it work.

Not all our posts are closed; only those with canteens are closed. The Founding Fathers did not create this great organization to open canteens. The Founding Fathers created the Four Pillars. Working the Four Pillars is what makes this a great organization. This could and should be our finest hours. Those with canteens must work around the issues of being closed because of their TABC license. The canteen is not The American Legion. The American Legion is about the Four Pillars. That is why we are here. All posts can still work the programs and assist our 1.7 million veterans in the State of Texas. We can still be doing all our buddy checks. The buddy checks are the most important things that we can do during this incredibly stressful time. I know of several members and/or their family members that have been affected by COVID-19. The truth is: we all have been affected by COVID-19. Not all of us have been sick but there is the stress of the situation that has touched all of us. Keep checking on our comrades to make sure they are alright. Buddy checks are essential during this time and not for membership but letting our veterans and their families know that we are here for them. Buddy Checks are about our First Pillar. Check on the Members of the American Legion Family. The American Legion Auxiliary and The Sons of The American Legion have always been there to assist us. We are all in this together.

The Department of Texas will continue to reach out to the Governor’s office. The posts with TABC license will have to make their own decisions about their future. The best advice I can offer at this time is to contact the TABC agent in your area and find out what your options are. At the same time, contact your senator or congressperson and let them know how you feel. It appears that the options vary from area to area depending on the TABC agent. The most common option is to surrender the TABC license. This decision can only be made by the post’s membership.

All posts should be working the programs whether they are closed by TABC or not. We have Oratorical and Get Out to Vote that each post should be working on. As post commander, have you notified your chairpersons to start on these programs? Make the Founding Fathers proud of what we can accomplish during this stressful time and make this our finest hours.

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
Last year I wrote about seasons changing and this being a time to relax and recharge our batteries. Between then and now we have seen what appears to be a new world, it seems as if George Orwell’s book 1984 is coming to fruition before our eyes. Currently, our lives are almost if not completely different.

The purpose of this writing is not to share mine or any other’s political thoughts on the current events. Nor am I trying to be a prophet of doom, I will leave that to others. My desire is to urge us to support buddy check. Currently more than ever we need to check on our fellow Legionnaires and community. We know that an average 22 veteran suicides occur daily.

The active-duty suicide rate is about 24.8 per 100,000 service members. Add to that the increase in shootings, domestic violence, child abuse and riots it is easy to see how important buddy checks are in these times. A large number of our members live alone and have no family except fellow Legionnaires. With many posts being closed, these vets have nowhere to go and visit with anyone. They are basically confined to their homes. It is easy to get lonely and depressed staying at home. Some because of health concerns are concerned about getting out of the house. It is up to us to check on our fellow veterans and show our concern for their wellbeing.

While charity begins at home, do not let it stop there. Check on your neighbors that could use some cheering up. With our help we can make this trying time a little more pleasant.

Giver of Peace, we thank You for all the blessings bestowed on our great country. In this time of turmoil, we look to You for guidance and protection. By the power of Your love, enable us to live according to your plan and comfort our fellow man. In Your hands are the souls of every living thing (Job 12:10). Again, we thank You for our blessings. 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!
**Post 159 Introduces Veterans Section in the Bryan City Cemetery**

Submitted by Gerry Hince

**Bryan, Texas** is best known for being part of the home community of Texas A&M. With all the small-town characteristics of friendliness and welcome, Brazos Valley also claims over 3000 veterans as its citizens.

Over 730 of these men and women are members of Post 159 under the command of Tom Marty and these individuals were and are part of the committee that worked to introduce a Veterans Section in the Bryan City Cemetery. Graves for 800-plus veterans and their spouses are now part of the City Cemetery and the first veteran was buried with full military honors on September 5th.

Working together with other veteran groups, the Legionnaires saw a need and made it happen. The Post 159 Honor Guard performed honors for the first internment and will continue. The group averages over 75 burials per year.

**Recruitment - Way to Go, Texas!**

The August issue of the American Legion Dispatch (our monthly publication from National) is a credit to the Lonestar State and OUR American Legion of Texas.

The eight pages contain 3 items DIRECTLY covering the great activities and results our Legionnaires have done and are doing.

The documentary on our Boys State which won top awards at the Sundance Film competition is covered and if you have not seen it, get a watch party together followed by great discussion.

Our own David Witucki of Houston’s Post 490 took Recruiter of the Year once again. His first win was in 2018 and again in 2020. A paid-up-for-life member he joined the Legion in 2016. He walks the walk and talks the talk about potential members being OUR future. The latest count on his recruitment numbers is 960 new members.

Three of our District Commanders were recognized for forming new Posts. They are Alan Caesar of District 5, Jay Jernigan of District 10 and David Crozier of District 16.

**WAY TO GO TEXAS!**
The American Legion celebrated its 101st anniversary on Wednesday, September 16, 2020. To honor of the anniversary, the Peter J Courcy Post 178 was recognized for its contributions to the city at the Frisco City Council meeting on September 15, 2020. A proclamation from the city was presented by Mayor Jeff Cheney to Fred Rogers, Post 178 Commander. Also attending the presentation was Mary Bush, the mother of Peter J. Courcy, the post’s namesake.

The proclamation noted that members of the American Legion are dedicated to upholding the ideals of freedom and democracy, while working to make a difference in the lives of fellow Americans. It also noted that Post 178 has received national recognition for “Post Excellence” for its sustained service to the community.

Fred Rogers, Post 178 Commander, said, “On behalf of the elected officers and the 585 dedicated veterans of Post 178, I am delighted to accept this proclamation.” The American Legion was issued a federal charter by Congress on September 16, 1919. “American Legion Day” was passed by Congress with overwhelming support on September 16, 2009.

Fred Rogers, Post 178 Commander, and Mary Bush, mother of Peter J. Courcy, the post’s namesake, display Frisco City Council Proclamation for American Legion Day that was presented by Jeff Chaney, Frisco Mayor
Katy, Texas (September 25, 2020) – The American Legion (national) recently celebrated over 100 years of national service promoting Veterans and Rehabilitation, National Security, Americanism, and Children and Youth, known as The Four Pillars. The American Legion has 14,000 posts nationally, comprising 2.4 million members.

The American Legion membership known as Legionnaires is comprised of war-time veterans and is supported by the Auxiliary Units made up of spouses, and the Sons of the American Legion for children and grandchildren of veteran members.

The local American Legion Jonathan D. Rozier Post 164, named after the first killed-in-action (KIA) soldier from Katy during the War on Terror was founded in June of 2002 and has been very active with Boys and Girls State, Flag Retirements, Funeral and Burial ceremonies, Honor Flight Houston, Wreaths Across American, Junior Shooting Sports Program, Breakfast With a Veteran, and is ramping up more community oriented programs to include blood drives, voter registrations, First Responder service days, community awards, and more.

The American Legion executive committee has begun to welcome community speakers to share perspectives on veterans and how alignment may be mutually beneficial to veterans and local post communities at-large.

(continued)
“We were fortunate to have a NRA Board member from Texas in our area,” said Andy Valadez (a U.S. Marine Veteran), PR Officer for the Katy post, “We wanted to invite Mr. Figueroa who has been very active in business and his role as a leading board member and influencer helping to educate the nation about our gun rights.”

**Video of speech by Mr. Figueroa:**
**Veterans and the NRA:**
**Defending the 2nd Amendment**
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P6QhzSCB3p0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P6QhzSCB3p0)
*(YouTube 20:35 min.)*

“It was my honor to speak to the warriors of the American Legion about our country and freedom!” said Rick.

The NRA recently granted a Champions Choice T200 Sporter Class Air Rifle, six-position firing lane and compressed air-tank valued at $4,300 to the American Legion Post 164 Junior Shooting Sports Program. The veterans post is in the process of setting up a program for Junior Shooters at their location in Katy.

The American Legion Post 164 in Katy meets every 4th Wednesday starting at 6:30PM for a social mixer and then business meeting at 7:30PM at 22125 Kingsland Blvd., Katy, Texas. The gathering is open to current members and new prospective members. The post recently featured guest speaker, legendary painter Ken Pridgeon, U.S. Air Force Veteran on September 23rd to discuss his paintings of Killed-In-Action (KIA) in Texas and his gallery Fallen Warriors Portrait Gallery. Mr. Pridgeon painted the post’s namesake Jonathan D. Rozier (KIA) who attended Katy High School.

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.

*To review a complete schedule of activity of American Legion Post 164, please visit:*
[www.LegionPost164KatyTX.org](http://www.LegionPost164KatyTX.org)
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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.

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