Message from the Commander

November is a remarkably busy month so let us start by saying: HAPPY BIRTHDAY, AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY – 101 years old. You are a proud part of The American Legion family. The support you provide to The American Legion cannot be measured.

The most important day of the year is: November 11th – Veterans Day! This is the day to honor our veterans. They serve all over the world and make sacrifices to protect this great country and keep us safe. We honor those from the past and those that are currently serving. Each one of them have their own story. Our obligations to our veterans and their families should never waiver. It is our responsibility to ensure they are taken care. This is the time to simply say, “Thank you for your service”. So, call or visit those that might feel like they have been forgotten or having a bad day and need a pick me up comment. They earned it. The National Commander calls it a Buddy Check. I call it letting them know that their sacrifices are not forgotten, and they are not forgotten. Please take the time and make the call.

Last but not least: Happy Thanksgiving!

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
November is the month we celebrate Veterans Day and Thanksgiving. Both are particularly important events in our lives as veterans and Americans. The first is a day set aside to honor and respect our fellow veterans that dedicated a portion of their lives to defend our country. The latter is a day to give thanks to God for this great country and the many blessings He has given us.

Veterans Day, originally called Armistice Day, was established in 1918 at the end of WWI. The original celebration was to honor those that both perished or survived the “war to end all wars,” and their families. The original custom was to hold 1-2 minutes of silence at 11 o’clock when the armistice was signed. In the United States, instead of specifically honoring those who died in WWI, Armistice Day was renamed Veterans Day in 1954 and honors all American veterans not killed in combat.

Thanksgiving has been celebrated since the first European settlers. However, it wasn’t until the 1860’s that Abraham Lincoln declared the last Thursday of November to be a national holiday. The pilgrims of Massachusetts are considered the founders of Thanksgiving. After the winter of 1620 killed nearly half the settlers of the colony, they made an agreement with the neighboring Native Americans. With their help the pilgrims were able to grow enough crops to celebrate and share the bountiful harvest with the Native Americans who had helped them. The first Thanksgivings were religious in nature and gave thanks to God for the harvests and survival of the pilgrims. Later Thanksgiving was changed to be secular as well as religious.

So, we have two holidays in the same month: Veterans Day to acknowledge and thank those that served in our military, and Thanksgiving to give thanks to God that our country has survived and is a bountiful country.

Hopefully, those of us that have Posts able to open will do something on these days to honor our veterans and provide a meal or fellowship for the less fortunate in the community.

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
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Roger Folmar, Department Vice Commander
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Robert Harvey, Department Chaplain
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Willis Gray III, Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms
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Joseph Thomas, 22nd District Commander
Elton Page III, 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 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!
While many were preparing for annual Halloween festivities, executive board members of Fred Brock American Legion Post No. 828 performed Buddy Checks on their active and inactive members at the Post.

The Buddy Check program, which was launched in March 2019, encourages posts to reach out to veterans in their areas – members, former members and others – to see what The American Legion could do for them, especially during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

According to the National Department, the Buddy Check program is perhaps more important now than ever before with COVID-19 affecting the nation.

“We look out for our members; active or inactive,” said Post Commander Al Alford. “Buddy Checks provides the Post with another system to check on our members, keep them informed, and to assist them when needed.”

Assisting Post 828 in making Buddy Checks was Legionnaire Danny Muth of William M. Randolph American Legion Post No. 593 in Converse, Texas, and the vice commander of District 20.

“As a member of the 20th District Executive Board, it is important that we assist the Posts within the District,” said Muth. “Buddy checks and membership drives are two of the most important events that the Posts of the 20th District can be doing.”

According to Muth, the Buddy Check program is an important tool for American Legion Posts to reach out and check on the health and welfare of their members in these trying times.

“With the isolation caused by COVID-19, it is even more critical to reach out to our members and all veterans to ask about their needs and requirements,” said Muth. “Sometimes just a phone call is all that is needed to let our veterans know that we are there for them.”

The Post made more than 250 calls. In talking with the inactive members, many stated they would reinstate their membership by visiting the Post, which is currently open on Mondays, Fridays and Saturdays from 4 p.m. to midnight.
Natural disasters happen, we read about them on line or in the paper or see it on television and for most of us, that is it.

Texans, however, seem to have a certain cell which immediately triggers a “how can we help” mentality, and inclement weather has met its match on the Texas coast and in Houston. It has met its match with Texas Legion Family members across the board.

2020 has been a year to remember in large part due to the Covid virus, but hurricanes and tropical storms have really hit the southern part of our nation. We not only ran out of names, but in some cases, we ran out of supplies and volunteers.

Under the leadership of Commander Jeff Perkins, the American Legion of Texas has been on the forefront of efforts to get supplies to those who need them. A single phone call and an email resulted in a caravan hitting the road to their sister state of Louisiana with the needed goods and volunteers.

September 11 and 12, 2020, Department Commander Jeff Perkins, Past 2nd Division Commander Sheila Schulte, 7th District Commander Jeanette Merritt, ALA Members Beverly Slone, Holly Heatly, Janey Arista and SAL member Tom Arista, loaded up 2 pickup trucks and a u-haul truck with pet food, baby food, diapers, wipes, cleaning supplies, mops brooms, fans, clothing, water, assorted can goods, beans and rice, household and kitchen items, along with gift cards to the DeRidder American Legion Post 27 in DeRidder, Louisiana.

They were met by their Legion Family Members to off load the vehicles.

“I drove down from Yukon on Thursday 10 September to Commander Perkins and loaded up my truck Friday 11 September,” said Sheila Schulte. “I then traveled to Conroe to 7th District Commander Jeanette Merritt’s, then we drove to The American Legion Department of Texas to load up more donations from all over the State of Texas. We then headed to DeRidder, Louisiana and back to Conroe, Texas... By the time I got home I put 1,178 miles on my Truck.”

Taking care of veterans and their families is what we are all about and every level answers the call. Inclement weather is not a big deal when compared to the help and the positive spirit brought to the table by the American Legion and Texas.
Renew your American Legion Membership quickly and easily online!

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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.

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