Message from the Commander

I need to ask, “Where is the pride of Texas?” We have the leading candidate for National Commander and the Department of Texas is in 51st place for membership. As I travel the state, I encourage everyone to have fun with membership and it will grow. I have stated, “Let’s have fun with membership for a couple of hours and then enjoy each other’s comradeship. In order to be in first place for our leading candidate, we need to reach 68,268. What more is there to ask? We need to reach deep inside ourselves and show our Texas’s pride. We need to work the programs and have fun with membership until we reach the top. I hope the division commanders and district commanders work together to show what Texas can do. It is a team effort, and no one can do it by themselves. I know in my heart that the Department of Texas can do this.

I hope everyone had a fantastic Thanksgiving. I want to wish The Department of Texas to enjoy the holidays. I pray that all our veterans, families and active duty personnel are safe and celebrating the holidays with their families all around the world.

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: cdrtx legion@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
Chaplain’s Corner

This is a magical month; people start searching and praying for peace throughout the world. In WW1 the British, Belgium, French, and German troops left their trenches and celebrated Christmas together. This brought hope and faith in mankind to thousands around the world. Children dream of presents to magically appear. Friends and families put aside differences and celebrate together. Kindness and happiness can be seen everywhere. This is the season for outpourings of generosities.

But along with all this good, we do have incidents that show people aren’t any different this time of the year than any other. December 7, 1941, the Japanese launched their infamous attack on Pearl Harbor. Bringing the United States into what was already a tragic war, making it truly a world-wide war.

This is the month of Advent, Christmas, and Hanukkah. The month when we believe anything can happen. Churches, synagogues, and temples will all be praying for world peace and happiness. We can add our voices to all these others.

World peace has been asked and prayed for almost since the beginning of mankind. Let us commit ourselves to this effort. Wiser men than I have attempted to accomplish this monumental task. However, this should not stop us from trying, but make us more dedicated this holiday season. I believe to have peace with others we must have peace within ourselves. Our peace must radiate outwards, to family, friends and to continue in ever-expanding circles. This won’t be a simple task to accomplish but is worth our effort to attempt. When we are at peace with ourselves it is easier to seek peace with others.

“Peace comes from within. Do not seek it without.” — Siddhārtha Gautama

“World peace must develop from inner peace. Peace is not just a mere absence of violence. Peace is, I think, the manifestation of human compassion.” — Dalai Lama

For my prayer, I wish everyone the peace and joy of this holiday season. My email address is chtxlegion@gmail.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.

- Name your article! 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.

- Please 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.

- 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!
Over the last century the City of Fort Worth and The American Legion have celebrated Armistice, then Veterans Day with a parade through downtown. This year the 100th Veterans Parade celebrated the 100th birthday of The American Legion, the American Legion Auxiliary and the Military Order of the world Wars with national, state and city Grand Marshalls.

The occasion was designated a 2019 National Veterans Day Regional Site by the Dept. of Veterans Affairs. The Veterans Day National Committee recognized parade organizers for upholding the American Legion’s longstanding values over a century of similar observances.

FORT WORTH – Blustering winds and plummeting temperatures couldn’t deter partakers and viewers of a recent unique Legion Family centennial event. As the annual Tarrant County Veterans Day Parade marched down Fort Worth’s Main Street on November 11, it served as “a fitting tribute to America’s heroes... and the event should serve as a model for other communities to follow in planning their own observances.”

This year marked 100 years of Armistice and Veterans Day marches in the city. Cowtown’s parade began as an armistice procession in 1919 to honor those who fought in World War I.

This year was also the 100th anniversary of three veteran service organizations – The American Legion, the American Legion Auxiliary and the Military Order of World Wars. Representatives from each served as co-parade marshals for the special march.

The famed Horse Cavalry Detachment of the 1st Cavalry Division, based at Fort Hood, near Killeen, Texas highlighted this year’s “Centennial Celebration” – theme of the event. The detachment is one of seven mounted cavalry units on active duty in the United States Army, and they bring to life the spirit of the equestrian soldier wherever they perform.

This centenary happening was organized by the Tarrant County Veterans Council and hosted by the City of Fort Worth. Over the last several months, a team of TCVC volunteers – coupled with city support – organized dozens of parade participants, sought out funds and contributions in kind to make this Centennial Celebration far more formidable than the weather.
Fred Brock American Post No. 828, located on the city’s Eastside, hosted its annual Veterans Day Ceremony at the Post’s event center. Keynote speakers included District 2 Councilwoman Jada Andrews-Sullivan and former District 6 Councilman Greg Brockhouse, both who are Veterans.

Special recognition was given to the Post’s living WWII Veterans Johnie Hubert and Willie Foster. Additionally, the Post recognized U.S. Army Pvt. Penn Franks Jr. for his service and sacrifice.

In February 1945, Franks was a member of Company G, 371st Infantry Regiment 92nd Infantry Division. His unit was engaged in battle on the Gothic line in the northern Apennine Mountains near Strettoia, Italy, when he was killed in action on February 10, 1945. He was posthumously awarded the Purple Heart and Bronze Star. On Aug. 16, 2019, Franks was buried with military honors at the Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery.

In honor of Franks, his name was placed on the Post’s Veteran’s Wall of Honor during the ceremony and he was made posthumously an honorary member of Post 828. Representing Franks were his sister, Daisy Lewis and niece, Yvonne Lewis.

Post Cmdr. Al Alford thanked all for taking the time out of their day to honor Veterans and to especially honor the last of the “Greatest Generation”.

“Veterans Day is a well-known holiday, but there are some misconceptions regarding it,” said Alford. “Veterans Day is not the same as Memorial Day. Memorial Day is to honor those who gave their lives for their country. Veterans Day honors those who have served during wartime or peacetime.”

After the ceremony, guests were served lunch sponsored by USAA, First Command, Noble Gentlemen of San Antonio, and San Antonio Lodge No. 1 (F.&A.M.).

Additional supporters included Walmart, Sam’s Club and Alamo Liquor Distributors.

Special thanks to the Post’s Auxiliary, Legionnaires, and Sons of the American Legion who volunteered to setup, cook, and serve over 150 guests who visited the Post.
Post Cmdr. Al Alford and Post Auxiliary President Ethel Washington presents a Certificate of Recognition to U.S. Army WWII Veteran Willie Foster during Fred Brock American Legion Post No. 828’s annual Veterans Day Ceremony held at the Post’s event center. Foster, 97, was born in Fort Worth, Texas in 1922 and served in the U.S. Army from 1942 – 1946. After his discharge from the Army at the rank of sergeant (quartermaster), he worked on Fort Sam Houston Army Base as a furniture mover. He then began working at Kelly Air Field in 1952. He then began working as a male nurse at the Fort Sam Houston Hospital.

Post Cmdr. Al Alford presents a Certificate of Appreciation to U.S. Army Veteran and District 2 Councilwoman Jada Andrews-Sullivan during Fred Brock American Legion Post No. 828’s annual Veterans Day Ceremony held at the Post’s event center. Andrews-Sullivan served as one of the ceremony’s keynote speakers. Her name was added to the Post’s Veteran’s Wall of Honor.

Post Cmdr. Al Alford presents a Certificate of Appreciation to U.S. Air Force Veteran and former District 6 Councilman Greg Brockhouse during Fred Brock American Legion Post No. 828’s annual Veterans Day Ceremony held at the Post’s event center. Brockhouse served as one of the ceremony’s keynote speakers. His name was added to the Post’s Veteran’s Wall of Honor.

Post Cmdr. Al Alford presents a Certificate of Appreciation to Renee Watson, director, Bexar County Small Business & Entrepreneurship Department, during Fred Brock American Legion Post No. 828’s annual Veterans Day Ceremony held at the Post’s event center. Watson, a member of the Post’s Auxiliary, was presented the award for her continued support of the Post.
The American Legion Riders of Post 163 would like to thank everyone for their support as we move into the next year. We are fortunate to have a Post Family that supports our desire to ride and help the community when needed. I have travelled around the state and seen where some Riders are not supported by their Posts, Units or Squadrons. These Riders are too busy just being riders and not Legionnaires, Auxiliary or Squadron members first. They seem to lose sight that they are members first and riders second. Some forget how they were eligible to become a rider. We need to reflect on our core values as members and seek out the virtues that make us a great organization.

The Riders finally got together for a Saturday ride back in September. As the Road Captain, I have been busy this past year with my duties as State Vice-Commander and now on my campaign for State Commander. The Riders decided on a ride to visit some Veterans Memorial Parks nearby. We left Weatherford around 9:00 am and headed north on FM730 towards Springtown. We stopped by Springtown Veterans Park and reflected on the names inscribed in the monuments and bricks in the ground. Then, we headed to Decatur to arrive at the Wise County Veterans Park just north of the Square. This Park was well laid out, each War era listed the names of those that were in theater or served during that time. Each name was inscribed in a brick laid in front of each monument. This Park also provided a covered pavilion where ceremonies could be held. After several minutes we straddled our motorcycles and visited American Legion Post 75 in Mineral Wells. We were greeted by Mike Brooks (Post Commander) and several other members at the Post. We cooled off and headed to lunch at Natty Flats BBQ in Mineral Wells. I recommend you try it if you are ever in Mineral Wells and looking a good place to eat. We finished our lunch and made a final stop before going our separate ways. We rode back to Weatherford to stop at our Veterans Memorial Park at Soldier Spring Park. Our Park is looking very sharp and it’s worth the time to stop and visit. There is still plenty of room for more donor bricks to be laid, and there is a Pavilion available where ceremonies may be held. After walking around the park and cooling off, the Riders said their so-longs, mounted up and headed back to their homes. We look forward to more rides and hopefully we can find some more parks to visit. Until then, may the roads be clear, the sun bright and the road gremlins stay faraway.

Riders Director
Tinman aka Bret Watson
Celebrating our 100th Anniversary of the American Legion of Texas

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COIN $8.00

Garment Bag $20.00

Garrison Cap Bag $8.00

Embrodered Shirts

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100th Anniversary Order Form

The American Legion is celebrating our 100th Anniversary and the Department of Texas has several commemorative items available for purchase to mark this milestone!

Please see our order form on the previous page. Just fill out and mail to the Department Headquarters with your check or money order and we will send the items to you.

AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at smile.amazon.com, you’ll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to your favorite charitable organization.

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TEXAS LONE STAR RECRUISER 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.

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George and Bob both go on a solo fishing trip to a beautiful, but remote, town in Alaska every summer. While enjoying the idyllic scenery, they both notice chest pains — they are having a heart attack!

**What happens next?**

George has *Emergency Assistance Plus*

- They call 9-1-1 and are admitted to the hospital

Both require

- Medical evacuation to a facility that is able to properly treat their condition

Bob does not

- Bob pays $16,000

**George pays $0**

- Medical specialists to monitor their care

- Travel assistance to bring a loved one to their bedside

- A driver to drive their car/RV back home since they are unable to drive

**George’s Total: $0**

**Bob pays $400**

**Bob pays $1,100**

**Bob pays $1,800**

**Bob’s Total: $19,300!**

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You must call EA+ during your emergency so EA+ can make the arrangements for you.

*This is only an outline of the plan’s features. Please read your Member Benefit Guide carefully to understand all the services available to you, as well as any terms, conditions and limitations. Learn more about how you can be protected by EA+. Call today to speak with a customer service representative at 1-888-310-1547. Or to apply online, visit www.thell.com/Emergency-Assistance-Plus*
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