

Harding-Blaine Post 321

"Flagship of the Fourth District"

Member of TEXALPA and NALPA

Peake: VA Reaches Out to Vets, Families in Need

Charlie's Chatter



WASHINGTON -- To support veterans and their families during major emergencies, especially natural disasters, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has begun to deploy mobile pharmacies that will provide vital medicine when patients are unable to fill their prescriptions. VA will also open up the facilities to help communities during major disasters and other emergencies. "The mobile pharmacies give VA the ability to provide critical medications to veterans when disaster strikes," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Dr. James B. Peake. "VA is committed to ensuring our veterans receive their care and prescriptions as soon as possible during an emergency." Each VA mobile pharmacy is housed in a 40-foot-long solid steel trailer built to withstand winds in a Category 3 storm. The units include a satellite connection with VA's Consolidated Mail Outpatient Pharmacy system, a computerized, automated state-of-the-art mail out pharmacy that can process more than 1,000 prescriptions hourly. Pharmacists can use the satellite system to obtain a veteran's prescription data to dispense the drugs on site. In addition, VA can send replacement medica-

tions during an emergency by mail or another carrier to a veteran's home or temporary address. VA recognized the need for mobile pharmacies in 2005 after hurricanes Katrina and Rita severely damaged VA medical centers along the Gulf Coast. The Department deployed several mobile medical clinics as part of its response to the disasters. The first mobile pharmacy was unveiled on Sept. 11, 2007



in front of VA's Washington, D.C., headquarters. The unit was displayed recently at a meeting of the American Society of Health System Pharmacists in Las Vegas. A second mobile pharmacy is expected to be delivered in March 2008. To ensure rapid response to a wide range of emergencies, VA's mobile pharmacies will be strategically placed across the nation.

(continued on page 4)

I have been a member of this great organization for going on 29 years. There have been many leaders that have come from this post. To name a few, there was Virgil McKee, Bill Crawford, and Smokey Burgess. We are very fortunate to have had these great Legionnaires. These gentlemen were true Legionnaires. They worked for not only the good of the American Legion and its programs but also for their communities.

There are not many of us left around the post home that remembers Virgil McKee. A lot of you may know his wife Irene, who is still a member of Unit 321. Virgil wanted the members of the Post to come together as a family. He pressed members to attend the Department functions, therefore, urging them to learn about the many different programs.

Bill Crawford was a true Legionnaire. Bill was the guiding force behind the forming of the Sons of the American Legion within the 4th District and Harding Blaine. Bill was very active working the programs of the American Legion. He was always there to listen and to teach those who were interested in learning. He served as Post, District and Division Commander. Bill also served as De-

partment Vice Commander. I learned a lot from him and always wanted to make him proud of me. He was very Legion family oriented, and worked very hard to keep the family together at all costs.

Smokey Burgess was another great Legionnaire that truly cared about the programs of the American Legion. We were very lucky to have him join our family. Smokey served as Post, District and Division Adjutant. He was very instrumental in the Post winning the American Legion Guzman Cup twice. He fostered the teachings of Americanism, and worked very hard to make sure that everything that the Harding Blaine Post accomplished was recorded. Smokey attended the School Award programs for several years, instigated the post becoming involved in presenting the American Legion School Awards to outstanding young men and women. These young people are chosen by their teachers based on courage, honor, leadership, patriotism, scholarship and service, which if cultivated, result in better citizenship.

One of the reasons that I am writing this article is to add another name to this list of distinguished Legionnaires. That name is Ernest "Ernie" Rivard.

As far as the list of offices that Ernie has held, there are too many to name. What I would like to say about my friend Ernie is; **YOU ARE A GREAT LEGIONNAIRE!**

Ernie has been a great supporter of all of the programs of the American Legion. He has a wonderful sense of humor and laughs as much as works hard

for the Legion.

He has supported the Auxiliary, especially the Junior members making sure that dues were paid and even paying for VIM memberships, (same as PUFL for the Legion). He has done so many things for so many people. He has done so quietly with no expectation of recognition. The Harding Blaine family has prospered under his leadership. Ernie has done these things selflessly for the betterment of the American Legion Family.

He is a member of the GNUTS serving as Emperor XIII. Good Morning Ernie, Good Afternoon Charlie or visa versa.

I have to share some funny stories about Ernie; when he was completing his year as Post 321 Commander. He purchased a gift for Unit President Judy. Guess what the gift was? Believe it or not it was an electric frying pan.

He then blamed the choice of the gift on Judy's husband, because when he would purchase her a gift for Christmas or any other holiday, it was either an electric frying pan or a waffle iron. That was priceless!

When I first started going to the Midwinter Conference, I bought tickets to the GNUTS Bash. Well, I was sitting there, minding my own business. Mind you, the only people that were up moving around were Emperors; you really have to be there to appreciate it. You do not have to do anything to get fined. It is all in fun, so you can't really get upset. Well, all of these Legionnaires were in their "uniforms" and were just looking to find someone to torment, yes, torment. Ernie comes up to our ta-

ble, and asks me to dance. (There was no one on the floor!) I didn't want to, but then I was afraid to say no. After he danced with me, he then passed me around to all of the other men. I was so embarrassed, and it only cost me \$2.00 to dance with all those good looking men. That was really fun!

When the US started minting the state quarters, Ernie found out that I was collecting those quarters for my 4 Grandchildren. Well, each time a new quarter would come out; he would save them and give them to me at the canteen! Well, I told him that it looked funny when every time he came to the post he would call me over and give me quarters. Yesterday, when I went to the Post Office, there was a larger envelope that was heavier than normal. The return address was Ernie's. Guess what was in that envelope? Yes, it was the newest state quarters. Thank You!

This is the kind of man Ernie Rivard is! Not only is he a great legionnaire, he is a great man!

Ernie has been ill and has not been able to be at Post functions lately. We miss your smiling face and your practical jokes. We miss your leadership and your dedication. Ernie, we hope that you have a speedy recovery, because we need you! You didn't just pass through; you are a member of our family! Please know that you and Georgia are in our thoughts and prayers.

*For God, Country and Veterans,
Charlie Dew
Editor and
Department President
2007-2008*

Elected Officers 2007-2008

American Legion

Commander	Steve Cockerham
1st Vice	Reagan Heine
2nd Vice	
Adjutant	Terry Cloninger
Asst. Adjutant	Jim Williamson
Finance Officer	Dearl Gunter
Chaplain	Miguel Romeu
Judge Advocate	Fletcher Sharp
Historian	John Bozik
Service Officer	Bob Drake
Sgt-at-Arms	William Bray
Exec. Committeeman	Mark Gojer
Exec. Committeeman	Bob Allison
Past Commander	Ernie Rivard

American Legion Auxiliary

President	Judy Reyna
1st Vice	Renee May
2nd Vice	Lynn Marie Johnson
Recording Sec.	Charlie Dew
Treasurer	Lavada Newell
Chaplain	Bernadine Smith
Correspond. Sec	Reagan Heine
Historian	Sue Mains
Sgt-at-Arms	Phyllis Price
Asst. Sgt-at-Arms	Cindy Bray
Executive Comm.	Cindy Oldroyd
	Jean Kelly

Sons Of The American Legion

Commander	Ray Hartline
1st Vice	Bryan Vinson
2nd Vice	Eddie Olivera Jr.
Finance Officer	Jay Terwart
Adjutant	Abel Silva, Jr.
Judge Advocate	David Dew
Chaplain	Jeff Saul
Historian	Danny Johnson
Sgt-at-Arms	Jimmy Jackson
Liaison	John Maguire
Past Commander	BR Evans

American Legion Riders

Director	Larry Lawson
Assistant Director	Terry Cloninger
Secretary	Sue Lawson
Treasurer	Kimberly Potter
Chaplain	Michael Horak
Historian	Wendy Rouse
Sgt-At-Arms/Run Coord.	Randy Rouse
Membership	Becca Dees

Membership

<u>Org.</u>	<u>Goal</u>	<u>Paid</u>	<u>%</u>
AL		806	71
ALA			66
SAL		98	40



Commander's Corner

Hello, everybody! Wow, March sure was a busy month. A lot of people pitched in for our many events. It makes me happy seeing our membership pulling together for the better good. We should be proud of ourselves. We had St. Patrick's Day and Easter in the same week! The next time that will occur is in the year 2160! We also had the 4th District Coffee Tour end at our Post. We had dinner and a band waiting for them. The Children's' Easter Egg Hunt was a hoot! Our Brunch was a success, also.

I promised I wouldn't mention the kitchen again, but, we have a new 3 door stainless steel fridge! Now, I think the kitchen is complete. Or is it...hmm... If you didn't hear, our Facilities Manager Debbie Martin had surgery this month. She is doing fine, thank God. We are glad to have you back!

We are having the Bonham Vets down our way April 5th. This will be a great day with lots of fun to be had. Please join us. The more, the merrier!

Oh, one more thing. Please feel free to drop notes into the suggestion box, or the slots on the office doors. We value all ideas. If your suggestion is used, you will receive all due credit. 1500 heads are better than one!

*For God and Country,
Steve Cockerham*

HONOR GUARD

POST 321 HONOR GUARD NEEDS MORE MEMBERS!!

Effective last month, after many years of devoted duty to the Post 321 Honor Guard, Ernie Rivard has made the decision to step aside as our Honor Guard commander, due to health issues. Ernie has devoted a tremendous amount of time and energy to keep the Post 321 Honor Guard in excellent condition, and all of POST 321 is grateful for his efforts and support.

Ernie isn't doing very well at the present time (mid March)... he's had 3 series of Chemotherapy that's causing some issues with eating...and keeping what he eats down.

I would ask that ALL of POST 321's family keep Ernie and Georgia in their thoughts and prayers during their recovery period.

Those of us in the Honor Guard are hoping that Ernie will be back soon, and that this is a temporary move, until Ernie gets to feeling better; in the interim, Fletcher Sharp will take over the Honor Guard.

Your Honor Guard performed a funeral two weeks ago over in the Farmersville area, and it took calls to every member of our Honor Guard to find enough members to be able to support this request.

There are over 1,100 members of the Legion alone shown on the Post rolls; our current Honor Guard roster is approximately 26 members, and some of those are members that due to health issues can no longer

be expected to carry and fire a rifle, present the flag to the next of kin, etc. Others live too far away, have full time jobs or may have had their Post 321 membership lapse.

WE NEED MORE MEMBERS OF THE POST TO VOLUNTEER FOR THE HONOR GUARD!!

Those who would like to become a member should attend one of our meetings, make your intentions known, and then the Honor Guard will take a vote to determine if you are a viable candidate.

We will continue to have our steak dinners each month, and hope to see more of you coming out to enjoy a great meal. Next meeting will be held on April 6th.

*For God & Country,
Fletcher Sharp*

Families In Need ...

From page 1

Plans now call for one of the three mobile pharmacies to be stationed at Dallas; Murfreesboro, Tenn.; and Charleston, S.C. The Department also expects to acquire a fourth unit that will be placed in the western part of the country. Each mobile pharmacy is divided into five compartments, including a work area for pharmacists, an entryway accessible to patients and a sleeping area with a bath and shower for VA personnel. Pharmacy personnel from across the country have already volunteered to staff the units in the event of a natural disaster or other emergency. Six pharmacists who were part of a regional disaster drill have already completed their training and can deploy on short notice. "Our mobile clinics enabled us to provide

critical services during hurricanes Katrina and Rita not only to veterans but also to thousands of others in the area who were adversely affected by the storm," said Michael Valentino, VA's pharmacy chief. "These new mobile pharmacy units will ensure that we are even better prepared for future emergencies."



UNIT 321

March was a busy month with St. Paddy's Day & the coffee tour. April is also busy with our Bonham Veterans coming April 5th. We're having a picnic with burgers & hot dogs but we will need desserts. The 4th District convention is April 12th - 13th in Mabank. The 1st Division convention is April 25th, 26th and 27th in Tyler. Our 2nd Vice President Lynn-Marie Johnson and her committee are planning a rummage sale in the parking lot of Nanny-Granny's on April 26th from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. If you have any items to donate please contact her @ djcon2@tx.rr.com or 972-423-5423

*For God & Country
Judy Reyna, President*

Support Our Troops

Pop's Points to Ponder

During my work with the Legion I had the opportunity to come over some very interesting medical facts. Did you know people who have a history of migraine headaches are more likely to go blind? If you experience this it is best to go see the doctor before it advances to this point. Did you know that new studies show that people who take daily pills of anti-oxidant (roughly the amount in 4 carrots) helps their memory. I guess I need more carrots. This might be a good thing for you to check out though. Adults 65 years and older have a need for dietary sources of vitamin D, this holds back bone conditions and muscle pain. Inadequate levels of vitamin B12 can cause fatigue, loss of appetite and anemia. If this is not treated this can lead to nerve damage and dementia. Another interesting fact is that approximately 2 million infections are acquired every year in hospitals. About 260,000 are fatal. If you have to go to the hospital be sure that the staff cleans their hands before working on you or giving you your pills. There is also growing support for herbs in the treatment of illnesses sometimes even replacing prescriptions. I urge you all to look into this as prescriptions usually have side effects and in many cases cost a pot full of money. I also urge you to consult with your doctor before embarking

on this course of action and as with anything moderation, moderation, moderation. Be aware that doctors are slow to accept new ways of treatment so when you have a question it might be a good idea to talk to several doctors to reach a consensus opinion. I have passed on to you just a couple of ideas for you to think about, there are obviously many more. Information is knowledge and will help you make better decision on your body's well being, remember, you only have one body so take care of it. God Bless You All!
Gene "Pop" Fattig

Chaplain's Thoughts

When you read these thoughts, the Christian world has just completed the start of everything, the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. I hope that for those of us that profess the Christian faith, we have had the time to meditate during the past forty days about the incredible journey that has brought us to this stage... Throughout my life I have always carried a small cross in my pocket and I want to share with you the reasons why. I carry a cross in my pocket, a simple reminder to me of the fact that I am a Christian no matter where I may be. This little cross is not magic nor is it a good luck charm. It isn't meant to protect me from any physical harm. It's not for identification for the entire World to see, it's simply an understanding between my Savior and me. When I put my hand in my pocket to bring out a coin or key, the cross is there

to remind me of the price He paid for me. It reminds me too, to be thankful for the blessings day by day and to strive to serve Him better in all that I do and say. It's also a daily reminder of the peace and comfort I share with all who know my Master and give themselves to His care. So, I carry a cross in my pocket reminding no one but me that Jesus Christ is Lord of my life if only I'll let Him be. To all of my Brothers and Sisters that I love dearly, I say: "Dear Lord as we deal with life's challenges, help us understand that our ultimate goal must always be to do Your will so that one day we may dwell in the light in which You live eternally... May the Lord bless you and keep you, may His face always shine upon you all the days of your life and may He hold you in the palm of His hands into eternity." Blessed is the Nation whose God is Lord.

*Miguel Romeu
 Chaplain*

Trivia

Richard Nixon, Gerald Ford and Jimmy Carter travelled overseas in 1981 to attend the funeral of what person?

(See Bartender for answer)

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE

www.al321tx.org

Members Birthday's April 2008

1. Leland Mitchell Jr, Edward Wirt
2. Tom Fears, Jim Hammond
3. Lewis Parson
4. Wayne Cook, William Cromartie, Roger Wright
5. Katharina Denes, Ray Windle
6. Donald Erb Jr, Lucian Munos, Albert Valian
8. Bruce Danielson, Dennis Ehrenfeld, Juan Guzman, Roger Krell, Billy Seabolt, Christopher Vinson
9. Lori Burgess, Shoron Thenor
10. Ralph Condry, Daniel Holguin,
11. Kevin Ford, Gary Woods
12. Gary Aumaugher, Jimmie Dearman, Michael Houston, M.S. Mullins II, Jerry O Neil
13. Margory Aumaugher, Thomas Sullivan, Kenneth Walker,
14. Kenneth Deering, Ann Hartline, Cindy Oldroyd
15. Glen Crain, Don Walker
16. Ronald Rohrbach, George Truitt
17. Charles Smith
18. William Fick Jr, Paul Ingram, Sean Masterson
19. Dorita Elsenheimer, Thomas Haag, Kevin Marks, Nolan Taggart, Paul Wade
20. Edwin Gleason, Larry Guinn, Donald Lauterbach, Luke Loveless Jr, Sam Massey, Paul Sanders, James Shelton
21. Eric Ewen, Larry Turner
22. Charles Caplinger, Billy Garren, Gerald Larson, Ronald Richtsmeir
23. Allen Cornwall, Richard Lerma, Bruce Leake
24. Michael Quesada, Gloria Garzone
25. Gwendolyn Crabb, David Schmidt
26. Taylor Bice, Violet Gilhaus, Jerry Howard, Gildas McDowell
27. Jessee Schnitzuis, Kathryn Signs
28. Peter Eldridge, Carol Evangelisti
29. Richard Atkins, Leonard Martin, Jefferson Saul
30. Robert Midway, James Rouse

If you see any error on this list, contact : Adjutant at 972-423-5423

READY TO CLEAN OUT YOUR
HOUSE OR GARAGE?????
THE AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY IS
HAVING A

RUMMAGE SALE

WHEN: SATURDAY APRIL 26TH
8 A.M. - 4 P.M.

WHERE: ANTIQUE MALL
PARKING LOT
(ACROSS 14TH STREET)

PLEASE DONATE YOUR "STUFF" TO
BENEFIT THE
AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
"GENERAL FUND"

REMEMBER.. ONE PERSON'S "JUNK"
IS ANOTHER'S "TREASURE"!!!

***TABLES WILL BE IN THE MALL
PARKING LOT BY
7 A.M. FOR YOUR ITEMS

***PRICE ITEMS YOURSELF OR WE
CAN DO IT FOR YOU

QUESTIONS: CALL LYNN @469-585-
9780 OR 972-423-5423

St. Patrick's Day Winners

Costume: Tony Phillips - The British Bloke
Irish Dance: Bobbi Roberts - She really is Irish
Guinness Drinking: Larry Cobden - Finally took the "Belt" from Danny

SEE YALL NEXT YEAR !!!

"1st Place

Chicken Casserole"

Entered & won by Sue Mains in the
"Casserole Cook-Off"

- 2 cans of whole green beans
- 4 chicken breasts
- 1 can cream of mushroom soup
- 1 can of cream of chicken soup
- ½ cup of mayonnaise
- 2 Tbsp. of lemon juice
- ¼ cup of bacon bits
- 2 cans of sliced water chestnuts
- 1 pkg shredded cheddar cheese

Boil chicken breast for 25 minutes, cool and de-bone, lightly grease bottom of a casserole dish, drain green beans and put on bottom of casserole dish, place chicken pieces on top of beans, mix soups, mayo, bacon bits and lemon juice, pour on top of chicken, drain liquid from chestnuts and pour on top, then sprinkle cheese over top and bake at 325 degrees for 45 minutes

Enjoy!!!

American Legion

Paid Up For Life

1/2 price drinks

every

Saturday 10am till

6pm

Our Canteen Is

Now

WI-FI