

# Harding-Blaine Post 321

## "Flagship of the Fourth District"

Member of TEXALPA and NALPA

### American Legion Commander Praises Obama's Change in Plan



WASHINGTON (March 18, 2009) - The leader of the nation's largest veterans organization applauded President Obama for dropping his plan to bill private insurance companies for the treatment of military veterans who have suffered service-connected disabilities and injuries.

"We are glad that President Obama listened to the strong objections raised by The American Legion and veterans everywhere about this unfair plan," said American Legion National Commander David K Rehbein. "We thank the administration for its proposed increase in the VA budget and we are always available to assist by providing guidance to ensure a veterans health care system that is worthy of the heroes that use it."

Following a meeting this afternoon with The American Legion and other veterans service organizations, the White House announced that it will no longer

be considering billing insurance companies or veterans for their service-connected disabilities.

"Although we disagreed with the proposal, additional revenue streams are needed by VA," Rehbein said. "I strongly encourage Congress and the administration to allow VA to begin billing Medicare for the treatment of Medicare-eligible non-service-connected veterans. They paid into Medicare for their entire working careers and should be able to use it in the medical system that was built specifically for them."

With a current membership of 2.6 million wartime veterans, The American Legion was founded in 1919 on the four pillars of a strong national security, veterans affairs, Americanism, and the mentoring of youth. Legionnaires work for the betterment of their communities through more than 14,000 posts across the nation.

[www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org)

### Charlie's Chatter

Spring is in the air! You all know what that means?? Yes, the Nomination Boards are up, and the American Legion and Sons of The American Legion are accepting names of dedicated members to run for office.

The offices in our American Legion Family are very important. The people that you elect will be representing you at the District level of our organization. Use the opportunities of these elections to improve the relationships between all entities. Our membership must grow to insure our survival.

Change is good even though sometime we might not be ready for it. If you have something that you feel you can offer to our "family" then please step forward and run for office.

The Spring Conventions are right around the corner. Both District and Division Conventions will be held in Van Alstyne. If you have not attended one of these conventions, then try to do so while within a few miles.

Annual Report forms are due to the Auxiliary this month. Auxiliary members, if you do anything for anyone other than your family, then it can be included in the report. There are many programs where your hours can be counted. We do so many things for so many people that we

<p><i>Children's Easter Egg Hunt</i></p>  <p>Sunday April 12th 2:00pm</p>	<p><b>A Night At The USO</b></p> <p><i>Lots of Fun</i></p> <p>Saturday April 4th 6:00pm</p>
--	---

don't even realize can be counted. Under reporting is one of the main problems we have. All reports are combined and the results are reported to Congress. This is how we keep our Tax-exempt status.

Thank you to all officers for their loyalty and dedication in serving our family this past year. We do appreciate you.

*For God, Country and Veterans,  
Charlie Dew, Editor*



## Commander's Corner

Ahoy! How's everyone? Another month means another article. Bonnie and I would like to thank the crowd that showed up for our Annual St. Pats' Day Feast. The largest yet! Over 300 people participated. Thank you, Mark Hamilton! He donated himself to do the clean-up. He is a real Pot'O'Gold in my book!

April, eh? Can anyone hear hip-pity-hopping? Could a certain bunny be approaching? Does he have something special for you? I'm sure the ALA has been in touch with him and are probably going to help him again this year. Keep your ears open!

The Election Board is now up. If you decide to run for office, let us know. We will verify your eligibility and put your name at the position you want. The only criterion is to be a member in good standing.

Time to go. Enjoy the newsletter and remember, we're all in this together.

*For God and Country,  
Steve Cockerham*



## UNIT 321

Hello again. It is time again to start thinking about new officers for next year. If you are interested in running for office please contact Rosemary Drake, Sheryl Styers or Lavada Newell. We are in need of some new people. Our children's Easter party will be April 12th from 2:00 - 4:00. We are in need of candy for the party. Don't forget 4th District Convention in Van Alstyne April 18 - 19th and 1st Division Convention April 25 - 26th also in Van Alstyne.

*For God and Country  
Judy Reyna*

# WE



# ARE



# FAMILY

## Elected Officers 2008-2009

### American Legion

Commander	Steve Cockerham
1st Vice	Bob Price
2nd Vice	Bob Drake
Adjutant	Jim Williamson
Asst. Adjutant	Terry Cloninger
Finance Officer	Jeff Armstrong
Chaplain	Miguel Romeu
Judge Advocate	Fletcher Sharp
Historian	Charles Kessler
Service Officer	Jim LaBelle
Sgt-at-Arms	William Bray
Exec. Committeeman	Reggie Gutierrez
Exec. Committeeman	Bill Vars
Past Commander	Ernie Rivard

### American Legion Auxiliary

President	Judy Reyna
1st Vice	Renee May
2nd Vice	
Recording Sec.	Charlie Dew
Treasurer	Lavada Newell
Chaplain	Bernadine Smith
Correspond. Sec	Tamme Scholander
Historian	
Sgt-at-Arms	Phyllis Price
Asst. Sgt-at-Arms	Linda Wilmeth
Executive Comm.	Cindy Oldroyd
	Jean Kelly
	Cheryl Styers

### Sons Of The American Legion

Commander	Bryan Vinson
1st Vice	Eddie Olivera Jr.
2nd Vice	Jimmy Gray
Finance Officer	Jay Terwort
Adjutant	Ray Hartline
Judge Advocate	David Dew
Chaplain	Jeff Saul
Historian	Danny Johnson
Sgt-at-Arms	Jimmy Jackson
Asst. Sgt-at-Arms	Mark Hamilton
Liaison	
Past Commander	Abel Silva Jr.

### American Legion Riders

Director	Larry Lawson
Assistant Director	Phillip Durant
Secretary	Sue Lawson
Treasurer	Kimberly Potter
Chaplain	Michael Horak
Historian	Jorja Morgan
Sgt-At-Arms	Randy Rouse
Membership	Becca Dees
Communication Chair	Wendy Rouse
Run Coord.	Mike Carlock

### Membership

Org.	Goal	Paid	%
AL 09	1116	867	77.69
ALA 09	254	180	70.87
SAL 09	213	79	37.09

## Service Officer

March is the month the Election Board goes up. Step forward and serve your post. We need AL members that are willing to give their time to prove that Post 321 is the Flag Ship of the 4th District.

This year's Chili Cook off is scheduled to be held on 26 Sep 2009. We will also be having events between now and that date that will also support Meals On Wheels. The first being a USO evening that will be held on 4 Apr 2009. Flyer's will be distributed that will explain the event. If anyone has any suggestions that will help make the Cook Off a success, please contact me.

The House Veterans' Affairs Economic Opportunity Subcommittee recently held a hearing to review 10 bills to improve services and benefits for veterans provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

H.R. 147, To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow taxpayers to designate a portion of their income tax payment to provide assistance to homeless veterans, and for other purposes; (Israel D-NY). This bill creates a section on the annual tax return form that would allow taxpayers to designate \$3 of their income tax liability to programs that assist homeless veterans without increasing the taxpayers' tax liability. H.R. 147 creates a Homeless Veterans Assistance Fund within the Treasury where the contributed money would automatically be deposited and funds could only be used to provide assistance

to homeless veterans. The complete article can be found at [www.military.com](http://www.military.com).

Any questions can be directed to the Service Officer Jim La Belle  
(mrjimlabelle@yahoo.com)



## Honor Guard

The past month has been a quiet one for your honor guard. I would like to welcome two new members, who both belong to either the Legion or the Sons of American Legion, and who are also members of the Civil Air Patrol Squadron that the Post sponsors. The two new members are John Crary, a retired U. S. Air Force Chief M/Sgt and Rob Rothenberg, who is an SAL member.

We are always looking for new Honor Guard members that are in good health and can carry and fire the M-1 Garand rifle to assist us in our duties for fallen comrades.

For the last three weeks, I have been taking Honor Guard members to visit with Ernie Rivard, who continues to hold his own at the Lennwood Nursing home. Unless work intervenes, I will be making these trips each Wednesday morning, departing from the Post around 9:45AM on Wednesdays. We return to the Post "around" noontime. I have a 6 passenger van, and if you would like to visit

Ernie....give me a call to see if I have open seats. I wouldn't want someone to drive to the Post to visit Ernie if the van is already full.

Thank you all for your continued support of your Post Honor Guard by attending our steak night dinners; these are always on the SECOND Friday of each month.

*For God & Country,  
Fletcher Sharp HG Commander*



## Squadron 321

We are behind in membership, please renew.

The Honor Guard is looking for help, so if interested, see Fletcher Sharp.

The election board is up and any member can run for office. A thank you to the ALA on the Legion birthday, you ladies always do a great job.

1st Division DEC will be April 25th in Sherman, if you would like to attend, let me know so I can pre-register you.

Meetings are on the 1st & 3rd Thursday each month, everyone is welcome.

*For God & Country  
Bryan Vinson*

## CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE

[www.al321tx.org](http://www.al321tx.org)



*Until Every One Comes Home.*

# A Night At The USO

Where: American Legion  
1236 Avenue J Post 321  
Plano, TX 75074

When: Saturday, April 4<sup>th</sup> 2009

Time: 6:00 pm

What to wear: Military uniform or

USO garb suggested but not required

Come join us for an exciting night  
celebrating the excitement of the USO!

Cigarette girls – Dime a Dance – 50/50

Music by Calvin & The Vault

Free refreshments - sandwiches



\*\*\* **IMPORTANT** \*\*\*



Finance Officer



**Did you know:**

- 1. The Newsletter can be read on line at [www.al321tx.org](http://www.al321tx.org)
- 2. We can automatically email the Newsletter to your home or work email address.
- 3. You can pick up your Newsletter at the Post Home.

The Newsletter costs the Post between \$13 to \$15 thousand dollars a year to publish and distribute through the US Post Office.

Please help us reduce costs by filling out the information below to have your name removed from the Postal mailing list. You can elect to view on line or have the Newsletter emailed to you at an email account of your choosing. As always, the email address will only be used to distribute the Newsletter.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Please email my Newsletter to the following Email account: \_\_\_\_\_

I elect to view the Newsletter on the Web:

I elect to pick up my Newsletter at the Post:

Just take me off Mailing List :

Please fill out and return to Post at address on back or call 972 423 5423 ext. 5 ( Finance Officer )

Thank you for your support to save your Post money in these rough times!

*Jeff Armstrong, Finance Officer*

**Members Birthday's  
April 2009**

- 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, 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 Oneil
- 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, Jim Morriss
- 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**

## Replacing Military Records

If discharge or separation documents are lost, veterans or the next of kin of deceased veterans may obtain duplicate copies by completing forms found on the Internet at <http://www.archives.gov/research/index.html> and mailing or faxing them to the NPRC.

Alternatively, write the National Personnel Records Center, Military Personnel Records, 9700 Page Ave., St. Louis, MO 63132-5100. Specify that a duplicate separation document is needed. The veteran's full name should be printed or typed so that it can be read clearly, but the request must also contain the signature of the veteran or the signature of the next of kin, if the veteran is deceased. Include the veteran's branch of service, service number or Social Security number and exact or approximate dates and years of service. Use Standard Form 180, "Request Pertaining To Military Records."

It is not necessary to request a duplicate copy of a veteran's discharge or separation papers solely for the purpose of filing a claim for VA benefits. If complete information about the veteran's service is furnished on the application, VA will obtain verification of service.

[www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov)

**Our Canteen Is  
Now  
WI-FI**

## The Shy Man and The Old Maid

I looked around – and what did I see

An old maid – chasing me.

Out of her eyes – of despair

A lingering hope – lingered there.

I said, "O me, O my – what can this be

Why is this old maid – chasing me?"

I looked around – there was no escape

I wondered about – my future fate?

Frightened – I fell to my knees

Crying out – "Please, please, please?"

She cried – "I accept – O, you devilish man!

I'll accept – your wedding band."

"But, but, but – I tried to say I don't think we should get – carried away."

"Now, don't be shy – you sweet, dear man

I'll take over – our wedding plans."

Before I knew it – there was the preacher man

And on her hand – a wedding band.

I wondered how it happened – as she led me away  
And still wonder – to this day.

*William Wick  
American Legion Post 321 Member*

## Recipe of the Month CRUNCHY CABBAGE SALAD

Dressing:

1 flavor packet from Chicken

Ramen Noodles

2 TBSP. sugar

2 TBSP. white vinegar

1/3-cup salad oil

1/4 tsp. black pepper

Mix well & refrigerate. Make early in the day so the flavors will blend.

In the oven @ 350 toast:

2 TBSP. sesame seeds

1/2 cup slivered or sliced almonds

10 minutes until golden brown

Shred 1/2 head of cabbage (approx. 5 cups) & 4 chopped green onions.

Break by hand the Ramen Noodles & mix together with the cabbage mix. Just before serving, add seeds, nuts & dressing. Toss & serve.

You may also brown the broken Ramen Noodles with the nuts & seeds.

Yummy, enjoy!!!

**American Legion**

**PaidUpForLife**

**1/2 price drinks every  
Saturday 10am till 9pm**

## Trivia

*Q. What governor was on hand at home plate to greet Hank Aaron when he broke Babe Ruth's home run record?*

*( See Bartender for answer )*