

Harding-Blaine Post 321

"Flagship of the Fourth District"

Member of TEXALPA and NALPA



Plano's Memorial Park

Thanks to all who participated in the dedication of the City of Plano's Veterans Memorial on Veteran's Day. I was humbled by the presence of my fellow Legionnaires: the Honor Guard, Legion Auxiliary, SAL, Legion Riders and other members. I think we can all take away a sense of pride and honor of all of our military servicemen and servicewomen and their families who served in all the Great Wars and Conflicts. Job well done.

Clif Pratt

Charlie's Chatter



Hello! Can you believe that this year has almost come to an end? The Christmas Holidays are right around the corner. The Annual Patient's Christmas Gift Shop held at the Bonham VAMC the first week in December. Set up for the Gift Shop will start on Mon. the 1st with the ribbon cutting and start of the Gift Shop starting on Wed. the 3rd. The official close will be Fri. the 5th. Volunteers are always needed to help veterans select gifts for their family members, gift wrapping, wrap for mailing and many more duties. It is so rewarding to volunteer at this function. It is always fun! If you do not have plans for that week, give a little time to the veterans of the Bonham VA. Please check the calendar in this newsletter for all of the functions for this month. There is always a lot going on within our American Legion Family during the holidays.

Each year, with the exception of last year, David and I host a Christmas party at our home for all of our American Legion family members and friends. This year the party will be held on Saturday, Dec 13th. This is our personal invitation to you to attend our party. I tried to think of something to make it a little dif-



NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY

Performing:
VINYL ECHOES

Party Favors and Fun !!!

Black-eyed Peas
Cabbage
Champagne Toast At Midnight

NO CHARGE



ferent. If you plan on coming to the party, bring your favorite snack/finger food. Also bring a copy of the recipe! I have a copier at home so that if anyone wants the recipe, we can make a copy. Yes, David will be cooking his specialties and I will have some of mine. I just thought that it would be fun to see what everyone else brings. Diane Giannini, our Karaoke, ALA member will be entertaining. We haven't seen her in two whole years. So, I hope that each of you can attend! We plan on having a good time. If you need directions to our home, just give me a call on my cell; 214/789-3608. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

*For God, Country and Veterans,
Charlie Dew*

Recipe of the Month

Eggnog

6 eggs separated
1/2 c. bourbon (or to taste)
1/2 gallon of milk
1 c. sugar
1 (1/2) gallon French vanilla ice cream
1 T. vanilla extract
Nutmeg
Cinnamon

Place egg whites in refrigerator. Whip egg yolks until smooth; slowly add bourbon while whipping. Let mixture set for 15-20 minutes for yolks to thicken. While waiting, pour milk into large bowl; add sugar and stir until dissolved. Add ice cream and beat until smooth. Slowly add egg yolk mixture stirring continuously. Add vanilla extract and stir. Beat egg whites until stiff, fold into mixture. Serve with nutmeg or cinnamon sprinkled on top.

This recipe came from the "Cookin for Carlene" cookbook.
Recipe courtesy of Dallas unit 292
ENJOY!!!

F.Y.I.

As members of an "organization" it is easy for all of us to be reminiscent about one of our members that we have lost.

We are all so sad when they are gone yet, it is hard to get one to share a word about the memory of that person. Here is a note from a member that decided to actually share a "word" about our "good friend", Mr. Dave Teague.

Remembering a Member

As I sit at our Post and remember the good of our Post I am drawn to memories of a member lost. Dave Teague is now enjoying the ultimate happy hour and I am sure that Heaven is now enjoying Dave's worldly opinions and dry wit. In an effort to write this article I talked to members who frequented the "Canteen" asking each to think of how Dave had interacted with them and how they missed him. The responses were numerous. Usually when one does this everyone has varied opinions running the full range of pluses to minuses. This was not the case with Dave. Everyone has stories to tell of a man whose companionship; people looked forward to interacting with. Every person would sit back and think for a while, smile, and then tell a story. Dave also worked hard for the Post, holding the Bar Managers position and working tasks for the Post generally when asked. But I think his greatest gift was that of what he did for the members of the Post in making the Canteen a place where members came to interact and share. Dave the greatest thing a man can have is to be remembered fondly, you have succeeded.

ANONYMOUS

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 | John Maguire |
| 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 | 723 | 64.78 |
| ALA | 285 | 252 | 88.42 |
| SAL | 210 | 211 | 100.4 |



UNIT 321

Squadron 321

Hope everyone had a safe and happy Thanksgiving. Here are some of our activities and activities.

* The riders at Post 321 have teamed up this year with the Plano police department to help the children of Plano as our project for Christmas.

* We have sent three care packages to our members who are deployed. Thank you for your contributions.

* The hall has been cleaned up, tiles replaced, smoke eaters are on line, lights have been repaired, some tiles have been replaced and the patio is free of junk and the fence has been repaired.

After the first of the year the riders would like to start a drive to improve the hall, it needs more ceiling tiles and a coat of good quality paint and some patch work.

That is about all I have for now keep our troops and Ernie Rivard in your prayers.

Many can ride but only a few can be American Legion Riders.

Larry Lawson

ALR Director Post 321 Plano, TX

Our veteran's dinner was a great success. Everybody pitched in and helped. I want to thank Carol Cloninger our VA&R chairman for getting it organized, the Legionnaires for all their support, the SAL for all their support and the Riders for all their help and support. It was a great day when all of us came together and made things work. I would like for all of us to work together like that in whatever program is going on. I do not want to forget all the ladies who cooked and cleaned to make that wonderful dinner. They worked their butts off to make it possible. The Christmas gift shop at Bonham is December 3rd-5th. Our children's Christmas party is December 13th at 2pm; there will be Santa and games for our little ones. Don't forget our angel tree, please pick one of these children and make their Christmas a happy one. These children and families need our help.

I hope everyone has a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. God Bless.

For God and Country,

Judy Reyna, President

Season's Greetings to all. As this year comes to an end, I am always asked by members in the Post, what does the SAL do. Recently we have supported the chili cook-off Meals on Wheels, Komen Cancer Research, National Emergency Relief Fund for hurricane Ike, Children and Youth in honor of Dave Teague, Bonham VA dinner, a Scholarship for the Americanism program, VA & R poppy drive and attending the Veteran's Day memorial in Plano.

I wish as the New Year arrives, the Post family will remember all the work that was done in 2008 and all that will follow in 2009. We meet the 1st and 3rd Thursday each month at 6:00 pm. You are welcome and let's remember membership. I wish everyone a Happy Holiday.

For God and Country,

Bryan Vinson

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE

www.al321tx.org

Our Canteen Is Now WI-FI



A Special “Thanks”

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 17, 2008

Secretary Peake Announces Travel Reimbursement Increases for Eligible Veterans

Well, the walk is over for this year and I made it one more time. I would like to take the time to thank all my Legion family for their generous donations. Special thanks goes to the Legionnaires and SAL for their generous donations and a very special thanks goes out to the Legion Auxiliary for letting me have their Friday night dinner for a fundraiser. Between the donations, the dinner, the lotto hat raffle, Lola's cookies, the jar behind the bar and my company matches I was able to raise \$2,922 for this very worthy cause.

This year we had over 4,000 walkers and Dallas alone raised \$7.9 million! What an accomplishment! I'm being told by several in the cantina that we were seen on Friday and Saturday as we made our journey. This year I actually made it with no blisters, skinned knees or wrapped legs! In fact, no injuries at all! I'm already looking forward to next year. I hope I can count on your continued support!

Cindy Pearce

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced today that eligible veterans will see an increase in the mileage reimbursement they receive for travel to VA facilities for medical care.

Secretary of Veterans Affairs Dr. James B. Peake announced today that he will use his authority to raise the mileage reimbursement from the 28.5 cents per mile to 41.5 cents per mile for all eligible veterans.

“We owe it to our veterans to give them the best care possible,” said Peake. “The increase will once again provide assistance to our veterans, especially in these difficult economic times, to help offset gasoline costs and to assist veterans with access to the VA's world-class health system.”

Congress, which mandates such increases, recently provided funding to VA to increase the reimbursement rate, which goes into effect on November 17, 2008. Service connected veterans, veterans receiving VA pensions, and veterans with low incomes are eligible for the reimbursement.

“As I have travelled the country and spoken with many of our veterans, they have expressed the need for such an increase,” added Peake. “We are pleased to be able to provide them with the increase needed and we will continue to work with our veterans to ensure they receive the quality care they need.”

While increasing the payment, the current deductible amounts applied to certain mileage reimbursements will remain frozen at \$7.77 for a one way trip, \$15.54 for a round trip, and capped at a maximum of \$46.62 per calendar month. On January 9, 2009, these deductibles will decrease to \$3 for a one way trip, \$6 for a round trip, with a maximum of \$18 per calendar month. Deductibles can be waived if they cause a financial hardship to the veteran.

www.va.gov



*Don't
forget
your
Angel !!!*

ANGEL TREE DRIVE

Pick your angel off the tree in the foyer, shop and return by Dec. 10th
Thank You

*** IMPORTANT ***



Finance Officer



Did you know:

1. The Newsletter can be read on line at 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 December 2008

1. Donald Hicken, Joseph Messenger, Floyd 'Bo' Pollard Jr, Kenneth Terwort Jr
2. Thomas Collingwood, Perry Cook, Harry Miller, Gary Walker
3. Jerry Sanderford
4. Katelin Crawford, Brian R Evans, Maxine Fair, D L Faught, Terrence Higgins, George Kemp, Jr
6. Warren Booth, Denver Wedel
7. Brandon Lester, Randy Loboda, Alfonso Silva, Gregory Wiser, Marty Crouch
8. Steven Hill, Martha Hughes, Sean Kelly
9. Jim Henseler, Gary Hester, Stuart Potter
10. Richard Gerke, Tom Velon, Paul Cunningham
11. Bill Bowman, Karl Keffer, Gail Nelson, Frank Stepka
12. Bernard Cappelli, Dennis Kirkwood
13. Carol Cloninger, Paul Merenda, Thomas Oldroyd, Roger Puttcamp
14. James Cleaver, Randy Morriss
15. Tyler Young
16. Lori Baham, Bill Baugh, Raleigh Wagner
17. Mildred Burgess, John Slover
18. Raymond Cockerham, Timothy Dowding, Burton Syverson
19. Roger Carver, Mary Garner, Paul Lewis, Glenn Shanks, Donald Thompson
20. Jimmie Crabb
21. John White
22. Toby Melton
23. Adele Spinn
24. Marvin Childers, Walter Henson, Jeff Howard
25. Merk Burgess, Mary Kenlon
26. Joseph Cymerman Jr, Peggy Gross
27. Kenneth Hubbard
28. Michael Cockerham, Ronnie Odle
29. Clifford Craig, Terry Crawford
30. Vern McVay
31. Eugene Posey

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

Honor, Duty, Country

My Bible states, God is spirit and we must worship Him in spirit and in truth. The truth of the spirit is; that God is life; thus, we are to worship life more than death.

As a Christian I believe the spirit is of more value to God than the flesh. Spirit and life are identical twins that come from the womb of God. They are joined at the hip and cannot be separated. To honor life is to honor God. To honor death is anti-God.

Since to honor life is of greater value than there is in honoring death then, how does a Christian soldier honor the life God has given to him?

There are two kinds of culture in this world. There is the culture of death and the culture of life. Their God says I want your death; our God speaks, I want your life. These words have an immense spiritual difference. Their God says suicidal death is a honor to me; our God says, to take your life by suicide is dishonor to me. They honor death, we honor life. The greatest honor they give to their God is their death; the greatest honor we give to our God is our life.

Both of these concepts have a vast spiritual difference.

During the Second World War the Japanese Soldier lived by code of Bushido. This code was death before dishonor. To lose in battle was a dishonor; to surrender was a terrible dishonor. Better to die than live with such shame. Their honor became their deity. In this terrible war we had one out of a hundred prisoners of war die in German camps; in the Japanese camps thirty-three out of one hundred died. The spirit of honor to the Japanese is the spirit of death to any who surrender. They revere and worship this spirit of honor. Honor was then and in many ways still today is their deity.

Now we face a new enemy who also worships upon the altar of death. It is radical Islam. They say we love death more than life. We cherish dying and the giving of life more than itself. Their death God is different than our life God. There is no such thing as innocents; all are subject to their death God. Men are suicide bombers, women are suicide bombers, and chil-

dren are suicide bombers. All are subject to their death God. This culture of death demands total capitulation; submit or die. But, I claim our God of life has a greater spirit than their God of death. We honor life so much that no greater love can a man show than to lay down his life for another. The American Soldier honors life so much that he will give up his own so that you may keep yours. No greater love for life can be given. When his brother dies on the field of battle; when that life has left that body; that body has become a temple that is sacred to them and they will gladly give up their own lives to bring that temple safely home. That is how sacred that life is to them. It is life, the spirit of life, and not of death, that makes them the finest fighting force in the World. Our soldiers' God is a God of love and life. His enemy God is a God of hate and death. Our God is greater than their God. Our soldiers are greater than their soldiers.

William Wick, AL Member



Bartender's Christmas Party

Saturday, December 20th at 7:00 p.m.

Come in to the Post and celebrate with the Bartenders & show them your appreciation for their service throughout the last year. Everyone is welcome!!!

LAVADA

CINDY



LYNNE-MARIE



RACHEAL



DEBBIE

Trivia

Mrs. Claus has a first name, what is it?

(See Bartender for answer)