

Harding-Blaine Post 321

"Flagship of the Fourth District"

Member of TEXALPA and NALPA

Operation Comfort Warriors keeps its pledge



By Clarence E. Hill
The American Legion -
November 13, 2009
*National Commander's
Message*

One of my favorite clauses in the Preamble to the Constitution of The American Legion comes at the end: "To consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness." These are more than words. They are a pledge to help our comrades. Operation Comfort Warriors is the epitome of that pledge. The men and women defending America in uniform are, indeed, our comrades. They help us by preserving our way of life; we help them by providing comfort items to those who are wounded or sick. Thanks to the generosity of our American Legion family members and friends, we have purchased sweat suits, phone

cards, DVDs, CDs, iPods, puzzles, books, video games, and other items for men and women who are recovering at military hospitals and warrior transition units. These items won't make all of these heroes "whole" again, but it does show them that we care and we appreciate their sacrifice.

More than 35,000 men and women in U.S. military uniforms have been injured since the global war on terrorism started. Factor in the thousands who are hospitalized each year because of accidents or illnesses, and you can see that the need to help is quite significant. From December 2008 until the close of the 91st National Convention in Louisville, Ky., last August, The American Legion family raised about \$189,000 for Operation Comfort Warriors. One of my first acts as national com-

mander was to set a new goal: to raise an additional \$100,000 by the end of this year; we already have brought the total to more than \$210,000.

The goal is achievable. Donald Williams, a World War II veteran and Legionnaire from Clinton, Minn., sent a note along with a check imploring us to "keep Operation Comfort Warriors going." Bruce D. Edwards of San Diego added, "I am a former Marine from Vietnam and glad to be able to contribute to this ongoing campaign."

Not a penny of donated money is spent on administrative costs or marketing. Those expenses are paid from our headquarters budget.

The American Legion has found a special partner to help distribute some of these items. Klay South was shot in the face and leg by an Iraqi insurgent during the 2004 battle of Fallujah. This Marine also bore the brunt of a grenade blast and endured more than 40 follow-up surgeries and procedures. Now with a titanium jaw and 22 false teeth, South has dedicated himself to supporting his fellow wounded warriors with a group of his own called Veterans of Valor.

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NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY

Performing:
Wyndkreek

Party Favors and Fun !!!

Black-eyed Peas
Cornbread

Champagne Toast At Midnight



NO CHARGE



Commander's Corner

The month of November was a very busy month for everyone. I would like to take this time to thank The American Legion Riders and all of the volunteers who helped in the post clean up and in the great job they did on the painting of the canteen area. Thank you so much you all did a GREAT job.

On November 21st we held the first Commanders Misfit ball between myself and the Commander of the Plano VFW Marty Nell. The whole event was to raise money for Cancer Research. The proceeds are being split 50/50 between The American Legion Auxiliary's Unit 321 Cancer Research fund and The VFW Auxiliary Post 4380 Cancer research fund. We had a great time and raised a total of over \$1,100.00. I would like to personally thank Cleo Warden and Robyn Baker for all of the hard work they did in making the costume, makeup and fund raising. I would also like to thank Linda Wilmeth for doing my nails. As embarrassing as it was to dress up as a woman, I earned a great respect for what women go through to make themselves look good for us men. It was all for a good cause in raising money for Cancer Research. I would also like to thank all of the bartenders, and the rest of

the great Ladies who got behind me on this and helped. Personally I think they got way too much into it in dressing me up, but it was fun. There will be another event like this but held sometime in the spring and will be held at the VFW Post 4380. I encourage everyone from our Post to attend and support that event like our brothers and sisters from the VFW came to our post and supported us.

I would also like to give a special and way over due thank you to Calvin Nagy for providing the music for this event. Calvin does a lot for our post and does not receive the appropriate thanks that he so richly deserves for all that he does for us.

We had our annual Thanksgiving basket event on the morning of November 21st. Unfortunately due to the economy our donations are down and we were not able to do as much as we have in the past years. I would like to thank Chris Woolery and his crew for all of the hard work that they do throughout the year to make this event happen.

The month of December is going to be a busy month; we have the Veterans from the Bonham VA Hospital coming in for the annual holiday meal. We could use more volunteers to help out The American Legion Auxiliary for this event. Please check the calendar and check out the events coming up for the month.

I wish everyone safe and happy holidays

*For God and Country
Terry Cloninger, Commander*

Elected Officers 2009-2010

American Legion

Commander	Terry Cloninger
1st Vice	Toby Wine
2nd Vice	Mark Gojer
Adjutant	Jim Williamson
Asst. Adjutant	Bob Allison
Finance Officer	Larry Lawson
Chaplain	Charles Scholander
Judge Advocate	Fletcher Sharp
Historian	Carey Augustine
Service Officer	Jim LaBelle
Sgt-at-Arms	Mike Carlock
Exec. Committeeman	Wayne Morgan
Exec. Committeeman	Dennis Ott
Past Commander	Steve Cockerham

American Legion Auxiliary

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

Sons Of The American Legion

Commander	Abel Silva Jr.
1st Vice	Eddie Olivera Jr.
2nd Vice	Jimmy Gray
Finance Officer	Jay Terwort
Adjutant	Ray Hartline
Judge Advocate	David Dew
Chaplain	Jeff Saul
Historian	Larry Cobden
Sgt-at-Arms	Jimmy Jackson
Asst. Sgt-at-Arms	Franklin Nagy
Liaison	Fletcher Sharp
Past Commander	Bryan Vinson

American Legion Riders

Director	Larry Lawson
Assistant Director	Stuart Potter
Secretary	Liz Pitts
Treasurer	Kimberly Potter
Chaplain	Michael Horak
Historian	Jorja Morgan
Sgt-At-Arms	Randy Rouse
Membership	Wendy Rouse
Communication Chair	Wendy Rouse
	Liz Pitts
Run Coord.	Allen Pitts

Membership

<u>Org.</u>	<u>Goal</u>	<u>Paid</u>	<u>%</u>
AL 10	1020	559	54.80
ALA 10	194	65	33.51
SAL 09	213	149	69.95



Squadron 321

Hello Legion Family, December is upon us and the Christmas spirit is ever present. The thought of giving and receiving brings with it anticipation and gratitude, surprise and disappointment, and well wishes for all our family and friends. December 12th, we are having the Bonham Vets at our post for Christmas dinner at 11 am. This is our way of giving back to those who gave more than their share. The smiles on their faces is something to behold. They really appreciate the attention we give them on this special day. Hope you can come out and help and visit with them. Our next ALA/SAL Brunch is on December 20th from 10 am until 1 pm. It will be a steak breakfast. Kids under 12 get a free pancake breakfast. Come have breakfast with us. It is for a good cause. During this Christmas season, spend time with



Don't forget your Angel !!!

family and friends, both old and new. Remember to pray for those away from home, specially our military men and women and may all of you find peace. God bless you all. Not everyone has paid their dues yet. Adults are \$20 and youth (17 and under) are \$10. See our adjutant, Ray Hartline or myself for your renewal. If there is anything this squadron can do for you, please ask. We are here to serve our Legion Family. Support your favorite teams, come watch the Sunday and Monday game at the post with your friends. Don't forget our Friday Night dinners on the third Friday of each month. We appreciate your support and we promise you a good meal.

As always,
*For God, Country and Veterans,
Abel Silva, Jr., Commander*

Service Officer

Another month and another special election. In the previous 2 months I asked why few members show up for meetings or even visit the post. Even the election did not really increase attendance. I received 3 e-mails from members that indicated that smoke was one problem and the other was that the people were not friendly. I have heard the rumor that someone was trying to make the post smoke free. I for one do not like the smoke but I have not tried to make it smoke free. Anyone can greet an unfamiliar face and welcome them to the post. An additional website that you can

visit to keep informed is www.naus.org. National Association For Uniformed Services.

Saturday Nov. 21st we had the first annual Commander Misfit Pageant The money that we raised is going to cancer research. I believe the final tally was somewhat above \$1100 raised. The next time you see either Commander just tell them thank-you.

Just a reminder for those that want to send Holiday Greetings to Americans that are serving overseas and in the States. There are certain guidelines while preparing your holiday greetings. The cards must be received no later then December 7th and have adequate postage. The card should be entitled "Dear Service Member, Family or Veteran". Limit the cards to 15 per person or 50 for school class or business group and bundle groups of cards in a single large envelope. **Do Not** send letters, include personal information such as home address or email address, glitter inserts of any kind. Inserts will be removed in the screening process. The address you need to send is:

Holiday Mail For Heroes
P.O. Box 5456
Capitol Heights, MD 20791-5456

I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving and it continues thru the Christmas and New Years holiday. Make sure if you drink that you have someone drive you home.

Jim Labelle, Service Officer

ANGEL TREE DRIVE

Pick your angel off the tree in the foyer, shop and return by Dec. 15th
Thank You



The American Legion Riders, of Post 321, along with the help of several volunteers have cleaned up and spruced up the Canteen. It is up to you, the members, to maintain it. A special thanks to Debbie Martin who pitched and helped along with Kat, Mark, Jimmy, Ed and those who I have forgotten to mention. Thanks to all of you who gave up a day to help get this done, mission accomplished.

Three percent of the people do the work while ninety seven percent have opinions, ideas and complain but never do anything.

*Ride Hard Ride Safe
Larry Lawson (Taz)*

1st Vice Says...

This will be my last article as First Vice Commander. I would like to thank all of those who showed up to help clean the post and paint the canteen. For those of who did not, shame on you. I would like to give a personal thanks to Kat and Mark

for helping take down and clean up all of the pictures, flags, duct covers, blinds and switch plates. Who all of those were once white. A special thanks to Ed and Jimmy from "Reds Dry Wall" for giving up their day off to come in and help.

*Thank You
Larry Lawson*

Christ is The Reason for the Christmas Season!

T'was the month before Christmas When all through our land, Not a Christian was praying nor taking a stand. See the PC Police had taken away, the reason for Christmas - no one could say. The children were told by their schools not to sing, about Shepherds and Wise Men and Angels and things. It might hurt people's feelings; the teachers would say December 25th is just a holiday. Yet the shoppers were ready with cash, checks and credit pushing folks down to the floor just to get it! CDs from Madonna, an X BOX, an I-pod something was changing, something quite odd! Retailers promoted Ramadan and Kwan-zaa In hopes to sell books by Franken & Fonda. As Targets

were hanging their trees upside down at Lowe's the word Christmas - was nowhere to be found. At K-Mart and Staples and Penny's and Sears you won't hear the word Christmas; it won't touch your ears. Inclusive, sensitive, Di-ver-si-ty are words that were used to intimidate me. Now Daschle, Now Darden, Now Sharpton, Wolf Blitzen on Boxer, on Rather, on Kerry, on Clinton! At the top of the Senate, there arose such a clatter to eliminate Jesus, in all public matter. And we spoke not a word, as they took away our faith forbidden to speak of salvation and grace the true Gift of Christmas was exchanged and discarded the reason for the season, stopped before it started. So as you celebrate 'Winter Break' under your 'Dream Tree' sipping your Starbucks, listen to me. Choose your words carefully, choose what you say shout MERRY CHRISTMAS not Happy Holiday! Please, all Christians join together and wish everyone you meet during the holidays a MERRY CHRISTMAS!!! Christ is The Reason for the Christmas Season!

**WEAR RED ON FRIDAYS TO
SHOW YOUR SUPPORT FOR OUR
TROOPS !!!**

“Are you ready for some football?”

Monday Night Football



Come on up to the Post and watch the game. We will have some good food provided by the SAL. When the SAL is cooking no matter how the game goes the food will ALWAYS be good!!!

Nominal Charge

Operation Comfort ...

Continued

Impressed by this dedicated veteran, delegates at our 91st American Legion National Convention passed Resolution 108, which supports Veterans of Valor and its programs to assist severely wounded veterans. A Legionnaire from Post 252 in Greenwood, Ind., South is not paid for his efforts – he is one more Legionnaire who helps make Operation Comfort Warriors the success it is.

Some people may think that expecting \$100,000 during an economic recession is too lofty a goal. I don't. Legion family members are generous, and the holiday season is fast-approaching. What better way is there to show your holiday spirit than to remember those who have served and are still serving?

SUPPORT OUR TROOPS



Trivia

*Q. How many left-handed QB's have played in the NFL ?
(See Bartender for answer)*

Members Birthday's December 2009

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 Faight, Terrence Higgins, George Kemp, Jr
6. Warren Booth, Denver Wedel
7. Brandon Lester, Randy Loboda, Alfonso Silva, Gregory Wisner, Marty Crouch
8. Steven Hill, Sean Kelly
9. Jim Henseler, Gary Hester, Stuart Potter
10. Richard Gerke, Tom Velon, Paul Cunningham
11. Karl Keffer, Gail Nelson, Frank Stepka
12. Bernard Cappelli, Dennis Kirkwood
13. Paul Merenda, Thomas Oldroyd, Roger Puttcamp
14. James Cleaver, Randy Morris
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. Kay Quesada
21. John White
22. Toby Melton
24. Marvin Childers, Walter Henson, Jeff Howard
25. Mark Burgess, Mary Kenlon, Frank Hytken
26. Joseph Cymerman Jr, Peggy Gross
27. Kenneth Hubbard
28. Michael Cockerham, Ronnie Odle
29. Clifford Craig, Terry Crawford
31. Eugene Posey

Special Sunday Christmas



Brunch



12/20/09

**Eggs to Order and
Steak to Order**

Along with our famous Buffet Line

Just \$8.00

Children Under 12

Receive Free Pancakes

(It's rumored that Santa might even appear)

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

Movie Night



Thursday 12/10

7:00 pm

“ Top Gun “

Snacks for sale



Recipe of the Month

Party Mix

1 small box of cheerios
 1 small box of rice or wheat chex
 1 small box/bag of thin pretzels
 1# mixed nuts
 Blend all together and add:
 ½ cup melted butter
 1 cup of oil
 2 Tbsp. Worcestershire
 ¼ tsp. garlic salt
 ¾ tsp. celery salt
 ¼ tsp. Tabasco sauce
 Combine all together, bake in roaster pan at 250 for 1 hour
 This can be frozen in zip loc bags for future use

Bartender's Christmas Party

LAVADA

Sunday, December 13th at 7:00 p.m.

CINDY

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



LYNN-MARIE
ANGELICA



RACHEAL
DEBBIE



DAVID DEW

FOR

SAL NATIONAL COMMANDER

2010—2011

Numbered
Belt Buckle
\$25.00 Donation



Pins
\$3.00 Donation

FYI

Please remember that the bartenders first duty is serving drinks and then the “shake a day”. If possible please try and get your “shake” in before “shift change” takes place. We want everyone to be able to participate however, it is very hectic at “shift change”. We thank you all for your business.

Thanks, the bartenders of Post 321



Sunday Football At The Post

Come on up on Sundays for football and food!!!

Members of our Post family provide the food.

Food is served at 2 p.m.



We still have a long season ahead, so please join us for some football, good food and fun!!!