

Harding-Blaine Post 321

"Flagship of the Fourth District"

Member of TEXALPA and NALPA

American Legion News Release American Legion Legacy Run 2008



INDIANAPOLIS, IN, December 04, 2007 - Planners for The American Legion Legacy Run (ALLR)

have announced the dates for the annual motorcycle fundraising run, now in its third year, from Indianapolis to The American Legion's national convention. Many of the participants from both the 2006 run to Salt Lake City and the 2007 run to Reno, Nev., are expected to return for the nearly 1,800-mile run to Phoenix, Aug. 17-21, 2008.

American Legion National Commander Marty Conatser will kick-off The American Legion Legacy Run, which will begin with a national gathering of The American Legion Riders at American Legion Post 64, 602 S. Holt Road, in Indianapolis. The riders will depart on Sunday, August 17, 2008, and thunder through Illinois, Missouri, Oklahoma, Texas and New Mexico to Phoenix and the site of the 90th American Legion National Convention.

The riders, many of them members of The American Legion Family, will journey for five grueling days to make possible a college education for the children of comrades who died defending our freedoms since the attacks of September 11, 2001.

According to Conatser, the ALLR raises the public's awareness of the honorable nature of military service and is "one way to show The American Legion's deep appreciation for those who paid the ultimate price for freedom." The goal for 2008 is to raise at least \$350,000 for The American Legion Legacy Scholarship Fund.

"As an unfortunate consequence of America's war on terror, many children of our active-duty military personnel are now members of single-parent families," Conatser said. "In most cases, this also means their chances to attend college have greatly diminished. Children of military personnel who die on active service are entitled to receive some money toward a college education. It is the least a grateful nation can do."

The American Legion Legacy Fund has already distributed \$74,000 in critically needed scholarship assistance to students enrolled in college level courses since 2004, including \$36,000 in 2007.

"We will ensure that higher education will be a reality for these families," Conatser said. "Providing for the children our military personnel have left behind

(Continued on page 3)

Charlie's Chatter

Who was complaining about the weather feeling like spring? I would like to know. I would like to visit with you a minute! Of course, I am just kidding, but, hasn't it been cold. My poor old joints cannot take much of this.

As they say about Texas weather...yep, I saw rain, sleet, snow and the sun was shining at the same time. Don't you just love it?

January was slower for me concerning traveling around the state. I did return to Audie Murphy VA Hospital in San Antonio and to the Kerrville VA for the "official tours". I looked for Mr. O'Brian during my visit at Kerrville, but he has been dismissed. I hope that he is doing well and able to take care of his goats.

While in San Antonio, I picked up some information that those of you that have computers may be interested in.

It is called, "**MyHealthVet**" It is a web-based application designed specifically for veterans and their families. It will help veterans work better with healthcare providers to achieve the best possible health. The site features personal health journals, personal and family health history, the veteran's personal and medical information. You can track your vitals by graphing them after you

enter the information; it also has a section for activity/food journals. Last but not least it has a section for Military Health History. What really impressed me was the online prescription refilling; just a few keystrokes and your medication is on its way to your doorstep.

There is a convenient electronic log where you can record your emergency contacts.

If you have any questions there are two extensive online medical libraries: MedlinePlus and Healthwise. You may also keep track of all your health care providers in one convenient location. The VA honors America's veterans through articles and presentations via this site.

The VA is updating this site. In the near future the site will include; Updates to RX Refill will include the names of prescriptions instead of just the numbers. Veteran patients will be able to request portions of their VA electronic medical records, and will be able to view appointments and co-pay balances.

Users/Veterans will be able to give access to some or all of their health information to others (e.g. doctors, family members, and veteran advocates)

It is easy to register. Type: www.myhealth.va.gov in the address bar, and then click Continue on to My HealthVet Click on the REGISTER button (right side of the screen) and fill out the registration form. You will then review and accept the Terms & Conditions and the Privacy Policy for using the My HealthVet website. Begin using My

HealthVet to manage your healthcare.

Help protect yourself and your personal health information.

Create strong, effective passwords of 8 characters or more, and change your password every three months, always keep your password secret, and never provide your password in response to emails. If you are ever prompted, do not save log in details. Always log out of the site and close the browser. If you are in a public place using a computer, watch for over-the-shoulder snoops. Turn the screen away from their view.

This site is a secure internet portal where you, the veteran can create your own private MHV account to play a more active role in your own care. Try it out! I think that you will be pleasantly surprised.

*For God, Country and Veterans,
Charlie Dew*



WE



ARE



FAMILY

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	LynnMarie 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	Micheal Horak
Historian	Wendy Rouse
Sgt-At-Arms/Run Coord.	Randy Rouse
Membership	Nestor Rivera

Membership

Org.	Goal	Paid	%
AL		806	71
ALA			66
SAL		98	40

Legacy Run ...

is our civic duty, and an education is a powerful way to show our thanks."

The commander encouraged motorcycle enthusiasts from all parts of the United States to join The American Legion Legacy Run either in Indianapolis or along the route.

"The ride is open to all who are interested in supporting these children. We will pause along the way for rest stops, meals and other events and services arranged by American Legion posts," Conatser said. Tentative plans include possible visits to military installations and a variety of communities in states along the route.

The American Legion Riders and American Legion posts nationally play a crucial role by conducting continuous fundraising runs and charity rides, operating refueling stops, coordinating with local law enforcement officials, and supporting The American Legion Legacy Run with meals and water. All who register for the ride receive the 2008 Run patch set as well as a map book with information about exact routes, scheduled stops, timetables, daily maps, and checkpoint locations.

The national headquarters has released a promotional video asking American Legion posts and riders chapters to conduct local or regional fundraising efforts on behalf of The American Legion Legacy Scholarship Fund. Materials and information tailored specifically for fundraising is available from The American Legion at the contact listed below.

Information and online registration will open in January 2008 at www.legion.org/legacyrun. "We encourage all interested Legionnaires and indeed all supporters to register in support of the Run," said Conatser, "to help us help the children of our fallen heroes."

To donate, or to obtain more information, contact Bill Sloan, ALLR Coordinator, at 317-630-1321, legionriders@legion.org, or write The American Legion Legacy Run, PO Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206.



Commander's Corner

Hello, again. I hope everyone's enjoying our newsletter. If you have any ideas to improve it, or anything else at the Post, please feel free to put a note in our handy suggestion box in the foyer.

The new stove has been ordered, it should be here, hopefully, by the end of the month. This is a custom-ordered stove and must be built from scratch. Not cheap, but it should last many, many years. The old one was 30 years old! We'll be donating it to the Kaufman Post. I'm sure the Auxiliary has informed everyone about the big Cancer Research fundraiser this month. Please try to attend, and support, this event. It's an important part of the many things this Post does to

help our fellow Americans live a better life.

Guys, don't forget V-Day on the 14th! Enough said! You have been warned!

Well, that's about it for me, but I'll leave you with this.... St. Pat's is coming soon!

*Have a good one,
Steve Cockerham*



UNIT 321

February is a big month. Our cancer research benefit is February 9th. Let's all support this event. The "Ways and Means" committee plans to have a casserole cook off in February, the date will be posted. The unit voted to send money to the Legacy Scholarship Fund. One of our own S.A.L. members has been selected to be a People to People Ambassador, Dakota Harwood. He has been a member since birth. These are Youth ambassadors that will be representing the USA to other countries. He was selected from Wylie. We are so proud of him. (Congratulations)

*For God and Country
Judy Reyna*

Mark Your Calendars for Cancer Research



Squadron 321

Hello Legion Family

I hope everyone survived the Holidays. It's time to get back to work and start working on membership. We currently have 98 memberships transmitted which puts us at about 40%.

Squadron 321 will be very busy cooking this month. We will be cooking Ribs and Sausage for the Auxiliary on February 9th for Cancer Research. Come out and join the festivities, they will be having a Great Dinner, Silent Auction, Live Auction and Raffle Drawings. Tickets are \$15 per person, so let's support Cancer Research.

On February 15th, we have a Three Meat Dinner on our regular Friday Night dinner. We are having Country Style Ribs, Chicken and Sausage with all the trimmings.

Last, we will be cooking for the North Texas Hogs on March 1st. This will be a Private Party in the Hall. Our menu will be a Fish Fry for 100 to 125 of their members. We will need help from the Squadron members.

Our meetings are still on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of each month @ 6:00 pm.

See ya around the Post.

*For God, Country and Veterans,
Ray Hartline, SAL Commander*

Support Our Troops

Pop's Points to Ponder

Let's think about one little word that plays such a big part of our life today, not yesteryear, that word is Gas and I don't mean the human kind. I remember it costing \$.99 for 10 gallons of gas, that's before the oil companies got greedy trying to make reoccurring profit margins. For years it played no part of our lives. Now we must work the price into our daily lives just to make ends meet. The distance that is traveled to work has a direct bearing on the compensation that is being offered. All of us know that oil is now \$100.00 a barrel and it will probably go higher, could it reach \$400.00 to \$500.00 a barrel It is interesting to note that oil companies are starting to diversify into alternative fuels such as Wind generators, will they squeeze all the profits of oil while controlling the alternative fuels and the gouge on them? We must now consider various modes of transportation. Will it be buses, trains or cars that don't use gas? I remember many years ago someone invented a carburetor that would get 100 miles to the gallon. It never got to market, the oil world made sure it didn't so they are practiced at this controlling things. This invention did not die a normal death so lets be watchful of what the oil companies are getting into and how much. We can also beat them at their own game by using things they cannot control, like solar power this might be the cheapest. We are using soybeans to create Ethanol, which can replace 60 to 80 percent of the gas required to

power a car. Did you know Henry Fords first car was powered by ethanol, don't tell me the oil companies got to him that early. Another alternative is Hydrogen to power cars although I still remember the Hindenburg disaster; they might have to work on that a little.

So it is up to we the people to get to the automotive world and force them to make cars that run on alternative fuels and block the oil companies from controlling the alternative markets. They can invest but not control. Right now the auto industry has a mandate that it must produce cars that get 35 miles to the gallon. You don't think the oil companies won't raise the prices to meet their short fall. Let work it through our department levels to get our voice heard.

*God Bless you one and all
Gene "Pops" Fattig*

American Legion

Paid **U**p **F**or **L**ife

**1/2 price drinks every
Saturday 10am till
6pm**



Honor Guard

Next honor guard meeting will be held on February 3rd at 12 noon

Ernie Rivard

Honor Guard Commander

People to People Student Ambassador Program

I would like to take a minute of your time and let you know about this outstanding program. President Dwight E. Eisenhower believed that ordinary citizens of different nations, if able to communicate directly, would solve their differences and find a way to live in peace. In 1956, he put those beliefs into action and created People to People Ambassador Programs. In 1956 our 34th president called a special White House conference of American leaders, who joined him in creating the People to People initiative. As a result, the People to People mission developed around personal exchanges and firsthand experiences with other cultures. People to People Student Ambassador Programs provide International educational opportunities for grade school, junior high school and high school students. Taking part in this program combines hands-on cultural experiences: behind-the-scenes access to fascinating people and places: and amazing outdoor adventures to create life-changing educational experiences. As Student Ambassadors and leaders travel under the banner of People to People, they represent the best of our country: hope, courage, openness and a love of peace. Squadron #321 has a young man who is 11 years old and has been accepted into the 2008 Ambassador Program. His name is Dakota Harwood and was nominated by his homeroom teacher to begin the selection

process of becoming a Student Ambassador in August of 2007. Students who are selected to serve as Student Ambassadors participate as a member of a 40-student delegation from their local region of the United States. After submitting his completed application he collected 3 recommendations and forwarded to the People to People selection committee. Once Dakota's application/recommendations were reviewed he completed a group interview with People to People representatives for the Dallas/Fort Worth area and was accepted into the 2008 Ambassador Program. Our Auxiliary Friday night dinner on February 1st, will go to help defray the expenses the family will have to allow this young man represent our GREAT organization and country. If you cannot be here to enjoy a home cooked meal then please make a donation. You can send donations to ALA #321 P.O. Box 940242 Plano, TX 75094, or contact Judy Reyna, Lynn Johnson or Lavada Newell. It is an honor to be able to say that I know this young man and belong to the same organization that he has been a member of all his life.

*For God & Country
Lavada Newell*

Trivia

What's a 20 foot statue of Augustus Caesar hailing outside the main entrance to Caesars Palace?

(see bartender for answer)

Members Birthday's February 2008

1. Vincent Hart, C Smith
3. Don Balvin, Raymond Hockett, Alfred Lisi Jr., Judy Reyna
4. Jimmy Dean
5. George Hollingsworth, Austin Hutson
6. Haddon Moats, Robert Wesley
7. Rex Coppedge, Polly Warner
8. Brian Huddleston, Mark Ludwig, Kelley Maguire, Kellye Mccarty
11. Kevin Nest, Nicholas Oldroyd, Richard Posey
12. Edgar Adams, Douglas Meier, Richard Williams
13. Reggie Gutierrez, E. Peterson
14. Alfred Beckman II, Patricia Howard
15. Herbert Page, David Teague Larry Cobden
16. Harvey Cardwell
17. Gene Hudgens, Joseph Kaskey, David Andreen, Betsy Younts
18. Melvin Carmody
19. Alan Hale, Marion Leney, Eugene Schmidt
21. Clarence Brown, George Dierking, James Thomas
22. James Mastor
23. Alma Robertson, Dennis Stanford
24. Gene Miller
26. Harold Barnard, Gerald Garner
27. Buckley Fair, Bob Huebsch
28. Moses Anahory, Darla Bante
29. Bernadine Smith, Randy Nagy

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

Chaplain's Thoughts

It is such a marvelous experience to be able to walk and be guided by the Lord every day of our lives. Sometime ago I read, "That the choices we make determine our Eternal destination. One leads to everlasting life, the other, condemnation" and as such "The choice you make today will determine your tomorrow". Herewith are a few insights that I have come across in my journey that hopefully will help you as they have helped me make the right choices in life:

- * You can teach more with your life than with your lips
- * Drop what weighs you down by giving it to God
- * Revenge imprisons us; forgiveness sets us free
- * Train up a child in the way he should go...but be sure you go that way yourself
- * Selfish gratification will lead to spiritual stagnation
- * Running with patience is perseverance in the "long run"
- * Prayer puts us in touch with God our greatest caregiver
- * With God behind you and His arms beneath you, you can face whatever lies ahead of you
- * Compassion never goes out of fashion

My brothers and sisters let's not forget the words found in Psalm 46.1 " God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble". May the Lord Bless you and keep you, may his face always shine upon you and your family all the days of your lives and may he hold all of you in the palm of his hands.

*Miguel Romeu
Chaplain*

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mark Your Calendars for Cancer Research

The Cancer Research Committee has a lot of activities going on this month. Be sure to mark your calendars. All proceeds go to a good cause to help find a cure for the illness that has touched so many lives. Our Wednesday night cooking went really well in January so we are cooking again on Wednesday nights during February. See the calendar for the menu. We will be selling raffle tickets for several Valentine Baskets to be given away on February 9. The baskets are filled with fun loving items that will make a great gift to someone on Valentines. All proceeds will go to the Cancer Research Fund. February 9, 2008, 6:30 pm. will be the Cancer Research Benefit. The

theme this year is 'Denim and Diamonds'. We will have live and silent auctions, music and some really good BBQ. Please plan to come. We have some really good items for all. We will begin selling our tickets for the Cancer Research Benefit. Please See Ann Hartline, Renee May, Linda Wilmeth or Andrea Silva for tickets. You may purchase your tickets at the door.

If you would like to make a monetary donation, please make your checks payable to the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 321, P O Box 940242, Plano Texas 75094. Please mark your check; "Cancer Research"

Renee May,

Cancer Research Committee Chairman

IS IT A CASSEROLE OR IS IT A HOT DISH???

WHATEVER YOU CALL IT, BRING OUT YOUR BEST ON

FEBRUARY 23, 2008!!!

DISHES NEED TO BE AT THE POST BY NOON

\$5 ENTRY FEE/\$5 FOR A JUDGING/TASTING BOWL

WE WILL AWARD 1ST, 2ND & 3RD PRIZE, PLUS YOU GET

"BRAGGING RIGHTS"!!!

ALL PROCEEDS WILL BENEFIT THE ALA GENERAL FUND

IF YOU MISSED THE "SOUP OFF", DON'T MISS THIS!!!