

Harding-Blaine Post 321

“Flagship of the Fourth District”

Member of TEXALPA and NALPA

ALA ANNUAL CANCER RESEARCH BENEFIT



It is that time of the year again. The American Legion Auxiliary’s Annual Cancer Research Benefit will be held Saturday, February 14th this year. The theme will be “A Sweetheart Dance”. Black and white will be the colors. The menu includes; steak, baked potato, Caesar salad, rolls and dessert. The steaks will be prepared to order by our wonderful SAL members, with the meal starting at 6:30PM. Our entertainment this year will be the great band; “Don’t Tell Mama”, all of this for a small donation of \$15.00 per person.

This year we will only have a silent auction. No live auction. We do need donations of items for this auction! We have a special drawing of a sweetheart basket, so please come by our Post Home to purchase a ticket.

I hope to see those of you that I haven’t seen in awhile at this year’s benefit. We do miss seeing you!

All proceeds raised at this event will be forwarded through the Department of Texas to the University of Texas-Houston, Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, M. D. Anderson Cancer Research Hospital in Houston, Texas. The funds are then granted to doctors as “fellowships” to assist in their research.

This is one of the Auxiliary’s main programs in Texas. It is a Texas only program.

Please find it in your heart this Valentine’s Day to join us at Post 321 to participate in this great program.

All items donated may be brought to the Post Home on the morning of the benefit. If you wish to make a monetary donation, you may mail it to” The American Legion Auxiliary Unit 321, PO Box 940242, Plano, Texas 75094-0242.

Thank you in advance for any donation you might make. I hope to see your smiling faces on Valentine’s Day evening.

*For God, Country and Veterans,
Charlie Dew
Cancer Research Chairman*





Commander's Corner

Hello again, everyone. I hope you are doing well in the New Year. We now have a new Commander-In-Chief. There are lots of new things coming our way. Let's support our President and wish him well.

Something that is not new is The American Legion. We need to support our Post as well. Post 321 has worked in the past, is working now, and shall continue in the future to serve our Veterans. We could use more assistance. See groceries being carried into our kitchen? Lend a hand. You get the idea! Want to thank people for a job well done? Why not be a doer instead? We are all in this together, people!

Please come to the Post for the Annual Cancer Research Fundraiser on the 14th. Make a difference. This is an important event. These, and many other things, are what The American Legion is all about.

Remember, if you are not willing to be a part of us, don't sit around and gripe. Let's all pull together for our great programs, and yes, for each other. Thanks!

*For God and Country,
Steve Cockerham*

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE

www.al321tx.org

1st Vice Says...

Hello all of Post 321, here it is already February 2009, Happy Valentines Day. Can you believe how fast time is passing today? It seems that the older you get the faster time passes. We had our monthly bingo at the nursing home last Monday night, there were 20 people there and they had a great time. We gave out \$60.00 in prizes and treats thanks to the ladies auxiliary. These folks really enjoy the time we spend there. Phyllis Price, the Bingo Chairman would like to thank Tammy Scholander and Cheryl Styers for their help, thanks ladies. I haven't been to the post lately (touch of the ole flu bug I guess) but I am sure with our great Bartenders and Leadership, everything is running like clockwork. Phyllis and I would like to thank each and every one of you for your part to make and keep our Post the greatest.

*Bob Price
1st Vice Commander*

Service Officer

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced plans to re-open enrollment in its health care system by July 2009 to about 265,000 whose incomes exceed current limits. Priority 8 veteran's enrollment was suspended on January 18, 2003. The following info was taken from an article on the military.com website. For the complete article check www.military.com website.

*Jim Labelle
Service Officer*

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	784	70.25
ALA 09	254	133	52.36
SAL 09	213	79	37.09



UNIT 321

Well here it is February already. Our Cancer Research Benefit is February 14th. Bring your sweetheart for dinner, dance and auction. There is no other place in town like it. Good friends, good food and drinks. DEC is February 7th in Van Alstyne please try to attend. Do not forget our nursing home bingo the second Monday of the month. Phyllis needs all the help she can get, if you would like to help please contact Phyllis Price.

*For God and Country
Judy Reyna, ALA President*

Squadron 321

In opening the New Year, your 2009 membership is due. You will need your card for canteen privileges. We are behind on membership, so let's get going! The Honor Guard is in need of help, as members of the SAL, if interested, please contact Fletcher Sharp.

Many of our members volunteer time in programs, such as VA&R and Americanism, please turn your hours in for credit.

National Commander Tommy Cisna has made membership a top goal. Let us work to recruit and renew.

Join us the 1st and 3rd Thursdays at our 6:00 pm meetings. Everyone is always welcome.

*For God and Country,
Bryan Vinson, SAL Commander*

Hope everyone enjoyed the CASI chili cook off. There were twenty four die hard cooks who attended. The ALR has the Wednesday nights back and we are going to try something different. We realize the effect the economy has on everyone so we are going to offer a meal, hamburgers and such, every other Wednesday night. The opposite Wednesday night we have the meat drawing. We are also going to put out the collection boxes to collect the items that our deployed need. Currently we are helping three service members who are members of our post. In closing I would like to stress that it is very important for you to attend Post meetings whether it is your entity, e-board or general meeting. Attend some of these meetings and find out what's going on at your post. It is your post!

American Legion Riders- Legionaries riding for those who cannot.

*Ride Hard Ride Safe
Larry Lawson
ALR Director Post 321 Plano, Texas*

WE



ARE



FAMILY

Trivia

Q. *What fashion designer pledged \$10 million to restore the original Star-Spangled Banner?*

(See Bartender for answer)

**Our Canteen Is
Now
WI-FI**

Shinseki Sworn In, Vows 21st Century Service to Veterans

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 21, 2009

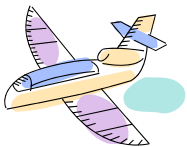
WASHINGTON – Retired Army Gen. Eric K. Shinseki took the oath of office today as the Nation's seventh Secretary of Veterans Affairs, assuming the leadership of the Department of Veterans Affairs following Tuesday's confirmation by the Senate. "The overriding challenge I am addressing from my first day in office is to make the Department of Veterans Affairs a 21st century organization focused on the Nation's Veterans as its clients," Shinseki said. Shinseki plans to develop a 2010 budget within his first 90 days that realizes the vision of President Obama to transform VA into an organization that is people-centric, results-driven and forward-looking.

Key issues on his agenda include smooth activation of an enhanced GI Bill education benefit that eligible Veterans can begin using next fall, streamlining the disability claims system, leveraging information technology to accelerate and modernize services, and opening VA's health care system to Veterans previously unable to enroll in it, while facilitating access for returning Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans.

Shinseki, a former Army Chief of Staff, takes the reins of a 284,000-employee organization delivering health care and financial benefits to millions of Veterans and survivors under a \$98 billion budget authorized this year through networks of regional benefits offices and health care facilities from coast to coast.

Born in 1942 on the island of Kauai, Hawaii, Shinseki graduated from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y., in 1965. He served two combat tours and was wounded in action in Vietnam. He served with distinction in Europe, the Pacific and stateside, eventually becoming the Army's senior leader from June 1999 to June 2003. Retired from military service in August 2003, Shinseki's military decorations include three Bronze Stars and two Purple Hearts. Shinseki succeeds Dr. James B. Peake as Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

www.va.gov



Let's Travel



With access to one of the largest travel inventories, including the best available cruise rates guaranteed, the all-new American Legion Travel is the premiere travel benefit for all American Legion and SAL members and their families. This all new online and offline leisure travel benefit is designed to provide the benefit and savings of booking flights, hotels, rental cars, vacations and cruises, as well as a dedicated American Legion Travel Call Center for assistance before, during and even after booking. Call **1-800-676-1004** to speak with a live travel agent, or **1-800-881-7442** for a Cruise specialist. Visit us online at: americanlegion.org

"The monthly newsletter for our American Legion Family"

*** **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
February 2009**

- 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, Kelye 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, 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 Anahhory, Darla Bante
- 29. Bernadine Smith, Randy Nagy

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

Obama Snubs Nation's Heroes, Becomes the First President to Skip Ball Honoring Medal of Honor Recipients in Over 50 Years

Barack Obama may have stumbled over his words briefly during his inauguration, but he made an even bigger blunder later Tuesday evening. The newly sworn-in President opted not to appear at what should have been one of the most important Balls on his agenda that evening - The Salute to Heroes Inaugural Ball.

The Salute to Heroes Inaugural Ball was begun in 1953 for President Dwight Eisenhower's inauguration. The event recognized recipients of the Medal of Honor, the nation's highest military award. There were 48 Medal of Honor recipients in attendance, who were undoubtedly disappointed by the Commander-in-Chief's failure to show. Over the past 56 years and 14 inaugurations, no President has skipped this event - until now.

The Salute to Heroes Inaugural Ball is sponsored by the American Legion, and co-sponsored by 13 other veteran's service organizations, including those such as the Paralyzed Veterans of America and the Military Order of the Purple Heart.

Instead of attending this ball honoring our nation's heroes, Obama was busy making stops at 10 other official balls. Obama and his wife's first stop was at the Neighborhood Ball. From there they went to the Home State Ball for Illinois and Hawaii, the Commander-in-Chief Ball, the Youth Inaugural Ball, and the Home State Ball for Delaware and Pennsylvania. They finished off the night with brief appearances at the Mid-Atlantic, Western, Midwest, Eastern, and Southern regional Balls.

Celebrities were a plenty at the balls, with Stevie Wonder, Shakira, Mary. J. Blige, Faith Hill, Jay-Z, Alicia Keys, Adam Levine, will.i.am, Sting, Mariah Carey, and Leonardo DiCaprio in attendance at the Neighborhood Ball. In addition, the other nine balls also featured a star-studded lineup including Kanye West and Kid Rock at the Youth Ball, Marc Anthony at the Western Ball, and Cheryl Crow at the Western Ball.

It was the party without all of the celebrities that Obama skipped. The very people who he sought to have support him during his candidacy and campaign, who have fought to protect this country, were snubbed in favor of publicity and the opportunity to rub shoulders - yet again - with the out-of-touch Hollywood elite.

Larry F. Lowe (Cheeflow)

Past Commander

American Legion Post 170

WEAR RED ON FRIDAYS IN
SUPPORT OF OUR TROOPS

American Legion
P_{aid}U_pF_{or}L_{ife}
1/2 price drinks every
Saturday 10am till 9pm

Recipe of the Month

Cream of Potato (Latvian style)

6 medium potatoes cut in
¼'s

**12 slices of bacon

½ of a chopped onion

1 Tbsp. salt

¼ tsp. dry mustard

2 C. milk (add more/less to
get desired consistency)

1 C. heavy cream

1 C. shredded Swiss
cheese

**6 slices to add to the
soup during the cooking
process and 6 slices to be
fried and crumbled for a
topping

Cook potatoes in boiling
water to cover, until tender
(about 20 mins)

Meanwhile in saucepan,
cook bacon & onion until
bacon is slightly browned.
In drained potato pot,
slightly mash potatoes, add
salt, dry mustard and then
blend in milk & cream. Add
onion/bacon mixture. Cook
over low heat until heated
through, add cheese until
melted.

Serve with crumbled crisp
bacon.

To reheat, add milk. The
soup gets very thick as it
sits.

Enjoy!