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# Harding-Blaine Post 321

“Flagship of the Fourth District”

Member of TEXALPA and NALPA

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## 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 6th, 2010.**

We will start serving food around 12:00 noon and will continue all afternoon and into the evening. We will be serving Jambalaya, Gumbo and Red Beans and Rice. We will be partying like we were at **Mardi Gras** with beads and hats. We have lots of fun activities scheduled during the day and evening.

There will be gift baskets for sale, baskets to raffle, drawings, Cake Walk, Jello shots, specialty drinks and Lotto Hat raffle. 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.

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.

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 and we look forward to seeing you.

For God, Country and Veterans,

Renee May and Judy Reyna  
Cancer Research Committee





## Commander's Corner

We have had an interesting month; we are still trying to build up the building fund so that we can make the appropriate repairs that we need to do. That is why we are doing the Theme parties on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month. In February we will be doing the Pirates of the Caribbean. I am inviting everyone to come out and have fun being a pirate and helping our building fund.

I attended The American Legion Mid Winter Conference, and one of the things that I learned was that the IRS is starting to target The American Legion. It is an IRS requirement that we need to have at least 85% proof of eligibility of all Legionnaires. So I am asking that even if you turned in your DD Form 214 or Discharge paper please send it in again so that we can ensure

that we meet the IRS requirement.

There is a new thing coming from The Department of Texas called the Hub. What this is, is that when The American Legion Department of Texas wants to dispense information out they will email the District Hub manager and then the District Hub manager will send the information out to the local post Hub Manager. I am happy and thankful to announce that for our post our Assistant Adjutant Bob Allison will be The American Legion Post 321 Hub manager. What he will need is that if you would like the information that he receives sent to by email you need to insure that he has your email address.

We signed a contract for a new printer and in the process received a free 42" Flat screen HDTV. I am hoping that we can get this installed prior to the Super Bowl, so that everyone can enjoy the game on the new TV. I would like to thank each and every one of you who have helped me in the past year, I truly appreciate it.

*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 Wilmet
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

Org.	Goal	Paid	%
AL 10	1020	744	72.94
ALA 10	194	111	57.22
SAL 10	151	82	54.30

# DAVID DEW

FOR  
**SAL NATIONAL COMMANDER**  
2010—2011

Numbered  
Belt Buckle  
\$25.00 Donation



Pins  
\$3.00 Donation



## UNIT 321

For those of you not aware, American Legion Auxiliary dues have increased to \$23.00 per year. This dues increase was voted on and passed by the body at the General Session of the Department Convention. The renewal notices that are mailed from our National Headquarters are not correct for this fiscal year. So, when renewing your membership, please make the check payable to ALA Unit 321 for the amount of \$23.00. Juniors dues have not increased, they will continue to be \$5.00 per member. Please help our Unit work the programs of the American Legion by renewing your membership in our great family.

The ALA Annual Cancer Research Benefit will be held Saturday, Feb.6. This year's affair will run with a Mardi Gras theme. So let the good times roll. Jambalaya, Gumbo and red beans & rice will the faire being served starting at noon. It will be an all day affair starting at noon. So come out and have a good time, help raise funds for this wonderful program. All funds raised will be sent to our Department Office then to The University of Texas-Houston, Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, MD Anderson Cancer Research Hospital. They are presented in the form of grants

for the purpose of research grants. I have had the opportunity to attend several functions held for the Auxiliary at MD Anderson, where we heard these young researchers speak about their work. They are so close in so many different areas that it amazes all who listens. Please join us in helping them find a cure for us.

The 4<sup>th</sup> District Executive Committee meeting will be held at McKinney Post 96 on Saturday, Feb. 13<sup>th</sup> starting at 10AM. I hope that our American Legion Family has a several members that will attend and represent the BEST AL Family in Texas. It is not only a great way to learn about the American Legion, but also meet members of other Posts, Units and Squadrons from across the District. Please take the time to attend.

The Units has several functions planned in the coming months with more information forthcoming. Come join in on the family events.

If you have any questions about what we really do, please feel free to contact me or one of our officers at any time. My cell is: 214/789-3608. I have it with me, 24/7.

For God Country & Veterans,  
Charlie Dew  
Unit 321 President

*Don't Forget to come up  
for a great Brunch on the  
third Sunday of every  
month!*

*10:00 am to Noon*



## Squadron 321

Hello Legion Family. Seems like it was just New Year's Day. Here it is already February and we are in the middle of the Cancer Research Benefit. Saturday, February 6<sup>th</sup>, we will celebrate all day long and hopefully raise some money for Cancer Research. Beginning February 1<sup>st</sup>, we will continue having food on Monday nights. We normally serve at 6:30 pm. Our next ALA/SAL brunch is on February 21 from 10 am to noon. Come out have breakfast with us. This month's S.A.L. Friday night dinner is on February 19<sup>th</sup>. We will be serving our Three Meat Dinner - BBQ chicken, sausage, and ribs, beans, sack potatoes, coleslaw and homemade deserts. There are still several who have not paid their dues. Dues are \$20 for adults and youth (17 and under) are \$10. See our adjutant, Ray Hartline or myself for your renewal. We appreciate your support and if there is anything this squadron can do for you, please ask. We are here to serve our Legion Family. As always, For God, Country and Veterans,  
Abel Silva, Jr. Commander

## Chaplain's Thoughts

The Four Chaplain's Service will be held on Sunday, February 28, 2010 at 2:00 PM in the large meeting room at American Legion Post 321. Coffee, tea and finger foods will be served after the service.

Please attend and invite your friends, family and guests. Also, if you know of anyone who served during WWII, or their family, please be sure to invite them to come along. Anyone who is currently serving or has served and their families are invited to attend, also. This is a truly inspiring and important service for us all.

If you are unfamiliar with the Four Chaplain's Service, please refer to January 2010's Newsletter or to our website for reference. These are, as always, very perilous and tough days as we in this United States of America defend freedom around the world, and it would honor those who have served and are serving and be a great blessing for all who attend. There will be a time, if so desired, for people to share their experiences as a service member or a family member of one who is currently serving or has served.

We look forward to seeing you there.

*For God, Country and Veterans  
Charles Scholander, Chaplain*



Hope everyone had a happy and safe holiday. Thank you to the members of Post 321 for making the Casi chili event a big success. We had thirty five cooks and needed twenty judges and you stepped up to the plate. As the New Year starts the ALR schedule is fastly filling up with the following.

1. Hosting the ALR Division meeting at the post March 13, 2010.
2. Escorting the Vietnam traveling wall from Tyler to Ennis
3. Escort for the Ride to Recovery vets. Waco to Cleburne, Cleburne to Arlington stadium
4. ALR Divison rally.
5. ALR state rally

These are just a few of the events the riders will be involved in while at the same time we do not want to forget those who are deployed. We need items such as visine, sunflower seeds, wet wipes, cool aide and hard candy, the collection box will be put out again for donations. We will also start another freezer/meat drawing, look for the flyers soon.

*Ride Hard Ride Safe*

*Larry Lawson  
ALR Director*

## Finance Officer

Thanks to all of you who have contributed to the building fund and a special thanks to those who have come up with ideas and ways to make it all possible. So far we have had the heating system and a water leak fixed. We still have a long way to go please keep helping the post is your home to.

Larry Lawson  
Finance Officer

## Service Officer

I recently read an article written by Matt Flavin covering TRICARE. Mr Flavin is currently serving as Director of Veterans and Wounded Warrior Policy. Mr. Flavin reports that in recent days, a disturbing myth that opponents of America's health insurance reform has resurfaced. Opponents of reform have come up with the baseless charge that reform will somehow affect or increase the the cost of the TRICARE benefits our troops and veterans depend. Mr. Flavin states that one of President Obama is to give our veterans "the care they were promised and the benefits they have earned." That began with the largest single-year increase in VA funding in three decades and with initiating the Virtual Lifetime Electronic Record that will follow them into VA care and stay with them for life. There was also reports that new taxes will be imposed on TRICARE. This is also false. According to Mr Flavin that if you depend on TRICARE you have nothing to worry about. I

**Our Canteen Is  
Now  
WI-FI**

**American Legion  
Paid Up For Life  
1/2 price drinks every  
Saturday 10am till 9pm**

just do pray that this report is accurate.

If any member wants to help defray the cost of this newsletter a business card size notice or advertisement can be taken out. The cost will be set at \$100 per year. Please contact our Canteen Manager for additional information.

For any of us that need help with our computers. I have found a website that is full of information and free down loads that will help. The website is www.komando.com.

And in more somber note. On January 16, 2010 the remains of former prisoner-of-war and Thunderbirds pilot Major Russell C. Goodman were laid to rest. Major Goodman was flying his F-4B Phantom jet and was shot down over coastal Vietnam almost 43 years ago. Recently after his remains were turned over by the Vietnamese a laboratory in Hawaii positively identified Goodman's bone fragments that had been excavated from a grave in a village south of Hanoi. Finally, the American Hero, professional and patriot has returned home to lay in rest.

If anyone requires assistance with VA paperwork or has any suggestion that will help our post please contact me at either my mobile number or via email. Jim LaBelle. mrjimlabelle@yahoo.com. Mobile Number: 972-835-0919.

# WE



# ARE



# FAMILY

## Trivia

*Q. Where was the first American Legion Built and What year?*

*(See Bartender for answer )*

## SUPPORT OUR TROOPS



## Members Birthday's February 2010

1. Vincent Hart, C Smith
2. John Boughton
3. Don Balvin, Raymond Hockett, Alfred Lisi Jr., Judy Reyna
4. Jimmy Dean, Patricio Dantis
5. George Hollingsworth, Austin Hutson, Richard Cheak
6. Haddon Moats, Robert Wesley
7. Rex Coppedge, Polly Warner
8. Brian Huddleston, Mark Ludwig, Kelley Maguire, Kelley Mccarty
10. Jimmy Bell
11. Nicholas Oldroyd, Richard Posey
12. Edgar Adams, Douglas Meier, Richard Williams, John Allen
13. Reggie Gutierrez, E. Peterson, Eric Beck
14. Alfred Beckman II, Patricia Howard
15. Herbert Page, Larry Cobden, Edward Lukin, Lanny Kirkpatrick Jr.
16. Harvey Cardwell, Jean Ott, Robert Brown
17. Gene Hudgens, Joseph Kaskey, David Andreen, Betsy Younts
18. Melvin Carmody
19. Alan Hale, Marion Leney
21. Clarence Brown, George Dierking, James Thomas
22. James Mastor
23. Alma Robertson, Dennis Stanford
24. Gene Miller
25. John Cuellar
26. Harold Barnard, Gerald Garner, Nestor Rivera, Gary Erickson, Richard Gibbons
27. Buckley Fair
28. Moses Anahhory, Darla Bante, David Castaneda
29. Bernadine Smith, Randy Nagy, David Thibodeaux



The K9 above is Brutus, a military K9 at McChord. He's huge - part Boxer and part British Bull Mastiff and tops the scales at 200 lbs. His handler took the picture. Brutus is running toward me because he knows I have some Milk Bone treats, so he's slobbering away! I had to duck around a tree just before he got to me in case he couldn't stop, but he did. Brutus won the Congressional Medal of Honor last year from his tour in Iraq

His handler and four other soldiers were taken hostage by insurgents. Brutus and his handler communicate by sign language and he gave Brutus the signal that meant 'go away but come back and find me'. The Iraqis paid no attention to Brutus.. He came back later and quietly tore the throat out of one guard at one door and another guard at another door. He then jumped against one of the doors repeatedly (the guys were being held in an old warehouse) until it opened.

He went in and untied his handler and they all escaped. He's the first K9 to receive this honor. If he knows you're ok, he's a big old lug and wants to sit in your lap. Enjoys the company of cats.

K-9 Congressional Medal of Honor Winner

Thought you'd find this interesting.

Talk about animal intelligence and bonding with humans!

Remember that they can't do a lot of things for themselves and that they depend on you to make their life a quality life!

## A PET'S TEN COMMANDMENTS

1. My life is likely to last 10-15 years. Any separation from you is likely to be painful.
2. Give me time to understand what you want of me.
3. Place your trust in me. It is crucial for my well-being.
4. Don't be angry with me for long and don't lock me up as punishment. You have your work, your friends, your entertainment, but I have only you.
5. Talk to me. Even if I don't understand your words, I do understand your voice when speaking to me.
6. Be aware that however you treat me, I will never forget it.
7. Before you hit me, before you strike me, remember that I could hurt you, and yet, I choose not to bite you.
8. Before you scold me for being lazy or uncooperative, ask yourself if something might be bothering me. Perhaps I'm not getting the right food, I have been in the sun too long, or my heart might be getting old or weak
9. Please take care of me when I grow old. You too, will grow old.
- 10 On the ultimate difficult journey, go with me please. Never say you can't bear to watch, don't make me face this alone. Everything is easier for me if you are there, because I love you so.

~Take a moment today to thank God for your pets Enjoy and take good care of them.