

Harding-Blaine Post 321

"Flagship of the Fourth District"

Member of TEXALPA and NALPA

Peake: VA "Best of the Best" in Providing Clear Information



WASHINGTON – Continuing its commitment to give veterans clear, valuable information on how the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is performing, for the ninth year in a row, VA has been rated by an independent research center as having one of the best annual performance reports in the federal sector. "Veterans have the right to know whether this Department is meeting its obligations to them," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Dr. James B. Peake. "This prestigious, independent group has found -- once again -- that VA is among the best of the best in the federal sector for providing meaningful information to the American public about our operations and performance." Since 2000, the Mercatus Center at George Mason University has examined the performance and accountability reports issued annually by federal agencies. This year, VA's report was third among 24 federal departments and agencies. VA also tied for having the highest score in both transparency and leadership, an example of the Department's commitment to provide information that is useful and easy to understand and that clearly describes

VA's contribution to America. Called *Ninth Annual Performance Report Scorecard: Which Federal Agencies Best Inform the Public?*, the new Mercatus study found VA's report is "a user-friendly and informative document." The Department [of Veterans Affairs] continues to be an innovator in performance accountability and reporting," the study's authors said in a press statement." These findings show that VA has developed a management culture that sets high standards, measurable goals, and encourages accountability to the American public," Peake said. VA published its latest performance and accountability report in November 2007. It documents the Department's progress toward ensuring America's veterans and their families receive timely, compassionate, high-quality care and benefits. The Department's report can be found on the Internet at: <http://www.va.gov/budget/report>.

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE

www.al321tx.org

Charlie's Chatter

Summer is finally here! Elections have been held for the American Legion Family at Post 321. Congratulations to all those elected to leadership positions within our "Family".

Remember for all entities to be successful, we must work together for the good of our organizations. We cannot and must not let personalities and personal agendas interfere with the programs of our great family.

This year, 2007-2008 has been a year that I will never forget! Serving with you as Department President has been an experience that happens only once in a lifetime. If it had not been for the support of "my family" in Plano. I would have never been in this position. Thank you so much for everything that you have done for me.

All entities are in need of volunteers to work the programs of the American Legion. With the many programs that are offered, surely there is one that you would be interested in participating in and becoming involved with. As most of you know, I joined the Auxiliary because of the friends that I had in the Post. I never thought that I would ever become involved. As most of you know, the program that caught my eye was

the Auxiliary Cancer Research program. After the first year, I was hooked! Are you afraid that this might happen to you? Well, it might!

I can blame my being active on three people, Marge Crawford, Irene McKee and Vicki Pollard. It is their entire fault! There is so much more to the American Legion than most people are aware of. Why not check it out? Just to name a few programs; Americanism, Children & Youth, Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation, National Security, Legislative, Cancer Research, Poppy, Emergency Fund (both ALA and AL), Community Service, just to name a few! Surely, there is one that would interest you! On the back page of the newsletter, there is calendar. The general membership meeting dates and times are listed. Come join us and become active in the world's largest veteran's service organization and world's largest women's patriotic service organization. You never know.... **YOU MIGHT ENJOY IT!**

*For God, Country and Veterans,
Charlie Dew, Editor*

Trivia

What political leader voted for the first time in his life in the 1994 election that brought him to power?

(See Bartender for answer)



Commander's Corner

Hello, everyone. I trust everybody is doing fine. As I'm sure you know, we had the elections in May. I would like to congratulate all incoming officers from the AL, ALA, SAL and the ALR. I'd like to thank all who participated ...it takes quite an effort to run an election!

Memorial Day was observed with the dignity our fallen deserve. I know our Post Family does many important things throughout the year, but to me, this day brings out the true pride of being an American. We must never forget our fallen comrades. Take a few moments and quietly gaze at the small flags on the graves. Just look...and think. So many little flags, so many patriots. They all make us proud. Not songs, not banners or parades...but those countless little flags.

Not much was in the suggestion box this month. We had a request for a different wine. Our facilities manager got it for the member.

In closing, remember to look at the event dates in the newsletter calendar. Lots happening! Here's a heads-up. We will be having a picnic on July 4th.

*For God and Country,
Steve Cockerham*

We Are WI-FI

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 | Lynn Marie 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 | Michael Horak |
| Historian | Wendy Rouse |
| Sgt-At-Arms/Run Coord. | Randy Rouse |
| Membership | Becca Dees |

Membership

| Org. | Goal | Paid | % |
|------|------|------|------|
| AL | | 945 | 84.6 |
| ALA | | 251 | 88 |
| SAL | | 211 | 100 |

HONOR GUARD

First, an update on Ernie Rivard; he is slowly working his way back to good health. He is spending time at a rehabilitation center in Dallas to help exercise his body and also work on his nourishment, to aid in his recovery, and he's doing quite well. He has requested a slot to the upcoming Legion meetings as a delegate, and we all hope he will be able to once again help represent Post 321.

Since our last newsletter, we've performed several funeral services, one out at the National Cemetery for a WWII Army Air Corps veteran. Your Honor Guard performed in an exemplary manner at both of these services.

We would also like to extend a warm welcome to a new Honor Guard member, Robert E. Flood, who joined us this past month as a result of reading in last month's newsletter that we are actively seeking new members, and we appreciate his joining us.

Our last steak night was a success, with a sellout, which we all greatly appreciate; one of our biggest contributors to the Honor Guard account comes from our Friday night dinners.

On Friday, May 23rd, Paul Salos, Sarge Fair and hopefully a couple of other HG volunteers will have attended a service at The Waterford of Plano nursing home. Each year for the last 5 years, on the Friday before Memorial Day, we've been asked to visit this nursing home, raise the flag, play Taps and spend 15 or 20 minutes speaking with

the veterans residing there. This time, Paul Salos will be singing several Frank Sinatra songs that he's famous for. Paul has just returned from Las Vegas, where he was one of 40 acts selected from over 200,000 acts to compete in the finals for America's Got Talent in August, so obviously...he does a GREAT impression of Frank.

On Memorial Day, your HG will be out at the cemetery posting U. S. Flags at Veterans graves at 6:30AM, as well as participating in the 8:30AM Memorial Day services at City Hall and the 11:30AM services at the cemetery on 18th St. They will be assisted by cadets from the Posts Civil Air Patrol squadron, known as the Plano Mustangs Composite Squadron.

*For God & Country
Fletcher Sharp*

Support Our Troops

SERVICE OFFICER

Service Officer, Bob Drake, held a private American flag replacement service for Bobbie Passons of Rockwall, Texas, Monday, May 12, 2008.

Early this month, Mike McFall, retired New Jersey police officer, notified the Service Officer regarding the tattered American flag being flown by widow of Kenneth Passons, former World War II US Marine.

After much discussion, the Service Officer obtained a replacement flag from American Legion Post 321. A Marine flag was purchased to fly in unity with the American flag.

American Legion

Paid Up For Life

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

Poem...

What is this that is set before me? How inviting, the color is warm and rich, the aroma fills my senses with the expectation of excitement. It calls to me as I press it against my lips. What tantalizing pleasures are aroused as its sweetness trickles into the chambers deep within me. Euphoric thoughts and distant dreams seem close enough to grasp, I sense that I am fully alive and all my passions are within easy reach. Quickly, I must continue on with this relaxing sense of relief. I want more of this, I need more of this, I deserve to have this peace. Wait, what is happening? Something is fading and I am no longer tantalized by feelings of grandeur. I am alone, there is darkness everywhere, I hear no happy voices, and I see no magical scenes. And the taste, it has now turned bitter, with a strange aroma, perhaps the smell of decay and death. Where am I? What has happened to time? I try to stand, but my legs will not sustain me, I try to talk, but my words are senseless, I lay to sleep but motion has surrounded me. I awaken to realize my dream is over. I have lost everything that I once held dear. I vow that I shall never do this thing again, but the call is strong and I am weak, I am helpless, it has won!

Bobbi Roberts, January 28, 2008

Pop's Points to Ponder

Let's look at changes throughout the years. Let us be reminded from history that there is always change. It's been that way for thousands of years. People have always made the necessary changes and adjustments to survive and for the most part be happy. Although I can't speak to the thousands of years, contrary to common belief, my grandfather if he were still alive would be 150 years old so I have some reference to at least that far back. We had a close knit large family so there were many conversations and experience to draw from. For the most part the women worked doing women tasks, canning, cooking and raising children and the men worked the fields and construction. Throughout the times people have survived the roller coaster of time, the depression, WWI, WWII, the gas crunch and even roll changes where both work and both raise children. Now we are experiencing an out of control gas price escalation and doom and gloom about the economy, must be an election year. We the people will find the public transportation, 4 day work weeks, and gasoline co-ops as possible solutions. June is a good month for me; I had my one and only Daughter Janet. Happy birthday Jan and to all of you born in June people. *God Bless You All, Gene "Pops" Fattig*



WE

ARE

FAMILY

Chaplain's Thoughts

On Sunday May 25, 2008 we gathered at the 18th Street Cemetery in Plano, Texas to honor our Veterans during Memorial Day. For those of you that where not able to attend, I would like to share with you my words during that incredible day...

GOOD MORNING

Although we stand here today with heavy hearts, they are proud hearts as we are privileged to honor those who **GAVE THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE.....**"There lives' for the freedom that sometimes we take so lightly.

Years ago one of our greatest Presidents said that we are a Nation conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal, but more important that we are **"ONE NATION UNDER GOD"**.

For obvious reasons no one wants **PEACE** more than the Soldier but it was written by the wisest of philosophers **PLATO....**"that only the dead have seen the end of war".

In honor of all these brave men and women who lie here today, in what is Holy ground, we need to remember the three words spoken by a famous General when he visited his beloved West Point before crossing the "river" that we all will cross: **DUTY, HONOR & COUNTRY.**

Today our brave men and women are engaged, once again, in war, so that we may preserve not only our freedom and way of life but bring the same to others....

GOD BLESS THEM, GOD BLESS THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND YOU MY BELOVED BROTHERS AND SISTERS.

Miquel Romeu, Chaplain

Replacing Military Medals

Medals awarded while in active service are issued by the individual military services if requested by veterans or their next of kin. Requests for replacement medals, decorations, and awards should be directed to the branch of the military in which the veteran served. However, for Air Force (including Army Air Corps) and Army veterans, the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) verifies awards and forwards requests and verification to appropriate services.

Requests for replacement medals should be submitted on Standard Form 180, "Request Pertaining To Military Records," which may be obtained at VA offices or the Internet at http://www.va.gov/vaforms/search_action.asp. Questions, call Military Personnel Records at (314) 801-0800 or e-mail `questions to : MPR.center@nara.gov`.

When requesting medals, type or clearly print the veteran's full name, include the veteran's branch of service, service number or Social Security number and provide the veteran's exact or approximate dates of military service. The request must contain the signature of the veteran or next of kin if the veteran is deceased. If available, include a copy of the discharge or separation document, WDAGO Form 53-55 or DD Form 214.

**FATHER'S DAY
JUNE 15TH**



Squadron 321

Hello Legion Family

This is my last newsletter as Commander for Squadron 321. It has been a great five years. We have had our ups and downs but overall it has been great! I'm not leaving the squad; I'm stepping down to Adjutant.

I would like to congratulate all of the new elected officers. Commander Bryan Vinson, 1st Vice J. R. Olivera, 2nd Vice Jimmy Grey, Adjutant Ray Hartline Jr, Finance Jay Terwort, Historian Danny Johnson, Judge Advocate David Dew, Sgt @ Arms Jimmy Jackson, and Asst. Sgt @ Arms Mark Hamilton. I know these guys will do a great job.

In closing I would like to leave you with two thoughts. What happened to the new kitchen cabinets that were donated to the Post??? And we used to be a Family: Legionnaires, Sons of the American Legion, Legion Auxiliary and Legion Riders, what has happened to that????

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

**Our Canteen Is
Now
WI-FI**

Members Birthday's June 2008

1. Daniel Chapman, Chad Guinn, Toby Price
2. Bonnie Cockerham, Jean Kelly, Max Meldrum
4. Douglass O'Brien
5. Chris Daigre, Walt Nason
6. Allen Butcher, John Markley, Thomas Petros, Sidney Radoccia
7. Lloyed Davis, Alvin Guyer, Claudia Nichols, Dick Schlueter, David Teague Jr, Hubert Wilhelm
9. R Ownbey, Eugene Schepers
10. Riley Johnston Jr, Matthew Woolery
11. James Hanna, Kaszandra Howard
12. Paul Guillotte, Dorothy Sleeter
13. Johnnie Hitt, Chris Peterson, Henry Spotts
14. Louis Smith, Donald Smith
15. Earl Frank, Walter Neppel, Lillian Thompson,
16. Willis Adams, Marion Campbell Jr, Richard Marricle
17. Michael Huebschman, Tommy Melton Sr
18. John Fusaro, Freddie Sebren
19. Jimmy Don Dixon, Lanny Kirkpatrick, Justin Nelson, Peter Peterson, Tara Rodosta
20. David Blaschke, Billy Burns, Ryan James, Thomas Mouser, Kip Wright
21. Margie Griffin, William Missimer
22. Ingrid Ford, Noah Hale, Joni Nason
23. Anthony Doherty, Jan Cobden
24. C Collins, Marvin Mcgee, David Napoli, James Shanks
25. Sean Groszek, William Neisel
26. Lauren Fair Sr, Daniel Hamilton, Robert Wallace
27. Bryan Lasater, James Pringle
28. James Brennan, Arnold Laurent
29. Glenn Gardner, Jordan Silva
30. Vicki Moore, Lavada Newell, Toby Wine, Carol Teague

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

Cindy Pearce to Walk 60 Miles in 3 Days to Fight Breast Cancer



Cindy Pearce (right) with her sister, Wendy (center), and her mother, Shirley (left). Cindy will once again take the 60 mile

Call me crazy, but yes, I'm doing it again - I signed up for the 2008 Breast Cancer 3-Day! I had such an incredible experience doing the 3-Day last year that I'm going back for more. I'm so excited about this event, even though this year I really know what I've gotten myself into.

Last year was the most awe-inspiring and humbling event I had ever done. This event isn't easy, but I promise you, I wouldn't be doing it if I didn't believe 100% that it was worth every muscle ache, weary night and training walk!

I need your help. I want to surpass the \$2200 that you - my friends and family - gave so generously last time around to help fight breast cancer.

My mother died of this terrible disease after a long and painful fight. I wear her picture on a chain around my neck to remind myself of everything she went through. All of us

at one time or another will be affected by this disease, whether it is through a loved one, a friend, or ourselves personally. I want to do everything I can to help eradicate breast cancer so no one will ever have to deal with it again.

If you have any questions or want to hear more about what I'm doing, I love talking about the event. Thanks for all of your support. I'm incredibly lucky to have people like you in my life!

Just follow the link below to visit my personal fundraising page and make a donation.

<http://08.the3day.org/goto/cindy.pearce>



The 13th Annual Bill Crawford Memorial Golf Tournament

Sunday, June 8, 2008

Los Rios Country Club

Tee Time: 12:00 Noon

\$65 Entry Fee Per Player

Sponsored by the Sons of The American Legion

Golf Tournament Rules

Format: 4-man Scramble

1. USGA rules in effect
2. No limit to number of clubs in bag
3. Scramble Format - Play the ball within one grip length.
All players play from same location.
4. Scoring will be on the point system. See scoring sheet.
5. Putting everything in the hole, NO GIMME's
6. Men will play White Tees; Women will play Green Tees.
7. Challenge Package - \$25 for everything. This includes 2 Mulligans (One on the front and one on the back) - May not be used on the putting green. Mulligan tickets may be redeemed for "one beverage of your choice" at American Legion Post 321. Also included is the Longest Drive Contest for Men over 60, for Men under 60, and All Women (Ball must be in fairway). Also included is the Closest to the pin Par 3s. One on the front nine and one on the back nine.
8. 10. ENJOY THE DAY! HIT'EM LONG AND STRAIGHT!

1st Place - \$100 ea.

2nd Place - \$75 ea.

3rd Place - \$50 ea.

Hole Sponsorships: \$100 for Individual or \$200 for Corporate.

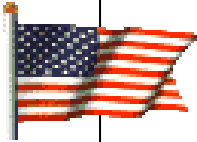
Contact Abel Silva at 214-770-0816.

Let's Play Golf!



June 2008



| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--|--|---|--|---|--|
| 1 Honor Guard Meeting Noon Happy Hour All Day CAP – 6:30 pm | 2 | 3 “Open Jukebox” ALR E-Board 6:00 pm Well Drinks \$2.00 7:00-10:00 | 4 ALA Executive Board Meeting 7:00 pm ALR Meat Drawing 6:30 The Vault \$1.25 Longnecks Chili Com. Cooks | 5 SAL. E-Board 6:00 pm | 6 ALA Dinner 6:30 pm Rocky & Bullwinkle 8:00 pm | 7 AL E-Board 10:30 am The Vault AL PUFL ½ Price Drinks 10:00am-6:00pm |
| 8 Happy Hour All Day CAP – 6:30 pm | 9 ALA Nursing Home Bingo 7:00 pm | 10 “Open Jukebox” Well Drinks \$2.00 7:00-10:00 | 11 Joint E-Board Newsletter Meeting 7:00 pm The Vault \$1.25 Longnecks Chili Com. Cooks | 12 | 13 Honor Guard Steak Dinner 6:30 pm Mile 21 8:00 pm | 14 ALR General Meeting 10:00 am The Vault AL PUFL ½ Price Drinks 10:00am-6:00pm |
| 15 Happy Father’s Day Brunch 10am-Noon Happy Hour All Day CAP – 6:30 pm | 16 | 17 “Open Jukebox” Well Drinks \$2.00 7:00-10:00 | 18 ALA General Membership 7:00 pm ALR Meat Drawing 6:30 The Vault \$1.25 Longnecks Chili Com. Cooks | 19 S.A.L. General Membership 6:00 pm A.L. General Membership 7:00 pm | 20 SAL Dinner 6:30 pm Texas Rhythm 8:00 pm | 21 The Vault AL PUFL ½ Price Drinks 10:00am-6:00pm |
| 22 Happy Hour All Day CAP – 6:30 pm | 23 | 24 “Open Jukebox” Well Drinks \$2.00 7:00-10:00 | 25 The Vault \$1.25 Longnecks Chili Com. Cooks | 26 Department Convention—Corpus Christi | 27 ALR Dinner 6:30 pm Third Street 8:00 pm | 28 Don’t Tell Mama 8:30 pm AL PUFL ½ Price Drinks 10:00am-6:00pm |
| 29 Happy Hour All Day CAP – 6:30 pm | 30 |  | | Visit Your Home Post At: 1236 Ave. J Plano, Texas 75074 | | |

WEB PAGES:

Post 321: www.al321tx.org
 Unit 321: <http://texoma.net/~charlie2/unit321/unit321.htm>
 Squadron 321: <http://www.al321tx.org/content.php?id=39&number=1>
 Boy Scout Troop 295: www.scouts295.org
 Public Relations:

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PLANO AMERICAN LEGION POST 321



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