

Harding-Blaine Post 321

"Flagship of the Fourth District"

Member of TEXALPA and NALPA

The History of Flag Day

The Fourth of July was traditionally celebrated as America's birthday, but the idea of an annual day specifically celebrating the Flag is believed to have first originated in 1885. BJ Cigrand, a schoolteacher, arranged for the pupils in the Fredonia, Wisconsin Public School District 6, to observe June 14 (the 108th anniversary of the official adoption of The Stars and Stripes) as 'Flag Birthday'. In numerous magazines and newspaper articles and public addresses over the following years, Cigrand continued to enthusiastically advocate the observance of June 14 as 'Flag Birthday', or 'Flag Day'.

On June 14, 1889, George Balch, a kindergarten teacher in New York City, planned appropriate ceremonies for the children of his school, and his idea of observing Flag Day was later adopted by the State Board of Education of New York. On June 14, 1891, the Betsy Ross House in Philadelphia held a Flag Day celebration, and on June 14 of the following year, the New York Society of the Sons of the Revolution, celebrated Flag Day.

Following the suggestion of Colonel J Granville Leach (at the time historian of the Pennsylvania Society of the Sons of

the Revolution), the Pennsylvania Society of Colonial Dames of America on April 25, 1893 adopted a resolution requesting the mayor of Philadelphia and all others in authority and all private citizens to display the Flag on June 14th. Leach went on to recommend that thereafter the day be known as 'Flag Day', and on that day, school children be assembled for appropriate exercises, with each child being given a small Flag.

Two weeks later on May 8th, the Board of Managers of the Pennsylvania Society of Sons of the Revolution unanimously endorsed the action of the Pennsylvania Society of Colonial Dames. As a result of the resolution, Dr. Edward Brooks, then Superintendent of Public Schools of Philadelphia, directed that Flag Day exercises be held on June 14, 1893 in Independence Square. School children were assembled, each carrying a small Flag, and patriotic songs were sung and addresses delivered.

In 1894, the governor of New York directed that on June 14 the Flag be displayed on all public buildings. With BJ Cigrand and Leroy Van Horn as the moving spirits, the Illinois

(continued on page 2)

Editor's Comments



The old saying about time flying is very appropriate this year! Again, elections have been held by the entities of this great family! Congratulations are in order for the officers that just completed their year of service dedicated to the American Legion family. A job well done is not enough words to express our thanks. A new beginning for this American Legion Family is upon us this year as it is every year at this time. For the newly elected officers to help this organization to succeed, we must all work together. I, as newly elected ALA Unit President pledge to support the American Legion Auxiliary, The Sons of the American Legion, The American Legion Riders and the programs of The American Legion.

The programs of the American Legion are what it is all about. There are so many! All entities of the family work the programs of our parent organization. Americanism, Children & Youth, Veteran's Affairs and Rehabilitation, Legislative and Public Relations are a few of the main programs. Each of these programs have a spider effect, if you will. For example; Children and Youth include the Child

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Flag Day Continued

organization, known as the American Flag Day Association, was organized for the purpose of promoting the holding of Flag Day exercises. On June 14th, 1894, under the auspices of this association, the first general public school children's celebration of Flag Day in Chicago was held in Douglas, Garfield, Humboldt, Lincoln, and Washington Parks, with more than 300,000 children participating. Franklin K. Lane, Secretary of the Interior, delivered a 1914 Flag Day address in which he repeated words he said the flag had spoken to him that morning:

"I am what you make me; nothing more. I swing before your eyes as a bright gleam of color, a symbol of yourself." Inspired by these three decades of state and local celebrations, Flag Day - the anniversary of the Flag Resolution of 1777 - was officially established by the Proclamation of President Woodrow Wilson on May 30th, 1916. While Flag Day was celebrated in various communities for years after Wilson's proclamation, it was not until August 3rd, 1949, that President Truman signed an Act of Congress designating June 14th of each year as National Flag Day.

**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	Fletcher Sharp
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	881	78.94
ALA 09	254	180	70.87
SAL 09	213	79	37.09



Commander's Corner

Hello all, for the last time! We had the elections May 21st and I am happy to announce that Terry Cloninger will be your next Commander. He's a good guy with plenty of experience. Congrats are in order for the other elected officers as well. I'll still be on the E-Board as Past Commander. See? You haven't gotten rid of me yet! Ha! Well, going to run now, but it has been my pleasure, and quite an honor, to serve as Post Commander the last 2 years. Please support your new Officers. Don't forget the 4th of July picnic! Now that I've retired from my job of 31 years at Verizon, every day seems like the 4th!
See you around,
Steve Cockerham

UNIT 321

This is my last newsletter as your President. I have been proud to have served as your President for the last two years. I could not have done it without the help of all the ladies of the Auxiliary. I want to especially thank all my officers and committee chairmen. Your new President is Charlie Dew and officers are Linda Wilmeth, Lynn Johnson, Lavada Newell, Cindy Scholander, Bernadine Smith, Phyllis Price, Cheryl Styers, Cindy Bray and Melissa Davis. CONGRATULATIONS!
At this time I do not know the officers of the AL, SAL or the ALR but congratulations to all. See you around the post.
For God and Country,
Judy Reyna



Squadron 321

Summer is here and we are beginning our new year with the election of officers. Department Convention at the end of the month, will begin our 2010 year. The hours you work on Americanism and VA&R start over, so please turn them in to us.

David Dew is now running for National SAL Commander for 2010 - 2011. Please help us support him as we now have pins and belt buckles for sale. We meet the 1st and 3rd Thursdays each month at 6:00 pm. All are welcome. Hope to see you there.

*For God and Country,
Bryan Vinson*

Hope all the post mom's had a great mothers day and by the time you read this we hope the rest of you had a great, peaceful Memorial Day. Please join me in congratulating the new officers for the ALR for 2009-2010.

A couple of things I want to bring to your attention:

1. We will be involved in honoring veterans, who have gone unnoticed and unappreciated, that have been found on the "Old Ross" cemetery in McKinney. For those of you who do not know, it is an old part of the cemetery where back in the old days African American veterans were buried and forgotten. People dumped trash on the grave

sites and it was sorely ignored for years and to our knowledge have never been honored on Memorial Day. We will be coordinating with the CAP to restore some honor and dignity to those who gave the ultimate sacrifice for their country.

2. Many of you have heard of the house being built in Collin County for abused children up to the age of nine called "My Friends House." We will be conducting a fund raiser for them and another group called "The Nursery". The Nursery tries to take care of the prenatal kids. Statistics say that since the economy went south, child abuse has doubled in Collin County.

As usual we will continue to ship care packages to those who are deployed and provide support for those who are in the hospital.

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

DAVID DEW FOR SAL NATIONAL COMMANDER 2010—2011

**Numbered
Belt Buckle
\$25.00 Donation**



**Pins
\$3.00 Donation**

“The monthly newsletter for our American Legion Family”

Editor's Comments

(Continued)

Welfare Foundation, Children's Miracle Network, Operation Military Kids, and so many more. Are there any of us out there that might find 1 hour per week to volunteer to assist in one of these very worthwhile programs? One hour per week, four hours per month, 48 hours per year, not many hours per year is it? Those that benefit from your volunteerism are many. So little time per year to help so many that are less fortunate.....sounds like we need to expand.

If you are a member of this great family, please contact one of the newly elected officers and volunteer to work the programs. Better yet, contact Terry Cloninger, newly elected Post Commander, Abel Silva, Jr. S. A. L. Commander or me. We would love to tell you all about the programs that are worked by the best American Legion Family within the Department (State) of Texas. We soon will be forming committees to jump start these wonderful programs. 48 hours per year? Hmmm

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

Pajama Party

Saturday June 13, 2009
7:00 till Closing

Prizes will be Awarded
Finger Food, Smores
And Refreshments
Post Guidelines for Proper At-
tire will be Followed
Proceeds Benefit the Chili
Committee

Best Golf Tournament of the Year

14th Annual Bill Crawford Memorial Golf Tournament by the Sons of the American Legion will be held on June 14th with tee time at 1:00 pm. It will be a 4-man scramble with \$70 entry fee per person. **NEED TEAMS – LET'S PLAY SOME GOLF!!!** 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 Par3s - one on the front nine and one on the back nine. All proceeds go to the William R. and Margaret M. Crawford Memorial Scholarship Fund. If you do not play golf, you might sponsor a hole for \$100 for individuals and \$200 for Corporate. Lunch and Awards back at American Legion Post 321, 1236 Ave J, Plano, TX 75074. Post Ph #972-423-5423. For more information contact Abel Silva, Jr. at 214-770-0816.

Special Fathers Day Brunch

**“Steak” and Eggs to Order
Along with our Standard Brunch
We have 30 Steaks so first come first served**

**Sunday
June 21, 2009
10:00 TILL 12:00**

**\$8.00 Donation to benefit the Chili Committee
Mimosa's will be available**

*** IMPORTANT ***



Finance Officer



Thank you so much for the response to the News Letter cost cutting initiative. To date we have reduced the circulation from ~2150 down to ~1700 – almost a 20% reduction. Our goal is to get the circulation down below 1500 copies. Please, if there is anyway you can view the newsletter in some manner other than a mailed copy – LET US KNOW!

Folks with the economy the way it is and our costs of running the canteen on the increase – your participation in scheduled events, fundraisers, Dinner nights, etc... is even more important now than ever in the past. Please come out and support your Post, the American Legion programs and your Family of members.

Thank you for the support.

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 June 2009

1. Daniel Chapman, Chad Guinn, Toby Price
2. Bonnie Cockerham, Jean Kelly, Max Meldrum
3. Jim Anderson
4. Douglass O'Brien
5. Chris Daigre, Walt Nason
6. Allen Butcher, John Markley, Thomas Petros, Sidney Radocia
7. Lloyd Davis, Claudia Nichols, Dick Schlueter, David Teague Jr, Hubert Willhelm
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 Neppi, 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, Karen Barber
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
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

Chili-Cook-Off Committee

Join us on Saturday June 13th for a "Pajama Party" yes you read right a pajama party. Sound like fun? Wear your favorite pair of pajamas enjoy finger foods and a cocktail with your friends. Party starts at 7:00pm.

Please keep in mind our Canteen dress code. Let's have a party have some fun and help Collin County Meals on Wheels.

*Lavada Newell,
Chili Committee Member*

1st Vice Says...

Hello friends and legionnaires. Can you believe how fast the year has gone, boy I can't guess what that has done to us all including making us a year older, ha ha!

It is election time again. A lot needs to be done around our post to make it a better place to come to meet friends and enjoy each other's company. Maybe this next year we can make that happen with everyone's help. We had 17 at bingo last Monday night; without Cheryl's help we could not have done it. The residents at Collinwood really enjoy it. Phyllis and I hope you keep coming to our post and support it; there are many functions we could have there to have more fun. May GOD bless and keep each and everyone of you

*Bob Price
First Vice Commander*

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE

www.al321tx.org

RED, WHITE AND TRUE

By Sherrod L. Fielden

The fabric of our Flag is more than ever meets the eye. It wraps our very heart with love, and cloaks us when we die.

Money will buy a replica, to fly upon a pole; but the real flag cannot be bought. It's earned with our soul.

There's nothing like the feeling we share with our fellowman, as it guards our freedom given us by God's own hand.

It's what makes a Mother weep even though she bursts with pride, a wife and children filled with dread, a Father's tears he cannot hide.

The world can't understand it. They're not as blessed as we. America is not just a place -- it's an idea that keeps us free.

The cost is more than worth it. That's what we believe is true. We give our young again and then Freedom is their gift to me and you.

I may not have much left, but what I have I'll give to see this Flag continue to fly over this great country where we live.

WEAR RED ON FRIDAYS IN
SUPPORT OF OUR TROOPS

Recipe of the Month Tequilaberry's House Salad

(no... there is no tequila in the salad)

Ingredients

- 2 heads lettuce, chopped (or 2 1-lb bags pre-cut lettuce)
- 1 head cauliflower, cut up in tiny pieces
- 1 lb bacon, fried and crumbled
- 1 cup Hellmann's mayonnaise (no substitutions)
- 2 1/2 tablespoons white vinegar
- 1/4 cup sugar
- 1 1/2 cup parmesan cheese

Directions

1. Combine lettuce, cauliflower and bacon.
2. Mix mayonnaise, vinegar and sugar.
3. Add dressing to salad, add parmesan cheese. Serve immediately.
4. I usually make up the dressing the day before, and then the rest of the salad and tossed together just before serving.

Trivia

Q. What two U.S. cities have the same name, are the largest cities in their states, but are not state capitals?

(See Bartender for answer)