

Harding-Blaine Post 321

"Flagship of the Fourth District"

Member of TEXALPA and NALPA



Steve and Bonnie's



14th Annual St. Patrick's Day Feast And Drink-A-Thon



Free Corned Beef and Cabbage



FREE GUINNESS

Guinness Drinking Contest



Costume Contest



Dance Contest



All Contests Have CASH PRIZES



Irish Music



(By Calvin & "The Vault")



Dive For The Gold! Going on all day



March 15, 2008

12:00 Noon until the last keg makes rude noises!

Absolutely NO charge. . hidden fees. . or raffles!

Charlie's Chatter



Spring is almost here. In fact, if I didn't know better I would have thought it was spring now.

February brought more trips to visit VA Hospitals in Temple and Waco. We toured the Sight Impaired Rehab located at the Waco VA. Their mission is to enhance the quality of life for these veterans. The staff assists blind veterans in the development of skills necessary for the attainment of a maximum level of personal independence. They are taught so many different skills that it will amaze you. The veterans learn to cook, use computers, skills for employment. It is just amazing how they assist and care for these veterans.

They have built a section in the Temple VA for "Sleep Studies". There are four bedrooms that look like home. Comforters cover the beds, and the mattresses feel like "sleep number" mattresses. The observation area is loaded with computers but you would never know that you are in a hospital. I really did want to crawl up and take a nap.

After leaving the Temple and Waco area, we traveled to Blessing, Texas. The Unit there hosted the 9th District Junior Convention. My goodness, I know where the leadership of this state will come

from in the near future. The Juniors held their convention with little help from the Senior members. They used proper protocol, and knew exactly what they were doing. What usually takes some Districts two days to accomplish was accomplished by these young ladies about half a day! They were GREAT!

This is the time of year that Spring District Conventions start up. Please try to attend your District Convention that will be held in Mabank, April 12-13, 2008. It is always very enjoyable and educational. The added attraction is that you are able to meet members from different American Legion Families from across the District. You can meet new friends and learn about the programs of the American Legion.

Since I have the honor of serving as American Legion Auxiliary Department President, my calendar is full. I am excited to be traveling over the state in finishing this year. I will keep you posted. I wish I could take you all with me to experience the dedication of the members of this great organization. Stay tuned to see who is in first place of the "Texas 500".

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

IT'S TIME TO VOTE !

You must vote in May to keep the Homestead tax cap for 65 and over, even if you are not 65 yet. If you are a Texas homeowner then this is important to you. If not, it is important to your friends who are. I am writing this for everyone who lives in Texas. I want to be sure you

are aware of a constitutional amendment that will be on the ballot at the May election. It is an amendment to correct an error made by the lawmakers when they voted for a reduction in school property taxes in 2005.

When the lawmakers voted for a one-third reduction in school property taxes beginning in 2006 and to be completed this year, they forgot about the homestead exemption for senior citizens and people with disabilities.

The state constitution caps school property taxes for homeowners 65 years and older and those who are disabled.

However, they DID NOT get the same reduction when the property tax cut for schools was voted on two years ago.

So an amendment is on the May ballot to correct this error.

The problem is that most voters who are younger than 65 or not disabled probably won't even notice the amendment or care.

PLEASE get out and vote for this amendment if not for yourself, then for your parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles and friends. We would really appreciate your getting the word out to all your friends and families to vote for this amendment.

The fear is that with a low voter turnout, the amendment could very well not pass.

So, please, please pass the word and VOTE for the constitutional amendment. Early voting will take place April 30 - May 5 from 7 am to 7 pm; May 6 from noon to 6 pm and May 7 & May 8 from 7 am to 7 pm. Election Day is May 12 from 7 am to 7 pm.

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



Commander's Corner

Top o' the mornin' or bottom o' the afternoon! It's that time again. I know you've seen the ads for St. Pats'. Yes, it's true...all free for our Post Family and their friends. Last year we went through 4 kegs of Guinness and 200 + pounds of food. The cleaning crew loved us! Come and see what has been added this year!

O.K, this should be the last time you will hear about the kitchen equipment. It's all in. Stove, deep fryer and gas grill, all new. The shiniest Post kitchen in Texas!

The date of our brunch has been moved, for this month only. It will be on Easter Sunday. Come have a nice breakfast and stay for the children's Easter Egg Hunt.

The Vets from the Bonham V.A. Hospital will be here April 5th. This is always a fun event to attend. Come and show your support for these wonderful people.

In closing, I'd like to thank Mr. Ron Marciniak for his kind words about our newsletter. Ron, your letter was much appreciated by the newsletter staff! I'm sure they would like to meet you.

Every one please stay safe and have a great month. We hope to see you on Easter and St. Pats'. They are only a week apart. I hope we don't get them confused! I don't

think the little ones would like their Easter Baskets filled with corned beef and cabbage!

*For God and Country,
Steve Cockerham, Commander*

Pop's Points to Ponder

Spring is here March 21st. In retrospect I see spring time as always having been good for me with a couple of exceptions in my life. I was born in May, a good thing for me, I was baptized in April, a good thing for me. I also remember being so proud that the whole church welcomed me that spring. Every spring Mom would teach Bible School. I looked forward to going to it every spring. I graduated in May, got my first \$1.00 an hour job in the factory in May, those were all good thing in the spring. A couple of the bad things were listening to Axis Sally telling us they were going to shoot us down in the spring of 1944, but the music she played was Big Band Music so maybe it wasn't all bad. We also got smart and changed the color of the tails to the airplanes to confuse her, another good thing. Another good thing was in the spring of 1945, the war was finally over. It was also in the spring of 1946, I bought my first house, a colonial, it cost \$9,000.00, and the builder said that it would have cost \$4,500.00 before the war. See we even had inflation back then. Another great thing in the spring of 1946 was our first child was born, and it was in the spring of 1952 that our last child was born. It was also in the spring that I bought another house, this one cost \$12,000.00. I also

enjoyed going to the American Legion National Convention every spring in Indianapolis; it was great to meet old friends and make new ones. Two of my major moves for the American Legion happened in the spring, the move to Washington D.C. and the move to Chicago. I also retired in the spring (1985) from the American Legion after forty years of service. So you can see for the most part spring has been very good to me as I hope it is for you. Remember spring is Mother Nature's way to renew her natural beauty and be born again; take the opportunity to do the same for yourselves.

*God Bless You
Gene "Pops" Fattig*



Honor Guard

Next honor guard meeting will be held on March 9th at 12 noon

*Ernie Rivard
Honor Guard Commander*

American Legion

Paid Up For Life

1/2 price drinks every

Saturday 10am till

6pm

Our Canteen Is

**Now
WI-FI**



UNIT 321

Our cancer research benefit did not do as well as we expected. We were really disappointed. There was a lot of good food that was not eaten. Maybe we can do better next year. The coffee tour is March 22nd and it ends in Plano. They will be eating dinner at our post home. So let's pitch in and help. The children's Easter egg hunt is Easter Sunday March 23rd at 2:00 p.m. The egg hunt will be held in the garden area, if weather permits. Please see Barbara Brandow, Cindy Oldroyd or Lavada if you would like to help. Do not forget ST. Paddy's Day March 15th, it starts at 12:00 p.m. I am sure the Commander has great plans in store. We lost one of our long time members (Betty Kelley), our prayers go out to her family. Jim and Judy Hammond were in town for a week, I am sure everybody was glad to see them I know I was. We are having a Mary Kay party after our general membership meeting; I will let you all know how it went next month.

For God and Country

Judy Reyna, ALA President

Support Our Troops

Army takes it All 2007

Between November 1st and November 11th the generosity of the Harding Blaine Family was evident. The Poppy promotion lasting 10 days is the manner, in which Unit 321 provides funds for the Christmas Gift Shop at the Bonham VA Hospital, provides funds for the postage to mail those Christmas gifts, entertain the Veterans visiting the Post and so much more. The Army was determined to be on top and on TOP they were! Over 750 balloons were blown up and hung in the canteen area, for a dollar a pop; our members could receive a "Sorry try Again" or a small gift. Donations of cash and checks were presented to members of the Committee designating which branch of the Service was to receive credit. These few days provided funds that must be set aside and spent only on our Veterans or the Children of Veterans. From this money the Unit will purchase Poppies to be used at the Memorial Day Program and this is the best part of all. The Poppies we see around the Post Home during November and May are handmade by Veterans in the Temple VA Hospital, they're used as therapy and the Veteran is paid for making them. Sometimes this is the only money a hospitalized Veteran has to give his or her family, so the more Poppies we purchase and use, the better. Congratulations Army the 07-08 year is yours. Tell your stories and feel free to embellish just a bit. The big winner here though is the Veteran sitting in Temple and

making these beautiful little red flowers! I would like to take this opportunity to send a special "Thank You" to the awesome committee that worked so diligently and productively during the POPPY DRIVE. I also would like to express a special "Thanks" to a few Sons of the American Legion that helped during this time. "Thank you", to all for the donations and support during this drive. The gross amount raised was, \$2,237.17. May GOD Bless One and All!

For God and Country!

Bernadine Smith

Poppy Chairman

Unit 321 Poppy Committee

EASTER BUNNY'S ANNUAL VISIT

The "Easter Bunny" will be hiding eggs on March 23rd at American Legion Post 321. All children are welcome. Please bring a basket for each child. The auxiliary will serve cookies and soft drinks after the children hunt for the eggs. We look forward to seeing all of you March 23rd 2:00pm.

Barbara Brandow

Children & Youth Chairman

Trivia

Here's an interesting question. How many states, or portions of states, lie both north of the southernmost point of Canada and south of the northernmost point of Mexico?

0 1 2 3

(see bartender for answer)



Squadron 321

Hello Legion Family:

The Cancer Research Dinner was last month. I am disappointed in the support that the ALA got from the rest of the Post. We are supposed to be a family. I want to congratulate Renee, Ann and all of the people who helped them for all of their hard work. Great Job!

Membership!!! On March 12th we are supposed to be at 80%. We have transmitted 98 which is about 40%. We are sucking AIR! Send your money in or drop it in the SAL box.

Please don't forget our meetings on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of each month @ 6pm.

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



WE



ARE



FAMILY



I just returned from the mid winter conference where the ALR was on the agenda for the first time. There were over one hundred riders present from across the state representing about thirty posts. The Commander, Adjutant, VA&R Chairperson, Americanism Chairman and the Judge Advocate were all present. The Department Commander attended the entire meeting. This was a very successful perpetual meeting.

Did you know:

1. The average cost of a motorcycle is around twenty five thousand dollars.
2. The rider pays for his or hers own insurance, fuel and up keep on his or her bike.
3. When a rider attends a funeral or parade he or she pays their own expenses, to and from all events.
4. A rider must purchase a vest and all of the patches. This can total several hundred dollars.
- 5.. An American Legion Rider is a Legionnaire who rides.

Ride Safe Ride Hard

Larry Lawson

ALR Director Post 321

Support Our Troops

Members Birthday's March 2008

1. Victor Daigre, Arthur Harness, Lucille Oldroyd, Mika Williams
2. Kevin Devane, Bob Sirchio, Walter Swarhout
3. John Bogner, Michael Casady, Christopher Ceykovsky, James Deberry, George Dorman
4. Robert Tackett
5. Wayne Ambler, Nancy Fike, Brigitte Willson, James Jackson
6. Curtis Aumaugher, Steve Hillis, Harold Mapes Jr, Michael Pellish Jr, Dennis Signs, Ann Willis
7. Roy Bedell, Robert Mckinley, Khanh Tran
8. David Cherry, Jon Kingston, William Stone Jr
9. John Gessick, Raymond Jacobson, Richard Mangum,
10. Geoffrey Condren,
11. Mark Hayes, John Roberts
13. Clay Feagins,
14. Lynn Marie Johnson, William Moller
15. Aaron Baylor, Gus Spinn, Ronald Tibbs
16. Anthony Cordova, Floyd Davis
17. Gil Benoit, Doug Guynes, Richard Hotinski, Graig Meier, Willard Pharr, Douglas Williams
18. Barry Gold, Charles Hays III, Clyde Hesser
19. Orville Hoffman, Marvin Meek, James Rhea, Matthew Savage, James Slaughter
20. Michael Hall Jr, Tiffany Troxclair, John Weaver
21. Fred Bard, Roger Warren
22. Robert Nissen, Carl Takle
23. Gregory Demko, Gene Gehrking, Dalma McBride
24. Alan Tackett, Roy Wilson
25. Cody Cloninger, Cindy Bray
26. Jeran Akers, Mark Gojer
28. Robert Dickson, Charlie Mcelea
29. Dominic Rodosta
30. William Hanson
31. Robert Larue

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

Chaplain's Thoughts

May the Lord be at your side every day of your life.

One of my greatest passions is reading. Most of the time I read three or four books at a time, it's a bad habit, but provides me with a change of perspective. On the other side I have kept three books at my night table for what seems to be a lifetime. I read a little part of them every day. The Books are The Holy Bible, My Imitation of Christ and The Jewish Talmud. These three books have guided and provided a spiritual path that I honestly believe has taught me about the goodness that there is in every one of us and everyone that we come in contact with. It has also taught me about the power of PRAYER and the role that it plays in our daily lives. The other day I read an article about PRAYER and based on that I would like, today to talk to you about what prayer is. In very simple terms prayer is an expression of a relationship between God, our creator and us. God is our father and as such we are his children. It is the same relationship that when we were children we had with our father, as such we are dependent to God... This means that our relationship is one of Dependency. Sometimes we might think that we can make it on our own, that God is not in charge, that He is not watching...since He gave us free will. Because of that free will God generally keeps out of our lives until one way or the other we acknowledge the relationship. If you have time read Genesis 2: 4-5 which explains why God after making the Heaven and Earth had

not brought rain. He wanted a human being to PRAY for it...and pray Adam did when he recognized the need for rain in the world.... but the importance of this goes further than the rain, it established that the basic relationship with God from us humans is expressed through PRAYER. Adam's prayer acknowledged that relationship that we are dependent on God, that we must go to him for what we need and that he will answer our prayers. The Bible indicates that what happens to us is a direct consequence of the relationship that we have established with God and that is because He is in charge. It is by PRAYER that we interact with HIM directly and

immediately. My relationship with God is what determines what happens to me and how that which happens to me affects me. We all know that for any relationship to be successful, it needs to be real. PRAYERS should be more, much more than a recitation of "set prayers". Not that they are not right, but you need to be speaking to GOD, he is our FATHER and we must do so from the deepest of our innermost... I leave you with one of the shortest "prayers" in the Bible. "PLEASE, LORD HEAL HER NOW". This prayer is simple, it shows the anguish, it shows total faith that the prayer can and will be answered.

God Bless you and your family.

Miguel Romeu, Chaplain

UPCOMING EVENTS

St. Patrick's Day Party

March 15th, 2008

Noon till ??? NO CHARGE

4th District Coffee Tour

March 22nd, 2008

Starts in Kaufman

Ends in Plano W/

Dinner and DJ Dance

EASTER SUNDAY

March 23rd, 2008

Brunch

10:00 am till Noon

Children's Easter Egg Hunt

2:00 pm