

Harding-Blaine Post 321

“Flagship of the Fourth District”

Member of TEXALPA and NALPA

VA Launches Renewable Energy Projects Solar, Wind and Geothermal Energy Pilot Sites Featured



WASHINGTON -- Patients, staff and visitors at the Loma Linda, Calif., and Dallas VA medical centers who happen to gaze skyward in the coming months are likely to see a flurry of roof-level activity. The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) will be installing a rooftop photovoltaic (PV) system at each campus to provide clean, natural, sun-powered electricity this summer. By using sunlight, a free renewable fuel, these systems will reduce the medical centers' electricity costs and provide environmental benefits to the medical center, VA and the community.

“Hospitals are big users of energy, so whatever VA can do to become a good ‘green’ neighbor will benefit all of us, both in the short and the long terms,” said Dr. James B. Peake, Secretary of Veterans Affairs. “I’m proud of these innovative steps our people are taking and look for them to expand.

”With large amounts of sunshine available year-round, plenty of roof space, and an attractive state-level incentive in California, the Loma Linda and Dallas sites quickly rose to the top of VA’s list of candidate lo-

cations for PV pilot projects.

As part of a comprehensive department-wide energy management plan, last year VA screened its major facilities for not only PV potential, but the potential to use wind, geothermal and biomass energy, and to use solar energy for water heating, as well. The evaluation helped VA identify 16 candidate sites for solar PV projects, 15 for solar water heating, six for wind, and two for direct geothermal energy systems.

Solar hot water energy system work is underway at the Dallas facility and at VA’s West Los Angeles medical center, and two facilities in Arizona have added solar water heating to the list of energy-efficient measures they plan to implement.

VA plans to award a contract for a wind energy pilot project at its medical center in St. Cloud, Minn., by the end of this June and a contract for a geothermal energy pilot project at the Boise, Idaho, VA Medical Center by the end of September. Both the wind and geothermal systems will be installed by September 2009.

E-mail inquiries can be made to energy@va.gov.

Charlie’s Chatter

It is that time of year again! Elections for Post, Unit and Squadron Elections are just around the corner. Election of officers should not be a popularity contest, but an election of members to an office that you think would do the best job for your organization. Our thoughts and concerns should be our American Legion Family and who would work the best for its best interest.

Please attend your General Membership meetings this month and vote! It is important to the success of the American Legion Family.

A couple of month’s ago, I shared a JPAC video that I had picked up at the National Convention with the Unit. It explained how our government was trying to locate and identify remains of soldiers missing in action. Well, today I received correspondence from the National American Legion and I want to share with you an article that was emailed to me.

“MIA-57 YEARS-SOLDIER FINALLY COMES HOME”- Tuesday, April 15, 2008 LOO-GOOTEE, Ind. — On Nov. 2, 1950, Sgt. Virgil Lee Phillips’ unit was overrun by Chinese troops attacking near Unsan in North Korea. Phillips’ battalion was surrounded, and he was

one of more than 350 soldiers unaccounted for after the battle. The Martin County, Ind., man, who had a reputation for not walking away from a fight, was declared missing in action. Return scheduled. On Wednesday, after more than 57 years as a statistic, the remains of the Korean War soldier are returning to Loogootee where he was born in 1925. On Friday, he will be buried with full military honors. "This is a rare occurrence. It is an honor to have had a part in it," says Staff Sgt. Steve Elzy of the 151st Infantry Regiment in Washington, Ind., who has helped coordinate logistics. "A lot of people have been involved." There's Cathy Jo Bryant, 46, of Columbus, Ind., a genealogy hobbyist who was researching Phillips when she learned about the Joint Prisoners of War, Missing in Action Accounting Command that works to identify Americans who were killed in action, but never brought home. She found out the group puts names on an average of six MIAs a month and that a prime tool is finding DNA matches. There's Chad Phillips, Virgil Phillips' 31-year-old grandson and closest living relative, who drives a fertilizer truck and sometimes works 80 hours a week. Calling himself "a shy country boy who likes to keep things simple," the Shoals, Ind., man was at first reluctant to "make a big deal" out of his grandfather's homecoming. But now I understand better what it all means," says the younger Phillips, who has helped plan the ceremonies. There's Delbert Rapp, 75, of Vincennes, Ind.,

who is Virgil Phillips' cousin. He played a prime role without leaving his living room "The military sent a nurse out to my place about a year ago to get a blood sample. My DNA was right there with Virgil's and they knew they had something." Rob Weddle works at Lee Funeral Home in Loogootee. He said Phillips' remains will be flown from Hawaii to Indianapolis, arriving around noon Wednesday. He expects a crowd of well-wishers to gather when the funeral procession reaches Loogootee. He is contacting American Legion posts in an effort to find pallbearers who served in the Korean War. Services Friday the visitation will begin Friday at 10 a.m. with the funeral scheduled for 2 p.m. Burial will follow at the Goodwill Cemetery in Loogootee. Elzy says the remains first were discovered in 2005 about 60 miles from the Chinese border by a North Korean road construction crew. The positive identification was made in December 2007. "It was the family's decision to wait until what they believed to be the proper time to bring him home," says the 50-year-old Elzy, who's been in the military for 21 years. Chad Phillips says it has been hard to fully grasp his grandfather's life "because I wasn't even being talked about when he went missing." He plans to take off Wednesday and again on Friday. "That's unusual for me because I'm pretty much always working. If I'm not on my truck, I'm out helping my buddy on his farm." Cathy Jo Bryant's grandmother and Delbert Rapp's mother were sis-

ters. "I tried to give my DNA, but I wasn't eligible," Bryant says. "It had to be somebody from Virgil's mother's side." Bryant passed along Delbert Rapp's name, and the identification process took a giant step forward. "It's been eight years since I first requested Virgil's file from the military," Bryant says. "Getting a match was more than I expected. That would have been like wishful thinking." Chad Phillips didn't find out about her efforts until they were well under way. "I just pretty much did it on my own," Bryant says. "I hoped nobody in the family would have a bad reaction to it, and they haven't." Virgil Phillips was born in Martin County, but he spent a lot of time in Columbus, Ind. "I remember him as a little guy who always stood up for himself," Delbert Rapp says. "If somebody wanted to take him on in a fight, he was ready to go." He says Virgil's parents separated when he was a little boy, and a grandmother looked after him. "I was raised in Illinois. We didn't see each other much except during the summer." Delbert Rapp had long believed Phillips "was lost for sure. This is a happy time. I thought that this was a very special article, and wanted to share it with my Legion Family. All JPAC needs is DNA. If you or anyone you know has a family member that is. Missing in Action, please contact me and we can contact the appropriate people

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

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

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1st Vice	Renee Mary
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

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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

<u>Org.</u>	<u>Goal</u>	<u>Paid</u>	<u>%</u>
AL		806	71
ALA			86
SAL		98	40



Commander's Corner

Hello, everybody. Hope you had a good month because, here comes another. I guess you know we have to turn in our Newsletter articles early...today is really April 20th and we just finished the brunch. Wow, thanks for your support. When we first started the "Eggs to Order" we served 18 people. We served 55 today. This is great. Larry and Jan, Tom and Debbie, thank you...a lot!

Elections are this month, all three entities. Make sure you come out and vote. It's easy to do.

We had the Bonham Vets come to visit us on the 5th. We had a cook-out on the patio for them. Burgers and dogs etc., for all. They played darts and pool and had a great time. The ALA and ALR did a great job. Our new grill worked great. Thanks to all who helped. The Vets said the next time they see the Plano Post is having a "do", they will be sure to sign up for the event. That's a heck of an endorsement.

I hope you enjoy the rest of the newsletter, I think we have the best one in Texas. Lots of people have put in a lot of effort to make it that way.

In closing, please keep Ernie Rivard in your thoughts. Hey Ernie, hurry back, you are

missed!

*Have a good one,
Steve Cockerham*

Suggestion Box

Thanks to all who submitted. We had a few suggestions, a couple of gripes, and a very naughty statement. Oh, no.

One suggestion was to get Post Shirts. That's a great idea from Jan Cobden. I believe that's something we can do. Another idea was to bring back free popcorn and pretzels for our patrons. Sorry to say, business is a bit slow. The bar has chips and snacks for sale.

A gripe was about the soap in the men's room. We have two old dispensers that need to be removed for sanitary reasons. That is why they have remained empty. We have, and have had for at least a year, a dispenser that uses a foaming soap that is much better and kills germs.

That's it for the box this month. Keep up the good ideas, please don't hesitate to submit your gripes, but the rude statements...please feel free to wash out your mouth with our good foaming soap!

Steve

HONOR GUARD

Since the last General Membership meeting, your Honor Guard has participated in several funerals. The turnout from our Honor Guard was very good; we had at least 7 members at these funerals.

Our Steak Night was quite successful; your Honor Guard continues to work hard to make this event better and better. During the last Steak Night, for the first

time, we used special meat thermometers for determining the interior temperature of the steak as it cooks, and this allows us to deliver a steak just as it was ordered.

Ernie Rivard is now out of the hospital and recovering at home. I'm sure he would appreciate hearing from all of his friends from the Post 321 Family; his home telephone number is 972-709-4255. I would also request all the Post members keep both Ernie and Georgia in their thoughts and prayers.

I would like to comment again that the Honor Guard is still looking for Post members in fairly good physical condition to join the Honor Guard....if we are to keep our Flagship status from an Honor Guard perspective, we need more members.

As the month of May approaches, the Honor Guard has already received a request to visit the nursing home north of Spring Creek Pkwy and 75 Central to perform a flag raising ceremony, as well as visiting with all the veterans that call this location home.

*For God & Country,
Fletcher Sharp*

Trivia

What craft did Sergeti Avdeyev, Viktor Afanasyev, and Jean-Pierre Halgnere shut the hatch on for the last time, in 1999?

(See *Bartender* for answer)



UNIT 321

Hello ladies, as everybody knows our 4th District convention was in Mabank. Two of our unit members were elected District Officers, Rosemary Drake as Historian and Cindy Bray as Sgt. at arms. (Congratulations) One thing we learned was if you want the A L A emblem on your head stone you have to have 20 continuous years. The Department of Texas is having a building fund drive. If you want your name on a plaque please contact me. We will not be cooking on Wednesdays any longer; we have not been making enough to cover the cost of food. Our May general membership meeting is getting close. We will be electing officers and delegates to Department convention. If you want to run for office please contact Renee May, Lynn Johnson or Charlie Dew. We really need people to chair committees. Do not forget Mothers Day and Memorial Day. Our Memorial Day services are on Monday 26th. Please have a safe and happy month.

*For God and Country,
President Judy Reyna*

Support Our Troops



Squadron 321

Hello Legion Family

The Legion physical year is about over. We are supposed to be at 100% on our membership by May 13th. We have transmitted 128 and our goal is 210. We are way behind. If you haven't paid your Dues please do so.

I would like to welcome our newest member Vern Preston. Welcome aboard. I would also like to congratulate Jeff Saul, Jr. on his election to 1st Vice Commander 4th District.

Elections are in May @ General Membership meetings. If you want to vote for your candidate you need to be at this meeting.

I've been Commander for the past 5 years and have enjoyed being the Commander. I am stepping down from the position, but I will still be active in the 321 Squadron.

See ya around the Post.

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

Pop's Points to Ponder

I was wondering if we can learn from things that have happened in the past. What a concept, learn so that we won't repeat a mistake. I was listening to the

news and learned that the Dallas/Ft. Worth area is booming, people are rushing here to live more than any other place in the United States. This also translates into thousands of new jobs being created to support this activity and providing livable wages for families to live on. Now thinking about it from the past, experience tells me that during those times because things are good prices to support the boom increase because people can afford it. Because we now have to pay more for the cost of living (gas) we demand more wage, the companies have to raise prices to keep the profit margin and pay the new wages. It's a vicious circle. Eventually the city has an inflated cost of living and the companies and the people move elsewhere to make higher wages and the companies seek lower labor costs (China). In order to stabilize this situation our leaders, government, union and private sector, need to work together. making jobs stay here. Who says that the "Share Holders Demand We Make Billion Dollar Profit a Quarter"? Our leader need to make "Right Decisions" about taxes and health care, not politically correct ones. I think back to my little town in Indiana, Connersville, which had 20 factories in the "30's, 40's through the 70's. A family could live on \$20 a week being generated from a man making \$.50 an hour. The war came and women went to work making a \$1.00 an hour because the economy could support it. Following WW II life changed dramatically beginning with a

slow but steady cost of living showing up in the cost of a home from \$5,000 to \$40,000, bread increased from \$.05 to \$2.65, and gas was \$.10 a gallon and went to \$3.25. Today my little town that kept 3 Indiana counties alive is now down to 0 factories; employers giving raise upon raise are now paying much reduced wages in Mexico. The leadership didn't ask "What's good for this country?" Now in my old Indiana town of 18,000 people hundreds of homes are up for sale and most people are out of work and the supporting business is dying along with the town. My Indiana town is not the only place this is happening, it is all over the U.S. Leader's need to do what is necessary for the U.S. to survive, adjust to the new situation and don't allow the "Great Times" spin out of control, control the perpetual inflation and remind our local leaders of my little town in Indiana. God Bless You All Gene "Pops" Fattig



WE

ARE



FAMILY

Members Birthday's May 2008

1. James Moore, Stephanie Britt, Taylor Melton, Richard Spencer
2. Carl Dunn
3. Tracy (Gursham) Hall III, Williams Raymond
4. Bobby Coleman, Danny Johnson
5. Bonnie Davis
6. Galen Blasing, Max Wilkins
7. Budmond Randall Jr
8. David Cowgill, Kyle Crawford, Lionel Gilbert, Bart Lee
11. Ernest Love, Carl Shaffer Jr
12. Donna Gutierrez, Brian Plunkett
13. James Britt, Fredrick Horn, Robert Roach
14. John Casey, Edward Garner
16. Russell Brende, Arlene Conley, C Roy Ferguson, Joshua Freais, Daniel McCabe, Gerald Williams
17. Ethel Mae Gobel, Phillip Smith
19. Rodney Evans, Edward McCarthy, William Poterack, Charles Scheurs
20. Bobby Allen, Robert Bloomer, Duane King, Jacob Schnitzuis, Glen Tolle, James Wilkinson
21. Larry Burton, Hugh Ryan Jr
22. John Bailey, Brandi Fears, John Goss
23. Gilbert Bowling, Christopher Forsyth, Thomas Kelly II, Carroll Latiolais, Jackson Youngling
24. Mark Bjurstrom, Arthur Cantrell, Leroy Nicholson, James Sigler
25. Traci Crawford, Robert Leber, Kenneth Vizard, Pamela Willis
26. Paul Allen, Charles Geisler, John Segari
27. William Morrison, George Wien
28. Tommy Coker, Clarence Lindell, John Maguire, Delores Ruston
29. Christopher Savage, Jared Troxclair
30. Johnie Foster, Paula McFarland, Billy Warmack
31. David Dew, Herwin Kazlow

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

**DAVID DEW
FOR
SAL NATIONAL COMMANDER
2010—2011**

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\$25.00 Donation



Pins
\$3.00 Donation

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Derby
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Saturday May 3rd, 2008
3:00pm to 6:00pm

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Only \$ 5.00**

So ladies wear your big hats and colorful dresses to impress the gentleman.

Kentucky gentlemen dress your best to receive a free boutonniere.



Chaplain's Thoughts

May the God Lord continue to bless you as we all try to live a life of goodness and righteousness, we must understand that there is no other way. There are two beautiful prayers that have been at the core of my life and I wish to share them with all of you, my brothers and sisters. "HEAVENLY FATHER" when it seems we are actually, finally at our wits' end.... and we've seen the end of all that we can do, that is when you are at your nearest, your most miraculous, your best. Sometimes, the road we trudge seems destined to be dusty and desolate forever. And yet, just around the corner, just over the next hill, we see new life, we see hope. I pray for this hope, God all-powerful and eternal. Lord of Day and Night, humbly we ask you that the Light of Christ, true light of justice, shine always in our lives... so that we may deserve the joy "one day" of that light in which you live eternally. I also want to share with you what I am now

reading, sometimes/many times over.

1. The Illusion of Immortality by Corliss Lamont
2. The Prophet by Kahill Gibran
3. The Dolorous Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ by Anne Catherine Emmerich

In general terms I want to remind each and every one of you that we will soon have election of officers in our beloved Post. It is not important for who you are going to vote, what is important is that you vote, use this right to the fullest.

As such, my dear brothers and sisters, let's never forget that as we participate in the suffering, greater will be our participation in the joy and consolation. God Bless you and your family and may the Lord hold each and every one of you in the palm of his hands into eternity.

*Miguel Romeu
Chaplain*

**BLESSED IS THE NATION
WHOS GOD IS LORD**

**American Legion
Paid Up For Life
1/2 price drinks
every
Saturday 10am till
6pm**

**Our Canteen Is
Now
WI-FI**



May 2008



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
<p>Visit Your Home Post At: 1236 Ave. J Plano, Texas 75074</p>					<p>1 SAL. E-Board 6:00 pm</p>	<p>2 ALA Dinner 6:30 pm</p> <p>Flash Flood 8:00 pm</p>	<p>3 Kentucky Derby Party AL E-Board 10:00 am ALR Division Rally- Bonham Sat- Sun The Vault AL PUFL ½ Price Drinks 10:00am-6:00pm</p>
<p>4 Honor Guard Meeting Noon Happy Hour All Day CAP – 6:30 pm</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6 “Open Jukebox” ALR E-Board 6:00 pm Well Drinks \$2.00 7:00-10:00</p>	<p>7 ALA Executive Board Meeting 7:00 pm ALR Meat Drawing 6:30 The Vault \$1.25 Longnecks</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9 Honor Guard Steak Dinner 6:30 pm Mile 21 8:00 pm</p>	<p>10 ALR General Meeting Elections 10:00 am The Vault AL PUFL ½ Price Drinks 10:00am-6:00pm</p>	
<p>11 Happy Mother’s Day Happy Hour All Day CAP – 6:30 pm</p>	<p>12 ALA Nursing Home Bingo 7:00 pm</p>	<p>13 “Open Jukebox” Well Drinks \$2.00 7:00-10:00</p>	<p>14 Joint E-Board Newsletter Meeting 7:00 pm The Vault \$1.25 Longnecks</p>	<p>15 S.A.L. General Membership 6:00 pm ELECTIONS A.L. General Membership 7:00 pm</p>	<p>16 SAL Dinner 6:30 pm Texas Rhythm 8:00 pm</p>	<p>17 The Vault AL PUFL ½ Price Drinks 10:00am-6:00pm</p>	
<p>18 Happy Hour All Day CAP – 6:30 pm</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20 “Open Jukebox” Well Drinks \$2.00 7:00-10:00</p>	<p>21 ALA General Membership Elections 7:00 pm ALR Meat Drawing 6:30 The Vault \$1.25 Longnecks</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23 TBA Dinner 6:30 pm Ghost Riders 8:00 pm</p>	<p>24 The Vault AL PUFL ½ Price Drinks 10:00am-6:00pm</p>	
<p>25 Brunch 10am-Noon Happy Hour All Day</p>	<p>26 Memorial Day Observance Flag Placement PostHome 6:30 am City Hall 8:30am Plano Mutual Ceme- tery-11:00am Mem. Day Picnic @ Post- 1:00pm</p>	<p>27 “Open Jukebox” Well Drinks \$2.00 7:00-10:00</p>	<p>28 The Vault \$1.25 Longnecks</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30 ALA Juniors Dinner 6:30 pm Mo Villians 8:00 pm</p>	<p>31</p>	

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
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PLANO AMERICAN LEGION POST 321



FOURTH DISTRICT FLAGSHIP

THE AMERICAN LEGION
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May 2008

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