

Harding-Blaine Post 321

"Flagship of the Fourth District"

Member of TEXALPA and NALPA

Our Honor Guard Needs Your Help

Our Post Commander received a request for assistance and has turned over this request to the Harding-Blaine Post 321 Honor Guard.

The Honor Guard is starting some involvement with a small group of concerned citizens in McKinney; actually, it's two women in their 70's and a man, also in his mid 70's. It seems that many, many years ago, there was a small cemetery formed in McKinney that was used primarily for African-American's. This cemetery is called the Ross Cemetery, and is actually part of the Pecan Grove Cemetery, which is located at the southeast corner of Highway 5 and Eldorado Parkway.

Apparently, when the Pecan Grove cemetery came into being, the south fence line just barely cut into the older Ross cemetery, but since this put the Ross cemetery on the outside, right next to where there used to be a city dump....folks just dumped their trash on top of the area that is Ross Cemetery. Some headstones/markers have been vandalized, or just plain stolen.

These three folks from McKinney have started to do what they can to get the cemetery cleaned up, and working with

the Sheriff's department, have actually had a work crew do some clearing of brush.

So....what does all of this have to do with your Honor Guard?

At least 30, perhaps as many as 50 **U. S. veterans**, from WWI, WWII, Korea and Viet Nam are buried here, and have never been honored on Memorial Day or Veterans Day...for over half a century!! These three citizens from McKinney have requested your Post Honor Guard provide some assistance in a Memorial Day event, probably starting around 1:00PM or so on May 25th, after we've completed our obligations to our own Post and Plano City Hall at their Memorial Day celebration, plus the 11:00AM services we conduct at the 18th St cemetery.

I think it's the least we can offer for fellow veterans that have been forgotten for over half a century; if you can make it, I think you will find it to be a fascinating event. Please see me for directions if you wish to attend.

Ernie Rivard continues to maintain his current status, which is "more or less" stable, but in a weakened condition; he's been this way for the past 3 to 4 months. Please include him and his family in your prayers.

*For God & Country,
Fletcher Sharp, Honor Guard Commander*

Charlie's Chatter



I would first like to congratulate the newly elected 4th District officers upon your election to this prestigious office. I believe that serving as a District officer is the best of the best! Your next two years will be filled with so many wonderful experiences. I have to say, it was my favorite level to have the privilege to serve in.

If you are not signed up for the American Legion National legislative alerts via the National web site, please sign up. The URL is; <http://capwiz.com/legion/home/> the national Legion web site is www.legion.org. There is a wealth of valuable information on both of these web sites. Please take the time to check these out.

The American Legion, Auxiliary and Squadron elections are coming up this month. We try to stress each year to vote for the most qualified candidates. The offices are the most important within our organization. It can make or break our "Legion family" at this level. Your votes should not be cast for the person that buys the most libations but for the person that will improve our family. They should know the programs and be willing to step up to the plate, do the job and listen to the mem-

bership. When I say listen to the membership, I don't mean do what a few suggest, but do what is right for our family. It should not be that you have voted for your best friend that has no idea about what the American Legion family programs are. Would you want this person running, running your household? Please consider before voting.

*For God, Country and Veterans,
Charlie Dew*



Commander's Corner

Hello, again. Time sure has flown this past year. Time for elections again. Wow. Please support your candidates in your respective entity. Check the calendar in this newsletter for the respective times of the elections.

The Easter Bunny had a great turn-out. We just missed him! He hopped around the corner before we could see him, but he hid plenty of eggs! Everyone had lots of fun...Even I got an egg. The Bunny left some of his helpers to make sure all had a great time. Thanks, Cindy Oldroyd, Barbara Brandow and Lavada Newell. You were wonderful Easter Chicks!

We'll be observing Memorial Day on the 25th. Gene " Pops" Fattig and Bill Vars will be representing our Post at the City Hall Observance. We will be holding our annual Memorial Day Observance at the Plano Municipal Cemetery. Please

plan on attending. Give a little of your time to honor those who gave all.

After we pay our respects we will be having our picnic at the Post. All are welcome.

*Stay safe,
Steve Cockerham*



UNIT 321

This month is elections. We still have openings for officers. Don't forget Memorial day the 25th. Our children's Easter egg hunt went very well. There were about 15 kids.

We are sending 8 girls to Girl State. Great job, Jean Kelly. Next month will be my last newsletter article. Your new president will be writing the articles. Have a safe memorial day.

*For God and Country,
Judy Reyna*

WE



ARE



FAMILY

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



Squadron 321

As our year comes to a close, I would like to say thank you to the 2008 -09 officers. You all have been a great team. Election of 2009 - 10 officers will be held May 21st at 6:00 pm.

David Dew is running for National Commander for 2010 - 11 year and we have pins and belt buckles for sale and they are very nice. If interested, contact Ray or Abel.

Memorial Day is May 25th. Flags will be posted at 6:00 am and the service will be at 11:00 am at Plano cemetery on 18th Street.

I would like to report that Cody Cloninger is doing better, please get well soon.

*For God and Country
Bryan Vinson*

By now you have probably heard the Road to Recovery escort we did along with other divisions was a great success and that we met President Bush and made the local TV news channels. This was a sobering experience. Those veterans who had missing arms, legs or both made the trip without moaning, complaining and in some instances without stopping for a break. Having the honor and privilege of being part of this mission makes you wonder about those of us who have all of our limbs that say I am tired, I quit or I give up. Those young men and women only quit when the two wheels they were on were broken or could not be repaired. The American Legion post along the route provided lunch, dinner and held fund rais-

ers to benefit the R2R veterans, in all about twenty-thousand dollars was raised.

Our next mission is to put together a benefit for a project called "My Friends House." This is house in Collin County for abused children up to the age of nine and they have run out of funds. I learned this morning, due to the economy, child abuse has doubled in Collin County and there are not enough foster homes and the children are being sent all over the place. This home is in the back yard of the 4th district and it is time for us, the 4th district, to step up.

We currently have three post members deployed and it is our goal to send them a care package every ninety days with items they need to make their job a little more bearable and to show them we are thinking of them. I noticed our donation box is empty and I ask you again if your by a dollar store stop in and spend one dollar, that's one beer on dollar and a quarter beer night. You can get a lot of stuff for a dollar.

Thank You

Larry Lawson (Taz)

Post 321 AL Director

DAVID DEW FOR SAL NATIONAL COMMANDER 2010—2011

Numbered
Belt Buckle
\$25.00 Donation



Pins
\$3.00 Donation

SUPPORT OUR TROOPS





MUSIC

Prom Night

DANCING



Saturday, May 9th, 2009 6:00pm

Prom Photos

- Under the Archway
- Next to our Prom Car

Come dressed for the Prom and be eligible to win Prom King or Prom Queen

Vote for your favorite Prom King & Queen for a \$1.00 donation

Hors d'Ouvres
Punch
50/50 Drawing

The History of Memorial Day

Three years after the Civil War ended, on May 5, 1868, the head of an organization of Union veterans — the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) — established Decoration Day as a time for the nation to decorate the graves of the war dead with flowers. Maj. Gen. John A. Logan declared that Decoration Day should be observed on May 30. It is believed that date was chosen because flowers would be in bloom all over the country.

The first large observance was held that year at Arlington National Cemetery, across the Potomac River from Washington, D.C.

The ceremonies centered around the mourning-draped veranda of the Arlington mansion, once the home of Gen. Robert E. Lee. Various Washington officials, including Gen. and Mrs. Ulysses S. Grant, presided over the ceremonies. After speeches, children from the Soldiers' and Sailors' Orphan Home and members of the GAR made their way through the cemetery, strewing flowers on both Union and Confederate graves, reciting prayers and singing hymns.

Local Observances Claim To Be First Local springtime tributes to the Civil War dead already had been held in various places. One of the first occurred in Columbus, Miss., April 25, 1866, when a group of women visited a cemetery to decorate the graves of Confederate soldiers who had fallen in battle at Shiloh. Nearby were the graves of Union soldiers, neglected because they were the enemy. Disturbed at the sight of the bare graves, the women placed some of their flowers on those graves, as well.

Today, cities in the North and the South claim to be the birthplace of Memorial Day in 1866. Both Macon and Columbus, Ga., claim the title, as well as Richmond, Va. The village of Boalsburg, Pa., claims it began there two years earlier. A stone in a Carbondale, Ill., cemetery carries the statement that the first Decoration Day ceremony took place there on April 29, 1866. Carbondale was the war-time home of Gen. Logan. Approximately 25 places have been named in connection with the origin of Memorial Day, many of them in the South where most of the war dead were buried.

Official Birthplace Declared In 1966, Congress and President Lyndon Johnson declared Waterloo, N.Y., the "birthplace" of Memorial Day. There, a ceremony on May 5, 1866, honored local veterans who had fought in the Civil War. Businesses closed and residents flew flags at half-staff. Supporters of Waterloo's claim say earlier observances in other places were either informal, not community-wide or one-time events.

By the end of the 19th century, Memorial Day ceremonies were being held on May 30 throughout the nation. State legislatures passed proclamations designating the day, and the Army and Navy adopted regulations for proper observance at their facilities.

It was not until after World War I, however, that the day was expanded to honor those who have died in all American wars. In 1971, Memorial Day was declared a national holiday by an act of Congress, though it is still often called Decoration Day. It was then also placed on the last Monday in May, as were some other federal holidays.

*** 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 May 2009

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, Marcus Jimenez Jr
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
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, 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

A Big Thanks!!!

To the American Legion Post 321 Family. I want to thank all of you that supported me in my walk for "The March of Dimes" on April 18th 2009. This was my third walk in a row. I was among the top in Texas raising \$1,399.00. I beat my total of last year when I was also among the top in Texas. I appreciate your help, this is something that I really enjoy doing and it is for a wonderful cause.

*Tamme Scholander
ALA Member*

Homepost Humor

Sign over a Podiatrist's office:
"Time wounds all heels."

On a Plumber's truck:
"We repair what your husband fixed."

On another Plumber's truck:
"Don't sleep with a drip. Call your plumber.."

At a Towing company:
"We don't charge an arm and a leg. We want tows."

On an Electrician's truck:
"Let us remove your shorts."

In a Nonsmoking Area:
"If we see smoke, we will assume you are on fire and take appropriate action."

On a Maternity Room door:
"Push. Push. Push."

At an Optometrist's Office:
"If you don't see what you're looking for, you've come to the right place."

On a Taxidermist's window:
"We really know our stuff."

On a Fence:
"Salesmen welcome! Dog food is expensive!"

LOBO

Lobo – was stalking near by
And upon him I kept – a wary eye.
I had friends – but none had he
Always alone – he seemed to be.
Out of no – where – he would appear
He did charge – the atmosphere.
Where his den lie – none seemed to know
He would appear – out of the misty snow.

Lobo and me – we often met
But never a word – spoke we yet.
He always seemed to find me – all alone
Far away – far from home.

A thrill – ran up my spine
A fear – so divine!
Like a wolf – stalking a deer
His lips curled back – with a leer.

The snow was – very wet
Like Ohio's snow – often gets.
He had skinny arms – yet fast and strong
His arm a slingshot – his hand a throng.

I was young – I was quick
They throw a punch – but air they hit.
I, the only one – I was too quick
I, the only one – no missile could hit.
I looked at his hands – no ice ball there
And in thanks I gave – a silent prayer.

The he crossed his arms – and from his arm pits
Two icy balls – drip, drip, drip.
Because of empty hands – I let him get close
If I didn't move quick – I'd be toast.

The first ice ball – barely nicked
But, the second ice ball – split my lip.
With pain – I roared out!
With tears in my eyes, I did shout!
He looked at me – disappointed I'd say

Then he shrugged – and walked away.
I felt shame – of my anger displayed
For I respected him – in a funny kind of way.
No more did – this hunt go on
No more fear – or a victor's song.

Once in awhile – we'd pass on the street
But, never a word – we did speak.
*William Wick
AL Member*

Memorial Day Observance

Flag Placement
Post Home 6:30 am
City Hall 8:30am
Plano Mutual Cemetery-11:00am
Memorial Day Picnic
@ Post- 1:00pm

Kentucky Derby Day

Saturday May 2nd, 2009
3:00pm to 6:00pm

**Call Drinks
4-7pm
Only \$ 3.00**

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

Kentucky gentlemen dress your best to receive a free boutonniere.

Trivia

Q. How many months per year do residents of Tromsø, Norway go without seeing a sunset?

(See Bartender for answer)