

Harding-Blaine Post 321

"Flagship of the Fourth District"

Member of TEXALPA and NALPA

The Origins of Veterans Day



In 1921, an unknown World War I American soldier was buried in Arlington National Cemetery. This site, on a hillside overlooking the Potomac River and the city of Washington, D.C., became the focal point of reverence for America's veterans.

Similar ceremonies occurred earlier in England and France, where an unknown soldier was buried in each nation's highest place of honor (in England, Westminster Abbey; in France, the Arc de Triomphe). These memorial gestures all took place on November 11, giving universal recognition to the celebrated ending of World War I fighting at 11 a.m., November 11, 1918 (the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month). The day became known as "Armistice Day."

Armistice Day officially received its name in America in 1926 through a Congressional resolution. It became a national holiday 12 years later by similar Congressional action. If the idealistic hope had been realized that World War I was "the War to end all wars," November 11 might still be called Armistice Day. But only a few years after the holiday was proclaimed, war broke out in Europe. Sixteen

and one-half million Americans took part. Four hundred seven thousand of them died in service, more than 292,000 in battle.

Armistice Day Changed To Honor All Veterans

The first celebration using the term Veterans Day occurred in Birmingham, Alabama, in 1947. Raymond Weeks, a World War II veteran, organized "National Veterans Day," which included a parade and other festivities, to honor all veterans. The event was held on November 11, and then designated Armistice Day. Later, U.S. Representative Edward Rees of Kansas proposed a bill that would change Armistice Day to Veterans Day. In 1954, Congress passed the bill that President Eisenhower signed proclaiming November 11 as Veterans Day. Raymond Weeks received the Presidential Citizens Medal from President Reagan in November 1982. Weeks' local parade and ceremonies are now an annual event celebrated nationwide.

On Memorial Day 1958, two more unidentified American war dead were brought from overseas and interred in the plaza beside the unknown soldier of World War I. One was killed in World War II, the other in the

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Charlie's Chatter

Fall is in the air! Isn't this time of year, just beautiful?

I just returned from the National President Desi Stoy's Homecoming held in Columbus, Ohio. The American Legion Family within the Department of Ohio did a great job, and showed how a family truly works together. I wish you all could have attended.

The veterans from Bonham VA will be visiting Post 321 on Saturday, November 15th. Please make plans to attend. The vets love to come to Plano because they have such a good time. A traditional Thanksgiving Dinner will be prepared. Please, if you have the time, bring a dessert. The ALA will need regular and sugar free desserts to serve to the veterans.

They will arrive around 11:00AM with the American Legion riders as their escorts. If you have never seen this, be sure to make it! It is AWE-SOME!

I would like to personally congratulate Calvin Nagy and his Chili Committee. They raised over \$4,000.00 for Collin County Meals on Wheels, with only 4 months preparation. Great JOB!

This is one of the busiest times of year for the VA & R Committee. We will be preparing for the

visit for the veterans for the holiday meal, and then the first week in December the VA will host the "Gift Shop". If you have never heard of this before, the American Legion families that are assigned to the Bonham VA will either purchase gifts or send funds to the VAVS Representative at the hospital for her to purchase gifts. During the Gift Shop, the veterans can come in and choose gifts to send to their family members at no charge. The gifts are then gift wrapped, and put into boxes and mailed to those family members. This is done for "NO CHARGE" to the veterans. Volunteers are needed to help assist the veterans choose their gifts, wrap the gifts and prepare for mailing the gifts. So if you do not have anything to do, please come to the VA Hospital in Bonham on December 3-5, 2008. If you have a little extra cash, please donate to the ALA Veterans Gift Shop. We can provide you with a receipt for tax purposes.

If you have any questions about these programs, please contact one of the Auxiliary officers.

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

Veterans Day Cont...

Korean War. In 1984, an unknown serviceman from the Vietnam War was placed alongside the others. The remains from Vietnam were exhumed May 14, 1998, identified as Air Force 1st Lt. Michael Joseph Blassie, and removed for burial. To honor these men, symbolic of all Americans who gave their lives in all wars, an Army honor guard, the 3rd U.S. Infantry (The Old Guard), keeps day

and night vigil.

A law passed in 1968 changed the national commemoration of Veterans Day to the fourth Monday in October. It soon became apparent, however, that November 11 was a date of historic significance to many Americans. Therefore, in 1978 Congress returned the observance to its traditional date.

National Ceremonies Held at Arlington National Cemetery

The focal point for official, national ceremonies for Veterans Day continues to be the memorial amphitheater built around the Tomb of the Unknowns. At 11 a.m. on November 11, a combined color guard representing all military services executes "Present Arms" at the tomb. The nation's tribute to its war dead is symbolized by the laying of a presidential wreath. The bugler plays "taps." The rest of the ceremony takes place in the amphitheater. Veterans Day ceremonies at Arlington and elsewhere are coordinated by the President's Veterans Day National Committee. Chaired by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, the committee represents national veterans organizations. Governors of many states and U.S. territories appoint Veterans Day chairpersons who, in cooperation with the National Committee and the Department of Defense, arrange and promote local ceremonies.

Additional Information

Additional information on the history of Veterans Day and Resource Guides can be found on the Internet at <http://www.va.gov/vetsday/>

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 Wilmuth
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	John Maguire
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	116	369	33.06
ALA	285	252	88.42
SAL	210	211	100.4



Commander's Corner

Hello again, this is going to be a quick article, as I have the flu, or something else that's nasty! Sam's Club in East Plano is putting on a free breakfast for the Legion Family the 1st Sat of the month. I believe it starts at 7 a.m. They will also be giving out \$10.00 shopping cards to all members who join their club. They will be giving prizes, also. Sam's Club has worked closely with us for several years. They have donated money and goods over the years supporting our Programs. Let's pay them back by having a good turn-out.

The food baskets will be given out on the 22nd at Albertsons in Allen. Last year, we donated over 550 baskets! You have a right to be proud of this one! That's 550+ families your Post fed last year.

Lavada Newell has assured me that we will be having Thanksgiving Dinner at the Post. I'm sure she could use a hand, or two.

We won't be having a band the Fri. after Thanksgiving. In years past, it's been a slow night...and the bands want to be with their families, also.

Last, but surely not least, the Bonham Vets will be at our Post Nov.15 for their annual Christmas Party. Yea, I know, Christmas isn't in November, but we

were so excited about them coming, we just couldn't wait! Please come and be a part of this event.

That's about it for me; please enjoy your wonderful newsletter!

*For God and Country,
Steve Cockerham*



UNIT 321

The Bonham Veterans Halloween carnival was a big success. They really enjoyed all the games.

November 1st through the 12th is our poppy drive, so come in and pop a balloon for your branch of the service. Our Bonham Vets are coming November the 15th at 11:30a.m. If you would like to help with the dinner, please be at the post around 8:00a.m. We need regular desserts and sugar free desserts. Come and enjoy our Veterans.

*For God and Country,
Judy Reyna*



Squadron 321

I hope everyone is looking forward to the beginning of the holiday season. The vets from the Bonham VA will be in for a visit on Nov. 15th. I hope that we have a good showing and pay our respects to them. It should be a great time for all. We thank the ALA for all they do this time of year. Please give them your support.

Membership is still slow so please renew and bring in a new member. We always need volunteers. We have a lot of great programs we work on for veterans, their families and the community. We can always use more help. Just give us a call.

In this upcoming holiday season, remember a prayer for our men and women who are proudly serving their country.

*For God & Country,
Bryan Vinson*

A Special "Thanks"

Two of our members with the help of Plano Ice House made it possible for us to have plenty of ice for the Chili Cook Off. The Plano Ice house is on 14th street between Jupiter and Shiloh road. (3100 East 14th). The owner donated the ice and Paul Bernier and Mark Welker took time out of their schedules to transport the ice to the Post with two freezers to keep the ice in. If you see them around the Post, please give them a "thanks". Mark likes to refer to himself as the "deaf guy", you know who he is and with that, you know his friend Paul.

Plano Veteran's Memorial



This is the last update before we present the Plano Veteran's Memorial on November 11, 2008 (Tuesday- work day) at Memorial Park at Custer and Spring Creek. The Memorial will recognize the sacrifices of our Servicemen in all the Wars and Conflicts, as well as the support of the Families on the home front. The dedication services will begin at 9:30 and last for approximately 1 hour with several dignitaries such as the Honorable Sam Johnson, our representative to the House of Representatives in Washington. Mr. Johnson was shot down in the Viet Nam Conflict and spent 7 years as a POW. He is my personal hero.

I want to thank Mr. Fletcher Sharp, Honor Guard, which with his fellow Post 321 Legionnaires will be participating at the ceremony. Also, Mr. Larry Lawson/ Representative Ray Kahler, American Legion Riders, have agreed to participate with the other area Veteran's groups to provide needed services. And last, but not least Lavada says the American Legion Auxiliary will be ready to go by handing out Poppies to the public. Thank you all so much.

It has given me great pride in serving on the City of Plano Committee for the Memorial, for three years, and I thank Past Commander, John Maguire for appointing me. The City is to be commended for providing the expertise and funds to make this project work. We thank them.

Hope to see you all there.

Clif Pratt



Support Our Troops

2008 Battle of the Branches



The Auxiliary's Poppy Committee is getting ready to start the Annual Battle of The Branches. It will start on Saturday November 1st with a Friday dinner on the 7th. Please watch for the Poster's to be hung around the Cantina with the menu. There will be the ever famous \$1.00 balloon pop with a chance to win prizes. This is your chance to donate to the Branch of your choice, Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and Coast Guard. The Branch with the most money donated to it will have bragging rights until next year's Battle. Balloons will be hung in the Cantina during the day and in the evening. It will run thru Wednesday, November 12th. Wednesday evening we will total up all the donations to each Branch and announce the winner. Please come and join in the fun and show your support for our Veterans.

Cindy Oldroyd, Poppy Committee

The American Bald Eagle

The bald eagle has been the national bird of the United States since 1782, when it was placed with outspread wings on the Great Seal of our country. It appears in many government institutions and on official documents, making it the most pictured bird in all of America. The eagle appears on the president's flag, the mace of the House of Representatives, military insignia, and billions of one-dollar bills.

For six years, the members of Congress held a bitter dispute over what the national emblem should be. It wasn't until 1789 that the bald eagle was finally chosen to represent the new nation.

One of the most prominent opponents to the bald eagle's status was Benjamin Franklin. In a letter to a friend, Franklin wrote:

I wish the bald eagle had not been chosen as the representative of our country; he is a bird of bad moral character; like those among men who live by sharpening and robbing, he is generally poor, and often very lousy. The turkey is a much more respectable bird and withal a true, original native of America.

But not all of Congress shared Franklin's sentiments. Bald eagles, like other eagles worldwide, had been seen by many as symbols of strength, courage, freedom and immortality for generations. And, unlike other eagles, the bald eagle was indigenous only to North America.

President John F. Kennedy wrote to the Audubon Society:

The Founding Fathers made an appropriate choice when they selected the bald eagle as the emblem of the nation. The fierce beauty and proud independence of this great bird aptly symbolizes the strength and freedom of America. But as latter-day citizens we shall fail our trust if we permit the eagle to disappear.

Taken from the US Department of Veterans Affairs website

Members Birthday's November 2008

1. Robert Davis, Fred Ellis, Brenda Fontenot, Floyd Pollard, Kyler Rodosta, William Vars
2. Doyle Monden
3. Edwin Tidwell
4. Don Pierson, Ralph Wilkerson
5. Jessica Evans
6. Terry Cloninger, Larry Coffey
7. Jessica Gittens, Paul Medley
8. Opal Davis, Joseph Hardy, Luther Jones, Fred Kegley, Howard Meador, Sabrina Staton
9. William Kennedy, Avis Novak, Berry Thomas
11. Tony Nichols
12. John Cooper, Robert Mohler
13. Ray Anderson, Randall Blackmon, Charles Buchanan, Rex Rudy
14. Keith Borg, Herman Boyd, Hughes Brian, Thomas Gittens, Ronald Leitschuh
15. Robert Stinson
16. Judith Humphrey, James Kirkpatrick
18. Charles Damron
19. Timothy Krey
20. Kyle Hoyle, Edward Kucia Sr
21. Denise Cromartie, Jim Kurzym, Vernon Sorenson, William Wick
22. Thomas Black, Dave Willingham, David Willingham
24. Chad Gojer, Joseph Jackson
26. Gene Barkan, Beverly Gottschalk, W Saigling, Frederick Smeltzer, Gary Wolfe, Carol Yeagley
27. Henry Hisel, Ernest Rivard
28. Rob Roberson, David White, Nathan White Jr
29. Franklin Quarles, William Sexton
30. James Wowley, Christopher Kotlarz, Ryan Steele, Thelma Wigington

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

1st Vice Says...

Hello comrades, here it is November already and the Chili Cook Off has already come and gone. I can't believe there were only ten teams this year.

Our membership is coming along. I with the help of my sweet wife have mailed out 250 letters to members that have not paid their 2008 dues and we are getting some good response back. If anyone of you out there knows of a Veteran that is eligible to join the American Legion, please let us know. On October 2nd, we buried our friend and comrade Dave Teague. Dave will always be remembered. I would like to and we all should commend our Legion Riders for the beautiful formation with our American Flags at the door of the funeral home and at the cemetery and all of the work they put into it. We should commit to doing that all the time, they are a great bunch and we are fortunate to have them. THANKS RIDERS FROM ALL OF US.

Please come and support our Post as much as possible.

*Comrades forever,
Bob Price, 1st Vice Commander*

Service Officer

November 11th is Veteran's Day. The Plano Veteran's Memorial Park will be dedicated that day at 0930hrs. Back in 2005 the citizens of Plano approved a 2 million dollar bond project to pay for the park. The park is located on Custer Road south of Spring Creek Parkway. For those that are either retired military or collecting Social Security, President Bush signed a

5.8% pay raise effective January 2009. As usual you will not see the increase until February 2009. I also heard that Medicare cost will not increase and we should find out for sure next year.

*For God, Country & Veterans,
Jim LaBelle, Service Officer*

The Great Beast (Taxation)

One little creature said to another little creature, "come let us join together and become one. Together we can control our destiny and stronger we will be". Soon other little creatures saw how strong they were and ask to join. Together they became a Great Beast that all the other little creatures became afraid of; for this beast had a voracious appetite.

Soon it devoured all the other little creatures around and had to feed off itself. So it bit into one of the little creatures that made up its body and took a big chunk out of it. The little creature cried out in pain but, there was no help of it for, the Great Beast must eat.

Now this Great Beast tried to spread its appetite around taking little chunks off one little creature and then another. He kept nibbling away until all the little creatures that made up its body were slowly dying. The Beasts' appetite had become so enormous it could not stop devouring itself. Now, the Great Beast lay in great agony as it consumed its own flesh. Finally, the Ultimate Reality speaks, "Return to them my Son for, if you do not, there will be no flesh left alive".

William Wick

Recipe of the Month

Egyptian Chicken

4 Chicken Breasts
Salt and Pepper
1 Tbsp. Minced Garlic
1 Yellow Onion - cubed
1 Zucchini Squash - sliced
1 Yellow Squash - sliced
Fresh Thyme - 2 sprigs
4 Basil Leaves
1 Can of Mushroom Soup
1 Jar Alfredo Sauce

Brown Chicken, add onion and garlic half way through browning chicken. Place Chicken in 9" glass baking dish and add the remaining ingredients. Cover with foil.

Bake @ 350 for 25 minutes

Garnish with Parsley, Rosemary and Chives

Suggestions:

Serve with:

Wild Rice

Buttered Asparagus

Garlic Bread

Pinot Grigio w/ Peach Wedge

ENJOY!

Ms. Cleo

Trivia

The Army Half-Track from WWII was the most utilized personnel carrier ever used. Which Country is still actively using it today?

(See Bartender for answer)