

Harding-Blaine Post 321

"Flagship of the Fourth District"

Member of TEXALPA and NALPA

Secretary Shinseki Announces Expansion of Counseling for Combat Veterans

Additional 28 New Community Vet Centers



WASHINGTON (August 14, 2009) - Today, Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki announced that combat Veterans will receive readjustment counseling and other assistance in 28 additional communities across the country where the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) will establish Vet Centers in 2010. "VA is committed to providing high-quality outreach and readjustment counseling to all combat Veterans," Secretary Shinseki said. "These 28 new Vet Centers will address the growing need for those services." The community-based Vet Centers -- already in all 50 states -- are a key component of VA's mental health program, providing Veterans with mental health screening and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) counseling.

The existing 232 centers conduct community outreach to offer counseling on employment, family issues and education to combat Veterans and family members, as well as bereavement counseling for families of service members killed on active duty and counseling for Veterans who were sexually harassed on active duty.

Vet Center services are earned through service in a combat zone or area of hostility and are provided at no cost to Veterans or their families.

They are staffed by small multidisciplinary teams, which may include social workers, psychologists, psychiatric nurses, master's-level counselors and outreach specialists. Over 70 percent of Vet Center employees are Veterans themselves, a majority of whom served in combat zones.



The Vet Center program was established in 1979 by Congress, recognizing that many Vietnam Veterans were still having readjustment problems. In 2008, the Vet Center program provided over 1.1 million visits to over 167,000 Veterans,

including over 53,000 visits by more than 14,500 Veteran families. More information about Vet Centers can be found at www.vetcenter.va.gov/index.asp

Communities Receiving New VA Vet Centers

- American Samoa
- Arizona -- Mohave and Yuma Counties
- California -- San Luis Obispo County
- Delaware - Sussex County
- Florida - Marion, Lake, Collier, Okaloosa and Bay Counties
- Georgia - Muscogee and Richmond Counties
- Hawaii - Western Oahu
- Indiana - St. Joseph County
- Louisiana - Rapides Parish
- Michigan - Grand Traverse County, also serving Wexford County
- Missouri - Boone County
- Montana - Cascade and Flathead Counties
- Ohio - Stark County
- Oregon - Deschutes County
- Pennsylvania - Lancaster County
- South Carolina - Horry County
- Texas - Jefferson and Taylor Counties
- Utah - Washington County
- Washington - Walla Walla County, also serving Umatilla County, Oregon
- Wisconsin - Lacrosse County, also serving Monroe County



Commander's Corner

Thank you for your trust and faith in me for selecting me as the 1st Vice Commander. I know with your help and support, as I cannot do it alone, we can get on with business. I ask that you make an honest attempt to attend your respective entities meetings and find out what is going in the post. Your input makes a difference.

Thank You

Larry Lawson, 1st Vice Commander

American Legion

Paid Up For Life

1/2 price drinks every
Saturday 10am till 9pm

CHECK OUT OUR
WEBSITE

www.al321tx.org

UNIT 321

It is with great sadness that I report to you that Unit 321 has lost two long time members. Elsie Edgett, Past Department President passed away this last month. She has been ill for some time. Our thoughts and prayers go out to her family.

We have also lost Carol Cloninger, who was serving as the Unit VA & R Chairman. She left behind her husband Terry and son Cody. Carol lost the battle with cancer after a long hard fight. Both of these members will be greatly missed. Our love, thoughts and prayers go to Carol's family.

The vets from Bonham VAMC visited our Post home last month. I am proud to say that fun was had by all. I would like to thank everyone from the Harding-Blaine Family that worked so hard to make their

Elected Officers 2009-2010

American Legion

Commander	Terry Cloninger
1st Vice	Larry Lawson
2nd Vice	William Bray
Adjutant	Jim Williamson
Asst. Adjutant	Bob Allison
Finance Officer	Jeff Armstrong
Chaplain	Miguel Romeu
Judge Advocate	Fletcher Sharp
Historian	Carey Augustine
Service Officer	Jim LaBelle
Sgt-at-Arms	Mike Carlock
Exec. Committeeman	Wayne Morgan
Exec. Committeeman	Dennis Ott
Past Commander	Steve Cockerham

American Legion Auxiliary

President	Charlie Dew
1st Vice	Linda Wilmeth
2nd Vice	Lynn Marie Johnson
Recording Sec.	Cindy Scholander
Treasurer	Lavada Newell
Chaplain	Bernadine Smith
Correspond. Sec	Phyllis Price
Historian	Cheryl Styers
Sgt-at-Arms	Cindy Bray
Asst. Sgt-at-Arms	Melissa Davis
Executive Comm.	Cindy Oldroyd
	Jean Kelly
	Judy Reyna

Sons Of The American Legion

Commander	Abel Silva Jr.
1st Vice	Eddie Olivera Jr.
2nd Vice	Jimmy Gray
Finance Officer	Jay Terwort
Adjutant	Ray Hartline
Judge Advocate	David Dew
Chaplain	Jeff Saul
Historian	Larry Cobden
Sgt-at-Arms	Jimmy Jackson
Asst. Sgt-at-Arms	Franklin Nacy
Liaison	Fletcher Sharp
Past Commander	Bryan Vinson

American Legion Riders

Director	Larry Lawson
Assistant Director	Stuart Potter
Secretary	Liz Pitts
Treasurer	Kimberly Potter
Chaplain	Michael Horak
Historian	Jorja Morgan
Sgt-At-Arms	Randy Rouse
Membership	Wendy Rouse
Communication Chair	Wendy Rouse
	Liz Pitts
Run Coord.	Allen Pitts

Membership

Org.	Goal	Paid	%
AL 10	1020	559	54.80
ALA 10	194	65	33.51
SAL 09	213	149	69.95

DAVID DEW

FOR
SAL NATIONAL COMMANDER
2010—2011

Numbered
Belt Buckle
\$25.00 Donation

Pins
\$3.00 Donation



visit a success. You know who you are, my heartfelt thanks J. I write to you while I am attending the National Convention in Louisville, KY. I am proud to announce that Theresa Hill, VAMC Dallas ALA Representative was named "National Volunteer of the Year" at the Pre-Con meetings yesterday. Theresa has volunteered over 2,000 hours this past year serving the veterans of the Dallas VAMC. If you happen to run into her during a visit there, please congratulate her.

Please remember that the Auxiliary will be cooking the first Friday night in September. Chicken Fried Steak with all the fixings.

The Fourth District Coffee Tour will be held on Saturday, Sept. 12th. More information will be available soon. Please stop by the Post home to receive an agenda.

If you have not paid your dues, please remember that they will be increasing the first of the year. Please pay your dues as soon as you can to beat that increase.

If you have any info that you feel the Auxiliary needs to know. Please contact me anytime at charliedew2@verizon.net or my cell 214/789-3608.

*For god Country & Veterans,
Charlie Dew, President*

**Our Canteen Is
Now
WI-FI**

HOW LABOR DAY CAME ABOUT; WHAT IT MEANS

"Labor Day differs in every essential from the other holidays of the year in any country," said Samuel Gompers, founder and longtime president of the American Federation of Labor. "All other holidays are in a more or less degree connected with conflicts and battles of man's prowess over man, of strife and discord for greed and power, of glories achieved by one nation over another. Labor Day...is devoted to no man, living or dead, to no sect, race, or nation."

Labor Day, the first Monday in September, is a creation of the labor movement and is dedicated to the social and economic achievements of American workers. It constitutes a yearly national tribute to the contributions workers have made to the strength, prosperity and well-being of our country.

Founder of Labor Day

More than 100 years after the first Labor Day observance, there is still some doubt as to who first proposed the holiday for workers.

Some records show that Peter J. McGuire, general secretary of the Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners and a co-founder of the American Federation of Labor, was first in suggesting a day to honor those "who from rude nature have delved and carved all the grandeur we behold."

But Peter McGuire's place in Labor Day history has not gone unchallenged. Many believe that Matthew Maguire, a machinist, not Peter McGuire, founded the holiday. Recent research seems to support the

contention that Matthew Maguire, later the secretary of Local 344 of the International Association of Machinists in Paterson, N.J., proposed the holiday in 1882 while serving as secretary of the Central Labor Union in New York. What is clear is that the Central Labor Union adopted a Labor Day proposal and appointed a committee to plan a demonstration and picnic.

The First Labor Day

The first Labor Day holiday was celebrated on Tuesday, September 5, 1882, in New York City, in accordance with the plans of the Central Labor Union. The Central Labor Union held its second Labor Day holiday just a year later, on September 5, 1883.

In 1884 the first Monday in September was selected as the holiday, as originally proposed, and the Central Labor Union urged similar organizations in other cities to follow the example of New York and celebrate a "workingmen's holiday" on that date. The idea spread with the growth of labor organizations, and in 1885 Labor Day was celebrated in many industrial centers of the country.

Labor Day Legislation

Through the years the nation gave increasing emphasis to Labor Day. The first governmental recognition came through municipal ordinances passed during 1885 and 1886. From them developed the movement to secure state legislation. The first state bill was introduced into the New York legislature, but the first to be-

come law was passed by Oregon on February 21, 1887. During the year four more states -- Colorado, Massachusetts, New Jersey, and New York -- created the Labor Day holiday by legislative enactment. By the end of the decade Connecticut, Nebraska, and Pennsylvania had followed suit. By 1894, 23 other states had adopted the holiday in honor of workers, and on June 28 of that year, Congress passed an act making the first Monday in September of each year a legal holiday in the District of Columbia and the territories.

A Nationwide Holiday

The form that the observance and celebration of Labor Day should take were outlined in the first proposal of the holiday -- a street parade to exhibit to the public "the strength and esprit de corps of the trade and labor organizations" of the community, followed by a festival for the recreation and amusement of the workers and their families. This became the pattern for the celebrations of Labor Day. Speeches by prominent men and women were introduced later, as more emphasis was placed upon the economic and civic significance of the holiday. Still later, by a resolution of the American Federation of Labor convention of 1909, the Sunday preceding Labor Day was adopted as Labor Sunday and dedicated to the spiritual and educational aspects of the labor movement.

The character of the Labor Day celebration has undergone a change in recent years, especially in large industrial centers

where mass displays and huge parades have proved a problem. This change, however, is more a shift in emphasis and medium of expression. Labor Day addresses by leading union officials, industrialists, educators, clerics and government officials are given wide coverage in newspapers, radio and television.

The vital force of labor added materially to the highest standard of living and the greatest production the world has ever known and has brought us closer to the realization of our traditional ideals of economic and political democracy. It is appropriate, therefore, that the nation pays tribute on Labor Day to the creator of so much of the nation's strength, freedom, and leadership -- the American worker.

United States Department of Labor



Squadron 321

Hello Legion Family. September will be another business month. The biggest event will be the Chili Cook-off. If you like chili and you don't mind tasting some real good chili as well as some not-so-good chili, come on out and have a great time with us. We will have a blast. It is for a good cause. All proceeds go to the Collin County 'Meals on Wheels' program.

Check the calendar for other events this month. I would like to remind all S.A.L. members that this year's cards are in and we would very much like to get our membership numbers up now so we don't have to struggle at the end of the year. Please see Ray Hartline or myself for your renewals. Remember, MEMBERSHIP IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY. We are here to serve our Legion Family. Don't forget our Friday Night dinners on the third Friday of each month. We did twenty six dinners last month. Let's see if we can beat that this month. We appreciate your support and we promise you a good meal. The S.A.L. would like to extend its condolences to AL Commander Terry Cloninger for the loss of his wife, Carol. Know that you and your family are in our prayers. If you need anything, just ask.

*As always,
For God, Country and Veterans,
Abel Silva, Jr. Commander*

WE



ARE



FAMILY



I am amazed that after three years people still do not know what the ALR does or who they are so let me try to explain.

The American Legion Rider is a member of the Legion, SAL, or Aux. of which you must be in good standing and up to date on membership. The ALR was started to attract younger veterans into the American Legion as our older veterans are passing away every day. When a young vet was asked about the American Legion the reply was "It's where old vets go to drink cheap booze, smoke cigarettes and tell war stories." This was something the young vets did not want to do so the ALR was formed to give the younger vets something to do as they wanted to be active in the post and the community and to increase membership in the Legion.

Some of the things the ALR does:

* Every year there is what is called the "Legacy Run," this is a nationwide run to earn money for scholarships for children who have lost a parent in war.

* We do fun runs for things like "My friends house" a place for abused children to go, Cancer research and VA&R.

* We, at least in our post, provide a flag line for our deceased members and security at their home while they attend to arrangements when requested.

* We as a group, nationwide, join the Patriot Guard to escort fallen soldiers from the airport to their final resting place and insure that they have peace and tranquility at the graveside free from protesters and such. We send care packages every ninety days to those who are deployed from our post.

* We raise funds to provide the Bonham vets with items that make their day a little more enjoyable.

* First and foremost we are first Legionaries and support the programs of the American Legion and our respective Post.

This is just a sample of what we do and it is not intended to take away from the additional hard work our brothers and sisters in the SAL, ALA, Honor Guard, and CAP do.

Remember when someone says those &%\$#@ Riders they are in essence demeaning a Veteran, SAL, ALA or post member.

*Ride Hard Ride Safe
Larry Lawson (Taz), ALR Director*

SUPPORT OUR TROOPS



WEAR RED ON FRIDAYS TO SHOW YOUR SUPPORT FOR OUR TROOPS !!!

Members Birthday's September 2009

1. Tina Brandow, Robert Cochran, Samuel Thompson
2. Joshua Scholander
3. William Billotte, Frank Mattingly, Anita Watts
4. Danny Dearman, Lorenzo Flores, Ronald Lawrence, Jennette Marshall, Stephan Murphy, Tamara Scholander, Larry Tinne
5. Wallace Peterson
6. John Beiseigel, Dereke Mims
7. Christopher Aumaugher, Robert Kizer, Wade Lucas, Tommy Melton, Charles Sizemore
8. Phil Mastor, George Willson
9. Donald Hale, Ronald Elvebak
10. Hugh Benton, Collin Crouch, Stephen Kopec, Daniel Zalaznik
11. Richard Buchwald, Thomas Caizzo, Don Chaddick, C Les Eargle Jr MD, John King, Larry Mounts
12. Joseph McGowan Jr, Edward Perez, Wade Duay
13. Sheila Stanford, Steven Lamounte
14. Paula Gage, Sean Mayfield, Ronald Pasholk, Roy Stone
15. A Marsh, Brad Schultz
16. William Clayton, Joe Diaz, Fleetwood Hall, Phil Kapp, Larry Locke, Rudy Turrubiate
17. James Bradshaw, Crystal Calloway, Jerry Hodgen, Bill Raddatz, Donald Shinn, David Walston
18. Floyd Cook, Charles Janish, Bennie Samford, David Sweeney
19. Jill Bissett, Julian Bull, Joel Pollard, Albert Silva Jr
20. George Manry, William Marek, Kimberly Potter
21. Fletcher Sharp, Dennis Stanford Jr, Roger Mazura
22. Wesley Mead, Robert Silliman, Wallace Travis Jr, Austin Johnson, Joseph McDaniel
23. Kristi Burgess, Gary Erhart, Eugene Herford, John Lindsay, Carl Ross
24. Howard Landgrover, John Macarthur, Chris Woolery
25. Marvin Campbell, Johnny Watts, Stephen Nagy
26. Clifford Ridenour, Bruce Stephan, Gary Williams
27. Marilyn Daigre, Larry Lairson, George Stine
28. Lowell Brownell, David McFadden, Jimmy Mihaly
29. Vicki Pollard, David Rodeghier, Daren Saye, Charles Johnson-Nunez, Raymond Anderson
30. Malcolm Smith

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



Service Officer

I want to cover a few benefits the vets get from residing in the great state of Texas. I understand that Texas gives much more to those that have served in the military. Please refer to the Texas Veterans Commission website which is located at www.texasveterans.com. Some of the benefits are.

1. Texas Land Board Programs (VLB). This is not limited to land purchase. This also includes purchase assistance and home improvement loans.
2. Free admission to Texas State Parks to vets that have a disability rating of 60%.
3. Free recording of discharges. This comes in handy if a vet needs a certified copy of their discharge.
4. Tax Exemption for vets. The property tax exemption ranges from 10% through 100% depending on the disability rating of the veteran.
5. Free drivers license and fishing/hunting license for vets that have a disability rating of at least 60%.
6. Special License Plates and Parking Privileges. For those vets that meet the requirements for the disabled vet plates can park in spaces clearly marked for the disabled.

This info provided by the Texas Department of Transportation. Please check the TVC website

for additional info.

Changes I have heard that affect Texas drivers that will become effective on 1 September 2009. Tickets for parking in a handicap space I understand starts at \$500. Also effective September 1st, the police are no longer required to obtain a search warrant to draw blood on a suspected person that is driving drunk. Police Officers are being trained to draw blood. This is info I heard on local news broadcasts.

I am also sending out weekly updates/corrections to our news letter. This will also cover members that are either ill or in the hospital. If you want this update please send me your email address to mrjimlabelle@yahoo.com. Your email address will not be used for any other reason.

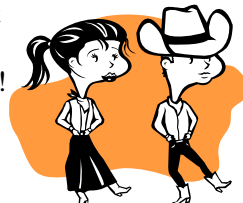
Jim Labelle, Service Officer

Chili-Cook-Off Committee

Update

On Saturday August 22nd we had a dart tournament with a "cake walk", a yard sale and a "rib off". We raised almost \$800 to go to Collin County Meals on Wheels as part of the Chili Cook-off. Steve Cockerham was awarded "bragging rights" for the best tasting ribs. Thanks to all who contributed.

Our next function prior to cook-off is our Sadie Hawkins Dance/Party on September 19th at 7:00 p.m. Ladies, ask your favorite guy to the dance and dress in your best "country wear" and join us for a night of fun, music, food and games!!! Don't be square.....be there!



Recipe of the Month SOUTHWEST MACARONI & CHEESE

2ND PLACE WINNER OF "CASSEROLE -OFF", POST 321, PLANO, TX

- 1 LB PKG. OF KIELBASA OR SMOKED SAUSAGE (CUT IN 1/2" CUBES)
 - 1 MEDIUM ONION (DICED)
 - 1 LARGE GREEN OR RED PEPPER (1/2" CUBES)
 - *1-2 FRESH JALAPENOS (CUBED & OPTIONAL)
 - 16 OZ. PKG. OF LARGE PASTA SHELLS
 - 1/2 BLOCK OF VELVEETA CHEESE
 - 1/2 CUP MILK
- COOK PASTA SHELLS ACCORDING TO PACKAGE DIRECTIONS. PREHEAT OVEN TO 350 DEGREES. SAUTE SAUSAGE WITH 1 TSP. OF OIL UNTIL BROWN, WHEN BROWNED ADD ONION & GREEN PEPPER, COOK COVERED OVER MEDIUM FOR 15 MINUTES, REMOVE FROM HEAT AND LET SIT. PREPARE A CASSEROLE DISH WITH VEGTABLE SPRAY, DRAIN PASTA (DO NOT RINSE), ADD VELVEETA AND MILK TO CASSEROLE DISH, THEN PASTA, THEN ADD COOLED MEAT AND PEPPER MIXTURE (INCLUDE PAN DRIPPINGS) AND STIR WELL. COVER DISH AND BAKE FOR 45 MINS. TO 1 HOUR, UNCOVER AND COOK FOR ANOTHER 15 MINUTES TILL BROWNED. *IF ADDING JALAPENOS, DO SO AT MIXING STAGE.

ENJOY!!!

Trivia

Q. Who was the first NFL player to hit the "big screen" at the new Cowboys stadium?

(See Bartender for answer)