

There were no June 2021 Executive Board and Post meetings due to restrictions on social gatherings related to the COVID-19 outbreak. We are excited to report that Post meetings will resume beginning in July at the South County Community Center on the first Tuesday of the month at 7:00 PM. Below is the schedule for the remainder of 2021:

July 6

August 3

September 2

October 5

November 9 (deferred one week due to Election Day)

December 7

The COVID-19 pandemic has curtailed our activities. Although restrictions are being lifted I encourage you to continue to use good judgment in your upcoming activities. Please follow the guidelines for mask use and social distancing.

As previously reported, the 2021 Texas Boys State program was held this year on 27 June – 2 July as a virtual event as was done last year. We were able to sign up thirty nine candidates from six local High Schools. This would have exceeded our former record of thirty eight participants but one boy withdrew due to a conflict. By all reports it was a very successful event and we will report on the results in a future issue.

This is still a great result but Victoria Glover's record still stands but is now tied. Victoria directed the Post's coordination of the program for previous years but moved away and transferred to another local Post. She was a Past Commander of our Post and is sorely missed. I took over managing our participation and Victoria very graciously guided me through the process.

In previous issues I reported on Martin (Marty) Joseph Gonzalez, son of Tomas Gonzales, a long time member of our Post and a diligent volunteer for Honor Guard services at the National Cemetery. Tomas lost his son last November, 2020. Martin (Marty) Joseph Gonzalez was a Marine Sergeant who served in combat in Iraq. He was wounded multiple times, was decorated but sadly suffered ongoing disabilities to which he succumbed. Refer to last month's Commander's Corner for more information about Marty. Tomas is sending me further information about his son which I will continue to report on in future issues.

Now I'd like to say something about Tomas. He is a long time member of our Post but since we don't have an Honor Guard to serve at burials in the Houston National Cemetery, Tomas has offered his time and service to a local VFW Post which provides such Honor Guard services at the Houston National Cemetery. I have incomplete records of his participation but I do have such records from the period of June 2018 through February 2020. During this period Tomas participated in 1,185 burials with the VFW Honor Guard. Using two hours per burial actual service yields 2,370 hours. For annual 2019 he participated in 684 burials for 1,368 hours. If you include time for travel and mustering this is equivalent to a full time job. I don't have

information for more recent participation likely due to constraints on information available due to the pandemic. I will attempt to obtain more current information about Tomas's remarkable service.

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Another of our members, Chris McMartin, who is also a local JROTC instructor, has decided to set ambitious goals for himself for participation in the "100 Miles for Hope" program as reported by Chris. Follow the links for latest updates:

"For this year's American Legion "100 Miles for Hope" campaign, I've set an ambitious goal, with a sort of "Air/Land/Sea" theme. My plan, between 01 April and 06 September, is to run 100 miles, bike 1,000 miles, swim 10 miles, scuba dive 100 minutes, and pilot a plane 1,000 miles. The hardest part for me will actually be running since prior injuries limit the distance I can run at one time. The other goals are more limited by time available than exertion.

I posted on Legion Town (<http://www.legiontown.org/100-miles/7612/air-land-and-sea-hope>) and National plans to do a story/video about it. Last night I posted a small update to YouTube and gave a shout out to Post 305:

[2021 05 09 100 Miles for Hope Update](#)

The story has gone national...link has article and video. Gave a shout out to our local American Legion post as well as our JROTC program. :)

<https://www.legion.org/100miles/252678/100-miles-hope-land-sea-and-air>

I have also set up a fundraiser on Facebook where I provide updates. If people wish to donate via Facebook, 100% of their donation goes to the Veterans and Children's Fund (Facebook does not take a percentage).

<https://www.facebook.com/donate/2644647222505019/> “

One of the topics I am interested in is news about our MIAs. Below is a link to a website (Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency) that documents recovery of MIAs:

<https://www.dpaa.mil/News-Stories/Recent-News-Stories/>

This is an impressive website that showcases the diligence this agency pursues in accounting for our MIAs.