



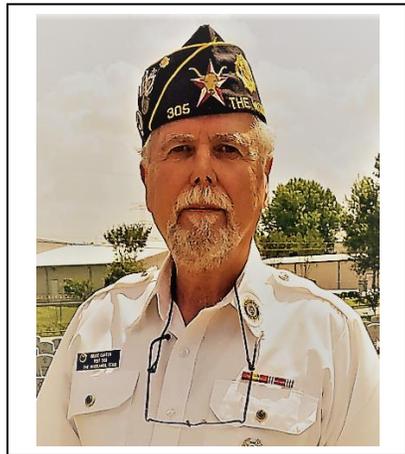
# THE BUGLE

JULY 2018

VOLUME 14, NUMBER 7



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF AMERICAN LEGION POST 305 OF THE WOODLANDS



**Bruce Carter, Commander**

Hello, I'm **Bruce Carter** and I will be your Commander for the 2018-2019 year. I previously served as Sergeant-at-Arms. I am excited about taking on the challenges of Commander but admit some apprehension as this is a big step up for me. We have a very experienced Executive Committee and I know they will give me all the support and guidance I will need. I am replacing **Victoria Glover** as Commander, and she will now serve as Member-at-Large #1. I'd like to thank **Victoria** for her good service as Commander; it was well appreciated. **Jim Bolin, Pickens Jones, Emery Heurmann, Toby Carroll** and **Bill Houghton** will serve again as 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander, Adjutant, Finance Officer, Service Officer and Chaplain respectively. These gentlemen have been doing a terrific job in these roles, and I am looking forward to working with them. **Pete Koch** will replace **Everett Ison** as Judge Advocate. **Pete** is a Past Commander of the Post

**THINK NOT OF THE PRICE OF YOUR DUES; THINK OF THE PRICE YOU PAID TO BE ELIGIBLE TO PAY THEM**

Legion matters. I will be very dependent on him. **Harlen Thornhill** will replace me as Sergeant-at-Arms. **Harlen** is a long time member of the Post and knows it well. We have one new member to welcome to the Executive Committee. **Norman Chapa** will serve as Member-at-Large #2. We are all looking forward to **Norman's** participation and input.

I've been thinking about what my goals and expectations are for the coming year. I will try each month to share some ideas I have. I certainly would like to find ways to increase our membership especially from younger veterans of the War on Terrorism. But, even more importantly, I would like to find ways to encourage more participation from the members we already have in the Post. For example, we have twelve positions on the Executive Committee but have only filled ten. This is actually typical for the last few years; I don't know when was the latest year that we had all the Executive Committee positions filled. The open positions are 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander and Historian. **Win Salter** has been our most recent Historian but health issues have limited his activities. I am asking that some good members of the Post consider stepping up to fill these positions; it will certainly be appreciated.

It's a sad fact that we have meager attendance at our monthly meetings (reminder: third Thursday of the month at the South County Community Center). Typical attendance ranges from 15-20 members. Being a member of an American Legion Post isn't just about having a membership card in your wallet and showing up to ride on the float on July 4<sup>th</sup>. It's about joining with your fellow veterans to find ways to honor our veterans and serve the community. I appreciate the positive response we get from the community, especially as demonstrated by the crowds at the 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade in The Woodlands, but it's not about us being heroes; it's about us being role models and encouraging our youth to consider military service as an honorable endeavor to undertake the responsibility and duty as citizens of this great country and to give back to this community we live in.

One of our functions that we have to staff is the Post Color Guard. The Color Guard is comprised of two riflemen and two flag bearers. Last year at the 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade, we struggled to fill the four positions and had to draft a member at the last minute. During the march we had to replace one of the guards because of heat stress. This fouled up our uniform protocol.

Despite this we won an award for the most patriotic float! Actually, the float was terrific (thank you, **Emery**) but the Color Guard was...well, sub-par. **Win Salter** has now provided us with chrome helmets, and we had a good Color Guard showing at the National Cemetery on Memorial Day, but that was a short walk in the park, and some of those members are not able to march in the July 4th parade. By the time you read this you will know that we drafted boys from our Boy's State contingent to be our Color Guard for the parade. I am reaching out to our membership for volunteers for our Color Guard. There is a uniform requirement (Short-sleeve, dress white Legion shirt; dark blue slacks; black leather shoes). The logo'ed shirt is available from the Legion's Emblem Sales Store. Go to: <http://emblem.legion.org>. Color Guard members are responsible for these. The Post provides white web belts and white gloves. This is a high priority for me; the Color Guard looks sharp and is an important representation of our Post.



Post Color Guard at Houston National Cemetery, Memorial Day, 2013. (l to r); Biggerstaff, Jones, Jones & Bolin

One new idea has been brought to my attention by the Post Auxiliary. They have suggested that perhaps a change of venue for our meetings might provide some

advantages. The Community Center is conveniently located but at times it's busy and noisy. The Auxiliary has suggested that we consider facilities available at Sts. Simon and Jude Catholic Church on Glen Loch Drive in The Woodlands. We formed a small committee of Post and Auxiliary members and met with church administrative staff on two occasions and have gathered information (and photos) of the various facilities that could be made available to us. We will prepare a report for the Executive Committee, considering relevant aspects of both venues and then report to the membership at a future meeting.

Another idea mentioned was inviting guest speakers from the community to our meetings to update us on various activities ongoing in the community and perhaps see if we can find opportunities to be of service.

So please come to the meetings, get to know your fellow veterans and GET INVOLVED!

**Bruce Carter,  
Commander**

### MEETING HIGHLIGHTS (June 21, 2018)

The Post did in fact meet, however the note-taker lost or mislaid his notes before they could be processed. The distressed and unserviceable American flags got procedurally "burned". The newly elected officers for 2018-2019 were sworn in. Preparations for The Woodlands 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade got checked out. And, those officers who had reports to make made them. But, that's all the Bugle can cite as Highlights this month.



## THE BUGLE

*The Bugle* is the monthly newsletter of American Legion Post 305; "The Woodlands Post"; Department of Texas. All Post and Auxiliary Unit members in good standing are entitled to a copy of The Bugle.

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Monthly Meetings: The Post and Auxiliary meet at the South County Community Center in The Woodlands at 7:00 PM on the third Thursday of each month, except in October\*. The Center is located on the southeast corner of the intersection of Lake Robbins Drive and Grogan's Mill Road, next to the library. Meetings are preceded by a pot-luck supper provided by the Auxiliary.

\*In October, a combined, short meeting precedes the Annual Picnic at Henry's Home Horse and Human Sanctuary in Conroe.



## **VETERANS' ADVOCATE**

### **OVER 400 VETERANS HAVE EYES ON A SEAT IN CONGRESS THIS YEAR**

This Memorial Day brought more service members seeking office in the nation's capital than in years past. Over 400 former service members are running, or have run, for Congress in this year's midterms, according to With Honor, a "cross-partisan organization" that supports veterans. And, the surge comes at a critical juncture for veterans on Capitol Hill. Fewer veterans served in Congress last year than in previous years, making up just 20% of the Senate and 19% of the House in 2017, according to non-partisan Pew Research Center. Comparatively, veterans made up 81% of the Senate and 75% of the House roughly 45 years ago, according to Pew.

Today, veterans like Sen. John McCain (R-AZ), a former Navy commander and prisoner of war, Sen. Tammy Duckworth (D-IL), who lost both legs when her Black Hawk helicopter was downed in Iraq, and Rep. Brian Mast (R-FL), who also lost limbs in combat while serving in Afghanistan, are among the over 100 veterans across both chambers who've entered a different kind of service to the nation, on Capitol Hill.

Americans remain confident in the military than any other institution. The reasoning, the poll said, is partly because of the professionalism of the military and the "importance of what the military does for the country".

Lt. Col. Amy McGrath – one of the 400 veterans seeking office in 2018 – hopes to benefit from that connection come November. A Democrat running in Kentucky's 6<sup>th</sup> Congressional District, McGrath was the first woman to fly an F/A-18 fighter jet in a combat mission for the Marine Corps. In a March interview with ABC News, McGrath said she thinks voters are looking for "people who served their country, not their political party". "That's really resonating," she said. McGrath was inspired after the 2016 election but her training as a Marine led to her decision to run, she said. "As someone who has been a Marine, how do you change things? You step up to the plate." And you are the one who says, "Put me in," she said.

Richard Ojeda is also a military veteran running as a Democrat for a house seat, but in West Virginia. The former state

senator and Iraq war veteran frequently describes his anger from returning from war in campaign speeches. "I found kids in my back yard that have it worse than the kids I saw in Iraq and Afghanistan," Ojeda said days before the West Virginia primaries in May at an event with voters. "And that's unacceptable. I cannot accept that. And then when I ask myself, what did my brothers die for? They didn't die for this." Veterans running across the country also bring up leadership in their campaigns, a perceived skill Ojeda and others attribute to their time in the military. "I've led men in combat," he said. "I'm not going to let somebody claim to be a leader when they don't even have no sense of what that word means. And that's why I got into this."

[Source: ABC NEWS; Chyenne Haslett & Luke Barr; May 28, 2018; and ROA Bulletin, June 15, 2018 issue. ++]



### **IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION**

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VA Conroe Outpatient Clinic: (936) 522-4024  
Texas Veterans Commission Hot Line: 1(800) 252-VETS  
County Veteran Service Centers:

Montgomery County - Conroe: (936) 539-7842  
Harris County – Houston: (281) 876-6600  
Military Veteran Peer Network: Conroe: (936) 521-6132

#### **STATE LEGISLATORS:**

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Dist. 15: Mark Keough – The Woodlands: (281) 419-1090  
Dist. 16: Will Metcalf – Conroe: (936) 539-0068  
Dist. 126: Kevin Roberts – Houston: (281) 444-1814  
Dist. 150: Valoree Swanson – Spring: (281) 257- 4222

## **SEVENTY-TWO KILLED RESISTING GUN CONFISCATION IN BOSTON**

National Guard units seeking to confiscate a cache of recently banned assault weapons were ambushed by elements of a para-military extremist faction. Military and law enforcement sources estimate that 72 were killed and more than 200 injured before government forces were compelled to withdraw. Speaking after the clash, Massachusetts Governor Thomas Gage declared that the extremist faction, which was made up of local citizens, has links to the radical right wing tax protest movement. Gage blamed the extremists for recent incidents of vandalism directed against internal revenue offices. The governor, who described the group's organizers as "criminals", issued an executive order authorizing the summary arrest of any individual who has interfered with the government's efforts to secure law and order.

The military raid on the extremist arsenal followed widespread refusal by the local citizenry to turn over recently outlawed assault weapons. Gage issued a ban on military-style assault weapons and ammunition earlier in the week. This decision followed a meeting in early this month between government and military leaders at which the governor authorized the forcible confiscation of all illegal arms. One government official, speaking on condition of anonymity, pointed out that "none of these people would have been killed had the extremists obeyed the law and turned over their weapons voluntarily." Government troops

initially succeeded in confiscating a large supply of outlawed weapons and ammunition. However, troops attempting to seize arms and ammunition in Lexington met with resistance from heavily armed extremists who had been tipped off regarding the government's plans.

During a tense standoff in the Lexington town park, National Guard Colonel Francis Smith, commander of the government operation, ordered the armed group to surrender and return to their homes. The impasse was broken by a single shot, which was reportedly fired by one of the right-wing extremists. Eight civilians were killed in the ensuing exchange. Ironically, the local citizenry blamed government forces rather than the extremists for the civilian deaths. Before order could be restored, armed citizens from surrounding areas had descended upon the guard units. Colonel Smith, finding his forces overmatched by the armed mob, ordered a retreat.

Governor Gage has called upon citizens to support the state-national joint task force in its effort to restore law and order. The governor also demanded the surrender of those responsible for planning and leading the attack against the government troops. Samuel Adams, Paul Revere, and John Hancock, who have been identified as "ringleaders" of the extremist faction, remain at large.

And, this is how the American Revolution began, April 20, 1775. On July 4<sup>th</sup>, 1776, these same extremist signed the Declaration of Independence, pledging to each other and their countrymen their lives, fortunes,

and sacred honor. Lest we forget! [Source: Frontiers of Freedom Newsletter; May 11, 2018++]

## **B-17 BOMBER SIGHTED OVER THE WOODLANDS**

How many counties of the U.S. live under the wing of a World War II heavy bomber? We refer to an airworthy Boeing B-17 "Flying Fortress". The answer is; "Very few, because there exist only ten of these warbirds left." But, Montgomery County, Texas, is one of those counties.

The Gulf Coast Wing of the Commemorative Air Force (CAF) is home based at the Conroe-North Houston Regional Airport (CXO), where its B-17G resides when it is not on tour or at an air show, like "Wings Over Houston".

As the air war raged in Europe in the 1940's, the U.S. Eighth Air Force's Bomber Command included the 381<sup>st</sup> Bomb Group (Heavy) comprised of four squadrons based at Ridgewell, England. The 381<sup>st</sup> flew 297 bombing missions between January 1943 and June 1945, when the European war ended. Their targets were dominantly industrial facilities and railyards in France and Germany, which fed the Nazi war machine. The cost of these missions was nearly 600 airmen of the Group killed in action. Their graves include Madingley Cemetery – England (101 graves) and Margraten Cemetery – Netherlands (80 graves).

In 2002, a vintage Flying Fortress sat lost, forgotten and very alone at the end of a southwestern ramp at Houston's Hobby Airport. It had been acquired by the CAF and no longer looked like a wartime bomber. That aircraft, now

dubbed “*Texas Raiders*”, would have to wait nearly eight years before taking to the skies again. But, on October 14, 2009, this rare tribute to the 381<sup>st</sup> Bomb Group, 533<sup>rd</sup> Squadron, and wearing its livery (a black triangle on the tail with a white “L” on it and the squadron designator “X” beneath it), took off under her own power from Hobby Airport. CAF Colonel Al Maxwell was at the controls and four other colonels were in the right-hand seat and at the flight engineer’s station, watching gauges and status lights. *Texas Raiders* had been scrubbed clean, inspected multiple times and checked out by FAA inspectors.

So, if you are out and about and hear the distinctive roar of four Wright Cyclone R1820 engines, look up and watch a real B-17 fly past. Further, if you want to experience a tour of *Texas Raiders* or take a ride in her, be at Gill Aviation’s Open House, at David Wayne Hooks Airport in Spring on July 14<sup>th</sup>.

[Sources: “381<sup>st</sup> Bomb Group (H) Memorial Association Newsletter”, March 2010; and Colonel Sandy Thompson, former Public Information Officer; Colonel Jane Copeland, Education Officer and Colonel Bill Howard, Historian, Gulf Coast Wing, CAF.]



Since that memorable first flight as an Eighth Air Force bomber, *Texas Raiders*, under the care of the men and women of the Gulf Coast Wing, was upgraded visibly from a B-17H to a B-17G by addition of a chin turret. Other improvements were made to modernize the nav aids and communication systems without altering its wartime appearance.

When *Texas Raiders* is not on tour to one or more other airfields, it is in Conroe, where all periodic checks, maintenance and replacement of parts, including engines, takes place. It is the members of the Wing who perform these chores – all volunteers, many with current or past careers in aviation services.

**ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY HAS BEEN EXPANDED**

The country’s most famous cemetery was established by the War Department in 1864 on the Arlington plantation of Confederate General Robert E. Lee’s deceased father-in-law. The site was vacated by Lee’s family after he joined the rebel forces in the Civil War, and it was taken over by the Union Army. The first person buried there was William Christman, 20, a Union soldier from Pennsylvania who had died of disease in a Washington hospital. He was buried May 13, 1864. By the end of the war, 5,000 more had joined him. Since then, over 400,000 people have been buried there.

President Kennedy, his spouse and brothers rest there. Lincoln’s son Robert and grandson Abraham are buried there.

Now, Arlington has been expanded, involving the moving of huge amounts of earth, 1,200 feet of a historic sandstone wall and the construction of extensive granite and concrete committal shelters and walkways. The 27 new acres were carved out of a recreation spot for an adjacent military base and staging areas for the cemetery and the National Park Service. Result: Arlington has about 100,000 spaces left, good until the 2040’s. [Source: *The Washington Post*, Michael E. Ruane; June 4, 2018 ++]

**FOURTH OF JULY PARADE: PARIS, FRANCE –1918**

Thousands of people lined Paris’ newly christened Avenue du President Wilson to cheer for the American Expeditionary Forces as they marched in an Independence Day parade on July 4, 1918.

Schools and businesses were closed for the day and public transportation was filled to capacity as Parisians from all across the city and the surrounding suburbs gathered early in the morning to claim a spot so they could watch the unveiling of the name plate for Avenue du President Wilson and to celebrate America’s Independence Day with U. S. troops. French girls, holding huge floral bouquets, stood on balconies of buildings along the route and showered the Americans with flowers.

A brass band playing “The Star Spangled Banner” kicked off the festivities and the crowd went wild when the Marines –

many of whom left the Chateau-Thierry region only the night before – marched by. An article in New York's *The Evening World* newspaper described the scene for readers the next day: "As the flag of one Marine company appeared the crowds once again broke into frantic applause, for the whole of France had heard of the famous troops and the way they had distinguished themselves in fighting".



General John J. Pershing, USA, addressing the American troops in France, stated: "On this anniversary of our independence, the officers and men of the American Expeditionary Forces on the battlefields of France renew their pledges of fealty and devotion to our cause and country. The resolve of our forefathers that all men and peoples shall be free, is their resolve. It is quickened by sympathy for an invaded people of kindred ideas and the war challenge of an arrogant enemy. It is fortified by the united support of the American people." [Source: Leatherneck Magazine, by Nancy S. Lichtman; July 2018 issue ++]

## PROGRAMS & NEWS OF THE AUXILIARY UNIT 305

**Kathy Carroll, President**



July is here and summer is in full swing. Our first and biggest event this month is The Woodlands 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade. Once again the Post will have a float in the parade. Auxiliary members will be walking alongside the float or you have the option to ride on the float. This year we have some fun things to pass out along the parade route. The parade starts at The Woodlands United Methodist Church at 2200 Lake Woodlands Drive. You need to arrive no later than 7:30 AM because they will close the access roads by 8:00 AM. Wear comfortable clothes and sunscreen. We will have water there. Hope to see many of you on the 4<sup>th</sup>!

The Department of Texas Convention will be in San Antonio July 13-15, 2018. We have five delegates attending. The convention is always a fun and interesting experience. Besides recapping what happened this last year, we will get a preview of next year's activities including the membership theme. Something new at this year's convention will be the burying of a time capsule by the Legion in celebration of its

100<sup>th</sup> birthday. The convention will end with the election of the new officers for the 2018-2019 year.

Speaking of officers, we had our Installation of Officers for the Unit at our June meeting. **Liz Bryant**, the District 7 President, was the installing officer. I am really excited about the fact that all offices have been filled except for Sergeant-at-Arms. With a full Executive Committee I think we will have a great and productive year. By the way, if you are interested in being Sergeant-at-Arms for the upcoming year, it is not too late to volunteer. Just let us know.

FYI: July 27<sup>th</sup> will mark the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of the Korean Conflict. It was recently announced that North Korea is releasing the remains of approximately 200 service members for repatriation. Unfortunately we still have many more unaccounted for servicemen in Korea, but this is a start.

Our next meeting will be on July 19, 2018, at the South County Community Center. July 15<sup>th</sup> is National Ice Cream Day and July 18<sup>th</sup> is National Hot Dog Day. Therefore, at our social with the Post on July 19<sup>th</sup> we will be serving hot dogs and ice cream sundaes. We will begin serving at 6:30pm followed by our respective meetings.

Have a fun and a safe 4<sup>th</sup> of July. God Bless our veterans, God Bless our men and women in uniform, and God Bless the United States of America.

**Kathy Carroll, President  
ALA Unit 305**

## CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

<u>DAY</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>LOCALE</u>	<u>TIME</u>
Wed	July 4	Independence Day Parade	The Woodlands.	CANCELLED DUE TO RAIN
Wed	July 11 to 15	Department Convention	Omni Colonnade Hotel;	San Antonio
Mon	July 16	Executive Committee Meeting	South County Community Center	@ 7:00 PM
Thur	July 19	Membership Meetings	South County Community Center	@ 7:00 PM
Fri	July 27	Korean War Ceasefire (1953)		
Sat	July 28	World War I Began (1914)		
Tues	Aug 7	Vietnam War Began (1964)		
Mon	Aug 13	Executive Committee Meeting	South County Community Center	@ 7:00 PM
Tues	Aug 14	Japan Surrendered. WWII Ended (1945)		
Thur	Aug 16	Membership Meetings	South County Community Center	@ 7:00 PM
Sun	Sept 2	V-J Day; Japan Formally Surrenders (1945)		
Mon	Sept 3	Labor Day		
Tues	Sept 11	Patriot Day	Attack on America	
Mon	Sept 17	U. S. Constitution Adopted (1787)		
Mon	Sept 17	Executive Committee Meeting	South County Community Center	@ 7:00 PM
Thur	Sept 20	Membership Meetings	South County Community Center	@ 7:00 PM
(REMINDER: Pot-Luck Supper is served in advanced of Membership Meetings @ 6:15 PM)				

### POST & AUXILIARY UNIT CONTACT INFORMATION (2017-2018)

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ASS'T CHAPLAIN	(vacant)		
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