



# AMERICAN LEGION POST 305 BUGLE



May 2005

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## COMMANDER'S CORNER

We've had a busy month with Birdies for Charity, rummage sale and the 7th District Convention.

Birdies for charity counted the number of birdies made at the Shell Houston Open (total 1522). Pledges were made to pay one or two cents per birdie. That money, collected by the post, will eventually be returned to us as a participating charity. Rudy Charest estimated, based on about 1500 birdies, that we would receive back about \$2410. Dave Lips turned in the greatest number of pledges, 51 of a total 113 pledges. This is a major fund raiser for the Post. Thanks to all who participated.

Chuck Suhr and his crew did a outstanding job collecting items, pricing them and then selling them during the April 16 Rummage Sale. Income before expenses was \$2065 including \$110 from the sale of leftover coupon books. Thanks to Chuck and his helpers.

We had 7 delegates representing Post 305 at the 7th District Convention on April 23. That was the last Convention for George Bannon as 7th District Commander. The Keynote Speaker was Past National Commander John Brieden (more on his remarks later). Elections were held for the District Offices and the new Commander is John Palasota. Emery Heuermann was elected to the Office of Chaplain of the 7th District.

Chuck Suhr was also chairman of the Nominating Committee. He presented the following nominations for Post Officers for the year 2005-2006.

Commander	No Nomination
Vice Cdr	Jim Bolin

Adj. Finance Off.	Everett Ison
	Dave Lips
Service Off.	Dutch Dettinger
Sgt.-at-Arms	Jerry Bradshaw
Historian	Gerry Mulvihill
Judge Advocate	George Bannon
Chaplain	Pat Turner
Exec. Comm.	Pickens Jones
Exec. Comm.	Ray Shubert

Elections will be at the May 19th meeting, installation in June. New officers first meeting in July. As you can see, we need someone to step up and be Commander. If you are able to do that, call Chuck Suhr at 936-273-2688. Also at the May 19th meeting we will be discussing and voting on changes to the Post By Laws, as noted in the last newsletter.

The Executive Committee will be presenting the bids made for the 2000 Mercury to the membership for approval at the May 19th meeting. Sealed bids are being accepted by the Committee at Post 305, P.O. Box 9336, The Woodlands, TX 77387. Two bids have already be submitted.

As you can see, the May 19th meeting will be an important and busy meeting. We need a quorum of members to perform the business of the Post, so please mark you calendars and be there.

As reported last month, the Post has a new office at Advantage Mailing. Now it has a telephone number you can call and leave a message. That number is 218-292-2440.

Pickens Jones was recognized by the Woodlands Community Assoc. on Earth Day for his participation in keeping our city's trails clean

At the April meeting, we remembered our members who have passed away by draping the charter of the Post with a black cloth. Those remembered were:

Donald Korhonen, Richard Sands, Bob Wilson, Homer Staggs.

Dave Lips, the Finance officer, reported that we have total assets of \$19,333.

Carl Smith, Vice Commander, reported that we have a membership of 297. Our goal for this year is 312. The year doesn't end until June 30th, so if you haven't paid your dues for 2005, you have until that date to pay without losing seniority. If you are not sure if you paid or not, you can call at our new phone number and we will get back to you with that information.

Respectfully submitted

Emery Heuermann

## VA HEALTH CARE DISCUSSED ON CAPITOL HILL

MOAA national president, VADM Norb Ryan, Jr., (USN-Ret.) and MOAA Deputy Director, COL Bob Norton, (USA-Ret.), and more than a dozen other organization representatives met with Senate Democratic Steering Committee leaders in the Capitol building on Thursday. Senator Hillary Clinton (D-NY), the Chair of the Steering Committee, and Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) invited the participants to present their views on VA health care funding, including mental health needs for returning veterans, support for military men and women and other concerns. Senators Daniel Akaka (D-HI), Ted Kennedy (D-MA),

John Kerry (D-MA), Mary Landrieu (D-LA), Patty Murray (D-WA), Ken Salazar (D-CO), and Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) also participated. Admiral Ryan said there was an urgent need to increase the Army's and Marine Corps' strength to relieve enormous pressure on the all-volunteer force. He warned that the force was in danger of "sliding into a ditch" if action is not taken. Ryan also thanked Senator Clinton and Senator Lindsey Graham (R-SC) for sponsoring legislation to extend fee-based TRICARE to all members of the National Guard and Reserve Forces. (See, S.337 <http://moaaonline.org/ct/md1Ji4p11mNQ/Bills/>). And, he urged support for helping surviving spouses of the war on terror by eliminating the SBP-DIC offset. Senator Patty Murray said there was a "train wreck" coming in the VA health care system due a shortage of funds to treat thousands of new veterans from the war on terror and to maintain commitments to veterans of earlier conflicts. Senator Murray earlier had sponsored an unsuccessful amendment to earmark \$2 billion dollars for VA care from the Iraq Emergency Supplemental funding measure. The president and CEO of the National Mental Health Association, Mr. Michael M. Faenza, urged increases to mental health services for returning combat veterans, noting there is a need for "stigma busting" over PTSD and other mental health conditions in the military and veterans community. Other initiatives discussed included improving support services for military families including the Guard and Reserve, imple-

menting "seamless transition" initiatives for separating service members, and fixing the VA claims system.

**PAST NAT'L COMMANDER  
JOHN BRIEDEN SPEAKS AT 7th  
DISTRICT CONVENTION**

Past Commander Brieden began his remarks by asking "Why have and American Legion?". His answer was that after WWI the Government wasn't prepared to take care of the returning soldiers. The American Legion was formed to fill that gap.

The Preamble to the Constitution, which is recited at the beginning of every meeting, lists the other reasons for forming the American Legion. The Preamble should be studied to get the full impact of those words.

The American Legion became the center of many small American towns, and the country has never been the same since. The American Legion has been out in the community doing service since those early days, and is still performing valuable service to this date. If you don't think your Post has that much impact, you need to multiply it by 15,000 Posts around America.

In this day, the American Legion needs to be out in the community more than ever because of the heavy commitment of the Reserves and National Guard. Regular Army

Units are stationed at military posts and the people assigned to them have a built in support network. The National Guard and Reserve members are spread throughout our communities and they do not have that support network. We, in the American Legion need to become that network for them.

We also need to pay attention to current events, such as the proceeding article on health care. We need to be in contact with our representatives, or one day we will wake up and our benefits will be lost or reduced.

You can go to [www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org) and click on Legislative Actions. From there you can study the Important Issues, check on any Bill, and get any congress persons name. You can also buy a subscription to the Legion newsletter, the Dispatch, for \$14 per year. One page of that newsletter is devoted to legislative issues.

Past Commander Brieden ended his remarks by asking us to get involved. And, if you don't think your voice means anything, multiply that by thousands of Legionnaires.

Jim Bolin, reporting

**DATES TO REMEMBER**

5/19/05 Meeting	Rayford Rd
5/20-23 Div. Conv.	Killeen TX
5/30/05 Mem. Day	Hou. Nat'l Cemetery
6/16/05 Meeting	Rayford Rd
7/4/05 Parade	Woodlands

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