



# American Legion

## POST 305 BUGLE

January 2008

Volume 4 Issue 1

### COMMANDER'S CORNER

I hope everyone had a safe and sober New Years Eve, and now everyone is ready to get back to work.

The New Year starts off with a bang because we will be hosting the District Oratorical Contest at 1 p.m. on January 12<sup>th</sup> at The Woodlands Christian Academy on the North side of 242. Since we are host we will need people to help and it is also a great contest and one of the Americanism programs for which the Legion is famous. You should come out to watch and perhaps help out.

Next we have our meeting on January 17<sup>th</sup>, not the date listed in last month's Bugle. At the meeting we will be having our famous Chili Cook-off. At last month's meeting I forgot to round up participants, but I'm sure last year's winner, **Mickey Fussell**, will be back to defend his crown, and hopefully the previous year's winner, **Pat Turner**, will be trying to win two out of three. Anyway, if you want to participate, just show up at the meeting with a batch of homemade chili and get in on the fun. By-the-way, we eat the chili after the judging.

At the end of the month the Department holds a Mid-Winter Conference in Austin at the Omni Austin Hotel at Southpark. There will be training in various Legion skills, such as membership, public relations, and Chaplains, to name a few areas. It is a good time to learn more about the Legion.

Last month we failed to meet our goal of 107% of our assigned membership goal, so

we didn't earn \$1 per member. However, we still are under our assigned goal of 396, so those of you who were waiting for 2008 to appear before sending in your renewal, now is the time.

Last month we also helped a veteran and his family enjoy a more abundant Christmas by furnishing food and a gift certificate for their use during the Holidays.

We are also collecting items for our rummage sale that will be in April. If you have any items let one of the Post Officers know and we will come by to pick it up.

Keep our comrades in harms way in your prayers.

For God and Country,  
Jim Bolin, Commander

### MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

We are looking for a place to meet after June, as our use of the Rayford Road Community Center will cease at that time. If anyone has any ideas, I asked those present at the meeting to contact one of the Officers so we can schedule a visit and to make sure we don't duplicate our effort.

We approved two motions recommended by the Executive Committee to donate \$300 to the students at The Woodlands Christian Academy so they could send the items they had collected to the soldiers in Iraq. We also donate \$50 to the Veteran's family I mentioned earlier in the Commander's Corner.

We all reviewed and approved two resolutions designed to help administration of the Legion and one designed to help find a way to defray the cost of shipping items to our soldiers in Iraq.

The night ended with refreshments supplied by the Auxiliary.

### **VETERANS ADVOCATE**

#### **IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS**

Houston VA Regional Center 1-713-383-7842

Montgomery County Veterans Service Office 1-936-539-7842

Your Legislators (Toll Free) 1-877-762-876, 1-888-762-6780

In what has become an annual fight, the Administration has again recommended a cut in Medicare reimbursement to doctors, but this time it's in the double figures, 10.1%, up from the 5% request in 2007. It's the highest request ever, and the 6<sup>th</sup> year in a row that President Bush has pushed it. It'll be effective 1 January 2008 if Congress passes it. MY OPINION: Just what the poor and elderly need. Doctors are already dropping Medicare services. I recommend that you contact your legislator and suggest a "No" vote.

The Air Force now admits that from 1962 thru 1970, as part of "Survival Training" program, they sprayed "Agent Orange" on Eglin Air Force Base in Florida, thereby affecting soil, water, plants, fish, animals, and military personnel going through the training procedures. In Nam the strength of the solution was 14.8 kg per hectare, but at Elgin AFB it was 1300 times stronger at 876 kg per hectare.

In 1968 the AF finally became concerned and in 1969 scientists removed some soil for testing. In 1974 they found Dioxin levels down to 3 feet at concentration of 1,500

parts per trillion. Studies continued for 15 years. The animals, birds, fish, and insects still tested positive. The study concluded that wind and water erosion had removed some of the Dioxin, but they had no studies to determine where it had gone. Those chemicals stored there weren't removed from the base until 1988. As late as 1992 the AF found contamination there. Some soil has been removed, but there are still 21,000 workers at the base today. In 2003, the AF determined there was still contamination at the site and the water down stream was still contaminated.

MY OPINION: I wonder how many military who trained there, those that were stationed there after 1962, the civilians that worked there, the people that lived near Eglin, and those that lived down wind or down stream from the base have been informed and medically checked out. If you are a veteran and served at Eglin AFB during these years and you are concerned about your health, I would suggest you check with the VA now.

"PALLIATIVE CARE", it's a term not heard very often. It's VA speak for Hospice Care. "Palliative Care is not just about dying. It 's also about celebrating life: the life the veteran has left and how they can enjoy that life to the fullest" It exists to provide spiritual and emotional support for the veteran and family, and to improve quality of life for the veteran near the end-of-life. Many VA Hospitals have a Palliative Care Program. The Houston VA Medical Center has such a program. Members of the team consist of Doctors, Nurses, Social Workers, Chaplains, Extended Care Line Manager, Dietitian, Counselors, Recreation and Rehab Therapists. They have all been trained in this type of care.

It is important that a veteran document their wishes prior to becoming ill or mentally disabled so their wishes are known. Advance Directives are written instruction in the form of a "Living Will/or Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care. These would go into effect when the signer/veteran loses decision making capacity. Contact the Chaplin Section at the VA Hospital at 713-794-7125 for forms or more information.

MY OPINION: this is a tremendous program, but this has been pretty well kept secret from the veteran. Every VA site is supposed to have a basic Palliative Care team (Doctor, Nurse Counselor) available to start the veteran in the program. I've been working around the VA health care system for 20 years and it's something I wasn't aware of. Every veteran should get as much information on this as you can.

Dutch Dettinger

Veteran's Advocate 281-419-1631

### AUXILIARY NEWS

In November, for Thanksgiving, and in December, for Christmas, we furnished meals to two veterans and their families, along with the VFW Auxiliary to help make their holiday more pleasant.

**Rosalie Fryer, Mary Bolin,** and Legion members **Jim Bolin,** and **Dayton Denton** went to North Hampton Elementary school and talked about flag etiquette, and poppies that we give out twice a year. Then we went down to the VA hospital to help in the Christmas Gift Shop.

We added three new members to our Unit. They are: **Jackie Ulmer, Veronica Maiolo,** and **Ann Jones.** Say hello the next time you see them.

When we sent our military care packages, we included 550 Christmas cards that were

given out of our appreciation for all their hard work to keep us free.

Mary Bolin

President Unit 305

### POST'S POLICY

When not wearing the official American Legion cap, Honors to the Colors, or any other requirement to salute, will be accomplished by removing any headgear and placing the right hand over the heart. Never salute while not wearing the official American Legion cap.

### CLASSIFIED ADS

Announcement: Your receipt of this newsletter is based upon the editor having your email address. If you change it for any reason (such as change from Road Runner to Comcast), be sure to let the editor know.

Announcement: Future issues of the Bugle will be distributed only by email, except for the May issue, due to lack of funds. The May issue, announcing the elections in May, will be sent to the entire mailing list. If you know anyone who gets the Bugle by mail and not by email, please share this information.

### **Post Activities**

Day	Date	Activity	Location
Sat.	Jan 12	Oratorical Contest	The Woodlands Christian Academy
Mon.	Jan. 14	Ex. Comm. Meet.	Office
Thur.	Jan. 17	Membership Meet.	Rayford Road
Thru.	Jan 24.	Midwinter Conv.	Austin , TX
Sun.	Jan 27	Midwinter ends	
Mon.	Feb 18	Ex. Comm. Meet.	Office
Thur.	Feb 21	Membership Meet.	Rayford Road

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