



American Legion

POST 305 BUGLE

March 2008

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COMMANDER'S CORNER

Last month I sent you out an appeal to buy a Birdies For Charity to help the Post raise some money. The silence was deafening. I don't think anyone sent one into Dave Lips.

Now here's the deal. Either we sell \$1000 worth of birdies by the next meeting date, or we will be unable to participate in the program next year. That would be a severe blow to our moneymaking efforts for the year. Our estimated total of chances collected so far this year is \$674. As you can see we are at least \$374 short. So, by separate email, I am sending you another copy of the chance form. All you need to do is to fill it out and send it in. The Houston Golf Association will bill you later. Thanks.

On March 7th at 7:30 a.m., the Post Color Guard (**Harlen Thornhill, Pickens Jones, Everett Ison, and Carl Smith**) will present the Colors at the Grand Opening of the Super Walmart on Sawdust Rd. If you would like to get up that early, we would be happy to have your support.

The winner of the District Oratorical Contest, Laura Gilmore, came in third at the 2d Division Contest on February 3d.

For God and Country
Jim Bolin, Commander

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The membership voted to spend up to \$200 to support the District Convention in April by buying an ad in the program, purchase of raffle tickets, and registration fee for

members attending and a bottle of liquor for the raffle. . The membership also voted \$60 for an ad in the 2d Division Program for the May 17th convention.

Dayton Denton was appointed as Nominating Committee Chair. If you are interested in serving the Post as an elected officer, call Dayton at 832-928-6054

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

TEXAS MILITARY AND VETERANS LICENSE PLATE CHANGES

The 80th Texas Legislature improved vehicle licensing. Eight license plate bills were passed and signed that may impact you. These were: SB11 – Created new specialty plate designs; HB-191 Standardized Military Specialty Plates and fees by category; SB0251 – Amended Disabled Veteran Parking Privileges; HB2105 – Allows a Disabled Veteran two parking placards. These bills created new Military Specialty Plates: HB2282 – Legion of Merit; SB0274 – Silver Star and HB3857 – Gold Star Spouse and Gold Star Family. SB959 – Allows the International Symbol for Access (ISA) on all “specialty plates” produced by the State of Texas.

The Disabled Veteran (DV) plate has been a problem for some time. The use of that plate had its own volume of rules it seemed. If the jurisdiction (city, county, or government agency) allowed, the DV plate was permitted in “handicapped parking”. The problem was – knowing which jurisdictions did and which jurisdictions didn’t was nearly a full time job.

If you are rated at 50% disabled by the Department of Veterans Affairs and receive compensation from the United States because of the disability, you may apply for the Disabled Veteran (DV) plate. If you are rated as 40% disabled as a result of amputation of a lower limb you may also apply for the DV plate. A medical endorsement (doctor’s signature) will allow you the ISA. The ISA can be applied to the DV plate or ANY OTHER specialty plate made by the State of Texas. There are two parts to this change: (1) the plate with the ISA can only have five characters. That may mean you may sacrifice ‘PH’ on a Purple Heart Plate to get the ISA. The Purple Heart Medal is present, the text “Purple Heart” is still on the plate. (2) The plate with the ISA is developed digitally so there is some flexibility.

House Bill 2105 allows the DV to apply for two disabled placards on the same form for which one applies for the DV plates. Those currently having two sets of DV license plates may use the application to request the placards without going to a physician (Form VTR 615).

Senate Bill 0251 allows Disabled Veterans to park in any disabled parking space without the requirement of an ISA on the license plates or displaying a disabled person placard as long as the vehicle has DV

license plates.

Four new plates were developed – Silver Star, Legion of Merit, Gold Star Spouse and Gold Star Family. Any and all specialty plates may now have the ISA. That includes the Congressional Medal of Honor, Legion of Valor, Silver Star, Congressional Delegation, National Guard (‘Minute Man’) and Yes, the Gold Star Mother, Spouse or Family. Please know the first few requests for specialty plate with the ISA may take a little while and will generally have a maximum of five characters. These are new issues and programming must be developed, so be patient. This programming is expected to be completed by mid-February, but until then you may request an application through the Vehicle Title and Registration Division’s Special Registration Branch in Austin. Applications for specialty plates are available at www.txdot.gov

AUXILIARY NEWS

The 7th District Convention is Saturday April 19 in Madisonville.

We set up a table at Lone Star Village on Saturday, February 23rd to hand out voter registration forms. Approximately 25 people filled out the form so they can vote in the November election.

We voted to give \$50 to Aldine Elementary School to buy classroom size American Flags to replace the worn out ones.

The Houston VA Hospital is in need of wheel chair bags and lap robes. Many of the ladies will be getting together to sew some of them for the hospital.

Mary Lou Suhr was presented with a 10-year pin, and **Rosalie Fryer** with a 15-year pin.

The Auxiliary Craft Fair will be Saturday May 10th at the Montgomery County Fair Grounds.

The next meeting will be March 20th at the Rayford Road Community Center.

Mary Bolin
Unit President

SPECIAL POSTAL RATES

Beginning 3 MAR Military families will get a price break on the U.S. Postal Service's flat-rate shipping boxes to send care packages around the globe. The discount applies only to the new "Priority Mail Large Flat-Rate Box," which normally carries a \$12.95 price tag for shipping. However, when the 12-by-12-by-5.5-inch box is sent to an AFO or FPO address, a \$2 discount applies, dropping the cost to \$10.95. The new boxes will be available in post offices nationwide on 3 MAR.

POST'S POLICY

No one will be admitted to the meeting room during opening, initiation, or closing ceremonies of an American Legion Meeting.

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.

Announcement: Birdies for Charity forms are available for immediate turn-in from Dave Lips at 1-281-682-4199.

Post Activities

Day	Date	Activity	Location
Mon.	Mar. 17	Ex. Comm. Meet.	Office
Thur.	Mar. 20	Members Meet.	Rayford Rd.
Wed.	Apr. 9	POW/MIA Ceremony	VA Hosp.
Mon.	Apr. 14	Ex. Comm. Meet.	Office
Thur.	Apr. 17	Members Meet.	Rayford Rd.
Sat.	Apr. 19	District Conv.	Madisonville

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