



American Legion



POST 305 BUGLE

February 2010

Volume 6 Issue 2

COMMANDER'S CORNER

Dear Legionnaires',

January's meeting was busy but we also celebrated with some fun with the annual Chili Cook-off. Congratulations go to **Pickens Jones** for this year's 2010 winner. It was a close call as there was only 3 vote spread among the remaining contestants. Look for the recipes in what I hope to be a Post and Unit Cookbook coming to you that we are looking to do as a fund raiser.

The February meeting will be an initiation of all new members of Post 305. This will be a special ceremony for all first year members that have joined our post. If 2010 is your first year, please come and participate in the ceremony in your honor and let us welcome you again.

Membership remains an issue and we need those renewals returned to the post as soon as possible. It will not be long when the 2010 year has ended and we will begin 2011 and I would hate to see the continuous years of service broken. The programs that we support which include Boy's State, Scholarships, and others go a long way with the nearly \$3.00 per month average. Unfortunately, we need your support to continue these programs. We have several programs

that rely on funds from dues to support those programs.

As a reminder, I would like for all members to update their information with the post when information changes so that we can update our records but also the Department and National records as well.

I had the opportunity to honor a newly graduated Marine Corp Service member, **Brandon Harris** for his entering into the Marine Corp. He was presented with the "Certificate of Honor" and the American Legion Thank You coin. I stated to Brandon and his Parents Todd and Kathy Harris that he is always in good fellowship by the family of Legionnaires no matter where you are serving. On a side note, I do want to honor all of our active duty Service Men and Women and let them know that they are truly appreciated for their service to God and our County.

In closing, remember to pray for our troops and their safety in their ongoing efforts to protect our country.

Our next meeting will be at 7 PM on February 18th at the Rayford Road Community Center.

For God and Country,
Everett Ison

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Commander **Everett Ison** open the meeting and determined that we had a quorum. He then recessed the meeting to invite the Auxiliary into the room to witness the presentation of a Certificate of Honor Award to active duty U.S. Marine Brandon Harris, grandson of Joe and Gene Watz.

Finance Officer **Dave Lips** reported that the General Fund has \$14,563, and the Allocated Fund has \$20,527.

First Vice Cdr. **Kimberly Biggerstaff** reported that we have 320 paid members. Our goal is 486. We are way behind as you can see. A motion to count 2009 as a year of continuous service for members who did not pay dues for 2009, but pay dues for 2010 was approved. This move was made to improve our membership numbers.

Service Officer **Dayton Denton** reported that we met or goal of 50 home starter kits for the U.S. Vets for this year. He also noted the opening of a new Veterans' Center on 2920 in Champions. He also announced that the Social Night for January would be at Greek Toni's Pizza at 7 p.m.

We approved a motion to have 7th District find a sponsor for two Magnolia H.S. students who would like to attend Boy's State.

After the meeting the Post adjourned to sample the Chili entries. The winner of the best Chili was **Pickens Jones**, Post 305 Adjutant. Pickens will receive a certificate and a plaque and be the man to beat at next year's Chili Cook-off.

HEADLINES TO REMEMBER

Plane Too Close to Ground, Crash Probe Told.

HONORING OUR OWN



L to R. Parents Todd and Kathy Harris, Pvt. Brandon Harris, and Everett Ison, Post Commander

American Legion Post 305 proudly presented Pvt. **Brandon Harris**, USMC a Certificate of Honor. "Pvt. Harris recently completed his Military Boot Camp in California and is enjoying a little R&R with his family in The Woodlands. We're proud to honor our young men and women who are joining the ranks of Legionnaires," said **Everett Ison**, Post Commander.

SOCIAL CORNER

January's Monday Night Social at Greek Toni's was a great success. For everyone who missed it, we had one of our best turnouts yet. If you haven't been out for one of our Monday night socials – now's your chance – we will be meeting at Papa's Ice House on Monday, 22 February at 7:00 PM. Show up and share some time with your fellow Legionnaires. Rumor has it that Dayton has donated a large cash prize to the Post to be given away to the 15th person who shows up at our next Social – that person could be YOU! So bring your spouse, significant other, or someone you just met with you and join us for a good time. Papa's Ice House is located at 314 Pruitt Road in spring. For those of you who are directionally challenged

– that's a right turn off the southbound IH45 frontage road just past Rayford/Sawdust. It's a large pink building so you can't miss it.

In only a few months we will be having another rummage sale. We are still in need of donations for the Rummage sale! Please drop them off at the Storage Building if you have items you need to have picked up that you just aren't able to drop off – give me a call and we'll try to get out and get them. If you need directions or instruction on donations – or just have questions – don't hesitate to give me a call or drop me a line – (202) 494-8027 or btrefz@charter.net.

Our Post and Auxiliary Cookbook project is now in full swing. We need your recipes! Be watching your snail mail and email for announcements about this important project for our post. If you have a recipe and just can't wait to get it to me (you know you can't wait to submit that chili recipe!), drop me an email and I'll send you the details. We also need volunteers to assist our cookbook committee with this project. Please send me a note and let me know if you will volunteer before I find you and twist your arm into doing it. Even if you want to let your fellow Legionnaires and post down and don't help - be sure to thank Win for all of his work and contributions to this project – he's doing outstanding work for the post on this project.

As always a list of upcoming events that may be of interest to veterans is included below. See you at our next meeting or social!

11 Feb - HOUSTON MILITARY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEETING Clyde Walker, cwjr1950@earthlink.net, 713-656-7112 www.hmac.us

13 Feb – 36th Infantry Division Association, Pappadeux's, 13040 NW FWY (HWY 290) starts at 11:30.

13 Feb - TEXAS COMMANDERY OF NAVAL ORDER OF THE UNITED STATES Dinner - reception and cash bar at 1830, dinner at 1930, Houston Racquet Club, 10709 Memorial Drive, edseiling1@sbcglobal.net, 281-440-3630.

18 Feb – Post 305 Regular Meeting – 7:00 PM Rayford Road Community Center

22 Feb – Post 305 Monday Night Social – 7:00 PM Papa's Ice House, Spring, TX

26 Feb - BUFFALO SOLDIERS NATIONAL MUSEUM - GALA 2010 - 6:30 PM, J.W. Marriot Hotel, 5150 Westheimer Road, <http://www.buffalosoldiermuseum.com>

10 Mar - SALUTE TO OUR TROOPS HOUSTON at the Houston Rodeo. www.SaluteToOurTroopsHoustonTexas.com
Brad Trefz
2nd Vice Cdr.

AUXILIARY NEWS

Rosalie Fryer and **Sue Ellen Bannon** presented a program on "What is Field Service and Community Service". It was well received by the membership as it had a lot of pertinent information.

Rosalie Fryer will be in-charge of "Birdies for Charity" for the Auxiliary. Unit members can ONLY sell "Birdie Chances" to people who do not have family members in the Legion. If you would like chances to buy or sell, contact Rosalie at 1-736-520-8895.

The Mid-Winter Conference was held in Austin Jan. 22-24. It was a very good conference on Leadership and much was learned by those who attended.

Our annual Spring Craft Fair will be May 22nd at Walmarts parking lot off Sawdust Road. So, keep that date open and come out and support the Unit. The money raised finances VA&R, scholarships, Girls' State, school supplies and much more.

The Post and Unit Cookbook Steering Committee met to get started with this project. You will be receiving a format in the mail on which to write your recipes and we are hoping for a great response. The theme is military oriented. More information will be forthcoming.

Our next meeting will be Feb. 18th at the Rayford Road Community Center at 7 p.m.

Mary Bolin,
Unit President

NEWS YOU CAN USE

Mid-Winter Conference.

Texas American Legion Mid-Winter Conference was held in Austin 20-24 January. One item that received a lot of attention was a different method of providing information to the Legion's membership. Department Commander Don Daft presented the idea at the Mid-

Winter Conference. As I understand it, every level of the organization would appoint an individual to receive messages. Much like a radio operator in the military. That person would preferably be a computer geek. Messages received would immediately as possible be referred to the commander at that level. The commander would decide the disposition of the message, either action or further distribution. The proposed system would be called the "Hub" system. The need for the system is seen by the Department Commander as too much information is not being received by the intended recipient.

Jim Bolin

Birdies for Charity.

Every year Post 305 participates in a fund raiser called Birdies for Charity. The Post receives 100% of the money pledged during the duration of the contest. We allocate \$500 of what we receive to the Building Fund and the remainder goes to the General Fund (hopefully around \$1500).

We ask Post members to participate by buying a chance on the Grand Prize, a 2010 Honda Fit. To buy a chance you pledge \$20 and then make your best guess as to how many birdies will be made by all the players during the entire Shell Houston Open Golf Tournament. You can also pledge a specific amount of money per birdie, for instance 1 cent per birdie. You will be billed after the completion of the tournament at the rate you select. You can also ask your friends and relatives to participate by making a pledge.

Post members who attend a membership meeting will be given several pledge forms. You can contact one of them or Dave Lips, 281-362-1390 or Jim Bolin, 281-251-2352. Pledges can be made over the phone.

Post Cookbook.

As another fund raiser, the Post and Auxiliary are planning to publish a cookbook with a military flavor. I don't know what it will taste like, but I do know that everyone will be receiving a request to donate their favorite recipe for publication in the cook book. Stand-by to receive your letter, and please respond by sending in your recipe.

Jim Bolin

VETERANS ADVOCATE

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS
Houston VA Regional Office 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

The Senate approved a massive \$1.1 trillion spending bill on Dec. 13 that includes nearly \$110 billion for veterans programs. H.R. 3288 combined six of the 12 annual appropriations bills that provide operating budgets for fiscal year 2010, which began on Oct. 1, 2010.

The bill allocates \$109.6 billion for veterans programs in 2010. That represents a 15% increase from 2009 and includes \$45.1 billion for health care.

POST POLICY

American Legion caps will only be worn during official meeting and functions, or

when officially representing the American Legion, such as at a public ceremony.

THOUGHTS FROM A FRIEND

IMAGINE THAT ...

Many things just naturally go together. Salt and pepper. Congressmen and lobbyists. Honey-do's and husbands. Bald heads and convertibles. So it is with memory and imagination. They are as compatible as biscuits and gravy.

Youngsters are blessed with sharp memories. We seniors are blessed with vivid imagination to fill in the gaps when memory fails. As decades slide by, more and more gaps occur. But young or old, no one will remember the following. That's because it never happened. But flashback 66 years to 1944. This is how the U.S. would have conducted that war by today's practices. Imagine...

LONDON, June 4 – General Eisenhower announced today in a radio interview that early tomorrow morning, June 5, he will send thousands of U.S., British and Canadian troops across the channel to invade France. The announced landing site will be Calais. Then he added that the actual attack will be on Normandy Beach to the south. He stated his strategy was to confuse German General Rommel into sending his Panzer divisions and Tiger tanks to the wrong spot.

BULLETIN, June 5 – The General announced the invasion has be delayed 24 hours because of weather conditions. If further changes are necessary, he said the next invasion date will be scheduled a month later.

Now flash forward 66 years to 2010. You won't have to use your imagination

on the following scenario. It is actually happening.

WASHINGTON – The commander-in-chief announced that he is sending 30,000 additional troops to Afghanistan to fulfill the request of the general in charge of that war. The new commitment is three-fourths of the number General Stanley McChrystal said was necessary to defeat the Taliban and Al-Quaida, civil unrest combatants formerly known as terrorists. The plan is for the additional troops to be used to train Afghanistan's security forces, engaging in contact with the enemy as little as possible. Most of the U.S. troops will leave the country by the summer of 2011. Meanwhile, Afghanistan President Hamid Karzai in an interview stated his country cannot pay its security forces until 2024. Some questioned the conflicting dates between the U.S. schedule and Karzai's statement. General David Petraeus forecasts a sharp increase in combat violence as the U.S. departure date nears.

Back in Washington, Republicans and Democrats argued war strategy and the soaring cost while the stimulus program, overhaul of health care and the expansion of government control in other sectors, take most of their time and our tax dollars.

Confused? Think about the GIs. Uncertain what is going on back home while the political parties, the media, and others bicker over domestic issues, relegating the two wars to the back burner. One president once ended an unpopular war by announcing victory, withdrawing troops in a panic retreat that permitted the enemy to take over following the loss of 57,000 GIs. Vietnam, still con-

trolled by communists, is today our "friend", having forgiven our invasion and allowing us to exchange our dollars for their exports.

Everyone remembers another president later declaring 'Mission Accomplished' in Iraq, only to see several thousand more GI deaths after toppling Saddam Hussein's statue in Bagdad. It ignited a new beginning of the war, not the end.

So that's the way it is. Old vets and other armchair generals wonder what events this new year will further drive the wedge that is splitting the U.S. wide open. Abraham Lincoln, the original log splitter, presided over our most deadly war, but he fought it decisively, successfully reuniting the country. He often journeyed to Civil War battlefields to witness the fighting. Some armchair observers think anyone comparing himself to Lincoln should consider getting fitted for combat boots, cammies, a helmet and firing up Airforce One.

Imagine that...

Jack Hickey

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Fund Raising

The Post collects aluminum cans as a fund raising program. We will take them in any form, but crushed cans would be most appreciated. Bring your crushed cans to the meeting for collection.

TODAY'S SMILE

If "con" is the opposite of "pro," then what is the opposite of progress?

COOL FACTS

Rubber bands last longer when refrigerated.

Post Activities

Day Date	Activity	Location
Mon. Feb 15	Ex. Comm. Meet.	Office
Thur. Feb 18	Membership Meet.	Rayford Rd.
Mon. Mar.15	Ex. Comm. Meet.	Office
Thur. Mar. 18	Membership Meet.	Rayford Rd.
Fri. Apr. 16	Rummage Sale Set up	Robinson Rd.
Sat. Apr. 17	Rummage Sale	Robinson Rd.

Post Officers

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