



AMERICAN LEGION POST 305 "THE WOODLANDS POST" THE BUGLE



November 2010

Volume 6, Issue 11

COMMANDER'S CORNER



Dear Legionnaires',

I would like to thank everyone who made it out to our annual picnic. Everyone in attendance had a great time and it was a chance to get to know our members and family again. We had the delightful pleasure of having Elizabeth Moore (Junior Ladies Auxiliary member) sing Amazing Grace in lieu of our opening prayer. I would like to thank Dave Lips in arranging the hot dogs and hamburgers and also Chuck Suhr for the beverages, also the Ladies Auxiliary for putting the icing on the cake with their side dishes and desert.

At the 7th District meeting, there was information on Identity Theft. Other information was how we

can get more participants in the District Oratorical Contest. I would like to thank Jim Bolin for his successful contest in previous years. Brad Trefz has new ideas for this year which I hope will be a successful year. For all previous years, we have been challenged in getting the schools to participate in this event.

We concluded the month with our semiannual rummage sale. Again I'm like to thank everyone who participated in this event. We would also like to thank the ladies auxiliary who helped making this event successful. While the totals are not in, but the preliminary amount taken in is around \$1800.

November is also the time in which we can honor those Veterans that have served this county proudly. Several activities have been planned by local schools and communities across our area on November 11th. Several business are also providing either free or discounted services or meals to our veterans. Please take time to thank them for remembering us. We served this county to keep it free and we did it with pride.

Remember that Chili Cook-off happens in January, so all of the cooks get ready to prepare the best chili you can brew up. This time the men will be judging the ladies entries for the best chili and vice versa. And don't forget to send those recipes in as we continue building our cookbook.

Our next meeting will be at 7 PM on November 18th at the South County Community Center.

For God and Country,
Everett Ison

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The October meeting was really just a gathering to have fun and a picnic. The regular order of business was suspended in favor of the picnic. Commander Ison did present two Certificates, one from Department and one from the Post to Patrick Bannon. Patrick is back home for a visit from his unit in Iraq and the Certificates thanked him for his service. Mary Bolin presented Patrick a lap quilt made by the Auxiliary and signed by many people all thanking Patrick and his fellow soldiers for their service in Iraq.



The Boss, **Dave Lips**

THE COOKS



Jim Bolin



Brad Wall



Mickey Fussell



The Presentations, **Everett Ison** & **Patrick Bannon**



The Eaters



The Talkers

All had a good time at the Picnic



VETERAN'S ADVOCATE

TEXAS VETERANS COMMISSION

Texas veterans deserve to get the most from the benefits they've earned, and so the state of Texas created the Texas Veterans Commission as the official advocate for Texas veterans. Its mission is to be the most helpful place for Texas veterans to receive assistance with their state and federal benefits.

Highly trained benefits experts, most of whom are veterans, provide claims representation and counseling, employment services and education programs at over 140 Texas Veterans Commission offices. Accessing benefits can feel overwhelming. Between medical records, paperwork, appointments and busy schedules, it can also feel like a hassle. The Texas Veterans Commission can help. It will manage the entire process and get veterans and their families the benefits they deserve.

To start receiving assistance today, visit the Texas Veterans Commission website at www.tvc.state.tx.us.

STOP-LOSS SPECIAL PAY DEADLINE EXTENDED

Eligible service members, veterans and their beneficiaries have until December 3, 2010 to

apply for the benefits they have earned under the 2009 War Supplemental Appropriations Act, which authorized Retroactive Stop Loss Special Pay (RSLSP) of \$500 for every month and partial month served in stop loss status. To apply for this benefit, visit www.defense.gov/stoploss where you will find additional information on submission requirements and service-specific links. RSLSP was established to compensate military members whose service was involuntarily extended under Stop Loss between September 11, 2001 and September 30, 2009. The original deadline for submission of claims was October 21, 2010.

Important Contact Numbers

Houston Regional VA Office:
1-713-383-7842
County Veterans Serv. Offices:
Montgomery 1-936-539-7842
Harris 1-281-876-6600
Texas Veterans Commission:
1-800-252-8387
www.tvc.state.tx.us
State Legislators:
Dist. 4 – Tommy Williams
281-364-9426
Dist. 15 – Rob Eissler
281-681-9655
Dist. 16 – Brandon Creighton
936-539-0028
Dist. 126 – Patricia Harless
281-376-4114

THE FIRST ARMISTICE DAY

Ninety-two years ago WWI more-or-less ended, although that conflict was known then as "The Great War", and only 24 years later was it necessary to number world wars. In October 1918, as the British, French and American

armies advanced, the alliance among the Central Powers began to dissolve. Turkey surrendered at the end of October; Austria-Hungary on November 3rd. Germany's fleet stationed at Kiel mutinied on October 29. On November 9, Kaiser Wilhelm abdicated and ran to Holland. The German Republic extended peace feelers to the Allies. At 5:00 AM on the morning of November 11 an armistice agreement was signed in a railroad car side-tracked in a French forest near the front lines. AEF officer Colonel Thomas Gowenlock (1st Division, G-2) was handed the following message by a Signal Corps officer:

"Official Radio from Paris – 6:01 A.M., Nov. 11, 1918. Marshal Foch to the Commander-in-Chief:

1. Hostilities will be stopped on the entire front beginning at 11:00 o'clock, November 11th (French hour)
2. The Allied troops will not go beyond the line reached at that hour on that date until further orders.
"[signed]
MARSHAL FOCH
5:45 A.M."

Colonel Gowenlock's published memoirs (1936) recorded his actions and observations following notice of the cease-fire:

"My watch said nine o'clock. With only two hours to go, I drove over to the bank of the Meuse River to see the finish. The shelling was heavy and, as I walked down the road, it grew steadily worse. It seemed to me that every battery

in the world was trying to burn up its guns. At last eleven o'clock came – but the firing continued. The men on both sides had decided to give each other all they had – their farewell to arms. It was a very natural impulse after their years of war, but unfortunately many fell after eleven o'clock that day.”

Despite unofficial indications as early as November 9th that fighting would cease on the eleventh and the actual orders, the AEF suffered more than 3,500 casualties that day. To General John J. Pershing, AEF commander, the idea of an armistice was repugnant. He saw such cease-fire request by Germany as a chance to gain time and restore order among its forces then strike harder than ever. Pershing informed his commanders of the signing but left it to them whether to continue fighting or to stand down and hold the line. A year later, Pershing found himself before a committee of the House of Representatives questioning the matter as to how the AEF reacted to Foch's orders on that first Armistice Day.

FUND RAISING

On Saturday, October 30, the Post conducted its semi-annual Rummage Sale, one of the more productive fund raisers. It was held as usual at the Robinson Road Community Center and the weather was most kind to us. We had a good turnout – many customers and some lookers. Members of the Post spent all day Friday setting up our wares and members of the Auxiliary, together

with the Post members, sorted and arranged the stock for better viewing. As for all of our rummage sales, a significant number of patrons start shopping on Friday while the unloading and placement is going on. The gross sales for the event were \$1782.51, which is a little bit more than the \$1500 we budget for a rummage sale. I want to thank everyone who participated in the Sale, Post and Auxiliary alike. You were all great. You made it happen.

Jim Bolin

WAR SONGS

From time to time, The Bugle will echo a song which became well known and loved in a time of war – wars long past and those more recent.

“GARRYOWEN”

Garryowen originated as an Irish quick-step, traced back to the early 1680's. In 1867, the tune was adopted by the US Army's 7th Cavalry Regiment and troopers. It became the official tune of the 1st Cavalry Division in 1981. It is the most famous of all regimental marches in the Army.

Mrs. George A. Custer, widow of General Custer, remarked that she had often heard her husband hum and whistle the piece a short time after his regiment was organized at Ft. Riley, Kansas. The song was introduced to the regiment by Captain Miles Keogh, whose father had been an officer in the 5th Royal Irish Dragoons.

New York's "Fighting 69th" militia regiment was formed in 1851, and its ranks were filled by Irish-American citizens. It carried its battle flag and Garryowen through

the Civil War, Spanish-American War, Punitive Expedition (Mexico), and both World Wars. Garryowen has also been adopted by British and Australian army units, who march in regimental tartans to the sound of pipe and drum bands.

POST MEETING DECORUM

1. The ceremonial services of The American Legion must be conducted with the solemnity befitting the dignity of this organization.
2. No one shall be admitted during the opening, initiation, or closing ceremonies of an American Legion meeting.
3. Comrades shall be careful never to pass between the flags and the station of the commander.
4. Any member entering the hall after the meeting has begun shall advance to the center of the room, salute the colors and be seated.
5. Any member desiring to be excused from the hall while the meeting is in progress, except during a prayer, or the obligation, or during the period of silence, shall advance to the center of the room, salute the Colors, and then leave.
6. Legionnaires standing in silent tribute in memory of departed comrades during meetings or ceremonies will face the flag of our country.

MONTHLY TRIVIA QUIZ

Interested readers may e-mail their answers to this month's questions to the Editor. The member with the earliest set of correct responses will be recognized in the next Bugle.

1. When do your Legion Post dues become overdue in the Legion year?
2. In what year did the US declare war against Mexico?
3. What brought fame to General Henry M. Robert, Corps of Engineers, USA?
4. What was the "Cactus Air Force" and where did it operate?
5. When did the USS Maine blow up in Havana harbor?
6. Where was The American Legion's US organizational caucus held in 1919?
7. When was the Thompson submachine gun first procured for the US military?
8. Can a Legionnaire belong to two different Posts concurrently if he/she pays dues at each?

OCTOBER QUIZ ANSWERS

1. Lt. Colonel Theodore Roosevelt, Jr. proposed forming The American Legion.
2. The original Bill of Rights had twelve amendments; but two failed to get ratification.

3. The common Squad Automatic Weapon (SAW) was the M-60, belt-fed, machine gun.
4. The Boston Tea Party occurred in November 1773.
5. You are piloting an aircraft low on fuel (BINGO) under a Return To Base (RTB) order.
6. There are no term limits for congressmen or senators.
7. The USS Panay, a river gunboat, was attacked and sunk in the Yangtze River by the Japanese in 1937.
8. The Eight and Forty is a Legion Auxiliary association limited to members who have served at least three years and have performed outstanding services.
9. The M-1 rifle clip held eight .30-08 cartridges.
10. Veterans of the Korean War who participated in the November-December 1950 withdrawal from North Korea's Chosin Reservoir area.
11. The Sons of the American Legion (SAL) is an organization of sons of Legionnaires, founded in 1932.
12. The gadget, designated "P-38", was a can opener for field ration cans.

THE POPPY PROGRAM

The Poppy Program is the oldest, most widely recognized, Auxiliary program – the distribution of bright red, crepe-paper poppies in exchange for contributions to assist disabled and hospitalized veterans. The poppy became a nationally known and recognized symbol of sacrifice and is worn by our members and the public to honor the men and women who served and died for us in all US wars. But, why was the poppy selected as such a symbol?

A Canadian army doctor, Lt. Colonel John McCrae, attached to the 1st Field Artillery Brigade, had just spent 17 days treating wounded and gassed men, following the terrible Second Battle of Ypres (Belgium), in May 1915. He was sitting in a parked ambulance near his dressing station the next day, anguished by the loss of life he had witnessed. In the nearby cemetery, McCrae could see the wild poppies that sprang up in the ditches. He took out his notebook and scribbled fifteen lines of verse. Dissatisfied with what he wrote, he tossed the poem away, but a fellow officer retrieved it and sent to two British publications. The newsmagazine **Punch** published it on December 3, 1915. The poem, "**In Flanders Fields**". was so very moving, it became known worldwide. :

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<u>DAY</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>WHERE?</u>
Mon.	Nov. 1	Oratorical Contest Starts	Local High Schools
Tues.	Nov. 2	Mid-term Election Day	Vote ! Vote ! Vote !
Sat.	Nov. 6	Poppy Day Fund-Raiser (Aux.)	Kroger's at Cochran's Crossing
Thur.	Nov. 11	Veterans' Day	ANADARCO; Other Sites
Tues.	Nov. 16	Post Executive Committee Meeting	South County Community Ctr. @ 7:00 PM
Thur.	Nov. 18	Membership Meetings (Boys State Grads)	South County Community Ctr. @ 7:00 PM
Thur.	Nov. 25	Thanksgiving Day	With Family & Friends
Friday	Nov. 26	Dues Paid Target at 75% (332 members)	
Thur.	Dec. 2	Hanukkah Commences	
Tues.	Dec. 7	Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day	
Mon.	Dec. 13	Post Executive Committee Meeting	South County Community Ctr. @ 7:00 PM
Thur.	Dec. 16	Membership Meetings	South County Community Ctr. @ 7:00 PM
Sat.	Dec. 25	Christmas Day	With Family & Friends
Sun.	Dec. 26	Kwanzaa	
Friday	Dec. 31	Dues Paid Target at 85% (376 members)	
Sat.	Jan. 1	New Years Day	
Mon.	Jan. 17	Martin Luther King Day	
Mon.	Jan. 17	Post Executive Committee Meeting	South County Community Ctr. @ 7:00 PM
Wed.	Jan. 19 to	Dept. of Texas Mid-Winter Conference	Omni Southpark Hotel, 4140 Governor's
Sun.	Jan. 23	Austin, Texas	Row, Austin
Thur.	Jan. 20	Membership Meetings (Chili Cook-Off)	South County Community Ctr. @ 7:00 PM
Thur.	Feb. 3	USAT Dorchester Torpedoed	
Mon.	Feb. 14	Valentines Day	Candy, flowers & new car
Mon.	Feb. 14	Post Executive Committee Meeting	South County Community Ctr. @ 7:00 PM
Thur.	Feb. 17	Membership Meetings (Four Chaplains)	South County Community Ctr. @ 7:00 PM
Mon.	Feb. 21	Presidents' Day	
Mon.	Mar. 14	Post Executive Committee Meeting	South County Community Ctr. @ 7:00 PM
Thur.	Mar. 17	Membership Meetings	South County Community Ctr. @ 7:00 PM
Thur.	Mar. 17	St. Patrick's Day	

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**YOUR 2011
 POST DUES
 ARE DUE AS
 OF
 CALENDAR
 YEAR END
 OR YOU ARE
 DELINQUENT**