



AMERICAN LEGION POST 305 "THE WOODLANDS POST" THE BUGLE



October, 2012 Volume 8, Issue 10

COMMANDER'S CORNER



Commander Pete Koch

Fellow Legionnaires,
I would like to congratulate our Immediate Past Commander and present Finance Officer, **Kimberly Biggerstaff**, on her selection from our Post and the Department of Texas to be one of the 52 Legionnaires from around the United States to be an attendee at the 2012 Class of the National Legion College to be held from October 28 to November 2, 2012.

At the September Post Meeting, we had an excellent speaker, Mr. Jud Caldwell, AAMS, who is a Financial Advisor with Edward Jones. He spoke to the members concerning investments vs. CD'S. The Post has been investigating how to get the most for its monies. He was very knowledgeable and gave us valuable information to help decide whether we want to move a part of the Post's monies

from the CD's into investments. With the present state of economic woes in this country and the initial investment charges, especially the front-end buy load of at least 5.5%, we would most likely be better off leaving it in CD's for the present time.

We have picked up six transfer members this month. Welcome to **Beri Kirk, Frank Berrier Jr., Larry J. Coallagher, David Cruz, Donald Mann and Ernest S. Thompson**. We also have two more active members that were present at their first meeting; **Anthony Gibbs and Ken Mayfield**.

We are still asking for our Legionnaires to volunteer on one of several committees that we have in the Post. These include Americanism (which covers Oratorical Contest, Boys State, Scholarships, Flag Etiquette); Flag Disposal; Funerals; Color Guard; Membership; Fund Raising; Veteran Affairs & Rehabilitation; Public Relations; Children & Youth; Adopt-A-Path; Legislative; POW/MIA; Employment; Boy Scouts; and the July 4th Parade. So if you would like to assist in any one of these programs, just let me know and I will pencil you in.

I would like to remind everyone that our annual picnic is

approaching. The date is October the 18th, and this will be a great time to relax and enjoy the comradeship of each other. Hamburgers, hot dogs, and bratwurst will be provided by the Post. Bring your own drinks and chairs. It will be at [Shadowbend Park](#), located behind David Elementary School near the southwest corner of Gosling and Lake Woodlands Drive Note: entrance to Shadowbend Park is on Lake Woodlands Drive. It is in the covered event pavilion. The normal Post meeting will be an abbreviated meeting at 7:00 PM. Dormant members, family, friends and guests are invited.

October the 20th is the date of our Fall Rummage Sale located, as usual, at the Robinson Road Community Center. The hours are 7:00 AM until 3:30 PM. We will need the help of Post and Unit members on Friday, October 19th from 8:30 AM until 3:00 PM to set up the sale items for the Saturday sale. This is one of our more significant fundraisers helping to support the community and veteran programs we undertake.

The Departmental Executive Committee meeting was held this month and was a very successful event. More information will be forthcoming. Our Fall District 7 Convention will be held at Post 615 in New Caney on the 20th of

October. I encourage all members who can attend, to do so. The day-long event gives attendees a look forward into what is happening within our District and a chance to get to know our District Leadership. The Post was asked to donate 10 door prizes and an item for silent auction. The Traveling Trophy will be awarded to the Post providing the most gifts for the VA Hospital Christmas Gift Program.

Remember, the next Post meeting will be held on October 18th at Shadowbend Park in the Woodlands at 7:00 PM.

For God and Country,
Pete Koch

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS (August 16, 2012)

Prior to the meeting, Financial Advisor Jud Caldwell discussed investments the Post might make to increase the yield on its money market and CD funds.

First Vice Commander Emery Heuermann opened the meeting as Acting Commander in the prescribed manner. He then established that we had a quorum. The Commander asked **Sergeant-at-Arms Jim Bolin** to introduce any visitors present. **Ken Mayfield** and **Anthony Gibbs**, members attending their first meeting, were introduced. After approval of the previous meeting's minutes, and the Executive Committee Minutes, the Acting Commander asked for a motion to approve three recommendations contained in the Executive Committee minutes: We are to: (1) proceed with the Fall Rummage Sale, (2) support wounded veterans with a \$30 contribution to buy three \$10 tickets to the movie "High

Ground", and (3) support the District Meeting by advertisement, raffle tickets and a contribution to the raffle. The Acting Commander then called upon on **Kim Biggerstaff**, the Finance Officer, to give the Finance Report. She reported that the General Fund contained \$17,924.70, while the Allocated Fund total was \$22,366.25 for a Total Assets of \$40,290.95.

The Acting Commander reported that we have 211 members renewed for the 2012-2013 year. Our goal is 333. **Second Vice Commander Mickey Fussell's** report was given by **Jim Bolin** in the absence of Mickey. He noted that the Rummage Sale was on the Friday and Saturday following the next meeting. He sent around a sign-up sheet for workers to help. **Jim Bolin** then reported that **Mickey Fussell** has set the date for the next casino day-trip for Tuesday, January 8, 2013. **Service Officer Dayton Denton** is away until next month.

Under Unfinished Business, preparations for the picnic, a part of the next meeting, were discussed. Under New Business, the upcoming District meeting and the included contest were discussed. The contest challenge is which Post can bring the most Christmas gifts for the veterans at the VA Hospital. Gifts should be something that you would give a relative. Bring your gift to the picnic. Also, **Past Commander Kim Biggerstaff** took the occasion to award **Dave Lips** a Certificate of Appreciation and a Legion Coin for his years as Finance Officer of the Post. Dave stepped down last year due to health reasons. For the Good of the Legion noted the Military Appreciation Day on October 6th at Ellington Field. Also, a local

lawyers group desires to know how many veterans would like a one-meeting legal service consultation, like drafting a will. If anyone needs that type of service, contact the **Bugle Editor Jim Bolin**. Right now this is a survey. If it turns into anything and you are interested, you will be informed.

The meeting was closed in the prescribed manner at 8:30 PM, and refreshments were served by the Auxiliary.



VETERANS ADVOCATE

TEXAS VETERANS LAND LOAN RATE DROPS TO 6.75%

Are you interested in buying a piece of Texas? If so, the Texas Veterans Land Board (VLB) just made its land loans more affordable. Effective July 26, all land loans closed on or after that date will have a new fixed interest rate of 6.75 percent, which is down from 7.25 percent. This will net a savings of around \$33.50 per month on a 30-year, fixed-rate, \$100,000 loan, or about \$12,000 if the veteran pays on the loan for the entire 30 years. "I hope every veteran in Texas hears about these record low rates," said Jerry Patterson, Chairman of the VLB. "This is a great benefit they have earned and should take advantage of."

Texas veterans can take advantage of the VLB's low-interest rate loans to borrow as much as

\$100,000 to buy land. Veterans and real estate professionals alike will be pleased to know that VLB land loans not only offer the best rates and terms in the state, but are now being closed in a record average of 30 days or less. This is a significant improvement over the days when it used to take two to three months to close a land loan.

Since taking office in 2003, Patterson has raised the amount Texas veterans may borrow for a home from \$150,000 up to \$417,000. Buying land through the VLB has gotten easier, too. Under Patterson's direction, the VLB has reduced the minimum acreage that could be bought with a VLB land loan from five acres to one acre, making it easier for veterans to buy lots closer to urban areas. A Texas veteran can simultaneously have a VLB land loan, a VLB home loan and a VLB home improvement loan.

"No other state can match what the VLB offers: low cost home, land and home improvement loans; skilled nursing facilities and cemeteries---all exclusively for Texas veterans or their spouses," Patterson said. "And all of our programs are mostly self-funding, which is good news for Texas taxpayers".

For more information on how to take advantage of this low-rate land loan, talk to your realtor or call 800-252-VETS (800-252-8387), visit the VLB website at <texasveterans.com>, or find us at: <facebook.com/TXVLB>.

TEXAS CAPITOL VIETNAM VETERANS MONUMENT

The long effort to build a monument at the Texas Capitol honoring hundreds of thousands of Texans who served in the

Vietnam War is finally on the way to reality. Work on the 14-foot bronze sculpture has begun at the Deep in the Heart Art Foundry in Bastrop, Texas. The Texas Capitol Vietnam Veterans Monument project was approved by the Texas Legislature in 2005, by legislation co-sponsored by Vietnam veterans Senator Juan "Chuy" Hinojosa and Representative Wayne Smith. Since then, a committee chaired by veteran Robert Floyd, has worked tirelessly to raise the necessary funds to build the monument. "Thanks to the support of Texas individuals, veteran organizations, foundations, and corporations, and with a \$500,000 matching grant from the Texas Historical Commission, we have now reached 80% of our fundraising goal," said Floyd. "We are absolutely delighted to announce that production of the Texas Capitol Vietnam Veterans Monument has begun."

The 14-foot bronze sculpture by artist Duke Sundt features five infantry figures poised in patrol positions. On the base surrounding the fighting unit are bas relief panels depicting naval, artillery, medical and aviation services that supported the combat patrol. The 3,415 Texans killed in Vietnam will be remembered by "dog tags" personalized with each man's name, military service, hometown and date of loss. The 3,415 tags will be entombed inside the monument. The Texas Capitol Vietnam Veterans Monument will be installed on the northeast side of the Capitol grounds. Dedication is tentatively scheduled to occur in the Fall of 2013. The monument is accompanied by an online "Living Monument" featuring profiles of Texans who served in the Vietnam War to extend the monument's educational reach.

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

WARTIME BALLADS & MARCHING SONGS

From time to time, *The Bugle* includes an article on one of the more famous songs or ballads which were popular during a war era. Past issues have featured "Garry Owen" of Irish fame (and the official tune of the US 7th Cavalry Regiment) and "We Gotta Get Out of This Place" of the Vietnam War.

LILI MARLENE

*"Underneath the lantern, by the
barrack gate,
Darling, I remember the way you
used to wait.
T'was there that you whispered
tenderly
That you loved me. You'd always
be
My Lili of the lamplight, My own
Lili Marlene"*

The words of this German love song were written as a poem in 1915 during WWI by Hans Leip, a school teacher from Hamburg who had been conscripted into the German army. The poem was published in 1937 with the two last verses (of five) added. In 1938, it was set to music by Norbert Schultze. Tommie Connor later wrote the English lyrics. It was

recorded by German singer Lale Anderson in 1939.

After the Germans occupied Belgrade in 1941, Radio Belgrade became the German forces' radio station. It could be received throughout Europe and the Mediterranean. A lieutenant working at the station and was on leave in Vienna had been asked to collect some recordings for the station. Among the pile he obtained at a second-hand shop was the little-known song "Lili Marlene" as recorded by Anderson. With limited choices among its library, Radio Belgrade played the song frequently. The station got many requests for the song and its popularity grew. Soldiers stationed around the Mediterranean,

including German Afrika Korps and British Eighth Army troops, regularly tuned in to hear it. By 1942, Yugoslav guerrillas became fans of the husky, sensuous and nostalgic voice of the German singer, with some guilt. Allied soldiers in Italy later adapted the tune to their own lyrics, creating the "D-Day Dodgers Song", which was popular with Canadian troops. In 1944, Perry Como recorded it for RCA Victor Records. Many other US artists followed, including Marlene Dietrich, Hildegarde, Martha Tilton, Vaughn Monroe, Al Martino, Carly Simon and even country singer Hank Snow. "Lili Marlene" was adopted as the regimental slow march by Britain's Special Air Service and Canada's Princess

Patricia's Light Infantry. Thus, "Lili Marlene" evolved from a minor German poem to an international song hit.



"Th' krauts ain't followin' ya so good on 'Lili Marlene' tonight, Joe. Ya think maybe somethin' happened to their tenor?"

EVENT BULLETIN BOARD ~WHAT~WHERE~WHEN~

Thursday, October 18: Oktoberfest Picnic: Although there will be a short business meeting, the evening will be devoted to just an easy evening of relaxing, dining al fresco and imbibing, all on the Post. So, bring yourself, your spouse, the kids and a friend or two to Shadowbend Park on Lake Woodlands Drive. Starting time is 7:00 PM (except for the cooks and other set-up crew members). It will be one of our social highlights of the year!

Saturday, October 20: Fall Rummage Sale: Our Fall Rummage Sale takes place, as usual, at the Robinson Road Community Center. The Post needs good and useful items which now just clutter up the garage, store room, attic and even the living spaces. A few "big ticket" items would be most welcome. Donations can be delivered to our storage lockers or can be taken directly to the sale site on the set-up day, October 19. This is a challenge to every reader to donate three (3) sale-worthy items. Contributions of valued items are tax deductible and the Post will issue receipts.

Saturday, October 20: Semiannual District Convention: This 7th District Convention will be held at Post 615 in New Caney, starting at 9:00 AM. This is the governing body for 23 local Posts. Topics of interest and value will be discussed and voted upon. Post 305's delegation will be soon forming.

Tuesday, November 6: National Election Day: This election is probably the most critical in decades. It is vital for you and yours to cast votes, whether it is by absentee ballot, early voting or election day votes. The American Legion and Post 305 officers cannot suggest how you should vote. They can only urge you to do so and thereby help decide who will represent you in Congress and who will command our armed forces, as well as selecting your Texas state and local officials.

Saturday, November 11: Veterans Day: This is a day set aside to honor the service and sacrifice of our veterans. In past years, Post members have attended the reviews of JROTC units staged at the local high school stadiums. In the Woodlands, units of the four high schools will pass in review in honor of our veterans.

Thursday, November 15: Membership Meeting: This membership meeting will be followed by a turkey dinner provided by the Auxiliary. As you can imagine, it is a very popular meeting. The business meetings will be cut short so that there is more time to enjoy each other's company, as well as the feast. Bring an eligible friend and get him or her to sign up as a new Legionnaire. It is a good time because we put our best foot forward.

AUXILIARY UNIT 305 NEWS



Dayna Salter, President

Our September meeting included the final report back from our third Girls State attendee, **Jazy Hill**, from the Woodlands High School. She remarked at how the experience was both great fun and an eye-opener into the world of government and politics – much more than she had ever been exposed to in civics classes. She enjoyed the camaraderie and spirit of the other girls as they campaigned and made posters for one another in all the various city, state and national elections.



October brings plans for a variety of fundraisers with tables at the Chateau Woods group garage sale on October 13th, at the Post's Rummage Sale on October 20nd, and at a Church Bazaar at Good Shepherd Church on October 27th. Please look for incoming emails for details and reminders.

We will also be preparing six care packages to ship to deployed military in Afghanistan. Please contact **Ursula McConnell** for what is needed to complete these packages.

We have identified a number of projects to benefit children and youth in the community and from military families. Each month, the Unit will be donating a requested book to the libraries of local schools. If your child/grandchild's school might benefit from this program, please contact **Joan Sparks** <jzremo1@gmail.com>.

We have also approved a \$200 donation for a bike, helmet and training to a child of a wounded warrior through the "Red, White and Bike" program. Thanks to **Jenny Le** for that project.

And we are preparing for Veteran's Day Poppy programs in local schools, as well as our

adopted school in La Feria, Texas where former Unit President **Mary Sanchez** works.

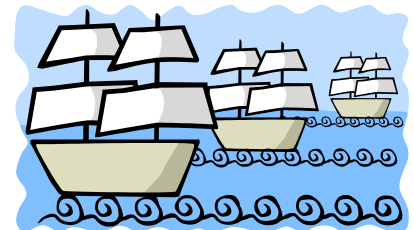
We have restarted our box tops project as a fundraiser for playground equipment at Zwick Elementary. For more information, contact **Stephanie Marshall**. Please bring your box tops to any future meeting.

I want to thank all who participated at the Post/Unit table during Woodlands Night Out on September 22nd. We had a successful interaction with the community, and possibly gained some new members.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the October 18th BBQ/ picnic in Shadowbend Park at 7:00 PM. We will have a short huddle instead of the usual meeting. Remember to get your 2013 dues in during the Fall Membership Drive.

Happy Columbus Day!

-Dayna Salter



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CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

<u>DAY</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>LOCALE</u>
Sat.	Oct. 6	Military Retiree Appreciation Day	Ellington Field Joint Reserve Base
Mon.	Oct. 15	Post Executive Committee Meeting	South County Community Ctr. @ 7:00 PM
Thurs.	Oct. 18	Oktoberfest Picnic	Shadowbend Park Pavillion @ 7:00 PM
Fri.	Oct. 19	Set-Up Day for Rummage Sale	Robinson Road Community Ctr. @ 8 AM
Sat.	Oct. 20	Fall Rummage Sale	Robinson Road Community Ctr. @ 7 AM
Sat.	Oct. 20	District 7 Convention	Post 615, New Caney
Sat.	Oct. 27	Navy Day	
Wed.	Oct. 31	Halloween	Trick or Treat!
Sat.	Nov. 3	The Woodlands Car Show	Woodforest Bank Parking Lot, Sawdust Road at Grogans Mill Road @ 3:00 PM
Tues.	Nov. 6	National Election Day	Vote!
Sat.	Nov. 10	Marine Corps Birthday	
Sun.	Nov. 11	Veterans Day	
Mon.	Nov. 12	Third Annual World War II Veterans Day Luncheon	Anatole Hilton Hotel, Dallas, TX @ 2:00PM (See Daughters of WWII Flyer)
Mon.	Nov. 12	Post Executive Committee Meeting	South County Community Ctr, @ 7:00 PM
Thurs.	Nov 15	Membership Meetings	South County Community Ctr. @ 7:00 PM
Thurs.	Nov. 22	Thanksgiving Day	Gobble, Gobble!

POST OFFICERS & CONTACT INFORMATION

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SERGEANT-AT-ARMS:	Jim Bolin	(281) 251-2352
ASS'T SGT-AT-ARMS:	Robert Earl Jones	(281) 651-7083
CHAPLAIN:	Jerry Mulvihill	(281) 353-5574
ASS'T CHAPLAIN:	Rudy Charest	(281) 363-9710
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www.alpost305.org and www.mypost.org

FACEBOOK MANAGER: Kimberly Biggerstaff

MEETING DAY & PLACE: The Post and Auxiliary meet at the South County Community Center in The Woodlands at 7:00 PM on the third Thursday of each month. The Auxiliary Unit hosts a pot-luck supper following the meetings. The Center is located on the southeast corner at the intersection of Lake Robbins Drive and Grogans Mill Road, next to the library.