

AMERICAN LEGION POST 305 "THE WOODLANDS POST" THE BUGLE



November, 2012 Volume 8, Issue 11

COMMANDER'S CORNER



Commander Pete Koch

Dear Fellow Legionnaires,

I would like to thank everyone who made it out to our annual picnic. Everyone had a great time, and it was a chance to get to know our members and family again. I would also like to thank Mickey Fussell as our Master Chef in the cooking of the hamburgers and Dayton Denton as our Master Chef in the cooking of the bratzs and hot dogs; and also Emery Heuermann for the margarita's. The Auxiliary put the icing on the cake with the side dishes and desserts. If you didn't make it, I guarantee, you missed out on a wonderful time.

While I was not there due to the District Convention on Saturday, it was my understanding that we had a very successful Rummage Sale. Thanks to all of those that

participated in making this a successful fundraiser. We would also like to thank the Ladies Auxiliary who helped make this event successful. The gross receipts from the rummage sale are \$1853.19, which is among the best we have ever done.

On Thursday, the 18th of October, Post and Unit 305 officers presented checks to Oak Ridge Elementary School towards a new playground that will benefit special-needs children.

We participated in the 7th District Convention again this vear. Post Madisonville won the Traveling Trophy and our Post won the booze wagon drawing. State Senator Tommy Williams was supposed to be the keynote speaker but had to call in and cancel due to another engagement. In spite of this, the convention was very informative. The host Post 615 (New Caney) supplied pizzas and the women supplied fabulous desserts. November is also the time in can honor those which we veterans that have served this country proudly. Several activities have been planned by local schools and communities across our area on November 11th and 12th. For those of you who might have forgotten it, Veterans Day is always on November 11th .Several businesses 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 country to keep it free and we did it with pride.

Membership is still an issue and we need these renewals returned to the Post as soon as possible. Additionally, I would like to ask that all members to update their information with the post when personal data changes in order to update our records and also those of the Department. One easy way is sign up on 'Mylegion.org' where you can update the information also. If you haven't renewed your membership for the year 2013, now is the time. One thing we all have to remember, getting and holding new members is not a one man (or woman) job. It takes all of us to talk up the Legion and selling its virtues and honor each time we come across a potential member.

Remember that the Annual Chili Cook-off takes place in January, so all you cooks get ready to prepare the best chili you can brew up. Post judges will judge the Unit's chili and vice versa. If last year's chili cook-off was any example, we have some wonderful chili cooks in the Post and the Auxiliary. In the meantime, if you have any more recipes, please

send them in, as **Win Salter** is still working on that cookbook.

Our next meeting will be at 7:00 PM on November 15th at the South County Community Center on Lake Robbins Drive in the Woodlands.

For God and Country ~~~~

Pete Koch

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS October 18, 2012

The meeting was convened at Shadowbend Park as the Annual Oktoberfest Picnic, а social highlight of the Post and Auxiliary year. The weather was cooperative, as dusk passed and the park pavilion came to life. The business meeting was kept short, and was presided over by Commander Pete Koch and encompassed few а short remarks by Auxiliary President **Dayna Salter.** By motion made by Emery Heuermann and unanimous vote, the rendering of reports on finance, membership and other committee topics was dispensed with. The colors, which had been advanced by Sergeantat-Arms Jim Bolin, were retired, and the al fresco formal meeting was closed at 7:15 PM in the customary manner.

While light business was being conducted, Master Chef Dayton Denton was busy bratwurst and hot dogs and Sous Chef Mickey Fussell was flipping hamburgers. The ladies of the Unit laid out the service table with side dishes of baked beans, cole slaw, potato salad, tomatoes, lettuce, chips and an array of condiments, together with the rolls, preparing for the chow lines which would soon form as the meats became ready. Meanwhile, First Vice Commander Emery Heuermann and Brad Wall were

busy organizing the bar, which sported some lively spirits and various dilutants. The customary tank of excellent margaritas, prepared by Mixmaster **Chuck Suhr**, sat cooling on the end of one table. At the after end of the service table was a spread of sweet endings – various desserts; pies, cakes and cookies.

Sufficient to say, a grand time was had by the Post and Unit members, their significant others, their invited friends, but too few youngsters.



VETERANS ADVOCATE

SEQUESTRATION IMPACT ON VETERANS

Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) /Government Relations Director Colonel Steve (USAF-Ret) Strobridge among military and veteran association leaders invited to Capitol Hill in September to discuss legislative priorities with House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) and more than a dozen other senior House Democrats. Pelosi highlighted ongoing challenges in resolving sequestration issue that threatens an additional \$1 trillion in across-the-board budget cuts over the next 10 years if Congress doesn't approve alternative ways to cut the deficit by the end of the vear. She acknowledged that political considerations have forced deferral on this and on a number of other key legislative efforts into the post-election,

"lame duck" session of Congress, including the need to change the current law that's scheduled to impose a 27% cut in Medicare and TRICARE payments to doctors in January.

The assembled association representatives detailed a variety of priorities remaining to be addressed. including various wounded warrior and veteran hiring initiatives, protecting VA funding, addressing the unfair deduction of VA survivor benefits from military SBP annuities, and more. Strobridge highlighted that, while Congress has exempted VA health care from sequester-driven budget cuts, no such protection has been extended to military health care, at least for beneficiaries under 65 and care delivered through military facilities. He supported protection of VA care, but said if we're going to protect health care for vets who served as little as one tour of duty in uniform, those who sacrifice for decades deserve no less. He also praised House Republicans and Democrats alike for including caps on TRICARE pharmacy copay increases in the House-passed version of the FY2013 Defense Authorization Act. He House leaders to ensure those caps are retained in negotiations with the Senate during the lame duck session. [Source: MOAA Leg Up, Sept. 21, 2012]

STOLEN VALOR LAW STATUS

The House of Representatives on September 12 passed the Stolen Valor Act of 2011 (H.R.1775), which makes it a crime to knowingly benefit from lies about receiving military awards. The bill, introduced by Congressman Joe Heck (R-NV) in May of last year, makes a key change to the Stolen Valor Act of 2005, which was ruled unconstitutional by the

Supreme Court on the grounds that it infringed upon free speech rights. Representative Heck's bill, which unanimously passed the House Judiciary Committee on August 1, will withstand constitutional scrutiny because the legislation narrowly focuses on those who seek to benefit from their misrepresentations receiving military awards -- not the lie itself. Having passed the House, the bill now moves to the Senate for consideration where Senator Scott Brown's (R-MA) companion bill has bipartisan support. Representative Heck's Stolen Valor Act of 2011 passed the House by a vote of 410 to 3.

"The need to protect the honor, service, and sacrifice of our veterans and military personnel is as strong today as it has ever been. Our service men and women who have been decorated -- some of them posthumously -for their exemplary service and heroic sacrifice defending our nation and the freedoms we enjoy as Americans deserve the valor they displayed to be defended against those who would seek to benefit from lying about military decorations," Heck said. "The Stolen Valor Act of 2011 achieves this objective while ensuring we protect the constitutional liberties for which they fought. I urge the Senate to follow the strong bipartisan example set by the House and bring this bill to the floor for a vote." Some details on the bill are:

☐ The bill, as amended and passed by the House Judiciary Committee on August 1, 2012, exempts individuals who wear military medals or decorations that do not belong to them from penalties outlined in the bill. This was due to concerns raised in the United States v. Alvarez decision in which the SCOTUS stated that

simply wearing medals was considered free speech.

- ☐ The new text enforces penalties against individuals who, with the intent to obtain money, property or anything of value, fraudulently hold themselves out to be recipients of a military decoration or medal.
- Under the bill, punishments against such individuals would include fines or imprisonment of no more than a year, or both. Previous text had higher crimes for Congressional Medal of Honor, Special Operations service, and service in a Combat Zone. The new text makes the punishment uniform. [Source: Trea News for the Enlisted, September 14, 2012]

UPDATE ON MEDICARE REIMBURSEMENT

Despite cutting Medicare by more than \$600 billion over the past two years, the program remains the target of Congressional deficit reduction plans. Budget experts are pressing Congress to move and soon — to avoid a fastapproaching federal budget crisis that could erupt by year end. Proposals are under debate that would transform Medicare from a program that guarantees coverage for a fixed set of benefits, to one that guarantees a fixed federal payment to cover a portion beneficiaries' healthcare expenses.

According to а new poll, conducted by The Senior Citizens League (TSCL), seniors overwhelmingly oppose the widely debated Medicare plans. Seventy percent of respondents said Medicare should not be changed, and only 13 percent supported changing the system. The proposals would transform Medicare into a system of "premium support," under which beneficiaries would receive a fixed

amount of money to purchase their Medicare coverage. Proposals differ in how the payments beneficiaries would be determined, and whether the Medicare fee-for-service system would remain a choice. Plans also differ in the extent to which the federal government would cap the contribution per beneficiary, as well as protections for low-income beneficiaries. Proponents competition between plans could help reduce spending. But, the Congressional Budget Office and Medicare's Chief Actuary have said that, while the proposals the would save federal government money, the main risk is in setting premium support levels too low. If that occurs, beneficiaries would have to pay a larger portion of their income to cover costs than they already do under current law.

Medicare Part B premiums are one of the most rapidly growing costs that seniors have. Since 2000, Medicare premiums have grown as fast as gasoline prices. A TSCL survey conducted in the fall of 2011 indicates that seniors already spend a significant portion of their Social Security benefits on Medicare costs. Thirty-six percent reported spending up to \$299 a month, a sum that's about one quarter of today's average monthly Social Security benefit. Another 27 percent of respondents to the survey reported spending up to \$599 a month, about half of the average monthly Social Security benefit. "Plans to further cut Medicare just don't add up," says TSCL Executive Director, Shannon Benton. "Over the past two years, Congress has cut Medicare by one of largest amounts in the history of the program," she notes. "But that savings was not set aside to Medicare's financing," ensure

Benton says. TSCL believes that should not be allowed to occur. "Before squeezing any more money out of beneficiaries, we believe Congress should be putting the squeeze on Medicare fraud, waste and abuse," Benton savs. To learn more about Medicare cuts contained healthcare reform legislation, see "How Did the Supreme Court Decision About the Affordable Care Act Affect Medicare?" [Source: CBO & TSCL]

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

DARWIN AWARDS ARE OUT!

It's that magical time of year again when the Darwin Awards are bestowed, honoring the least evolved among us.

Here is the glorious winner:

1. When his .38 caliber revolver failed to fire at his intended victim during a hold-up in Long Beach, California, would-be robber James Elliot did something that can only inspire wonder. He peered down the barrel and tried the trigger again. This time it worked.

And now, here are the Honorable Mentions:

2. The chef at a hotel in Switzerland lost a finger in a meat cutting machine and after a little

- shopping around, submitted a claim to his insurance company. The company, expecting negligence, sent out one of its men to have a look for himself. He tried the machine and he also lost a finger. The chef's claim was approved.
- 3. A man who shoveled snow for an hour to clear a space for his car during a blizzard in Chicago returned with his vehicle to find a woman had taken the space. Understandably, he shot her.
- 4. After stopping for drinks at an illegal bar, a Zimbabwean bus driver found that the 20 mental patients he was supposed to be transporting from Harare Bulawayo had escaped. wanting to admit his incompetence, the driver went to a nearby bus stop and offered everyone waiting there a free ride. He then delivered the passengers to the mental hospital, telling the staff that the patients were very excitable and prone to bizarre fantasies. The deception wasn't discovered for three days.
- 5. An American teenager was in the hospital recovering from serious head wounds received from an oncoming train. When asked how he received the injuries, the lad told police that he was simply trying to see how close he could get his head to a moving train before he was hit.
- 6. A man walked into a Louisiana Circle-K store, put a \$20 bill on the counter, and asked for change. When the clerk opened the cash drawer, the man pulled a gun and asked for all the cash in the register, which the clerk promptly provided. The man took the cash from the clerk and fled, leaving the \$20 bill on the counter. The total amount of cash he got from the drawer: \$15.

[If someone points a gun at you and gives you money, is a crime committed?]

- 7. Seems an Arkansas guy wanted some beer pretty badly. He decided that he'd just throw a cinder block through a liquor store window, grab some booze, and run. So he lifted the cinder block and heaved it over his head at the window. The cinder bounced back and hit the wouldbe thief on the head, knocking him unconscious. The liquor store window was made of Plexiglas. The whole event was caught on videotape.
- 8. As a female shopper exited a New York convenience store, a man grabbed her purse and ran. The clerk called 911 immediately, and the woman was able to give them a detailed description of the snatcher. Within minutes, the police apprehended the snatcher. They put him in the car and drove back to the store. The thief was then taken out of the car and told to stand there for a positive ID. To which he replied, "Yes, officer, that's her. That's the lady I stole the purse from."
- 9. The Ann Arbor News crime column reported that a man walked into a Burger King in Ypsilanti, Michigan at 5 A.M., flashed a gun, and demanded cash. The clerk turned him down because he said he couldn't open the cash register without a food order. When the man ordered onion rings, the clerk said they weren't available for breakfast. The frustrated gunman walked away.
- 10. When a man attempted to siphon gasoline from a motor home parked on a Seattle street by sucking on a hose, he got much more than he bargained for. Police arrived at the scene to find a very sick man curled up next to a motor home near spilled sewage. A police spokesman said that the man admitted to trying to steal gasoline, but he plugged his siphon hose into the motor home's

sewage tank by mistake. The owner of the vehicle declined to press charges saying that it was the best laugh he'd ever had and the perp had been punished enough!

Remember.... They walk among us ... They can reproduce!

DUES DEFICIT DISORDER

Today I received one of those Legion dues reminders, decided I had better pay my Post dues and pay some other bills. I headed for my den desk where I keep mv checkbook, but on the way I noted my house plants on the sun porch needed watering. That seemed more urgent, so I detoured to the kitchen for water and discovered my reading glasses which had been mislaid. I needed those to write checks. With water in hand, I proceeded toward the sun porch when I saw the mail truck pulling away. If I was going to write checks, I might as well include any new bills. I put down the watering can and went out for the mail. I got it and I went to the sun porch, found a chair and went through the new mail. As I went through the pieces of

mail. I needed the waste basket under the table for junk mail, which comprises 80% of what gets delivered. The basket was there but it was almost full. I decided to stop to empty it, so I carried it to the trash can in the car port. I dumped the basket and came through the back entry on the way to the porch. I saw a can of Dr. Pepper I was drinking sitting there, now warm. I dropped the basket and took the soda to the 'fridge to chill it. As I passed the kitchen table, I caught sight of the den TV remote. Knowing we will be looking for it later, I took the remote to the den where the TV is. There I realized I needed my check-book, so I got it from the desk and headed back to the porch. Then I saw the book had only one check left, and our boxes of refills were in the front hall sideboard. I had to get a new set of checks if I were to pay bills, so I turned toward the hall. As I passed the stairway newel post. I saw the sweater I had left there which had a cat-pulled snag which I wanted to fix. If I did not do it now, I might forget the need. So, I took the sweater to my "sewing room", just an ell off the family

room. As I went to sit down, there on the chair were the road maps Charlie had been looking at, preparing for our trip to Ben's place near Pearsall. He will be looking for those, so I better put them in the car. I got the car keys and started for the garage when I noticed that among the maps was our absentee ballot applications. The ballots will be needed 'cause we would be out-of-town on election day. They were filled out but mine was not signed. They were important, so I laid down the keys and maps and went back to the den to sign mine and get both ready to mail. The clock said it was time to start supper, and I could not mail anything until tomorrow anyway. At day's end, my dues did not get paid, no other checks were written, my checkbook had no checks, a warm and flat can of soda is somewhere. mv sweater still needs fixing, the remote and my checkbook have disappeared. I've mislaid the car keys, I can't tell Charlie where his went and our ballot maps requests are still here. I try to figure out why nothing got done today, but am really baffled. I know I was busy all day and am really tired!

EVENT BULLETIN BOARD

<u>Tuesday, November 6: National Election Day:</u> 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 your Texas state and local officials.

<u>Saturday, November 11: Veterans Day:</u> 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. So, squeeze into those old Class 1 uniforms or Legion garb and get with it!

Thursday, November 15: Membership Meeting: This membership meeting will be followed by a turkey dinner provided by the Auxiliary. The meeting will host Boys State grads and their parents. The Service Officer will introduce each and award certificates. Further, one of the Mulvihill's grandsons, who just returned from Afghanistan, will make a few remarks about his deployment. As you can imagine, it is a very popular meeting. The business meetings will be cut short so that there is more time to greet our guests and 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 October meeting was replaced by the annual picnic in the park, and October fundraising continued with great success. The Unit raised over \$250 with various tables during community events including the Rummage Sale. We also made contact with several potential members.

A portion of our funds were put to good use with a donation to



Oak Ridge Elementary School for the Special Needs kids' playground. Commander Pete Koch, Finance Officer Kim Biggerstaff and I presented the school principal with two checks each for \$100.

We shipped 12 packages off to deployed service personnel around the world. We also contributed almost 30 items for the VA Christmas shop, donated \$100 for the Dallas Homeless Stand Down, and have adopted four female veterans for the holidays. Thanks to all who have helped with these efforts.

Poppies distribution is coming up for Veterans' Day. We will be accepting donations on November 3rd at the Cochran's Crossing Kroger beginning at 9:00 AM. We will also be at both Post Offices – the Woodlands and Panther Creek on Friday, November 9th beginning at 9:00 AM. Please contact **Rosalie Fryer** (936-520-8895) if you want to help.

On Monday, November 12th, **Joan Sparks** has a flag etiquette/poppy event planned at Northhampton Elementary School. She is looking for a couple of veterans to assist her as well.

We are soliciting your crafts for our ALA Unit 305 table at the VFW Crafts show on December 1-2 at 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM. It will be held at the corner of SR242 and Moss Oaks Road in Conroe. We were offered a table free of charge, so we will be selling our crafts and t-shirts. There will be more on this event at the November meeting.

On December 14, **Annie Smith** will be hosting a holiday luncheon for the women of Unit 305 and the Woodlands VFW Unit. Please RSVP to Annie (281-367-4714) by December 7, if you would like to attend. This is a great opportunity to socialize.

Our November meeting will be the annual Thanksgiving dinner. It will be a short business meeting followed by the dinner at which **Geri Mulvihill's** son, **Brett Mulvihill**, a returning Army Ranger, will talk about his experiences. I hope to see you there.

-Dayna Salter



AUXILIARY UNIT OFFICERS & CONTACT INFORMATION

PRESIDENT: Dayna Salter; Tel: (281) 229-1365; E-mail: dayna.j.salter@exxonmobil.com VICE PRESIDENT: Geri Mulvihill: Tel: (832) 620-6265; E-mail: geri.mulvihill@yahoo.com SECRETARY: Sandie Holzinger; Tel: (281) 364-8590; E-mail: zing1991@yahoo.com

TREASURER: Ursula McConnell; Tel: (713) 822-6139; E-mail: <u>ursjmcconnell@gmail.com</u> HISTORIAN: Stephanie Marshall: Tel: (832) 637-2909; E-mail: <u>edaymemories@hotmail.com</u>

CHAPLAIN: Mary Lee Mulvihill; Tel: (281) 353-5574; E-mail: mulvihill1954@yahoo.com
PARLIAMENTARIAN: Rosalie Fryer; Tel: (936) 520-8895; E-mail: rcfryer@charter.net

SGT-AT-ARMS: Annie Smith; Tel: (281) 367-4714 E-mail: c.smith@thewesternsystemsinc.com

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS-AT-LARGE:

Mary Bolin; Tel: (281) 251-2352; Email: jpb20006@sbcglobal.net

Liz Heuermann; Tel: (281) 362-8431; Email: <u>lizheuermann@peoplepc.com</u>

Jenny Le; Tel: (281) 323-4530 Email: jmlchirp@yahoo.com

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS					
DAY D	DATE	EVENT	LOCALE		
	ov. 10	National Election Day Marine Corps Birthday			
Sun. No Mon. No Thurs. No	ov. 12	Membership Meetings	South County Community Ctr, @ 7:00 PM South County Community Ctr. @ 7:00 PM		
Thurs. No		(Boys State Grads & Turkey Thanksgiving Day Pearl Harbor Day (1941)	Feast)		
Mon. Do Thurs. Do Tues. Do	ec. 17 ec. 20	Post Executive Committee Meeting Membership Meetings Christmas Day	South County Community Ctr. @ 7:00 PM South County Community Ctr. @ 7:00 PM Ho! Ho! Ho!		
Tues. Ja Mon. Ja Thurs. Ja	an. 1 an. 14	New Years Day Post Executive Committee Meeting Membership Meetings	South County Community Ctr. @ 7:00 PM South County Community Ctr. @ 7:00 PM		
		(Annual Chili-Cook-Off Contest)	·		

POST OFFICERS & CONTACT INFORMATION

MAIL ADDRESS: American Legion Post 305, P. O. Box 9336, The Woodlands, TX 77387

POSITION, NAME & TELEPHONE	<u>E-MAIL</u>	
POSITION, NAME & TELEPHONE COMMANDER: Pete Koch FIRST VICE CMDR: Emery Heuermann SECOND VICE CMDR: Mickey Fussell ADJUTANT: Pickens Jones FINANCE OFFICER: Kimberly Biggerstaf SERVICE OFFICER: Dayton Denton SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Jim Bolin ASS'T SGT-AT-ARMS: Robert Earl Jones CHAPLAIN: Jerry Mulvihill ASS'T CHAPLAIN: Rudy Charest JUDGE ADVOCATE: Everett Ison HISTORIAN: (open) EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS-AT-LAR Steve O'Driscoll	(936) 273-3588 (281) 362-8431 (281) 367-7115 (281) 367-7631 f (281) 296-9344 (832) 928-6054 (281) 251-2352 (281) 651-7083 (281) 353-5574 (281) 363-9710 (281) 298-9524	petekoch@comcast.net emeryheuermann@charter.net v.h.fussells@gmail.com pickensjones@usa.net kimgator5747@sbcglobal.net whselfstorage1@yahoo.com jpb20006@sbcglobal.net ejones2100@aol.com mulvihill1954@yahoo.com rrgc26@aol.com eison01@comcast.net
Victoria Glover	(832) 813-9415	ssodriscoll@sbcglobal.net goldvicgoddess@gmail.com

OTHER INFORMATION:

THE BUGLE BRASS: EDITOR: Jim Bolin CIRCULATION: Emery Heuermann WEBMASTER: Emery Heuermann 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.