



**AMERICAN LEGION POST 305**  
**“THE WOODLANDS POST”**  
**THE BUGLE**



June 2013

Volume 9 Issue 6

**COMMANDER’S CORNER**



**Commander Pete Koch**

**COMMANDER’S CORNER**

Dear Legionnaires,

I want to take this time to thank each of you for the vote of confidence in me to reelect me as your Commander for the second year in a row. While the newly elected do not begin to serve until July, we all have many matters to prepare for in this challenging role, as we approach the new term. Please join me in congratulating all of the elected officers for the upcoming 2013-2014 year. I would like to thank **Emery Heuermann** for leading the Nominating Committee and for a job well done. We will hold the Installation Ceremonies at the June Post meeting on the 20<sup>th</sup>. The elected officers are as shown in the box to the right. Note that I will be appointing the assistants to

- ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICERS 2013-2014**
- Commander-----Pete Koch**  
**First Vice Commander-----Emery Heuermann**  
**Second Vice Commander-----Mickey Fussell**  
**Finance Officer-----Kim Biggerstaff**  
**Sergeant-At-Arms-----Jim Bolin**  
**Ass't. Sergeant-At-Arms-----Carl Smith**  
**Adjutant-----Pickens Jones**  
**Historian-----Win Salter**  
**Judge Advocate-----Everett Ison**  
**Service Officer-----Dayton Denton**  
**Chaplain-----Victoria Glover**  
**Ass't. Chaplain-----John Postel**  
**Executive Committee Members-at-Large:**  
**Harlan Thornhill and Carl Smith**

the Chaplain and the Sergeant-at-Arms.

On July 1<sup>st</sup> or soon thereafter, I will be reaffirming what Standing Committees I see needed for the coming year and seeking willing Chairpersons. We also will start the new year with a new membership drive. While I do not have the goals yet, I would like to strive to meet those Department goals. This year was my first year as Commander, working with Emery Heuermann, Chairman of the Membership Committee, and we will put on our thinking hats and see if we can do better. We will be asking for help from each of you, not only to achieve the goal set for us, but to surpass it. The 7<sup>th</sup> District did reach its 100% target of membership.

The June meeting will be preceded by our Flag Retirement Ceremony, which will begin at 6:30 PM on the evening of the 20<sup>th</sup> of June on the north side of the Community Center. The Flag Retirement Ceremony will be the shorter version since we will have to make sure that everything is cleaned up before leaving the ceremony site and retiring to the meeting hall.

**Kimberly Biggerstaff** (Finance Officer) recently presented two Oak Ridge High School Junior ROTC student-cadets with The American Legion ROTC Military Excellence Medal and The American Legion Scholastic Excellence Medal, and **Pete Koch** (Commander) recently presented two of The Woodlands High School Junior ROTC student-

cadets with the same honors and medals.

Two conventions were held this past period: the District 7 Convention on April 20<sup>th</sup> in Madisonville, and the Division 2 Convention in Willis on the 17<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> of May. Both were well attended with your Commander, Finance Officer **Kimberly Biggerstaff** and Judge Advocate **Everett Ison** representing our Post. Training and membership were the main topics of these conventions.

Two significant patriotic and military events were observed in May: Armed Forces Day on the 18<sup>th</sup> and Memorial Day on the 27<sup>th</sup>. The Post and Unit participated in the Memorial Day Ceremony at the Houston National Cemetery with the Color Guard trooping the colors and the Auxiliary presenting a wreath. The Post also made Memorial Day presentations at two assisted-living homes and hospices in The Woodlands and Kingwood areas, to recognize the veterans who reside at them.

The Executive Committee selected a "Legionnaire-of-the-Year", and the award went to **Kimberly Biggerstaff** for many reasons, including the outstanding effort she has made throughout the year as Post Finance Officer. Congratulations **Kim!**

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

Our next gathering will commence at 6:30 PM with the Flag Retirement Ceremony followed by the Post and Auxiliary meetings at 7:00 PM on June 20<sup>th</sup> at the South County Community Center on

Lake Robbins Drive in The Woodlands. We will, as usual, have a social period after the meetings. The Auxiliary Unit will supply the food. Come and join in the fun!

For God and Country

*Pete Koch*

### MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

May 16, 2013

The Post Membership Meeting was convened at 7:00 PM in the prescribed manner and a quorum was determined. Minutes of last month's meeting were distributed, read and approved by motion and vote. **Finance Officer Kim Biggerstaff** had handed out her monthly report, as well as a budget update. The General Fund totaled \$18,488.67 at the beginning of May, and the Allocated and Money Market funds held \$22,880.02, for a total bankroll of \$41,386.69. The reason for the dramatic increase in funds is that we received funds for seven Boy's State sponsorships and have yet to send the money in to the Department.

**First Vice Commander Emery Heuermann** gave his membership dues status report. There are now 319 paid-up members; 95.8% of our goal of 333. **Second Vice Commander Mickey Fussell**, reported that he is not planning further trips to Coushatta due to low participation. Instead he planning a daytrip on Saturday, June 22, to the H.E.A.R.T.S. Veterans Museum of Texas, followed by lunch. He suggested that we assemble at McCullough Junior High School parking lot at 9:00 AM and carpool.

**Sergeant-at-Arms Jim Bolin** had no report. **Service Officer Dayton Denton** opined that since the newly elected officers are

practically the same as the outgoing corps, we need to motivate the other 300 members to step up and help run this Post. Dayton also discussed the method of getting claims filed and other things done at the VA. He said veterans need to be proactive. For example, if you have a health test run in one clinic, you need to personally deliver a copy to the clinic or adjuster maintaining your records or to the office that OK'ed the test. Eventually that clinic would get the test results, but if you bring it to the clinic, you will speed up the process and maybe get an appointment earlier.

The Commander asked outgoing District 7 Commander (and Post Judge Advocate) **Everett Ison** for a report, but he had none

Under **New Business**, the Commander announced that **Kim Biggerstaff** has been chosen by the Executive Committee as the Legionnaire-of-the-Year. Way to go, Kim! Then he recognized the Post chili-cookoff contest winner, Mickey Fussell, by award of an appropriate plaque.

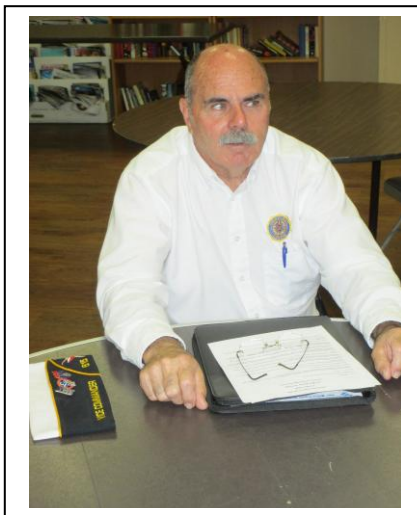


The Commander then discussed his effort to get Ms. Kay Lee, the Montgomery County Veterans Service Officer, to provide an update on Veteran's Benefits. She

is most willing, but recommended that all county veterans associations be represented. Ms. Lee also offered to host a catered meal, appropriate to the time-of-day. No date has been set as yet.

The Commander took time to read each line of the Preamble to the America Legion Constitution with an explanation as to what those specific goals of association mean.

Chairman of the Nominating Committee **Emery Heuermann** took the podium to determine if there were any additions to the slate of officers nominated at the April meeting. Hearing none, he moved that the Adjutant be directed to provide one vote for the uncontested nominees and that they be declared to be the elected. The Commander took the vote and the slate shown on the first page of this *Bugle* was duly elected. The elected officers were asked to stand and be recognized. In attendance was the District 7 Commander-Elect Ed Jarvis.



There being no further business to come before the membership, the meeting was closed in due order at 8:00 PM. The Auxiliary then joined the Post to enjoy some victuals and comradeship.



**VETERANS ADVOCATE**

**CASUALTY UPDATE**

As of April 15, 2013, a total of 2,194 Americans had died in Operation Enduring Freedom. The total includes 2,191 troops and three DoD civilians. Of these deaths, 1,728 were KIA with the enemy, while 460 died in non-combat incidents. There have been 18,404 troops wounded in action during Operation Enduring Freedom (Afghanistan). [Source: *Air Force Magazine*, May 2013]

**STOLEN VALOR ACT BEFORE THE PRESIDENT**

Congress last week passed the Stolen Valor Act of 2013, introduced by Representative Joe Heck and Senator Dean Heller, both from Nevada. H.R. 258 was passed overwhelmingly by the House on Monday by a vote of 390-3, and the Senate passed its companion, S. 210, Wednesday night by unanimous consent. The legislation now heads to the White House for the President's signature. Congress followed the roadmap laid out by the U.S. Supreme Court when they overturned the original Stolen Valor Act last year. In their writings, the high court suggested any future legislation had to be narrower in focus than just to penalize people for simple lying, which they ruled is protected speech in a 6-3 decision. Now the new language is bullet-proof, because the focus is on the intent to profit from the lie, to obtain money, property or something of a

tangible benefit, which is what con artists have been doing throughout history. Not every combat award is covered, but the ones most worn by wannabe heroes will be protected once the bill becomes law.

**HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE CLEARS GI PERSONNEL BILL**

Last week, the House Armed Services Subcommittee on Military Personnel cleared its section of the FY 2014 Defense Authorization Bill (H.R. 1960) by voice vote. Among the provisions is stricter language to combat military sexual assault, which would bar commanders from dismissing all but minor sexual offenses from a court martial, and prohibit them from reducing a "guilty" finding in a sexual assault case to a lesser offense. The language comes on the heels of recent reports from the Pentagon estimating that 70 sexual assaults take place every day in the military. Other provisions included a 1.8 percent pay raise for service members and strong rejections to any Tricare Fee increases. The full committee is expected to take up the bill sometime after the Memorial Day recess.

**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](http://www.tvc.state.tx.us)
- State Legislators:**
- Dist. 4 – Tommy Williams  
281-364-9426
- Dist. 15 –  
281-681-9655
- Dist. 16 – Brandon Creighton  
936-539-0028
- Dist. 126 – Patricia Harless  
281-376-4114

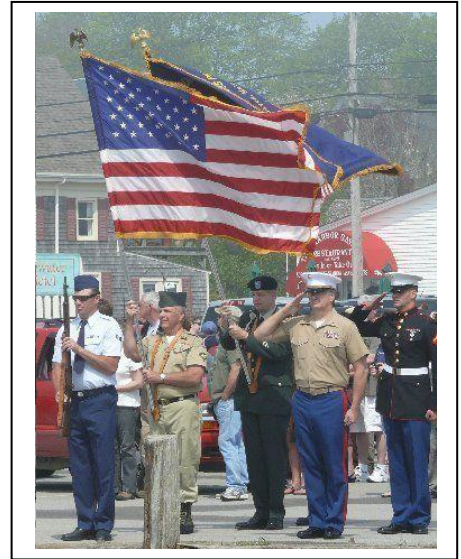
## MEMORIAL DAY

When we were kids and old enough to appreciate a “holiday”, we became aware of Decoration Day or, as it was also known after 1882, Memorial Day. We learned that the holiday originated after the Civil War to commemorate the Union and Confederate soldiers who died in that conflict. By the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Memorial Day had been extended to honor all Americans who have died while in wars involving the United States. The graves of those veterans are decorated with flags, wreaths and flowers.

The first-known observance of a Memorial Day was in Charleston, SC, on May 1, 1865, where Union POW’s were held at Charleston Race Course and about 250 POW’s died there and were buried in unmarked graves.

In 1967, by Federal law, the holiday officially became “Memorial Day”, and, in the following year, Congress passed the “Uniform Monday Holiday Act”, which moved four holidays, including Memorial Day, from their traditional dates to a specified Monday. Prior to that Act, Memorial Day was on May 30, a date which had no specific significance

Most US communities hold parades on Memorial Day, which in some cities and towns end at a National or the local cemetery. Most of these feature marching bands and an overall military theme, with the National Guard and other locally-based servicemen participating, along with veterans associations. The Woodlands Post 305 traditionally presents its colors and its Unit lays a wreath at the Houston National Cemetery.



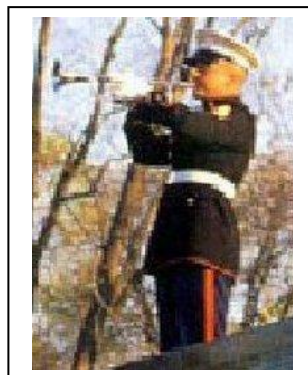
### IN FLANDERS FIELDS

(By Lt. Col. John McCrae, MD, RCA)

In Flanders Fields the poppies grow  
Between the crosses row on row,  
That mark our place; and in the sky  
The larks, still bravely singing, fly  
Scarce heard amid the guns below

We are the dead. Short days ago  
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,  
Loved and were loved, and now we lie  
In Flanders Fields

Take up our quarrel with the foe;  
To you from failing hands we throw  
The torch; be yours to hold it high.  
If ye break faith with us who die  
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow  
In Flanders Fields



# AUXILIARY UNIT 305 NEWS



**Dayna Salter, President**

The 2013-2014 elections were held at the May 16<sup>th</sup> meeting: **Dayna Salter** - President; **Vergie Fussell** - Vice President, **Sandie Holzinger** - Secretary, **Nan Claypool** - Treasurer, **Annie Smith** - Sergeant-at-Arms, **Jenny Le** - Chaplain, **Stephanie Marshall** - Historian, and **Mary Bolin**, **Veronica Maiolo** and **Liz Heurermann** - Members at Large. Appointed officers are **Geri Mulvihill** as Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms and **Rosalie Fryer** as Parliamentarian. Officers will be installed at the June 20<sup>th</sup> meeting.

An Executive Committee Meeting will be planned for July to review duties and plans for the 2013-14 year. More will be forthcoming.

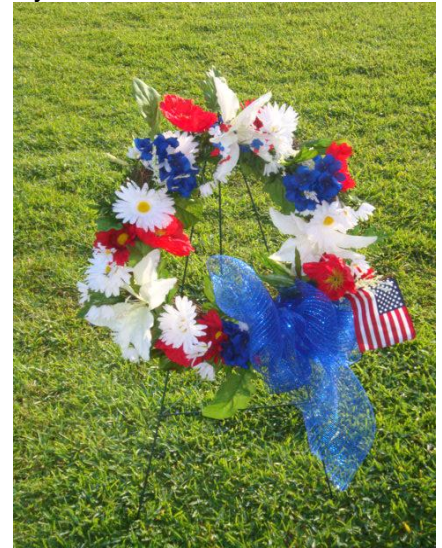
As for our fundraising, we have had a great May. Our Poppy Effort during May 24-26 grossed over \$1,550 in cash. A third of this goes back to the Department of Texas, but I believe this is a record. Plus, we sold several t-shirts during the Division 2 Convention and the Poppy Effort.

Our table at the VFW Crafts Show had a decent profit of \$212.50. Thanks again to those who helped out with the crafts, baked goods and staffing. Also thanks to the VFW Auxiliary for a table free of charge.

Our membership still stands at 101 members, and we need seven more members to reach our 2013 goal of 108 members by July 1<sup>st</sup>. Please look around and see if there any friends, relatives or acquaintances who might want to help us out. We encourage active participants but please remind potential members of the benefits of their dues to the ALA and the member benefits to them.

Our June 20<sup>th</sup> potluck will have a "potluck" theme, and **Veronica Maiolo** will be calling around to coordinate the various eclectic dishes to be presented. I hope to see you there.

Here are two photos from the recent Memorial Day Ceremony at the Houston National Cemetery.



**Happy Flag Day,**

**Dayna Salter**

## 2012-13 AUXILIARY UNIT OFFICERS & CONTACT INFORMATION

**PRESIDENT:** Dayna Salter; Tel: (281) 229-1365; E-mail: [dayna.i.salter@exxonmobil.com](mailto:dayna.i.salter@exxonmobil.com)  
**VICE PRESIDENT:** Geri Mulvihill; Tel: (832) 620-6265; E-mail: [geri.mulvihill@yahoo.com](mailto:geri.mulvihill@yahoo.com)  
**SECRETARY:** Sandie Holzinger; Tel: (281) 364-8590; E-mail: [zing1991@yahoo.com](mailto:zing1991@yahoo.com)  
**TREASURER:** Ursula McConnell; Tel: (713) 822-6139; E-mail: [ursjmcconnell@gmail.com](mailto:ursjmcconnell@gmail.com)  
**HISTORIAN:** Stephanie Marshall; Tel: (832) 637-2909; E-mail: [edaymemories@hotmail.com](mailto:edaymemories@hotmail.com)  
**CHAPLAIN:** Mary Lee Mulvihill; Tel: (281) 353-5574; E-mail: [mulvihill1954@yahoo.com](mailto:mulvihill1954@yahoo.com)  
**PARLIAMENTARIAN:** Rosalie Fryer; Tel: (936) 520-8895; E-mail: [rcfryer@charter.net](mailto:rcfryer@charter.net)  
**SGT-AT-ARMS:** Annie Smith; Tel: (281) 367-4714 E-mail: [c.smith@thewesternsystemsinc.com](mailto:c.smith@thewesternsystemsinc.com)  
**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS-AT-LARGE:**  
Mary Bolin; Tel: (281) 251-2352; Email: [jpb20006@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jpb20006@sbcglobal.net)  
Liz Heurermann; Tel: (281) 362-8431; Email: [lizheurermann@peoplepc.com](mailto:lizheurermann@peoplepc.com)  
Jenny Le; Tel: (281) 323-4530 Email: [jmlchirp@yahoo.com](mailto:jmlchirp@yahoo.com)

## BULLETIN BOARD & CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

<u>DAY</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>LOCALE</u>
Thur.	June 6	D-Day (1944)	Invasion of Normandy
Fri.	June 14	Flag Day	
Mon.	June 17	Post Executive Committee Meeting	South County Community Ctr. @ 7:00 PM
Thur.	June 20	Flag Retirement Ceremony	South County Community Ctr. @ 6:30 PM
[This traditional annual ceremony is held in advance of the June membership meetings. Post and auxiliary members assemble on the north side of the Community Center and witness the proper short-form process for retiring worn, torn and faded American flags.]			
Thur.	June 20	Membership Meetings (Installations)	South County Community Ctr. @ 7:00 PM
Sat.	June 22	Daytrip to Veterans Museum	Huntsville, Texas
[Post and Unit members and families are urged to make this outing by car/carpool to the H.E.A.R.T.S. Veterans Museum in Huntsville. Those going should assemble in the parking lot of McCullough Junior High on South Panther Creek Road and depart at 9:00 AM. The Museum opens at 10:00 AM. The donation to the Museum is \$4 for veterans. Before returning, the gang will lunch together.]			
Tues.	June 25	Korean War Began (1950)	
Thur.	July 4	Independence Day	Fourth-of-July Parade. Assemble at the Methodome Parking Lot, The Woodlands.
[Strike up the band! Decorate the float! Iron those uniform shirts and wash those cammies! Get to the assembly site early! Find our unit and help celebrate Independence Day! (More information at the June meeting.)]			

### **POST OFFICERS & CONTACT INFORMATION**

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

<u>POSITION, NAME &amp; TELEPHONE NUMBER</u>	<u>E-MAIL</u>
<b>COMMANDER:</b> Pete Koch (936) 273-3588	<a href="mailto:petekoch76@gmail.com">petekoch76@gmail.com</a>
<b>FIRST VICE CMDR:</b> Emery Heuermann (281) 362-8431	<a href="mailto:emeryheuermann@charter.net">emeryheuermann@charter.net</a>
<b>SECOND VICE CMDR:</b> Mickey Fussell (281) 367-7115	<a href="mailto:v.h.fussells@gmail.com">v.h.fussells@gmail.com</a>
<b>ADJUTANT:</b> Pickens Jones (281) 367-7631	<a href="mailto:pickensjones@usa.net">pickensjones@usa.net</a>
<b>FINANCE OFFICER:</b> Kimberly Biggerstaff (281) 296-9344	<a href="mailto:kimgator5747@sbcglobal.net">kimgator5747@sbcglobal.net</a>
<b>SERVICE OFFICER:</b> Dayton Denton (832) 928-6054	<a href="mailto:whselfstorage1@yahoo.com">whselfstorage1@yahoo.com</a>
<b>SERGEANT-AT-ARMS:</b> Jim Bolin (281) 251-2352	<a href="mailto:jpb20006@sbcglobal.net">jpb20006@sbcglobal.net</a>
<b>ASS'T SGT-AT-ARMS:</b> Robert Earl Jones (281) 651-7083	<a href="mailto:ejones2100@aol.com">ejones2100@aol.com</a>
<b>CHAPLAIN:</b> Jerry Mulvihill (281) 353-5574	<a href="mailto:mulvihill1954@yahoo.com">mulvihill1954@yahoo.com</a>
<b>ASS'T CHAPLAIN:</b> Rudy Charest (281) 363-9710	<a href="mailto:rrqc26@aol.com">rrqc26@aol.com</a>
<b>JUDGE ADVOCATE:</b> Everett Ison (281) 298-9524	<a href="mailto:eison01@comcast.net">eison01@comcast.net</a>
<b>HISTORIAN:</b> (open)	
<b>EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS-AT-LARGE:</b>	
Steve O'Driscoll (281) 367-2711	<a href="mailto:ssodriscoll@sbcglobal.net">ssodriscoll@sbcglobal.net</a>
Victoria Glover (832) 813-9415	<a href="mailto:goldvicgoddess@gmail.com">goldvicgoddess@gmail.com</a>

#### OTHER INFORMATION:

**THE BUGLE BRASS:** EDITOR: Jim Bolin CIRCULATION: Emery Heuermann TYPESETTER: Win Salter  
**WEBMASTER:** Emery Heuermann [www.alpost305.org](http://www.alpost305.org) and [www.mypost.org](http://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 Grogan's Mill Road, next to the library.