



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



**November 2013**

**Volume 9 Issue 11**

“Think not of the price of your Post dues; think of the price you paid to be eligible!”



**Pete Koch**  
**COMMANDER'S CORNER**

Dear Legionnaires,  
 I would like to thank everyone who made it out to our annual picnic. We had over 50 people attend this year, and, as our name gets known in the community, we expect quite a few more at the next picnic. Everyone in attendance had a great time, and it was a chance to get to know our members and family again. I would like to thank **Jim Bolin, Mickey Fussell** and **Dayton Denton** in arranging the hot dogs and hamburgers and also **Emery Heuermann** for the beverages, also the ladies of the Auxiliary for putting the icing on the cake with their side dishes and desserts.

As you know by now, we have joined the Woodlands Area Chamber of Commerce and **Dayton Denton** and your **Commander** attended the Networking Breakfast held at Brio's

Tuscan Grille. We passed out approximately 75 tri-fold flyers named “Why You Should Belong”, plus the Post 305, 2014 pocket calendars that were donated by **John Nanninga**, one of our oldest members. Please obtain a stack of these from our Sergeant-at-Arms at the next Post meeting and pass them out to all veterans that you run across. Both **Dayton Denton** and your **Commander** presented a short speech on what the Legion can do for the community and it was well received. Two of the members of the Chamber showed up at our picnic, so we are making progress. On October 22, **Dayton** attended the Chamber's New Member Reception and gave a short description of the work of our Post.

At the 7th District Convention in Willis on October 19<sup>th</sup>, there was information on training. **Brian Coleman, Second Division Commander**, reported that the Department of Texas had spent over \$150,000 in training for this year.

On a different note, an election for 7<sup>th</sup> District Vice Commander was held at the Convention, and our very own **Kimberly Biggerstaff** was unanimously elected to that position. **Kimberly** will do an excellent job in that position. When you see her, congratulate her.

Two of our long-time members, **Duane E. Beezley** of Spring and **John R. Nance** of Conroe, have passed over to the Post Everlasting. Please say a prayer for them.

We will be attempting to discover a student participant for the Oratorical Contest this year under the leadership of **Jim Bolin** and **Dayton Denton**. We would like to thank **Jim Bolin** for his successful contest in previous years. For all previous years, we have been challenged in getting the schools to participate in this event.

Our Public Relations Committee Chairman has developed a Post-specific Public Relations Plan based on National guidelines of the same subject. He has put a lot of work into it, and, after careful review by our public relations staff and consultant Donna Wick's firm, we will finalize it and prioritize the PR actions we need to take. Our thanks go to **Win Salter** for his excellent work.

We concluded the month with our Semiannual Rummage Sale. Again, I want to thank everyone



of the Auxiliary who helped make this event successful. While the totals are not in, the preliminary amount taken in is around \$1,600. A job well done by all Post and Unit members there!

November is also the time in which we can honor those veterans that have served this country proudly. Several activities have been planned by local schools and communities across our area on November 11<sup>th</sup>. 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.

Remember that the Chili Cook-off Contest happens in January, so all you daring cooks get ready to prepare the best chili you can brew up. This time the Post will be judging the Unit's 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 7:00 PM on November 18th at the South County Community Center. This is the meeting that recognizes our Boys State grads and stuffs them with a fine turkey feast.

For God and Country,  
**Pete Koch**

**MEETING HIGHLIGHTS**  
October 17,, 2013

The Post Membership Meeting was convened at 7:10 PM in the prescribed manner and a quorum was determined. This meeting preceded the annual picnic, so was abbreviated and only two items of interest were discussed.

The Commander presented a Resolution nominating **Kim Biggerstaff** for District Vice Commander. The Resolution passed unanimously.

The other item to come before the membership was a presentation by **Mickey Fussell's** son-in-law, Rick Lively. He presented the Post with a flag that had flown over a compound in Afghanistan and other far off locations. He will speak at a future meeting and describe more about the history of the flag.

The meeting was then closed and the food and camaraderie flowed.

Jenny Hamann and Mary Bolin



L. to R.: Dayna Salter, Veronica Maiolo and Commander Pete Koch



L. to R.: Master Chef Mickey Fussell, Chuck Hudson and John Morphis



Commander Pete Koch and Auxiliary President Dayna Salter



Cook First Class Dayton Denton



CHOW LINE



## More Picnic Pictures

Bartender Emery Heuermann



Finance Officer Kim Biggerstaff (standing) and John Nanninga (foreground)



Chaplain Vickie Glover



Flag from Afghanistan presented to Post 305



## VETERANS ADVOCATE

### BREAKING TRICARE NEWS

#### **Defense Health Agency**

As of October 1, the newly established Defense Health Agency (DHA) assumes responsibility for health services that support operational forces, such as the management of TRICARE programs, pharmacy benefits, information technology, facilities planning, education and research. Operations previously under the TRICARE Management Agency have been rolled into the newly established DHA. Air Force Lt. General Douglas Robb will serve as the Defense Health Agency's first director and as advisor to the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs and adviser to the Undersecretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness on military health issues.

#### **TRICARE Coverage Areas Redefined**

Despite pending legislation to the contrary, effective October 1, TRICARE Prime Service Areas (PSA) are reduced for beneficiaries except for active duty service members and their families. Those affected are beneficiaries who live beyond 40 miles of a military treatment facility or base closure site. PSA beneficiaries who see providers outside the 40-mile service area can keep the Prime coverage if they live within 100 miles of an available primary care manager and sign an access waiver.

Affected beneficiaries will need to re-enroll in Prime after October 1, 2013, and check Section 5 (waive drive time) on the TRICARE Prime enrollment form. These changes have been planned since 2007, when proposals were requested for the next generation of TRICARE managed care support contracts (known as "T3"). A provision in the House-passed Defense Authorization Bill (HR 1960) would allow beneficiaries to remain in a PSA if previously subscribed. The provision sponsor is Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, Howard "Buck" McKeon (R-CA). The Senate has yet to take up its bill. The Committee anticipates a similar amendment on the PSA situation is likely to be offered.

#### **Prime Service Area Fees Have Increased**

Effective October 1, TRICARE Prime fees were increased: Single user fees went to \$273.84 from \$269 and family fees went to \$547.68 from \$538.

#### **TRICARE vs Obamacare Requirements**

The Affordable Care Act (ACA), (also known as the "health care law" and "Obamacare") was created to expand access to affordable health care coverage, to lower insurance costs and to improve quality and care coordination for all Americans. Under the health care law, Americans are required to have health insurance coverage that meets a minimum standard (called "minimum essential coverage") by January 1, 2014, or qualify for an exemption. Those who fail to meet these terms or ignore them may be required to pay a fee ("tax") even if they have affordable options, but remain uninsured. Because of this, many TRICARE beneficiaries may be

wondering how this new law will affect them and their families.

Simply speaking, the ACA will have very little impact on TRICARE beneficiaries. The biggest change they will notice may be an extra letter in their mailbox every January, and an extra box to check on their tax forms every April. Beneficiaries who receive TRICARE benefits, whether at no cost, by electing to pay an enrollment fee or by paying monthly premiums, have minimum essential coverage under the Affordable Care Act. This includes: TRICARE Prime, Prime Remote and Standard; TRICARE Reserve Select (TRS); TRICARE Young Adult (TYA); TRICARE Retired Reserve (TRR); and the Continued Health Care Benefit Program (CHCBP). Eligibility alone for premium-based TRICARE benefit plans – TRS, TYA, TRR and CHCBP -- does not constitute minimum essential coverage. Eligible beneficiaries must purchase and be in good standing, by paying their premiums to have coverage in force, in order for these TRICARE programs to qualify as minimum essential coverage. There are two groups of TRICARE beneficiaries who do not meet the minimum essential coverage requirement: those getting care for line of duty only related conditions, and those only eligible to receive care in military hospitals or clinics.

Beginning with the 2014 tax season, and every tax year after that, the Department of Defense will send every TRICARE beneficiary the same information it sends the Internal Revenue Service. This notification will detail whether sponsors and their dependents had minimum essential coverage during the previous

year. Sponsors can then use this information when they file their tax forms. Because the information sent to the IRS is generated using beneficiaries' Social Security numbers, it is essential for sponsors to make sure their family's Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) information is correct and up to date. [Source: AFPS DHA article 10 Oct 2013 ++]

#### **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 – Rob Eissler

281-681-9655

Dist. 16 – Brandon Creighton

936-539-0028

Dist. 126 – Patricia Harless

281-376-4114

#### **USS TEXAS; BB-35**

The battleship Texas was launched at Newport News, Virginia, on May 18, 1912, and was commissioned on March 12, 1914. She was then the most powerful weapon in the world, patterned after HMS Dreadnaught. In 1916, the Texas became the first US battleship to mount anti-aircraft guns and to control gunfire with directors and range keepers.

After commissioning, the Texas was ordered to Mexican waters to join the Special Service Squadron following the Vera Cruz incident. Once the US entered WWI, she spent 1917 training gun crews for merchant ships which were often attacked by gunfire from surfaced U-boats. In 1918, the Texas

joined the British 6<sup>th</sup> Battle Squadron, operating out of Scapa Flow and the Firth of Forth and protecting mine-laying forces in the North Sea and generally preventing the interdiction of supply lines to England and Europe. Late in 1918, the Texas escorted the German fleet to its surrender anchorage and escorted President Wilson to peace talks in France.

Between the world wars, the Texas performed various duties, including serving as a plane guard and as a navigational reference for the first trans-Atlantic seaplane flight and carrying President Coolidge to Cuba. In 1925, the battleship underwent major modifications: oil-fired boilers replaced coal; tripod masts and a single stack were added; her 5-inch guns were moved to the main deck to minimize problems with heavy weather and high seas; and blisters were added as protection against torpedoes. In 1939, the first radar was installed, anti-aircraft defenses were upgraded, centralized fire control and communications were added. In 1941, the Texas was designated flagship of the Atlantic Fleet, and the First Marine Division was founded on the ship.



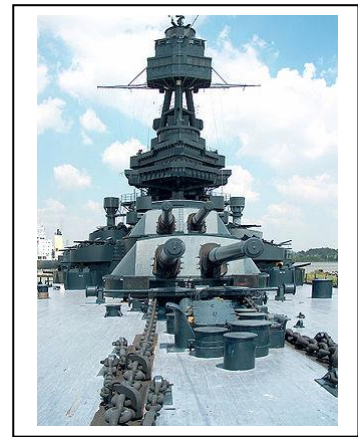
Once the US entered WWII, the Texas escorted Atlantic convoys to England, and, in 1942, after France refused Eisenhower's plea

to not oppose the North Africa landings, the Texas supported the Allied amphibious landings in Morocco. More convoy duty followed. On D-Day, the Texas was one of the many ships that fired on Nazi positions above the beaches of Normandy. Soon thereafter, she was hit by coastal artillery shells near Cherbourg with one KIA and 13 WIA. Quickly repaired, the Texas shelled Nazi installations in Southern France, then was transferred to the Pacific Fleet where her guns supported landings on Iwo Jima and Okinawa. Following the war's end, the Texas was deactivated.

In 1948, the battleship was officially transferred to the State of Texas for stewardship and became berthed at the San Jacinto Battlefield site. In 1977, old BB-35 was designated a US National Historic Landmark. Between 1988 and 1990, the ship was drydocked in Galveston for major reconstruction and repairs. In 2012, the Texas began to take on water, and the Texas Parks And Wildlife Department, the conservator, recognized the ship had to be dry berthed. (The Texas Legislature in 2009 had approved funding of a dry-berth project, but design studies and public hearings to satisfy NEPA and Section 106 of NHPA were necessary before reaching a "shovel-ready" status.) In 2011, a final Conceptual Design Report put forth two significant findings: The Texas was in much worse shape than anticipated, and the dry-berth concept would cost much more than had been budgeted. The internal deterioration of key structural members and the leaking which became alarming in 2012 had to be top priority for repairs. The Texas cannot be moved, hence must be restored in place, while not

compromising the historic and cultural integrity of this National Historic Landmark. Funds to complete the repairs and to construct the dry berth at LaPorte will have to be found!

So, as you tour this landmark battleship, keep in mind its very long period of service and that critical repairs are in progress. The Texas is still fighting, but now the enemy is time and tide!



~ ~ ~ **BULLETIN BOARD** ~ ~ ~  
**WHAT ~ WHEN ~ WHERE**

**Sunday, November 10; Red, White & Bike Charity Race:** The Auxiliary, with Post support, will be manning a rest stop on the route of this bike race in Hockley. This charity donates bicycles to the kids of Purple Heart veterans and of the spouses of those KIA. Volunteers are still wanted for this benefit to the children of wounded veterans. Contact any Mulvihill for more information.

**Monday, November 11; Veterans Day Celebrations:**

**-DeVry University:** "Student Veterans of America DeVry – Houston" have invited Post members to participate in their recognition of all veterans. Noon to 6:00 PM. Contact Dayton Denton for specifics.

**-Woodlands Township Veterans Day Tribute:** At Town Green Park; 1:00 to 3:00 PM; 2099 Lake Robbins Drive. Post members are free to be there and be recognized.

**Thursday, November 21; Boys State Grads Introduced:** At the Membership Meeting on this date, all of the boys the Post sponsored to attend Boys State this year have been invited to be guests and be introduced, along with their parents. This is also the meeting which ends with a roast turkey dinner in recognition of Thanksgiving. So, come out, meet these lads, and break bread with them.

**Thursday, December 5; Day-Trip to the USS Texas at San Jacinto Historic Site:** (See background article starting on page 4.) Tours of this landmark cost \$6.00 for veterans. The parking and carpooling details will be given at the November 21 meeting.

# AUXILIARY UNIT 305 NEWS



**Dayna Salter, President**

Our Octoberfest picnic at Shadowbend Park began with a moment of silence for our dear friend and longtime Unit 305 member, **Shirley Engel**, who passed away as a result of a stroke in early October. We will always remember her sparkling eyes and beautiful smile.

**Jenny Hamann** will be closing out the Tupperware fundraiser on November 1<sup>st</sup>. If you have orders to submit please contact her via the number and email below. Purchases should be available at the November meeting.

Unit 305 will be sponsoring a rest stop during the **Red, White and Bike** cycling fundraiser on Sunday, November 10<sup>th</sup> in Hockley. **Rosalie Fryer** along with

the **Mulvihill, Marshall, and Salter** families will be handing out waters and snacks. If you are interested in helping out, please let me know. I will be attending an orientation on Saturday afternoon, but will let participants know where and when to meet well before Sunday. This fundraiser provides bikes to children and young siblings of Purple Heart and KIA military personnel.

IT'S POPPY SEASON AGAIN! Veterans' Day is just around the corner, and **Rosalie Fryer**, our Poppy Chairman, is planning for the usual Post Office venues on Friday - Saturday, November 8<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>. Kroger declined to have us there, so we all know where not to shop now. **Rosalie** will be calling around to staff the various venues for those two days. This is one of our big fundraisers for our veterans' programs.

Here is yet another notice regarding **ALA Scholarships**. Please think about the juniors in your family and whether or not they might want to apply. Applications will be due in March, so now is the time to start thinking about it. Also, our **ALA Unit 305 Scholarship** is available to either male or female offspring of Unit 305 members who will be

freshmen in Fall 2014. Please let me know of your interest so that we can begin planning and get application forms out.

**More breaking news....**Post 305, with help from Unit 305, will be hosting the District 7 convention next April at the Holiday Inn Express on the northbound I-45 feeder road. Thanks to **Rosalie Fryer** for suggesting and securing this location. We will launch into full planning mode in December.

Please remember to send in your 2014 dues. We are hoping for 55% paid by Veterans Day.

Our next meeting is on November 21<sup>st</sup> and will be the annual Thanksgiving dinner. **Veronica Maiolo** will be calling around to coordinate the various festive dishes to accompany the turkey. If you are planning to bring a turkey, please coordinate with Veronica. I hope to see you there.

- Dayna Salter



## 2013-14 AUXILIARY UNIT OFFICERS & CONTACT INFORMATION

**PRESIDENT:** Dayna Salter; Tel: (281) 229-1365; E-mail: [dayna.salter@gmail.com](mailto:dayna.salter@gmail.com)  
**VICE PRESIDENT:** Vergie Fussell; Tel: (281) 367-7115; E-mail: [V.H.Fussells@gmail.com](mailto:V.H.Fussells@gmail.com)  
**SECRETARY:** Sandie Holzinger; Tel: (281) 364-8590; E-mail: [zing1991@yahoo.com](mailto:zing1991@yahoo.com)  
**TREASURER:** Nan Claypool; Tel: (832) 447-5284; E-mail: [nanclaypool@att.net](mailto:nanclaypool@att.net)  
**HISTORIAN:** Stephanie Marshall; Tel: (832) 637-2909; E-mail: [edaymemories@hotmail.com](mailto:edaymemories@hotmail.com)  
**CHAPLAIN:** Jenny Hamann; Tel: (281) 323-4530; E-mail: [jmlchirp@yahoo.com](mailto:jmlchirp@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 Heuermann; Tel: (281) 362-8431; Email: [lizheuermann@peoplepc.com](mailto:lizheuermann@peoplepc.com)  
Veronica Maiolo Tel: (832) 228-4403; Email: [sammaiolo@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sammaiolo@sbcglobal.net)

## CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

<u>DAY</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>LOCALE</u>
Tues.	Nov. 5	Election Day	
Sun.	Nov. 10	Red, White and Bike Charity Race	Hockley. TX (Rest-Stop Manning)
Sun.	Nov. 10	Marine Corps Birthday	
Mon.	Nov. 11	Veterans Day	(See the Bulletin Board for events.)
Mon.	Nov. 18	Executive Committee Meeting	South County Community Ctr. @ 7:00 PM
Thur.	Nov. 21	Membership Meetings (Boys State)	South County Community Ctr. @ 7:00 PM
Thur.	Nov. 28	Thanksgiving	Gobble Gobble !
Thur,	Dec. 5	Post/Aux. Daytrip to USS Texas	BB-35 is berthed in La Porte
Sat.	Dec. 7	Pearl Harbor Day (1941)	"A Day Which Will Live In Infamy!"
Mon.	Dec. 16	Executive Committee Meeting	South County Community Ctr. @ 7:00 PM
Thur.	Dec. 19	Membership Meetings & Blind Gift Exchange	South County Community Ctr. @ 7:00 PM
Tues.	Dec. 24	Christmas Eve	"T'was the night before Christmas, and---"
Wed.	Dec. 25	Christmas Day	
Tues.	Dec. 31	New Year's Eve	

<u>POST CONTACT INFORMATION</u>			<u>E-MAIL</u>
<u>Position</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Tel. Number</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>	Carl Smith	(281) 367-4714	<a href="mailto:c.smith@thewesternsystemsinc.com">c.smith@thewesternsystemsinc.com</a>
<b>CHAPLAIN:</b>	Victoria Glover	(832) 813-9415	<a href="mailto:goldvicgoddess@gmail.com">goldvicgoddess@gmail.com</a>
<b>ASS'T CHAPLAIN:</b>	John Postel	(281) 798-9029	<a href="mailto:cowboys.dawn@gmail.com">cowboys.dawn@gmail.com</a>
<b>JUDGE ADVOCATE:</b>	Everett Ison	(281) 298-9524	<a href="mailto:eison01@comcast.net">eison01@comcast.net</a>
<b>HISTORIAN:</b>	Winfield Salter	(281) 370-1912	<a href="mailto:flintyeve@gmail.com">flintyeve@gmail.com</a>
<b>EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS-AT-LARGE:</b>			
	Harlen Thornhill	(409) 273- 2287	<a href="mailto:harlen@consolidated.net">harlen@consolidated.net</a>
	Carl Smith	(281) 367-4714	<a href="mailto:c.smith@thewesternsystemsinc.com">c.smith@thewesternsystemsinc.com</a>

### OTHER INFORMATION:

**THE BUGLE BRASS:** EDITOR: Jim Bolin CIRCULATION: Emery Heuermann KEY GRIP: 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.