



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



**DECEMBER 2013**

**VOLUME 9; ISSUE 12**

**THINK NOT OF THE PRICE OF YOUR DUES; THINK OF THE PRICE YOU PAID TO BE ELIGIBLE**

**Post Commander**  
**Pete Koch**



**COMMANDER’S CORNER**

It is hard to believe that we are approaching the end of 2013 and that the holiday season is upon us! I want to wish all Post members and their families a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year. May you find the holiday season filled with love of family, friends and friendship. And, may God continue to look favorably on this nation, our troops and all veterans!

The month just ending saw Post members participating in several Veterans Day events in remembrance of the sacrifices and contributions of our comrades who helped to preserve the freedoms we all enjoy. At DeVry University’s “Salute to Veterans” program, the Post was represented by **Dayton Denton** and **Jim Bolin**. The high schools of Conroe, Spring and The Woodlands celebrated the day with breakfasts and parades for veterans,

with their JROTC units passing in review.

Our November meeting, where **First Vice Commander Emery Heuermann** presided, featured recognition of the high school juniors who the Post sponsored for Boys State. Of the 12 boys sponsored, nine were in attendance and were introduced, along a parent or two. Each was given an opportunity to comment on the experience and all were grateful. Each was awarded a Certificate of Commendation from the Post and a letter and certificate from 8<sup>th</sup> District Congressman Kevin Brady. A special recognition of **Service Officer Dayton Denton** was cited for his leadership of our Boys State program. **Denton**, in turn, thanked the community donors who allowed us to expand our budgeted allowance to include more candidates, and he thanked the high school counselors who nominated candidates. (See also the article on page 3 for photos and details.)

Despite (again) being evicted from the large meeting room of the Community Center where the Post usually meets, the Auxiliary did a superb job in presenting the traditional Thanksgiving meal --- hardly a pot-luck supper! The food was excellent and plentiful. Thanks to all of the Unit for a deed (feed) well done!

With the coming year-end comes the Legion milestone marking the sought-for 85% level of goal (322) achievement. Despite a level of Post dues payments to date which is rewarding, 258 paid or 80.1% of goal, I must again push for additional annual renewals to be paid before December 31.

Looking ahead a bit, you are reminded of the rescheduled daytrip outing to the Battleship Texas, berthed near the San Jacinto Battlefield Monument. The date has been changed to Wednesday, December 4, due to a conflict on December 5. (See details of carpool departures and parking on the next page.)

I am also reminding you of the January 16<sup>th</sup> meeting which traditionally includes our joint Annual Chili Cook-Off Contest. Once again, it’s the Post vs. the Unit, with judges of both evaluating the offerings of the other. Past winners are eligible, but let’s get some new entrees as well as the also-rans of past years! (Try the Holiday Special on page 5!)

In closing, may you all have a joyous Holiday Season and remember to pray for the safety and soon return of our men and women in uniform from unjustified combat to duties more directly involved in defense of our country.

Our next meeting is at 7:00 PM on December 19<sup>th</sup> at the South County Community Center.

For God and Country,  
*Pete Koch*

### MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

November 21, 2013

The Post Membership Meeting was convened at 7:10 PM in the prescribed manner and a quorum was determined.

Due to the main event, honoring the Boy's State grads, an abbreviated meeting was conducted by **Acting Commander Emery Heuermann**. He cited the Financial Report which was approved. It showed \$18,683.20 in the General Fund and \$22,880.76 in the Allocated Fund for Total Assets of \$41,563.96.

**Second Vice Commander, Mickey Fussell** complimented the membership for its support of the Rummage Sale, which netted \$1,585.70. Continuing, he made clear that the date for the trip to the **Battleship Texas** has been changed to Wednesday, December 4<sup>th</sup>. We will meet at the Woodlands Methodist Church (where the Fourth of July Parade starts) in time for a 9:00 AM carpool convoy departure. Park in the southeast corner of the lot, lock an' load. We plan a return by 4:00 PM.



**Auxiliary Member Stephanie Marshall** and son, **Cub Scout Cade**, requested Post Members to help fund a Scout drive and buy pop corn being sold by the Cub Scouts. Toward that end, the Post donated \$50 to support the Cub Scouts.

Following up on last month's presentation, the **Acting Commander** read the story of the American Flag presented to the Post by **Mickey Fussell's** son-in-law, Rick Lively. The folded flag is in a triangular section of the display box which also contains a picture of the Fighting Eagle Helicopter Unit donating the display and surviving an Afghan battle from which the flag was saved.

The Post's **Service Officer, Dayton Denton**, was asked to describe a new initiative of his to place signs in businesses who give discounts to veterans, stating the amount of the discount. Several merchants have been giving discounts but not advertising it well enough. Look for the new signs in Lowes, Home Depot and other fine stores.

The **Executive Committee** had approved several actions which now needed membership approval. The **Acting Commander** then read each and asked for a motion to approve all in one voice vote, which passed. They were (1) to purchase six tables and two canopies for use at Rummage Sales; (2) to designate Jim Bolin as O-I-C of rummage sales; (3) to donate \$200 to "The Way Home" Veterans Memorial Monument Project for an embossed tile in Town Green; (4) to approve the past meeting minutes; (5) to pay for the veteran discount signs; and (6) to conduct a blind gift

exchange at the December meeting.

Next, the Post honored the 12 high school juniors it sent to Boy's State. Nine were present and each received a Post Certificate and a letter of congratulations and a certificate from Congressman Kevin Brady. (See pictures on the next page.)

The meeting was closed in the prescribed manner.

The membership, Boys Staters and other guests then moved to the rear of the room to partake of a delicious turkey dinner with all the trimmings. After which we all waddled home.

### GIFT EXCHANGE AT DECEMBER MEETING

The Auxiliary has traditionally held a "white elephant" gift exchange at its December meeting, which requires most of the time allowed. This year the Post and Unit are joining in a more simple, less time-consuming (and less fun) exchange program. With the combined membership, a Unit-type program would preclude all business. So, here are the terms: each attending member of either group is to bring a commercial gift card valued at no more than \$10, good at the store, eatery or bar of your choice. Place the charged card in an unmarked holiday envelope and seal it. When you arrive at the meeting room, put your gift in the container provided. After the meetings, as the pot-luck repast is before us, you will draw a numbered ticket. All gifts will become numbered by then, where that number will have been placed on a gift. You then are to find the gift envelope with the

number you drew. After opening gifts, exchanges may be made to keep the guys out of Victoria's Secret.

### VETERANS DAY VISIT TO DeVRY UNIVERSITY

On Monday afternoon, Nov. 11<sup>th</sup>, Post 305 was invited to DeVry University to take part in its recognition of the veterans that attend DeVry. The school's "Student Veterans of America" and Post member **John Sanders** (Associate Professor) asked the Post to help with its Veterans Day program. Representing the Post were **Dayton Denton** and **Jim Bolin**. The Snack Bar was decorated up with balloons and stars, and garlands hung from the ceiling. Our contingent set up a table festooned with brochures and other recruiting materials. Throughout the afternoon they talked to a few veterans who are going to school there. Most were interested in their VA benefits. Their questions were deftly answered by Dayton Denton. The Post has been invited back for Memorial Day and an even larger celebration.



DeVry's Rashid Qureshi and Dayton Denton of Post 305

### OVERHEARD AT WHATABURGER

"I just got one of those large postcards in my mailbox informing me I can have sex at 75! I'm so happy because I live at number 63, and it's not too far to walk home afterwards. And,

it's on the same side of the street! I don't even have to cross the road!"

### BOYS STATE GRADUATES 2013-2014

This year's Boys State Program sent 12 high school juniors from four local schools to Austin. All were invited to attend the November membership meeting with their parents. Nine of the grads were present. The 12 boys sponsored by Post 305 were:

#### The Woodlands High School

(Counselor: Tracie Turner)  
David Stekla  
Charles Giles  
Andrew Harrington  
Andrew Proctor  
Connor Jones  
Bryton Kurtz

#### College Park High School

(Counselor: Cynthia Cook)  
Brandon Lee  
Omar Eifeky  
Michael Grijalva

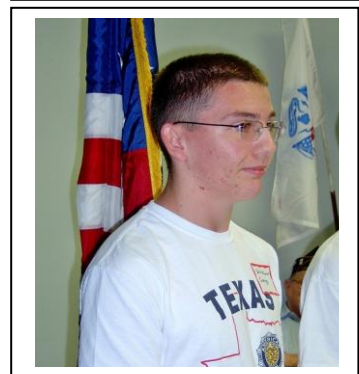
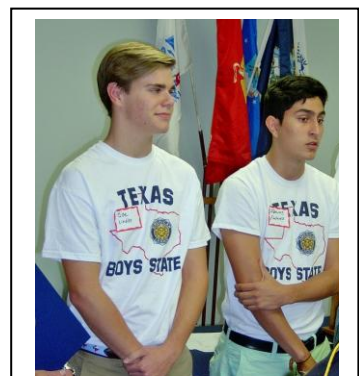
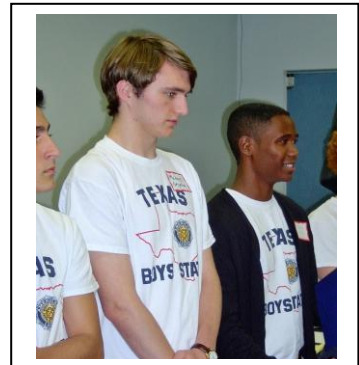
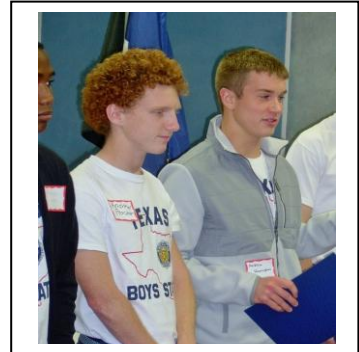
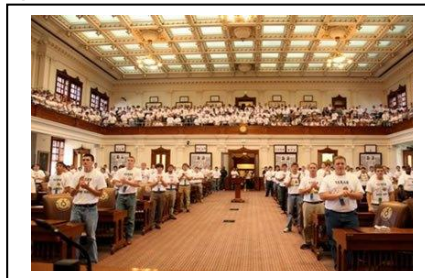
#### John Cooper High School

(Counselor: Jessica Patti)  
Felipe Flower  
Joseph Lindly

#### Oak Ridge High School

(Counselor: Sheila Doakes)  
Christiaan Cronje

The nine boys present at our meeting are pictured at the right, in the order given above. (R. to L.) Each was asked to comment on the Boys State experience and all did --- giving a "thumbs-up" to the Program, and each parent was also asked to comment on the results. They all were thankful to the Post and had favorable opinions.



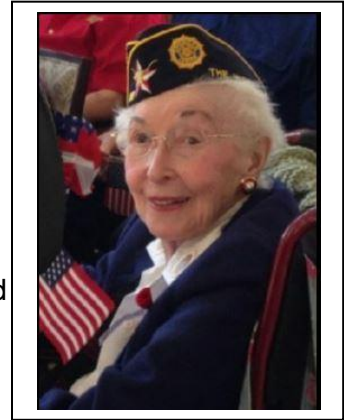
## **IN MEMORIAM – Margaret H. Brown**

First Lieutenant Margaret H. Brown, Army Nurse Corps, was a Legionnaire for more than 65 years, a Life Member and a member of Post 305 since she moved to Texas in 1997. Marge, until her health made it difficult, then not possible, was an active Post member. File photos show her front and center at the 2009 flag retirement ceremony. Marge Brown, we are saddened to report, has gone to final muster at age 91. Even after she had to “retire” from Post activities, she was never far from our thoughts. A couple of weeks ago, one of the officers mentioned he had seen Marge “and she looked great!”

For the newer Post members, Lieutenant Brown, among her other postings, found herself attached to the Army’s 178th General Hospital in France when the Germans staged, in the winter of 1944-1945, a last-ditch offensive, which included the Battle of the Bulge. Her hospital was inundated by the influx of wounded and frost-bitten troops. It was the event most demanding of her skills, strength and compassion, along with those of all of the other nurses, doctors and medics. As the front moved into Germany, Marge was assigned as a flight attendant nurse, flying the most critical wounded back to the States. That duty ended when lightning struck her airborne evacuation plane and caused it to crash in Portugal. While awaiting rescue, Marge and the three other nurses cared for the survivors and treated their new wounds.

This past holiday weekend, a wake and funeral services were where we said “good-bye” to Marge. Post members, led by Commander Koch, held a vigil and presented the Brown family with a Bible. Chaplain Victoria Glover, Kim Biggerstaff, Dayton Denton, Win Salter, Harlen Thornhill and Pickens Jones represented the Post and President Salter and Rosalie Fryer represented the Unit. Chaplain Glover is commended for her organization of the Post response.

**REST IN PEACE, MARGE.**



### **VETERANS AFFAIRS**

#### **(SCROOGED AGAIN!)**

While the VA mismanages the construction of four major medical centers in Las Vegas, Denver, New Orleans and Orlando, with cost overruns of \$1.5 billion and delays of up to 74 months, you, the veteran, and your family are being hit with TRICARE fee increases and one of the lowest cost-of-living increases since the turn of the century! The Government Accountability Office (GAO)

testified before the House Committee on Veterans Affairs on November 20 about the apparent inability of the VA to handle its construction projects, and the VA’s own Inspector General identified serious deficiencies in the VA’s ability to construct medical centers and other facilities. At the House hearing, the O-I-G testified that the VA’s construction and leasing programs “have disclosed a pattern of poor oversight, ineffective planning and mismanagement of capital assets”.

The American Legion, in researching and reviewing the issue, is recommending the VA stay out of the construction of its facilities and allow the Army’s Corps of Engineers be made responsible for any and all new projects. Only time will

tell whether such advice is taken.

As the government wastes tax dollars on such endeavors, you are informed that:

#### **COLA GONE FLAT**

The 2014 cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for military retired pay, SPB annuities and survivor benefits will be 1.5%, effective December 1, 2013. It will first appear in the January checks, which will be sent out on December 31. That COLA will be the fourth lowest since the turn of the century.

#### **THREATS TO BENEFITS**

On November 5, Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel warned that troops and their families will be asked to sacrifice on pay and benefits in order to preserve readiness in an era of tighter budgets. (Does this give

new meaning to “an all volunteer force”?) Hagel said the degree of difficulty in the task of obtaining funds for cutting-edge defensive space and cyber technologies, and capabilities like missile defense as well as offensive technologies and capabilities and deterrence of aggressors, increased exponentially under the budget cuts. DoD is currently facing sequester-level cuts of about \$500 billion over 10 years, on top of the \$487 billion reduction in DoD’s budget already underway. Hagel pointed out “DoD took a \$37 billion sequester cut during the past fiscal year, and we could be faced to absorb a \$52 billion sequester cut this fiscal year.” He acknowledged the need to get approval for changes to compensation and personnel policy from members of

Congress, who would be reluctant to justify military pay cuts to voters back home.

Former staff director of the House Appropriations Committee Jim Dyer said he saw “no movement on pay or to address TRICARE costs” in the current environment. With the mid-term elections approaching, members of Congress are determined not to hurt the troops and veterans, which would not please the electorate. American Legion National Commander Dellinger strongly opposes Obama pressure to raise to cost of TRICARE coverage for military retirees. The White House, as part 2014 defense budget discussions, is pressing the Pentagon to slow the growth of TRICARE costs by phasing in an increase in the TRICARE Prime plan’s enroll-

ment fee for working-age retirees, as well as raising copays for military retirees under 65. Dellinger said, “While we appreciate fiscal realities and acknowledge White House and Pentagon concerns about what they term ‘spiraling personnel costs’, we remain steadfast in our belief that economies should not be made at the expense of those who have already sacrificed so much for our country.”

**Important Contact Numbers**

Houston Regional VA Office:  
1-713-383-7842  
County Veterans Service Offices:  
Montgomery 1-936-539-7842  
(Ms. Kay L. Lee)  
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

**DAYTON’S BLITZEN CHILI**

- |                             |                              |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| 5 lbs. ground venison       | 2 tbls. Vinegar              |
| 1 lb. ground pork           | 1 cup catsup                 |
| 3 lg. onions, chopped       | 1 cup tomato sauce           |
| 4 cloves garlic, crushed    | 2 ½ tbls. chili powder       |
| 2 sm. chili peppers, minced | 4 cans (No. 303) chili beans |
| ½ box cumin seed            | Salt, to taste               |
| 6 cups water                |                              |

Combine meats in large stew pot and cook until brown, stirring often. Add remaining stuff; mix well; simmer for at least 30 minutes or until most liquid has evaporated. Serves 12 guys.

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

**Wednesday, December 4; Daytrip to Battleship Texas:** Tripmakers muster at Methodome parking lot – southeast corner - for departure at 9:00 AM by carpool. Tour of BB-35 costs \$6.00 for veterans. Back by 4:00 PM more or less. Be there or be left ashore!

**Thursday, December 19; Blind Gift Exchange:** At the December meetings, after they close, the Post and Unit will draw numbers and search Santa’s bag for the matching gift. (Read details on page 2.)

**Thursday, January 16; Annual Chili Cook-off Contest:** Per tradition, the pot-luck supper is replaced by this culinary challenge, where the Post volunteer cooks try their best to outshine those of the Auxiliary in a contest to find the best chili-con-carne. Judges of the Unit and Post will savor each other’s entries and rate the impact on the palate.

**WORTH A LOOK**

When the Editor says; “Let’s put this issue to bed”, the office mascot, BugleAnnie, takes him literally!



# AUXILIARY UNIT 305 NEWS



**Dayna Salter, President**

November has been a busy month for ALA Unit 305. First of all, our Veterans Day Poppy Campaign was a huge success thanks to Poppy Chairperson, **Rosalie Fryer**, who commanded a dedicated and flexible crew of **Jim and Mary Bolin, Mickey and Vergie Fussell, Joan Sparks, Jerry and Mary Lee Mulvihill, Kimberly Biggerstaff, Veronica Maiolo and Nan Claypool**. Due to unforeseen circumstances, the venues were ever changing with a last minute "save" thanks to Ace Hardware. The group raised \$1,205 for our VA&R fund.

That same weekend, **Jenny Hamann; Rosalie Fryer; Stephanie, Cas, Cade and Macy Marshall; Mary Lee Mulvihill and Dayna Salter** staffed a rest stop at the Red White and Bike charity race in Hockley. This

organization raises money to provide a bike, helmet and lessons to the child or younger sibling of Purple Heart and KIA military personnel. It was a very rewarding endeavor, and we will be present for the next race scheduled for February, 2014.



**The Marshalls at Red, White and Bike**



**Rosalie Fryer and Mary Lee Mulvihill setting up the Rest Stop at Oil Ranch.**

Please remember to send in your 2014 dues. We are hoping for 75% paid by the end of 2013. Please send dues to me or bring them to the December meeting.

Beginning in December, we will start the planning process for the April 2014 District 7 Convention scheduled for April 5<sup>th</sup>. If you are interested in serving on that committee, please let me know.

Our next meeting is on December 19<sup>th</sup> and will be the first annual Post/Unit 305 gift exchange. Please bring a \$10 gift card from a vendor of your choosing. Place it in an unmarked, sealed, greeting card envelope. Our pot luck theme will be festive finger food. **Veronica Maiolo** will be calling around to coordinate the various offerings. I hope to see you there. I'd like to wish one and all Happy Holidays and a Happy Healthy 2014.

**Dayna Salter**



**More Red, White and Bike. Our JROTC cadet helpers from Travis High School in Rosenberg; Richard Gonzalez, Isabella Gonzalez, and Miguel Romo.**



## 2013-14 AUXILIARY UNIT OFFICERS & CONTACT INFORMATION

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**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>                         |
|------------|-------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| Wed.       | Dec. 4      | 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 |
| Thurs.     | Dec. 19     | Membership Meetings &<br>Blind Gift Exchange           | South County Community Ctr. @ 7:00 PM |
| Wed.       | Dec. 25     | Christmas Day  | Ho, Ho, Ho !!!                        |
| Wed.       | Jan. 1      | New Years Day  |                                       |
| Mon.       | Jan. 13     | Executive Committee Meeting                            | South County Community Ctr. @ 7:00 PM |
| Thurs.     | Jan. 16     | Membership Meetings<br>(Annual Chili Cook-off Contest) | South County Community Ctr. @ 7:00 PM |
| Fri.       | Jan. 17     | Persian Gulf War Began (1991)                          |                                       |
| Mon.       | Jan. 20     | Martin Luther King, Jr. Day                            |                                       |
| Wed.       | Jan. 22 to  | Department Mid-Winter                                  | Austin's Omni Southpark Hotel         |
| Sun.       | Jan. 26     | Conference   |                                       |
| Fri.       | Feb. 14     | Valentine's Day  |                                       |
| Mon.       | Feb. 17     | President's Day  |                                       |
| Mon.       | Feb. 17     | Executive Committee Meeting                            | South County Community Ctr. @ 7:00 PM |
| Thurs.     | Feb. 20     | Membership Meetings                                    | South County Community Ctr. @ 7:00 PM |

### POST CONTACT INFORMATION

| <u>Position</u>                              | <u>Name</u>          | <u>Tel. Number</u> |
|--|----------------------|--------------------|
| <b>COMMANDER:</b>                            | Pete Koch            | (936) 273-3588     |
| <b>FIRST VICE CMDR:</b>                      | Emery Heuermann      | (281) 362-8431     |
| <b>SECOND VICE CMDR:</b>                     | Mickey Fussell       | (281) 367-7115     |
| <b>ADJUTANT:</b>                             | Pickens Jones        | (281) 367-7631     |
| <b>FINANCE OFFICER:</b>                      | Kimberly Biggerstaff | (281) 296-9344     |
| <b>SERVICE OFFICER:</b>                      | Dayton Denton        | (832) 928-6054     |
| <b>SERGEANT-AT-ARMS:</b>                     | Jim Bolin            | (281) 251-2352     |
| <b>ASS'T SGT-AT-ARMS:</b>                    | Carl Smith           | (281) 367-4714     |
| <b>CHAPLAIN:</b>                             | Victoria Glover      | (832) 813-9415     |
| <b>ASS'T CHAPLAIN:</b>                       | John Postel          | (281) 798-9029     |
| <b>JUDGE ADVOCATE:</b>                       | Everett Ison         | (281) 298-9524     |
| <b>HISTORIAN:</b>                            | Winfield Salter      | (281) 370-1912     |
| <b>EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS-AT-LARGE:</b> |                      |                    |
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|  | Carl Smith           | (281) 367-4714     |

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**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.