



AMERICAN LEGION POST 305 “ THE WOODLANDS POST” THE BUGLE



DECEMBER 2016

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MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR

POST COMMANDER VICTORIA GLOVER



COMMANDER'S CORNER

How time flies. It is now December. We have flown through the year! We had a busy November with Veterans Day and the Thanksgiving Holiday. And, we finished it on a sad note with the passing of **Mary Bolin, Jim Bolin's** wife. Our heartfelt condolences to him and his family. It was a shock to us all. Her services were held November 27th and 28th.

At virtually the same time, we lost 14-year Post member **Dewey W. O'Neal**. Dewey was a regular at our meetings, until cancer caused him to withdraw. He had been a USAF veteran – SAC navigator. Here again, we express our condolences to the O'Neal extended family.

With that as a reminder that life is precious, and we live on borrowed time, it makes me remember to be grateful and

thankful for all we are given and have. Life is an uncertainty in and of itself. We never know what is going to be thrown our way to handle. I want to thank each and every one for your service to our country and for all you do and have done in the Post.

This Veterans Day was a busy day and weekend full of activity. Several of us had the opportunity to attend the Veterans Appreciation Parade, hosted by the Conroe ISD JROTC from all the County high schools. It was wonderful to see all the youth participating in the program and gives me hope that our future is bright with good leadership from these youth. The Veterans Appreciation event at Town Green Park was nice as well. Not as many folks there this year, but it was still nice. And, the next day was the Veterans Appreciation Breakfast, hosted by Bob Milner, owner of the dealership, Mercedes-Benz of the Woodlands. We were able to enjoy the food, entertainment and guest speaker Mark Keogh. With those two days alone I was able to meet some wonderful veterans and bring light to our Post with hopefully some new members. We also had the DAR Luncheon where we provided the Color Guard for the event in honor of Veterans Day. And, our last activity of the month was Congressman Kevin Brady's VA Health and Resource Fair at Lonestar Community College.

Thank you to all who participated and attended the events. It was productive in getting some new members and transfers in. Let us all be welcoming to them all.

I would like to invite members to become active and assist with the various activities we attend to throughout the year. We are especially in need of folks for the Color Guard. We have too few we can depend on but would love to have others there as back-up in case we need them when any last minute issues or invites arise. Does anyone have any skills that would help the Post out like Public Relations? Computer? Finance? We all have skill that is useful in some way to the Post.

You do not have to be a Post officer to help and volunteer. If you can spare a couple hours a month to help, it will be much appreciated. We have the Open House coming up on Saturday, January 21, 2017, 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM, and we could use some help with the preparations. Also, you can come out and support the Post by spreading the word and inviting your veteran friends to the meetings and to the Open House.

I pose this question to you. What Post or joint activities would you like to see that we can go do or take in? Please let either the **Second Vice**

Commander Jim Bolin or me know. We would like to have feedback so that we can get your desires scheduled and get folks active.

Until next time, let us ever be reminded to never forget our fallen, POW/MIA's, veterans, active duty personnel and their families. Keep them and our first responders in our prayers!

**Victoria Glover
Commander**

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS **(November 17, 2016)**

The formal meeting was preceded by two presentations by guests. First, ten-year old **Marcela Dreesen**, accompanied by her grandmother, **Carol Dreesen**, brought to the Post a large, flat-bed cart loaded with boxes of items for donation to needy veterans residing (temporarily) at the VA's DeBakey Medical Center. **Marcela**, the collector/crafter, made a short speech and was rewarded by the applause of the members. Secondly, **Legionnaire Jimmy Edwards**, a charter member of Post 618, Willis, and a Vietnam survivor who left his legs in 'Nam, was in the house to promote and describe a cause. He and others are seeking support for a project to create a new Veterans Memorial Park in Conroe, replacing an old existing one. It would be a County memorial to all fallen and disabled veterans who served in any US war and had resided in Montgomery County. [Later, at the close of the membership meeting, it was resolved to add Post 305's support of that endeavor.]

Commander Victoria Glover opened the meeting following the stipulated ritual. **Assistant**

Sergeant-at-Arms Carl Smith confirmed that a quorum was present. The first order of business was the approval of minutes of the October 20th Membership Meeting (picnic) and the November 14th Executive Committee meeting. Those were approved without change. At the call of the **Commander**, The **Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms** cited the guests present. They included, in addition to **Marcela Dreesen**, **Carol Dreesen** and **Jimmy Edwards**, **Pat Higginson** (Thars' husband), **Chris Pike**, a USAF veteran who was checking out the Post, and **Nicholas Hebert** (Scott's son – age 14).

The **Finance Officer**, **Emery Heuermann**, was called on for his report, actually three financial matters. First, the monthly Finance Report was presented in summary form. As of October 31, the General Fund held \$8,515.59 and the Investment Fund was at \$31,490.32, for a total of \$40,005.91. Next, **Emery** presented a special rack-up of the funds which are "allocated", i.e. dedicated to a specific purpose. There were four groups: Boys State (Nanninga bequest); Building Fund (Mitchell gift); VA Volunteer Services Fund; and Veterans Aid & Rehabilitation Fund. At that, **Judge Advocate Everett Ison** rose to suggest that the VAVS account should not be "allocated" and is a part of the Post's normal operations. He moved that its sum (\$815) be transferred to the General Fund. The motion was seconded and approved.

The third financial matter was the budget for the current year. **Emery** drew attention to a newly revised, three-page detailed spread. For the last three months attempts to get



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Monthly Meetings: 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, except in October*. The Center is located on the southeast corner of the intersection of Lake Robbins Drive and Grogan's Mill Road, next to the library. Meetings are followed by a pot-luck supper provided by the Auxiliary.

*In October, a combined, short meeting precedes the Annual

approval of a budget had failed for various reasons. The Post was operating under an interim compromise which **Second Vice Jim Bolin** had proposed at the October meeting. There was considerable discussion on the new draft, but it was finally tabled until the December meeting.

Emery Heuermann, shifting gears, described his lengthy visit to the post office where he was successful in getting the bulk mail permit reinstated, which will permit mass mailings to the membership at a reduced non-profit postage rate. (The Post must make two or three such mailings within the year.)

The Commander called on the other officers for their reports. The First and Second Vice Commanders were absent. **Second Vice Jim Bolin** is having to cope with the death of his wife, **Mary**. In that regard, **Everett Ison** stated there was a correction needed on the internment ceremony info. The remembrance services were stated correctly (at the Plymouth United Church of Christ in Spring on Sunday, November 27) but the correct date and time of the internment is at Houston National Cemetery is Monday, November 28. Mourners need to be in line before 10:15 AM to join the procession to a sheltering pavilion.

The **Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms** and the **Adjutant** had no report. **Historian Lacey Homan** informed all that she had photographed the Boys/Girls State honor ceremony for her history book and whatever other uses there were. She went on and gave high praise to the county's high school AFJROTC units as paraded on Veterans Day in

Conroe and as their color guards trooped the colors at other veteran gatherings all through the weekend.

The **Chaplain** had nothing to report. **Service Officer Toby Carroll** stated he had discovered a wealth of veteran Information on YouTube, much of it the work of the VA. He went on to inform all that there was available pro-bono legal services at DeBakey hospital, particularly on Saturdays, but that help is on a demonstrated needs basis (annual income). **At-Large Member Dayton Denton** stated he needed a set of **Lacey's** photos. He expressed disappointment that there was no media coverage at the Boys/Girls State affair, despite several of the media being notified of the event. **Dayton**, who has been representing the Post along with **Pete Koch** at Chamber monthly breakfasts, needs another volunteer to help "market" the Post and to seek sponsors for Boys State candidates. **Dayton** is planning the 2017 Boys State delegation. This year the Post sponsored 28 boys to the Austin convocation, and **Dayton** wants to exceed that total next year. In March, interviews of high school juniors will begin.

With respect to the Post's non-cash donations to VA's DeBakey hospital, **Dayton** has a new arrangement with the Assistance League of Montgomery County, which has qualified items to donate, but no connection at DeBakey. The League will now funnel donations through Post 305.

Under New Business, **Emery Heuerman** made reference to **Mary Bolin's** demise and moved that the Post donate \$100 to the Unit in her memory.

The motion passed. (Following the close of the meeting, **Emery** called for any other donations from individual members and received several cash and check donations.)

There being no other business to come before the membership, the **Commander** closed the meeting by the customary somber steps. Post members were joined by Unit members and guests to partake of a generous and tasty turkey dinner, which was provided by the ladies of the Auxiliary.



VETERANS ADVOCATE

NATIONAL VETERANS GOLDEN AGE GAMES

The mission of the National Veterans Golden Age Games is to provide eligible senior veterans with the opportunity to engage in rehabilitative sport and recreational competition. It was started in 1985, in Albany, GA, with 115 competitors representing VA medical facilities across the country. Today, these outstanding competitions draw almost 800 entries.

Competitive events include air rifle, badminton and bocchia (singles and doubles), bowling, cycling, field events, golf, horseshoes, nine-ball, power walk, shuffleboard, swimming, table tennis and track. Local exhibition events are typically offered each year.

Veterans must be 55 years of age or older and enrolled in VA health care. There are eight age categories. They are in five-year groups starting at 55, 60, 65, 70, 75, 80, 85 and 90. And, there are three divisions:

- ~ Ambulatory
- ~ Visually-Impaired, and
- ~ Wheelchair.

The rehabilitative value and clinical goals include:

- ~ Obesity, diabetes & hypertension prevention.
- ~ Decrease risk of falling.
- ~ Maintain or gain strength and endurance for both activities of daily living and quality of life activities.

Clinical outcomes have proven to be improved functional status, improved cardiovascular functioning, increased muscle mass and strength and preventing and delaying illness and disability.

In 2016, NVGAG honored Donald Starter as the first NVGAG Athlete Hall of Fame Inductee. Such recognition is based on athletes who have distinguished themselves and set an exemplary example while preparing for and during participation in the Games, by virtue of their performance as well as by meritorious efforts based on:

- ~ Sportsmanship
- ~ Dedication
- ~ Leadership and
- ~ Active Healthy Life Style.

Online registration for the 2017 Games will open February 1 and run through March 1, 2017.

(Source: US Department of Veterans Affairs; Office of Public and Intergovernmental Affairs; Nov. 2016)

VETERANS BILLS ARE LAGGING IN CONGRESS

As Congress inches closer to the end of the year, many veterans' bills are at risk of not being passed. Congress passed a continuing resolution on September 29th that keeps the government funded through December 9th. Funding for the rest of FY 2017 will be addressed during the lame duck session we are now in.

This has happened before, but it makes the new Congress do double duty – coming up with and passing one set of appropriations bills for the rest of FY 2017, while simultaneously working up new appropriations bills for FY 2018. Because the two chambers' bills have more significant differences than they have had in years past, things can get pretty messy. Some of the key sticking points are:

~ Defense Authorization Bill.

Almost as important for the military community, House and Senate leaders still have to hammer out a compromise between their two different versions of the FY 2017 bill.

~ Whether DoD should get extra funding above the caps in the last budget deal.

Most Democrats in Congress believe any relief from the cap on defense spending should be matched by equal relief from the cap on non-defense spending.

~ Where any extra funds should come from.

Both chambers have proposed that the Overseas Contingency Operations fund, either by increasing it or by diverting some of the existing OCO funds to the base defense budget.

~What the extra money should pay for. At issue here are pay raises and force level reductions.

~TRICARE fee hikes.

~Housing allowances.

~Military Health System organization.

~Greater sage grouse. Yes, this is an initiative by an Armed Services Committee member to prevent the greater sage grouse from becoming declared an endangered species.

All of this type of business has yet to be resolved in this lame duck session while Congress faces some changes. And, a new president and a new VA chief have to be heard from.

(Source: "Military Officer" magazine; MOAA; November 2016.)

MENTAL HEALTH UNDER TRICARE

TRICARE started implementing new policies on October 1st in an effort to get better and more timely mental health services to beneficiaries who need them. To eliminate potential barriers to getting much needed care, TRICARE is removing duration limits for certain mental health services such as inpatient treatment and residential stays. Under the previous policy, the inpatient psychiatric hospitalization benefit was limited to 30 days per year for adults and 45 days for children and adolescents. For any extension, beneficiaries had to request a waiver. Under the new policy, there is no duration limit as long as the care is considered medically necessary and appropriate. Additionally, the 150-day limit on residential

treatment for those under age 21 has been removed.

The new policies also increase coverage of substance abuse services, including opioid addiction and lifting some restrictions on smoking cessation, psychotherapy, and family counseling. TRICARE is also working to improve credentialing and reimbursement for network mental health providers to improve beneficiary access. These improvements will bring DoD's policies in line with current industry standards. (Source: MOAA's "Military Officer" magazine; November 2016.)

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

State Legislators:

Dist. 4 – Tommy Williams

281-364-9426

Dist. 15 – Steve Toth

832-562-2883

Dist. 16 – Brandon Creighton

936-539-0028

Dist. 126 – Patricia Harless

281-376-4114

PLACE: PEARL HARBOR

TERRITORY OF HAWAII

DATE: DECEMBER 7, 1941

TIME: 0600 HOURS

The precipitous entry of the US into World War 2 on December 7, 1941, was prefaced by many indications that Imperial Japan was about to expand its sphere of influence in the Pacific and go to war with the UK and the US by attacking their posses-

sions and their allies. There were many signs that new trouble was brewing, but those were all various intelligence reports, reading of Japanese radio traffic and the behavior of Japanese diplo-mats. When physical war came, it took a while to recognize it.

Lt. General Walter C. Short had just been transferred to command the Army's Department of Hawaii, relieving Major General Charles Herron, who had that post for four years. One of Short's failings was an obsession that Hawaii would experience the work of saboteurs, given the prevalence of Japanese immigrants. General Short's naval counterpart was Rear Admiral Husband E. Kimmel, who also was new to Hawaii and not too pleased with the posting.

An Early Warning

That Sunday morning was especially dreary at the Army's Opana radar station at the northern tip of Oahu, Kahuku Point. It was one of six small units deployed at strategic locations. Their radarscopes were erratic, having just been installed two weeks before. When they worked, they could track any airplane up to 150 miles out. General Short regarded radar as something for training purposes, and never thought it could be of real value. The Signal Corps officers in charge of radar equipment were more concerned about it being overused and wearing out.

The Kahuku station was remote and its crew bunked six miles away, commuting by pickup-truck. They were organized into three-man teams, but that morning one wanted to sleep in, and it was agreed two could handle the light Sunday traffic.

Those trainees were Privates Joseph L. Lockard and George E. Elliott, and their usual experience was to see 25 planes in their three-hour shift. But, that morning the sightings were even less until a little flicker of tiny flashes appeared from the northeast, 130 miles off at 0645. At 0654, a supervisor at the Fort Shafter Information Center phoned to say they were relieved of duty and could shut the scope down. But, the truck which would carry them back to camp was not there yet, so they decided to continue their work. At 0702, Elliott decided he wanted more practice and started turning the oscilloscope's dials. Lockard was leaning over him, explaining the radar's echoes, when suddenly a huge blip appeared, bigger than anything either had seen before. They assumed that the scope had broken down again, and Lockard took over to run tests. But nothing was wrong; they had spotted an enormous number of aircraft; their speed was that of aircraft, not ships. Elliott, at their plotting table, concluded the aircraft were 137 miles north, three degrees east. He tried to radio the information to the Center at Fort Shafter, but no one was receiving. At 0700, everyone at the Center had quit work and gone to breakfast. He phoned the Center's switchboard and found operator Private Joseph McDonald. McDonald wrote down the sighting then noticed one man was still on duty, Lt. Kermit Tyler. Tyler was a pursuit pilot but had the duty that shift. He had only one day of experience at the Center. Tyler had been ordered to stay until 0800 then shut the Center down. He had only learned of the existence of radar and assumed the discovery of incoming planes was nothing.

Operator McDonald called Opana Station back, got Lockard, who added to his earlier report that the blips had grown in size, and it was at least 50 planes moving at 180 mph. McDonald told Lockard that Lt. Tyler considered it nothing but incoming planes from the USS Enterprise Task Force which was at sea. Tyler also knew Hickham Field was expecting a flight of B-17's from California on a course only five degrees off of the Opana sighting. It was the practice for the commercial radio station to broadcast all night when flights from the US were due. Those planes would hone in on the Hawaiian music signal. Tyler was aware that the station was broadcasting so was quick to discount an alarm.

The Arrival of the Enemy

At 0740, the first wave of the air armada was just north of Kahuku point when 43 Zeros peeled off to come in north and west of Wheeler Field in the center of Oahu. They were followed by dive bombers directed to approach Wheeler from the south. More Zeros flew east to the Navy airfield on Ford Island in Pearl Harbor and to Hickham Field nearby. Another 18 headed for the Marine Corps airfield at Eva on the southeast coast.

At that moment, under General Short's anti-sabotage alert, only four of Oahu's 31 anti-aircraft batteries were in position with no ammunition at hand; it all had to be trucked from depots. Of a total of 780 anti-aircraft cannon, only a fourth were manned. The 251st Coast Artillery Regiment of the California National Guard, which had been deployed to Hawaii for a year, was on duty. The unit was scheduled to return to California on Decem-

ber 8th. Three of the guardsmen were off duty – Corporal Clyde Brown and Sergeants Warren Rasmussen and Henry Blackwell. Brown and Blackwell had taken flying lessons and were licensed under the Civilian Pilot Training Program by K-T Flying Service at John Rodgers Airport. The three soldiers elected to go flying that morning in Piper Cubs rented from K-T's owner. The three guardsmen in two bright yellow Cubs took off and were flying two miles off of the coastline at under 1,000 feet, in an aerial aloha.

At 0755, USN Machinist Mate 1st Class Norman Rapue was working aboard the YT-153, a 65-foot tug which was leaving Pearl Harbor to put a harbor pilot aboard the USS Antares. He watched the two Piper Cubs as they were attacked in the skies just south of Fort Weaver. He witnessed seven Japanese planes shoot down the Cubs. By 0830, an Army rescue boat was searching for survivors, but it could not find any sign of the guardsmen or planes.

At the same time as when the guardsmen were being slaughtered, flight instructor Tommy Tomberlin and his student, James Duncan, were flying an orange Aeronca 65TC north of a landmark Mormon Temple when two red tracers hit the canvas fabric at the rear of the fuselage. Tomberlin took the controls from his student and quickly descended to the water's surface. Two Japanese planes fired again at the light plane but missed. Tomberlin flew low through a pass in the Koolau Mountains to John Rodgers Airport and landed. By then, the sky was filled with attacking aircraft.

Also in the air at the same time was 21-year old flying instructor

Cornelia Fort giving a lesson to a student pilot in an Interstate S-1A Cadet. When she saw two planes headed at them on a collision course, she yanked the yoke and punched the throttle, furious at another hot-dogging Air Corps pilot. She looked down to get his registration number but saw the red balls on the wings. She had to set down quickly and landed at Andrew Flying Service, with machine gun bullets strafing her plane and the ground around her as she and her student ran for cover. The airport manager was killed, and two other civilian planes did not return that morning. .

Back at John Rodgers Airport, K-T Flying Service owner Bob Tyce and his wife Edna noticed smoke rising from Hickham Field in the distance. They stood on their ramp and assumed there had been an accident. The couple then saw an aircraft coming low toward them and commented on its elevation. The plane that had fired on Cornelia Fort buzzed the Tyces and strafed them, killing Bob. It went on to strafe a Hawaiian Airlines DC-3 waiting to depart for Maui. Shells tore into its wing, cockpit, twin engines and cabin. Airline personnel, recognizing what was going on, hustled the passengers into a hanger and no one was hurt.

Lawyer Roy Vitousek and his 17-year old son Martin were out on a sightseeing trip in an Aeronca Tandem. Roy was busy piloting when Martin yelled "Look! P-40's". Martin's father looked over, saw the red-ball markings and went into a steep climb and headed south out to sea. They were shot at but not hit. They stayed off shore until things quieted down a little.

Newly widowed Edna Tyce then learned that the three guardsmen in the Tyce's Piper Cubs were lost, and they went down in history as the first Americans killed in WWII.

The Japanese continued to strike secondary targets on their way to the main targets, the warships at the Naval Base. Dorinda S. Nichols noted that the roar of the engines masked the rattle of machine gun fire. She is quoted saying: "Our kitchen was now on fire, and parts of the roof were gone. The front door of our next door neighbor was so bullet-ridden that it fell from its hinges!"

Private Ira Southern, at the Hickham Field barracks, was awakened by the noise of what he thought was artillery, when a plane roared directly overhead, followed by a detonation. A dive bomber had placed a bomb through a barracks window, filling the air with shrapnel and the screams of wounded and frightened men. Southern got his gas mask and joined others to get guns from the supply room. But, the door was locked, so they had to break in, only to find the guns were locked up as well. They managed to free some Springfield rifles and some 45's, then had to lie on the floor to load them due to shrapnel flying everywhere. Those with arms went out and fired at the passing enemy planes.

Captain Gordon Blake, Operations Officer at Hickham Field, was in his office expecting those 12 Flying Fortresses due in from California. The B-17's were big, exciting and new. A bunch of air buffs had arisen early to watch the arrival, including mechanics Jesse Gaines and Ted Conway. They saw a vee formation of

bombers begin to peel off and anticipated an air show by the arriving planes. But, they looked more like Navy fighters than B-17's. Gaines noticed something dropping from the lead aircraft, and an oil tank exploded followed by the barracks mess hall, killing 35 men instantly.

B-17 Bomber Flight Arrives

As the 12 late B-17 bombers approached landfall and saw the heavy pall of smoke over the island, they wondered if it was cane fields being cleared. Squadron Leader Major Truman Landon's bombardier, Lt. Erwin Cihak, saw a formation of planes headed their way and assumed it was the Navy. The incoming B-17's were low on fuel and unarmed, except for one 50-caliber machine gun, packed in Cosmoline and stored in a crate.

On the ground, with the field under attack, Operations Officer Blake ran to the tower to help bring the bombers in safely, and found the controllers giving the Fortresses all they needed to know – runway number, wind direction and velocity and that Hickham was under attack. As Landon was on final approach, he saw a group of planes coming at him. He assumed they were friendly, but they were too high and were diving, when a warning from the tower told him "Those are Japs!", then "You have three Zeros on your tail!" With Zeros trying to down Landon from the rear, US antiaircraft guns were firing at him from the front. He got his plane on the ground with no one killed or injured. But, there were 11 more big bombers to save.

The second B-17 to try to land at Hickham was piloted by Capt. Raymond Swenson. At first try, a Zero caused him to overshoot the runway. On the second pass, his wheels touched down, but another Zero's bullets hit some magnesium flares, which erupted into flames and injured Lt. William Shick in the leg. Within seconds, the rear of the fuselage was on fire, then another strafing Zero's bullet hit Shick in the face. Swenson finally rolled out, and Shick was taken to Hickham Hospital. When Shick, a medical officer, was being treated, he told the doctors to care for the other casualties first. Shick later died.

The other B-17's heard of the risks of trying to get in at Hickham, so were looking for alternative landing fields. Still, three more landed at Hickham, chancing the US anti-aircraft fire and the swarming Zeros. Two other bombers diverted to the north shore and landed at Haleiwa Auxiliary Field, with VAL-type dive bombers on their tails. One VAL strafed along the runway, missed the B-17, but shot up a line of old P-36's alongside. The US fighters were operational but without ammo which, per General Short's orders, was removed and stored at night.

Another Fort saw the short strip at Bellows Field, but on its first pass a P-40 on the runway cause it to abort. It went around but had to land downwind and long. The B-17 was running out of pavement when the crew retracted the landing gear and bellied in, sliding off the runway end and into a cane field. When rescuers reached them, the crew refused to leave the plane before the Norden bombsight was removed and protected. Another B-17 opted to land on

AMERICAN LEGION UNIT 305 NEWS

Kahuku Golf Course with only some repairable damage.

From that morning on Oahu, thousands of anecdotal tales evolved of heroic actions by men and women of a sleeping giant. Books telling of the attack focus rightfully on the main target --- the Naval Base and Battleship Row, but the first victims were the civilians and off-duty GI's out for early, quiet Sunday activities.

Despite the extensive damage done and the loss of over 2,400 lives and 1,000 wounded, the Japanese failed in three respects:

~ Admiral Bull Halsey's aircraft carriers were all at sea – not tied up alongside nor at anchor at Pearl.

~ The extensive dry-dock facilities were essentially unscathed, permitting ship repair at Pearl and not requiring the long tow to the mainland.

~ The fuel oil storage tanks were untouched. If they had been lost, the Navy could not have operated until slow-moving tankers could replenish the fuel.

REMEMBER PEARL HARBOR!

(Sources: "At Dawn We Slept" by Gordon W. Prange; McGraw Hill Book Company; (1981).

"Eagle Against The Sun" by Ronald H. Spector; The Free Press; (1985).

"Pearl Harbor" by Craig Nelson; Scribner of Simon & Schuster, Inc.; (2016).

LIFE's "Pearl Harbor 75 Years Later"; Time Inc. Books. (2016)

President Jenny Hamann



Mary Bolin: a true friend!

On November 12, 2016 our dear friend, **Mary Bolin**, passed away unexpectedly at 83. This month's column is dedicated to her memory.

There are no words sufficient to describe what **Mary** meant to all those blessed to know her, but I am going to try to share some of my thoughts and the thoughts of some of the ladies of American Legion Auxiliary Unit 305, The Woodlands.

Mary served our Unit and Post in very many ways. She was such a gracious Lady and had a way of putting others at ease and making them feel welcome. When you spoke with her she gave you her full attention and you knew she really cared. If **Mary** said she would do something, it was as good as done. She was a worker.



She served as President for three years, taking very good care of our Unit. **Mary** served in other capacities as well. When I was in need of an active Vice President, **Mary** warmly agreed to serve at my side until our Unit was able to elect one. I felt humbled to have her at my side.

When searching for pictures of **Mary** for this tribute, most of the pictures were of **Mary** quietly and diligently working in the background while others took center stage.

Mary put lots of love into her sewing, giving her homemade love to the VA hospital and to our vets in need.

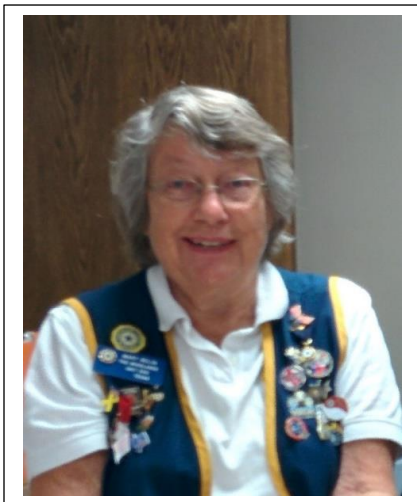


Liz Heuermann wrote, "My memories of **Mary** are how we could always count on her support. She was always there for all American Legion supported functions helping in any way that was needed. The Pastor at her memorial service said something about her that I also saw in **Mary**.....'when you were talking to **Mary**, she gave you her full attention at that moment.' I will certainly miss seeing her smiling face."

Nancy Woloszyn wrote, "Having known **Mary Bolin** for a year, I feel a deep loss. Upon my arrival to an almost empty room for the first meeting attended, **Mary** welcomed me

with a warm smile. That alone made me feel at ease. More recently, **Frank** and I sat with **Mary** and **Jim Bolin** while we ate at the October Picnic in the park. We chatted about the plans we all had for the upcoming Holidays. **Mary** was so looking forward to preparing a feast on Thanksgiving Day for forty guests. She was excited that her son was flying home for a wedding to his fiancé during this period, also. She spoke of her granddaughter and the pumpkin pie making days ahead. **Mary** was special. She will be missed by so many. I miss her, also.”

Sue-Ellen Bannon wrote, “**Mary** was a very talented lady, whose handwork was admired and appreciated by all. When George and I moved to North Carolina, **Mary** created a beautiful ‘she’s a grand old flag’ cross-stitch for me to take with me. It hangs near our bedroom and is a lovely reminder of many happy years in Texas and Unit 305. Now that she has passed, it is both a treasure and a tribute to **Mary’s** many talents and contributions to the Woodlands Unit and all its members. God bless.”



From **Ursula McConnell** we receive this. “Elizabeth was doing a project in school in



which she needed a Flag. She had it all ready to be sewn on a machine. Ursula called **Mary**. She said bring it to me; **Mary** did it the same day. **Mary** will be missed.”

Rosalie Fryer says, “**Mary**, a very dear friend to me she was. We shared kind words many, many times. **Mary** loved to talk and that we did. **Mary** always ready to do whatever the needs were. She would say when and where, and how much. When she volunteered the job was done, my right and left hand she was.

“Many joyful moments spent together serving our veterans. Approximately five years ago, we were working the Rummage Sale, and there were three of us standing in the middle of the room talking, and I passed out. **Mary** grabbed me, held me until a chair was there for me. I sat for a few minutes and got up; **Mary** made me sit down. After a few more minutes, I got up, and **Mary** stayed by my side. We worked

together and took care of each other. After that she wanted me to go to the doctor, and kept in touch with me until I went to the doctor. I am so thankful to have mementos of **Mary’s** handmade items. So special. **Mary** worked the Poppy Program with husband **Jim**; she was always ready to help. “**MARY WILL BE MISSED.**”



For the seemingly endless ways, **Mary** has touched our hearts, we are truly grateful.

Your Servant,
Jenny Hamann
President

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

<u>DAY</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>LOCALE</u>
Wed.	Dec. 7	Pearl Harbor Day (1941)	"A date which will live in infamy!"
Mon.	Dec. 12	Executive Committee Meeting	South County Community Ctr. @ 7:00 PM
Thur.	Dec. 15	Membership Meetings	South County Community Ctr. @ 7:00 PM
Sat.	Dec. 24	Christmas Eve	"The stockings were hung by the chimney with care"
Sun.	Dec. 25	Christmas Day	"Deck the halls with boughs of holly. Tra-La-La-La-La"
Sat.	Dec. 31	New Year's Eve	Champagne, Eggnog and Glogg
Sun.	Jan. 1	New Year's Day	Blackeye Peas, Please!
Mon.	Jan. 16	Martin Luther King Day	
Mon.	Jan. 16	Executive Committees Meet	South County Community Ctr. @ 7:00 PM
Thur.	Jan. 19	Membership Meetings (Chili Night)	South County Community Ctr. @ 7:00 PM
Fri.	Jan. 20	Inauguration Day	
Sat.	Jan. 21	Post/Auxiliary Open House	South County Community Ctr. @ 9:00 AM
Thur.	Jan. 26 to Sun. Jan. 29	Department Mid-Winter Conference	Omni Austin Southpark Hotel 4140 Governors Row, Austin
Mon.	Feb. 13	Executive Committees Meet	South County Community Ctr. @ 7:00 PM
Tues.	Feb. 14	Valentine's Day	Candy and Flowers
Thur.	Feb. 16	Membership Meetings (Four Chaps)	South County Community Ctr. @ 7:00 PM

POST & AUXILIARY UNIT CONTACT INFORMATION (2016-2017)

<u>POSITION</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>TEL. NO.</u>	<u>E-MAIL ADDRESS</u>
POST 305			
COMMANDER	Victoria Glover	(832) 813-9415	ALPostcmdrvickie@gmail.com
FIRST VICE CMDR.	(vacant)		
SECOND VICE CMDR.	Jim Bolin	(281) 251-2352	jpb20006@sbcglobal.net
ADJUTANT	Pickens Jones	(281) 367-7631	pickensjones@usa.net
FINANCE OFFICER	Emery Heuermann	(281) 362-8431	emeryheuermann@charter.net
SERVICE OFFICER	Toby Carroll	(281) 323-4985	toby.carroll@sbcglobal.net
SERGEANT-AT-ARMS	Bruce Carter	(281) 844-0836	bruce4482@att.net
ASS'T SGT-AT-ARMS	Carl Smith	(281) 367-4714	carl12024@yahoo.com
CHAPLAIN	Larry Reynolds	(254) 482-0003	lbr725@gmail.com
ASS'T CHAPLAIN	(vacant)		
JUDGE ADVOCATE	Everett Ison	(281) 298-9524	everett.ison@sprint.com
HISTORIAN	Lacey Homan	(832) 704-2732	lkhoman44@gmail.com
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS-AT-LARGE:			
POSITION ONE	Dayton Denton	(832) 928-6054	whselfstorage1@yahoo.com
POSITION TWO	Art Eipper	(832) 567-5806	artstarr99@yahoo.com
AUXILIARY UNIT 305			
PRESIDENT	Jenny Hamann	(281) 907-3430	ala305pres@gmail.com
VICE PRESIDENT	Kathy Carroll	(281) 323-4985	kcarroll47@sbcglobal.net
SECRETARY (Act'g)	Thars Higginson	(713) 851-9337	tharshigginson@comcast.net
TREASURER	Dayna Salter	(281) 229-1365	dayna.salter@ymail.com
HISTORIAN	Joan Charest	(281) 363-9710	rrge26@aol.com
CHAPLAIN	Geri Mulvihill	(832) 620-6265	gerimulvihill@outlook.com
PARLIAMENTARIAN	Rosalie Fryer	(936) 520-8895	rcfryer@consolidated.net
SERGEANT-AT-ARMS	Annie Smith	(281) 757-3967	carl12024@yahoo.com
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS-AT-LARGE:			
POSITION ONE	Nancy Woloszyn	(619) 985-0486	above4000feet@aol.com
POSITION TWO	Veronica Maiolo	(832) 228-4403	sammaiolo@sbcglobal.net
POSITION THREE	(vacant)		