

HISTORY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS

THE AMERICAN LEGION FOR 2018 TO 2019



By:

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State Historian

INTRODUCTION

The American Legion is a patriotic, nonmilitary, nonpartisan organization to which all of those who served honorably in the Armed Forces of the United States of America during World War I, World War II, the Korean War, Vietnam War, Lebanon/Grenada, Panama and The Persian Gulf Wars from August 2, 1990 to the cessation of hostilities as determined by the U.S. Government, are eligible for membership.

This Organization thrives today by the efforts put forth by a group of officers who served in the American Expeditionary Forces in France in World War II, who are credited with planning the Legion, The American Expeditionary Forces Headquarters asked these officers to ideas on how to improve troop morale. One officer, Lieutenant Colonel Theodore Roosevelt, Jr., proposed an organization of veterans. In February 1919, this group formed a temporary committee and selected several hundred officers who had the confidence and respect of the whole Army.

The American Legion was born at a caucus of the American Expeditionary Force (A.E.F.) in Paris, France. This caucus was the result of a proposal by Lieutenant Colonel Theodore Roosevelt, Jr., to a group of representatives of the A.E.F. division and service units. Roosevelt's vision resulted in the founding Paris caucus of March 15-17, 1919, and subsequent organizational caucus held May 8-10, 1919, in Saint Louis, Missouri. His unwavering service during these vital times won him the affectionate title, "Father of The American Legion."

As the weary, homesick delegates assembled for the first Paris caucus, they brought with them the raw materials with which to build an association of veterans whose primary

devotion was to God and Country. In the minds of those veterans of the A.E.F. were a number of lofty ideals, uppermost among them:

1. Creation of a fraternity based upon the firm comradeship born of wartime service and dedicated to fair and equitable treatment for all veterans, particularly the disabled, and the widows and orphans whose loved ones paid the ultimate price for freedom.
2. Maintaining national security for America, including a universal military training program for the prevention of future world conflict; and
3. Promotion of patriotism and the combating and materialistic and totalitarian ideologies that recognize neither the honor nor the dignity of the individual.

Even though The American Legion was formed overseas, organizers realized members of the armed services had no choice whether they served in the United States or overseas. Accordingly, it was decided that membership in the American Legion should be open to all who served honorably in the armed forces in World War 1.

SUMMARY HISTORY: DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS

The Texas Department of the American Legion is a nonpolitical and nonpartisan organization. Its principal aim is to secure legislation for the benefit of veterans in Texas, including adequate hospitalization, physical and vocational rehabilitation, and preference in public jobs. The organization also supports legislation for assistance to underprivileged children. The first meeting to organize the American Legion in Texas took place in San Antonio Texas. The legion was founded by service veterans from World War I at a meeting held in San Antonio on San Jacinto Day, April 21, 1919. On April 21-22, 1919

representatives met at the Gunter Hotel and Main Street (now Fox Tech) High School. Col. Claude V. Birkhead was elected first chairman. The organization was originally known as the Texas Division of World War Veterans, but the name was changed a short time later to Texas Department, American Legion, to conform to the constitution adopted by the national organization in December 1919.

Among the most important concerns of the early members was the need to secure adequate hospital facilities for sick and injured former servicemen. Donations were collected from posts and individuals throughout the state, and within a short time more than \$500,000 was raised. In 1921–22 the Department built the American Legion Memorial Hospital at Legion, Texas, with funds raised through legion activities, supplemented by state aid. The hospital was sold to the United States in 1925 and became a Veterans Administration facility.

While rehabilitation for veterans remained the number-one goal of the legion through the early 1920s, the agenda was soon expanded to include employment, legislation, and the care of needy families, widows, and orphans of veterans. In 1920 the American Legion Auxiliary, composed of the wives and widows of veterans, was formed, with the purpose of augmenting and supporting the organization's activities. During the early 1920s, the Legion also turned its attention toward fighting what it perceived as a growing tide of anti-Americanism. The Americanism committee at the 1923 convention called for "vigilance against teaching in public or private schools in Texas false or 'doctored' history, or subversive doctrine" and "against textbooks tainted with foreign or special propaganda and careful study of textbooks used in schools." It also endorsed a measure adopted at the national convention calling for the "total cessation of immigration until assimilation

shall catch up with immigration." The legion also sponsored a variety of civic projects. Some posts erected community Christmas trees or made donations to the needy; others sponsored parks and playgrounds, built swimming pools, and equipped lighted baseball parks. After 1923 most of the posts in the state also sponsored local Boy Scout troops and took part in scouting activities. During the 1920s and early 1930s legion posts throughout Texas also began to sponsor baseball teams and oratorical contests. Beginning in 1938 the Americanism program organized an annual The American Legion Boys State convention (see Lone Star Boys' State and Bluebonnet Girls' State), held each summer in Austin, to promote citizen education for young men.

Between 1919 and 1942 membership in the legion ranged from 10,540 to 37,709. In 1942 veterans of World War II were made eligible, and after the war large numbers of returning joined the organization. Black Texas veterans were made eligible in 1945, though at first they were confined to a separate district-at-large, with the posts sponsored and guided by existing white posts. In the period just after World War II, when the demand for veterans' services exploded, the legion lobbied for additional hospitals, rehabilitation facilities, and other benefits. Korean War veterans began joining the organization in large numbers in the mid-1950s, and in 1979 Vietnam veterans were made eligible for membership. By the early 1990s the statewide membership was 90,000. Subsequently, the legion continued its earlier charitable activities and added new ones, including programs for abused children, the intellectually disabled, missing children, and drug-abuse prevention. The state organization has been headquartered in Austin since 1927.

COMMUNITY RESUME: VETERANS IN TEXAS

The Texas Veteran Population has a greater percentage of Texas veterans are non-Hispanic whites (66.9 percent) and African Americans (13 percent) compared to nonveterans (45.7 percent and 11.8 percent, respectively). Approximately 17 percent of the Texas veteran population is Hispanic. While female veterans made up only 10 percent of the total Texas veteran population, the female veteran population has grown considerably over time. These changes can especially be seen when period of service is considered.

While the median age of a veteran in Texas is 63, approximately half of the estimated 22,000 Texas residents separating from the military in fiscal year 2015 were 24 years old or younger. The median age of a nonveteran is 42. An analysis of the time period in which a majority of Texas veterans served in the military partially explains the age difference between the veteran and nonveteran populations, with the greater number of Texas veterans from earlier periods of service inflating the average age of the veteran population. The veteran and nonveteran populations also differ according to education

Period of Service	Male		Female		Total
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number
Gulf War Era II	245,487	80.4%	59,845	19.6%	305,332
Gulf War Era I	292,991	83.3%	58,739	16.7%	351,730
Vietnam	501,588	96.3%	19,272	3.7%	520,860
Korea	115,285	97.5%	2,956	2.5%	118,241
World War II	62,107	96.5%	2,253	3.5%	64,359
Other	125,442	92.1%	10,760	7.9%	136,202
Total	1,342,900		153,824		1,496,724

Figure 1 - Percentage of Male and Female Texas Veterans by Period of Service -

level. At every level of postsecondary educational attainment, a greater percentage of the

eteran population has achieved that level of education compared to the nonveteran population.

Education Level	Veterans	Nonveterans
Less than high school graduate	6.0%	19.0%
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	23.6%	25.3%
Some college or associate's degree	41.3%	28.0%
Bachelor's degree or higher	29.1%	27.7%
Civilian population age 25 years and over	1,465,557	15,566,932

Figure 2 - Percentage of Texas Veterans and Nonveterans 25 and Older by Education Level

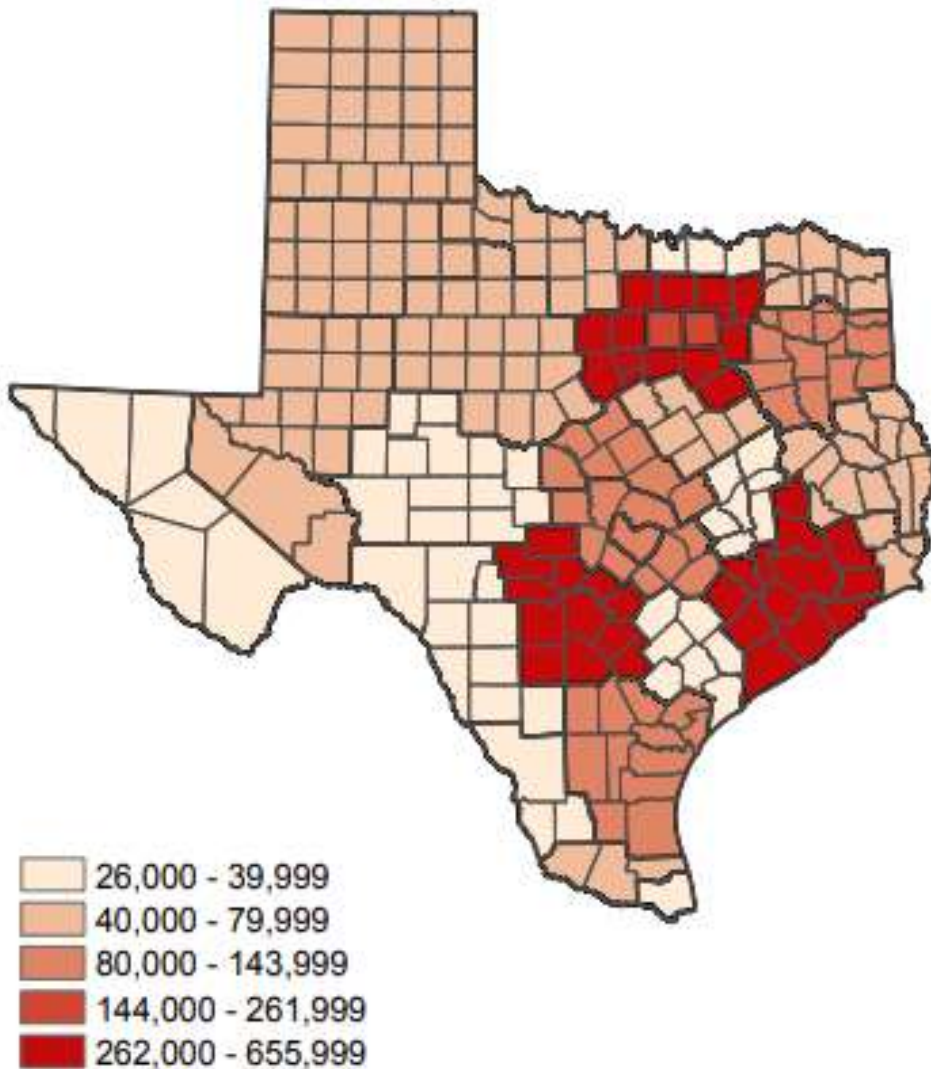


Figure 3 - Veterans in Texas by County

(STATE HISTORIAN): GARNEL E. “AL” ALFORD

The Department of Texas State Historian is Legionnaire Garnel E. “Al” Alford. Al Alford is a retired Air Force Lieutenant Colonel born in Sumter, South Carolina. He graduated from Northern Burlington High School in Columbus, New Jersey. After graduation, Al Alford attended Kansas State University in Manhattan Kansas before enlisting in the Air Force as a Cardiopulmonary Laboratory



Figure 4: Historian Al Alford

Technologist. His advanced education includes: Bachelor’s Degree from Texas State University; two master’s degrees in Health Care Management and Management Information Systems from Texas State University; and Fellowship in Advanced Information Engineering from the Air Force Institute of Technology. Al Alford is the CEO of his own Information Technology consulting company. He is the Past 20th District Commander and current Post 828 Commander in San Antonio TX.

PREAMBLE TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE AMERICAN LEGION



For God and Country, we associate ourselves together for the following purposes:

To uphold and defend the Constitution of The United States of America; To maintain law and order; To foster and perpetuate a one hundred percent Americanism; To preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in the Great Wars; To inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community state and nation; To combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses; To make right the master of might; To promote peace and good will on earth; To safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of Justice, Freedom and Democracy; To consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.

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THE PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG



**I pledge allegiance to the flag of
The United States of America
And to the
Republic for which it stands,
One nation under God,
Indivisible with liberty and justice for all.**

CHAPTER 1 – ROSTER OF DEPARTMENT OFFICERS

This section includes the following roster of Department Officers, Executive Committee, photographs and biographies:



SECTION 1.1: DEPARTMENT OFFICERS



**Commander –
Lloyd Buckmaster**



**Vice Commander
Brett Watson**



**Chaplain –
Gerry Hince**



**Treasurer –
David Paris**



**Judge Advocate
Dan Corbin**



**Historian
Garnel "Al" Alford**



**Sergeant-at-Arms
Mark Thompson**



**Asst. Sergeant-at-Arms
Billy Winters**



**National Executive
Committeeman
C.W. "Butch" Sparks**



**Alt. National Executive
Committeeman
Kenneth Mueller**



**Immediate Past
Department Commander
John Hince**

SECTION 1.2: DIVISION AND DISTRICT COMMANDERS

DIVISION 1 – Gene Toohey (Post 17) – Greenville TX



Figure 5 – 1st Division Commander - Gene Toohey



Figure 6 - Division 1 District Commanders

Division	District	Commander: Gene Toohey
1	01	Andy Lowen (Sulfur Springs TX)
	03	Patrick Taylor (Gilmer TX)
	04	Steven B. Ferrell (Heartland TX)
	05	Ronald Jones Jr. (Mesquite TX)
	12	Michael K. Regan (Bedford TX)
	13	Christopher Holt (Quanah TX)

DIVISION 2 – SHEILA SCHULTE (POST 618) – WILLIS TX



Figure 7 - 2nd Division Commander - Sheila Schulte



Figure 8 - Division 2 District Commanders

Division	District	Commander: Sheila Schulte
2	02	Tilford H. Thorkveen (Lumberton TX)
	06	Julie D. Rhoden (Grandbury TX)
	07	Ed Jarvis (D) (Cleveland TX)
	08	Richard J. Voorhies
	11	Joseph M. Twohig Jr
	22	Joseph L. Thomas

DIVISION 3 – TED WEEKS (POST 352) – SPRING BRANCH TX



Figure 9 – 3rd Division Commander – Ted Weeks



Figure 10 - Division 3 District Commanders

Division	District	Commander: Robert Masten
3	09	Charles Miller (Hempstead TX)
	10	Jay Jernigan (Georgetown TX)
	14	John Schendel (New Braunfels TX)
	15	James Ryan (McAllen TX)
	20	Walter Geraghty (San Antonio TX)
	23	Elton Page III (Crystal City TX)

DIVISION 4 – KEN SIMONTON (POST 61) – ABILENE TX



Figure 11 – 4th Division Commander – Ken Simonton



Figure 12 - Division 4 District Commanders

Division	District	Commander: Donald Sherman
4	16	David Crozier (El Paso TX)
	17	Michael Bob Starr (Abilene TX)
	18	Donald Sherman (Claude TX)
	21	James Reynolds (Lakehills TX)

CHAPTER 2 – ONE-YEAR DEPARTMENT EVENTS CHRONICLE

The Department of Texas one-year chronicle started 100th Anniversary Convention of the Department of Texas in San Antonio Texas with the induction of Department Officers in July 2018. In that the 2018-2019 year was as memorable and productive as it was, it is most difficult if not possible to detail in this brief report all that our Department achieved. Our members and committees were very active and productive.

- ❖ As of July 2018, the Department was ranked by National at 98.42%, making Texas 11th among the 55 Departments.
- ❖ Texas had 1100+ young men receive an excellent, hands-on, experience in citizenship at Boys State.
- ❖ We have started new Posts and revitalized Posts that had been considered “dead.”

At the beginning of the election year the Executive Committee laid out its goals and objectives for the year with an emphasis on increasing membership and participation by less active members in the Post. Some of our many activities are outlined below.

SECTION 2.1: TEXAS AMERICAN LEGION MONUMENT

AMERICAN LEGION MONUMENT – SAN ANTONIO TX: (14 July 2018) In July, the 20th District hosted the 100th American Legion Department of Texas Convention to celebrate the dawn of our one hundredth year in service to God and Country. On April 21-22, 1919, veterans in Texas met here in San Antonio to organize a “branch” of the American Legion in Texas. Those men laid a foundation which has lasted ninety-nine years. A foundation which we are honor-bound to strengthen, to build upon, and to provide for future veterans, their families, our communities, our state, and our nation. This monumental meeting was

held in part at Main Street High School (now named Fox Tech High; one of the high schools sponsored by Post 828).

On July 14, 2018 the Department of Texas dedicated a new American Legion Monument downtown on Dolorosa Street next to the Cadena-Reeves Justice Center. Post 828 Commander Al Alford managed the project. The monument we dedicated honors those who have served in our great organization. We, the men, and women who



Figure 13 - Department of Texas American Legion Monument

now serve the Legion, are the stewards of that great tradition of service. We have a responsibility to carry forward the principles upon which the Legion was founded. The monument featured the seals from each of the Armed Services. In addition, the “Four Pillars” of the American Legion was etched in the granite monument. A 50-year Time Capsule was buried at the base of the monument containing items donated by posts from all over Texas. The time capsule will be excavated by legionnaires and the contents revealed in 2068.

Perhaps most importantly, two original bronze plaques from an original monument dedicated in 1931 as part of a marker on the original American Legion Highway. The project officers had the plaques refurbished and incorporated in the new monument. The land was donated by the Bexar County Commissioners. Utilities and perpetual care for

monument will be provided by the City of San Antonio.

SECTION 2.2: TEXALPA AT 2018 DEPARTMENT CONVENTION

TEXALPA AT 2018 DEPARTMENT CONVENTION: (15 July 2018) It was a very busy year for the American Legion Family here in Texas. This year, as submissions came in to the TEXALPA contest, it was obvious that many Texas Posts are working hard to support the Four Pillars of the American Legion throughout the Department of Texas. The Texas American Legion Press Association (TXLPA) fosters publications and advance the standards and practices of communications within The American Legion Family of the Department of Texas, Divisions, Districts, and Post Families, or affiliated organizations. At the July Convention in San Antonio TXALPA awarded 2018 Awards:

❖ CHUCK DONALDSON AWARD 2018:

1st Place: “Spreading the Word” - Peter J Courcy Post 178 (Frisco, TX)
[Editor - Terry Meyering]

2nd Place: “American Legion News” - Laramore-Osborne Post 100 (Royse City, TX) [Editor – Jason Castleberry]

❖ DAN FALLON AWARD 2018

1st Place: Laramore-Osborne Post 100; Royse City, Texas (Editor – Jason Castleberry)

❖ PATSY PALMQUIST AWARD 2018

1st Place: Laramore-Osborne Post 100; Royse City, Texas (Editor – Jason Castleberry)

2nd Place: The Woodlands Post 305; The Woodlands, Texas (Editor - Kimberly Biggerstaff)

SECTION 2.3: TEXAS AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL TOURNAMENT

2018 AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL TOURNAMENT: (17 July 2018) American Legion baseball

is part of our Community service and has always been a core value of The American Legion. Department of Texas posts around the state sponsored teams and the best of these teams ended up at the Department's tournament on Brenham TX. The teams play each other in tournaments starting at the divisional level, then move on to department, regional then finally the American Legion World Series, where the eight regional winners compete for the championship. Buddy Wright American Legion Post 48 in Brenham has been hosting the annual Department of Texas has been hosting and helping with the event for many years. We had three teams compete in Brenham Texas. League City Post 554 5A and the Ballinger Cannoneers face off during the American Legion Baseball Tournament. The winner was League City Post 544 and the runner-up was the Cannoneers Post 8. League City Post 544 went on to the Regional Tournament in Denver Colorado. They made it to the final game losing to Post 40 Nevada. Tom Tvrdik, chairman of the Americanism

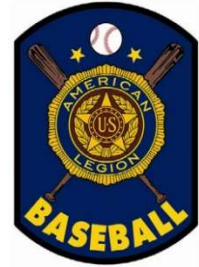


Figure 12 - League City Post 554 - Department of Texas Champions

Commission of the State of Texas, said the tournament started small, but expanded over the years into what it is today. Baseball enthusiasts watch as the Post 8, Cannoneers,

from Bollinger, and League City Post 554 5A play their American Legion Baseball Tournament game at Fireman's Park. They, along with the Texarkana Prospects, competed for the chance to play at the regional tournament in Denver. So far, 275 Major League players competed in American Legion baseball, many who later went on to play for American Legion Championship.



Figure 13 - Tournament Runner-up Post 8 Cannoneers (Ballinger TX)

SECTION 2.4: HONORING WORLD WAR II VETERANS

WWII Veterans are getting scarcer and many posts in Texas went about honoring these veterans with various ceremonies throughout the state.



Figure 14 - WWII Navy Veteran Billy Blakeney, a member of New Boston Post 488, which was recognized for his Service during WWII, at the First District Convention. Saturday October 6. The First District recognized over 70 WWII Veterans in the First District. Legionnaire Blakeney was the only WWII Veteran able to attend the Convention. Certificates of Honor was presented to each Post for those not in attendance to be honored at their Post. (10/6/2018)



Figure 17 - November 10, 2018. Legionnaires on hand to serve coffee & donuts as parade participants assemble are (L-R) Jimmy Finney, Walter Dotson & Curtis Anderson.



Figure 19 - WWII Veteran and New Post 828 member Marion Runnels celebrated his 100th birthday. Standing (L to R) Legionnaires Larry Hayes, Freddie Means, Willie Brown Jr., and Joe Smith (Seated L to R) Auxiliary members Joyce Williams (honoree) Marion I. Runnels and Ethel Washington (Unit 828 President)



Figure 18 - Harry Woodstrom, American Legion Post 164 commander, and his wife Gillian present gifts to World War II veteran Thelma Williams in honor of her 100th birthday.

ROBERT J. BECK POST 328: Post American Legion Post 328 in Leander TX is proud

to have named our post after a World War II veteran who was a part of the D-Day landing on Normandy Beach. His Class A uniform is displayed in a shadow box on the wall in our post, which is located at 2243 Ranch Road, Leander, Texas. On D-Day, June 6, 1944, Robert landed on the beach of Normandy with the 51st Field Hospital. He was 19 years old. He told stories of not being able to straighten his fingers after carrying litters to the 51st hospital. The memory of coming across a Nazi War Camp, with all the dead and

starving Jewish people, was forever with him. Robert was Honorably Discharged Dec. 16, 1945, at Ft. Bliss, TX. He was awarded the European African Middle Eastern Service Ribbon, Good Conduct Medal, Meritorious Unit Award and the Victory Medal.

TURNBOW-HIGGS POST 240 (STEPHENVILLE TX): Post 240 honored WWII Army Veteran and Purple Heart Recipient Mickey Maguire with honorary life membership. Post 240 Commander, Ron Henry, led a contingent of Turnbow-Higgs American Legion Post 240 members to Oakwood Assisted Living on Wednesday August 29, 2018 to pay tribute to Mickey Maguire, a Post 240 comrade who has distinguished himself beyond the call of duty.



Figure 20 - Turnbow-Higgs Post 240 WWII Veteran C. H. 'Mickey' Maguire Jr. (L-R) Seated: Fred Cross, Mickey Maguire, Ron Henry. (L-R) Standing: Burton Smith, Roger Easter, Joanna Lay, Kenny Weldon, Mickey Cross, Beth Cross, George McCormick and Keith Fredrickson

SECTION 2.5: EQUEST - HOOVES FOR HEROES

At Dallas-based Equest Hooves for Heroes, the team— run by retired US Navy fighter pilot Jeff Hensley—is focusing on one area that needs significant attention: post-deployment assimilation. Since its inception five years ago, Hooves for Heroes has helped 900 military members, first



Figure 21 – Equest “Hooves for Heroes” Jeff Hensley

responders, and their families through a therapeutic horsemanship program that empowers veterans and military families to take charge of their civilian transitions and assume new roles as civic leaders. This special program combines mental-health counseling with a five-pronged approach that includes horsemanship 101, therapeutic riding, carriage driving, hippotherapy, and Equine facilitated counseling (EFC).

SECTION 2.6: ROYSE CITY POST 100 DONATES HANDICAP VAN

About 4 years ago Gary Wilkins who is a member of Royse City Post 100 and a lifetime member was involved in a serious motorcycle accident that nearly killed him. He was in a coma for months but eventually recovered. But after going through rehab Gary



Figure 22- Legionnaire Gary Wilkins (wheelchair) receives keys to handicapped van from member of Royse Post 100

developed a serious infection in his leg that required an amputation. The last two years the Royse City Post has been fighting to get Gary a vehicle that would allow him to drive.

SECTION 2.7: 2018 HOLIDAY EVENTS

American Legion Posts hosted Christmas Events throughout the State of Texas. For example, on Sunday, December 2, 2018, the American Legion Riders Post 231 joined the Texas Abate Confederation and other motorcycle enthusiast organizations in

supporting the 24th Annual “For The Kids Toy Run” benefiting the local Salvation Army. More than 450 bikers from around the region joined together dressed in leathers and Christmas attire. Bikes were decorated with stuffed animals, wreaths and garland.



Figure 6 - American Legion Riders from Post 231 participating in the "For The Kids Toy Run"



Figure 24 - Members of Post 164's Honor Guard at Magnolia Cemetery in Katy on Dec. 15 for National Wreaths Across America Day ceremonies

SECTION 2.7: MLK DAY PARADE

MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY PARADE: (19 January 2019) Post 828 has

been located at the head of the annual Martin Luther King Day parade since its inception on January 19, 1987 by the Commission and the City of San Antonio. Each year, a variety of educational,

non-profit, inspirational and celebratory events honor one of the nation's most revered civil rights leader. Post 828 held its annual event including a "Soul Food" dinner on

Monday, 21 January 2019. San Antonio hosted the largest march in the nation, with approximately 300,000 participants with large and small groups marching together.

The signature event, the annual Martin Luther King, Jr. March, was held Monday,



Figure 25 - 2019 MLK Day Parade crowd

January 21, 2019. Many of Post 828 members participated in the march. The Post hosted parking for participants. In addition, they used the event to successfully recruit members for the American Legion Family. Our Post was visited by Masonic groups, fraternities, and many interested individuals. The event was successful on several fronts, raising funds for Programs and bringing in over 20 new members.

SECTION 2.8: ORATORICAL CONTEST

ORATORICAL CONTEST: The Oratorical Scholarship Program in Texas began in October 2018 when high school students entered competition to qualify for the National Oratorical Program, with an ultimate award of \$160,000 in scholarships. Post, Districts, and Divisions orchestrated contests throughout the state held Oratorical contests and

nominated member to District and Division chairs.



Figure 26 - State Sgt-At-Arms Mark Thompson (L), 4th District Oratorical winner Jacob Reese (2nd L), Judge Andrew Bench; Contestant Micah Sanders (4th L) at District 4 Oratorical Contest (January 2019)

SECTION 2.9: AMERICAN LEGION 100TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

(March 15, 2019) The American Legion has turned 100 years old and American Legion posts, districts and departments across the nation and overseas hosted centennial events to commemorate the occasion.



Figure 27 - (L to R): Post 48 Commander Bill Kendall and Department Commander Lloyd Buckmaster cut Centennial Birthday Cake

1. **BUDDY WRIGHT POST 48 (BRENHAM TX):** Members of Brenham Post 48 celebrated The American Legion Centennial with Department Commander Lloyd Buckmaster. A highlight of the celebration was a cake created by Amy Trent (the niece of a Post 48 member).



Figure 28 – Buddy Wright Post 48 American Legion Birthday Cake by Amy Trent

2. **LEGION POST 294 (MISSOURI CITY TX):** Legion Post 294 in Missouri City, Texas, is used the Legion's 100th birthday to combine with one of their members' 100th birthday! Having a 100-year old member is unique indeed, and being able to celebrate that with the Legion's 100th makes it very special. Edward Gibbons' (Ed) official date is April 17, but the celebration has been moved up to April 2 to coordinate with their monthly post meeting.
3. **LEGION POST 241 (ANGLETON TX):** Post 241 hosted a 100th Anniversary Open House on 13 April 2019. Celebration of the 100th anniversary of the founding of the American Legion and the 90th anniversary of the chartering of Angleton's Post 241.

Members of other local American Legion posts such as Danbury (Post 501) and Brazoria (Post 561), helped with planning and were on hand.

4. **FRED W. WILSON-SAM PATILLO POST 62 (DENISON TX):** For the past century, the American Legion has been a source of support and camaraderie for veterans and



Figure 29- Denison Mayor Janet Gott presenting proclamation to members of American Legion Post 62

members of the armed forces across the country. The Denison city council celebrated the organization's centennial earlier this month when it presented a proclamation to American Legion Fred W. Wilson-Sam Patillo Post 62. The proclamation was read during the first council meeting of the month, which was attended by about two dozen members of the Denison post. In addition to reading the proclamation, Mayor Janet Gott declared March 15 as American Legion Day in the city.

5. **LEGION POST 202 (WICHITA FALLS TX):** Post 202 American Legion celebrated their 100th anniversary. The organization was founded in Paris on this day in 1919 as a way of taking care of American soldiers and it's the nation's largest veterans group. "There are people out there who don't even know we exist. We are here, we've been available for a hundred years now. We hope to be here for another hundred. But again, the primary mission is to help those fellow veterans," Paul Carter with Post 202 said.

The celebration included a proclamation from the Mayor of Wichita Falls and presentations from an old veteran and a young veteran.



Figure 30 - (L to R) Past Division 1 Commander Bobby Baker, Department Vice Commander Brett Watson; 1st Division Commander Gene Toohey and 1st District Commander Andy Lowen.

6. **1ST DISTRICT CONVENTION**: The 1st District had a great convention, a great turn out (18 of 19 Post). The comradeship was outstanding, the meeting location great, and the food was really good. The meeting featured a 100-year Anniversary cake for the American Legion. The Department Vice Commander James Watson with assistance from the Division Commander Gene Toohey sworn in the incoming e-board and cut and served the anniversary cake. Our 100th Anniversary started off at the newest Post in the District, Maud 161. They did a great job in hosting our District convention and per our District Adjutant- this was the best attended convention in the last 20 years - over 70 attendees.

7. **FRED BROCK POST 828 (SAN ANTONIO TX)**: Post 828 hosted a special event to commemorate 100 years of The American Legion. The event began with a reception

followed by a program which featured the “Posting of the Colors” by the Bexar County Buffalo Soldiers Association. Post Cmdr. Al Alford welcomed all and recognized all distinguished guests. Special guest speakers included State Rep. Barbara Gervin-Hawkins, Bexar County Precinct 4 Commissioner Tommy Calvert, and retired Navy Rear Adm. Eric Young. District 6

Councilman Greg Brockhouse delivered and read a proclamation from the City of San Antonio and former District 2 Councilman Keith Toney gave the history of the post. Representative Gervin-Hawkins

thanked the post commander and the committee who organized the

centennial observance. “It is so important to never forget our true history,” said Gervin-Hawkins, the sister of NBA Hall of Famer George “Iceman” Gervin. “Our



Figure 31 - Bexar County Precinct 4 Commissioner Tommy Calvert addresses attendees of Fred Brock American Legion Post No. 828’s observance of The American Legion’s 100th Anniversary.



Figure 32 - Texas State Rep. Barbara Gervin-Hawkins addresses attendees Post 828’s observance of The American Legion’s 100th Anniversary. 3/15/2019)



Figure 33 - US Navy (Ret) Rear Adm. Eric Young and Post 828 member addresses attendees of Post 828’s observance of The American Legion’s 100th Anniversary

veterans are one of the most respected classes of citizens in the United States.” “This is a great day,” said Precinct 4 Commissioner Calvert who followed Gervin-Hawkins. “I want to thank the members of Post 828, their families and friends who make this post such a spirited place; a place of community and a place of civic engagement.”

SECTION 2.10: TWENTY AND FOUR SOCIETY

TWENTY AND FOUR SOCIETY: The 20-4 is the Honor Society for female veterans. In the state of Texas, the number of female Legionnaires is growing daily but Echelon (fancy name for state level group... similar to a Chapter) currently has less than 40 members. The purpose of the 20-4 is to celebrate and to educate all on the roles of females in our military and to share information on our past, our present and the future of our sisters in arms. Some groups sponsor job fairs and information programs, and all share a sense of sistership and leadership. We need your help to make these goals become real in the Lonestar State. Legionnaire Gerry Hince is the Director of National and Texas.

SECTION 2.11: MEMORIAL DAY COMMEMORATIONS

(May 27, 2019) The members of American Legion Posts throughout Texas participated in commemorative ceremonies honoring our nation’s veterans. As the nation remembers those members of the military no longer with us this weekend, American Legion Family members across the nation are stepping up to lead Memorial Day observances in their communities, towns and cities. The events include parades, ceremonies and the placing of U.S. flags on veterans’ graves – along with a few less-traditional events.



1. **HOLLEY-RIDDLE POST 21 (THE COLONY, TEXAS):** (May 24, 2019) The Holley-Riddle Post 21 honor guard took a Memorial Day ceremony to The Senior Activities Center at The Colony, Texas. At first, Post 21 was asked simply to present the colors at a luncheon for seniors to commemorate Memorial Day. After honor guard commander Mary Garcia spoke to director Amy Brown, she learned that many of the



Figure 34 - The honor guard members participating were Mary Garcia, Stan Guillory, Dan Hutchinson, Patrick Johnson, Larry Swanson and Patricia Zuczek.

seniors who would be attending are veterans. However, some of those veterans have limitations and would have been unable to attend the outdoor ceremony put on annually by Post 21. So Mary decided to bring the ceremony to them. The honor guard took part in the posting the colors, folding a flag and playing Taps. They also set up a POW/MIA table display and explained its significance.

2. **FRED BROCK POST 828 (SAN ANTONIO TX):** (May 27, 2019) Fred Brock Post 828 hosted its annual Memorial Day Ceremony. Our keynote speaker was Colonel Chris Wynder (USA Military Police Commander). Colonel Wynder is one of the newest members of Post 828. The highlight of the ceremony was attendance by San Antonio Mayor Ron Nirenberg and District 6 City Councilman Greg Brockhouse. San Antonio

Mayor Ron Nirenberg took the podium next and talked about the contributions of our nation's military and especially the veterans of the American Legion. Commander Al Alford read the names of our fallen members since 2018 Memorial Day and commemorated them joining the Post Everlasting. S.A.L. Commander Bubba Tyler and Post 828 Chaplain Pat Wimberly participated in our Missing Man Ceremony and lighting of the candles



Figure 35 - Col Chris Wynder and San Antonio Mayor Ron Nirenberg in front of Post 828 Veterans Wall of Honor.

3. JORDAN-DUNCAN POST 15 (LINDALE, TEXAS):

(May 27, 2019) People attend a Memorial Day ceremony at the Lindale Veterans Memorial in Lindale on Monday May 27, 2019. The event was hosted by the Lindale Veterans Memorial Committee and Lindale American Legion Post 15. Memorial Day is observed to remember people who served in the United States armed forces and died during their service.



Figure 36 - Post 15 Bugler plays TAPS at Memorial Day Ceremony

SECTION 2.12 TEXAS MERCI BOXCAR 70TH ANNIVERSARY PILGRIMAGE

"To preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in the Great Wars" During the First World War, French boxcars carried American Doughboys to the front. These wartime boxcars, which held either 40 men or 8 horses, were emblazoned with a "40/8";

a symbol readily understood by American veterans of that era. The boxcars were also used during the Second World War and afterwards repurposed for a spectacular demonstration of gratefulness from the people of France. It was called the Train de la Reconnaissance Francaise” or simply the “Gratitude Train”. In February 1949 the American Legion Department of Texas, the 40 & 8 Grand Voiture du Texas and many



Figure 37 - Voyageurs Militaire and Dames came from all around Texas (over 2,500 miles travelled) to attend the 70th Anniversary of the Texas Merci Boxcar.

others welcomed the Texas Merci Boxcar which was part of the French Gratitude Train of 1949. Hundreds of gifts from the people of France came in the boxcar. Some items were distributed out to children at an orphanage in San Antonio and others distributed throughout Texas. A moderate selection of the gifts is stored in the Briscoe Museum of Military History in Austin, Texas and the Texas Merci Boxcar itself was put under the care of the 40 & 8. For 70 years the boxcar has been cared for by members of the Grand du Texas and was housed at American Legion Travis Post 76 until 2014 when it was moved into the Great Hall of the Texas Military Forces Museum at Camp Mabry, Austin, Texas. Laden with 40 provincial coats of arms from the historic regions of France in 1949, the

Texas Merci Boxcar is a popular exhibit at the museum, and all are encouraged to see it whenever possible. Voyageurs Militaire and Dames came from all around Texas (over 2,500 miles travelled) to attend the 70th Anniversary of the Texas Merci Boxcar. In 1950 the Grand Voiture du Texas met for the 1st annual pilgrimage and thought they should do this each year. As they have done since 1950 members of the Forty & Eight veterans organization held their Annual Pilgrimage here in Austin. This year is the 70th Annual Pilgrimage held! Little fanfare surrounded their memorial service where they read off the names of members who passed over the last 12 months. Their dedication should be noted as nearly all members of this organization travel at their own expense. For more information about the boxcar or 40 & 8 in Texas visit their website at: www.texasboxcar.org

SECTION 2.13 THE AMERICAN LEGION BOYS STATE 2019

(19 June 2019) Each year The American Legion sponsor high school juniors to attend Boys State program. Boys State has been a program of The American Legion since 1935, when it organized to counter the fascist-inspired Young Pioneer Camps. The program was the idea of two



Illinois Legionnaires, Hayes Kennedy and Harold Card, who organized the first Boys State at the Illinois State Fairgrounds in Springfield. At American Legion Boys State, participants are exposed to the rights and privileges, the duties and the responsibilities, of a franchised citizen. The training is objective and practical, with city, county, and state governments operated by the students elected to the various offices. The Texas Boys State program was conducted 9 – 14 June 2019.



Figure 38 – Katy TX Post 164 Boys State Send-Off 36 teens to Boys State

SECTION 2.14 MEMORIAL BENCH DEDICATION VA NATIONAL CEMETERY

(1 June 2019 - Houston, TX) On Saturday, June 1, 2019 a memorial bench dedication ceremony was held at The VA National Cemetery in Houston, Texas. Post 490 Chaplain Robert Harvey presided over the dedication. Speakers included Greg Treacy, 22nd District Service Officer; Butch Sparks, National Executive Committeeman; and Joseph Thomas, 22nd District Commander. The American Legion Post 490 donated the memorial bench to The Veterans Administration (VA) National Cemetery located in Houston, Texas. The bench, in coordination with the VA Cemetery staff, was placed at a location where families, friends, and visitors can pause to reminisce stories about their loved ones and pay their respects to the 85,000 plus veterans buried in the cemetery.



Figure 39 – (L to R) Post 490 Members Joseph Thomas, Ron Bastion, Robert Harvey, Terry Contella, Butch Sparks, Ron Harter, Lisa Harter, Ed Kascak, Anne Kascak, Rick Smith, Lynn Sparks, Greg Treacy, and Mark Lofkin at Memorial Bench Dedication at Houston VA National Cemetery (1 June 2019)

SECTION 2.15 ROYSE CITY MAYOR AT POST 100 POW-MIA RECOGNITION DAY

(11 September 2018) The Royse City Council at its Sept. 11 meeting recognized National POW-MIA Recognition Day and held a proclamation ceremony with the Royse City American Legion Post (Post 100). The observance day paid respect to families and members of the military that were prisoners of war or are missing in action was signed into law by Congress on July 18, 1979 after the Vietnam War. Until the mid-1980s, the

day was observed in July until 1986, when the day was designated to the third Friday of September. Mayor Janet Nichol praised 4th District Vice Commander Jason Castleberry for his work with the local American Legion chapter, which has grown under his leadership.



Figure 40 - Pictured from left to right: Mayor Janet Nichol, Post Historian Dan Smith, Post Adjutant Jason Castleberry, Post Vice Commander Rosa Ortega, Post Sgt at Arms Harry Campbell and Post member Steve Manak.

SECTION 2.16 POST 100 PARTICIPATES IN NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER 2019

(2 May 2019) The National Day of Prayer was created in 1952 by a joint resolution of Congress and signed into law by President Harry S. Truman. In 1988, the law was unanimously amended by both the House and the Senate and signed into law by President Ronald Reagan on Thursday, May 5, 1988, designating the first Thursday of May as a day of national prayer. Every president since 1952 has signed a National Day of Prayer proclamation. The theme for the 2019 National



Figure 41 - Chaplain James Otis Speaking to the community & praying for our veterans and military

Day of Prayer on May 2, 2019 is Love One Another. The theme comes from the words of Jesus in John 13:34, "Love one another. Just as I have loved you."

SECTION 2.17 HONORING FIRST RESPONDERS

(28 July 2018) On July 28th the Royse City American Legion Post 100 came together to not only celebrate it's many accomplishments over the last year but to also honor it's First Responders. One of the American Legion premier programs is it's First Responder award program. The program starts at the post level where the post honors it's winners and those winners are then voted on at district level and the District winners go on to the next level and it all culminates with the National



Figure 42– Royse City Post 100 and Department of Texas Fire fighter of the year is James Michael Embrey (C) of the Royse City Fire Department.

winners. There are four categories to the Awards; you have a fire fighter of the year, law enforcement officer of the year, EMT of the year and National Guardsman of the Year.

SECTION 2.17 AMERICAN LEGION POST 231 – BEATING ADVERSITY

(28 July 2018) The American Legion M.I.A. Post 231, Pottsboro, TX, opened the doors to its new building on December 1, 2018. The old building was flooded and had to be demolished after Lake Texoma hit a record level of 645.72 feet in May of 2015. More than three years later and twelve feet higher, the Post is finally opening its doors again to members and guests.



Figure 43 – A flooded Post 231 in 2015



Figure 44 - Rebuilt Post 231 (Pottsboro TX) reopened doors on 1 December 2018

SECTION 2.18 AMERICAN LEGION POST 159 – ANOTHER PROGRESSIVE YEAR

(30 June 2019) Post 159 in Bryan continued to see growth in 2018-2019 in its membership and in its programs. Under Commander Tom Marty, they made membership and saw success in many areas to include Boys State and Junior Shooters. Located in Bryan-College Station, the Post sponsored weekly free donuts and coffee for veterans and their friends every Thursday and the time is also used for visits by the local Congressman and other veteran organizations. Post 159 sent 23 young men to Boys State. Of particular note one Boys State selectee, Caleb Merrill of Bryan went to Boys Nation as one of the two Texas students selected. He was also awarded one of the four scholarships at the end of the week. Utilizing their own indoor shooting range, Post 159 also received one of the four youth shooting awards that also included a financial scholarship for its female winner. Both the local newspaper, the Eagle, and a local Radio station were recognized at the top of their public relation fields.

CHAPTER 3 – DEPARTMENT HISTORY

The Texas Department of the American Legion is a nonpolitical and nonpartisan organization. Its principal aim is to secure legislation for the benefit of veterans in Texas, including adequate hospitalization, physical and vocational rehabilitation, and preference in public jobs. The organization also supports legislation for assistance to underprivileged children. The legion was founded by service veterans from World War I at a meeting held in San Antonio on San Jacinto Day, April 21, 1919. Col. Claude V. Birkhead was elected first chairman. The organization was originally known as the Texas Division of World War Veterans, but the name was changed a short time later to Texas Department, American Legion, to conform to the constitution adopted by the national organization in December 1919.

Among the most important concerns of the early members was the need to secure adequate hospital facilities for sick and injured former servicemen. Donations were collected from posts and individuals throughout the state, and within a short time more than \$500,000 was raised. In 1921–22 the Department built the American Legion Memorial Hospital at Legion, Texas, with funds raised through legion activities, supplemented by state aid. The hospital was sold to the United States in 1925 and became a Veterans Administration facility.

While rehabilitation for veterans remained the number-one goal of the legion through the early 1920s, the agenda was soon expanded to include employment, legislation, and the care of needy families, widows, and orphans of veterans. In 1920 the American Legion Auxiliary, composed of the wives and widows of veterans, was formed, with the purpose of augmenting and supporting the organization's activities. During the early 1920s, the

Legion also turned its attention toward fighting what it perceived as a growing tide of anti-Americanism. The Americanism committee at the 1923 convention called for "vigilance against teaching in public or private schools in Texas false or 'doctored' history, or subversive doctrine" and "against textbooks tainted with foreign or special propaganda and careful study of textbooks used in schools." It also endorsed a measure adopted at the national convention calling for the "total cessation of immigration until assimilation shall catch up with immigration." The legion also sponsored a variety of civic projects. Some posts erected community Christmas trees or made donations to the needy; others sponsored parks and playgrounds, built swimming pools, and equipped lighted baseball parks. After 1923 most of the posts in the state also sponsored local Boy Scout troops and took part in scouting activities. During the 1920s and early 1930s legion posts throughout Texas also began to sponsor baseball teams and oratorical contests. Beginning in 1938 the Americanism program organized the annual Boys State convention (see Lone Star Boys' State and Bluebonnet Girls' State), held each summer in Austin, to promote citizen education for young men.

Between 1919 and 1942 membership in the legion ranged from 10,540 to 37,709. In 1942 veterans of World War II were made eligible, and after the war large numbers of returning joined the organization. Black Texas veterans were made eligible in 1945, though at first they were confined to a separate district-at-large, with the posts sponsored and guided by existing white posts. In the period just after World War II, when the demand for veterans' services exploded, the legion lobbied for additional hospitals, rehabilitation facilities, and other benefits. Korean War veterans began joining the organization in large numbers in the mid-1950s, and in 1979 Vietnam veterans were made eligible for

membership. By the early 1990s the statewide membership was 90,000. Subsequently, the legion continued its earlier charitable activities and added new ones, including programs for abused children, the intellectually disabled, missing children, and drug-abuse prevention. The state organization has been headquartered in Austin since 1927.

CHAPTER 4 – CONSTITUTIONAL COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS

SECTION 4.1: AMERICANISM COMMISSION

- **Chairman:** Tom Tvrdik
- **Vice Chairman:** Michael Griffith
- **Division Commander:** Ted Weeks
- **Division Members:**
 - **Division 1** - Michael Griffith (2021)
 - **Division 2** - Everett Ison (2020)
 - **Division 3** - Tom Tvrdik (2019)
 - **Division 4** – Johnnie Washburn (2022)

SECTION 4.1.1: SUB-COMMITTEE CHAIRS

- **Boys State Chairman:** Paul Barker
- **Boys State Director:** Gary Flenniken
- **Baseball Chairman:** Don Toohey
 - a. **Baseball Director:** Espiridion Zuniga
 - b. **Baseball Member:** Carl Smith
- **Boys Scout:** Wayne Courreges
- **Sal Advisor:** Milton Chatham
- **Oratorical/School Awards:** Gary Flenniken
- **Community Service/Education:** Ronnie Pietzsch
- **Children and Youth:** Jason Castleberry
- **Junior Shooting:** Ted Hemmer

- **American Legion Riders:** Reno Reiley

SECTION 4.2: CONVENTION CITY COMMISSION

- **Chairman:** David Olson
- **Vice Chairman:** Robert Masten
- **Division Commander:** Kenneth Simonton
- **Division Members:**
 - **Division 1** – Bobby Baker (2022)
 - **Division 2** – Dellano Simmons (2019)
 - **Division 3** – Robert Masten (2020)
 - **Division 4** – David Olson (2021)
 - **2019 Convention General Chairman** – David Eagan (2019)

SECTION 4.3: FINANCE AND BUDGET COMMITTEE

- **Chairman:** John Morris
- **Vice Chairman:** Steve Cook
- **Division Commander:** Ted Weeks
- **District Commander:** Michael Bob Starr
- **Division Members:**
 - **Division** – Tom Parry (2020)
 - **Division** – John D. Morris (2021)
 - **Division** – Steve Cook (2019)

SECTION 4.4: LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION

- **Chairman:** Will Martin
- **Vice Chairman:** Robert Masten

- **Division Commander:** Sheila Schulte
- **Division Members:**
 - **Division 1** – David Eagan (2020)
 - **Division 2** – Clifton Guillory (2021)
 - **Division 3** – Will Martin (2022)
 - **Division 4** – Ralph Langley (2019)

SECTION 4.5: LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE

- **Chairman:**
- **Vice Chairman:**
- **Division Commanders:**
 - **Division 1** – Gene Toohey
 - **Division 2** – Sheila Shulte
 - **Division 3** – Ted Weeks
 - **Division 4** - Kenneth Simonton
- **Members –**
 - **Dan Dutton (2019)**
 - **Dan King (2019)**
 - **Ron Cherry (2020)**
 - **Jeff Perkins (2020)**
 - **Jimmie Mitchell (2021)**
 - **Tom Harlan (2021)**

SECTION 4.6: MEMBERSHIP, ORGANIZATION & POST ACTIVITIES COMMISSION

- **Chairman:** Walter Herman

- **Vice Chairman:** Terry Cloniger
- **Division Commanders:**
 - **Division 1** – Gene Toohey
 - **Division 2** – Sheila Shulte
 - **Division 3** – Ted Weeks
 - **Division 4** - Kenneth Simonton
- **Division Members:**
 - **Division 1** – Terry Cloninger (2020)
 - **Division 2** – Leah Morales (2019)
 - **Division 3** – Douglas Norton (2022)
 - **Division 4** – Walter Herman (20221)
- **Members –**
 - **Dan Dutton (2019)**
 - **Dan King (2019)**
 - **Ron Cherry (2020)**
 - **Jeff Perkins (2020)**
 - **Jimmie Mitchell (2021)**
 - **Tom Harlan (2021)**

SECTION 4.6.1: SUB-COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

- **Membership:** Bret Watson (2019)
- **Uniformed Organization:** _____ (2019)
- **Constitution and By-Laws:** _____ (2019)

- **Awards/Trophies:** Kimberly Biggerstaff (2019)

SECTION 4.7: NATIONAL SECURITY COMMISSION

- **Chairman:** Roger Folmar
- **Vice Chairman:** Terry Bigley
- **Division Commander:** Sheila Shulte
- **Division Members:**
 - **Division 1** – Terry Bigley (2022)
 - **Division 2** – James Dinkins (2021)
 - **Division 3** – Reno Riley (2020)
 - **Division 4** – Roger Folmar (2019)

SECTION 4.7.1: SUB-COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

- **Military Affairs:** Roger Folmar (2019) – El Paso TX
- **Foreign Relations:** Al Banzer (2019) – Austin TX
- **Aerospace:** Terry Bigley (2019) – Richland Hills TX
- **Law & Order:** Kimberly Biggerstaff (2019) – Spring TX

SECTION 4.8: PUBLIC RELATIONS AND PUBLICATION COMMISSION

- **Chairman:** Susan Marty
- **Vice Chairman:** Ruber Banks
- **Division Commander:** Gene Toohey
- **Division Members:**
 - **Division 1** – David Harvey (2021) – Emory TX
 - **Division 2** – Susan Marty (2020) – College Station TX

- **Division 3** – Joe Duarte (2019) – San Antonio TX
- **Division 4** – Ruber Banks (2022) – El Paso TX

SECTION 4.9: TRAINING COMMITTEE

- **Chairman:** Tom Marty
- **Vice Chairman:** Karen Paris
- **Division Commander:** Gene Toohey
- **Members:**
 - Al Robart (2021) – Mansfield TX
 - Tom Marty (2021) – College Station TX
 - Karen Paris (2019) – Universal TX
 - Vaughn Oliver (2019) – Weatherford TX
 - Barry Schoenhals (2021) – Darrouzett TX
 - John McKinney (2021) – Dripping Spring TX

SECTION 4.10: VETERAN AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION COMMISSION

- **Chairman:** Joe Page
- **Vice Chairman:** Richard Britton
- **Division Commander:** Kenneth Simonton
- **Division Members:**
 - **Division 1** – Joe Page (2021) – Ft Worth TX
 - **Division 2** – Sheryll Ann Jones (2022) – Houston TX
 - **Division 3** – Gabriel Lopez (2020) – Laredo TX
 - **Division 4** – Richard Britton (2019) – El Paso TX

SECTION 4.10.1: SUB-COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

- **Hospital & VAVS:** Cedric Patterson (2019) – Crosby TX
- **Veterans Preference & Employment:** Bob Gear (2019) – Round Rock TX
- **Homeless Veterans:** Norman Bearden (2019) – Amarillo TX
- **Women Veterans Outreach:** Sheryll Ann Jones (2019) – Houston TX

SECTION 4.11: COURT OF APPEALS

- **Presiding Judge:** Steve Watkins
- **Members:**
 - Steve Watkins (2020) – Houston TX
 - John Brieden (2021) – Brenham TX
 - Dellano “Shorty” Simmons (2019) – Vidor TX

SECTION 4.12: 100TH ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE

- **Chairman:** Ronnie Pietzsch
- **Vice Chairman:** David Eagan
- **Division Members:**
 - **Division 1** – David Eagan (2019) – Euless TX
 - **Division 2** – Donald Simons (2019) – San Antonio TX
 - **Division 3** – Connie Jo Popham (2019) – Floresville TX
 - **Division 4** – Ronnie Pietzsch (2019) – Roscoe TX
- **Members:**
 - **Past Department Commander** – Jim Fleming (2019)
 - **Past National Commander** – John Brieden (2019)
 - **National Executive Committeeman** – Butch Sparks (2019)

- **4th Division Commander** – Ken Simonton (2019)
- **5th District Commander** – Ronald Jones Jr (2019) – Mesquite TX
- **20th District Commander** – Walter Geraghty (2019) – San Antonio TX
- **Department Americanism Chair** - Tom Tvrdik (2019) – San Marcos TX
- **Department Convention City Chair** – David Olsen (2019) – Lueders TX
- **Department Finance Chairman** – John Morris (2019) – Houston TX
- **Department M, O & PA Commission Chair** – Walter Herman (2019) – Alpine TX
- **Department Public Relations Chair** – Susan Marty (2019) – College Station TX
- **Department Treasurer** – David Paris (2019) – Universal City TX
- **Department Historian** – Garnel “Al” Alford (2019) – San Antonio TX
- **Department Commander** – Lloyd Buckmaster (2019) – San Antonio TX
- **Department Adjutant (Ex Officio)** – Dan Corbin (2019) – Killeen TX

SECTION 4.12: TEXAS AMERICAN LEGION DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION

- **President:**
- **Vice President:**
- **Members:**
 - Walter Geraghty – Department Executive Committee (DEC) (2019) – San Antonio TX
 - Ed Jarvis - DEC (2019) – Cleveland TX
 - Walter Ivie - Board of Trustees (BOT) (2019) – Austin TX

- Lloyd Hubmaster – Department Commander (2019) – San Antonio TX
- Dan Corbin – Department Adjutant (2019) – Austin TX
- Lynn Sparks – BOT (2019) – Pearland TX
- John Morris – Finance and Budget (F&B) – Houston TX
- Steve Cook – F&B (2019) – Waco TX
- Tom Tvrdik – Americanism (2019) – San Marcos TX
- David Paris – Treasurer – Universal City TX

SECTION 4.13: BOARD OF TRUSTEES

- James McNair (2019)
- Jim Fleming (2020)
- Lynn Sparks (2021)
- John McKinny (2022)
- Walter Ivie (2023)
- John Hince (2024)

SECTION 4.14: MUSEUM DIRECTOR

- Bill Moore

SECTION 4.15: THE AMERICAN LEGION 2018 COLOR GUARD CHAMPIONS

- Harrisburg Post 472 – Houston TX

SECTION 4.16: GNUTS CLUB

- Emperor XLVIII – Carey Augustine (Frisco TX)

SECTION 4.17: TWENTY AND FOUR

- Director VIP – Gerry Hince (Bryan TX)

SECTION 4.18: TEXAS AMERICAN LEGION PRESS ASSOCIATION (TXALPA)

- **President** – Rachael Watson (Weatherford TX)
- **Secretary** – Cindy Miller (Temple TX)

SECTION 4.19: PAST DISTRICT COMMANDERS CLUB

- **President** – Sheila Shulte (Cyress TX)
- **Secretary** – Lynn Sparks (Pearland TX)

CHAPTER 5 – COMMITTEE REPORTS

5.1 VETERANS AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION COMMISSION

During 2018 – 2019, The Department of Texas American Legion’s Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation (VA&R) program provided a comprehensive network of American Legion Department Service Officers (see below) at the Department level to help veterans, their dependents and survivors apply for any Federal or state benefit to which they may be entitled. These are the individuals many legionnaires consulted when any question arises regarding veterans’ benefits or claims for these benefits.

American Legion Department of Texas located at Houston Veterans Administration Regional Office [(VARO) (713) 383-2755]:

- ❖ Edward Reyes (edward.reyes@va.gov)
- ❖ Mike Lacy: (michael.lacy@va.gov)

American Legion Department of Texas at Waco VARO – (254) 299-9960

- ❖ Ronald Peterson: (ronald.a.peterson@va.gov)
- ❖ Allen Sharp: (allen.sharp@va.gov)

5.1.2 VETERANS PROF. & EMPLOYMENT

(23 January 2019) The Department of Texas, Texas Veterans Commission and Texas Workforce Commission conducted several veterans resume workshop covering topics including job fair etiquette, targeted resumes and interview tips. The 90-minute workshop began at 8:30 a.m., again at 10:30 a.m. and at 12:30 p.m. The American Legion, Department of Texas held Career Fair in Austin free for Active Duty, National Guard, Reservists, Veterans and their spouses. The Career Fair had over 60 employers including a substantial number of state agencies with the ability to directly hire veterans. The

American Legion Mid-Winter Career fair provided an excellent employment opportunity for veterans and their spouses. As is the case for this and the previous American Legion Career Fairs, employers hired multiple veterans that day.

5.4 AMERICANISM COMMISSION

5.4.1 BOYS STATE

American Legion Boys State is designed to bring out the best in America's future leaders. Attendees are selected because they are the best representatives of both their schools and their communities. Upon arrival at Boys State each citizen is assigned to one of two "fictional" political parties, which are the "Nationalists" and the "Federalists" at Texas Boys State. The entire program is non-partisan and problems considered are without reference to any existing political party and will be free from propaganda. Because of the time



Figure 45 - Texas Boys State Class of 2019 @ University of Texas Austin TX (June 2019)

element and nature of the program, political party structure at Boys State, in some instances, differs from the realistic situation. 2019 Boys State Governor was Maximilian (Max) Safranek of Denton Texas.

5.9 MEMBERSHIP, ORGANIZATION & POST ACTIVITIES COMMISSION

Districts Name	Membership	Goal	Short	Percent
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1	Andrew Lowen	1595	1445	150	110.38%
13	Christopher Holt	1545	1440	105	107.29%
3	Patrick Taylor	1413	1411	2	100.14%
21	James Reynolds	2088	2136	-48	97.75%
15	James Ryan 1578	1646	-68		95.87%
20	Walter Geraghty	5771	6053	-282	95.34%
5	Ronald Jones	2496	2649	-153	94.22%
4	Steven Ferrell	4415	4694	-279	94.06%
12	Michael Regan	3749	3989	-240	93.98%
6	Julie Rhoden	2497	2659	-162	93.91%
10	Jay Jernigan 3067	3284	-217		93.39%
9	Charles Miller	3885	4194	-309	92.63%
18	Kevin Black 1051	1140	-89		92.19%
17	Michael Starr	1217	1327	-110	91.71%
14	John Schendel	2737	2985	-248	91.69%
7	Larry Decker	1711	1869	-158	91.55%
23	Hector Alva 810	888	-78		91.22%
11	William Mahon	2289	2551	-262	89.73%
8	Richard Voorhies	1523	1722	-199	88.44%
2	Tilford Thorkveen	1366	1573	-207	86.84%
16	David Crozier	2874	3352	-478	85.74%
22	Joseph Thomas	3827	4594	-767	83.30%
19	William Youngren	547	714	-167	76.61%

CHAPTER 6 – PAST DEPARTMENT COMMANDERS



Figure 46 - Past Department Commanders Luncheon @ Fall DEC (2018): Back Row (L to R): John Brieden, John Hince, Paul Dillard, Jim Prendergast, Walter Ivie, Jim McNair, John McKinny; Front Row (L to R) Jim Fleming, Lynn Sparks, Ron Cherry, John Morris

**1919 Claude V. Birkhead,
San Antonio (D)**

**1920 Henry Hutchings,
Fort Worth (D)**

**1921 Guy O. Shirey,
Fort Worth (Resigned) (D)**

Jay A. Rossiter, Houston (D)

**1922 Wayne B. Davis,
San Antonio (D)**

**1923 John C. Townes,
Houston (D)**

**1924 Dr. M. W. Sherwood, Temple
(D)**

**1925 Mark McGee,
Fort Worth (D)**

**1926 Dr. W. T. Dunning, Gonzales
(D)**

**1927 Ray C. Winters,
Abilene (D)**

**1928 Walton D. Hood, Harlingen
(D)**

**1929 Rufus F. Scott, Jr., Paris (D)
1930 Ernest C. Cox,
Austin (D)**

**1931 Hal L. Brennan,
Laredo (D)**

1932 V. Earl Earp,
Monahans (D)

1933 Carl E. Nesbitt,
Mineola (D)

1934 L. Van Perkins, Cameron
(Resigned) (D)
M. J. Benefield, Odessa (D)

1935 H. Miller Ainsworth, Luling
(D)

1936 Ernest S. Goens,
Tyler (D)

1937 Drury M. Phillips, Huntsville
(D)

1938 Dr. W. J. Danforth,
Fort Worth (D)

1939 Vincent Chiodo, Houston (D)

1940 Lou J. Roberts, Amarillo (D)

1941 Ed Reidel, Austin (D)

1942 Andrew Dilworth, San
Antonio (D)

1943 Charles J. Maisal, Odessa
(D)

1944 Sam D. Forman, Jr.,
Houston (D)

1945 Henry Love,
Fort Worth (D)

1946 Herman Nami,
San Antonio (D)

1947 Bertram K. Giesecke, Austin
(D)

1948 George S. Berry, Lubbock
(D)

1949 William McCraw,
Dallas (D)

1950 Capt. A. Schafli,
Seguin (D)

Joe Spurlock, Fort Worth (D)

1951 Wm. F. (Bill) Elkins, Austin
(D)

1952 Charles C. Gibson, Amarillo
(D)

1953 Albert D. Brown,
San Antonio (D)

1954 L. E. Page,
Carthage (D)

1955 E. L. Jackson,
Cisco (D)

1956 Charles L. Downey,
Pleasanton (D)

1957 Joe Matthews,
Fort Worth (D)

1958 Warren G. Moore,
Tyler (D)

1959 J. Walter Janko, Somerville
(D)

1960 Donald I. Peters, Houston
(D)

1961 Pete E. Turner,
Midland (D)

1962 Aubrey Bullard,
Waco (D)

1963 Vince F. Taylor, Dripping Springs (D)

1964 John McKelvey, Austin (D)

1965 Lewis W. Emerich, Houston (D)

1966 Clayton Mann, Wichita Falls (D)

1967 Jack W. Flynt, Dimmitt (D)

1968 William G. Nami, Cuero (D)

1969 Robert P. Walsh, San Antonio (D)

1970 Henry H. Hill, Kingsland (D)

1971 B. B. Hester, Houston (D)

1972 Gil Moody, Austin (D)

1973 James P. Holly, Nederland

1974 C. Lynn Steward, Fort Worth (D)

1975 James W. White, Houston (D)

1976 Larry Lahaie, Henderson (D)

1977 C.G. McKinzie, Lubbock (D)

1978 Harvey H. Holcomb, Odessa (D)

1979 George H. Skelly, Columbus (D)

1980 Mike D. Mireles, San Antonio (D)

1981 Harry C. Riggs, Plainview (D)

1982 Lee Guy, Breckenridge (D)

1983 Waggoner Carr, Austin (D)

1984 Charles E. Sonntag Jr. (D)

1985 G. Ward Moody, Austin (H) (D)

1985 John D. Morris, Houston (D)

1986 Hebert W. Odell, Fort Worth

1987 John W. J. Richter, Brenham (D)

1988 E.H. "Hank" Narmour (D)

1989 Lindon Williams, Baytown (D)

1990 Archie Heathington, Granbury (D)

1991 Derek Shultz, Bryan (D)

1992 Patsy Palmquist, Edinburg (D)

1993 Ronald P. McCluskey, El Paso (D)

1994 John Brukner, Houston (D)

1995 William Farmer, Waxahachie (D)

**1996 John A. Brieden, III,
Brenham
1997 Delbert Fuhrman, Kingsland
(D)**

**1998 William B. Long, Mineral
Wells (D)**

**Ronald G. Cherry,
San Antonio**

**1999 Daniel Whealen, Universal
City (D)**

2000 Donald F. Simons, Bryan

**2001 James Young,
Houston (D)**

**2002 Conrad Roberson, Odessa
(D)**

**2003 Clayton Hueske,
Waco (D)**

2004 Bob Walls, Mineral Wells (D)

2005 Dellano T. Simmons, Vidor

**2006 James Prendergast,
Duncanville**

**2007 C. W. "Butch" Sparks,
Pearland**

2008 Paul E. Dillard, Lake Kiowa

2009 James McNair, El Paso

2010 Don Daft, Wallis (D)

2011 Kenneth Mueller, Brenham

**2012 J. G. "Lupe" Garza,
Richmond (D)**

2013 Daniel A. Corbin, Killeen

**2014 James Fleming, Anna
2015 Lynn Sparks, Pearland**

**2016 John McKinny,
Dripping Springs**

2017 Walter Ivie (Austin)

2018 John Hince (Bryan)

**2019 Lloyd Buckmaster (San
Antonio)**

CHAPTER 7 – PAST NATIONAL COMMANDERS

1919-1920 Henry D. Lindsley, Dallas (D)

1922-1923 Alvin M. Owsley, Dallas (D)

1948-1949 S. Perry Brown, Austin (D)

1972-1973 Joe L. Matthews, Ft Worth (D)

1981-1982 Jack W. Flynt, Dimmitt (D)

2003-2004 John A. Brieden III, Brenham



Figure 47: Past National Commander - John Brieden

APPENDIX A – THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Board of Trustees is in charge of all Trust Funds and all properties, real, personal or mixed, the legal title to which is now vested, or may hereafter vest, in the.

This year's members are:

2019 – James McNair

2020 – Jim Fleming

2021 – Lynn Sparks

2022 – John McKinny

2023 – Walter Ivie

2024 – John Hince

APPENDIX B - DEPARTMENT ACTIVITIES



Figure 48 - Legionnaires attend the 100th Convention of the Department of Texas In San Antonio TX (7/13/2018)



Figure 49 - Governor Greg Abbott Address the 100th Convention of the Department of Texas In San Antonio TX (7/13/2018)



Figure 50 - U.S. Senator John Cornyn address the 100th Convention of the Department of Texas In San Antonio TX (7/13/2018)



Figure 51 - State Senator Jose Melendez welcome Legionnaires to San Antonio for 100th Anniversary Convention



Figure 52 - Post 593 Commander Christine Reed (R) pins new Department Commander Lloyd Buckmaster as outgoing Department Commander John Hince (C) watches on!



Figure 53 - Commander John Hince (L) greets San Antonio Mayor Ron Nirenberg @ Department Convention (7/14/2018)



Figure 54 - Bexar County Judge Nelson Wolff speak at dedication ceremony for Department of Texas American Legion monument (7/15/2018)



Figure 55 - The Department of Texas American Legion Monument was dedicated at a special ceremony during 100th Department Convention; It is located on Military Plaza at Dolorosa Street in San Antonio TX



Figure 56 - San Antonio Police Chief William MacManus touts the role of veterans in the SAPD @ the American Legion Monument dedication (7/15/2018)



Figure 57 - District Commanders being installed at the 100th Anniversary Department of Texas Convention (7/16/2018)



Figure 58 - Back Row: Bill West (L) (State Adjutant, Lloyd Buckmaster (R) (Department Commander; Front Row (L to R) John Hafner (State Hubmaster), Karen Paris (Training Committee Vice Chair), Gerry Hince (State Chaplain) and John Hince (IPDC) attend Department Legion College training in Converse TX



Figure 59 - National Commander Brett Reistad address the DoT Fall DEC (October 13, 2018)



Figure 60 -Past Department Commanders Luncheon @ Fall DEC (2018): Back Row (L to R): John Brieden, John Hince, Paul Dillard, Jim Prendergast, Walter Ivie, Jim McNair, John McKinny; Front Row (L to R) Jim Fleming, Lynn Sparks, Ron Cherry, John Morris



Figure 61 - (L-R) Commander Alford, San Antonio Mayor Ron Nirenberg, and Memorial Day Ceremony Keynote Speaker Colonel Chris Wynder if front of the Post 828 Veteran's Wall of Honor on Memorial Day (26 May 2019)



Figure 62 - 7th District Commander Ed Jarvis (D) & Department Service Officer (L) Mike Lacy @ 2018 Fall DEC. (10/13/2018)



Figure 63 - Fans attend the American Legion Baseball tournament in Brenham TX in July 2018.



Figure 64 - District 20 Commander Al Alford (L) and Department of Louisiana Commander Ricky D. Griffin (R) at American Legion Monument Dedication Ceremony (7/14/2018)



Figure 65 - American Legion Post 164 in Katy Provides Extra Supplies for Two Elementary Schools (August 2018)



Figure 66 - (L to R) - Past 3rd Division Commander Jerome Ilitis, Patrick Von Dohlen of Texas Family and Ken Mercer State Board of Education Member District 5 at the “At Risk – Our Children & Youth” Program (February 2019)



Figure 67- San Antonio District 6 City Councilman Greg Brockhouse (Post 309 Member) speak at Post 828 100th Anniversary Celebration (15 March 2019)



Figure 68 - Bexar County Buffalo Association Posted the colors for Post 828 100th Anniversary Celebration; (L to R) Post 800 Commander Clarence Thompson, and other members (15 March 2019)



Figure 69 - Royse City Post sponsored its inaugural Tri-County Hero Award (naming Bruce Chim as it 1st recipient of the recognition; (L to R) Cindy Hamm, Jennifer Ott, Bruce Chim and Jason Castleberry (January 2019)



Figure 70 - Jason Castleberry, post adjutant for Royse City American Legion Post 100 honored by the University of Texas as winner of the 2019 True Texas Hero Competition



Figure 71 - 31st Annual Onion Creek sponsored by American Legion Post 326 was held On Thursday May 9, 2019 as a major fundraising event at the Onion Creek Club, Austin, Texas. This is a charity golf event benefiting a variety of Veterans and Community Projects.



Figure 72 - (L-R) Ron Henry, Francine Pratt, Joanna Lay, Richard Petronis, Sid Moon, Bobby Todd, Matt Hallgarth, Stephanie Shepherd, Ole Knudson & Mike Pratt. Seated (L-R) Janis Petronis, Avril Todd & Daughter Tricia and Johnette Knudson -- Post 240 Conducts Annual Post Everlasting Memorial Service (March 19, 2019)



Figure 73 - Legionnaires riding on the 2018 Veterans Day Parade Float prepared by Larry Collins and Sid Moon are(L-R); Keith Fredrickson, Erath County Service Officer, Tami Barker, Erath County Sheriff's Office Dispatcher, Walter Dotson, Roger Easter, Curtis Anderson Don Corbin (standing), John Moser, Larry Collins and our chauffeur, Sid Moon. Photo by photographer extraordinaire Rich Barker – Stephenville Post 240



Figure 74 - District 17 Commander, Michael Bob Starr (R) and 2018 Commander, Curtis Anderson(L), present Sid Moon (C) The 2018 Legionnaire of The Year Award In recognition of outstanding Leadership and Service as a member of The American Legion benefiting our Community, State, and Nation.



Figure 75 - Curtis Anderson (L) accepts his 2018 Turnbow-Higgs Post 240 Commander Award from 2019 Commander, Ron Henry, in recognition of Loyalty, Devoted Service and leadership in upholding the principles of The American Legion



Figure 76 - Post 240 Honor guard (L to R) Honor Guard Burton Smith, Jimmy Finney & Eddie Torrez marched to front of podium where stacking of rifles was accomplished



Figure 77 – Post 169 Wichita Falls participate in Veterans Day Parade (11/11/2018)



Figure 78 - 31st Annual Onion Creek American Legion Post 326 Memorial Golf Tournament (5/9/2019)



Figure 79 - (L-R) Post 828 Scholarship Committee Member Jerry Farmer with Scholarship Awardees Bruce Adams (Sam Houston) and Brianna Malone & Abcde Martinez (Idea Carver), Scholarship Committee Chair Renee Pate and Commander Al Alford (5/16/2019)



Figure 80 – Post 240 Legionnaires & Scouts salute to the bugle sounds of “To the Colors” as the flag is burning begins.



Figure 81 – Post 240 Legionnaires accept flags from scouts and place in burn barrel. Post 240 Flag Watch chairman, Walter Dotson. Collects & burns over 1000 flags yearly from its collection box located at the entrance of Walmart & other locations. Fifty 3 X 5 cotton flags are folded & saved for this annual ceremony



Figure 82 - Attending Reception for National Auxiliary President Kathy Dungan at Post 521 Pasadena TX - (L - R) Donna Dillard, Paul Dillard, Johnathan Dillard (SAL), Lukas Dillard (SAL), Jarrett Dillard (SAL), Karri Dillard, John Morris (Past Department/National Vice Commander), Mrs. Morris (3/19/2019)

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER – LLOYD BUCKMASTER

Department Commander Lloyd Buckmaster had a very active and accomplished year while at the helm of the American Legion Department of Texas for 2018 – 2019. His emphasis on membership numbers was readily apparent as he traveled the State working on revitalizations and membership drives. He drove a plan to do two revitalizations a month each month at the Post and District levels. Working in close concert with Department Vice Commander Brett Watson, he



Figure 83 - Department of Texas Commander Lloyd Buckmaster

visited many district conventions to push memberships and support the mission of the American Legion.

Commander Buckmaster outlined a “5-step” program to meet goals and increase membership accordingly. These 5 steps are a recipe for successful recruiting, positive retention and program completion.:

1. Step 1 - Assign a membership team with your first Vice as leader
2. Step 2 - Phone or e-mail current members who have not renewed
3. Step 3 - Go back 2 – 3 years and contact former members
4. Step 4 - Hit the available 345 lists
5. Every Post participate in at least 2 programs

Commander Buckmaster’s Homecoming was held on November 17, 2018 at George Johns Post 337 (Round Rock TX). The event was well attended by members and guests from all over the state. Commander Buckmaster worked tirelessly on membership issues, dedicating a part of his article in the Texas Legion Times every month to improving

membership numbers. For example, during the revitalization of the 8th district he assisted with calling all the 2018 members who have not renewed their membership with great results. Many stated they would mail in their dues soon. Commander Buckmaster asked all post commanders to contact all 2018 members who have not renewed.

NATIONAL COMMANDER CANDIDATE – PAUL DILLARD

(27 August 2018) Paul Dillard is a 40+ year Paid Up For Life Member of C.R. Simmons – C.G. Harwicke Post 29 in Sherman Texas. He has served his Post, District and Department with distinction having served as Commander at all three levels. He has also served as National Vice Commander in 2013 – 2014. Paul truly believes in the programs of The American Legion including those that provide for our veterans, our active duty service member, our national guard and reserve members and their families.



Figure 84 – Past Department Commander & National Commander Candidate Paul Dillard

Paul's theme is **"No Veterans Left Behind"**. Born in Whitesboro, Texas, he graduated from Whitesboro High School in 1965. After graduation, he joined the U.S. Navy serving from 1965 to 1969, during the Vietnam era. As a paid-up-for-life member of C.R. Simmons - C.G. Hardwicke Post 29, Sherman, Texas. He has been very busy during his 40 plus years of Legion service. He served as Post Commander, Vice Commander, Adjutant and Judge Advocate. Paul coached American Legion Baseball for over 10 years and served as Boys State Chairman. He served the 4th District as Commander and Vice Commander; and served the Department as Sergeant-at-Arms, Membership and Organizations Chairman, National Security Chairman, Uniformed Organization Chairman, Board of Trustees Chairman, and he served on the Finance Committee and Long Range Planning Committee. He was elected to the high office of Department Commander (2007 - 2008). On the National level, Paul has served as Alternate Executive Committeeman, Consultant to the Insurance Committee, Distinguished Guest Committee, Children and Youth Committee, Media and Communications Council. He has

served as Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, Chairman of the Veterans Employment & Education Commission and Chairman of the Legislative Commission. He was elected as National Vice Commander (2013 - 2014). He and his wife, Donna (Past Department American Legion Auxiliary President: 2017-2018), have been married for over 35 years and have two sons, William and Jonathon, one daughter-in-law Karri and two grandsons Jarrett and Lukas, all are members of the American Legion Family. Donna has been an active and dedicated member of the American Legion Auxiliary for several years and has served in numerous positions of leadership at all levels of the organization, including Department President in 2017 - 2018 and as a staff member on Texas Bluebonnet Girls State and a member of the ALA Girls Nation and Poppy Committees.

APPENDIX D: 2018 – 2019 POST EVERLASTING

With sincere regret, we announce that the Supreme Commander has called to the Post Everlasting the following prominent Legionnaires from the Department of Texas for Calendar Year 2018 – 2019:




Charlie Baker
Past 4th Division
Commander
January 9, 2019



Bill Howell
Past 7th District
Commander
February 21, 2019



Al Marlowe
Past 2nd Division
Commander
June 12, 2019



Ed Jarvis
7th District Commander
April 4, 2019



Ernest Wilson
Past 2nd Division
Commander
June 28, 2019



Harvey Klee
Past National & Department
Chaplain



Ray Wildman
Past National Sgt-at-Arms
July 24, 2019



Charlie Baker
Past 4th Division
Commander
January 9, 2019

**We offer “TAPS” to honor these Legionnaires and their families for their
tireless service to our veterans:**

Day is done,

Gone the Sun from the lakes,

from the hills,

from the sky All is well, Safely rest, God is nigh.

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