

# H & E News

By David Paris, 2nd Vice Commander



Hope all enjoyed the holiday parties last month just proves we have some really good cooks in our organization! Thanks to all those who helped out.

This month the Biggest Loser Contest begins. Initial weigh-ins will be January 1<sup>st</sup> and Sunday, January 7<sup>th</sup> for those who were out of town on New Years Day. We ask all contestants to get pledges on the pounds they will shed and we'll have two first-place trophies one for the group that loses the most weight during the 14 weeks (ends Saturday, April 7<sup>th</sup>) and the other for the group that raises the most pledge money.

Speaking of New Year's, please proudly show the bartenders your dues card this month. They will be checking each time you come in so help them out and have it ready.

We are inviting single servicemen and women to the Post on Sundays in January. They're invited to watch football, play any of the games, and chat with our members and just check out the Legion. If you're in attendance please say thanks to those on active duty.

The CASI Chili Contest will be Jan 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>. We're always looking for volunteers to judge the food. Come on down in the early afternoon and try some. And of course we'll have silent auctions and raffles during the weekend as well as good entertainment in the evenings.

Lastly, this year's Superbowl will be Sunday, Feb 4<sup>th</sup> and we plan to have a good party for this annual event.

For God & Country, Dave

## Battle Uniform Available to Deploying Airmen



The Airman Battle Uniform is on track for distribution this spring to Airmen deploying as part of Air Expeditionary Forces 7 and 8. Most Airmen will get two ABU sets and two Desert Combat Uniform sets for their deployment. By October 2007, the Air Force will begin issuing the ABU to Airmen in basic military training, and in June 2008, the uniform will be available for purchase by the rest of the Air Force in Army Air Force Exchange Service outlets. The cost for the uniform, pants and coat, runs about \$81. Additional items will also need to be purchased. The green boots are priced at \$100. The expected mandatory wear date for the new ABU is October 2011.



Another!

## Post 593 Chili Cookoff

A CASI (Chili Appreciation Society International) Sanctioned Chili Cookoff

Saturday & Sunday  
January 13th & 14th, 2007  
Start at 9AM - Turn-In at 1PM

## History of the Legion Emblem: Part 5



*Two Small Rings set upon the star.  
The outer pledges loyalty and Americanism. The inner is for service to our communities, our states and the Nation.*

## VA Replacing Old Identification Cards

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has announced that VA health care facilities are beginning an aggressive campaign to assure that enrolled veterans with old versions of its ID cards are issued the new Veterans Identification Card (VIC). VA decided to initiate the mass replacement to reduce veteran vulnerability to identity theft. The new VIC removed the sensitive information such as birthdates and social security numbers from the face of the card. VHA estimates that between 3 and 4 million enrolled veterans have not yet been issued a new VIC. VA hopes to complete the massive replacement program within the next 12 months.

## TRICARE Benefits for National Guard, Reserve Retirees

If you are a retired National Guard or Reserve member, you and your family members may be eligible for TRICARE medical and dental benefits. For the purpose of these benefits, you may fall into one of the following categories: (1) Retired Reserve not eligible for retired pay until age 60, often called, "Gray area retiree;" (2) Retiree between age 60 and 65 receiving retirement pay; or (3) Retiree age 65+ receiving retirement pay and social security benefits. For more information, visit TRICARE's Benefits for National Guard and Reserve Retirees and Their Families

## Congress Passes Comprehensive VA Bill

A comprehensive bill that will benefit millions of veterans was passed by the U.S. Senate on December 9th the last day of the 109th Congress. The bill now goes to President Bush to be signed into law. The new law ([S. 3421](#)) will allow the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to proceed with major construction projects across the country, improve mental health care access, enhance telehealth outreach, and increase assistance to address homelessness. The bill will also enable VA will to create a pilot program that makes non-VA facilities - such as private nursing homes or community hospitals - eligible for state veterans' home per diem payments.



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