

Chili Cookoff News

By Marcelo Buckley, Comm. Chair.



My team and I first want to thank Peggy Ann Oakes for her support and also all the folks that purchased the Hotel Raffle tickets these past few months. We raised \$253.00 towards our goal of \$275.00. Congratulations to the winners of a nights free stay at a local Hotel - Debbie Aguirre, Diane Grimmer, Denise Yang, Winifred Williams, Bryan Sparks, Gary Bartel, Brad Smith, and Pete Johnson.

Marcelo

Melissa Ann Wayne Benefit - Thank You!

By Ann Creech



We would like to thank everyone who participated in our benefit for Melissa. She was originally diagnosed with epilepsy in September of last year at only 1 year old. A short time later, she stated having balance and coordination problems. This alerted doctors that there may be a brain tumor. The benefit was designed to help raised the astronomical cost of MRIs, testing and further treatment. It has been quite an ordeal for such a sweet, innocent little girl.

The benefit was a huge success! We raised 50% of our goal. Also, a special thanks to everybody that volunteered to help. We could not have done it without you!



Pretty Melissa, almost 2

Thank you to the Legion Family for letting us have our benefit at the Legion. Contributions can still be made into her account we have set up at RBFCU. The account is in the name of Melissa Ann Wayne, Acct.# 5409695. Again, many thanks to all.

Ann & Henry Creech

Post Everlasting



Our Post Everlasting ceremony will be held on July 11th at 7:30 pm in our Legion Hall. This is a very dignified ceremony to remember our friends and Legion family members who have passed away. Come join us in saying goodbye to our friends and Comrades.

The following will be inducted at the ceremony this year:

Legionaires

Joe Beckom Edward J. Bednas Rene De Backer
Roy Hicks Marvin Koenig Paul McGinn
Edward Parker John Proia Kenneth Radmore
Dennis Wilke Donna Johnson (*Aux*)

SAL

Mike Lewis Tim Wagner Brent Wise

Your Money, Rights and Benefits

by Ross Oakes, Associate Member,
Texas Veterans County Service Officer Assoc.



Senate Panel Locks in 3.5 Percent Raise

The Senate Armed Services Committee practically assured military personnel a 3.5 percent pay raise next January by including that figure in the fiscal 2008 defense authorization bill it approved in late May. The House of Representatives already had voted to give the military a 3.5 pay raise next year, which is a half percentage point higher than proposed the Bush administration.

After the House vote, the White House's Office of Management and Budget said the bigger pay raise was "unnecessary" and urged congressional leaders to instead back a 3 percent increase which would match recent wage growth in the private sector. Senate Republicans ignored the White House pleading and joined with Democrats in supporting the bigger raise.

New Legislation Promotes Home Care

Legislation which would allow the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to take a new approach to the long-term care needs of veterans was introduced this week by U.S. Senator Larry Craig. "The goal of the State Veterans Home Modernization Act (S. 1441) is to transition the state home program from one focused heavily on beds to one that offers flexibility for home and community-based care," said Craig, the top Republican on the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Craig noted that modern technology and newer long-term care approaches already enable people to live at home longer and happier.

VA Medical Centers Extending Hours

In order to provide more health care for more veterans, especially mental health services, the 153 medical centers of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) have been directed to keep their doors open longer. The extended hours are mainly based on the need to ensure VA's more than 9,000 mental health professionals are available when veterans need them. The Department of Veterans' Affairs has not specified what the new hours will be.

San Antonio Career Fair - June 28th

Over 50 of San Antonio's Top Employers will be at the San Antonio Career Fair on Thursday, June 28, 2007 at the Omni Hotel. Hiring managers are looking specifically for the skills you learned while serving. You can also attend employment workshops focused on helping you leverage your military experience in the civilian job market. . You can register on-line by going to: <http://military.nationalcareerfaairs.com/>

War Wounded Underpaid

Disability compensation for veterans severely wounded in Iraq and Afghanistan, particularly the youngest, is set too low, creating a lifetime earnings gap with non-disabled peers, according to a draft study on disabled veterans' incomes prepared for the Veterans Disability Benefits Commission. The same study found that disability compensation probably is set too high for veterans who first begin drawing the disability payments at age 65 or older, having already retired from post-service careers.