



Rider News

by Brad Pierce, Director
Post 593 American Legion Riders



Legionaries, Auxiliary, SAL, and Riders of Post 593, I thank all of you for the confidence and trust over the last year. I want big thanks to the executive committee for their hard work keeping things together, the riders who continually step up to the plate, the Post officers and members of Post 593. As Terry Smith stated upon his return from the National Rally "Their is not a better Post and Riders Group in the country". I had three goals for 2007: to pull those riders who have strayed, back into the American Legion Family, to have consistence in our service mission and to leave behind a legacy.

We accomplished all our goals set forth at the beginning of this term. We wrote a check to the Soldier Family Assistance Center (BAMC) for \$1300, we have twice over the past year provided comfort items to the Long Term Care Ward at Audie Murphy VA Hospital and then turned around in March and bought six televisions with DVD players, movies and books for the same ward. We continue to support the Lonesome Dove project, which several of our post members have participated in

By the time this newsletter is sent out we will have had our fundraiser for the American Legion Legacy Fund. As of this date we are prepared to write a check for \$10,00. The results of the upcoming fundraiser will only increase this donation. We continue to grow in numbers, and currently have 130 plus riders. Familiar faces are back at the Legion, riders who have been gone for over a year or more.

It has been rewarding for me to see the growth of this organization and an experience I will never forget. I have 100% faith in the newly elected officers and their abilities. I know Randy will continue to guide this group as we continue to serve our veterans and active duty personnel.

Very Respectfully *Brad*

Attention Auxiliary Members

We have been notified by the Department Headquarters that renewal notices will not be mailed until October for the 2008 membership year. This will impact "Early Bird". We are accepting renewals NOW!!! Please get the word out to fellow Auxiliary members. Our dues are still \$18.00 for Seniors. Just drop off your check at the Post. THANK YOU ALL!!!!!!!

Georgia Horner

Interested in Taking a Cruise??

I'm putting feelers out to see if anyone would be interested in taking a cruise together. I'm looking at a 7-day Western Caribbean cruise leaving from Galveston and going to Montego Bay, Grand Cayman and Cozumel. We'd sail leaving at 4:00 pm on 11 May, and return on 18 May at 8:00 am. Prices start at \$474 for an interior stateroom to \$669 for an ocean view stateroom to \$850 for a balcony stateroom per person. If you think you might be interested, drop me an email at Post593tx@yahoo.com.



Ross

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Your Money, Rights and Benefits

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



Bush Opposes Military Raise, Better Benefits

With President Bush's popularity scraping bottom in opinion polls, with U.S. casualties rising in Iraq in a force surge that has stretched soldier tours to 15 months, the Bush administration July 10 said it "strongly opposes" key military pay and benefit gains tossed into their fiscal 2008 defense bill. Initiatives the administration "strongly opposes" include:

* A military pay raise for next January of 3.5 percent versus 3 percent endorsed by the White House.

* Lowering the age-60 start of reserve retirement annuities for reserve component members by the length of their future mobilizations.

* Expanding eligibility for Combat-Related Special Compensation to service members forced by combat disabilities to retire short of 20 years.

* Directing pharmaceutical manufacturers to provide the Department of Defense with same price discounts for TRICARE retail pharmacy network that are provided already on medicines dispensed from base pharmacies.

TRICARE Beneficiaries Skip Co-Pays

A two-year test allows some TRICARE beneficiaries to substitute over-the-counter (OTC) versions of certain prescription drugs (such as proton-pump inhibitors) without a copayment. For now, the test includes the TRICARE Mail Order Pharmacy only. Plans call for eventual expansion to retail network pharmacies. TRICARE encourages beneficiaries who have not used the mail order pharmacy in the past, but take medications included in the test, to get information on how to sign up at the TRICARE Mail Order Pharmacy website. Medication classes under consideration for future testing include topical anti-fungals and non-sedating antihistamines.

Agent Orange Likely Used in Okinawa

The U.S. Board of Veterans' Appeals found in 1998 that the defoliant Agent Orange was probably used in Okinawa during the Vietnam War era. This finding is part of a recently uncovered ruling in favor of a former U.S. serviceman who was seeking compensation for prostate cancer that he blamed on his work in Okinawa in the early 1960s. The discovery comes as the U.S. Defense Department has yet to confirm whether Agent Orange was stored or used in Okinawa during the Vietnam War. Hundreds of former U.S. servicemen who were stationed in Okinawa during the Vietnam War have lodged medical compensation claims with the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) citing Agent Orange exposure.

NOTE: Special Election

NOTICE: Nominations for the office of Service Officer and Staff Judge Advocate for this coming year will be taken from the floor on Wednesday, September 5th (General Membership meeting). Elections will occur that evening. If you are interested but cannot attend that night, a friend may nominate you but please give them a signed statement that you are willing to accept the position.