

## Service Officer News (Continued)

Retired pay increases, provided for in statute since 1871, are part of the commitment. Since 1963, COLAs have been tied to the Consumer Price Index (CPI), a Bureau of Statistics metric that measures changes in inflation. Without COLA protection, inflation would erode nearly half of real retired pay value for a 20-year retiree by age 62.

**Key Bills/Status:** No bills on the horizon at this time. The most likely potential vehicles for future COLA threats are Social Security reform proposals that would limit COLAs as a means of reducing long-term costs or Federal budget reduction bills, such as S. 3521, that would establish statutory caps on discretionary spending. The 2005 COLA was 2.7 percent for most recipients of military retired pay, VA disability compensation, Survivor benefit Plan annuities, Social Security, and other federal annuity programs. The 2006 COLA, announced on October 14, 2005 was 4.1%. (Source: MOAA website)



## Rider News

by Brad Pierce, Director  
Post 593 American Legion Riders



Legionaries, Auxiliary, SAL, and Riders of Post 593, we supported several events last month, all being very successful. On 9 September we had several riders represent the Post and ALR at the P-11 Ceremony at Post 2. On 15 September we showed our support at the POW/MIA Remembrance on Randolph AFB. Organizational Day at BAMC gave us an opportunity to meet Active Duty, Reservists and Guard soldiers from Ft Sam. We distributed information about the American Legion and the Riders program and also had not one, but two visits by Gen. Gilman the BAMC Commander. The following Saturday we supported Hugh and Molly Long at Lonesome Dove ranch, giving the wounded soldiers a place to relax and spent some time away from BAMC. Our AL Commander and 1st Vice escorted about 30 Riders to the Audie Murphy VA Hospital on the 30th for the "To Hell and Back" ride. There we turned over some five to six boxes of comfort and hygiene items, which were collected by Carrie Papa during the Legacy Run, and visited with the vets on the long-term care ward. Finally on the 5th, 6th and 7th of Oct, Post 593 played host to three ALR groups from NV, AZ, and NM. On the 6th they delivered about \$85,000 worth of comfort items to the Soldier's Family Assistance Center (SFAC) and visited with the soldiers. Thanks to Stu, our ALR, and Post 593 we showed them first class TX hospitality. The ALR has been running hard for the past three months and our members are getting tired. We have one more large event before the holidays. On 11 Nov (Veterans Day) we will support the Texas Honor Ride from Houston to Ft Sam. The Montgomery Cowboy Church will arrive at Ft Sam and present the SFAC with a check in excess of \$50,000. We will provide support at their refueling stop at Bucees Truck Stop and then feed some 500 plus bikers at the Salado Creek Park on Ft Sam. We can use any support from Legion members to feed these riders. If interested please contact Stu or myself.

*Very Respectfully, Brad*

*Ross*

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## History of the Legion Emblem: Part 3



*The Star - victory symbol of World War I, signalizes as well honor, glory and constancy. The letters U.S. leave no doubt as to the brightest star in the Legion's star.*

## Membership News

By Jack Leanheart, 1st Vice Commander



Hello Everyone. Just your friendly 1st Vice here talking about Membership again. I am sure that all of you have learned of the Dues Increase that goes into effect January 1, 2007. For those who are not aware, the reason for the increase is that Dept. of Texas and National increased their respective dues totaling \$6.00. They had not raised their dues for the past 13 years, so this should hold Post 593 for a long time.

Now, let's chat about what this means to members in the immediate future. Since the increase doesn't take effect until Jan 1, 2007 anyone that has not renewed their membership can really help our Post by doing so before the January deadline. At the moment, \$20 of our dues is sent on to Dept/National. That leaves \$7.50 for our Post. After Jan 1, \$26 will be going onward, leaving only \$1.50 for Post 593. \$6 for each member that renews means a great deal to us. So, SEE GARY AND GET YOUR RENEWALS IN!

This dues increase affects those of you that are considering becoming a Paid-Up-For-Life Member. The savings of becoming a PUFL before Jan 1 are 46% to 47%. Take a moment to review the chart below.

Dues	< 24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54
\$ 27.50	\$ 959	\$ 912	\$ 861	\$ 805	\$ 744	\$ 677	\$ 607
\$ 31.00	\$ 1,404	\$ 1,336	\$ 1,261	\$ 1,179	\$ 1,089	\$ 992	\$ 889
\$\$	\$ 446	\$ 424	\$ 400	\$ 374	\$ 345	\$ 315	\$ 282
Increase							
%	46%	47%	46%	47%	46%	47%	46%
Increase							

Dues	55-59	60-64	65-69	70-74	75-79	80-84	85 +
\$ 27.50	\$ 534	\$ 460	\$ 387	\$ 319	\$ 256	\$ 199	\$ 162
\$ 31.00	\$ 782	\$ 685	\$ 564	\$ 484	\$ 363	\$ 282	\$ 242
\$\$	\$ 248.3	\$ 225.6	\$ 177.2	\$ 164.6	\$ 107.2	\$ 83.6	\$ 79.8
Increase							

As you can clearly see, becoming a PUFL now has its benefits! Here is an example: A member that is 50 years old would have to pay \$607 to become a PUFL now. That same individual would have to pay \$889 after Jan 1, 2007. Like I said, now is the time to consider the PUFL Program.

For those of you that do not know about the PUFL Program, here is how it works. You determine how much your PUFL Dues would be and either pay in full or pay 10% and have 12 months to pay the balance. National will send you a coupon booklet. If you have already paid your 2007 dues, that amount will be deducted from your PUFL Dues. The benefits are 1) You never have to remember to pay your yearly dues again. National will send you your card each year. 2) You will always be an Early Bird. 3) You NEVER have to be concerned about future dues increases. You are locked in.

Give this serious thought. See myself of Gary Bartel if you have any questions.

*Jack*