



William M. Randolph, Post 593

The American Legion

Of The United States of America
326 W. Legion Drive, Converse, TX 78109
(210) 658-1111

E-mail: Post593tx@yahoo.com <http://www.Post593.org>
Post Home Manager: Terry Smith



Hours of Operation

Mon-Thur: 1pm-11:00pm

Friday: 1pm - 1am

Saturday: 12pm - 1am

Sunday: 12pm-10:30pm

(Hours may vary due to business)

Post 593 Officers:

Commander: Dave Paris
1st Vice: Joe Falco
2nd Vice: Christine Reed
Adjutant: Gary Bartel
Finance Officer: John Orff
Chaplain: Dennis Ducharme
Judge Advocate: Jack Leanhart
Historian: Ken Echerd
Service Officer: Shannon Lynde
Sergeant At Arms: Greg Trudo
Hubmaster: Christy Miller

Members at Large:

Jim Evans, Rudy Guastella, Jan Lineback, Brad Martin, Terry O'Meara, Felisa Ramirez

Auxiliary Officers:

President: Pati Bennett
Vice President: Denise Yanus
Secretary: Sandy Vinson
Treasurer: Irma Ducharme
Historian: Diane Echerd
Chaplain: Michelle Smith
Sgt At Arms: Brenda Weeks

Members at Large:

Candy Zavala, Hilda Bray, Isabelle Siepker

ALR Officers:

Director: Peter Muth
Asst Director: Brad Martin
Secretary: Sandy Vinson
Treasurer: Ron Pompa
Road Captain: Terry Smith
Membership: Pati Bennett
Sgt. At Arms: Ron Pompa
Chaplain: Tim Vinson
Service Officer: Clayton Smith
Historian: Jim Evans

Members at Large:

Efrain Gonzales, Ron Devlin, Andy Selko

Sons of the American Legion:

Commander: Henry Creech
1st Vice: Dan McGinnis
2nd Vice: Rob Bryant
Adjutant: Joe Guastella
Finance: Henry Creech
Chaplain: Tim Vinson
Historian: Ken Echerd
Sgt at Arms: Dale Turner
Advisor: Dennis Ducharme

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Commander's Corner

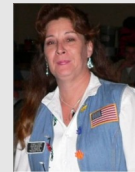
Where did October go? Every week was packed, and from the looks of the calendar, November will too!

I'm thankful for so much, but the 2nd Tuesday is a general election day. Don't forget to exercise the right to vote that you helped defend. Get educated on the propositions, then vote!

Thanks to the drought, some homes in the area experienced shifting once more, and our Post home was no exception. Additions made it difficult to keep all the subfloor moist. But, we made it through and hope for some rain to make it alright. I am thankful every time I drive to the Post, because so many care and keep fixing/improving the home and the grounds. More shale has been spread out back, work is beginning on the deck cover for the outside cooking crews, the flowers by the door are growing again and some new signs are up for bartender parking closer to the building. Thanks to all you do'ers!

A big salute to Felisa Ramirez and her entire Halloween committee. Decorations were great and the local children enjoyed a fantastic evening. We do make a difference in the community, and it's being noticed. The mayor and city council presented a plaque to us for our involvement in the 9-11

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Auxiliary News

What a wonderful October. We had a great convention on October first. Thanks you to Candy and Michelle for a wonderful lunch during that event. I hope all you ladies got something nice for "bosses" day. The Halloween party was a good time. Thanks to all who participated in that party.

The Holidays are coming and we have so much going on. It will be great to see all the families getting together and spending time with one another. I was very blessed this last week to be able to spend time with family I had not seen in 21 years. Something to remember... no matter what time of year.... Never forget family! It was a wonderful time and I hope, as the holidays get closer, that everyone gets a chance to be with family at some point. (not necessarily the ones that are relatives) .

November is a busy month so please be alert to happenings at the post and come on out and have some fun. Don't forget, early bird dinner

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(Commander's Corner Continued from page 1)

ceremony and it will be on display at the next General Membership meeting. Now it's time to ask when you go grocery shopping, throw an extra canned or boxed good in your cart and drop it off at the Post for the holiday baskets. Remember, "There but by the grace of God go I." Let's help struggling families in our local area.

For God and Country,

—David Paris
Commander

(Auxiliary News Continued from page 1)

is Nov. 11th and that is also Veterans day. There will be a ceremony at Ft Sam. This is an important ceremony so I hope some of you can attend.

As we all start our holiday preparations, I pray for you all to be safe and enjoy.

Sincerely,

—Pati Bennett
President, ALA Unit 593

Holiday Food Baskets

Wow, how the year has flown by. Once again the holidays are upon us, and the time has arrived for us to once again think about those less fortunate than ourselves. There will be a box at the Legion Hall to accept your donations of can goods and dry goods to help fill food baskets for those in need of a Thanksgiving dinner this season. Please get your donations in on or before the 18th, as we will be delivering the baskets on the 19th.

Anyone and everyone wishing to help are welcome. If you know of a family in our area desperately in need, please submit their name-address-phone number and number of family members along with kids ages to anyone on the executive committee or e-mail me at master-refl@yahoo.com.

We will be having Thanksgiving dinner at the post on Thanksgiving day. The post will once again supply the meat for the dinner and ask only that you bring a side dish or a dessert for the meal. Football game that day and good times to be had by all. Hope to see you there.

Be watching the newsletter in December for the Christmas events. Until then; the best of Holidays to you and yours.

—Shannon Lynde
Service Officer

2nd Vice News and Notes

Keep in mind as the holidays approach we have many of veterans and their families that need our assistance. Please consider donating a Turkey, non-perishable food items or cash to help us with our holiday baskets.

There will be no Steak Night in November or December, it will resume again on January 28th.

Breakfast is the 2nd Saturday of EVERY month, \$6.00 for Eggs to order, omelets, bacon, sausage, hash browns, biscuits & gravy, French toast, pancakes, coffee & juice. This is open to the public so please invite your neighbors.

We will be serving Thanksgiving Dinner at the Post, bring a side dish and join us for a great meal with your family and friends. We will have deep fried, smoked and baked Turkey. I will need a few volunteers to help with set up and tear down on that day. We will eat about 2pm.

We will have a box to collect snacks, books, magazines and toiletries for goodie boxes going to our troops.

—Chrissy

Did you know we can make some extra money recycling common household items? Well we can, and we do. Save up your used aluminum cans, batteries, copper, brass and newspapers. Contact John Orff for more information.

We would like to fill the picture boards near the pool table with photos our Active Duty members and Military family members. Please bring in anything you'd like to





Rider's Report

What a beautiful time of year, perfect weather for riding, and wonderful friends to enjoy life with. As we are enjoying the beginnings of Fall, I would like to thank all that assisted in supporting the post Halloween party for the kids. I am glad to see that everyone enjoyed the adult and children's parties. It was a wonderful end to a wonderful month and was topped off with a visit to the VA. These visits are important to our veterans and highlight why we ride together.

As we move into the Thanksgiving month we will support the Texas Honor Ride on the 12th of November. We will refuel the group from Houston at Buccee's as they bring their sizable donations to San Antonio. After the refueling we will honor them with the 2nd annual operation overpass. Last year was very rewarding as we stood together with our nations colors on the overpasses as the veterans supported our wounded warriors. This year is expected to be even larger as we attempt to have flags at all six of the overpasses. We are thankful for the outpouring of support from the local schools, ROTC programs and Post 593.

We will join up On November 18th -20th at Canyon Lake for our next Hail and Farewell. This will be a wonderful weekend to enjoy life, riding, and the camaraderie of our American Legion Riders. Please see Brad Martin for reservation details.

This month is an opportunity for us all to give thanks. Thanks for what we have, friends, and family. Please show this thanks by giving to those that are in need. This may be spending extra time talking to someone that is alone, or helping someone in need of assistance, or inviting someone without local family over for the holiday meal. We are so blessed to have the lives, friends, and families that we do, let us show our thanks by sharing our time, energy, prayers, or assistance to those in need.

"Do what you can, when you can"

—Danny "Peter" Muth
Director, Post 593 Riders

The electronic Newsletter Mailing List is building nicely, and we'd like to add you to the list. The more folks we add, the less we have to send, saving printing and postage costs. To get your name on the electronic delivery list, please send an email to alpost593newsletter@yahoo.com. Thanks for your support of this effort to save some \$\$\$!

Veterans Day Discounts and Freebies

Restaurants

Applebee's - All veterans and active duty military eat free from a limited menu at Applebee's on Veterans Day.

Chili's — Veterans and active duty dine for free from a special limited six item menu on Veterans Day.

Golden Corral — Golden Corral Restaurants' Military Appreciation Monday free dinner will be available on November 15, from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. Military retirees, veterans, active duty, National Guard and Reserves are all welcome.

Hooters — All Veterans and active duty eat free. The free entrees must be selected from a special Veterans Day menu.

Krispy Kreme – All active-duty, retirees & veterans get a free doughnut on Veterans Day. Be sure to call ahead to verify your local Krispy Kreme is participating.

Outback Steakhouse — Veterans and active-duty military get a complimentary Bloomin' Onion and non-alcoholic beverage on Veterans Day.

Texas Roadhouse – Free meal from opening until 4pm. on Veterans Day. Call ahead to your local restaurant for more information.

T.G.I. Friday's – Veterans and Service members Buy one get one free from Nov 11–14. Contact your nearest location for more details on their Veterans Day BOGO offer.

Retail

The Dollar General — Veterans, Service members (Active, Guard, and Reserve), and their immediate families will receive a 10-percent discount with a Veterans Day coupon. The coupon may be found in store circular ads or by asking a sales associate.

Home Depot — Offers a 10 percent discount to all Veterans during Veterans Day, Memorial Day and Independence Day.

Lowe's — All veterans receive the 10-percent discount on Veteran's Day, Memorial Day and the Fourth of July. The offer is available in stores only and is limited to in-stock and special-order purchases of up to \$5,000.

Sam's Club — Sam's give away 36,000 collapsible Hugo Canes on Veterans Day to military veterans in need of mobility assistance. Sam's Club will require membership for this offer, but proof of service may be necessary.

Amazon.com – Free .Veterans Day Honor. MP3 album download. The album includes 12 songs by The Bands and Ensembles of the U.S. Armed Forces.

Cabela's Outdoor Store – Offers their employee discount to all veterans, active-duty military and reserves, law enforcement, fire and EMS personnel November 11-12. Discounts vary from 5% to 50%, depending on the item.

Fashion Bug – 20% off all plus-size and misses clothing purchases with a copy of military ID or spouse's military ID.

Sports Clips Haircuts - The men's hair salon chain is offering a free haircut to active military and veterans on Veterans Day.

Foot Locker — Veterans, Service members (Active, Guard, and Reserve), and their immediate families with a Foot Locker Veterans Advantage Card receive a 20 percent discount every day of the year. That offer is good both online and at any store location, including Foot Locker, Lady Foot Locker, Kids Foot Locker, Footaction and Champs Sports — even on sale items.

Veterans' Legislation Passed in Congress

Last week, on October 10, 2011, the House of Representatives passed five veterans bills, H.R. 2074, H.R. 2349, H.R. 2302, H.R. 1025 and H.R. 2433.

H.R. 2433, the Veterans Opportunity to Work Act of 2011, introduced by House Veterans' Affairs Committee Chairman Jeff Miller (FL), offers college training to unemployed veterans. The legislation allows 100,000 unemployed veterans ages 35 through 60 to apply for benefits from the Department of Labor (DOL). Eligible veterans could choose to enhance their skills with up to a year of training for high-demand career fields. It provides an opportunity for unemployed veterans aged 35 to 60 to gain new skills by offering them a temporary education and training benefit. The program would allow these veterans to enroll in courses at community colleges and technical training schools. Education payments would only be payable to veterans enrolled in education or training courses that lead to an associate degree, certificate, or similar qualification, in a high demand occupation as determined by the Secretary of Labor.

To qualify for the retraining assistance, veterans must be unemployed; at least 35, but not more than 60 years of age; discharged from active duty service under honorable conditions; and ineligible to receive any other educational assistance from VA.

Approval of this legislation also makes participation in the Transition Assistance Program mandatory for most military service members. It would mandate that the DOL's licensure and certification demonstration project to identify and to eliminate barriers between military training and civilian licensure or credentialing for military occupational specialties. Enactment of the legislation would require DOL, in concert with state workforce agencies, to implement new performance measures to evaluate the priority of services provided to eligible veterans and mandates that Disabled Veterans' Outreach Program Specialists and Local Veterans' Employment Representatives' sole duty will be to assist eligible veterans in finding suitable employment.

DAV is pleased to support this bill as it makes important improvements to support veterans transitioning to civilian life, especially those who return with disabilities from their service and provides greater opportunities for training for unemployed veterans allowing them to improve skills, potentially leading to employment.

H.R. 2074, the Veterans Sexual Assault Prevention and Health Care Enhancement Act, introduced by Representative Ann Marie Buerkle (NY), is a comprehensive measure that requires the VA to report and track sexual assaults at its medical facilities and train employees on security issues relating to such assaults. The bill also includes provisions that authorize increased flexibility in establishing payment rates for nursing home care provided by veterans state nursing homes; improve rehabilitative services for veterans with traumatic brain injury; and clarify the use of service dogs on VA property. DAV supports these provisions in H.R. 2074, under DAV Resolution Nos. 193, 184, 190, and 212 respectively.

H.R. 2349, the Veterans' Benefits Act of 2011, introduced by House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs Chairman Jon Runyan (NJ), requires the VA to carry out a pilot program to assess the skills and training provided to claims processors at the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA). The bill also authorizes VBA to use electronic communication to provide notice to claimants and limits its duty to assist claimants in obtaining private medical records under certain circumstances. The bill also reinstates criminal penalties for anyone charging or attempting to charge veterans unauthorized fees for the preparation, presentation, or prosecution of a claim prior to a notice of disagreement being filed with the Department of Veterans Affairs. DAV does not have a resolution regarding this particular bill; however, we are not opposed to passage of the bill.

H.R. 2302, introduced by Representative Marlin A. Stutzman (IN), directs the VA secretary to notify Congress at least 180 days before a conference sponsored by the Department that are at least three days in length, attended by 20 or more individuals and have an estimated cost of at least \$5,000.00. The Committee, in its oversight role, wished to monitor such expenses more closely given the growing deficit, and scarce discretionary funding resources. DAV does not have a position on this bill as we have no applicable resolution.

H.R. 1025, introduced by Representative Timothy Walz (MN), provides honorary veteran status to individuals who served at least 20 years in the reserves, are younger than 60 and were never called to active duty. DAV has no resolution on this matter, but expressed our concern that, if passed, it may lead to misunderstandings by the public about those veterans who earned the designation of veteran and their subsequent benefits as compared to "honorary veterans." The DAV advised the Committee that if they did choose to move forward with this legislation then it should clearly specify that "honorary veterans" would not be entitled to the same benefits provided to those who served on active duty.

Now that these bills have been approved by the House, they go to the Senate, where they may be considered along with other legislation that the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee has approved.

The Senate passed S. 894, the Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2011, introduced by Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee Chairman Patty Murray (WA), which would direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) in the rates of veterans disability compensation, additional compensation for dependents, the clothing allowance for certain disabled veterans and dependency and indemnity compensation for surviving spouses and children.

On October 18, 2011, it was announced that there would be a 3.6 percent COLA for Social Security recipients next year. The Senate immediately and unanimously passed S. 894 to apply this same COLA increase to veterans' disability compensation payments. Earlier this year, the House approved companion legislation, H.R. 1407. Once the COLA legislation is sent to the President and signed into law, it will provide a much-needed increase for the 3.2 million disabled veterans who receive monthly disability compensation payments as a result of injuries or illnesses suffered in service to the nation.

The House and Senate must now decide which bill will be sent to the President before a COLA can become effective for veterans and their dependents and survivors.

New Address for NPRC

The National Personnel Records Center has a new address: National Personnel Records Center, 1 Archives Drive, St Louis, MO 63138-1002

As a reminder, all retirees and Honorably Discharged veterans should ensure their family knows the location of their military Separation Document (DD Form 214). Separation Documents issued after 1969 may contain a Social Security Number which could be used for identity theft. Storing the Separation Document in a safe deposit box may make it difficult to retrieve immediately upon the death of the retiree or honorably discharged veteran. The better storage locations are:

1-Fire safe in a secure location of the house. Be sure loved ones know the location and have a key or combination.

2-In a watertight food container (Glad, Tupperware) in the refrigerator. Most refrigerators are fire resistant. (As a bonus, everyone has a refrigerator, not everyone has a fire resistant storage box.) Be sure to inform your spouse and relatives where to locate your Separation Document - and any other important papers.


As a reminder, the preferred method of submitting a request to the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) is via the Internet. Please note that in some cases using a browser other than Internet Explorer may create problems with data entry. As you know, the NPRC provides copies of documents from military personnel records to authorized requesters. Our web-based application will provide better service on these requests by eliminating our mailroom processing time. Also, since the requester will be prompted to supply all information essential for us to process the request, delays that occur when we must go back for more information will be minimized. You may access this application here <<http://naus.informz.net/z/cjUucD9taT0xODE1MTgyJnA9MSZ1PTEwMDAwNzk0MjYmbGk9ODM4MDQ5Nw/index.html>> .

This improved on-line request process should be used INSTEAD OF Standard Form 180 for requests from the veteran or the veteran's next of kin, if possible. Your assistance with this initiative will allow us, and you, to better serve the needs of our veterans. If you do not wish to use the Internet, you should use Standard Form 180. To get a copy of the form click here <<http://naus.informz.net/z/cjUucD9taT0xODE1MTgyJnA9MSZ1PTEwMDAwNzk0MjYmbGk9ODM4MDQ5OA/index.html>> .

Bill West
State Adjutant
The American Legion
Dept of Texas

American Legion Post 593



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
 Join us on Facebook. Look up Post 593 TX to join		ALR Exec Mtg 7:30	General Membership Meeting 7:30 pm		Shuffle Board Challenge 7:30 pm	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	Dart League 7 pm Shuffleboard League 7:30PM	ALR Gen Mbr Mtg 7:30 pm		Dart Payout 8 pm Grill open 6-8 PM	Chicken Fried Steak Dinner 6-8PM Early Bird Dinner Shuffle Board Challenge 7:30 pm	Breakfast 8-11 am Texas Honor Ride
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
			Post Exec Mtg, 7:30 pm			Dart Tournament 7:30 PM
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Ferret Club Meeting 1PM-4:30PM				Thanksgiving Dinner Meats provided, bring a covered dish		
27	28	29	30			
	Dart League 7 pm	Dart League 7 pm			Shuffle Board Challenge 7:30 pm	
	Dart League 7 pm					

November 2011

Phone: 210-658-1111

General Membership Meeting 2 Nov 7:30 PM

Legion Meal will be served from 5-7PM

Dart Payout 10 Nov 8PM
Grill open 6-8

Chicken Fried Steak Early Bird Dinner 11 Nov 6-8 PM

Breakfast, 12 Oct 8-11AM

Texas Honor Rider 12 Nov

Dart Tourney 19 Nov 7:30

Thanksgiving Dinner 24 Nov

