



# 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](mailto: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,

#### **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  
Members at Large:  
Jim Evan, Efrain Gonzales, Ron Devlin

#### **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

## SEPTEMBER 2011



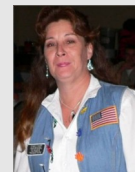
### *Commander's Corner*

Here's hoping September will bring cooler relief to the region! September has our Labor Day picnic, the Hensley fundraiser, a solemn program for remembrance of 9-11, some training, and ends with NIOC. It will be a busy month!

At our General Membership meeting we will have youth who went to Boys and Girls State share some thoughts on their experiences. This is always a crowd pleaser! We will also have a special election for a vacant member-at-large position on the executive board. Don't forget the meal before the meeting—always good food and you don't have to cook at home!

Many monitored the U.S. map of our Post Home Manager's ride in the Hoka Hey. Terry did the ride again this year as well as the Legacy Run—which meant someone else had to monitor the ATM in his absence. I will publicly apologize for the times it was not working as Terry did his best to train this old dog – we just didn't go over every possible thing that could go wrong—like a \$10 getting caught in a roller that isn't even visible and error

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### *Auxiliary News*

Yah September! Of course for most, that means the start of cooler weather, but Not here in Texas. It's still summer. I hope everyone is staying out of the heat when possible and staying hydrated. Also, be sure to look in on neighbors and friends, especially the elderly, to make sure they are doing ok.

For some, the end of August was a busy time as it was back to school time. The Auxiliary got a break from the busy schedule that is the norm, but now the busy begins.

Labor day will be celebrated at the post on the 4th and should be a great time. Come on out and bring a dish.

Then Hensley Fundraiser is the 10th. This is a wonderful family that will benefit from your participation, so check into this and come on out.

This year marks 10 years since the events of 9-

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*(Commander's Corner Continued from page 1)*

codes that aren't in the book. We'll be back to normal now. On Saturday, September 24<sup>th</sup> we will host a "Legion College" course from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. Past Commander Karen Paris will be presenting the program, and for \$5 you get to keep the Extension Course Institute booklets and learn or refresh your knowledge on Legion family information. Yes, there are parts pertaining to the Auxiliary and Sons also. Be prepared because the four hours will go by quickly. A short quiz at the end of the course then we'll send those in to National and you'll have a new pin to wear! I've attended four sessions over the years, it keeps getting updated, and there is always something new that I wasn't aware of—so yes, you can teach an old dog new tricks.

At different times we post information on bulletin boards at the Post. Please stop and take a look when you come visit. Many times the information is short notice, such as the recent Texas Veterans Land Board program held last month at the Live Oak Civic Center. We will also do our best to put the info on our website, Facebook, video boards, etc., but many times it comes to our attention late. We do not want to flood the electronic mailing list with numerous emails as that's reserved for our newsletter to publicize events and members have already expressed concern about additional "junk" mail. Since we are asking our members to sign up for electronic email of the newsletter, we don't want to flood inboxes with other information. So, come on by once a week and see what other activities are going on that may be of interest to you.

For God and Country,

—David Paris  
Commander

**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.**

**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](mailto:alpost593newsletter@yahoo.com). Thanks for your support of this effort to save some \$\$\$!**

**We would like to fill the picture boards near the pool table with photos our Military family members and ourselves. Please bring in anything you like to share with the Post Membership.**

*(Auxiliary News Continued from page 1)*

The post will be participating in a ceremony at Converse Park. The post has gotten together with the City for this event some come out and just see what can happen when they work together.

DEC is this month in Austin.

Don't forget Night In Ole Converse. Good time to be had by all.

Also please remember to join us for our monthly meetings. They are the First Wednesday of each month at 7:30. Come out and see what the Auxiliary is planning and please, by all means, bring any ideas you may have with you.

Don't forget to renew your membership for 2012.

Everyone have a safe (and coooooo) September.

Sincerely,

—Pati Bennett  
President, ALA Unit 593

### **Fundraiser for Hensley Girls**

We lost Nicholas Hensley last month when he passed on after receiving multiple injuries as a result of an IED in Afghanistan. Nick left behind a wife and 3 small daughters. We will be raising money that Gloria can use for the Nora, Emma, and Anna as she sees fit. What will be happening you ask? This is what is being planned:

Date: Sept 10<sup>th</sup> at Post 593

Events: Raffles, Silent Auction,

Live Auction, Reverse Raffle,  
Food, Dunking Booth, Music

Time: 2pm - ???

We would like to show Gloria that we sincerely appreciate the sacrifice that Nick made for our country and the sacrifices she has made while he served overseas.

Please, put this date on your calendars.

Tickets will be coming soon.

Thank You,

—Jack Leanhart



## Rider's Report

I would like to go on record as hoping September brings some cooler weather for riding and enjoying life. After such a hot August, I do not believe it can get any hotter, even in South Texas. The end of September will bring Night in Old Converse. We will be assisting in parking as one of our annual fundraisers. I hope to see you all there supporting our causes and our local community at the same time.

With the summer coming to a close, and everyone back from vacations, trips, and family events, it looks like a good time to come together with our riding family. Let's get out and put some miles on the bikes and spend time doing what we all love to do, ride. We are trying to set up more rides, short rides, long rides, destination rides, and pub crawls. If you are planning a ride, please email [alr593info@gmail.com](mailto:alr593info@gmail.com) with the info. Anyone can set up a ride, so put it out there and let's ride together. We will set up rides on Saturdays and Sundays to allow everyone the opportunity to participate. If a ride looks right for you, show up and enjoy. If the style, length, or destination is not up your alley, then put out an email for where you want to ride. There is nothing wrong with having a couple of rides on the same day, the important thing is to avail the opportunity for us to ride together.

The key to success in any organization is communication. This requires people to talk and listen. The members at large and the assistant director are preparing a questionnaire to send out to get ideas on what the membership is looking to get more involved in. If you have an idea to increase involvement please express your ideas. If you don't want to wait, please get in touch with the members at large so they can pass on your ideas.

Expressing your ideas will be half of the communication process. The next step is to listen to the variety of ideas and opinions that are expressed. This can be done by reviewing the emails that go out, by visiting the rider forum, and by attending the rider meetings. I will guarantee that you will not personally agree with all of the ideas expressed, but that does not minimize the importance of those ideas. We are a large enough organization, that we can favor different ideas, and make them happen. Get involved in the events and rides that you can, and the ones that you enjoy, but please allow others their opportunity to do the same.

"Do what you can, when you can"

—Danny "Peter" Muth  
Director, Post 593 Riders

## 9-11 Anniversary Remembrance



**Folks, 2011 marks the 10th Anniversary of the horrible September 11 2001 tragedy.**

**Please join us at Converse City Park on Sept 11, 2011, at 8AM for a remembrance ceremony and reception to follow at Post 593.**



### MILITARY APPRECIATION

~ A SIZZLING SALUTE! ~

### \$49 MILITARY PRIME TIME ANYTIME!

Ruth's Chris Steak House \$49 **MILITARY PRIME TIME ANYTIME** Menu is offered daily for Military men & women—active duty or retired—and their families...includes a glass of Murrieta's Well wine for a **SIZZLING SALUTE!** We want our military to enjoy a Ruth's Chris experience and in some small way demonstrate our appreciation for your service to our country.

Enjoy a Complete 3 Course Meal that includes a Starter, Entrée, Side Dish & Dessert & A Glass of Murrieta's Well Wine ~ The Whip or The Spur

#### Choice of Starter

#### Soup du Jour

**Steak House Salad** ~ Mixed greens with grape tomatoes, garlic croutons, red onions & your choice of dressing

**Caesar Salad** ~ Crisp romaine hearts tossed with Romano cheese & our creamy Caesar dressing

#### Choice of Entrée

**Filet** ~ 8 oz. of tender, corn-fed Midwestern beef, broiled to your liking

**Stuffed Chicken Breast** ~ Oven roasted double chicken breast stuffed with garlic herb cheese

**Market Fresh Seafood Selection** ~ Your server will describe the seafood our chef has selected for today

#### Choose One of our Famous Side Dishes

**Sautéed Mushrooms**

**Mashed Potatoes**

**Creamed Spinach**

#### Choice of Dessert

**Cheesecake** ~ Creamy cheesecake with a pecan crust served with blueberry sauce

**Chocolate Chunk Bread Pudding** ~ Chocolate lovers delight with chunks of white & semi-sweet chocolate, mixed with chopped pecans & topped with caramel

**Ice Cream or Sorbet**

No Substitutions Please!

\*Must present Military ID Card

Complimentary Valet Parking & Downtown Shuttle  
1170 E. Commerce @ Sunset Station  
Call for Reservations 210.227.8847

Complimentary Valet Parking  
7720 Jones Maltzberger @ Concord Plaza  
Call for Reservations 210.821.5051

[ruthschrisSA.com](http://ruthschrisSA.com)

*The City of Converse, Texas*

*and*

*The American Legion, Post 593*

*requests the honour of your presence*

*at the Tenth Anniversary memorial service for*

*the Victims of the September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2001 attacks*

*on Sunday, the eleventh of September, 2011*

*at eight o'clock am*

*Converse City Park*

*Converse, Texas.*

*Reception*

# Use Email to Talk with Your VA Doctor

**HOUSTON** - Are you tired of leaving messages or playing phone tag with your VA health care provider?

A new secure, online communication tool called "Secure Messaging" is now available for Veterans at the Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center (MEDVAMC) through the VA's My HealtheVet website at [www.myhealth.va.gov](http://www.myhealth.va.gov).

This new communication tool offers guaranteed response to routine matters and a direct line to your health care provider. With Secure Messaging, patients have 24-hour access to their Health Care Team, feel more in control of their care, and enjoy personalized attention from their health care provider. For health care providers, this access improves the patient/provider collaboration by increasing the opportunities for information sharing. More importantly, Secure Messaging minimizes telephone tag, saves time, and uses the VA's electronic patient record system to streamline recordkeeping.

"Securing Messaging enables my patients to reach me whenever it is convenient for them. They can send a message before they go to work and when they get home, the answer is waiting. This new tool lets the patient focus on what is important to them, instead of waiting for a phone call or their next appointment," said Ikedieze Chukwu, M.D., Primary Care physician. "This is an excellent tool that greatly improves communication with my patients."

If you are a Veteran patient at a VA facility using My HealtheVet, you will notice a new Secure Messaging Tab. You can find out if your health care team is using Secure Messaging by creating a new message. If you see the name of one of your providers as a choice in the "To" field, then you know you can send a message to the health care team led by your provider.

"I can easily contact my patients with lab results, address specific medical concerns, and even refill medications before they arrive for their next appointment," said Carol Sparks, R.N. "This time-saving feature is great for both my patients and our clinical staff."

To take advantage of Secure Messaging, register at [www.myhealth.va.gov](http://www.myhealth.va.gov) and begin the In-Person Authentication (IPA) process. This ensures your personal information remains secure over the Internet. To complete the IPA process, visit your Primary Care Clinic or the Release of Information Office at MEDVAMC, or any VA outpatient clinic.

For more information about Secure Messaging, contact Curtis Bergeron, MyHealtheVet Coordinator, at 713-791-1414, ext. 6348 or [curtis.bergeron@va.gov](mailto:curtis.bergeron@va.gov).

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*Awarded re-designation for Magnet Recognition for Excellence in Nursing Services in 2008, the Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center serves as the primary health care provider for more than 120,000 veterans in southeast Texas. Veterans from around the country are referred to the MEDVAMC for specialized diagnostic care, radiation therapy, surgery, and medical treatment including cardiovascular surgery, gastrointestinal endoscopy, nuclear medicine, ophthalmology, and treatment of spinal cord injury and diseases. The MEDVAMC is home to a Post Traumatic Stress Disorder Clinic; Network Polytrauma Center; an award-winning Cardiac and General Surgery Program; Liver Transplant Center; VA Epilepsy and Cancer Centers of Excellence; VA Substance Abuse Disorder Quality Enhancement Research Initiative; Health Services Research & Development Center of Excellence; VA Rehabilitation Research of Excellence focusing on mild to moderate traumatic brain injury; Mental Illness Research, Education and Clinical Center; and one of the VA's six Parkinson's Disease Research, Education, and Clinical Centers. Including the outpatient clinics in Beaumont, Conroe, Galveston, Houston, Lufkin, and Richmond, MEDVAMC outpatient clinics logged more than one million outpatient visits in fiscal year 2010. For the latest news releases and information about the MEDVAMC, visit [www.houston.va.gov](http://www.houston.va.gov).*

**Philly Cheese Steaks**  
**Steak Night**  
**30 Sept 6-8PM**