



American Legion Post 379
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Bedford, TX 76021

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NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2015

COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Well, another month just flew by. All the Veteran activities were outstanding. We participated in the Grapevine Veterans day parade on 7 November. Many thanks to Dennis Gossett and the honor guard that presented the colors at the Cowboys game on 8 November 2015. On Veterans Day they presented the colors at the Texas Road house. We also assisted them with setting up a POW/MIA table for the day which was well received. The Honor Guard had several activities this last month also. Thanksgiving at the post was presented by your Legion and the Auxiliary. By the time you read this we will have new carpet in are canteen area donated by Pat Rizos.

We have many activities at the post in December ending the year. 5 December Eulless Parade of lights. Those who ride in the parade, will assemble at Trinity High School Parking lot, time to be announced. 6 December is Paint and Sip, a fun afternoon for all. On 7 December we will remember Pearl Harbor Day with Ribs and Sausage by Ronnie Mac and Beans and potato salad by your commander. Don't forget 12 December is Toys for Tots. On 13 December the post will close at 6PM for the officers and employee Christmas party.

Military related days December:

12/01/15 - Civil Air Patrol (USAF Auxiliary) Birthday

12/07/15 - Pearl Harbor Day

12/12/15 - National Wreaths Across America

12/13/12 - National Guard Birthday

Please be safe during this holiday season and let's remember Jesus is the reason for the season. Merry Christmas to all. Bring any concerns or ideas you have to me so we can continue to improve our post.

We still have tickets for the Texas Safety Duet (Glock and Taser). Drawing at the start of the December Executive Board Meeting 12/17/15.

Mike Regan – Commander

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AUXILIARY NEWS

Can you believe it's already December?!

Hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving. The Post apparently had a good turnout for Thanksgiving dinner. Thanks to all that donated and brought it all together.

Just a few recaps from November that you should know.... The chicken & dumpling dinner by Mark W. & T went well and of course Mary Hall and her "grab bags!" Over \$250 was raised for cancer research!

The next night we had Gisela's stuffed cabbage dinner and Judy Davidson held the annual bake sale for Girls State. The dinner was for Scholarships and raised \$280. The bake sale raised \$504! And a good time was included! And that's just the weekend before Thanksgiving! There's a lot of great work going on for our Programs.

We also boxed up all the donations you gave for our troops. Everyone was wonderful in giving so much. We had 3 different groups of men and women soldiers and ended up with a total of 21 boxes that went to Afghanistan. Thank everyone for making it so successful!!

We have a very busy month now. There are a lot of dates to mention, so don't forget to load your calendar.

Our next general meeting will be Thursday, December 5th at 7:00. Please come and help with ideas and planning. We are having more and more members coming and it's a wonderful time.

Saturday, December 12th is our Toys for Tots. The Marines will be here along with our Cub Scouts. Come out and enjoy the fun for such a good cause. It's from 10 to 4:00.

On Sunday, the 13th, we will hold the quarterly kitchen planning meeting at 3:30. If you are interested in cooking in the kitchen on a Friday or Saturday, come to the meeting!

Still going, don't stop with the calendar yet!.....

Wednesday, Dec. 16th will be the Annual Auxiliary Christmas Party. Bring a finger dish and a gift for the Chinese Gift Exchange. There is a \$25.00 limit for the gifts. Starts at 6:30! Last year we even had Santa Claus! If you can, please come and join the fun!

On Friday, the 18th, will be the District Christmas Party at Post 297 in Benbrook. There will be light food and if you would like to participate in a Chinese gift exchange, bring a \$10-\$15 dollar generic gift. (no gag gifts please). Starts at 7:00. If interested, maybe we can get a carpool going. Just let one of the Officers know.

Then of course, there's the New Year's Eve party! I think that's it for now. Everyone be safe out there and have a wonderful Christmas holiday!

God Bless

Remember Service, not Self

Kathy Bigley – Unit President

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LEGION 1ST VICE UPDATE

Seasons Greetings Post,

I wish to thank the Honor Guard for all their hard work and dedication last month in a very busy month! I would like to challenge each member to recruit a new member for the Post. We are currently setting at 66 % of our annual goal or 813 members of the needed 1217 to reach goal. I would like us to be the largest Post in Texas again. We were beat by S. Houston last year, with your help we can be the largest again! I hope you had a great Thanksgiving and hope you have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year coming up. Toys for Tots is December 12 lets outdo what we did last year!

Dennis Gossett - 1st Vice Commander

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AUXILIARY MEMBERSHIP

ALA FOR VETERANS – SERVICE NOT SELF

Thank you to all our members who came to the Early Bird-Veterans Day Party, you brought us up to 66% of our 584 goal. Leaving us 195 short of our goal, with 120 senior members who have not renewed as of November 28. Keep them coming ladies and don't forget to talk about us to get those new members.

You are the ones that keep us going to serve our veterans as a way to thank them for our FREEDOM.

NOTICE: ALL club privileges will be suspended JANUARY 1, if you do not have your 2016 membership card. Bartenders have to verify everyone and since we have 4 different bartenders you may be asked more than once... So mail or drop off your renewal ASAP. Be sure to renew by December 27th, in time to process paperwork.

To our Juniors who are in their junior year of high school, check out the Auxiliary Web Site, alatexas.org, for your opportunity to go to **Texas Bluebonnet Girls State Program**. It is a **free** Auxiliary program for you. See your school counselor or contact Judy Davidson, 817/301-8598.

The 2016 Honorary Life Member drawing went to Amber Mercer. She is a seven year member. Eligible through her father, Billy Coleman, who served during Vietnam and is a member of Grapevine post 333.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY – DECEMBER BABIES: Harley Atkins, Jr. Aux.; Ariana Bacon, Jr. Aux.; Amy Berken, Jr. Aux.; Eva Boyle; Tammy Palmer; Drew Cook, Jr. Aux.; Michelle Cook; Joyce Croxen; Jennifer Daggett; Eilene Gayhart; Denise Gillespie; Judie Grau; Mary Jo Grelle; Laurie Hancock; Patti Hollowell; Alexis Homsby, Jr. Aux.; Kathryn Kohler; Alexis Leavoy; Carol Long; Breana Oehlert; Cheyenne Rampley, Jr. Aux.; Marie Ricks; Miriam Cohen; Jayme Collier; Hannah Thornton, Jr. Aux.; Jerri Worl; Olive Lucatero; Alice Zellmer; Kathy Tolle; Ed Elvis Quinten; Lucinda Tucker.

MAY YOUR HOLIDAY'S BE BRIGHT AND YOUR MEMORIES HAPPY. SEE YOU NEXT YEAR

SERVICE NOT SELF alatexas.org

Mary Hall, Membership Chairman

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On a personal note – Thank you to all who help for THANKSGIVING DINNER. I gave thanks to all of our wonderful Auxiliary and Legion members who cooked, served and cleaned up. If I start to list names I don't have enough room and too tired to remember everyone. We served about 40 dinners on Thanksgiving Day. There was enough Turkey, Dressing, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy (the basics) and

desserts to take to the Patriot House. Plus enough to serve an additional 15 members on Friday night.

Great way to start our holiday season of giving and peace to all.

SAL NEWS

Greetings from your SAL Commander David Owens. Our membership is standing at 83. I want to thank the ones who have renewed for 2016. Our goal for 2016 is 142 and we are more than half way there.

Thank you 2nd Vice Ron Mick and his crew on the SAL Meat Raffle they have come up with some great ideas for the raffle. Thank you everyone for your continue support of the meat raffle.

I wish to tell everyone I hope that they had a great Thanksgiving with their family and friends.

For the month of December we have the Marine Toys for Tots on 12th, and encourage everyone to help with this great project for the children in the DFW area. The Parade of Lights in Euless will also be another project for the SAL.

Continuing our efforts to feed the hungry of Tarrant County with our monthly donation. We have ordered Josh Dogs and will be delivered in December.

Our Fish Dinners for November was up from the month before at with 32 dinners served. Thank you everyone who supported of the SAL programs.

The Eagle Scout finished his painting of the American Flag and men on the North wall of the post building. The next Eagle Scout project Mr. Painter was completed on November 14th, he put in a French drain to aid the drainage in the Mahon Park. The third Eagle Scout will start his project in December on the three flower beds along the front on Hwy 157 and run a water line to Mahon Park for the outdoor kitchen.

I wish to thank everyone who helps and supports the SAL and its programs throughout the year. Have a Merry Christmas and a safe New Year.

David Owens
Squadron Commander



DECEMBER 12, 2015

CHRISTMAS DAY 1943 IN NORTH PLATTE, NEBRASKA

*The Union Pacific steamer billowed clouds of smoke
as down the rails it raced!*

*Young soldiers aboard the crowded train
contemplated the dire fates they faced.*

*Melancholy thoughts of hearth and home this
Christmas Day were hard to bear.*

*The mournful wail of the engine's whistle added to
their loneliness and despair.*

*The troop train provided very little conveniences for
the miserable men.*

*No showers, a potbellied stove for heat and a
tasteless meal now and then.*

*Little sleep was had since there were no berths or
fancy Pullman cars.*

*Even a nap in their seats was fitful due to the
coaches rocking jars!*

*Ah, but there was good news ahead for these young
men on the way to war!*

*The sergeant announced, "We're stoppin' at North
Platte, Nebraska! Ain't very far!"*

*The kind ladies of North Platte is waitin' to greet
youse on this Christmas Day!*

*Now, watch yer language, comb yer hair and shine
yer shoes wid'out delay!"*

*The ladies of North Platte met every train passing
through since the war began!*

*From the bounty of their farms they provided food
for each and every man!*

*Ladies from miles about brought fried chicken,
candy, apple pies and cakes,*

*Even popcorn balls with addresses of girls wrapped
therein, for heaven's sakes!*

*Each train stopped for twenty minutes or so to take
on more water and coal,*

*But those precious moments lifted the morale of the
men which was the ladies goal!*

*They met as many as thirty-two trains a day serving
nearly six million guys!
Decades later those men, now old vets, recall North
Platte with teary eyes!*

Robert L. Hinshaw, CMSgt, USAF, Retired

TOYS FOR TOTS: While shopping this week
pick up a new unwrapped toy. Help put a
smile on the face of a child this Christmas.
Cash appreciated too.