



American Legion Post 379
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Bedford, TX 76021

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NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2016

COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Greetings Post,

The month ahead has many upcoming events. Thursday the 1st is General Membership meeting at 7:00 PM. We will have Jim Riney's memorial service in Proctor Hall on Sunday the 4th at 1:00 P.M. Patriots Day Observance on Sunday the 11th at 2:00 P.M. Thursday the 15th will be Executive Board meeting at 7 PM. Friday the 16th is American Legion Birthday celebration at 6:00 P.M. Saturday the 17th is POW/MIA Day with service at 12:00 noon. I would like to say Happy Birthday to the U.S. Air Force on Sunday the 18th, and the following Sunday the 25th is Gold Star Mother's Day. The Honor Guard participated in the flag disposal on the 20th, and Military Hero's Run on the 27th at Byron Nelson High School in Trophy Club last month.

As the Commander I asked for your continued cooperation in making Post 379 a welcoming & fun Post for all our members, and especially new members. We are currently over halfway to our membership goal of 1217 keep working the last 600 is the hard part. We still need new Honor Guard members contact the First Vice-Commander Mike Sivers to join. I would like to commend Joey Cook for his efforts in restarting the Post 379 Legion Riders. Contact Joey Cook Legion Riders Director if interested in the Legion Riders. We can become the largest American Legion Post in Texas again if each of you recruit members, and you are willing to assist in keeping new members.

We will be working on funding for the building and grounds issues to be resolved. Fundraisers will be needed, and donations can be made to building and grounds fund. We have bids coming in for the parking lot, and bathroom repairs /updates.

We have been raising funds from Legion hats, and t-shirt sales. Thanks for supporting your post with your purchases. The red t-shirts are for RED FRIDAY'S : Remember Everyone Deployed. I would love to see the Post in a complete **RED OUT** on Fridays to show support for the people we have in harms way.

For God and Country

Dennis Gossett – Commander

Phone 817-372-0938 al_post379@att.net

AUXILIARY NEWS

Happy September Ladies!

Hope all are doing great because we have a bunch of stuff going on this month and next!

We will having a "kitchen planning" & training meeting on Saturday, Sept. 3rd at 2:00. If you would like to cook for the Legion, please be there as we will be assigning each Friday and Saturday until the end of the year. We all have programs that needs funds, so come on and let's have fun doing it! We also will set up a food handler's class, if you are in the kitchen, you have to have the card.

We have a box set up in the entryway for collections for our upcoming baby shower for 40 pregnant veterans at the VA Clinic in Ft. Worth. There is a list on the easel of needs. Pretty much everything like onesies, baby wash, etc. The shower is Wednesday, Sept. 21st from 11:00 till 3:00. We participated in this year before last and the box was full. The items need to be at the clinic on the 19th. If anyone is interested in attending, let me know and we can carpool. It's very rewarding and there will probably be some babies there!

Our 12th Annual Cancer Benefit is coming up quickly. This year we have invited several friends from

different parts of Texas. They want to see what we do. Pretty cool. If you can help, in any way, we need you! Thank you Bruce for all your hard work. There's still lots to do. We had 186 baskets/gift cards, etc. last year and I would love to top that if at all possible.

Our next meeting will be Thursday, Sept. 1st at 7:00. We do try to get business done, but having fun doing it. So come join us if ya can. We had 20 ladies attend the last meeting and I was so thrilled.

Remember, Service not Self

Kathy Bigley – Unit President
bigley.kathy@yahoo.com 817-353-6918

LEGION 1ST VICE UPDATE

September is the start of a very busy time at our Post which continues through the first of the year. Membership is still a primary focus and becomes an even bigger challenge as the weeks and months go by. We currently are slightly over 50% of our 2016 goal of 1217 which puts us on target. Now getting the last 50% becomes the difficult part. We are all ambassadors of the American Legion and I am asking for your continued help and support in recruiting new Legionnaires in the next couple of months. If every current member brings in only one new member we will blow away our Post goal and would put us back in the driver's seat for the State. So please get out there and help recruit new members to get us back to the largest Post in Texas.

The Honor Guard will be participating in several functions this month. Flag disposal rescheduled for the 3rd @ 10:00 a.m. We have 9/11 services on the 9th for the city of Euless as well as invitations to march in local parades later in the month. So we have a lot going on and would like y'all to be a part of it. We need more dedicated Guard members as well but, just having our Post members there to support us and the Legion really enhances the experience. We look forward to seeing you soon on the road and at "379".

See you at the Post.

"For God and Country"

Mike Sivers - 1st Vice Commander
Ph: (469) 268-2052/Email:
Al_post379@att.net

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Hello and welcome to the Chaplains corner.

This edition has us remembering the memorial for James LeRoy (Bo) Riney on Sept. 4th at 1:00 p.m. with the "Post Everlasting Ceremony".

We will be welcoming Glen Peterson back to the post soon as he is rehabilitating at the Lodge at Bear Creek in Grapevine. Terry Bigley had successful foot surgery and is back on his feet.

Also our newest Honor Guard member George Woods (Tom) was in HEB hospital following a sudden but brief illness, our thoughts and prayers for the family.

"Service to God and Country" – it's an American Legion program, yes, but the saying describes just as well our members' attitude and way of life. Nondenominational and nonsectarian, the Legion's support for religion in the public square is basic Americanism. Rather than acting independently of religious groups, the Legion desires to cooperate with and join them in reminding the American people with one voice that God is the author and architect of our beloved "land of the free." Without God, there is no Americanism. (Chaplains handbook from the American Legion)

Warm regards,

Markham Hotze - Chaplain
817-305-3357 al_post379@att.net

AUXILIARY MEMBERSHIP

FOR OUR VETERANS – SERVICE NOT SELF

Ladies our renewal notices from National Headquarters should be mailed by September 15. However, you do not need the notice to pay your dues. You can mail to post address or give to bartenders and they will get to me. Thanks.

The Early Bird-Veterans Day Party, Saturday, November 5, Noon to 4pm. One free beverage for those who have renewed or are new members for 2017. Lunch from Noon to 2pm, Legion will be furnishing sandwiches and the Auxiliary and Post family are being asked to bring side dishes.

Our Early Bird drawing is for a Life Membership in Unit 379. As long as you do not transfer to another unit, your renewal will be paid by this unit. Good Luck! To enter

you must renew your membership on/or before the Early Bird party on Saturday, November 5, 2016. The winner will be announced at the November Auxiliary Dinner, November 19. Should you not be lucky enough to win, we are offering a payment plan. If you would like to pay up for life, PUFL, and not worry about increases, see below. Payments may be divided after first 10% down, with final payment due April 1, 2017.

Age 18-24 \$1201.00 / Age 25-29 \$1135.00 / Age 30-39 \$1081.00 / Age 40-49 \$958.00 / Age 50-59 \$812.00 / Age 60-69 \$644.00 / Age 70-79 \$471.00 / Age 80 & Over \$307.00
Effective September 1, 2014, Department Texas

Ladies you made us the LARGEST unit in the state of Texas for 2016, so let's keep that distinction and renew our membership as soon as possible. Our Legionnaires are trying to regain their position as the largest Post in Texas and we should continue to be the largest Unit in Texas. So continue to invite new members that are eligible to join us. And don't forget to ask about Junior members. Your Auxiliary pays for veteran's junior members until they reach the age of 18. This includes daughters, granddaughters, great-granddaughters and step-children. They do not need to live in this area to be members. Rewards down the road include potential scholarships, with community service a plus, and Girls State. Applications are at the bar and at the department web site, www.alatexas.org.

Volunteers and ideas are always needed. But, if you are unable to physically donate time, your dues help to continue the programs for our veterans and our troops.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY – SEPTEMBER BABIES

Jean Ross; Anne Harrington; Debbie Kane; Trasi Haley; Phyllis Benton; Gail Bernier; Deborah McKee; Dolores Roberts; Carol Anderson; Marian Goethe; Kellie Gates; Janice Connors; Ryann Ragsdale, Jr. Aux.; Jana Beers; Mary Garcia; Mary Hall; Rachel Davis, Jr. Aux.; Rylee LeBlanc, Jr. Aux.; Tina Tatsch; Lindsey Williams; Brooklyn Young, Jr. Aux.; Glenda Schuff; Lauren Cranfill, Jr. Aux.; Zoe Gamble, Jr. Aux.; Linda Engle; Judith Vullo; Aubrey Blaha, Jr. Aux.; Madison Vloitos, Jr. Aux.; Megan Vloitos, Jr. Aux.; Jenny O'Lvera; Charlotte Graham, Jr. Aux.; Sherie Huffman; Kathie Russell; Linda Walker; Peyton Norris, Jr. Aux.; Kathy Bigley; Teka Allen; Leslie Brawner; Cheri Butler; Jeanene Clark; Rita Houghton; Elizabeth Stage; Sherry Williams

DON'T FORGET TO VOTE NOVEMBER 8. DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS NOVEMBER 6.

If you have any questions, please call or email me.
Service not Self

Mary Hall, Membership Chairman
817/980-1900gmhandb@att.net

SAL NEWS

Greetings from your Squadron 379. With the recent resignation of our current Commander the Squadron will be holding elections at our next general meeting on September 8th. I encourage all of our members to attend and make your voice known.

As of the 1st of the month our current membership stands at 34 members of our goal of 146. If you're reading this and you want to sign up for the 2017 membership year please drop off your payment at the post and your card will be mailed to you.

To continue with the Squadron Program of the Josh Dogs the Squadron received another letter from Cook Children Hospital on what impact the Dogs are having with the young patients. Here is one such stories: *"Two (2) young sisters were in a car accident admitted to the hospital. One of them had more severe injuries than the other, and was down in the intensive care unit. I met her sister who was in slightly better (though not good) shape. I gave her a Josh Dog—she loved him and squeezed him immediately. The next time I came to visit her, I told her that I would be going to visit her sister, and she asked if her sister could have a dog too. I thought that was so sweet of her to want that for her sister. I brought her one, she was unable to move her body much and wasn't speaking or reacting really. Her dad put the Josh Dog next to her in bed and it pretty much stayed there. About a week later, the sister with the lesser injuries had gone home, and the other one was still stuck in bed with injuries. When I was in her room, her sister video chatted from home, and she had her Josh Dog in her lap. The sister who was still here held her Josh Dog up to the phone and said, "look we have the same the dog!" It was the first time I had heard the girl speak since her accident. She is now recovering on our rehab unit and has her Josh Dog sitting in the window."*

So our program is working and the young patients are benefitting from it and our Squadron will continue as long as we can.

The Squadron other programs The Food Bank of Tarrant County and Veterans Dog Assistance programs is in full swing and doing worthwhile.

There will be a special election at our next meeting for the position of Squadron Commander. There is a sign-up sheet at the Post.

On September 17th the Squadron will start their SAL Meat Raffle at 2:30 pm so I invite everyone to come

out and attend. Everyone has fun, and if you're a newcomer that is all right come out and see what it's all about.

There is no SAL dinner for the 1st Saturday of September, instead they will be cooking on 2nd Friday the 9th. Look at the calendar to see what's on the menu.

Everyone who attended the 50's Night at the post on the 19th of August had a wonderful time including Doug and Ben. Thank you all who attended.

Be careful out there while in school zones the kiddos are back in school so slow down and stop for all buses. Thank you for your support,

David Owens
Acting Squadron 379 Commander

CALLING ALL RIDERS

We're Back!!! First and foremost, I want to thank Commander Dennis Gossett and the entire Executive Board for graciously voting in favor of reinstating The Riders Constitution and By-Laws for Post 379. As your Director, I promise you that you will not be disappointed as we have a busy year planned supporting American Legion Programs, the Ladies Auxiliary and the SAL. So far, our Officers for 2016-2017 are as follows:

Joey Cook, USMC Veteran – Director
Bruce Patterson, SAL – Assistant Director
Lahonda Meier, Ladies Auxiliary – Adjutant
Cindy Hutchins, Ladies Auxiliary – Treasurer
Markham Hotze, Navy Veteran – Chaplain
Terry Bigley, Navy Veteran – Sgt. At Arms
Joey Gonzalez, SAL (New Member) – Road Captain
Mike Voss, SAL (New Member) – Safety Officer

We have already had two successful meetings under our belt. Our next meeting is on Tuesday, September 6th at 8 PM – the first Tuesday of the month. The 12th District Commander, Bill Deal, will be installing our officers at this meeting. On August 28th, we rode out to a hospital in Keller to escort a terminally ill cancer patient (she is only eight years old) home to be with her family to see her newly decorated bedroom as she prepares for her ultimate fight against this dreaded disease. As a result, the Riders will be presenting a \$100 check in her name to the Ladies Auxiliary to benefit Cancer Research. Our next ride will be on September 10th to benefit the Airborne Angels. All proceeds will allow them to send care packages to our troops that are deployed for the

holidays. If you know anybody who is interested in riding with us, please let me know!

Be Safe and keep the rubber side down!

Joey Cook – Rider Director
817-891-8774

SEPTEMBER AT YOUR POST

FRIDAY September 2nd
No Dinner / No Entertainment

SATURDAY September 3rd
No Dinner
Entertainment: Flashbacks

FRIDAY September 9th
SAL Fish Fry \$10
Entertainment: Marcia Rose

SATURDAY September 10th
40 & 8 Steak Night \$15
Entertainment: Harley Brown

FRIDAY September 16th
Stuffed Cabbage by Gisela \$10
Entertainment: Doug & Ben

SATURDAY September 17th
Auxiliary Mexican Dinner \$10
Entertainment: To be Determined

FRIDAY September 23rd
Lasagna (Building & Grounds) \$10
Entertainment: Diamond Duo

SATURDAY September 24th
Italian Dinner (Aux Scholarship) \$10
Entertainment: Continental Divide

FRIDAY September 30th
Chicken Enchilada Casserole \$10
Entertainment: Diamond Duo

SATURDAY October 1st
SAL Fish Fry \$10
Entertainment: To be Determined
