

BURLESON COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE NEWS

Volume 2 / Issue 1

FROM THE VETERAN SERVICE OFFICER

As I mentioned in our first newsletter, due to the privacy act, I cannot use the membership rosters of the local veterans organizations for mailing this newsletter. Please, if you make contact with a veteran of Burleson County, who is not receiving the newsletter, get their name and address and I will include them on our list. We will be attempting to get out these newsletters quarterly, hopefully to inform all our county and local veterans of their benefits and what our organizations are doing.

I attended the annual training of the Texas Veterans Commission in September And this spring, attended the annual training for the DAV (Disabled American Veterans). Both trainings were very informative on helping the veteran or family, hopefully get the benefits they have earned. There are a number of issues before our congress that pertain to our benefits. Our leaders must always keep our veterans first, in health care, education, home loans, etc., again they were earned.

The Texas Veterans Commission has some hardworking veterans working for it that strive to help our Texas Veterans with any issue they have. The Texas Land Board also have veterans working on home loans, refinancing, etc. At the local Veterans Clinic in College Station and the Temple VA Hospital, there are certified counselors to help a veteran with filing for benefits and monitoring claims as they are processed. The Texas Veterans Commission also has the Workforce Commission with a very qualified person in Bryan/College Station, who can help a veteran with employment.

Whenever the veteran or family wants to file a claim for benefits, please have your discharge paper, DD-214, and any evidence to support your claim with you. I have forms to mail, when trying to attain a discharge paper should yours is lost or misplaced. I have the forms for filing for compensation or pension. I have many contact phone numbers, should a veteran be looking for some specialized help, such as education and women's issues. Please stop by.

Veterans Day is quickly approaching. Any veteran who would like to join in, we will attend a Veterans Ceremony at the Caldwell Intermediate at 8am, then at 9am we will go to the Caldwell High School Auditorum for a short program. At 11am at the Caldwell Civic Center, we will gather for the annual program. This will all be done on Friday, November 10th, 2017. We moved it to the 10th, to include our local students and staff. Thank you to the local school officials who make this happen.

With this, I am here in the Burleson County Courthouse in suite 104, on Thursday and Friday's from 9am to noon. There are times I am at a homebound's residence or at the nursing homes. If I am not there, please leave me a message on my office phone and I will return your call and set up an appointment with you. Phone number 979-567-6360.

FRANKLIN KARASEK, JR

Burleson County Veterans Service Officer

THE CHAPLAINS CORNER

We continue our prayers for all comrades, sisters, friends, and fellow Texans affected by the hurricanes this season. Major destruction occurred due to tornadic winds and flash flooding from catastrophic rains. Many VFW posts were affected.

The ranks of our senior Life Members continue to shrink, WW2 Comrades Ray R. Rowland; Walter H. Schumacher; Franklin H. Ondrasek (Korea) passed away during August. Please keep their families in your prayers.

Frank and wife Beanie Frieda, Colbert Drgac, Ben Berka, Chris Jadowski and Chester Murr remain on our prayer list. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers; call or visit them.

The next three months are generally our busiest of the year; Lord give us strength!

Reminds me of an article the President of my Chevron Retirement Assoc. sent in my last newsletter. I have included it below.

Sincerely,

John Boyd

Chaplain

Post 4458

Hold This Thought-for retirees

When things in your life seem, almost too much to handle, when 24 hours in a day is not enough, remember the mayonnaise jar and 2 cups of coffee.

A professor stood before his philosophy class and had some items in front of him. When the class began, wordlessly, he picked up a very large and empty mayonnaise jar and proceeded to fill it with golf balls. He then asked the students, if the jar was full. They agreed that it was.

The professor then picked up a box of pebbles and poured them into the jar. He shook the jar lightly. The pebbles rolled into the open areas between the golf balls. He then asked the students again if the jar was full. They agreed it was.

The professor next picked up a box of sand and poured it into the jar. Of course, the sand filled up everything else. He asked once more if the jar was full. The students responded with a unanimous 'yes.'

The professor then produced two cups of coffee from under the table and poured the entire contents into the jar, filling the empty space between the sand. The students laughed.

'Now,' said the professor, as the laughter subsided, 'I want you to recognize that this jar represents your life. The golf balls are the important things-family, children, health, friends, and favorite passions. Things that if everything else was lost and only they remained, Your life would still be full.

The pebbles are the other things that matter like your job, house, and car. The sand is everything

else-the small stuff. 'If you put the sand into the jar first,' He continued, 'there is no room for the things that are important to you.

So... Pay attention to the things that are critical to your happiness. Play with your children. Take time to get medical checkups. Take your partner out to dinner. There will always be time to clean the house and fix the disposal. 'Take care of the golf balls first- the things that really matter. Set your priorities. The rest is just sand.'

One of the students raised her hand and inquired what the coffee represented. The professor smiled. 'I'm glad you asked'. It just goes to show you that no matter how full your life may seem, there's always room for a couple of cups of coffee with a friend.'

VETERAN CLUBS CORNER

VFW Post 4458- VFW Post 4458 meetings are the second Thursday at 7pm.

American Legion Post 451- The Caldwell American legion post 451, Dietsch Houston, meets every quarter at the Caldwell VFW hall at 6:30 PM. A potluck dinner is held.

The Caldwell American legion post is involved and supports the local community in many aspects. For example, The American legion post sends our local male high school students each year to boys state for young leadership training.

The Caldwell American Legion Post has members from many wars such as World War II, Korea, and Vietnam. Due to declining numbers in membership, the American legion post strongly urges local veterans to join to keep our organization going. Meetings are open to the public.

DAV- The Disabled American Veterans, or DAV, is working daily to help those disabled veterans who need assistance. We will help you file for VA assistance and help you and your family with your specific needs if at all possible. We recently assisted a veteran and his family by providing an air conditioner for their home. We are looking for Iraq and Afghanistan disabled veterans to join the DAV and help assist other veterans of the same time period. If you are a disabled veteran who wants to help his fellow veterans and their families come to a meeting and see what we are all about. You can also come if you just want to talk with fellow disabled veterans and share comradeship with those who have served. Any suggestions or ideas on ways to better serve our disabled veterans would be greatly appreciated. We meet the third Thursday of the month at 7pm in Caldwell at the First Baptist Church Family Life Center. We would enjoy having you come by and share some time with us. William Moore Commander



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DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: NEWS RELEASE

VA



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

Central Texas Veterans
Health Care System

News Release

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For Immediate Release: October 2, 2017

La Grange Veterans Town Hall date set at for October 18

La Grange area Veterans are invited to a Town Hall Meeting with Christopher Sandles, MBA, FACHE, Director of the Central Texas Veterans Health Care System on Wednesday, October 18, 2017, starting at 2 p.m. at the Agricultural Building located at 255 Svoboda Lane in La Grange, Texas.

The purpose of the Town Hall is to share information about the La Grange Outreach Clinic, a licensing agreement with St. Mark's, and expanded services by opening a VA-staffed clinic.

Mr. Sandles and his Executive Leadership Team from the Central Texas Veterans Health Care System will discuss the proposal for the new clinic and field questions from Veterans.

The event is open to Veterans Service Organizations representatives, Veterans and their families.