

# BURLESON COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE NEWS

Volume 3

## DID YOU KNOW?

That Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 4458 has an Honor Guard that attends veteran's funerals at the family's request. Please consider being a part of this group.



## FROM THE VETERAN SERVICE OFFICER

Happy New Year to all and I hope all have a blessed New Year.

In the first newsletters, I am asking all who receive this newsletter, to please pass on names and addresses of county veterans not receiving one and I will put them on the mailing list. My hope is to keep all our county veterans and families informed of their benefits after serving our county.

In the previous newsletter, I mentioned that the Texas Veterans Commission have some great persons working in the different areas of benefits, workforce and education. The Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion, Disabled American Veterans and other veteran organizations also have qualified representatives to help a veteran or a veteran's family file for benefits. A veteran can file a claim by himself if he has all his paperwork together, but I highly recommend that a service organization is involved with the claim. The form used to indicate that you want to use a specific organization to represent the veteran or family is VA Form 21-22. Once the organization has your Power of Attorney, VA Form 21-22, they can follow your claim through the VA process, hopefully with better results than going it alone. The VA Form 21-22 is filled out, then the form for compensation or pension is filled out, all supporting evidence and with a copy of discharge paper (DD-214), then mailed to the local Regional VA Office in Waco. I am here at the courthouse Suite 104 to help with process. Hope this gives you some indication of what is needed to file a claim and with whom.

I would also like to talk about the VA Healthcare. We are blessed to have some fine facilities in College Station and at the Temple VA Hospital. Temple VA has really expanded and very organized. If a veteran wants to get into the VA system, you will need to fill out VA Form 10-10EZ and with a copy of your discharge paper (DD-214). You will then mail to the College Station VA and they will respond with a yes and give you a phone number to call to make a doctor appointment, or if no they will give you a reason of the rejection. Again, I am here at the Burleson County Courthouse, Thursday and Friday mornings, 9am to noon, should a veteran need help with this.

If a veteran or a veteran's dependent is entering a college or school to further their education, please consult with the registrar of that school about the Hazelwood Act, to get help on tuition. Please have a copy of discharge paper (DD-214) with you.

Thank you to the Caldwell Elementary, Caldwell Intermediate, and Caldwell High School for hosting us on Veterans Day. All the veterans had a great time. Thank you to Comrade Rachael Medders for speaking, Caldwell High School Band, Caldwell Honeybees, and Caldwell Intermediate School Choir at the Civic Center program and Kvasovic Grocery for donating the hotdogs and buns for the lunch.

Thank you to County Judge Mike Sutherland and Mayor Norris McManus for your welcomes. Thank you to the City of Caldwell for donating the use of the Civic Center for this event. To the ladies of VFW Post 4458 Auxiliary, thank you for always being there to help.

Thank you to the nursing homes for inviting us to your facilities for the afternoon visits with the residents, St. Jo. Manor at 2pm and Copperas Hollow at 2:30pm. Veterans Day was well attended and we hope to see all at the Memorial Day Service at the end of May.

If you fly a United States Flag, please check it's condition and replace if worn or torn. Please keep all our veterans in your prayers, past, present, and especially those serving us today.

I am here at the Burleson County Courthouse, Thursday and Friday mornings, 9am to noon. If you would like to make an appointment, please call 979-567-6360 and leave me a message and I will return you call.

**FRANKLIN KARASEK, JR**  
Burleson County Veterans Service Officer

### **VETERAN CLUBS CORNER**

**VFW Post 4458-** Our meetings are the 2nd Thursday of the month. It begins with a meal at 7 PM and the meeting begins at about 8 PM. We encourage all members to attend. If you are not a member but are a Veteran of a Foreign war please join. Fill out an application that you can get at the VFW or one of it's members. This next meeting February 8th. We will be recognizing the students and teacher with a rewards program. The students wrote essays on Voice of Democracy, Patriots Pins and the post 4458 will also honor a teacher of the year. There will be a catered meal before the program. Everyone is welcome to attend the program and meal. The post is having a chile cook off Feb 17 and 18th inquire at the VFW Post for more information. Don't forget May 28th is Memorial Day, the day we remember the active military soldiers who have given their lives for our freedom.

**American Legion Post 451-** Caldwell's American Legion Post 451 meets once per quarter, and normally is the first Monday in January, April, July and October. Meetings are held at the VFW Post on Hwy 36. We are moving our April meeting to the 9th, since April 2<sup>nd</sup> falls on Easter Monday. Each meeting begins with a 6:30pm potluck, followed by the business meeting. We always enjoy the abundant food and fellowship!

Upcoming events include:

Committee to select Boys State candidates

Memorial Day ceremony scheduled for May 28<sup>th</sup>, at the Burleson Co Courthouse steps

Officer elections effective for Jun 2018

If you have served federal active duty in the United States Armed Forces during any of the war eras listed below and have been honorably discharged or are still serving -- you are eligible for membership in The American Legion!

<b>*August 2, 1990 to today</b>	<b>(Persian Gulf/ War on Terrorism)</b>
<b>December 20, 1989 to January 31, 1990</b>	<b>(Operation Just Cause - Panama)</b>
<b>August 24, 1982 to July 31, 1984</b>	<b>(Lebanon/Grenada)</b>
<b>February 28, 1961 to May 7, 1975</b>	<b>(Vietnam)</b>
<b>June 25, 1950 to January 31, 1955</b>	<b>(Korea)</b>
<b>December 7, 1941 to December 31, 1946</b>	<b>(World War II)</b>
<b>April 6, 1917 to November 11, 1918</b>	<b>(World War I)</b>

\*Because eligibility dates remain open, all members of the U.S. Armed Forces are eligible to join The American Legion at this time, until the date of the end of hostilities as determined by the government of the United States.

U.S. Merchant Marine eligible only from December 7, 1941 to December 31, 1946 (WWII).

We look forward to seeing you!

Tina Smith, Adjutant/Finance Office, Post 451

Veterans benefits are constantly under the threat of being reduced, unfunded or eliminated. As a veteran, I am sure that you would not want this to happen. As an example the Gramm-Rudman-

Hollings act of 1985 took away the \$300.00 burial allowance and \$150.00 plot interment allowance from all but a few in an effort to balance the federal budget. It didn't work, the budget is still not balanced.

You can help in the efforts of your veteran's organizations by your membership and support. Politicians care about numbers which are translated into votes. Veterans organizations lobby to preserve the benefits that all veterans were promised.

I'm sure that you or someone that you know have needed veteran's benefits. Without support, those in need would suffer the consequences. Please consider joining one of our three local organizations ( VFW, American Legion or DAV).

Donny Wood, Past Commander

American Legion Post 451

**Marion Mays Post 455 Somerville-** Starting a new year can be a challenge. There is always the temptation to look back at the previous year and say, "Well we made it through to the end of another year and hopefully we can do it again." That's one way of summarizing the year that's past but it's not the best way and it certainly isn't the most positive way to start off this year. There's no denying that we don't have as many members as we once did and financially we aren't as secure as we once were way back when. We can easily say that we've made it through another year with less; less members and less money- both of which are true but we can also proudly say that we've done a lot this past year with what we have. One of the things our post always does well is hosting a Memorial Day program to honor and remember all of those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom. Each year we honor the fallen by reading the names of all the veterans from Burleson County who have died while serving our country. Our program is both solemn and patriotic and the entire community comes out to pay tribute. The 2017 program was a big success as it always is and we are already preparing our program for this year. During the month of August, when Hurricane Harvey hit the Texas coast many of our fellow Texans were displaced from their homes, more than sixty of them found temporary lodging in Somerville. Our post graciously opened its doors and hosted them for a meal every evening until they were able to go back home. Our veterans working along side the civic and church leaders in our area made a difficult situation a little less stressful for those good folks. In September we hosted the dance following the homecoming football game and throughout the year our hall has been the venue of choice for various dances, a garden show and even a funeral service. We continue to host turkey shoots and along with the high school were able to honor all veterans for Veteran's Day at the pep rally. Most importantly we are the gate keepers for patriotic pride in our community because as veterans we know how much the price of freedom costs. Looking back we've accomplished a lot this past year, so instead of saying, "Well we made it to the end of another year and hopefully we can do it again", we will instead be focusing on the things we did well and building on the success of those events, we'll move confidently into 2018 knowing that there is a lot to do and we are the right men to get it done!

Darrin Holub

Commander, Marion Mays Post 455 Somerville, Texas

**DAV-** As 2017 closes out we at DAV Chapter 86 in Caldwell look back at the year with a sense of accomplishment. During the year we saw an increase in attendance at our monthly meetings, we continued to help disabled veterans in our area, we are working on developing an Auxiliary Unit to go along with our Chapter, and we began planning for expanding our activities in 2018. At our December meeting we held a small Christmas party with sandwiches, chips, dessert and all the fixings. As we begin the New Year we are anxious to assist our fellow disabled veterans in any way we can. If you are a disabled veteran with an interest in helping your fellow veterans, come pay us a visit and learn what we are all about. If you have ideas on how we can help our fellow disabled veterans come to a meeting and share your ideas with us. The DAV meets the third Thursday of the month at the First Baptist Church Family Life Center in Caldwell on the corner of Buffalo and Harvey. Come share some fellowship with your fellow disabled veterans. If you have questions you can contact Bill Moore at 272-3176 or Red Altman at 352-400-2036.

## U.S. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: NEWS RELEASE



## News Release

Patrick Hutchison  
Public Affairs Specialist  
(254) 743-1430 (Office)  
(254) 727-0951 (Cell)  
[www.centraltexas.va.gov](http://www.centraltexas.va.gov)

---

**BURLESON COUNTY**  
**VETERAN SERVICE OFFICE**

100 W. Buck, Suite 104  
Caldwell, TX 77836

**Recipient Name**  
**Street Address**  
**City, ST ZIP Code**