

BURLESON COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE NEWS

Volume 5

FROM THE VETERAN SERVICE OFFICER

I would like to thank all who came out to the Memorial Day Service at the courthouse and a big thank you to our speaker, Comrade Reverend Richard Brunk. The veterans also visited St. Jo. Manor and Copperas Hollow nursing homes and enjoyed visiting with the veterans and residents. We will have information coming on the Veterans Day events in the next newsletter and it will be communicated in the Burleson County Tribune. Events will be held on, Monday, November 12th, 2018, so we can include the local school in the events.

As I mentioned in the last newsletter, Lady Veterans Honor Flight Austin, the “Trip of a Lifetime” for Women Veterans of WW2, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War. October 20, 2018. If you know of a lady veteran of that era, please call 512-974-3306, or email contact@honorflightaustin.org

Honor Veterans Now, Meals for Vets. Founded by Veterans for Veterans, in Fredericksburg, TX 78624. Feeding Veterans who have been denied meals because they are: Too young—under 60, in need of special diets, outside local home delivery service areas, on wait lists due to meal providers’ lack of funding. Any veteran interested in this program, please call 830-992-3375 or go to web page www.mealsforvets.org

In the previous newsletter I wrote about Service-Connected Disability and what is needed to file a claim. In this issue I would like to pass on information about Non Service—Connected Pension and Death Pension. The following comes from the 2018 State Veterans Benefits booklet from the Texas Veterans Commission.

Non Service—Connected Pension is a monthly benefit paid to a wartime veteran who have limited or no income. Who qualifies? Veterans who: are 65 or older, or permanently and totally disabled; were not discharged from service under less than honorable conditions; meet active duty service requirements with at least 1 day during a period of war time (combat experience is not required); have a family income lower than the limit (depends on spouse/dependents). These requirements are general and there are additional factors that affect eligibility.

Death Pension is, the VA provides pensions to low—income surviving spouses and unmarried children of deceased veterans with wartime service (combat experience is not required). The death pension provides a monthly payment to bring an eligible person’s income level established by law. Who qualifies? To be eligible, spouses must not have remarried and children must be under age 18, or under age 23 if attending a VA—approved school, or have become permanently incapable of self—support because of disability before age 18. The veteran must have been discharged under conditions other than dishonorable and must have qualifying service. A surviving spouse may be entitled to a higher income limit if living in a nursing home, in need of the aid and attendance of another person, or permanently housebound. These eligibility requirements are general and there may be additional factors that affect eligibility.

Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 4458 meet on second Thursdays of the month at 7pm, at the VFW. DAV Chapter 86 meet on third Thursdays of the month at 7pm at the First Baptist Family Life Center. Caldwell American Legion Post 451 meets quarterly, refer to Burleson County Tribune for date and time. Somerville American Legion Post 455 meet at 6:30pm on first Mondays of the month. Please consider joining one or all these organizations and help keep them running. VFW Post 4458 is in need of Honor Guard members, please consider this vocation.

I am here at 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 your call.

Franklin Karasek, Jr.

Burleson County Veteran Service Officer

Marion Mays Post 455 Somerville-

Veteran's Day this year will mark the 100th anniversary of the armistice that ended World War I. Post 455 in Somerville is named after Marion Mays, the first resident of Burleson County to be killed in action during World War I. He died on October 18, 1918 less than a month before the armistice was signed. One of our missions as legionnaires is to remember men like Marion Mays and all the veteran's who made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of our nation and way of life. World War I was supposed to be "the war that ended all wars", of course we now know that wasn't the case. Many conflicts and wars have been fought since and sadly many more will probably be fought in the future. We are always ready to help any veteran in need, any time regardless of when or where they served.

As veteran's we know that our obligation to serve our nation, state and community didn't end when we took off our uniforms and signed our discharge papers. Though our numbers are small, our resolve is great. Here in Somerville and indeed everywhere veterans are still serving proudly. We make ourselves available to the community whenever the need may arise. We promote patriotism and stand together as comrades who have something in common that those who have not served in the armed forces cannot fully grasp.

Post 455 meets on the first Monday of each month and we are always ready to welcome all qualifying veteran's to our ranks. Join us and continue to feel a sense of pride in knowing your service to the citizens of this great nation has not ended; perhaps it has only just begun.

Still Serving.

Darrin Holub,

Commander, Post 455 Somerville, TX

DAV-

I'm the new commander at the DAV chapter 86 in Burleson County that serves Lee County, Milam County, and Burleson County and beyond DAV members for our area. We reach out and help any disabled veteran in their times of need and we are always welcoming new members to our chapter we have lots of fun and we have good times. We have upcoming functions for Veterans day and other holidays for our members to participate in along with the American Legion and VFW of Caldwell, Texas. My name is Spc. Daniel Sundeen US Army Retired and a disabled veteran hope to see ya'll around I live in Giddings, Texas a short distance from Caldwell, Texas and I plan on being the commander at our DAV chapter 86 in Caldwell, Texas

until or past commander recovers from the accident he and his son was in and returns thank you and hope to see ya'll around.

“On May 1, 2018, Representative Tulsi Gabbard (HI) introduced H.R. 5671, the Burn Pits Accountability Act.

Since the Persian Gulf War, a common waste disposal practice at military sites outside the United States was the use of burn pits. Smoke from these pits contained toxic substances that may have short- and long-term health effects, especially for those who were exposed for longer periods. Many service members reported acute symptoms of respiratory or eye irritation, gastrointestinal distress, or rashes during or shortly after exposure, but the research thus far has been inconclusive about whether there are longer lasting consequences to these exposures, as many veterans still struggling with conditions that arose during or after military service believe.

H.R. 5671 will require the Secretary of Defense to ensure that periodic health assessments ascertain whether a service member has been at a location when an open burn pit was used or exposed to toxic airborne chemicals. It will further require the Secretary of Defense to enter into an information sharing agreement with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs. If a service member was exposed, the VA Secretary will enroll the member into the VA Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry, unless the member elects not to enroll.

In agreement with DAV Resolution No. 120, DAV supports H.R. 5671-legislation that would ensure that exposure to burn pits and airborne chemicals are recognized by both the Departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs.

Your commitment and advocacy helps make DAV a highly influential and effective organization in Washington. Thank you for all you do for America's veterans and their families.”

THE CHAPLAINS CORNER- We are privileged to live in this country, the land in which we are given the freedom of speech, religion, and the pursuit of happiness. In addition, the Lord has blessed us, inspired us with His wisdom, guided us, and directed us in our thinking and decisions. Our deeds and contributions to this great nation, and our local communities, should reflect of His goodness. Be grateful even in tragedies and trials, for those are the times we learn to trust, and our faith grows. Keep your comrades and their families in prayers. We have many who are struggling with sicknesses, cancers, or the effects of aging. I pray God gives them the courage to see it through, and the grace to accept His will. I don't understand why we do not always see physical healings when we pray, but, I do trust Him! God bless you all.

Tina Smith
Post 4458 Chaplain

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: NEWS RELEASE



