



# Texas Chapter & Unit 61 Newsletter

Building a better life for Disabled American Veterans and their families.

425 Vaughn Street, Seguin, TX. 78155, PH: 830-379-3299

Apr 2011

## From the Editor

Man, it is hot already. That means taking appropriate precautions when working or playing out in the sun. I know because I burned the top of my head swimming over the weekend. Besides becoming a client for Hair Club for Men, I could've worn a hat to prevent that from happening. Anyway, that's still light compared to overdoing it and getting heat stroke.

In last month's Newsletter I forgot to mention that Joe Commisso walked the entire route with Tony the Vet, Cdr DeLeon and City Councilman (and member) Castellon. Even though Joe was wearing a LEGION cap while walking, he is a DAV member as well. Good job Joe. (Wear the DAV cap next time – joking).

We have our Luau fund drive, Fire & Iron Fundraiser benefitting Chapter 61, Department Convention in Austin, and the National Convention in New Orleans for upcoming events. Info is posted in this edition, the website, and at the Chapter House. More info can also be obtained by contacting your Chapter Officers.

The May Luau is coming along nicely with a lot of work being done by Michael Fore, Larry Bilbrey and Terri Herrle. Before the event gets here they will be needing more

help, feel free to give them a hand. Ask if they want help with food games or any other general help areas. The Luau is on the 14<sup>th</sup> of May so clear your calendars for the event.

The Fire & Iron (Seguin VFD Motorcycle Club) Fund drive May 28<sup>th</sup> is their function to raise money for Chapter 61. We have raffle tickets for a custom made utility trailer they will be raffling along with other items. Raffle tickets are for sale at the Chapter House at \$5 for 1 ticket or \$25 for 6 tickets (a good deal). See me or one of the Officers for them and more info. The event will happen May 28<sup>th</sup> at Dirty's Bar and Q on Hwy 46 north of Seguin. Remember, supporting them supports us as well.

Delegates for the upcoming Department of Texas Convention were selected at the last meeting and will be turned into State for processing. Nominations for National Convention delegates were taken at the meeting as well. If you are planning or think you may want to attend the National Convention, you should make sure the Commander or Adjutant is aware of your intentions. There is still time for National nominations, speak up at the next meeting.

Marlin Howze  
Editor

## From the Chaplain

**You must have long-range goals to keep you from being frustrated by short-range failures.**

*“The vision is yet for an appointed time...Though*

*It delays, wait for it; because it will surely come.”*

*Habakkuk 2:3*

A man once approached a construction site and noticed three men shoveling dirt out of a long ditch. He asked the first man what he was doing. The man sneered back with a surely-you-can-figure-it-out-yourself attitude, “Digging a ditch.”

He walked on to the next man and asked him the same question. The reply was only slightly more kind, “I’m making a living. Just makin’ a living. Gotta feed the wife and kids, you know.”

When he asked the third man what he was doing, the man said with a great deal of positive energy and pride, “Sir, I am creating part of a masterful set of irrigation channels that are going to turn this dry ole valley into a garden, rich with produce to feed the world’s hungry!”

Look beyond the seemingly meaningless chores and minor failures of today and see a bigger picture – ultimately, one that serves others. You’ll find greater satisfaction in your daily grind if you see yourself as making jewels for the Lord’s crown, rather than simply polishing rocks.

*Excerpt from God’s Little Devotional Book for Leaders*

As your Chaplain, I am available to all members of Chapter #61 and their immediate family for discussion of any spiritual matter or counseling. Please let me know if you are aware of any comrade or family member who may be sick or in distress. You may contact me at

[richardcusson@hotmail.com](mailto:richardcusson@hotmail.com) or by calling me at (830) 491-8009.

May God’s peace and blessing be with all of you.

Chaplain Richard Cusson

## Upcoming Events

**Chapter 61 Luau:** May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2011. Chapter House.

**Fire & Iron Benefit:** May 28th, Dirty’s Bar&Q

**Department of Texas Convention:** Jun. 3-5, 2011. Doubletree Hotel, Austin.

**National Convention:** Aug. 6-9, 2011. Hilton New Orleans Riverside.

That’s our known official functions to the end of April and a bit beyond as we know them right now. More info can be found at our website:

<http://www.davmembersportal.org/chapters/tx/61>.

## Our Staff of Volunteers

For help with any claim or correspondence contact our staff of Volunteers. Volunteers are: Chapter Service Officers (CSOs): Doug Herrle (Chairman), Marlin Howze, Phil Sierer, and Dennis Lorange,

Committee Chairs: Membership – Phil Sierer, Building – Leon Garcia, Hospital – Richard Cusson, Honor Guard Captain – Juan DeLeon.

## DAV MEETING MINUTES Apr 12, 201, 7PM

PRAYER/FLAG HONORS

Quorum: Yes

Chapter has a quorum Yes

Need to make contact and be there for Veterans Day.

**JOINT SESSION:**

1. Award for Judy Cope (DAVA Plaque and DAVA Life Membership)
2. Seguin Freedom Fiesta. July 2. Gary Elley. 1 day Freedom Fiesta. \$25 booth fee. Fajitas, tacos, funnel cakes are open. Arrive at 3PM, start at 5PM and booth has to stay open till midnight. 10X10 booth, electric avail. Do we want to participate? Doug motioned to participate, 2<sup>nd</sup> by John Cuellar, carries unam.
3. Luau. May 14<sup>th</sup>. Michael Fore. Have received many donations. Larry to get pig pig and other meats. Michael to provide music. Word is out. UPS donated 500 copies and 11x17 posters to advertize event. 3 contests: Hula Dance, Hula Hoop, and Limbo. Arranged by ages. Many games to include: Balloon darts, ring toss, bean bag toss, others. Face painting, Tickets, plenty on hand. Will run 11-5PM. Need porta-potties and a dumpster, Tomas to inquire. Maybe ask Young Marines to help with parking.
4. Fire & Iron. Memorial Day Run. 5/28/2011. Raffling trailer. Need a tool box for front of trailer. 75% of proceeds from this event come to Chapter 61. Box enhances trailers value for raffle. Phil motions to buy trailer tongue toolbox, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Tomas, vote carries unam.
5. Forget me not drive made just under \$2600. We can no longer use Garden Entrance at Wal-mart. Split with Aux.
6. May Breakfast will be cancelled due to Luau.
7. Golden Corral. Open in New Braunfels. This is in our Area.

**CHAPTER SESSION**

**Vote on Transfers:** None

**Visitors:** None

**Vote on New Members:** None

**New Members:** Donald Davis, Charles Glass.

Wave **minutes** and **Treasurer report** due to absence of both. Motion to approve Doug, 2<sup>nd</sup> by John Cuellar, vote carries unam.

**Bills or Communications:** None

**Sickness or Distress (Chaplain):**

Life Member John Pervis passed away, family will use Chapter House for reception free of charge. Member Mr. Bibbs passed away.

**REPORTS OF COMMITTEE:**

**Membership:**

Recruit, recruit, recruit.

**Chapter House:** Members put up the flags, and painted the bay. Discussion of relocating the kitchen into the bay. Dennis Garriott wants to donate a microwave over the counter to the chapter house.

**Entertainment:** See Luau under joint session.

**Legislation:** 19 bills before the Tx House on 100% Disabled Veterans regarding property taxes and widows. Contact reps to carry these bills through. Nationally, Soc. Sec. and Healthcare are big topics, follow them and contact reps as these will affect you.

**Building:** Leon doing a great job. Be sure to thank him for his efforts.

**Service Officer:** Svc Ofcers avail 1,440 hrs in March. Served 61 vets. Doug 25, Phil 11, Marlin 21, Dennis 4. Honor Guard 150 total hrs on burial details.

**Unfinished Business:**

1. Forget-me-Nots. See Joint discussion.

2. State Convention. Jun 3-5. Austin, TX at the Doubletree Hotel. Delegates, Doug, Phil, Preston, Richard, Marlin.
3. National Convention. Aug 5-8. New Orleans. Dennis Garriott is possible delegate. Nothing officially on lists or Call to Convention.
4. 1<sup>st</sup> Sat. Breakfasts. 1 good, 1 bad. Larry, Margarita and sons only ones to show up this last weekend. Not many customers either. Despite word being put out. Not good.

**New Business:**

None.

**Good of the Order:**

Election Nominations: Final

1. Cdr – Phil S.
2. SV Cdr – Juan D., Dennis G.
3. JV Cdr – Michael F., Gary E.
4. Treas – Larry B.

5. Ch – Richard C.
6. Nominations closed.

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> the DAV Honor Guard to be recognized by Hays County for service to veterans family through burial details. Great honor. Number of Guard to be present.

Memorial Day at Legion? Some confusion. Member Bill O. and Reno R. to find out what the deal is and whether this is a joint event or not.

Vet Day is to be detailed by the GI Forum this year. A joint event. To include a parade/walk from monument to Vet Park. Motion to Adjourn by Phil, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Tomas, vote carries unam.

Next meeting to be May 10 at 1900.

This Newsletter is edited and published by **DAV Chapter 61**, PO Box 325,  
Seguin, TX 78156

We are located at 425 Vaughn Street, Seguin, TX. 78155 or call 830-379-3299

Service Hours: 9am to 1pm Tuesday & Wednesday

Monthly Business Meeting: 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the Month

PTSD Group: Every Tuesday, 1:30-2:30pm

For the most up to date news, please visit our web site at

<http://www.davmembersportal.org/chapters/tx/61>.

You may Bookmark the site and refer often to see what's happening.

**Chapter Officers**

Commander: Juan DeLeon (Email: [tx61cdr@davfrat.org](mailto:tx61cdr@davfrat.org))

Senior Vice-Commander: Phil Sierer

Junior Vice-Commander: Dennis Garriott

Treasurer: Larry Bilbrey

Chaplin: Richard Cusson

Adjutant: Margarita Bilbrey

Sergeant-at-Arms: Gary Elley

**The Auxiliary Unit Officers**

Commander: Jeanne Garriott

Senior Vice Commander: Lynette Sierer

Junior Vice Commander: Christa Howze

Adjutant / Treasurer: Terri Herrle

Chaplin: Liegh Harrelson



**Station 87**  
**Guadalupe County**  
*Proudly presents*  
**87's Memorial Day Run**  
**5/28/11**

**Benefiting the**  
**D**ISABLED **A**MERICAN **V**ETERANS  
**Guadalupe County Chapter 61**

**Ride will start @ Dirty's Bar & Q**  
**State Hwy 46 @ Elm Grove Rd**  
**Seguin TX**  
**Tacos will be available in the AM**

**First Bike Out @ 1000 hrs**  
**Last Bike In @ 1400 hrs**

**We will be raffling a 12' trailer**  
**50/50 drawing**  
**Poker Run (best hand wins)**

**\$15 per driver \$5 per passenger**  
**This price includes a BBQ plate for lunch**  
**And chance to win \$\$\$ during Poker Run**