



# 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

Jul 2011

## Chapter Commander's Corner

The partnership with BlueBonnet Trails for the veteran drop-in-center is really beginning to accelerate. We now have written approval to proceed with the parking lot, air conditioning of the engine bay, electrical upgrades, PA system, additional computers, and a digital projector. Brian has been given the go ahead to begin construction of the parking lot. When the actual construction begins we will have to be patient with each other. We should be able to park in the grass area next to the engine bay, unless it starts to rain again. Fat chance.

Gary Elley and I attended the city council meeting to request waivers of the permit fees, and the use of the city engineer. The items were not on the agenda and no action could be taken. It should be on the agenda for the August 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting. In the citizens to be heard, I made a request for the waiver of the permit fees, and the use of the city engineer. After discussion with BlueBonnet Trail it was decided to proceed with the construction and use a private engineering firm because of the time requirements. The Freedom Fiesta Booth was a huge success. We sold out of everything. After expenses we made \$870.00. Big thanks to all of the volunteers.

Sam Flores one of our biggest supporters has Has passed on to the Great Commander. Keep Sam's family in your prayers during this painful

time. He was a great Texan, and a good friend and member to this Chapter. He will be missed. Details for his services will be put out as soon as we know them.

Larry Bilbrey received good news from his recent lab reports.

Our next meeting will be August 16<sup>th</sup> at 1900hrs.

Phil Sierer  
Commander

## Views from the Unit Commander

I hope everyone is having an enjoyable summer. We are rapidly approaching fall with lots of things coming up. The biggest is the opening of our Veterans Outreach Center. The training is set up for August 21-25. It is for the full 5 days and if you are interested in attending please let me know. But you do not have to have the training to be a volunteer. There will be lots of things to help out with. We will have our grand opening in mid-September with special guests and refreshments.

Some of our other upcoming events include Patriot Day (Sept. 11) at Central Park, a joint POW/MIA program (Sept. 16) at the Geronimo VFW, and our Forget-Me-Not campaign (Oct 7 & 8) at Wal-Mart. We are also working on a

project to make cookies for the Fisher House at Fort Sam Houston.

Commander Phil and I have also started talking about having a raffle this fall. If you have any ideas for items to be raffled please let me know.

Our booth at Freedom Fiesta was a big success. We sold out of the fajita tacos by 10 pm and split the profit of \$870 with the Chapter. We are already making plans for next year's Freedom Fiesta. The parade was also a lot of fun. We had a good turnout for riding the float. Remember if you have any project ideas please let me know.

Live  
Laugh  
Love  
Terri

### From the Chaplain

**The business of finding fault is very easy,  
and that of doing better is difficult.**

*"Therefore, you are without excuse, every man of you who passes judgment, for in that you judge another, you condemn yourself; for you who judge practice the same things."*

*Romans 2: 1*

Lloyd John Olgilvie wrote in *Let God Love You*, "The hardest time to be gentle is when we know we are right and someone else is obviously dead wrong... But the greatest temptation for most of us is when someone has failed us and admitted it, and their destiny or happiness is in our hands. We hold the power to give or refuse a blessing.

"Recently a dear friend hurt me in both word and action Each time we met ... I almost began to enjoy the leverage of being the offended one. His first overtures of restitution were

resisted because of the gravity of the judgment that I had made. He had taken a key idea I had shared with him in confidence and developed it as his own before I had a chance to use it. The plagiarism of ideas had been coupled with the use of some of my written material, reproduced under his name ... The most difficult thing was to surrender my indignation and work through my hurt ...

Finally, the Lord got me where He wanted me ... His word to me was clear and undeniable, 'Lloyd, why is it so important to you who gets the credit, just so My work gets done. I gave up my right to be only what God could be as this man's judge and savior. The gentle attitude began to flow."

When we withhold our forgiveness, it not only hurts the person we don't want to forgive, it hurts us. Our creativity and joy in life are stifled. When we forgive, we release peace and restoration to the forgiven and to ourselves.

*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 feel free to 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

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

**Patriot Day:** Sep. 11, 2011. VFW Post 8456, Geronimo.

**POW/MIA:** Sep. 16, 2011. Central Park.

That's our known official functions to the end of July 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 – Dennis Garriott, Building – Leon Garcia, Hospital – Richard Cusson, Honor Guard Captain – Juan DeLeon.

## **DAV MEETING MINUTES**

(Condensed)

**July 12, 2011, 7PM**

### **OPENING PRAYER/FLAG HONORS**

Quorum: Yes

### **JOINT SESSION:**

- 1) Freedom Fiesta Booth was very successful. We sold out of everything. Chicken fajitas went better than thought. After expenses we made \$870.00 Both the chapter and unit donated half cost for the meet.  
90 lbs of meat= 70lbs of beef and 20 of chicken.
- 2) Parade, we had a different float/trailer. Allowed us to put a cover over the top of it keeping everyone relatively cool.

Auxiliary leaves.

This Chapter meeting is now open for any business properly coming before it.

- 1) Vote on Transfer of Members (approved)
  - a. Rosario, Frank – from Universal City
- 2) New Members: Gerald Koch, Porter Jimmie. Welcome aboard.
- 3) Read the minutes of last Chapter Meeting. Motion to Approve, motion to waive reading of the minutes by Doug Herrle, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dickerson, Carried.
- 4) Treasurer's Report Period from 6/1/11 to 6/30/11. Beginning Balance \$6,630.99. Closing Balance \$5,579.57.
- 5) Sickness or Distress.
  - a. Sam Flores at hospital and will be sent home with nothing to be done for him. Discussion of sending flowers. Marlin Howze made a motion for \$40 with the auxiliary matching \$40 and Larry Bilbrey 2<sup>nd</sup>. All were in favor.
  - b. A blessing, Larry Bilbrey received results on his liver disease that occurred because of his sarcoids is now in remission.
  - c. Member John Dayton passed away.
- 6) Reports of Committees
  - a. New Members awaiting oath. Jimmie Porter, Gerald Koch, Francisco M. Rosario
  - b. Legislation- discussion of no one getting any checks come August 1<sup>st</sup>, 10 yr mile marker could be extended to 20 yrs instead causing a veteran to wait longer to have his military connection secured. Also, legislation wants to subject the compensation to the MEANS test. Meaning even if service connected, if you make too much money you may not receive the paid benefits.

Go to DAV.org and look at click on legislation

- c. Service Officer – 87 hours saw 58 veterans. Unit members volunteering have not received awards for hours.

7) Unfinished business

- a. Bluebonnet trails- getting bids for the air conditioning for the bay, update lights and electrical,
- b. Phil will see about a contractor coming in and getting a bid for the bathroom.
- c. Forget-me-knots October 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> in front of Wal-mart
- d. Custom Designs- in the waiting area there is an example of their work and the cost. It is a fundraiser project

8) New Business

- a. DAV van will be in Nov. 17<sup>th</sup>. National Convention in New Orleans- Dennis Garriott representative attending.
- b. Veteran's Day November 11<sup>th</sup>- discussion of the 1<sup>st</sup> parade from the

monument in the court house area with a trailer for each war to be decorated.

- c. Member Tomas Castellon brought up that an appreciation dinner is being done for Congressman Cuellar will be held in November. DAV is invited.
- d. P.O.W. day on Sept. 17<sup>th</sup> will be hosted by the Geronimo VFW. This is a Guadalupe Valley Veteran's Council event with all local organizations contributing.

9) Moment of Silence for our fallen Comrades (Commander)

10) Closing Ceremony (Commander), Salute the flag (SAA), Closing Prayer (Chaplain)

Larry Bilbrey made motion to adjourn meeting, Doug Herrle 2<sup>nd</sup> all present voted in favor.

We are adjourned to meet again at 7:53PM on 8/9/11.

## **Freedom Fiesta and the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade**



Photos by Margarita Bilbrey

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: Phil Sierer

Senior Vice-Commander: Dennis Garriott

Junior Vice-Commander: Mike Fore

Treasurer: Larry Bilbrey

Chaplin: Richard Cusson

Adjutant: Margarita Bilbrey

Sergeant-at-Arms: Gary Elley

**The Auxiliary Unit Officers**

Commander: Terri Herrle

Senior Vice Commander: Lynette Sierer

Junior Vice Commander: Jeanne Garriott

Adjutant / Treasurer: Christa Howze

Chaplin: Liegh Harrelson

State Executive Committeewoman: Jean Garriott

Alternate SEC is Leigh Harrelson