



# 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

March 2011

## From the Editor

A few thoughts from the editor. First, I would like to tell everyone what a great job of volunteerism I've seen lately. The first "2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday Breakfast" was a big hit. We had a bunch of people turn out (diners and volunteers). How easy the job is when there are a lot of hands helping. Additionally, the Honor Guard has been getting a lot of praise lately. The last couple of months really had the team rolling. Former Police Chief Collazo and his wife donated magnetic door placards identifying the Honor Guard vehicles when enroute to services. Big thanks to the Collazo's. Big thanks to Leon Garcia, as well, for all the work he has been doing around the Chapter House. He's been busting tail. There is always room for more help, but I am really glad to see all the things going on around the Chapter House. People are coming up with new ideas of things we can do to raise awareness in the community for veterans. Good Job.

We recently were paid a visit by "Tony the Vet", AKA Tony LoBue, raising awareness for veterans in his walk across the US. Commander DeLeon and Member/Councilman Castellon walked around the city to highlight his visit through Seguin. I think the Commander will rethink the idea of patent leather walking shoes in the future. But some good press for Tony

(and his cat Bravo). The City and County welcomed him in a big warm fashion as well. He has a fund raiser coming up in San Antonio and he personally invites all the DAV folks to join him there. Flyers and info are at the Chapter.

We have a number of upcoming events in the future including the Forget-Me-Not drive, our Luau fund drive, Veterans Visit with Congressman Cuellar, Fire & Iron Fundraiser benefitting Chapter 61, Department Convention in Austin, and the National Convention in New Orleans. Info is posted in this edition and at the Chapter House. More info can be obtained by contacting your Chapter Officers.

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 auctioning along with other items. We have raffle tickets for sale at the Chapter House 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.

Marlin Howze  
Editor

## From the Chaplain

### **An unused life is an early death.**

*“The fool folds his hands and consumes his own flesh.”*

*Ecclesiastes 4:5*

Can one person really make a difference in the world today?

One New Yorker thought so. He was determined to be complimentary to every person he saw, every day. A friend asked him, “Do you even compliment cab drivers?” The man said, “Certainly! If I am nice to one cab driver, he’s likely to be nice to his next twenty fares, at a minimum. If they in turn are nicer to shopkeepers, waitresses, and their own families, then one gesture of goodwill might influence at least a thousand people!

“Now, if only three people that I talk to today have a happier day because of what I say to them, I might indirectly influence the attitude of 3,000 people. If a few of those I talk to are teachers, or people who have contact with more than the usual number of people... why my good mood might touch more than 10,000 lives. Not one other thing I do today is likely to have that kind of impact!”

Pass on a portion of what you have today. If you have nothing but your own smile, goodwill and joy – pass it on! You *can* make a difference.

*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

**Wal-Mart Forget-me-not fund drive:** Apr 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**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 March 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 - John DeLeon, Hospital – Richard Cusson, Honor Guard Captain – Juan DeLeon.

## **DAV MEETING MINUTES**

**Feb 8, 2011**

PRAYER/FLAG HONORS

Quorum: Yes

**Introduce visitors.** (SAA) Tony the Vet(AKA Anthony LoVue), 68 yrs old, left San Diego on 9-11-10 and plans to be in New York on 9-11-11 and he is walking. Tony discussed his walk through Seguin and thanked the Chapter for their support.

Anthony LoBue is a Disabled veteran and walking to Support Our Veterans Association (SOVA) H health and wellness. He explained some of the goals of his walk for veterans: improved employment and literacy legacy through oral and video history. Protection and advocacy through political activism. And Social Networking. He asked that we give news organizations his sound bite about the 3 R's --- Recognition, respect and the rewards to which they are entitled. He recommended the book "Tears of a Warrior", available free to all warriors and their families- given to me by Guadalupe County Service Officer Bill McAllister. You can go online and get it free. Received a proclamation from the city of Seguin and certificate of certification from Congressman Cueller, as well as the VA. He noted that a faithful friend is the medicine of life. Please be my friend and I will be yours. Together we will demonstrate to everyone that it is all about Vets supporting Vets. Motion by Larry Bilbrey to donate \$200 to Tony the Vet and Dickerson 2<sup>nd</sup> it. Motion made and carried.

#### **New Members:**

Charles Glass, Marc Druck, Andrew Cases

**Read the minutes** of last Chapter (and/or executive board) Meeting. (Adjutant)

Motion to Approve Dennis Garriott 2<sup>nd</sup> by Larry Bilbrey Carried Yes

#### **Treasurer's Report** (Treasurer)

Period from 1 Feb 11 to 28 Feb 11

Beginning Balance \$12,743.33 Closing Balance \$8,467.69

#### **Bills or communications:**

(Commander/Adjutant) RAPPS is offering

free PTSD counseling, Career services, Location of civic and social groups to join and family counseling. Two letters of appreciation for funeral performed by the honor guard were received as well as a letter for Larry Bilbrey's participation in the MDA charity.

#### **Committee Reports:**

Service Officer absent (No Report)

- Chaplain Cusson entered his Service Hours: correspondence with vet- 3 hrs, counseling -2hrs, Funeral- 15 hrs, Special Detail – 2 hrs- Total hours 22
- Breakfast at the Chapter House this Saturday. Please get the word out and bring people to the breakfast.
- Entertainment Mark Fore discussed items donated for the Lua

#### **Unfinished business:**

None

#### **New Business:**

- Victoria, TX District meeting was 5Mar. New Officers were elected.
- There is a Fisher House being built at the VA in San Antonio. Fundraiser April 9, Audie Murphy motorcycle rally (Fiesta de los Veteranos).
- Landboard will no longer have their marketing persons coming out into the community.
- Schertz, TX has a fundraiser going on for the Memorial they are starting. They also wanted the list of all the veterans that died in the area in Vietnam.
- Phil Sierer discussed with the members the need for money to be spent for office supplies. The bylaws only allow \$100 to spend a month and toner cartridges for one printer was \$100 alone. Request for approval of \$500 for office supplies Motion

by Dennis Gariott 2<sup>nd</sup> by Larry Bilbrey, all in favor YES. None apposed.

- Gary Elley is discussing the Freedom Fiesta on July 2nd in Seguin. It will be a one day event. Elley discussed doing a possible fundraiser at this event. See about opening a booth with food and sell.

- A plaque was awarded to the Honor Guard from the Hispanic chambers of commerce. The award is the Patriotic award.

- Mike Fore donated \$100 for the Honor Guard which performed at his father's funeral.

**Good of the Order:**

- Nominations:

Commander: Phil Sierer

Senior Vice-Commander: Juan DeLeon,  
Dennis Garriott

Leon Garcia requested to be removed from the Junior Vice-Commander nominations.  
Junior Vice-Commander: Michael Fore and Gary Elley

Treasurer: Larry Bilbrey

Chaplain: Richard Cusson

- District Convention would like to have the support to nominate Richard Cussan as the District Chaplain. Richard Cussan accepted and everyone agreed.

Motion to close: Marlin Howze

Second Thomas Castellon

Carried Yes xxxxx NO

Next meeting: Apr 12, 7PM.

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**