



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

Oct 2011

Editor's Note

Welcome to All Hallows Eve. Yep, we're nearing the end of the year and the Chapter and Unit have seen big changes.

The Forget Me Not went well and is timely with the increased needs of the new Chapter House. Remember, the Chapter and Unit are doing a lot more now, especially with the opening of the new Veteran Comfort Zone program in place. We'll need all the help we can get in fundraising and other support in the future with the increased cost of doing business.

The successful Grand Opening of the Veterans Comfort Zone (VCZ) took place on the 15th with a Grand crowd of City and County Officials, Blue Bonnet Trails Community Health Service, LLC leaders, our own DAV District Commander and our Chapter, and Unit Officers, and members as well as the Officers and members of AL Post 245, VFW 8456, and Manuel Castilla GI Forum. Great job to all who helped put this terrific program in effect. The VCZ officially opens on Oct 31st, but unofficially have already begun helping veterans and their families with a variety of issues important to them. If you need assistance or wish to help support this new and exciting program designed to help Veterans, stop in and talk with Terri Herrle, Gary Elley, or any of the other VCZ Specialists.

The upcoming Veteran's Day event is new and bigger with inclusion of a Veteran's Parade. A joint Guadalupe County Veteran's Council program, the event is being headed up by The GI Forum. Join us on Veteran's Day (Nov. 11, 2011 at 11am) and march the route if you can to show the City, County and fellow citizens our strength and numbers. If you can't march the route, join us at Veteran's Park for the ceremony at 11am sharp. Details will follow in the newspapers and emails from your officers. Stay tuned and pass the word.

Speaking of Veteran's Park, the City of Seguin Parks Department and Guadalupe County Veteran's Council just put in brand new benches in the Park. Check them out, they are pretty sweet. The Park continues to improve each year with the Veteran Service Organizations managing improvements. We hope to continue making this a special place to keep the memories of past sacrifices alive.

I am including Minutes and the Chaplain's sermons from month with this month's submission.

Marlin Howze
Editor

**From the Chaplain
(October)**

Getting Past The Past

*"...One thing I do: Forgetting what is behind
and straining toward what is ahead"*

Philippians 3:13

In order to move forward in life, we have to "let go of the past." But have you ever wondered exactly how to do that? First, understand that we take hold of things in our minds with our thoughts. Our thoughts become words and actions that determine the direction of our lives. It's that simple. If you want to choose a new direction for your life, you have to choose new thoughts. If you want to let go of the past, you have to quit thinking about it, quit talking about it, and quit reliving every negative experience.

Oftentimes, when we see someone who has hurt us, that pain and offense is stirred up, and we start thinking about what happened again. But in that moment, you have a choice to make. One of the best things you can do, instead of rehearsing the hurt, is to pray for that person and speak blessing over them.

Remember, forgiveness is for you. Letting go of bitterness is for you. Don't let the past hold you back from what God has in store for your future any longer. Get past the past by choosing right thoughts because God has victory and blessing in store for your future!

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 or by calling me at (830) 491-8009.

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

Chaplain Richard Cusson

Upcoming Events

Veteran's Day: Nov. 11, 2011, 11am. Parade to begin approx. 10am from Seguin Central Park ending at Veteran's Park approximately 10:45am. Event to begin at Veteran's Park at 11am.

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 Lorance,

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

**DAV CHAPTER 61 MEETING
MINUTES
(Condensed)
October 11, 2011, 7PM**

DAV MEETING MINUTES

Joint Session:

Terrie Herrle discussed the grand opening for the new program

Oct 15th at 10am Grand Opening for the Veterans Comfort Zone

Aiming for first Monday in November will be the actual opening day, because not everything is set up yet. VFW auxiliary post will be donating water and sandwiches for the grand opening

Please wear uniform if you have them or the DAV pull over.

Rally begins Noon to Noon October 21 and 22 at the VFW 7110 in New Braunfels will have a function there and we will set up a table for the Comfort Zone. We will have brochures, and bluebonnet trails will invite us with some as well. We will be selling the laser wood cut outs and will have a raffle there as well. Tickets will be \$5 each and this is a fundraiser for the Comfort Zone. There are lots of vendors so the rally is open for everybody.

Items taken up to Bastrop are distributed to veterans affected by the fires.

Forget-me-knots was this weekend and from one door collected \$1700.

Discussion of the upcoming Pre-plan meeting in January 14, 2012

Marlin made a motion to purchase \$100 full page add, Larry Bilbrey 2nd. All in favor.

Auxillary Terrie Herrle said the Auxillary will pay half and be part of the advertisement as well

Nov 12 at 6 pm- Luling, TX - A Night To Salute America, free Southern Gospel Concert.

Honor Guard will be doing the colors- 4x6 flags needed.

Juan DeLeon would like everyone to show up from the DAV in DAV attire to show a force of veterans since they are honoring all veterans. Shelly Cox is our contact.

Veterans and Vets Family Night out, held at TLC Nov. 10th starts at 430pm until 830pm here in Seguin. TX

Veterans Day event- parade from court house to Veterans Park.

Al Aranda is selling tickets \$6.00 for Oct 22 at the beergartens. It is a fundraiser for Joe DeLeon's annual barbeque on Veterans Day.

CALL TO ORDER:

PRAYER:

Roll call of Officers:

note: (7) to make a quorum, (2) officers

Commander: P	Phil Sierer
Sr. Vice Commander: P	Dennis Garriott
Jr. Vice Commander: P	Mike Fore
Treasurer: P	Larry Bilbrey
Chaplain: P	Richard Cussan
Adjutant: P	Margarita Bilbrey
Sgt at Arms P	Gary Elley

Chapter has a quorum Yes

Vote on Transfers: James Freeman

Visitors: Ray Morales from Marion, TX paperwork in and future member of DAV.

Vote on New Members: N/A

New Members: Charles Purnell, Anthony Sierer, Jesse Garcia

Reading of minutes Motion to approve
Marlin Howze to accept minutes as is
Seconded Juan DeLeon

Carried: Yes

Treasurer Report: From 9/1/11 to 9/31/11
See Adjutant or Treasurer for Report.

Motion by Marlin Howze, 2nd Gary Elley All in Favor- YES,

Bills or Communications: NA

Sickness or Distress (Chaplain): No distress to report

REPORTS OF COMMITTEE:

Membership: New members reported above.

Service Officer: Total 52 hours and Available 144 hrs

Those that work at the Comfort Zone can report as service hours thru the DAV as well as people from other groups.

Other:

Unfinished Business: Take note of the parking lot. A sealant still needs to be laid down on it, Cussan concerned about the price of the sealant \$1800. They restrip the parking lot after the sealant is put down. New lighting, new electrical, new computers, new tv, new sound system, new projector.

Juan DeLeon asked about security on the building. Discussion of the building having security and talk to insurance about appraisal of the new items.

Leon discussed people being careless about the building, doors have been found open/unlocked as well as the safe found unlock and open. Last person here needs to do a double check on all the doors to make sure all locked before leaving the area.

Phil Sierer reported that the POW/MIA service at the VFW was very nice.

Table the discussion of the trailer body for a storage – may do a series of fundraisers for the storage

New Business: Juan DeLeon brought in a bill “Honor Guard items” \$239.04 Al Aranda

motion to pay the bill and Gary Elley 2nd and all in favor.

Feb 18th – CSO Training

March 2nd- 3rd District V meeting

We are now members of the Chamber of Commerce. \$130 a year, and \$115 every year after and there was an add in the newspaper to acknowledge us being in the chamber. .

Minutes from Executive Meetings: No meetings

Good of the Order:

Marlin Howze said for us to notice the tower is gone. They also took the stumps out, and we will negotiate with Home Depot to landscape the area.

Services to our veterans: Project Mend- Maria Luisa Alvarado (veterans case manager) 210-223-6363 www.projectmend.org.

She gave a speech to Chapter 25 for veterans not meeting the same criteria of the VA and where to get the services needed – medical equipment network for those with disabilities. – Need to be a Bexar County Resident. The program will assist more than veterans. If you have used crutches or items you can donate the items.

Veterans do not qualify for travel pay if they are riding in the DAV van for free. The VA will shut down the vans if they keep this up, as well as with any other vans that offer rides for free and the persons try to get mileage pay.

If you know a WW11 Veteran that served in theater that can be submitted and get him recognized and a medal for the specific region.

State Cemetery opened in Corpus Christi on Dec 7th 2011.

JR Garza involved in program to honor veterans in Vietnam killed in action. Reaching out to the public to get names and pictures of persons that died. Next year is the 50th anniversary of Vietnam War and it will be the closing time for the project., an educational center built underneath the Vietnam Wall. Need to get this information before May. The Virtual Wall has many names already information. There are 93 veterans we are still searching information and have no information and asking community to help assist in finding this information. It is nationwide, but we are doing it locally. Peter Holt donated a million dollars himself to the program.

Remember that you need to inform your spouse's what to do if you were to past away.

Go with a checklist so they know what to take care of when you go.

Early voting and make sure to vote for Proposition #1 deals with handing down the tax exemption from the disabled veteran.

Motion to close Marlin Howze Second
Richard Cussan Carried Yes

Next meeting:

November 8, 2011 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: 2nd 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