

September 2013



COMMANDER'S COMMENTS  
DAV CHAPTER 61 & DAVA UNIT 61, SEGUIN, TX  
SEPTEMBER 2013

**Guadalupe County Chapter 61**

**MONTHLY NEWSLETTER**

As usual we continue to be very busy fulfilling our mission to make lives better for disabled veterans and their families. We work closely with the Chapter members to make this happen and often our monthly meetings begin together to discuss these activities. Then, members of our Unit leave to meet and discuss items of particular interest to our Unit 61.

This month, in the interest of saving time and minimizing repetition, we are combining our Commander's Comments and keeping them short as you will find details about activities and upcoming events in the Chapter minutes for the Sept. 10<sup>th</sup> meeting, and in Upcoming Events.

Beginning with our POW/MIA Ceremony this Friday at the Geronimo VFW and continuing through our Christmas party in December, we will be keeping very busy. We encourage you to come to our meetings on the second Tuesday of each month at 7 PM at the Chapter House located at 425 Vaughan Avenue (formerly Seguin fire station No. 3). Our membership continues to grow in both of our organizations and we have a wonderful group of individuals focused on helping disabled veterans and on ensuring that our community continues to be the beautiful, nurturing, safe place we want for our families and friends.

We welcome your suggestions, comments, and observations so please give us a call or better yet, come by the Chapter House on Tuesday or Wednesday between the hours of 9 AM to 1 PM. Our Chapter Service Officers are there during that time. On Tuesday afternoon's beginning our PTSD support groups meet (12 noon – 1 PM & 1:30 – 2:30 PM). Wednesday afternoons from 1:30 – 3 PM our Bible study group meets. Our Veterans' Court meets on Wednesday evenings and is making a lot of progress toward assisting some of our veterans through some difficult times. Usually Terri Herrle (Adjutant/Treasurer of Unit 61) and/or Lynette Sierer are also at the Chapter House during operating hours.

We are blessed to live in this country, the state of Texas and our local communities. Much of the freedom and happiness we enjoy has been made possible through the commitment and sacrifices made by many of our veterans, and at home, by their families.

It is our duty to honor them and to assist them as needed. We must also remember those who have passed on, many of them having given their lives to preserve our lifestyle and freedoms. It is also up to us to promote patriotism among our youth and their families.

Get these young citizens involved in volunteering- helping others, honoring and supporting our veterans.

We think you will agree that we are busy. Your support is deeply appreciated. We realize that everyone cannot participate in every event but we hope you will join as often as possible. We always have a great time.

Take care,

Phil Sierer, DAV Chapter 61 Commander: 210-863-7762  
Lynette Sierer, DAVA Unit 61 Commander: 210-863-4257

P.S. to Unit 61 members: Stay tuned for more info on

- Time to gather items for BIG raffle at Christmas Party
- Cookies needed for Veterans Day Ceremony' 3 dozen each, packaged 2 per snack bag
- Craft project for Christmas party door prizes

### DAVA COOKBOOKS NOW ON SALE

This is a fundraiser to benefit our DAVA Departmental (State) treasury. Each book costs \$15 and contains more than 300 recipes contributed by DAVA members, families and friends. We have a small supply of them at our Chapter House office. Once we sell these, we can get more until we sell all of them. Exact amount in cash, \$15, or a check made out to DAVA Unit 61 will be appreciated.

Our unit meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month at 7 PM at the Chapter House. This is the same time and place that our Chapter meets.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**SEP 20: POW/MIA SERVICE AT GERONIMO VFW**

**OCT 5: INDIAN SUMMIT AT AQUARENA SPRINGS,  
HONOR GUARD EVENT.**

**OCT 12-13: FORGET ME NOT DRIVE AT WALMART**

**NOV 1<sup>ST</sup>: GOLDEN CORRAL IS SCHEDULED.**

**NOV 11: VETERAN'S DAY**

**NOV 16: TLU BENEFIT RUN (DAV DASH)**

**FEB 1<sup>ST</sup> 2014: CSO TRAINING FOR DIST V WILL BE  
HELD AT CHAPTER 61'S HOUSE.**

**MAR 3<sup>RD</sup>: DIST V MEETING WILL BE HOSTED BY  
CHAPTER 61. THE MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE  
GERONIMO VFW HALL.**

#### Our New Members

Alan J. Bryant-Gillett  
Jeffery S. Legere-New Braunfels  
Odilo L. Molina-San Antonio

#### Our Transferred Members

Marvin Fey  
James C. Guzman

### The Chapter 61 Staff.

#### Chapter Officers:

Commander	Phil Sierer
SV Commander	Gary Elley
JV Commander	Jimmie Dickerson
Treasurer	JJ Chapa
Chaplain	Richard Cusson
Adjutant	Marlin Howze
SAA	Leon Garcia
Honor Guard	Juan DeLeon
Service Officer	Doug Herrle

#### Unit Officers:

Commander	Lynette Sierer
SV Commander	Leigh Harrelson
JV Commander	Joyce Farr
Treasurer/Adj	Terri Herrle
Chaplain	Jeanne Garriott
SEC	Terri Herrle
Alt SEC	Jeanne Garriott

#### **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 Groups:**

Every Tuesday, 12 am-1pm and 1:30-  
2:30pm

**VCZ:** Tue-Wed, 9am-3pm

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

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

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

## Chapter Photos

New Members being sworn in at DAV Chapter 61.



Warren Walls and Linda Quinn



Lee Ramirez

Pictures submitted by Comrade Mike Fore.

## Thoughts from the Chaplain

### God Is Looking for A Few Good Men

**So I sought for a man among them who would make a wall, and stand in the gap before Me on behalf of the land, that I should not destroy it; but I found no one. (Ezekiel 22:30)**

God looks for those whose hearts are prepared to be intercessors before Him. Intercessors have hearts in tune with God's heart. They are so acutely aware of what is at stake, for their land, that they will stay before God as long as necessary in order to obtain God's answer. That is why you do not volunteer to be an intercessor. God enlists you.

Why do we not intercede as we should? Perhaps we are afraid to put God to the test. We worry that God might not answer our prayers. Yet God promises that if we ask, we will receive (Matt. 7:7). We may fail to intercede because we believe the busyness of our everyday lives is more effective than prayer. Jesus warned that apart from Him, we can do nothing (John 15:5). Without being intimately acquainted with God and His will, all of our labors are futile. Perhaps we fail to intercede because we misunderstand the heart of God. Jesus wept over the city of Jerusalem as He interceded for it (Matt. 23:37). If we truly have God's love within us, we will feel compelled to plead with God on behalf of those who face His imminent judgment.

Intercession is a lonely business. There may be many days or even years when there appear to be few results for your labor. Yet intercessors can be the only ones standing between a family and God's judgment, or between an individual or nation and God's wrath.

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 [4Veterans@hotmail.com](mailto:4Veterans@hotmail.com) or by calling me at (830) 491-8009.

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

Chaplain Richard Cusson

As your Chaplain, I am available to all members and their immediate family for counseling or discussion of any spiritual issue. You may contact me anytime at [4Veterans@msn.com](mailto:4Veterans@msn.com)

#### **From the Chaplain**

#### *Binnacle List*

- ❖ Past Commander Doug Herrle still battling illness.
- ❖ Comrade Dennis Roy still recuperating.
- ❖ Aux member Brenda recovering from heart attack.
- ❖ Mr. Lewis Herrera is in bad condition.
- ❖ Comrade John Cuellar still battling illness.

*They are in our Prayers*

#### **Reminder**

Bible Study is offered at the Chapter House every Wednesday afternoon from 1:30 PM usually finishing up by 3 pm. We have open and engaging discussions while we explore the Word of our Lord and find what he has to offer us. Come, join us. We are currently studying the complex issues surrounding Revelations.

## DAV Meeting Minutes

Guadalupe County, TX Chapter 61  
TIME: 7PM  
Chapter House, 425 Vaughan St., Seguin TX 78155

DATE: 09/10/2013

### CALL TO ORDER:

Prayer by Adjutant Marlin Howze  
Flag Honors: Y

### Joint Meeting Chapter and Unit

- ❖ Keep Past Commander Herrle in your prayers as he recovers from his medical conditions.
- ❖ Past Commander Juan Deleon and team did an outstanding job representing the DAV at the New Braunfels VFW Post 7110's second annual IBCA Cook-off. They took 1<sup>st</sup> place in display, 2<sup>nd</sup> place on Cook's Choice, and 10<sup>th</sup> place in Ribs. They spent \$137.27 on meat for the event (left-overs were brought to the Chapter House before the meeting). **Warren Walls motioned to re-imburse Juan for the meat at \$137.27, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Leon Garcia, motion carries.**
- ❖ Chapter 61, Unit 61 and the VCZ have been invited to a ribbon cutting ceremony at Texas Lutheran University for their new Veteran Student Center. TLU hosts 40 veterans and 41 dependents through there degree programs. **Frank Rosario motioned to support the Center with a donation of \$500, Leon Garcia 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion carried.**
- ❖ 3 TLU students are visiting as part of their community involvement program. Nov 16<sup>th</sup> (after Golden Corral) TLU will put on a DAV Dash for Chapter 61. This will be a 5K run with t-shirts included in the entry fee. The run will be limited to 150 entrants. Details are still in the works.
- ❖ Auxiliary is collecting items for the Christmas Dinner Raffle. If you have some items to donate, see Commader Lynette Sierer or Adjutant Terri Herrle or any other Aux member.
- ❖ Comarade Mike Fore discussed the mission of the Veteran Comfort Zone with regards to their "Seeking Safety" program and the Guadalupe County Veteran's Court. He discussed the need for volunteers in this important program designed to help veterans finding themselves involved with the court system.
- ❖ Auxiliary retires.

### Roll call of officers by Marlin Howze, Adjutant

Commander:	Present X	Absent
Sr. Vice Commander:	Present X	Absent
Jr. Vice Commander	Present	Absent
Treasurer:	Present X	Absent
Chaplain:	Present X	Absent X (Excused)
Adjutant:	Present X	Absent
SAA:	Present X	Absent

Total officers & members present: 21 (Sign in sheet attached)

Chapter had a quorum: Yes

Seven (7) Members shall constitute a quorum. 2 members present shall be elected officers.

**Guests:** 3 Texas Lutheran University Students

### ORDER OF BUSINESS:

Names of New Members: Alan J. Bryant-Gillett, Jeffery S. Legere-New Braunfels, Odilo L. Molina-San Antonio. (New members and those who have not been previously initiated must be initiated at their 1st meeting and their names recorded in minutes.)

Received Oath: None

Names of Transferred In Members: Marvin Fey, James C. Guzman.

Welcome to all our new members.

**READING OF THE MINUTES:** Stand as posted. (The commander asks if there are corrections to minutes. Hearing none he/she would declare the minutes are approved as read or posted. If there are corrections, the minutes would be adopted as amended by unit vote.)

**Minutes are posted on Chapter Website, bulletin board, and emailed via Newsletter.**

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** From Aug 01 to 31, 2013.

Beginning: \$18,592.20. Ending: \$18,059.60. Full report and statements read aloud and are attached.

**Motion to accept: Wayne, 2<sup>nd</sup>: Juan De Leon, motion carries.**

**BILLS AND COMMUNICATIONS:** (list provided)

- ❖ Monthly DAV Nat'l HQ report on membership
- ❖ Invitation to attend Texas Lutheran University Veteran Student Center ribbon cutting and donation request.
- ❖ DAV St. HQ updated directory. Commander and Adjutant have copies.
- ❖ New rates from ATT coming. Adjutant to negotiate.

**SICKNESS & DISTRESS:**

- ❖ Past Commander Doug Herrle still battling illness. Comrade Dennis Roy still recuperating. Aux member Brenda recovering from heart attack. Mr. Lewis Herrera is in bad condition. Comrade John Cuellar still battling illness. Prayers for their continued recovery. Keep these members and their families in your prayers.

**LEGISLATION**

- ❖ Camp Lejuene Family Member Care Act establishes guidelines for families affected during stays from 1957-1987. More info call 877-222-8382.
- ❖ Eligible pool for young adults for military recruitment shrinking.
- ❖ Tricare For Life (TFL) recipients and VA Priority Group 8 veterans will be responsible for the 80% normally paid by Medicare as of Oct 1. Obama Care takes effect.
- ❖ VFW and Sports Clips Haircuts offer a new scholarship of \$5K to eligible veterans ranked E5 and below.

**REPORT OF COMMITTEES:**

- ❖ Membership: 3 new members. 2 transferred members.
- ❖ CSO:
  - SOs: Total Hours 123, Hrs available 192, Veterans seen 82. Hrs for 4 Srvc Ofcrs. See attached report for details.
  - Chaplain Hours: No Report
  - Honor Guard Hours: Funeral for Thomas Ivarra: 14 volunteers, 84 hours tot. Funeral for Irvin R. Gearhart, 7 volunteers, 28 hours tot. Honor Guard Totals: 112 hours, 2 events.
  - Linda Truax: 1.5 hrs vet visit
  - Veteran Comfort Zone (VCZ): 72 hrs, 2 volunteers. Mike Fore and Jaime Cervantez.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

- ❖ See Joint for other Old Business.
- ❖ Comrade Tomas Castello (and City Councilman) discussed the details involving bringing a Vietnam Travelling Memorial Wall to Seguin and Guadalupe County. Very involved and will require the combined labor of all the Veteran Service Organizations in the area as well as City and County help. Corporate sponsors are being sought and the Congressman Hinohosa's Office has been contacted to help as well. We are trying to schedule this for the Veteran's Day Observance for 2014, a little over a year away. Details to follow as we get them. This is a big deal.
- ❖ POW/MIA is Sep 20<sup>th</sup>. Ceremony will be at our friends, VFW Post 8456 in Geronimo, Hall. The DAV as well as other area VSO's will be players in this event. Hope everyone puts this on their calendar for attendance. If we forget, everyone else certainly will also.
- ❖ Golden Corral is scheduled for Nov 1<sup>th</sup> through the 11<sup>th</sup>. We have received the green light from State and will soon be in contact with the managers at Golden Corral in New Braunfels. They absolutely loved us last year.

- ❖ Chapter 61 BBQ is still at the welders in McQueeney.
- ❖ Forget-me-nots will be at Wal-mart on Oct 12&13, 10am to 4 or 5pm each day. Volunteers will be needed.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- ❖ Nothing to report.

**GOOD of the ORDER**

- ❖ Comrade JJ Chapa is ordering new DAV T-shirts. He will send in the order next Wednesday. They are cool looking and are only \$10 each. See JJ for more details.
- ❖ Comrades Salas and Hart offered 5 slots for a free dove hunt on a ranch for 19 Oct. There will be a morning and evening hunt. The slots were filled fast. Thanks Red and Joel.
- ❖ Honor Guard Captain Juan will be putting a list of Honor Guard events coming soon. Some of these include the POW/MIA event at Geronimo and the POW/MIA event at Manuel Castillas Park on the morning of the 21<sup>st</sup>. There is also an event at an Indian Summit Meeting on Oct 5<sup>th</sup> opening at 12pm and closing sometime around 6PM. This event will take place at the old Aquarena Springs venue. Hopefully all Honor Guard personnel will be getting their uniforms in shape as Juan is going to need all the help. There will probably be a need for Guards at the Vet Day events in Nov as well.

**Moment of Silence. Remembrance of fallen comrades.**

**Motion for Adjournment:**

**Motion by Leon Garcia, 2nd by Mike Fore, carried.**

**CLOSING CEREMONY: \_\_x\_\_ Salute \_\_x\_\_ Closing Prayer by Chaplain**

**Next meeting will be 7 PM, on October 8th, 2013.**