

June 2014



Guadalupe County Chapter 61

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



COMMANDERS' COMMENTS DAV CHAPTER 61 & DAVA UNIT 61 June 2014

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

The Chapter House will be closed for business on Wednesday, July 2, 2014.

This is when we will be decorating our float (trailer) for the July 4th parade. Bella is once again heading up this project and invites any of you who are interested, Chapter and Unit members, to come to the Chapter House at 9 AM. We have lots of patriotic decorations to use on the trailer and our Freedom Fiesta booth. So come on down to help. It won't take long and we have lots of fun.

July 4th Parade & BBQ

If you would like to ride in the parade, please let us know on Wednesday. This year we are honored to have a Medal of Honor recipient riding with us. Please wear a Chapter/Unit or patriotic shirt and be at Chapter House no later than 7:30 AM so we can be seated on the float for the ride to the parade line up. It's going to be hot and we will be sitting still for quite awhile, probably in the sun before the parade starts, so you might consider using a sun screen and wearing a hat. We will have cold water on the trailer and will give each rider an individual fan to help you keep cool. Please do not bring umbrellas for shade as past experience has shown these can be quite dangerous.

After the parade we will return to the Chapter House to cool off, enjoy a delicious meal and spend some quality time with our families and each other. The meat will be provided by and cooked on our new BBQ pit by Rene and his crew from S & S Services in McQueeney. We ask that you bring a side dish and/or dessert to share with everyone. Ice tea will be provided.

This is a family event so we invite you to bring cards, dominoes or any other games your family would enjoy playing. We ask that you bring board and/or card games so families can interact with each other (No computer games, please).

Freedom Fiesta is scheduled for the night of July 3, 2014. We will once again have a booth selling beef and chicken fajita tacos. At the meeting we circulated a sign-up sheet for shifts throughout the evening. If you were unable to sign up, we invite you to come by the booth and we'll put you to work while someone else takes a break. We could also use help at midnight when we close down. We will set up at 5 PM and must stay open until midnight when the event is over. Historically this has been a very profitable event for our organizations. Yes, it's going to be hot and yes, it's a lot of work, and yes, we have lots of fun meeting people, supporting our community while raising money and awareness for our organizations and the services we offer disabled veterans and their families.

Each year Freedom Fiesta begins with a kiddy parade that is really fun to watch. The kids dress up in patriotic costumes and decorate their bikes, wagons and whatever mode of transportation they have, competing for 1st, 2nd & 3rd place ribbons. This year our unit will give a little patriotic bear to each participant in the parade, showing them that they are all winners in our eyes. We hope to make this type of recognition a tradition.

Last year our booth won 2nd place for decorating. Theme is patriotic so this year we added to our decorations and are aiming for 1st place. Any recognition would be great but 1st place would be "mission accomplished". We ask that you wear Chapter/Unit or patriotic shirts and caps while working your shift. Please wear what you have – don't buy any apparel just for this event. We also have a few

would be great but 1st place would be “mission accomplished”. We ask that you wear Chapter/Unit or patriotic shirts and caps while working your shift. Please wear what you have – don't buy any apparel just for this event. We also have a few patriotic aprons we can wear, too. Our booth will be located in same spot as in previous years. See you there!

Our Bible study continues each Wednesday at 1:30 PM. We are currently studying the book of Ephesians and welcome you to join us.

Nothing is the same without Doug Herrle. We still look for him when we are at the Chapter House, going so far as to head down the hall to ask him a question and then realizing he's not there. He touched so many lives, making them better and taught several of us to do the same as chapter service officers. When times were lean for our Chapter he never gave up, often using his own money to help veterans and to meet expenses so we could stay open. We know you all have wonderful stories too, memories of him, a man who dedicated his life to family and disabled veterans. He was often an inspiration to many of us. He came into the Chapter House many days when he didn't feel well at all, when it was an effort for him to even breathe. Many people depended on him and wanted to see him only when they came in for assistance with claims. And we understand why- he was the best. Only cost to you is that of the study guide. Again we thank Living Waters Worship Center for their support by buying the materials for our studies.

We are sure you will agree that nothing is the same without Doug Herrle. We still look for him when we are at the Chapter House, going so far as to head down the hall to ask him a question and then realizing he's not there. He touched so many lives, making them better and taught several of us to do the same as chapter service officers. When times were lean for our Chapter he never gave up, often using his own money to help veterans and to meet expenses so we could stay open. We know you all have wonderful stories too, memories of him, a man who dedicated his life to family and disabled veterans. He was often an inspiration to many of us. He came into the Chapter House many days when he didn't feel well at all, when it was an effort for him to even breathe. Many people depended on him and wanted to see him only when they came in for assistance with claims. And we understand why- he was the best.

When we think of Doug, we see Terri at his side. She was his rock. Her love for him was unconditional. She kept him going, encouraging him to continue his work with veterans because, after his family, it was his passion. She shared him with all of us and for that we give her a grateful, sincere **THANK YOU**.

How do we show our heartfelt gratitude? How do we ensure that Doug's legacy continues, that future generations who walk through our doors know that largely because of him, they can get help and always seek help and safety at our Chapter House?

We are awaiting approval of Chapter 61's request to change our name to the **Doug Herrle Chapter 61 DAV**. We look forward to instituting this change as a way to honor Doug and the life-changing work he did for disabled veterans and their families, making their lives better.

Please contact us with your ideas and questions. Unit 61 is particularly interested in suggestions for community service and fundraising projects. Remember that we rely totally on donations, grants and fundraisers to fund and offer our services to help disabled veterans and their families, and that we operate on a totally cash basis.

Take care!

Phil Sierer, DAV Chapter 61 Commander
Lynette Sierer, DAVA Unit 61 Commander

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:
2nd 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/chapters/tx/61>.

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

JUNE 29TH. WATERMELON THUMP IN LULING. 1PM AT LULING PAVILLION.

JULY 2ND. CHAPTER WILL BE CLOSED. DECORATING THE PARADE FLOAT STARTING AT 10AM.

JULY 3RD. FREEDOM FIESTA FUND RAISER. DOWNTOWN SEGUIN AT 5PM.

JULY 4TH. PARADE 8PM. BBQ AFTER PARADE AT CHAPTER HOUSE. FIREWORKS AT THE NAT'L GUARD ARMORY.

Names of New Members

Santiago Castillo-Staples.

Names of Transferred Members

Henry Sellers.

Welcome to our new members

Thoughts from the Chaplain

**"...With us is the Lord our God, to help us and to fight our battles."
(2 Chronicles 32:8, NKJV)**



His

I've learned that when the enemy attacks, God reacts. God doesn't just sit back and think, "Well, I wonder what's going to happen. I wonder what they're going to do." No, God goes to work. You are most prized possession. It says in Psalms, "God is close to those that are hurting. God is close to the broken hearted." God knows when you've gotten a bad medical report. He knows when you're struggling in your finances. He knows when you're being mistreated. You may not see anything happening, but you can be assured that Almighty God is not only aware, He is at work. He already has the solution. If you will stay in faith, at the right time, He will release a flood of His power, a flood of healing, a flood of restoration. He will not only bring you out, He will bring you out better off than you were before!

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

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

Chaplain Richard Cusson

From the Chaplain

Binnacle List

- ❖ Comrade Linda Truax's Uncle passed away this month.
- ❖ Comrade Leon & Vangie Garcia are recovering from surgeries.
- ❖ Comrades Billy Owens still rehabbing.

Keep these Comrades and there families in your prayers.

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 Book of Ephesians.

DAV Meeting Minutes

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

DATE: 06/10/2014

CALL TO ORDER:

Prayer
Flag Honors: Y

Joint Meeting Chapter and Unit

- ❖ July 2nd. The Chapter will be closed for regular business so we can decorate the float for the 4th of July Parade. Request volunteers show up at 10AM to help decorate. We really want to capture first place this year.
- ❖ July 3rd. Freedom Fiesta Downtown Seguin. Chapter has acquired the meat for the event. We will begin setup at 5PM, open for sales at 6PM and close for business at midnight. We need volunteers to help with sales and cooking during the event. We especially would appreciate folks showing up at about 11:30PM to begin help with clean-up and shutdown. We have to remain open till midnight, but can be ready to close before then.
- ❖ July 4th. Request everyone who wishes to participate in the parade to be at the Chapter House at 7:30AM to make final arrangements and prepare the float for movement. We will be in the Parade line at 0900. A real treat this year is that we will have recent Medal Of Honor recipient Sgt. Santiago J. Erevia ride on the float with us. Following the parade, there will be a BBQ luncheon at the Chapter House. Meat is being provided and cooked for us by Renee Sandoval and the S&S crew again just like last year. We do need sides and volunteers. Coordinate with the Auxiliary for those items. Finally, a bunch of us will gather behind the old Nat'l Guard HQ across from the coliseum to view the fireworks that night. Come and join us for a complete 4th of July Celebration.
- ❖ We had a good showing by the Chapter for the Memorial Day Service. Good job to the Honor Guard, auxiliary and all who helped with setup and breakdown.
- ❖ A bill is being pushed through the House and Senate to make Fee Basis outsourcing to those veterans requiring timely medical treatment that can't be met by the VA. Historically, the DAV would rather see the VA receive a larger budget to be able to treat the veterans better, but in a pinch this will have to do.
- ❖ Comrade Bob Morrison covered the motorcycle trip by members of the Chapter along with VFW Post 8456 members and members from the Indiana Rolling Thunder Chapter 1 delivering the Dog Tags that the Chapter and others purchased to the Vietnam Wall in Washington DC. This was done at the 27th annual Rolling Thunder demonstration over Memorial Day. Bob also presented a condolence card to Terri Herrle that was signed by the Indiana Governor, Jeff Bodine of NASCAR, and a retired officer in charge of the National Caisson.
- ❖ Discussed Past Commander Doug Herrle's funeral and all the kudos received by those who helped with the details. Also noted was that the motion to change the Chapter's Name in honor of Doug was passed at Department level during the convention. Next stop is National for the final word.
- ❖ Auxiliary retires.

Roll call of officers by Marlin Howze, Adjutant

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

Total officers & members present: 20 (Sign in sheet available)

Chapter had a quorum: Yes

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

Guests: Robert G?? (couldn't read name on sign in sheet).

ORDER OF BUSINESS:

Names of New Members: Santiago Castillo-Staples.

Names of Transferred Members: Henry Sellers.

(New members and those who have not been previously initiated must be initiated at their 1st meeting and their names recorded in minutes.)

Members Receiving Oath: None

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 under News, our bulletin board, and emailed via Newsletter. A copy can be obtained at the Chapter House.

TREASURER'S REPORT: From May01 to 31, 2014.

Beginning: \$23,489.31. Ending: \$23,599.70. The Chapter received \$1,075 on behalf of Doug Herrle. Mrs. Gladys Szalwinski made a \$500 donation as thank you for service.

Full report and statements read aloud and are available on request.

Motion to accept: Richard Cusson, 2nd Leon Garcia, motion carries.

BILLS AND COMMUNICATIONS: (see list in file)

- ❖ Ltr from Pastor Charles Glass-donation request, Ltr fm Nat'l HQ-Mbrshp rpt, Email fm Mesothelioma Clinic-request link to be added to website (website content controlled by Nat'l), Ltr fm Austin Flag and Flagpole-bill for matr'ls, ltr fm New Braunfels Post 7110-invite to BBQ contest w/ application.

SICKNESS & DISTRESS:

- ❖ No Report. Comrade Linda Truax lost her Uncle, a veteran. Comrade James Dickerson has friends in need of prayer. Keep these Comrades and there families in your prayers.

LEGISLATION

- ❖ Call to Action to let your representatives know they must pass S. 2450, the Veterans Access to Care through Choice, Accountability, and Transparency Act of 2014. Discussed VA investigation on waiting times for veterans, Tricare Pharmacy Refills for TFL members, House passes 2015 National Defense Bill (under consideration by Senate). Medal of Honor presented to former Army Sgt. Kyle Jerome White for actions in Afghanistan on Nov. 9th, 2007. He is the 14th OEF/OIF veteran to be presented with the award.

- ❖ MIAs Identified:

Army Pfc. Cecil E. Harris, 179th In Reg, 45th InDiv, lost in France on Jan. 2, 1945.

Army Air Forces Staff Sgt. Robert E. Howard, 322nd Bomber Group, lost over Germany April 16, 1945.

Army Pfc. Lawrence S. Gordon, 32nd Arm Reg, 3rd Armd Div. Lost near Ranes, France, Aug. 13, 1944

Army Sgt. Richard John Archambeault, 8th Cav Reg, 1st Cav Div, lost on Nov. 2, 1950, in North Korea.

Army Cpl. Lucio R. Aguilar, 35th Inf Reg, 25th Inf Div, lost on Nov. 28, 1950, in North Korea.

Marine Corps Cpl. Harold W. Reed, 2nd Bn, 7th Mar Reg, 1st Marine Division, lost on Nov. 29, 1950

Army Pfc. James R. Holmes 3rd Bn, 24th Inf Reg, died in captivity 1951, North Korea

Army Cpl. Richard Isbell - 2nd Bn, 7th Inf Div. Captured in Popsudong, South Korea, 1951. Died in captivity.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES:

- ❖ Membership: 1 new members. 1 Transfers.
- ❖ CSO: (Full report available)
 - Service Ofcrs. May 2014: Tot Vets Seen 61, Tot Hrs Used 91.5, Tot Hrs Avail 336.
 - Chaplain Hours: No Report.
 - Honor Guard Hours: May 2014. One Service & Two Events, 341 hrs. Full report available.
 - Individuals: Linda Truax: 3.5 vet home visits.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- ❖ See Joint Meeting Section
- ❖ SV Cdr Elley spoke with a Fire & Iron rep who stated that the fund raising ride went well, though a low turn out. Will be getting back to us soon.
- ❖ 29th June. Watermelon Thump in Luling. Honor Guard to show up at 1Pm at the Pavillion. Need as many Honor Guardsmen as possible to execute the event.
- ❖ Comrade Walls asked for patches of armed units to decorate the library wall. Library is looking good stop in for books to read. Even has a video lounge.
- ❖ Walnut Creek Park Project naming. A push is on to have the project named after Comrade Doug Herrle. Petitions will soon be going in the Chapter House and around town. If you feel that the park should be named after Doug, please sign them and get everyone you know to do so.

NEW BUSINESS:

- ❖ Comrade Basil Karms thaked the Chapter for the turn out at the Memorial Brick presentation for Sgt Vasques. Family was very appreciative. Also talked about the 4 Chaplains Chapel and that Terri Herrle has been nominated for induction.
- ❖ The Cdr, SV Cdr, JV Cdr, Adj, and Chaplain were present for the Department Convention. A donation was made to the Service Officer Program of \$500. Would like to have this formalized. **Motion by Comrade James Dickerson to approve \$500 for Service Program, 2nd by Frank Rosario, carries.**
- ❖ A request for donation has been received from the Holy Temple Church of God in Christ. James Dickerson motion's for a \$300 donation to the Church, 2nd by Larry Nicholson, carries.
- ❖ Discussion about entering the VFW BBQ challenge on Sept 5th. Comrade Juan DeLeon and brother will once again represent Chapter at the cookoff. Last year, the Chapter (represented by Juan and family) took a 1st place award for best looking setup. Any award monies from contest are returned to the Chapter. Frank Rosario motioned for \$300 to cover application fees and supplies for the cookoff, 2nd by Bill Owen, carries. Application handed to Comrade Juan DeLeon.

GOOD of the ORDER

Moment of Silence. Remembrance of fallen comrades.

Motion for Adjournment:

Motion by Bob Morrison, 2nd by Bill Owen, carried.

CLOSING CEREMONY: Salute Closing Prayer

Next meeting will be 7 PM, on July 8, 2014.