

April 2014



**COMMANDERS' COMMENTS
DAV CHAPTER 61 & DAVA UNIT 61
APRIL 2014**

Once again, Chapter & Unit 61 have many things for which we are deeply thankful. We are blessed to have the generous support of our community in many ways. A brief recap follows with a BIG THANK YOU TO ALL:

- Captain Arnett & Cadet Greg from the Texas State University ROTC in San Marcos presented us with a check in the amount of \$2,500 proceeds from the 1st Annual Polar Bear Plunge. We hope this is a relation-ship will continue for years to come.
- Rene & his crew at S & S Services in McQueeney completed the renovation on our bbq pit & it is now ready to be permanently mounted on an area behind our chapter house. It is beautiful and we look forward to our first bbq.
- Chris & Bob Morrison spearheaded the program to purchase a set of dog tags for each of the 105 Texans still unaccounted for in Vietnam. They gave generously of their time & talent by finding sponsors for this project, learning something about each person to share & helping arrange the roll call ceremony on May 16th at the Geronimo VFW at 7 PM. Please see Upcoming Events for more information on this solemn & mean- ingful ceremony and the disposition of these dog tags at the Vietnam Wall & finally at the Smithsonian. Also, Robert Lewis will be honored as we celebrate his 41 years of freedom after spending more than 5 years as a POW in Vietnam.
- Saturday, May 17th is the 3rd annual Fire & Iron Motorcycle Rally. Cars are welcome, too. Chapter 61 is the beneficiary of the proceeds from this event so we hope many of you will attend to show our support. There will be plenty going on throughout the day as we await the return of the rally participants- food, music, raffle & more.
- Call to Convention has been received for the 2014 Departmental (Texas) meeting on June 6 - 8 at the Doubletree Hotel in Austin, located on IH-35N, Austin. If you plan to stay at the hotel, we suggest you call now for your reservation as already certain types of rooms are no longer available. Please let Chapter Adjutant Howe or Unit Adjutant Herrle know if you plan to attend.
- Thanks to everyone who helped out at the recent Forget-Me-Not fundraiser at the Seguin Wal-Mart. Once again our community came through with generous support for our veterans. We did well considering the cooler, rainy weather & that we were allowed to set up at 1 entrance only. This is per Wal-Mart's new policy enabling them to accommodate the many fund raising requests they receive.
- New Bible Study begins on Wednesday, April 23rd @ 1:30 PM @ the chapter house. We will be studying the Book of Ephesians. The Rev. Richard Cussins, Chapter 61 Chaplain, leads us in our Bible studies & discussions and Living Waters Church kindly orders our workbooks & sells them to us at their cost (usually \$7 - \$8 ea. Scholarships are available. Please see Richard.) This program is an outreach of the Veterans Comfort Zone and is open to all veterans, active military and adult family members. We hope you will join us.

We're sure we've forgotten something and we apologize. Once again we are pressed for time to get this newsletter out in a timely manner. Life happens and often our priorities must be shifted though never forgotten.

We do want to send special Get Well wishes to several of our members who are will and/or recovering from surgery. Mary Dickerson, Vangie Garcia, & Dorthea Cussins. You are in our prayers.

Wishing you and yours a Safe, Healthy & Blessed Easter. See you soon.

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

Guadalupe County Chapter 61

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



Unit 61 Jr Auxiliary Mia Herrle helping out at the April 2014 Forget-Me-Not Drive in Front of the Seguin Wal-Mart. With a smile no less, way to go Mia.

UPCOMING EVENTS

MAY 16. VFW 8456 DOG TAGS TO THE WALL EVENT. STARTS 7PM, 1608 N 123 GERONIMO.

MAY 17. FIRE & IRON STATION 87 DAV FUND RAISER AT THE KRAFT SALOON IN KINGSBURY. STARTS 9AM.

MAY 30. MEMORIAL DAY SERVICE. SAN GERONIMO CEMETERY. 1030 AM.

JUN 6-8. DAV DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS CONVENTION.

Our New Members

Bruce Bailey-San Antonio
 Salvador A. Garcia-Seguin
 Randy Green-New Braunfels
 Herbert L Harwell-Wimberley
 David David C. Ondik

Our Transferred Members

None

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

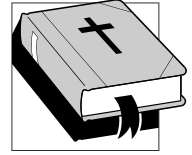
VCZ: Tue-Wed, 9am-3pm

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.

Thoughts from the Chaplain



**Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness.
(1 John 3:4)**

It is a dangerous thing to live your life without a spiritual “plumb line,” or standard, by which you determine right from wrong. God’s Word is that plumb line. Spiritual laws, like physical laws, are meant to protect you, not restrict you. You may exercise your freedom to challenge the laws of electricity, but to do so can bring you death. Likewise, you will not break God’s laws, they will break you. God established absolute moral and spiritual laws that we are free to ignore, but we do so at our own peril. These laws are timeless. Culture does not supersede them. Circumstances do not abrogate them. God’s laws are eternal, and they will save you from death if you follow them.

You may feel that God’s laws restrict and bind you. On the contrary, God’s Word protects you from death (Rom. 6:23). For example, when God said that you are not to commit adultery, He wanted to free you to experience the fullest pleasure of a marriage relationship. Furthermore, He knew the devastating heartache that would come to you, your spouse, your children, your relatives, your friends, and your church family if you broke this law. How important the laws of God are for your life! Without them, you would be robbed of the delights God has in store for you. Sin is choosing a standard other than God’s law on which to base your life. If you are measuring your life by that of your neighbors, or society at large, then you are basing your life on lawlessness, and lawlessness is sin.

As your Chaplain, I am available to all members and their immediate family for counseling or discussion of any spiritual issue that you may have. You may contact me by phone at [830-491-8009](tel:830-491-8009) or by email at 4Veterans.com.

May God’s peace and blessing be with all of you.
Chaplain Richard Cusson

From the Chaplain

Binnacle List

- ❖ Comrade Mark Druk has passed away.
- ❖ Dorothea Cusson and Mary Dickerson are recovering from surgeries.
- ❖ Vangie Garcia is undergoing surgery.
- ❖ Leon Garcia will undergo surgery next week.

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 Romans.

CONTRIBUTORS

DAV CHAPTER 61 WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE FOLLOWING PERSONS AND ORGANIZATIONS FOR THEIR GIFTS TOWARD OUR COMMON MISSION OF IMPROVING THE LIVES OF DISABLE VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES.

FEBRUARY

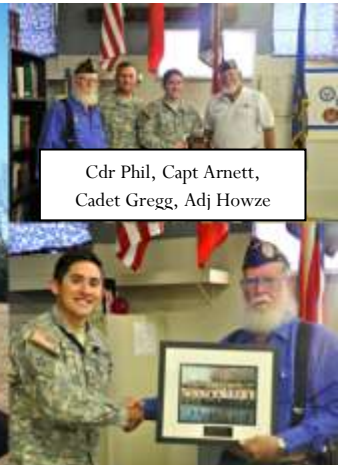
SANTIAGO LUNA
FRANK MORENO
ESCAR GOINS JR.

MARCH

DONALD J DAVIS

APRIL

SWT UNIVERSITY ARMY ROTC
RACETRAK
STEVEN SALAS
JUAN DELEON



DAV Meeting Minutes

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

DATE: 04/8/2014

CALL TO ORDER:

Prayer by Chaplain Richard Cusson
Flag Honors: Y

Guest Presentations

1. Capt Arnett and Cadet Gregg from the Southwest Texas University Army ROTC program in San Marcos, presented a check to the DAV Chapter 61. The check of a little over \$2000 was the proceeds from their Polar Bear Plunge fundraiser on behalf of our Chapter. Combined with a previous check from Racetrak of San Marcos for \$500 (a contributor to the Plunge) their total contribution to the Chapter was a little over \$2500. They also brought a framed photo of the event with a plaque as a gift. Well done cadets. The Chapter reciprocated with a plaque presented to the ROTC Cadets in appreciation of their efforts on behalf of the Chapter.

Joint Meeting Chapter and Unit

- ❖ Chapter BBQ Pit. It has arrived. What a monster. Thanks to Renee Sandoval and company for their efforts in building the pit for us at no cost. The pit is not licensed to move, so there is no intent to loan it out. Wheels will be removed and the pit anchored for use at the DAV Chapter House.
- ❖ 6-8 June. Department Convention. Doubletree North in Austin.
- ❖ 16 May. VFW 8456 will be hosting a POW/MIA reading of names event to honor those still accounted for from Texas. The Chapter purchased a large number of tag sets (2 ea) in which one of each tag will be delivered to the wall by former POW and Comrade Richard Lewis in time for Memorial Day. The tags we keep will be housed in a shadow box and displayed with honor at our Chapter House.
- ❖ 17 May. Memorial Day Motorcycle Run by Fire & Iron Station 87. Their annual run in support of Chapter 61. If anyone still has some of the raffle tickets passed out and have pretty much saturated there area, please turn them back in to one of the officers as we have people looking for some. The event will be at "The Kraft" Tavern in Kingsbury. Come out and enjoy some food and friends (and support the Chapter).
- ❖ Forget Me Not Drive. We made \$1324.34. 10% will be passed onto Department of Texas (\$134). A motion was received to present 50% to the Auxiliary in recognition of their support. **Motion by Gary Elley, 2nd by Charles Glass, carries.**
- ❖ Dorothea Cusson and Mary Dickerson are doing well following their respective surgeries. Vangie Garcia had just come out of surgery but condition unknown at this time.
- ❖ Leon Garcia will be out for a few weeks as he prepares for his surgery.
- ❖ 10-13 Apr. Vietnam Travelling Wall is at the Central Catholic School in San Antonio. Open 24 hours. 1403 N St Mary. Wear your DAV caps as DAV Department of Texas is a major sponsor of this event.
- ❖ JJ showed the latest Chapter 61 tees we will be ordering. \$9 each. Order individually.
- ❖ 30 May. Memorial Day will be on Friday the 30th. The actual Day. Hosted by American Legion Post 245, the event is well in hand. A short brief was presented by the adjutant from joint organization meeting.
- ❖ 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 X	Absent
Adjutant:	Present X	Absent

SAA: Present Absent X (excused)

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

Chapter had a quorum: Yes

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

Guests: Capt Arnett (SWT ROTC), Cdt Gregg Justin (SWT ROTC), Alexandra Cloyd, Paul Wright

ORDER OF BUSINESS:

Names of New Members: Bruce Bailey-San Antonio, Salvador A. Garcia-Seguin, Randy Green-New Braunfels, Herbert L Harwell-Wimberley, David David C. Ondik.

Names of Transferred Members: None

(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: Randy Green

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 Mar01 to 30, 2014.

Beginning: \$22,168.03. Ending: \$23,053.13.

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

Motion to accept: Richard Cusson, 2nd: Charles Glass, motion carries.

BILLS AND COMMUNICATIONS: (see list in file)

- ❖ Ltr Dav Nat HQ-Mbrshp Rpt, Ltr City of Seguin – Donation Req “Fire Pups”, Ltr SWT ROTC-Donation Check from Racetrack, Email DAV Nat HQ-Ch61 Finance Rpt Accepted, Email American Legion Riders245-Flea Market Event Flyer, Email TEXVET-Mental Health Trng Event, Email American Legion 245 Chili Cook-off flyer, Hand out-GRMC Wellness Center proposal by Comrade Truax, Flyer VFW 8456, POW/MIA Dog Tag event.

SICKNESS & DISTRESS:

- ❖ Comrade Mark Druk has passed away. Dorothea Cusson and Mary Dickerson are recovering from surgeries. Vangie Garcia is undergoing surgery. Leon Garcia will undergo surgery next week.

LEGISLATION

- ❖ Senate passes Victims Protection Act (S. 1917), VA announces that veterans with ALS now eligible for almost \$68000 in Specially Adaptive Housing Grants, Gary Sinese and Joe Montegna (along with Gen. Colin Powell) will host a Memorial Day concert on the Washington Mall May 25th, VA has developed Concussion Coaches, a mobile application providing tools to assess symptoms and facilitate coping strategies, France is offering D-Day veterans and a guest w/ roundtrip transportation from Paris to Normandy for the 70th anniversary of Operation Overlord on Jun 6th.
- ❖ MIAs Identified: Army PFC Lawrence Woods-N Korea, Army Cpl Cristobal Romo-N Korea, USMC Cpl William F Day-N Korea, Army PFC Arthur Richardson- S Korea, USMC Cpl William S Blasdel-N Korea.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES:

- ❖ Membership: 5 new members.
- ❖ CSO: (Full report available)
 - Service Ofcrs. Feb 2014: Tot Vets Seen 78, Tot Hrs Used 103.5, Tot Hrs Avail 336.
 - Chaplain Hours: Feb 2014: 28 hrs (Veteran Bible Study, Vet memorial svcs, and correspondence).
 - Seeking Safety/VCZ : 15.25 Hrs. Jaime Cervantez, Mike Fore, Linda Truax.
 - Honor Guard Hours: Feb 2014. 100 hrs, 2 funeral svcs. (Full details in report files)

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- ❖ Still looking for a name for the Walnut Creek Park project adjacent to our Chapter House and thought we might like to consider what names we would like the Council to consider. Keep in mind that names submitted should be of those who have made significant contributions to the betterment of the Seguin community, however, we also like the idea of naming the park after a veteran or maybe a patriotic theme (such as Freedom Park as example).. Think about it and submit your fav name to one of the officers. Name inputs are expected to happen around August.
- ❖ American Legion Post 245 will host their District Meeting in Apr. Comrade Charles Glass (a member of both organizations asked if Chapter 61 wanted to buy an ad placement in their Program Guide for \$100. **\$100 Motion by Charles Glass, 2nd by Mike Felix, discussion (good advertizing), motion Carries.**
- ❖ Chapter 61 ad for the Dept of Texas Convention mailed in along with check (voted on in previous meeting). Delegate list for Dedpt Conv and delegate fees mailed as well.

NEW BUSINESS:

- ❖ Dept of Texas Convention Delegates:
 - Richard Cusson, Doug Herrle, Phil Sierer, Gary Elley, JJ Chapa, Marlin Howze. **Motion to pay \$20/ea delegate fees Tomas Castellon, 2nd Mike Felix, carries.**
 - City of Seguin requests donations for its "Fire Pup" youth fire education program. **Motion \$142 to pay for 60 youths by James Dickerson, 2nd by Charles Glass, carries.**

GOOD of the ORDER

- ❖ 1st round nominations for Chapter 61 officers.
 - Commander: Phil Sierer, ~~Gary Elley~~ (withdraws)
 - SV Cdr: Gary Elley, ~~JJ Chapa~~-(withdraws)
 - 1st JV Cdr: JJ Chapa, Leon Garcia
 - 2nd JV Cdr: Leon Garcia, JJ Chapa
 - Treasurer: JJ Chapa, Bella Wiatrek (Letter accepting nomination presented).
 - Chaplain: Richard Cusson
 - Nominations are suspended until the next meeting.
- ❖ Seeking Safety Program looking for more facilitators: Following have asked to be considered for program: Lynn Harrelson, Bob Morrison, Charles Glass, Warren Walls, Carl "Al" Mallard. Names will be forwarded to Jaime Cervantez and Mike Fore.

Moment of Silence. Remembrance of fallen comrades.

Motion for Adjournment:

Motion by Richard Cusson, 2nd by Charles Glass, carried.

**CLOSING CEREMONY: __x__ Salute __x__ Closing Prayer by Chaplain Cusson
Next meeting will be 7 PM, on May 13, 2014.**