

February 2014



Guadalupe County Chapter 61

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



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

Hello to All! Our activities continue to be many and we sincerely thank all of you who contribute to the success of our efforts to make lives better for our disabled veterans and their families, fulfilling our promises to those who served.

On **Saturday, February 8<sup>th</sup>** we hosted the annual training for chapter service officers. 84 DAV members attended including 16 from Chapter 61. Unit 61 prepared and served a chili and combread lunch. A **SPECIAL THANKS** to Jean Garriott, Terri Herle, Christa Howze and Vangie Garcia who baked, served and helped in so many ways to make the lunch a well-received success. And of course, a very special **THANK YOU** to Leon Garcia who, as always, made sure we had everything we needed from roasters to electrical outlets and everything in between. (Please forgive us if we missed anyone as it was a very busy day and both of us have short term memory problems)

As has become our custom we began our February 11<sup>th</sup> meetings as a joint session to address several items of mutual concern. Please refer to the minutes of the Chapter 61 meeting and the Upcoming Events section in this newsletter for additional items of interest. We do, however; want to mention a few things here, some of which will provide opportunities for you to volunteer and get to know our fellow members.

- **DAV/DAVA District V Spring Meeting,  
Saturday, March 8, 2014**

Chapter 61 and Unit 61 will host this event to be held at the Geronimo VFW. Some of you may remember that this was formerly a 2-day event, but is now a one-day meeting. In addition to manning the registration table, Unit 61 will provide lunch.

We need volunteers for both registration and the lunch- setup, serving and cleanup, so if you would like to join us, call Lynette at 210-863-4257 or Terri at 830-305-4338. We hope to see you there. We ask that each of you attending bring a small gift, wrapped, to be awarded as a door prize. There is no registration fee for this meeting as we are hosting it. (SEE UPCOMING EVENTS)

- **BRIDGING THE GAP:** Bringing military families, generations & service providers together.

**Saturday, 3/22/14**

To be held at VFW Post 76 (oldest VFW post in Texas), 10 Tenth Street, San Antonio, Texas 78215, 12 noon – 5 PM. The purpose of this event is for you to connect with other veterans, military families & service providers. There will be vendor booths & information of jobs, employment and education. A free lunch will be provided as well as face painting.

- **EXCITING NEWS:  
THE LONG-AWAITED & MUCH-NEEDED STORAGE CONTAINER HAS ARRIVED &  
IS ALMOST FULL**

Another **BIG THANK YOU TO LEON** for taking the lead on this project. Leon arranged the pickup of the container, supervised the delivery & placement of the container, and has almost single-handedly filled the container with tables, chairs, etc. Next time you are at the Chapter House, you will see it in back of the bay area of the building.

- **POLAR PLUNGE** at Southwest Texas State University, San Marcos

We are jumping ahead a bit but wanted everyone to hear about this very successful event in support of DAV & particularly our Unit 61. More than 100 brave individuals registered to take the plunge into the COLD San Marcos River to benefit our chapter and our efforts to make lives better for disabled veterans and their families, fulfilling our promises to those who served. This event was sponsored by the TSU Army ROTC, most of whom are considering military service and some of whom have already committed to military service upon graduation. We cannot say enough about these fine young men and women. Our country will be in competent, loyal hands when they join our military. We want to thank Captain Arnett & Colonel Adams for guiding these cadets in planning and implementing this event which we all hope will become an annual fundraiser for Chapter 61. Several of our Chapter and Unit members attended along with 3 of our National Service Officers from San Antonio. The "Plunge" was covered by both the campus newspaper and the San Marcos newspaper. The campus radio station was also onsite. No one could have asked for a better day for this inaugural plunge- clear, sunny, a balmy 85 degrees with an estimated water temperature of 76 degrees.

**Kuddos** to our own **Marlin Howze** who took the plunge along with Captain Arnett and Colonel Adams and their cadre of Army ROTC cadets. Hip! Hip!Hooray!!!! They will deliver the check to our Chapter at the next meeting.

- **NON-DENOMINATIONAL BIBLE STUDY Wednesdays 1:30 – 3:00 PM** at the Chapter House. This is an outreach of the Veterans Comfort Zone (VCZ) and is open to all of you and/or your adult family members. We continue our study on the Book of Romans. Each unit of study is designed to take 6 – 8 weeks to complete, studying a chapter in the workbook per week. However, this study, like some of our previous ones, will extend beyond its scheduled number of weeks as we often engage in in-depth discussions relating to our study and spend more than 1 week on a chapter. There are currently 8 of us who regularly attend and we are blessed to have our Chapter Chaplain, Rev. Richard Cussins leading us and bringing insight to our studies. An example would be, how do the words of the Bible, written and compiled so long ago, have meaning to us now in our everyday lives? Thanks to the generosity of the Living Waters Worship Center in Seguin, the videos for our studies are provided free of charge. They also purchase the workbooks, sold to us at their cost, usually no more than \$6 - \$7 each. (Scholarships are available if needed) We have bonded into a very close group and welcome you to join us as we conclude our study of Romans and/or as we embark on another study journey in a few weeks. Please watch upcoming newsletters for the announcement of our new Bible Study topic and when it begins. (Note: The topics of study are selected by us, the members of our study group.

- **VCZ LIBRARY TAKING SHAPE &** continuing to grow with a variety of books covering many topics. It is located in the bay area of the Chapter House near the counselors' offices. Many of you have found it and are already making use of it. For those of you who love reading mysteries, come on down; we have lots of good ones by well-known authors. Romance novels, too and magazines such as *National Geographic*". There are also entertaining videos. We send a HUGE THANK YOU to Warren Walls who has taken on the tremendous task of organizing and shelving the books, mags and videos. Everything in the library has been donated and donations are always welcome. We ask that all donations be in good to excellent condition. So, if you want a good read, come down and check out one of the books, bring it back when you have finished reading it and check out another one.

- **COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECTS**  
Unit 61 is always looking for worthwhile service projects in our community. If you have a project in mind or see a need for one, please call Lynette at 830-914-2203.

- **NEXT MEETING – MARCH 10, 2014**  
7 PM at our CHAPTER HOUSE  
We hope to see you there. This will be AFTER the District V Spring meeting, so please give us a call ASAP if you want to participate in the registration and/or luncheon. 830-914-2203  
In the meantime, we wish the very best for you and yours, a time of health and happiness.

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

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**MAR 8TH: DIST V MEETING WILL BE HOSTED BY CHAPTER 61. THE MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE GERONIMO VFW HALL. MAR 22<sup>ND</sup>, 12-5PM. BRIDGE THE GAP. VFW POST 76 AT BROADWAY AND 10<sup>TH</sup> ST. DOWNTOWN SAN ANTONIO. JUN 6-8. DAV DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS CONVENTION.**

### Our New Members

Ernest Aldridge-Bastrop  
Wallace Morgan-Nixon  
Bradley Hernandez-San Marcos  
Jesse Ortiz Jr-New Braunfels

### 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:**  
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/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](mailto:4Veterans.com).

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

### **From the Chaplain**

#### *Binnacle List*

- ❖ Comrade Charles Woodbury passed away.
- ❖ Past Commander Doug Herrle recovering and seen back at work (nice).
- ❖ Comrade Billy Owens is at Remarkable Nursing room 403.
- ❖ Comrade Richard Little is recovering from surgery.
- ❖ Comrade James Dickerson’s wife (Mary) is facing surgery/treatment.
- ❖ Keep these members and their 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 Romans.

## DAV Meeting Minutes

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

DATE: 02/11/2014

### CALL TO ORDER:

Prayer by Chaplain Richard Cusson  
Flag Honors: Y

### Joint Meeting Chapter and Unit

- ❖ Terri has established coordinated with Wal-Mart on the Forget-Me-Not Dates for this year. The Chapter will have there day on April 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup>. The Auxiliary dates are Oct 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup>. Changes in Wal-Mart's policies allow us to fundraise at one door this year due to the number of organizations requesting to do so.
- ❖ Some dates to mark on your calendar.
  - Feb 15<sup>th</sup>, 10am-12pm. Sewell Park on the Southwest Texas State University. We'll stage at the Chapter house at 8am to load chairs, tables and materials.
  - Mar 8<sup>th</sup>, 8am-1pm. DAV Dist V annual meeting. To be held at the Geronimo VFW Hall. We would like to see a bunch of volunteers to help us with the event as we are the host. Emails and info to follow as we get closer to the date. We'll be hosting a BBQ lunch following the meeting.
  - Mar 22<sup>nd</sup>, 12-5pm. VFW Post 76 at Broadway and 10<sup>th</sup> St. downtown San Antonio. More info to follow at March meeting. This is a Veteran Peer Network to get veteran service organizations together in one spot.
  - Jun 6-8. DAV Department of Texas Convention. Double Tree Hotel North, Austin TX. Adjutant to take care of preparing the ad (already voted on) for submission to State. More info to follow.
- ❖ The CSO training held on the 1<sup>st</sup> was a great success. Largely due to the help that volunteers gave to make it a good event for the Chapter and Unit. Good job to all that helped.
- ❖ We have taken possession of our new storage building. It is setup and full already; relieving our hall of a lot of the stuff that just sort of hangs out. Thanks to Leon for making it happen with procurement and transportation.
- ❖ Chapter and Unit have been approached by the Seguin Knights Basketball league for support. Chapter and Unit will discuss at respective meetings.
- ❖ 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 X | Absent |

Total officers & members present: 16 (Sign in sheet available)

Chapter had a quorum: Yes

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

**Guests:** None

### ORDER OF BUSINESS:

**Names of New Members:** Ernest Aldridge-Bastrop, Wallace Morgan-Nixon, Bradley Hernandez-San Marcos, and Jesse Ortiz Jr-New Braunfels.

**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.)

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.)

**Motion to accept: Minutes are posted on Chapter Website, bulletin board, and emailed via Newsletter.**

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** From Jan01 to 31, 2014.

Beginning: \$22,239.27. Ending: \$22,410.01

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

**Motion to accept: Leon Garcia, 2<sup>nd</sup>: James Dickerson, motion carries.**

**BILLS AND COMMUNICATIONS:** (see list in file)

- ❖ Ltr from DAV Dept TX-Conv ads for State, Ltr DAV Dept Tx-SW Tx State University Polar Plunge fund raiser for DAV, Email from SW TX State University concerning Polar Plunge Event, Ltr from DAV Dist V-Delegate form, Ltr from Seguin Knights Youth Basketball League-Donation Request.

**SICKNESS & DISTRESS:**

- ❖ Comrade Charles Woodbury passed away. Past Commander Doug Herrle recovering and seen back at work (nice). Comrade Billy Owens is at Remarkable Nursing room 403 (?). Comrade Richard Little is recovering from surgery. Comrade James Dickerson's wife (Mary) is facing surgery/treatment. Keep these members and their families in your prayers.

**LEGISLATION**

- ❖ S. 1982/S. 1950 Senate Bills. The Veterans Health and Benefits and Military Retirement Pay Restoration Act of 2014. Dav and other vet Service Orgs are pushing these bills for advance funding of the VA health care system to prevent another near miss due to government shutdown over politics. Call or write your representatives and let them know you support these bills.
- ❖ New Complaint system in place for identifying VA fraud and abuse. Ee Patient Advocate's at VA Health Systems for more info.
- ❖ Pension Scam. There is a scam out there targeting people trying to get VA pension by offering to "Hide" their assets. Guess who they are really going to be hidden from – YOU. Don't fall for the scam.
- ❖ POW's Recovered: **Army PFC James R. Holmes**, 24th Infantry Regiment, 7<sup>th</sup> ID, Lost 12/01/1950, Korea, recovered Jan 14<sup>th</sup>, 2014. **Army Cpl Cristobal Romo**, 31<sup>st</sup> Infantry Reg, 7<sup>th</sup> ID, Lost 12/12/1950 N Korea, recovered 01/13/2014. **Army Cpl Billy McIntyre**, 31<sup>st</sup> Regimental Combat Team, lost at Chosin Korea, recovered. We shall not forget.

**REPORT OF COMMITTEES:**

- ❖ Membership: 4 new members.
- ❖ CSO: (Full report available)
  - Service Ofcrs. Jan 2014: Tot Vets Seen 79, Tot Hrs Used 118.5, Tot Hrs Avail 240.
  - Chaplain Hours: Jan 2014: 18.
  - Linda Truax: Jan 2014: 1.5.
  - Honor Guard Hours: Jan 2014. None. (Full details in report files)

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

- ❖ See Joint for other Old Business.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- ❖ Donation of a 1988 16' Bayliner Ski Boat resulted in a sale and donation to Chapter of \$1500. Boat was donated by a non-member vet (Mr. Richard Forcey of Seguin, TX).
- ❖ Seguin Knights Basketball League Donation. **Motion for matching amount to Aux donation by Leon Garcia, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Tomas Castellon, motion Carries.**

- ❖ Request for donation from Veteran's Outdoor Alliance (VOA). **Motion for \$200 by Tomas Castellon, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Leon Garcia, motion Carries.**

#### **GOOD of the ORDER**

- ❖ Reading of Minutes from Executive Meeting held on 01/22/2014. Minutes are available on request. Meeting dealt with upcoming Polar "Bear Plunge" by SW TX University Army ROTC, "Bridging the Gap" Peer Network event, Chapter Ad placement for Dept of Tx Convention, and Chapter 61 presenting colors at Feb 13, 2014 Republican Convention. **Motion to except minutes as read Juan Deleon, 2<sup>nd</sup> Leon Garcia, motion carried.**
- ❖ Music Fest 2014. March 1. San Marcos Commemorative Air Force Hanger. Proceeds go to Scheib Center for Mental Health and Developmental Services in Hayes County. Music, Dancing, and BBQ. Concert starts at 7:30 PM. [www.Scheibcenter.org](http://www.Scheibcenter.org), (512) 392-6803, [abby@scheibcenter.org](mailto:abby@scheibcenter.org) for more details.
- ❖ Councilman (and Comrade) Tomas Castellon gave a favorable report on our Thank You presentation given before the Seguin City Council in January 2014. They were impressed by all that we accomplish at our Chapter, even some things that they weren't even aware of (Seeking Safety in conjunction with Veteran's Court). Presentation went a long way to solidifying ties with the Council. Councilman Castellon also made mention that there would be an opportunity to name 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.

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

**Motion for Adjournment:**

**Motion by Richard Cusson, 2nd by Leon Garcia, carried.**

**CLOSING CEREMONY:  Salute  Closing Prayer by Chaplain Cusson**

**Next meeting will be 7 PM, on Mar 11th, 2014.**