

September 2014



Doug Herrle Chapter 61 Monthly Newsletter



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

Well, summer's all but a memory although the drought appears to be following us into fall. Hope you are enjoying this little cool snap we're having. I suspect that many of you, like us, are ready for cooler weather.

September begins our busiest time of you. We ask that you read the Chapter minutes and Upcoming Events, also in this newsletter for dates and details of important functions. We hope you will join us. We would like to say a few words about them here.

One of our traditionally solemn observances is the POW/MIA ceremony sponsored by the Guadalupe County Veterans Council. Once again, VFW Post, Geronimo, TX is hosting the event with representatives from each veteran's organization and auxiliary participating. This year, the newly created memorial to the men and woman from Texas who are still unaccounted for in Vietnam will serve as a solemn reminder. The lighted cabinet contains the dog tags of these individuals, matching the ones that were delivered to the Wall during Rolling Thunder. There is a book there containing biographical information on each individual. Our heartfelt thanks to Chapter Sr. Vice Commander Gary Elley for constructing this beautiful tribute.

As commander of DAV Doug Herrle Chapter 61, it was an honor and privilege for me to present special appreciation awards to three very deserving groups. First plaque went to René Sandoval and the men from S & S Services in McQueeney who renovated our bbq pit, delivered it and once it was set up, initiated it with a delicious bbq meal for all of us.

Second award went to René who accepted on behalf of the Liberator Motorcycle Club of San Antonio whose members also support our Chapter through volunteering and fundraising.

Third award was presented to *Fire & Iron*, a group of local bike-riding firemen who sponsor an annual fund- raiser to benefit our Chapter. Over the past 3 years they have raised nearly \$7,500 for our chapter through these fundraisers that include a bike rally, silent auction and food sales.

Also present at our meeting were students from TLU who are currently planning the 2nd annual *DAV DASH*, a fundraiser to benefit our Chapter. Please watch future newsletters for details on this fun event scheduled for this coming spring. If you don't feel that you can "dash", you can still join us in a healthy walk through a beautiful area of Seguin.

We are very grateful to all these groups for their continuing and generous gifts of time, talent and treasure to support us in our mission to keep the promises made to our disabled veterans, making lives better for them and for their families.

November is a very busy time for us. Beginning on November 1st we will be at the Golden Corral distributing information about DAV and accepting donations to support the work we do. This is a national collaboration sponsored by Golden Corral and is an opportunity for us to meet a lot of nice people and to inform the public about our mission. We work in shifts. There will be a sign-up sheet at our October meetings. Feel free to sign up for more than 1 shift.

On November 11th we will have our community observance of Veterans Day. Again, this event is sponsored by the Guadalupe County Veterans Council and will be held on the traditional 11th day of the 11th month at the 11th hour. There are some changes planned for this year that we hope will make the observance more memorable. This event will begin with a parade through downtown Seguin, ending at the city park across from the courthouse.

Theme of the parade is patriotic and prizes of 1st, 2nd and 3rd place will be awarded to the parade entries that best display this theme. Commanders of veteran's organizations will speak briefly and we will have a guest speaker from Randolph AFB. Our Chapter/Unit will enter a float in the parade and we invite you to ride on it with us. The October newsletter will have details on our float and the event.

Another event that day is the annual Veterans BBQ sponsored by Joe DeLeon at Al's Beer Garden in New Braunfels. For more than 2 decades Joe and his family have sponsored this event, free to all veterans and their families. It has become a meaningful part of our Veterans Day observance and we hope to see you there.

These observances are important as they serve as reminders to every person of the service and sacrifice of our military men and women throughout our history. We cannot afford to become complacent; we cannot afford to let our guard down. All of us have a military connection and we support each other. But we need to ensure that NO ONE ever forgets the price that has been paid for the freedoms we enjoy every day. We must instill this in all generations.

Our military will always play an important part in our freedom and in keeping our world free from terrorism and oppression. Let's continue to proudly fly our flags and get together on these special observances. Let's ensure that Americans know the true meaning of Veterans Day, Memorial Day and POW/MIA Day. Over the years, the true meaning of these special days has been diluted as they are also observed as special shopping days or a 3-day weekend. There is no shame in this if we take the time to reflect upon their true meaning. Also, remember that we can thank our military men and women anytime- we don't need to wait for a holiday to do so. When you see someone in uniform, take the time to thank them for their service. You may be surprised at their response- a big smile followed by "Thank you" or "It's my job". Remember, ours is a completely volunteer military so these men and women stepped up to join on their own.

There will be no meeting in November as our meeting day falls on Veterans Day.

It's not too early to be thinking about our annual raffle in December. If you have items you would like to donate or if you are requesting donations from friends and local businesses, please bring them by the Chapter house. We will be collecting the items in the auxiliary office. Please include the donor's name and address so we can acknowledge their generosity when we draw the raffle winners at our Christmas party. Proceeds from the raffle will benefit both our Chapter and Unit.

In 2015 we will mark the 50th Anniversary of DAV Chapter 61. Be sure to look for more information on this in future newsletters as plans are being formulated for a spring celebration.

May God Bless You and Yours and the United States of America.

REMEMBER OUR SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN SERVING AROUND THE WORLD. PRAY FOR THE SAFETY AND WELLBEING OF THEM AND THEIR FAMILIES.

Phil Sierer, Commander, Doug Herrle Chapter 61, Seguin TX
Lynette Sierer, Commander, Doug Herrle Unit 61, Seguin, TX

Upcoming Events

- 19 Sep. POW/MIA Service. Geronimo VFW 6pm.
- 27 Sep. 2014 Military Retiree Day. 0800-1200. SAMMC.
- 4-5 Oct. Forget-me-Nots. Wal-Mart. Sign-up sheet available.
- 11 Oct. Greater Nations Tribal POW-WOW. San Marcos. Honor Guard needed.
- 1-11 Nov. Golden Corral. Annual DAV GC Fundraiser.
- 5 Nov. Chapter 61's 50th birthday.
- 11 Nov. Veteran's Day Parade and Program at Central Park. Parade setup 9am, starts 10am. Program 11am Central Park.

Our New Members

Paul Hill-New Braunfels
Ricardo Lozano-Lockhart

Our Transferred Members

Barry Napp-New Braunfels
Pedro Dela Fuente Jr.-Seguin

The Chapter 61 Staff.

Chapter Officers:

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

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

Seeking Safety
Every Wed, 7pm

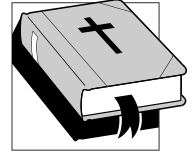
VCZ: Tue-Wed, 9am-3pm

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.

Thoughts from the Chaplain



“Then the word of the Lord came to Elijah: ‘Leave here, turn eastward and hide in the Kerith Ravine, east of the Jordan. You will drink from the brook, and I have directed the ravens to supply you with food there.’ ”

(1 Kings 17:2–4, NIV)

In scripture, God had a place of provision for Elijah. He gave specific instructions, and as long as Elijah obeyed, he would walk right in to His place of blessing.

Just as God directed Elijah to his place of blessing, God is directing you, too. He’s aligning the right opportunities for you and causing the right people to come along your path to help you get ahead. He’s constantly working behind the scenes on your behalf. But you have to do your part to keep your heart in the right place by following His Word. That means living in peace and unity. The Bible says that when we live in unity with other believers, there He has commanded the blessing. And when your heart is in the place of blessing, the rest of your life will be in the place of blessing, too!

As your Chaplain, I am available to all members of Doug Herrle Chapter #61 and their immediate family for discussion of any spiritual matter or counseling. Please feel free to contact me at 4Veterans@hotmail.com. May God’s peace and blessing be with all of you.

Chaplain Richard Cusson

From the Chaplain

Binnacle List

- ❖ Comrades Tomas Castellon-surgery,
- ❖ Lynnette Sierer-illness,
- ❖ Phil Sierer-back,
- ❖ Leon’s Daughter had surgery,
- ❖ John Deleon surgery,
- ❖ Mike Fore enlarged liver.

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.

Our Friends



Renee Sandoval



New Members
Roy Hall
Alton Mattke



Fire & Iron

TLU



Station 87



Cdr Phil and the Liberators



DAV Meeting Minutes

Guadalupe County, TX Chapter 61

DATE: 09/9/2014

TIME: 7PM

Chapter House, 425 Vaughan St., Seguin TX 78155

CALL TO ORDER:

Prayer by Chaplain

Flag Honors: Y

Guest Presentations

1. Civic Awards:
 - a. Renee Sandoval – Appreciation plaque for work on BBQ Pit and help in July 4th Picnic.
 - b. Liberators M/C – Appreciation Plaque for helping with 4th of July BBQ Picnic.
 - c. Fire & Iron – Appreciation plaque for fund raising efforts on behalf of Chapter 61 for the last 3 years. To date, they have raised over \$4000 for the Chapter.
2. Well Done to all these guys, they deserve our appreciation.

Joint Meeting Chapter and Unit

- ❖ Thanks to Comrade Basil Karm and his friend Dan for the terrific fish fry lunch they put on for our Chapter. Delicious and much appreciated. Dan does this out of passion for veterans and homeless in San Antonio.
- ❖ 4th and 5th of Oct. Forget-Me-Nots in front of Wal-Mart. Sign-up sheet is out, we need volunteers to work 2 hour shifts.
- ❖ 19 Sep at 6 PM. POW/MIA Ceremony at VFW Post 8456 in Geronimo. Please join us and support the event.
- ❖ At the Oct meeting we will be discussing the Annual DAV/Golden Corral Fund Raising effort. We will need a lot of volunteers for this event as it usually goes from the 1st -11th of November.
- ❖ 11 Oct. Comrade Juan DeLeon will bring more information to the Oct meeting on the Greater Tribal Nation Pow Wow held in San Marcos. Honor Guard members are needed this for this really special event. They have asked us back after our presentation last year. Something to see.
- ❖ We will be discussing the Dec Christmas Dinner at the Oct meeting as there will be no November meeting because of Veteran's Day falling on meeting day. We will be very busy that day, so the meeting is cancelled.
- ❖ November 5th is Chapter 61's 50th anniversary. We will be looking to celebrate in January or Feb because of all the stuff going on in November.
- ❖ DAVA Commander Lynette Sierer and Auxiliary were able to procure another United Way Grant for Chapter 61. They were able to get \$7000 in grants. These grants pay for our utilities so we can focus on our various service programs. Thank you Lynette and Auxiliary.
- ❖ 11 Nov. Veteran's Day Parade and Event. The Parade gathers at 9 am at College and Austin. Parade starts at 10 am heading for Central Park and the Veteran's Day event which starts at 11 am sharp. Bring lawn chairs and guests. Also, think about parade entries, only our 2nd attempt at this. Let's make it big.
- ❖ Comrade Juan and Pit Crew once again took 1st place in Display at the New Braunfels IBC cook offs this year. Congratulations to Juan, Pat and Raymond.
- ❖ 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 X
Treasurer:	Present X	Absent
Chaplain:	Present	Absent X
Adjutant:	Present X	Absent
SAA:	Present X	Absent

Total officers & members present: 17 (Sign in sheet available)

Chapter had a quorum: Yes

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

Guests: Renee Sandoval and Liberators M/C, Young Marines XO, Students from TLU, Fire & Iron M/C Rep (13 total)

ORDER OF BUSINESS:

Names of New Members: Paul Hill-New Braunfels, Ricardo Lozano-Lockhart.

Names of Transferred Members: Barry Napp-New Braunfels, Pedro Dela Fuente Jr.-Seguin. (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: Roy Hall, Alton Mattke.

Welcome to all our new members.

READING OF THE MINUTES: Stand as Corrected. Corrections included type-o with Roll call for officers. (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 Aug01 to 30, 2014.

Beginning: \$25,371.99. Ending: \$25,279.65.

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

Motion to accept: Leon Garcia, 2nd: Roland Charles, motion carries.

BILLS AND COMMUNICATIONS: (see list in file)

- ❖ Ltr IRS Form 990EZ, Ltr Donation from Mr. & Mrs. Avalos.

SICKNESS & DISTRESS:

- ❖ Comrades Tomas Castellon-surgery, Lynnette Sierer-illness, Phil Sierer-back, Leon's Daughter had surgery, John Deleon surgery, Mike Fore enlarged liver.

LEGISLATION

- ❖ Congress returns from the August recess on Sep 8 with only 12 legislative working days before recessing again ahead of the Nov elections. Legislators have two major issues on their plate requiring immediate attention:
 - 1) Funding the government in FY 2015,
 - 2) Passing a defense authorization bill which cleared the House in May, but is pending full Senate approval
- ❖ Secy of Def Chuck Hagel stated Sep3 that DoD will now consider service-related PTSD when considering a veteran's petition to upgrade their discharge status. This applies to veterans of any era who received a *less than honorable* discharge from service and received a subsequent documented PTSD diagnosis.
- ❖ **September is Suicide Prevention Month**
- ❖ The VA announced the locations for a pilot program to assist veterans and their families transitioning from military service to civilian life in *rural or underserved communities*. Ours is :Volunteers of America North Louisiana (includes Arkansas and Texas) – Non-Profit Organization;
- ❖ Late Aug, the Dept of VA Inspector General's office released their final report after months of investigating wrongdoing at the Phoenix Hospital system. It's available online.

- ❖ VA launched a new version of its GI Bill Comparison Tool, with features allowing veterans to estimate the *actual* cost of attendance for potential schools and compare new veteran-specific school characteristics, such as whether or not a school offers an organized student veteran group.

MIAs identified (9)

- **(5) Army Air Forces 1st Lts. William D. Bernier, Bryant E. Poulsen and Herbert V. Young Jr., Tech. Sgt. Charles L. Johnston and Sgt. Charles A. Gardner**, were lost April 10, 1944, in Papua New Guinea. They were assigned to the 5th Army Air Forces.
- **Army Pfc. Bernard Gavrin**, lost fighting on Saipan on June 15, 1944. Assigned to 27th IN Div.
- **Marine Corps Pvt. Robert J. McConachie**, lost in Okinawa on June 15, 1945. Assigned to 1st Marines Div
- **Army Pfc. Lawrence S. Gordon**, 28, a Canadian citizen. Lost Aug. 13, 1944, near Carrouges, France. Assigned to 3rd AR Div
- **Army Pfc. Cecil E. Harris**, 19, 45th IN Div of TN. Lost Jan. 2, 1945, near Dambach, France.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES:

- ❖ Membership: 2 new members, 2 transferred members.
- ❖ CSO: (Full report available)
 - Service Ofcrs. Aug 2014: Tot Vets Seen 73, Tot Hrs Used 109.5, Tot Hrs Avail 288.
 - Chaplain Hours: No report
 - Seeking Safety/VCZ : No report
 - Honor Guard Hours: Aug 2014. 224 hrs, 3 funeral svcs. 2 Posting Color events. (Full details in report files)
 - 11 Sept Honor Guard will fold a flag for Patriot Day services at Palmers Memorial.
- ❖ Report of Chapter Constitution and Bylaws Review Committee
 - Some of the changes to the C&B include Chapter Name Change, and some changes to Officer duties.
 - Should have the changes finalized and to the executive committee by next week.
 - Also, Comrade Warren Walls expressed a desire to work with the Chaplain.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- ❖ See Joint for other old business.
- ❖ Still waiting for the results of the Park naming from the city.

NEW BUSINESS:

- No new business.

GOOD of the ORDER

- ❖ Suicide Prevention Month. Suicide is a major problem with returning veterans due to a number of factors including more numerous combat events, prolonged deployments, and stepped up operation tempos. Be alert for signs of a fellow comrade in distress and be prepared to intervene.

Moment of Silence. Remembrance of fallen comrades.

Motion for Adjournment:

Motion by Leon Garcia, 2nd by Larry Nicholson, carried.

CLOSING CEREMONY: Salute Closing Prayer by Chaplain
Next meeting will be 7 PM, on Oct 11, 2014.