

---

March 2015



DOUG HERRLE CHAPTER 61  
SEGUIN TEXAS



MARCH 2015  
COMMANDERS' COMMENTS  
DOUG HERRLE DAV CHAPTER 61 & UNIT 61

We have often mentioned how fortunate we are to have a number of partnerships/collaborations with other organizations in the area. On February 28th, the Army ROTC at Texas State University San Marcos sponsored the 2nd Annual Polar Plunge to benefit our Chapter. A good number of people signed up to “plunge” into the 72 degree water on a cold, miserable day. We were told that it was not the “plunge” that was the challenge, but getting there and then reluctantly getting out of the warm water. Thanks to all you brave participants!

On March 7th, the latest “Dawg Day” at Texas Lutheran University, several students came to help out at the Chapter House. They were all veterans enrolled there. This is an ongoing project for them and we are truly appreciative of their support- all volunteers.

Students from TLU also support fundraisers for our Chapter and we are also appreciative to them for their generous support.

A big “Thank You!” to everyone who supported our Chapter's 50th Anniversary celebration at the VFW in Geronimo on March 14th. Special thanks to Terri Herrle and Gary Elley who served as co-chairs for this commemorative event.

This is a major accomplishment for us and for DAV and we are proud to claim this honor. We want to thank everyone who helped make this possible over the years. We have come through some challenging times and today both our Chapter and Unit are strong. We continue to grow, enabling us to offer more services to our clients on a regular basis.

The support groups for PTSD are on Tuesdays, the first is from 12 noon to 1 PM, followed by the second group meeting from 1:30 – 2:30 PM. Our Bible study is on Wednesday afternoons from 1:30 – 3:00 PM. Please come by to visit and learn of the various services offered through our chapter and through the Veterans Comfort Zone.

Our unit has 2 ongoing service projects that are being very well received. The first one, **Hugz for Kidz**, is collecting plush animals to be donated to local law enforcement officers to give to children caught in domestic violence or other stressful situations.

Continued

---

(Continued from Pg 1)

It is our hope that these little animals will help ease the uncertainty and fear these small victims must feel when placed in that situation through no fault of their own. **This project is for everyone. Please bring your donated plush animal to the Chapter House. There will soon be a collection box in the waiting area (bay) near the library.**

Our second project doesn't have a name yet but we are making special pillows and drain pouches for cancer patients, primarily breast cancer patients, but they are useful for most recovering cancer surgery patients. Some pillows are heart-shaped and some are rectangular. Some can be round or square. Pouches are sewn so they can either be pinned to clothing or hung around the neck. If you sew, please let Lynette and/or Terri know and we will show you some examples. If you don't sew, we welcome donations of material- soft cotton blends or flannel- narrow fabric ribbon to use, and pollyfil for the pillows. We have also talked about having a project day at the chapter house when we can prepare the items using everyone's talents- cutting, sewing, stuffing and finishing items while visiting with one another. We could bring sack lunches and make a day of it. If this is of interest to you, please let us know.

Election of officers for both our Chapter and Unit will be on Tuesday, May 12th at our regular meetings. Neither of us is running for re-election as commander so we want to take this opportunity to thank our members for your support of disabled veterans through your participation in our activities and projects. We realize that not everyone has a lot of "extra" time, but we hope you will review your schedules and possibly find a few hours each month to help out our fellow disabled veterans. There are many opportunities to help and we would hope that you would enjoy "working" with your fellow members while volunteering. We usually have fun and value the time we spend together.

On April 18 & 19, Saturday and Sunday, we will be our Forget-Me-Not fundraiser at the Seguin Wal-Mart. We work together, chapter & unit members, and have a great time. Gary Elley has a sign-up sheet at the chapter house. Call him to put your name on the list or, you can sign-up at our next meeting on April 14th. We work in shifts so you are not signing up to be there all day. This is a great opportunity to volunteer, visit with fellow members while meeting new supporters and encouraging patriotism among our youth.

Again, thank all of you for making the Doug Herrle DAV Chapter 61 and Unit 61 what it is today. Not only are we helping veterans but we are being good citizens of Seguin, helping to ensure that our town continues to be a most desirable place to raise our families in a safe, patriotic community.

Take care & be safe. God bless America- Home of the Free because of the Brave.

Phil Sierer, Commander, Doug Herrle DAV Chapter 61  
Lynette Sierer, Commander, Unit 61

A new Bible Study has begun and there is still time to join the group. Topic for this session is learning how to pray. We meet every Wednesday, 1:30 – 3:00 PM at the chapter house. Workbooks are \$2.00 each.

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

## 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

Feb 13. 7PM. Elvis show at Geronimo VFW. Flyers posted.

Feb 21. 7PM. Justin Trevino at Geronimo VFW. Flyers posted.

Mar 12&13. NSO Mobile Service Van visits Chapter 61.

Mar. 14: Chapter 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party. Dinner/Dance at the Geronimo VFW Hall.

Apr 18. Chapter Honor Guard at Lockhart Veteran Welcome Home Event. Chapter is invited as well.

Apr 18&19. Chapter Forget Me Not at Walmart.

### Our New Members

Robert E. Boerstler-Schertz

John A. Easterling-San Marcos

James R. Johnson-Seguin

Robert J McGahee-Stockdale

Tobins F. Teresco-Kinsbury

Albert M. Morales-New Braunfels

Neil Bascos-Schertz

### Our Transferred Members

Harvey R Mica-Seguin

David A. Eardley-Kingsbury

## 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:**

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

**Seeking Safety:** Wed. 7:30pm-9pm

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

**"For the LORD is good; His mercy is everlasting, and His truth endures to all generations."**

(Psalm 100:5, NKJV)

When you make a mistake, unfortunately, the critics and naysayers come out of the woodwork. People will tell you, "You're all washed up. It's too late." If you wear that label, it will keep you from the amazing future God has in store. God says, "My mercy is bigger than any mistake." God says, "I can still get you to your destiny." God says, "I will give you beauty for those ashes. I'll pay you back double for the unfair things that have happened." You wouldn't be alive unless God had another victory in your future. Why don't you take off the "washed up" label? Take off the "failure," "guilty," "condemned" labels and put on some new labels: redeemed, restored, forgiven, bright future, new beginning.

As your Chaplain, I am available for counseling or discussion of any spiritual matter. I may be contacted at [4veterans@hotmail.com](mailto:4veterans@hotmail.com) or by phone at (830) 491-8009. May God Bless you all!

### *Binnacle List*

❖ *Comrade Dennis Roy recovering, Comrade JJ Chapa in hospital, Comrade Miguel Tellis is ill.*

## 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 Proverbs.

## DAV Meeting Minutes

Guadalupe County, TX Chapter 61

DATE: 03/10/2015

TIME: 7PM

Chapter House, 425 Vaughan St., Seguin TX 78155

### CALL TO ORDER:

Prayer by Chaplain Richard Cusson

Flag Honors: Y

### Joint Meeting Chapter and Unit

- ❖ Mar 14. Chapter 61's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary will be held at VFW Geronimo Post 8456. Tickets are going on sale: \$12 in advance/\$15 at door. Music and catered dinner, this is a great deal for the price. Come and join as we celebrate 50 successful years of service to our community. We do need raffle/door prizes to offer.
- ❖ Mar 12 & 13. The DAV Mobile Service Van will be at Chapter 61. Spread the word.
- ❖ Apr 18 & 19. Chapter Forget-Me-Not drive at Walmart. Oct 3 & 4. Aux Drive at Walmart.
- ❖ Feb 13. Geronimo VFW is having Elvis at the Post. We're all invited. \$10 at the door. This is a pro Elvis combined with some 50's Rock & Roll. Share the news. Supports the Warrior and Family Support Center Ft Sam.
- ❖ Polar Plunge is reported as being successful. Cadet Justin Gregg of the Southwest Texas University Army ROTC thinks they will have a check ready by next 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	Absent X (hospitalized)
Treasurer:	Present	Absent X (Excused)
Chaplain:	Present X	Absent
Adjutant:	Present X	Absent
SAA:	Present X	Absent

Total officers & members present: 15 (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:** Robert E. Boerstler-Schertz, John A. Easterling-San Marcos, James R. Johnson-Seguin, Robert J McGahee-Stockdale, Tobins F. Teresco-Kinsbury, Albert M. Morales-New Braunfels, Neil Bascos-Schertz.

**Names of Transferred Members:** Harvey R Mica-Seguin, David A. Eardley-Kingsbury.

(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, bulletin board, and emailed via Newsletter.**

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** From Feb01 to 28, 2015.

Beginning: \$28,091.64. Ending: \$28,093.89.

**Motion to accept: Comrade Leon Garcia, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Comrade Richard Cussons, carries.**

Full report available for viewing on request.

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

- ❖ Ltr: IANDS-Donation Request, Ltr: DAV Nat'l HQ-Mbrshp Rpt, Ltr: City of Seguin-Fire Pup Donation Req, Ltr: Hocheim Prarie Ins Co. Branch #50-\$300 Donation to Ch61.

**SICKNESS & DISTRESS:**

- ❖ Comrade Dennis Roy recovering, Comrade JJ Chapa in hospital, Comrade Miguel Tellis ill.

## **LEGISLATION**

DAV Legislative Report **March** 2015

Feb 12 2015 the *Clay Hunt Suicide Prevention for American Veterans (SAV) Act* was signed into law. The new law allows the VA to hire more psychiatrists, collaborate with local non-profit mental health organizations, and expand its successful peer support networks.

On Feb. 12, the Senate confirmed Ash Carter as Secretary of Defense. Carter, a long-time Pentagon official, replaces outgoing Secretary Chuck Hagel.

In Feb the Justice Department announced that, under a settlement with five of the nation's largest mortgage servicers, 952 service members and their co-borrowers are eligible to share \$123 million for non-judicial foreclosures that violated the *Service Members Civil Relief Act (SCRA)*.

The Army's Study for Active Duty Military For Pulmonary Disease Related to Environmental Deployment Exposures (STAMPEDE) is looking for OIF/OEF/OND veterans, who developed chronic respiratory symptoms during or soon after deployment.

MIAs/POWs Identified:

On April 10, 1944, the B-24D Liberator crewmembers took off from Nazdab Air Field in New Guinea on a mission to attack an anti-aircraft site at Hansa Bay. The aircraft was shot down by enemy anti-aircraft fire. Returned home for burial:1

1LT William D. Bernier of Augusta, Mont.,  
1LT Bryant E. Poulsen of Salt Lake City, Utah,  
1LT Herbert V. Young Jr. of Clarkdale, AZ  
Technical Sgts. Charles L. Johnston of Pittsburgh, PA  
Tech Sgt, and Hugh F. Moore of Elkton, MD  
SSG. John E. Copeland of Dearing, KS  
SSG Charles J. Jones of Athens, GA  
Sgt. Charles A. Gardner of San Francisco, CA

## **REPORT OF COMMITTEES:**

- ❖ Membership: 7 new members. 2 transferred members.
- ❖ CSO: (Full report available)
  - Service Ofcrs. Feb 2015: Tot Vets Seen , Tot Hrs Used , Tot Hrs Avail .
  - Chaplain Hours: 44 hrs
  - Individuals: No report
  - Honor Guard Hours: Jan: 6 events, vols, 213 hrs.

- Constitution and By Law Committee. Committee Chairman Walls gave 2nd reading of Update w/changes. Final to be mailed to Department Judge Advocate for review.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

- ❖ See Joint for other Old Business.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- ❖ In response to letter with donation request from International Association for Near Death Studies for advertizing to reach veterans in San Antonio area, **Comrade Linda Truax motioned for \$50 donation, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Comrade Leon Garcia, carried.**
- ❖ **Motion to donate \$59 to Fire Pup youth program by Comrade Tomas Castellon, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Comrade Leon Garcia, carried.**

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

- ❖ First round nominations for Chapter 61 Officers:
  - Cdr-Gary Elley
  - SV Cdr-JJ Chapa (Written Acceptance)
  - JV Cdr-Leon Garcia
  - Treas-Bella Wiatrek. (Written Acceptance)

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

#### **Motion for Adjournment:**

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

**CLOSING CEREMONY: \_\_x\_\_ Salute \_\_x\_\_ Closing Prayer by Chaplain Cusson**  
**Next meeting will be 7 PM, on Mar 10<sup>th</sup>.**