AMERICAN LEGION
Department of Texas

THE LEGION TIMES

Official Newspaper of The American Legion, Department of Texas

June 2026 • Volume 107, Issue 11

CONTENTS

Message from the Commander	1
Veterans Programs	2
Post 828 Memorial Day	4-5
Post 164 Attends Memorial Day Service	6
Post 164 Hands out Poppies	6
Post 828 Project Shoes	7-8
What Do You Know About the SVA?	9
SVA Stole Draping Ceremony	10
Post 174 End-of-School Awards	11
Post 174 Quarterly Breakfast	11
2nd Division Convention	12
Post 164 Attends Veterans Picnic	12
Posts 592, 828 Host Blood Drive	13
Post 472 Celebrates Fleet Week	14
20th District at Great Texas Air Show	15
Post 593 National Day of Prayer	16
Post 174 Scout Unit Activities	17
Post 164 Activities	18
Post 21 Steps Up for Community	19
Post 828 Hosts Ice Cream Social	20
Post 593 Chili Cook-off	21
Post 21 Supports Mental Wellness	22
Post 380 Revives Mico Tradition	23
20th District Honors Future Service Members	24-25

Message from the Commander

American Legion Americanism Programs in Texas



The American Legion's Americanism programs in Texas are designed to strengthen citizenship, leadership, and respect for the nation's democratic traditions. Across the state, local posts and the Department of Texas support activities that teach young people about the Constitution, public service, and the responsibilities that come with freedom. These programs are rooted in the organization's long-standing mission of mentoring youth, promoting patriotism, and encouraging active involvement in community life. In Texas, Americanism is more than a slogan; it is a practical effort to help students and families connect civic knowledge with real-world service and leadership.

One of the best-known programs is Texas Boys State, a hands-on leadership and government program in which high school students build mock city, county, and state governments while learning how public institutions function. The American Legion also sponsors the High School Oratorical Scholarship Program in Texas, a constitutional speech contest that challenges students to develop a deeper understanding of the U.S. Constitution while improving public speaking, critical thinking, and confidence. Scholarship opportunities connected to Legion youth initiatives, including Boys State and national programs, further encourage academic achievement and civic engagement. In some Texas communities, posts also support Junior Shooting Sports activities that emphasize discipline, safety, concentration, and personal responsibility. Another emerging youth opportunity is the Youth Law Cadet program, which gives students first-hand exposure to law enforcement operations and careers. It is designed for motivated high school students who want to build leadership skills, learn about public safety, and develop respect for the responsibilities of law enforcement service. First session is scheduled for the program this month, and a second one is already scheduled.

Another important part of Americanism in Texas is American Legion Baseball, which combines athletic competition with lessons in character, citizenship, and teamwork. The program gives young athletes opportunities to develop discipline, leadership, and respect for rules while representing their communities in organized competition. The Department of Texas highlights baseball as one of its youth programs, emphasizing not only player development but also sportsmanship and personal responsibility. The program's strong tradition in Texas was underscored when the first Texas team to win the American Legion Baseball World Series in 2023, showing how the state's participation has grown in both visibility and achievement.

Together, these Americanism programs help Texas students grow into informed, capable, and service-minded citizens. They offer practical experiences that build communication skills, leadership habits, and appreciation for constitutional government. By investing in youth education and character development, The American Legion continues to make a meaningful contribution to communities across Texas. These efforts show that patriotism is not only about honoring the past, but also about preparing the next generation to lead with integrity, knowledge, and commitment to the common good.

Rich Huntley
Department Commander

The Legion Times
Volume 107, Issue 11
June 2026

Executive Director
William West

Editor
G. Adams

Send all correspondence and submissions to:
The Legion Times
PO Box 140527
Austin, TX 78714
T: 512.472.4138
F: 512.472.0603

www.txlegion.org
E-mail: times@txlegion.org

The Legion Times assumes no responsibility for material submitted and reserves the right to edit any submissions.

Editorial deadline is the 20th of every month for inclusion in the following month's issue.

We typically publish on the First Friday of each month, with few exceptions.

Subscription is included in the annual American Legion, Department of Texas dues. Contact the American Legion, Department of Texas for extra copies, or copies for non-legionnaires.

The Legion Times
is the official publication of the
American Legion
Department of Texas

Member of:
American Legion Press Association
Texas American Legion Press Assoc.
Texas Press Association.

The Legion Times is published online 12 times a year by the American Legion, Department of Texas

Veteran Programs Through The American Legion in Texas

By Rich Huntley, Department Commander

Overview and Benefits Assistance

For many veterans, the transition from military service to civilian life can bring challenges related to health care, benefits, education, employment, and emotional well-being. The American Legion in Texas Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission works to meet those needs through a wide range of programs that support veterans, military families, and local communities. By combining direct assistance with advocacy and community-based outreach, the organization helps veterans not only access important services, but also build stability, purpose, and opportunity after service.

Mental Health and Community Support

The organization also places strong emphasis on mental health and community support. Through its Be the One initiative, The American Legion encourages people to recognize warning signs, reduce the stigma around seeking help, and take action when a veteran may be at risk of suicide. Local posts across Texas often strengthen this mission through outreach events, memorial activities, and assistance efforts that keep veterans connected to support networks in their own communities.

Education Programs

Education is another important part of the organization's work. In Texas, The American Legion promotes leadership and scholarship opportunities through programs such as Texas Boys State and the Oratorical Contest. These programs help students build civic knowledge, leadership skills, and public speaking confidence while also opening the door to scholarships. National scholarship opportunities connected to The American Legion can also benefit military-connected families, including children of veterans and fallen service members.

Veteran Employment and Employer Recognition

The American Legion also supports Veteran Employment and Education by encouraging hiring partnerships, promoting job fairs, and recognizing employers that create meaningful opportunities for former service members. In Texas, these efforts connect veterans with workforce systems and help them translate military experience into civilian careers. Employer recognition is an important part of this mission. Through national employment awards, The American Legion honors businesses, workforce offices, and specialists that show outstanding commitment to recruiting, hiring, and supporting veterans and disabled workers. Taken together, these efforts show that The American Legion in Texas plays an important role far beyond ceremonial service. It stands as an advocate, resource, and community partner that helps veterans pursue benefits, strengthen their mental health, expand educational opportunity, and achieve long-term success in civilian life.

AMERICAN LEGION BE THE ONE

Closing

The best place to find the Veteran's programs of The American Legion is through your local post. Being a member is a whole lot more the just a membership number, it is Veterans still serving Veterans and still serving America.

2025–2026 DEPARTMENT OFFICERS

Richard Huntley, DEPARTMENT COMMANDER

John Hince, National Executive Committeeman
Bret Watson, Alternate National Executive Committeeman
Tom Marty, Immediate Past Department Commander
William West, Department Adjutant
Jimmy Mitchell, Department Chaplain
Gary Sanders, Department Treasurer
William Wallace, Department Judge Advocate
Shirley Platt, Department Historian
Jerry Tatman, Department Sergeant-at-Arms
Michael Wheeler, Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms
Michael Simon, Director of Internal Affairs
Michael Lacy, Department Service Officer
Ron Peterson, Department Service Officer
Allen Sharp, Department Service Officer

DEPARTMENT VICE COMMANDERS

Andy Lowen, 1st Division
Steve Kim, 2nd Division
Jose Lopez, 3rd Division
Chris Holt, 4th Division

DISTRICT COMMANDERS

Johnny Norris, 1st District Commander
Cheryl Williams, 2nd District Commander
Kim McCarthy, 3rd District Commander
Michael Olivarez, 4th District Commander
Tynetta Runnels., 5th District Commander
Russ Foster, 6th District Commander
Terry Batson, 7th District Commander
Irene Infante, 8th District Commander
Deborah Waldrop, 9th District Commander
Phillip Kelly, 10th District Commander
John Potts, 11th District Commander
Chad Page, 12th District Commander
Chris Garcia, 13th District Commander
Gea Clausier, 14th District Commander
Edward Villafranca, 15th District Commander
Ramon Montano, 16th District Commander
Chris Grantham, 17th District Commander
Reyna Ruiz, 18th District Commander
Kevin Bright, 19th District Commander
Eric Mayer, 20th District Commander
Don Gray, 21st District Commander
Robert Harvey, 22nd District Commander
Jose Gamez, 23rd District Commander

ARTICLE SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Do you have an article or news announcement to share with the rest of the Department of Texas? If so, please follow these guidelines for submissions.

• Submit text in Word format (.doc, .docx) or as a plain text file (.txt or .rtf). ONE ARTICLE PER EMAIL PLEASE.

• The ideal word count for our format is 200 - 500 words (maximum), with no double spacing.

• Give your article a TITLE! Create a HEADLINE and save with a proper file name so we can easily recognize it.

• Tell us who the author is, whether it's you or if you are just forwarding it to us.

• Attach any photos or artwork for your article separately in your email. DO NOT embed them in your Word or PDF file. Larger photos are best, and high resolution JPG files of 300 dpi or better are preferred. Please name these files accordingly so we can track them along with your article.

• Let us know in your e-mail or Word doc of any photo captions, the name of the photographer, etc. Please note that due to spacing and layout requirements, we may not be able to use every photo or caption submitted (preferably 2 - 3 photos per article).

• Please spell check everything! Especially people's names, web addresses, etc. We do our best to catch typos, and make corrections, but sometimes they still slip by. You can help us greatly by simply running the spell check function in your word processing software.

• We publish on our Website on the FIRST FRIDAY of the Month, with few exceptions. E-mail everything directly to times@txlegion.org by the 20th of every month, for it to appear in the *following* issue. Submissions received after the 20th will be considered, but may be held over or discarded due to space and layout restrictions.

We hope you enjoy this issue, and hope you continue to help us grow and improve The Legion Times!

Fred Brock Post 828 Honors, Remembers the Fallen on Memorial Day

Story by Past Commander Burrell Parmer, Fred Brock Post 828



SAN ANTONIO – (May 25, 2026) – Fred Brock American Legion Post No. 828 held its annual Memorial Day Ceremony at the post's event center to honor those men and women who lost their lives serving the nation.

Delivering opening remarks was the Honorable Gina Ortiz Jones, mayor of San Antonio, who asked all who served in the military to repeat the oath of office.

The keynote speaker was retired U.S. Army Col. Rev. Dr. Kenneth R. Kemp, pastor of Antioch Missionary Baptist Church.

"Today, we come together to again remember those who have worn the uniform of the United States military, as Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, Coast Guardsmen, and Guardians, who have died while performing their duty to this nation," said Kemp. "It is interesting to note that sometimes we get caught up in the barbecues, the picnics, the cold drinks, and the day off and forget that we pause this day, during this time, to remember those who died so that we might live."



The Honorable Gina Ortiz Jones, mayor of San Antonio delivered opening remarks during a Memorial Day Ceremony held at Fred Brock American Legion Post No. 828 (Photo by Legionnaire Burrell Parmer/TEXALPA)

According to Kemp, he is very aware of the sacrifices that brave servicemembers and their families have made to preserve the nation's way of life.

"Those of us who have been in it, understand it to some degree, but only those Gold Star families, the mothers who have lost sons and daughters, the sweethearts who have lost spouses and fiancés, the

(continued)

siblings who have lost brothers and sisters, and the children who have lost fathers and mothers, only they truly know what it means."

During the ceremony, 1st Vice Commander Billy Hill read the names of the Post Legionnaires who entered Post Everlasting: Douglas Allen, E. E. Brown, George W. Brown, Otis J. Brown, Kendra Dunlap, Ira M. Hall, Barry J. Major, Thadius A. Parrish, Clarence E. Thompson, Remus D. Woodard, and William E. Woods. Afterwards all stood for the playing of Taps.

After the benediction by Chaplain Patricia Wimberly, Post Commander Amanda Parham expressed her appreciation for everyone's attendance.

"Thank you all for gathering here today to honor and remember the brave men and women who gave their lives in service to our nation," said Parham. "Today, we stand together in gratitude, reflection, and patriotism as we pay tribute to our fallen heroes and support the families they left behind."

Afterwards, all were invited to a BBQ luncheon sponsored by the Post.



Retired U.S. Army Col. Rev. Dr. Kenneth R. Kemp, pastor of Antioch Missionary Baptist Church, served as the keynote speaker during a Memorial Day Ceremony held at Fred Brock American Legion Post No. 828 (Photo by Legionnaire Burrell Parmer/TEXALPA)



First Vice Commander Billy Hill narrates the Memorial Table Candle-lighting Ceremony to honored American POW/MIAs and servicemen and women who have departed during the Memorial Day Ceremony held at Fred Brock American Legion Post No. 828. (Photo by Legionnaire Burrell Parmer/TEXALPA)



Post Commander Amanda Parham presents a plaque of appreciation to retired U.S. Army Col. Rev. Dr. Kenneth R. Kemp, pastor of Antioch Missionary Baptist Church, for serving as the keynote speaker during a Memorial Day Ceremony held at Fred Brock American Legion Post No. 828 (Photo by Legionnaire Burrell Parmer/TEXALPA)

The Post 164 Family Attends Memorial Day Service for Soldiers Rest

Submitted by Sandy Krum, Commander, Post 164





Every Memorial Day the District 22 Auxiliary conducts a ceremony at Forest Park Lawndale Cemetery in Houston to recognize the 41 WWI soldiers laid to rest in a special part of the cemetery, named “Soldiers Rest”. This plot of land was purchased by Unit 52 shortly after the end of WWI as a place for the remains of soldiers whose remains were unclaimed.

This year’s guest speaker was Maj. Gen. (Ret) Richard Noriega.

Members of the Post 164 Family in attendance included Past Post Commander and current District 22 Commander Jim McGuire, Post 164 Commander Sandy Krum, Unit 164 1st Vice President and President elect Jennifer Lowry, Unit 164 2nd Vice President Maria Wells, Past Department of Minnesota President and current Girls Nation Committee member Sharon Cross, and Unit 164 members Tiffany Lowry and Alison Toth.

The ceremony usually ends with the placing of flags at the graves, but this year due to weather it had to be held indoors. We are grateful for the ongoing support for the staff at Forest Park Lawndale.

Post 164 Family Hands out Poppies in the Katy Community

The Post 164 Family was out in force on Memorial Day, handing out poppies at seven locations throughout the Katy area. We got to share the meaning of the poppy with our neighbors. The Post 164 Family would like to thank the following local businesses for letting us set up in front of their location. Ace Hareware Cinco Ranch, Snappy’s Restaurant, Brookshire Brothers Katy, Red Robin Resturant, Black Bear Diner, Midway BBQ, and Texas Roadhouse. We are grateful for their support.

We are very thankful for the support of the members of Post 164: Harry Woodstorm, Ted Custer, Roy (Skip) Miller, Jennifer Lowry, Linda Ortega and our Commander Sandy Krum as well as Unit 164 members Janna Krum, Tina Miller, Gillian Woodstrom, Leslie Britton, Kristen Isaacs, Tiffany Lowry, Maria Wells, Dollie O’Day and Linda Malsbary.







Fred Brock Post 828 Continues to Help Children Through Project Shoes

Story by Legionnaire Burrell Parmer, Texas American Legion Press Association



Post 828 Commander Amanda Parham speaks with families at the start of the post's semi-annual Project Shoes Program held at WSS' Southwest Military Drive location (Photo by Legionnaire Burrell Parmer/TEXALPA)

SAN ANTONIO – (May 2, 2026) – In support of one of its pillar programs, Children and Youth, Fred Brock Post 828, in cooperation with WSS, provided new shoes to students from the San Antonio Independent School District during Project Shoes held at WSS' Southwest Military Drive location.

Students, accompanied by their parent(s) or guardian(s), were provided with a $100 budget to purchase a pair of new shoes along with any other item in the store.

More than $10,000 was available for students to purchase new shoes and apparel.

According to Post Commander Amanda Parham, it's important for Post 828 to continue Project Shoes each year because the program reflects the very heart of the post's mission — service to veterans, families, and the community.

(continued)



Legionnaire and U.S. Army Master Sgt. Jessie Turner, assigned to the U.S. Army Medical Command, assists a student in shoe selection during Project Shoes held at WSS' Southwest Military Drive location (Photo by Legionnaire Burrell Parmer/TEXALPA)



Auxiliary member Tesha Parmer, of Fred Brock Unit 828, assists a student during Project Shoes hosted by Fred Brock American Legion Post 828 at WSS' Southwest Military Drive location (Photo by Legionnaire Burrell Parmer/TEXALPA)

“Project Shoes continues to provide a basic but critical need for school-aged-children in our community,” said Parham. “By providing new shoes, Post 828 helps remove a barrier that many families quietly face and shows our youth that their community cares about their well-being and success.”



U.S. Staff Sgt. Lashonda Kennard of U.S. Army Medical Command, joined by Command Sgt. Maj. Bridgett Bankhead of U.S. Army North, check-in families in support of Project Shoes held at WSS’ Southwest Military Drive location (Photo by Legionnaire Burrell Parmer/TEXALPA)

This year, active-duty soldiers from U.S. Army North, U.S. Army Medical Command, and the U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research volunteered to help students select shoes.

“Enlisting active duty soldiers to assist with Project Shoes was important because it created a powerful connection between the military and the community,” said Parham. “Their involvement demonstrated that service to others extends beyond the uniform and continues through compassion, mentorship, and community engagement.”

Special thanks to Wyatt Law Firm and H-E-B, and many others for their consistent monetary support which ensures Project Shoes is fully funded each year.

The mission of Fred Brock Post 828 is to enhance the well-being of San Antonio’s veterans, their families, the military, and the community by its devotion to mutual helpfulness.



In support of one of its pillar programs, Children and Youth, Fred Brock Post 828, in cooperation with WSS, provided new shoes to students from the San Antonio Independent School District during Project Shoes held at WSS’ Southwest Military Drive location. Students, accompanied by their parent(s) or guardian(s), were provided with a $100 budget to purchase new shoes along with any other item in the store. More than $10,000 was available for students to purchase new shoes and apparel (Photo by Legionnaire Burrell Parmer/TEXALPA)



Active-duty soldiers from U.S. Army North (ARNORTH), U.S. Army Medical Command (MEDCOM), and the U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research (USAISR) volunteered during Project Shoes held at WSS’ Southwest Military Drive location. Pictured left to right: Staff Sgt. Nathan Mattheis (USAISR), 1st Sgt. Brian Kolb (MEDCOM), Master Sgt. Jessie Turner (MEDCOM), Command Sgt. Maj. Bridgett Bankhead (ARNORTH), and Staff Sgt. Lashonda Kennard (MEDCOM) (Photo by Post Commander Amanda Parham)

What Do you Know About the SVA?

Submitted by Shirley Platt, Department of Texas Historian

The History of Student Veterans of America®

Empowering Veterans in Higher Education Since Our Founding

Before the end of World War II, President Franklin Roosevelt signed into law the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944, otherwise known as the G.I. Bill of Rights. After demobilizing, returning veterans flooded colleges and universities around the country. Not only did these student veterans face basic challenges associated with reintegrating into civilian life, but schools were unprepared for this influx of students, which lead to additional problems for veterans like severe housing shortages and lack of transitional assistance. Student veterans banded together, forming peer-to-peer support networks to overcome these challenges and earn their college degrees.

Through the '70s, '80s, and '90s, veterans continued to transition to campus following their military service, albeit in smaller numbers. The revised Montgomery G.I. Bill was offered as a recruitment incentive for the all-volunteer force. Some of the local student veteran groups that formed on campuses after conflicts in Korea and Vietnam, like those at Northern Illinois University and the University of Wisconsin-Madison, still exist today.

Following the September 11, 2001 attacks, the U.S. launched Operation Enduring Freedom (Afghanistan) and Operation Iraqi Freedom (Iraq). As OEF and OIF veterans returned home to use GI Bill benefits, they found that their campuses did not provide adequate support services to assist student veterans as they worked towards their educational goals.

Lacking support, student veterans decided to organize on campuses across the country. These groups began to connect through social media with one another to spread best practices, share success stories, and support one another to further strengthen the student veteran community. In 2008, members from various chapters formalized this grassroots movement and Student Veterans of America was born at the very first NatCon in Chicago.

SVA was officially incorporated on January 23, 2008 to provide programs, resources, and support to the ever-evolving network of local student veteran organizations. Each of these independent groups joined the umbrella coalition as a chapter.

Concurrently, SVA and a number of Veteran Service Organizations were tirelessly advocating for an overhaul of the G.I. Bill to address the needs of the 21st Century student veteran. Six months after SVA's founding, President George W. Bush put the Post 9/11 G.I. Bill into law.

Since SVA's founding in 2008, over one million veterans have returned home to pursue a postsecondary degree or certificate using VA education benefits. To meet this need, SVA's presence at the local and national levels has grown to include nearly 1,600 chapters, numerous private and nonprofit partners, and an expanding list of impactful programs and services for student veterans, military-connected students, survivors, and others. SVA welcomed over 2,500 to its largest ever National Convention on January 3-5, 2020 in Los Angeles.

Student Veterans of America® (SVA) is the premier organization leading service, research, programs, and advocacy for veterans in higher education.

Our mission is to act as a catalyst for student veteran success by providing resources, network support and advocacy to, through, and beyond higher education.

Student Veterans of America (SVA), is a 501 non-profit organization focused on addressing the needs and concerns of American military veterans in higher education. SVA is best known for being an umbrella organization for student veterans' groups that advocates for improvements in veterans educational benefits.

Extracted from website: studentveterans.org

SVA Stole Draping Ceremony at Northeast Lakeview College - University City

Submitted by Shirley Platt, Department Historian



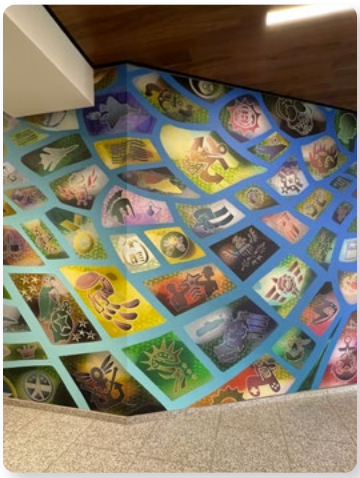


William M. Randolph Post 593 - Converse, TX, attended the stole draping ceremony of 5 veterans graduating from Northeast Lakeview College (SVA program). These veterans are new members of Post 593 and have stepped up to support our Post. Those in attendance were Manny and Tracy Velez, Shirley Platt, Clayton Wallers and Ed Richards. Those graduating were Megan Larson, Estella Butler, Donavan Butler, Sr. - SVA Chapter President, Tyler Abell and Isabel Zimmerman.

The pictures are just a showing of how beautiful and comforting this campus is, for Veterans to have a place to come and study and enjoy the camaraderie of those who have served. This campus has approximately 1600 Veterans enrolled in classes.













Post 174 Presents End-of-School Awards

Submitted by BJ MacMillan, Adjutant, Post 174





On May 1st, the Post Commander, Amery Vasso, presented the General Military Excellence Medal to Cadet Command Master Chief Mattox Skelton. The Cadet is a member of the East View High School Navy Junior Reserve Training Corps in Georgetown, TX.

At the Post May meeting, the Post Commander presented two $1,000 scholarships to Charles Brainard and Anna Bruchmiller. They were accompanied by their parents and siblings.

The Post will be presenting more scholarships at our June meeting.





Post 174 Conducts Quarterly Breakfast

On May 2nd, Post 174 conducted their quarterly breakfast.

They tried something new! We made reservations at a local restaurant rather than having volunteers bring food. No one had to deal with set-up, clean-up, or cooking!

It was a good break from the normal routine!

2nd Division Convention

Submitted by Sandy Krum, Commander, Post 164







Post 164 Family attended the 2nd Division Convention held in Bryan, TX at Post 159. There was some valuable training given by 2nd District Commander Cheryl Williams, 22nd District Commander Jim McGuire and Past 2nd Division Commander Clifton Guillory. Along with conducting the business of the 2nd Division, we elected our new Division Commander.

Congratulations to Cheryl Williams from Post 817, Beaumont, who will be the Department of Texas Vice Commander for the 2nd Division. We look forward to the coming year with you as our new leader.

During the Convention, two members for Post 164 were honored with the presentation of quilts for the Quilts of Valor Foundation.



Post 164 Attends Veterans Picnic

On May 16th, 2026, the Post 164 Family was privileged to be able to attend the 4th annual Katy Christian Ministries Veterans Recognition Picnic event held at Grace Church in Katy. This is a free event for Katy area veterans to come out and meet each other and talk to the area groups that offer services for veterans.

Post 164 is very proud that we have been a part of this event for the past 4 years.

The joint Honor Guard from American Legion Post 164 and VFW Post 9182 were available to present the colors. We are pleased to also announce that we gained 7 new members for this event.





Posts 592, 828 Partner with Nursing Sorority to Host Joint Blood Drive

Story by Past Commander Burrell Parmer, Texas American Legion Press Association

SAN ANTONIO – (May 2, 2026) – In support of The American Legion Blood Donor Program, Sesquicentennial American Legion Post 592 and Fred Brock American Legion Post 828 partnered with Theta Eta Chapter of Chi Eta Phi Sorority, Inc., to host a blood drive at Post 592's location near Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston.

"Donating blood is important because it helps save lives," said Post 828 Commander Amanda Parham, a member of Theta Eta Chapter. "Since blood cannot be manufactured, hospitals and clinics depend on generous donors, and as legionnaires, we must do our part to maintain a sufficient supply of blood."

More than 15 units of blood were collected. Prior to giving blood, each donor was given a brief confidential health screening to verify their eligibility to donate blood.

According to Post 592 Commander Randall Remaley, a single blood donation can help more than one person, making it a simple but powerful way to support the community.

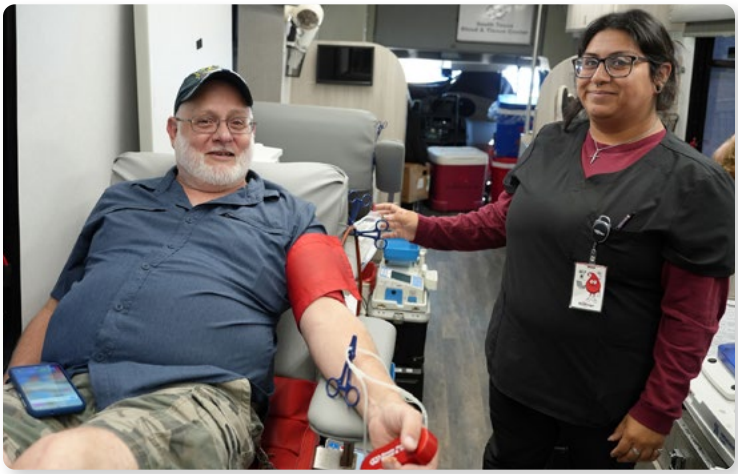
"Blood donations are needed daily in every city and county throughout Texas," said Remaley. "Not only did members donate blood, but also members of the public who saw the South Texas Blood & Tissue bus in our parking lot."

Partnering with Theta Eta Chapter and American Legion Posts 592 and 828 was especially important because it fostered meaningful collaboration with military members, veterans, and their families while addressing a critical healthcare need within the community said Theta Eta Chapter President Carmen Woods-Franklin.

"This partnership created an opportunity to honor and support those who have served our country by engaging them in a life-saving community initiative," said Woods-Franklin, a member of Fred Brock Auxiliary Unit 828. "It also strengthened relationships between healthcare professionals and veteran organizations, promoting unity, service, education, and advocacy."

According to the Red Cross, a healthy donor may donate red blood cells every 56 days or double red blood cells every 112 days. Platelets can be donated as few as seven days apart but a maximum of 24 times a year.





Legionnaire Robert Henderson gave the gift of life in support of The American Legion Blood Donor Program during the joint blood drive

By joining forces, Posts 592, 828 and Theta Eta Chapter demonstrated their commitment to "Veterans Serving America" and Service for Humanity" to improve community health outcomes, increase awareness of blood donation needs, and encourage ongoing collaboration between veteran service organizations and the nursing profession.



Third Division Vice Commander Burrell Parmer gave the gift of life in support of The American Legion Blood Donor Program during the joint blood drive (Photo by Tesha Parmer, Auxiliary Unit 828)



Carmen Woods-Franklin, president, Theta Eta Chapter of Chi Eta Phi Sorority, Inc., participated in the joint blood drive (Photo by Tesha Parmer, Auxiliary Unit 828)



Commander Amanda Parham of Fred Brock American Legion Post 828 with Commander Randell Remaley of Sesquicentennial American Legion Post 592 at the conclusion of the joint blood drive

Post 472 Celebrates Houston's Fleet Week

Submitted by Natividad Corona





The City of Houston hosted one of the largest events in the city 'Fleet Week". Of all the American Legion Posts in Houston Harris County, Post 472 was selected to raise the American and Texas flags at Navigation Blvd esplanade in honor of historic 1st Navy Fleet Week in Houston. Hundreds of U.S. Marines were there along with sailors, members of the community, and media.

Post 472 Chaplain Easy Meza opened the event with a prayer. Post 472 Commander Ponce De Leon made the opening remarks. Followed by Post 472 Color Guard raising the American and Texas flags with Marines presenting a hand salute.

Rear Admiral Jim Lockhart welcomed everyone in attendance to enjoy Fleet Week. He grew up in Houston, and it was homecoming for him. He especially acknowledged American Legion Post 472 for its dedication and hard work in the community. Post 472 continues to support the community and veterans.

















The "Mighty" 20th District Makes Presence at Great Texas Airshow

Story by Past Commander Burrell Parmer, Texas American Legion Press Association

SAN ANTONIO – (May 3, 2026) – Legionnaires and Auxiliary members of the "Mighty" 20th District participated in the Great Texas Airshow held at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Air Force Base, May 2-3. The airshow featured the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds and the U.S. Army Parachute Team, the "Golden Knights." The theme of the airshow was "Let Freedom Roar; Honoring 250 Years."

In addition to the Thunderbirds and Golden Knights, other military acts included demonstration teams for the C-17, KC-46, and the F-22. The event also featured static displays and support from all branches of the military.

According to 20th District Commander-Elect Billy Hill, it was important for the District to attend the airshow because The American Legion is a veteran service organization that has not lost the common touch with those in or out of the uniform.

"While attending the airshow, we were able to inform attendees about our services to veterans whether they are on active duty or not," said Hill, who also serves as the first vice commander of Fred Brock American Legion Post 828. "We reminded the community that we are local but also located around the world."

By participating at the airshow, Legionnaires were given the opportunity to speak directly with active duty service members, veterans, and their families about the mission and vision of The American Legion and provide membership information to those who requested to know more about The American Legion and its Pillar Programs.





District 20 Commander-Elect Billy Hill (left) and Past Commander Burrell Parmer of Fred Brock American Legion Post 828 participated in the Great Texas Airshow

The 20th District, The American Legion Department of Texas serves the San Antonio and Bexar County area as part of the Department's Third Division.

The District includes 17 American Legion Posts and focuses on supporting veterans, strengthening local communities, and promoting youth and civic programs.

Its work includes advocacy for veterans and servicemembers as well as support for initiatives such as Texas Boys State, oratorical and scholarship programs, Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps, and other community-based activities.



Fred Brock Unit 828 Auxiliary member Tesha Parmer (right) speaks with an attendee about the American Legion Auxiliary



District 20 Commander-Elect Billy Hill (left) with aircrew at the Great Texas Airshow

National Day of Prayer - Wm. M. Randolph - Post 593

Submitted by Shirley Platt, Department Historian

Post 593 participated in the Converse National Day of Prayer, held at the Converse Fire Station #1 on May 7, 2026.

The Converse Police Department presented the Colors, followed by prayers for the government, military, first responders, education, businesses, local economy, media, arts, entertainment, churches and families.

This is the City of Converse's 13th year participating.













Post 174 Scout Unit Activities

Submitted by BJ MacMillan, Adjutant, Post 174

Troop 151: Conducted an Eagle Court of Honor for Lucas Springborn. The Past Post Commander, BJ MacMillan, presented an American Legion Certificate of Good Citizenship and a Post 174 coin. Lucas will be attending Sea Base this summer with the Troop. His most recent leadership positions include OA Unit Representative and Senior Patrol Leader.



Members of the Troop helped place flags on Veterans graves on Saturday May 16 for Memorial Day. The Post and VFW Post work together to place the flags. Scouts from Troop 155 chartered by the VFW Post were also there to help.

Troop 1096: One of the Scouts, Joaquin Diaz, completed a portion of his Eagle Scout project on May 16. He built two convertible picnic benches and two free libraries. He is working with the Florence library to improve their back area with the new convertible picnic benches and the free libraries so clients can have access to books when the library is not open. Joaquin will be going to summer camp and Philmont this summer.



The Troop will be camping at Camp Tahuaya this month to complete swim tests for summer camp and to go fishing!

Pack 151: Conducted their final meeting for the school year with an awards and crossover ceremony. The outgoing Cubmaster, Trevor Keele, received a wonderful wood plaque for his outstanding leadership with the Pack. The new Cubmaster, Ryan Medema, is excited to be on board.

Members of the Pack also assisted with placing flags at the cemetery for Memorial Day.

Pack 1096: Will be recruiting this summer. The Knights of Columbus at the church where they meet are hosting a big 4th of July celebration with a pinewood derby, games, rocket launches, and tasty food to help with recruiting.













Military Commitment Ceremony

Submitted by Sandy Krum, Commander, Post 164





Recently the Katy Independent School District recognized their students who had made the commitment to join the armed forces.

Along with the JROTC Honor Guard from Maydee Creek High School, also in attendance at the ceremony was Post 164's Vice Commander Emeritus Phil Malsbury.

Taylor High School Recognizes an Oratorical Winner

On Tuesday April 28th, Taylor High School of the Katy Independent School District recognized both their seniors and underclassmen with an awards ceremony. During the ceremony Adelie Rock, who was the winner of Oratorical contest at the Post 164 level, District 22 level, 2nd Division level, and placed 2nd at the State level, was recognized for her achievements.

Post 164 1st Vice Commander Dennis Wells was in attendance and reported a lot of interest in Oratorical from parents and students. He stated that he was able to pass on a lot of information about the program. Hopefully this will result in more participation by Taylor students as well as those in the other high schools in the KISD.







Post 164 Legion Family Recognizes Outstanding 6th and 7th Graders

On May 12, 2026, Post Commander Sandy Krum and Past Unit 164 President Londa Malsbury attended the awards ceremony for West Memorial Junior High School of the Katy Independent School District, where they presented the American Legion and Auxiliary Award for Scholastic Achievement 6th grader James Manning and 7th grader Adyson Scott.

Congratulations to them both!

Post 21 Family Members Step Up When the Community Needed Help

Submitted by Patricia A. Zuczek, Post 21 Adjutant



When the North Texas Community Food Pantry found itself critically short-staffed just days before its major fundraising event, it knew exactly who to call — Holley-Riddle Post 21.

The pantry, located in The Colony, is dedicated to serving individuals and families experiencing food insecurity, ensuring no one in the community goes hungry. Through nutritious food assistance and essential resources, the organization works to meet the diverse needs of those facing difficult times.

When Volunteer Coordinator Cindy DePrater reached out for help, Post 21 Commander Mary Garcia answered without hesitation. She immediately issued a call to members of Post 21 and Sons of the American Legion Squadron 21 seeking volunteers to support the pantry's annual Tackling Hunger fundraiser.

The response was immediate. Within hours, a dozen members of the Post 21 and Squadron 21 stepped forward to help. On May 2, those American Legion Family volunteers each dedicated six hours of service to ensure the event's success, taking on everything from setup and guest greetings to food service and final cleanup.

"Our event was a huge success, thanks to your volunteers who showed up in a big way," said DePrater. "Whether acting as a leader or a team player, everyone jumped in and worked hard all night."

The effort once again demonstrated Post 21's unwavering commitment to community service and its guiding principle: "We are a service organization, not an organization waiting to be served."





Fred Brock Post 828 Legionnaires Host Ice Cream Social for Nursing Home Residents

Story and Photos by Past Commander Burrell Parmer, Texas American Legion Press Association

SAN ANTONIO – (April 28, 2026) – To place smiles on the faces of the elderly, Legionnaires of Fred Brock American Legion Post 828 hosted an ice cream social for residents and staff of Normandy Terrace Nursing & Rehabilitation Center located near the post.

According to Legionnaire Booker Arradondo, event coordinator, visiting nursing homes is important because it helps enhance the emotional well-being of the residents by providing companionship and a sense of connection to the outside world.

“Our visit to the nursing home provided residents with a sense of community and belonging,” said Arradondo, the owner of Booker’s Tree Service. “The selfless act of providing a cone of ice cream to a resident cannot be measured.”

Volunteering at the nursing home provided the Legionnaires with a sense of purpose and fulfillment.

“Serving the residents ice cream brought much joy to my heart,” said Legionnaire Marcus Smith Sr. “Witnessing the smiles on their faces was very satisfying.”

Nursing homes play an important role in communities. They provide care and support to older adults who may require assistance with daily activities and medical needs. By volunteering at a nursing home, Legionnaires can directly support residents’ well-being and improve their quality of life.

The mission of Fred Brock Post 828 is to enhance the well-being of San Antonio’s veterans, their families, the military, and the community by its devotion to mutual helpfulness.



Pictured left to right: Legionnaires Marcus Smith Sr., Samuel Calvin, Booker Arradondo, and Shevin Ravenel



Legionnaire Marcus Smith Sr. of Fred Brock American Legion Post 828 with a staffer of Normandy Terrace Nursing & Rehabilitation Center



Legionnaire Booker Arradondo of Fred Brock American Legion Post 828 prepares a cone of ice cream for a resident of Normandy Terrace Nursing & Rehabilitation Center



Legionnaire Shevin Ravenel of Fred Brock American Legion Post 828 prepares a cone of ice cream for a resident of Normandy Terrace Nursing & Rehabilitation Center

Military Appreciation Chili Cook-off at Post 593, Converse, TX

Submitted by Shirley Platt

The Chili Appreciation Society International (CASI) held a cook-off at Post 593. CASI holds 3 cook-off events at Post 593 every year.

This year the 1st day had 20 cooks, the second day 17. Volunteers from the Post and community signed up as judges. CASI members camped out in the parking lot for the event.

The competition included beans, chili and show (how they had their cooking area set up).





















Legionnaires, Sons, and Scouts Join Together to Support Mental Wellness

Submitted by Patricia A. Zuczek





On May 16th, members of Holley-Riddle American Legion Post 21, Sons of the American Legion Squadron 21, and Scout Troop 226 came together with one shared mission — serving the community and supporting mental health awareness at the NAMIWalks North Texas event.

Giving up their Saturday morning without hesitation, these dedicated volunteers brought energy, encouragement, and heart to every step of the walk. Stationed along the two-mile course, they manned the water stop, handing out dozens of bottles of water to hundreds of walkers. But they offered far more than hydration — their cheers, smiles, and enthusiasm motivated participants to keep pushing forward and reminded everyone that they were supported every step of the way.

One of the most popular stops on the course was Post 21's special "Doggie Hydration Station" for the four-legged walkers joining the event. Tail wags were everywhere as thirsty pups stopped for a drink before rewarding volunteers with plenty of happy wet kisses. The stop quickly became a favorite highlight for participants and spectators alike.

Scout Troop 226 stepped up in a tremendous way throughout the morning. The Scouts enthusiastically cheered on walkers, helped keep participants hydrated, and provided directions to ensure everyone stayed safely on course. Their positive attitudes and willingness to serve demonstrated the very best of community spirit and adherence to the Scout Oath of service and helping others.





Events like NAMIWalks are about more than completing a course — they are about coming together, supporting one another, and showing that no one walks alone. Thanks to the combined efforts of Post 21, SAL Squadron 21, and Troop 226, the event was filled with encouragement, compassion, and smiles from start to finish.

When organizations unite in service, incredible things happen — and this event was a shining example of our community at its very best.

Community Partnership Revives Beloved Mico Tradition

Story by Post Commander Lenore Hackenyos, Mico Post 380

MICO, Texas – (May 12, 2026) – A growing partnership between a local American Legion Post and a new lakeside resort in northern Medina County is delivering meaningful benefits to the entire community.



Since receiving its permanent charter in 2023, Mico American Legion Post 380 has been dedicated to serving veterans and supporting the rapidly expanding community on the far west side of San Antonio.

On May 2, 2026, Post 380 partnered with Sunset Resort to host the 42nd Annual Mico Community Barbecue, serving more than 235 barbecue plates. The celebration also featured a bake sale, a gun raffle, silent auction, and a Veterans Resource and Wellness Fair.





For four decades, this cherished event was organized by the Mico Volunteer Fire Department (VFD) and held at the local firehouse. However, following the establishment of the Emergency Services District (ESD) in 2023, the VFD was prohibited from fundraising, and the future of the barbecue was uncertain.

At a time when the community was already feeling the strain of drought and declining lake levels, the potential loss of this long-standing tradition was significant. Fortunately, a member of both the former VFD and Post 380 brought the issue forward. Recognizing the importance of preserving the event, Post 380 stepped up to carry it forward. With the help of a generous benefactor who had previously provided seed funding through a successful 2023 raffle, the Post had the resources needed to take on the challenge.

As the Post has grown, it has prioritized building strong relationships within the small, rural lake community. A key partnership emerged with Sunset Resort. After the passing of the former owners of Joe's Marina, the property was acquired by the Voss family, who have since worked to transform it into a modern, welcoming destination. Both the Post and the resort share a commitment to strengthening and revitalizing the community.

Sunset Resort now attracts visitors from across western San Antonio, offering amenities such as boat launches, kayaking, a bar and grill, RV accommodations, and sports courts — with additional features planned.

The annual event marked more than just a successful fundraiser — it represented the strength of community collaboration. Together, Post 380 and Sunset Resort provided residents and visitors alike with a memorable day filled with great food, valuable resources, and a renewed sense of connection.











They Deserve Recognition: 20th District Sponsors Ceremony to Honor Future Service Members

Story and photos by Legionnaire Burrell Parmer, Texas American Legion Press Association

HELOTES, Texas – (May 13, 2026) – More than 180 high school students graduating this year from Bexar County and surrounding area high schools were honored during the 15th Annual "A Night in Your Honor" hosted by Our Community Salutes - San Antonio (OCS-SA) at Pedrotti's Ranch.









For the third year, the "Mighty" 20th District served as a bronze sponsor and participated in the Community Resource Fair talking with future service members and their parents about The American Legion, Sons of The American Legion, and American Legion Auxiliary.

The students represented the range of military services to include the U.S. Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, and Texas Army National Guard.

According to OCS-SA President Karen Lopez-Rolirad, the organization is dedicated to the young men and women who raise their hands and volunteer to serve their country immediately after high school.

"I believe everyone who joins the military deserves recognition," said Lopez-Rolirad. "As an Air Force veteran, I know firsthand that the armed services cannot execute their missions without the enlisted force. They are critical to everything we do and, in many cases, make profound sacrifices."

One of Lopez-Rolirad's goals is to bring greater awareness to OCS-SA and to expand its service mentor and volunteer programs.

"Unfortunately, many high school graduation ceremonies primarily recognize students pursuing university degrees or academic scholarships," said Lopez-Rolirad. "While seniors are often permitted to wear stoles commemorating academic, University Interscholastic League or club achievements, they are frequently prohibited from wearing stoles that honor their commitment to serve their country."

The keynote speaker for this year's ceremony was U.S. Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Christopher Perkins, executive advisor, U.S. Air Force Operations Directorate.

"To our future Soldiers, Marines, Sailors, Airman, Guardians, and Coast Guardsmen, thank you," said Perkins. "Thank you for stepping forth. Thank you for voluntarily carrying the responsibility before anyone asked. At a time when it is easy to scroll past, opt out, and sit on the sidelines, you chose to step up and that matters."

He also thanked the parents, grandparents, siblings, coaches, mentors, and friends.

"Although, these young men and women made the decision to serve, none of them made it here alone. Your support matters more than you'll ever know," said Perkins. "There will be moments in the years ahead, late nights, hard days, and lonely barracks rooms halfway around the

(continued)



Department of Texas 3rd Div Adjutant and Mico Post 380 Commander Lenore Hackenyos, joined by Tesha Parmer of Auxiliary Unit 828, participated in the 15th Annual "A Night in Your Honor"



Department of Texas 3rd Division Vice Commander Burrell Parmer speaks with a family about The American Legion at the 15th Annual "A Night in Your Honor"



Legionnaire Barbara Breazeale of Robert F. McDermott Post 309 speaks with a family about The American Legion at the 15th Annual "A Night in Your Honor"



Department of Texas 20th District Vice Commander Willis Gray, along with Mico Post 380 Commander Lenore Hackenyos, renders honors during the presentation of colors at a "A Night in Your Honor"

world, where a phone call from home or a text message makes a difference. So, tonight is not just a celebration for those accepted into the service, it's a celebration for those families willing to serve right alongside."

In addition to honoring high school graduates, the General Colin L. Powell Award for Supporting Military Service Opportunities was presented to Lonnie Martinez, a college, career and military advisor for Sandra Day O'Connor and Agriculture Science & Technology Academy, Northside Independent School District.

Participating in the Community Resource Fair were representatives from Robert F. McDermott Post 309, Mico Post 380, Fred Brock Post 828, and Fred Brock Auxiliary Unit 828.

The fair provided the students and their families with access to educational resources and connections with military support groups.

"The Community Resource Fair is critical because service doesn't just impact the individual—it impacts the entire family," said Dr. Chaunte N. Hall, OCS-SA's Community Outreach director. "Providing access to education, financial resources, career pathways, and support services helps set both the enlistees and their families up for long-term success. It reinforces that they are not alone in this journey—our community is standing with them."

"Through recognition, resources, and connection, OCS-SA strengthens not only individual outcomes, but the readiness and resilience of America as a whole," Hall, an Air Force veteran continued. "These enlistees are stepping forward with courage, and it is our responsibility to ensure they are supported every step of the way."

OCS is a non-profit organization created in 2009 by Dr. Kenneth E. Hartman to recognize and honor local graduating high school seniors who plan to enlist in the military after high school graduation.

Ceremonies occur across the nation and are planned and conducted by volunteers, including military veterans, high school and college educators, local businesses, community leaders, and active duty military personnel.

The organization relies heavily on sponsorships and local support is paramount, especially as chapters compete with one another at the national level said Lopez-Rolirad.

"We are fortunate to have outstanding sponsors including USAA, H-E-B, Bexar County, the City of San Antonio, American Public University, the Girl Scouts of Southwest Texas, the University of the Incarnate Word, The American Legion, Moussa Temple No. 106 Shriners, First Command, Navy Federal Credit Union, the Lynd Foundation, and Pedrotti's Ranch, which all make this chapter exceptional," said Lopez-Rolirad. "Sponsorships of any size are always deeply appreciated."

For more information about OCS-SA and to view photos of the 2026 event, visit https://community.ocsusa.org/san-antonio/



U.S. Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Christopher Perkins, executive advisor, U.S. Air Force Operations Directorate, served as the keynote speaker at a "A Night in Your Honor"



IT MATTERS WHERE YOU SHOP!

You Support Your Military Community When You Use Your Exchange Benefit

Veteran Shopping Benefits

- All honorably discharged Veterans shop tax-free for life at ShopMyExchange.com
- Disabled Veterans can shop in-store at PXs and BXs too

Why It Matters

- Shop tax-free with military-exclusive pricing
- 100% of Exchange earnings support Soldiers, Airmen, Guardians and families

ShopMyExchange.com/vets

EXCHANGE

SCAN for more!



More of what veterans deserve & more of what veterans want.

A Wellcare Medicare Advantage plan can ride alongside your existing VA benefits, giving you access to even more of what you may need — like:

- Dental
- Vision
- Hearing
- Mental health coverage

Plus, you'll have access to My Wellcare Rewards: This program pays you for your healthy choices. Complete an eligible activity and get rewarded with funds you may redeem toward your Legion membership dues, and it's all available with a $0 or low monthly plan premium. Wellcare works with The Legionnaire Insurance Trust to help Legionnaires understand the Medicare Advantage plan options and select coverage that meets your needs.

If you have Medicare and Medicaid, limited income, recently lost employer coverage, are turning 65, or you've just moved, you may be eligible for one of many qualifying events that allow you to enroll now.

Get the information you need by contacting Wellcare today.

844-640-0095 (TTY: 711)

8 a.m.-8 p.m., 7 days a week

Or visit

www.thelit.com

The coverage you need & more

AMERICAN LEGION | wellcare

THE OFFICIAL MEDICARE ADVANTAGE PROVIDER OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

Endorsed by your American Legion Department

Benefits and allowance amounts vary by plan. Please call for more details.

Wellcare is the Medicare brand for Centene Corporation, an HMO, PPO, PFFS, PDP plan with a Medicare contract and is an approved Part D Sponsor. Our D-SNP plans have a contract with the state Medicaid program. Enrollment in our plans depends on contract renewal. Washington residents: "Wellcare" is issued by Coordinated Care of Washington, Inc. Washington residents: Health Net Life Insurance Company is contracted with Medicare for PPO plans. "Wellcare" is issued by Health Net Life Insurance Company. Washington residents: "Wellcare" is issued by WellCare Health Insurance Company of Washington, Inc. Louisiana D-SNP prospective enrollees: For detailed information about Louisiana Medicaid benefits, please visit the Medicaid website at https://ldh.la.gov/medicaid or https://www.louisianahealthconnect.com. To request a written copy of our Medicaid Provider Directory, please contact us. Notice: TennCare is not responsible for payment for these benefits, except for appropriate cost sharing amounts. TennCare is not responsible for guaranteeing the availability or quality of these benefits. Any benefits above and beyond traditional Medicare benefits are applicable to Wellcare Medicare Advantage only and do not indicate increased Medicaid benefits. Texas D-SNP prospective enrollees: For detailed information about Texas Medicaid benefits, please visit the Texas Medicaid website at https://www.hhs.texas.gov/services/health/medicaid-chip/medicaid-chip-members/starplus. To request a written copy of our Medicaid Provider Directory, please contact us. Wellcare By Allwell (HMO and HMO SNP) includes products that are underwritten by Superior HealthPlan, Inc. Wellcare (HMO, HMO SNP, and PPO) includes products that are underwritten by WellCare of Texas, Inc., WellCare National Health Insurance Company, Superior HealthPlan, Inc., and SelectCare of Texas, Inc.

Y0020_WCM_4601439E_M FINAL2 CMS Accepted 02242026 NA6WCMDIG601439E_0002 ©Wellcare 2026



INVESTMENTS/INSURANCE: NOT A DEPOSIT • NOT FDIC INSURED • NOT BANK ISSUED, GUARANTEED OR UNDERWRITTEN • MAY LOSE VALUE

Use of the term "member" or "membership" refers to membership in USAA Membership Services and does not convey any legal or ownership rights in USAA. Restrictions apply and are subject to change. To join USAA, separated military personnel must have received a discharge type of Honorable or General Under Honorable Conditions. Eligible family members may also join USAA. USAA Federal Savings Bank offers deposit, credit card, consumer lending, mortgage and other banking products and services. USAA Federal Savings Bank is a Member of FDIC. Credit card, mortgage and other lending products not FDIC-insured. All insurance products are subject to state availability, issue limitations and contractual terms and conditions. Each company has sole financial responsibility for its own products. Property and casualty insurance underwritten by United Services Automobile Association (USAA), USAA Casualty Insurance Company, USAA General Indemnity Company, Garrison Property and Casualty Insurance Company, NOBLR Reciprocal Exchange, based in San Antonio, Texas; USAA Limited (UK) and USAA S.A. (Europe) and is available only to persons eligible for property and casualty group membership. Each company has sole financial responsibility for its own products. Coverages subject to the terms and conditions of the policy. No Department of Defense or government agency endorsement. © 2025 USAA. 6806649.0824

PAYING OVER 7% ON YOUR VA LOAN?

IT'S TIME FOR ACTION.

Whether you're ready to plant roots in a new home or looking to optimize your current mortgage, the time to act is now. **Market conditions present a unique window of opportunity for both buying and refinancing. As a veteran, you have access to powerful VA loan benefits designed to make homeownership more accessible.** We are here to provide the clear, straightforward guidance you deserve, helping you navigate every step with a team that honors your service.

Seize the moment.

Contact Richard Eaton at Benchmark Mortgage to create your plan for buying or refinancing today.



RICHARD EATON

NMLS #1895804
Office 713-802-7050
Cell 281-630-1551
9821 Katy Frwy, Suite 500
Houston, Texas 77024
CLICK TO APPLY

BUILDER DIVISION MORTGAGE

BENCHMARK MORTGAGE
Ark-La-Tex Financial Services, LLC NMLS# 2143

Ark-La-Tex Financial Services, LLC 5160 Tennyson Pkwy STE 1000, Plano, TX 75024. NMLS ID #2143 (www.nmlsconsumeraccess.org) 972-398-7676. This advertisement is for general information purposes only, no guarantee is expressed or implied. Rates, terms, programs and underwriting policies subject to change without notice . This is not an offer to extend credit or a commitment to lend. All loans subject to underwriting approval. Not all applicants will qualify. Some products may not be available in all states and restrictions apply. (https://benchmark.us)

RENEW ONLINE NOW!

Renew your American Legion Membership quickly and easily online!

Simply visit the web address shown below, and follow the easy instructions.
You can renew your membership and even print out a temporary membership card.
Quick and secure credit card payment.

VISA MasterCard DISCOVER



www.legion.org/renew

DIR-ONLN-SLP-04/2013

TEXAS LONE STAR RECRUITER PIN

Have you earned yours?

Awarded to Legionnaires for recruiting "NEW" members into The American Legion. This award is based upon the total accumulative number of New Members the Recruiter has signed up into The American Legion from the inception of this award through their Legion career. The pin will be awarded starting with the #1 for the first new member and then increase in increments of 5 (5, 10, 15, 20, etc.) based upon the accumulative total of new members recruited. Once the recruiter is awarded a pin level, he/she will work for the next higher pin level and once a pin level has been achieved a duplicate pin level will not be awarded.

CONTACT YOUR POST ADJUTANT TO GET YOURS!

Renew your membership online

Please continue to support your fellow veterans, troops, their families, youth and our nation.



Your annual dues help support programs in your community and across the nation. American Legion programs and services include: Troop Support, Child Welfare Foundation, Heroes to Hometowns, American Legion Baseball, Department Service Officers, Family Support Network, Flag Advocacy & Etiquette, Junior ROTC & ROTC, Operation Comfort Warriors, Scholarships, Veterans Job Fairs, and many others.

Thank you for ensuring that The American Legion remains the most powerful voice in America on behalf of veterans, servicemembers, their families, and communities across the nation.

Go to www.legion.org/renew

AMERICAN LEGION
Department of Texas



The Legion Times • PO Box 140527 • Austin, TX 78714
T: 512.472.4138 • F: 512.472.0603
times@txlegion.org

DELIVERING QUALITY SINCE 1906
BEN E. KEITH CO.
BEVERAGE DISTRIBUTORS

