

Love Field Gazette

A publication for the members of American Legion Love Field Post 453

2016-17 OFFICERS

Legion

Commander Bobby Vandebush
1st Vice Mario Gutierrez
2nd Vice Herman Yentz
Adjutant Cory Waddingham
Service Officer Bob Kaminski
Finance Officer Bill Freauff
Sgt. at Arms Thomas Edmondson
Chaplain Ed Kownslar
Historian Phyllis Moynihan
Judge Adv. Sam Underwood
House Committee
Chairman Dennis Brisbon
Executive Committee Bob Elkins, Frank Roberson, Del Martin, Jeff Perkins

S.A.L.

Commander Michael Paul Melgoza
Vice Commander Troy Hartog
Finance Officer Jeff Prutz
Adjutant Lewis Elam
Sgt. at Arms Mark Rodriguez
Judge Adv. Ed Wimble
Chaplain Ed Kownslar
Historian Tom Arista

Auxiliary

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1st Vice Sylvia Shipman
2nd Vice Terri Perales
Treasurer Sharon Shumate
Secretary Laura Ramirez
Chaplain Amy Potter
Historian Sherry Westbrook
Sgt. at Arms Patricia Moore
Executive Committee Shirley Gray, Donna Harrell, JoMama, Janice Velasco

Legion Riders

Director Herman Yentz
Asst. Director Joe Mac
Secretary Cindy Freauff
Treasurer Brenda DeLeon
Sgt. at Arms John Griffin
Chaplain Troy Hartog

July 2016

From the 2nd Vice Commander



First I would like to thank everyone at the Post for having confidence in me to be able to fill this important position. Now on to what's going on at the Post.

We have karaoke Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights. Starting July 8, Fridays will be hosted by Dennis with Countryside Karaoke. A sure win for the Post. Saturdays we feature our own Troy "Preacherman" Hartog at the microphone. Sunday, Catfish heads up karaoke from 6-10 p.m. And, don't forget that Troy VOLUNTEERS his time the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays for awesome karaoke. All great shows! Independence Day, July 4th, is upon us. As a token of their appreciation for us letting them host their meetings at the post, the Leathernecks will be serving up baby back ribs, potato salad and beans, complimentary to all, starting about 2 p.m. Bring a side (or not) and come on out and enjoy great fellowship at

the post!

We also have drink specials in the Canteen on Monday nights - \$2 domestic beers, \$2.25 well drinks & \$1.00 schnapps shots!

A VERY important day at the post will be Aug. 11. As many of you know we received a grant from Home Depot. Our dreams have come true! Now we need your help. Home Depot volunteers will be here at 8 a.m. to do as much work as they can in one day, possibly with the help of some of our local off-duty police officers, and we don't want them to feel like they have to do it all. Come on out and lend your skills, labor, or just plain old support!

*For Community and Nation,
Hermanator*



From the SAL



Greetings to all: Installation of officers is all done and I would like to say congrats to all the new and returning officers. Looking forward to working with

all of you to make this another great year at our Post. Also, want to say thank you to all those officers not returning to office this year. Couldn't have done it without you.

I'm sure I don't have to tell you that this will be another great month here. The Sons will cook dinner on Friday, July 1, and breakfast on July 3. Stop by for all the great food, fun and fellowship on the 4th as we celebrate our nation's independence.

With that being said, I would like to thank all who served and sacrificed for all of our freedoms. May God always hold you, keep you and watch over you. Thank you one and all!

*For God & Country,
Michael Paul Melgoza*

Honor Flight: John Rodriguez

Our hearts were proud last month when Post 453 member John A. Rodriguez was one of the WWII veterans selected to be part of Honor Flight, a program that flies older veterans to Washington, D.C., to view memorial sites. On his return to Love Field Airport, Mr. Rodriguez, father of 453 S.A.L. Sgt. at Arms Mark Rodriguez, was greeted by cheering fans including many from 453. Not a dry eye in the airport!



Mark and John Rodriguez

During his military service, Lt. Rodriguez served in a medical evacuation unit that was in Japan to care for people after the Hiroshima bombing. He was born in Cameron, Texas, but is a longtime Dallas resident and celebrates his 94th birthday on Sept. 22.

From the Riders



Wow! Another terrific year for the American Legion Riders of Love Field Post 453! No doubt thanks to another successful year from Bobby V. in the Director's chair. Make sure to thank Bobby whenever you see him, as I have. Bobby, you ROCK! Now to try to fill his shoes.

A HUGE thanks to all of the incoming officers as well. It's looking to be an incredible year.

We don't have a bunch going on in July or August but there are a few items I would like to cover, past and future.

A lot has happened this spring. The Jodi fundraiser was an incredible success. We love you Girly-Girl! Hope it helped out, and sooooo glad to hear there is no threat of cancer.



Post 453 Legion Riders

Many of us attended the last Honor Flight... always an emotional event. A few of us went on the Scottish Rite run, some others on the Spirit of a Hero run. A few even went to the Casino Night to help Touched By Grace raise a few more bucks.

Run for the Wall, in either Grand Prairie or Terrell, had great support from our ALR. Also the Flag Burning Ceremony at the HVRC. Then there was the 3rd Annual Lake Texoma weekend. What a great time. We had the chance to help AM Post 231 by attending, in force, their Rebuilding Benefit Run. What a great day that was.

On our last cook night, the Marine Corps League showed up in force. Overall we sold 82 dinners and no one left hungry. Thanks to all who helped. We had all 4 Legion Family entities represented that night.

Coming up: We don't have a lot going on in the hottest months, July and August. In July we have the opportunity to support Van Alstyne Post 376 in a benefit run they are holding. In August, our home, Post 453, needs our help. The Home Depot grant came through and volunteers are needed to help the Home Depot crew and local police officer volunteers get our home in order. Whether you are skilled or not, come on out and help any way you can.

Our 4th Annual Homeless Veterans Benefit Run is sneaking up on us real quick. Consider attending one of the planning meetings coming up soon to learn how this year should be different, and by different I mean much better, than past years.

Even though it's a holiday weekend, I hope to see everyone at our July 3 meeting at 1300 hrs.

Keep the shiny side up.

Hermanator

From the Auxiliary



Hello everyone. I hope you are having a fantastic summer! A new year is starting here at Unit 453. I would like to take the opportunity to thank Janice Velsaco for the past two years of being president. I would also like to welcome all the new, incoming officers and all the new members.

Our monthly meetings are the second Wednesday of every month with the next meeting being Wednesday, July 13. I would like to invite all members of the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 453 to attend the meetings and share your ideas with us as we begin to plan various events for the year.

The Auxiliary will be hosting dinner on Friday, July 8, and if anyone is willing to volunteer it would be greatly appreciated. We will be hosting breakfast on July 10 and we are fortunate enough to have Joann volunteer to cook that morning. I'm sure that she could use volunteers as well.

We had a very successful dinner and breakfast for the month of June and I would personally like to thank the awesome crews that we had volunteer for those events. Our Sunday morning cleaning crew totally rocked. Thank you, Terry, Molly, Louie and Laura. Y'all went above and beyond on the cleaning in the kitchen! I look forward to serving this Unit as president for the upcoming year. We are going to have a great year and would love for everyone to get involved.

Styrla



Yes, that's our own Ed Wimble with Fox 4 news anchor Clarice Tinsley. Ms. Tinsley featured ALA Unit 275 on her Home-town Heroes segment on June 6.

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July 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	4 				1 Karaoke SAL Dinner 6-8 pm	2 Karaoke Sell Gun Raffle tickets at Bass Pro in Garland
3 SAL Breakfast 10-noon Riders Meeting	Celebrate with the Leathernecks - food, fun	5 Legion Meeting 7 PM Karaoke	6	7	8 Karaoke Aux Dinner 6-8 PM	9 Karaoke Sell Gun Raffle tickets at Bass Pro in Garland
10 Aux Breakfast by Joann 10-noon	11	12	13 Aux. Meeting 7 PM	14 SAL Meeting 7 PM	15 Karaoke Legion Dinner 6-8 PM	16 Karaoke Sell Gun Raffle tickets at Bass Pro in Garland
17 Legion Breakfast 10-noon	18	19 Legion Exec. Board 7 PM Karaoke	20	21	22 Karaoke Riders Dinner 6-8 PM	23 Karaoke Sell Gun Raffle tickets at Bass Pro in Garland
24 Riders Breakfast 10-noon	25	26	27	28	29 Karaoke SAL Dinner 6-8 PM	30 Karaoke
31 SAL B'fast						

Sam Underwood, Herman Yentz named Legionnaires of the Year

A joint Installation of Officers for 2016-2017 was held at the Post on June 25. All who were elected in May took an oath to uphold the duties of their new office.

It's an annual ritual at our Post and it's also the time that certificates of appreciation are handed out to those members who, during the past year, went above and beyond to serve our Post.

The most coveted of these awards is Legionnaire of the Year. This is the Legion member, chosen by the Commander, as the one stand-out among our many volunteers.

Commander Bobby Vandebush says he had a tough time narrowing his choice down to one member. After much consideration (and encouragement from his wife Sheila), Bobby decided to break with tradition and name two honorees: **Sam Underwood** and **Herman Yentz**.

Sam, Legion Judge Advocate, was instrumental in the successful Gun Raffle fundraiser (the second one is ongoing now) that put substantial dollars in our bank account.

Hermanator, our new 2nd Vice Commander and Rider Director, was a just a positive force for good all year whose new ideas and hard work had to be recognized.

There were many other well-deserved recognitions at the ceremony, including another Volunteer of the Year award for Cindy Hawkins, and a helper award for her sister Carol Williams.

So, on with the new Legion year. First up: Celebrating our Independence Day! We have a full weekend of fun, food, and music.

Friday, July 1: Friday night dinner is Drunken Beer Can Chicken (or something like that) by top chef Jeff Prutz. Karaoke at 8 p.m.

Saturday, July 2: Karaoke with our own Troy Hartog, 8-midnight.

Sunday, July 3: \$5 Breakfast from 10 a.m.-noon. Then it's the return of CATFISH KARAOKE from 6-10 p.m. Catfish has been on hiatus (kind of) recouping from surgery. But he's back on Sunday, with Hermanator behind the bar.

Monday, July 4: Happy 4th of July! Marines are bringing food for all to enjoy. You bring the cool sides.

