



Love Field Gazette

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

2017-18 OFFICERS

Legion

Commander Bobby Vandembush
1st Vice Tony Frey
2nd Vice Ray Stone
Adjutant Jim Miner
Finance Officer Bill Freauff
Service Officer Bob Kaminski
Chaplain Vicky Sheets
Sgt. at Arms Guillermo Rivas
Judge Adv. Sam Underwood
Historian
Executive Committee Gary Callahan, Jeff Perkins, Floyd Simpson
House Committee Chair Dennis Brisbon
Bar Manager Donna Harrell

S.A.L.

Commander Michael Paul Melgoza
Vice Commander Tom Arista
Finance Officer Lewis Elam
Adjutant Bob Kaminski
Sgt. at Arms Mark Rodriguez
Judge Adv. Ed Wimble
Chaplain
Historian Larry Moody
SAL Advisor Bill Freauff

Auxiliary

President Janey Arista
1st Vice Sylvia Shipman
2nd Vice Sherry Westbrook
Treasurer Sharon Shumate
Secretary Laura Ramirez
Chaplain Amy Potter
Historian Sheila Caldwell
Sgt. at Arms Patricia Moore
Executive Committee Shirley Gray, Donna Harrell, Jo White, Styrla Eubank

Legion Riders

Director Hermanator
Asst. Director Joe Mac
Secretary Thomas Edmondson
Treasurer Robin McCarrroll
Sgt. at Arms John "Griff" Griffin

From the Commander

MARCH 2018



Meet author BJ Elliott, who will be a special guest at the opening of the March 6 Legion Meeting at 7 PM. Ms. Elliott, a 40 year veteran flight attendant with Continental Airlines, will share her experiences as a flight attendant working the MAC flights transporting troops into and

out of Vietnam from 1969 through 1971.

Ms. Elliott will share the stories featured in her book *Behind My Wings: Untold Stories of Vietnam Vets*.

I believe post members will be interested in hearing about her remembrances of the Vietnam War - a conflict that touched many of our members. The 15 minute presentation is open to all post family members. Book purchase is optional.

CPR Class:

We will have a CPR class on March 19 at 4:30 PM in the meeting room. Training will be conducted by the Dental Hygiene staff of El Centro College.

We're celebrating Texas Independence Day, March 2, with a Rib Dinner from 6-8 p.m. Smoked ribs, beans and homemade mac & cheese!



We'll honor Del Martin at a memorial at 1 p.m. on Sat. March 3. Hope to see you there.

Free Eye Exams:

Carter Eye Center will be providing free eye exams at the post on April 16 from 10 AM to 1:PM. All Love Field Post family members are welcome. Protect your vision and get your eyes checked at no cost.

Members with a concern may call me directly, email me, or put a note in my mailbox. I promise to bring your concern before the Executive Board. You also have the right to personally address the board should you desire.

Your Commander,
Bobby Vandembush

Happy 99th, American Legion

Ninety-nine years ago this month, The American Legion was formed by members of the American Expeditionary Force in France. An amazing string of accomplishments followed over the next century.

Equally amazing was how quickly the organization took root as a powerful national and community force. By the end of its first year, The American Legion had more than 843,000 dues-paying members. This was in an era when messages were delivered by telegram, there was no interstate highway system and car ownership was still not widespread.

The Legion has always pushed forward on behalf of veterans and their families. Consider this: Women veterans could vote for a Legion national commander before they could legally vote for president of the United States in most areas.

Now in 2018, Denise Rohan leads the organization as the first female national commander of the Legion.

In 1944, the Legion ushered into law the Servicemen's Readjustment Act - better known as the GI Bill.

The Auxiliary will honor the Legion with a birthday cake presented on March 15th at the Post.

In 2017, the Legion was there again to help pass the Forever GI Bill, or Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2017.

Legionnaires, including Love Field Post 453 family members, continue to ensure the programs of the Legion continue. You know the programs. We've all donated or participated: Legion Baseball, Boys State and Boys Nation, American Legion High School Oratorical Contest, American Legion's Legacy Scholarship Fund, JROTC, Boy Scouts, etc.

At 99 years, the Legion is not slowing down, it's only getting better.



— Excerpted from legion.org

Taps

Del Martin (Memorial Service Sat. 3/3 at 1 p.m.)



Longtime Post 453 Legionnaire **George Kimber**, 90, passed away on Feb. 13.



Legionnaire **Otis Robbins**, past 453 AL Riders Director

Legion Riders



Hopefully the clouds will part and the rain will go away. Riding season is upon us! Our first

planned ride of the year is on April 14th. Flyer coming soon. Attend our monthly meeting on March 4 at 1 PM and help us plan the final details.

Friday the 2nd of March, ALR Member Danny is cooking ribs. JoMac will lead breakfast on the 4th. Make sure to come out and support ALR Chapter 453!

Keep the Shiny Side Up,

Hermanator.

Director, ALR Chapter 453

Congratulations!

Bro To and Wrayann tied the knot and we're celebrating on Saturday, March 10, with Bro To's BBQ (while it lasts), 2-7 p.m.



American Legion Auxiliary - Unit 453



Thank you for renewing your membership for 2018. It's still not too late. It takes a village --Membership is EVERYONE'S job! By reaching our goals, we will keep our organization strong. Remember to keep an application with you... and to also practice the elevator speech, you know, the 3 minute speech. Let everyone know **Who** we are, **What** we do and **Why** we matter.

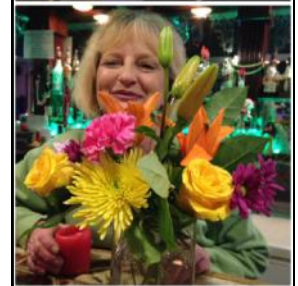
We're having a Paint Party on March 27 and details will be announced very soon! It is going to be an evening of fun and relaxation, open to everyone. We may have some hidden talent in the Family!

A Happy, Happy Birthday to The American Legion, 99 years of age! Stop by the Legion on March 15 and enjoy some birthday cake.

And let's not forget those who served in the Vietnam War. Last year, President Trump signed the Vietnam War Veterans Recognition Act of 2017, establishing March 29 as **National Vietnam War Veterans Day**. My eligibility for the Auxiliary is obtained from my brother David F. Kies, a Vietnam veteran. Thank you ALL for your service!

*Janey Arista
Unit 453 President*

Last month we combined Mardi Gras (Pat, top) and Valentine's Day on a rainy Feb. 13. We made gift bags for the VA Patients Day Out (Feb. 14) and some of us (Sherry) even got flowers!



From the Chaplain

Dear Post 453 families and beloved; It is in Spirit I share this prayer of abundance and gratitude.

Heavenly Father, let us keep our Faith, Believe, and take Action; may all hearts HEAL. May we share in the beauty, and feel the joy, of all Devine design that surrounds us as well as that which dwells within each of us. May our hearts always be open to balance of mind, body and soul. Thank you, for we are blessed. We ask this in Your precious name, Amen. ♥

Chaplain Vicky

Tax time tips for Vets

Did you serve in the military in during the period of 1940 through 1967? If yes, I have extracted some information from the SSA web site. <https://www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10017.pdf>

These additional benefits have to be manually requested by the veteran. You can do so when you apply for SSI or, later, you can apply and get an adjustment. Contact the VA and pursue this, it is your money.

If you served in the military from 1940 through 1956, including attendance at a service academy, you didn't pay Social Security taxes. However, your Social Security record may be credited with \$160 a month in earnings for military service from Sept. 16, 1940, through Dec. 31, 1956, under the following circumstances:

You were honorably discharged after 90 or more days of service, or you were released because of a disability or injury received in the line of duty; or You're still on active duty; or You're applying for survivors benefits and the veteran died while on active duty.

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March 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
4 Riders Breakfast 10-noon Riders Meet 1PM <i>Catfish Karaoke 6-8 pm</i>				1	2 Riders dinner 6-8 PM -- RIBS! <i>Karaoke 8 pm</i>	3 Del Martin Memorial 1 PM <i>Karaoke</i>
	5	6 Legion Meeting 7 PM	7	8 SAL Meeting 7 PM	9 Legion Dinner 6-8 PM <i>Karaoke 8 pm</i>	10 Celebrate with Bro To & Wrayan 2-7 <i>Karaoke</i>
11 Legion Breakfast 10-noon <i>Catfish Karaoke</i>	12	13	14 Aux. Meeting 7 PM	15	16 Aux. Dinner 6-8 PM <i>Karaoke 8 pm</i>	17  <i>Karaoke</i>
18 Aux. Breakfast 10-noon <i>Catfish Karaoke 6-10</i>	19 CPR Class 4:30 PM	20 Legion Exec. Committee Meeting 7 PM	21	22	23 SAL Dinner 6-8 PM <i>Karaoke 8 pm</i>	24 <i>Karaoke</i>
25 SAL Breakfast 10-noon <i>Catfish Karaoke</i>	26	27 Paint Party!	28	29	30 Riders dinner 6-8 PM <i>Karaoke 8 pm</i>	31 <i>Karaoke</i>

Continued from previous page You can't receive credit for these special earnings if you're already receiving a federal benefit based on the same years of service. There is one exception: If you were on active duty after 1956, you can still get the special earnings for 1951 through 1956, even if you're receiving a military retirement based on service during that period. These extra earnings credits are added to your earnings record when you apply for Social Security benefits. NOTE: In all cases, the additional earnings are credited to the earnings that we average over your working lifetime, not directly to your monthly benefit amount Under certain circumstances, special extra earnings for periods of active duty from 1957 through 2001 can also be credited to your Social Security earnings record. From 1957 through 1967, we will add the extra credits to your record when you apply for Social Security benefits.

Bill Freauff
 Finance Officer Post 453

DFW Honor Flight Dates

Get the letters started! DFW Honor Flights will leave May 4 and June 1. If you don't know, these flights take older veterans for an overnight visit to Washington DC so they can view the various war memorials. Post 453 family is encouraged to write letters of appreciation which will be given to the veterans during their flight. There are usually 40 veterans on each flight. Letters must be turned in at least a week before the flight. Contact Cindy Freauff for more information. Let's show our appreciation! For more information about Honor Flight visit www.honorflight.org.





This Friday March 2nd

**Danny and Jodi
are in the kitchen**

Come enjoy a great dinner!!



**Home made
Mac & Cheese**



Ribs



**Smoked
Beans**

**All for a donation of only \$12
Servings from 6 to 8 p.m.**

**Come down and support the Riders and their
programs!**

Stick around for the Karaoke at 8

**American Legion Post 453
2755 Bachman Drive
Dallas TX**