

BURLESON COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE NEWS

Volume 4

DID YOU KNOW?

VFW Post 4458, Caldwell High School, and The Red Cross will host a blood drive at the:

VFW Post 4458-Dance Hall
1644 HWY 36 S.
Caldwell, Texas 77836

Monday, July 2, 2018

11:30am to 5:30pm

Please communicate and for more information call:

Franklin Karasek
979-777-9808



FROM THE VETERAN SERVICE OFFICER

Memorial Day is quickly approaching. American Legion Post 451 will host our local Memorial Services here at Burleson County Courthouse on May 28th at 11am. After the ceremony, American Legion Post 451 will host a light lunch at the VFW Post 4458. Should there be inclement weather the ceremony will be held at the VFW. Reverend Richard Brunk will be the guest speaker. The veterans will also visit Copperas Hollow Nursing Home at 9am, then travel to St. Jo Manor for a 9:30am short service. The nursing home veterans and residents enjoy the service and company of our local veterans. Please put in your schedule to attend.

More than seven decades have passed since World War 2, and the "Greatest Generation" is quickly disappearing. Of the 16 million Allied servicemen for the United States and 1.1 million from Canada, nearly 450,000 lost their lives during the war. Approximately the same number alive today, and they are dying at about the same rate as during WW2 – several hundred each day. Please let's remember them and all our veterans, living and deceased, this upcoming Memorial Day.

Lady Veterans, Honor Flight Austin, the "Trip of a Lifetime" for Women Veterans of WW2, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War. October 19-20, 2018. If you know of a lady veteran of that era, please call 512-974-3306, or email contact@honorflightaustin.org

In the previous newsletter, I mentioned the service organizations that can help a veteran, their family, and survivors in matters pertaining to VA disability benefits and rights. These agencies represent veterans in VA disability claims and during the VA appeals process, and assist dependents with survivor benefits. The following comes from the 2018 State Veterans Benefits booklets from the Texas Veterans Commission.

Service-Connected Disability compensation is a tax-free benefit paid to a veteran for certain qualifying disabilities. Veterans may be eligible for disability compensation if they have a service-related disability and were not discharged under less than honorable conditions. Many veterans do not realize they may qualify for monthly payments due to health conditions that can be traced back to their military service.

Combat deployment is not required for a service-connected disability rating or compensation.

Service-connected disabilities are rated from 0% to 100%. Compensation amounts are based on rating and number of veteran's dependents.

VA compensation is not subject to Federal or State taxes.

VA will consider all disabilities when they are included within the claim.

If service-connected disabilities rated at 60- 90% cause unemployability, the veteran may be paid at the 100% rate by the VA.

Filing a claim and establishing service-connected disabilities provides certain priorities in obtaining medical care at VA expense.

Texas and many other states have special programs and benefits for veterans with service-connected disabilities.

Most claim payments start to accrue within a month from the day you file, no matter how long it takes to get the claim settled. Start the process today.

I am here at the Burleson County Courthouse, Thursday and Friday mornings, 9am to noon. If you would like to make an appointment, please call 979-567-6360 and leave me a message and I will return your call.

Franklin Karasek, Jr.

Burleson County Veterans Service Officer veteran clubs corner

American Legion Post 451- Greetings, fellow Veterans!

We hope to see you at our May 28th Memorial Day ceremony at the Burleson County courthouse promptly at 11am, and the lunch following at the VFW Hall on Hwy 36.

Our next American Legion meeting is July 2, at the VFW Hall. Our meeting will follow the 6:30pm potluck. We always have great food and fellowship, so come join us!

If any female veterans feel they would be more comfortable talking with a female rep about a VA claim or VA benefits, Paula Taylor is your gal! She is with the Texas Veterans Commission for the NE district, up in Temple. Her office number is 254-743-0977.

Side note: I would love to see more ladies in our Burleson County veteran's organizations. We need your representation and voices as we move forward in helping our current and future veterans and their families. I'm a member of all three, so if you have any questions about the American Legion, VFW, or DAV orgs in our county, contact me at post451alegion@gmail.com

Membership in veteran's organizations is integral to ensuring our voices/concerns are heard on Capitol Hill. If you have served federal active duty in the United States Armed Forces during any of the war eras listed below and have been honorably discharged or are still serving -- you are eligible for membership in The American Legion!

*August 2, 1990 to today (Persian Gulf/ War on Terrorism)

December 20, 1989 to January 31, 1990 (Operation Just Cause - Panama)

August 24, 1982 to July 31, 1984 (Lebanon/Grenada)

February 28, 1961 to May 7, 1975 (Vietnam)

June 25, 1950 to January 31, 1955 (Korea)

December 7, 1941 to December 31, 1946 (World War II)

April 6, 1917 to November 11, 1918 (World War I)

*Because eligibility dates remain open, all members of the U.S. Armed Forces are eligible to join The American Legion at this time, until the date of the end of hostilities as determined by the government of the United States. U.S. Merchant Marine eligible only from December 7, 1941 to December 31, 1946 (WWII).

Tina Smith

Adjutant, Post 451

Marion Mays Post 455 Somerville-

Marion Mays Post 455 is once again gearing up for our annual Memorial Day event. Members, community leaders as well as clergy and representatives from our local churches will gather at the legion hall on 8th street to observe the holiday and remember those who have both fallen in battle as well as those who have passed from our ranks. We also use this occasion to honor all veterans for their service to our nation in the cause of freedom. Following our service a light meal will be provided at no cost.

Our primary purpose is of course to honor those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our nation in preservation of our way of life. Our secondary mission is remind our friends, neighbors, and all citizens that Memorial Day means much more than a day off from work and time away from school. While many will mark this day as the "unofficial beginning of summer" and rightly so, spend their time with activities such as firing up the grill, traveling, visiting friends or just relaxing; as veterans we know that this day is so much more than that. Service members who never came home to fire up their grill or take the day off died so that those of us who remain can enjoy these activities. May they never be forgotten. We owe them that much.

Darrin Holub,

Commander Post 455

DAV- The DAV continues to work hard to help our fellow disabled veterans in the County. We held a raffle to replenish funding into our account, so we will be better able to help those in need. Current I am out with a crushed left wrist and leg. In my absence the Senior Vice Commander and Adjutant continue to do an excellent job. If you are a disabled veteran and would like to join us we meet the 3rd Thursday of the month at 7pm at the First Baptist Church Family Life Center in Caldwell. Come join us and see that you can make a difference.

THE CHAPLAINS CORNER- This will be my final writeup for "The Corner". I do so with mixed emotions, it is actually a lonesome feeling! For almost the last thirty years both LaNette and I have had the honor of serving in many official positions and we are very proud of the VFW and its Auxiliary.

First, I am pleased to report that our post 4458 Teacher of the year winner also was selected 1st place winner in the District Judging. Mr. Mark A. Cochran, 7th grade History teacher at the Caldwell Middle School was awarded \$300.00. Mark has a most unusual/unique way of teaching and the kids love him.

We continue to pray for comrades in distress on our prayer list.

Good news for Marvin Worthington. He received his foot prothesis (VA) just in time for his 90th birthday party, Sunday, May 6th. Was so good to see him and many friends including Colbert Drgac. Both are doing well.

John "Bubba" Perry received his hearing aids from the VA and actually answered to roll call!

Chris and Pat Jadowski are fighting "ALS" with all their heart and soul; please help them Lord, we love them and pray with them.

Remember the American Legion Memorial Service on May 28th on the square in Caldwell at 11:00A.M. Post 4458 will have a Memorial Service at our June 14th meeting for the seven (7) comrades who have passed away during the 2017-2018 year.

I am pleased to welcome incoming chaplain Tina Smith.

Sincerely,

John B. Boyd, Chaplain

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: NEWS RELEASE

VA



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

Central Texas Veterans
Health Care System

News Release

Patrick Hutchison
Public Affairs Specialist

(254) 743-1430 (Office)
(254) 727-0951 (Cell)

www.centraltexas.va.gov

BURLESON COUNTY
VETERAN SERVICE OFFICE

100 W. Buck, Suite 104
Caldwell, TX 77836

Recipient Name
Street Address
City, ST ZIP Code