

BURLESON COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE NEWS

Volume 6

FROM THE VETERAN SERVICE OFFICER

DID YOU KNOW?

November 8, 2018

Hiring Red, White & You!

Join Workforce Solutions Brazos Valley, and Texas Workforce Commission, in partnership with the Texas Veterans Commission, for the 7th Annual Hiring Red, White & You! Job Fair

Connecting veterans, service members, their spouses, and the public to Texas employers.

10:00a.m. – 2:00p.m.

3991 East 29th Street Bryan, TX

Veterans Day is quickly approaching. Due to Veterans Day on Sunday the 11th, our local veterans are invited to come and be part of the programs that will be held, Monday, November 12th. We want the children to be involved. We will go to Caldwell Intermediate School for an 8am program, Caldwell High School 9am program, then to the Caldwell Civic Center for 11am. Comrade Les Labertew will be the speaker. At 2pm we will visit St. Jo. Manor and 2:30pm at Copperas Hollow for short programs with the veterans and residents. Hope any that can attend will come and enjoy the day. Dan Kvasovic generously donates hotdogs and buns for the lunch at the Caldwell Civic Center.

Pearl Harbor Day is Friday, December 7th. We will never forget that horrible day. There are no plans at the present for any ceremonies but watch the local newspaper should a program be set up.

In this edition, I would like to review some key points of this year's newsletters. Do you know where your discharge papers are? Have you had them recorded at the county clerk's office for safekeeping for future reference? Since taking on this county service office job, a veteran that does not have a copy of his or her discharge papers is the biggest issue. When a veteran asks for assistance, such as medical, benefits, home loans, education, burial, etc. the first question asked is: do you have your discharge papers. If you know where yours are, great!!, if not please find or send off for a copy. If you are computer oriented, form VA SF 180, can be filled out and mailed to get you a copy. I have the forms in my office.

I also talked about veterans with Service-connected Disabilities, Non-service connected Disabilities, and Death Pensions, in my previous write ups. One of the most important forms again is the discharge paper. Then once we have a discharge paper we can continue with filling out forms and gathering information needed in a claim. Military health records, doctor diagnosis, letters sent home, etc. are very helpful for presenting a claim. Using an advocate to represent you and your claim is also very helpful, such as the Texas Veterans Commission, VFW, American Legion, DAV, etc. They will follow your claim and coach the veteran on what information is helpful in summiting the claim to the VA. If you have any questions about this you can call me at 979-567-6360, or stop by my office at Burleson County Courthouse, Suite 104. I will try to assist you the best I can or refer you to one of my contacts.

This edition of the newsletter, I would like to report on Burial Benefits. This is from the 2018 State Veterans Benefit Booklet by the Texas Veterans Commission. Veterans, spouses, and dependents may be eligible for VA burial and memorial benefits including reimbursement of burial expenses,

military funeral honors, VA headstones and markers, presidential memorial certificates, burial flags, burial in VA National Cemeteries or other veterans' cemeteries. Military Funeral Honors are upon request, the Department of Defense will



provide military funeral honors consisting of folding and presentation of the U.S. flag and the sounding of "Taps". Who qualifies? Active duty personnel who have served a minimum of 24 consecutive months or the full period of active duty, and reservists or National Guard members called to active duty for a limited duration. Eligibility is not established by active duty training in the Reserves or National Guard. How to get it? Family members should inform their funeral directors if they want military honors. VA Headstones and Markers: VA furnishes upon request, at no charge to the applicant, a government headstone or marker for any deceased eligible veteran in any cemetery around the world, regardless of their date of death. The funeral directors will need a copy of the veterans DD-214 for proof of service. A minimum of 24 consecutive months served. VA Form 40-1330 will be filled to order the headstone or marker. Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 4458 meet the second Thursdays of the month at 7pm, at the VFW. DAV Chapter 86 meet on the third Thursdays of the month at the First Baptist Family Life Center. Caldwell American Legion Post 451 meets quarterly at the VFW, times are posted in the Burleson County Tribune. Somerville American Legion Post 455 meets first Mondays of the month at 6:30pm at the post.

Franklin Karasek, Jr.

Burleson County Veteran Service Officer

FROM THE COMMANDER VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS POST 4458-

I would like to introduce myself, I am Ronnie Garbs, the newly elected commander of VFW Post 4458. I would like to thank the membership for electing me to this position. I would also like to thank all the elected officers of the post and look forward to working with all of you. The VFW membership are always looking for new and younger foreign service veterans. I encourage all veterans who did serve in a foreign war to consider joining and keeping our post operating. We have some very hard-working officers, members, Auxiliary, and staff trying to keep the doors open. We have some very hard-working ladies trying to keep membership involved. We also have the VFW Post 4458 Honor Guard, who provide a military service for not only our members but for any veteran, or family who requests our presence. We have fish fries, with a house band for music, that provide monies for post operation, please watch for ads in the local newspaper when the fish fries are. Thank you to all the volunteers for this project. The VFW Post 4458 has also sent out information for the Voice of Democracy and Patriots Pen to the local schools. Our chairman looks forward to the entries and judging and look forward to the presentation of scholarship monies to the winners at our award banquet. VFW Post 4458 canteen is open to the public and the post is also available for hall rentals. Please pass on to local veterans that we are here for them, should a service officer be needed, we have one available. We have received a nice donation from Mattress Mac, that will be used by a local needed veteran. Please keep all our veterans in your prayers, living and deceased. God Bless America!!!!

VFW Post 4458 Commander, Ronnie Garbs

THE CHAPLAINS CORNER- The holiday season often brings unwelcome guests — stress and depression. Statistics say that over 40% of the population feels exhausted and inadequate when trying to meet traditional, societal demands, which can lead to stress and sometimes depression. Stress and depression can ruin what should be a joyful time of year. Let's all be mindful and watchful of our family, friends, and comrades. We cannot force ourselves, or anyone else, to be happy just because it's the holiday season. Nevertheless, we should reach out to those we think may be feeling isolated, and even those to whom we may have become estranged over the years. I pray you all have peace and joy during the upcoming holidays. May God Bless the United States of America, that we may live in peace among the nations of the world. I pray also for our comrades in hospitals or in homes, who are suffering from mental and physical illness or disability. Comfort them with a sense of Your continuing presence, cheer them with the knowledge of Your love, and grant them the blessings of health and happiness. All this we ask in Your Holy Name. **Amen.**

Tina Smith, VFW Post 4458 Chaplain

EVERY VETERAN HAS A STORY TO TELL

The "Voices of Veterans" oral history program seeks to record the stories of Texas veterans and archive the transcripts in the Office of Veterans Records for future researchers, historians, genealogists and the general public.

Every veteran has a story to tell, and this program will ensure these stories of courage and service can inspire Texans for generations to come.

Voices of Veterans represents the first time a state agency has ventured into the field of veterans' oral histories.

The Veterans Land Board is a natural host for the program, managing eight existing Texas State Veterans Homes. The homes currently provide long-term care for about 900 senior veterans, many of whom are eager to tell their story.

Veteran interviews are permanently archived in the Office of Veterans Records at the Texas General Land Office, where they join the historic documents of other Texas heroes such as Sam Houston, David Crockett, Jim Bowie and William Barret Travis.

The archives are made available to researchers, historians, genealogists and the general public to inspire future generations and remind us of our veterans' sacrifices.

Any veteran interested in including his or her story in the Voices of Veterans program should contact the Veterans Land Board at 1-800-252-VETS (8387), or send an e-mail to monica.brown@glo.texas.gov.

Oral history interviews can be conducted in person at the Veterans Land Board in Austin, or by telephone from anywhere in Texas. Interviews usually last from one to two hours.

<http://www.glo.texas.gov/voices-of-veterans/your-story.html> follow this link to the online screening application.

2018 ~ 2019 VETERANS BENEFIT FAIRS

Every year the [Texas Veterans Land Board \(VLB\)](#) co-hosts [Veterans Benefits Fairs](#) across the state of Texas. In partnership with the [U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs \(VA\)](#) and [Texas Veterans Commission \(TVC\)](#), VLB staff members travel around the state to talk with Texas Veterans, Military Members and their families, about their benefits in person.

These benefits fairs are free “come and go” events that promote various resources available to Veterans and Military Members in Texas including [land](#), [home](#) and [home improvement](#) loans, as well as THomes and [Cemeteries](#), and the [Voices of Veterans Oral History Program](#). Representatives from the VA and TVC are there to answer questions about things like health care, disability and pension claims, employment and education benefits, and much more. The following is a list of upcoming benefits fairs. We would be honored to serve you, so please be sure to join us! If you have any questions about these events please contact our statewide [Veterans Call Service Center](#) at 1-800-252-VETS (8387), send us an [email](#), or reach out to us on [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#).

Saturday, November 3, 2018—Austin
10:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

[Austin VA Outpatient Clinic](#)

7901 Metropolis Drive
Austin TX 78744

Saturday, December 8, 2018—San Antonio

10:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

[Audie L. Murphy Memorial VA Hospital](#)

Polytrauma Center
7400 Merton Minter Street
San Antonio TX 78229

Saturday, January 12, 2019—Fort Worth
10:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

[Fort Worth VA Outpatient Clinic](#)

2201 SE Loop 820
Fort Worth TX 76119

Saturday, February 9, 2019—Waco
10:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

[Doris Miller VA Medical Center](#)

4800 Memorial Drive
Waco TX 76711

Saturday, March 16, 2019—Corpus Christi

10:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

[Corpus Christi VA Outpatient Clinic](#)

5283 Old Brownsville Road
Corpus Christi TX 78405

Saturday, April 13, 2019—Dallas

10:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

[Dallas VA Medical Center](#)

4500 South Lancaster Road
Dallas TX 75216

Saturday, May 11, 2019—Houston

10:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

[Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center](#)

2002 Holcombe Blvd
Houston TX 77030

Saturday, June 8, 2019—Harlingen

10:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

[Harlingen Veterans Outpatient Clinic](#)

2106 Treasure Hills Blvd
Harlingen TX 78550

Saturday, July 13, 2019—Lubbock
10:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

[Lubbock VA Outpatient Clinic](#)

6104 Avenue Q South Drive
Lubbock TX 79412

Saturday, August 10, 2019—Tyler
10:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

[Tyler US Army Reserve Center](#)

13592 State Highway 31 West
Tyler TX 75709

U.S. DEPARTMENT VETERAN AFFAIRS: NEWS RELEASE

VA



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

Central Texas Veterans
Health Care System

News Release

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