

BURLESON COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE NEWS

Volume 7

FROM THE VETERAN SERVICE OFFICER

DID YOU KNOW?

March 10, 2019

1:00P.M.

Texas A&M Baseball Military Appreciation Game

Tickets may be acquired at:

<https://www.fevo.com/discovery/Texas-AM--Military-Appreciation-Nights-KrgwqfpF>

March 30, 2019

2:00P.M.

Texas A&M Softball Military Appreciation Game

Tickets may be acquired at:

<https://www.fevo.com/discovery/Texas-AM--Military-Appreciation-Nights-KrgwqfpF>

October 2-3, 2019

11th Annual Texas Veterans Higher Education Symposium

Contact: Jerry Smith,

gsmith@tamu.edu or Dr. Larry
Wallace Jr.. lw Wallace@ntsvstem.edu

From the Veteran Service Officer

I would like to thank all who came out and supported the Veterans Day ceremonies. Thank you to the Caldwell Intermediate, High School, St. Jo Manor, and Copperas Hollow for hosting the veterans at their ceremonies. It was a very nice day. Hope all have had a great Christmas and a Happy New Year.

In the last edition of this newsletter I reviewed some of the key points for veterans. Do you have your discharge papers and are they safe kept? If you are a Disabled Veteran have a copy award letter safe. Does the veteran know of his benefits, service connected, non-service connected, pension, education, and health care? Please pick up a benefits booklet or attend a Veterans Fair, American Legion Post 159 in Bryan held one on February 9th. These veterans' fairs have a number of representatives that are very good at helping with veterans' issues.

In this edition, I would like to talk about health care. This is from the 2018 State Veterans Benefit Booklet by the Texas Veterans Commission. Medical Care Eligibility, the VA operates the nation's largest integrated healthcare system with more than 1,400 sites of care, including hospitals, community clinics, community living centers, domiciliary, readjustment counseling centers, and various other facilities. Who qualifies? Veterans may qualify for VA healthcare benefits and are not required to have a service-connected disability. Complete VA Form 10-10EZ, Application for Medical Benefits and mail to local VA Clinic in College Station, 1651 Rock Prairie Road, College Station, TX, 77845. You will also need a copy of your DD-214, discharge papers. The clinic will then contact you. Health Registries, free medical exams and health related information is available for veterans of the Gulf War, OEF/OIF, Vietnam War and exposed to ionizing radiation. Agent Orange Registry for Vietnam Era Veterans includes, any Vietnam era veteran who: served at least one day in the Republic of Vietnam between 1962 and 1975 regardless of length of service. Served aboard smaller river patrol and swift boats that operated on the inland water ways of Vietnam (also known as "Brown Water Veterans"). Served in Korea from April 1, 1968 to August 31, 1971, in a unit stationed near the DMZ, or may have been exposed to dioxin or other toxic substance. Please check VA website for more info. Gulf War, Operation Iraqi Freedom, and Operation New Dawn: any veteran who served on active duty in southwest Asia during the Gulf War which began in 1990 and continues to the present, including Operation Iraqi Freedom or Operation New Dawn. Burn Pit Registry: the use of burn pits was a common waste disposal practice at military sites in Iraq and Afghanistan. Smoke from these pits contained substances that may have short and long-term health

effects. VA has created the Airborne Hazards and Open Pit Registry for veterans and service members. Ionizing Radiation Exposure: veterans who participated in the occupation of Hiroshima or Nagasaki from August 6, 1945 through July 1, 1946



or internment as a Prisoner of War (POW) in Japan (or service on active duty in Japan immediately following such internment) during World War 2 which the Secretary of Veterans Affairs determines. The veteran and his family can learn more about this on the VA website.

Burleson County Veterans Memorial in front of the courthouse will be updated on with two new stones to keep the memorial symmetrical. One stone will be blank, the other will recognize William (Billy) Edwards, who gave his life in Operation Iraqi Freedom. A formal service will be on May 27, 2019, in front of the courthouse at the Memorial Day Service. William's parents will be in attendance and his mother Mary will be the key-note speaker. Please keep him and his family in your prayers. The Honor Guard and local veterans will also visit the local nursing homes that morning, and short patriotic programs will be held.

I attended the Somerville American Legion Post 455 meeting and veterans interested in joining them or at the Caldwell American Legion Post 451 are invited to come and see the good works being done.

Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 4458 meet the second Thursdays of the month at 7pm, at the VFW. DAV Chapter 86 meet on third Thursdays of the month at First Baptist Family Life Center, 7pm. 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 the post 6:30pm. VFW Post needs volunteers for the Honor Guard to participate at military services for deceased veterans, please consider this vocation.

Franklin Karasek, Jr.

Burleson County Veteran Service Officer

FROM THE COMMANDER VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS POST 4458-

VFW Post 4458 held a Memorial Service for Vietnam Veterans on February 1st at the post fish fry. This event was well attended and thank you to all who came out and supported us, also, thank you to all the post volunteers who worked. This month the post will have its annual award banquet, which includes the Voice of Democracy, Patriots Pin and Teacher Award. We have some very deserving students that applied, their work was judged, and we recognize the ones chosen. I would like to thank our chairpersons, Chaplain Tina Smith and Senior- Vice Thomas Miles for taking on this project. VFW Post 4458 is always looking for new members. If a veteran has served in a foreign war, please consider joining and enjoying the comradeship of our local veterans. Your membership also gives our representatives of National and State VFW backup in negotiating for veterans' benefits. We have an aging membership and younger members are needed. The post Honor Guard needs volunteers to serve at military funerals, which the deceased veteran truly deserves.

VFW Post 4458 Commander, Ronnie Garbs

THE CHAPLAINS CORNER- Spring is nearly here, and I cannot wait to spend more time outdoors, when it's not raining! Remember to check up on your family and friends that don't get out much. Let's make sure to stay connected and lend a hand when needed. With the bad weather, I've spent too much time indoors, in front of the TV. I don't know about the rest of you, but I can hardly stand to watch or listen to the news these days. There is so much discord, hatefulness, fighting etc. So, I have to constantly remind myself of God's word in Romans 13:1-2 **All of you must obey those who rule over you. There are no authorities except the ones God has chosen. Those who now rule have been chosen by God. ² So whoever opposes the authorities opposes leaders whom God has appointed. Those who do that will be judged.**

So rather than complain and speak badly of our authorities and our leaders, we should be praying for them, as the Lord commands us in 1 Tim 2:1-2

First, I want you to pray for all people. Ask God to help and bless them. Give thanks for them. ² Pray for kings. Pray for everyone who is in authority. Pray that we can live peaceful and quiet lives.

Our Prayer: Lord, you have made known Your authority and, you have given persons authority to exercise governing and leadership over us. We are commanded to obey authority, and pray for them: we ask You, fill our leaders with zeal for the tasks delegated to them and with understanding and concern for those they represent. May they serve You with moral, exemplary lives and thereby give those whom they lead and influence, an ideal to follow. Give them wisdom to govern and legislate justly. Give them compassion in dealings with their subordinates, so that we may be ready to follow their leadership with a willing spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Chaplain Tina Smith

POST 455, SOMERVILLE, TX - It is already February and we are looking at and making plans for upcoming events throughout the year. Post 455 will once again host a Memorial Day program beginning at 11 am at the post hall. The event features a patriotic theme with a reading of the names of all service members from Burleson County who gave their lives in service to our nation beginning with World War I up until the most recent conflicts. Following the program there will be a light lunch and everyone in the community and surrounding areas is invited to attend without charge.

The City of Somerville has received a grant from TXDOT to improve the historic park on highway 36 and 8th Street to include the veteran's memorial and walk of fame which honors all veterans. Post members are actively involved in this project. In addition to the above-mentioned items Post 455 offers turkey shoots on a regular basis and we rent out our hall for various events to include dances, private parties and social events. We are always looking to increase our membership so if you are a veteran, have a family member who served or know of someone who is; we meet on the first Monday of each month at 6 pm.

Faithfully Submitted,

Darrin Holub,

Commander Marion Mays Post 455, Somerville, Texas

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.

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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BURLESON COUNTY
VETERAN SERVICE OFFICE

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