

VETERANS VOICE

THE AMERICAN LEGION JONATHAN D. ROZIER POST 164 KATY TEXAS



September, 2025 NEWSLETTER (Harry Woodstrom, Editor)

Commander's Chatter

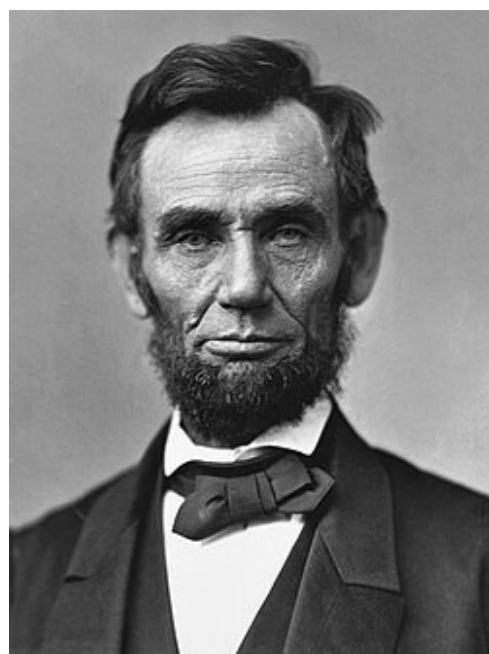
By Morrow Krum (Post 164 Commander)

We have entered our busy event season. We recently had an information table at the Katy Home and Garden Show, where we were able to recruit 3 new members. Thank you to all who worked at the table. Coming up are events like the Katy Rice Harvest Festival Parade, Katy Rice Harvest Festival, Veterans Day and of course the support for the Auxiliary at the Pies For Hope and Wreaths Across America tables. It is very important that we have at least one Legion member at each table, so that any veteran who stops by can be given information as to who we are and what we do for them and the community.

The training topic for this month's meeting is Membership and Recruitment. I strongly encourage everyone to get to the Post before 6:30 so you can get all the information presented.

When you are out and about keep your eyes open for that fellow vet. When you see one thank them for their service, you will be surprised at how many doors will open towards recruiting them. If you know of a fellow post member who has not renewed their dues yet please encourage them to do so. We need to match or exceed the goals set by state.

Finally, I look forward to seeing all of you at one of our upcoming events.



"I am not bound to win, but I am bound to be true. I am not bound to succeed, but I am bound to live by the light that I have. I must stand with anybody that stands right, stand with him while he is right, and part with him when he goes wrong."

Abraham Lincoln

By Dennis Wells

(Post 164 1st Vice Commander)

Membership Goals

Membership is very important to and for The American Legion. There is strength in numbers and every member gives our fine organization that much more influence to obtain the benefits that veterans have earned. Our membership goal for Post 164 is a 75% membership renewal rate by September 30th. We are currently at 62%. With your help by renewing today we can make that goal. Thank you to all who have renewed their membership!

Also, please remember you still have the opportunity to win a year's membership by volunteering and attending our membership meetings. Every time you volunteer or attend the membership meeting you are awarded a ticket that is entered into a drawing. We will be making that selection in July for an annual membership for 2027.

Honoring our Ten Year Members

We are pleased to announce that we will be honoring our ten year members. Awards will be made at the Post 164 membership meeting on Tuesday September 16th. Membership is the driving force for the American Legion. Every member is important to helping us serve our fellow veterans. Membership gives us the power to help pass legislation and secure benefits that veterans have earned. We salute the following members for ten years of continuous membership.

Ten Year Members:

| | | |
|---------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Jody Castro | Claude Crane | Edward Faircloth |
| James Foster | John Hall | Victor Hart |
| Rory Hoffman | Robert Houghton | Billy Looney |
| Angela Kellum | Joseph Rapoport | Denny Shank |
| Nicki Viars | Harry Woodstrom | |

By Alana Saboor (ALA Unit 164 President)

I believe there are events in our lives that shape us into who we are. I've lived long enough to remember the events of September 11, 2001 and how the world stopped turning that fateful day. I had just arrived in Pittsburgh after driving straight through for a friend's wedding.

The excitement of driving from Alabama to Pittsburgh to see my friend marry her best friend was soon filled with grief, fear and sadness. How could I be happy for my friend? How could I be happy when the land that I love had just been attacked?

So many people perished, families were destroyed and many continue to fight for life as a result of the attacks. This was my first hand experience of what war on my country felt like. Many that read my account will not understand but many will.

As many of you know, I come from a long line of military veterans and first responders. I could never thank any of them enough for the safety and security of those that I love.

I would encourage all of you to take a moment and give thanks when you see our service men, service women, and our first responders. They are the true heroes the one's without a cape. The ones that are rushing into the burning buildings, the war zones when everyone else is running out.

We are soon entering the Holiday season and for many meals, toys, and gifts will not be on the table or under the tree. We have many fundraising opportunities that will be present in the community. If you're not able to help us in raising funds for these endeavors, there are opportunities to volunteer a little bit of your time.

True or False

An American Legion Post should serve the needs of veterans and the community.

True

Presentation to Aaron Mendoza

It was an extra-special Breakfast with our Veterans this month because one of our own, Aaron Mendoza, was presented with the most beautiful Quilt of Valor from the Montgomery Lone Stars.

Post 164 Commander Sandy Krum also presented Aaron with an Honorary Member of the American Legion certificate.

A very special morning for a very special veteran.



Pictured: Linda Malsbary, ALA Department Education Chair; Alana Saboor, ALA Unit 164 President; Aaron Mendoza, 101 year old WWII Veteran and Post 164 member; Morrow (Sandy) Krum, Post 164 Commander



From the National Oratorical Handbook

History

William A. Kitchen, a Past Department Commander of Missouri, is credited with founding The American Legion's National High School Oratorical Contest. He experimented with the contest in a few high schools in and around Kansas City, Mo., during the 1934-1935 school year. He went on to become the first Department of Missouri Oratorical chairman and conducted a statewide Oratorical program in 1935 and 1936. Kitchen encouraged The American Legion to adopt the Missouri Oratorical Contest plan as a national program. The first national contests were held in 1938, with 11 Departments and 4,000 participants competing. At the national finals in Norman, Okla., John Janson of Phoenix won first place. The national finals returned to Missouri for its 50th anniversary in 1987, hosted by Lee Summit Senior High School in Lee Summit. In 1997, the week-long regional, sectional and national finals format was changed to a week-end competition of quarterfinal, semifinal and national final contests in The American Legion's headquarters city of Indianapolis. In 2007, the contest's official name became the American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship Program – A Constitutional Speech Contest. Since its beginning, the contest has awarded more than \$3 million in scholarships to participants at the national level of competition. It currently awards \$203,500 annually to department winners competing at the national level. Thousands more are awarded in scholarships to winners at the department, district and post levels.

Purpose

The Oratorical program was developed primarily to instill a deeper knowledge and appreciation of the U.S. Constitution in high school students. Participants also grow in leadership ability, their capacity to think and speak clearly and intelligently, and understanding of the rights, responsibilities, obligations and privileges of U.S. citizens.

By Gillian Woodstrom (ALA Department Membership Chair)

VA&R PROGRAM

Strengthening and growing our VA&R program is a key part of our Unit's purpose and activities and supporting our veterans is one of the pillars of our organization. Here's what we do to make a difference!

With our Post we hold an annual event on Patriot Day in honor of the victims of 9/11 and the First Responders of New York by celebrating our First Responders here in Katy.

Along with the Post we provide a branded Unit 164 table offering information on events, resources and membership at the joint Veterans Picnic with Katy Christian Ministries (KCM) and Grace Presbyterian Church.



BE THE ONE – we split the cost with the Post to purchase the banners that we now display at the Post and events. We also provide pins for our membership, which they receive when they complete the online course.

In our 9th year of Breakfast with the Veterans the monthly attendance has grown from 40 to 160. This is our third year of the Kids Activity Table and we've added volunteer groups like the Heritage Girls, U of H Veterans Youth Service Group, NHS and Girls State volunteers to our kitchen crew.

At KCM, along with Post 164, VFW Auxiliary 9182 and our new partner VFW Post 9182 we supply a Thanksgiving meal for 100 Veteran families.

At Christmas we partner with our Post and, working

through our affiliation with KCM, use our Poppy funds to purchase and deliver gifts to 5 Veterans' families.

The Blanket Brigade creates over 200 throw blankets for veterans and families, which we distribute to the VA DeBakey Hospital, Ballard House, Pregnancy Help Center and our adopted Christmas families.

In the past 7 years our Post 164 Family ceremony for Wreaths Across America has grown into a tradition in the Katy community and we lay 575 wreaths on our veterans' graves at Katy Magnolia Cemetery. To

gather sponsorships we set up our branded ALA Unit 164 tables outside local businesses on 5 different weekends. For the ceremony itself we work with the Post and the youth of Katy and this year we added the Katy Youth Choir while maintaining our education component highlighting the Laying of

the Penny.

Unit 164 is one of the key organizers of our District 22 Wreaths Across America ceremony at Soldiers Rest, 6900 Lawndale St, Houston. In our third year we have grown from 39 to 89 wreaths honoring not just the original 34 WWI veterans but also other veterans buried nearby.

This will be our fifth year holding the Four Chaplains Ceremony. We rotate the churches and the ministers, which expands community involvement. We partner with the Four Chaplains Foundation to honor those that exemplify the service and sacrifice shown that day as the chaplains gave their life jackets so others could live. This past year our local Girl Scouts

VA&R Program Continued

handed out programs, the Men's Choir from St. Peter's sung and each person in attendance received a Four Chaplains Commemorative magnet.

In our third partnership year with Operation Home Front we erected a branded tent and passed out Thanksgiving Turkeys with all the fixings for 150 active duty families at a Katy drive-thru event. We give donations to their Red, White and Blue Baby Shower at Ellington Air Force Base.

We sponsor Pies for Hope to raise awareness for Camp Hope (a PTSD Foundation) and provide over 125 pies for their Thanksgiving meal plus a cash donation of \$500.

Every year we pass out poppies on Memorial Day and Veterans Day at 4 different locations in Katy.

Twice monthly the Unit joins the Post at a branded information table outside our local VA clinic and dispenses information and event updates to all those entering the clinic. We also provide the clinic with water and snacks on a monthly basis.

Honor Flight Houston honors all veterans by flying them to Washington D.C. to visit their memorials. For the past 4 years we've joined our Post 164 Honor Guard in welcoming home these veterans at Hobby Airport with clappers, pom-poms, posters and signs.

Humor

Lars, Sven and Ole were asked, "When you're in your casket, and friends and neighbors are mourning you, what would you like them to say?"

Lars said, "I would like them to say that I was a wonderful husband, a fine spiritual leader, and a good family man.". Sven said, "I would like them to say I was a wonderful teacher and servant of God who made a huge difference in the lives of people."

Ole said, "I would like them to say, 'Look! He's moving!'



Post 164 welcomes Boys State attendees to share their experiences with post members. (the lady pictured is one of the moms and the guy with the beard is our Boys State Chair, Mike Callahan)

October 6, 2025

7am to 10am—Breakfast with a Veteran

7am to 11am—Rice Festival parade



By Suzanne M Trapani (Post 164 Member)

My time in the US Air Force Nurse Corps

I grew up in St. Louis, Missouri and went to catholic school all my life. I went to a 4 year nursing program and made friends with an older gal named Trish, whose husband was a USAF fighter pilot during the Vietnam War. They sparked my interest in joining the USAF nurse corps. I was initially intrigued and a bit frightened until I discovered that the nurse corps had a 5 month internship for which I could apply. Otherwise, a brand new nurse gets thrown to the wolves and would immediately have about 30 or more patients to care for on day one. In nursing school you might have three patients and that's not reality.

I was 1 of 6 nurses in the USA, who had been accepted into this nursing internship program. That turned out to be the best career decision for me. I am grateful to then Captain Loraine Gingras who ran the internship program at 22nd strategic hospital march AFB California. She was an excellent mentor and a bit protective of us new nurses, especially because there still were not many women in uniform back in the late 1980s. I am also grateful to Captain Kiri Simning who was my mentor and shadowed me in many different areas of nursing. She taught me things that you don't learn from a book, like time management, how to respectfully tell family members that their loved one has died, how to remain professional and caring at the same time, and so on. Those 2 women really helped me to become an excellent registered nurse.

I only stayed active duty for 3 years, but even at the little USAF hospital Reese, in Lubbock Texas, I learned so much. I discovered that the US military is basically a microcosm of our beautiful country. I learned to work with, lead, and care for patients from all different ethnic and socioeconomic backgrounds. I even taught nursing skills to my airmen, so they could up

USAF Nurse Corps Continued

grade their skill level. ie like letting them start intravenous lines on my very straight veins on my hands.

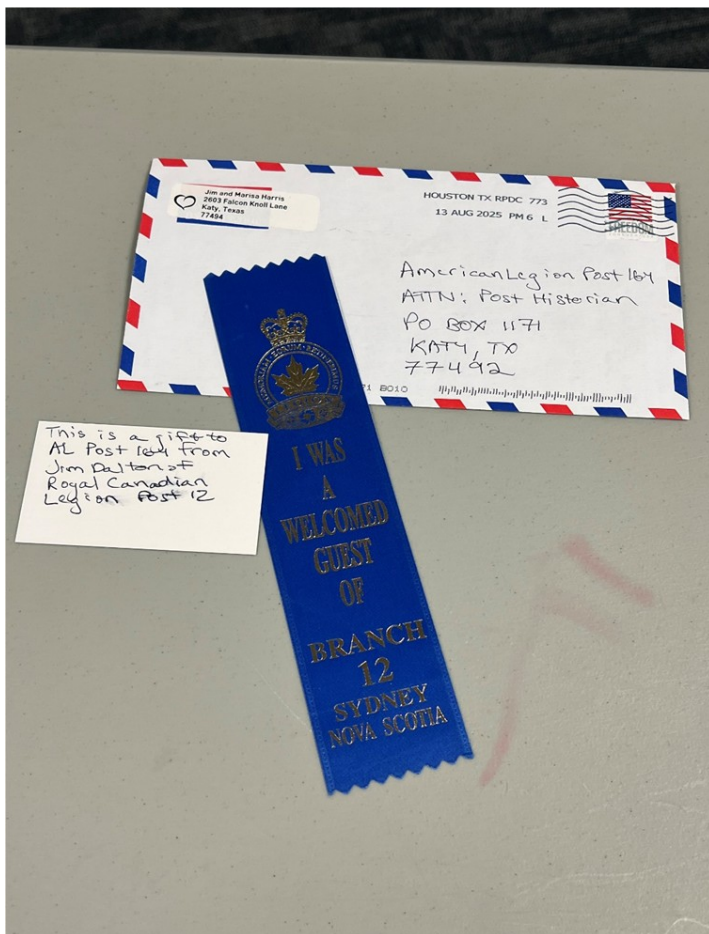
I did have some other times that were not so great, like getting in trouble for playing racquetball with my male coworkers at the base gym. I was so irritated because the guys didn't get in trouble, just me, some were officers and some were enlisted.

Overall, joining the USAF at the beginning of my career was the right decision for me. It really helped to shape me into the person that I am today.



Post 164 had an information table at the Katy Home and Garden Show August 23 & 24. 3 new members were recruited to Post 164. We were joined by our Auxiliary Unit 164 members. Shown are Legionnaires Suzanne Trapani and Past District 22 Commander Jim McGuire, Auxiliary members Linda Malsbary, Dollie Oday, and Caroline Snyder. Post Commander Sandy Krum took the photo.





While on vacation, Post 164 member James Harris visited the Royal Canadian Legion Post #12 in Sydney, Nova Scotia. They gifted him this ribbon which is now on display at Post 164. Did you know that as a member of the American Legion you can also be a member of the Royal Canadian Legion?

Humor

A man boarded an airplane and took his seat. As he settled in, he glanced up and saw the most beautiful woman boarding the plane. He soon realized She was heading straight towards his seat. As fate would have it, she took the seat right beside his:

Eager to strike up a conversation he blurted out. "Business trip or pleasure?"

She turned, smiled and said. "Business. I'm going to the Annual Nymphomaniacs of America Convention in Boston."

He swallowed hard. Here was the most gorgeous

Humor Continued

woman he had ever seen sitting next to him and she was going to a meeting of nymphomaniacs!

Struggling to maintain his composure, he calmly asked. "What's your Business at this convention?"

"Lecturer." She responded. "I use information that I have learned from my personal experiences to debunk some of the popular myths about sexuality."

"Really?" He said. "And what kind of myths are there?"

"Well." She explained. "One popular myth is that African-American men are the most well-endowed of all men, when in fact it is the Native American Indian who is most likely to possess that trait. Another popular myth is that Frenchmen are the best lovers, when actually it is men of Mexican descent who are the best. I have also discovered that the lover with absolutely the best stamina is the Southern Red-neck."

Suddenly the woman became a little uncomfortable and blushed.. "I'm sorry." She said, "I shouldn't really be discussing all of this with you. I don't even know your name."

"Tonto." The man said. "Tonto Gonzales, but my friends call me Bubba."



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Fireworks

During the Han dynasty (202 BC – 220 AD), people threw bamboo stems into a fire to produce an explosion with a loud sound. In later times, gunpowder packed into small containers was used to mimic the sounds of burning bamboo. Exploding bamboo stems and gunpowder firecrackers were interchangeably known as *baozhu* or *baogan*. During the Song dynasty, people manufactured the first firecrackers comprising tubes made from rolled sheets of paper containing gunpowder and a fuse. They also strung these firecrackers together into large clusters, known as *bian* (lit. "whip") or *bianpao* (lit. "whip cannon"), so the firecrackers could be set off one by one in close sequence. By the 12th and possibly the 11th century, the term *baozhang* was used to specifically refer to

gunpowder firecrackers.

In the United States, fireworks laws vary widely from state to state or county to county. Federal, state, and local authorities govern the use of display fireworks in the United States. The Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) regulates consumer fireworks at the federal level through the Federal Hazardous Substances Act (FHSA). The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) sets forth a set of codes that give the minimum standards of display fireworks use and safety in the U.S. Both state and local jurisdictions can further add restrictions on the use and safety requirements of display fireworks. There are currently 46 states in the United States in which fireworks are legal for consumer use.