

VETERANS VOICE

THE AMERICAN LEGION JONATHAN D. ROZIER POST 164 KATY TEXAS



February, 2026 NEWSLETTER (Harry Woodstrom, Editor)

Commander's Chatter

By Morrow Krum (Post 164 Commander)

Post Family, we are off to a great start for this year. The post is growing, we are out in the community, and our presence is starting to be seen. I ask that each member of the post family look at the calendar and see where you might be able to contribute. Maybe you don't want to help with an event, but you have time to help us get the materials ready to go to the event. Every little bit of help matters. We are the most active post in the greater Houston area. Let's make it our mission this year that when people in our area think about veterans they automatically think of Post 164.

There will be lots of opportunities to help coming up. We have the Gary Tilton Memorial Awards (1st Responders) recognition ceremony coming up. There is lots of help needed for that as far as set up and cleanup after it is over. In March we will have our American Legion Birthday party, which needs people to help. April will be our American Legion Family Day. This will be open to the public. There are a lot of things that we will need help with this.

A volunteer organization only works if it's members volunteer.

OUR TOP PRIORITY

Across the nation, change is underway to reduce the number of military-affiliated Americans who are lost to suicide. Various estimates have put the daily toll at 18 or 22, while others say those figures underestimate the real number. In any case, The American Legion believes one is too many.

That is why The American Legion has prioritized raising awareness about the issue, providing free suicide prevention training and reassuring those who find themselves struggling that it is **"OK to not be OK."** Our goal is to talk openly and boldly about the challenges affecting Americans every day.

BE THE ONE to act, to call, to serve, to save.



"While the Medal of Honor is awarded to an individual, it is felt like anything but an individual achievement, It is ours—not mine."

Staff Sergeant Ryan Pitts



By Dennis Wells (Post 164 1st Vice Commander)

AWOL, Day One in the Army

The bus ride to the Induction Center in Cleveland from Youngstown was complete. The line up, the step forward, the hand raised and the oath taken. Then more waiting and waiting. The uncertainty of where you are going next for basic training. A long-time school friend and I were drafted at the same time. Talking with him made the time go faster. After a long day at the Induction Center, we headed for the airport. When we arrived at Cleveland airport there was even more time to wait. We were hungry and decided to get a coke and a piece of pie. There we sat, eating pie, drinking a coke and talking.

Time passed and passed. Suddenly, two MPs and a very excited airline employee hurriedly arrived at our table. He asked where the heck have we been?! They had been searching the whole airport for us and were holding a plane for us. By the look on the MPs faces they were NOT happy. They radioed to the plane that they had located the two missing passengers and were escorting us rapidly to the gate. Upon entering the plane, the pilot announced that the two "missing" passengers were coming on board. With that the whole plane erupted in cheers and applause. They had evidently been informed that the Military Police were in search of two errant new soldiers and that was the reason for the delay. We embarrassedly headed through the plane and took our seats. Oh, my. What a way to start my time in the military and the United States Army!



From "The Military Humor Joke Book"

Wife: What would you do if I died? Would you get married again?

Husband: Definitely not?

Wife: Why not—don't you like being married?

Husband: Of course I do.

Wife: Then why wouldn't you remarry?

Husband: Okay, I'd get married again.

Wife: You would? (With a hurtful look on her face)

Husband: (Makes audible groan)

Wife: Would you live in our house?

Husband: Sure, it's a great house.

Wife: Would you sleep with her in our bed?

Husband: Where else would we sleep?

Wife: Would you let her drive my car?

Husband: Probably, it's almost new.

Wife: Would you replace my pictures with hers?

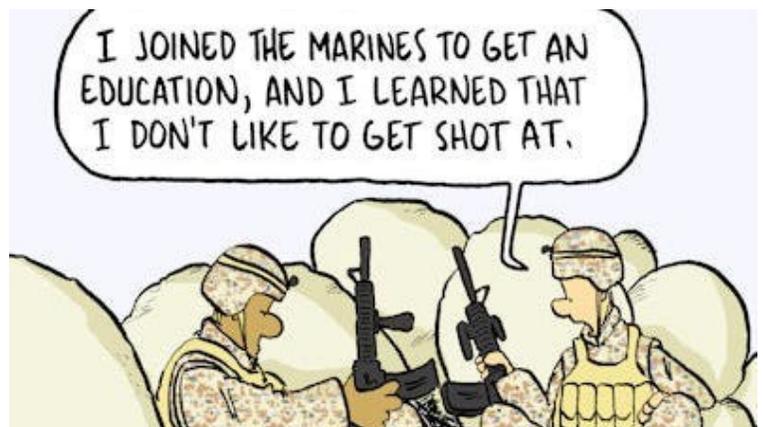
Husband: That would seem like the proper thing to do.

Wife: Would she use my golf clubs?

Husband: No, she's left-handed.

Wife: Silence

Husband: Oops!



By Deb Watson (Post 164 2nd Vice Commander)

A Tribute To A Special Veteran

Colonel Michael E. Debakey, MD

February is National Heart Awareness Month and an appropriate time to honor a very special Veteran, Colonel Michael E. Debakey, MD (1908-2008). He was a renowned American cardiac surgeon, innovator, scientist, medical educator, and international medical statesman.

Colonel Debakey served in the U.S. Army in World War II and helped to revolutionize wartime medicine by supporting the stationing of doctors closer to the front lines. This concept greatly improved the survival rate of wounded soldiers and resulted in the development of the Mobile Army Surgical Hospitals (MASH) used during the Korean War.

He established the Veterans Administration Medical Center Research System, which the Houston VA Medical Center was named in his honor. He directed The Debakey Heart and Vascular Center at Methodist Hospital and was the Chancellor Emeritus of Baylor College of Medicine.

His achievements in the advancement and refinement of heart surgery are too many to list in this article. His major credits would be the roller pump which he developed while in medical school at Tulane University. The pump provided a continuous flow of blood during operations, and later made open heart surgery possible. He performed the first successful patch graft angioplasty used to repair blood vessels. He perfected coronary artery bypass surgery, which is known as the "The Debakey Procedure." He was a pioneer in the development of an artificial heart, which he collaborated with Dr. Denton Cooley.

In 2005, at age 97, Dr. Debakey suffered an aortic dissection and underwent heart surgery. He was saved by a procedure that he had developed. Dr. Debakey

died in July of 2008, only a couple of months short of making his 100th birthday. He continued to practice medicine until the day he died. His contribution to medicine spanned more than 75 years. He operated on more than 50,000 patients, including several heads of state.

How does the world thank a man who has given so much? They wallpaper him with awards and medals. Here are just a few of his accolades: The Congressional Gold Medal, The Presidential Medal of Freedom, The National Medal of Science, The United Nations Lifetime Achievement Award, and "Living Legend" Citation by the Library of Congress.

The procedures that he pioneered, developed, and perfected have saved millions of lives worldwide, my own included.

Happy Heart Awareness Month Colonel Michael E. Debakey MD, and a heart felt, "Thank you for your service."



The American Legion Birthday Dinner

March 14, 2026

Time Dinner Served: 6:00 PM

Dinner catered by Outback

APPETIZERS:

Cheese Ball and Crackers

DINNER:

Steak and Chicken with Choice of 3 Sauces

Mashed Potatoes

Garden Salad with Choice of 3 Dressings

DESSERT: Birthday Cake

DRINKS: Tea , Punch

ENTERTAINMENT:

Musician & Veteran, Floyd Callen

By Gene Britton (Squadron 164 Commander)

The Sons of The American Legion was created in 1932 as an organization within The American Legion. It is made up of men of all ages whose parents or grandparents served in the United States military and became eligible for membership in The American Legion. Together, members of The American Legion, The American Legion Auxiliary and the Sons of The American Legion make up what is known as The American Legion Family.

There are currently more than 300,000 members of the Sons of The American Legion.

You are eligible for membership in the Sons of The American Legion if you are:

- the male descendant (includes adopted sons or stepsons) of a member of The American Legion, or
- the male descendant of a veteran who died in service during World War I, World War II, Korean War, Vietnam War, Lebanon, Grenada, Panama, or the Persian Gulf War, or
- the male descendant of a veteran who died after their honorable discharge from service during World War I, World War II, Korean War, Vietnam War, Lebanon, Grenada, Panama, or the Persian Gulf War.

It is possible to hold a dual membership in both The American Legion and the Sons of The American Legion.

If you would like to join the Sons of The American Legion, follow the link below.

<https://www.legion.org/about/American-Legion-Family/Sons-of-the-American-Legion>



Post 164 Super Bowl Party

The American Legion Riders Chapter 164 hosted our Super Bowl watch party again this year. What a great turnout we had. There was plenty of food and good conversation. Thanks to the Legion Riders for a fun event.



2nd Division Oratorical Contest

On January 18, 2026 the 2nd Division held its annual Oratorical Contest. The contest was held at the Jersey Village Civic Center, thanks to Post 324. There were competitors from the 6th, 8th and 22nd Districts.

Adelie Rock from James E. Taylor High School and representing Post 164 of Katy was declared the winner. She is now on her way to competing at the Department level.

Adelie Rock is being presented with her award by Department Vice Commander Steve Kim and Division Oratorical Chair Harry Woodstrom.



By Alana Saboor (Unit 164 President)



It is getting to be my favorite season before too long. I've often been excited at the thought of Spring. I know many would say, it's just another time. Yes and no! I see spring, and see opportunity, new beginnings, growth and endless opportunities.

I'm just a few years shy of living longer in Texas than I did back home. I've always appreciated where I came from but, I can guarantee when that snow melted, I was done. Spring is a little different here, but the feeling is still the same. Watching the seeds that have been planted turn into something colorful and beautiful is a breath of fresh air.

The amazing women in our Auxiliary, mature those seedlings into the beautiful young women of Girls State. This organization is supporting, encouraging, mentoring young women to reach without limits, grow like a (good) weed be brave, be strong and be kind.

Many of the girls will form friendships of a lifetime,

while gaining the knowledge of how the government works because of the opportunity that Girls State offers.

Our many volunteers help to make this program and many others successful for the greater good. Spring into action, plant those seeds, and see the beauty of transformation.

Whether you are preparing for Poppy Day or organizing a Breakfast with Veterans, your dedication as a volunteer is what makes this "transformation" possible. The seeds you plant today in the hearts of these young women will indeed bloom for a lifetime.

By Dennis Wells (Post 164 First Vice Commander)

I had the opportunity to attend the Mid-Winter Conference in Austin two weeks ago. It is always educational, as well as, a rewarding experience to attend Legion meetings. There are always new people to meet and of course the regulars that are always in attendance. It is very important that this Post keeps in touch with the happenings and actions of not only the District, Division and Department, but also the National level.

The National Vice Commander, Jan (J.D.) Larson, gave an informative talk on the need to, of course, increase membership, but he also told us to WEAR the cap. What he meant by that was your need to earn your cap. He explained that each level of authority within the American Legion is denoted by different colors of covers. Blue for Post level, Two toned "skunk cap" for District, White for Division/Department and Red for National office. It is an honor to achieve those positions, but they are not honorary. They must be earned through hard work and achievement.

Every level of the American Legion is important. It doesn't matter if you hold an office or serve on a committee or just attend. You are an important part of this fine organization.



4 Chaplains Ceremony

On February 7th American Legion Auxiliary Unit 164 and Post 164 held our annual 4 Chaplains Ceremony. The sacrifice of the Chaplains Goode, Fox, Washington and Poling were remembered, and the 4 Chaplains Foundation recognized two people from the area who's lives exemplify the same type of sacrifice and dedication to their fellow man.

Harris County Deputy Sheriff Lt. Aaron Brown was recognized for his work with a woman who was threatening to take her own life while sitting in the middle of traffic on the highway.

Mr. Jack Crawford was recognized for his support of veterans primarily at the area VA facilities. Mr. Crawford continues to raise funds and make sure that the items our veterans need to make their stay in a VA facility as comfortable as possible.

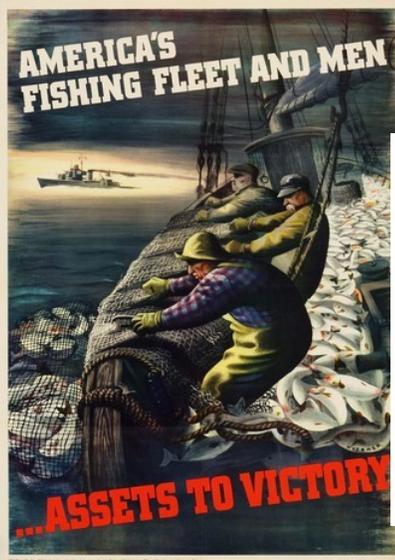
Congratulations to these two examples of giving back to the community.

Attendance was open to the public and several groups were represented.

Colors were presented by the combined honor guard from Post 164 and VFW Post 9182.



From The American Legion archives



February Schedule

17 Feb, Tue

6pm Post Social Hour

Downstairs room

6:30pm Post Training

Downstairs room

7pm Post 164 Membership Meeting

Downstairs room

18 Feb, Wed

6:30pm Group Counseling and Bible Study

Upstairs Meeting Room

7pm ALA Unit 164 Membership Meeting

Downstairs room

19 Feb, Thu

7pm Civil Air Patrol

American Legion Post 164, Katy TX, 22125 Kingsland Blvd, Katy, TX 77450, USA

20 Feb, Fri

7pm Post Game Night

American Legion Post 164, Upstairs

21 Feb, Sat

6pm Gary Tilton Memorial Awards

Katy Elks Lodge #2628, 1050 Katy Fort Bend Rd, Katy, TX 77493, USA

23 Feb, Mon

1pm Veterans Support Group

American Legion Post 164, Katy TX, 22125 Kingsland Blvd, Katy, TX 77450, USA

6pm Post 164 Board of Trustees Meeting

American Legion Post 164, Katy TX, American Legion Post, 22125 Kingsland Blvd #164, Katy, TX 77450, USA

25 Feb, Wed

6:30pm Group Counseling and Bible Study

Upstairs Meeting Room

26 Feb, Thu

7pm Civil Air Patrol

Post 164 - downstairs meeting room

27 Feb, Fri

7pm Post Game Night

American Legion Post 164, Upstairs

7pm American Legion Riders Chapter 164 Katy - Meeting

28 Feb, Sat

1pm Nafud Temple #80 Meeting

Upstairs room

March Schedule

1 Mar, Sun

2pm Auxiliary Poppy Party

Upstairs room

2pm JSSP Class

2 Mar, Mon

1pm Election Day Set-Up

1pm Veterans Support Group

American Legion Post 164, Katy TX, 22125 Kingsland Blvd, Katy, TX 77450, USA

3 Mar, Tue

5:30am Election Day

7pm Post 164 Executive Committee Meeting

American Legion Post 164, Katy TX, American Legion Post, 22125 Kingsland Blvd #164, Katy, TX 77450, USA

4 Mar, Wed

6:30pm Group Counseling and Bible Study

Upstairs Meeting Room

5 Mar, Thu

1pm VA Stakeholder Meeting

Katy Christian Ministries (KCM), 3506 Porter Rd., Katy, TX 77493, USA

7pm Civil Air Patrol

Upstairs meeting room

7pm Sons of the American Legion Squadron 164 Meeting

6 Mar, Fri

7pm Post Game Night

American Legion Post 164, Upstairs

7 Mar, Sat

7am Breakfast with a Veteran

Katy Elks Lodge, 1050 Katy Fort Bend Rd, Katy, TX 77493

7am Legion Riders Skill Practice

Leonard E. Merrell Center, 6301 S Stadium Ln, Katy, TX 77494, USA

10:30am City of Katy - Historical Marker

Harvest Plaza, downtown Katy, TX.

11:15am Honor Guard Practice

VFW Post #9182

8 Mar, Sun

2pm JSSP Class

9 Mar, Mon

1pm Veterans Support Group

American Legion Post 164, Katy TX, 22125 Kingsland Blvd, Katy, TX 77450, USA

10 Mar, Tue

AL Post 164 Newsletter Deadline

11 Mar, Wed

6:30pm Group Counseling and Bible Study

Upstairs Meeting Room

12 Mar, Thu

7pm Civil Air Patrol Meeting

Downstairs room

13 Mar, Fri

7pm Post Game Night

American Legion Post 164, Upstairs

7pm JSSP Meeting

American Legion Post 164, Katy TX, American Legion Post, 22125 Kingsland Blvd #164, Katy, TX 77450, USA

March Schedule Continued

14 Mar, Sat

6pm The American Legion Birthday Party

15 Mar, Sun

11:30am ALR Chapter 164 Katy Rider Skills Practice

6301 S Stadium Ln, Katy, TX 77494

2pm JSSP Class

16 Mar, Mon

8:30am Post 164 - West Side Maid clean-up

1pm Veterans Support Group

American Legion Post 164, Katy TX, 22125 Kingsland Blvd, Katy, TX 77450, USA

17 Mar, Tue

6pm Post Social Hour

Downstairs room

6:30pm Post Training

Downstairs room

7pm Post 164 Membership Meeting

Downstairs room

18 Mar, Wed

6:30pm Group Counseling and Bible Study

Upstairs Meeting Room

7pm ALA Unit 164 Membership Meeting

Downstairs room

19 Mar, Thu

7pm Civil Air Patrol

American Legion Post 164, Katy TX, 22125 Kingsland Blvd, Katy, TX 77450, USA

20 Mar, Fri

7pm Post Game Night

American Legion Post 164, Upstairs

21 Mar, Sat

1pm Training with ESD 48 on CPR & AED

Downstairs room

22 Mar, Sun

2pm JSSP Class

23 Mar, Mon

1pm Veterans Support Group

American Legion Post 164, Katy TX, 22125 Kingsland Blvd, Katy, TX 77450, USA

6pm Post 164 Board of Trustees Meeting

American Legion Post 164, Katy TX, American Legion Post, 22125 Kingsland Blvd #164, Katy, TX 77450, USA

25 Mar, Wed

6:30pm Group Counseling and Bible Study

Upstairs Meeting Room

26 Mar, Thu

7pm Civil Air Patrol

Post 164 - downstairs meeting room

27 Mar, Fri

7pm Post Game Night

American Legion Post 164, Upstairs

7pm American Legion Riders Chapter 164 Katy

28 Mar, Sat

1pm Nafud Temple #80 Meeting

Upstairs room

29 Mar, Sun

2pm JSSP Class

2pm New Member Orientation

30 Mar, Mon

1pm Veterans Support Group

American Legion Post 164