VETERANS VOICE

THE AMERICAN LEGION JONATHAN D. ROZIER POST 164 KATY TEXAS

October, 2026 NEWSLETTER (Harry Woodstrom, Editor)

Commander's Chatter

By Dennis Wells (Post 164 Commander)

Legion Post 164 has been very busy the past few weeks. We hosted a very fine Patriot Day Remembrance ceremony to honor the First Responders and victims that perished from that tragic event. It was well attended and well-orchestrated. My thanks to all who put in the hard work and effort to make it the success it was. All branches of the post family contributed to make it happen. Many thanks to the Legionnaires, Sons, Riders and of course the Auxiliary.

That was just the beginning, we kicked off October with Veterans Breakfast, the Rice Harvest Parade, an Honor Guard event in Stafford and Junior Shooting at the Post all on the same day. Following that we were involved with National Night Out, the Katy Rice Harvest Festival, Combined Arms Food Fair and much more.

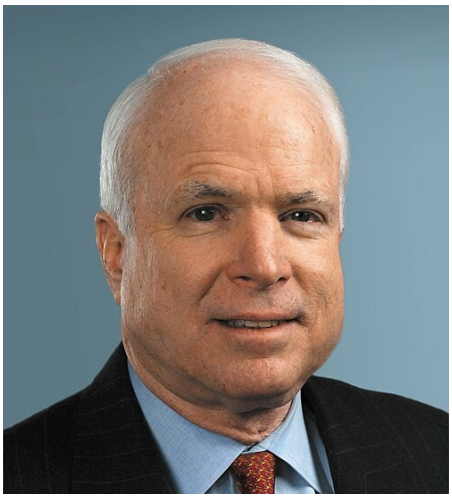
Post 164 is a busy place. We have plenty of opportunities to get in and get active. Our Youth Oratorical contests are coming up and soon the Boys State program and Legion baseball will begin.

To find out what is happening with the post, check out the calendar on our website and of course, you are invited to attend our membership meetings on the third Tuesday of every month. Social hour begins at 6PM and membership meeting starts at 7PM. I hope to see you there.



"Let us exercise our responsibilities as free people. But let us remember, we are not enemies. We are compatriots defending ourselves from a real enemy."

John McCain





But I Always Renew in _____ ?

By Robert A. Crutchfield, (Post 164 1st Vice Commander)

Every year about this time, whoever the 1st Vice Commander is, he hears one thing over and over. "I always renew in March." Or "I always renew in January." Our Post is very grateful for your membership, especially those of you who have been with us for many years. We would hate for your membership to unintentionally lapse. For that reason I want to remind you of some important membership related deadlines.

January 1st: Your membership becomes delinquent. Such things happen, but like with other things it is best off avoided.

February 1st: Your membership EXPIRES ! This is a more critical deadline. A strong argument can be made that if you reach this point you have to be voted back into our post. We at Post 164 don't usually do things that way. However if somebody wanted to press the point it could get unnecessarily messy.

Its also important to understand that these dates come from The Department of Texas. There is nothing we can do to extend these dates.

Something else I try to remind our members. December 31st being the last day to pay your dues is tricky because it comes at the end of the holiday season. The holiday season can be very busy. The holiday season can be very expensive. The holiday season can be very stressful ! So why not take some of the stress out of that busy, expensive season and renew now? Many of us survive retirement check to retirement check, disability check to disability check, paycheck to paycheck. I count myself in this group, so I know how hard it can be to squeeze your annual dues into an already tight budget. This is another argument for not waiting for the last minute. Coming up with the money at the end of the year could get tougher not easier.

By he time you read this there will be less than 10 weeks left in the year. It will fly by faster than you think. So renew as close to now as you can. Your post needs you !

By Hubert (Ernie) Comier (Squadron 164 Commander)

Sons of the American Legion

October

The S.A.L. Dinner was held October 16th at the Post.

The S.A. L. participated in the Rice Harvest Festival.

The S.A.L. would like to recognize the following Military dates for October/November:

United States Navy October 13th

Day of Deployed October 26th

Navy Day October 27th

Ms. Veterans America Pageant

November

National Veterans and Military Month

Warrior Care Month

Veterans' Small Business Week

Veterans' Day (Armistice Day)



Post 164 members at information table for Combined Arms Veterans Food Fair at the Fellowship Church. **Every second Monday of the month.** Benefits veterans and their families needing food assistance.

By Jennifer Lowry (Unit 164 President and Post 164 Adjutant)

Membership Updates: What They Mean for Our Auxiliary and Our Post Family

Many of our members may have heard about changes to American Legion Auxiliary membership eligibility and wondered what they mean for our local Auxiliary and Post. Simply put, these changes create new opportunities to welcome eligible family members into the American Legion Family while preserving the Auxiliary's proud tradition of service.

Over the years, membership eligibility has expanded to recognize the service of veterans from all eligible wartime periods. As a result, many individuals who once believed they were ineligible may now qualify for membership through a parent, grandparent, spouse, sibling, or other eligible veteran family connection.

For our Auxiliary, these changes present an exciting opportunity for growth. Every new member brings unique skills, fresh ideas, and additional volunteer support for the programs that make a difference in our community. From assisting veterans and military families to supporting youth activities, scholarships, poppy programs, and patriotic events, a strong membership base enables us to accomplish even more.

We encourage all Post and Auxiliary members to help spread the word. Talk with your children, grandchildren, neighbors, and friends about eligibility. Many people have a qualifying veteran in their family history but simply do not realize they can become part of the American Legion Auxiliary.

Membership growth is more than just increasing numbers. It is about ensuring the future of our organization and continuing our mission of service to veterans, active-duty military, and their families. By welcoming new generations into the American Legion Family, we strengthen our ability to serve our community and honor the sacrifices of those who wore our nation's uniform.

If you know someone who may qualify for Auxiliary membership, please encourage them to contact our Auxiliary leadership. Together, we can continue building a stronger organization and carrying forward the legacy of service that has defined the American Legion Family for generations.

Remember: The best recruiter for the Auxiliary is a current member. A personal invitation can make all the difference.

For information about American Legion Auxiliary membership eligibility or to obtain an application, please contact our Auxiliary Leadership or stop by during Post office hours.



ALA Unit 164 and Post 164 at the Katy Rice Festival



How Time Flies Into The Future

By Despi Karavantos Scott

I was on my way to see Deb Watson and Larry Arnold for lunch. I was talking to My son Adonis Scott (SAL) about trying to decide what to write for the Newsletter for American Legions. You see The family bought her a cap that said Women's Airforce. I decided than I should write about Women Veterans. How we all pave the way for future Women Veterans.

So we reach Deb's house and we had lunch. A nice visit. She tiding up and I saw this clock . She was my inspiration and always my mentor for life. More than that my sister in Arms for life. So that's how I got the inspiration How Time Flies Into The Future.

I did some research and women have been in the United States Army since the Revolutionary War, and women continue to serve in it today. Also found out some minor wars women served , have been omitted from history. It doesn't surprise me.

Women are now recognized and integrated into the US Military Combat roles once the department of defense lifted all remaining restrictions on combat frontlines in the year 2016. Ranger School 180 women graduated and became Rangers . I was once asked what was the hardest Branch for females? So I researched again . The Answer was Marines. LOL!

To me every Branch is different for females. Combat Arms still remains gender neutral, they must pass the same physical and requirements regardless of gender.

I read some where women make up 20% of the total of US Military. Following Policy changes by the Department Of Defense, Women can now serve in every Branch and Job Category that was restricted to men.

Here are a few MOS that female can do. There are so many , I will just type a few. Infantry, Armor and Calvary, Field Artillery,

Combat Engineers, Special Operations, Aviation , Intelligence , Cyber, All medical jobs, Admin., and these are the popular Ones. More than 125,000 positions will be potentially open for women in the military conventional forces. also more than 13,000 positions will open in Army Special forces. We have came along way as times passes by.

I belong to American Legions Post 164 and proud to be a member. We have women in Legion that served our Country in the Armed forces, Like Jennifer Lowry, Deb Watson and My self. We have allot more, to many to name. We are all sisters in Arms.



The Auxiliary and the Legion at a Pies for Hope table outside Cinco Ranch ACE Hardware



Eagle Scout Ceremony

Post 164 of Katy was honored to be invited to attend the Eagle Scout ceremony for Wilson Maifield. This young man has been an integral part of many of Post 164's functions. In attendance along with other Troop 567 scouts, were family, friends, and Post 164 Adjutant Jennifer Lowry, Post Finance Officer Harry Woodstrom, and Past Post Commander Sandy Krum. Our Past Commander Sandy Krum also gave the Invocation and Benediction. We see great things in the future for this scout.



Eagle Scout Wilson Maifield with his Mother Amy Anderson Maifield and his Father Mitch Maifield.

"There is in most Americans some spark of idealism, which can be fanned into a flame. It takes sometimes a divining rod to find what it is; but when found, and that means often, when disclosed to the owners, the results are often extraordinary."

Justice Louis Brandeis



Eagle Scout Maifield with Post 164 Adjutant Jennifer Lowry, Post 164 Finance Officer Harry Woodstrom and Past Post 164 Commander Sandy Krum.



A great turnout for our S.A.L. quarterly dinner featuring fun bingo and prizes.



Post Commander Dennis Wells and Post Adjutant Jennifer Lowry at HCESD 48 for their Open House

My High School Experience: A Journey of Sacrifice, Faith, and Personal Growth

By Kevin Braggs

Growing up in a small country town with a population of approximately 160 people was a simple way of life. Despite the limitations of living in such a small community, I managed to excel in several areas during my high school years. I was recognized as an All-District athlete in football and track, accomplishments that brought me a great sense of pride. However, while I excelled in athletics, achieving the same level of success academically was much more challenging.

One of the greatest obstacles I faced during high school was balancing my education with the strict and overwhelming religious commitments imposed upon me during my upbringing.

My mother was a deeply devoted Pentecostal church member whose faith in God and commitment to our local church were central to her life. As a result, I attended church six days a week, leaving me very little time to study, complete assignments, or focus on my academic development.

As a young boy, I often envied other children who were not required to spend so much of their time in church. They had the freedom to play, laugh, socialize, and simply enjoy being children. Meanwhile, much of my childhood and teenage years revolved around religious services, church activities, and the expectations that came with my mother's strong religious convictions.

Although I respected my mother, I struggled to understand why so much of my time had to be devoted to the church, especially when it interfered with my education and opportunities to enjoy my youth.

Eventually, I graduated from high school with a four-year grade point average of 76. While this was not the academic achievement I had hoped for, I successfully completed that chapter of my life and went on to enlist in the United States Marine Corps.

It was during Marine Corps boot camp that I began to recognize something profound about my upbringing. The same religious foundation that I had complained about throughout my childhood became one of my greatest sources of strength. The discipline, perseverance, faith, and mental endurance that had been instilled in me through years of religious involvement helped me withstand the physical and psychological demands of Marine Corps recruit training.

Looking back, I genuinely believe that without that strong foundation of faith, I might not have possessed the spiritual and mental strength necessary to complete boot camp and earn the title of United States Marine.

What I once viewed as an overwhelming burden eventually became a source of resilience.

Even more importantly, the influence of my upbringing did not end with my military service. It has followed me throughout my adult life, providing strength and stability during some of my most difficult personal experiences. Through periods of mental anguish, loneliness, anxiety, uncertainty, and self-doubt, the spiritual foundation my mother established within me has continued to serve as a source of encouragement and inner strength.

As I reflect on those years, I recognize that my childhood was not without sacrifices. There were academic opportunities I may have missed, friendships I could have developed, and experiences I might have enjoyed had my upbringing been less restrictive.

Nevertheless, I have come to appreciate something that I could not fully understand as a teenager: **sometimes the very experiences we resent during our youth become the foundation that sustains us throughout adulthood.**

Although I complained about my mother's strict religious expectations, and although my academic performance suffered as a result of the limited time I had to study, I would not trade the guidance, discipline, and spiritual foundation she gave me.

My mother may not have provided me with the childhood freedom I desired, but she gave me something that has endured far beyond my high school years: a foundation of faith, perseverance, discipline, and inner strength.

Today, I believe those lessons have helped shape me into a stronger, wiser, and more resilient man than I might otherwise have become.

And for that, despite the challenges and sacrifices, I remain grateful to my mother.

What I once considered a burden during childhood, I now recognize as one of the greatest gifts my mother ever gave me.

Edward Derise: Memories By Tina Miller (ALA Unit 164)

My father, Edward Derise, was the kind of man whose life carried stories, even when he didn't feel like telling them. As a child, I didn't always realize I was listening to history—only that he had a past that seemed to stretch farther than the room we were in. Later, after he was gone, I discovered pieces of his history that I hadn't known to look for. While going through his papers, I found his American Legion membership card and learned that he had been a member for twelve years. He was also a member of the VFW and the Knights of Columbus. Although I grew up attending VFW events, I hadn't realized he belonged to these other organizations as well.



Those discoveries made me wonder what else I might have missed. About 20 years later, I came across a small notebook in a small zipper pouch with a cover that read: *Memorabilia*. It felt like finding something sealed—quiet, private, and meant to last. Inside, the pages held names and addresses, written carefully at the front—people he likely wanted to keep close, even when distance and duty made it hard. The back pages were different. They weren't letters or stories. They were a record—date after date, turning into a map of where he'd been and what he'd done.



The first entry I found was June 8, 1946: *Enlisted in Navy.* June 12, 1946: *Sworn in!* July 29: *Left boot camp to go on leave.* Those lines made the transition feel real—like he'd stepped through a door and into a new life defined by discipline, readiness, and whatever the service required.

He was born in Louisiana, and he enlisted in the Navy so he wouldn't be drafted into the Army. That detail mattered to me because it wasn't that he was avoiding the draft—it was an intentional choice. He'd decided early that he would control his own direction, at least as much as a young man could. Later, he told me about one test he had to take—one meant to prove he could swim. It wasn't dramatic, but it was specific, and it stayed with me. In the Navy, survival isn't theory. You learn quickly, or you learn the hard way.

The notebook moved forward with him. August 9: *Came off boot leave.* August 12: *Left R.T.U. to go to Destroyer Base in San Diego.* September 21: *Left San Diego to catch the U.S.S. Iowa in Washington.* September 24: *Reported aboard U.S.S. Iowa for duty.* From there, the months turned into a sequence of ports and underway time—Seattle to Long Beach, then on to the next assignment.

By November 27, 1946, he transferred from *U.S.S. Iowa* to *U.S.S. Columbus* for *China Duty*. That phrase—*China Duty*—didn't sound like adventure. It sounded like responsibility. "Duty" meant there was work that had to be done, and men didn't get to choose the shape of the world—they just stepped into what needed doing.

In early 1947, the entries carried him across the Pacific and into China repeatedly: underway to Pearl Harbor, underway to Saipan, then onward for Shanghai. February 7: *anchor in Whangpoo River.* February 8: *went upriver to Shanghai.* February 10: *first liberty*

in Shanghai. I like that line. It reminds me that even in service, young men still wanted ordinary things—time away from the ship, the chance to see land, the brief relief of being more than a sailor.

April 21, 1947: *left Shanghai for Tsingtao.* May 20: *left Tsingtao for Japan.* June 1: *left Japan for N.S.H. Mere Island.* June 12: *arrived at Mere Island California for 30-day yard period.* July 12: *left Mere Navy yard underway for Long Beach.* After that came maneuvers, and then more yard time—San Pedro, Bremerton, overhaul, ammo unloading in Bangor—each entry another reminder that behind the headlines of war, there was always maintenance, repair, and the steady rhythm of keeping ships ready.



Then, on February 27, 1948: *transferred to U.S.S. Iowa (BB61).* And the notebook's two-years' worth of pages ends there.

I know he served in WWII and was later recalled for Korea. And near the end of Korea, I believe he was the captain's chauffeur. And that speaks to the kind of man he was—trusted, dependable, and steady enough to be close to command without needing the spotlight. A job like that wasn't given to someone who is careless. It was given to someone reliable.

When the uniform came off for good, his life didn't slow down. Jobs were short in Louisiana, and in 1959 he and a friend went to Houston to find work. That kind of move takes more than transportation—it takes nerve, determination, and faith that things can improve. After several jobs, he found a place with St. Joe Paper Company in Houston in the early 60s. He stayed with St. Joe Paper Co. until he retired in 1992, after my mom died.

Across all our years—he taught my three siblings and me about faith, God and serving others. He built a home where family time mattered. He showed us what hard work looked like when it was quiet and when no one was watching. He showed us what reliability meant in everyday choices. He showed us loyalty, not as a slogan, but as a habit. I carried that with me all my life.

He died in 2005. When it came time for his final farewell, he was laid to rest in the Houston National Cemetery with my mom, where I have two uncles (who were also served in WWII) and my husband's parents—my husband's dad was also a veteran. Walking through that place, it felt like the end of one journey and the continuation of another: service becoming community, and community becoming memory.

The notebook gave me a timeline. But what it truly gave me was a feeling—how a young man who enlisted to avoid being drafted became a father whose steady strength never stopped. Edward Derise enlisted in 1946, proved he could swim, traveled through ports and duties, returned, was recalled again, and then built a life on reliability and family. His story is only two years in those pages, but the person behind those dates lived much longer than ink.



Check presentation to Post 164 from the Shriners

October Schedule

21 Oct, Wed

6pm ALA Unit 164 Social & Training

Downstairs Room

6:30pm Group Counseling and Bible Study

Upstairs Meeting Room

7pm ALA Unit 164 Membership Meeting

Downstairs room

22 Oct, Thu

4pm Post Office Hours

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

23 Oct, Fri

7pm American Legion Riders Chapter 164 Katy - Meeting

24 Oct, Sat

8am CAP CyberPatriot Competition

Upstairs Meeting Room

8:30am JSSP Class

Downstairs Meeting room and Range in Bay area

1pm Nafud Temple #80 Meeting

Upstairs room

25 Oct, Sun

2pm Poppy Party

Upstairs Meeting Room

5pm National Charity League

Downstairs Meeting Room

26 Oct, Mon

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

6pm Post 164 Board of Trustees Meeting

American Legion Post 164, Katy TX, American Legion

27 Oct, Tue

10am Post Office Hours

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

28 Oct, Wed

6:30pm Group Counseling and Bible Study

Upstairs Meeting Room

29 Oct, Thu

4pm Post Office Hours

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

7pm Civil Air Patrol

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

30 Oct, Fri

11am Brandi Garcia - Memorial for Aunt

Upstairs Meeting Room

31 Oct, Sat

11am Trunk or Treat

Downstairs Room and the Bay

November Schedule

2 Nov, Mon

1pm Election set-up

Downstairs

7pm Unit 164 Executive Committee Meeting

Upstairs Meeting Room

3 Nov, Tue

5:30am Polling Place - Election Day

10am Post Office Hours

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

7pm Post 164 Executive Committee Meeting

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

4 Nov, Wed

6:30pm Group Counseling and Bible Study

Upstairs Meeting Room

5 Nov, Thu

1pm VA Stakeholder Meeting

Downstairs room

4pm Post Office Hours

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

7pm Civil Air Patrol

Upstairs meeting room

7pm Sons of the American Legion Squadron 164 Meeting

7 Nov, 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

8 Nov, Sun

10am Poppy Day

Various Locations

9 Nov, Mon

10am Buddy Checks

Downstairs Meeting Room

7pm Marine Corp League

10 Nov, Tue

AL Post 164 Newsletter Deadline

10am Post Office Hours

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

7pm DAV Meeting

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

11 Nov, Wed

6:30pm Group Counseling and Bible Study

Upstairs Meeting Room

12 Nov, Thu

4pm Civil Air Patrol - CyberPatriot

Upstairs Meeting room

4pm Post Office Hours

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

7pm Civil Air Patrol Meeting

Downstairs room

November Schedule Continued

13 Nov, Fri

7pm JSSP Meeting

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

14 Nov, Sat

8am CAP CyberPatriot Competition

Downstairs Meeting Room

6pm Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Alumni

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

15 Nov, Sun

11:30am ALR Chapter 164 Katy Rider Skills Practice

6301 S Stadium Ln, Katy, TX 77494

17 Nov, Tue

10am Post Office Hours

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

6pm Post Social Hour

Downstairs room

6:30pm Post Training

Downstairs room

7pm Post 164 Membership Meeting

Downstairs room

18 Nov, Wed

6pm ALA Unit 164 Social & Training

Downstairs Room

6:30pm Group Counseling and Bible Study

Upstairs Meeting Room

7pm ALA Unit 164 Membership Meeting

Downstairs room

19 Nov, Thu

4pm Post Office Hours

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

6pm National Charity League

Downstairs Meeting Room

21 Nov, Sat

9am Fraternal Order of Eastern Star

Upstairs Meeting room

10am Pies for Hope Pickup

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

1pm Nafud Temple #80 Meeting

Upstairs Meeting Room

6pm Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Alumni

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

22 Nov, Sun

2pm Oratorical Contest

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

23 Nov, Mon

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

6pm Post 164 Board of Trustees Meeting

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

24 Nov, Tue

10am Post Office Hours

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

November Schedule Continued

25 Nov, Wed

6:30pm Group Counseling and Bible Study

Upstairs Meeting Room

26 Nov, Thu

4pm Post Office Hours

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

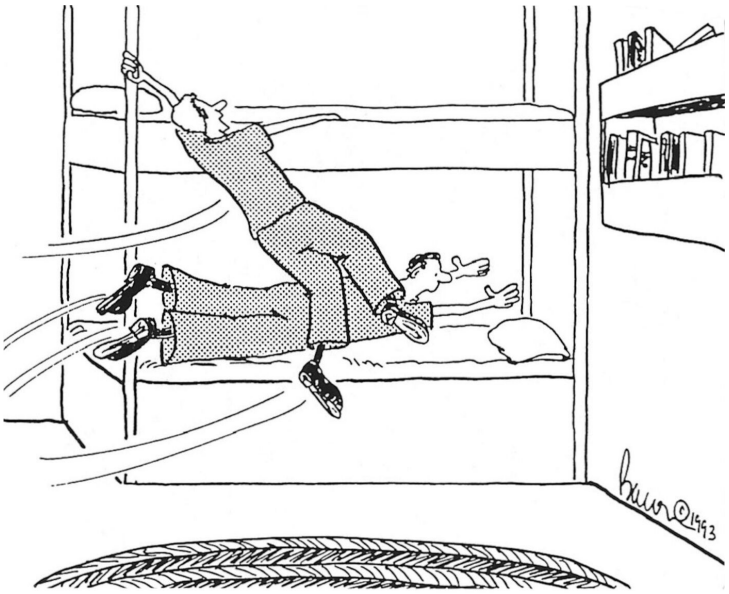
27 Nov, Fri

7pm American Legion Riders Chapter 164 Katy - Meeting

28 Nov, Sat

1pm Nafud Temple #80 Meeting

Upstairs room



Well-trained after countless drills, the supply officers quickly assume their battle stations.



When Master Chiefs retire