



Love Field Gazette

A bi-monthly publication for the members of American Legion Love Field Post 453

January-February 2015

Legion

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2nd Vice Francis "Stoney" Stone

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Service Officer Loyd Pearson

Finance Officer Nanette White

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Judge Adv. Sam Underwood

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S.A.L.

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Legion Riders

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Asst. Director Joe Mac

Secretary Robin McCarroll

Treasurer Brenda DeLeon

Sgt. at Arms Jimmy Duke

Road Captain Hermanator

Advisor Bob Cobey

From the Commander



Thanksgiving First Responders 24 Hour Dinner went very well. All the volunteers and donations were greatly appreciated. Next year, we hope to have more visitors and expect it to be a smoother operation.

Of course this was our first time for the 24 hour meal, so next year should be as good, or even better.

Wow, family members, the New Year is upon us! We have a bright future thanks to all our bills being paid (on time) and meeting all our commitments to the community and our veterans.

Please get your 2015 memberships paid unless you want any ugly looks from me (I don't look that great to begin with, beware).

My special thanks to our Auxiliary, the SAL, Riders and Legionnaires for a great year, you have made my job so much, hmmm, easier and enjoyable! LOL and sincerely, thank you!

Cheers!

Charlie Peoples

453's Mario Gutierrez is honored

Legionnaire Mario Gutierrez is the recipient of the Congressional Veteran Commendation Award, presented to him by U.S. Congressman Marc Veasey in a ceremony in November. Mario was one of the five veterans in



Rep. Veasey presents Mario a Congressional Commendation.

the 33rd Congressional District to be recognized for his active involvement in the community. This is quite an honor for Mario as the 33rd District covers parts of Dallas, Irving, Grand Prairie, all of Cockrell Hill, as well as areas in Tarrant County, total population of about 725,000! At Post 453, Mario is well known for his ongoing work with veterans groups, City of Dallas citizens boards and cultural organizations, and St. Monica's Catholic Church. Congratulations, Mario!



Rose Baca/The Dallas Morning News

Serving those who protect

American Legion member Chris Long waits on Dallas police Officer Luc Francois. Love Field Post 453 invited first responders to stop in for a meal during its 24-hour Thanksgiving dinner.

The Dallas Morning News and Channel 5 both covered our 24 Hour 1st Responders Thanksgiving.

From the 2nd Vice

I want to thank all who helped with bringing food, cooking, serving and clean up for the First Responders Thanksgiving. We got TV and newspaper coverage for the Post. Maybe next year we will have a bigger turn out.

Francis "Stoney" Stone

From the Legion Riders

Now that we're through the busy holiday season, many of us are drafting our list of New Year's resolutions. Here's hoping your list includes being more active in Legion Riders activities, including attendance at our monthly meetings, as well as participating in your respective Legion, Auxiliary, or Sons functions. Our success in supporting our active military, our veterans, and our local community is infectious and serves as a magnet in attracting new members. Our membership continues to grow as our reputation for doing great things circulates through District 5. Let's all work to do more in 2015.

A big thank you to those ALR members who assisted with the Post's 24 hour First Responders Thanksgiving Day celebration. While we had hoped for a better turnout, those first responders that did visit were surprised at the variety of food available and were appreciative of our efforts. Let's work to make next year's First Responder Thanksgiving an

(Continued on page 2)



2015 Dues

Legion - \$35
SAL - \$25 (dual \$10)
Riders - \$12
Auxiliary - \$30 (new member \$32)

SAL: Flag Disposal Ceremony



On Dec. 7, the Sons of the American Legion Squadron 453 conducted a Flag Burning Ceremony to dispose of unserviceable flags.

Michael Paul Melgoza organized and was Commander of the solemn and reverent ritual. Others who fulfilled roles were **Bill Freauff** as 1st Vice Commander, **Bobby Vandembush** as 2nd Vice Commander, **Bob Elkins** as Chaplain and **Dennis Brisbon** as Sergeant-at-Arms. **Joe Mac** and the **Hermanator** were members of the Color Guard. This act of Americanism within the American Legion dates back to 1923. For more information, visit the National website at www.legion.org.



From the Auxiliary President



The Auxiliary held a special election on Nov. 12 and elected three new officers. Congratulations to our new Vice President, **Norma Cavazos**; Secretary, **Barby Black**; and Historian, **PT Moore**. With your help, the new board is committed to making 2015 a successful year.

SHOUT OUTS: Thank you to those who pitched in and helped with the Legion's 24 Hour

Thanksgiving Dinner for the First Responders.

In the Spirit of Giving, **Darlene Mayo**, with help from **Freddie** and **Dee Cotten**, picked up the toys for the **TOYS FOR TOTS** last week. We would like to also thank **Del Martin** for allowing us to use his storage facility to store the toys until they were ready to be sorted and made available for the families.

UPCOMING: The New Year will start with our Girl Scout Cookie fundraiser on Jan. 17 and 18, and our first cook night of the

year on Jan. 23.

We are doing a lot of good work here at Unit 453. If you have not visited in a while, please add us to your New Year's To-Do List.

I would like to say how much I appreciate all of your help and support of this Unit and want to wish each of you a Healthy and Happy 2015.



Jan Velasco
Unit 453 President

From the Riders

Continued from Page 1

even bigger success.

Our 2nd Annual Homeless Veterans Fun Run was a big success with cash raised and personal care item donations exceeding our previous year's total. At the finale of the Homeless Veterans Services of Dallas (HVSD) stand-down on Nov. 15, it was my pleasure to represent Post 453 Legion Riders in presenting Director Ken Watterson with checks totaling \$1,400. To date, the Legion Riders of Post 453 have provided the HVSD with cash and personal care items with a value in excess of \$325,000. A special thanks to **Otis** and **Diane Robbins** for their tireless efforts in soliciting a number of major donations.

Post 453 was well represented at this year's Veterans Day Parade in Downtown Dallas. Thanks to **Nanette White's** prompt action, we benefited from a position near the front of the parade. Those of you that participated in previous parades will remember chilling in the staging area for hours as we

were positioned near the parade's end. I want to thank **North Texas Trailers of Lewisville** for deeply discounting their rental fee. I also want to thank **Prayan** and **Robin** for donating funds to cover rental fees.

The raffle of the wooden motorcycle was held on Nov 15 and raised about \$350. Our own **JD** was the happy winner and is considering joining the Legion Riders now that he's a proud owner of a motorcycle, albeit a small wooden simulacrum of the real thing.

I'm honored to announce that I have been appointed Adjutant of Post 453 by our Post Commander **Charlie Peoples**. I appreciate the confidence of Commander Charlie in appointing me to this important position. I will continue in my role as Director of the Legion Riders for as long as the membership graces me with the opportunity to serve them.

On Jan. 10, we will host a **Meet and Greet** for all District 5



Lining up for the Veterans Day Parade.

American Legion Rider groups. It's a great opportunity to meet ALR members from other posts. We'll provide the food, hamburgers and fries, and comp the first beverage for all ALR members attending. Let's show our pride in the ALR by attending this fun event. No ride is scheduled - just a day of fun and comradeship.

We are planning another ALR weekend at Lake Texoma for April 17-19, 2015. Please let Brenda know if you plan to attend. Details will be posted to our Facebook page as they develop.

"Think like a man of action, act like a man of thought." - Henri Bergson

Bobby Vandembush, Director
American Legion Riders
Love Field Post 453

January 2015

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|-------------------------------------|--|---|--|--|
| |  | Do you have a 2015 Membership card? | New Year's Eve Fun in the Canteen | 1 New Year's Day Party! (Monkey Club) | 2 Karaoke Legion Dinner 6-8 pm | 3 Karaoke |
| 4 Legion B'fast 10 am-noon Riders Meeting 1 pm | 5 | 6 Legion Meeting 7 pm | 7 | 8 SAL Meeting 7 p.m. | 9 Karaoke Riders Dinner 6-8 pm | 10 Riders Meet & Greet 5th District Coffee Tour Karaoke |
| 11 Riders Breakfast 10-noon | 12 | 13 | 14 Aux. Meeting 7 p.m. | 15 | 16 Karaoke SAL Dinner 6-8 pm | 17 Karaoke Girl Scout Cookie Fundraiser Weekend (details to come) |
| 18 SAL Breakfast 10-noon | 19 MLK Day | 20 Legion Exec. Board 7 pm | 21 | 22 | 23 Karaoke Aux Dinner 6-8 pm | 24 Karaoke |
| 25 Auxiliary Breakfast 10-noon | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 Karaoke Legion Dinner 6-8 pm | 31 Karaoke |

February Parties:

2/1 - Super Bowl Sunday

2/13 - Mardi Gras

2/14 - Valentine's Day

February 2015

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--------|----------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| 1 Super Bowl Sunday Legion B'fast Riders Meet 1 pm | 2 | 3 Legion Meeting 7 pm | 4 | 5 | 6 Karaoke Riders Dinner 6-8 pm | 7 Karaoke 5th District Prayer Breakfast 9 am (453) |
| 8 Riders Breakfast 10-noon | 9 | 10 | 11 Aux. Meeting 7 pm | 12 SAL Meeting 7 pm | 13 Karaoke Mardi Gras Party! | 14 Karaoke Valentine's Day |
| 15 SAL Breakfast 10-noon | 16 | 17 Legion Exec. Board 7 pm | 18 | 19 | 20 Karaoke Aux. Dinner 6-8 pm | 21 Karaoke |
| 22 Aux Breakfast 10-noon | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 Karaoke Legion Dinner 6-8 pm | 28 Karaoke |

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- 2755 Bachman Dr.
Dallas TX 75220
- phone: 214-358-2934
- www.AL453.org
- email: AL453@sbcglobal.net
- fax: 214-358-0558

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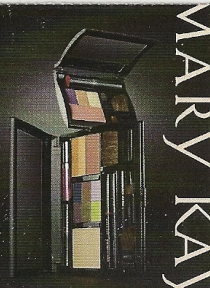
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The American Legion
Love Field Post 453
2755 Bachman Dr.
Dallas TX 75220
214-358-2934