

Veterans of Foreign Wars

Post - Ladies Auxiliary - Motorcycle Group Unit 1

# VFW POST 12024

The Woodlands Texas



**C**HAPLAIN OF  
THE YEAR

## VFW POST 12024

Volume 1 Issue 2

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### Published by:

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# BEST WISHES

How exciting that VFW Post 12024 in the Woodlands is starting this informative VFW Magazine and kind enough to allow me as Department President to contribute a few words. First off, best wishes for a most successful publication and I'm sure it will be a great asset to prospective members.

When the Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars was established September 14, 1914 from that time until the present moment we have assisted the Veterans of Foreign Wars in all their projects with our thoughts always on our Veterans and the sacrifices they've made for us and our great country. The ladies of Texas were so impressed with this organization that on May 3, 1927 the charter for the Department of Texas Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars was instituted and we've been working on all VFW and Ladies Auxiliary programs since that time.

The VFW has wonderful programs Voice of Democracy/Patriot's Pen, just to mention a couple and the Ladies Auxiliary has a Junior Girls and Nurses Scholarship plus VFW and Ladies Auxiliary work on Veterans and Family Support projects each day. Our Veterans have been there for us and we will always be there for them.

Thank you VFW 12024 for allowing me these few sentences to express my admiration for our outstanding organizations and know that we will always do what is needed for the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Sharon Helton  
Department President 2011-2012



Department President Sharon Helton

### 2012 VFW POST 12024 OFFICERS

**Commander** - Carl Smith  
**Sr. Vice-Commander** - Strick Strickland  
**Jr. Vice-Commander** - James Taylor  
**Quartermaster** - Jim Bolin  
**Adjutant** - Derrel "Hawk" Sims  
**Judge Advocate** - Derrel "Hawk" Sims  
**Surgeon** - Harry Machin  
**Chaplain** - Ken Wells  
**Service Officer** - Norm Brawner  
**1 Year Trustee** - Everett Ison  
**2 Year Trustee** - Cam Cope  
**3 Year Trustee** - Norm Brawner  
**Officer-of-the-Day** - Harry Machin

### 2012 LADIES AUXILIARY 12024 OFFICERS

**President** - Paula Ison  
**Sr. Vice-President** - Judy Brawner  
**Jr. Vice-President** - Joyce Fuller  
**Treasurer** - Linda Terbl  
**Secretary** - Judy Brawner  
**Conductress** - Crystal Hipsher  
**Chaplain** - Helen Ward  
**Guard** - Susan Huff  
**1 Year Trustee** - Emily Catechis  
**2 Year Trustee** - Sandy Jones  
**3 Year Trustee** - Gene Wilson-Watz

# LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

I was asked to write about the magazine and what the purpose of it is by Post Commander, Carl Smith. I am the current Sr. Vice Commander for The Woodlands VFW Post 12024 and the Chairman (aka Editor) of our Post Magazine. I'm very proud of my Post and the Auxiliary. Many within our organization do a lot of work in helping veterans. However many remain behind the scenes, as it's difficult in this day and age to get the proper public recognition for the work that they do. Many spend their own dollars to support the Post and the activities for the Post, all with one goal in mind--the Veterans that fought in wars giving the ultimate sacrifice.

Although we do not do the work for recognition individually, it's important to show the community the type of work that we are doing. Our magazine is placed at the VA Clinics in the area, the VA Hospital, and other areas of The Woodlands that many Veterans may visit. We show that eligible Veterans and Auxiliary members in the area from the time of World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Gulf War, Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom, and the Ladies Auxiliary are all working side by side to help.

The purpose of The Woodlands VFW Post 12024 Magazine is to promote the work that we do in our community. In the current VFW year, the Post has done over sixty community activities, from having a Veterans Appreciation Luncheon to providing monetary donations to veterans that are in need, along with celebrating Veterans Day and respecting our fallen soldiers on Memorial Day.

We support the schools, Police Departments, Fire Departments, and other civic leading departments that at one point in time have helped us--the Veterans. We wave the American Flag proudly and say The Pledge of Allegiance, as it is the reason that most of us joined the military in our youth--to protect and ensure that the Flag will always remain flying over our Capital, at our businesses, and at our homes.

Our Magazine was also created to promote new membership in the VFW, preferably our Post in

The Woodlands, but if it helps an eligible veteran to go to their local VFW or Auxiliary to join, then our goal has been met. We are in a time when we need every eligible veteran to join the VFW. With the Nations Congress and Senate Leaders trying to cut the benefits that we earned by defending our Country and helping to free those that have been enslaved in other nations, we do not deserve to lose all that our brothers and sisters fought for before us. Each new member in the VFW raises our numbers and makes our voices louder by the VFW representatives that are elected by members of the VFW. That means as a member, you have a voice to save the benefits and make a difference.

Our Post magazine also promotes the newest area of the VFW, the Motorcycle Group in Texas. It was the first in the State and the second nationally. We are not only members in the VFW, but we have VFW and Auxiliary Members that have started new traditions within the VFW. We are very proud of our Motorcycle Unit and the work that they continue within our Post and within the Department of Texas.

The purpose is plain and clear to those of us that have decided to make a difference to help Veterans by joining the VFW to honor the dead by helping the living and to make sure that what we have earned by serving doesn't disappear for those that may join tomorrow. We need your help to make sure these goals happen. Come join us and help us! My motto for being the Editor is: "If you attend and help, you WILL be in".

Sr. Vice Commander, W.L. "Strick" Strickland  
VFW Post 12024, The Woodlands



## VFW National Home

The VFW National Home for Children serves as a living memorial to America's veterans by helping our nation's veteran and military families.

Since its founding in 1925, the VFW National Home for Children has grown from an old frame farm house to a sprawling campus with playgrounds, park areas, and multiple buildings, including single-family homes, a community center and gymnasium, child care center, guest lodge, chapel and administrative offices.

The National Home's services have also evolved to meet the changing needs of America's military and veterans' families. Through our Helpline and our on-campus programs, we are able to help families and children through times of crisis, both here on our beautiful campus and in their own communities nationwide.

[Helpline 800-313-4200](tel:800-313-4200)

[Website](http://www.vfwnationalhome.org)

[www.vfwnationalhome.org](http://www.vfwnationalhome.org)

## PLEASE DONATE

Your gift today gives love, care and support to the children and families of America's war heroes.

**YOU can make a difference!**

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Chaplain Helen Ward of The Woodlands VFW Post 12024 Ladies Auxiliary appears on the cover of this issue.



Robert and Jennifer Simard appear on the back cover. Both members of Motorcycle Group Unit 1.



What's Keeping you from joining?

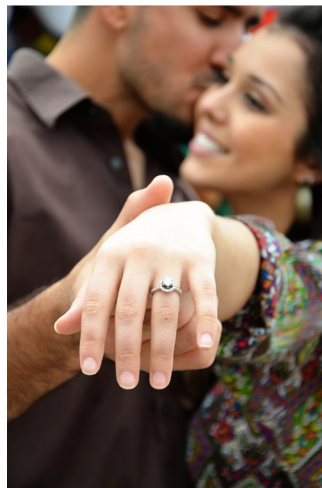


## VFW MOTORCYCLE GROUP UNIT 1



Members of The VFW, the Ladies Auxiliary, the Mens Auxiliary are eligible to join the Motorcycle Group. Instead of receiving this Post Card seeing the activities from members of the post, you could be out there on the road riding and participating to help Veterans and their families.

Find us on Facebook or on the internet [www.vfwmgtx1.org](http://www.vfwmgtx1.org)



**jennifersimard**  
PHOTOGRAPHY

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[www.jennifersimardphotography.com](http://www.jennifersimardphotography.com)



weddings | engagements | families | newborns | maternity



# VFW POST 12024

Volume 1 Issue 2

THE WOODLANDS, TEXAS

## NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS



First Time at a District meeting

## 2012 Texas VFW District 17 Convention

The annual Texas VFW District 17 Convention was held at the Floyd E. Breedlove VFW Post 9182 in Katy Texas on April 28th, 2012. Members of The Woodlands VFW Post 12024 and the Ladies Auxiliary attended the convention and participated in Loyalty Day and the ensuing elections for VFW District 17 and the Ladies Auxiliary.

A few members of our Post and Auxiliary attended their first District 17 meeting---Chaplain Ken Wells, Crystal Hipsher, and James Taylor.

Ladies Auxiliary member Judy Brawner became the Sr. Vice President for the upcoming year; Helen Ward became the Chaplain; Linda Terbl became the Guard; and Paula Ison became the 2nd year trustee. There are four district meetings a year. It is a great way to meet other veterans, Auxiliary members, and Motorcycle Group members at other VFW Posts that are also part of District 17.

Norm Brawner will retain the role as the Service Officer, and Strick Strickland will be on the OIF/OEF Membership Committee, along with retaining the duties as webmaster and working on the membership team to help all Posts in the District with recruiting younger veterans.

### WHY JOIN THE VFW

Today, it's even more important for the VFW to have a lot of members. With members of Congress cutting the benefits that the Veteran earned, we need to show them that our voice counts and to leave our benefits alone..

### WHAT CAN I DO?

By joining the VFW, you will be helping all Veterans. Every member counts in the VFW as the total membership represents our Voice at the Capital. The more members that we have, the stronger we are as an entity. What can you do to help? Join us to help our over all membership total to help us make sure that our benefits don't disappear. VFW POST 12024 is very active in helping veterans, but we need more people to help us. Come join us...

**THE WOODLANDS VFW POST 12024**



Eight VFW Post 12024 members attended the District 17 meeting at VFW Post 9182 in Katy.



Five Ladies Auxiliary members of VFW Post 12024 attended the District 17 meeting with a strong showing at the District 17 Level.



Helen Ward and Linda Terbl from The Woodlands Ladies Auxiliary take the oath to become officers at the District 17 level. Not shown is Judy Brawner who became the District 17 Sr. Vice President. Also shown taking oath is District 17 Ladies Auxiliary President Jeanenne Lumpkin and members from other Post in the District.



VFW Post 12024 Commander and District 17 Sr. Vice Commander Peyton Lumpkin prepare for the District convention. Lumpkin ran unopposed to become the new District 17 Commander 2012/13.



James Taylor, Carl Smith, Ken Wells, Dale Ward, Everett Ison, Strick Strickland, and not pictures Lee Derby and Norm Brawner represent the post at the District 17 Convention.



## FLOYD E BREEDLOVE VFW POST 9182 MILITARY MUSEUM

Members of The Woodlands VFW Post 12024 had the opportunity to explore the Military Museum at the Floyd E. Breedlove VFW Post 9182 in Katy on April 28th, 2012.

The District 17 Convention was held at the VFW Post in Katy. Between sessions, VFW Post 12024 Commander Carl Smith, Jr., Vice Commander Strick Strickland, and Post member James Taylor took the time to explore the museum.

The Museum displays the history of Wars dating back to the beginning of America. Artifacts such as dog tags from World War I were on display. VFW Post 9182 Sr. Vice Commander Dave Brasell took the time to explain that after the Civil War, and so many soldiers not being able to be identified and so many graves from that war having 'Unknown' Soldier on headstones and registries, the U.S. Government started using dog tags as standard military issue.

After viewing the Vietnam section of the museum, VFW Post 12024 Commander Carl Smith said, "When I looked inside the Museum, I started to remember the guys I was stationed with, while in Vietnam. It helped me identify with the young soldiers overseas in Afghanistan today going through some of the same hardships and having some of the same conversations about going home." He also stated, "I mostly had good thoughts about the great job the Katy VFW Post members had done in remembering all Veterans, and thank them for such an amazing display of all the wars and the respect for all Veterans that served."



The home of the Museum, Floyd E. Breedlove Post 9182 in Katy Texas



War on Terror area covering Afghanistan, Iraqi Freedom and Desert Storm





Vietnam



Korea



World War II



The First World War



Post Member James Taylor Served in Afghanistan and Iraq



VFW POST 9182 Sr. Vice Commander Dave Brasell showing the uniform that he wore in Vietnam.



The Early Wars



Medal of Honor Medals

Please visit the museum



## HISTORY OF THE BUDDY POPPY

In the World War I battlefields of Belgium, poppies grew wild amid the ravaged landscape. How could such a pretty little flower grow wild, while surrounded by death and destruction? The overturned soils of battle enabled the poppy seeds to be covered, thus allowing them to grow and to forever serve as a reminder of the bloodshed during that and future wars.

The poppy movement was inspired by the poem, "In Flanders Fields", written by Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae of the Canadian forces in 1915, before the United States entered World War I. Selling replicas of the original Flanders' poppies originated in some of the allied countries immediately after the Armistice.

Madam Guerin, who was recognized as "the Poppy Lady from France", sought and received the cooperation of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, early in 1922, after the Franco-American Children's League was dissolved. The VFW conducted a poppy sale prior to Memorial Day, 1922, using only poppies that were made in France. In the 1923 poppy sale, due to the difficulty and delay in getting poppies from France, the VFW made use of a surplus of French poppies that were on hand, and the balance was provided by a firm in New York City manufacturing artificial flowers.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States was the first Veterans' organization to promote a nationally organized campaign for the annual distribution of poppies assembled by American disabled and needy

veterans. In 1924, the VFW patented the name "Buddy Poppy" for their version of the artificial flower. Buddy Poppy proceeds represent no profit to any VFW unit. All the money contributed by the public for Buddy Poppies is used in the cause for veterans' welfare, or for the well being of their needy dependents, or for the orphans of veterans.

Following the 1924 sale, the VFW believed it would stimulate local sales, if the poppies they used were assembled by disabled veterans in hospitals within their own jurisdiction. The 1924 encampment of the VFW at Atlantic City granted this privilege, under the provision that all poppies would be produced according to specifications set forth by the National Buddy Poppy Committee, and that all poppies would be assembled by disabled veterans in government hospitals and by needy veterans in workshops supervised by the VFW.

Around the same year, the American Legion Auxiliary adopted the poppy as the organization's memorial flower and pledged its use to benefit our servicemen and their families. Today, the poppy continues to provide a financial and therapeutic benefit to those hospitalized and disabled veterans who construct them, as well as benefiting thousands of other veterans and their families.

Each nine-piece poppy is made by veterans for veterans in Auxiliary-sponsored Poppy Shops, that supplement physical and psychological therapy needed by hospitalized and disabled veterans. The Auxiliary provides the materials and the volunteers. The veteran



## In Flanders Fields

In Flanders fields the poppies blow  
Between the crosses, row on row,  
That mark our place; and in the sky  
The larks, still bravely singing, fly

Scarce heard amid the guns below.  
We are the Dead. Short days ago  
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,  
Loved and were loved, and now we lie  
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:  
To you from failing hands we throw  
The torch; be yours to hold it high.  
If ye break faith with us who die  
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow  
In Flanders fields.

Lieutenant Colonel  
John McCrae  
December 9th, 1915





## Join VFW SHE Serves

Women are the fastest growing population of veterans and the fastest growing segment of the VFW's membership base.

You've served your country in time of conflict and in hostile territory.

You've sacrificed thousands of miles from home. Therefore, you're entitled to join the elite group of veterans belonging to the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

As a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, you'll find friends who understand and:

**CAMARADERIE** that rivals your military experience.

**ADVOCACY** from the loudest veteran's voice on Capitol Hill.

**VA ENTITLEMENTS** from the best veterans service officer network in the nation.

**CONNECTIONS** that offer real value.

**SUPPORT** when you need it most.

**DISTINCTION** for all you've done.

**AND BEST OF ALL** – access to the exclusive She Serves Community.

It's your link to other female veterans and your chance to swap stories and build lasting friendships with women who are dealing with the same situations you're facing.

Website: <http://joinsheerves.org>

makes the poppy and is paid a small amount for each painstakingly made flower. For some, it is their only income.

No matter what the cost of maintaining and supplying the Poppy Shops, the memorial poppy is never sold, but given in exchange for a contribution.

Each year around Memorial Day, the Veterans of Foreign Wars members and the Ladies Auxiliary members volunteer to distribute millions of bright red poppies, in exchange for contributions to assist disabled and hospitalized veterans. The program provides multiple benefits to the veterans and to the community. The hospitalized veterans who make the flowers are able to earn a small wage, which helps to supplement their incomes and make them feel more self-sufficient. The physical and mental activity provides many therapeutic benefits as well. Donations are used exclusively to assist and support veterans and their families. The poppy also reminds the community of the past sacrifices and continuing needs of our veterans. The poppy has become a nationally known and recognized symbol of sacrifice and is worn to honor the men and women, who served and died for their country in all wars. Today, VFW Buddy Poppies are still assembled by disabled and needy veterans in VA Hospitals.

## Memorial Day Poppies

VFW Post 12024 and the Ladies Auxiliary held a Buddy Poppy drive in The Woodlands, on May 19th, at Cochran's Crossing from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., in front of the local Kroger grocery store.

The Post and Auxiliary provided pamphlets and brochures to those that stopped by the two tables setup for the Buddy Poppy event.

Nine Post members and 10 Ladies Auxiliary members talked to community members, that stopped to 'Thank A Veteran' for their service to this country. Derrel Sims and Gil de Leon attended and handed out poppies at their very first Buddy Poppy event ever.





YOU CAN HELP A LOT OF  
VETERANS BY TAKING A TRIP  
TO JOIN YOUR LOCAL VFW

THE LARGER THE MEMBERSHIP  
THE LOUDER OUR VOICE IS IN  
WASHINGTON D.C.

JOIN US FOR THE  
CAMARADERIE AND THE  
FELLOWSHIP THAT COMES  
WITH BEING PART OF THE  
NATION'S LARGEST GROUP  
OF COMBAT VETERANS.

WWI WWII KOREAN VIETNAM  
DESERT STORM IRAQI FREEDOM  
ENDURING FREEDOM  
WAR ON TERRORISM

The First Thursday of each month at the South  
County Community Center 2235 Lake Robbins  
Road in The Woodlands - Meetings Start at 7:00 pm

[www.vfw12024.org](http://www.vfw12024.org)  
[Commander@vfw12024.org](mailto:Commander@vfw12024.org)  
281-247-8054



# VFW POST 12024 Membership Application

Yes! I want to join the VFW as a member of The Woodlands, Texas - Post 12024

## PLEASE ENTER YOUR PERSONAL INFORMATION

NAME

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Last* *First* *M.I.*

ADDRESS

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Street* *City* *State* *Zip*

EMAIL

\_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

BIRTHDAY

\_\_\_\_\_ SOCIAL SECURITY # \_\_\_\_\_

MM/DD/YYYY

XXX-XX-XXXX

## HOME OF RECORD (ACTIVE DUTY ONLY)

ADDRESS

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Street* *City* *State* *Zip*

## SERVICE INFORMATION

Branch of Service:  Air Force  Army  Coast Guard  Marines  Navy

Eligibility

- WW II  Afghanistan  Combat Action Ribbon  SSBN
- (choose all that apply)*  Korean War  Iraq  Expeditionary Medal  Imminent
- Vietnam  Korean Service (7/1/49 to Now)  Occupation Medal  Danger / Hostile Pay
- Persian Gulf War  Kosovo  Other \_\_\_\_\_

Overseas

to

Service Location:

from: \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ Name of Campaign Ribbon or Medal: \_\_\_\_\_

mm/dd/yyyy

mm/dd/yyyy

## MEMBERSHIP TYPE

- Annual \$26.00  Life (12 Month Payment Plan)  Life Membership Fee Schedule
- (choose one)*  Life (one-time fee)  Life (24 Month Payment Plan)

Payment Plan Terms and Conditions: The VFW Life Membership installment plan allows any VFW member/applicant to purchase a Life Membership by making either 11 or 23 monthly installments. Initial payment of \$35 is required. The member will be issued a "Provisional Life" membership card and can elect, upon receipt of first monthly invoice, to pay via check, credit card or ACH Debit. The monthly fee (shown in the payment schedule) includes a \$1.75 monthly service fee. The applicable Life Membership fee is to be determined from the schedule using the applicant's age on Dec. 31 of the installment plan year in which this Agreement Form is submitted, regardless of actual date of birth. A permanent Life Membership card will be issued upon completion of this agreement. No refund of any portion of current year annual dues will be made.

Age	One Time Payment	12 Month Payment Plan	24 Month Payment Plan
Through Age 30	\$425.00	\$40.39	\$20.23
31-40	\$410.00	\$39.02	\$19.58
41-50	\$375.00	\$35.84	\$18.05
51-60	\$335.00	\$32.20	\$16.30
61-70	\$290.00	\$28.11	\$14.36
71-80	\$225.00	\$22.20	\$11.53
81 and over	\$170.00	\$17.20	\$ 9.14

## PAYMENT INFORMATION

- Check / Money Order  Mastercard  Visa  Discover  American Express

Card \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Card Holder \_\_\_\_\_ \*Amount enclosed or to be charged: \_\_\_\_\_

\*If using Life Membership Payment Plan, an initial payment of \$35.00 is required and credit card only for reoccurring Payment Plan.

## VERIFICATION & SIGNATURE

ATTESTATION OF ELIGIBILITY Yes! I attest by forwarding this application that I am a citizen of the United States of America and I have checked the membership eligibility requirements for the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and find that I am eligible for membership in the VFW and that I have never been discharged under other than honorable conditions or I am still serving honorably in the armed forces of the United States of America. I further give authority to the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States to verify my entitlement to membership. I will send in proof of eligibility (Copy of DD Form 214 required) with my payment, and understand my membership will not be processed without this document.

Signature of Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail Form, Payment & Proof to: ATTN: Quartermaster \* VFW Post 12024 \* P.O. Box 8341 \* The Woodlands, TX., 77387-8341



## HISTORY OF MEMORIAL DAY

Memorial Day, originally called Decoration Day, is a day of remembrance for those who have died in our nation's service. There are many stories as to its actual beginnings, with over two dozen cities and towns laying claim to being the birthplace of Memorial Day. There is also evidence that organized women's groups in the South were decorating graves, before the end of the Civil War, as mentioned in a hymn published in 1867, "Kneel Where Our Loves are Sleeping", by Nella L. Sweet. While Waterloo, New York, was officially declared the birthplace of Memorial Day by President Lyndon Johnson in May 1966, it's difficult to prove conclusively the origins of the day. It is more likely that it had many separate beginnings. Each of those towns, and every planned or spontaneous gathering of people to honor the war dead in the 1860's, tapped into the general human need to honor our dead. Each contributed honorably to the growing movement that culminated in General Logan giving his official proclamation in 1868. It is not important whose celebration was the first---what is important is that Memorial Day was established. Memorial Day is not about division. It is about reconciliation. It is about coming together to honor those who gave their all.

Memorial Day was officially proclaimed on 5 May 1868 by General John Logan, National Commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, in his General Order No. 11, and was first observed on 30 May 1868, when flowers were placed on the graves of Union and Confederate soldiers at Arlington National Cemetery. The first state to officially recognize the holiday was New York in 1873. By 1890 it was

recognized by all of the northern states. The South refused to acknowledge the day, honoring their dead on separate days, until after World War I, when the holiday changed from honoring just those who died fighting in the Civil War to honoring Americans who died fighting in any war. It is now celebrated in almost every State on the last Monday in May ---when Congress passed the National Holiday Act of 1971 (P.L. 90 - 363) to ensure a three day weekend for Federal holidays---though several southern states have an additional separate day for honoring the Confederate war dead: January 19 in Texas; April 26 in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, and Mississippi; May 10 in South Carolina; and June 3 (Jefferson Davis' birthday) in Louisiana and Tennessee.

## FLAG PLACEMENT

Members of The Woodlands VFW Post 12024 and Auxiliary were on hand to place flags at the Forest Lawn Cemetery on May 26th, 2012.

The Post and Auxiliary returned on Monday the 28th for the Memorial Day Ceremony and handed out Buddy Poppies to those in attendance. A BBQ lunch was provided by Forest Lawn immediately after the ceremony.

Congressman Kevin Brady was on hand along with The Montgomery County Fire Chiefs Association Honor Guard, Chaplin GK Norton, Jay Lyons & Dee Heerman, Dr. Don Stockton, American Legion Post 305, Blue Star Mothers, and Boy Scouts of America Troop 89. Gold Star Mothers were not in attendance, but were honored with a Wreath.

### What is Memorial Day?

Memorial Day is a sacred holiday to honor war veterans, on which all Americans should reflect on lives lost by their countrymen in wartime.

Personal moments to reflect on such loss are appropriate for all. Public displays of remembrance are appreciated by veterans especially, such as raising the U. S. flag to half staff until noon, or inviting veterans to speak about their experiences.

Memorial Day should leave each of us with a better appreciation for those who paid the ultimate sacrifice for our freedoms.

By honoring the nations war dead, we preserve their memory and thus their service and sacrifice.

The sacrifices that our veterans made while being away from their families to serve our country should be remembered, but on this one day of the year, those men and women that never had the chance to come home when they gave the ultimate sacrifice on a battle field in a foreign land are honored on the last Monday in May every year, known as Memorial Day.

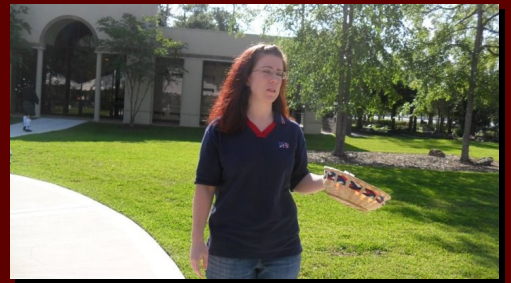
VFW Post 12024 and the Ladies Auxiliary 12024 remember and honor all veterans by serving the community by placing American Flags near the headstones of these Warriors final resting place.

May 28th, 2012





# MEMORIAL DAY FLAG PLACEMENT & CEREMONY



# WWII HISTORY DAYS

June 6, 1944 - D-DAY May 8, 1945 - VE DAY



During World War II, after several years of fighting the Germans in Africa and on the oceans and seas spanning the globe, the Allies were ready to take the fight directly onto the European Continent. After building up supplies, training men, and planning the invasion, the Allied troops finally landed on the French Coastline of Normandy on June 6th, 1944.

Ships and planes carried the Allies into France under heavy fire, as Nazi's tried to shoot down or sink the parachutes, gliders, and troop carriers, that were the vessels to bring 160,000 troops into the D-Day Invasion.

Those soldiers on the troop carriers were ferried in and landed on Utah Beach, Omaha Beach, Gold Beach, Juno Beach, and Sword Beach. The soldiers that were dropped in by parachute and gliders were to divert the attention of the Nazi's from the beaches. Over 13,000 aircraft and more than 5,000 ships were used to support the biggest battle the world had ever seen.

By day's end on June 6th, the Allies had gained a foothold in Normandy. The D-Day cost was high---more than 9,000 Allied soldiers were killed or wounded that day, but more than 100,000 soldiers began the march across Europe to defeat Germany and Italy.

Victory in Europe (VE Day) was on May 8th, 1945, the date when the World War II Allies formally accepted the unconditional surrender of the Armed Forces of Nazi Germany and the end of Adolph Hitler's Third Reich.

The formal surrender of the occupying German Forces in the Channel Islands was not until May 9th, 1945. Hitler committed suicide on April 30th, during the Battle of Berlin, and so the surrender of Germany was authorized by his replacement, President of Germany Karl Donitz. The administration headed up by Donitz was known as the Flensburg Government.

The act of military surrender was signed on May 7th in Reims, France, and was ratified on May 8th in Berlin, Germany.

## Special Recognition

**Margaret Brown** - U.S. Army, Frontline Nurse, Battle of the Bulge

**Joseph Ross** - U.S. Air Force

**Robert "Bob" Jackson** - In Remembrance, U.S. Army Aircorp, Flying Tigers, Dolittle Group

In honor and remembrance to all our World War II Comrades who have proudly served.

Judy Brawner and Harry Machin display a D-Day pamphlet. Derrel "Hawk" Sims displays a pamphlet on VE Day.



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The Monument will join those on the Capitol grounds honoring the Heroes of the Alamo, the Civil War, World War I, World War II, and the Korean War.

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The Texas Capitol Vietnam Veterans Monument is forever a place where visitors can honor the Texas heroes who, bound together, fought for and served their country with honor and courage during the Vietnam war.

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## VETERAN, STUDENT, VFW



One of the youngest members of The Woodlands VFW Post 12024 is Post member Robert Simard. He earned his eligibility into the VFW with two tours of Opera-

tion Iraqi Freedom. Robert joined the VFW, while he was still active duty in the Army and has remained active in the VFW Community, since his honorable discharge.

On March 4th, 1985, Robert was born in Nashua, New Hampshire. His family moved around and lived in Maine, before traveling the country with a carnival. His Dad owned carnival games and traveled to make a living. Eventually, his family settled down in Onalaska, Texas, where Robert attended a public high school in Livingston, Texas.

School came easy for Robert, as he had good enough grades to go straight to college. He graduated 23rd out of a class of 228 students.

As a student in Livingston, it was here that he met the woman that would one day become his wife. Jennifer and Robert started dating in high school and married May 24th, 2008, after Robert left the Army.

9/11 played into Robert's joining the Army right out of high school. He could have gone straight to college, but the patriotism of serving our country led him to join the Army in 2003, right after graduating. His MOS was 11B, an Infantryman, with almost a five year career and two deployments to the middle east in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Robert attained the rank of Sergeant (E-5), before being discharged in 2008.

Robert received two Purple Hearts on his assignments in Iraq. The first was received after being wounded in a rocket attack that targeted his base in East Baghdad.

The second Purple Heart was received, when he was wounded in a roadside bomb blast that targeted the HMMWV (HUMVEE) that he was in while on duty.



Robert received many awards while serving. He earned six Army Achievement medals, the Army Good Conduct Medal, as well as the campaign medals everyone else got for ser-

vice in the Army during war. He also earned the Combat Infantryman Badge, Expert Infantryman Badge, Parachutist Badge for completing Airborne School, and an Expert Badge with Rifle, Pistol and Grenade clasps.

After the Army, Robert started working for the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office as a Jail Medic, while going to school to earn a Bachelors Degree, in hopes of being accepted to medical school and becoming a Doctor. He will be graduating from Sam Houston State University in December with a Bachelor of Science in History.

He was recently inducted into Alpha Chi National College Honor Society, Texas Omicron Chapter for being in the top 10% of all Junior, Senior, and Graduate Students at Sam Houston.



Robert is the current Historian for Phi Alpha Theta History Honor Society, Sigma Phi Chapter at Sam Houston. He also made the Lone Star College Montgomery's President's List for achieving a 4.0 GPA in the Fall of 2009, Spring of 2010, and again in the Fall of 2010.

While stationed at Fort Carlson in Colorado Springs, Robert first joined the VFW, Post 101, after returning from his deployment. He wanted to be a part of an organization with members that had shared the same experiences he had



experienced, but also an organization that continued to serve the community and veterans. Joining his first Post was also how he became a member of a VFW motorcycle group, as that Post had a unit.



After his discharge from the Army, he returned to The Woodlands, Texas, where he found VFW Post 12024. He wanted to continue his service to the community. He didn't realize it at first, but was glad that he became a part of one of the most recognized

VFW Posts in the state of Texas for its community service. He previously served as Post Surgeon, and currently serves as the Sergeant of Arms for Motorcycle Group Unit 1, that is attached to The Woodlands VFW Post 12024.

When asked the question why he joined, and why he believes eligible veterans should join the VFW, he replied, "My take on the VFW is that it is an organization, whose members continue to serve our local community after service to our nation. I believe the younger, eligible veterans should join, because for me my service wasn't over, when I was discharged. I still wanted, and was able, to play a role in the community through service with the VFW. It means a lot to be able to give to those serving us here, whether it is donations to teachers, police, or firefighters, or scholarships to high school students through the Patriot's Pen. Also, it's a chance to give back to some Veterans, who may not be as well off as others, with sock drives for the VA hospital, or petitioning for better VA outpatient services. There is also the ability to honor those veterans, who gave the ultimate sacrifice and are no longer with us, through Wreaths Across America, Memorial Day Remembrance Services, and others. There are those still serving that benefit from our organization as well, whether it be in the form of care packages sent overseas, coupons sent to the families stationed abroad in Germany, Italy, Japan, etc., and help for those still recovering from wounds received in the ongoing conflicts today."

This young man excels in life, having served this country with distinction, earning decorations in the military, and studying hard as a student. He has earned outstanding grades and achievements in college, with his goal to become a doctor. He is a Soldier from Yesterday and a Future Community Leader.

Robert Simard continues to help in the community, being an Active member in the VFW at the Post and the Motorcycle Group in The Woodlands.

## FUTURE COMMUNITY LEADER



# History of the Texas VFW MG

The Beginning - part 2 - Judy Brawner



In the previous issue of VFW Post 12024's magazine, Volume 1 Issue 1 in 'The Ride', Department Commander John Fair wanted to do a ride across Texas on motorcycles to raise money for M.A.P. 'The Ride' was a success and raised a lot of money, but this also led to a new idea for starting up a new VFW Motorcycle organization in Texas. This article is a follow up as to how 'The Ride' went from being an idea of four motorcycle enthusiasts that were VFW members to being an official VFW Organization in Texas.

In January 2005, Department Commander John Fair, Department Sr. Vice Commander Duane Shriver, Department Jr. Vice Commander Russ Richards, and Area III Coordinator Norm Brawner, decided to start a Motorcycle organization in the VFW with hopes that it would carry on across the nation.

The four officers started turning their idea into a reality by beginning the process of creating the By-Laws to govern this new group, with an emphasis to protect the VFW from any liability for any occurrences that might take place or happen on a ride.

Norm Brawner was a member of the Marine Corps Motorcycle Club as a support member. He contacted them to obtain a copy of their By-Laws to help them have a base to start with. They took the Marine Corps Motorcycle Club By-Laws to use as a guideline for use within the VFW, but the group wanted to make sure the image of the Texas VFW Motorcycle Group would reflect a positive public image.

Fair, Shriver, Richards and Brawner respected

what was in the Marine Corp Motorcycle Club's By-Laws. It was what they were using to make sure all areas were covered in creating the By-Laws for this new venture into creating a new division in the VFW, but their views on how it should be setup in the VFW needed to be different---not in the model of the 1% clubs that were 100% Veterans and 99% Motorcycle enthusiasts.

This was a new venture for the VFW, and the business group members were concerned that the image of a group of Blue Jean, Tee Shirt, Leather Vest Wearing Motorcycle Club (M.C.) members would not reflect well on the VFW, so they decided they would call the organization a Motorcycle Group, instead of a Motorcycle Club. They also decided to use a two piece back patch setup, not the 3 piece set up as most 1%'s are. This would satisfy all parties involved.

They also asked for a set of the By-Laws from the VFW Motorcycle Club in California, the Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association in Colorado, and a copy from the American Legion Riders in Texas. They began to form a set of By-Laws to work for this proposed Texas VFW Motorcycle Group. This group now had a diverse set of By-Laws, that helped with creating the By-Laws that would eventually become the official By-Laws for this group. To help make this a legitimate Motorcycle Group in the VFW, and to further protect the VFW, the group contacted the Department Advocate Ken Burton, who was a Lawyer. They asked him to review the proposed By-Laws. A few small changes were made to finalize the By-Laws.



## Texas VFW Motorcycle Group Unit 1

The Veterans of Foreign Wars Motorcycle Group Unit 1 is a family oriented organization that is dedicated to the ideals of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, the enjoyment of motorcycle riding, and the comradeship of its members.

The purpose of the VFW Motorcycle Group is to promote interest in various forms of motorcycle activities that will promote membership and any programs that are sponsored by the VFW. To encourage a better understanding of Motorcycle Riding as a constructive sport among members of the Public, Law Enforcement Agencies, and other Veterans Organizations.

Members must be of Good Character, meet all eligible requirements of and be a member in good standing of the VFW.

They meet at different locations throughout the Greater Houston Area in order to spread the word to veterans and assist VFW Posts and other Units with their activities.

Contact Norm or Judy Brawner for information on the activities of Motorcycle Unit 1.

Website: [www.vfwmgtx1.org](http://www.vfwmgtx1.org)

Phone: 936-647-8955

Email: [vfwnorm@consolidated.net](mailto:vfwnorm@consolidated.net)



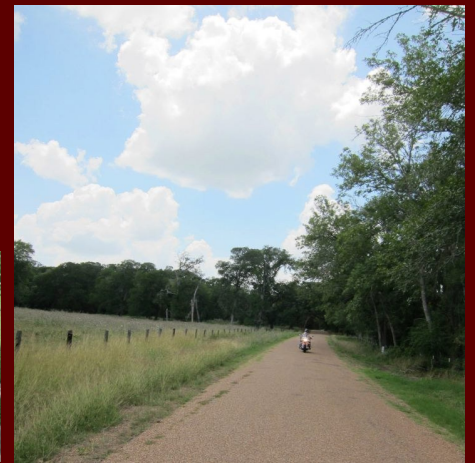
Members of the Texas VFW Motorcycle Group Unit 1, went on a Painted Church ride for Memorial Day, stopping at 5 churches.



## Painted Church Ride

The activities of The Woodlands VFW is not limited to the area of The Woodlands Texas, the Motorcycle Group attached to the Post, Unit 1 hits the road for Memorial Day weekend with a ride in honor of those soldiers that gave their lives in support and defense of the wars of Americas past.

Unit 1 covered a huge section of Texas highways from The Woodlands and Pasadena to the Austin area on their Painted Church ride on the 26th and 27th of May.



## FEATURED LADIES AUXILIARY MEMBER JUDY BRAWNER



When it comes to working with Veterans groups, this issue's Ladies Auxiliary member is no stranger. Judy Brawner has been volunteering since 1997.

Judy began her work with veterans organizations with the Vietnam Veterans of America Associates as a State Representative. She and her husband, Norm, were wanting to do more to help Veterans, so they joined the VFW.

Judy was born in Silver City, New Mexico. Her parents were a traveling salesman and saleswoman. Her parents were on the road from their home in El Paso Texas, when Judy was born. She was raised in El Paso, but traveled extensively with her parents. Her Dad was a Rambling Man, after he left the Army. He couldn't stay in one spot for very long without wanting to get back on the road selling. If they were not at a State Fair selling Encyclopedias, they were traveling as part of a Carnival running some type of game.

Judy and Norm met in November of 1987 and were married in August of 1991. Norm proposed to Judy at a Hard Rock Café in February of 1988.

Judy is a public tax accountant by trade. She has a small number of clients that she has worked with for over 30 years. Judy and Norm also have a small retail store in which they sell, service, and restore antique coin operated game machines, such as jukeboxes, slot machines, video games, and pinballs. They also work service calls to repair these type of machines.

To those that know Judy, they know that she spends a lot of her free time working projects for the Post, Auxiliary, and Motorcycle Group.

She played a big part in starting up The Woodlands Ladies Auxiliary in 2005, heading up the chapter as their first President. Judy was the Ladies Auxiliary President for the first five years and was an Outstanding Auxiliary President for those five years. She also received 1st Place as a Divisional Americanism Chairman twice, has served as District President, and has worked to achieve 100% as President.

When asked, "Why she thinks those that are eligible to be in the Ladies Auxiliary should join?", Judy replied..."I grew up in a family of workaholics. I was always told that, if you're not being paid to do it, you don't do it. But after I joined the VVA (Vietnam Veterans of America), I realized that there is a certain satisfaction that you feel when you help someone. So when I joined the VFW Auxiliary and really got involved helping the veterans and their families, it hit me even more. My parents were not necessarily very Patriotic people. Sure, my Dad served in the Military, and my Mom was married seven times to military men, but I think it was more the Uniform than the fact that they were veterans. But when I joined the VFW Auxiliary, the first chairmanship I was given was Americanism. I am one that does everything I do 110%, and when I did that the Patriotism and the Sacrifices that had been endured on my behalf just really set home in my heart. I think that anyone who joins the VFW Auxiliary will feel this as well. Maybe not to the extent that I have, but it can't help but touch your heart to see the American Pride that is felt by all, who are a part of this great organization. A Pride that is only matched by the Texas Pride felt by every Texan."

## History of the Purple Heart

The first precedent for honoring servicemen in American history, which involved the awarding of medals, goes back to August 7, 1782. On that day, General of the Armies George Washington, created "The Badge of Military Merit," using cloth pieces of a purple sash he wore across his uniform, cut in the shape of a heart. That was our nation's first military decoration. It was awarded to three Revolutionary soldiers for their actions in capturing the accomplices of General Benedict Arnold, in his attempt to turn over Fort West Point, to the British, during the American Revolution. The records show no others.

The philosophy behind military decorations has always been: since honor is something which no Soldier, Sailor, Marine or Airman likes to talk about, those who sought to honor these warriors, should give them a token of that honor, which they could wear without words. America's present military decorations system has evolved from this single act by General Washington.

Although never abolished, the "Badge of Military Merit" was not issued again for 150 years. It was renamed the "Purple Heart Medal for Military Merit," commonly known today as, The Purple Heart, on the 200th year of George Washington's birth (22 Feb., 1932), with War Department Order #3. The first Purple Heart was awarded to General Douglas MacArthur, then Army Chief of Staff. War Dept. Order #3 also retroactively awarded the Purple Heart to WWI veterans.

During WWII, President Franklin D. Roosevelt issued Executive Order 9277 on December 3, 1942, that decreed the Purple Heart would be issued to all branches of the military and differ from all other decorations in that an individual is not "recommended" for the decoration. Rather the individual is "entitled" to it upon meeting the specific criteria of: "wounds received while engaged in combat against an enemy of the United States of America."

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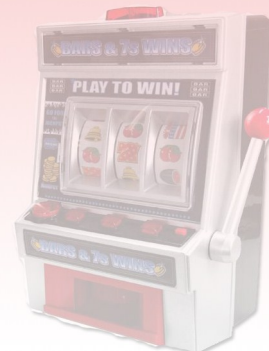
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# Join the Texas VFW Motorcycle Group



YOU can make a difference and help other veterans. Start a new journey to The Woodlands to join Motorcycle Group Unit 1

[www.vfwmgtx1.org](http://www.vfwmgtx1.org)



# MOTORCYCLE GROUP OF TEXAS UNIT 1 CHAIRMAN NORM BRAWNER



Hello Everyone,

Well it is that time again. Another VFW year ends with great results, and another one begins with high hopes. We are now back from the VFW State Convention held in Addison from June 13th – 17th, where the 2011-2012 year ended with a report of sixteen Units, reporting a total of 293 Programs completed by 1,448 volunteers, spending 9,981 hours and driving 104,305 miles, and spending \$43,311.21 and raising \$150,412.76 in the name of the VFW. Folks, that is a lot of miles driven, time and money spent, in helping out with various VFW Post Community Service Projects. We ended the year with twenty-nine Active Units made up of 948 active members. Not bad considering we began just seven short years ago with only four men and a dream of what a group of riding veterans could do. This has not been without some growing pains, but none that could not be handled. We are now on smoother grounds and have new Units starting up every two or three months or so. Please check out the state VFWMG website to see what else is going on around the state [www.vfwmgtx.com/](http://www.vfwmgtx.com/) and in other Units.

As one of those four Founding Members of the VFW Motorcycle Group of Texas, I am proud to say that the 2012-2013 VFW State Commander, Larry Velasquez, has

asked me to once again be the state chairman for the group. Perhaps I should change my road name to Re-Tread, but it was my pleasure to except this assignment to once again lead this group that has become such a part of my life. I am also proud to say that my wife, Judy, has agreed to stay on as the State Secretary for the group. Bud Johnson from the Harker Heights Unit 14 has agreed to be my Co-Chair. From Unit 27 in Plano, Marty Nell has agreed to be the State Chaplain, and Steven Blackburn will be the Sergeant of Arms. Carlos Susitia, from Unit 5 in Austin, will remain the State Treasurer.

As the VFWMG Unit 1-12024 The Woodlands Chairman, it was Judy's and my pleasure to host the year end Camp Out for Unit 1 and The Woodlands Post and Auxiliary. I believe there is a complete article telling of all of the fun that those who were able to attend had. This was our way of saying thanks to all who have helped throughout the year. The MG, Post and Aux all kicked in funds to help pay for everything, so all Judy and I had to do was set it up and prepare the food, which is what I enjoy doing. I had help getting that together by some that were in attendance, and I would like to say thank you to them. We hope to do this again sometime during the year, but we will wait for a little bit cooler weather. IT WAS DARN HOT OUT THERE! Heat Index 105, but outside of a few sun burns all survived.

As we start out the New Year, I am looking for ideas from our members of what we want to do this year. I am sad to say that our Activity Book did not win in the State Competition, but we did find out just what we need to do next year to win. We must make sure that we represent the Unit at our VFW and Auxiliary Programs that we participate in. The Award is being judged by the Unit that has benefited their Post and Auxiliary most by participating in their programs, recruiting new members, and promoting publicity of what the VFW and Auxiliary does in their community. So next year it is so on!

We will start by helping with the Post Float for the 4th of July Parade in the Woodlands. Be sure to watch the web site [www.vfwmgtx1.org](http://www.vfwmgtx1.org) for when and where to be to help with all activities taking place this next year. If you need to get hold of me personally, contact me by phone at 936-647-8955 (cell), or 936-344-2999 (business), or by email at [vfnorm@consolidated.net](mailto:vfnorm@consolidated.net).

I am looking forward to a great upcoming year. Please come and be apart of the fun and rewarding experiences of helping a veteran or their family, while riding with other veterans, who just enjoy riding.

Norm Brawner  
VFWMG Unit 1 2012-2013 Chairman

# LADIES AUXILIARY

The members of the Ladies Auxiliary 12024 to the Veterans of Foreign Wars live by the motto, "Honor the dead by helping the living." We set out to serve the veterans of this country and our community.

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in the lives of  
those that served

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Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship \_\_\_\_\_ to Eligible Veteran \* \_\_\_\_\_ VFW Membership ID \_\_\_\_\_

\* Must be a member of the Post affiliated with the Ladies Auxiliary to which you are applying.

I attest that I am a citizen of the United States, and I pledge to comply with the National Bylaws of the Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States. I affirm that the above eligibility is true and correct.

Applicant's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Investigating Committee: 1) \_\_\_\_\_ 2) \_\_\_\_\_ 3) \_\_\_\_\_

Per Section 105 of the National Bylaws.     Rejected     Election Date \_\_\_\_\_    Obligated Date \_\_\_\_\_

<p><b>NEW MEMBER - LIFE MEMBERSHIP</b>    <input type="checkbox"/> Check Here If this is a gift. Card will be mailed to the Auxiliary Treasurer</p> <p>Payment    <input type="radio"/> Cash    <input type="radio"/> Check    <input type="radio"/> VISA</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Mastercard    <input type="radio"/> Discover    <input type="radio"/> ACH (Bank Withdrawal)</p> <p>Life Membership Fee _____</p> <p>C.C. # _____</p> <p>CW Code _____    Expiration Date _____</p> <p>Bank Routing Number _____</p> <p><b>Prior to enrolling in the installment Plan, current year's dues and subsequent annual dues must be paid until Plan is completed.</b> I understand that if my Auxiliary has Specified Disease Insurance, I am responsible for my own yearly premium payment. I authorize the first of twelve (12) installments of \$ _____ to be processed immediately with eleven (11) remaining payments to be processed on the 15th of each month..</p> <p>Signature _____    Date _____</p>	<p><b>LIFE MEMBERSHIP FEES</b></p> <p>Attained age at 12/31 of year applying for Life Membership</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 15%;">Through 20</td> <td style="width: 15%;">\$220</td> <td style="width: 15%;">\$19.96</td> <td style="width: 55%;">per month</td> </tr> <tr> <td>21-25</td> <td>\$210</td> <td>\$18.96</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>26-30</td> <td>\$200</td> <td>\$18.06</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>31-35</td> <td>\$190</td> <td>\$17.50</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>36-40</td> <td>\$185</td> <td>\$16.70</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>41-45</td> <td>\$175</td> <td>\$15.80</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>46-50</td> <td>\$170</td> <td>\$15.35</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>51-55</td> <td>\$160</td> <td>\$14.44</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>56-60</td> <td>\$150</td> <td>\$13.54</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>61-65</td> <td>\$140</td> <td>\$12.64</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>66-70</td> <td>\$130</td> <td>\$11.74</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>71-75</td> <td>\$115</td> <td>\$10.38</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>76-80</td> <td>\$ 95</td> <td>\$ 8.58</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>81-85</td> <td>\$ 75</td> <td>\$ 6.77</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>86-90</td> <td>\$ 60</td> <td>\$ 5.42</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>91 and over</td> <td>\$ 50</td> <td>\$ 4.51</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Through 20	\$220	\$19.96	per month	21-25	\$210	\$18.96		26-30	\$200	\$18.06		31-35	\$190	\$17.50		36-40	\$185	\$16.70		41-45	\$175	\$15.80		46-50	\$170	\$15.35		51-55	\$160	\$14.44		56-60	\$150	\$13.54		61-65	\$140	\$12.64		66-70	\$130	\$11.74		71-75	\$115	\$10.38		76-80	\$ 95	\$ 8.58		81-85	\$ 75	\$ 6.77		86-90	\$ 60	\$ 5.42		91 and over	\$ 50	\$ 4.51		<p style="text-align: center;"><b>OBLIGATION</b></p> <p>In the presence of Almighty God and the members of this organization here assembled, I do of my own free will and accord, solemnly promise that I will never wrong or defraud this organization nor a member thereof nor permit either to be wronged if in my power to prevent it. I will never propose for membership, any person not eligible, according to our Bylaws. I will be faithful to the United States of America, obedient to the laws and loyal to the Flag. Should my membership with this organization cease in any way, I will consider this obligation as binding outside of the organization as though I had remained a member. I do so promise.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">_____ Signature</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Must be signed by all members.</p>
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51-55	\$160	\$14.44																																																																
56-60	\$150	\$13.54																																																																
61-65	\$140	\$12.64																																																																
66-70	\$130	\$11.74																																																																
71-75	\$115	\$10.38																																																																
76-80	\$ 95	\$ 8.58																																																																
81-85	\$ 75	\$ 6.77																																																																
86-90	\$ 60	\$ 5.42																																																																
91 and over	\$ 50	\$ 4.51																																																																

**NEW MEMBER APPLICATION - NON AFFILIATED** Recommended by: \_\_\_\_\_

(Eligible veteran is deceased, is not a VFW member or is a member of another Post.)

Annual Membership     Life Membership    Auxiliary No. \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Member-at-Large     Life Member-at-Large in Department of \_\_\_\_\_ or in  National

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_

email \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship \_\_\_\_\_ to Eligible Veteran \_\_\_\_\_

VFW Post \_\_\_\_\_ Name of campaign ribbons or medals \_\_\_\_\_

Foreign Service \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ Location \_\_\_\_\_

I attest that I am a citizen of the United States, and I pledge to comply with the National Bylaws of the Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States. I affirm that the above eligibility is true and correct. Applicant's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Investigating Committee: 1) \_\_\_\_\_ 2) \_\_\_\_\_ 3) \_\_\_\_\_

Per Section 105 of the National Bylaws.     Rejected     Election Date \_\_\_\_\_    Obligated Date \_\_\_\_\_

After filling it out, you can mail it to Ladies Auxiliary 12024 Membership, P.O. Box 8341, The Woodlands, TX 77387-8341, or you can bring it with you to a Post Meeting. You can also obtain a copy of the application at [www.vfw12024.org](http://www.vfw12024.org) and fill it out online then print.

Auxiliary meetings are held the first Thursday of each month with a scheduled meeting time of 7:00 p.m., but we ask that you show up a little earlier. Come join us and help us help Veterans in the Community.

# At Home and on the Front Lines

Jennifer Simard



Robert and I met our senior year in high school. By the time we had started dating, he was already committed to joining the Army. We had no intentions of staying together after high school. I was going to go to college, and he

was going to go off to the army. When that time came though, we realized that the love we had for each other was unique, and we couldn't just give up.

On July 22, 2003, I joined him at the MEPS Center, where he was sworn into the United States Army. After he was sworn in, he departed for the airport, where he was being sent to Ft. Benning, GA, for basic training as an infantryman. I knew absolutely nothing about the military. I didn't grow up in a military family, and the thought of being a military spouse had never crossed my mind. So, I had no idea what to expect. I didn't know when I would hear from him or see him again. A week passed, before I got a phone call from him letting me know, that he was at Ft. Benning and that he didn't know when he would be able to call me again. Every few days I would receive a letter in the mail, updating me on how he was doing and what all he was up to. I only received phone calls from him on Sundays. This was the only day that they would allow him to call. Robert graduated from Basic Training in November of 2003, and I was finally able to see him after fifteen long weeks. I traveled with his family to Ft. Benning for his graduation.

The next year and a half seemed to be a breeze. Robert was stationed at Ft. Benning after basic training graduation and worked training other soldiers. During this time, Robert was basically non-deployable. Georgia was still a ways from Texas, so Robert and I would only see each other every three to four months. He would come home for major holidays, and I would go visit him during my breaks between college semesters. Three months after he graduated basic training, Robert came home to celebrate our one year anniversary of being together. That night, Robert dropped to one knee and



asked me to marry him. It was definitely one of the best nights of my life. At this point, it became very real that I was in for the long haul with the military, and the possibility of becoming a military wife became real for the first time. But, we both decided that we were going to wait, until after college and the Army to get married. After a little over a year, we learned that Robert was getting sent to Ft. Carson, CO. We knew that this would most likely send him overseas, so it was a hard adjustment for me. Robert wasn't at Ft. Carson very long, when he got orders to deploy to Kuwait. Robert deployed this first time to Kuwait and was gone for four

months. He had gone over to meet with his unit, who was coming home. So, this deployment wasn't like most. He was in Kuwait the entire time. There was no combat, and he was gone for four months. Robert and I still considered ourselves very lucky, because at this point I had lots of friends whose husbands were already getting ready to go to Iraq for their second time. It wasn't long after Robert got back from Kuwait, he learned that he would be deploying to Iraq in a year. I didn't like hearing that at all. We didn't get to see each other much over the next year, because he spent lots of time training to deploy.

On October 6, 2006, Robert deployed to Iraq. I wasn't able to be there to watch him leave, since I was in the middle of my last semester of college. It was a sick feeling knowing that he was leaving, and I didn't know when



I would see him or hear from him again. During this time the army deployed for a year at a time, so we knew that he was most likely going to get stop loss'd and kept in the Army past his ETS date. He was supposed to ETS in July of 2007, so this meant that he wouldn't ETS until the end of July 2007. So we tentatively set our wedding date for December 2007, which was the same month I was scheduled to graduate from college. A few days after Robert deployed, I finally heard from him. The phones were very sketchy in Iraq at the time. He would have to wait in long lines to get to a pay phone and had to use calling cards, when calling home. There was a delay when talking to him, because of the distance between us. That took a lot of getting used to. We were able to communicate most of the time via the internet and instant messaging. I would wake up at all hours of the night to talk to him, because of the time differences. Robert was the rear gunner for the route clearance convoy, so he would travel the streets of Baghdad several times a day. He was very busy and would lose lots of sleep trying to talk to me. He was very devoted to communicating with me. Even if he could only talk for a couple of minutes, he did everything in his power to contact me.

A few months after Robert deployed, the bad news started flying in. We learned that the Army was going to be extending troops from twelve month deployments to fifteen months deployments. This also meant that he wasn't going to be getting out of the army at the end of 2007. So, we had to move our wedding date. He also learned that he wouldn't be getting R&R, until later than expected.

On December 24, I received a call from Robert telling me that he had been injured in a mortar blast. After pulling onto their FOB after a mission, the base took incoming fire. A mortar landed just a few feet from Robert's Humvee. The impact from the blast caused Robert to suffer a concussion. This took things to a whole different level for me. Before, I knew things were dangerous, but now that Robert had been injured, I didn't want him over there anymore. But, there wasn't much I could do, but just support him and pray for him the rest of the deployment.

During this time, Secretary of Defense, Robert Gates, had ordered a surge

in Iraq, so things got pretty hairy there. There were times that Robert would call home, and I could actually hear bombs going off in the background. Everything on the news talked about soldiers dying and the moral of the soldiers. I refused to watch the news, and knew that if something was happening that I needed to know about, that Robert would let me know.

I had a lot of girl friends whose loved ones were deployed during this time,



so I had a great support group. My family and friends were always trying to keep me busy to keep my mind off of what was going on “over there”. Robert was awarded his first purple heart on May 4th, 2007. I knew that he was being awarded his purple heart, but hadn’t spoke to him about it, because of a “commo blackout”. This was when a soldier had been KIA, and all communications for the soldiers had been cut off in order for the Army to contact family. This was always a scary time. I wouldn’t hear from Robert for a few days

and would later learn it was, because of a commo blackout. With the army, no news is good news, so I always prayed that I wouldn’t be the one receiving a phone call.

On May 5, 2007, I had received a phone call from Robert’s mother. She was good about calling me every few days to check on me and to see how Robert was doing. He kept in contact with his mother, but I usually heard from him the most, so people would contact me to see how he was doing. It was around 11 p.m. this particular night, when we were talking. She had received an incoming call from a number she didn’t know, so she continued talking to me. A couple of minutes later, she received an incoming call from Robert’s father, so she put me on hold to take the call. It wasn’t long, before she came back on the line. I could instantly tell that her mood had completely changed. She asked me if I was sitting down, and I told her yes. She then continued to tell me that Robert had been injured, and that he was at the hospital. This was all the information we knew. I quickly got off of the phone. My mind was racing a thousand miles a minute. I was numb. I didn’t know what to do. All I wanted to do was call Robert and hear his voice and know that he was ok, but that was impossible. There was no number to call. Plus, in the military a fiancé doesn’t mean anything. I was just some girl back home. If you aren’t a wife, you have absolutely no meaning. So, I immediately called my parents. It was late, and they were already asleep, but I woke my mom up and told her what had happened. She told me that she was on her way to my apartment and would be there in about an hour.

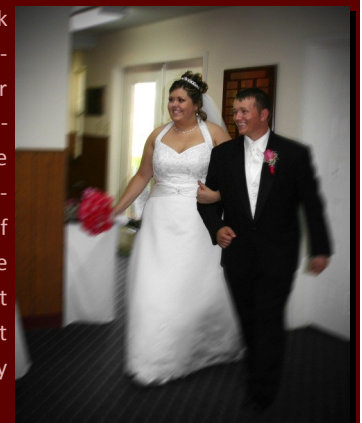
So, there I was just sitting on my bed, in complete shock from it all. I don’t even remember if I cried at the time. I just couldn’t believe that this was actually happening to me. This is stuff that you hear about on the news and always feel sorry for the other wives, but this won’t happen to me! The only thing that I could think to do was to go to my computer, and sit and wait. I knew that if he was ok, he would get online and talk to me. I waited

and waited. After about thirty minutes of staring at my computer, Robert’s name came online. This was when the tears really started. I knew that he was ok. I flooded him with questions. “What happened? Are you ok? Are you in pain?” I asked him if he would turn on his webcam, so I could see that he was ok, and he told me that he didn’t think that was a good idea. After a couple of minutes of convincing him, he finally turned on his webcam. I couldn’t believe my eyes. He had cuts all over his face, and his eyes were black and blue. It was all real. This nightmare that I had been living for about an hour was all real. At that moment, I just wanted him to come home.

Over the next couple of months, Robert did a good job of covering up everything he was going through. I found out that Robert’s Humvee had been hit by in IED. After sitting by this bomb for over four hours, it finally went off and hit Robert’s truck. Robert was awarded his second purple heart. Finally after over nine months of not seeing each other, Robert came home on R&R. I had a billion butterflies in my stomach, when I saw him for the first time after nine long, stressful months. It felt good to have him home, if only for a little while. We spent the next two weeks with each other. We had so much fun together. We spent time with family and did a little traveling. Just when it felt like he was home for good, it was time for him to leave. This time was different. I knew what things were going to be like in Iraq. I knew the sleepless nights that were ahead, and the stress and worry that would happen. I dreaded the next six months. I knew that after nine months of not seeing each other, six months would be easier, but now there was always the worry of if something else would happen.

The next six months were extremely hard on Robert. He began having nightmares about the incident, and eventually they took him off of missions, because he would get so anxious before leaving. I didn’t know what to do to help him, and wished I could have just been there for him. Finally the time came for Robert to come home. December 31, 2007, Robert returned to Ft. Carson, CO, after fifteen long months. Robert’s parents, my parents, and myself had all traveled to Colorado to be there, when he got home. It was so great to know that he was home, and we wouldn’t have to go through that all again. Robert came home on leave for a month in January. In April 2008, Robert officially got out of the army. On May 24, 2008, before God and everyone, we were married. Little did I know, that the journey was only beginning. Robert was diagnosed with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). He suffers from Traumatic Brain Injury, along with many other issues such as knee and back problems.

When our journey began, I was like most other people. I knew nothing about the military, and the National Anthem was just a song you sang while looking at a flag. Now those things mean so much more to me. I take a lot of pride in being a Veteran’s wife. I wake up each morning blessed that my soldier made it home. I believe that God places special women on this earth to be military wives. I don’t think just any body can do it. It takes commitment and devotion. I am a firm believer that all things happen for a reason. Robert and I both believe that his Humvee was swarmed with angels that day. Robert had sat down in his turret for a brief second, when the bomb went off. If he would have been standing when it went off, there is a good possibility he might not be with us today. He and I are very lucky.



# AMERICANISM

## Texas VFW Motorcycle Group Unit 1 Camp Out



The VFW is about Veterans helping veterans, but it is also about the camaraderie that the members have within the Post. The Woodlands VFW Post 12024 Motorcycle Group Unit 1 recently sponsored a camp out weekend and invited the Post and Auxiliary to attend.

June 8th - 10th, the Chairman and Secretary (Norm and Judy Brawner) of Unit 1 setup the camp ground at Thousand Trails on Lake Conroe and kept the coals hot while providing steaks, fish, hotdogs, hamburgers, and BBQ over the three day event.

Unit 1 member and Former Department of Texas Commander, Wayne DePute, joined in at the BBQ, along with Post Commander Carl Smith and Ladies Auxiliary President Paula Ison. Others were in attendance with their sons, daughters, and grandsons, making this a true VFW family weekend. Squirrt guns and board games were the choices for entertainment as the weekend went by quickly.

It's weekends like this that are why so many join the VFW in many communities across this nation. It's Americanism at its best---Veterans coming together, not only to help and honor Veterans, but to be around other Veterans that have experienced the same experiences while in the military. It's a bond that all those who have served can connect to.



C A N D I D A T E F O R  
J R V I C E  
C O M M A N D E R

LARRY E KONARIK

2013 - 2014



EXPERIENCED  
DEDICATED  
PROVEN LEADER

- *All-State Post Commander 2006-07, 2007-08*
- *All American Post Commander 2007-08*
- *National Aide De Camp 2007-08*
- *National Membership Century Award 2007-08, 2009-10, 2010-11*
- *National Assistant Inspector General 2009-2010, 2011-2012*
- *All State District Commander 2010-11*
- *Recipient of J.T. Rutherford Award 2011-12*
- *Co-Captain All American District Team 2011-12*
- *Department of Texas State Inspector 2011-12*
- *Member National General Resolutions Committee 2011-12*

“VETERANS ARE PRIORITY ONE”

*The Fullers*



*The Isons*



*The Sims*



*The Simards*



*The Machins*



*The Wards*



*The Brawners*



# THE VFW IS FAMILY ORIENTED

By Lee Derby



Members of The Woodlands VFW Post 12024 and Ladies Auxiliary

Sociology defines a “complex” family, as “extended family members that tend to gather often for family events and to feel responsible for helping and supporting one another, both emotionally and financially.” That definition sure sounds a lot like the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

The VFW is a “family”, in that there is a common bond that exists between the men and women who shared their military experiences in battle, have the same sense of service, and assumed all the risks associated with maintaining the freedoms we enjoy today. The VFW members today are here, because we understand the true sense of what it is to be an American, knowing its ideals and beliefs. We know the price we paid to be eligible to join the esteemed ranks of the VFW. We are the only elite veteran’s organizational “family”, that consists of only combat veterans and those who have served around the globe, whether it has been service in the Persian Gulf, Korea, Kosovo, the war on terrorism, or peace-keeping expeditionary campaigns. Their service s made a significant difference in preserving and defending world peace today and is a part of the VFW family.

The “co-partner” of this “family”, like in any other family is “Mom”, and in the VFW “family”, it is the VFW Ladies Auxiliary, which allows not only the wives of the veterans, but also their mothers, sisters and daughters to become members. Since it’s founding, the Ladies Auxiliary has placed their greatest emphasis on a program developed to assist veterans returning from battlefield or from the hospital, as they try to re-establish

themselves and maintain normal, happy lives with their families and their communities. The Ladies Auxiliary also assists veterans and their families outside the hospital to ensure a suitable standard of living, whether it is through financial support, moral support, or by simple acts of kindness. Another one of the Auxiliary’s main programs is The National Home for Children.

There is one other “family” member in the VFW, and that is the Mens Auxiliary. Like the VFW and the Ladies Auxiliary, the Mens Auxiliary also interacts within the Post and assists the Post in its ongoing community programs.

Today the VFW Post is no longer known as just “a beer joint”, or where old vets just go to sit around and tell their “war” stories. Instead, today more and more VFW Posts are now active, viable places, where sons and daughters, grandchildren and all other family members can go to enjoy themselves. More and more Posts are becoming “smoke-free”. Many Posts now have learning centers with computers for the children to use. Others have day care centers, so members don’t have to miss meetings and can bring their families with them to help volunteer with the veterans in need. Some Posts have areas for teenagers to hang out in safe environments after school, playing video games and outdoor sports. Members of the Post can also help assist the students with their homework.

More and more Posts have career training for all ages, assisting new separated veterans with preparing resumes, helping with preparing Income Tax forms (free), helping

veterans with benefit programs, and helping injured veterans with paper work to submit to the Veterans Administration. Each Post has a Service Officer to help with information members may need to begin their new lives as civilians, but the VFW is also for those still serving, as many VFW Posts are a great support unit for the spouses and children left behind. Wives are now meeting together (other than in a Auxiliary meeting) to plan other activates for themselves and their children, while their “men-folk are away”, playing golf, fishing etc. The VFW Post is also where the community senior citizens can meet to play cards, or board games, or bingo. It is also a location where those who are interested in motorcycles, and motorcycle rides with their families, can meet. Today the VFW Posts are becoming known as the place “where it’s all at”.

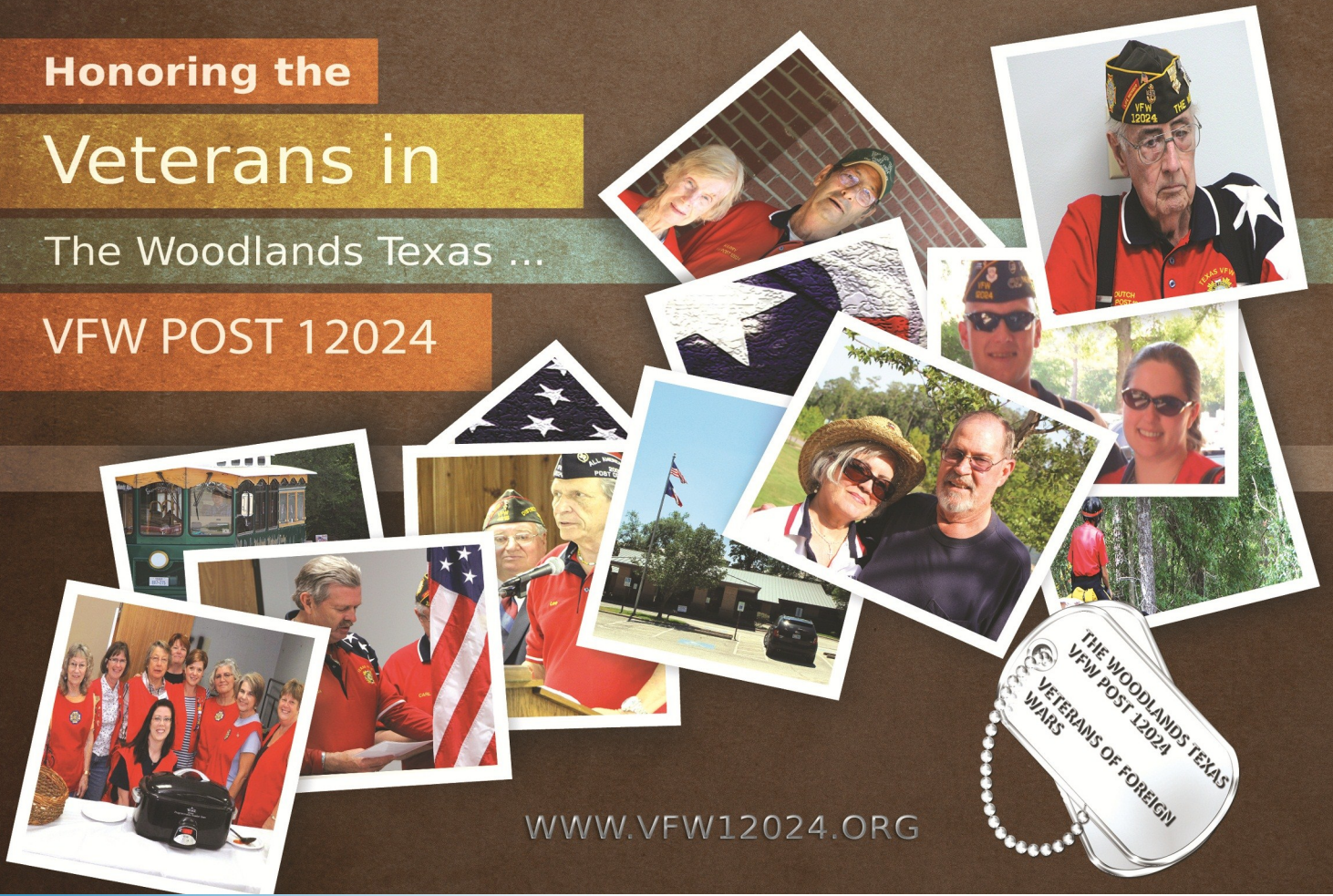
Many VFW Posts also organize family outings, such as fishing trips, picnics, camping, tours, ball games, and much more. Today the VFW Posts are becoming totally emerged into “family”, so that it’s not just a “beer joint” anymore.

So you can see why I refer to the VFW as a “family”. As in any other conventional family, the VFW “family” has its own separate individual “family” components, but they all work TOGETHER to better their Post and their community. By working TOGETHER, the VFW “family” can continue to maintain the legacy of its Post and its future within the community. It can be a place, where a veteran’s family can find a “home away from home”.

Honoring the  
Veterans in

The Woodlands Texas ...

VFW POST 12024



WWW.VFW12024.ORG

# VFW Porter, Texas

# BINGO

24411 Cunningham Drive, Porter, Texas 77365

**CONCESSION STAND  
AVAILABLE**



**FRIDAY: 7:15 p.m.**

**SATURDAY: 6:30 p.m.**

**SUNDAY: 1:30 p.m.**



**Reasonable Rates for Hall Rental**  
Call: 281-354-9976 or 281-354-3188



## Relay For Life

May 11th, 2012. In an effort to show support for Cancer Awareness, Everett and Paula Ison, Crystal Hipsher, Linda Terbl and Susan Huff were in attendance at the Klein Oak High School. Relay For Life is a life-changing event, that helps communities across the globe celebrate the lives of people who have battled cancer, remember loved ones lost, and fight back against the disease.



## Community Association Recognition

North View has been awarded the Community Association Recognition Of Excellence in Service (CARES) award for the 1st quarter of 2012.

This award was given by the Greater Houston Chapter Community Associations Institute for the Flag Dedication Ceremony honoring our North View Veterans held last November during Veterans Day.

Barbara Franks stated, "What an honor, and what great things we can do when we come together as a community!"

A very special "Thank You" to VFW Post 12024, Cub Scout Pack 1173, Houston North Metro Recruiting Office, Shelley Fincke for our patri-

otic music, the Ponderosa Fire Department and All Of our North View Veterans for turning out for this event.



Community Assoc. Recognition Award

## Ladies Auxiliary Spotlight May - Jennifer Simard



## June - Emily Catechis



VFW Ladies Auxiliary 12024 appreciates the support of each member. We work as a Team within our Auxiliary and our Post, however it's also the goal to "Spotlight" and acknowledge each individual member. "I understand the time and support given to the VFW Ladies Auxiliary and this is one small way to say THANK YOU to our members.". President Paula Ison

## Post Members in Community



Derrel Sims leads the meeting at the Realty Investment of Houston (RICH). Derrel opens each meeting leading those in attendance with the Pledge of Allegiance.



# HISTORY OF FLAG DAY

Flag Day is June 14 and celebrates the official symbol for the United States: our Stars and Stripes. Flag Day was first recognized by Congress on June 14, 1777, which became known as Flag Day.

Not only is the U.S. flag older than the Union Jack of Great Britain and the tri-color flag of France, but also is the only flag to have been flown on the moon.

Congress first stated that there should be a star and stripe for every state. Our first flag had 13 stars and 7 red and 6 white stripes. In 1794, two new states were added and we had a flag with 15 stars and 15 stripes. By 1818 there were 20 states, but our county was still using the flag with 15 stars and 15 stripes. Congress thought about having 20 stripes and agreed that it might become a problem because of its size so they passed a law that said there would be 13 stripes for the original 13 states, and they would add a star for each new state that joined the union.

The U.S. flag is 13 stripes: seven red and six white. A blue field with 50 stars is located next to the staff in the upper left corner of the flag. It extends from the top to the lower edge of the fourth red stripe. The stars are arranged in alternating rows of six and five representing the 50 states of the United States. The stars do not represent any given state.

The colors used in the flag give special meaning to the flag: Red for valor and zeal; white for hope and cleanliness of life; and blue -- the color of heaven -- for reverence and loyalty.

The stars are an ancient symbol of the heavens. Our flag's 50 stars represent each state as part of the nation, but also a separate level of government. Our federal government was not given the power to control, so that each state would be able to govern themselves in those things they could do better. When you are looking at the flag, you are looking at the magnificent history of all Americans who have lived before us, your own ancestors, the most enduring nation of free people that has ever existed.

## Flag Day Presentation

The Woodlands VFW 12024 and Ladies Auxiliary were on hand in the Village of Panther Creek for a presentation on Flag Day, for the 235th anniversary of the adoption of the flag of the United States.

Post member Everett Ison arrived early to setup and place numerous flags for the celebration. Post Chaplain Ken Wells was on hand to provide support with flag folding and to discuss the proper etiquette of the flag.

Ladies Auxiliary member Crystal Hipsher setup the Ladies Auxiliary table to answer questions and pass out pamphlets on Flag Day for those that were attending the Village of Panther Creek Barbeque.

The Post provides flag etiquette training to Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, along with working request for local organizations throughout the year, please contact the Post if you would like to have this training provided for your scouts or organization.





## The Home Front

### We Can Do It!



Our Ladies Auxiliary to VFW Post 12024 are the wives, widows, mothers, daughters, granddaughters, and sisters of those who have worn the uniform of our great country.

With every war, every deployment, there are women who are entrusted to “Keep the Home Front”. In years past we donated our cooking pans, utensils, and anything tin we could get our hands on to help with the war effort. We saved the fat that came from cooking, so that it could be used for making explosives. Silk stockings were used to make powder bags in naval and artillery guns, while nylon hose was used to manufacture parachutes and tow ropes for gliders.

We donated our furs to manufacture and distribute fur lined vests to Allied Merchant Seamen, whose job it was to convoy vital supplies to the various fighting fronts. We rolled bandages, worked the factories, and raised our children.

Today’s Ladies Auxiliary continues to support our military with care packages, cooling neck wraps, phone cards, and letters from home. We care for our Veterans by visiting the VA Hospital, clothing and feeding our homeless, bringing patriotism to our schools, and working the VFW programs. Today, instead of collecting scrap metal, we collect Campbell’s Soup labels and turn them into the much needed supplies for VFW National Home for Children.

The pen is mightier than the sword, and much more so when it’s sent to our Congress, Senators, and President. Our Ladies Auxiliary will always fight for the Veteran and the benefits they so rightly deserve.

We also help to provide scholarships for our leaders of tomorrow, and cancer grants for those who fight the deadly disease. Funds from Buddy Poppy Drives help to meet the needs of our Veteran families. Our programs are also centered to meet the needs of our Veterans and families, young and old alike. Maybe you need a smile, a hug, a shoulder to cry on, or a welcome home celebration. We are here for you.

Why join the VFW Ladies Auxiliary? Being a member of the Auxiliary gives you that VFW Pride, in knowing that you are continuing the family heritage and honoring your loved ones who sacrificed so much---joining with fellow sisters who also come together with one goal in mind---NO VETERAN LEFT BEHIND.

As long as we have a Free Country, there will be military; as long as there is military, there will be Veterans; and as long as there are Veterans, there will be a VFW Ladies Auxiliary!

Our Auxiliary continues to “Keep the Home Front” and support our Veterans and our military.

# Welcome Home LT. COMMANDER TRAVIS ANDERSON

## SERVING AND RETURNING HOME FROM AFGHANISTAN

United States Navy (Reserve) Lieutenant Commander Travis Anderson recently returned home from a one year Tour in Afghanistan.

Commander Anderson was greeted at the airport by his family upon his return, his wife Misty and son and daughter. Closer to him home, his friends, neighbors and members of his VFW Post were on hand to display a welcome home sign and to show their support for his return.

Commander Anderson joined VFW Post 12024 in September of 2011. His wife Misty is a member of the Ladies Auxiliary at the same Post.

Currently, there are no plans for another deployment to Afghanistan to the front lines.

On behalf of The Woodlands VFW Post 12024 and the Ladies Auxiliary, WELCOME HOME Commander Anderson. Thank you for your service.





## By Jim Bolin - Quartermaster

The primary mission of the Veterans of Foreign Wars is to serve and support veterans, to promote camaraderie among its members, and to support those veterans that have bravely served in a theater of war. In recent times, the VFW has also had to make sure our united voice is heard in Congress to make sure the Veterans' benefits don't disappear.

Our country has a vast history of American men and women rushing to join the military in times of need, to defend those that cannot protect themselves, and to push tyranny and terrorism into extinction. While serving, friendships and memories that last a lifetime are developed. The bonds and camaraderie help us get through the rough times, not only in war time but during our personal lives.

The members of this elite combat veteran organization share the same type of experiences, serving overseas in a theater of war. Some have served in more than one war, away from home under constant threat of being attacked or having to lead the charge to meet the enemy. Every member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars has earned their eligibility and membership into the VFW by having served in a hostile war zone.

The VFW offers the camaraderie that we had with our fellow soldiers while serving our country. Through monthly meetings and numerous veteran related projects, the VFW offers a way to be around those other veterans that shared those same experiences, and it mirrors the camaraderie that we had as soldiers. Because many of the members are retired, they offer a wide variety of experiences to share with younger veterans. Such mentoring would cost hundreds of dollars, but is freely offered by fellow members of the VFW.

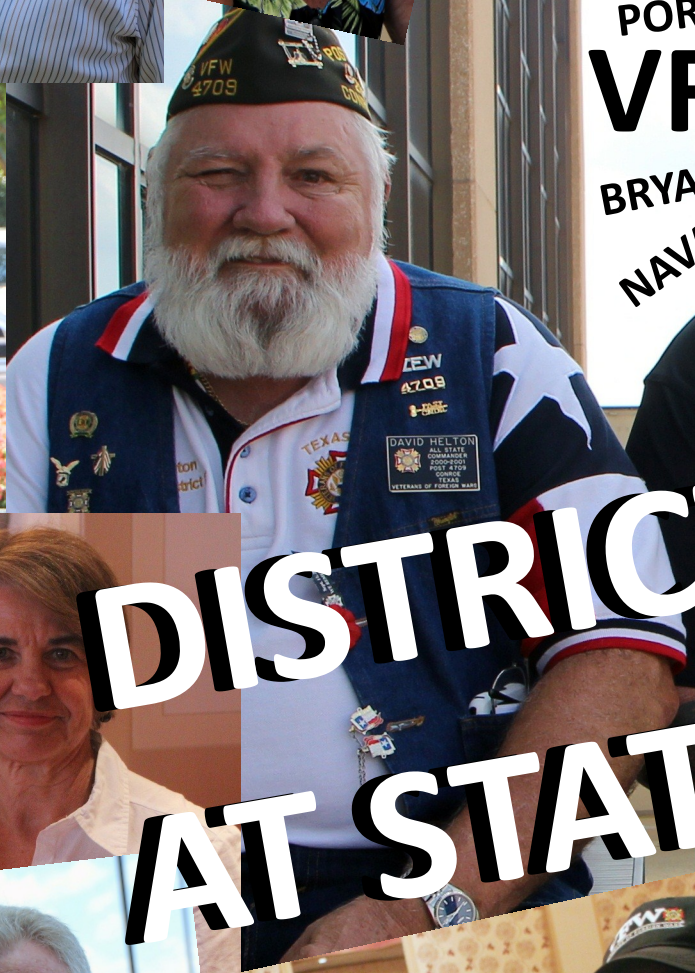
War is not limited to the men and women that are actually on the front lines. It affects the wives, husbands, sons and daughters waiting at home for the soldier in their family to return home. They live with the stress of knowing the dangers that their soldier is experiencing. The VFW Ladies Auxiliary provides those wives and daughters a way to be around others that experienced the same challenges during war time. And in some cases for them to honor the memories of those that never made it home.

Over the course of a VFW year, the members of The Woodlands VFW Post and Auxiliary have had 12 Post meetings, attended 4 District meetings, and 2 State Conventions, not to mention over sixty Community Service Activities and training sessions. One of the great things about being a member of the Veterans of Foreign War or the Ladies Auxiliary is the camaraderie that grows over time. It's not limited to the Post or Auxiliary where you are a member. It branches out to other Posts and Auxiliaries, the District that your Post and Auxiliary is assigned to, and through District to the state level. Members of your Post or Auxiliary also can be District or State Officers, elected or appointed. As a member of the VFW, you will meet many members from all over the state that joined for the same reasons that you joined and have walked the walk with you.

If you are an active member of a Post or Auxiliary, attend the meetings, and participate in the community service projects, you will make a difference. Small acts have a ripple effect that are multiplied by every Post in the VFW working to achieve the same goals as your Post. Together we will achieve the mission of the VFW to serve our Veterans.



PORTER  
**VFW**  
BRYAN  
NAVASOTA



**DISTRICT 1**  
**AT STATE C**







CONROE



KATY

THE WOODLANDS

# 7 MEMBERS CONVENTION



# AWARDS



## VFW Post & Auxiliary Awards - Honor Roll, All State, Chaplain of Year

The Woodlands VFW Post was notified that for the 2011-2012 VFW Year, the Post has earned Honor Roll and All-State Post honors. This is nothing new for this young VFW Post. Post 12024 is 8 years old and has now earned All-State seven times. At the end of the 2011 VFW Year, there were 354 Posts in the State of Texas. Only the top twenty Posts could earn the All-State status. VFW Post 12024 ended the VFW year with 533 Points and 122.73% of the membership quota.

What does it take to be a Texas VFW All-State Post? There are many requirements, some of which include: community service, participation in the programs, meeting deadlines, and meeting Post requirements. Some of the local requirements include: making sure all of the Post Audits are submitted to the Department of Texas; ensuring that the Quartermaster is bonded and the Service Officer is submitted; making sure the IRS-990 is correct for the Post and filed; making sure the Post has insurance; submitting all of the reports for Community Service, Youth Activities, MAP, Texas House, Buddy Poppy, and Post Inspections. The Post must also send representatives to all District meetings, file election reports before the deadlines, and submit delegates for the National Convention. The Post must also participate in the VFW Programs: Voice Of Democracy, Patriot Pen, Publications, Nominations, Volunteer of the Year, Gold Medal, Teacher, and Homeless Veterans' project.

The Post has earned All-State under three different commanders over the past eight years. Commander Lee Derby was the Commander for three years; Commander Norm Brawner for three years; and Commander Carl Smith earned the most recent All-State status.

The Post owes a lot of its success to the Ladies Auxiliary 12024 and Motorcycle Group Unit 1 for assisting and some times leading in the Community Service events and the programs, by helping to setup and plan the events, working towards membership, and raising awareness of the programs the VFW and Post offer to the community.

Commander Smith received a plaque and medallions for the Commander and Quartermaster for All-State at the Department of Texas 92nd State Convention. These awards were presented to Commander Smith by Past National Commander Jim Nier and Department of Texas Commander John Spar at the 92nd Department of Texas State Convention. Commander Smith also represented the Post by accepting another plaque from the Department of Texas for achieving Honor Roll, a requirement to make All-State.

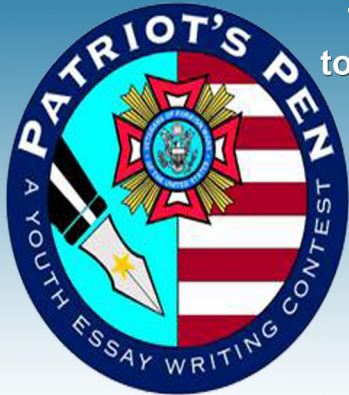
The Woodlands Ladies Auxiliary Chaplain Helen Ward was honored by the Department of Texas Ladies Auxiliary with being named Texas VFW Ladies Auxiliary Chaplain of the Year. Helen created a book and President Paula Ison submitted the nomination to the Department at the end of the VFW year.



CHAPLAIN  
HELEN WARD

# VFW YOUTH SCHOLARSHIPS

## PATRIOTS PEN - VOICE OF DEMOCRACY - SCOUT OF THE YEAR



The Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 12024 and the Ladies Auxiliary to VFW Post 12024 are proud to announce scholarship opportunities or competitions available to students for 2012– 2013 in The Woodlands, and Harris and Montgomery Counties.

Patriot's Pen is a nationwide youth essay-writing contest that gives students in sixth, seventh, and eighth grades the opportunity to write essays expressing their views on democracy. The theme for 2012– 2013 is "What I Would Tell Americas Founding Fathers"

**The deadline for entries is November 1, 2012.**

The Voice of Democracy Audio Essay Competition is the Veteran's of Foreign Wars (VFW) premier scholarship program, giving students in grades 9 – 12 an opportunity to write and record a broadcast script on an annual theme. The 2012 – 2013 theme is "Is Our Constitution Still Relevant?" **The deadline for entries is November 1, 2012.**

When students apply to colleges in their senior year of high school, colleges traditionally look at community participation and involvement. These contests help to prepare students for college and for the "real" world. Prizes are awarded at the local, District, State, and National levels.

The Young American Patriotic Art Awards Competition is an art contest available to students in grades 9 – 12. The contest **deadline is March 31, 2013.**



Information has been distributed to schools in The Woodlands and surrounding areas. For more information or application forms for any of these contests, contact VFW Post 12024. If you are a teacher or Councilor, please don't let your students miss out on these opportunities for recognition and award. Get the entry forms at [www.vfw12024.org](http://www.vfw12024.org), look for the Programs Menu to find your entry.



## VFW SCOUT OF THE YEAR

Scouts who are registered, active members of a Boy or Girl Scout Troop, Venturing Crew, or a Sea Scout Ship who have received the Eagle Scout Award, Girl Scout Gold Award, Venture Silver Award or Sea Scout Quartermaster Award.



Scouts must be 15 years of age and have demonstrated practical citizenship in school, scouting and the community and must be enrolled in high school at the time of selection.

Note: All applicants still in high school who reach their 18th birthday during the nomination year remain eligible if otherwise qualified. A Scout can enter through ONE VFW Post only.

### HOW TO ENTER:

Scouts should submit the completed VFW Scouting Scholarship form, resume of high school activities, scouting record, community service record and letters of recommendation to VFW Post 12024 no later than March 1. Contact us at [www.vfw12024.org](http://www.vfw12024.org), look for the Programs Menu entry for Scouts.

# DISTRICT 17 MEMBERS

Attending the Department of Texas VFW Banquet and Awards Ceremony



VFW POST 12024



VFW POST 12024



VFW POST 12024



VFW POST 12024



VFW POST 9182



VFW POST 9182



VFW POST 4816



VFW POST 4110 & 12024



VFW POST 4709



VFW POST 9182



VFW POST 4692



VFW POST 9182



VFW POST 9182



DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS



VFW POST 9182

# DISTRICT 17 AND STATE OFFICERS INSTALLATION

On June 16th, 2012, in Addison, Texas at the Texas VFW State Convention, the current VFW year came to an end with the installation of the new District and State Officers. Officers at the Post level that were elected for the new VFW year were able to assume their new roles as well.

With the end of a VFW year, officers at the Post, District and State level are elected and appointed. This year The Woodlands VFW Post 12024 had the honor of having Post Member Norm Brawner being appointed as the Department of Texas Motorcycle Group Chairman. The Woodlands is a member of District 17 in the State of Texas. Last year's District 17 Commander, Norman J. Macy III, from VFW Post 4816 in Porter was appointed as the State Inspector for the new VFW year. Peyton Lumpkin was recently appointed as the new District 17 Commander and was installed at the State Convention. The Ladies Auxiliary from District 17 saw Jeanenne Lumpkin installed as the new District 17 President. The District 17 Commander and President are elected at the District level prior to the state convention.





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J.T. Rutherford Award

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**THE VFW - NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS**



**VFW POST 12024  
COMMANDER**

**CARL SMITH**

## Post Commanders Corner

Comrades,

Memorial Day weekend was great, as our VFW Post 12024 and Ladies Auxiliary along with Boy Scout Troop 89 put flags on the headstones of the Veterans from all Wars at the Forest Park cemetery in the Woodlands. On Memorial Day itself (May 28th, 2012), our Post VFW and Ladies Auxiliary members attended and helped with the events to show our appreciation for every Veteran who gave their lives, so we can enjoy our Freedoms today.

The estimated attendance for the Memorial Day event was around 500, the largest attendance for this event to date. Several special guest speakers, including Congressman Kevin Brady, gave speeches to honor all past Veterans who gave it all. Congressman Brady also thanked all living Veterans for their Service to our Country. If you did not attend, you missed a lot, and I hope you will attend next year.

The current VFW year is coming to a close soon. I want to thank all members of our Post & Ladies Auxiliary for all their help this past year. Our VFW achieved Honor Roll Post and also received recognition with an All State Award and other awards for all we have accomplished this past year. These awards will be given out at the Department of Texas VFW State Convention that will be held from June 13 - 17th, 2012. I hope all Post and Auxiliary members can attend, but you will all be with us, as we receive the awards that we all worked so hard to obtain.

We must continue our efforts again this next year as our new VFW year starts on the 1st of July. All elected officers should be ready to take on the roles that they were elected for, beginning at the July Post meeting. All of us will need to work hard at membership, attending meetings, and attending events, as they say, "kick it up a notch".

Independence Day, July 4th, is just around the corner, and we need as many members as are able to join us in the Woodlands 4th of July Parade. Lets all come early and show our great VFW American Spirit. Let's all go out and make some great memories together in the upcoming year.

Thanks for your support. Remember, all we do, we do for all Veterans Past, Present, & Future. No one does more for Veterans.

Carl Smith - Commander

VFW Post 12024

Commander@12024.org

281-475-8054





**LADIES AUXILIARY 12024**

**PRESIDENT**

**PAULA ISON**

## Ladies Auxiliary Presidents Corner

Can't believe our second issue is here already, along with our new VFW year! For many who aren't aware, our VFW year runs July to June, and all reports must be in by April 10, so that only gives us nine months to complete all our projects. Nine months in most instances sounds like a LONG time, but with only one meeting per month, those nine months can be super busy! CONGRATULATIONS to our Post who achieved Honor Roll and All State this year!

We've seen many changes these past months, not only in our Post but our Auxiliary too! We've grown by seven new members! We finished our year at 102.3%!!! Congratulations ladies, these numbers say You are making a difference in your community, and the community likes what they see!

You have been the ones to set a standard for many Auxiliaries to follow. You truly have been the "hands and feet" of the VFW. At every turn and every corner, You have been there to meet the needs of our Veterans and our community. You have clothed and fed those who needed help, provided the school supplies for children to get that head start in school, shown our Heroes love with care packages, honored our seniors and Veterans, placed smiles on the faces of children who desperately needed a smile, and above all, shown that the VFW is more than just an organization. It's a FAMILY!

Only you have that understanding of what it's like to stand at a pier with three small children and watch that ship deploy, hold the newborn in your arms as you kiss your soldier goodbye, explain to your teenager why Mom or Dad has to leave just before graduation, and pray, above all, pray they return home safely to you. You have that full time job of being both mom and dad now for the next six, eight, or twelve months, and you must keep the faith! Your VFW family is only a phone call away. We will be there, pray with you, and help you keep the faith! You are not alone!

Thank you for being the best VFW family!!

Paula Ison

President

Ladies Auxiliary 12024

[President@vfw12024.org](mailto:President@vfw12024.org)

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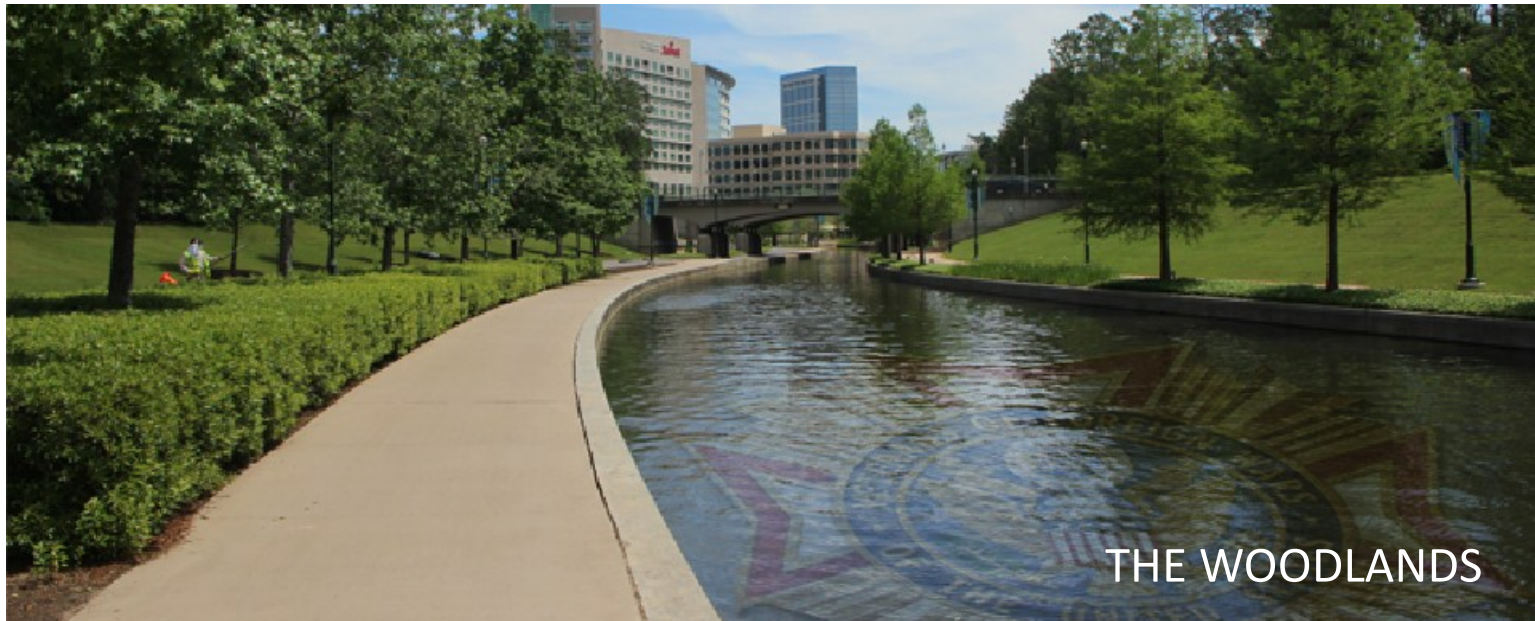
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MAKE A DIFFERENCE

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Please, consider a tax deductible donation to the Veterans of Foreign Wars, VFW POST 12024. Your donation will help support our programs for Veterans local to The Woodlands Texas.

Your donation will be directed to the program where your support is most urgently needed. This is a great way to let our veterans know they are NOT FORGOTTEN.



## THE WOODLANDS

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

#### JULY 2012

**July 4** - Independence Day.

**July 5** - Post & Auxiliary Meeting 7 p.m.

**July 8** - Motorcycle Unit 1 Meeting (check Motorcycle Unit 1 web site for details). 1:30 p.m.

**July 8** - Auxiliary Officer Training School, Austin.

**July 12-15** - Officer Training School, Austin.

**July 21-26** - National Convention, Reno, Nevada.

**July 27** - Signing of the Korean Armistice 1953.

**July 27** - Magic Show 7 p.m. at College Park

#### AUGUST 2012

**August 2** - Post & Auxiliary Meeting 7 p.m.

**August 4** - U.S. Coast Guard 222nd Birthday.

**August 12** - Motorcycle Unit 1 Meeting (check Motorcycle Unit 1 web site for details).  
1:30 p.m.

**August 18** - District 17 Meeting / Training, Navasota.

**August 31** - Operation Iraqi Freedom.

#### SEPTEMBER 2012

**September 2** - VJ Day: Japan surrendered, 1945.

**September 6** - Post & Auxiliary Meeting 7 p.m.

**September 7-9** - Commander-in-Chief's Homecoming, Jacksonville Florida.

**September 9** - Motorcycle Unit 1 Meeting (check Motorcycle Unit 1 web site for details). 1:30 p.m.

**September 10-13** - Fall Legislative Conference, Washington D.C.

**September 11** - Patriot's Day - 9/11.

**September 18** - U.S. Air Force 65th Birthday.

**September 21** - Third Friday--POW/MIA Recognition Day.

**September 29** - VFW Birthday.

#### OCTOBER 2012

**October 4** - Post & Auxiliary Meeting 7 p.m.

**October 9** - Operation Enduring Freedom, Afghanistan.

**October 13** - U.S. Navy 237th Birthday.

**October 14** - Motorcycle Unit 1 Meeting (check Motorcycle Unit 1 web site for details).  
1:30 p.m.

**October 18** - Recognition of Women in Military Service.

**October 18-21** - Southern Conference, Williamsburg Virginia.

**October - 20** - District 17 Meeting, Conroe.

#### How can I join the Post?

Please go to our Post web site at [www.vfw12024.org](http://www.vfw12024.org) and look for the download page. There is a PDF file that you can fill out online and print. It is an application with the information needed by the Post to enter your information into the National VFW database.

After filling it out, you can mail it to the address on the form located at the bottom, or you can bring it with you to a Post Meeting.

Post meetings are held the first Thursday of each month with a scheduled meeting time of 7:00 p.m., but we ask that you show up early to talk to the Quartermaster.

Come join us and help us help Veterans in the Community. Every member counts, the more members we have, the more we can do.

#### VFW POST 12024

South County Community Center  
2235 Lake Robbins Drive  
The Woodlands, TX 77380

281-475-8054

[Commander@vfwpost12024.org](mailto:Commander@vfwpost12024.org)  
[President@vfwpost12024.org](mailto:President@vfwpost12024.org)  
[webmaster@vfw12024.org](mailto:webmaster@vfw12024.org)



***THE WOODLANDS  
MOTORCYCLE GROUP***

***UNIT 1***

***[www.vfwmgtx1.org](http://www.vfwmgtx1.org)***