



Phone: 472-3344

Post Home Built in 1858, Post Founded in 1919

Travis Post No. 76, 2201 Veterans Drive

February 2007

Commanders Comments

By Larry Miller

We certainly hope everyone fared well in the January ice storm. Sorry we had to cancel our monthly social. However, the Chili cook off is on for February. Come eat chili and listen to one of our own members, George Ruiz, talk about Veteran Benefits etc.

Saturday the 10th of February will be the first of hopefully our monthly Executive Committee breakfast meetings to discuss program changes and conduct occasional work sessions at the Post. Every member is invited to participate. We will start the breakfast at 9:00 AM and finish around noon. These meetings should provide additional social, business and work opportunities to the membership. We will meet the second Saturday of each month.

Our Historian, Cyndi Miller, has requested that if anyone has pictures for our scrap book to contact her or the officers of the Post as soon as possible. She would like to enter the book in the Department competition that is just around the corner.

As always, join us at the Post for any and all activities. Please keep those in harms way and their families in your prayers. SEE YOU AT THE POST!

Dinner Meeting did not happen. So, we will push everything out a month. Except for our Commander, no one else came for the meeting. Once here, he got stuck in Austin for 3 days but, from what he said, at least he didn't go hungry. He had his chili! It was okay the first 2 days but after that he couldn't vouch for it! Y'all have to ask him about it at this months meeting.

For the February Dinner Meeting (Monday, February 19, 2007) we will have our annual Chili Cook Off. (Yes, our Commander will again make his famous brand of Chili and enter the contest.) Hot and spicy or mild, or somewhere in-between, bring your favorite and share. We will have prizes, yet to be determined. If you do not wish to bring a Chili dish, we can always use a dessert or two, a salad, bread, etc. Our speaker will be our own George Ruiz who will discuss with us the available Veterans Benefits, what's new, what's not so new, and what's on the horizon.

It will be a good meeting! For March, I am looking at getting someone from the Social Security office to come and talk to us. More on that in the next newsletter. For the March Dinner Meeting we are proposing to do a fish fry. Y'all up for that????? Our own Joe Cook will be doing the honors and he is always looking for volunteers to help. So come on out early to help out.

Planning Schedule

Executive & Business Meeting 1st Monday
March 5th, April 2nd, May 7th
Dinner Meeting @ 7:00 p.m. 3rd Monday
February 19th, March 19th, April 16th

Speaker for February Meeting George Ruiz
Topic Veterans Benefits
Entree for February Dinner Meeting .. Chili Cook-Off
Entree for March Dinner Meeting Fish Fry

1st Vice Commanders Comments

by Al Banzer

Well, the first time in a long time (from what I remember anyway) we had to cancel a dinner meeting! Thanks to Mother Nature and her ice, the January

GOD BLESS AMERICA AND OUR TROOPS

2006-2007 Officers

Commander	899-8380	Larry Miller
1 st Vice Commander	372-8507	Al Banzer
2 nd Vice Commander	345-3439	Joe Trochta
Adjutant		Clayton Griffis
	6904 LaRue Belle Cove, Austin, TX 78739	
	Ph. 301-1983	email: cjgriffis@sbcglobal.net
Finance Officer	495-9200	Will Ivie
Service Officer	443-7232	George Ruiz
Chaplain	767-8644	Jason Denny
Judge Advocate	328-1968	Guy Davis
Sergeant-at-Arms	924-7253	James Crabtree
Historian	451-4650	Joseph Cook

.....

Newsletter Editor 294-4774 Steve Rye
Email: strye@austin.rr.com

Editor's Note: Articles for publication are welcomed from all members – they should be submitted for publication in the current edition NLT the 5th of each month.

Message

from the
Chaplain

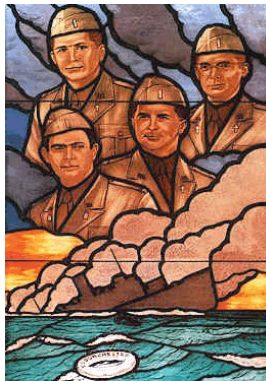
by Jason Denny

A convoy of three ships and three escorting Coast Guard cutters passed through "torpedo alley" some 100 miles off the coast of Greenland at about 1:00 a.m. on February 3, 1943. The submarine U-223 fired three torpedoes, one of which hit the mid-section of the *Dorchester*, a U.S. Army troopship with more than 900 men on board. Ammonia and oil were everywhere in the fast-sinking vessel and upon the freezing sea.

The four Chaplains on board, two Protestant pastors, a Catholic priest and a Jewish rabbi, were among the first on deck, calming the men and handing out life jackets. When they ran out, they took off their own and placed them on waiting soldiers without regard to faith or race. Approximately 18 minutes from the explosion, the ship went down. They were the last to be seen by witnesses; they were standing arm-in-arm on the hull of the ship, each praying in his own way for the care of the men. Almost 700 died, making it the third largest loss at sea of its kind for the United States during World War II. The Coast Guard Cutter *Tampa* was able to escort the other freighters to Greenland. Meanwhile the cutters *Comanche* and *Escanaba*, disobeying orders to continue the search for the German U-Boat, stopped to rescue 230 men from the frigid waters that night.

The four Chaplains were Father John Washington (Catholic), Reverend Clark Poling (Dutch Reformed), Rabbi Alexander Goode (Jewish) and Rev. George Fox (Methodist). These four Chaplains were later honored by the Congress and Presidents. They were recognized for their selfless acts of courage, compassion and faith. According to the First Sergeant on the ship, "They were always together, they carried their faith together." They demonstrated throughout the voyage and in their last moments, interfaith compassion in their relationship with the men and with each other. In 1960 Congress created a special Congressional Medal of Valor, never to be repeated again, and gave it to the next of kin of the "Immortal Chaplains."

FOUR BRAVE CHAPLAINS



... that others might live!

This year marked the sixty-fourth year when America lost four brave men at sea. I would like to ask that you take some time out in prayer to reflect on a few words that were said during that time at sea...

*Eternal Father, strong to save,
Whose arms hath bound the restless waves...
Who bids mighty ocean deep
Its own appointed limits keep
To hear us when we cry to thee
For those in peril on the sea.*

With arms linked in friendship and heads bowed in prayer, I offer you my service as your Chaplain. Let us link arms together in prayer for your personal needs and concerns.

Sincerely,
Chaplain Jason R. Denny

Adjutants Comments

by Clayton Griffis

I am pleased to welcome Leo Prichard (Army) to Travis Post 76. Leo comes to us from Post 447 and is currently in an activated unit. I know we all look forward to visiting with Leo as soon as he is back in Austin.

It is with sadness that I report the death of Post Member William E. Russell II. Please remember his family in your prayers.

Our Post 76 Oratorical Contestant won the 3rd Division Oratorical Contest on Sunday, January 28th, 2007. Aysha Bagchi, a Senior at McCallum High School, will be one of four competitors at the State Oratorical Contest in San Angelo on February 19th at 9:00 a.m. By winning the District 10 and the 3rd Division Contests, Aysha is eligible for \$750 in scholarships. Additional scholarships awarded at the State Contest range from \$500 to \$2,000. Please check the Department web site for more Oratorical Contest information.

I had the privilege recently of speaking to a group of Cub Scouts about the history of the American flag, flag etiquette, and the free form of government that our flag represents. I was fortunate to have at my disposal several printed publications available from The American Legion, including two comic books - *Our Country's Flag* and *I Pledge Allegiance*, that the boys found interesting and informative. If you ever need information on proper flag etiquette, or plan to speak to a youth group about the flag, please contact me about the products available from The American Legion, including printed materials and a DVD.

Clayton Griffis, Adjutant

THE AMERICAN'S CREED

I believe in the United States of America as a government of the people, by the people, for the people; whose just powers are derived from the consent of the governed. A democracy in a republic; a sovereign nation of many sovereign states; a perfect union, one and inseparable; established upon those principles of freedom, equality, justice and humanity for which American patriots sacrificed their lives and fortunes. I therefore believe it is my duty to my country to love it, to support its constitution, to obey its laws, to respect its flag, and to defend it against all enemies.

THE AMERICAN LEGION
TRAVIS POST NO. 76
P. O. BOX 1214
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78767



Non-Profit Organization
U. S. Postage
PAID
Austin, Texas
Permit No. 1760