



PARKER COUNTY AMERICAN LEGION POST 163  
200 CARTWRIGHT PARK ROAD WEATHERFORD, TEXAS 76088  
(817) 594-4101

JULY/AUGUST 2014

# Post 163 Times

## News from the Commander



Greetings to all Post 163 Legion family members, 3 years ago you elected me Commander and what a 3 years it has been! We have had our ups and downs but always came out on top of all issues presented to us, for we are a family unit that works together and stands together for one purpose, to serve our veterans, the community and our young people, the American Legion way.

The past 3 years has been very good for me. I have had great mentors and officers to help me keep our Post 163 family. We now have a new home to come home to and to grow into the best Post in Texas. I have met a lot of good people in my travels to conventions and have had a great many people help me in my time as Commander. It takes all members to make a post and there are always those few who stand out for all they do.

I sincerely hope I have served you well as Commander and I can tell you all, I am truly blessed to have known and worked with you for the betterment of Post 163. Our membership is growing and we are getting new people to learn the Legion way and keep our traditions alive.

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### 2014-2015 Post 163 Officers:

Russ Herrick, Dave Tolbert, Bret Watson,  
Ron Chandler, Ray Staples, Bill Mallory,  
John Hale, Dan Dutton, Vaughn Oliver, John  
Cobb, Owen Raynel & Tommy Creel.

Installation of Post 163 Officers for  
2014-2015 will be held on August 12, 2014  
at 7:00 p.m.. There will be a potluck dinner  
starting at 6:00 p.m. (Sign-up in Canteen).

## EXECUTIVE BOARD INFORMATION

### Post Officers for 2013/2014:

Commander: **Bill Mallory** 817-694-8989  
1st Vice Cmdr: **Charles Roberson** 817-304-1113  
2nd Vice Cmdr: Vacant  
Adjutant: **Ron Chandler** 817-223-8926  
Service Officer: **John Hale** 817-598-6153

Finance Officer: **Bret Watson** 817-946-0906  
Sgt.-at-Arms: **John Cobb** 817-480-2182  
Judge Advocate: **Dan Dutton** 817-597-1981  
Chaplain: **Chuck Katlic** 817-599-0952  
Historian: **Vaughn Oliver** (817) 550-6012

### Executive Committee:

**Russ Herrick** 940-327-8175 **Ray Staples** 817-304-2770 **David Tolbert** 940-452-5172

## News from the Adjutant

Fellow Legionnaires,

Post 163 membership numbers for the end of 2014 represents an impressive increase in new members at 24. Transfers into our Post also are great at 26 members and we had 222 members that renewed their membership which is 88% of those that were members last year. This put our final 2014 membership at 270 members or 106 % of what we had last year at 253 members.

We would like to welcome our new members to Post 163 and encourage all members to attend a General Membership meeting on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7:00PM. We would like to meet you all so you can better understand what we do and who we are as Legionnaires and members of our Legion family and the many opportunities we offer to get involved.

AS LAST YEAR ALL, MEMBERS THAT RENEW THEIR MEMBERSHIP BY AUGUST 31st ARE "EARLY BIRDS" AND WE WILL REWARD OUR "EARLY BIRD'S" WITH A FREE DINNER IN SEPTEMBER, MORE TO COME ON THIS. THERE WILL BE DOOR PRIZES AND A SPECIAL DRAWING FOR THREE (3) MEMBERS TO HAVE THE NEXT YEARS DUES PAID BY THE POST AND ALL MEMBERS WILL RECEIVE A BEVERAGE TICKET TO THOSE THAT ATTEND AND SIGN IN THE COMMANDER'S GUEST BOOK.

The 2015 American Legion membership campaign will begin soon and we have received our new cards for 2015. I would personally like to encourage those that have Internet to sign up on [mylegion.org](http://mylegion.org) and pay your dues online. [mylegion.org](http://mylegion.org) is a FREE website designed to connect members of The American Legion to their Post and Department leadership, then follow the instructions as a member. Our dues for 2015 is the same as last year, \$35.00.

I would also like to encourage American Legion members to consider joining the ranks of those Paid Up For Life (PUFL) members currently 24, which means you will never have to pay dues again and will not be subject to membership dues increases in the future. Please call me if you wish to consider being a PUFL member or send an e-mail to [legionpost163@aol.com](mailto:legionpost163@aol.com).

For God and Country

Post 163 Adjutant  
*Ron Chandler*

### Post 163 Times Editor:

Rachael M. Watson

Please submit all comments & questions to:

[rachaelmwatson@yahoo.com](mailto:rachaelmwatson@yahoo.com)

## Chaplain's Corner

God, continue to bless our country and let us have freedom.

*Chuck Katlic*



### Sons of the American Legion

During the last Squadron 163 meeting on June 12th we had our election of officers for 2014 – 2015 so with that being said, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the past officers and congratulate the new. So without further ado our new slate of officers will be:

Commander:	Johnathan Poe
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice commander:	Tyler Watson
Adjutant:	Ron Chandler
Chaplain:	Tommy Creel
Sergeant at Arms:	Taylor Watson

I am very proud of this Squadron; our current membership is at an all-time high with 29 members which puts us at 153% with Detachment.

I want to remind everyone that the S.A.L. is cooking Burgers every 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of the month, we need volunteers to cook! If you're not cooking at least come on out and eat because either way you are supporting the Post. Also, please remember that Squadron 163 holds their monthly meeting every 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday at the Post @ 7pm. If you haven't attended a meeting in a while, you need to so you can see what we have accomplished this past year.

For God and Country

Squadron 163 Commander  
*Johnathan Poe*

### Continued from p. 1 - FROM THE COMMANDER...

In August you will have a new Commander -- Bret Watson. He has been a good leader, mentor and friend, and has also worked countless hours for the Legion and Post 163 family. Please help him any way you can and remember the Post will only be as good as you want it to be. We have a strong family unit and I have no doubt the Post will last another 100 years.

Let me thank you for letting me be your Commander these last 3 years and may GOD bless you and the American Legion and Post 163.

Thank you for all you do,  
God Bless America

Commander  
*Bill Mallory*



## American Legion Auxiliary

Henry Ford once said, "Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success." The same is true for Unit 163. When the Unit was chartered in the 1920's, the ladies who gathered to organize us knew that whatever was going to happen would take work from every member who was a part of the organization in order for it to have continued success for many years to come. Our Unit is still working together, growing strong and making a difference.

"The basic building block of good team-building is for a leader to promote the feeling that every human being is unique and adds value."

This year has been such a great year for Unit 163 and I am so honored to be its leader. While many Units are struggling in membership, ours is thriving. What makes us different from some of the other Units? I think our members belong to an organization that they love and are proud to be a part of. I strongly believe that the members of Unit 163 take the time to become fully knowledgeable about our organization and because of this, people continue to inquire about who we are and what we do. When we are informed about something we love, we tend to talk about it more to others. There are some Friday nights at the Post that I listen to Unit 163 members talk about our organization, it's purpose, our activities and programs and what has yet to come for our Unit. The Unit works hard and stands proudly among the best of the best.

Unit 163 has made a meaningful commitment to our organization and continues to make significant impacts in our community, from blood drives to stuffing boxes for the troops. We continue to work together as a meaningful part of a larger whole, giving us all the initiative and encouragement needed to do what is necessary to achieve our goals and continue our mission.

As many of you know, our 2015 membership drive will kick off in August. So far, the 2014 membership year has brought us to 117.39% and the Unit is still recruiting. Unit 163 is special and continues to remember that renewals and membership provide the Unit with the financial support to work and fulfill our mission of enhancing the lives of our Veterans, our active military and their families, both home and abroad.

I look forward in continuing to work with the Unit and all its many members. I know that our membership will continue to thrive and our mission will continue to be carried out.

I thank all of my many Unit members for their years of service to the American Legion Auxiliary and extend my sincerest gratitude for all their hard work and dedication to our Unit and our great organization.

For God and Country

Unit 163 President  
*Rachael M. Watson*

## American Legion Auxiliary 4th Division

My term as your 4th Division President will come to a close in July at the 2014 Department Convention in McAllen. This year has had joy and sorrow. This year we had Units close, most of them for the lack of membership and Unit open, aspiring to do something great. I also made new friends of whom I would have never met.

I want to say thank you to the members of Unit 163 for their love and support. This is as far in the Auxiliary that I wish to go. I plan to continue my work in the Unit and serve on Department committee's if possible. A special thank you to Past Department President, Gayle Simpson, who was responsible for me getting involved in the American Legion Auxiliary as her "personal page" when she was Department President.

Thanks to everyone in the 4th Division, I hope to see you in years to come at our many conventions.

For God & Country

4th Division President  
*Carolyn Dutton*

### From the Chaplain's Desk

We are half way through the year and so much has been going on with the American Legion Family. We as a Unit have been very busy with no plans on slowing down. Unit 163 had it's 1st Easter Egg Hunt which turned out to be a huge success, that the Unit is already planning for next year.

Unit 163 has had several dinners helping raise funds to help the Post in many ways. And our blood drives continue to bring in more units of blood for the blood bank which helps the Veteran's and their families of Parker County.

I had the honor of presiding over the memorial honoring the Veteran's of Harmony Baptist Church this year. It was with great pleasure that our church was able to obtain, through the help of our Post, the metals that our paster did not receive after serving in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam war.

Services were help throughout the county on Monday with our Post helping put fags out on graves in several different cemeteries throughout the county.

As I close this article, we need to pray for all of out troops both here and in foreign countries. Pray that they come home safe and that God's hand shelters them each day.

For it's with God and Country that I pray,

Unit 163 Chaplain  
*Nancy Cobb*



I would like for everyone to please take note that ALR 163 has changed meeting nights to the 3rd Tuesday of the month. We will still meet at the Post at 7p.m., just on a different night.

I am amazed at the popularity of ALR 163, since we first became a Chapter we've received many invitations to rides and activities for Veteran's benefit and support; and the invitations keep coming. I feel that we get these invitations because people see the enthusiasm we share, not for just riding motorcycles but for the enjoyment we get from helping our community and the other Legion families.

We are doing great as a Chapter. Our membership is growing, our monetary contributions to date are well over \$1,500 and we have several rides coming up. ALR 163 is currently working with VFW Post# 4746 and the Gold Star Families with a Fun Run to benefit the Parker County Veteran's Memorial. We'll be planning a second Fun Run in the future for our Veteran's "Transportation" fund. Find us on Facebook at American Legion Riders Post 163 Weatherford Texas to stay up to date with our activities.

Please see the Post "Calendar of Events" to see when our next Dinner Night and Breakfast is and come on out and see us.

Until then, keep the shiny side up and your knees in the breeze.

For God and Country

Chapter 163 Director

Legionnaires, I would like to thank each and every member that renewed or joined the Post. It is your dedication that helped you reach your membership goal of over 100%.

I will be attending the Department convention to be held in McAllen, Texas. I encourage all officers and legionnaires to join me in supporting our 17th District at this convention. We will be electing new Department Officers and Installing even numbered District Officers.

I will be very busy in August also with District Commander School to be held in Austin, TX on August 8-10. Then at the end of August I will be attending National Convention in Charlotte, NC along with Post Adjutant Ron Chandler. There will be a lot to be learned and not to mention all the National award winners will be presented their awards for accomplishments throughout the American Legion.

Thank you for your dedication and persistent in providing your time and help in making your Post the best in the 17th District. I am proud to be a member of this excellent Post. I look forward to the upcoming year as your 17th District Commander. It has been an awesome adventure and I encourage any one interested in advancing in the ranks to think about running for the office of District Commander or Vice-Commander.

For God and Country

17th District Commander  
*Bret Watson*

**Benefits & the V.A.**

As far as the reduction of benefits being cut for veterans, I believe that is not the case throughout the V.A. system. What is happening and is being reported on the news sources is that some V. A. medical facilities are accused of manipulating waiting lists for veterans who wish to obtain medical services. The V.A. was striving to have medical appointments scheduled within 14 days and when that was proven to be difficult to achieve some people in the V.A. medical system have been accused of hiding some of those veterans on the waiting lists in order to make the waiting lists seem to be shorter than they actually were. I have been told by the V.A. medical staff that some of the people involved, in other states, have been dismissed and there is an ongoing investigation by the V.A. Inspector General's Office.

What is not involved in the current "scandal" is the rest of the V.A. programs such as Compensation-Pension, Education and the various other benefits available to veterans and qualified family members.

Veteran's Service Officer  
*John Hale*

**SUGGESTION BOX**

Members, below is a suggestion box for anyone to submit ideas for our Post family to participate in. All suggestions will be directed to House Committee. These are suggestions for our family to help in comradeship and help build membership

Remarks:

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Please mail to: Commander  
P.O. Box 235  
Weatherford, TX 76086