

# American Legion S. Mike Lacy Post #554

## Family Newsletter

### THE PATRIOT



June 2024

Website: [leaguecitylegion554.org](http://leaguecitylegion554.org)

#### COMMANDER'S CORNER

The Election Cycle for the Legionnaires is all wrapped up. Elections were held on Thursday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>. Please congratulate the following newly elected officers for the 2024-2025 election cycle.

#### The Elected Positions:

Commander – Jim Heldt

1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander – Mike Lee

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander – Laszlo Nyerges

3<sup>rd</sup> Vice Commander – John Wilson

Post Adjutant – Monique Ferguson

Chaplain – Vacant Position

Finance Officer – Doug Kamien

Service Officer – Jonathan Willis

Historian – Garrett Jones

Judge Advocate – Joe Grindel

SGT. At Arms – Harold Sample

Asst. SGT. At Arms – Vacant Position

1<sup>st</sup> Member at Large – Tony Hughes

2<sup>nd</sup> Member at Large – In Review

3<sup>rd</sup> Member at Large – Larry Reynolds

If you are interested in holding one of the vacant positions, please get with the newly elected Commander, Jim Heldt.

The newly elected Commander of the Legion and the newly elected President of the Auxiliary have set the date for Installation as Saturday, July 20<sup>th</sup>. More details to follow. New officers, please remember, you must have your membership current for Installation.

I would like to thank all who attended and participated in the Memorial Day Celebration. It was a tremendous event!

Don't forget about Vinyl night, Friday's at 6:30PM, Darts on Saturday Night starting between 7:00PM and 8:00PM and Breakfast on Sunday mornings from 8:30AM-11:00AM. Bike Night is every third Tuesday of every month!! You don't have to be a Rider to come out and enjoy! All are welcome!

For God and Country

**Chris Smith, Acting Commander Post 554**

Hello Veterans

#### Service Officer

This has been a challenging month for many of us veterans. I want to say to everyone who served and who are still serving I appreciate you for the sacrifice you made and continue to make for our country. To the families who stood by us through the long nights, the deployments, and the mental stress we put you through I appreciate you as well. This month I got the pleasure of helping a veteran and his family get a roof back over their head. A veteran get his rent paid. I was also able to help a widow and daughter keep a roof over their head. I don't tell you this to brag, but to let you know that the act of being a Veteran Service Officer is one I take seriously, and I do with passion. With that being said I will be turning this position over to Jonathan Willis in the next few months. He will be a great asset to continue to help and support veteran's needs. I will continue to help him if he needs it. Memorial Day was just a few days ago and we paid tribute to the fallen members of the American Legion Post. It was a pleasure to be a part of that service. I leave you with a parting thought...

VETERANS ARE A SYMBOL OF WHAT MAKES OUR NATION GREAT. AND WE MUST NEVER FORGET ALL THEY HAVE DONE TO ENSURE OUR FREEDOM.

Rodney Frelinghuysen

For God and Country

**Chad Crawford, Service Officer**

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**Chris's Corner**

Thanks to all who came out on May 25<sup>th</sup> for our annual Crawfish Boil. It was good food, good friends and fun was had by all!! We look forward to doing it again next year!

Our next meeting will be held offsite at "The Hideout" in San Leon on Saturday, June 8<sup>th</sup> at 11:00AM. **Address:** E Bay Shore Dr, San Leon, TX 77539 **Phone:** [\(281\) 549-4375](tel:2815494375). I look forward to see you all there!

Take a moment to congratulate all of the new elected Riders Officers! Please attend Installation of new officers on July 20<sup>th</sup>.  
Riders Director – Mike Lee "Rooster"                      Chaplain – Vacant Position  
Asst. Director – Chad Crawford                              Historian – Les "Possum" Walker  
Treasurer – Chris "O.C" Gunning                              SGT. at Arms – Garrett Jones  
Secretary – Vacant Position

If you are interested in holding one of the vacant positions, please get with the newly elected Director, Mike Lee.

We will have our tickets available at the next Riders meeting for our fundraiser raffle. Please attend and sign out some tickets.  
For God and Country

**Chris Smith, Director ALR**

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**Son's**

I want to congratulate all our new officers for next year and looking forward to another great year. Our new Commander will be Steven Bradford, he will begin his new role on August 1<sup>st</sup>.

Hope to see all S.A.L members at the next S.A.L meeting on **June 27, 2024 at 7:00PM**. We are missing contact information for a lot of S.A.L members. We need updated contact information for your email and phone number. Please update your information

We will be having a Burger dinner on Thursday June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024, before the Legionnaire meeting starting at 4:30 PM ending at 6:40 PM. Everyone is welcome so come on out and enjoy not having to cook dinner.

As you see the little pink piggies on the bar or on the tables at the post in the canteen. These little piggies are hungry for your change. All the change that you feed to these cute little piggies will be donated to the Child Welfare Foundation.

For God and Country

**Thomas Coldwell II, S.A.L. Squadron 554 Commander**

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**Padre's Corner**

A recent bout of homesickness found me reflecting on my time growing up in the desert town of Deming, New Mexico. I recounted our Church as a weekly (correction - twice to three times a week) part of my family's life. Our church building was a standard traditional structure made of wood painted white, tall windows dotting both sides, with a steeple above the front door. It appeared as if it were copied straight from a Norman Rockwell painting, Americana at its finest.

I remember learning that our church building was donated by the U.S. Army after the Aircore training facilities were closed down following the conclusion of World War 2. What I didn't know at that time was that the Army built hundreds of these chapels, all identical, across the country during the war. Prior to the 40s the Army had very few places of worship with many of its services taken place in Mess facilities, theaters, tents or even on Parade Grounds.

"The War Department accorded its approval, the 77th Congress included the thought in Congressional Bill HR-3617, Public 13 and the President signed the bill on March 17, 1941" per Online Chaplain History Museum and thus the standard Army Chapel was born. The chapels were designed to be simple structures with dignity. Every chapel had five windows donning each side and a pitched roof with a steeple up front. Inside, tall ceilings gave way to two rows of pews that could seat three hundred and another fifty-seven worshipers could be placed on the balcony. Each church has a pulpit and an altar designed to serve all faiths.

These Army Chapels were originally designed to resemble small country Churches and ended up setting the standard when it comes to Americana. As an adult, I've seen several of these Army churches and each time my memories go back to my childhood in New Mexico.

For God and Country

**Laszlo Nyerges, Chaplain**

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**NOTE TO MEMBERS:** If you have access to a computer and have an email address you can receive the newsletter via email. Be sure you have MS Word or Adobe Acrobat. If you would rather receive the newsletter via email, please let Jeanne Brown, Lois Hayman or any officer know and we will remove your name from the mailing list and put it on our email list. In doing this, we will save money on postage, and you'll receive the

newsletter as soon as it is complete. We have a lot of members that are choosing this method of delivery so keep 'em coming! You can email Jeanne Brown at [jeannebrown123@comcast.net](mailto:jeannebrown123@comcast.net) Oh, the joy of the internet! Also – another note: We are a growing family, and we are giving a big shout out to all our members that have birthdays in June, **HAPPY BIRTHDAY to all of You!**

American Legion Post #554 Family  
 1650 Hwy. 3 South  
 League City, TX 77573

NON-PROFIT US POSTAGE PAID PERMIT NO. 95 LEAGUE CITY, TX
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**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

Legion Post #554 Officers 2023-2024

Acting Commander	Chris Smith
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice Commander	Open
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander	Laszlo Nyerges
3 <sup>rd</sup> Vice Commander	John Wilson
Post Adjutant	David Dean
Chaplain	Laszlo Nyerges
Finance Chair	Doug Kamien
Service Officer	Chad Crawford
Historian	Mike Lee
Judge Advocate	Open Position
Sergeant at Arms	Harold Sample
Asst. Sergeant at Arms	Jim Heldt
Members at Large	Ron Kirby
	Tony Hughes
	Tommy Coldwell

Auxiliary Unit #554 Officers 2023-2024

President	Sara Lacy
Vice President	Martinas Smith
Treasurer	Carrie Hendricks-Helm
Secretary	Ashli Sample
Membership Chair	Lois Hayman
Chaplain	Jean Reaves
Historian	Diane Walker
Sergeant at Arms	Virginia Hughes
Asst. Sergeant at Arms	Wendy Heldt
Members at Large	Brenda Bonneau
	Karen Wiggins
	Rhonda Dohr
Junior's Director	Valerie Coldwell
Asst. Jr. Director	Rebecca Meate

Sons of the American Legion #554 Officers 2023 - 2024

Commander	Thomas Coldwell II
Vice President	Bill Bellinghausen
Finance Officer	Johnny White
Judge Advocate	Travis Bergh
Adjutant	Rich Huntley
Chaplain	Joe Lacy
Historian	Open Position
Sergeant at Arms	Tony Hughes
Asst. Sgt. at Arms	Open Position

Legion Riders Post #554 Officers 2023 – 2024

Director	Chris Smith
Asst. Director	Billy Ward
Treasurer	Martinas Smith
Secretary	Lois Hayman
Chaplain	Laszlo Nyerges
Historian	Mike Lee
Sergeant at Arms	Kyle Vickers
Advertising Chair	Martinas Smith