

### Recent Activities at Alamo Post 2, The American Legion

#### New Department Commander

Ms. Gerry May Hince has been elected the 2022-2023 Department of Texas Commander. The Department is made up of over 65,000 Legionnaires in 480 Posts across Texas. We are in excellent hands with the mighty, Ms. Gerry May Hince.



#### 2021-2022 Retention Goal Accolades

Thanks to your stellar support of your Alamo Post 2, we achieved our goal of 100% membership retention. Due to a technicality on the timing of our submissions, department recognized us for achieving 90%. The National Commander, Paul E. Dillard who is a native Texan, recognized us for achieving 100%. Our beautiful plaques are currently on display in the entry way corridor.



eager beaver members who have already renewed for the 2023 membership year (thank you!), the Post Adjutant, Allen Iott has been hard at work placing the cards in the mail. Please keep an eye out for them soon! If you have already paid and receive another dues notice, please disregard that notice. There was a printing error on dues notices which incorrectly indicated everyone has been a member since 2022; the error has been corrected and your 2023 membership card will reflect the correct start date of your membership. If you need a temporary card, you may obtain one by logging into [www.mylegion.org](http://www.mylegion.org) and use the link to print a membership card.

#### New members

During the Wednesday, August 3rd General Membership Meeting the membership in attendance voted in 19 new members—welcome aboard!

During the July General Membership Meeting, the following new members and transferring members were voted and welcomed into Post 2. New members: Jose Carrasquillo (Army/Vietnam); William A. Dinius (Navy/Other conflict); and Misty Israel (Air Force/Persian Gulf). Transferred members: Raul Buentello (336); David C. Delgado (579); Isaac Simpson (345). Please welcome them to our post!

#### A Night in Your Honor

The 2023 graduating high school seniors who are off to boot camp will be hosted for an evening, A Night in Your Honor. Each student wears a sash in the color of their new service, along with their service name. Alamo Post 2 members voted to support the purchase of sashes for this worthwhile event by donating 50% of the proceeds from the monthly 50-50 raffle.

#### 2023 Membership Cards

The card is in the mail. No, really! Due to a paper shortage there was a delay in receiving the cardstock up in Austin so the cards were delayed. For those

#### Legion College

Alamo Post 2 is honored to host Legion College on 17-18 September from 8am-4pm. This is a terrific opportunity to learn more about how the American Legion works. If you are interested in getting more involved with the post and would like to attend, you must complete the Legion's online course, Basic Training in order to register for Legion College. Go to [www.legion.org/training](http://www.legion.org/training) today!



### **Recent Activities at Alamo Post 2, The American Legion, continued...**

#### **Boys State Program—Update**

At the September General Membership Meeting (Wednesday, 9/7 at 6:30pm) we will hear from this season's Boys State graduates sponsored by Alamo Post 2; it's sure to be a real treat!



Also, a hardy thanks to 2021 Second Vice Commander, Beck Steiner for his dedication, time, and commitment to this vital program. He ensured the 8 delegates from Post 2 had an experience of their lifetime! Bravo Zulu!

#### **Constitution and Bylaws**

Now available on our website

[www.AmericanLegionAlamoPost2.org](http://www.AmericanLegionAlamoPost2.org)

#### **Meeting Minutes**

Available on our website. Minutes will not longer be distributed at the monthly General Membership Meeting.

[www.AmericanLegionAlamoPost2.org](http://www.AmericanLegionAlamoPost2.org)

#### **American Legion Riders**

Kickstands up! The Riders are reconstituting in September and would love to see you come out to the post to help get the chapter on the road again! POC is 2021 Past Commander and **2022 Finance Officer, Carlos Mendez** at 210.724.4491



#### **Alamo Post 2 Concert Band**

Our awesome band is gearing up for Veterans Day Parade. Volunteers are needed for the flag detail. The detail will be comprised of the US, Texas, and Legion flags, as well as flags for each of the services. If you are interested in participating or supporting the Veterans Day Parade, contact **Commander, Howard Gravely** at 508-254-7303

#### **House Committee**

**Grand re-opening of the canteen/small bar on Saturday, August 27th (time TBD—stay tuned)**

- ◆ Grand re-opening will be marked with a ceremony in recognition of the 12th Anniversary of the End of Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) on August 31st.
- ◆ Start of the football season—finally!
- ◆ Opportunity for post members to gather and socialize
- ◆ Generate additional revenue to support our historic, but aging Post home
- ◆ Naming competition: we are in search of an updated name for the bar/canteen such as “social quarters.” Send recommendations to Albert Mireles, House Committee Chair at 210.275.4184 (leave message if no answer) or [Mireles.Albert@yahoo.com](mailto:Mireles.Albert@yahoo.com). Winner receives \$10 drink coupon!

We have a new ice machine capable of generating 650 lbs. of ice per day! The old ice machine has been relocated behind the bar.

#### **New Post Officer Onboard—JAG**

Fred Vasquez was duly elected in August and is now listed on the website as a post officer.

[www.AmericanLegionAlamoPost2.org](http://www.AmericanLegionAlamoPost2.org)

#### **Scouting—Cub Scout Pack 2**

The District Scouting Executives went to Arnold Elementary and recruited approximately 15 families interested in joining Cub Scouts. This happened after the end of the school year. They are working on an event at the beginning of the new school year to join Cub Scout Pack 2. There are two mothers who are willing to be leaders but there must be at least three more adults to bring the Pack of life. With or without a Cub Scout Pack, the Post may host the annual Pinewood Derby competition in our ballroom. More information to follow.

POC is **Post Adjutant, Allen Iott**, 210-425-5562.

#### **Sons of the American Legion-Squadron 2**

A meet & greet event for the organizing of Alamo Squadron 2 is forthcoming. We encourage you to bring in your sons or grandsons into this organization which educates and supports the American Legion. If you are a Legion member and your parents or grandparents were veterans, you are eligible to join the SAL as a dual member. More information to follow.

## Recognizing Post 2 Volunteers & Events at the Post

### Volunteer Appreciation Day

Post leadership recognizes all the work done at the post by the hardworking volunteers. To say thank you and recognize them for their time and effort (blood, sweat, and tears), the Post 2 volunteers were treated to a Mission's baseball game.

Post 2 members served as color guard for the game.



### New veteran volunteers in the kitchen

While they may be cooking fish, our ultimate chicken fried steak, hushpuppies, fries and more, the food prepared and sold during the Friday Fundraiser literally keeps the ship afloat.

Thank you for doing the vitally important work in the hot kitchen!!



### Volunteer Certificates of Appreciation, August

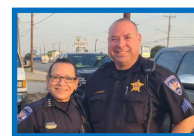
- Dan Almendarz
- Clayton Rhodes
- Dan Rodriguez
- Joe Sanchez
- Suzzie Thomas

### National Purple Heart Day Ceremony

While everyone is familiar with Memorial Day, Veterans Day, and Armed Forces Day, there is another day that is just as important that many do not know about—National Purple Heart Day. Observed on the day of its creation, National Purple Heart Day falls on August 7th each year.

During our weekly Friday night Fish Fry & Chicken Fried Steak Fundraiser dinner on August 5th, Alamo Post 2 honored the Purple Heart Medal and the brave combat-wounded Veterans who earned it. The event received media coverage from La Prensa with photo-log reporting on Facebook by Army Veteran and Community Liaison, Ramon Chapa Jr. The keynote speaker was Tony Quesada from the Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH) with additional remarks provided by Lieutenant General, Ricardo Sanchez (US Army, Retired); Albert Mireles, MOPH and Executive Committee Member of Post 2; Carlos Mendez, Alamo Post 2 Past Commander and 2022 Finance Officer. The presiding Alamo Post 2 Officer was Howard Gravely, Commander. Other notable attendees were the Constable and a Sergeant, as well as Miss. Teen Bexar County, the niece of a Alamo Post 2 Navy Veteran.

The event would not have been possible without the incredible work done by the Post 2 Officers, Executive Committee Members, and Unit 2 Auxiliary to clean, ready, and decorate the post for the event. Additionally, they ensured the event ran smoothly. Thanks again to all for the great work — **teamwork makes the dreamwork!**





### **Passage of the historic PACT Act demonstrates the importance and strength of your American Legion Membership—Veterans' voice on the Hill in Washington, D.C.**

The U.S. Senate issued its final vote the historic **Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring Our PACT Act**, ensuring millions of veterans exposed to noxious fumes emanating from burn pits will have access to Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) care and benefits.

The American Legion-supported legislation passed by a vote of 86-11.

"Tonight, the U.S. Senate passed historic legislation that will make a difference in the lives of millions of veterans," American Legion National Commander Paul E. Dillard said.

Dillard pointed out that the Legion's grassroots advocacy helped ensure the bill's approval.

"It would not have passed without the tireless efforts of our American Legion Family and friends who contacted lawmakers and encouraged them to do right by America's veterans. We look forward to President Biden signing the PACT Act expeditiously."

**The PACT Act addresses the full spectrum of issues affecting toxic-exposed veterans' access to VA benefits and care, while also reforming VA's presumptive decision-making process.**

The sweeping legislation provides a comprehensive framework to improve the presumptive process for burn pit veterans by streamlining access to health-care benefits for those who served in areas of known toxic exposure — regardless of disability status — and provides health care for as many as 3.5 million veterans exposed to airborne hazards and burn pits.

Toxic smoke and fumes from burn pits in Iraq and Afghanistan included medical and human waste, jet fuel, chemicals, metal, munitions and unexploded ordnance, petroleum and lubricant products, plastics, Styrofoam and more.

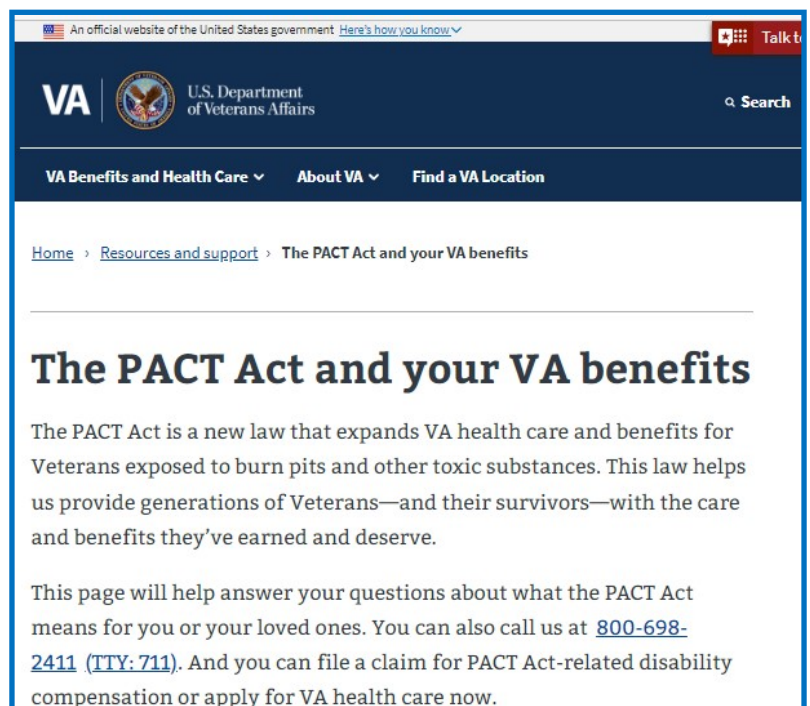
**The bill is named after Army National Guard SFC Heath Robinson.** After deploying to Kosovo and Iraq as a combat medic with the Ohio National Guard, Robinson was diagnosed with a rare autoimmune disorder and stage 4 lung cancer. He died in May 2020, leaving behind his wife and daughter, Brielle. The legislation is expected to be signed into law by President Biden in the coming days.

Although not yet signed into law, veterans may already apply for benefits and healthcare with the VA.

**[www.va.gov/resources/the-pact-act-and-your-va-benefits](https://www.va.gov/resources/the-pact-act-and-your-va-benefits)**  
or  
**800.698.2411**



### **PACT Act clears final hurdle to the president's desk**



An official website of the United States government [Here's how you know](#)

**VA** U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

[VA Benefits and Health Care](#) [About VA](#) [Find a VA Location](#)

[Home](#) > [Resources and support](#) > The PACT Act and your VA benefits

## The PACT Act and your VA benefits

The PACT Act is a new law that expands VA health care and benefits for Veterans exposed to burn pits and other toxic substances. This law helps us provide generations of Veterans—and their survivors—with the care and benefits they've earned and deserve.

This page will help answer your questions about what the PACT Act means for you or your loved ones. You can also call us at [800-698-2411](tel:800-698-2411) (TTY: 711). And you can file a claim for PACT Act-related disability compensation or apply for VA health care now.

## **Post Information**

### **Alamo Post 2 website**

Our website features info such as the history of the post, current events, the newsletter, meeting minutes, and more!



**[www.AmericanLegionAlamoPost2.org](http://www.AmericanLegionAlamoPost2.org)**

### **Alamo Post 2 Facebook page**

Sharing is caring! To see current events at the post, please visit our new page and *please*, like us!



**[www.facebook.com/LegionAlamoPost2](https://www.facebook.com/LegionAlamoPost2)**

### **Update your contact information**

To verify or update all your contact information, including your **email address**, mailing address, and phone numbers, go to **[www.mylegion.org](http://www.mylegion.org)** and login. If you prefer to speak to a Post Officer to update your information, please contact the **Post Adjutant, Allen Iott**, 210-425-5562 or [aIott@outlook.com](mailto:aIott@outlook.com)

### **Hall Rental**

**Rental Hall Manager, Executive Committee Member/House Committee Chair,**  
Albert Mireles, 210.275.4184  
(please leave message if no answer) or  
[Mireles.Albert@yahoo.com](mailto:Mireles.Albert@yahoo.com)

### **General Membership Meeting**

The monthly General Membership Meeting occurs on the **first Wednesday each month at 6:30pm**. Post members and Veterans who are interested in attending are welcome and encouraged to attend. Meeting minutes are now available on our website.

### **Friday night dinner — Fish Fry & Ultimate Chicken Fried Steak (4pm-8pm)**

Every Friday the hardworking volunteers of Alamo Post 2 host a weekly dinner with 100% of the proceeds benefiting the Post.

Come on down for the camaraderie, great food, good music, and support the cause!



### **Calling all volunteers!**

Would you like to help out around at the Post? We need volunteers for many activities! To help with the Fish Fry, skilled labor, or other activities at the post, contact **Commander, Howard Gravely** at 508-254-7303. Prefer to help from home? The Phone Tree needs support in calling members. **Contact 1st Vice Commander, Suzzie Thomas** at 805-535-9839 to learn more!

## Upcoming Events!

- District Meeting, August 10th at Alamo Post 2
- Bexar County Clerk's *Thank a Veteran* Event, August 16th at 12pm Alamo Post 2. Get your DD-214 certified and more
- District 20 Golf Tournament, September 18<sup>th</sup>
- Veterans Outreach Event, November 12<sup>th</sup> at Alamo Post 2.
- Veterans Day Parade, Saturday, November 12th

## Veterans Outreach Event for Saturday, November 5 from 9AM – 2PM

Eddie Tello, Alamo Post 2's Service Officer and Post 2 leadership are already planning a fantastic Veterans Outreach Event for Saturday, November 5 from 9AM – 2PM. Doors open at 9AM and opening ceremony will be at 9:30AM. **All indoors!**

Alamo Post 2, The American Legion will be preparing our famous Fish Fry & Fries, along with our Ultimate Chicken Fried Steak with fries & drink for \$10

- Texas Veterans Network – register for veteran needs
- South Central Texas Hospice Veteran Partnership – Host & Veteran Ceremony
- Bexar County Military & Veterans Service Center – register for Benefits/compensation.
- South Texas Blood Bank – Blood drive
- UTHSC School of Nursing – Mini health check
- Project Mend – distribute some free medical equipment
- Dignity Memorial – Flag Exchange, retire old/worn flags & get new flag in exchange
- Ft Sam National Cemetery – Pre-register for burial at Ft Sam, info on burial benefits
- Women Veterans Network – info for women who are veterans
- PTSD Foundation – Mental Health info and benefits for veterans
- Door Prizes & Raffle

We need volunteers to help with set up/tear down, registration at the event, food booth. We'd like your help with advertising, getting the word out to veterans and their families.

This event is one week prior to VETERANS DAY.

We will honor veterans with an opening ceremony and present colors, sing national anthem and lead pledge of allegiance.

Location

**American Legion Post 2**  
3518 Fredericksburg Rd.  
San Antonio, TX  
Veteran Ceremony 9:30 AM

**Fried Fish Fillet  
Or  
Chicken Fried Steak  
\$10  
Both w/ Fries & Drink**

**DOOR PRIZES & RAFFLE**

**Bring your DD214 or  
come and register for a  
replacement**

**FLAG EXCHANGE**  
Bring your worn flag & exchange  
it for a new one



## VETERAN OUTREACH EVENT

Sponsored by  
SOUTH CENTRAL TEXAS VETERAN PARTNERSHIP  
Hosted by  
AMERICAN LEGION POST 2

SATURDAY NOV 5, 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM



## BE THE ONE!

**988—**

### **New Number for Veterans Crisis Line**

Dial **988 then Press 1**—helps make it easier to remember and share the number to access help in times of need.

Signed into law in 2020, the National Suicide Hotline Designation Act authorized 988 as the new three-digit number for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. The 800-273-8255 remains available as well.

Add 988 to your contacts.



**AMERICAN  
LEGION**

Let's change the narrative. Instead of talking about the staggering number of daily suicides, **BE THE ONE** to save **ONE** veteran. We can end the stigma surrounding mental health with your help!



## BE THE ONE

TO **ASK** VETERANS IN YOUR LIFE HOW THEY ARE DOING.

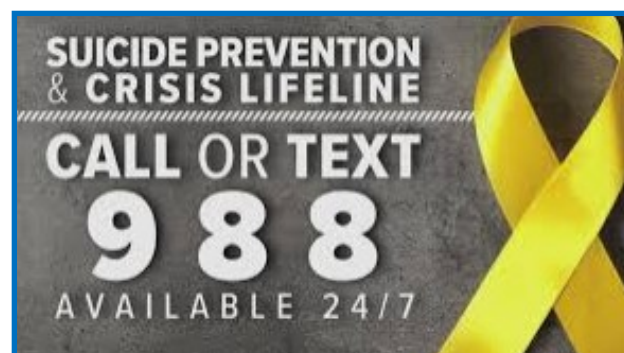
TO **LISTEN** WHEN A VETERAN NEEDS TO TALK.

TO **REACH** OUT WHEN A VETERAN IS STRUGGLING.



Are you a veteran in crisis or concerned about one?

**Veterans  
Crisis Line**  
DIAL 988 then **PRESS 1**



*Thank you for reading this month's newsletter—  
Looking forward to seeing you again next month!*

**[www.legion.org/renew](http://www.legion.org/renew)**

**Your  
Membership  
Matters**



**RENEW ONLINE**

Legionnaires can safely renew through MyLegion.org and save time with auto renewal setup.



DIGITAL DISPATCH



**Membership renewal made easy online**

American Legion membership for 2022-2023 is underway. And membership renewal in The American Legion can easily, and safely, be done through your MyLegion account.



The American Legion was chartered and incorporated by Congress in 1919 as a patriotic veterans organization devoted to mutual helpfulness.