

# Newsletter

June 2022



## Commander's Message of the Month

Greetings Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Today marks my final "Call-Out" to you as your 2021-2022 Post Commander. Let me take this opportunity to thank each of you for taking the risks in following me throughout this past year. It has been a very hard but successful year in accomplishing our core mission in the Four Pillars. Although it was a difficult year coming out of the COVID-19 pandemic, you all wholeheartedly followed me with no reservation in pushing through my last mission request, "OPERATION COME BACK – We're Still Here For You". This became our battle cry for the year, and you all yelled it out loud and proved it right! We're still not back to normal, but we have come a long way in serving our Veterans, reaching out to our Children & Youth, proclaiming our patriotic Americanism, and advocating for a strong National Defense. All our accomplishments were only as successful as the time and effort exemplified in your volunteering virtue. We have proven that one person CAN really make the difference between succeeding or failing.

My parting wish is that our volunteer ranks grow so that our triumphs exceed expectations, and our success story continues to be told. Alamo Post 2 had been a true legend in our community for over 100 years, but now is the time for our lineage to continue this legend. It can only happen when a higher degree of the Alamo Post 2 membership step-up to accept

the mission and take-up a role that will make the real difference in how our legend continues to be told.

I close with this inspiring quote in which I have tried to live-by ever since I had to memorize it in my 10<sup>th</sup> grade American History class. I hope you all will find your true virtue in it.

*"It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat." .....*  
*Theodor Roosevelt*

For God and Country,  
**Carlos Mendez, USA/USAF Retired**  
Post Commander

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## 1st Vice's Messages of the Month



**You did it! Alamo Post 2 reached it's goal for membership; we're at 100%!!**

We reached our membership goal of 100% for the first time. Thank you to our members for paying your dues on time to help us reach our goal!

### Post Alamo Post 2 Concert Band

Do you play an instrument? Would you like to play in the Alamo Post 2 Concert Band? If so, contact me!



### Friday Night Dinner—Fundraiser

The Fish Fry Friday continues to bring folks out to the Post to enjoy a great dinner together. The menu now includes Fish Fry and Chicken Fried Steak! The proceeds directly support our Post.

If you are interested in volunteering to support, please arrive at the Post at 2:30p on Friday.



### Howard Gravely

1st Vice Commander

e: [hsgravely@gmail.com](mailto:hsgravely@gmail.com)

c: 508.254.7303

## 2nd Vice's Message of the Month



### Boys State update!

Post 2 will be sending 8 Delegates to Boys State. They will be departing on 12 June from Post 2 along with the rest of District 20 delegates.

Post 2 will assist them in getting some extra Boys State T- Shirts to wear so each boy will have a clean shirt each day.

They can look forward to an exciting week!

### A little history...

The Boys State Program has been around over 75 years and is one of the better programs out of the 238 programs that the American Legion has. This program has been a door opener for those who have completed it. On the last day of program there will be 20 collages there to meet with the delegate and his parent. Many collages, to include the Service Academies, have a Boys State box on their applications.

Thank you for your generous support of this excellent program!

### Beck Steiner

2nd Vice Commander

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## Post Leadership—Vacancies

We have a stellar leadership roster for the 2022-2023 season. There are some vacancies though! If you are interested in getting involved with the leadership of Alamo Post 2, please consider one of the vacant positions. For more information, please contact the 1st Vice Commander.

### Howard Gravely

1st Vice Commander

e: [hsgravely@gmail.com](mailto:hsgravely@gmail.com)

c: 508.254.7303

## Post Officers

| Position                   | Legionaire     |
|----------------------------|----------------|
| Commander                  | Howard Gravely |
| 1st Vice Commander         | Suzzie Thomas  |
| 2nd Vice Commander         | Vacant         |
| Adjutant                   | Allen Iott     |
| Chaplain                   | Vacant         |
| Finance Officer            | Carlos Mendez  |
| Historian                  | Joseph Sanchez |
| Judge Advocate             | Vacant         |
| Sergeant-at-Arms           | Todd Griffin   |
| Alternate Sergeant-at-Arms | Dan Rodriguez  |
| Service Officer            | Vacant         |

## Executive Committee

| Position                   | Legionaire             |
|----------------------------|------------------------|
| Executive Committee Member | Dan Almendarz          |
| Executive Committee Member | Roanna Escamilla-Mayer |
| Executive Committee Member | Michael Knott          |
| Executive Committee Member | Albert Mireles         |
| Executive Committee Member | Vacant                 |

## Public Relations Team

Alamo Post 2 is working hard to communicate with you to share information about the post, activities, and events.

**Please visit our new website & Facebook page**

### Website

<https://www.americanlegionalamopost2.org/>



### Facebook



<https://www.facebook.com/Alamo-Post-2-The-American-Legion-106396152069060>



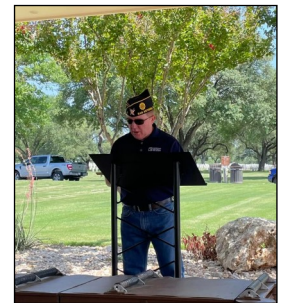


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## Events

Alamo Post 2 participated in the 11th Annual Veteran Roll—Reading of the Names. The event was conducted by 50 members of The Legion Family on May 28, 2022 at the Ft Sam Houston National Cemetery Shelter #4. The names of Veterans furnished by the VA were read over a 5 1/2 hour period starting at 0810 hours. Thanks to those Legionnaires who took the time to show up and read the names when they could have been doing other things; Post 2 was represented by 12 post members. Our fallen comrades enjoyed knowing that we have not and will not forget them. Those 3,257 names from VA were the largest number since the initial reading in 2010 and the 50 members of The Legion Family were also the most to read since 2010.



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## Events

### On Memorial Day Alamo Post 2 held a ceremony and concert.

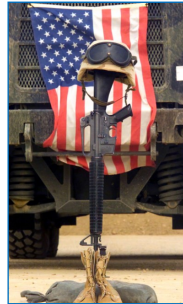
The event was well attended by members of The Legion Family on Monday, May 31, 2022, at 10am.



### Alamo Post Concert Band!

Post Commander, Carlos Mendez was the official Master of Ceremonies for the event.

Members of the Executive Committee performed the Soldiers Cross ceremony while the Commander read aloud the meaning of each item that comprises the cross. It was a solemn, but fitting tribute honor and remember the Veterans who gave their lives so we may all enjoy the freedoms this country was founded upon.



The Alamo Post 2 hall was beautifully decorated for the ceremony and all in attendance were treated to a concert performed by the Alamo Post 2 Concert Band. A touching tribute of Taps was played, as well as a light-hearted rendition of each military service song. Veterans who represented each service stood while their song played.

At the conclusion of the ceremony the attendees were also treated to excellent food and refreshment served by the committed members of the Alamo Post 2 Auxiliary—we appreciate their support, dedication, and hard work!





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## Useful Info and Links

### Complete American Legion Basic Training

I would like to encourage all members, new and long-time, to complete the American Legion's Basic Training Course which is the best and most convenient way to gain basic knowledge of who we are and what we do.

Many legionnaires want to become stronger leaders and only need the opportunity making continuous training and education programs necessary at every level post, district, county and department. We would like you to especially pay attention to what's included in each of the four pillars.

Learn about the Legion's history and programs by completing the Basic Training course. The newly redesigned course includes videos, digital photos, clickable links, a historical timeline and more. It should take less than two hours to complete.

Print your completion certificate and bring it to the General Membership Meeting where you will be recognized and receive your choice of pin for your cap.

Go to [www.legion.org/training](http://www.legion.org/training) today!



### Do you need a VA Card?

Apply for a Veterans ID card here:

<https://www.va.gov/records/get-veteran-id-cards/vic/>

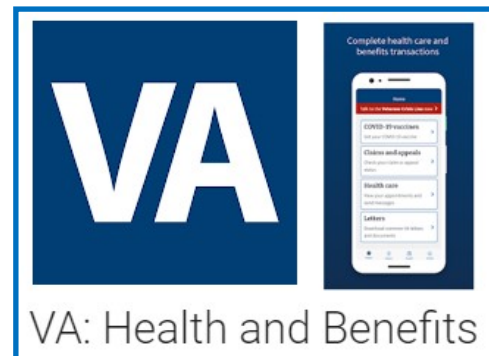
### Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has a new and easy to use app

Veterans can manage their VA healthcare and benefits on the mobile device.

Use the app to manage common tasks like

- 1) checking your claim status
- 2) communicating with your VA health care team via a secure and private message
- 3) access your VA benefit letters

The free app called, **VA: Health and Benefits** is available for both iPhone and Android at the Apple App Store and the Google Play Store



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*Thank you for reading this month's newsletter!*

*Looking forward to seeing you again next month!*



## THE AMERICAN LEGION PREAMBLE

**"For God and Country, we associate ourselves together for the following purposes:**

**To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America; to maintain law and order; to foster and perpetuate a 100-percent Americanism; to preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in all wars; to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation; to combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses; to make right the master of might; to promote peace and good will on earth; to safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy; to consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness."**



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