

Newsletter

July 2022



Recent Activities at Alamo Post 2, The American Legion

Greetings, Alamo Post 2 Legionnaires! Summer is here, the heat is upon us, and we're continuing to serve our Veterans, their families, and our community.

Celebrating the 4th of July: Alamo Post 2 participated in two events to honor the birth of our great Nation. In the morning the Alamo Post 2 Concert Band was invited to play a concert in support of the Children's Hospital. The concert was held at the Walmart at 1603 Vance Jackson Rd, San Antonio, TX 78213.



In the afternoon of the 4th Veterans, along with their family and friends enjoyed an indoor celebration complete with cold air conditioning and the taste of Americana with hot dogs, cookies, and cupcakes decorated in our nation's colors of red, white,

and blue. Thanks to our Legion Family of dedicated Veteran volunteers and the Unit 2 Auxiliary, the meeting hall was polished up and beautifully decorated. The Alamo Post 2 Concert Band sounded fantastic while playing various songs, including each service's song. Veterans were invited to stand to be recognized during the playing of their song—always such a good time!



Boys State Program—Update

On June 12th Alamo Post 2 held the briefing session for Boys State attendees and their parents. This season Alamo Post 2 proudly sent 8 local boys to Boys State in Austin. At the September General Membership meeting on Wednesday, September 7th the Post 2 Boys State delegates are invited to speak during the meeting. *A hardy thanks to 2021 Second Vice Commander, Beck Steiner for his dedication, time, and commitment to this vital program. He ensured the 8 Post 2 delegates will have an experience of their lifetime!*



Reservist of the Year

Over the weekend of July 9th, Alamo Post 2's Past Commander and current Finance Officer, Carlos Mendez, along with Allen Iott, the Adjutant for 20th District and Post 2 traveled to Amarillo to present a plaque to Post 2's outstanding Reservist of the Year, SGT Timothy Brooks (US Army Reserves).



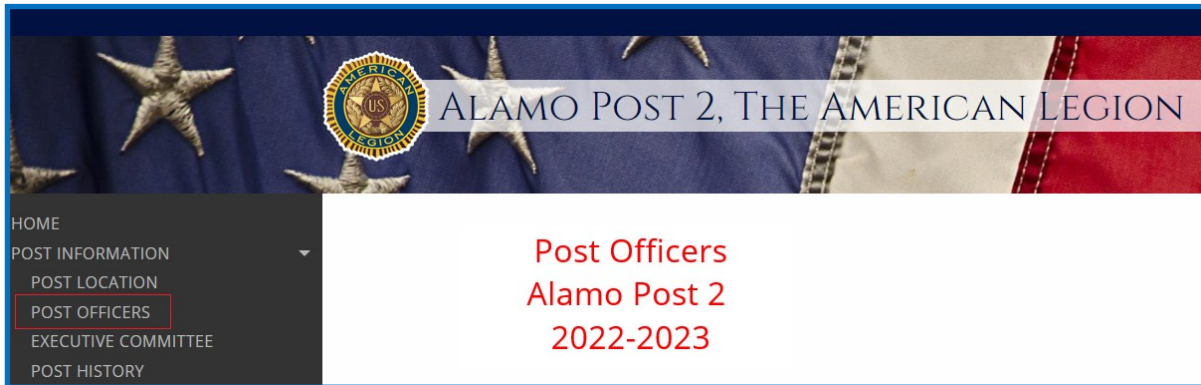
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New Service Officer Elected & Installed

Alamo Post 2 elected our new Service Officer, Edward (Eddie) Tello during the July General Membership meeting. Eddie is now in place in his position, ready to assist Post 2 Veterans with becoming registered for the VA. Eddie's contact information is always available on Alamo Post 2's website under the Post Officer section. edward.tello@amedisys.com or 210-275-5227

<https://www.americanlegionalamopost2.org>



Veterans Outreach Event

Eddie and Alamo 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. American Legion Post 2 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. Come and have a great meal. Kitchen opens at 10:00 AM with some delicious food and drinks. All indoors. 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. A flyer will be coming in the near future.

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Recognitions!



Post Ever Lasting

On July 14, 2022 the Nation will render a final salute to **World War II Medal of Honor recipient and Legionnaire, Hershel Woody Williams**. Mr. Williams will lay in honor at the Capitol Rotunda, a closed event. He will be the first enlisted person to do so, and his casket will then proceed to the WW II Memorial, where honors will be paid.

Medal of Honor Citation: For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty as demolition sergeant serving with the 21st Marines, 3d Marine Division, in action against enemy Japanese forces on Iwo Jima, Volcano Islands, 23 February 1945. Quick to volunteer his services when our tanks were maneuvering vainly to open a lane for the infantry through the network of reinforced concrete pillboxes, buried mines, and black volcanic sands, Cpl. Williams daringly went forward alone to attempt the reduction of devastating machine-gun fire from the unyielding positions. Covered only by four riflemen, he fought desperately for four hours under terrific enemy small-arms fire and repeatedly returned to his own lines to prepare demolition charges and obtain serviced flamethrowers, struggling back, frequently to the rear of hostile emplacements, to wipe out one position after another. On one occasion, he daringly mounted a pillbox to insert the nozzle of his flamethrower through the air vent, killing the occupants, and silencing the gun; on another he grimly charged enemy riflemen who attempted to stop him with bayonets and destroyed them with a burst of flame from his weapon. His unyielding determination and extraordinary heroism in the face of ruthless enemy resistance were directly instrumental in neutralizing one of the most fanatically defended Japanese strongpoints encountered by his regiment and aided vitally in enabling his company to reach its objective. Cpl. Williams' aggressive fighting spirit and valiant devotion to duty throughout this fiercely contested action sustain and enhance the highest traditions of the U.S. Naval Service.

Proclamation—now hung in a place of honor

Thanks to the tremendous members of our Unit 2 Auxiliary, the post was honored by the Commissioners Court of Bexar County with a beautiful proclamation marking March 5th annually as Women Veteran Appreciation Day. It is now available in the center hall for all to see.



It takes a village!

Our post home is a historic building, which is a tremendous part of our heritage; however, the aging building has its share of physical challenges. The rain water (yes, rain...the stuff that occasionally falls from the sky) runs along the side of the building and does a lot of damage. Thanks to our generous friends and supporters at SpawGlass, we are now blessed with two new assets for our building thanks to their generosity—thank you!!



Left:

Covered stairwell to the roof



Right:

Water diverter

www.spawglass.com

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Volunteers!

Congratulations to Alamo Post 2 Volunteers!

The proceeds from the Friday Night Fund Raising Fish Fry has saved our bacon over the last couple of years, especially through COVID when members were not able to come into the post to attend activities. During the July 2022 General Membership meeting the new 2022-2023 Post Commander, Howard Gravely presented some highly deserving Alamo Post 2 volunteers with medals to recognize their dedication to the post through volunteer service hours.



Left:
Todd Griffin



Right:
MaryAnn Olson



Left:
Michael Knott

New Veteran Volunteers

During the July 2022 General Membership meeting the Bexar County Felony Veterans Treatment Court (VTC) gave a briefing of their program.

The program's mission is designed to reduce arrests and promote self-sufficiency through sobriety, employment, and education that enhances one's ability to remain in the community as a productive and responsible member of society. Veterans enrolled in the VTC program often experience PTSD and other challenges relating to their military service.

VTC Veterans are required to complete community service hours and are welcome to do so at Alamo Post 2. If you see a new face around the post assisting with skilled labor or other volunteer activities, these Veterans are your brothers and sisters in arms and are working to set a positive course for their future.

Alamo Post 2's Executive Committee member and House Committee leader, Albert Mireles is a mentor for the VTC program. Albert serves as coordinator for the VTC Program's Veteran volunteers at Alamo Post 2.

YOU ARE NOT
ALONE.



988—The 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.

Call. Text. Chat.



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Thank you, Unit 2 Auxiliary!

As we've seen from previous pages, volunteers are the lifeblood of a successful American Legion Post and Alamo Post 2 is no exception. The dedicated members of the Unit 2 Auxiliary have tirelessly supported the Veterans and the Post over the last several years and we say, thank you!

At the conclusion of July's General Membership Meeting Commander Howard Gravely recognized Unit 2 Auxiliary members for their dedication.

Alamo Post 2 Officers and Members of the Executive Committee served light refreshments to the Auxiliary following the meeting.



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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 today!



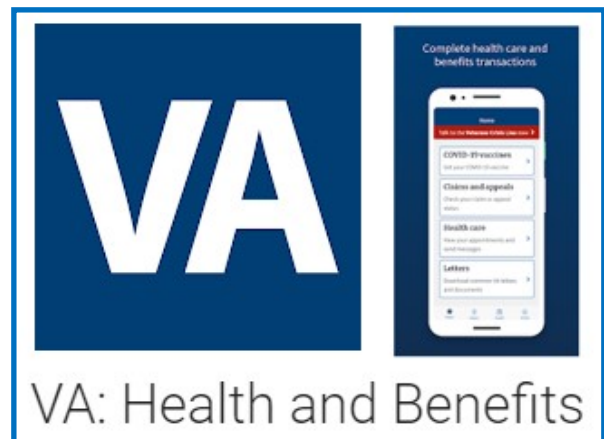
Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has a new and easy to use app

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!

www.mylegion.org

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



DIGITAL DISPATCH

| Membership Card 2023 The American Legion <i>"Veterans Strengthening America"</i> | | | |
|--|----------|-------------------------|------------|
| DEPT. | POST NO. | MEMBER ID NO. | CONT. YRS. |
| THE ABOVE MEMBER HAS PAID DUES IN THE POST INDICATED <i>Celebrating 100 Years of the US Flag Code</i> | | | |
| NOT VALID UNLESS COUNTERSIGNED BY MEMBER | | AUTHORIZED POST OFFICER | |

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.