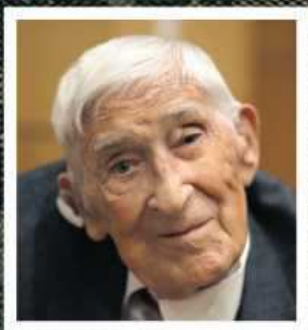




# 2018 SALUTE TO SERVICE

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**2018 Salute to Service is a Fort Hood Herald publication.**

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# Honoring all who have served on this Veterans Day

**O**n the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month in 1918, the guns went silent, officially ending World War I — the “war to end all wars.”

Originally known as Armistice Day, it was first celebrated Nov. 11, 1919, to commemorate the first anniversary of the end of the war and to celebrate those who fought in it. It wouldn't be until 1926, however, that Congress would pass a resolution that officially made the day a national holiday — even though it didn't go into effect until 1938.

In 1954, President Dwight D. Eisenhower officially changed the name of the holiday from Armistice Day to Veterans Day.

Unlike Memorial Day, Veterans Day is a time for us to honor all who served, whether in peacetime or war, with an emphasis on thanking our living veterans for the sacrifices they make for the good of the Republic.

And as we've learned throughout 17 years of conflict since Sept. 11, 2001, it's also important to remember those family members who have stood by their veteran both during and after their time of service — especially during the difficult adjustment time between military and civilian life.



Serving in the military, regardless of branch of service, isn't easy. Whether it's training, deployments to a combat zone or nine-month rotations across the globe, service members spend a lot of time away from home. They sacrifice their personal and family time to train or fight for this great nation.

This year has seen many changes for both our members still in uniform and for our veterans. Congress has passed an actual budget with \$700 billion for the military, a guarantee of funding the military has not seen since sequestration began in 2013. Money is being poured into Veterans Affairs for Veterans Choice, which allows veterans to see a local doctor for pressing issues when appointments to see a VA provider are months away. A new medical records system is coming online between the Department of Defense and VA, which means the VA will now already have a service member's medical records on file when the veteran transi-

tions to civilian life and signs up for the VA health care system or files a disability claim.

Between all the rotations to Europe and the Middle East, always with the possibility of going to other locations such as Korea, a good chunk of Fort Hood troops are deployed. The rest are either just returning from deployment or getting ready for their next rotation. Yet their families are tending to stay in the Fort Hood area in record numbers; a testament to the way local communities step up to take care of military families while their loved ones are gone. Perhaps it is because the communities surrounding Fort Hood are filled with veterans, many of whom ensure the great things that happen in this area are done to honor our active-duty service members, veterans and their families.

Many serving in positions of leadership in the local governments, nonprofit and business communities are veterans, too.

Here at the Herald, it's our job to tell the stories of those veterans and soldiers to highlight the great things we can accomplish together as a community. Some of those stories you may have heard before: Others are still waiting to

be told. What is important is that they are told, and not just on Veterans Day but every day.

As a retired soldier myself, I love interviewing my fellow veterans and service members. I love learning about where they're from, what they've gone through and how they became the outstanding individuals who continue to serve long after they take off their uniforms. It keeps me connected, and the sense of camaraderie within the veteran community keeps alive the one thing we all miss when leaving active service — the military family we always know will have our backs.

On this Veterans Day, we'll be telling the stories of some great veterans who were recently honored with a Congressional Veteran Commendation for their continued service in their communities. We'll tell the stories of some nonprofit organizations who go out of their way to serve our veterans. But there are still plenty of stories out there to tell. If you know a veteran or service member with a good story, shoot me an email. I'd love to tell that story.

**DAVID A. BRYANT** is an Army retiree and a military journalist for the Killeen Daily Herald. You can reach him at [dbryant@kdhnnews.com](mailto:dbryant@kdhnnews.com) or 254-501-7554.

# Former Killeen councilman remembered for service

BY DAVID A. BRYANT  
FORT HOOD HERALD

On Oct. 5, retired Lt. Col. Larry Cole, a former Killeen city councilman and long-time real estate appraiser with a business in downtown Killeen, was killed in an early-morning crash.

He was 81 years old.

While many remember his service to the community, his son Clay said it was his service in the Army and his Christian belief that truly defined his life.

"The first place I can remember him being stationed at was in Germany," Clay said. From there, he became a company commander for a training company at Fort Polk (Louisiana) during Vietnam. He could have gotten out of going to Vietnam because of his position as a training company commander, but he decided he would go anyway."

In Vietnam, Larry became an advisor to the South Vietnamese army, Clay said.

"The Vietnamese thought he was really brave, though," Clay said. "He was travelling on top of an armored vehicle once and thought he heard a bunch of bees, so he just stayed on top of that vehicle."

It turned out that the "bees" were small-arms fire directed at his father; he didn't realize he was being shot at until



JEROMIAH LIZAMA | HERALD

The Honor Guard presents retired Army Lt. Col. Larry Cole's family with a flag at end of his memorial service at the Central Texas Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Killeen on Tuesday, Oct. 16, 2018.



COURTESY PHOTO

Larry Cole in uniform.

his Vietnamese counterparts told him, he said.

"He would never tell us any of the serious stories of what he did in Vietnam," Clay said. "He

would only tell the stories he considered were funny, usually at his own expense."

The family still has some of Larry's shirts from his time in Vietnam, filled with bullet holes, according to his son. However, Larry was never actually shot while he was in combat. He was hit by shrapnel on three different occasions, though, earning him three Purple Heart Medals during his one-year tour. He also continued to go out on patrols until the day he left Vietnam.

One of the most disappointing things Larry had to deal with while in Vietnam was after

participating in the Tet Offensive, Clay recalled. The Tet Offensive was a series of attacks by the North Vietnamese which began Jan. 31, 1968.

"Something (the history books) don't tell us, is that the American soldiers actually thought we won that offensive because they had totally destroyed the Vietcong (the rebel forces sponsored by the north)," Clay said. "Then Walter Cronkite came on the air saying we had lost the war and had lost Tet. It crushed (my father) and the other soldiers."

Clay said his father's

PLEASE SEE **COLE, 6**

# COLE: Looked at his soldiers as people

FROM PAGE 5

soldiers always thought highly of him because while he was often gruff, he also looked at his soldiers as people.

“If you were a good soldier and you made a mistake while you were trying your best, that was OK,” he said. “But if you made a mistake because you were being lazy, he was unforgiving.”

Clay eventually joined the Army himself and ended up deploying during Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm. Some of the advice his father gave him hammered home how much he cared about the troops.

“When I went, he said that when combat starts, you won’t get a chance to rest. Make sure your soldiers have a good sleep plan,” Clay said. “He was always thinking of the well being of the soldiers.”

According to Herald archives, Larry, originally from Odessa, served 24 years in the Army and 12 in the National Guard. He was an armor officer with service in Germany, Korea and Vietnam and was awarded three Purple Hearts, three Bronze Stars for valor and two Cross Gallantry awards, one with Palm and another with Gold Star.

After retiring from the Army, Larry later would serve on the Killeen Planning and Zoning Commission for 16 years before serving as a Killeen councilman from 2006 to 2011. He is remembered by many currently or formerly serving the city of Killeen as a mentor, patriot and community servant.

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COURTESY PHOTO

Larry Cole served on the Killeen City Council from 2006 to 2011.



JEROMIAH LIZAMA | HERALD  
Retired Army Lt. Col. Larry Cole is remembered at his celebration of life ceremony in Killeen on Tuesday, Oct. 16, 2018.

# Local World War II veteran talks about brutal fighting

BY JOHN CLARK

HERALD CORRESPONDENT

A military Bronze Star is a medal awarded for “heroic or meritorious achievement” in a combat zone, and Scooter Barclay has a couple of those for his actions in the South Pacific during World War II, but he doesn’t consider himself a hero.

“I’ve known several Congressional Medal of Honor members (the military’s highest award for bravery in combat), and they all told me the same thing,” Barclay explained recently.

“(Lloyd) Scooter Burke told me — I knew Scooter before he got (the medal) and after he got it — he was in Korea, they were facing the enemy and they weren’t doing very well. He said, ‘I can’t stand it anymore,’ and he grabbed a machine gun, jumped up and started firing. The guys who were with him saw him do that, and they joined him.

“He didn’t start out to be a hero. He just said, ‘(Screw) it, I can’t stand this anymore,’ and he did something. People who do brave things aren’t brave when they do ‘em. They’re doing something because they’re in a situation where suddenly, it’s kill or be killed.”

Now 94, Barclay served 30 years in the U.S. Army before retiring as a lieutenant colonel. He was a paratrooper, a member of the famed Fighting



69th (Infantry Regiment), spent 18 years in Special Forces (Green Berets), and survived devastating battles in the Pacific during World War II.

His most intense combat experiences were on the island of Saipan, considered by the Japanese to be part of the last line of defense for the country’s homeland. The battle, regarded as one of the major campaigns of the war, lasted from June 15, 1944, to July 9, 1944.

When it was finally over, 3,426 Americans were dead, and 10,364 wounded. Of an estimated 30,000 Japanese defending the island, a total of 921 were reportedly taken prisoner.

“I can remember some Japanese coming out to try and surrender,” Barclay said. “One of them was literally naked, carrying a bamboo pole with a bayonet on it. The others might have had a weapon, but I don’t think

they did.”

Barclay is a member of The Greatest Generations Foundation, a charitable organization that honors military veterans by providing complimentary trips around the world to various former battle-grounds, cemeteries and memorials to help make sure their legacies are recorded and remembered by future generations.

He has been on sev-

JOHN CLARK | HERALD

Former Killeen resident Scooter Barclay, a decorated World War II veteran and retired lieutenant colonel, is going strong at 94 years old and says his plan is to live at least until his 100th birthday.

PLEASE SEE **BARCLAY, 8**

# BARCLAY: Former Green Beret

FROM PAGE 7

eral of those trips, including one that took him a few years ago back to Saipan.

“The war was different in the Pacific, in that we fought intensely, with no replacements. In Europe, as soon as somebody got killed and what-not, they sent in replacements.

“When we went to Saipan, that infantry company had 188 men. When we got out of the line, we only had 48 people who were still there. Now, about half were killed or badly wounded, (and) we had a lot of heat casualties, where people had to be evacuated and taken to hospitals.

“Anytime you took a (new) position, you didn’t find any dead Japanese, unless you had just killed them. Anytime they had people killed — let’s say we were fighting for two or three days — they would take their people back to a central area. If they couldn’t bury them, they just laid them there.

“My company got the honor of going into this burial



JOHN CLARK | HERALD

World War II veteran Scooter Barclay served as a member of the famed Fighting 69th Infantry Regiment, a unit that was immortalized on film in a movie starring legendary Hollywood actor James Cagney.

area, and you could see these stacked-up bodies that had been there anywhere from several days to three or four months. There was not a guy in my outfit — 188 men in a company — that did not get sick when we first got there.

“We spent three days burying these people. After the war, when I went back, they had a group that was trying to locate that burial ground, and I took them out to where I thought it was, but the foliage had changed so much. I know I was in the general area, but we couldn’t find it.

“I don’t remember being terribly frightened (in combat). Sometimes you wonder, ‘Am I

going to die today?’ that kind of thing. But I think of fear as cowering down behind a rock or something. I don’t think I ever had that kind of fear.

“I had a mortar shell land right beside me one day, but it didn’t go off. I’d have been blown to pieces. You sort of shake a little bit after that, but ...”

Along with the Bronze Star, Barclay said he apparently also was recommended for a Silver Star — the military’s third-highest award for bravery in combat — but never received a medal.

“On Okinawa, I got involved in a situation where I killed a bunch of (enemy troops), got up on top of a tank

and led the tanks firing, and I got recommended for the Silver Star. My understanding is that it was approved, and one of the reasons I believe that is, one of the people who was in my company told me he saw the orders, but at the very end of the war, they had a big typhoon and a cruiser went down, and also a ship that carried records.

“My belief is that my records were on there. So, you know ... I know what I did, and a Silver Star and a dollar will buy me a cup of coffee.”

Some of the things he saw and did during the war haunted him pretty severely when he got home, Barclay said, and on occasion, continue to bring him pause even today.

“One time, I was visiting at a school,

and this kid looked at me — he was about 10 or 11 years old — and he said, ‘Did you ever kill anybody?’

“I think it was the first time I ever talked to a group of kids, and I thought, ‘What the hell am I supposed to say?’ I decided to tell the truth, so I said, ‘Yeah, I did, but you have to understand that the purpose of war is to win, and to win, you kill or be killed. If you don’t kill the enemy, they’re going to kill you.’

“After the war, when I came home ... I used to have bad, bad nightmares. I would get up in the middle of the night, screaming and fighting and carrying on. My mother would run in and shake me, and ask what was going on. That went on for maybe a year, I guess.”



# Veterans honored by Congress for service to community

HERALD STAFF REPORT

Ten veterans from across the armed services were honored Oct. 14 at the fourth annual Congressional Veteran Commendation Ceremony at Texas A&M University-Central Texas.

U.S. Rep. John Carter, R-Round Rock, hosted the ceremony to recognize veterans in his district who were nominated for their service to their community. District 31 includes much of Killeen, part of Fort Hood and most of Bell and Williamson



Davis



Garza



Palmer



J. Fountain



Evans-Quickley

mand Sgt. Maj. Terry Fountaine Retired Army Command Sgt. Maj. Jackeline Fountaine



Dean



Kovar



Roadman



T. Fountain

U.S. Marine Corps 2nd Lt. Gonzalo Garza Retired U.S. Marine Corps 1st Sgt. Jerry L. Kovar

U.S. Army Reserve Sgt. Martin Palmer

Retired U.S. Army Maj. W.C. "Pat" Patterson (not pictured)

Retired U.S. Army Air Corps Lt. Col. Julian A. Roadman

Each of the veterans who wished to speak with the Herald are highlighted this year. The honorees are: Retired U.S. Navy

Cmdr. Cynthia E. Davis U.S. Army Technical Spc. William J. Dean Retired U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Adrienne M. Evans-Quickley Retired Army Com-

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# WWII pilot flew in Europe and Berlin Air Lift

BY EMILY HILLEY-SIERZCHULA  
HERALD CORRESPONDENT

Few memories are as stark and unforgettable as those experienced by soldiers during war.

“Old Man!” said retired Lt. Col. Julian Roadman, with a smile as he imitated the call from his men. At 21 years old, Roadman was a pilot with the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II, flying missions over hostile German skies followed by participating in the Berlin Air Lift.

Now in his 90s, Roadman, of Round Rock, was baby-faced then, but grizzled to his teen-aged crewmembers.

He is most proud that in 35 missions, he never lost a crewman.

“I wanted to fly,”



EMILY HILLEY-SIERZCHULA | HERALD

Retired Lt. Col. Julian Roadman, U.S. Army Air Corps.

Roadman said. “I planned my whole life around flying.”

He volunteered for the Army Air Corps at age 18 in 1941 instead of being drafted.

Roadman volunteered for the Berlin Air Lift to help starving people in that city.

“I made 212 round trips between Frankfurt and Berlin, flying once every 12 hours,” he said. “After that,

I flew U.S. Marine patients who had been wounded in the Korean Conflict from Japan to the U.S.”

As a civilian, Roadman, who is originally from the Tennessee countryside, worked on the NASA Mercury mission and, later, on developing instrumentation for the Mohawk aircraft.

He was honored in October with the Congressional Veteran Commendation for his commitment to the military and to his community.

After retirement from the U.S. Army Air Corps, Roadman worked as a volunteer teacher for many years in Missouri, sharing with children his love of aviation.

“It’s important to be a good American,” Roadman said. He belongs to several veteran’s organizations, including the 401st Bomb Group, the Berlin Airlift Veterans Association (BAVA), and the Retired Officers Association.

Roadman also became an author, writing about his wartime experiences in “A Combat Nightmare in WWII.”

The book, which includes a historical perspective on aerial bombing, recounts how he had a recurring nightmare of his own plane being shot down.

It happened to another plane that had been moved into his spot in the formation at the last minute, according to the book that is available on Amazon.

---

## Navy businesswoman talks about 24 years in service

BY EMILY HILLEY-SIERZCHULA  
HERALD CORRESPONDENT

Cynthia E. Davis of Hutto is a woman who has worn many hats in her life, especially during her 24 years of service in the U.S. Navy. She worked in the business side of the service and even supported the Joint Chiefs of Staff at the Pentagon in Washington, D.C.

Now 53, Davis is a

teacher in Hutto and remains active and invested in multiple organizations. The retired Navy commander was also named the Ambassador of the Year for the Hutto Chamber of Commerce this year. She recently was honored at the Congressional Veteran Commendation Ceremony in Killeen for her service to country and community.

The Houston native



EMILY HILLEY-SIERZCHULA | HERALD

Retired Cmdr. Cynthia E. Davis, U.S. Navy.

followed her sister into the Navy in 1984.

“I really wanted to do something, to serve, and

I decided to do it,” Davis said.

She went through the officer candidate program and earned her accounting degree. She was deployed during Operation Iraqi Freedom and her “emotional” self-published book is based on journals she kept while she was in the service.

“I did it all,” Davis

PLEASE SEE **DAVIS, 11**

# World War II vet saw combat in France

BY EMILY HILLEY-SIERZCHULA

HERALD CORRESPONDENT

While former U.S. Army Technical Spc. 4 William J. Dean of Cedar Park was being awarded the Congressional Veteran Commendation Award in October, it was his “dedication, honor and humility” being highlighted.

Dean, 94, is a World War II veteran who saw combat during the Battle of Normandy.

But it’s music that has played the biggest role in his life, even while in the Army.

The Oklahoma native went to Baylor University to study, but then was drafted at age 18.

The military left its mark on Dean.

“I saw the best and the worst,” he said. “I couldn’t take my boots off for a month so I got trench foot” while serving as a rifleman.

The injury kept him from returning to the front lines so he joined the Seventh Army Headquarters Band. He played at Gen. George S. Patton’s funeral, the same leader he had followed across France, “from one foxhole to another.”

Dean left the Army three years later when the war was over.

“After the war I went



EMILY HILLEY-SIERZCHULA | HERALD

Tech. Spc. 4 William J. Dean, Army.

back to college (at Baylor University) and ended up with two degrees,” he said. It turned out he did not like business, so he got a second degree, in music education.

He has played the clarinet since he was 10 years old.

Dean taught music for 30 years at Odessa public schools, followed by time as the director of the Texas A&M Symphonic Band and associate director of the Texas Aggie Band, before retiring.

He was inducted into the Texas Bandmaster Hall of Fame in 1987.

## DAVIS

FROM PAGE 10

said.

Now she’s turned toward a new challenge as a teacher of accounting and principles of information technology.

The married mother of two first dipped her toes into the water as a substitute teacher after retiring in D.C. before returning to her Texas roots a few years ago to be close to family.

“It’s been the best thing I’ve done in a long time,” Davis said. “The community embraced me.”

She said she’s grateful the school district also embraced her ideas, such as “Groomed for Greatness,” a mentoring group that meets once a month.

“We talk about what it takes to achieve your dreams,” Davis said. “When I look at some of these kids, they have no idea how to do that, but they’re almost adults and they’ll be held accountable.”

Davis is the treasurer of the Friends of Round Rock Library and is a member of the Texas Business Women and Hutto Resource Center.

“I just love sharing information with people and helping people find their path,” Davis said. “So many people helped me while I was in the service.”

It really does take a village, she said.

“Everyone needs help finding their place on this Earth, to find their dream and passion,” Davis said. “Once someone finds their purpose, they can start living instead of just existing.”

One of her students recently expressed a dream of going into the Navy and asked if she ever felt like giving up.

“Every day,” she said, with a laugh. “Every day I didn’t quit, even though sometimes I wanted to, because there’s a goal on the other side: There has to be a balance between the moment and the future.”

Davis said her motto is to live, laugh, love and keep God first.



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# Couple continues to serve community after retiring

BY BOB MASSEY  
HERALD CORRESPONDENT

Jackeline S. Fountain along with her husband, Terry, and his twin brother, Gerry, all began their military careers in the U.S. Army at about the same time.

Terry said his twin brother Gerry, who is six minutes older, were the last two of 11 children who started basic training in January 1978.

Terry was born in Atlanta. Jackeline was born in Arecibo, Puerto Rico. She enlisted in the Army under the Delayed Entry Program in 1979 and entered basic training at Fort Jackson, South Carolina on Aug. 19, 1980.

Eventually, Jackeline, Terry and Gerry all became command sergeants major within



BOB MASSEY | HERALD

Retired Command Sgt. Maj. Jackeline S. Fountain.

their respective assignments.

Jackeline was the first female command sergeant major in the 87-year history of the Chemical Corps.

Trident University International also named her to the Class of 2007/2009 Hall of Distinguished Alumni, where she earned her bachelors and masters degrees in business administration.

She has served in



BOB MASSEY | HERALD

Retired Command Sgt. Maj. Terry Fountain.

every leadership position from squad leader to command sergeant major.

Her assignments included: Fort Bragg, North Carolina as a record's specialist, computer plotter, squad leader, drill sergeant and senior drill sergeant; Fort McClellan, Alabama as chief of 84th Chemical Battalion and a platoon sergeant, 501st Aviation Battalion; Wiesbaden, Germany, 12th

Aviation Brigade; Hungary as an operations sergeant, 2nd Chemical Battalion; Fort Hood as the first sergeant for 46th Chemical Company, 2nd Chemical Battalion, 13 Expeditionary Sustainment command; chemical sergeant major, Multi-National Force Iraq, command sergeant major for 83rd Chemical Battalion; Fort Polk, Louisiana as a command sergeant major; and as the Fort Hood Garrison senior noncommissioned officer. She was the first female to hold that position.

Jackeline deployed on four contingency operations including Desert Shield, Desert Storm, Operation Joint Guard and Operation Iraq Freedom II.

PLEASE SEE **COUPLE, 13**

## Veteran was drill instructor in Marine Corps

BY EMILY HILLEY-SIERZCHULA  
HERALD CORRESPONDENT

Marines are proud of being the few, but even fewer are entrusted with instructing other Marines.

During the 22 years retired 1st Sgt. Jerry L. Kovar spent in the Marine Corps, it's the years as a drill instructor he remembers most vividly.

Only 38 Marines



EMILY HILLEY-SIERZCHULA | HERALD

Retired 1st Sgt. Jerry L. Kovar, U.S. Marine Corps.

graduated out of the 108 candidates who started in his drill instructor

school.

"Attrition was the mission because they didn't want anyone weak of mind," said Kovar, 56. "You have to have a mental fortitude to push beyond, especially if you're going to mold the future of the Marine Corps. It taught me about perseverance."

He lives near Leander and is a lieutenant with the Travis County Sher-

iff's Office, which he joined after he retired from the military. Kovar recently was honored at the Congressional Veteran Commendation Ceremony in Killeen for his service to country and community.

"My first love is the Marine Corps — it's the biggest, proudest thing that ever happened to me," he said. "I found

PLEASE SEE **KOVAR, 13**

# COUPLE

FROM PAGE 12

She retired from the U.S. Army in 2017.

The Fountains, who are both retired from the military, have two adult children, Jarnell, 27, and Sh'meir, 26, and one grand baby, Jamilla.

Terry changed from the chemical field in 1980, two years after enlisting as a telecommunications officer.

He said, "As a communications specialist, we would get information and pass it on to the commander. Some of it was secret so there were codes we had to know."

He was deployed four times: Desert Shield/

Storm and three times to Iraq. While in Central Texas, his assignments included the Fort Hood operations and plans senior noncommissioned officer, 2nd Chemical Battalion senior noncommissioned officer and 13th Expeditionary Sustainment Command senior noncommissioned officer.

In an interview with KWTX-TV on its series Central Texas Heroes, Fountain told host Justin Early, "From 2006 to 2008 when I was in charge of getting valuable supplies from place to place, we'd have 200-500 trucks on the road every night and frequently came under attack. I lost soldiers that I knew and loved."

# KOVAR

FROM PAGE 12

my calling in the Marines."

Kovar grew up in Victoria, joining the Marines in 1982 to get out of "small town USA."

"I wanted to see the world and do something different," he said. "I was raised in a family of World War II and Korean War veterans, so we were a patriotic family."

Kovar keeps himself busy out and about in the community, logging hours as a Pewee football coach, Young Marines mentor, law enforcement torch run-

ner to benefit kids and helping out Habitat for Humanity.

Kovar thanks his grandmother and his father for his active lifestyle.

"My grandmother was stern but loving," Kovar said. "She said, 'Tough times don't last, but tough people do.'"

His father, now 86, rarely is seen in a recliner taking it easy.

An electrician, he was always helping folks out.

"He's the one who showed me that community service is important, especially in law enforcement where we want to show we're real people, too," Kovar said.

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# Gonzalo Garza recalls service to nation, education

BY EMILY HILLEY-SIERZCHULA  
HERALD CORRESPONDENT

The life of one Marine Corps veteran from Georgetown has taken an arc as wide as a Texas sunset.

Former Second Lt. Gonzalo Garza is known as Dr. Garza, because his contributions to education defined him as much as his service to the nation.

He is the namesake for Gonzalo Garza Independence High School in Austin.

Garza recently was honored at the Congressional Veteran Commendation Ceremony in Killeen for his service to country and community.

Originally from New



EMILY HILLEY-SIERZCHULA | HERALD

Second Lt. Gonzalo Garza, U.S. Marine Corps.

Braunfels, Garza is the son of Mexican immigrants, according to his biography on the Austin Independent School District website for his namesake high school.

"At age 10 I began my first formal schooling," Garza said in his biography. Eight grades of children were piled into one room with one

teacher.

He recalled a life of following the crops, moving a lot.

Just after turning 17, Garza dropped out of school and joined the Marine Corps during World War II. He served in the Pacific for 15 months as an infantryman and Japanese interpreter.

"The Marine Corps changed my life," he said. "It taught me a great deal about hard work and values."

After the war, Garza earned his GED and started college. Then he was called back into the service, to the Korean front, where he said the cold was just as much an enemy as the foe. He earned a Bronze Star

and Purple Heart as a platoon sergeant during the Korean War.

Upon returning home, Garza started teaching Latino students in a poor school district in Texas.

He later finished his education at the University of Texas where he earned his masters in education, and then his Ph.D.

He taught in more than a dozen school districts over the next decades until he landed as superintendent of the Austin Independent School District before retiring.

Garza became active in the fight against Alzheimer's after losing his wife of 50 years to the disease.

## Former Army Sergeant volunteers for local causes

BY EMILY HILLEY-SIERZCHULA  
HERALD CORRESPONDENT

Former Sgt. Martin Palmer, who just finished eight years in the U.S. Army Reserves, has spent tons of time



EMILY HILLEY-SIERZCHULA | HERALD

Sgt. Martin Palmer, U.S. Army Reserves.

volunteering in service of several causes close to his heart. During the Congressional Veteran Commendation Ceremony in October in Killeen,

he was noted for being an "unwavering example of commitment to the well-being of others."

Palmer, 40, spent most of his childhood in San

Diego but now calls Hutto home. He had no military background and waited until he was 32

PLEASE SEE PALMER, 15



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# Female vets continue support through military sorority

BY PATRICIA STREETER  
HERALD CORRESPONDENT

KILLEEN — Delta Phi Chi members near Fort Hood volunteer for local outreach programs and promote PTSD awareness. Delta Phi Chi is a military sorority that was founded by Jennifer Berry and Nia Childs-Waynes on March 1, 2017.

“Delta Phi Chi was established specifically because we understood that military women don’t typically have the opportunity to attend college, on campus, and participate in the typical “pledging” process,” said



COURTESY PHOTO

The ladies of Delta Phi Chi gather for a group photo after their induction ceremony in Atlanta, Georgia on Dec. 9, 2017.

assistant membership coordinator, Michelle Cunningham.

Deployments, field exercises, relocations and military training restrict

pledging opportunities for service members.

“So, Delta Phi Chi took this into consideration and created a sorority so that our sisters in arms

could be afforded the opportunity to pledge a Greek-lettered organization and not be required to have a degree,” Cunningham said.

They are not the only military sorority, but they are seeking potential pledges who value loyalty, respect, integrity, growth, comradery and womanhood. The sorority wants to help women continue their sisterhood outside of the military.

“It (Delta Phi Chi) means without doubt, I have sisters I can call on across the world and

PLEASE SEE **SORORITY, 16**

## PALMER

FROM PAGE 14

and had moved to Texas before deciding to join the Army Reserves in 2010.

Right out of high school, Palmer had considered the military after watching several friends ship off with the Marine Corps, but an injury led his life in another direction.

“Life happened,” he said.

Later in life Palmer decided to re-visit the military, inspired by a friend who was joining the Navy. He now works for the state.

“When I enlisted, I had

done my research but I didn’t really know what to expect,” he said. “I enjoyed my time and made the best of it.”

The confidence the Army instilled in him has come in handy since.

Palmer volunteered with the Hutto Police Department and is a member of the Ameri-

can Legion.

“I became a service officer to help out with vets in our community, based on what they need,” he said.

Animal rights causes also are important to Palmer. His passion to rescue animals from lab testing facilities started when his wife showed

him a video of a beagle touching grass for the first time after being in a cage. Those stark images led him to become involved with the Rescue Freedom Project.

“Nothing has really stuck with me like that,” he said. “I took a step back and said, ‘This is crazy.’”

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# SORORITY

FROM PAGE 15

they will answer,” Cunningham said.

Membership is open to honorably-discharged veterans and extended to active duty, reserves and National Guard members.

“Although a degree is not required for membership, the majority of ladies within Delta Phi Chi have obtained a degree and for those who haven’t, it’s highly encouraged,” Cunningham said.

The founders inducted the “14 Treasures of Prestige” July 15, 2017. They were the first 14 members. The sorority is closing out 2018 with cluster locations in Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Missouri, North Carolina, Texas, Virginia, Japan and more.

“Any lady that becomes a member of Delta Phi Chi that lives within 30 miles of Fort Hood will fall under our local cluster. A member who joins outside of the 30 miles radius will form another cluster,” Cunningham said.

Fort Hood area became a cluster Aug. 26, 2017. The cluster has five members. They are Michelle Cunningham, Karen Huston, Nicole Pasley, Gassie Winn and Chanell Shropshire. Cunningham is the Southwest region point of contact for New Mexico, Texas, Louisiana and Arkansas.

“We are all veterans who served in the United States Army. Three of us continue to serve our brothers and sisters in arms by working at the Department of Veterans Affairs,” Cunningham said. “We participate in several volunteer programs such as Habitat for Humanity, Operation Stand Down-Central Texas, food bank, H-E-B Feast of Sharing and the list goes on.

“As a female veteran, Delta Phi Chi means having a support system of like-minded women, in and out of uniform. It means having an organization that I can honestly promote. I can promote the fact that the organization has

programs and initiatives implemented that’s truly needed in the veterans’ community,” Cunningham said.

The sorority’s national campaign is Phoenix R.I.S.E (Rising in Service and Empowering). The community outreach program was created to assist patrons who are experiencing financial hardships. The outreach team determines who is eligible to receive food and limited financial assistance for housing and utilities.

The Fort Hood cluster’s campaign is post traumatic stress awareness. Last June, members hosted their first PTSD Awareness 5K. They received a proc-

lamation from Killeen Mayor Segarra on June 23, 2018. The Central Texas Department of Veterans Affairs PTSD Clinic received 100 percent of the proceeds.

Next year’s 5K is at the Killeen Community Event Center on Saturday, June. 22, 2019. The registration fee is still \$20.00. T-shirt is included. Currently, the organization is seeking sponsors and volunteers.

Potential sponsors interested in supporting Delta Phi Chi’s PTSD Awareness 5K can contact Cunningham at 254-630-4759.

For more information about the sorority, visit [deltaphichimilitarysorority.org](http://deltaphichimilitarysorority.org).

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# Cemetery ensures no veteran will ever be buried alone

BY DAVID A. BRYANT  
FORT HOOD HERALD

This year alone, the Veterans Land Board has conducted 23 unaccompanied burials for veterans at the four state-run veteran cemeteries in Texas — more than half of those have been at the Central Texas State Veterans Cemetery in Killeen, according to Karina Erickson from the Texas General Land Office.

And since the program began in 2015, the Veterans Land Board is approaching its 100th unaccompanied veteran burial, she said. The Central Texas State Veterans Cemetery has seen the majority of them, with 12 this year and 21 between November 2016 and November 2017.

An unaccompanied veteran is one who no longer has family members available to attend the burial, either through having no family members left or having no family near enough to attend, according to Erickson.

“During an interview after an unaccompanied veterans service in Corpus Christi, I was asked why a community would come out to honor someone they never knew,” said Texas State Veteran Cemetery Deputy Director Eric Brown. “My response was swift and simple: The veteran likely didn’t know the



FILE PHOTO

Staff Sgt. Christopher Gilbert, left, and Sgt. Daniel Lewis fold the American flag during a funeral for James M. Cogan on Tuesday, Sept. 13, 2016, at the Central Texas State Veterans Cemetery in Killeen.

community members in attendance either; but they were willing to put their lives on the line for the attendees, in defense of our nation, and our

nations interests.

“When veterans raise their right hands during the oath, it’s not in defense of any one individual. They raise their

right hands in defense of a principle and way of life. It is for this reason that the communities

PLEASE SEE **BURIAL, 18**

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# BURIAL

FROM PAGE 17

come out to honor the veteran. The communities are honoring those that proudly served, our nations principles, way of life and the best in each of us as Americans.”

Due to the high number of veterans in the greater Fort Hood area, however, these unaccompanied veterans will not be left alone when they are laid to rest, according to retired Army 1st Sgt. Eddie Bell of Copperas Cove.

“Us old guys get together a lot, and this is what we often talk about,” said Bell, the president of the Department of Texas Korean War Veterans Association. “I’ve never even thought of the number of how many (unaccompanied veteran burials) I’ve attended. When I hear about one and I can go, I’m just there.”

Bell said most veterans in the area feel the same. Especially if the veteran is from World War II, Korea or Vietnam and has no other family available.

“I need to be there to show respect. Someone has to step in to be the recipient of that flag, and while I have not had that honor yet, someone has to be there,” he said. “We’re paying our respects — that’s a brother or a sister; so that’s where I’m supposed to be.”

According to Erickson, prior to the Veterans Land Board initiating the unaccompanied burial program in 2015, veterans were brought into the cemetery and “direct no witness” burials took place — meaning the remains were brought to the cemetery and interred with no honors or recognition of their military service. Veterans were often buried in paupers/county graves with no headstones and counties and local funeral homes were burdened with the veteran’s remains and how to properly seek honorable disposition.

Veterans were sometimes buried in heavy cardboard-type containers, as VA would not fund a casket for homeless or indigent veterans unless they were interred at a national cemetery, she added. After inquiries and requests from state programs, including the Texas State Veterans Cemeteries, VA agreed to fund caskets for indigent/homeless veterans interred at state and tribal cemeteries.

Retired Army 1st Sgt. Tony Smith, of Copperas Cove, said area veterans will always show up for these burials now because each of those veterans are “family.”

“Those are our brothers and sisters — it doesn’t matter what color they were, what religion, male or female ... Doesn’t even matter if we served in the same war or at the same time or in the same branch,” he said. “We’re family, and we’re proud to stand in as family when they have none of their own. I know my fellow veterans feel the same.”

Usually during a military funeral, a folded American flag which draped the veteran’s coffin is passed to the family. The first time Jean Shine, the civilian aide to the secretary of the Army and president of the Friends of the Central Texas State Veterans Cemetery, received the flag of an unaccompanied veteran was an honor, she said.

“You’re doing it for all of his family, friends, and we hope they know that we will always

honor (the veteran) and our cemetery will take care of (them) forever.”

## 2018 UNACCOMPANIED VETERAN BURIALS IN KILLEEN

Roy Pruett, Feb. 6. Pruett served in the U.S. Navy from January 1964 to July 1969.

Arvil Elrod Jr., Feb. 13. Elrod served in the U.S. Marine Corps from August 1969 to August 1970.

Joseph Matteson, March 8. Matteson served in the U.S. Marine Corps from February 1974 to January 1978.

Army Staff Sgt. Eric Johnson, April 6. Johnson was a Vietnam War veteran.

Dennis Anderson, April 10. Anderson served in the U.S. Air Force from March 1975 to July 1976.

Airman Charles Finley, April 24. Finley served in the U.S. Air Force from April 1951 to April 1953.

Seaman Lucianco Gayton, May 1. Gayton served in the U.S. Navy from August 1971 to August 1975.



# New support group launched for spouses of veterans

BY ELEONOR GARDNER  
HERALD CORRESPONDENT

**HARKER HEIGHTS** — The Veteran Spouse Resiliency Group held its first local meeting in October at Charlie Greene Memorial Hall in Harker Heights.

The group is a pilot program that will be studied for effectiveness by collecting group feedback from two sessions — this fall and next spring — comprised of different participants for each group.

The Veteran Spouse Resiliency Group pilot program is sponsored by the University of Texas at Austin School of Social Work to support the spouses of veterans. Its mission is to provide spouses with a direct resource and safe space to discuss personal issues and solutions to unique military-related problems they're confronted with due to a spouse's military service.

Hot discussion topics include self-care, long-term combat-caused issues and disability of spouses, caregiving and marriage.

"You only share what you feel like sharing," said Veteran Spouse Resiliency Group co-facilitator Michaela Jaimez regarding the expected dynamic of group meetings where difficult subjects are expected to be discussed. "It's a safe space for us spouses,

**'It's a safe space for us spouses, partners of veterans, to share our stories.'**

**Michaela Jaimez**

partners of veterans, to share our stories ... It's about us knowing that we're not alone."

"You're among friends. Whatever we talk about stays here," said Doris Williams, a facilitator with the group.

"The main goal of the pilot program is to see if this is something that spouses want, and then maybe expand it to active-duty spouses and spouses of veterans that are deceased so that we can help all spouses," said Williams.

Younger, more recently discharged veterans and family members need to join organizations that support veterans because the support that is now being provided was fought for by veterans

who fought in earlier wars, like Vietnam, said Williams.

Williams also pointed out that a lack of participation could mean diminished availability of support services for future veterans and veteran family members.

The initial meeting in Harker Heights served as an introduction to the program and member meet-and-greet. The meeting leads the pilot program as the first site to begin sessions in Texas. Games were played, door prizes were given out, refreshments were served, and visitors were given the opportunity to sign up for the program.

The fall sessions is underway. Twelve sessions

make up one program, but the veteran spouse network fostered during sessions are expected to provide long-term support.

The other pilot sites will launch their meetings up until the beginning of November. Other pilot program locations include Copperas Cove and Austin.

There are openings for interested veteran spouses with a minimum of eight participants for an official site to hold a group, and desired maximum of 10-12 participants per group. Veteran spouses unable to find entry into a fall group will be put on a wait list or should plan to attend a second group session that will begin in early 2019. Applications for the spring 2019 groups are due by Dec. 17.

Go to [www.facebook.com/VeteranSpouseNetwork](http://www.facebook.com/VeteranSpouseNetwork) or [sites.utexas.edu/mvfp/vsrg](http://sites.utexas.edu/mvfp/vsrg) to learn more about sessions, qualifications for participation, and to find a group and sign up.

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# Longtime veteran left 'huge' hole with his death

STAFF REPORT

Retired Command Sgt. Maj. Elijah King Jr. was a longtime advocate for veterans and soldiers in the Killeen area who served as the president of the area veterans and advisory committee and volunteered with many veteran organizations.

King died March 12, 2017, announced by former Killeen mayor and AVAC secretary Maureen Jouett.

"I'm just in shock right now; I'm heartbroken," Jouett said at the time of King's death. "Talk about someone who was an integral part of the veteran community. He is going to be missed."

"We lost a great soldier and a great friend, someone who was always helping veterans and people in the community," said Jean Shine of the Area Veterans Association Committee. "He helped reach out across the state of Texas and the nation to help other Vietnam veterans and make sure they were recognized."

King was married to Killeen City Council candidate Debbie Nash-King. An American Legion Post is being named in his honor and will be associated with Ellison High School in Killeen, where his children attended.

Retired Gen. James Thurman, who served as King's commander



FILE PHOTO

Late chairman of the Central Texas Area Veterans Advisory Committee, Elijah King Jr., right, gives Killeen Mayor Jose Segarra, a certificate of appreciation on Friday, Nov. 11, 2016, in front of Killeen City Hall before the Veterans Day parade.

from 2004 to 2007, gave the eulogy during King's funeral services March 24, 2017.

"Elijah King was a great soldier; a man of true faith, with a tremendous love of God," said Thurman, who lives in the Salado area.

In the eulogy, the former four-star general quoted other military leaders who were impacted by King's service.

The Fort Hood garrison commander at the time, now retired Col. Todd Fox, was quoted by Thurman saying: "King was my go-to man for anything I needed. I relied on his insight to rally our troops."

Thurman ended the eulogy saying everyone

who knew King loved him, and said people should strive to serve like King did during his life. He added that King was one of a kind, a man who loved God and would be proud of all the lives he impacted.

Joann Courtland, director of Operation Stand Down of Central Texas and a former Army warrant officer, said King was a good mentor.

"It didn't matter how big or how small an issue was for veterans, he wanted to try to find a way to fix it," she said. "He supported every organization he could. As long as you supported veterans, he was right there."

Harker Heights Rotary Club members took time at their first meeting after King's death to speak about how he would be remembered. King joined the Heights Club in June 2015.

Evan Hodson said, "In my opinion, it would have to do with our two Dodgeball Challenges. Elijah was the head court judge and in charge of all linemen. He made anything he was involved with go. If he said 'I've got this,' you could count on that he had it! Being the official scorekeeper, I was grateful to have Elijah at both tournaments."

"He brought to our

PLEASE SEE **KING, 21**

# KING

FROM PAGE 20

club the 50-year Vietnam pins. I'd never seen anyone else do this, but as Elijah pinned a person, he would always say, 'Welcome home.' Tears would well up in the eyes of these tough guys who had seen war firsthand. It was the best thing I had ever seen in making veterans feel appreciated," said Linda Angel.

Close friend and veteran Earl Williams talked about Elijah and what he felt was his mission as a Rotarian.

Williams said, "Among many other community events, he worked with me extensively with the Monster Dash Run, which was a cooperative effort of five Rotary clubs in the area. His number one goal was to make sure that any project that we were involved in as a club was a success."

John Footman said, "Elijah gave so much to the community. He was a Christian man and if you called him anytime of the night he would come assist you. I miss the scriptures that he would send out through an email every morning. He took an interest in all veterans and those on active duty. He was like a brother to me and we bonded together in 2005."

King was a 1971 graduate of Tuskegee Institute High School, where he was a band member

and a studious student, according to his obituary. Upon graduating, he attended Florida A&M University and majored in instrumental music. He fine-tuned his musical skills in the Tuskegee Institute High School "Golden Virtuosos Band" and later in the Florida A&M University Marching "100" Band. While attending college at Florida A&M University, he was initiated in the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated, before enlisting in the U.S. Army in August 1977.

He held a bachelor of science in liberal arts from Regents College State University of New York, a master of arts in Christian Leadership

from Grand Canyon University, Phoenix, Arizona. King was pursuing a doctor of education in organizational leadership with an emphasis in Christian ministry from Grand Canyon University, and he was scheduled to graduate in June 2017.

King served 30 years on active duty in the U.S. Army before retiring in 2007. Military assignments include two tours in Korea and two tours in Germany. He is a veteran of Operation Desert Shield/Storm and served two tours in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He dedicated his life to serving the veterans and the military communities

throughout the world. His motto: "Old soldiers never die and I refuse to fade away! Soldier for Life!"

He was a member of numerous councils, civic and local organizations. He served on the Chief of Staff Army Retiree Council, co-chairman of the Fort Hood Retiree Council, Texas U. S. Congressman John Carter, Central Texas Chapter 88, Retired Enlisted Association, Star Group-Veterans Helping Veterans, American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Harker Height Rotary Club, Communities in School, Killeen Branch NAACP and Men of Purpose Men's Ministry.

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# Shoemaker to have American Legion post

STAFF REPORT

One of the most notable figures in the Greater Fort Hood area died June 21, 2017 leaving behind a large hole in the lives of many.

Retired Gen. Robert Morin Shoemaker, 93, was a living legend in the region. He spent 36 years in the Army, and led two 1st Cavalry Division units in Vietnam: 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment and 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment. He served as chief of staff for the 1st Cavalry Division during his third tour of Vietnam, and later, the assistant division commander.

Shoemaker was the commander of III Corps and Fort Hood in the 1970s. In 1977, he was assigned as deputy commander of U.S. Army Forces Command before becoming U.S. Army Forces Command commander, a four-star position that only few Army officers achieve.

He is set to have an American Legion post named after him, which will be associated with Shoemaker High School in Killeen.

Born Feb. 18, 1924, Shoemaker grew up on his father's dairy farm near Almont, Michigan, a town of fewer than 3,000 people about 45 miles north of Detroit.

He had plans to be-



COURTESY PHOTO

Robert Morin Shoemaker

come a pharmacist, but that changed when he unexpectedly was granted admission to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, according to family members. He graduated West Point in 1946, beginning his military career.

## TASK FORCE SHOEMAKER

As an infantry officer, Shoemaker steadily rose through the ranks, becoming widely known in the Army after numerous command positions during the Vietnam War.

During the war, Shoemaker was a commander for two air cavalry units. Later, as a brigadier general for the 1st Cavalry Division, he led a bold and risky mission

into Cambodia to crack the North Vietnamese supply lines in 1970.

It was known as Task Force Shoemaker.

Shoemaker was appointed to be in charge of the task force that would launch the initial attack into Cambodia — a vast jungle, rural area where the enemy was stockpiling weapons, ammunition, rice and other supplies.

To get the job done, Shoemaker was given five, air-mobile battalions from the division, along with a brigade from the 25th Infantry Division, the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment and a brigade comprised of South Vietnamese troops.

All told, combined with support and supply personnel, about 35,000 to 40,000 troops comprised Task Force Shoemaker.

“By the time we went in, I had 12 maneuver battalions under my task force,” Shoemaker said in a Herald interview in 2015.

The mission was vague, bold and risky: Enter Cambodia — previously off limits — to shatter the North Vietnamese supply lines.

“I wasn’t, nor was anyone else, exactly sure what we were going to run into,” Shoemaker said.

Shoemaker went from unit to unit in his helicopter, encouraging the troops and taking in the big picture.

“I required every brigade to call me on secure radio every three hours with a report of what was going on,” he said.

A massive number of supply dumps were found almost immediately in warehouses, buildings, buried underground and “all of the above,” Shoemaker said.

The task force lost two soldiers in the first three days of the attack, and by May 7, the task force was disbanded, and the units reverted back to their normal commands. U.S. forces stayed in

PLEASE SEE **LEGION, 23**

# LEGION

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Cambodia through June 30, 1970, fighting and uncovering supply dumps the entire time.

While the mission was hugely successful for U.S. and allied troops in Vietnam, it ignited more protests back in the United States, where the anti-war movement was nearly at its peak.

President Richard Nixon, however, defended the attack, saying it would allow South Vietnamese troops more time to train, and get the Americans out of the war sooner.

Looking back, Shoemaker said he was quite satisfied with how Task Force Shoemaker was carried out.

"Vietnam, for me personally, was a real learning experience. It convinced me that when you've got large forces like that, you've got to, very carefully, make sure that every commander knows what you want them to do, give them resources and let the horses ride," Shoemaker said. "I've followed that general thought all the rest of my career."

## RETIREMENT AND REACTION

Shoemaker retired from the Army in 1982, and remained an active community member in the Killeen-Fort Hood

area.

He served as a Bell County commissioner and helped lead the community's efforts to bring a four-year university, now known as Texas A&M University-Central Texas, to the area. In 2000, Killeen Independent School District named a new high school after him.

Reactions to Shoemaker's death ranged far Thursday, with congressmen and current generals issuing news releases, and more than 43,000 viewers seeing the article on the Herald's Facebook page, many of them sharing the link and commenting on what Shoemaker meant to them.

"We all called him Uncle Bob," said Ann Haller, Shoemaker's niece, a Fair Hill, Maryland, resident.

She said her uncle had "always been a thinker and a community-minded person," a trait he learned from his parents. Shoemaker's mother was a school teacher and later a school board member; one of the first women school board

members in Michigan, said Haller, 54.

Haller said Shoemaker was a champion of education and believed people could achieve goals if they made the commitment.

"You wanted to do the very best for him," she said.

## MILITARY REACTIONS

Lt. Gen. Paul E. Funk II, the current III Corps and Fort Hood commander, made the following statement on behalf of the Central Texas Army community:

"We join the entire Central Texas community and our Army in mourning the loss of a great general, dynamic leader, philanthropist, and friend. General Shoemaker was an accomplished III Corps and Forces Command commander, a pillar of the community, and an inspiration to us all. We will truly miss him."

The U.S. Army Forces Command headquarters issued the following statement on Shoemaker's death:

"We extend our condolences and thoughts to

the Shoemaker Family and family friends on the passing of Gen. Robert Shoemaker. He was a visionary Army leader and his vision continues to inspire the U.S. Army Forces Command and our Army. He implemented the Department of the Army's CAPSTONE program, designed to enhance training effectiveness within the Reserve Component. General Shoemaker directed the initial alignment of Reserve Component units with Forces Command active-component units to form more effective training partnerships. These partnerships remain a key component of today's Army readiness. His leadership legacy of teamwork and mission command continues to shape Army officers, soldiers and Army units throughout U.S. Army Forces Command."

Acting Secretary of the Army Robert Speer also issued a statement on Shoemaker's death:

"With the passing of Gen. (Ret.) Robert Shoemaker, the Army and our nation lost a deco-

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**HOME** **AUTO**

# American Legions named after King, Shoemaker

BY DAVID A. BRYANT  
FORT HOOD HERALD

**KILLEEN** — Two American Legion posts chartered to honor the legacies of two Killeen-area veterans have received their temporary charters and are looking to build membership, according to the former Killeen mayor charged with setting up the new posts.

The posts are named after retired Gen. Robert M. Shoemaker, a Nolanville-area resident who died June 21, 2017, and retired Command Sgt. Maj. Elijah King Jr., a Killeen resident who died March 12, 2017.

“All American Legion posts are named after a deceased veteran, and all our posts are named after veterans from this area,” said former Killeen mayor Dan Corbin. “Not enough people understand just what a great man Gen. Shoemaker was. Sgt. Maj. King was a little less known, but no less a great man.”

Corbin said the two posts have not yet set a date to begin meeting, as both are still in the process of building the leadership and holding membership drives.

The American Legion was chartered and incorporated by Congress in 1919 as a patriotic veterans organization devoted to mutual helpfulness, according to the American Legion mission state-

ment. It is the nation’s largest wartime veterans service organization, committed to mentoring youth and sponsorship of wholesome programs in local communities, advocating patriotism and honor; promoting strong national security and continued devotion to fellow service members and veterans.

The goal of Texas American Legion posts is to have a post associated with every high school in the state, Corbin said. Shoemaker’s post will be associated with the high school that bears his name. King’s post will be associated with Ellison High School, where King’s children attended.

“The new posts will actually meet at the schools and won’t have a traditional brick and mortar building,” Corbin said. “We really don’t need big buildings with bars anymore, and our image should be tailored more toward the things we should be doing, such as our programs taking



COURTESY GRAPHIC

## American Legion

care of kids and our veterans.”

Many of the programs sponsored by the American Legion are tailored toward youths, including a Junior ROTC shooting program, an oratory competition based on patriotism and taking care of the children of service members who are deployed, he said.

“These are the pro-

grams these posts will be focused on,” Corbin said.

## LASTING LEGACY

For retired Lt. Gen. Pete Taylor, a long-time friend and associate of Shoemaker and lifetime American Legion member at large, the opportunity to be associated with a post named after a friend and mentor is an honor.

The advertisement for ATDS Truck Driving School features a large, detailed image of a white semi-truck with orange and black accents, driving on a road. The truck's headlights are on, and it is pulling a trailer with "ATDS" written on it. Below the image, the text "ATDS Truck Driving School" is prominently displayed. Underneath this, there are four bullet points listing benefits: "Earn \$48-60K First Year", "4-Week Training Program", "Weekend Classes Available", and "Approved for VA Benefits". To the right of these points are two more bullet points: "Job Placement Assistance" and "Use your Ch 33 Post 911 GI Bill". At the bottom, the website "www.truckingschool.com" and the phone number "254-432-7534" are listed.

# Fund helps ensure veterans without means receive burial

BY DAVID A. BRYANT  
FORT HOOD HERALD

In 2016, a very stressed veteran and his family was undergoing a situation no veteran should have to face — how to pay for his funeral.

James Cogan, a Purple Heart Medal recipient, had been exposed to Agent Orange in 1972 after being drafted into the Army and sent to Vietnam, which made it impossible for him to get life insurance. Because of this, he and his family were unable to come up with the money needed to bury him. He died Sept. 9, 2016, at the Veterans Affairs Hospital in Temple.

When retired Army 1st Sgt. Eddie Bell found out about the situation, the president of the Department of Texas Korean War Veterans Association knew the situation was unacceptable and immediately set out to ensure Cogan received the honors he was due.

With the help of veteran organizations from the Fort Hood area and Scott's Funeral Home in Copperas Cove, enough money was raised to give Cogan a proper burial.

"Scott's Funeral Home in Copperas Cove came through for us, and they are doing a fantastic job taking care of our veterans," Bell said, adding that the funeral home cut the cost down to \$3,500. "When I received

## 'We're still raising money for the fund and are ready to answer the call when needed.'

**Eddie Bell**  
Army 1st Sgt.

the phone call about this particular situation, it reminded me of Willie Browning, when they were having issues with interment for her. It clicked real quick that we can't keep going through this, and we need to do something."

Browning was a beloved veterans service officer in Harker Heights who helped more than 100,000 veterans receive their disability benefits.

While Bell was able to gather the funds needed for Cogan's funeral, he said he quickly realized it would not be the last time funeral arrangements would need to be taken care of for veterans. Thus the

Interment Fund was created through the Texas Korean War Veterans Association.

"I started a separate fund ... Specifically for this," he said. "We are not going to get ourselves in the position again when we have a situation like this."

Since then, the fund has paid for several veterans in similar situations, with but none so far in 2018, Bell said. The biggest issue the veteran organization has is the number of people who don't really need the assistance who seek to take advantage of the fund. However, Bell said he really does his "homework and due diligence."

Bell said the fund is only to be used to pay for funerals, that veterans are vetted to ensure they are able to use services provided by veteran organizations and that all funds go through KWVA.

"The Korean War Veterans Association is a nonprofit, so any funds donated are tax deductible," he said. "The fund is also one which will be audited regularly, with all expenses listed, and is a public record. That means anyone can see exactly where the money is going at any given time."

Other local veteran organizations help ensure the fund stays viable, but donations are always needed.

"We're still raising money for the fund and are ready to answer the call when needed," Bell said. "And the funeral homes, mainly Scott's Funeral Home, help do the best they can to do the best deals they can to help us defray costs."

dbryant@kdhnews.com | 254-501-7554



# New veteran nonprofit aims to fill in gaps

BY DAVID A. BRYANT  
FORT HOOD HERALD

A relatively new veteran nonprofit formed at the beginning of the year in the Killeen area is ready to assist qualified veterans who may need a little assistance — whether paying bills or building a business plan.

American Veterans Mission is the brainchild of Anthony “Tony” Martinez, a soldier who was wounded in Iraq and who fought hard to remain on active duty. A following deployment to Afghanistan, however, sealed his fate and he was informed he would be medically retired by the time he had served only 15 years of what he thought would be a full career.

A captain at the time, the former enlisted man was not ready to leave the life he had come to love so much and the soldiers who were his family.

So he decided to form a nonprofit to assist others who were being thrust into the civilian life before they were ready. After gathering several like-minded veterans, American Veterans Mission was fully ready to do business on Jan. 2, 2018, and recently received its 501(c)(3) status as a nonprofit organization on Aug. 6.

The nonprofit helps veterans and their families through a multitude of avenues — from monetary grants to help veterans stay in their homes to assisting veterans with building business plans to start their own businesses.

“The idea came about in 2014 when I found out I was getting medically retired from the Army,” Martinez said. “I started thinking on how I could continue to help and serve those who served. The Army had been my one and only career besides being a Burger King manager in high school.”

The organization partners with other nonprofits in the area to ensure those who need assistance can get it, whether from them or the nonprofit best suited for the veteran’s needs, he said. AVM’s purpose is to combine the varied experiences of its board members

to provide networking, research support for startups and small businesses, credit counseling and repair advice and even fundraising support for causes they support, such as Operation Phantom Support — which runs a thrift store and other programs in downtown Killeen for troops and veterans.

AVM can also provide assistance with putting together disability claims for Veterans Affairs, Martinez said.

“We have multiple skills within the group. We have (business) students and graduates, medical students and doctors and finance majors,” he said. “So we combined these talents to make us useful for the residents of Killeen and our veterans.”

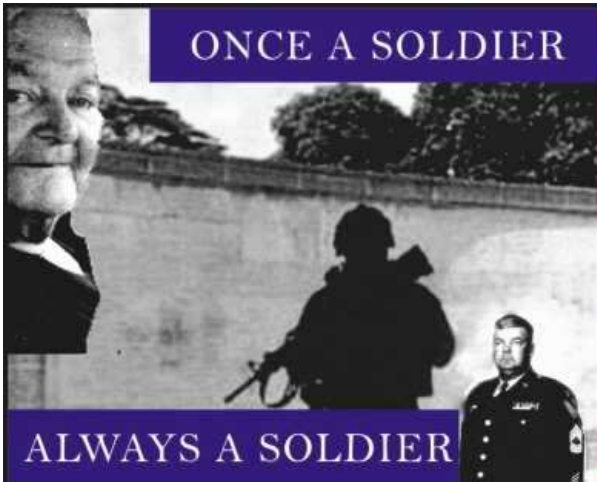
All qualified veterans can request aid from the organization, said Sebrina Ekah, AVM’s secretary of the board

and a medically-retired Army captain. Ekah and Martinez were battle buddies in Afghanistan and both were medically retired within a month of each other in 2015.

“It’s a case-by-case basis,” Ekah said of how the nonprofit works. “If we can’t help them, we’ll help them find the resources that can. Any veteran that is in need — it can be just something as simple as wanting to start a business — we will help them find the resources they need to do what it is they want to do.”

For those veterans who may need assistance, and would like to find out more about American Veterans Mission, visit [avmartinez.us](http://avmartinez.us) or call 254-647-0144. The organization is located at 3305 Thunder Creek Drive in Killeen.

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# Quilts of Valor honors soldiers who served in Iraq

BY DAVID A. BRYANT  
FORT HOOD HERALD

On April 4, 2004, the soldiers of 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment came under ferocious enemy fire in Sadr City, Iraq. That fateful day would become known as “Black Sunday” by the 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division unit, ending with the deaths of eight soldiers and 60 injured — the largest casualty count in a single day for the “First Team” division since the Vietnam War.

In September, 23 Fort Hood area veterans who lived through Black Sunday were presented with quilts from Killeen-based Quilters With a Heart, part of the national Quilts of Valor program, during a presentation at the 2018 Quilt Show and Shop Hop at the Killeen Civic and Conference Center. The Quilts of Valor Foundation is a nonprofit organization that awards military veterans and active-duty service members with uniquely designed quilts and has members across the country and throughout the globe.

One of the veterans to receive a quilt was retired Sgt. 1st Class John Thomas, a Harker Heights resident who was a staff sergeant with Bravo Company,



COURTESY PHOTO

Veterans from 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division gather for a group photo at the Killeen Civic and Conference Center after being presented a Quilt of Valor from Killeen-based Quilts of Valor-Quilters With a Heart.

1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment at the time of the battle. The tank company was attached to 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment for that particular deployment.

“We got the call to go out, but the mission kept changing,” Thomas said, adding that his unit had to leave Camp War Eagle, the forward operating base located near Sadr City, in unarmored High Mobility, Multi-Wheel Vehicles because the unit’s tanks had not yet arrived. “We were ambushed at Bravo Market (in Sadr City) that night while going to help out.”

The attack began that day when a platoon from 2-5’s Charlie Company were ambushed. The platoon called for support and troops from 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment joined troops from 1st Battalion, 82nd

Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment and units from the 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment — the unit 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment was replacing — responded with a quick reaction force.

Those units often fought the enemy at distances as close as 30 meters to get to the trapped soldiers. After a few hours, the relief force made it on-site, but the soldiers ended up fighting for several more hours while exiting the city to their base.

Gathering local veterans of the attack on Black Sunday for quilts began a year ago, when Thomas first met Laura Winckel of Quilters With a Heart.

Winckel had an exhibit at the Bell County Museum in 2017 from September through Veterans Day in November.

During that display, members of the unit who served in Sadr city came and admired the display and attended the awarding of some Quilts of Valor that Veterans Day.

Following the event, Thomas spoke to Winckel about Black Sunday. Winckel read the book and watched the miniseries “The Long Road Home” — which detailed the battle — and was touched deeply.

“As a spouse of a retired sergeant major and being part of the military for 27 years, this book really touched my heart,” Winckel said. “The women in the book could have been me at any time during my husband’s years on active duty.”

Winckel then began working with Thomas on honoring those that

PLEASE SEE **QUILTS, 28**

# QUILTS

FROM PAGE 27

he served with who still lived in Texas.

“It was a lot of work, and was especially hard after the loss of my son,” Thomas said. His son, Nicholas, was 19 and in the process of enlisting in the U.S. Marine Corps when he collapsed and died shortly after an organized run in Harker Heights in June.

“It was very emotional,” Thomas said about receiving the quilt. “My buddy just came up and gave me the biggest hug, and my knees just gave out. I thought I was going to fall.”

The veterans who gathered all seemed to agree on how it felt to be honored with a quilt, and the awarding ceremony turned into a mini-reunion.

“Getting to see the guys, some — like Janus Solas, who I served with almost every day of my service — I haven’t seen since I got out of the Army nearly 14 years ago,” said Justin Holt, who was a private during the attack on Black Sunday. “It meant a lot to me. The people who do the quilts not only gave us a quilt, but also gave us a venue to see our brothers we may not otherwise have had. All those guys there, by my definition, are heroes.”

Holt, a Bradley Fight-

ing Vehicle mechanic, was at Camp War Eagle when the attacks in Sadr City began. At first he thought the gunfire he was hearing was just a sporadic anomaly, but then the gunfire kept going and going.

“The next thing we knew, a (Light/Medium Tactical Vehicle) came blowing through the base leaking blood,” the Leander, Texas, resident said. “We ran over to it and when the ramp came down, it was filled with our guys. Every one of them had been shot.”

Holt and two of his fellow soldiers, all combat lifesaver qualified, immediately ran to get their medical bags. They administered the IV bags to the wounded soldiers as the medics worked on them.

Later in the day, Holt would be a part of the crews sent out to retrieve downed vehicles while simultaneously searching for the Charlie Company platoon.

Overall, the experience that day — and throughout the deploy-

ment in 2004 — caused the battalion to become a very close-knit group of family, Thomas said.

“Seeing them all together is very emotional,” he said. “We were a very tight battalion, and we still contact each other to this day.”

Many of the volunteers who made the quilts are members of the local group and were able to attend the award ceremony, helping to wrap the veterans in their Quilt of Valor.

“This past year of planning and preparing for this awarding has been very rewarding for me and our group,” Winckel said. “Having the opportunity to thank these heroes was an honor.”

A few days after the presentation ceremony, Leon Gunera, a veteran of the battle who had been unable to make it to the presentation, was presented the quilt by local quilters Winckel and Emily Judkins.

Gunera was a tank gunner during that particular deployment.

“It’s pretty special

— just the fact that there are people we don’t know personally who will go out of their way for us,” said Gunera, who now lives in Liberty Hill, about 45 miles south of Killeen. “Receiving something that will probably last me a lifetime ... I’m really appreciative of it.

“All I remember is it started out as a pretty normal day,” added Gunera, who now works for the U.S. Postal Service delivering mail in Austin. “Next thing I know, I just hear chaos and I run to the gate. I see vehicles driving in with people injured ... blood pouring from the backs of the trucks because there were soldiers in them, all shot up.”

Gunera said that everyone’s training kicked in, everyone knowing what to do. Later on he would be part of the effort to locate the missing Charlie Company platoon.

“I remember it was past midnight when we went out,” he said. “It was the first time I had ever been shot at.”



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## [ VETERANS DAY EVENTS ]

### KILLEEN

• The Central Texas Community Veterans Day Parade will march through historic downtown Killeen at 11 a.m. Nov. 12. Retired Lt. Gen. H.G. “Pete” Taylor will serve as grand marshal. This year’s parade theme is “Honoring Desert Storm/Desert Shield Soldiers and Veterans.” Parade entries will be accepted through Nov. 11 at [avac-centex.com](http://avac-centex.com). There is no cost to enter. The parade route travels from College Street down Avenue D to 8th Street, 8th Street to Sprott Street and Sprott Street to Gray Street ending at Avenue C. Spectators should arrive early to secure the best parking and viewing spots along the route.

### NOLANVILLE

• NorthSide Baptist Church in Nolanville will be hosting a special Veteran’s Day service and dinner. They will be honoring retired Staff Sgt. Roy Johnson, a two-time Silver Star recipient. Veterans can RSVP for the dinner at [www.nsb-fh.org](http://www.nsb-fh.org). All are invited to the service, but there is a limited seating capacity of 225 for the dinner.

### TEMPLE

• Veterans and their family members are invited to a job fair from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Nov. 9, at the Olin E. Teague Veter-



HERALD FILE PHOTO

A youngster in military uniform rides on a soldier’s shoulders in the Killeen Veterans’ Day Parade on Saturday, Nov. 11, 2017.

ans’ Medical Center, part of the Central Texas Veterans Health Care System (CTVHCS).

The job fair is open to Veterans and their family members and is being held in Building 171, Conference Room A25. The medical center is located at 1901 Veterans Memorial Drive in Temple.

A variety of employers who are committed to hiring Veterans will be in attendance to take applications and speak with applicants. Examples of employers that have participated in the past include: Texas Veterans Commission; Resource Employment Solutions; Goodwill Industries (Learning Center); Division for

Rehabilitation Services (DARS)/Texas Workforce Solutions; City of Temple, Troops to Teachers; City of Killeen (Police Department); Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) Compass Bank; Warrior Transition, Baylor Scott and White Healthcare System; Waco Call Center; City of Harker Heights, McLanes’s, Trident Education, Hostile, Spectrum/Charter; Manpower; Regent University; Primeamerica, Texas Veterans Land Board, American Pratus (Security), Teletec, Ajinomoto Foods, Killeen Independent School District (KISD), Hawkins Personnel, Allied Security, James Construction, USO, Manpower, Fikes,

Inc./CEFCO, and CT-VHCS Human Resources Management Service.

We recommend veterans bring their resumes along with any supporting documents, such as reference letters, licenses held, etc. No appointments are necessary.

This event is coordinated by the Vocational Rehabilitation Therapy staff at the Central Texas Veterans Health Care System. The VRT staff will be on hand if Veterans need help on how to create a resume as well as job interview techniques.

PLEASE SEE **EVENTS, 30**

# EVENTS

FROM PAGE 29

## RESTAURANTS OBSERVE VETERANS DAY

Most restaurants require proof of service. Call restaurants for requirements and details before dining in.

- Applebee's: free meals from a special menu available to veterans and active duty service members on Nov. 11. For more information, call 254-526-9711.

- Chili's: free meal for veterans and active duty service members on Nov. 11. For more information, call 254-690-4644.

- Cici's Pizza: free buffet available to veterans and active duty service members on Nov. 11. For more information, call 254-242-3400.

- Golden Corral: military appreciation dinner for veterans and active duty service members from 5 to 9 p.m. Nov. 12. For more information, call 254-501-4710.

- Texas Roadhouse: free lunch for veterans and active duty service members from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Nov. 11. For more information, call 254-699-7366.

- Buffalo Wild Wings: free one small order of wings and a side of fries for veterans and active duty service members on Nov. 11. Dine-in only. For more information, call 254-690-1523.

- Cracker Barrel: complimentary slice of



HERALD FILE PHOTO

Vesna Codougan and Marie and Mark Hill walk in the Copperas Cove Veterans Day Parade representing Blue Santa of Copperas Cove.

Double chocolate Fudge Cocoa Cola cake or Goo-goo Cluster Latte on Nov. 11. For more information, call 254-953-8290.

- Urban Bricks: foundation meals will be buy one, get one half off with show a military ID on Nov. 11. For more information, call 254-449-9911.

- Hooters: free meal for veterans and active duty service members on Nov. 11. For more information, call 254-501-4195.

- Olive Garden: free entree from a selected list will be available to veterans and active duty service members on Nov. 11. For more information, call 254-699-2709.

- Outback Steakhouse: free bloomin' onion and free nonalcoholic drinks will be available for veterans and active duty service members on Nov. 11. For more information, call 254-699-4164.

- Red Robin: free red's tavern double burger with bottomless steak fries available for vet-

erans and active duty service members on Nov. 11. For more information, call 254-449-8550.

## ADDITIONAL COMPANIES OBSERVE VETERANS DAY

- Hyatt has committed to strengthen its benefits around the military community by introducing a new veteran and military rate to honor the men and women who have served in the U.S. military.

Beginning Oct. 26, individuals who have served or are currently serving in any official government-sponsored branch of the United States armed services and their immediate family members can get between 10 and 15 percent off their stay at any participating Hyatt-branded hotel in the United States with offer code MILVET\*. This offer is the first-ever Veteran and Military Rate offered by Hyatt, and

will be in effect indefinitely.

The new Veteran and Military Rate will give service members, veterans and their immediate family members access to nearly 500 Hyatt-branded hotels around the U.S. This is Hyatt's way of saying thank you for the immense sacrifice veterans and members of the military make each and every day.

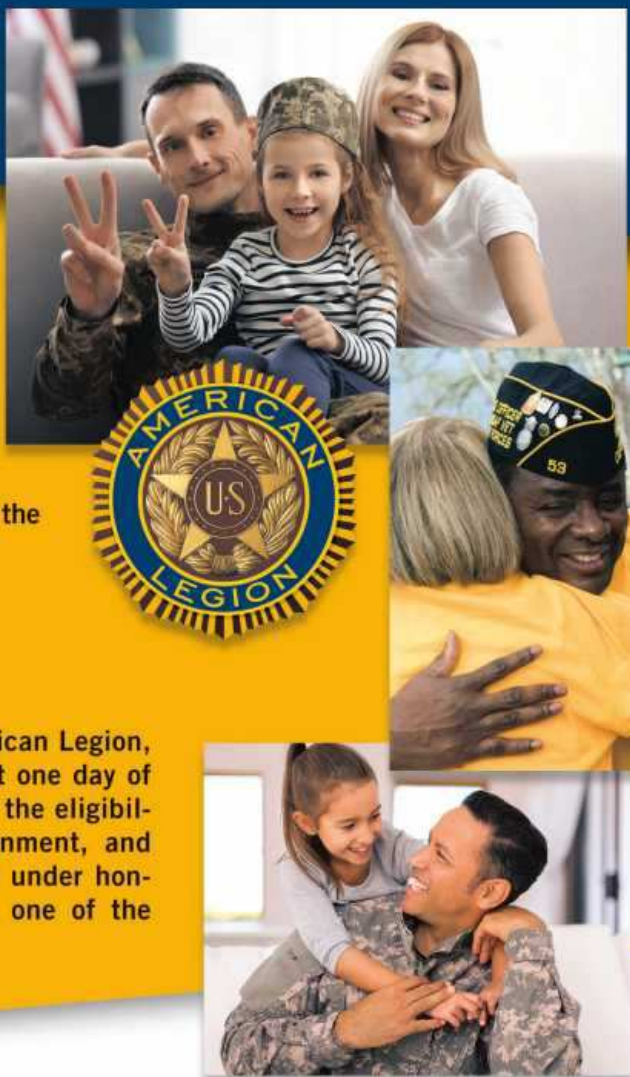
The Hyatt House brand will also allow eligible military personnel, veterans and their immediate family members to combine the Veteran and Military Rate with its upcoming holiday promotion, in which World of Hyatt members who stay for four or more consecutive nights at any Hyatt House hotel between Nov. 1 and Dec. 31, will earn 2,000 World of Hyatt bonus points. More info can be found at [worldofhyatt.com/holiday](http://worldofhyatt.com/holiday).

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- AMERICANISM
- CHILDREN & YOUTH

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CSM Elijah King, Jr. (Post 217)

**The American Legion Membership Application**

(Name) \_\_\_\_\_ (Phone) \_\_\_\_\_

(Mailing Address) \_\_\_\_\_ (Date) \_\_\_\_\_

(City) \_\_\_\_\_ (State) \_\_\_\_\_ (Zip) \_\_\_\_\_ (Post #) 217

(Membership ID# former member) \_\_\_\_\_ (Email Address) \_\_\_\_\_ (Dues) \_\_\_\_\_

**Please check appropriate eligibility dates and branch of service below**

<input type="checkbox"/> Aug 2, 1990 – cessation of hostilities as determined by U.S. Government	<input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Army
<input type="checkbox"/> Dec. 20, 1989 – Jan. 31, 1990	<input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Navy
<input type="checkbox"/> Aug. 24, 1982 – July 31, 1984	<input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Air Force
<input type="checkbox"/> Feb. 28, 1961 – May 7, 1975	<input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Marines
<input type="checkbox"/> June 25, 1950 – Jan. 31, 1955	<input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Coast Guard
<input type="checkbox"/> Dec. 7, 1941 – Dec. 31, 1946	<input type="checkbox"/> Merchant Marines 12/7/41 – 12/31/46 (only eligibility)
<input type="checkbox"/> April 6, 1917 – Nov 11, 1918	

I certify that I served at least one day of active military duty during the dates marked above and was honorably discharged or am still serving honorably.

Signature of applicant \_\_\_\_\_ Name of recruiter \_\_\_\_\_

30-009 (2016)

General Robert M. Shoemaker (Post 216)

**The American Legion Membership Application**

(Name) \_\_\_\_\_ (Phone) \_\_\_\_\_

(Mailing Address) \_\_\_\_\_ (Date) \_\_\_\_\_

(City) \_\_\_\_\_ (State) \_\_\_\_\_ (Zip) \_\_\_\_\_ (Post #) 216

(Membership ID# former member) \_\_\_\_\_ (Email Address) \_\_\_\_\_ (Dues) \_\_\_\_\_

**Please check appropriate eligibility dates and branch of service below**

<input type="checkbox"/> Aug 2, 1990 – cessation of hostilities as determined by U.S. Government	<input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Army
<input type="checkbox"/> Dec. 20, 1989 – Jan. 31, 1990	<input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Navy
<input type="checkbox"/> Aug. 24, 1982 – July 31, 1984	<input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Air Force
<input type="checkbox"/> Feb. 28, 1961 – May 7, 1975	<input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Marines
<input type="checkbox"/> June 25, 1950 – Jan. 31, 1955	<input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Coast Guard
<input type="checkbox"/> Dec. 7, 1941 – Dec. 31, 1946	<input type="checkbox"/> Merchant Marines 12/7/41 – 12/31/46 (only eligibility)
<input type="checkbox"/> April 6, 1917 – Nov 11, 1918	

I certify that I served at least one day of active military duty during the dates marked above and was honorably discharged or am still serving honorably.

Signature of applicant \_\_\_\_\_ Name of recruiter \_\_\_\_\_

30-009 (2016)

**INTERESTED?** Complete the application and mail your \$30 check to Dan Corbin at 603 N 8th St., Killeen, TX 76541. Please make checks payable to The American Legion.

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\* **Military Appreciation Savings:** 1% savings available on inventory homes only. When building a home, save \$500 on available design upgrades. Design upgrades include structural plan options, appliance upgrades, flooring upgrades, and color/finish upgrades. Excludes any monetary incentives such as OTP, Survey, Closing Costs, etc. May be used in addition to any available/advertised builder allowances. Cannot be combined with any other promotional incentives and not valid on prior purchases. Military/VA ID must be shown at time of contracting to receive discount. Available for communities located in Temple-Belton, Bryan-College Station and Georgetown, TX.

\*\* Owner Title Policy (OTP) and Survey paid by Omega when preferred lender chosen. Amount towards closing costs vary by community and may only cover a portion of the total closing costs. Additional Terms & Conditions May Apply, please consult Omega Builders Representative for details. **Effective 11.1.2018 through 2.28.2018 and may end at any time without prior written notice.**