



REVEILLE



Volume 3, Issue 10

October 1, 2014

NEWSLETTER OF THE AMERICAN LEGION POST 104

CORNER COMMANDER'S

Our regularly scheduled meeting for Dec, scheduled for Saturday, Nov 30 has been canceled to allow the members to spend time with their families over the long Thanksgiving weekend.

Don't forget the Riders Christmas party on Dec 6 at Ryan's steak house on the parkway (the one near Lowe's). The party starts at 6 PM. We need to know if you are coming by Thursday, Dec 4. You can call Carol Baxter, Carolyn Wells, or Julie Varner to make your RSVP. There is also a sign up sheet on the bulletin board in the legion hall.

We are also still collecting items for the veterans at Mountain Home Veterans Hospital. The big box at the door is not full yet, so please help us out. We are collecting items that the veterans can use their like games, puzzles, books or personal care items. Please sign a card for a veteran while you are there and we will deliver them all in time for Christmas.

Have a happy and safe Thanksgiving.



AUXILIARY ACTIONS

Hope everybody had a wonderful Thanksgiving. But hopefully no one ate too much. I would like to thank each and everyone who helped us with distributing our Poppies. It was a huge success with our donations totaling \$3,393.00. this is awesome and all of these monies are strictly used for helping veterans.



If you weren't here on Nov 24th, you missed lots of fun, laughter and food, as we decorated the Post for Christmas.

On a lighter side, we gathered Christmas sweaters, sweat shirts, vests, lots of Christmas decorations from the house we purchased and had a "Quick" Christmas sale last Friday and Saturday. We made \$111.00 for hurriedly putting on this sale. I have requested the ladies to put on their running shoes in December.

We have so many places we have to distribute our Christmas goodies too. Sevier County Children's home, Cattlesburg School to present gift cards to Teacher of the Month. All five nursing homes to deliver our Santa Stockings. Food Ministry to deliver food, clothing and a monetary gift.

LaConte Hospital to deliver hats and receiving blankets. Whew! I think that is all for now on our schedule.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Weight Watchers (Pg. 3)
- 1000 - Foothill Family Church
- **DAILY** - Coffee & Donuts at the Post @ 10:00 a.m.
- Dec 1 - Executive Board Meeting
- Dec 2 - Membership Meeting
- Dec 7 - Pearl Harbor Memorial
- Dec 13 - Seymour Christmas Parade
- Dec 25 - Christmas Day

As President of Unit 104, I would like to express how proud I am of this Unit. It took team work, and with everyone's efforts our united reached 100% membership. This has not been accomplished for several, several years.

THANK YOU LADIES.

For God and Country,
Carolyn Wells, President



TAPS

December 2 Roy McKinley Campbell Navy; 3 Joseph Hardy Army; 4 William "Bill" Homer Watson Coast Guard; 8 John "Olin" Holbert Army; 15 Robert "Bob" Charles Masker Army; 22 Albert Bojack Navy; 22 George Eugene Weidner Air Force; Wilbert Ray, W.R. Thompson, Army
EVENTS: 7 & 8 Help Auxiliary distribute Poppies; 8 Put up Flag at the Diner, Sevierville
11 Veteran's Day Program at the Courthouse; 11 Veteran's Day Program at Wellington Place, Sevierville;
12 Post Colors for the Pigeon Forge Rotary Club

Paul Parrott, Honor Guard Commander



LEGION RIDERS DIRECTOR'S CHAIR

Happy Thanksgiving everyone, please have a blessed and save holiday. We had a great time at the Pigeon Forge Salute to Veterans Parade on November 11. As usual, we had a few snafus but we accomplished the mission. We had a large group of motorcycles this year – and great weather for the event. The main motorcycle group did get separated from the float when we temporarily lost the keys to the truck. We found them just in time to slip in ahead of Santa Claus at the end of the parade. The music was a hit once again with the crowd. Thanks to Tom Thompson for the use of his trailer and sound system, and to Mitch for the new cd of patriotic music. The rumor is that there will not be a parade on Veteran's Day in PF next year. I hope that is not true.

We have our Riders Christmas Party scheduled for December 6 at Ryans on the parkway (next to Lowes) starting at 6 PM. We need to know how many are coming by Thursday Dec 4. You can contact Carolyn Wells, Carol Baxter, or Julie Varner by phone, or sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board at the post.

The big box at the front door is filling up with supplies for the Mountain Home Veterans hospital, but it is not full yet. Please donate what you can of games, puzzles and personal care items. We also ask that you sign a card for the veterans. We will be taking everything over to Mountain Home before Christmas.

Our laser pistol shooting league competition has begun on Thursday nights. We have some pretty good sharpshooters in our group, and they are not all men. We include safety training as part of the practice session and finish with a competition. The targets are fun and we try to change things up a little bit each time to keep it lively. Come join us for some safe and quiet shooting practice.

If you have finished riding for the season, don't forget to winterize your ride. The battery needs to be charged regularly, and the gas will turn to varnish over the winter if you don't give it some treatment. I use STA-BIL™, but there are other products out there that do the same thing. If you can find non-ethanol fuel somewhere (in Premium for those Harleys), it is a good idea to change to it for the winter as the ethanol attracts water. Filling the tank keeps the possibility of corrosion down inside the tank. I change my oil just before winter as well so the contaminants are not sitting in there all winter. Even with the storage, I still try to start and ride when the weather permits in the winter, even if it is just for a few miles. Warming up the oil to operating temperature drives out any water.

If you need an excuse to ride before Christmas, we have an event planned for Dec 20 to escort Sgt. Bradley Walker to the key ceremony at his new house in Dandridge, provided by Homes for Our Troops. We will leave the post at 0930 to ride to exit 424 on I-40 to meet Sgt. Walker and some other MC teams that will be joining us for the event. If you want to meet us there, we will be planning to leave at 1045, from the BP station, to escort Sgt. Walker over to the home site. More information will be coming over the next few weeks. If you want to know more about Homes For Our Troops, Google their website and click on the schedule area to bring up Sgt. Walker's ceremony.

Please have a blessed, safe and merry Christmas and a happy new year.

Tom Baxter, Director

Pentagon's Preparing a Budget Plan Exceeding Sequestration Cuts By Tony Capaccio

The Pentagon expects to submit a five-year budget that will violate mandatory spending caps for the second consecutive year, according to the Defense Department's comptroller.

The fiscal 2016-2020 budget probably will "once again say 'here's what we think we need' and not submit a budget that is directed at the caps" imposed under the spending cuts known as sequestration, Comptroller Mike McCord said in an interview. Though the Defense Department hasn't received final budget guidance from the White House's Office of Management and Budget, "I would be really surprised if we changed our position at this point and say, 'Yes, we'll submit a sequester-level budget and just call it a day,'" McCord said in the Nov. 12 interview.

While defense officials have renewed their campaign for congressional relief from the automatic cuts, the military services also have been asked to consider the levels permitted under sequestration as a budget option, McCord said.

The fiscal 2015 plan that was released in February and is still pending before Congress called for \$115 billion more through 2019 than sequestration permits -- including \$35.3 billion more than allowed for fiscal 2016 if the cuts return in full force, as planned, after a two-year pause. The fiscal 2016 budget is going through its normal review process, including, he said, answering a perennial question from the Pentagon comptroller: "How are we going to pay for all of this?"

Annual Cuts - Defense Department budget planners estimate that, unless overturned, the automatic cuts will reduce the budget request through 2021 by an average \$31 billion a year, calculated in dollars not adjusted for inflation. The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office took a dimmer view in a report. The agency projected that unless Congress reverses the caps, the cuts could average \$47 billion a year.

(Continued on Page 5)

Veteran Homeowners - PROPERTY TAX RELIEF FOR SURVIVING SPOUSES

Authorizes property tax relief to surviving spouses of disabled veterans who would have been eligible for relief had the veteran qualified under later amendments to the law. The tax relief is in an amount necessary to pay or reimburse such taxpayers for all or part of the local property taxes paid for a given tax year on that property that the disabled veteran owned and used as the disabled veteran's residence. The property tax relief is extended to the surviving spouse of a disabled veteran who, at the time of the disabled veteran's death, was eligible for disabled veterans' property tax relief, as long as the surviving spouse:

- (1) Does not remarry;
- (2) Solely or jointly owns the property for which tax relief is claimed; and
- (3) Uses the property for which tax relief is claimed exclusively as a home.

This bill adds that if a subsequent amendment to the law concerning eligibility as a disabled veteran would have made the deceased veteran eligible for disabled veterans' property tax relief, then property tax relief will also be extended to the surviving spouse. This applies to tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2011.



FROM OUR CHAPLAIN

Visitation - Contact me for assisting our visitation to local nursing homes. The veterans there really enjoy our meeting with them. Be a part of that pleasure by visiting them.

Contact Information - To get in touch with me at 865-740-7090 (cell). *R.C. Anderson, Chaplain*

White House pushes for lower pay raise in 2015

By Leo Shane III Staff writer

The White House is moving ahead with plans for another slimmed-down pay raise for troops in 2015, and outside advocates still aren't happy about it.

Late Friday, President Obama formally notified Congress that he wants to cap next year's military basic pay raise at 1 percent, unless Congress comes up with an alternative mandate.

This is the second consecutive August that Obama has announced plans to offer service members a pay hike that would lag behind anticipated private-sector wage growth. The 2014 pay raise was 1 percent, as well. Those are the lowest basic pay raises since the dawn of the all-volunteer era in 1973.

The White House blamed ongoing budget constraints for the move, echoing arguments made by Pentagon budget planners throughout the spring in support of the move.

In a letter to Congress, Obama stated that he is still "strongly committed to supporting our uniformed service members" and said the lower pay raise "will not materially affect the federal government's ability to attract and retain well-qualified members for the uniformed services."

Congress still could override that plan and mandate a 1.8 percent pay raise next year, matching the anticipated rise in private-sector wages.

So far, House members have twice voted in support of a 1.8 percent hike, while Senate panels have twice backed the lower 1 percent figure. Reaching a compromise on the competing budget bills likely will take the rest of the year.

For an E-3 with three years of service, the difference in the two pay plans would be about \$195 a year. For an E-7 with 10 years, it comes out to \$356. For an O-5 with 12 years of service, the lower pay plan would drain about \$667 in annual salary.

Veterans groups and outside military lobbyists are still hopeful that they can sway Congress to support the higher figure, even if it means adding \$3.8 billion to the federal deficit over the next five years.

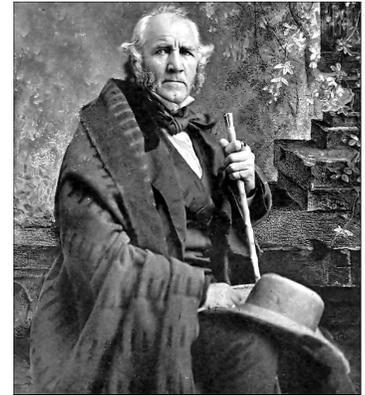
In a statement, the Military Officers Association of America insisted that shrinking pay raises will eventually hurt military recruiters' ability to attract new personnel, and said military pay should not be victimized to cover other budget problems.

"We are still at war. We are engaged in operations in Afghanistan, Syria and again in Iraq," MOAA president Norb Ryan said. "This is an extremely poor message to send to our men and women in uniform who are sacrificing the most for the remaining 99 percent of Americans."

The White House announced plans for a 1 percent pay raise for federal civilian employees next year, matching their January 2014 salary hike. Federal workers' base pay had been frozen for three years before that.

Tower: The soldier and governor stood for what's right

Sam Houston led a life that would be hard to make up. He ran away from home at 16, was adopted by Indians and eventually married a native woman. He fought in the War of 1812, and Gen. Andrew Jackson was so impressed he became his mentor. He led his ragtag Texans to victory over the army of Mexico. He was twice elected president of the Republic of Texas. After Texas became a state, he served as its U.S. senator 13 years. He became the only person to be popularly elected governor of two states, Tennessee and Texas. He resigned in protest when Texas joined the Confederacy in 1861. "Houston was one of the most remarkable figures of the American frontier," Gregory Aldrete, author of "The Decisive Battles of World History," told IBD. "The Battle of San Jacinto in 1836, with Houston on one side and Gen. Santa Anna on the other, involved just over 2,000 men on both sides, but it ultimately led to the transfer of land to the U.S. greater than the size of Western Europe."



Southern Rise

Houston (1793-1863) grew up in the backwoods of Virginia and went to school only six months, though he was a voracious reader of the classics, especially Homer. After his father died in 1807, his mother moved the family to Maryville, Tenn., where they farmed and ran a store.

Two years later, bored with being a clerk, Houston left to join the Cherokee tribe in the southwest of the state. He was adopted as a son by Chief John Jolly, so called because of his good relations with whites, and Houston became fluent in the native language. "Jolly christened him the Raven," wrote Marquis James in his Houston biography. "The name was a revered one in Cherokee mythology." Restless after three years, Houston at 19 joined the Army as a sergeant under Jackson, as war with Britain heated up. In 1814, Houston led an attack on the Creek allies of the British at Horseshoe Bend, Ala. He was seriously wounded three times, taking years to fully recover, and was promoted to second lieutenant. "Jackson admired qualities that made Houston a good officer: honesty, leadership and attention to duty," wrote James Haley in "Sam Houston." "Jackson looked at the big questions and judged others on results." Jackson didn't like Indians, but he knew Houston understood them, so he put the young officer in charge of removing the Cherokees from Tennessee to Arkansas in 1817, trusting he could manage the sensitive assignment. He did his best to make it less tragic for people he loved.

After leaving the Army to practice law, Houston was elected by Tennesseans to Congress in 1822, the same time Jackson was a senator. As Houston entered his 30s, he was learning congressional debate from the masters, Henry Clay and Daniel Webster, and writing a biography of Jackson. With Jackson's help, he became governor of Tennessee in 1827 and planned to run two years later, but decided not to when his new wife left him after a few weeks, causing embarrassment. He then had a tribal wedding with a Cherokee woman and returned to Washington in 1830 to expose frauds against the Indians by U.S. agents. But his enemies won lawsuits that assessed him \$500 (worth \$13,000 now) in damages, and he left for the Mexican territory of Texas in 1832 without paying. Adding to his woes, his Indian wife refused to follow. The Mexican government had invited Americans to settle lightly populated Texas. But when 20,000 streamed in, outnumbering the natives, Mexico shut the border. The territory was administered together with the state of Coahuila. In 1832, Texans petitioned the Mexican government for full statehood and to let more Americans settle. Rebuffed, they declared independence in 1836, and Houston took command of the poorly equipped rebel forces.

Gen. Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna, having won myriad battles the prior two decades, was ready for the Americans. Result: His 6,000 troops wiped out 180 men at the Alamo in San Antonio in March 1836, then executed 400 prisoners at Goliad, a town 100 miles to southeast. Houston, who during the Alamo collapse was in Gonzales with 374 volunteers, led them on a strategic retreat 200 miles east over five weeks, giving him time to train them and gather help, says Aldrete. By the time he reached Lynchburg in southeast Texas, near the modern city of Houston, he had 930 men. They dug in on a tree line facing a plain amid the San Jacinto River on one side and the Buffalo Bayou on another.

Liberty Rode Into Texas Alongside Sam Houston

The Alamo Answer

Houston made a surprise attack on April 21, using tall grass as cover. He waited until his men were within 20 yards of the enemy before shouting the battle cry, "Remember the Alamo!" It was over in 18 minutes, with 630 Mexicans killed and the rest captured, including Santa Anna, while only nine Texans died. Houston was wounded in the ankle, but he recovered and was elected president of the new Republic of Texas. Its capital was named for him. He married for the third time in 1840. He was 47 and his bride, Margaret, 21. They had eight children, and she had a tempering influence that helped him stop his occasional heavy drinking. Texas became a U.S. state in 1845, but a feud continued over its southern border. Texas considered the line as the Rio Grande, while Mexico insisted it was further north. This sparked the Mexican-American War, which lasted from 1846 to 1848. "Most European observers expected Mexico to win," said Larry Schweikart, author of "48 Liberal Lies About American History." "Its army was four times the size of America's, and it was fighting on its home ground. When Mexico was defeated, it was presented with conditions that were remarkably generous by 19th-century standards, acknowledging the Rio Grande as the border for Texas and ceding territory that was only lightly settled in what is now California, Nevada, Utah, Arizona, New Mexico and parts of Wyoming and Colorado, for which the U.S. paid \$15 million in cash and \$3.25 million in debts Mexico owed to U.S. citizens." That would be worth \$556 million now.

In The Middle

Houston had been elected a U.S. senator in 1846. He supported the Oregon Bill in 1848 and the Compromise of 1850 to keep America balanced between slave and free states. He opposed abolition and secession, owning a few slaves himself and letting them keep money they earned at outside jobs. He felt that the Kansas-Nebraska Act of 1854, which let white settlers determine whether each state would allow slavery, would destabilize the fragile balance of power. "Houston not only voted against the bill, being the only Southern Democrat to do so, but he led the hopeless opposition with a clarity of vision not surpassed by any senator on the floor," wrote James. Houston declared, "I see my beloved South go down in an unequal contest, in a sea of blood and smoking ruin." His was a rare declaration correctly predicting the Civil War's result. "Houston was a colossus who stood astride the middle decades of the 1800s, and most observers thought he would have trounced Abraham Lincoln in 1860 and possibly headed off the Civil War," wrote Haley. "But a divorce, a liaison with an Indian woman, and a marriage to a woman less than half his age cost him the presidential nomination."

In 1859, Houston became governor of Texas but refused to take an oath of loyalty to the Confederacy in March 1861 when a convention voted to join. "Let me tell you what is coming," he warned Texans upon resigning that month. "After the sacrifice of countless millions of treasure and hundreds of thousands of lives, you may win Southern independence if God is not against you, but I doubt it." "Texas had 75,000 men in the field," wrote James. "Only Virginia contributed more generously of her manhood." Houston freed his slaves in 1862, but did not live to see his prophecy come true, dying a year later at 70.

Over 750,000 North and South died in the conflict that raged from 1861 to 1865, according to a 2011 study by Yale University historian David Blight, a fatality rate comparable to 7.5 million Americans dying today.

Pentagon's Preparing a Budget Plan Exceeding Sequestration Cuts

McCord said the Pentagon's 37-page [report](#) released in March, which outlined how \$35.3 billion in cuts would fall under sequestration in 2016, remains relevant for companies and investors. "That would give you a pretty good guide as to some of the thinking -- slipping some acquisitions, maybe buying one less of a major ship than you would otherwise," for example. "To get that kind of money difference," McCord said, "you have to touch a lot of areas." The Pentagon would cut 17 of the 343 F-35 fighters it planned to buy from [Lockheed Martin Corp. \(LMT\)](#) in fiscal 2016 through 2019 unless Congress repeals automatic budget cuts, according to the report.

*Get One for
Christmas for your
Family Members.*

NOW ON SALE

**IN HONOR OF OUR SOLDIERS
COOKBOOK**



Let Freedom Ring – In Memory of our Soldiers
Dedicated to Luther Branam (1925-2013) whom was
our longest standing post member until his passing
and to all our soldiers past, present and future.

**CONTACT
ANY
MEMBER
OF THE
LADIES
AUXILIARY
TO
PURCHASE
\$15.00 each**



American Legion Post 104
P O Box 4242
Sevierville TN 37862-4242

**AMERICAN LEGION
LADIES AUXILIARY
UNIT 104**