



Detachment of Texas

**Commander's Message
July 27, 2022**

I would like to say that this is a humbling position that I find myself in, as I congratulate and thank Past Detachment Commander, Tom Arista, for a great year of service to the Sons of The American Legion. You have polished and made shine The Sons of The American Legion Emblem, as a great symbol for all to see. Our membership thanks you.

To my wife Judy, she knew from the start that I had a love and commitment to The American Legion Family that was sometimes going to take precedence over our family from time to time. I want to thank her for the support she has given me over the years.

I wish my Father and Mother were here. They were very active in the Post and my dad was once a Department Officer. The best thing he ever did for me before he passed was purchase me a PUFL membership in the Legion. He said to me "I don't ever want you to not be a member of the Legion". My dad, through his actions, showed me how to love the Legion.

I want to thank Past Detachment Commander Milton Chatham for all of his support and guidance as I came up through the ranks. He has been a true mentor and friend.

I want to thank Cheryl Williams, Post 817 Adjutant, she lead a team which consisted of Squadron, Legion and volunteers soliciting donations, putting on fund raisers and organized and executed an amazing two night Welcome room at the Department convention. Plus Cheryl and Milton both provided wise counsel to me as the leading candidate position unfolded and I will always be grateful for that.

Also let me not forget Christine Trahan, Unit 33 President for her support in both advice and donations. Thank you.

Then there was Kerrville Squadron 208 and Round Rock Squadron 447 for their generous donations to my convention Welcome Room. Thank you.

It took a lot of years to get here. So many of you have been so supportive and so happy for me. And that extends well beyond my own Squadron – but throughout the entire state of Texas. Thank you so much. I love you all.

One of the greatest documents in our organization is the Preamble to our Constitution that we recite at each of our meetings. Three of those words get to me every time “ a priceless heritage “ which by the way is my theme for the year. As Sons of The American Legion I want us to preserve the memories of our forefathers making one aware of our purpose to foster and perpetuate a true spirit of Americanism. We should always promote and encourage indefinitely our allegiance to the traditions, institutions, and ideals of the United States.

First of all we are a God and Country organization and we will not apologize for that. We know that a veteran is a citizen of this country who has offered his or her life to honor this nation’s commitment to justice, freedom

and democracy and by that action has had his or her life radically and sometimes violently changed forever. We will not let this nation forget that we owe that individual respect and any help they need in making their lives whole again.

We will continue to support our Children and Youth programs and Americanism programs. These programs are not only a challenge and adventure for our youth, but they also make up the fabric that keeps us strong as a nation.

I know the task ahead is full. We all know that it takes membership to do those things only we can do. Along with all you do in this area I am asking you to renew your efforts in renewals. We cannot grow as an organization if we recruit a new member and then fail to renew that member the following years.

We continue to ask for a better reporting of our squadron activities. It's imperative that we increase the percentage of Squadrons turning in their Consolidated Squadron and Squadron Data Reports. Let's make that a special effort this year. All district commanders should have that as a goal.

**For the next year, you will hear a lot about my 4 R's.
Recruiting, Revitalization, Renewals and Reconnecting.
Recruiting is vital to our growth
Revitalization is vital to our success
Renewals allows us to improve
Reconnecting shows that we care**

Let's not forget the Child Welfare Foundation. Nothing is more appreciated by a veteran than taking care of his or her family.

The choice to fundraise is up to you. All I ask is that you give. America is paying attention because we are doing these great things in our communities.

We will always be about service first – but we cannot provide the programs or the service without the membership. Practice those 4 Rs. Recruit every eligible person that you come in contact. Recruit their sons and grandsons into the Sons of the American Legion.

Renewal efforts shouldn't just include those who left your Squadron in the past year, but check back on those who might have left five or even 10 years ago. They might have had a change in heart or simply forgot to

renew because nobody was pro-active enough to take an interest in them.

In closing, I'd like to again remind us about our precious possession " A Priceless Heritage ".

God Bless you all, and God Bless America.

**For Love of God and Country,
Clifton Guillory
Commander, Detachment of Texas**