

THURSDAY
NOVEMBER 9, 2023
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B
SECTION



Honoring

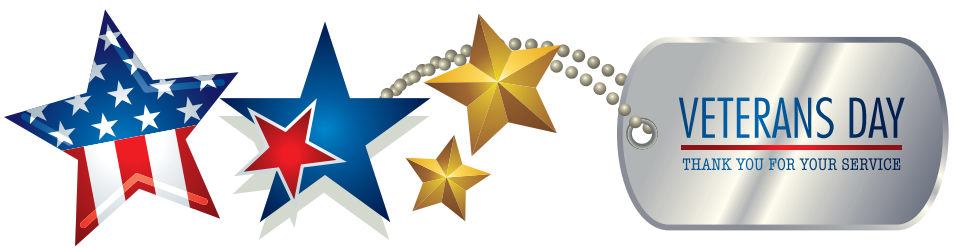
those who served & sacrificed

- | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|--|---|---|---|--|---|
|  <p>Jonathan Aguayo
Specialist
U.S. Army
2005-2013</p> |  <p>Frank Atkinson
Chief Petty Officer,
diver,
Navy
Vietnam</p> |  <p>Vic Baker
U.S. Army
WWII</p> |  <p>David N Behlen
Gonzales
SGT
Army
2 years</p> |  <p>Landon Ray Blackwell
Feb. 2020 to present
U.S. Navy</p> |  <p>Timothy Bonds
Gonzales
Sergeant 1st Class,
Army
Aug. 1989 – Sept. 2011
Gulf War (Desert
Storm, Desert Shield)
Operation Iraqi
Freedom
Operation Enduring
Freedom</p> |  <p>Terry D. Bowman
Gonzales
Tech Sergeant
USAF Ret.
1956 to 1976
Korea & Vietnam</p> |  <p>Vonnishia Branch
PV2
Army</p> |  <p>Gordon Brandenburg
U.S. Army
Master Sergeant</p> |  <p>Billy Breitschopf
Gonzales
Private 1st Class
U.S. Army
1963 to 1970
141st Infantry</p> |
|  <p>Nathan Washington
Brelsford
PVT
U.S. Army
2 years</p> |  <p>Anthony Burns
U.S. Marines
CPL</p> |  <p>Simon P. Brzozowski, Jr.
Sergeant
U.S. Army
1943-1952</p> |  <p>Pete Camarillo
Smiley
SSG Army
24 years
Vietnam</p> |  <p>Ruben Camarillo
SP4, U.S. Army
1971-1974
Fort Richardson, Alaska
1970 Gonzales
graduate</p> |  <p>Dominic Carabajal
SSG
U.S. Army</p> |  <p>Josh Carabajal
SSG
U.S. Army</p> |  <p>Cecil F. "Kit" Carson
MSGT. Retired USAF
U.S. Army, 1937-1959
World War II</p> |  <p>SFC Ervin Carter
US Army (RET.)
1954-1978</p> | |
|  <p>Jesus Casares III
Unites States Marine
Corp.
2001-2005
Operation Iraqi
Freedom</p> |  <p>Jesus Casares Jr.
U.S. Army</p> |  <p>Christopher M. Cerda
PFC, U.S. Army
70th Engineer
Battalion, 1979-1998
Fort Riley, Kansas</p> |  <p>Paul V. Cerda
Gonzales
Spec. 4 Army, Purple
Heart & Bronze Star
Pacific Ocean
1940-45</p> |  <p>Tommy Max Childers
Waelder
Spec 4, Army
1971-1973
Vietnam</p> |  <p>Cayetano Cimental
PO3
U.S. Navy
1960-1964</p> |  <p>Francisco Cimental
Texas Army National
Guard
1954-1960, 1979-1989
U.S. Navy 1960-1964</p> |  <p>Raul Cimental
SGT
U.S. Army
1967-1970</p> |  <p>Gary Lynn Clack
Sgt.
Vietnam veteran</p> |  <p>David G. Cole
Pilot, Senior Master
Sergeant
U.S. Army Air Force
1942-1962</p> |
|  <p>Gary A Combs
1SGT, Army
Glasgow, Ken.
1968-2000
Vietnam</p> |  <p>Donald Cuvelier
Private, U.S. Army
1953-1955
16 months in Korea
Active member of local
VFW and American
Legion</p> |  <p>Major Bryan J. Darilek
U.S. Army Apache
Helicopter Pilot
Iraq - Afghanistan -
Kuwait - Germany
HQ for Aviation North
& South
24 year career - Retired</p> |  <p>J.L. "Doc" Darilek
Captain
Texas National Guard
USAR
Retired</p> |  <p>AM2(AW) Matthew
Davis
Gonzales
E-5, Navy
Iraqi Freedom
2004 Gonzales
graduate</p> |  <p>Robert De La Garza
U.S. Navy
1944-1946</p> |  <p>Jack DeBerry
Second Class Petty
Officer – E5, U.S. Navy
He served aboard the
USS Reuben James out
of Pearl Harbor, Hawaii
1997 Gonzales
graduate</p> |  <p>Pfc. Henry Deschner
U. S. Army
1918-1919</p> |  <p>Sergeant Henry W.
Deschner
USMC
1943-46 & 1951-52</p> |  <p>Reinhart P. Deschner
USN
1944-45</p> |



Celebrating OUR VETERANS

 Sergeant Arlye W. Deschner USMC 1949-53	 Francisco Diaz Jr E-4 Specialist Army Fort Bliss	 Jenna Dominguez Gonzales PVT U.S. Army Enlisted in 2014	 Lewis J. Downey Gonzales Fireman FN E-3, U.S. Navy Nov. 1968 – Aug. 1970 National Defense Service medal Vietnam Service medal	 Dennis Droupy U.S. Navy	 Donald DuBose Sergeant E4 Air Force, Vietnam 1966-1970	 Irvin Mac DuBose Staff Sergeant Army-Air Force World War II, 1942-1945	 John DuBose Chief Petty Officer Navy, 15 years service	 SCPO John Dubose III US Navy Retired	 Joseph Dunahoo Chief Petty Officer, E-7 2000 graduate of Gonzales High School Joined United States Navy in 2004
 Hugo P Ehrig Gonzales T/ Sergeant, U.S. Army 1940-1945, Africa & Italy Wounded in Italy 1944	 Raymond H. Ehrig Gonzales Staff Sergeant, U.S. Army 1940-1943, Africa & Italy, Killed in action in Salerno, Italy 1943	 Pat Eichhorn Staff Sergeant U.S. Army 1975-1995	 Brandon Elkins Logan, WV, Sergeant E-5 Army, 101st Airborne Iraq 3/03-4/04 and Iraq 7/05-9/06	 Michael E. English Master Sergeant U.S. Air Force 22 years of service	 Brandon Elkins Logan, WV, Sergeant E-5 Army, 101st Airborne Iraq 3/03-4/04 and Iraq 7/05-9/06	 Mia Escobedo PFC U.S. Army Combat Medic 2021-Present	 James M. Fairchild, Sr. Harwood U.S. Navy, WWII Pacific Theater Korean War USS Haven Hospital Ship	 L.M. "Mac" Fairchild Harwood S/Sgt. Army Air Corp – WWII Philippines U.S. Air Force – Korean War	 Monroe Stump Fairchild Harwood U.S. Navy Seaman First Class - WWII
 Sam Scrap Fairchild Harwood U.S. Army PFC – WWII Bataan POW Died as POW, May 20, 1942	 Henry F. Ferrell Gonzales Corporal U.S. Army 1953-1955 Korea	 Sgt. William John Fink III Army Division Korea – 1953-54 Combat Infantry Badge Korean War Service Medal	 Byron Freeman US Army	 Fletcher King Garner IV Gonzales Staff Sergeant, U.S. Air Force, 1 tour Iraq, 2 tours Afghanistan 2009 Gonzales graduate	 Nicholas Grey Gaytan SSG Army National Guard	 Chris Gescheidle Gonzales Master Sergeant Air Force, 1979-1985 active 1987-1993 reserves, Desert Storm 1991 in the United Arab Emirates	 Patrick E. Gilkey, Sr. Sergeant U.S. Army 1944-1949, 1953 11th Airborne Paratrooper WWII and Korea	 Brian Kent Good Captain U.S. Army 1985-1995	 Norwood H Gottwald Jr Corporal U.S. Army Korean War 1952-54




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 Warren D. Green Gonzales Sergeant Major U.S. Army, 1962-1992 30 years service during Vietnam & Desert Storm eras 1957 Edwards High School graduate	 Johnnie D. Hall Sr. Sergeant U.S. Army 1967-1969 Vietnam Vet	 Odie M. Hahn Gonzales Sgt. U.S. Army 1953-1955 Action seen, if any: Korean conflict	 Robert Walker Harless Major 16th Corps/9th Army Battle of the Bulge WWII Years served: 1941-1946	 Bradley S. Harlow U.S. Army 2007-2015 82nd Airborne	 Dexter E. Hoover Harwood Carpenter's Mate Second Class, Navy Served 3.5 years from 1942-1945 in the South Pacific in WWII where his unit was bombed during the war.	 Harry A. Horstman Radarsman First class Destroyers & PT Boats Navy 20 years served Korean & Vietnam wars	 Otis Hunter Sgt., U.S.M.C.	 Capt. Ralph Hunter WWII Normandy vet KIA Korea 1951	 Lucas Hurt Staff Sergeant U.S. Air Force 2013-Present
 Hartwell Kennard Jr. 1st Lieutenant - Army Air Corps WWII - 1942-1945 B-26 Martin Marauder Bomber Pilot Completed 66 missions - Italy and North Africa Awarded Air Medal 12 times and Presidential Citation two times	 Hartwell Kennard Sr. Lieutenant Colonel - United States Army WWI - Served 1917-1919 WWII - Served 1942-1945 US Army Reserves - Served 1946-1954	 Jimmie Kepler T/Sgt Served in World War II in Germany in US Army Air Corps Served in Vietnam in US Air Force	 Paul Kessler MM2(SW) US Navy 2006-12	 Leland Bryan Kidd U.S. Army, Staff Sergeant 2001-2005 (U.S. Coast Guard) 2006-2010 (U.S. Army) Iraq War	 Adolph S. Klein Private U.S. Army 1917 to 1918	 Dale E. Klein Lieutenant Colonel U.S. Army 1974-2004	 Lawrence A. Klein Staff Sergeant U.S. Army 1944 to 1951	 James Knox Specialist 4 1977-1981 Fort Knox, Kentucky Fort Benning, Georgia Wildflecken, Germany	 Fred Koricanek Gonzales Sgt. U.S. Army, 1953-1955 38th Parallel * Korea
 Raymond Kuchynka United States Army Vietnam Vet	 Christopher Kuenzler Airman U.S. Air Force 2008 6 yrs.	 Richard E. Kuenzler Private U.S. Army 1966 3 yrs.	 Richard E. Kuenzler, Jr. Airman U.S. Air Force 1985 6 yrs.	 Milton Lackey Gonzales SSG E-6, Army 12 years Vietnam 1969-70	 SPC3 Donald K. Leifste Hanford Atomic Weapons Plant, 1953-54 Battery B, 501st AAA Battery, Camp Hanford, WA	 Tony Lesak Tech. Sgt. Flight Engineer, Mechanic U.S. Air Force 1953 to 1975 Korean War Veteran	 Roberto Limones Jr. SSG U.S. Marines	 John M. Longoria Marine Corporal	 Arnoldo Lopez Jr. CPL U.S. Marines 2009-2013
 Claude E. (Gene) Low Denton Creek, Gonzales Co. Tech Sergeant US Army 9th Infantry, 2nd Division, Company C Indian Head Division, Army Rangers, 5.5 years National Guard, 3 years U.S. Army. Action seen: Normandy, Omaha Beach, Northern France, Rhineland Ardennes Forrest (Battle of the Bulge)	 Curtis Floyd Mahaffey Decatur Quarter Master Chief (QMC), Navy 24 years Guantanamo Bay, Cuba 2012-13	 Darrell Malik Gonzales Sergeant First Class Army 20 years Iraq	 Dred Woodley Martin II Gonzales Army Lt. Col. WWII, Korea, Vietnam	 David Martinez USMC - Sargent 1970-74 Vietnam 1971-72 2 purple hearts	 Roland R. Martinez USAF 1968-1976 Vietnam Veteran Honorable Discharge as SSGT	 Billy Gene Massie Gonzales PhM2c V-6, Navy 11-23-42 to 2-17-46 South Pacific	 William Scott Massie Gonzales AQ3, E4, Navy 8-22-74 to 10-78 USS Enterprise	 James Lee "Jim" McDaniel Sr. Airman US Navy 1957 - 1959	 Parker McMickle Gonzales PFC, Army/Air Force 1942-1946, WWII, Luzon & Philippines
 Julius Mican U.S. Navy Enlisted in 1943 Served in Alameda, California Assisted in bringing in sea planes	 Michael E. Mikes Sergeant U.S. Air Force 1975-1980	 William J. Miller Jr. Captain U.S. Air Force 1962-1967	 Susan Michelle Miller U.S. Air Force Colonel 1996-2000 Active Duty 2000-2017 Reserve	 Tim Mitchell Petty Officer 3rd Class U.S. Navy 1966-1969	 Col. (Ret) John "Buster" Mohrmann 82nd Air Borne D-Day WWII	 Dan Nelson Sgt. E-5 USMC 1967-1970 Vietnam 1968	 Elbert L. Nelson Jr. Marlin Heights, WVA Col, Chaplin U.S. Army, 33 years Korea	 Christopher Nesbitt E-4 Specialist U.S. Army 1996-2000	
 J.L. Norwood April 2, 1833 - Oct. 17, 1896 CSA Hood's Brigade Photo not available	 John L. Norwood Private, U.S. Army 141st Infantry, 36th Division WWI	 A.C. "June" O'Neal Cpl US Army 1948 - 1951	 Lupe Ornales SP-E4 U.S. Army, 1965-1967 16 years in the Army National Guard	 Hiram Turman Parr Waelder U.S. Air Force, WWII European Theater	 Jerome F. Pavliska Gonzales E5, U.S. Army, 1959-1968 Korea 13 months	 Margaret "Peggy" Peck-Baros Yeoman 1st Class U.S. Navy Waves, 1943-1945	 William M. Peeler Sergeant U.S. Army 1953-1955	 William Pekar Sweethome Army Staff Sergeant 1942-1946, WWII	 Ronald Pfuhl United States Marines E-2

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Gilbert Charles Philippus U.S. Air Force Security Service 1956-1960 High Speed Intercept Radio Operator International Morse Code Japan	Curtis St. Pierre SFC U.S. Army 1997-2015	Thomas A. Pirkle Private First Class U.S. Army 1944 to 1945	Allison Poteet Sra. U.S. Air Force, 1989-1993 Physical Therapy Technician Randolph AFB	Steve Poteet US Navy (Active & Reserve) 1986-1993, Petty Officer 3rd Class USS Theodore Roosevelt	Bart Priest Sergeant First Class 1987-2007 Resident of Nixon, Texas	Don Rainey Sonarman 2nd Class U.S. Navy 1954-1958 Korean Vet	Estevan Ramirez 1970-1976 U.S. Army SP/5	Inez O. Ramirez Sergeant U.S. Army Served in Vietnam War	Patrick Ramirez Gonzales Private, U.S. Army Reserves Joined July 2014
Antonio (Tony) Ramos Gonzales Sgt. Army, National Guard, Served 20 years, Vietnam, Purple Heart	Bill Reaves Gonzales Seaman, US Navy 1962-1966	Horace Redd Belmont Sergeant, WWII Oct. 1942 – Feb. 1946	Margarito Rezzilla Army Aircorp 1942	Scott Rhodes, Sr. E4 Hospital Corpsman US Navy 1986-1990	Paul D. Riojas Gonzales Private First Class U.S. Army, 1966-68, Vietnam	Cpl Yesenia Martinez-Rivera (left) and Cpl Albert Rivera (right) CLR-15-BOTH, 4 years -USMC-BOTH, Afghanistan-Tour-BOTH	Keith Roberts 2001-2005, Navy E-4 Rank aboard the U.S.S. George Washington	Charles Rochester Sgt. U.S. Army 1969-1971 Korea	Andrew Rodriguez Served 1979-2000 U.S. Army Recruiter in Dallas, TX
Jacob Rodriguez SSG US Army	Jeremy Rodriguez Senior Chief Petty Officer Navy Years of Service: 24	Roderica Rodriguez Gonzales Sp., Army, 1997-2003 National Guard 2008-11	Genaro Saldana Specialist E-4 U.S. Army, 1963-1966 Communications in Germany during Vietnam War	Carl W. Sample WWII 1944-466 Army, Pacific Division, Japan	Horace Layton Sample Private, U.S. Army, Purple Heart Enlisted Nov. 25, 1942	Lt. Col Robert Scheske USAFR 1968-1995	Kevin James Schields Colonel, U.S. Air Force 1989-2016	Howard Schwausch Gonzales Army Sergeant, Enlisted in 2003 Action: Iraq & Afghanistan	Scott Schwausch Gonzales Firefighter, Navy Enlisted in 1994 Desert Storm
					<p>VETERANS DAY THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE</p>				
Walter Simmons Sr. United States Marine Corp, Sgt. E-4, 1953-1961, Korea & Japan 4 Medals	David G. Staton Sergeant U.S. Army 1980-1987	Matthew J. Staton Captain U.S. Army 2001-Present	Roy E. Staton Private U.S. Army 1940-1945	John Stehle Monthalia, Texas					

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Thank you VETERANS

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Remember sacrifice, service of our veterans

In America, Veterans Day is the day in which we reflect and honor the sacrifice, service, and dedication of the men and women who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces. November 11 is a time to appreciate and honor all who served in the military—whether serving here at home or overseas.

This day serves as a reminder of the true meaning of the phrase, service before self. To commit to service in the military is to pledge oneself to a cause greater than an individual. To serve is to set aside one's personal motivations for the betterment of all.

Veterans Day originates from Armistice Day, World War I, Nov. 11, 1918. From those who fought to create our great nation, to those who are currently deployed, we owe a permanent debt of gratitude.

The Lone Star State is home to more veterans than any other state. The Texas Veterans Commission is here to ensure veterans receive the benefits they have earned and connect with services and resources they may need.

May we always remember veterans' selflessness, commitment to duty, and service to all Americans. Showing appreciation can be as simple as saying thank you for your service.

Laura Koerner

Texas Veterans Commission
Chairwoman and U.S. Navy Veteran

Well hey there folks. I pray things are going well, and since we've survived our first cold snap, I'll assume they are. Not a big fan of cold weather myself, having survived more than a dozen Chicago winters. I figure that since God created us and dropped us in the Garden of Eden (naked) and not the frozen tundra, that's where we're supposed to be. Maybe I'm just spoiled by our hot Texas summers and generally mild winters, but running around in shorts most of the year sure beats the layers of clothing I've been wearing lately...yep, God bless Texas!

I always put out my plastic cat boxes just before cool weather strikes, lined with memory foam and old blankets to keep my little buddies warm, upgrading to a full two man tent for the harsher weather to come. It helped them survive the winter storm of 2021, keeping both snow and ice off of their furry little heads as they slumbered beneath pile of blankets inside. Warm kitty, happy kitty... purr, purr, purr.

I don't know if I'm just getting wimpier in my old age or what, but I do like being reasonably comfortable as well as having a fairly consistent routine to follow. As younger folks we seem to have abundant energy and recuperative abilities to explore our natural curiosity, seeking whatever

A Story to Tell



ERIC ESTES

Love, Eric and Eloise

new and exciting mysteries life has to offer. The one thing we don't realize as younger folks is that life is tough, and definitely takes a toll on us as we age. There's the saying that "Curiosity killed the cat" (hey, is that a rattle snake?), and could be taken from the earlier saying "Care killed a cat", meaning that excess worry can lead to harm. It seems that either way life, and the things we did or didn't do, catches up to us at some point. It's like they say — if I'd realized I'd last this long, I would've taken better care of myself.

That being said, young 'uns, don't discount old folks and the wisdom they've acquired over the years, as we've fought hard to get here, and you'll eventually become one too. Yep, hate to break the news, but you too will walk funny, talk funny, smell and dress weird, and be somewhat discounted by society also. The good news: you'll no longer care about what others think, because you'll have realized that they're preoccupied thinking about themselves, just like we were. There's definitely something liberating about getting

out from under our self-imposed societal expectations. The secret...enjoy life at whatever stage you're in, as it's all God's gift to you. In the book of Ecclesiastes, Solomon reminds us to remember our creator in the excitement of our youth, before we grow old and the excitement fades away, and that at the end of it all, to serve God and follow his commandments is the whole duty of man. This life is not the end of the story, but the beginning of even a bigger, better story. The one where we'll not only spend an eternity with God himself, but with all of those who chose to accept Christ before (and after) us. Should promises be interesting, to say the least!

Although life is busy and passes faster than we thought possible, I encourage you to collect pieces of your personal story as you go along, as we all have one, and have earned the right to share it with those we'll eventually leave behind. I've learned more about my dad and Eloise through their journals and memoirs than I would've otherwise, and am glad they took the time to leave them behind for the rest of us. We just never know how our experiences, the things we learned and our feelings and philosophies can help and encourage others along their journey. Yep, love lasts forever.

Until next time, love you guys, Eric.

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Iglesia Bautista Memorial Highway 97, Waelder	Church of Christ E. 3rd & Texas, Nixon	Smiley United Methodist 1 blk. S. of Hwy. 87, Smiley
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Día de los Veteranos de TLU y Seguin!

A day to celebrate and honor the Mexican American/Latinx veterans

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

The Center for Mexican American Studies at Texas Lutheran University, the Mexican American Student Association at Texas Lutheran University, Jessica Anderson - Director of First-Year Experience & Student Transitions, and the local Veteran community are excited to present the First Annual Día de los Veteranos de TLU y Seguin.

This event is a celebration honoring all Veterans at TLU and the Seguin community, specifically the Mexican American/Latinx Veterans from Texas Lutheran University. Día de los Veteranos will be held on Saturday, Nov. 18, from 3 p.m. - 7 p.m., on TLU campus in and around Langner Hall at 502 Prexy Dr, Seguin.

The event will host three (3) main attractions: a Lowrider and classic car show, a Proclamation event - officially declaring that the Saturday before Thanksgiving be "Día de los Veteranos" at Texas Lutheran University, and a formal dinner for ALL veterans of Texas Lutheran University.

Lowrider and Classic Car show, 3 p.m. - 6 p.m. in Langner Hall parking lot, 502 Prexy Dr, Seguin. Lowriders and classic cars from the local area will be on display for public viewing. There will be a DJ and a food truck

providing free food, while supplies last. If you would like to showcase your lowrider or classic car, please contact me at csilva@tlu.edu. This event is open to the public.

Proclamation of "Día de los Veteranos" at TLU, 4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. in Langner Hall, 502 Prexy Dr, Seguin, Center for Mexican American Studies (CMAS) - Room 110. Declares that the Saturday before Thanksgiving is officially "Día de los Veteranos" at TLU. Leading up to this event, we are respectfully asking Veterans to share some of their letters that they have written home from where they served. We will enlarge the letters and frame them to be on display in CMAS during the ceremony and to be kept for display until May 2024. If anyone is comfortable sharing a letter and/or reading a letter, please email me at csilva@tlu.edu or call me at 830.372.6073. This event is open to the public.

Formal Dinner for ALL veterans of Texas Lutheran University, 5:30 p.m. - 7 p.m., Alumni Plaza (in front of Langner Hall), 502 Prexy Dr, Seguin. Formal dinner for ALL veterans of TLU with special focus on the Mexican American/Latinx Veterans of TLU. This dinner will celebrate the Veterano graduates of 2023-2024 at TLU. Graduates will formally receive their Veteran stole and a gift bag generously donated by an anonymous fellow Veteran. This is an event closed only to veterans from TLU and their family members.

We have gratefully received a lot of support from the TLU and surround-

ing community regarding this event and would really like for veterans to let us honor you and your families for your service and dedication. We look forward to the whole community coming out to help celebrate our Veterans from Texas Lutheran University and surrounding areas.

The Center for Mexican American Studies (CMAS) at Texas Lutheran University was established in 1971 to create new opportunities for service to the Mexican American community and to promote a greater understanding of the Mexican American experience. The CMAS is used as the homebase for the Mexican American Students Association (MASA), a student group with an active, open-to-all membership, and for the Latino Alumni and Friends Association at TLU. The Office of First-Year and Student Transitions coordinates a wide range of programs focusing on support for specialized student populations and campus wide retention efforts on the first year and students in transition. The office is home to such programs as Peer Mentors, Parent & Family support, and academic and social initiatives for transfers, athletes, veterans, and first-generation students.

This production is funded in part by the Center for Mexican American Studies (CMAS) at Texas Lutheran University, the Mexican American Students Association (MASA) at Texas Lutheran University, First-Year Experience & Student Transitions, and the local Veteran community.

VA awards GLO, VLB more than \$6.4 million for Coastal Bend State Veterans Cemetery

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Texas Land Commissioner Dawn Buckingham M.D., announced that the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has awarded the Texas General Land Office (GLO) and the Texas Veterans Land Board (VLB) \$6,484,476 for the expansion and improvement of Coastal Bend State Veterans Cemetery in Corpus Christi.

This crucial funding will provide Texas Veterans with 10 years of plot availability by adding 3,130 pre-positioned crypts and 1,220 columbaria niches. Space Force recognition will also be added to the cemetery along with additional irrigation and landscaping.

The VLB will contribute another \$144,000 for off-site road improvement to allow for safe ingress and egress for construction traffic on the east side of the cemetery and motorized entry gates.

Construction is expected to last for 16 months and conclude in early Spring 2025.

The Coastal Bend State Veterans Cemetery serves more than 42,000 Veterans and their eligible family members. It was opened on December 14, 2011 and is the fourth Texas State Veterans Cemetery built and run by the VLB, under the GLO.

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TWC kicks off statewide hiring event for veterans and their families

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

The Texas Workforce Commission's (TWC) 12th annual Hiring Red, White & You! statewide hiring event, which provides opportunities for veterans, transitioning military members, and military spouses to connect with employers across Texas, continues through Nov. 17.

"Thank you to our Texas veterans who have served their nation proudly," said TWC Chairman Bryan Daniel. "We are honored to again present statewide hiring events to connect veterans, service members, and their spouses with opportunities to showcase their skillsets and create meaningful careers."

Since 2012, Hiring Red, White & You! has served more than 20,000 employers and connected more than 114,000 job seekers to meaningful job opportunities. The free hiring events organized through Hiring Red, White & You! have facilitated more than 3,000 same-day hires since the initiative was launched.

"Hiring Red, White & You! is a win-win situation as it connects Texas employers with our nations heroes and provides veterans an opportunity to continue their career with commitment and purpose after the military," said

TWC Commissioner Representing Employers Aaron Demerson.

"Texas employers that hire from the veteran community will gain a uniquely skilled leader who will be an asset to the company."

Employers are also invited to participate at no cost and are encouraged to contact their local Workforce Solutions Office for more information. Employers who hire veterans may be eligible for the Work Opportunity Tax Credit, which allows employers to receive up to \$9,600 of federal business income or payroll tax benefits when they hire from certain qualified groups, including veterans.

"TWC is proud to support more than 22,000 uniformed service members and their families transition from active military duty to a civilian lifestyle in the Lone Star State each year," said TWC Commissioner Representing Labor Alberto Treviño III. "Our annual Hiring Red, White, and You! job fairs continue to help Texas veterans transition and join the strong civilian labor force."

Find information on how to participate in Hiring Red, White & You! hiring fairs at <https://www.twc.texas.gov/hiring-red-white-you>. For information on all veteran workforce services available in Texas, visit <https://www.twc.texas.gov/services/veterans>.



METRO CREATIVE GRAPHICS

Veterans Land Board votes to provide Texas State Veterans Cemetery Services to Texas military killed in line of duty

SPECIAL TO THE INQUIRER

Today, Veterans Land Board (VLB) Chairwoman and Land Commissioner Dawn Buckingham M.D., along with fellow board members Judson Scott and James Rothfelder, voted to approve a policy that will provide Texas State Veterans Cemetery services to Texas Military Forces killed in the line of duty, free of charge.

"It is a profound honor to recognize those who have made the ultimate sacrifice in service to the great State of Texas. The selflessness and bravery of our military men and women preserve the safety and security our families rely upon every day," said Commissioner Buckingham. "Unexpectedly laying a loved one to rest is not only an emotional task but also a financial strain. The Texas Veterans Land

Board is honored to be able to assist these heroes' grieving families with the cost associated with the burial and a dignified place to rest, where their families and fellow Texans can remember their legacies and lives."

On September 1, 2023, House Bill 90, the Bishop Evans Act, was enacted and has extended various services to those injured or killed in the line of duty while serving on state active duty, state training, and other duties.

Previously, the VLB approved such burials on a case-by-case basis. Under the new policy, the VLB will provide burial plot space, a headstone, and a flag for state service members eligible for benefits under the adopted Bishop Evan Act.

For more information about Texas Veteran benefits, call 1-800-252-8387, write to VLBinfo@glo.texas.gov, or visit vlb.texas.gov.

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VFW Foundation announces grants are open for application

Reprinted from Veterans of Foreign Wars website.

Standing as the pillars that both uphold thriving or uplift struggling communities, VFW Posts have carried this mission for more than 11 decades.

From building local playgrounds and memorials, to organizing military support events for active-duty troops and cushioning natural disasters with incessant relief efforts, VFW members at the grassroots level take pride in continuing a history of service.

In helping local efforts at the Post and District levels across the world, the VFW Foundation announced two new and innovative ways this year's grants can assist in enhancing service projects that will further impact communities.

The VFW Foundation is offering three grants operating on a reimbursement basis in order to help Posts, Districts and Auxiliaries achieve more.

"The VFW Foundation is excited to offer two new grants this year in the #StillServing Grant and Post Assistance Grant," VFW Foundation's Grants Manager Jason Couch said. "These programs are designed to help local VFW units to maximize the impact they have in their communities by mitigating some of the costs incurred while doing so."

Applications for the #StillServing Grant and Post Assistance Grant, as well as the Uniting to Combat Hunger Grant (UTCH), are now being provided to assist local projects set to help communities.

"VFW Posts, Districts and Auxiliaries do vital work in their communities that deserves both commendation and support," Couch said. "The VFW Foundation is proud to offer grant opportunities that allow them to enhance their critical community service efforts."

For more information, contact Couch

at JCouch@vfw.org.

Below is each grant's guidelines, info and application link:

#StillServing Grant - Applications available at vfw.org/Grants

The #StillServing Grant is offered exclusively to VFW Posts, Districts and Auxiliaries to offset expenses incurred while doing community service projects. Projects require direct involvement by the applying organization's members with members of their community to qualify. Both a VFW Post and its Auxiliary, and a District and its Auxiliary, can receive funding of up to \$1,500, but each applicant organization must have its own unique project. Applicants are limited to receiving a total of \$1,500 during the cycle.

Uniting to Combat Hunger Grant - Applications Available at vfw.org/UTCH

The Uniting to Combat Hunger Grant is a matching grant of up to \$1,500 available to VFW Posts and Auxiliaries for monetary and food donations to local food banks and pantries in their communities. The VFW Foundation will provide a \$1 match for every pound of food or dollar donated to food insecurity organizations. A Post or its Auxiliary may receive this grant but not both.

Post Assistance Grant - Application Available at vfw.org/Grants

The Post Assistance Grant is offered exclusively to VFW Posts to offset expenses incurred for building repairs and equipment that enhances or restores the applicant organization's ability to serve veterans and their community. Auxiliaries, Districts, Departments and other VFW subordinate organizations, etc., may not apply. VFW Posts may receive up to \$2,500 in reimbursement for qualifying projects. Applicants are limited to receiving this grant once every three years, with 2023-24 being the inaugural year.



METRO CREATIVE GRAPHICS

Gonzales Healthcare, City of Gonzales to hold Veterans Day celebration

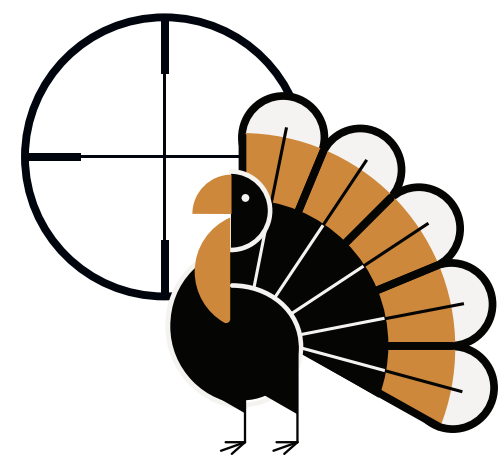
FROM STAFF REPORTS

Gonzales Healthcare Systems and the City of Gonzales will hold their 2023 Veterans Day celebration at 11:30 a.m. Friday, Nov. 10 at J.B. Wells Expo Center, 2301 FM 197, Gonzales.

The event will include Taps and a flag folding ceremony by the Gonzales High School ROTC, singing of the national anthem by Amanda

Frederick and door prizes for veterans. A complimentary lunch will be served to show appreciation to the dedication and service of our local veterans.

Event sponsors include Gonzales Healthcare Systems, the City of Gonzales, Baker Boys BBQ, H-E-B, Guadalupe Valley Electric Cooperative (GVEC), Gonzales Noon Lions Club and the Gonzales Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture.



Veterans Day Turkey Shoot set

The VFW Post 4817 will hold a Veterans Day week-end Turkey Shoot.

Come join the fun on Sunday, Nov. 12 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. \$3 per shell (Shells provided and will be handed out!) 12 gauge only. 3302 Harwood Road, Gonzales.



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