

BE THE  
ONE



AMERICAN LEGION \* Parker County

# Brave Eagles

## 4<sup>th</sup> Division Convention May 16 -18, 2025

We are looking forward to attending the Division 4 Convention in Kerrville this year. Registration is open. If you are looking to get involved in what we do at a higher level, come see! Visit another post, and meet new people. Ask the post for more information:

[amlegionpost163@gmail.com](mailto:amlegionpost163@gmail.com)

**Good Friday  
Fish Fry!  
April 18  
in "Eagles Nest"  
Canteen**



## Poppy Friday May 23, 2025

Wear a poppy Friday May 23 (Friday before Memorial Day) to honor the fallen and support the living who have worn the uniform. The red poppy is a **nationally recognized symbol** worn since World War I, reminding Americans of the sacrifices made by our military to protect our freedoms. Each year, the Legion Auxiliary leads The American Legion Family in distributing poppies, with a request that the person receiving the flower make a donation to support the future of veterans, active-duty military personnel and their families with



medical and financial needs. <https://www.legion-aux.org/national-poppy-day>

*Don't lose consecutive years!  
Renew your **EXPIRED** 2024  
membership today!  
Our programs depend on your  
loyalty to the Legion.*

## Memorial Day May 26, 2025



**We Will Never Forget.** Join our American Legion Post Family and local youth groups to place flags at Memory Gardens of the Valley Cemetery gravesites. Witness the service to honor the Fallen, and **help place flags**. Details will be on Facebook: [American Legion Post 163 Parker County TX](#)

### Post Physical Address

200 Cartwright Park Rd  
Weatherford, TX 76088

### Send Correspondence/dues

P.O. Box 216  
Weatherford, TX 76086

### Post Phone / Email (Commander)

817-594-4101 [amlegionpost163@gmail.com](mailto:amlegionpost163@gmail.com)

### Chaplain Phone / Email

817 965-7508 [jleaton@yahoo.com](mailto:jleaton@yahoo.com)

### Social Media (Facebook)

[American Legion Post 163 Parker County TX](#)

### Post General Member Meetings

**THIRD** Tuesday at 7pm

### Post District/Type

17<sup>th</sup>/Traditional

### Post Offers

Legion Auxiliary

Canteen "Eagle's Nest"

Funeral Services

Hall rental

Legion Riders

Sons of the American Legion

Van for **Rides** to Appointments –

Call/text Paul Hernandez **817-659-4992**

## February 2025

To mark President's Day in style, we joined other Veteran groups at **Shep's** in Weatherford.



Sponsors gifted every Veteran with an appetizer and 2 drink tickets. It was a great time of chatting and meeting new people.



## March 2025

Photo credit **mbainum productions**

More photos on Facebook: **American Legion Post 163 Parker County TX**

Our home Post 163 hosted a 2-day **District 17 Convention**. It was a great

success. We elected new District officers and met those running for Department. We learned about our many benefits from the **Veteran Land Board (VLB)**, more about **Boy's State**, played some pool and darts, and enjoyed raffles. It was a an opportunity to make new connections and see old friends.



**CAMARADERIE** (*Post Open 5pm  
Tue/Thur/Fri) closed 2<sup>nd</sup> Tue only*)

**Thursdays 6pm-Close**

**Game night in Eagles Nest**

Pool / Darts / 42 Dominoes / Cards / Board Games

**Fridays 6pm-Close**

**Social Dinners in Eagles Nest**

Invite Everyone!

Donations encouraged

**MEETING TIMES at the Post**

**LEGIONNAIRES**

**Executive Board** 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday 6:30pm

**General Membership** 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday 7:00pm

**LEGION AUXILIARY**

**General Membership** 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday 6:30pm

**SONS of the American Legion (SAL)**

**General Membership** 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday 6:00pm

**S.O.S. Do you have technical skills?**

## Meet Your Board Members



**Dan Dutton** - His Legion Cap says “Past Post Commander” but in his current role, he uses his Marine Corps discipline and leadership to make sure we adhere to legal matters, flag protocols, meeting orders, and Legion bylaws, all in keeping with the “spirit” of the American Legion. Post 163 Judge Advocate, and Veteran USMC Staff Sergeant, Dan Dutton is a tall and constant figure at the post. With his long white mustache and his commanding 6’6” presence, he is well respected and an excellent mentor for us more junior Legionnaires. Dan was born a west Texas boy, in Amherst. He went to school in Muleshoe, graduated in Lubbock, and attended Texas Tech. His uncle’s WWII stories were

a major motivator for him to join the Navy, but his buddy sold him on the Marines. A week later he took the oath and flew his first-ever plane ride to Bootcamp in San Diego, California, in the summer of 1966. He served as a reservist 0311 infantry rifleman, spending drill weekends in Lubbock, Texas. From carrying machine guns, he soon developed into an infantry squad leader. He enjoyed everything about the Corps except for teargas (he jokes with a grin).

When Dan was not drilling, he worked as an electrician. He began as an apprentice through journeyman and ended as a certified master electrician. In college, history and economics couldn’t entertain him, and he returned to electrical. His work for large electrical contractors sent him all over, from a powerhouse in Pueblo Colorado; a hospital in the Bronx, New York; Alcoa, a huge aluminum producer based out of Pittsburgh; to South Methodist University. Mostly a Project Manager he had exciting assignments like Dyess AF Base working on the B1-Bomber project facilities in Abilene, leading a 60-man crew. He eventually worked for himself, but admits, at times, he felt the pains of the oil crunch. All around, he is very proud of his time in the trades.

When asked why he finds the American Legion so important, Dan responds with, “it IS important!” He has a strong sense of belonging to a group of people and he smiles when he notes that he has friends all over Texas because of the Legion. He has commanded at the Post, District and Division levels, as well as served as Division Adjutant and on various committees. Those positions and his passion for improving Veteran services, found him in suit and tie, lobbying the Texas Legislature as a champion for important benefits such as the **Hazelwood Act**.

He was not always working though; he had fun too. One of his favorite pastimes is reading history and non-fiction (as he wrinkles his nose to a mention of “fiction”). Dan loves Dominoes, so much so that he bought a Domino game hall cheap to keep it open! It had pool tables and other games, but mostly it allowed him to keep playing Dominoes! He also enjoyed racing stock cars. He laughs recalling those days fondly. That’s how he met his late and beloved wife, Carolyn. Their first date involved racing and they both loved it. She would even bring his race car to him when he had to work away from home and was speeding across Texas to meet her at the races. Dan remembers those

### **ON DECK - Post Commander** *Bret Watson*

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander** *Charles Roberson*

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander** *Owen Raynel*

**Adjutant** *Michelle Bainum*

**Finance Officer** *Vaughn Oliver*

**Judge Advocate** *Dan Dutton*

**Exec Committee** *Larry Allen/John Long/Gary Eubank*

**Chaplain** *Jeffrey Eaton*

**Historian** *Chance Bainum*

**Sgt-at-Arms** *Paul Hernandez*

### **AUXILIARY – President** *Kay Raynel*

**Vice President** *Gayle Simpson*

**Secretary** *Nancy Cobb*

**Treasurer** *Rachael Watson*

**Chaplain** *(currently vacant)*

**Executive Board** *Penny Chandler/Lisa*

*Cleveland/Janiece Oliver*

**Auxiliary inquiries:**

*Email: [kayrayop@gmail.com](mailto:kayrayop@gmail.com)*

*phone: 915-433-8510*



days with a smile and is happy to have grown up in that era.

Dan struggles with technology, but he tries to embrace it to stay relevant and in communication with his family. He boasts about his two wonderful daughters, Denna and Dina, who are also Auxiliary members; his grandson, Zachary, who is a member of the Sons of the Legion; and two great-grandchildren, Mariah and Carolyn, also Auxiliary members. He worries though that the ways of technology have changed connections so much, that young people prefer to connect online, or by smart phone, as opposed to in-person groups like the American Legion. Dan wants young people to know we are here, and what we do is so much more than connect. We advocate for the youth, the community, and the Veterans, and there is no age requirement. We are open to change and updating; he says “come make it your own.” We all just want to pass on the legacy and spirit of the American Legion Values.



**Charles Roberson** – You know him, the iconic curled up mustache, contagious giggle, and historical Texas storyteller? Charles Roberson is a 51-year Legionnaire here at the post. He is an avid storyteller and Texan at heart. Charles has great stories about his family.

His grandparents met on a ship from Ireland to America and settled in Texas. His parents were born in Strom, Texas, in 1900. Charles was born in 1938 in Pampa, Texas. His father was a petroleum engineer with only a fourth-grade education. He and his family moved northeast of Weatherford when he was four years old. They raised cattle on about 150 acres of land. Today, Charles still owns 32.5 acres of that ranch. Charles’ older brother served during WWII and toured alongside Patton. That inspired Charles and he enlisted into the Army National Guard at 18, for the open bar (he chuckles). After his time in The Guard, civilian work was tight, so he enlisted into the Air Force during the Kennedy era. After 8 years in the communication field in the Air Force, he found civilian work at General Dynamics as a plant security officer. He also worked a few years on a private police force, and at the Camanche Peak Nuclear Power Plant. He returned to General Dynamics, later known as Lockheed Martin, and retired in 2002.

### **NOW HEAR THIS!**

#### **APRIL**

Good Friday Apr 18

Easter Apr 20

#### **MAY**

Military Spouse Appreciation May 9

Mother’s Day May 11

Peace Officer Memorial Day May 15

Division 4 Convention May 16-18

Armed Forces Day May 17

Poppy Friday May 23

Memorial Day May 26

#### **JUNE**

Boys State Jun 1-7

D-Day Jun 6

Flag Day Jun 14

Father’s Day Jun 15

Bluebonnet Girls State Jun 15-21

Juneteenth Jun 19

### **ATTENTION ON DECK!**

#### **WE WANT TO REACH YOU!:**

Most future correspondence will be electronic to save postage. **Please keep your contact information current with us.**

#### **Websites to know:**

Mylegion.org \* TXlegion.org

#### **Discount Mobile App:**

VetTix

### **Good of the Legion *Don’t forget***

**Membership Dues (\$45) for Jan-Dec 2025.**

Your 2024 membership is now **EXPIRED**.

*(Ask us for options if there is a financial hardship)*

**Renew online at [mylegion.org](http://mylegion.org) or send check to Post 163 at P.O. Box 216, Weatherford, TX 76086.**

Charles has been married twice. He has two daughters from his first marriage, and a step-son and step-daughter from his second. He also claims a fifth child he informally adopted as his own. He is a family man and loves to brag about his grandchildren as well.

Beyond his family history, Charles lives a music-filled life, playing several brass instruments. When he was younger, he earned a scholarship from Hardin-Simmons for a free trip to Europe. He regularly

***“I believe I have a strong heart and good lungs because I have played brass instruments my whole life!”***

plays the tenor horn now in the **German Band of North Texas (GBNT)**. He spends about 4 hours per week playing the euphonium or baritone horn for the **Fort Worth City Band**. He believes his good heart and lungs are directly related to his time playing musical instruments and having

never smoked. He is proud to say he feels good and ready to celebrate his **87<sup>th</sup> birthday** next month! Charles is our current 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander at Post 163. He served as Post Commander from 2004-2007 when the post had nearly gone bankrupt. He and a small group of active and loyal members like Dan Dutton, helped to bring the bank account up from nearly zero. They cleaned up the membership and tightened expenses, as well as incorporated dances. It was a fun time as he describes it.

He tells me about his hopes for the youth of today. He would love to see a more concerted effort to teach The Constitution in high school. He expressed approval of the changes Texas is making to get the 10 Commandments posted and the reintroduction of prayer on campus. He prefers a Christian basis rather than the un-American ideologies taught in school today. Further he hopes the younger veterans realize the American Legion has done well serving them for years, and they will consider being more actively involved.

## Spotlight on our NEW Auxiliary President



**Kay Raynel** - Kay Raynel, is our Auxiliary Unit 163 President. She's everywhere and busy all the time behind the scenes. Her charming New Zealand (NZ) accent reminds us of her heritage, but her actions are all-American. She is a patriot and loyal Veteran wife. Kay and her husband are members of Australian and New Zealand Army Corps (ANZAC) and the Returned and Services Association (RSA) in New Zealand. RSA is one of the oldest and largest volunteer organizations, and very similar to our American Legion. ANZAC is a joint unit of Australian and New Zealand forces originally fighting in WWI. Today, all members of the Aus-New

Zealand forces are considered ANZACs. Kay's eligibility in ANZAC is based off both her husband and

### FOCUS ON THE MISSION

#### **Honor Those Who Came Before Us**

– This means The American Legion pays perpetual respect for all past military sacrifices to ensure they are never forgotten by new generations.

**Advancing the Vision** - The American Legion educates, mentors and leads new generations of Americans. Be part of this mission.

### DEPLOY THE TROOPS!

**Legionnaires Help All Veterans!** Push to send letter to your legislators with a quick couple of *clicks*!

Visit this site daily if possible:

<https://www.voteroice.net/AmericanLegion/home>

**Click** on legislation in the list that appeals to you.

***“Send automatic pre-composed letter”***

**“It's that easy to  
MAKE A DIFFERENCE!!”**

**- Post Commander  
Bret Watson**

**Elections for Auxiliary in May!  
Elections for Legion in June!**

father-in-law's service. ANZAC Appreciation Day, much like our Memorial Day, is celebrated April 25. Kay has been described as reserved, polite, loyal, confident, and non-confrontational to most, but her Legion Rider name says it all, "Caretaker." She takes care of her husband Owen and every one of us at the post, doing more than retirees have time for.

**Her Rider name is "Caretaker."**

She has not yet retired from the workforce, where she is an **International Military Freight Forwarder**, moving service members with orders. She is surrounded by military and veterans all day, every day and she loves it. Kay wholeheartedly believes the Legion is important to Veterans. She also thinks the VA is helpful, but you need an advocate to ask questions, and you must be proactive! There are resources out there unused due to the frustrating multi-step processes.

She respected servicemen since her uncle served in Vietnam with the NZ Navy. However, 9/11 here in America, significantly boosted her patriotism. She values America and her hope is that we become less divided over time and get back to respectful discourse. Sadly, she sees too much "individualism" in "We the People."

Kay was raised in New Zealand and came to the USA 38 years ago. She has 3 adult children and 5 grandchildren she boasts about whenever she has the opportunity. For their sake, and their futures, she fights to do her part in service to America. She has been **active with the Auxiliary 20 years** and this is her 3<sup>rd</sup> time serving as President in two different Auxiliary units. She has also served as Treasurer, Secretary, and Chaplain. Kay further served at the District and Division levels as a Committee Member. She lights up when speaking about the **Junior Auxiliary**, a State-level program where girls from 5-17 years old earn badges. She was on the Junior State Committee for two years, and two years on the public relations committee. Kay's hope is that younger members find a place here to enjoy and to actively serve with, and for, their community of veterans. She understands that most believe the Legion is an older man's organization, but she knows better. Kay sees what good the Legion and Auxiliary do and wants people to know we are open to everyone, no matter gender or age.

## DID YOU KNOW?

*Our current post home was built largely by members, and through the generosity of contractors like A.D. Griffin (septic) who provided skills nearly at cost. Post 163 sold our old place to purchase these 6 acres of flat land near Sunshine Lake at Cartwright Park. **Bret Watson** did the design and dirt work in preparation for the foundation. He facilitated the contractor bids and helped with the build. **Mark Young** welded the building frame, **Dan Dutton** provided the electrical work, and **Ron Chandler's** brother painted it all. Teamwork Makes a Dream Work!*

## TAPS – "Wings Level"

MOMENT OF REFLECTION FOR Brothers and Sisters LOST 2024-2025

Thomas Dooley 2/17/24 (WWII)  
Jimmie Bull Sr 5/19/24  
George Baker 6/16/24  
Gary Fife 7/28/24 (PUFL/Commander)

Raymond Jones Jr 10/18/24 (Korea)  
Robert "Bob" Deblois 11/15/24  
William Kelly 11/29/24 (WWII)  
\*Patricia Hawkins 2/12/25

\*Auxiliary member