

BE THE
ONE



AMERICAN LEGION * Parker County

Brave Eagles

District Convention March 15-16, 2025

We are honored that Post 163 will be hosting the 17th District (12 posts) for our District Convention. Please join us for guest speakers, delicious food, music, friendly competitions, and some camaraderie! Details will be discussed at meetings and posted on our Facebook page: American Legion Post 163 Parker County.



In Honor of These Important Men of America

As we celebrate the holiday weekends this quarter, may we be reminded of the great men who made significant contributions to America. Let's continue educating our youth on the trials, shortcomings and achievements of these men. May we also foster their patriotism in the next generation by supporting programs like **Boys/Girls State, Oratorical**, and the **Boys/Girls Scouts of America**.



Inauguration Day January 20, 2025

Here's to welcoming and supporting our incoming **United States President, Donald J. Trump**. May he unite us, be **faithful** in his execution of orders and **protect** our Constitution.

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

Chaplain Phone / Email

817 965-7508 jleaton@yahoo.com

Social Media (Facebook)

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

Post General Member Meetings

THIRD Tuesday at 7pm

Post District/Type

17th/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**

November 2024

Photo credit **mbainum productions**

More photos on [Facebook](#): **American Legion Post 163 Parker County TX**

The Post 163 family handed out **Texas Roadhouse** vouchers for Veterans appreciation. We also hosted the **Parker County**

Veterans Day Parade. We ended the month

with a potluck-style turkey and ham

Thanksgiving dinner and a team game of
Sequence.



ON DECK - Post Commander Bret Watson

1st Vice Commander *Charles Roberson*

2nd 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 *Patricia Hawkins*

Executive Board *Penny Chandler/Lisa*

Cleveland/Janiece Oliver

Auxiliary inquiries:

Email: kayrayop@gmail.com

phone: 915-433-8510

December 2024

Photo credit **mbainum productions**

More photos on [Facebook](#): **American Legion Post 163 Parker County TX**



In December the Post 163 family led the placement of nearly **700 wreaths** at **Memory Gardens of The Valley Cemetery** as part of the **Wreaths Across America**. The Auxiliary facilitated the collection and delivery of **Gift Bags for Veterans** in Nursing homes.



Shout out to Auxiliary President **Kay Raynel** for her tireless effort for our Veterans, and to **Kay Pederson** for the beautiful **HANDMADE LAP QUILTS**! We ended the month with another tasty Turkey and Ham potluck **Christmas dinner** and gift exchange.

Meet Your Board Members



Owen Raynel - Post 163 2nd-Vice Commander Owen Raynel and 20-year Legionnaire, with his charming New Zealand accent, makes most nights fun. From Owen, "What you see is what you get. Treat me right, and I'll do the same." He served in the U.S. Army 1981-1983, enlisting from Arkansas, and serving as a culinary tech (cook), which he enjoyed. He was medically discharged, but he was quickly employed on the Civilian side as a medical warehouse manager.

Owen loves America. Before coming here, he dreamed of joining the Army. That is largely the reason he joined the American Legion; to help

Veterans. He has served as 2nd-Vice Commander of Post 163 for the past 6 years. Owen joined this Post in 2014 from El Paso Post 36. He served there as Sgt-at-Arms and 1st-Vice Commander. Always a man of service. He intends to serve at Post 163, his home, for many years to come, with no ambition to go beyond the post level.

CAMARADERIE (*Post Open 5pm Tue/Thur/Fri*)

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

S.O.S. Volunteer – Renew membership dues –
Invite others – Share social media posts

MEETING TIMES at the Post

LEGIONNAIRES

Executive Board 1st Tuesday 6:30pm

General Membership 3rd Tuesday 7:00pm

LEGION AUXILIARY

General Membership 4th Tuesday 6:30pm

SONS of the American Legion (SAL)

General Membership 1st Tuesday 6:00pm



Vaughn Oliver – Also known as a “Willful Walker of Different Paths” and a “Bull Elk Who Makes His Own Way” (Native American names), current Post 163 Finance Officer, Vaughn “Ollie” Oliver has a colorful life story. Not only is he a 36-year Legionnaire, but a former **Legionnaire of the Year** (2015). He has been awarded for his **Yearbooks (1st and 2nd place** in Texas) as Historian and served several years as Post Adjutant. But most unique about him are his **5 published books!** *Teenage Airman* was accepted by the Library of Congress.

Expelled from high school at 17, Vaughn joined the Air Force from Dennison, TX during a poor job market. He was trained as an electronic technician, but after a short tour, he found himself hospitalized for a year, not expected to live, and discharged at Lackland in 1963. He graduated college in 1968 and started work in Greenville, TX. After stints in Missouri, South Dakota, and Minnesota, he landed in Fort Worth working for the FAA. After graduate school, he worked for military defense companies, writing classified weapons system software. He returned to the FAA and retired, to design more software on the civilian side.

Vaughn later became a Tarrant County College professor until at 65, he accepted a position at the World Scout Jamboree in England. In 2006, he landed back in Weatherford, where he and wife Janiece of nearly 60 years, consider their forever home.

Vaughn is most proud of his 3 children and 6 grandchildren, all college graduates. He was quite an example for them as a Veteran, college professor, and author, but also as a Church Deacon and Eagle Scout. Vaughn has many allegiances to Churches and Military organizations, like Sons of the Republic of Texas and Sons of the American Revolution. He also has awards like *Longhorn Council Certificate of Merit (for Heroism)*, *Silver Beaver* and *12th District Congressional Veteran Commendation*; too numerous to list. I told you he had a “colorful story.” We are lucky to have him at Post 163!

NOW HEAR THIS!

JANUARY

Martin Luther King Jr Day Jan 20

Inauguration Day Jan 20

FEBRUARY

National Wear Red Day Feb 7

Lincoln’s Birthday Feb 12

Valentine’s Day Feb 14

President’s Day Feb 17

MARCH

Ash Wednesday/Lent Mar 5

DayLight Savings Day Mar 9

District Convention Mar 15-16*

St Patrick’s Day Mar 17



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.

As of February 1 you will be expired.

Renew online at mylegion.org or send check to Post 163 at P.O. Box 216, Weatherford, TX 76086.

Spotlight on Former Post Commander and Former Auxiliary President



John and Nancy Cobb

John Cobb served in the Army from 1960-63 as a teletype operator. He enlisted to circumvent the poor job market in Massachusetts and found himself stationed at Fort Gordon, GA and Fort Dix, NJ, ending in Fort Wolters, TX. On assignment with the Army Security Agency, he sat atop a 15,000-foot mountain, in a comm center, to facilitate communications between Washington and Vietnam. On assignment, he fondly remembers visiting Tripoli for 2 weeks on his way to Ethiopia.

John has served as Post 163 and 17th District; Sgt-at-Arms; as Chaplain of 17th District (6 yrs) and 4th Division (1 yr); as well as 163 Post Commander from 2021-2024. For the past 12 years, he has facilitated flag placements at Parker County cemeteries. Nancy (John's wife) feels connected by her husband and brother's service to the Army and Navy; and serves to give back to our Veterans the joy, compassion and friendship that dwindles after enlistment. She has served in the Auxiliary as Chaplain for Unit 163 (3 yrs), 17th District (8 yrs), and 4th Division (1 yr). She ended service as President for Unit 163 (6 yrs) and 17th District (2 yrs). Both have retired from leadership.

As former leaders, John and Nancy see the Legion as "aging out" and hope outreach inspires young Veterans to take leadership roles. Nancy recognizes that life was simpler 30 years ago, that technology has increased the pace, and that younger Veterans have little time to volunteer. Family activities and 2 parents focusing on careers take precedence. Nancy is concerned that military enlistment is down since the 80's and John misses the pre-COVID membership numbers. Nancy longs for our nation to increase Veteran appreciation, to more boldly foster "In God We Trust," and to again promote military service mottos like "Be All You Can Be."

Both John and Nancy love to travel to places like Colorado, South Dakota, Tennessee and Missouri. Also to note, John didn't know he was adopted until his 50's. No bother, as he recognizes that only makes him "special because [his] parents chose him!"

FOCUS ON THE MISSION

Selfless Service is one of the values Legionnaires take pride in. We recognize all Legionnaires are not retired and without other demands on them. However, we ask that if you find yourself able to make the time to share your skill or energy, please help strengthen our community by volunteering your time, be it in Church, at a shelter, or at the Legion Post. We need volunteers whether it is regularly or just when you can. Let's uphold this American Legion Principle.

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.votervoice.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

BE THE ONE

American Legion Auxiliary



Patricia Hawkins, Nancy Cobb,
and Kay Raynel

One focus of the Auxiliary is to promote programs that mold our youth, setting an example of service to all active and Veteran military. Members pass out poppies and place flags on all Veteran graves before **Memorial Day**. Every June they try to send a girl to the **Bluebonnet Girls State competition**. All year, they facilitate the donations of wreaths for **Wreaths Across America**, placing nearly 700 on Veteran headstones at Memory Gardens of the Valley, in Weatherford, for Christmas. In October, they

begin **candy collections** for holiday gift packages to overseas troops. They also provide **Christmas gift bags to Veterans** in 4 nursing facilities in the area. These members organize all fundraising campaigns and support the Post, helping with dinners every week. They are amazing. Past President Nancy Cobb expressed pride when she heard her Unit's name called out for several awards at conventions. **New President Kay Raynel**, was a large part of those awards, and continues that service by now leading from the front! **Please direct all inquiries to President Kay Raynel.**

Chaplain's Corner – *Jeff Eaton*

"To everything there is a season. A time for every purpose under heaven: A time to be born, and a time to die; A time to plant and a time to pluck what is planted; a time to kill, and a time to heal; A time to break down and a time to build up; A time to weep, and a time to laugh; A time to mourn and a time to dance;..." ECCLESIASTES 3



"Ecclesiastes reminds us that there is time for everything. As we enter this New Year, many will want to make changes, and many changes will occur. The White house will have a new President, the Senate and House will change some Representatives, and the world will continue to spin around the Sun.

Change does not happen when we do nothing. The American Legion can do nothing without membership, but it takes more than membership. We need to be involved. Please consider committing this year to attend the general membership meetings on the third Tuesday of each month.

Perhaps, make contact with friends and veterans that you haven't seen in a while. Together we can do great things, but by ourselves, we accomplished nothing. Let's effect change together this year." – **Chaplain Jeff Eaton**

TAPS – "Wings Level"

MOMENT OF REFLECTION FOR LEGIONNAIRES LOST 2023-2024

Wally Kunath 1/16/23
Vernon Harmon Jr 3/13/23 (PUFL)
Edward Ames 5/1/23
Joe McBride 6/13/23
Billy Livingston 7/21/23

Harry Clay 11/26/23 (WWII)
Thomas Dooley 2/17/24 (WWII)
Jimmie Bull Sr 5/19/24
Gary Fife 7/28/24 (PUFL/Commander)
Raymond Jones Jr 10/18/24