

American Legion News



THE AMERICAN LEGION

1919 100 Years 2019

VETERANS STILL SERVING AMERICA

The Monthly Newsletter of the Laramore-Osborne Post in Royse City

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Members Honor Post Namesakes

Honoring our fallen heroes is one of the many programs that our post undertakes each and every single year. The first weekend in December each year post members go to Rest Haven Cemetery in Rockwall to lay wreaths at the grave sites of post namesakes Tracy Laramore and Jerod Osborne.

Spec. Tracy Lee Laramore graduated from Lamar High School in Arlington, Texas. Tracy was stationed in Colorado, Korea, Germany and Kosovo, his family said. But after two and a half weeks in Iraq.



Members place wreaths at Grave sites of post namesakes

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Members at the Christmas Parade

Riders Join in the Christmas Spirit

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On December 14th, members of our Legion Riders group got together to participate in the Royse City Christmas parade. The lighted Christmas parade is an annual event that brings people down town to see all of the vehicles and receive some Christmas candy.

Of course it wouldn't be a Christmas parade without a visit from the grinch trying to spoil all of the fun. Member Scott Alderson dressed up as the grinch and who says the grinch can't have a little fun.

POST 100 HONORS NAMESAKES

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Laramore, 30, died March 17, 2004 in Baji when the road gave way beneath his Bradley Fighting Vehicle while he was on a reconnaissance mission. The vehicle went over an embankment and flipped into the Tigris River, trapping Laramore.

Jerod Osborne was born February 23, 1990 in Dallas, Texas to Allan and Sharon Osborne. His mother later married Gary Grillett of Rockwall who helped raise him, a 2008 graduate of Rockwall High School. In 2009, he was assigned to his unit at Fort Bragg, North Carolina and later attended Airborne School at Fort Benning, Georgia. He deployed with his unit to Afghanistan in August 2009. In May 2010, he was the only medic at the scene when a roadside bomb killed five civilians and critically wounded seven others. He received a Bronze Star for saving the lives of the injured civilians. On July 5, 2010 his unit was attacked by an IED and Jerod died from his wounds.

As a post we carry on the legacy of these two soldiers who so bravely served our nation. Every day our actions in serving the community and veterans carries their legacy forward. I want to encourage all of our members to get involved, work a program or take a leadership role. We have created a post that gives back and truly strives to make a difference. I want to thank the members that came out and assisted in placing the wreaths.



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY



By Jessica Masters

2019 is behind us and now we look to 2020. Our unit participated in and supported numerous Legion events. In addition our unit has grown to 30 members. We did two art contest's and gave out over \$1,000 in prizes. We have shipped thousand's of dollars in coupons to troops serving in overseas assignments, and we even donated a large amount of items to Bonham VA hospital.

So what do we do in 2020? January will be a pivotal month to outline our programs, fundraising and general activities. We need volunteers to manage programs and that starts with you. If you have an interest in managing a program then let me know.

I want to thank you all for your hard work!!!

RIDERS BRING CHRISTMAS CHEER

This is the first year that members of the post have participated in the annual event.

American Legion Riders chapters are well known for their charitable work, which has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for local children's hospitals, schools, veterans homes, severely wounded service members and scholarships.

Riders in all states have escorted military units returning home from combat tours overseas, conducted massive cross-country fundraising events for wounded warriors from all services, and have raised millions of dollars for countless local, state and national charities.

If you have a love for riding motorcycles and want to use that passion to make a difference we want to encourage to get involved and learn how you can make a difference.



Member Supports Local Family in Need

This month the Dillard family helped bring a little Christmas cheer to a local family in need. While dropping off the food for Thanksgiving we were told of a family that had 4 children that were very low income. They utilize the food pantry to help supplement themselves. So many of our members give so freely of themselves and this is just another example of that. I want to thank the members that participated in bringing some holiday cheer to someone less fortunate.

JERRELL BALEY RECEIVES TRI-COUNTY HERO AWARD

In January, the Laramore-Osborne American Legion Post started a new program to honor first responders and veterans who go above and beyond in the community. We take nominations from the community, and we look for veterans or first responders from Rockwall, Fate, Heath, Royse City, Caddo Mills, Josephine and Nevada.

This month we presented Jerrell Baley with the Tri-County Hero Award. He received the award because of his work in the community. Jerrell Baley is past Mayor of Royse City and a Vietnam Veteran who has given back in many ways. In addition, he has been a part and supported numerous local non-profit organizations including the American Legion.

We want to thank Diane Stegall with Modern Woodmen for also giving awards to Jerrell Baley.



★ Calender of Events ★

Here is the list of Events and Meetings

January 4th at 8 AM- 4th District Oratorical Contest at Trinity Baptist Church

January 18th at 9:00 AM- Post E Board Meeting

January 18th at 10:00 AM- General Business Meeting (Legion, Auxiliary)

January 18th at 11:00 AM- General Business Meeting Riders Chapter

January 18th at 2 PM- Bingo Game at Royse City Medical Lodge



Prayer Request

These members of our American Legion Family need your prayers.

Pray for **Jay Breland** and his family

Pray for **Fay** and **Jim West** as they are going through a difficult time.

If you have a prayer needs please contact our chaplain **James Otis Sr.**



Commanders Corner Rosa Ortega

"Committed to building a better tomorrow."

Wow! What a year it has been. We started 2 new programs this year. The first is the Tri-County Hero Award where we recognize first responders and veterans that go above and beyond in the community. We also started a program where we now offer free faith based PTSD Counseling for both the the veteran and their family. There is a tremendous need in Royse City and surrounding communities for PTSD treatment, and we are on the fore front of providing real tangible solutions.

This last year we have accomplished so much. Now we need to look at 2020 and focus on the programs we want to tackle. If you would like to manage a program or take leadership role please talk to me about it. There are numerous needs and the only thing preventing us from doing more is ourselves.

Lastly, if you haven't renewed for 2020 then by the time you are reading this your membership has expired. I want to encourage you to renew your membership. We are very close to achieving some prestigious awards for the post and the only thing holding us back is our membership.

