

# Louisiana Legionnaire



Official Publication of The American Legion, Department of Louisiana

**NOVEMBER 2012**

## **SOLDIER GETS NATIONAL AWARD FOR GIVING BACK TO COMMUNITY** *By: By Chanel S. Weaver, U.S. Army Public Health Command, August 30, 2012*



Sgt. Joshua Boudreaux from Loreauville, LA has been assigned to the U.S. Army Public Health Command for the last three years, and he has already made a lasting impact on his unit and the Army. He was recently chosen to be the USAPHC NCO of the 4th quarter, and in 2010, Boudreaux was selected as the command's Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year for superior performance in Army field tests and tactics, written exams, board interviews and physical fitness tests.

As a medical laboratory non-commissioned officer, Boudreaux's job can be quite demanding. He frequently extracts water samples sent to the USAPHC and identifies any potential contaminants resulting from herbicides or pesticides. These chemicals can pose health hazards to Army personnel, even at small concentrations. Additionally, Boudreaux serves as a mentor to other Soldiers within his command.

*(National Award continued on page 4)*

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# 9/11 OBSERVANCE HELD AT POST 225

A solemn ceremony in honor and remembrance of the tragedy of September 11, 2001 was held at the Post 225, Church Point American Legion Hall on September 11, 2012. The observance was sponsored by the Woodmen of the World Lodge 444 and American Legion Post 225 and honored firemen, policemen, EMS, first responders and military, all who played an important role on that day.

Wreaths were presented by members of the Church Point Police Department, Church Point Volunteer Fire Department, WOW and American Legion in memory of the day. The WOW presented United States flags to the CPVFD, the Church Point Police, the Town of Church Point, and to EMS. A demonstration of the 13 steps in folding a flag was given by members of the WOW and American Legion as the significance of each fold was read to the audience. The 4th Degree

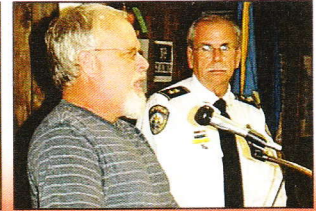
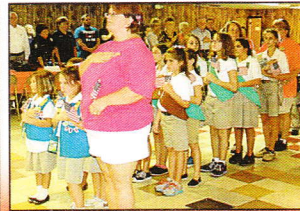
Knights and Knights of Peter Claver formed an honor guard for the processional and recessional. Cub Scout Pack 705 and Girl Scout Troop 685 were also in attendance.

The program began with a prayer read by American Legion Post 225 Chaplain Charles Franques. Speakers of the evening included Mayor Roger Boudreaux, Pastor Berl Adams on behalf of the CPVFD, Police Chief Albert Veneable, WOW President Adam Doucet, and American Legion Post 225 Commander Dallas Matte. Prayers were offered by Msgr. Jeff DeBlanc, Pastor Adams, and Ronald Carrier on behalf of the

police department. TAPS signaled the end of the observance, and the colors were retired. Refreshments were served after the ceremony and all members of the audience received small United States flags presented by the Woodmen of the World.



Flags presented to representatives of 1st responders.

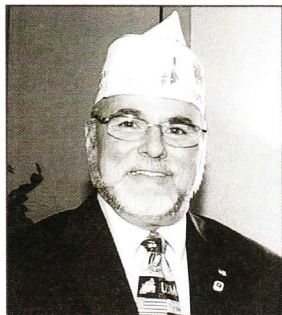




## Notes from the Commander

Herbert J. Petit

Department Commander 2012-2013



As you start to read this article, the Fall Conferences will be over. I wonder if these Conferences made a difference – I sure hope so. It is very important that officers and members on all levels meet to share information and ideas. Besides giving reports on Legion programs and activities, be sure to inform your members of upcoming Legion events. The caliber of leadership that we have in this Department is a plus when it comes to working membership and the programs of the American Legion. Keep up the good work!

At the Conferences, I reminded everyone of the Financial Report that was given at our recent DEC meeting in Baton Rouge. Please keep in mind that our expenses exceed our anticipated income for this year. We

have 70% of our membership in. That is terrific! One way we can help to eliminate this deficit is by getting in all the membership that we can. We know that the “easy” ones are in. Now starts the hard work. Call or visit your members who have not paid their dues as of yet. That personal touch may be just the thing to remind a member that his/hers dues are now due. Remember also that the District Holding Posts will go away after our Mid-Winter Conference in January. All members left will then go into our Department 401 (Holding Post).

I want to wish all of my fellow Veterans a Happy Veterans Day. You are the best of the best! Many Americans mistakenly believe that Veterans Day is the day America sets aside to honor American Military personnel who died in battle as a result of wounds sustained from combat. That's not quite true. Memorial Day is the day set aside to honor America's war dead. Veterans Day, on the other hand, honors ALL American veterans, both living and dead. Veterans Day is largely intended to thank living veterans for their dedicated and loyal service to our country. November 11th of each year is the day that we ensure veterans know of the fact that they are

deeply appreciated for the sacrifices they have made to keep our country free.

There is a special group of veterans that I want to focus on – **our women veterans**. In recent years and partly due to public awareness which has been raised through the Vietnam Women's Memorial and the Women in Military Service for America Memorial, women veterans are finally getting the long overdue recognition that they so justly deserve. In the past, women have not been properly acknowledged as veterans and have often been overlooked for benefits and services due them. Things have improved, but there is still much that remains to be done in getting our women veterans the services and treatment they need. The concerns of Women Veterans have always been a high priority for the American Legion. Now that women are serving in combat roles and returning home with the same injuries and wounds as their fellow male veterans, these legitimate concerns should be recognized and brought forth. Is the existing VA Health Care System adapting to the needs of our female veterans? This is one of the questions that must be answered and sooner rather than later.

**The Women Veterans Outreach Program** has recently been created and, for the first time in the Department of Louisiana, we have a very capable Chairperson to fill this position. Her name is **Marialisa Edwards**. She is eager to help lay the groundwork to implement this worthwhile program. She will be responsible to identify and coordinate resources and various programs that will benefit female veterans throughout our Department. Let me give you some background information on Marialisa: She is a member of Post 551 and Area B Commander in the 7th District. She retired after serving 21 years in the United States Air Force. She is excited about her newly appointed position and she can be contacted as follows: Marialisa Edwards, 1203 Wendall Street, Lake Charles, LA 70601; 337-439-8581 (Home); 337-214-4478 (Cell); email - womanvet@lalegion.org

Oh, and by the way... I hope you exercised your right to vote. It's one of the many freedoms we enjoy. Please let me know if I can be of assistance to you. All you have to do is give me a call.

*With respect for God and our Country*



*(National Award continued from cover)*

Boudreaux is busy on and off the job, and this summer, he was chosen to receive the American Legion's Spirit of Service Award for the numerous acts of community service he performed while stationed at the USAPHC. The Spirit of Service Award is given to Enlisted Soldiers who have demonstrated exceptional military performance and provided outstanding volunteer service in the local community while off duty. American Legion National Commander Fang A. Wong presented the award to Boudreaux during the American Legion's annual convention in Indiana. Boudreaux was also given a Legion membership as part of the award. "Our nation is fortunate to have such dedicated service members as Joshua Boudreaux," Wong said. "For both his service to America and his community, Sgt. Boudreaux is a credit to his uniform and to our country."

Senior leaders at the USAPHC nominated Boudreaux for the American Legion award because of his extensive community involve-

ment. When many NCOs look forward to the weekend and periods of leave so that they rest and spend time with their families, Boudreaux saw these opportunities as a time to serve. He assisted in repairing older homes and constructing new homes for underprivileged families through the Harford County, Md., Habitat for Humanity program; and he also participated in the League of Dreams, a non-profit organization that helps children with such conditions as Down syndrome, cerebral palsy, autism and scoliosis learn basic softball skills. Boudreaux said he benefits from charitable work at least as much as the recipients do. "I enjoy giving my personal time to help other people," said Boudreaux. "It is very rewarding for me to put others ahead of myself."

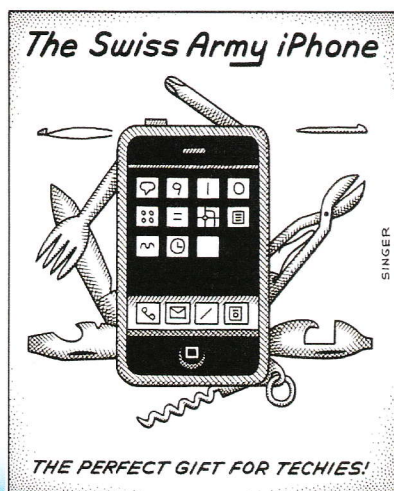
During his off-duty time, Boudreaux also donated more than 100 hours participating in marathons that raised funds for the Autism Society, American Liver Foundation, Pediatric Cancer Research Foundation, Alzheimer's Foundation of America, and Child's Play, a charity that seeks to improve the lives of children in hospitals through the video game industry. Boudreaux's supervisors at the USAPHC said he is very deserving of the American Legion's prestigious award. They said Boudreaux illustrates the Army value of selfless service in many endeavors. "I have watched Sgt. Boudreaux over several years and seen him give every task his best effort," said Staff Sgt. Hiram Hendri, who works in the USAPHC Laboratory Portfolio. "He has given the community a large amount of personal time in order to help others. He is a truly generous and unselfish person."



Boudreaux recently started designing medieval body armor, and that endeavor turned into a community service project. "A local English teacher's class was reading 'Beowulf,' and the teacher asked that I show the armor to her class to educate them in medieval warfare," said Boudreaux. Although many of his colleagues praise Boudreaux for the actions he performs to give back to his community, Boudreaux doesn't want much recognition. "Receiving this award was totally unexpected," said Boudreaux. "I'm not a hero; I believe that helping others is my duty."

In the rare moments when he is not busy performing his professional duties or volunteering in his local community, Boudreaux also enjoys reading, writing poetry and essays, and playing video games. He recently married, so he plans to spend more time with his wife and a little less time volunteering. "I'm working to find a balance between my career, volunteerism and family," said Boudreaux. "I believe there's time to give attention to each of these areas of my life if I don't overextend myself in one area."

*(Contributions to story by The American Legion Public Relations Office)*





# Hayley Feindel – River Ridge, LA

- American Legion Award Winner -



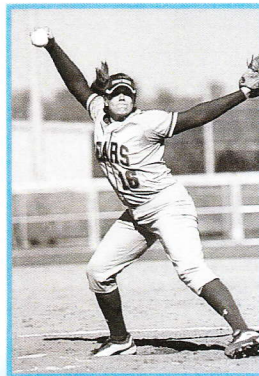
For the first time in school history, the Coast Guard Academy will retire a uniform number as senior All-American softball pitcher Hayley Feindel's number 16 will be retired sometime during the Fall it was announced at the Annual Athletic Awards Reception. Feindel, who missed

16 games with a broken finger and still led the Bears to a third straight NEWMAC tournament championship and fourth straight NCAA tournament appearance, led the conference with 21 wins and 251 strikeouts. She was 21-10 with a 1.80 ERA and nine shutouts. She also earned a spot on the NCAA tournament All-regional team as she posted a 1.69 ERA and snapped No. 2 Eastern Connecticut's 40-game unbeaten streak by pitching shutout during the regional.

The All-American finished her magnificent career as the NCAA Division III all-time leader in wins (124), strikeouts (1,457), innings pitched (1,029.7), games (160), games started (156), complete games (140) and she is second all-time with 62 shutouts. She had a career-record of 124-30 with nine no-hitters and a pair of perfect games. During her four years, she led the Bears to four straight NCAA tournament appearances, three straight NEWMAC regular season (2009, 2010, 2011) and tournament championships (2010, 2011, 2012). Coast Guard had never won a NEWMAC regular season or tournament championship and never appeared in the NCAA tournament before she arrived on campus. The Bears had a four-year record of 139-40-1; the most wins over a four-year period in school history. Feindel won the two major awards, the Ladies Fleet Auxiliary Fleet Reserve Award, for outstanding contribution to women's varsity athletics over her four years, and the American Legion Award, for excellence in Athletics during the her career.

When Cadet 1st Class Hayley Feindel was in high school and it came time to decide her future, she – like many students – couldn't narrow down what she wanted to do with her life. That all changed in 2005 when the season's 12th tropical depression formed over the Bahamas. The tropical depression became a storm, and that storm became Hurricane Katrina. Feindel's family, who lived in the small community of River Ridge, LA, was briefly evacuated to Baker, LA, but their move became anything but temporary. With their home destroyed, Feindel moved in with family in Georgia where her family, along with her aunt's family, relocated the remainder of her junior year. While in Georgia, Feindel vividly remembers watching news coverage of the storm's aftermath and seeing all of her favorite places destroyed. As she watched the devastation she also saw hope in the form of Coast Guardsmen, National Guardsmen, first responders and volunteers mobilizing from across the country. "Watching all of those things destroyed, I just felt so helpless," recalls Feindel. "I wanted to be there helping. I didn't want to be the person sitting on the couch watching them."

So while softball provided some return to normalcy after Feindel's return to Louisiana, she decided over the remaining year and a half of high school to stop thinking about the idea of serving and start doing the actual legwork ... literally. And so, she became someone who helped. Feindel applied to the U.S. Coast Guard Academy and after a year at New Mexico Military Institute, she walked under the arches of Chase Hall, the academy's cadet barracks, holding on to the ideals that brought her there.



## German U-boat Found

Divers have discovered a World War II era German submarine nearly 70 years after it sank under withering U.S. attack in waters off Nantucket. The U-550 was found Monday, July 23, 2012, by a privately funded group.

On April 16, 1944, the U-550 torpedoed the gasoline tanker SS Pan Pennsylvania, which had lagged behind its protective convoy as it set out with 140,000 barrels of gasoline for Great Britain. The U-boat slipped under the doomed tanker to hide, but one of the tanker's three escorts, the USS Joyce, saw it on sonar and severely damaged it by dropping depth charges. The Germans, forced to surface, manned their deck guns while another escort vessel, the USS Gandy, returned fire then rammed the U-boat. The third escort, the USS Peterson, hit the U-boat with two more depth charges. The crew abandoned the submarine, but not before setting off explosions to scuttle it. The submarine hadn't been seen again until that Monday.

A spokesman for the group funding the excursion said the next step is to contact any sailors or their families from the escort vessels, the tanker, and the German U-boat to share the news and show the pictures. He went on to say that another trip to the site is upcoming, adding that the investigation has just started. The history behind it all is really what drives us, he said.

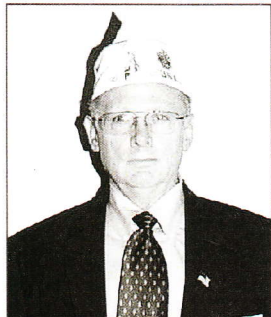


Associated Press photo by the U.S. Navy. This April 16, 1944, photo provided by the U.S. Navy, posted on a U.S. Coast Guard website, shows crewmen of German submarine U-550 abandoning ship in the Atlantic Ocean after being depth charged by the USS Joyce, a destroyer in an Allied convoy that the submarine attacked.



## Notes from the Adjutant

Matt Farlow



**Legionnaire:** The next Legionnaire will be published in February 2013. I ask each District Commander, each Post Commander, and Committee Chairman to submit an article to show what has been going on in your Districts and Committees. This is your Legionnaire to let all out members know what is going on. I will need your articles and photos not later than January 18, 2013.

**Membership:** Good news – our membership is at 69.75% -- we are running about 2% higher in membership at this time of the year over last year. For 2012-2013 year, our goal is 22,844. With a little work from our Posts and Districts, there should be no reason we cannot make 100% by May 2013.

**National Emergency Fund:** The Department met its goal of \$5,771 to National. The Department has processed 35 applications and received 15 checks for post-Isaac. We ask all Districts and Posts to consider sending a donation to this worthwhile fund. Whatever you contribute will come back to us during the next disaster.

**Mid-Winter Conference:** The Mid-Winter Conference will be held at the Best Western in Alexandria on January 18-20, 2013. The

meeting notifications have been mailed. Housing forms are in the mail to each Post in the monthly mail and are available on the Department website – [www.lalegion.org](http://www.lalegion.org).

**National Convention 2013:** The 2013 National Convention will be held in Houston, TX on August 24-30, 2012. Our hotel will be the Hyatt downtown. We blocked out extra rooms and anticipate a good turn out since the meeting is just over in the next state.

**District Charters:** The NEC approved Charters for Districts during their meeting at National Convention. I have provided copies of the Charter Application to each District Commander. It is a one page form. I encourage all Districts to request a Charter.

### WEBSITE INFORMATION

**[lalegion.org](http://lalegion.org):** This is the Department website. Please visit it and let us know what you think. [www.lalegion.org](http://www.lalegion.org)

**[legion.org](http://legion.org):** National has a “revised” website. It really is easier to move around in and provides a lot more information for the Legion. Please visit it. There is definitely something there for everyone. [www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org)

**[mylegion.org](http://mylegion.org):** All Posts can now get access to the Post membership information by registering into [www.mylegion.org](http://www.mylegion.org). If you have internet or someone at your Post does, please register to have access to the information you need for your membership. If you need help, please call the Department.

**Baseball Website:** If you haven't checked out the new Baseball website, visit it at [www.lalegionbaseball.org](http://www.lalegionbaseball.org). Please notify A.J. Jones of any ideas you have for it and submit them for his review prior to submitting to Department for input.



## Day of Fun and Fishing for Local Veterans

On Oct. 6, 2012, Lowe-McFarlane Post 14 of The American Legion, in conjunction with the Volunteers of America and the Salvation Army, sponsored a day of fishing and fun for local homeless veterans at the Post's home on Cross Lake in Shreveport. Over a dozen veterans enjoyed a morning of fishing from the piers and shore around Post 14. Local area businesses donated the food, including hamburgers, hotdogs, potato salad, and cheesecake, all which capped off a day of fun and relaxation for the homeless veterans. Post Commander Stephen J. Lavery hopes to host the event again next spring. Commander Lavery said, “We want to thank these veterans and hope to make a difference for those who gave so much to help keep this country free.”

