

# THE AMERICAN LEGION

NORTHLINE POST 586 708 EAST PARKER RD HOUSTON, TEXAS 77076 (713) 691-7741 MONTHLY NEWSLETTER MAY 1, 2023 10th edition Published & Edited By: Lary Berkowitz

## Post 586 issues American Legion Awards at Military Ball



The American Legion has a proud tradition of supporting our nation youth, by encouraging them to participate in our action programs of Americanism. Which includes the Constitutional Speech Contest (Oratorical Contest), Boys State, Junior Shooting Sports, Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) Awards, and the School Awards Medal programs.

During Sam Houston MTSC High School Black Knights JROTC Military Ball, Commander Rumph was able to award certificates and medals to the students who participated in our Post Americanism action programs. There was 12 students that received awards. Four students for attending Boy State, Four students from the Junior Shooting Sports contest, one student from the Oratorical Contest who received a \$500 scholarship, one School Award Medal, and two JROTC Awards, for Military and Scholastic Excellence. The Military Ball was on April 22nd, and thanks to both of our Post members JROTC Senior instructor Retired Major Micah Ray, and JROTC Instructor Retired SFC Barry Page for making this initiative successful.

### Post 586 Boys State Student Accepted to West Point

Written by Micah Ray, Sr, JROTC Instructor, Retired Major, Post Member



Cadet Colonel Erik Jimenez is the first student in the history of Sam Houston Math Science and Technology Center to accept a United States Military Academy at West Point appointment. He is also the first person in his family who will have attended college. He is most certainly a trailblazer on multiple fronts also serving two years as the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion JROTC commander. How did we get here?

Erik inquired about the military academy during his sophomore year during a class in JROTC. He asked, "How can I apply?" His instructor replied, "I don't know but we will find out together." Here comes the American Legion! The American Legion Post 586 reached out to the JROTC at Sam Houston MSTC asking if the program had any cadets who would like to attend Texas Boys State. The new instructor was not aware of what Texas Boys State was, but it turned out that having attended this weeklong conference makes a candidate for a military academy stand out in the application process.

Erik was the first cadet in known history of the school to attend Texas Boys State and now it is an annual event where American Legion 586 and the Sam Houston JROTC supports sending great young men to the weeklong seminar. When the West Point admissions officer, CPT Kelechi Odocha, examined Erik's application and observed he was a Texas Boys State alum, he immediately added Erik to his list of candidates the institution favored.

With further support from the West Point Field Force and other civic minded groups, Erik was able to secure a nomination from his Senior Army Instructor and his congresswoman, the Honorable Silvia Garcia of the great district #29. Erik will arrive on the campus of West Point on 26 JUNE 2023 and spend the next four years of his life becoming a proud Army officer who will lead the next generation of men and women in uniform. From humble beginnings, Erik has become a symbol of hope for underclassmen seeking to advance in academics and athletics.

POST OFFICERS 2022-2023			
<i>Commander</i> Dwight Rumph	<i>Vice Commander</i> Justin Perry	<i>Adjutant</i> Robert Harris	<i>Chaplain</i> Victor Almendarez
<i>Service Officer</i> Joe Granados	<i>Sgt-at-arms</i> Agapito Vega	<i>Executive Committee</i> Edward Sanchez	<i>Executive Committee</i> Charles Ybarra
MAY BIRTHDAYS		POST 586 MONTHLY MEETING DATES	
Patrick C Gerald S Phillip C Calvin R Justin Pe Felipe Ra Robert Almend	ims 20 May ousin 21 May umph Jr 21 May rry 25 May umirez 26 May	MAY: JUNE: JULY: AUGUST: SEPTEMBER: OCTOBER: NOVEMBER: DECEMBER: ALL MEETINGS	DATE 1st DATE 5th DATE 3rd DATE 7th DATE 11th DATE 2nd DATE 6st DATE 4th
	CALENDA	R OF EVENTS	
Military Appreciation Month1 MayVE Day8 MayMilitary Spouse Appreciation Day12 MayMother's Day14 MayArmed Forces Day20 MayNational Poppy Day26 MayMemorial Day29 May			
MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL ON LINE			
Please continue	r membership online to support your fellow veterans, milies, youth and our nation.		

Your annual dues help support programs in your community and across the nation. American Legion programs and services include: Troop Support, Child Welfare Foundation, Heroes to Hometowns, American Legion Baseball, Department Service Officers, Family Support Network, Flag Advocacy & Etiquette, Junior ROTC & ROTC, Operation Comfort Warriors, Scholarships, Veterans Job Fairs, and many others.

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Thank you for ensuring that The American Legion remains the most powerful voice in America on behalf of veterans, servicemembers, their families, and communities across the nation.

Go to www.legion.org/renew

Your membership is very important to us for ensuring that American Legion programs continue to serve all veterans

**AMERICAN LEGION WANTS YOU** 

#### **Post 586 Elect New Officers**



Every year an American Legion Post is required to elected officers. During our April meeting we were able to complete this task. The Post Officers are the leaders of the Post. They should be a member in good standing with high moral character, elected by the Post membership, they also can be appointed by the Post Commander with membership approval and be a graduate of the American Legion Basic Training course. All of the new officers meet a number of these recommendations. After the elections we had a brief installation ceremony. However we are hoping to plan an event so we can invite the families and members of the community.

Here is the American Legion Post 586 2023 Officers:

Post Commander: Dwight Rumph Post Vice Commander: Justin Perry Post Adjutant: Robert Harris Post Finance Officer: Daniel Wright Post Chaplain: Victor Almendarez Post Service Officer: Joe Granados Post Sergent at Arms: Agapito Vega Executive Committee: Charles Ybarra



L to R: Charles Ybara, Agapito Vega, Justin Perry, Robert Harris, Joe Granados, Victor Almendarez, Daniel Wright, Dwight Rumph

#### **COMMANDERS POST MESSAGE**



Hello, to Members of Post 586

As we go into the last month of spring we can look forward to few things. May is Military Appreciation month, and it contains VE Day, Armed Forces day, National Poppy day, and Memorial Day.

Military Appreciation Month honors everyone who has served in a branch of the U.S. military and remind us that we owe many of our freedoms to the sacrifices made by military personnel. The month-long celebration was formally introduced by Senator John McCain in 1999, using a month that marks many important military anniversaries to highlight the contributions of our troops.

Each year we commemorate Victory in Europe Day, also known as VE Day. On May 8, 1945 Nazi Germany unconditional surrendered to the Allied forces of the Second World War. This day in history marked the end of World War II in Europe.

On August 31, 1949, Louis Johnson, who was the United States Secretary of Defense, announced the creation of an Armed Forces Day to replace separate Army, Navy and Air Force Days. The event stemmed from the armed forces unification under one department, the Department of Defense. The Army, Navy, and Air Force leagues adopted the newly formed day. The Marine Corps League declined to drop support of Marine Corps Day, but supports Armed Forced Day too.

The red poppy flower in a national recognized symbol of sacrifice worn by American since World War 1 to honor those who served and died for our country in all wars. It reminds American of the sacrifices made by our veterans while protecting our freedoms. The American Legion brought National Poppy Day to the United States by asking congress to designate the Friday before Memorial Day, as National Poppy Day.

Memorial Day is a day for remembrance of those who have died in service to our country. In 1971, Congress passed the Uniform Monday Holiday Act and established that Memorial Day was to be commemorated on the last Monday of May. Memorial Day is commemorated at Arlington national Cemetery each year with a ceremony in which a small American flag is placed on each grave. Traditional the President or Vice President lays a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

May is the month for us to remember our Military. That is why our Post is planning to participate in the Houston National Cemetery Memorial Day Ceremony on May 29<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to volunteer please let me know via email, text or phone call. We are also going to provide a Memorial Day free lunch at our Post after the Ceremony. If you would like to attend please email or text me, so we can have a head count.

For God and Country

Dwight Rumph, Commander rumphd@sbcglobal.net