



# THE AMERICAN LEGION

NORTHLINE POST 586  
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MONTHLY NEWSLETTER  
FEBRUARY 1, 2024  
19th edition  
Published & Edited By:  
Lary Berkowitz / Dwight Rumph

## RETURN ON INVESTMENT: American Legion Texas Boys State Success Story

Author: Micah A. Ray, Sr,  
Retired US Army Major  
JROTC Senior Instructor  
Sam Houston MSTC  
Post 586 Member

In 2022, Post 586 developed a relationship with the Sam Houston MSTC JROTC program. The initial reason this Post reached out to the program was to seek out young men who would be interested in a scholarship for Texas Boys State. The Black Knights promoted four young men, one of them was the battalion commander Erik Jimenez, to attend Texas Boys State. At that time, Erik Jimenez had aspirations to be accepted into the United States Military Academy at West Point. He had no idea if he could make it, but he was willing to do anything to achieve his goal.

Post 586 sent Erik along with three other 11<sup>th</sup> grade young men to Austin, TX to represent the Northline area. In that group of four young men, two of them (Benjamin Benavides and Marco Montes) enlisted into the U.S. Navy and U.S. Army. Erik was in fact accepted into the prestigious and historic military academy and the Director of Diversity Recruitment and Enrollment, Infantry Captain Kelechi Odocha, informed Erik that by him attending Texas Boys State, this was one of the deciding factors for his selection.

In December of 2023, now West Point Cadet Erik Jimenez returned home for the holidays to visit his almadater, Sam Houston MSTC, to show his former battalion that taking risks and seeking opportunities will help you reach your goals. While in Houston, the Houston Independent School District interviewed Erik asking him about his journey. He mentioned that Texas Boys State was very beneficial to his success and he thanked Post 586 for what they have done for him.

Photo of Erik, Erik with School Principal Dr. Diego Linares, Photo of Erik with JROTC Senior Instructor Micah Ray.



## 2024 American Legion Oratorical Competition Results: Stand and Deliver

Author: Micah A. Ray, Sr,  
Retired US Army Major  
JROTC Senior Instructor  
Sam Houston MSTC  
Post 586 Member

In December, Post 586 hosted the annual “Oratorical Competition,” at Sam Houston MSTC. Cadet 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant Elizabeth Rigney advanced to the District 8 competition held at the Jersey Village City Hall. There she advanced to the Division 2 level competition held at the American Legion Post 84, in Madisonville, Texas. Two other competitors coming from Katy and Granbury Texas competed against Cadet 2LT Rigney. It was a tough competition, and the winner was the candidate from Katy, TX. The young lady from Granbury, TX was the runner-up leaving Cadet 2LT Rigney in third place. What matters most is Elizabeth stood her ground, and she learned some valuable lessons on writing and delivering a speech. She vowed to return next year better than before. In all, she has earned \$1,000 in scholarship funds that will be applied to her account at whatever school she decides to attend. Currently, she is deciding on her options for after high school which include the United States Military Academy at West Point, Texas A&M, and a two year college before a major university. She intends on attending Texas Girls State this summer. Congratulations to Elizabeth and let’s all wish her well.

### PHOTOS:

District 8 Competition with Adam Rigney, Mich Ray, District 8 Commander Dwight Rumph, Elizabeth Rigney at District 8 Contest, Division 2 Contestants, Elizabeth with her father Adam Rigney.





## American Legion Post 586 2nd Annual Junior Shooting Match

On January 25, 2024, Post 586 hosted the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Junior Shooting Match at Sam Houston MSTC. The marksmanship team from the Army JROTC program consisted of Senior Jai Nava, Sophomore Julissa Vergara, Freshmen Nayeli Davila and Jose Lazo.

There are three categories of fires in the competition which are prone, standing, and kneeling. Cadets are given 20-25 minutes to complete each set of targets using lead pellets. Commander Rumph told the cadets prior to the match there are several rounds of competition if they continue to advance after round one. He also informed the cadets that the American Legion Post 586 is considering rewarding a \$500 scholarship for college to the top marksman during this competition.

Sergeant First Class Barry Page is the head coach for the Sam Houston MSTC marksmanship team while the other two Army instructors serve as assistant coaches and mentors. The team competes in four Houston Independent School District matches per year. Last school year, the team placed 1<sup>st</sup> overall in the district, but this year is a rebuilding year after three seniors were graduated from the program.

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Post 586 Member





## Vietnam Veterans Day Coffee and Cars Event

Join us for the annual Vietnam Veterans Day Car Show and Cruise at the American Legion Post 586! This exciting event is a tribute to our brave Vietnam veterans and their service to our country. If you would like attend or volunteer please contact:

Espiridion "Speedy" Zuniga

Cell: 832-728-4733 <sup>[L]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub>

Email: [ezuniga@uso.org](mailto:ezuniga@uso.org)



**American Legion Post 586  
PRESENTS**



# ***Vietman Veterans Day Coffee and Cars***

**March 30th  
2024** 9am-12pm

**VIET  
NAM  
WAR** | 1945-1975 |



**708 E. Parker Rd., Houston, TX 77076**

***all cars and styles welcome, come enjoy free  
breakfast and honor our Vietnam Veterans***

**\*FUN\*FOOD\*MUSIC\***



Come join us for the Vietnam Veterans Day Coffee and Cars Event. The event will have free breakfast and hope to cruise over to the Vietnam Memorial right after.

Veterans Disability Claims Representative will be on site!! Come learn how to obtain Healthcare Assistance from the VA.



## POST OFFICERS 2023-2024

<i>Commander</i>	<i>Vice Commander</i>	<i>Adjutant</i>	<i>Chaplain</i>
Dwight Rumph	Justin Perry	Robert Harris	Victor Almendarez
<i>Service Officer</i>	<i>Sgt-at-arms</i>	<i>Executive Committee</i>	<i>Executive Committee</i>
Joe Granados	Agapito Vega	Edward Sanchez	Charles Ybarra

### FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Agapito Vega	2-Feb
Elias Hernandez	6-Feb
Stephen Williams	14-Feb
Juan Ybarra	21-Feb
Margaret Mendez	26-Feb

### POST 586 MONTHLY MEETING DATES

FEBRUARY:	DATE	5 th
MARCH:	DATE	4 th
APRIL:	DATE	1 st
MAY:	DATE	6 st
JUNE:	DATE	3 rd
JULY:	DATE	1 st
AUGUST:	DATE	5 th
SEPTEMBER:	DATE	2 nd
OCTOBER:	DATE	7 th
NOVEMBER:	DATE	4 th
DECEMBER:	DATE	2 nd

#### **ALL MEETINGS START AT 6PM**

Northline Post 586 is located on Parker Rd. in North Houston/Northline area, approx. 0.75 mi. East. of I-45N (Gallery Furniture) and approx. 2.15 mi. West. of Hardy Toll Rd, on south side of street look for **Big Green Tank**

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL ON LINE

### **Renew your membership online**

*Please continue to support your fellow veterans,  
Troops, their families, 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.

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

Go to [www.legion.org/renew](http://www.legion.org/renew)



### **AMERICAN LEGION**

**WANTS YOU!**

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

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Feb 1<sup>st</sup> American Legion Americanism Month

Feb 1<sup>st</sup> Black History Month


Feb 1<sup>st</sup> American Legion Annual Post Membership Dues are **Delinquent**

Feb 3<sup>th</sup> Four Chaplains Sunday

Feb 4<sup>th</sup> USO Birthday

Feb 12<sup>th</sup> National Salute to Veteran Patients

Feb 13<sup>th</sup> Mardi Gras Day (Fat Tuesday)

Feb 14<sup>th</sup> Valentine's Day 

Feb 19<sup>th</sup> President's Day

Feb 19<sup>th</sup> Coast Guard Reserve Birthday



## Uncle Sam

You may not have known that Uncle Sam was a real person! In case you're unfamiliar, "Uncle Sam" is the famous patriotic character we see on the poster that reads, "I want *you* for U.S. army." Born Samuel Wilson in 1766, the real-life Uncle Sam worked as a meat packer in Troy, New York. During the War of 1812, he supplied troops with meat that he shipped in barrels. The barrels contained the branding "U.S.," short for "United States," but people often joked that it actually stood for "Uncle Sam." The trope eventually spread far and wide, and the rest is history (literally). This photo of Wilson was taken sometime in the 1850s, and is the only known photograph of him.



## COMMANDERS POST MESSAGE



Hello Post 586 Legionnaires

February is the shortest month, however it has a lot to offer. There is Presidents Day, Black History Month, Four Chaplains Day, USO Birthday, and the American Legion Membership renewal deadline.

Presidents Day is a holiday on the third Monday of February to honor all persons who served as Presidents of the United States. In 1879 by an Act of Congress it was originally implemented to honor George Washington, on February 22nd. However in 1971 the holiday was moved to the third Monday in February by the Uniform Monday Holiday Act.

National Black History Month started its origins in 1915, which historian and author Dr. Carter G. Woodson founded the Association of the Study of Negro Life and History. Through this organization Dr. Woodson initiated the first Negro History Week in February 1926. He selected February because it includes the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass, two key figures in the history of black Americans. In 1975, President Gerald Ford issued a message on the observance of Black History Week. In 1986, congress passed Public Law 99244, which designated February 1986 as National Black (Afro-American) History Month.

February 4<sup>th</sup> is the official birthday of the organization known as United Service Organization or USO. The USO was founded on February 4, 1941 by Mary Ingraham in response to a request from President Franklin D. Roosevelt to provide morale and recreation services to U.S. uniformed military personnel. The USO has been a fixture in military life for more than seven decades. There are over 30,000 volunteers that work with the USO at location worldwide including military bases, airports, and major metro areas.

Ceremonies and services are held each year on or around February 3<sup>rd</sup>, Four Chaplains Day, by numerous military and civilian groups and organizations. In 1998, February 3<sup>rd</sup> of that year was established by senate resolution 169-98 as Four Chaplains day to commemorate the anniversary of the sinking of the United States Army transport ship, the Dorchester, which was the second worst sea disaster of WWII. During the sinking of the ship, amongst the panic and chaos four Chaplains provided prayer and encouragement. The Four Chaplains (Catholic, Protestant, Jewish, and Methodist) gave up their own life jackets when the supply ran out.

The American Legion provides life-changing assistance and guidance for veterans, military personnel, their families and communities in thousands of ways every day around the world. Help comes in the form of personal assistance, cash grants, donated goods, disaster relief, labor, networking, volunteerism and advocacy. Please renew your membership which will allow the Legion to continue supporting our Veterans and their families. This month the renewal membership deadlines has passed, and you are in a delinquent status. You can renew online with the link: <https://www.legion.org/renew>. You must have your membership number available to start the renewal process. You also can mail in your dues with a check to the Post, 708 E. Parker Rd, Houston, TX. 77076. If you should have any questions on the process please give me a call. Also if you are having a financial hardship please give me a call or send me an email.

For God and Country

Dwight Rumph, Commander

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