



The Texas V.F.W. Auxiliary

## Our Two Cents

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April, 2024



## DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT SUSIE CARTER



**“WIND BENEATH OUR VETERANS WINGS”**

**“BANDING TOGETHER FOR OUR VETERANS”**

Can you believe that April is actually here? Where has this past year gone? Being busy does make time fly. As I said previously, I had no “Official” visits in March but, I did attend the Washington Conference. I had a great time and enjoyed getting to watch all of the VOD students receive their scholarship awards.

Congratulations to all the Auxiliaries and Districts that made 100% or more in their membership. I am so very proud of our Texas members. Thank you for rocking membership once again!

I will be finishing off my visits to the Districts of Texas this month with travels to Districts 4, 16 and 29. As always, I’m looking forward to seeing everyone, visiting with our Veterans and observing what great things you do in your Districts. As everyone knows, April is election month for Auxiliaries and many Districts.

It is imperative that Delegates are chosen and sent to your District Secretary. Encourage anyone that wants to be an officer to step up and say what they would like to campaign for. Also, talk to members about taking a chairman’s position.

Encourage any candidate and chairperson that they will receive training and mentoring as needed.

April 10<sup>th</sup> is the Year-End Report deadline to District Presidents. I am asking that all Auxiliaries please get those reports done and to your District President ON or BEFORE the 10<sup>th</sup>. They only have a few days to review, follow up if needed and get them to the State Chairs ON or BEFORE the 20<sup>th</sup>.

Don’t forget that my Homecoming is April 18-20 here in Abilene at VFW Post 6873. I would love to see as many of you as possible there to help us celebrate my year as President. The committee has lots of activities planned and there will be food, fun and dancing.

Thank you from the very bottom of my heart to our Line Officers, State Chairmen, District and Auxiliary Officers and the Texas Auxiliary Members. This is not an easy job and all of you have worked as a team and I could not have gotten through this year without each and every one of you.

To District President Amanda Humphries and the membership of District 9, I apologize for not mentioning my visit to your District in the March issue of OTC. It was an oversight that I missed completely when proof reading. Thank you so very much for a wonderful visit. You held a great meeting that was informative and interesting. We

had a great time and again I thank you for the food, friendship and what you do for our Veterans every day.

Continue to be the **“Wind Beneath Our Veterans Wings”** as we keep **“Banding Together For Our Veterans”**



### **HISTORIAN/MEDIA RELATIONS**

**Bernie Adams**

Here we are at the end of another year. They sure do go fast. We now have end of the year reports. Ugg, but it must be done. Make sure you get them to your District President by April 10th. If you have any pictures of President Susie when she came for her official or even unofficial visit, please send them to me for her book. It is not too late for that.

Let us not forget our Statewide Project: I would like the history and picture of your first President. I have received some and they are awesome to read.

**“Wind Beneath Our Veterans Wings”**  
**“Banding Together For Our Veterans”**



### **CHIEF OF STAFF**

#### **EXTENSION/REVITALIZATION**

**Debbie Daniel**

As we soar into April, we have a plethora of things to do in order to complete the Auxiliary year. First, MEMBERSHIP, I know you thought I was going to say reporting. Don't worry, I will get to that.

District Presidents, please touch base with your Auxiliaries to make sure that they have covered every avenue of getting in their membership. This is the time of year when those last few dues are often not collected because we are so busy with other things. This is where TEAMWORK comes in. Get that membership committee on top of it by having them review the unpaid list, make phone calls, send out cards and bring in those elusive dues.

While you have their attention, remind them that their Year-End Reports are due to you on or before April 10<sup>th</sup>. Again, put that TEAMWORK to use. Offer assistance if it's needed and if you can't be the one to aide them, send someone close by, especially for those new Auxiliaries that are still learning.

Next, praise those Auxiliaries that are doing well, such as getting that 100% plus, getting all reports in and on or before the due date. While you don't have to go overboard with expense, it's certainly nice to recognize your Auxiliaries, their Presidents and/or outstanding members in your Districts. You can make certificates on your computers, buy individual cards or get small gifts. Appreciation and thanks encourage a member to continue to put out effort and do a great job.

Don't forget that you might have a Bachelor Post that is interested in an Auxiliary. If you haven't talked to them, do so now. If you have, follow up. They need an Auxiliary and we need the members. Our Veterans and their families need our support.

**“Wind Beneath Our Veterans Wings”**  
**“Banding Together For Our Veterans”**



### **YOUTH ACTIVITIES**

**Teresa Ramon – Chairman**

**Michelle Booker – Co-Chairman**

Greetings. Can you believe it is already April? Time really does fly when you are enjoying what you do. Thank you for all the entries for our Get Excited for the Red, White and Blue singing of our National Anthem Contest and our Illustrating America Arts Contest. We will anxiously be awaiting the results. Good luck to all our entries. Remember to reward your entries in your Auxiliary with a small recognition award for their participation.

Spring has arrived! What a fantastic opportunity to get involved with a youth group, family and community. **Here is a suggestion.**

There are local parks that have community gardens, why not have our youth assist in the planting of vegetables in your local community garden. If one does not exist, you can partner with your VFW, pick a small location at your Post to create one. Think of the sense of pride and accomplishment it would give them when they serve their vegetables to Veterans

at a Post luncheon. This could be an effective team building project.

Teaching our youth to work together, helping them to understand that it was through teamwork within our Armed Forces that help build the foundation of our great country keeping it secure, allowing us to enjoy and maintain our freedom.

Let us continue to promote our Patriotism Through Literacy program.

We are sharing a list of historical April "Did you know" moments.

- The United States [Library of Congress](#) was established April 24, 1800
- Our first President [George Washington](#) was inaugurated on April 30, 1789
- The [Revolutionary War](#) in America began on April 19, 1775

Continue to share your activities that you do with our youth. Looking forward in hearing about them. "For our country's legacy to continue with patriotism, honor, pride, loyalty and respect, we must continue to educate our youth".

**"Wind Beneath Our Veterans Wings"  
"Banding Together For Our Veterans"**



**SUNSHINE/CHAPLAIN  
Sharon Macy**

"Act as if what you do makes a difference...IT DOES!" William James



**BUDDY POPPY/NATIONAL HOME  
Denise DuBois-Chairman  
Eunis Cordova – Co-Chairman**

### **Buddy Poppy**

April arrived and reports were flying to our mailboxes. Thank you so much for supporting the

Buddy Poppy Program. You held amazing drives and the number of Buddy Poppies distributed was amazing.

Just a tidbit of history, a certificate was issued on May 20<sup>th</sup>, 1924 granting the VFW all trademark rights in the name of "Buddy" Poppy after it had been registered with the U.S. Patent Office. We were so proud to see the numerous piñatas with the 100 logo on them.

Please do not stop supporting the Buddy Poppy Program. Share poppies wherever you go and be ready to share their story. Always remember that the donations for the Poppies go into your Relief Fund.

Thanks again for your dedication and supporting this program. Your hard work has been noticed.

***The "Buddy Poppy" comes from the Poppy Flower that grew in the fields of France and Belgium despite all the death and destruction during WWI.***

### **National Home**

What a place the National Home is! So much is happening in Eaton Rapid, Michigan. The campus is growing. The families have been given an opportunity to rebuild their lives and receive a fresh start. What a great mission it has!

### **THE MISSION**

"The VFW National Home assists military, Veterans and their families with children, by creating a foundation of services and resources to achieve their personal and family goals in order to move forward in a positive, safe and healthy environment."

Thanks again for all your reports sharing how you have supported the VFW National Home. Keep up the great work. Don't forget to send in Life Memberships to the National Home and honor someone with a Tribute Brick.

**"Wind Beneath Our Veterans Wings"  
"Banding Together For Our Veterans"**



**PROGRAM COORDINATOR  
Denise DuBois**

As this year winds down, I want to say "THANK – YOU" to all chairpersons. You have done a great job.

I truly understand the demands that being a chairperson has.

As I state often, you must love our organization and feel it in your heart, because when you have that feeling, your chairmanship is smooth sailing.

I believe as chairpersons, each learn so much from seeing what others are doing throughout the State of Texas. Sharing ideas is a wonderful way of networking and allowing our own ideas to grow. Keep up the great work.



**AUXILIARY OUTREACH**  
**Gerald Spradlin – Chairman**  
**Cyndy Yancey – Co-Chairman**

“Life’s most persistent and urgent question is, what are you doing for others?”  
*Martin Luther King, Jr.*

As we continue to get wonderful reports from all of you, we have realized that the above quote is the true meaning of our Auxiliary Outreach Program: Helping another organization to make their event successful.

We still have plenty of time to reach out to other organizations in our communities. Remember organizations that might need extra hands like: Lions Club, Rotary Club, garden club, senior centers, Meals on Wheels, Habitat for Humanity, Alzheimer’s Walk, local church suppers, soup kitchens, Salvation Army thrift stores, local libraries, homeless shelters. These are just a few. Your community may have others that could use your help. Reach out to them to see what you can do. The best way we can show our communities how much we appreciate their support of the VFW and the VFW Auxiliary is by giving back with our time. You are all doing amazing things and helping your communities to grow and thrive.

Just a quick reminder to remember the five steps to making your Auxiliary Outreach Program a success:

1. Find local groups and organizations that need assistance.
2. Ask what your Auxiliary can do to help them.
3. Vote at our Auxiliary meeting to approve the activity.
4. Form the partnership with the other organization.
5. Report the details.

Don’t forget to wear your Auxiliary attire (name badge, hat, shirt, jacket, etc.). It is amazing seeing you all reaching out to your churches, firehouses, Police Departments, helping with blood drives, food banks and so many other activities. We are proud that you have embraced this program and really gotten involved.

Include and involve the youth of your communities. Youth programs are another area where help is always needed. Show the youth that we are here to help others and they can learn that from you. Remember to check local newspapers, check local community bulletin boards, or town/city websites calendars of events for more opportunities.

Working under a National Ambassador like Sandy Pinsonault has made it easy to be passionate about this program.

We truly believe that being seen out in our communities is a great way to increase your membership and get others excited about supporting us because we are supporting them.

Keep sending the reports and pictures. We love getting to see what you are doing!

“Volunteers don’t get paid, not because they’re worthless, but because they’re priceless.”  
Sherry Anderson

**“Wind Beneath Our Veterans Wings”**  
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**HOSPITAL/VAVS**  
**Pamela Fintel – Chairman**

Spring is all about new beginnings and transformations. It’s a season that symbolizes starting fresh and starting over. As our year is coming to a close, you need to continue to work our Hospital/VAVS program. If you have any reports after April 10<sup>th</sup> – hold onto them along with your May and June program reports. You will submit these reports to the 2024-2025 Chairman.

**May 12<sup>th</sup>** is Mother’s Day and a great way to honor our new mommies with a joint Baby Shower at the Va Hospital. You can contact the CDCE (Activity Director). Also plan a Mother’s Day Party at your local Nursing Home or Retirement Home.

There are Mothers that are Veterans as well as Blue, Gold and Silver Star Mothers. The Nursing Homes and Retirement Homes would love your Auxiliary to come and to honor them.

**June 16<sup>th</sup>** is Father's Day. Get with your Nursing Home, Retirement Home and the VA Facility and honor our Veterans that are Fathers.

Don't forget to keep taking or sending cards to our Hospitalized Veterans. I wish I could tell you how many Veterans have told me what it meant to them to get a card from an Auxiliary Member or a child that they did not know. It brings smiles, laughter and even tears to our Hospitalized Veterans

I am so Proud of **TEXAS**. You all have done an excellent job reporting this year. I have really enjoyed reading your reports and seeing what you do for our Hospitalized Veterans.

**THANK YOU** for everything you do for our Hospitalized Veterans!

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**AMERICANISM/PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTOR**  
**Ronnie Wiley – Chairman**  
**Laurie Wiley Co-Chairman**

Thank you all for a wonderful year. We had fun and enjoyed all the reports we received throughout the year. We would like to say The Department of Texas Auxiliaries are the hardest working and the most patriotic Auxiliaries in the whole world. End-of-year reports are due we would like to see one from every Auxiliary.

**Patriotic Holidays**

By celebrating together, we help to unite one another and fortify our culture. We do this in the observance of holidays we as a military-centered service organization find the most important to keep our mission front and center:

April 5----Gold Star Spouses Day

April 6----Army Day, We give thanks to all servicemen in the American Army

April 27---Arbor Day

**May 1-----Loyalty Day**

**May 1-----Silver Star Banner Day** “Official Day to honor wounded, ill and injured Veterans”

May 10---Military Spouses Appreciation Day

May 12---Mother's Day

May 13---Children of Fallen Patriots Day

May 15---Peace Officers Memorial Day

May 18---Armed Forces Day, a day dedicated to paying tribute to men and women currently serving in the U.S. Armed Forces

**May 18---Victory in Europe Day (V-E Day)**

May 27---Memorial Day-To Honor the men and women who died while serving in the military

June 6----Anniversary of World War II - Now known as D-Day

June 14---Flag Day

June 14---Army Birthday

June 27-- National PTSD Awareness Day

We Love our Freedom, We Love Our United States of America and we Love our Veterans.

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**VETERANS AND FAMILY SUPPORT**  
**Tammie Mosby – Chairman**  
**Karlene Chambers – Co-Chairman**

We know everyone is getting ready for election of officers and delegates and it is a busy, busy time. But...we can't quit working our programs. We are the voice of our Veterans.

One of the campaigns we must remember is the Uniting to Combat Hunger. Since 2018, organizations affiliated with Humana and the VFW has provided more than 4.5 million meals to food insecurity agencies through the UTCH campaign! We plan to provide 1 million additional meals during the 2024 campaign year, but we need your help. The efforts made by VFW Posts and Auxiliaries in conjunction with local Humana agents have been the key contributing factor to the campaign's massive success.

In support of these amazing efforts, the VFW Foundation offers a UTCH Grant through which we provide up to \$1,500 in reimbursement for donations of food and money made to nonprofits that directly address food insecurity.

To learn more about this opportunity and its availability please visit [vfw.org/grants](http://vfw.org/grants). For more

information about UTCH, please contact the VFW Foundation at [foundation@vfw.org](mailto:foundation@vfw.org).

If you need us for anything, please email: [tjpurplerose@yahoo.com](mailto:tjpurplerose@yahoo.com) or you can call 936-414-5293 and [karlene440@gmail.com](mailto:karlene440@gmail.com) or call 713-502-1436. We are looking forward to seeing everyone at State Convention.

**“Wind Beneath Our Veterans Wings”  
“Banding Together For Our Veterans**



**SCHOLARSHIP  
Dorthy L. Bennett-Chairman**

April is here and spring has sprung. There are several things that must be completed in this month.

I am still in need of monthly reports, or reports on how the Auxiliary got the word out about Young American Creative Patriotic Art. This should have covered both the 2-Dimensional and 3-Dimensional art projects. These reports have the information for anything done before the 10<sup>th</sup> of April. Reports help with the judging for plaques and citations on Department Level.

Art entries from either the Auxiliary or District must be in my hands on or before April 15. Sorry, anything later will not be judged. So, the sooner they are mailed/shipped to me the better.

***My shipping address is 517 N. Grant Ave., Odessa, TX 79761-5120.***

Your Year-End Reports should be to your District President no later than April 10. Then the District President in turn must have all reports to me by April 20. These dates are very important as I have a report to give to Department President Susie.

Most if not all Auxiliaries sent in moneys for the National Art Escrow. Thank you very much for that. Now as a reminder if at possible please send an earmarked check for the Department Award for Creative Art. The goal is to have a first, second and third place award. The total of all three awards would be \$1000.00 any money over that will go towards the next year art. If you have given thanks again, if not please try to do so even \$5 helps.

Thank you for the entries for outstanding activity or event educating the community about scholarship opportunities. Those forms should have been mailed to

me on or before March 31. Any citations given by National Award #1 are mailed directly to the Auxiliary. Any money tied to awards will be paid after National Convention.

You may contact me for any help or explanations that you might need. More information can be found in your Department Program book and on MALTTA under Scholarship Resources.

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**LEGISLATIVE  
Chyenne Harper-Chairman**

Greetings. I can't believe how far we have come this year. I know we are not done and all are doing a great job. Have you checked the After-Action news lately? There are two new articles. What are they?

The first article in the VFW Legislative Priorities is to prevent suicide by sharing the VA information. What does “entitled” mean? VA will collect data all throughout the state of Veterans suicides and the rates and with that being said, they’re trying to figure out a way to prevent suicide amongst the Veterans. The VFW is developing an “after action” to push the VA to move forward. The VA will need to identify the study and the information regarding the economics opportunities in the benefits of the suicide of Veterans. This is what sums up what this action is.

The other after action is to pass TAP Promotion Act. The promotion act is to require incredible representatives from National and State in local organizations to be included in tact classes. Transitioning from service can be difficult, but they’re trying to get more information and resources out to troops everywhere. If we don’t get this information out there to them, how else are they going to get it? It is our job and our duty to serve these Veterans and their family members especially when they come back from a war and they don’t understand what goes on and when they transition into civilian duty. We need to help these people as much as possible. We can only help them is to have information available for the service member and their family support team.

Please keep in mind, you were in their shoes once if not a Veteran - but a family member-we've all been there. We've seen the struggle! Let's help support our Veterans and their families during this difficult time.

Keep up the reporting! You are doing a great job. I'll see each of you soon.

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### **MENTORING FOR LEADERSHIP**

**Candace Baines – Chairman**

**Patsy Kemp – Co-Chairman**

**Jayne McCormick – Co-Chairman**

Our year end is quickly approaching and I hope everyone has had a successful year. Your Year-End Reports were to be turned in by April 10, 2024 and I can't wait to see how you are going out with a bang!

With all the lessons shared this year, I hope that you were able to implement those tools in order to get everyone on the same page and working as a solid unit. I understand some of us are a work in progress and that is ok. If you are 1% better today than yesterday, that is improvement.

Remember to look at ourselves first when we are not getting the results we expect. Sometimes our delivery is in such a way that people are not comprehending or we are doing so in a way that is off-putting.

All of this can be repaired and can go into our personal progress folder. We are all leaders and mentors. Make sure you are always representing the Auxiliary with professionalism, kindness, respect, patriotism and most of all, love for Veterans.

Great leaders don't set out to be a leader...they set out to make a difference. - It's never about the role- always about the goal.

-Adnan Ahmad

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### **MEMBERSHIP**

**Beth West – Chairman**

**Shawn Terry – Co-Chairman**

#### **How does your movie end?**

March brought us to the cliffhanger. April is when we write our ending. Please make sure you attach copies of promotional materials and pictures and all the wonderful things that helped you make and promote your movie to your Year-End Report. We haven't asked for monthly reports or even a Mid-Year as we monitor membership through MALTA. Now, we need you to report what you have done in this program all year by 10 April 2024.

#### There are a few questions we should address:

Should we hold deceased members? Absolutely not! We are to report all deaths as they occur. I know many of you feel this will hurt your obtaining 100% in membership. If it does, then we haven't been recruiting, working the program and trying to grow. We have had one Auxiliary discover that they have many on their roster that were not reported and the likelihood of their being deceased for a decade or more is probable.

Taking Life Membership payouts for a member that is deceased and unreported is fraud. We should strive to make our 100% in membership honesty and with integrity.

Can the Investigating Committee meet at a time other than the regular meeting night? Yes! The membership presented at the meeting should have been investigated fully and signed by the committee prior to the meeting. If there are any questions concerning the application, it shall be held until the next meeting. (Bylaws, Article I, Section 102, Id)

What happens if we do not make 100%? You'll continue to work. Deadlines are for awards. Growth is ongoing. We need to continue to work on growth. There are several instances in which an Auxiliary must make corrections or “clean the roster”.

Our membership numbers are important because Congress listens to the 1 million plus members of the VFW and its Auxiliary. However, that number needs to be accurate, not only to do the right thing by the member and the Veteran they honor by joining our ranks, but because we are an honorable organization

that should always strive to preserve our integrity in everything we say and do.

As we prepare for the curtain call and to sit back and watch the movies you have all created in your communities, remember that you matter.

Membership is all about us.

**“Wind Beneath Our Veterans Wings”  
“Banding Together For Our Veterans”**

**YEAR-END REPORTS DUE TO  
DISTRICT PRESIDENTS  
APRIL 10, 24**

**DISTRICT PRESIDENTS TO  
DEPARTMENT CHAIRMEN  
APRIL 20, 24**

**KAREN KAYLOR**

**CANDIDATE FOR NATIONAL  
COUNCIL MEMBER AREA H**

**2024 – 2026**

**ENDORSED BY VFW AUXILIARY 4008  
ENDORSED BY DISTRICT 14**

**ALETHA JETER**

**CANDIDATE FOR  
DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS**

**NATIONAL COUNCIL MEMBER AREA H  
2024-2026**

**ENDORSED BY DISTRICT 17  
ENDORSED BY AUXILIARY 4709**

**GERALD SPRADLIN**

**CANDIDATE FOR DEPARTMENT OF  
TEXAS VFW AUXILIARY GUARD  
2024-2025**

**Endorsed by District 19 & Auxiliaries  
Endorsed by Post/Auxiliary 1836**

**JO ELLA MENN**

**CANDIDATE FOR DEPARTMENT OF  
TEXAS VFW AUXILIARY TREASURER  
2024-2025**

**ENDORSED BY AUXILIARY 8621  
ENDORSED BY DISTRICT 6**

**Ways and Means  
2023-2024**

President's Raffles (Blue Tickets)	\$ 8,917.00
Gun Raffle (Orange Tickets)	\$ 22,686.00
Shirts	\$ 12,997.00
President's Pins	\$ 12,969.00
Lucky Calendars	\$ 18,140.00
Quarter Auction	\$ 4,259.00
Grab Bags	\$ 1,120.00
District Baskets	\$ 6,237.53
Misc. Ways & Means (Nuts, Old Pins, Jewelry, Mugs, VFW Calendars, Hats)	\$ 825.00
<b>TOTAL Ways &amp; Means:</b>	<b>\$ 88,150.53</b>
Hero Walk	\$ 3,618.00
Cancer Walk	\$ 1,965.00



*2023-2024 State President's  
Soaring with the Eagles*

*Homecoming  
VFW Post 6873  
Abilene, Texas*



**April 19-20, 2024**

**THURSDAY**



6:30 PM Pizza  
7:00 PM Putting Tournament  
1st—2nd—3rd Places Awarded



**FRIDAY**



Registration: 0700  
Shotgun Start: 0800  
1200—1600: Awards



6:00 PM Fijita Bar  
6:30 PM Registration  
7:00 Corn Hole Tournament  
1st—2nd—3rd Places Awards

**SATURDAY**



6:30 PM Social hour with cash bar  
7:00 PM Dinner  
8:00 PM Short Program  
8:30 to Close—Music by  
Jim Sadler  
for your dancing pleasure



There will be pool, shuffle board, dominos, cards, etc. all day Friday & Saturday for your gaming experiences at the Post. Breakfast and Lunch will also be provided at the Post on those days.

**ONLY ONE REQUIREMENT TO ATTEND**

**RSVP NO LATER THAN APRIL 1ST**

**EVENT**

Darline Jurkis 325-695-4503 ~ Katie Kell 325-260-9036

**GOLF**

Leroy Haynes 325-260-4478

*2023-2024 State President's  
Soaring with the Eagles  
Homecoming*



*VFW Post 6873  
Abilene, Texas*

**April 19-20, 2024**

***HOTELS***

**Days Inn  
3950 Ridgemont Dr.  
Abilene, TX 79606  
325-480-7124  
Single \$85.00 plus taxes**

**Hampton Inn & Suites  
3917 Ridgemont Dr.  
Abilene, TX 79606  
2 Queen Beds/King \$124.00 plus taxes  
Hampton Inn Abilene ([Hilton.com](https://www.hilton.com))**

**Fairfield Inn  
3902 Turner Plaza  
Abilene, TX 79606  
2 Queen Beds/King \$109.00 plus taxes  
Fairfield Marriott Abilene ([Booking Link](#))**



# President Susie Carter's Soaring With The Eagles Homecoming Golf Tournament

**Friday, April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

**Registration 8:30 am --- Shotgun Start 10:00 am**



**At Mesquite Groove Golf Course, Dyess Air Force Base  
Cost is \$55 per player. Bring your own team or we will  
match you with one.**

**Includes Green Fee, Golf Cart, Range Balls, Food and door prizes.**

**POC: Leroy Haynes, Jr. Ph# (325) 260-4478**

**Email: [leroy72@suddenlink.net](mailto:leroy72@suddenlink.net)**

**If needed, arrangements will be made for you to enter Dyess Air Force Base**