

APRIL 2019

VOLUME 20

ISSUE 1

ARKANSAS TRAVELERS

CHAPTER FMCA

ESTABLISHED JULY 21, 1973



OFFICERS FOR 2019

PRESIDENT	GARY THARP
VICE PRESIDENT	LARRY BOSLEY
SECRETARY	SHARON THARP
TREASURER	RICHARD HOLLEY
NATL. DIRECTOR	BRUCE FRIEDRICH
ALT. DIRECTOR	CHARLES STOCKTON

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

1. President's Pen
2. Medal of Honor Info
3. MOH articles
4. MOH motorcycle parade
5. Ladies Lunch & Craft day
6. New Members & Photos
7. April Rally Group Picture
8. Museum tours
9. Historic Route of homes
10. WinStar Casino info.
11. Perry, GA. FMCA RALLY
12. Chapter Fair & Craft class
13. Photos from Perry, GA
14. Birthdays/Anniversaries

The first rally of 2019 and my first rally as president is in the books with 18 coaches in attendance at Gainesville, Texas. Our hosts, the Adcock's, Garro's, and Reeves, planned activities to coincide with the annual program held in Gainesville to pay tribute to the Medal of Honor recipients. The weather didn't always cooperate, but that didn't stop us from enjoying the rally. We made new friends, had good food, had a ladies luncheon and golf for the guys. On Wednesday we did get to see the motorcade bringing the recipients to Gainesville. We missed those of you who couldn't attend. Thanks again, from all of us to Charlie, Gloria, Mark, Joana, Lowell, and Peggy.

We were honored to have Jon (President of FMCA) & Sondra Walker join our rally this week.

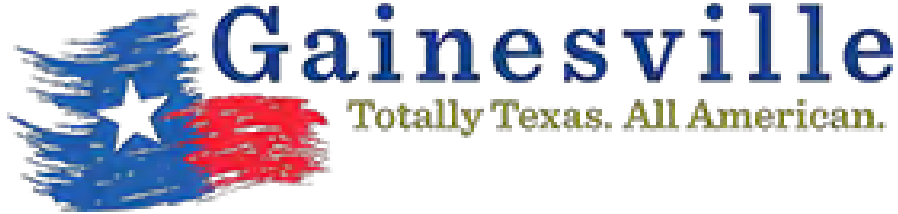
The May rally is scheduled for the 20-24th in Carthage MO to be hosted by the Cox's and Rothwell's. They are planning a great rally and information should be sent out soon, so mark your calendars and plan to attend. I plan to have a brief business meeting at that rally.

The September pre-rally for six state will be hosted by Cox's, Rothwell's, and Tharp's. Note: it's not required to go to the pre-rally in order to go to Six State or vice versa. The October rally will be hosted by the Holley's and Tharp's in Eureka Springs. A no host rally is being planned for December.

These are a work in progress and information will be sent at a later date.

On the subject of rallies no one has signed up to host the June or November rallies. We have a large membership with only a few people hosting rallies. Hosting a rally isn't a requirement for membership but it is expected. A number of those who have hosted rallies have volunteered to mentor, if need be. You can ask any of us "old timers". At this point we should be signing up for 2020 rallies allowing us to post in the FMCA publications, and Eddie needs the information for invitations to potential members. So I appeal to the membership to step up.

Respectfully, Gary Tharp, President



It shall be the privilege and responsibility of the City of Gainesville, Texas to welcome our Nation's Medal of Honor Recipients at every opportunity.

In so doing we pay homage to the principles which the Medal of Honor represents... **Duty, Honor, Country.**

The Medal of Honor is the highest award for valor in action against an enemy force which can be bestowed upon an individual serving in the Armed Services of the United States. This honor is generally presented to the recipient by the President of the United States of America in the name of Congress. Gainesville, Texas is the only city in America to host our nation's highest decorated hero's annually to promote patriotism and celebrate the heroism of the recipients.

Our program began 17 years ago with a couple of Medal of Honor Recipients who drove to town to visit students in our community and enjoy some local fare. Since then we have grown to 4 full days of patriotic celebration. We begin with a grand welcome at DFW airport with the recipients and their families escorted by a motorcade 60 miles back to Gainesville. Patriots from all generations stand along the route holding banners, homemade signs, flags and cheer as the motorcade passes. It is genuinely a moving experience for anyone who has ever witnessed this event. The following days there are visits to local schools, a Patriot Dinner, a Banquet and a full military parade on Saturday concluding with a book signing event at the Gainesville Civic Center. Every bit of this program is organic and that's what makes it so special. The sincerity of our volunteers and those who support this program in a multitude of ways makes it unique and full of the American spirit.

NAVY, MARINE

ARMY

& COAST GUARD

AIR FORCE



THE MEDAL OF HONOR EVENT IN GAINESVILLE, TX.

Wednesday, April 10, 2019 was the arrival of the Medal of Honor recipients with a motorcade procession down I-35 beginning in Dallas/Fort Worth, TX to Gainesville, TX which is the Host City for the MOH program event that is held here every year since it's inception in 2001, this being it's 18th year for this event. Gainesville is the nation's only MOH Host City and the town is very proud and honored of this event. This year, 24 recipients will be honored.

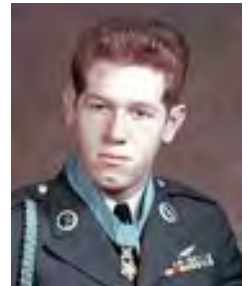
Tommy Moore, MOH Host City Program Board President, said "This program is unique because it doesn't just focus on "however long the duration of their action lasted" but also the family and the life that these heroes came home and lived after their service".

Gainesville is proud and honored to be the host City and that pride and honor is instilled in the families and children. "You can't buy honor and integrity, but it can be taught", a quote from Arlene Loyd, Gainesville Economic Development Corp. Executive Director.

On Wednesday, most of our group car-pooled to a spot along I-35 to watch the progression of MOH recipients and over 500+ motorcycles pass by as we and hundreds of others waved and saluted as they passed by to their destination just north of Gainesville. It was a moving and a humbling parade to watch pass by. We were all looking forward to the parade on Saturday but with a forecast of 100% rain, the MOH Board decided it was best to cancel the parade. Hopefully another year we can try this again!



While Mark and Joana Garro and Lowell and Peggy Reeves were out shopping for our rally, they met up with one of the Medal of Honor recipients, Gary Wetzel and he gave each of the couples one of his coins. A brave and humble man who had quite a story of his time in the service.



The Meeting of one of the Medal of Honor Recipients by Peggy Reeves

On one of our trips to Gainesville, TX, the Daylight Donut Shop beckoned us to sample their bakery items. After selecting a variety of pastries, an older one armed man, walking with a cane, slowly entered the shop and sat at a neighboring table. In a few minutes, the gentleman noticed Mark's souvenir t-shirt : "Route 66". The interesting stranger then mentioned he was to travel the same route later this year driving his 1954 Chevy! We enjoyed several topics of conversation, when the usual questions were asked: "Where are you from?" and "Why are you here?" Lowell mentioned that our Arkansas Travelers RV group was here to celebrate the "Medal of Honor Recipients" this coming weekend in Gainesville. It was then that the Veteran replied, "I'm one of the Honoree's"! We were awed !! With that, he asked Mark if he'd please carry his drink and hold the door open for him as he departed our company. We all wished him well as the man followed the disabled Vet to his pickup. After hearing who this man was, the store clerk lamented not taking a picture. As the Veteran drove away, the men each returned sporting an engraved (personal) Medal of Honor medallion stating the Veteran's name and date of his heroic deed serving in the Vietnam War. With anticipation, Peggy checked with Google to find 12 exciting Honor Tribute pages and 4 descriptive videos on YouTube concerning this "Living Legend: Gary Wetzel". This meeting took place on Tuesday, April 9th, 2019.

MEDAL OF HONOR MOTORCADE ON I-35

The Medal of Honor recipients were escorted by buses on the motorcade on Wednesday, April 10th, 2019 on I-35 from Dallas/Fort Worth to the north side of Gainesville, TX. This is a very moving and amazing event to honor these people who served our country and in honor of those who could not be present. This is something that our country should do every day to be thankful for the people who fight and die for our freedom. God Bless Them All !!!!

GARY WETZEL



MEDAL OF HONOR



HOST CITY PROGRAM
GAINESVILLE, TEXAS





Sarah's on the Square is a jewel in historic downtown Gainesville, Texas. The restaurant is steeped in history and was formerly a saloon in the 1800s with a brothel upstairs managed by Madam Sarah which now serves as the Shady Lady B&B. The historical theme is carried out in the restaurant with many antique pieces and the restrooms bearing the signs: "Shady Ladies" and "Bad Boys".



All 18 of us ladies car-pooled to Gainesville to have lunch at Sarah's on the Square. We all enjoyed a delicious light meal and sang Happy Birthday to Sharon Tharp and then some decided to do a little shopping while the rest headed back to the RV park to rest or visit until it was time to head out for the evening's meal in Munster, TX.

FRIDAY LADIES LUNCHEON



OUR HOSTS FOR THE APRIL RALLY 2019 DID A GREAT JOB ! THANKS TO LOWELL AND PEGGY REEVES, CHARLIE AND GLORIA ADCOCK AND MARK AND JOANA GARRO. You all provided loads of fun and great meals. The WinStar Casino RV Park near Thackerville, OK was a great setting in an awesome RV park and close to the largest casino in the United States !!



CRAFT CLASS OF EASTER EGGS ! THANKS GLORIA !!





We enjoyed having Jon and Sondra Walker, President of FMCA join our club for this week's events and meals.



LARRY & BRENDA GLOVER

OUR NEW MEMBERS



DEBBIE & ROBERT WATSON were guests of Lowell & Peggy Reeves.

Larry Bosley and Paul Rothwell presented a putter to Larry "Tiger" Lighthill at the Thursday evening meal for his participation in joining the guys on their golfing trips and getting to putt a ball in from time to time. A proud moment for Larry L. !!!



Dinner at Rohmer's in Muenster, TX on Friday evening.



Charlie Adcock, Darrell Gilliland and Jon Walker

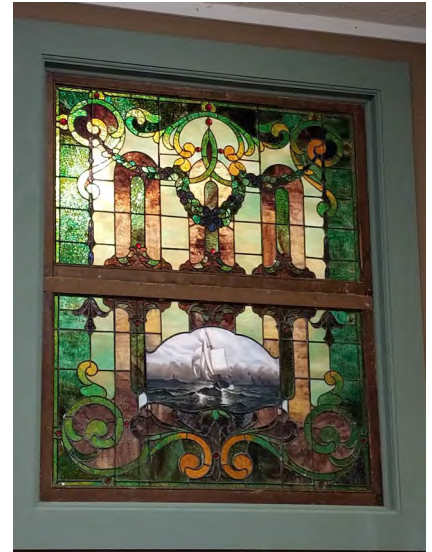


Another attendee at the festivities in Gainesville was Darrell Gilliland who was the first President of the Six State Rally Association in 1997 for 2 years. He was also Area Vice President of South Central Area. Darrell helped to form the Six State Rally Association.

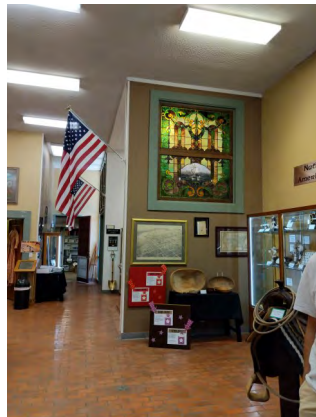
Darrell and his daughter and son were helpful in arranging all of our meals and finding a location along I-35 for us to observe the MOH caravan. Thanks Darrell.



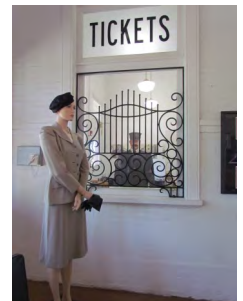
MORTON MUSEUM in Gainesville, TX



MUSEUM TOUR GUIDE



Some of us took tours of the local museums in Gainesville at the old Fire Station and the old Railroad Depot. Also several of us members enjoyed having a treat at the Fried Pie Co. Restaurant downtown Gainesville. A definite stop whenever in this town !!!





There's a Historic Tour route around several blocks near the downtown area of Gainesville with many old Victorian homes that are just gorgeous! So much history in this town and worth checking into if ever visiting in the area.





WinStar RV Park



The casino opened as the WinStar Casinos in 2004, and was expanded (with a 395-room hotel tower) and renamed WinStar World Casino in 2009; it's 600,000 square feet of casino floor made it the world's largest casino at the time. In 1991 the Chickasaw Nation opened a small bingo hall in this spot and it's progressed ever since with electronic gaming, 27-hole golf club, to the hotel and the RV park to the present 66,950 square foot convention center.



**MARCH 13-16TH,
2019**



PERRY, GEORGIA



FMCA'S 99TH ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION & EXPO RALLY

FMCA hosted its 99th annual International Convention and RV Expo in Perry, GA from March 13th through the 16th. The official RV count on the Georgia National Fairgrounds totaled 2,542 units, which was comprised of 352 display RV's and 2,190 member and guest RV's. More than 5,000 people attended, including a record 1,700 who were attending an FMCA convention for the first time.

"Peachy in Perry" served as the theme for this gathering which featured hundreds of educational seminars, interactive displays, a complete 3-day RV Basics Bootcamp, and dozens of entertainment acts.

The expo also served as host to more than 300 commercial vendors offering RV related products and services. People could buy everything from electric folding bikes and gold carts, to generators and jewelry.

Entertainment this year was impressive, filling the Reaves Arena with headliner acts such as Louis Prima Jr. & the Witnesses, as well as Cornell Gunter's Coasters, The Platters and The Drifters. Nearly a dozen other entertainment acts were featured over the 4 day run of the convention.

FMCA currently has more than 77,000 members and serves to educate and enhance the RVer lifestyle. The 100th annual convention will be held in Minot, ND, August 14-17, and will feature a presentation by Captain "Sully" Sullenberger, the pilot who flew the plane that became known as the "Miracle on the Hudson".

Article taken from the RV Daily Report on Facebook



The Chapter Fair was held on March 13th with great success! Had 22 folks sign in that were interested in our club. All the Chapters put on a great display and we had a good crowd there as the First Timers had their meeting also that day right before the Fair began.



With so many vendors at the rally, there were two buildings to go through to see it all. There were even a few outside set up in tents! And always plenty of food vendors so no one went hungry!!



Sherrie Leach & Jeannie Carey took a craft class on learning how to do an Alcohol Ink Pendant on dominos. A fun and easy thing to learn and I'm sure this will be offered at one of our rallies in the near future!!



JIM PELLEY

“Humor is indeed a laughing matter”



We all enjoyed four great nights of entertainment from some of the best !!!!

Those in attendance from the Arkansas Travelers Club were Charlie & Gloria Adcock, L.B. & Carol Butts, Larry & Shannon Bosley, Cade & Sherrie Leach and Bruce Friedrich & Jeannie Carey. We all didn't get to park together but we still managed to get together for events at the rally and time to eat together. There was a Block Party held that included some of the clubs from Six State that was a huge success also. We guessed around 50-60 people came for the Block Party, so it was a good turnout.



AUTUMN PUMPKIN BREAD

1 Box Duncan Hines Spice Cake Mix

1 can pumpkin

1 cup sugar

4 eggs & 1 cup of oil

1 cup of chopped pecans

Mix all ingredients together and pour into greased Bundt pan.

Bake 45-50 minutes at 350 degrees until toothpick comes out clean.

From Shannon Bosley



MAY BIRTHDAYS

Cheryl Powell	5-01
David Beach	5-05
Phillip Cate	5-06
Jan Woods	5-07
Lloyd Martin	5-10
Harry Hastings	5-24



We want to wish those who have been ill or have had surgery or have had family members ill, our thoughts and best wishes are with you always. I may not always hear about the news from our members but we pray for good health for everyone.



MAY ANNIVERSARIES

Carthel & Betty Jo Phipps	5-16
Tom & Eddie Burns	5-18
Darrell & Barbara Johnson	5-28

Hello everyone! Well this is the start of our rallies for 2019 !! We still have a few rallies to get some folks interested in hosting for this year so please step up and offer to do a rally. There are plenty of us seasoned members who would love to assist anyone in hosting, all you have to do is ask and you'll get plenty of help even from those who aren't hosting !!

Hope that everyone had a good winter and enjoyed some time in your travels to your winter destinations or just enjoyed spending time at home with family and friends.

Thanks for the help I always receive on my newsletters and I look forward to a fun year with you all.

Jeannie Carey, Hawgwash Editor