

29th Annual Onion Creek American Legion Post 326 Memorial Golf Tournament Highlights

The 29th Annual Onion Creek American Legion Post 326 Memorial Golf Tournament was successfully conducted at the Onion Creek Club on May 11, 2017 and it was a resounding success. Our goal for the 2017 event was **\$28,000** and so far our net profit is **\$36,835** which is **132 %** of our goal. We still are expecting an additional \$500 in known commitments.

The money we raise will be used to support a variety of veterans and community projects including the Veterans Scholarships Program, Scholarships for High School Students, Fisher House, Homeless Veterans, Veterans Employment Assistance Program, American Legion Boys/Girls State and Oratorical Contest, Landstuhl (Germany) Hospital Care Project, Paws for Veterans, Final Salute and others. The Post Executive Committee will determine over the next 12 months how the money raised will be allocated and used.

A total of 236 individuals, businesses and organizations donated cash and/or goods and services to this year's charity event. This included a total of **\$31,310** in cash donations from **67** Sponsors. In addition, we received a total of **\$68,798** in donations of various goods and services from **169** Contributors. The donation of the goods and services were used for general support (e.g., players handbooks, brochures etc.) as well as for prizes and items for the Live/Silent Auction, door prizes, and "goodies" bags.

The Silent/Live Auction which was open to the public was also a big success with total sales of **\$8,023!** The Live Auction held during our Post Tournament Program has grown in popularity with Auctioneer Ray Combs. This year we raised **\$1,500** from the sale of seven items we had in the Live Auction. The \$1,500 in Live Auction revenue is included within the Silent/Live Auction revenue.

We had another beautiful opening ceremony for the tournament and we want to thank *Post Commander Phil Johnston* for overseeing this phase. Our ceremony included the presentation and posting of the colors by the *Weapons Company, 1st Battalion, 23rd Marines*, The Pledge of Allegiance by *Post Commander Phil Johnston* and singing of the National Anthem by *Emma Cole*, Hays HS. As you may know we had also planned for a precision skydive at the beginning of the opening ceremony by world renowned skydiver *Cheryl Stearns*. Unfortunately the event had to be canceled as the skydive aircraft was unable to take off from Salado due to a low ceiling. Not deterred. Skydive Narrator *Ray Combs* masterfully narrated a simulated skydive with *Cheryl Stearns* landing and unfurling a US Flag on the grounds next to the Onion Creek Clubhouse and being met by the Skydive Ground Crew led by *Cathy Miller*. It was a fascinating and surreal experience and one easily could have imagined that it actually occurred live. Job well done **Ray Combs!** Also, a special thanks and appreciation to **Cathy Miller** for all her hard work and the detailed planning involved in this effort over the last couple of months!

We had 132 golfers sign-up for the tournament with paid entry fees of \$10,510 who enjoyed a beautiful day of golf followed by a buffet lunch and the award of individual and team prizes. We had a good representation of veterans and military participating. For the second year in a row personnel from *Wounded Warriors from the Center for the Intrepid*, *SAMC-Adaptive Golf Program* participated in our event. This year they were co-sponsored by the *Texican Cafe* and *Ace Fire Equipment Company*. In addition the Corporate Sponsor *Dana P and MK Engelstad* were unable to participate with a team so they dedicated their team position to the Color Guard unit from *Weapons Company, 1st Battalion, 23rd Marines*. Other Team Sponsors included *Edward Jones*, *Harrell Funeral Homes, Unlimited Ltd.* and *Velocity Credit Union* (2 teams). The Breakfast Sponsor this year was *Curra's Grill* and the Hole-in-One sponsor was *Maxwell Ford*. Special recognition also went to *Skydiver Cheryl Stearns* and *Skydive Temple* (Skydive pilot and aircraft).

The event concluded with a Closing Program beginning with welcoming remarks by *Post Commander Phil Johnston* followed by a Memorial by *Post Chaplain Gerry Kern* honoring Post Members who have passed since our last event. These included *Bob Nettles*, *Roger Gerrish*, *Roy Dalton* and *Harry Rettinger*. *Golf Committee Co-Chairman Tony Nuccio* recognized *The Onion Creek Club* as the Presenting/Host Sponsor for the 29th year and all Key Sponsors (Corporate, Platinum and Gold). He presented a Special Award to the *Onion Creek Club* and to the following Corporate Sponsors: *Dana P & MK Engelstad*, *H-E-B*, *Howdy Honda*, *K.W. Gutshall & Associates/Lincoln Investment*, *United Heritage Charity Foundation*, and *Walmart Stores* (Ben White and Southpark). He presented plaques to the following Platinum Sponsors: *Climate Mechanical*, *Sam's Club (Southpark)*, *Virgil and LaFern Swift* and *Walmart Stores* (290/Mopac, Buda and Anderson lane). He concluded by recognizing all Gold Sponsor/Contributors as a group. *Dr. Ron Stried* then awarded the team and individual contest prizes. Surprisingly \$1,150 in prize money or almost half of the total amount was returned to the Post as a donation. This has occurred occasionally in the past but never to this extent. This provided an unforeseen and added boast to our bottom line. In addition, the Post received revenue from mulligans, game of chance, dice game and miscellaneous sales in the amount of \$1,920.

We want to our Post Golf Committee and the over 60 Post volunteers as well as volunteers from the following businesses - *Randolph Brooks Federal Credit Union* and *Broadway Bank* who all gave their time to volunteer on the many tasks that were so important in making the tournament such a success. We could not have done it without their dedicated help!

In addition, we want to thank all our Players for their player fees and Sponsors/Contributors for their donations of cash and other than cash in making the tournament successful. Please visit the Post web site at www.alegiononioncreek.org for a complete listing of the 2017 Sponsors/Contributors and **please consider supporting our Sponsors/Contributors when making your buying decisions.**

The 30th Memorial Golf Tournament is scheduled for May 10, 2018 (Rain date is May 24, 2018). Mark your calendars!