VETERANS VOICE

THE AMERICAN LEGION JONATHAN D. ROZIER POST 164 KATY TEXAS

November, 2026 NEWSLETTER (Harry Woodstrom, Editor)

Commander's Chatter

By Dennis Wells (Post 164 Commander)



Katy Post 164 boasts a proud membership of over 400 members. That is a fairly large membership for a Post only entering its 25th year. As we head into the Holiday Season the Post will be especially busy with events and activities. This is an all-volunteer organization. We need as many members as possible to help fulfill the programs, events and projects the Post offers. Volunteer opportunities abound. The Holiday party is coming up in December. Volunteers will be needed to set up and teardown the event. The Oratorical Contest, Fireworks Stand, Thanksgiving Meals for Veterans and Boys State are coming up. We will need volunteers to handle a number of assignments. We also need additional volunteers to staff our twice weekly office hours.

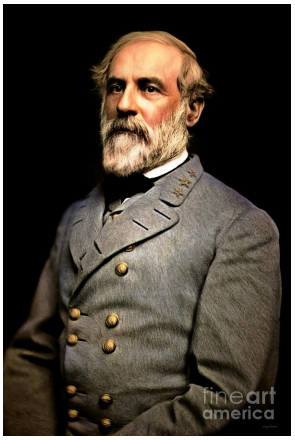
Also, in the spirit of giving back, The Legion Riders are promoting their annual Toy Drive and we have a Food Drive in process to assist Katy Christian Ministries. There is plenty going on and plenty to do at 164. Check out the many opportunities when offered through Signup Genius or listed on our events calendar.

There are many, many more volunteer opportunities available for you to make a difference. I encourage you to put your time, talents and abilities to use. The Post needs them.

"What a cruel thing war is… to fill our hearts with hatred instead of love for our neighbors."

Confederate General Robert E. Lee

- Robert E Lee graduated from the U.S. Military Academy in 1829.
- Lee served for 36 years in the U.S. Army.
- He fought in the Mexican-American War (1846–48).
- He captured John Brown, the leader of an antislavery revolt, in 1859.
- Lee wanted to defend his home state, so he left the U.S. Army.
- He took command of the Army of Northern Virginia in June 1862.
- He became president of Washington College at Lexington, Virginia.



By Robert Crutchfield (Post 164 1st Vice Commander)

First and most of all I want to thank, Dennis Wells, Sandy Krum, Jennifer Lowry, and Phil Malsbary for their assistance at our recent Buddy Checks event. We were able to speak briefly with quite a few members, and have a handful of items for follow up. The least we can do is attempt to check in with every member twice a year. Our semi-annual buddy checks are our biggest deliberate effort to at least do that much, I look forward to even greater participation at our next Buddy Check effort in March.

I also want to remind the membership that it has been a tough year for membership at virtually every level! Those renewals are more important than ever! Its years like this that are responsible for our department shrinking to less than half of what is was at the turn of the century. I renewed my membership on our post website. www.legionpost164katytx.org, We are the only post in the 22nd District that has this convenient option. One advantage to this is our Post controls the whole process. No waiting on department or national.

Post 164 is performing at the top of the district. However we are way behind where we were this time last year. The biggest factor driving this is renewals. Remember January 1st your membership becomes delinquent. February 1st your membership expires. As I have been saying since the beginning, the holiday season is busy and expensive. Do everything you can to get your renewal in before it gets lost in the end of year commotion.



Post Adjutant Jennifer Lowry

Post 164 conducted its semi-annual Buddy Checks on Nov. 9th. Buddy Checks is an important activity designed to contact each Post member and help them stay connected to the Post and to the American Legion. Buddy Checks are usually conducted around Veterans Day and Memorial Day.



Phil Malsbary and Post 1st Vice Commander Robert Crutchfield



District 22 Vice Commander Sandy Krum

By Jennifer Lowry (Post 164 Adjutant, Unit 164 President)

Families and Veterans Day

Veterans Day reminds us that service extends far beyond the individual who wore the uniform. Behind every veteran stands a family that shared in the sacrifices, celebrated the victories, and provided unwavering support through every stage of military life.

For many of us, Veterans Day is personal. We remember parents, spouses, grandparents, children, and friends who answered our nation's call. We also remember the families who waited during deployments, managed households during long absences, and stood ready to welcome their loved ones home. Their commitment and resilience are an important part of every veteran's story.

One of the best ways to honor that legacy of service is through involvement in the **American Legion Auxiliary**. The Auxiliary was founded to support veterans, active-duty military personnel, and their families while strengthening our communities through volunteerism and patriotism. Members carry forward a tradition of service by supporting veteran programs, promoting education, mentoring youth, organizing community events, and providing assistance to military families in need.

Joining the American Legion Auxiliary offers more than membership in an organization. It provides an opportunity to connect with others who understand the military family's journey, build lasting friendships, and make a meaningful difference in the lives of veterans and their loved ones. Whether your family member served decades ago or is serving today, the Auxiliary offers a way to continue that tradition of service and support.

As we gather this Veterans Day to honor those who wore our nation's uniform, let us also recognize the families whose sacrifices helped make that service possible. If you are eligible to join the American Legion Auxiliary, consider becoming a part of an organization dedicated to preserving the values of service, patriotism, and community that veterans have defended throughout our nation's history.

This Veterans Day, honor your veteran by continuing the mission. Join the American Legion Auxiliary and help ensure that the spirit of service lives on for future generations.

To all veterans and their families, thank you for your service, sacrifice, and dedication to our nation. Happy Veterans Day.

November 11th marked the 251st birthday of the United States Marines. Often among the first to fight, Marines have participated in every U.S. war. This branch of the U.S. Armed Forces was established on Nov. 10, 1775, during the Revolutionary War.

To our Marines, Semper Fi—and thank you for your honor, courage and commitment. We celebrate you on your Birthday —and every day.

Submitted By Wallace Klekar
(Post 164 Marine)

God and the soldier

All men adore

In time of trouble,

And no more;

For when war is over

And all things righted,

God is neglected —

The old soldier slighted.

Origins: This modern version is a descendant of Francis Quarles's 1632 poem "Of Common Devotion"

By Edward Sweat (Post 164 Sergeant At Arms)

I am Ed Sweat, the current Post 164 Sergeant-At-Arms. Here is a story of my early years in the military. I was destined to be a Sailor. My dad and three Uncles were World War two Sailors. Growing up, I heard all their sea stories. My dad worked the ammo magazines in the bowels of an aircraft carrier. One Uncle was teased about being an Airedale, he was an Aviation Machinist's Mate; also, on a carrier. Another was a cook on a battleship. The last Uncle was an underwater demolition diver, a "Frogman" and a precursor of a SEAL team member. These guys were very cool and I had a lot of respect and admiration for all of them. I graduated High School 48 days shy of my 18th birthday. I wanted to go into the Marines, but my father said I could join on my own at 18 but he will only sign for me to enlist into the Navy. The Marine recruiter told there was nothing he could do for me at 17 unless my Dad consented to him working with me. My Dad refused to meet with the Recruiter. 48 days seemed like an eternity to 17 year old me. The Navy recruiter took me to a local Naval Air Station. We walked the flight lines, watched take offs and landings, went to the chow hall for lunch and visited the Navy Exchange. I was sold and my parents and I signed on the dotted line.

I went to boot camp. While in boot camp, my girl back home sent me a dear john letter and said she was dating a newly discharged Marine. I was so mad, I punched the wall in the barracks pulling a hole in the drywall and gashing a hole in my hand between two of my fingers. With my hand damaged and bandaged, I was removed from my Recruit Company and was assigned to Recruit command Headquarters where I was everyone's gopher, coffee getter, trash can emptier and what ever menial job a one-handed person could do. I had to stand at attention while any E-2 and above chose to chew me out for damaging government property (me and the wall) and letting some girl cause me to do stupid things. This was a lesson I retained through my life. After two weeks of this, I was transferred to a third week Recruit Company and had to watch my original company graduate while I was still in training. I finally turned 18 and told everyone about my birthday. The Company Commander gave me a birthday gift. A fire watch from 0200-0400 and I was told I got the watch because I ran my mouth. Another lesson learned. Eventually, I went to A school and became an Aviation Machinist Mate (Jet mechanic) and then to a helicopter rag squadron and received advance training on helos and shipboard helicopter operations. I was assigned to a detachment to the Commander of the Sixth Fleet, a 3 -star Admiral. There were 9 enlisted, 3 officers and 1 helicopter. We transported him wherever he wanted to go. His flagship was a WW2 light cruiser, the USS Springfield (and later the USS Little Rock) cruising the Mediterranean and homeported in Gaeta Italy, between Rome and Naples. During that tour I went to Spain, France, Gibraltar, Crete, Sicily, Morocco, Libya, Turkey and Greece. Later in my career, I went to Iceland, Brazil, Colombia and Panama and I am a member of the order of the Rock, for going to Gibraltar. Crossed the Equator several times in an aircraft, so I am not officially a shellback, also crossed the Arctic Circle. It was a great opportunity and I am forever indebted to the Navy for it.

I ended up spending 7 years in the Navy. I regret not making a full career of it. I have never been associated with any job that offered as much opportunity as the military. I wish 2 years of military service would be compulsory for all able bodied 18 year olds.

My ship...the USS Little Rock



So You Joined the Military on the Buddy Plan

Everyone has heard the story.

One friend walks into the recruiter's office with a plan, a sense of adventure, and possibly a little too much confidence. A week later, they've convinced someone else to come along.

"Think about it," they say. "We'll go through training together."

And just like that, what began as an individual life decision becomes a package deal.

Welcome to the military buddy plan.

It Always Sounds Simpler at the Beginning

The sales pitch usually goes something like this:

- We'll have each other's backs.
- We'll go to training together.
- It'll be easier if we know somebody.

What's the worst that could happen?

At the time, it seems like a great idea. After all, having a friend beside you when you're stepping into an unfamiliar world sounds reassuring.

Then training starts.

Suddenly you're both questioning every life choice that led to this moment while carrying equipment you didn't know existed and operating on less sleep than you thought was humanly possible.

The Early Stages of the Buddy Plan

The first few weeks typically strengthen the friendship.

You're both confused.

You're both tired.

You're both trying to remember where you're supposed to be and when you're supposed to be there.

Shared adversity has a way of building bonds quickly.

There's comfort in exchanging a look across the room that silently says:

"Do you know what's happening?"

"No."

"Good. Me neither."

Then Reality Arrives

The military has a remarkable ability to treat everybody equally.

Your friend who convinced you to join?

They're not getting special treatment.

Neither are you.

Rank matters.

Standards matter.

Performance matters.

The buddy who talked you into this adventure cannot save you from inspections, physical training, qualification requirements, or the consequences of being five minutes late.

Many new service members discover that the buddy plan includes friendship, but not immunity.

The Different Types of Military Buddies

The Recruiter-at-Heart

This person signs up and immediately persuades three friends to join.

Some people collect hobbies.

These people collect enlistments.

The Motivator

Every morning starts with:

"Let's crush today."

Their enthusiasm is suspicious and often concerning.

The Survivor

Never excited.

Never optimistic.

Yet somehow graduates every school, completes every exercise, and is constantly where they're supposed to be.

The Wanderer

Nobody knows where they are.

But somehow they're never lost when attendance gets taken.

The Legend

Their stories become increasingly unbelievable every month.

Nobody can verify anything they say.

Everyone listens anyway.

What Makes the Buddy Plan Work

Contrary to popular belief, the value isn't that you always stay together.

In fact, military careers often send people in entirely Different directions.

Different jobs.

Different units.

Different locations.

Different missions.

The real value is having someone who understands what the experience felt like when it all began.

Years later, a simple text message can reconnect people who shared challenges that few others truly understand.

The Buddy Plan—Continued

Lessons Learned

The buddy plan teaches a few important things:

1. You can do more than you think.
2. Shared hardships create lasting friendships.
3. Nobody enjoys early mornings as much as leadership believes they do.
4. Every generation thinks their training was harder than the current generation's.

The stories get better with every retelling.

The Bottom Line

Joining the military with a friend can make the first step less intimidating. It gives you a familiar face in an unfamiliar environment and someone to laugh with when things don't go according to plan.

But the real surprise isn't that you joined together. It's that years later, when careers, locations, and life have taken everyone in different directions, these friendships often remain some of the strongest you'll ever have.

So if you joined the military on the buddy plan, congratulations.

You signed up for training, service, responsibility, and challenge.

The lifelong stories and friendships were included at no extra charge.



Information tent at the Ruck Run. Commander Wells with an Army recruiter from Brenham.





Honor Guard performing flag ceremony and presenting colors for the 3rd annual Ruck Run in Katy. Sat. Morning at the No Label Brewery.

Oratorical by Harry Woodstrom
(Post 164 Oratorical Chair)

The American Legion's National Oratorical Contest challenges high school students to explore and understand the U.S. Constitution while developing confidence, leadership, and communication skills. Since 1938, the program has prepared young people for citizenship through critical thinking and public speaking, while producing notable alumni such as former Vice President Mike Pence, commentator Lou Dobbs, and presidential candidate Alan Keyes.

More than a scholarship competition, the contest is an inspiring experience that restores faith in the future of our democracy. Contestants gain a deeper appreciation for the Constitution and the responsibilities of American citizenship, while building integrity, advocacy skills, and respect for civic engagement. For many participants, it's not just about winning; it's about **discovering their voice, strengthening their character, and carrying forward the legacy of American democracy.**

On November 22nd, 2026, Post 164 will conduct its Oratorical Contest. Seven high school students from area high schools have registered to be competitors in our Post contest. The contest will be Sunday afternoon starting at 2pm at our post home (22125 Kingsland Blvd, Katy, TX.). Please arrive early to insure you get a good seat. If you need to renew your faith in the future, this is the place to see and hear our future leaders.

Undertaker: What can we do for you?

Ole: I want to make arrangements for my funeral to be buried at sea.

Undertaker: Why do you want to be buried at sea?

Ole: To get back at my wife. She said that when I die, "She is going to dance on my grave!"





Poppy tables on Sunday, November 8th



I Think the VA Is Doing a Good Job Because...

It's not always fashionable to praise a large government organization. Most of us can easily recall a frustrating phone call, a confusing form, or a long wait for an appointment. Yet fairness requires us to acknowledge what's working as well as what isn't.

That's why I believe the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is doing a good job.

Not because it's perfect.

Not because every veteran has had the same experience.

But because every day, thousands of VA employees wake up with a mission that matters: serving those who served our country.

The People Make the Difference

When veterans talk about positive experiences with the VA, they usually don't start by discussing policies or regulations.

They talk about people.

The nurse who remembered their name.

The doctor who listened.

The benefits counselor who took extra time to explain a complicated process.

The receptionist who greeted them with respect.

Behind every appointment, claim, and phone call is a person who chose a career focused on helping veterans. That commitment deserves recognition.

The Mission Is Bigger Than Healthcare

Many people think of the VA primarily as a healthcare system, but its responsibilities extend far beyond medical care.

The VA helps veterans access education benefits, navigate disability compensation, secure housing assistance, receive mental health support, and connect with resources that can improve their quality of life.

That's an enormous responsibility. The fact that these services reach millions of veterans and their families every year is something worth acknowledging.

Progress Matters

No organization of the VA's size operates without challenges.

Veterans have raised concerns about wait times, bureaucracy, and communication issues over the years. Those concerns are real and should never be dismissed.

At the same time, improvement happens when organizations listen, adapt, and continue working toward better outcomes.

The VA's employees and leaders face the difficult task of serving a diverse veteran population with varying needs, and experiences. Continuous improvement is never finished, but effort matters.

Veterans Deserve a Strong Advocate

One of the VA's most important roles is serving as an advocate for veterans long after they leave military service.

Military service doesn't end when someone hangs up the uniform.

The effects of that service, both positive and challenging, can last a lifetime.

Having an institution dedicated to supporting veterans through different stages of life sends an important message: your service is remembered, and your contributions still matter.

A Balanced Perspective

It's possible to support the VA while also encouraging it to improve.

In fact, those two ideas go hand in hand.

Veterans should continue to expect excellence, accountability, and responsiveness. At the same time, we should recognize the professionals who work every day to deliver care, process benefits, and support the veteran community.

Acknowledging successes doesn't ignore shortcomings. It simply creates a more complete picture.

The Bottom Line

I think the VA is doing a good job because I have seen dedicated people working hard to fulfill an important mission. I've seen veterans receive care, assistance, guidance, and support when they needed it most.

Is there room for improvement? Absolutely.

Will there always be challenges? Certainly.

But when an organization remains focused on serving those who served, that's something worth recognizing.

And sometimes, saying "thank you" to the people carrying out that mission is just as important as pointing out where we can do better.

"This is what my parents advised me when I told them I was joining the military: make us proud, take care of the people beside you, and come home safe."

School Flag Education Program taken from the "American Legion Extension Institute"

Resource Material: "Let's Be Right on Flag Etiquette"
Possible Classes:

- Flag-raising ceremony
- Saluting and Pledging Allegiance to the flag
- Flags of our early Colonial days
- Flags of the United Colonies
- Birth of the U.S. Flag
- The Development and growth of the flag
- Description of the flag
- Education and the flag
- The Declaration of Independence and the flag
- The first appearance of "Our Flag" in battle
- The Flag Code
- American ideals and the flag
- Patriotism
- Proper manner of displaying the flag
- Origin of Flag Day
- History of "The Star Spangled Banner"
- Flag Dos and Don'ts

November Schedule

17 Nov, Tue

10am Post Office Hours

American Legion Post 164, Katy TX, 22125 Kingsland Blvd, Katy, TX 77450, USA

6pm Post Social Hour

Downstairs room

6:30pm

Post Training

Downstairs room

7pm Post 164 Membership Meeting

Downstairs room

18 Nov, Wed

6pm ALA Unit 164 Social & Training

Downstairs Room

6:30pm Group Counseling and Bible Study

Upstairs Meeting Room

7pm ALA Unit 164 Membership Meeting

Downstairs room

19 Nov, Thu

4pm Post Office Hours

American Legion Post 164, Katy TX, 22125 Kingsland Blvd, Katy, TX 77450, USA

6pm National Charity League

Downstairs Meeting Room

21 Nov, Sat

9am Fraternal Order of Eastern Star

Upstairs Meeting room

10am Pies for Hope Pickup

American Legion Post 164, Katy TX, 22125 Kingsland Blvd, Katy, TX 77450, USA

1pm Nafud Temple #80 Meeting

Upstairs Meeting Room

6pm Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Alumni

American Legion Post 164, Katy TX, American Legion Post 164, 22125 Kingsland Blvd, Katy, TX 77450, USA

22 Nov, Sun

8am Auxiliary Wreaths Across America

Snappy's, 5803 Hwy Blvd, Katy, TX 77494, USA

2pm Oratorical Contest

American Legion Post 164, Katy TX, 22125 Kingsland Blvd, Katy, TX 77450, USA

23 Nov, Mon

6pm Post 164 Board of Trustees Meeting

American Legion Post 164, Katy TX, American Legion Post, 22125 Kingsland Blvd #164, Katy, TX 77450, USA

24 Nov, Tue

10am Post Office Hours

American Legion Post 164, Katy TX, 22125 Kingsland

November Schedule—Continued

25 Nov, Wed

6:30pm Group Counseling and Bible Study

Upstairs Meeting Room

26 Nov, Thu

4pm Post Office Hours

American Legion Post 164, Katy TX, 22125 Kingsland Blvd, Katy, TX 77450, USA

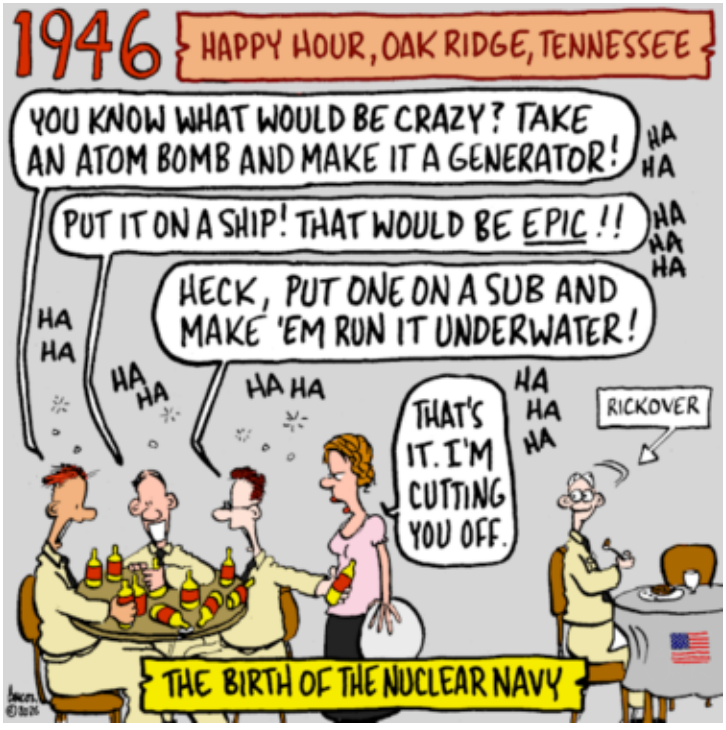
27 Nov, Fri

7pm American Legion Riders Chapter 164 Katy - Meeting

28 Nov, Sat

1pm Nafud Temple #80 Meeting

Upstairs room



December Schedule

1 Dec, Tue

10am Post Office Hours

American Legion Post 164, Katy TX, 22125 Kingsland Blvd, Katy, TX 77450, USA

7pm Post 164 Executive Committee Meeting

American Legion Post 164, Katy TX, American Legion Post, 22125 Kingsland Blvd #164, Katy, TX 77450, USA

2 Dec, Wed

6:30pm Group Counseling and Bible Study

Upstairs Meeting Room

3 Dec, Thu

1pm VA Stakeholder Meeting

Downstairs room

4pm Post Office Hours

American Legion Post 164, Katy TX, 22125 Kingsland Blvd, Katy, TX 77450, USA

7pm Civil Air Patrol

Upstairs meeting room

7pm Sons of the American Legion Squadron 164 Meeting

5 Dec, Sat

7am Breakfast with a Veteran

Katy Elks Lodge, 1050 Katy Fort Bend Rd, Katy, TX 77493

7am Breakfast with a Veteran

Katy Elks Lodge, 1050 Katy Fort Bend Rd, Katy, TX 77493

7am Legion Riders Skill Practice

Leonard E. Merrell Center, 6301 S Stadium Ln, Katy, TX 77494, USA

December Schedule—Continued

6 Dec, Sun

2pm Christmas Families Gift Wrapping Wine & Cheese Party

7 Dec, Mon

7pm Unit 164 Executive Committee Meeting

Zoom Meeting

8 Dec, Tue

AL Post 164 Newsletter Deadline

10am Post Office Hours

American Legion Post 164, Katy TX, 22125 Kingsland Blvd, Katy, TX 77450, USA

7pm DAV Meeting

American Legion Post 164, Katy TX, 22125 Kingsland Blvd, Katy, TX 77450, USA

9 Dec, Wed

6:30pm Group Counseling and Bible Study

Upstairs Meeting Room

10 Dec, Thu

4pm Post Office Hours

American Legion Post 164, Katy TX, 22125 Kingsland Blvd, Katy, TX 77450, USA

7pm Civil Air Patrol Meeting

Downstairs room

11 Dec, Fri

7pm JSSP Meeting

American Legion Post 164, Katy TX, American Legion Post, 22125 Kingsland Blvd #164, Katy, TX 77450, USA

12 Dec, Sat

7am Firefighters Pancake Breakfast

Katy Fire Station #2, 25420 Bell Patna Dr, Katy, TX 77494, USA

12pm Nafud Temple #80 Meeting

Upstairs Meeting Room

6pm Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Alumni

American Legion Post 164, Katy TX, American Legion Post 164, 22125 Kingsland Blvd, Katy, TX 77450, USA

6pm Post 164 Family Christmas Party

Downstairs Meeting Room

13 Dec, Sun

1pm CAP CyberPatriot Competition

Downstairs Meeting Room

2pm 22nd District DEC

American Legion Post 654, 3105 Campbell Rd, Houston, TX 77080, USA

2pm Mark the Veterans Graves

Magnolia Cemetery, 6801 Franz Rd, Katy, TX 77493, USA

14 Dec, Mon

7pm Marine Corp League

Post 164

15 Dec, Tue

10am Post Office Hours

American Legion Post 164, Katy TX, 22125 Kingsland Blvd, Katy, TX 77450, USA

6pm Post Social Hour

Downstairs room

6:30pm Post Training

Downstairs room

7pm Post 164 Membership Meeting

Downstairs room

16 Dec, Wed

6pm CANCELLED ALA Unit 164 Social & Training

December Schedule—Continued

6:30pm Group Counseling and Bible Study

Upstairs Meeting Room

7pm CANCELLED ALA Unit 164 Membership Meeting

17 Dec, Thu

4pm Post Office Hours

American Legion Post 164

19 Dec, Sat

8am Wreaths Across America

Magnolia Cemetery, 6801 Franz Rd, Katy, TX 77493, USA

9am Fraternal Order of Eastern Star

Upstairs Meeting room

2pm Wreaths Across America at Soldiers Rest

Forest Park Lawndale Funeral Home, 6900 Lawndale St, Houston, TX 77023, USA

6pm Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Alumni

American Legion Post 164, Katy TX, American Legion Post 164, 22125 Kingsland Blvd, Katy, TX 77450, USA

20 Dec, Sun

11:30am ALR Chapter 164 Katy Rider Skills Practice

6301 S Stadium Ln, Katy, TX 77494

21 Dec, Mon

8:30am Post 164 - West Side Maids clean-up

22 Dec, Tue

10am Post Office Hours

American Legion Post 164, Katy TX, 22125 Kingsland Blvd, Katy, TX 77450, USA

23 Dec, Wed

6:30pm Group Counseling and Bible Study

Upstairs Meeting Room

24 Dec, Thu

4pm Post Office Hours

American Legion Post 164, Katy TX, 22125 Kingsland Blvd, Katy, TX 77450, USA

25 Dec, Fri

7pm American Legion Riders Chapter 164 Katy - Meeting

26 Dec, Sat

1pm Nafud Temple #80 Meeting

Upstairs room

28 Dec, Mon

6pm Post 164 Board of Trustees Meeting

American Legion Post 164, Katy TX, American Legion Post, 22125 Kingsland Blvd #164, Katy, TX 77450, USA

29 Dec, Tue

10am Post Office Hours

American Legion Post 164, Katy TX, 22125 Kingsland Blvd, Katy, TX 77450, USA

30 Dec, Wed

6:30pm Group Counseling and Bible Study

Upstairs Meeting Room

31 Dec, Thu

4pm Post Office Hours

American Legion Post 164, Katy

