

## CLABSM ★ THE BLUE STAR REPORT ★ October 2016 – January 2017

*So as you can see it's been awhile since the Blue Star Report has been out, I've decided to do a quarterly report but wanted to get caught up with what has been happening and hopefully I can get on a quarterly schedule☺.*

*Oct 1, was our monthly meeting, which was held at the Westside Community Center in New Braunfels. We packed 18 boxes with handmade blankets to send to the troops.*

*A big thank you to Girl Scout Troop 848 and their leader Leslie Vinka for making 15 of the blankets.*



*And to Girl Scout Troop 1458 and their leader Linda Hendricks for making 5 blankets.*

*CLABSM also made 5 blankets the extra blankets were donated to the Veteran's Hospital.*

*Also, thank you to everyone who supplied material for the blankets. "These blankets were made with LOVE", as evident on all the girls faces!!*

**Nov 4**, was our monthly meeting, which was held at St. Lutheran's Church in Startzville. For our 20 troop boxes we sent our annual Texas Pecan Pies. Due to generous donations we were able to send 2 pies to each troop!!! Thank you to all who donate so we could send a little bit of Texas to our boys and girls.

**Nov 11**, we were busy with two different events to honor Veterans.

### **Veterans Day Parade** (Story by Donna Pool)

*It was a drizzly, damp day but that can't stop a parade! Several members of the*

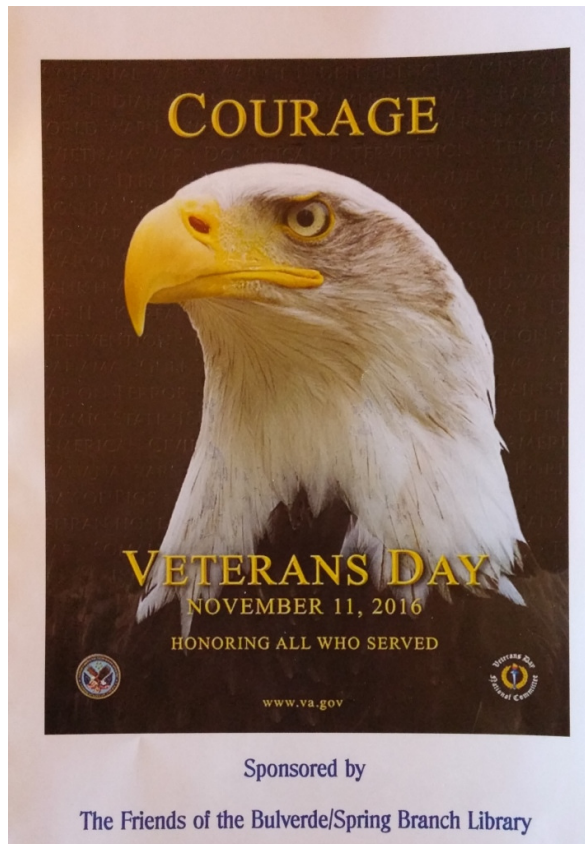


*CLABSM assembled along Hill Avenue in the early morning hours to join the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual New Braunfels Veterans Day Parade. As the procession began, members Denise May (U.S. flag) and Janet Brandt (POW-MIA flag) marched ahead of banner carriers Kathleen Fowl, Donna Pool, and Loretta Hehs. Wendell Pool also walked with the group. The group marched along San Antonio Street to the Veterans*

*Memorial at Prince Solms Park where the parade concluded in a prayer of remembrance.*

*The parade more than doubled its size over 2015 and with Veterans Day falling on a Saturday in 2017, it is expected to have an even larger turnout, and no doubt, CLABSM will be there.*

## **Veterans Day Ceremony** (Story by Donna Pool)



Once again, the Bulverde-Spring Branch Library invited CLABSM to attend their annual Veteran's Day Ceremony. Since it was being held in the afternoon and would not interfere with the New Braunfels parade, members Wendell & Donna Pool attended and were joined by Julie Weber. A display was set up for Wreaths Across America but garnered very little attention, likely due to its location at the back of the room.

The ceremony began with the presentation of colors by the Smithson Valley NJROTC Color Guard and was followed by the Remember our Heroes Wreath Presentation. After a musical presentation by the Smithson Valley Middle School band, attendees were invited indoors. Major Oscar Rodrigues Jr, USMC,

4<sup>th</sup>Reconnaissance Battalion was the guest speaker and delighted the audience with his stories. The Bill Brown Elementary School Trailblazer Choir (about 75 members) concluded the program with several beautiful patriotic numbers that brought tears to the eyes of most of the audience.

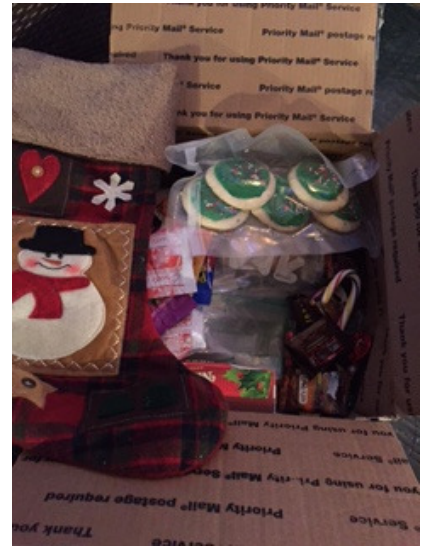
A reception hosted by the Friends of the Library was held afterwards in the Conference Room where a Tribute to Our Heroes video was shown and refreshments served. For those who have never attended this function, you should definitely put it on next years' calendar.

**Nov 15,** Mary Harrison and Becky Williams served dinner at the Fisher House. We served Lasagna, Salad, Bread and Brownies.



**Dec 3,** we held our monthly meeting at St. Lutheran's Church in Startzville and was our annual Christmas Cookie mailing to our troops we mailed 23 boxes full of Christmas cookies and Christmas Stockings.

Thank you to Rob & Sue Brown who supplied our Christmas Stockings.



After the meeting Mary & Eddie Harrison and their son Matthew went to Fisher House to decorate Christmas trees for the 4 houses.

**Dec 10,** Wendell Pool drove his Ranchero in the Sattler Christmas Parade with our CLABSM banner.

**Dec. 17,** some of us attended Wreaths Across America, it was a cold and rainy day but we managed to place wreaths at some of the gravesides. This year's theme was "Say Their Name" while placing the wreath we said each persons name to honor their sacrifice.



## **TROOP NEWS**

*Denise Mays was able to pin her son, Trevor, who was promoted to Staff Sergeant!!*



*On **Jan 2, 2017 Tyler Hazel** wrote:*

*“On behalf of everyone at the 389<sup>th</sup> EFS, I’d like to say thank you for sending us two pecan pies. They were a huge hit here, and there was some stiff competition for the last few pieces. Thank you for sending us a taste of home, and for continuing to support all of our deployed troops taking the fight to the enemy. The care packages that the CLABSM group sends help boost morale and give a bit of diversity to our otherwise mundane food choices.”*