

The Bandera PROPHEET

March 22, 2020

Bandera American Legion launches veteran Card Campaign

By Susan Junker
Special to the Prophet

On any given day, there are about 20 veterans in the two local nursing and rehabilitation facilities. Over half that number must now call those facilities “home.” The Bandera American Legion Auxiliary Unit 157 makes monthly visits to them providing necessary clothing and toiletry items, as well as homemade baked goods, treats and snacks. More importantly, they provide smiles and company.

Some of these veterans have outlived their families and their only visitors are often religious and veteran oriented non-profit organizations. “We are honored to have this opportunity. It is also our obligation to honor those who served for the freedoms and future we enjoy every day,” American Legion Auxiliary Unit 157 President Gerda Weathers said.

The current necessity of protecting them from COVID-19 means those visits are severely curtailed as these facilities are locked down. Items purchased and collected by the Auxiliary will still be delivered to the staff at Bandera and Cedar Creek Nursing and Rehabilitation Centers for distribution to our veterans. If you have questions regarding the types of needed items, please call Weathers at 830-796-7528 or 830-796-5687. Even in this current situation, more can be done to stem their isolation and recognize their contribution to our country and community. The Bandera American Legion and Auxiliary invite parents, students, homeschoolers to participate in a Card Campaign to make Virtual Visits a new reality! Cards, artwork, coloring book pages can be part of the curriculum during school closings and homebound days. Children of all ages, are invited to be creative and patriotic.

Items for our veterans can be dropped off at the Bandera American Legion Hall any Wednesday between 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. or call Susan (210-788-9160 or 830-796-7528) to arrange another day to deliver them. In addition, cards should be addressed to “MY VETERAN” and mailed to the Bandera Rehabilitation and Nursing Center at 222 RM-1077, Bandera, TX, 78003 and the Cedar Creek Rehabilitation and Nursing Center, P.O. Box 1569, Bandera, TX, 78003.

Patriotic comic books and gifts will be provided to all those who drop off cards.

Dennis Birchall, Commander, Post 157, said it well, “There is no end to this card campaign. There is no need for postponement. There is no date to stop showing our appreciation.”