



# THE BATTLE REPORT

San Jacinto Battleground/Battleship TEXAS State Historic Site

*"The purpose of this newsletter is to communicate the site's day-to-day natural and cultural resource management activities. Our goal is to inform and educate our staff, partners, and friends – and those we have yet to meet – Welcome!"*



5 NOVEMBER 2007 - 11 NOVEMBER 2007

## ***Proposition 4 Passes!!!!!!!!!!!!***

From Matt Hollis, Houston Community Newspaper

The Battleship TEXAS has participated in battles in the Pacific and Atlantic oceans, suffered a direct hit from an enemy shell and has even survived the brutal, natural elements that threatened to rust its fabled hulk. The historic dreadnought is the victor of another battle - voters have approved State Proposition 4 which includes \$25 million in funding for the restoration and permanent dry-berthing of the famed battleship. "This gives us a sense of validation after spending the last decade trying to preserve the ship," said Barry Ward, Battleship TEXAS Foundation executive director. "It is worthwhile to the people of Texas."

A \$25 million portion of the \$1 billion proposition goes toward completing long-term preservation of the battleship, including a new permanent berth. Plans include taking the ship out of the Houston Ship Channel so it is no longer exposed to corrosive seawater, and repairing, stabilizing and preserving it. "Instead of spending \$25 million every 10 years to preserve the battleship, we are going to spend \$25 million once. It is an action that makes sense." Ward said the ship has a cultural significance that has been in place since the ship was berthed in the channel in 1948.

"It is a tangible part of history," Ward said. "She began her career in the early days of flight and ended it in the nuclear age. She is the last battleship of her type left in the entire world. The battleship is a tool for future generations to come and see a piece of history that will exist for ages." He also said the Battleship TEXAS Foundation is committed to the legislation matching with private funding \$4 million to the \$25 allotted from the proposition.

Other aspects of Proposition 4 include transforming the former slave trader's compound at the Levi-Jordan Plantation into the first state historic site focused exclusively on interpreting the African-American experience. It also funds repairs at the Varner-Hogg Plantation. The San Jacinto Battleground also receives \$435,750 for water/wastewater system repairs. Sea Rim State Park, damaged and closed since Hurricane Rita in 2005, receives \$1,017,810 from the proposition and the Sabine Pass Battleground is going to be made accessible to people with disabilities.

# Reveille



## *BB35 participates in Veterans Day Parade*

Photos by Kenneth Grubb

The Battleship TEXAS gun trailer rolled through the streets of downtown Houston in the “Salute to Heroes” parade for Veterans Day. First Texas Volunteers Bob Sullivan, Bob Lunsford, and Bill Werzner manned the gun

for the parade. An estimated 10,000 people lined the parade route. There were more than 120 entries in the parade, including bands, JROTC units, and military vehicles of all kinds.





# Morning Maneuvers

## *New Park Hosts Al & Joan Hemke*

Photo by Barbara Graf

Al and Joan Hemke returned to San Jacinto for another tour at our favorite park. Al is a 20 year Navy veteran and Joan is a retired secretary and paralegal. They have

2 daughters, 3 grandchildren and call Bartlett, Tennessee home. When he's not hard at work, Al enjoys collecting trains and woodworking. Joan enjoys cross stitching, knitting and quilting.



## *Correction in last weeks lead story*

In last week's story on the appointment of George "Trey" Strake III to the San Jacinto Historical Advisory Board, it was incorrectly stated that Mr. Strake appointed as Chairman. While he is replacing Jeff Dunn, who has served as Chairman since 2000, the board elects its own Chairman. Mr. Strake was appointed to the board as a public member.

# Scuttlebutt

## *Tx-DOT spruces up the park*

Photos by Barbara Graf and Ken Grubb

Thanks to Tx-DOT, San Jacinto has a brand new parking lot for visitors to our park headquarters. They also blacktopped the road leading into the maintenance compound. Great Job!!!



## *Park Residence gets some TLC*

Photos by Barbara Graf

Our park residence got some badly needed care this week. Bill Butts and Randy Graf spent Tuesday scrubbing the trailer from top to bottom. On Wednesday, park volunteer Tom Greene added a back porch and steps. The trailer serves as the residence for one of our park police officers.



Nice job, Tom!



Bill Butts and Randy Graf scrubbin' away

# Meet the Staff

## *Monument Park Ranger III Grant Nibel*

Every park has someone who can do just about anything, and Grant certainly fits that description for our park. Grant spent many years keeping roller coasters running at Astroworld, Grant's been with TPWD for almost 3 years. He's a graduate of Livermore High School in California and calls Channelview home. When he's not hard at work in the park, Grant enjoys motorcycle racing. So, whether it's fixing a hydraulic leak on the gun trailer or snapping a picture for your favorite newsletter, Grant gets the job done!



## Ship's Store Showcase



### **Deck the Halls with San Jacinto**

Battleship TEXAS/  
Monument/Texas Flag  
Ornament

**\$7.99**

# On the Horizon...



## Upcoming Events

Nov. 17 - Restoration Work Day for FTV. 8:00am - 5:00pm

Nov. 17 - Hard Hat Tour aboard BB-35

Nov. 22 - Thanksgiving Day. Park closed.

Dec. 1 - Yuletide TEXAS begins.

Dec. 22nd - Santa's Swingin' 40's Christmas aboard BB-35

## **Words of Wisdom**

“ I was working on the proof of one of my poems all the morning, and took out a comma. In the afternoon...I put it back again.”

- Oscar Wilde  
Irish author  
and playwright



## This Week in History

### Nov. 5

1863 - Pendleton Murrah becomes Gov. when Francis Lubbock resigns the office to fight the Yanks

1945 - BB-35 leaves Pearl Harbor during “Magic Carpet”

### Nov. 6

1970 - actor, “Ethan Hawke” was born in Austin, Texas

### Nov. 7

1876 - Mason County’s “Hoodoo War” ends with the arrest of two men

2000 - Gov. George W. Bush elected 43<sup>rd</sup> President of the United States

### Nov. 8

1923 - H. Knickerbocker witnesses Hitler’s beer hall *putsch* & begins writing; leads to a Pulitzer Prize

1942 - “Voice of Freedom” radio broadcast by General Dwight D. Eisenhower

### Nov. 9

1881 - Texas State Capitol is destroyed by fire

### Nov. 10

1914 - Houston Ship Channel opens

1942 - BB-35 fires 214, 14” shells in North Africa invasion

### Nov. 11

1918 - Armistice declared; BB-35 is in Firth of Forth, Scotland

# Parting Shot

## *What's so Special about Nov. 11th?*

Every year, when the calendar reaches the eleventh day of November, the nation pauses to give thanks to those who put their lives on the line for our country. A 5th grader in my wife's class asked her why is Veterans day always on Nov. 11th. Not knowing the answer, she brought the questions home to her historian husband.



The story of Veterans Day began at 11:00am on Nov. 11, 1918. On that day, an armistice was reached between Allied forces and the German Empire ending "The Great War". The next year, President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed the first Armistice Day saying, "To us in America, the reflections of armistice Day will be filled with solemn pride in the heroism of those who died in the country's service and with gratitude for the victory, both because of the thing from which it has freed us and because of the opportunity it has given America to show her sympathy with peace and justice in the councils of the nations..."

Throughout the 20's and 30's, the president issued an annual proclamation calling for the observance of Armistice Day. Congress, in 1938, officially adopts legislation declaring Nov. 11 a federal holiday. Three years later, the United States would be plunged into World War II. In 1958, President Eisenhower changed Armistice Day to Veterans Day, to include all veterans. The official federal legislation establishing Veterans Day on November 11th was passed by Congress in 1978.



So, on this Veterans Day and every other day, thank you for your service and your sacrifice to our country.

*God Bless America*