

## Post 43 hosts national commander

American Legion National Commander Paul E. Dillard of Texas visited American Legion Post 43 in Mountain View Wednesday during a state tour culminating in a Veterans Day ceremony at MacArthur Park in Little Rock on Thursday, along with a trip to the WWII B-29 Memorial in Sheridan.

During his one-hour visit at the Legion post he spoke about the number of veterans lost each year to suicide (currently 18-22 per day), and he encouraged support of legislation known as the Buddy Check Bill, which would result in veterans getting monthly check-in calls from Veterans Administration staff. About half of veterans are not in the VA healthcare system and making contact with them – especially in the first 12 months after they transition to



Dillard, right, presents Post 43 Commander Tom Egger with memorabilia marking his visit.

civilian life – is critical, he told the *Leader*. The VA initiated a program to reach those veterans, and it will be a time before there are measurable results.

Dillard said many Gulf War veterans feel abandoned and may not feel a sense of accomplishment. He said he wants to assure them that they did, and that

they have kept the war off American soil.

He also spoke in support of a waiver of the "means test" for WWII veterans, of which about 280,000 are still living. This would make all WWII veterans eligible for VA health care regardless of income. Dillard said that while WWII vets are now at least 94 years old and may already have health care needs covered, it's an honor to them to have this status, which has been granted previous to other war-era veterans.

Dillard traveled with Kirk Williams, Department of Arkansas historian; Mary Erdman, member of the Legion's national executive committee; Bob Renner, Department of Arkansas adjutant; Kevin Caldwell, Department of Arkansas commander; and Walter Ivey, aide.

## Trash schedule altered

The city of Mountain View Sanitation Department will close Nov. 25-26 for the Thanksgiving holiday. Trash pickup for Nov. 25 will be Nov. 24 and pickup for Nov. 26 will be Nov. 29.

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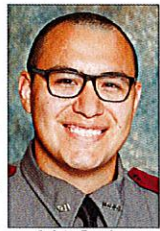
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## Patrolman completes training course

Patrolman Calvin Ramirez of the Mountain View Police Department was one of 47 officers who successfully completed the Basic Police Training Course 2021-B at the BRTC Law Enforcement Training Academy in Pocahontas.

The Basic Police Training program is a course of study consisting of 593 hours of classroom and lab experience as accredited by the Arkansas Commission on Law Enforcement Standards and Training (CLEST). Upon successful completion of this pro-



Calvin Ramirez

gram, law enforcement students meet statutory training requirements and are eligible for state certification as law enforcement officers. Each graduating officer maintained a minimum academic score of 70 percent, and consistently fired at 80 percent accuracy during firearms training exercises to successfully complete all phases of the course.

The Fall 2021 LETA graduation ceremony was held on Friday,

November 12 at 1 p.m. in the Randolph County Development Center on the Pocahontas campus. Jami Cook, Secretary of the Arkansas Department of Public Safety and Director of the Commission on Law Enforcement Standards and Training (CLEST) addressed the graduating class.

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