

## Eli Lamar Whiteley American Legion Post 228

1530 Sun City Blvd.  
Suite 120, Box 444  
Georgetown Texas, 78633

Eli Lamar Whiteley was a Medal of Honor winner from the Korean War. American Legion Post 228 approved, by a 100% vote, to spend the money required to purchase a brick with his name, branch of service, and the words Medal of Honor engraved on it. His brick was placed in the walkway at the [Veterans Memorial Plaza](#) in Sun City, Georgetown, Texas.

Per our constitution, the membership voted again to not have a post home, bar, or restaurant. We are located within a retirement community of some 25,000 persons. As of the 1st of January 2023, our membership was 70 Legionnaires. By December 31st, 2023 our membership grew to 124 members. Of these numbers, we average 63 members per meeting, our average age is still 68, and participation at an event is approximately 80%. The staff is currently functioning at 100% with an assistant as a backup for each position.

Post 228 continues to maintain a partnership with the Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps (JROTC) program in the Georgetown Independent School District. We provide them with a guest speaker for two days each month. In May of 2023, we presented 4 college bound cadets with four \$1000 scholarships.

The US Flag retirement ceremony continues monthly. Currently, we are utilizing the Sun City Legacy outdoor pavilion fireplace. The Sun City community has been invited on two occasions and in 2024 we expect an increase in community participation. We have the ceremony narrated so that everyone can hear what is being said.

A highlight of 2023 for Post 228 when the CEO of [Honor Flight Austin](#) gave a presentation at the March 2023 post meeting and stated that he would like to have an Honor Flight from Sun City. Approximately 2 weeks later, 48 applications were delivered to their office, 38 of those 48 applications made the trip to Washington DC during the month of May. The remaining 10 made the flight during the month of June 2023.

April 20, 2023, we had a member appreciation bar-b-que. It was a success.

Our post donated a gas grill to the [William R. Courtney State Veterans Home](#) in Temple, Tx and conducted a cookout there for July 4 and Oct 31.

The post continues to be very active within Sun City. Our partnership with the Kiwanis Club has increased and we continue to set up 700 chairs for Veteran's Day and Memorial Day services here in Sun City. We provided major assistance to the Kiwanis semiannual garage sales. Not only did we help pick up, sort, and relocate all of the items that Sun City donates to this garage sale but we also provided 31 Legionnaires to assist in the sale. This garage sale covers an area of a 300-automobile parking lot and it is done twice a year. The Kiwanis Club now has established a line entry in their budget, providing post 228 with \$1000 per year to send a qualifying boy or girl to the state competition each summer. Other than the \$1000 per year given to post 228, all of the profits that the Kiwanis make are utilized for various youth programs in Williamson County.

In November of 2023, 40 members of the post were involved in the Salvation Army's Ring the Bell program.

The Sunday after Thanksgiving, members of the post again went to the [Central Texas State Veterans Cemetery](#) and helped place wreaths on more than 14,000 graves of our

departed brothers and sisters. Legion members will also go back in January to help remove the wreaths from the graves.

We had a Christmas luncheon 1 December and over 94 members and guests were present along with a visit by Santa.

The post has two Veteran Service Officers and during 2023 those two Legionnaires have assisted more than 80 members and non-members with their VA applications for compensation. Several of those who were assisted have already received notification that their disabilities were increased up to 100%. This continues to be a viable program for post 228.

The post continues to assist members and non-members who desire to be buried in the [Central Texas State Veterans Cemetery](#) to complete their worksheets and deliver them to the administrative office at the cemetery. We also continue to assist the widow or widower from the time of death to the time of burial. Once the widow or widower has the time and the date of internment, we contact the appropriate branch of service to provide honors if they are warranted. On average, 40 or more Legionnaires attend the unaccompanied burials of a veteran.

In 2023 the post sponsored two young men to attend Boys

State in Austin, TX. In 2024 we are hoping to sponsor four young men to Boys State and two young women to Girls State. The females will be sponsored by our new post auxiliary which currently has 25 members. All of the auxiliary's documentation was sent to the appropriate offices of the American Legion and are waiting for their temporary charter.

The post currently has two color guards consisting of eight people for the men and four for the female. In 2023 we were requested a total of twelve times; we completed a color guard performance for the Governor of Texas. The color guard also presented and dedicated to the Grand Living Retirement Community an American and Texas flag. A stand for each was provided so they could be permanently displayed in their auditorium. The color guard also conducted the opening ceremonies at the Williamson County Veteran Christmas luncheon.

We continue to be written in the Sun Rays Magazine, a Sun City publication. During 2023 we averaged 11 of the 12 months having a photograph of our post on different occasions.

Our post is dedicated to serving veterans whether they are members of our post or not. In 2024 we hope to increase our

visibility within Sun City. The Post has 12,080 hours of volunteering within and in the vicinity.

More information the about [Eli Lamar Whiteley American Legion Post 228](#) along with pictures of the many activities and events sponsored or supported by the membership can be found on our website at <https://deb561.wixsite.com/legionpost228>.