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John Hince, the 6th District Commander of the American Legion for Texas will be the guest speaker at the City of Burleson's sixth annual Military Veteran Tribute on Saturday, Nov. 10. The 6th District includes Post #235 in Burleson. The ceremony is at 2 p.m. at Veterans Memorial Park, 298 E. Renfro St. The focus this year is on Purple Heart recipients and those warriors who were wounded in combat.

The commander is a native of Springdale, Penn., just outside of Pittsburgh. He is a 1968 distinguished military graduate of the Virginia Military Institute in Lexington, Va. Hince was active duty, 1969-1973. He served in Vietnam, 1970-1970, as a United States Army fixed wing pilot. After the military, Hince spent 32 years as a teacher, coach and school administrator. He retired to Texas in 2005. He has been married to Ret. Col. Gerry Hince, United States Army, for 40 years.

Hince and his wife have three sons. Their oldest, John, is deceased. The two surviving sons are in the military. They are Matthew, an Air Force veteran serving four years with one tour in Afghanistan; and Peter, an Air Force active duty who has done four tours in the Middle East as a C-130 Navigator with 800 combat hours. On Nov. 16, the commander will pin the wings on son Peter as an Air Force pilot. Peter will fly C-17s out of Charleston, South Carolina.

The service and sacrifices of military veterans will be honored during the City's sixth annual Military Veteran Tribute. A monument will be dedicated to Purple Heart recipients. Mayor Ken Shetter will emcee the tribute.

The Burleson Police Department's Honor Guard will provide the firing party, followed by "Taps." The ceremony includes the "National Anthem," a musical ensemble and "Salute to the Armed Forces" by Brandi Jibe; "Amazing Grace" by bagpiper Steve Pruitt; and the posting of the colors by the Burleson Fire Department Honor Guard. The Burleson ROTC will present the ceremonial wreath. Members of the Johnson County Emergency Services District honor guard will also be in attendance. The Burleson Lions Club will give out free hot dogs and drinks.

Veterans Memorial Park is a City-owned park that includes a fountain surrounded by bricks engraved with the names of local service members, the bronze eagle and Purple Heart memorial that were unveiled in 2009; the names of veterans from World War I, World War II, Korea and Vietnam from the Johnson County Veterans Monument that were added in 2010; and the POW monument added in 2011. The park was dedicated to the City in 2009 by Rocky Branson and Jim Garrett of B&G Development.