



# SALUTE

A Detachment of Kansas Newsletter

**Date: November 2024**

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## **National SAL Commander Visit to Kansas!**

The National Commander of The Sons of The American Legion, Joseph Navarrete, will be visiting Kansas for the Big Red 1 Turkey Run. Commander Navarrete will be flying into Manhattan, Ks. On Friday the 15<sup>th</sup> of November and will depart on the 17<sup>th</sup> of November.



During his stay we will keep him as active as possible to show him what true Kansas hospitality is all about. On Friday the 15<sup>th</sup> we will first find a great place for lunch. For Supper on Friday evening, we will be eating at the Brookville Hotel in Abilene. We will check-in to the Holiday Inn Express in Abilene on Friday and stay there through the weekend. I hope everyone will be joining us for supper.

Saturday morning, we will head to Fort Riley and The Big Red 1 Turkey Run. We will spend the day serving the families of Fort Riley and again show Commander Navarrete how we in Kansas take care of the families of our active-duty military.

Once we leave Fort Riley, we will then head back to Abilene and take a Dinner Ride on The Abilene and Smokey Valley Railroad. They are serving a German meal that evening. Once we are done with the evening dinner we will then return to the Holiday Inn Express where everyone can spend time with Commander Navarrete.

**Please contact Terry Harris @ 620-910-7998 or Wyanette Harris @ 620-285-9152 if you have any questions. Remember, the dinner at the Brookville Hotel is open to everyone. Please let us know if you are able to attend so we can make the reservation. Hope to hear from you by November 1, 2024**

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## Message from the Detachment Commander

Greetings Kansas Sons of the American Legion!

Commander Joseph Navarrete will be visiting Kansas, and this is quite an honor! Commander Joseph Navarrete's slogan for his term is "Honoring our heritage" – this is something that we should all take to heart as we work for the good of the American Legion Family!



This is a busy time of year with events happening almost every week. As we go about our work, always remember what we are all about. The American Legion Four Pillars gives focus to our great organization - Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation, National Security, Americanism, and Children & Youth. We are strong when the entire American Legion family works together for our common principles!

This month's SALute has many great articles from our SAL leadership. Please take time to check out this month's publication!

Jim Gallentine  
Detachment of Kansas Commander

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## Message from the Detachment Vice Commander

HELLO, KANSAS SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION!!!!

Fall is here, the leaves are turning, and the weather has been beautiful. I can't wait to see what your squadrons are doing for Halloween, Veteran's Day, and Thanksgiving. Then Christmas is right around the corner, it always blows my mind on how generous the SAL is!



Did you know Legion Insurance Trust (LIT) established in 1966 provides free accidental death insurance with your SAL membership? This link <https://www.thelit.com/no-cost-legioncare/> will get you signed up, and then as long as your membership doesn't lapse you have it. Another cool thing that came across my email this week is the Legion+ app. It is a great way to get up to date information about what is happening, and you can even recruit new members right from the app. If you have trouble finding it in your app store search for "American Legion membership app."

According to the membership report we are steadily rising and keeping up with Nationals goals. With 2 months left of 2024 we need to get them renewals rolling. I wouldn't want anyone to lose their membership benefits.

Congratulations to these 100% Squadrons

|                      |                |
|----------------------|----------------|
| Lyndon #125          | Ellsworth #113 |
| Dodge City #47       | Frankfort #181 |
| Derby-Haysville #408 | McCraken #59   |
| Sublette #205        | Linn #237      |

It is getting awful late in the year to still have goose eggs, and we still have 42 squadrons with no 2025 membership transmitted. If you need any help at all, please reach out, (mwksal@outlook.com). I'm willing to help any way I can. Our Detachment website (salkansas.org) is a good source of information and training. I can't stress this enough that your District and Detachment officers are here to help you.

We lose roughly 800 members every year for lack of renewals. I can't express how important it is to reach out to these members and show them that they matter. The goal for this year is 95% renewal and we can reach it if we all work together!

#SALSTRONG

Detachment of Kansas Vice-Commander Matthew Krupco

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### Message from the Detachment Adjutant

Greetings, Kansas Sons!

This month brings the **Big Red One Turkey Run** at Fort Riley. For those that are planning to attend, here's the base access info:

Visitors requiring a pass for access to Fort Riley can now apply for passes online. The online pass application is available at: [HTTPS://PASS.AIE.ARMY.MIL](https://pass.aie.army.mil). The online pass process can only be utilized by personnel who are US citizens, have a valid state issued REAL ID-compliant driver's license or ID, and have a mobile phone.

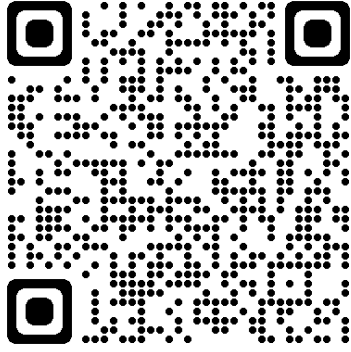


After vetting, visitors will be sent a text informing them if their visit has been approved or denied. Visitors with a REAL ID-compliant driver's license or identification card may proceed to any of Fort Riley's access control points to be scanned for access. Passes will **NOT** be sent via email to the visitor.

Passes may be requested no more than 30 days in advance and are only valid for the purpose of the visit (not to exceed a maximum of 7 days). Online pass applications are only processed during Visitor Control Center operating hours. It is recommended that visitors submit pass applications 24 hours in advance of their planned visit.

State-issued driver's license and identification cards marked, "Not for Federal Identification, Not for Federal Purposes, Federal Limits May Apply" or similar wording will require a secondary ID to access Fort Riley. If you do not have a secondary ID you'll be denied unescorted access, or you'll have to be escorted by an adult DoD Sponsor.

You can use the link above, or scan this QR Code with your mobile phone:



### **Current Legislation to Support:**

Last month I mentioned signing up to support the American Legion's Legislative Agenda via Voter Voice. You can sign up [here](#), or at <https://www.votervoicenet.com/AmericanLegion/home>.

There are several current legislative items to support – here are a couple to consider:

### **Guard and Reserve GI Bill Parity Act of 2024**

From protecting our borders and state capitals to delivering pandemic aid, supporting local law enforcement, and serving in combat, National Guard and Reserve servicemembers have been increasingly called upon to confront unique challenges. They often leave their families and civilian employers for lengthy periods of time, sometimes taking significant pay cuts. Yet, despite all we ask of them and all they contribute, they are often denied a cornerstone benefit of service: the GI Bill.

Despite the expanding roles of Guardsmen and Reservists, the V.A. recognizes little of their service. Currently, National Guard and Reserve servicemembers only earn credit toward their Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits when they mobilize and deploy for federal missions. National Guard and Reserve servicemembers activated under state orders do not accrue eligibility for Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits.

H.R. 7543 – *the Guard and Reserve GI Bill Parity Act of 2024* is crucial to rectifying this inequity. It proposes to count every day spent on weekend drills, annual training, attending military school, participating in an exercise, or responding to a disaster toward GI Bill eligibility.

The American Legion firmly believes that every day in uniform counts. Guardsmen and Reservists who serve alongside their Active-Duty counterparts deserve the same GI Bill eligibility.

The American Legion urges you to contact your members of Congress today and encourage them to pass the Guard and Reserve GI Bill Parity Act!

### **Major Richard Star Act**

We need your support to ensure the Major Richard Star Act receives a floor vote in the Senate!

Currently, combat-injured veterans face a reduction in their retirement pay for every dollar of disability compensation they receive.

The Major Richard Star Act aims to rectify this by allowing combat-injured veterans to receive both their earned retirement pay and disability compensation without offset.

Your action in advancing this crucial legislation is essential and greatly appreciated. Contact your Senators today!

Chris Krueger  
Adjutant - Detachment of Kansas  
Sons of The American Legion

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## Programs of The American Legion

Now is the time to get into the schools to talk about all of the youth programs that The American Legion has to offer. Last month we wrote about The Oratorical contest. This month we will be visiting the Cadet Law Program.

High school students interested in law enforcement will have the opportunity this summer to see what law enforcement training and careers are like through the Cadet Law Enforcement Academy program. The Cadet Law program is hosted by the Patrol and sponsored by the American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary. Cadet Law is tentatively scheduled for June 15-June 20, 2025.



Cadet Law gives young men and women the opportunity to learn about the duties, training, and discipline that go along with a career in law enforcement. Students will learn a great deal about leadership, and about coming together as a team.

“KHP has a great relationship with the American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary. By working together, this program gives us the opportunity to help high school students understand and appreciate the law enforcement field. While at the Kansas Highway Patrol Training Academy, they will get the opportunity to experience some of the training that law enforcement officers receive,” said Captain Candice Breshears.

Students at Cadet Law are instructed by KHP Troopers who will help develop and encourage the students, mentoring them throughout the week of Cadet Law.

Cadet Law participants will experience classroom instruction, and the real-world activities of a Trooper. Cadets will go to the firing range and practice pursuit driving at the driving range. They will also get the opportunity to ride with the Patrol’s pilots in agency aircraft and see presentations from the Patrol’s canine handlers. Physical training and attention to detail are both emphasized throughout the duration of the program.

To be eligible to attend Cadet Law, students must be a high school student entering their Senior year or a student that has just graduated. They must also have a “C+” academic average and be deemed medically fit to participate in all activities. Students will need to fill out an application to attend, including writing a brief essay on why they would like to participate in the program. Applications are due by March 31, 2023. There is a \$50 application fee for the cadet. A Local American Legion Post or



American Legion Auxiliary Post provides the \$300 sponsorship fee for the student. Lodging, food, and uniform are provided for the week. More information and the application for Cadet Law can be found here: <https://kansashighwaypatrol.gov/wwsj>.

Terry Harris Alternate NEC

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## 2024 Vice Commander Homecoming

The Vice Commander homecoming was a great success! The leadership of the Kansas American Legion Family is in good hands!

American Legion Vice Commander George Honn

American Legion Auxiliary Vice President Kristen Hensley

Sons of the American Legion Vice Commander Matthew Krupco



**AMERICAN  
LEGION**  
**FAMILY  
HOMECOMING**

**HONORING:**  
**GEORGE HONN – LEGION DEPARTMENT VICE-COMMANDER**  
**KRISTEN HENSLEY – AUXILIARY DEPARTMENT VICE-PRESIDENT**  
**MATTHEW KRUPCO – SAL DETACHMENT VICE-COMMANDER**

**October 12, 2024**  
**11:30am (Immediately following the Eisenhower Pilgrimage)**  
**Greyhound Hall of Fame**  
**407 S Buckeye Ave, Abilene, KS 67410**



- Photos by Dolores Gallentine

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### **SALute Editor Notes**

Submission deadline for for the SALute is the 20th of each month.

We are always looking for articles about the many good things that the SAL does. If your squadron has had a special event, please send that information to us!

Please email submissions to [det.cmdr.ks@gmail.com](mailto:det.cmdr.ks@gmail.com)

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### **Reports**

#### **Consolidated Squadron Report (CSR)**

This is due July 1st, yearly. If you have not turned in your CSR, please do so ASAP.  
The form is located here: <https://salkansas.org/resources>

#### **Squadron Data Report (SDR)**

This is due April 15, yearly. If you have not turned in your SDR, please do so ASAP. The SDR is necessary to enable online transmittals.

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### **Up-Coming Events**

#### District Homecomings

2024-11-16 D10 Marysville, KS

#### Department Events

2024-11-16 Big Red One Turkey Run

2024-12-07 Operation North Pole

2024-12-14 Department Holiday Party

2025-01-31 Mid-Winter Conference - Great Bend, KS

#### National Conventions:

2025-08-22 National Convention - Tampa Bay, FL

2026-08-28 National Convention - Louisville, Kentucky

2027-08-28 National Convention - Kansas City, Missouri

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### **Websites and Resources**

KS SAL Detachment Website: <https://salkansas.org/>

KS SAL Detachment Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/kansassal/>

National SAL Website: <https://legion.org/sons>

National SAL Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/americanlegionsons>

National American Legion Website: <https://www.legion.org/>  
Membership Online Renewal Website: <https://mylegion.org/PersonifyEbusiness/Membership/Renew>  
KS ALR Website: <https://kansasalr.com>

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### **SAL Kansas Detachment Officers**

Commander: Jim Gallentine (785) 874-8727 [det.cmdr.ks@gmail.com](mailto:det.cmdr.ks@gmail.com)  
Vice Commander: Matt Krupco (620) 224-7355 [mwksal@outlook.com](mailto:mwksal@outlook.com)  
Adjutant: Chris Kreuger  
Finance: Michael Saindon  
Master At Arms: Michael Weber  
Master At Arms: Jeff Kerns  
NEC: Doug Evans  
ALT-NEC: Terry Harris  
Chaplain: Greg Thompson  
Historian: Josiah Wakley  
Asst. Adjutant: Gaylord Sanneman  
Judge Advocate: Gerald Hammerschmidt

Department SAL Committee: Doug Hensley  
Department SAL Committee: Joseph Hulse  
Department SAL Committee: Dave Warnken  
Department Advisor to the Detachment: Dan Wiley

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### **SAL Kansas District Officers**

#### District 1

Commander: Jeff Kerns [blkcldkerns@yahoo.com](mailto:blkcldkerns@yahoo.com) 785-559-0771 Cell  
Vice Commander: Steve Christenberry 785-296-9400  
Adjutant: Kevin D Funk [kfunk2407@gmail.com](mailto:kfunk2407@gmail.com) 785-554-0193

#### District 2

Commander: Rick Miller [salsquadron153olathe@outlook.com](mailto:salsquadron153olathe@outlook.com) (931) 449-1551  
Vice Commander: John Reed [jdreed210@gmail.com](mailto:jdreed210@gmail.com) (913) 206-5857  
Adjutant: Troy Shields [troyshields1@hotmail.com](mailto:troyshields1@hotmail.com) 913-908-3446

#### District 3

Commander: Ronnie Rommel [ronnie.rommel72@gmail.com](mailto:ronnie.rommel72@gmail.com) 620-660-5828 Cell  
Vice Commander: David Williams [dc58williams@outlook.com](mailto:dc58williams@outlook.com) 620-432-1605 Cell  
Adjutant: Jimmie Trenary 620-506-7720

#### District 4

Commander: Open  
Vice Commander: Open  
Adjutant: Open



District 5

Commander: Dan McDowell djmcdowell84@gmail.com (316) 640-7284

Vice Commander: Dale Theisen szmowing482@gmail.com (316) 832-5139

Adjutant: Mike Saindon mjsaindon@gmail.com (316) 993-6416

District 6

Commander: Kelly Pflughoeft kamep5@yahoo.com 785-531-0857

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Adjutant: Kelly Pflughoeft kamep5@yahoo.com 785-531-0857

District 7

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Vice Commander: Bob Deister deister211@gmail.com 620-727-7642

Adjutant: Chris Krueger

District 8

Commander: Michael Weber spidercreek220@gmail.com 620-430-0651 Cell

Vice Commander: Payton Weber Patyonweber@icloud.com 620-789-1788

Adjutant: Ty Weber tyweber510@gmail.com 980-447-3540

District 9

Commander: Monte Lewis montemegg57@gmail.com 785-269-7224 Cell

Vice Commander: James Vap sjvap@yahoo.com 785-462-3493

Adjutant: Jim Gallentine jim.gallentine@gmail.com 785-874-8727 Cell

District 10

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Adjutant: Brett Ohlsen brett.ohlsenbackhoe@yahoo.com 785-336-2811

District 11

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Vice Commander: John Trotter johnet3@gmail.com 785-280-1215

Adjutant: Jace Phillips bightmeagain2@yahoo.com 309-642-3161 Cell