

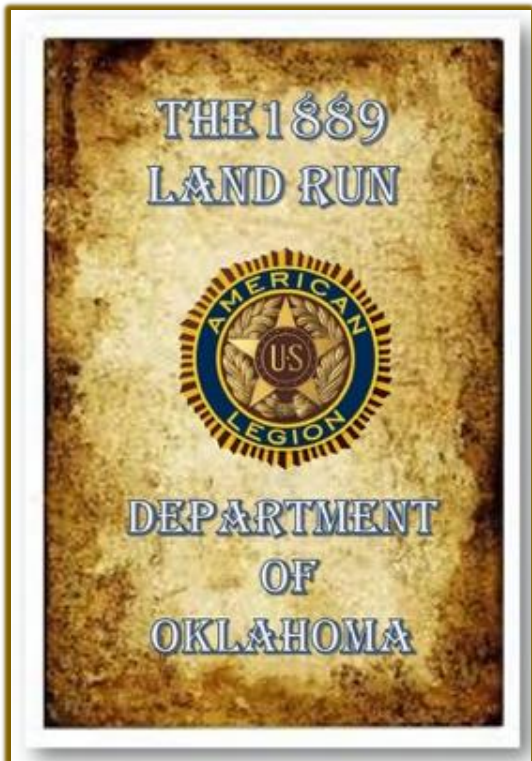
THE 1889 LAND RUN

DEPARTMENT OF OKLAHOMA
AMERICAN LEGION NEWSLETTER
14TH EDITION, MARCH 1ST, 2023



****State Headquarters
has moved****

Post 12
6101 NW 50th St,
Warr Acres, OK 73122

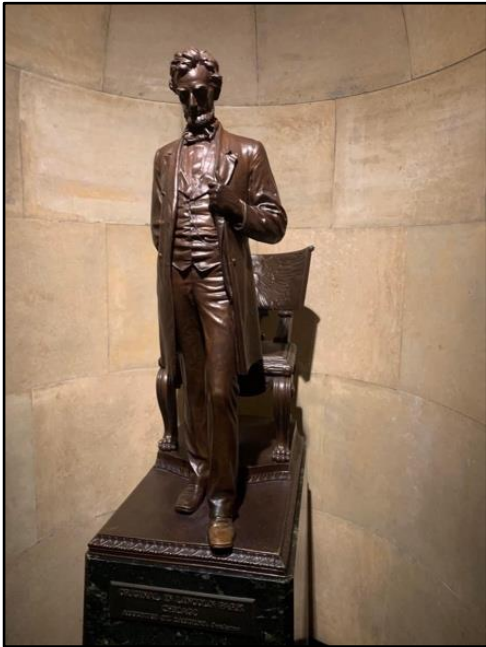


Department Commander Addresses Tinker Air Force Association (AFA)

State Commander, Jim Quinn spoke to the Tinker AFB Gerrity Chapter of the Air Force & Space Association at American Legion Post 73 in Del City on February 14th. Jim served in the United States Air Force. The chapter is one of the largest in all the AFA.

Department Commander's Corner

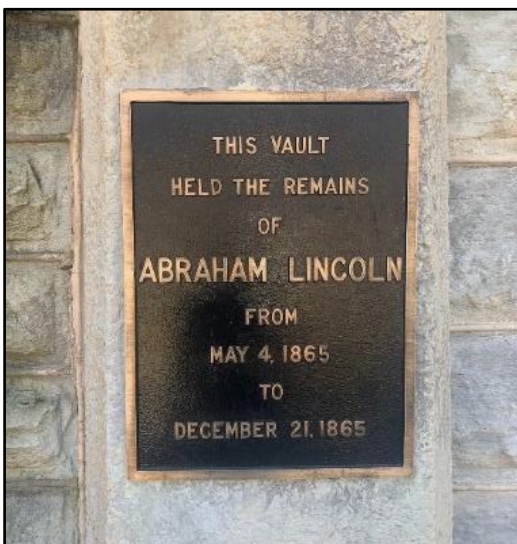
Jim F. Quinn

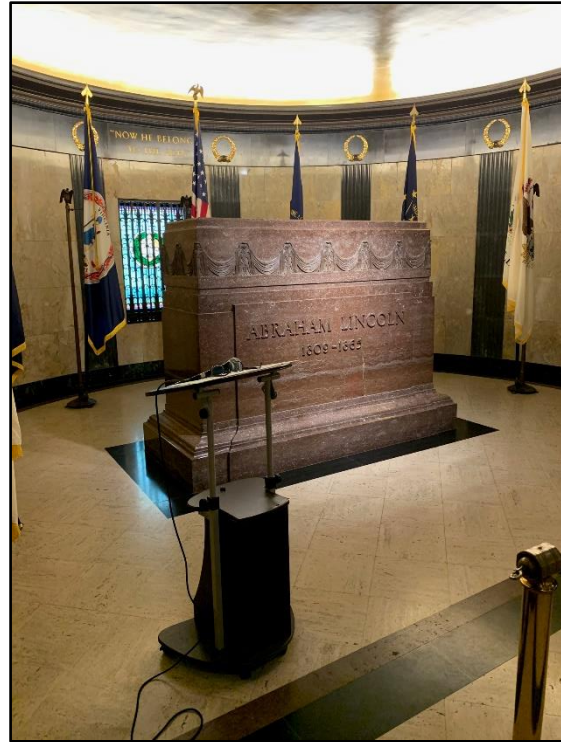


Post 32, Springfield, Illinois, invited the Department of Oklahoma Leadership to participate in the 89th Annual Lincoln Pilgrimage February 11-12. The Post that boasts being from Lincoln's hometown has hosted this event since 1934. In attendance from the Department of Oklahoma was Gayle Keene, President, The American Legion Auxiliary; Department of Oklahoma, James Keene, Commander, The American Legion District 4A Department of Oklahoma and (Auxiliary First Husband), Tim Smith, NEC; The American Legion, Department of Oklahoma, Traci Smith, NEC; The American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Oklahoma; and Jim Quinn, Commander, The American Legion, Department of Oklahoma. Patricia Harris, National Vice Commander, The American Legion represented the National Commander due to his illness. The Department Commander of Illinois, Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska and Wisconsin were also in attendance. The National Auxiliary President and the National Commander of the Sons of the American Legion along

with the National Vice Commander spoke at the reception Saturday February 11. They also spoke at the breakfast Sunday morning February 12 before the wreath laying at Lincoln's tomb and at the luncheon after the wreath laying. It was an honor to participate in the tribute to our 16th President.

The First Class of The American Legion, Department of Oklahoma, Legion College is March 17-19 at Tinker AFB. Slots are still available <http://okamlegion.org> for details.





Department of Oklahoma HQ Move

The Department of Oklahoma American Legion had to move out of their Jim Thorpe Building by 1 March 2023. The process of finding a new home has been worked out with the winning location being the Annex located at Post 12, in Bethany – Warr Acres, located at 6101 NW 50th St, Warr Acres, OK 73122. The move took place on 15 Feb.

For God and Country
Jim F. Quinn
The American Legion
Department of Oklahoma
Commander

Senior Vice Commander For God and Country Brett Martin

Is your Post doing all it can do to get your Post Membership Up? Maybe? Maybe Not!

Maybe declining numbers is the symptom, not the disease. The disease is lack of meaningful activities that people see value in. IE, lack of meaningful post activities to attract/retain people.

(Meaningful=provides value to people and communities)

Should we be rewarding meaningful post activities? Not just meeting/exceeding membership goal numbers? Maybe, something we need to have a round table about and kick ideas back and forth.

How to track meaningful post activities? What does your Post do to bring value.

Membership should be more than Transactional. I.E. They paid their dues, and you hand them their membership card. The Post needs activities that are meaningful for your members and your community.

Successful and growing numbers correlation to meaningful post activities?

- Post activities leading to exponential growth?
- Is anyone keeping track of reasons for exponential growth/which posts?
- Meaningful post activities BKM (Best known Methods) knowledge base?
- How to promote community leadership/involvement through post activities?
- Posts as a pillar in community. **(If your post closed tomorrow would local community know/care?)** What do metrics really show? Measurement of effective leadership and meaningful post activities?
- If you community does not know the American Legion exist. That Post is in trouble.
- How to turn meaningful post activities into community involvement/support (2-way street)?
- “Because of our volunteerism, we can give more value to the community than just the \$\$\$ of donations.”
- (Time vs. money value statement...Time is more valuable than \$\$\$)

Bottom Line: The Post must make the member feel they are getting value for their membership dues.

**For GOD, Country, and Service,
Brett Martin
Senior Vice Commander**





Vice Commander East
Lee Cathey
FOR GOD AND COUNTRY

Our thoughts and prayers go out to Vice Commander East Lee Cathey for a speedy recovery.



For God and Country
Paul Ray
Vice Commander West

I am going to start out screaming...**LEGION COLLEGE**...some of you need to attend. Fill out the enrollment form on the Department webpage. I can guarantee you will learn something. Classes are scheduled to begin with Orientation on Friday March 17 with training running Saturday and Sunday, March 18 & 19. The Department of Oklahoma American Legion College needs you and you need it. It will help you become a better informed, better educated, better leadership equipped, better Legionnaire. And you better believe that.

Next is **MEMBERSHIP**, if you want me to just shut up about membership; get your Post to the 100% target number and I will go silent. BUT until that happens there will be noise. Recruit and Retain.

The Oklahoma Veterans Council is in a crossfire. Somehow it got caught in a narrow pass with the courts firing at it from one ridgeline and the legislature from another. The Council is in an uncomfortable position, and we won't know the outcome until the smoke clears. Be patient.

Posts need to start working on their "Post Leadership" nominating committees. Don't wait until the last minute. We can work with developing leaders. Talk to your younger leaders and help them develop.

District Commanders, you are just a few weeks away from the Spring District meetings. That means you, some of you are 3 or 4 weeks away from weeks away from District meeting agendas and even more importantly Districts 8 and 1 are only 5 days away from your 20-day notice deadline. Chop-Chop. Ricky-Ticky

Veterans Helping Veterans, it is not just what we do, it who we are.

Paul Ray
VC West

Awards Chairman

Paul Ray

Awards Call to Arms for Post

It is time for the Posts to get busy about Awards for this year. LEO, Firefighter, VA Physician, and VA Health Care Provider, require Management endorsement before they can be awarded. I don't make the rules. The information the Posts need for the awards nominations is listed below and on the Department Home page, <https://okamlegion.org/awards> . Get busy now.

Employer of Veterans:

<https://www.legion.org/sites/legion.org/files/legion/documents/Awards%20Forms.pdf>

Legionnaire of the Year: No set requirements, the award is determined by supporting documents submitted with your nomination and an Awards Committee vote.

Law Enforcement Officer:

https://www.legion.org/documents/legion/pdf/ns_officerofyear.pdf

Firefighter: https://www.legion.org/documents/legion/pdf/firefighter_award.pdf

Media Support Professional: No set requirements, the award is determined by supporting documents submitted with your nomination and an Awards Committee vote

VA Physician of the Year

https://www.legion.org/documents/legion/pdf/physician_year.pdf

VA Healthcare Provider

<https://www.floridalegion.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Health-Care-Provider-of-the-Year-Award-Nominating-Criteria.pdf>

Post of the Year: Determined by the data gleaned from the Consolidated Post Report

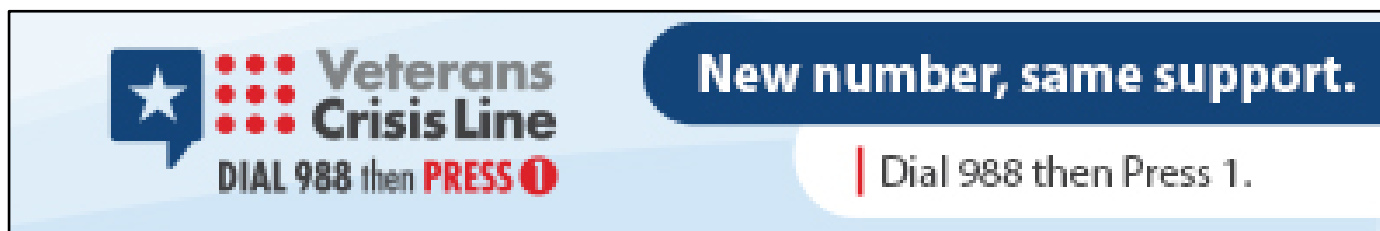
Post History Book: Determined by the Post History Book

Post Service Officer: Selected by the VA & R Committee

Oratorical Contest: Winner determined by Oratorical Contest

Eagle Scout of the Year: Determined by the Americanism Committee

Please. Please, recognize those in your community that deserve it.



The image shows a banner for the Veterans Crisis Line. On the left, there is a logo consisting of a blue speech bubble with a white star, followed by a grid of red dots. To the right of the dots, the text reads "Veterans Crisis Line" in a bold, sans-serif font. Below this, it says "DIAL 988 then PRESS 1" with "PRESS 1" in red and a red telephone handset icon. On the right side of the banner, there is a dark blue rounded rectangle containing the white text "New number, same support." Below this, a vertical line separates the text "Dial 988 then Press 1." from the rest of the banner.

Department Adjutant Robert Haugh

From the desk of the Department Adjutant

Greetings fellow Oklahoma Legionnaires,

It has been a very busy month with the headquarters move. The company we chose did a great job of getting us moved out of the Jim Thorpe building and into the Annex at Post 12. Diane and I are still unpacking and working on getting the office setup and fully operational. We are also still working on getting the phone, internet service into the building.

The Department Oratorical contest was held on Saturday the 18th of February, and there was a great turnout with very talented contestants. Congratulations to the 3 top finishers!

We are looking ahead to the upcoming Spring Conferences. As always membership is a necessary hot topic the Department still has ways to go to reach our goal. Memberships are coming into the office, and we continue to process them. I want to thank every Legionnaire for continuing the work of The Oklahoma American Legion! Thank you,



**Respectfully,
Robert Haugh
Department Adjutant**

Past Department Commanders Corner

CHARLIE MIKE-CONTINUE MISSION

SUPPORTING BOYS STATE

Fun Fact of the Day!

Did you know it's even easier than ever to support Oklahoma Boys State this year? Yes, it is! The outstanding staff of OKBS has come up with an awesome Boys State packet that you can use to make your Boys State presentation to High School Counselors and Principals at High Schools across the State to get Junior Boys and their parents to commit to attending Oklahoma Boys State May 27-June 3, 2023.

This nifty packet has a great information trifold that each student and their parents can look at that explains everything about Boys State and what will happen while the students attend. It also has sign-up information with pricing and the website where delegates can sign-up to attend. Each packet contains a flash drive that you can plug into a computer that has a nifty eight-minute video about Boys State and all the events that take place during the week that will change every student's life who attends. The flash drive can be downloaded by the counselors at the school, principals, and other school officials and by the students themselves and parents at home. It also explains that the students can be eligible for a \$12K scholarship if they complete Boys State and enroll at Rogers State University. The Boys State curriculum also includes classes on computer programming and computer gaming. Coincidentally RSU offers a college degree in Computer Gaming and Programming, where upon completion of the program and graduation, young people can step into a job in this field with possibility of earning a six-figure income in some cases right out of college. [The students will be able to buy mom and dad a new car!]

If you don't have a packet or need another one or an extra flash drive, Department Headquarters has them available, just give Adjutant Rob Hough or Admin Assistant Diane Doudna a call and they can get them for you. This is a great program, and we should all support it.

What are you waiting for? Start calling your nearby High School Counselors and Principals and make an appointment to inform them and the students about this great program!

NO ONE LEFT BEHIND

Charles S. O'Leary

Past Department Commander 2021-2022



Sons of the American Legion **Chris Sherbourne** **Commander**

Greetings Legion Family:

Let's talk about membership, if you haven't paid your membership yet you are delinquent, but you can still pay your dues and get current. If you're a Commander or Adjutant of a squadron, make sure you are processing dues as they are received and not holding them. We as a detachment have been consistently hitting our goals but we still have ways to go to get to 100% and I know we can do it with your help.

By this time all squadrons should've received a packet from the Detachment containing a draft of the proposed constitution & bylaws and letters from me. The Adjutant and some policies put out by the Department of Oklahoma are included also.

As my letter says, you have until March 15th, 2023, to letting me or NEC Chris Cook know if you have any questions or concerns regarding the constitution and bylaws. Remember this is your Detachment and all members in good standing have a voice on what happens with it.

Also, in the packet there was a letter from Adjutant Cook regarding the per capita dues for the Detachment currently the detachment per capita dues are \$10 and there was a vote at Midwinter Meetings to raise dues to \$20 and it passed unanimously. Currently the National per capita dues

are \$5 but were told they will be going up so by raising are dues now we're ahead of the game. So, starting July 1st 2023 the minimum total per capita dues you need to send in will be \$25. If your Squadron dues are below \$25 you may want to raise them to cover the minimum per capita dues.

Remember we're all membership recruiters and if you sign up 5 new members you can get a membership pin from National.

For God and Country

Chris Sherbourne

Commander

Sons of The American Legion

Detachment of Oklahoma

chrissherbourne@yahoo.com

ATTENTION!!

**THE OKLAHOMA AMERICAN
LEGION DEPARTMENT OFFICE HAS
MOVED!!!**

**DUE TO BUILDING RECONSTRUCTION
THE DEPARTMENT OF OKLAHOMA ADMINISTRATIVE
OFFICE MOVED TO A NEW LOCATION
ON FEBRUARY 16, 2023.**

**THE DEPARTMENT'S NEW PHYSICAL
ADDRESS IS:**

**6101 NW 50TH ST
WARR ACRES, OK 73122**

POST OFFICE BOX WILL REMAIN THE SAME FOR NOW.

P.O. Box 53037 Oklahoma City, OK 73152 - 3037

OKLAHOMA AMERICAN LEGION COLLEGE (OALC)

March 17-19, 2023 (Oklahoma City area)

“Slots Available”

Contact Hayden Woods USN (Ret) for more info.

American Legion <americanlegiontishomingo@gmail.com>

Department of Oklahoma Legion College

March 17-19, 2023

Friday March 17th

- 1600 - 1800 Late Registration and Check-In
1800 - 1900 Welcome – **Hayden Woods, Dean**
Welcome – **Jim Quinn, Dept. of Oklahoma Commander**
Welcome- **Tim Smith, National Executive Committeeman**
Introduction of Staff and Instructors – **Hayden Woods**
1900 – 1950 National American Legion and Oklahoma Legion History – **Lance Larson**
1950 - 2005 Break
2005 - 2100 Leadership Training- Reflections on Leadership – **Chris S.**
2100 Adjourn

Saturday March 18th

- 0730 - 0820 Mentorship: The Art of Inspiring – **Karen**
0835 - 0930 Define a Great Post – **Charlie O’Leary**
0930 - 1000 Break
1000 - 1050 Conducting A Meeting Part 1- **Bobby Stewart**
1050 - 1105 Break
1105 - 1200 Conducting A Meeting Part 2- **Bobby Stewart**
1200 - 1300 Lunch
1300 - 1350 Resolution Writing Part 1- **Charley O’Leary**
1350 - 1410 Break
1410 - 1500 Resolution Writing Part 2- **Charley O’Leary**
1500 - 1515 Break
1515 - 1600 Training Principles- **Hayden Woods**
1600 - 1615 Break
1615 - 1700 Training Principles- **Hayden Woods**
1700 Adjourn
1800 Dinner
1900 Social at Hotel

Sunday March 19th

- 0730 - 0820 Membership Recruiting (Recruiting) Part 1- **Karan Cruse/Lee Cathey**
0835 - 0850 Break
0850 - 0945 Membership Recruiting (Retention) Part2- **Karan Cruse/Lee Cathey**
0945 - 1000 Break
1000 - 1100 Q & A / Course and Instructor Evaluations – **Hayden Woods**
1100 - 1145 Graduation
1145 - 1200 Closing Remarks – **Hayden Woods, Dean**

“WHERE TOMORROW’S LEGION LEADERSHIP BEGINS”

LEGION COLLEGE (OALC)

(about)

The course is intended to teach the principles and techniques necessary for effective leadership in The American Legion. Graduates will possess the skills necessary to provide program and command leadership at the Post and District level.

COURSE OBJECTIVES AND TOPICS: The Oklahoma American Legion College will provide instruction using classroom lectures, small group interactive techniques, and team building. Primary topics to be addressed include:

- Leadership and mentoring in a distributed non-profit, volunteer environment.
- Communication using both face-to-face, written, and social media methods.
- Critical thinking and problem solving.
- Team building to set and accomplish goals.
- Recognizing and effectively utilizing personality types in personnel management.
- Develop or broaden networking skills outside of the department.
- Develop, instruct, or support a Department, District, or post level training platform.
- Effective meeting management through parliamentary techniques.

TEXT AND REQUIRED SUPPLIES: All course materials will be supplied to the students before, the start of and during the week of instruction. No additional material is required but students are encouraged to explore additional outside sources on their own initiative. The use of a personal laptop or tablet is encouraged but not required. Students will be informed in those instances when only college-supplied materials may be used.

SUGGESTIONS FOR SUCCESS: Most students will find this course to be challenging both academically and individually. For some students, this will be their first experience as a member of a group of talented, very motivated individuals. Defending your ideas and positions with skill and passion but at the same time respecting the same level of passion from other students is critical. Leadership while working within a team is essential to achieve the maximum results from the course.

American Legion News

Conduct Buddy Checks – March 15th!

Mar 13, 2023

Download the Buddy Check Toolkit to help you connect with Legionnaires and veterans in your community. As a way to reach out to members and former members who may need help, the National Executive Committee passed Resolution 18 during Spring Meetings in May 2019. The resolution calls for Buddy Checks to be conducted Legion-wide on the weeks of The American Legion’s birthday, March 15, and Veterans Day. However, American Legion posts are encouraged to perform this vital function whenever it makes the most sense in their communities.

American Legion Testimony before Congress



American Legion National Commander Vincent J. "Jim" Troiola will present the Legion's legislative priorities to a joint session of the Senate and House Committees on Veterans' Affairs. The presentation is scheduled for 10 a.m. Eastern Wednesday, March 1.

[Tune in to www.legion.org to watch live or view a replay.](http://www.legion.org)



Commander Troiola speaks at Patton Hall to Legion members at a luncheon in Fort Myers, Virginia (February 25, 2023) Members of Oklahoma American Legion in attendance.

View the Legion's legislative priorities for a new Congress.

The American Legion

JAN 26, 2023

As Legionnaires are in Washington Conference from Feb. 26 – March 1, the nation's largest organization of veterans has assembled its legislative priorities for 2023. Among them:

- Destigmatizing mental health services, and improving access to those services, to advance the Legion's "Be the One" initiative to reduce and prevent veteran suicide
- Ensuring that VA is effectively resourced to deliver "the best care anywhere" for veterans in a hybrid system that includes tele-health and community services, as well as traditional treatment
- Leveling the playing field for National Guard and Reserve veterans whose GI Bill eligibility is now restricted
- Easing the transition for Afghan allies of the U.S. Armed Forces who have come to the United States, and helping those who were left behind
- Protecting U.S. Coast Guard personnel from losing pay in the event of government shutdowns
- Changing U.S. Flag Code to permit common patriotic practices at major events and amending the Constitution to return to the states the ability to protect the flag from deliberate desecration

[The American Legion's legislative priorities for the first session of the 118th Congress are condensed into a trifold brochure that can be downloaded or printed.](#)

The American Legion Legacy Scholarship

This scholarship is a needs-based scholarship designed to fulfill a financial gap remaining after all federal and state educational grants/scholarships available to an eligible applicant have been utilized.

WHO: Children of U.S. military members who died while on active duty on or after Sept. 11, 2001. Children of post-9/11 veterans having been assigned a combined disability rating of 50 percent or greater by the Department of Veterans Affairs also qualify.

WHAT: Each needs-based scholarship provides up to \$20,000 in aid for undergraduate or post-graduate college. Recipients may reapply for additional annual awards up to six times.

WHEN: The application deadline is April 9. Scholarship awards must be used within one year.

<https://www.legion.org/scholarships/legacy>

Service Officer News

VETERAN & FRIENDS ENJOYING FELLOWSHIP & FOOD

OPERATION NIGHT VISION

Sponsored by the NW OKC Veteran Support Coalition

LAST WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH

6:30 PM - 7:45 PM

Hosted by: OKC First Church of the Nazarene
4400 NW Expressway, Oklahoma City, OK 73116
Free Child Care available

WE'RE LOOKING FOR A FEW GOOD MENTORS

Support program for those who are the light in the darkest hours

YELLOW RIBBON: Seeking Trinkets for Okla. National Guard Pre-Deployment

The Oklahoma Army National Guard has asked we put together items for 1,000 bags to include knick-knacks, brochures, flyers, business cards, etc. so that they can ensure every Service Member and/or family member receives information for the services and benefits that our service organizations provide. The information should include how members can use services needed. The bags will be furnished by the Guard and given out at the pre-deployment in April. Contact Mike Devenitch, at sentrymike@yahoo.com if you or your post/district can assist.

WHAT TO DO BEFORE A VETERAN DIES

A guide to Pre-planning **What to Do Before a Veteran Dies**

<https://www.legion.org/publications/226617/what-do-veteran-dies>

One of the eventualities in life, that spouses and families of veterans must face is the death of their loved one who has served America in uniform. To help ease the burden on their loved ones, veterans can prepare in advance.

Important records

The first step is to make certain the family has easy access to important documents such as:

- The veteran's discharge certificate (DD form 214).
- VA documents, if any, indicating a VA claim number.
- A copy of all marriage certificates and divorce decrees (if any previous marriages).
- Insurance policies, including beneficiary designation.
- A copy of the family will (not required for VA benefits).
- Location of safety deposit boxes (not required by VA).
- Business address, email address, voice phone number and cellphone number for local American Legion service officer.

VA burial and memorial benefits

Veterans who die on active duty, or with discharges that are other than dishonorable, are entitled by law to the following benefits:

- A gravesite in any national cemetery with available space, opening and closing of the grave.
- A government headstone, marker, urn, or medallion in a national and/or private cemetery.
- A government-issued U.S. flag to drape over the casket, and for presentation to the surviving spouse or next-of-kin.
- A Presidential Memorial Certificate signed by the president of the United States.

Burial in a VA National Cemetery

Every eligible veteran who is entitled to burial in a national cemetery as long as space is available, and the following conditions are met:

- Veteran was discharged under conditions other than dishonorable.
- Veteran was not subsequently convicted for offenses involving prohibited weapons of mass destruction, genocide, and international terrorism.
- With certain exceptions, service beginning after Sept. 7, 1980, as an enlisted person and service after Oct. 16, 1981, as an officer must have served for a minimum of 24 months or the full period for which the person was called to active duty.

For a full description of eligibility requirements visit: www.cem.va.gov

Please visit the National Cemetery Administration website at www.cem.va.gov for a complete listing of all national cemeteries and state veterans cemeteries. You may also send your questions on burial benefits eligibility to VA at public.inquiry@mail.va.gov.

Headstones and markers

VA provides headstones and markers anywhere in the world for the unmarked graves of veterans who died before Sept. 11, 2001. For the marked graves of veterans who died on or after Sept. 11, 2001, double marking is authorized. Flat bronze, flat granite, flat marble, upright granite and upright marble type are available to mark the grave in a style consistent with the cemetery. Niche markers are also available for urns.

When burial is in a national cemetery or state veteran's cemetery, the headstone is ordered by the cemetery, which will place it on the grave. When burial occurs in a private cemetery, the headstone must be applied for from VA. The headstone is then shipped at government expense. VA does not pay the cost of placing the headstone on the grave. The cost is borne by the veteran's family or other party. These charges may be included in many prepaid funeral packages. VA Form 40-1330 (application for headstone) can be obtained from most funeral home directors, through veterans service officers, or through VA. This form may also be downloaded and printed out by visiting www.cem.va.gov/hmm/.

Burial Flags

A U.S. flag is provided, at no cost, to drape over the casket or accompany the urn of a deceased veteran who served honorably in the U. S. Armed Forces. It is furnished to honor the memory of a veteran's military service.

Eligibility for former members of Selected Reserves were added by Section 517 of Public Law 105-261.

The flag will be issued once only for burial purposes and will not be replaced if lost, stolen, damaged or destroyed. National cemeteries with avenues of flags, and many state veterans cemeteries, accept donations of burial flags for mass display on Memorial Day, Veterans Day and other occasions. The standard issue burial flag is made of cotton and will not withstand continuous outdoor display. Burial flags may be obtained at VA regional offices, national cemeteries and most local post offices. Overseas, U.S. flags can be obtained from U.S. embassies or consulates VA will furnish a burial flag for veterans who served during wartime, died on active duty after May 27, 1941, who served after Jan. 31, 1955, peacetime veterans who were discharged or released before June 27, 1950, certain people who served in the organized military forces of the commonwealth of the Philippines while in service of the U.S. Armed Forces, and who died on or after April 25, 1951, and certain former members of the Selected Reserves.

Burial and plot-interment allowances

Oklahoma State Oratorical Robert Willis

We had five contestants for the 2023 Department Oratorical contest, which took place on February 18, 2023, at the W. Roger Webb Forensics Science Institute on the UCO campus in Edmond. The contest started at 10:00 hours. Thank you to posts that went out to schools to make this event possible in the following Districts: 1A, 5A, 5B, 6A, AND 7. I wish to thank the Legionnaires of stated Districts for their hard work and dedication in making the Oratorical Program a success in the Department of Oklahoma. Thank you, Legionnaires! Robert Willis, Department Oratorical Chairman, at rob.willis61@outlook.com or 405-370-5331.



American Legion Department Oratorical Contest Winners

Contestant Names are 1st Place, Jesse LaBahn, home-schooled, Norman 5B; 2nd Camden Bruce, Christian Heritage Academy, Edmond 5A; 3rd Ian Holdman, home-schooled, Bartlesville 1A; Honorable Mentions: Liberty Rogers, Dale High School, Shawnee 4A; and Wasan Surintha-Baltes, Westmoore High School, OKC 5B.

Rob Willis
Oratorical Chairman

A poster for a resource fair. At the top, a map shows the location of Woodward, Oklahoma, with the text "Woodward Elev. 1906". Below the map, a yellow banner with a dashed line border contains the text "Road Trip" in a handwritten font. Underneath, it says "WITH OKLAHOMA CITY VAMC, MUSKOGEE BENEFITS OFFICE, OKLAHOMA DEPT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS." The main title is "PACT ACT RESOURCE FAIR" in bold, underlined letters. Below that, it says "BRINGING THE RESOURCES TO YOU!" followed by a list of services: "GET SCREENED FOR TOXIC EXPOSURE", "COME MEET YOUR PROVIDER", "ENROLL IN HEALTHCARE", and "FILE A SERVICE CONNECTION CLAIM". The location is "HIGH PLAINS TECH CENTER". At the bottom, a yellow box contains the date and time: "MAR 27, 2023 3PM-7PM" and the address: "3921 34TH ST WOODWARD, OK 73801". Logos for the VA and the Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs are also present.

BOYS STATE UPDATE!

Hello Fellow Oklahoma Legion Members!

Thank you so much for the great support you have given to the Boys State program this year. Our registration numbers continue to be a tremendous improvement over the last several years and that is thanks in no small part to your efforts. As we have worked the last several years to modernize the program and make it more attractive to the young men that are eligible to attend, you have increased your efforts to recruit those young men in like kind. That is a wonderful accomplishment, but we still need more! The Boys State team is working hard this offseason to make the program even better and we know we can count on you to increase the recruiting efforts as well. Based on the information and discussion we have had; it sounds like that is already the case!

All of these efforts have paid off as shown by the fact that we now have 72 delegates registered. When compared with each recruiting year since 2015, this shows that we are over two weeks ahead of any year in the timeframe. However, we still have space to accommodate another 378 young men and to let them experience The Week That Shapes A Lifetime.

I'd still encourage you to take a picture in front of the school or school signs when you go to visit a school and to send those pictures to our Chief Operating Officer, Jared Harrison, at jared.harrison@okboysstate.com. He will be able to take those pictures and post them online to thank the schools for letting us come visit. This helps us engage more people in the digital world we all live in. Also, we have created a new graphic for you to give to any individual or business that sponsors delegates to attend the program. They can put that graphic on their website or share it on social media to show their support for our program and for their community. If they post it on Facebook, Instagram, or LinkedIn, please ask them to tag Oklahoma American Legion Boys State, as that also helps us increase our reach. If you would like a copy of the image shown below, please email Jared at the address above and he will be happy to send it your way!

Thank you again for all of the important work you do!

Sen. Corey D. Brooks, Ret.
Director, Oklahoma American Legion Boys State



Oklahoma American Legion Auxiliary



LINK

<https://runsignup.com/Race/OK/Shawnee/TheyServedSoWeServeRunWalk>

PLACE

Dean Weigant Park - 1741 W Rosa St, Shawnee, OK US 74804

DESCRIPTION

The Oklahoma American Auxiliary will host the 2nd Annual American Legion Auxiliary 5K Run on March 4, 2023. Last year's event took place in Muskogee, but we moving to Central Oklahoma for the 2nd Edition and will be in Shawnee. The City of Shawnee has made the Airport Trail available to us and the run will start & finish at Dean Weigant Park at 1741 W Rosa St, Shawnee, OK.

Please reach out to Gayle Keene with American Legion Auxiliary with question about the event or for event sponsorship information - 405-240-2503. Run questions can also be directed to Martin Updike with I:40 Race Service - 918-577-1956, or click contact race to submit a question.

Event Details

Date & Time: Saturday March 4th at 9:00 am - start time for both events. Registration/Packet Pickup will open at 7:30 am at the picnic shelter at Dean Weigant Park. .

Location: Dean Weigant Park at 1741 W Rosa St, Shawnee, OK

Registration Fees:

5k: \$25 until January 31st, \$30 Feb 1st to March 3rd, and \$35 for race day sign ups

Fun Run: \$20 until January 31st, \$25 Feb 1st to March 3rd, and \$30 for race day sign ups

T-shirts: Included for all participants who sign up by February 17th. Shirts are first come first serve after that.

5k Course: USATF Certified 5k Course - New Course is in progress, see below for a map of the trail and check back later for the certified map.

Awards: Medals for the top 3 in USATF Age Groups (Every 5 Years)

District 1A Commander's Corner

Greetings District 1A

Thank you for all the hard work you all have been doing in your community to make your posts known and with your renewals/memberships. I know it's been really hard at times, but you still remained focus on the task. I'm asking you to stay focus because there is a lot of ground that we need to cover. District 1A will host the Spring Conference on March-25-2023 and registration will begin at 08:00 AM at Post-0240 in Selina. Looking forward in seeing everyone there, that can make it for Spring Conference of 2023. I want to thank Jay Post-0195 for hosting their blood drive and Bartlesville Post-0105 hosting their Oratorical competition. Also, we were able to go to Kansas Post-0045 and presented them with a plaque for making a 100 percent before 12-31-22. Bravo-Zulu to Post-0045. Stay mindful of the buddy checks in your area and their families and one another. Thank you so much for all you do. God bless.



(Kansas Post-0045 plaque for 100 percent membership)

Jay Post 195 is Home of the Jay Community Blood Drive

American Legion Post 195 hosted another successful Jay Community Blood Drive on Wednesday, February 8, 2023, for the American Red Cross. They host these drives every two (2) months. Although it was a rainy, dreary day, donors did not let the weather deter them, and the blood drive netted 24 units of blood. This brings the year's total to 90 units since July 1st, with two more drives still to go in April and June for fiscal year 2022-2023.

Post 195 member Debbie Gordon, Coordinator of the Jay Community Blood Drive, challenges the other posts in the Department of Oklahoma to get involved in solving our nation-wide critical blood shortage. Host a blood drive! If you cannot host, encourage your post's members to attend another location's blood drive. The restrictions on donation that were in place for years because of "Mad Cow Disease" have been lifted in the past year, so many veterans who previously did not qualify because of being stationed in many European countries are now eligible. These veterans may not be aware they are now eligible. Spread the word.

Donating is not hard, and who knows? One of three lives your one-pint donation saves could be your own or that of a cherished loved one.

District 1's Oratorical Contest Winner Ian Holdman

Congratulations to Ian Holdman of Bartlesville, District 1's Oratorical Winner. Ian was sponsored by James H. Teel Post 105 in the contest that was held at Bartlesville Post 105 on Saturday, January 28, at 10:00 a.m. Thank you to all the Legionnaires from District 1A and 1B who came out to support this contest.

For his efforts with his informative and dynamic speech on "Crash Landing -- Voting Rights," Ian garnered the First Place \$300 cash District Oratorical prize. Ian is the son of Dr. Danny and Dr. Shelly Holdman and is a Senior at Bartlesville High School.

Ian was also the winner of the Oratorical Contest at 2022 Oklahoma Boys State, which qualified him to proceed directly to the Department Oratorical Contest on February 18, 2023, so we were glad he decided to participate in the District contest. Ian was also the 2022 Department of Oklahoma Oratorical Winner and was a Semi-Finalist at the National Oratorical Contest in Indianapolis in April 2022. He was only defeated in the Semi-Finals by the contestant who later became the 2022 National Oratorical Winner when she took First Place in the Finals.



District 1

Oratorical Winner Ian Holdman of Bartlesville receiving the \$300 cash prize from (left) Post 105 Oratorical Chairman Bill Teel and (right) District 1 Oratorical Chairman Gordon "Lucky" Ladwig at the District 1 Contest held January 28, 2023 in Bartlesville.

**District 1A
Commander Garry Gibson
For God and Country**

District 1B Commander's Corner



Post 227

Vice Commander Bill Lynch is presenting Member James Auschwitz with the Membership Incentive Pin for recruiting three new members to Post 227 in Barnsdall, Oklahoma.

Congratulations to American Legion Post 333 in Ralston, Oklahoma for exceeding 100% Post membership by December 31, 2022. Certificate of Appreciation from Department of Oklahoma presented to Post 333 by Past Department Commander Charlie O'Leary. Great job by Post Commander Red Wilson and Post Adjutant Kristi Metzger!



Post 2 Legion Riders held their Polar Bear Run on February 5th.



The event was well attended and a huge success, raising more than a thousand dollars that will be used to support the Honor Guard Unit.

This ride is held on the first rideable Sunday in February every year. American Legion Riders from Coffeyville, Kansas was among the many groups that showed up to support this event. According to Post 2 ALR Director Roice Kirk the official count stood at 142 riders and passengers on 118 motorcycles taking part in this ride.



This capture is front The City of Collinsville's Facebook page. The video was posted there, and it was also shown on FOX 23 News. It has been seen, shared, and commented on many times! Good Job.

Bud York
District 1B Commander

FREE FREE FREE FREE FREE

**American Legion Post 1
1120 E 8th St Tulsa**

Men Women Children Clothing

2nd Wednesdays each month

9:00am – 4:00pm

Wednesday, 8 March 2023

Wednesday, 12 April 2023

Wednesday, 10 May 2023

3A District Commander's Corner

Spot-Light Post 188 - Folsom Lumpkin - Heavener, OK

We were invited to the Post Monthly Meeting last evening. It's always fun there as they meet jointly with the VFW & DVA. They share ideas and monies to help each other as needed. Plus, they put on a heck of a hot homemade meal! We have a lot of works going on over there this Spring.

We presented the Post with their 2022 90% Membership Retention Certificate. Commander Pierson says they will be at 100% by week's end for this term.



(District CMDR Chisolm & Post CMDR Pierson)

Post 188 asked to host our District 3 Spring Conference and we are excited to let them! Gary has also been my District 3A Vice Commander ever since I started and continues to hang in there for us. Our conference is scheduled for Armed Forces Day on May 20th. We quickly realized that it is a graduation weekend and family 1st! So, attendance is a concern. Call letter will be USPS & emailed out 30 days prior.

**Regards & "Semper Fi"
District 3A Commander
Robert C. Chisolm**

4A District Commander's Corner

Hello all, it has been a short but busy month for me as District 4A Commander. On January 25, I attended a meeting at Post 16 in Shawnee to hear our first ever District 4A Oratorical contestant. Those present gave her some tips on how to do better. On the 2nd through the 4th of Feb, I traveled to Checotah to take a single sister to Tulsa and back for surgery and stay with her for a day afterward. The following week on the 10th, I drove my wife (Auxiliary President to Springfield, Illinois and met up with Commander Quinn, NEC Tim Smith and his wife Tracy (NEC for our Auxiliary) for the purpose of attending the Lincoln Pilgrimage hosted there by American Legion Post 32. Be sure to check out the photos of this trip. It was truly a great experience for all of us there. Commander Quinn and Auxiliary President Gayle Keene placed a wreaths inside the tomb. I returned to Chandler on the 13th and stopped in Grove, Ok to visit with our Vice Commander East Lee Cathey.



We need to continue praying for his recovery as he continues to battle cancer. I attended the State Oratorical contest at UCO on the 18th. Our candidate did not win but she represented District 4A very well and Posts 16 and 64 was able to contribute \$400 to her for effort in trying. She will be attending BYU after she graduates this year. On the 23rd, I attended a meeting at Post 123 in Okemah with District 4A Vice Commander John Bloxom. Post 64 had a very large water bill due to a frozen pipe bursting which flooded a lot of the space and ruined a lot of ceiling tiles. Repairs are underway and meetings still being made. Post 64 members are a resilient bunch and performing all the repairs themselves. We all need to help our post by contacting those who have not renewed their memberships and get them back in our fold. If you need money for your Post get some gun raffle tickets and sell them. For every 100 tickets your post sells your post earns or keeps \$500. This is a win - win for the post and the Department. "Together we can be very strong. Separate and we become weak! "



This is our Commander presenting certificate to District 4A Oratorical contestant Liberty Rogers from Dale, OK high school. She did not place in top 3 but Post 64 and Post 16 members contributed \$400 to her for efforts in participating.

James Keene
American Legion Post 64
Chandler, OK

4B District Commander's Corner

4B is doing some great things! Post 72 had a successful Valentine's Day 9-Pin No Tap Bowling Tournament. They are looking forward to the next two events, the district conference as well as a Benefit Dice Run to help a member's family with medical expenses.

For a moment I want to talk about the "Be The One" Program. Keep an eye on your fellow veterans, you need to learn to spot the signs! Sometimes it just takes one person to be the difference in a veteran's life. Sometimes they are not immediately receptive but remember sometimes people don't care until they see how much we care. That means that they won't care what you have to say unless they know that you actually care about them. Everyone has a blessed month.

Damn the torpedoes, full speed ahead.
-Admiral David Farragut

Will Spatz
District 4B Commander

5A District Commander's Corner Rex Ice

STATE ORATORICAL CONTEST HELD AT UCO

The 2023 Oratorical Contest was held at the Roger Webb Center on the UCO Campus. American Legion Post 111 and District 5A was the host for this year's event. The competition is held annually, and the contestants give speeches on the US Constitution. Here are the contestants from this year's competition.



The \$1000 winner was Jesse La Bahn from District 5B, Norman OK.



The \$750 winner was Camden Bruce From District 5A, Del City, OK.



The \$500 winner was Ian Holdman from District 1B, Bartlesville, OK.



Honorable Mention went to Liberty Rogers from District 4A, Dale, OK



Honorable Mention went to Wasan Surintha-Bates, Moore, OK.



Vice Commander West Paul Ray and DEC Member Debbie Gordon at this year's Oratorical Competition.

Thanks to State Commander Jim Quinn for presenting these awards. I would also like to thank all the other American Legion personnel that made this year's competition a success. Special thanks to Rob Willis, the Department Oratorical Chairman for another outstanding competition. I would like to take this opportunity to wish our competition winner all the best at the American Legion National Competition in Indianapolis on April 21-23, 2023.

5A District
Rex Ice

5B District **Commander's Corner** *Dale Haynes*

We have a winner. Ms. Jesse LaBahn, a freshmen homeschool student representing Norman Post 88, was the first-place winner of the Department Oratorical and will now be headed to the National finals in Indiana. We wish her luck and know she will do well.



(Jesse LaBahn representing Post 88)



(Wasan Surintha-Bates representing Post 184)

There were five contestants in the Department contest, and all were impressive. I am proud to say two of the five were from District 5B. As you may recall, we originally had five contestants representing four posts scheduled for the district contest. We should be rightfully proud, but need to talk to our local schools, parents, and civic organizations about the opportunity many are missing. Five contestants at the Department level are more than we have often had in the past but is a very small number considering the number of posts, schools, and students we have in the state.

I have yet to have a local contestant from the three primary schools in my area (Lexington, Purcell, and Wayne) so I know it is difficult. In addition to talking to school counselors,

principals, and superintendent, I am going to try to reach out to local civic clubs. Please let me know if you have any additional ideas.

Lindsay, Ball Smith Post 23: Post Commander David Hardin (US Army Retired) received a certificate from Department Commander Jim Quinn at the Mid-winter Conference on January 21st. The certificate recognized the Post for exceeding 100% of their membership goal for 2023 prior to December 31, 2022.



The post hosted Sweetheart Bingo on February 16th for the community. It was a night of fun and fellowship planned by the Sons of the American Legion. Snacks, water, and coffee were provided by the Post for participants. Prizes for winners of 16 games were donated by local businesses. The final game was “Black Out” with a special prize of \$100 cash and a collectible edition Zippo lighter.



The post had three officers (pictured below) attend training at the Mid-Winter Conference and receiving certificates of participation for the Veteran's Service and Advanced Service Officer Training class. The post has also developed business cards (shown below) to help promote and maintain contact with community veterans with commander and service officer information on the back of each card. A monthly newsletter to be emailed to members is in the planning stage as well.



Norman Post 88 will be closed for two weeks starting February 26 for electrical construction. Service Officers will still be available via telephone.

Washington Post 310 will host an "All you can eat" breakfast at the Washington Masonic Lodge #406 (200 W. Sharp Avenue, Washington) on Saturday, March 18 from 7:30-10:30 am. They continue to work on refurbishing their building and revitalizing their post. They hope to start meeting in the building again this month or next month.

For God and Country
Dale Haynes
5B District Commander

6A District Commander's Corner

American Legion Post 160 Yukon

Yukon Veterans Benefits Seminar held.

Benefits Information for Veterans, Veteran's Wife's, or Widows

This event had Veteran Service Officers, Funeral Director Assistance, VA Reps and Widows with VA experience on hand helping. The 'Partners of Heroes' Seminar was held on February 11th in Yukon. The extended family of living and fallen veterans who seek solutions about obtaining veterans' benefits were invited to this unique event.

The Yukon Post/Museum presented a seminar from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, Feb. 11 at the Dale Robertson Center, 1200 Lakeshore in Yukon. The conference featured at least 10 “stations” for to visit for specialist assistance in any area they are having problems with. Nearly 100 attended seeking answers to complicated questions.



Bob Bebrin (Exec. Member-at-Large) & Mike Devenitch



Rick & Kathy Cacini speak with a veteran



Yukon Veterans Benefits Seminar



District Commander, Ed Lager looks on to members of the Yukon Post 160

<https://www.facebook.com/yukonpost160/>

Ed Lager
District 6A Commander

7 District Commander's Corner

On February 2nd went to visit Post 223 in Gage. They had a good group of Legionnaires in attendance along with a guest speaker, Wendi Beeson with Newman Hospital in Shattuck. Wendi told the group about Senior Life Solutions and what programs they have for individuals typically over 65 and older who may be experiencing any of the following symptoms: Acting as a caregiver, difficulty sleeping/eating, feeling lonely or isolated, and loss of a loved one. Senior Life Solutions program includes a board-certified psychiatrist, licensed therapist, registered nurse, and other trained professionals to ensure seniors receive the best possible care. There are other facilities throughout the state.



Mr. May awarded Commander Rod Ford with certificate for 105% membership renewal for 2022-2023.



It is always a pleasure to go to Gage and meet with these Legionaries.

February 6th went to visit Post 41 in Clinton. Their meeting was about what course of action they take after their building was flooded by a broken water line over the Christmas holiday. They will be remodeling and putting the post back together.



It is always a pleasure to go to Gage and meet with these Legionaries. February 6th went to visit Post 41 in Clinton. Their meeting was about what course of action they take after their building was flooded by a broken water line over the Christmas holiday. They will be remodeling and putting the post back together.

Elmo May
District 7 Commander
The American Legion
Department of Oklahoma
(405) 812-8987

Fire Sale

The Department has last year's shirts on sale. Legion, SAL, and Auxiliary shirts still available and they will be going for the low, low price of \$15.00.



DD-214

Available Online

Great news for Veterans!

The National Personnel Records
Center (NPRC)

Has provided the following website
for Veterans to gain access to their
DD-214 online:

[HTTP://VETRECS.ARCHIVES.GOV/](http://VETRECS.ARCHIVES.GOV/)

Save The Date: 2023 Women Veterans Symposium

Empowerment
Through Experience:
Celebrating Her
Journeys

03.04.2023

Wes Watkins Center
OSU Main Campus
Stillwater Oklahoma

Register Here:



OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF
VETERANS AFFAIRS



OFFICE OF
STUDENT VETERAN SUCCESS
University College



WOMEN VETERANS LUNCHEON

Thursday March 23

Lunch & Program
Celebrating
Women's History Month

11am - 1pm | Norman Veterans Home
11776 E. Robinson St, Norman OK
Women Veterans History Panel

RSVP: [HTTPS://FORMS.OFFICE.COM/G32AUL9WFC2](https://forms.office.com/G32AUL9WFC2)



OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF
VETERANS AFFAIRS



Department NEC: Tim Smith Is Running for National Commander

Let us support Tim in his bid for National Commander, please donate from your Post or as an individual Legion Member.

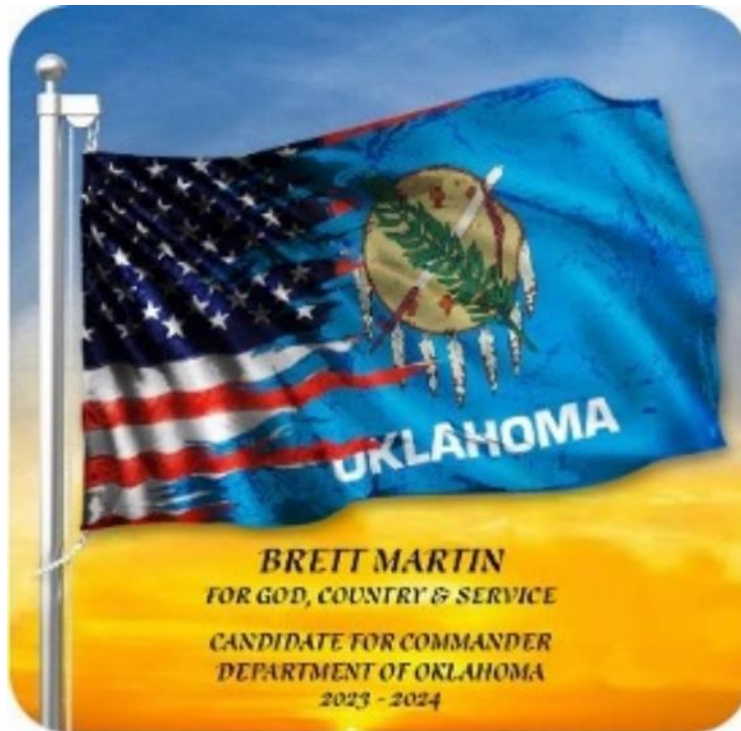
**For God
For Country
For Us
For National Commander!**

With your help, we can have an Oklahoman
at the helm
of
The American Legion!



Elections

If you are a declared candidate for an elected position above the district level, you are welcome to submit your election candidate information.



CHARLES O'LEARY PAST DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DEPARTMENT OF OKLAHOMA 2021-2022

CHARLIE MIKE-CONTINUE MISSION

I am a candidate for Department Alternate Executive Committeeman [ANEC] for upcoming election in July 2023.

I want to thank all the Legionnaires who have supported me over the past ten years I have been active in Legion leadership positions. I do not plan to stop. There is still work to be done. During my tour as Department Commander, we



were able to overcome many obstacles along the way with new personnel at the Department. We were able to turn our organization and Department Leadership in a different direction, reaching out to younger Desert Storm, Iraq, Afghanistan, and Global War on Terrorism veterans, reaching out to women veterans, Native American, Black, and Hispanic veterans. We continued to support training more Service Officers to help our older and disabled veterans. We established Department Legion College to train new leaders in our Legion Family and began the process to establish a permanent Legion Family Headquarters in our State.

We should carry on these endeavors to fruition.

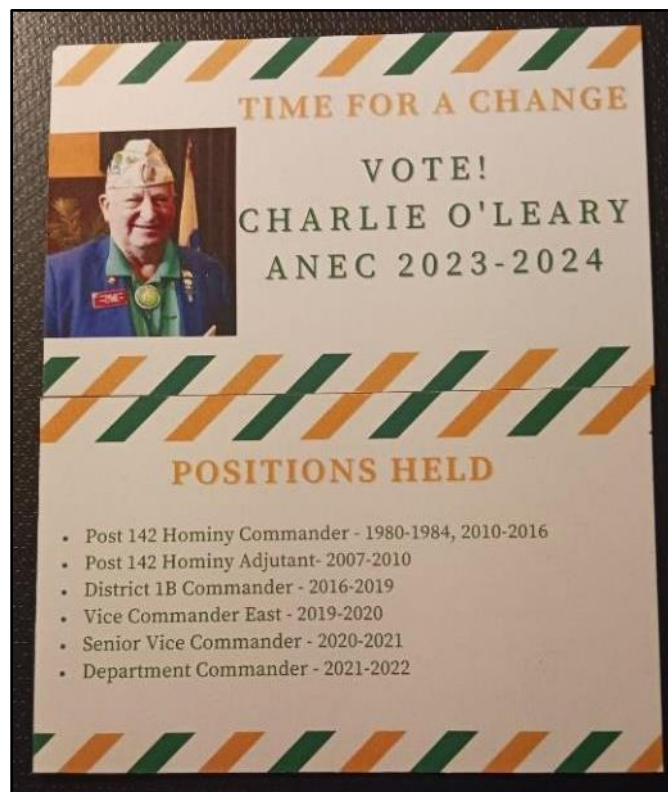
I pledge individual responsibility for positive personal behavior representing our State and our Legion Department at the State and National level in positive manner and best light possible.

I will strive to avoid negativity and further dividing fellow Legionnaires and veterans across our State.

We must all work together to help each other.

No one left behind.

I would appreciate your support and vote at the July Convention.



NO ONE LEFT BEHIND

Charles O'Leary

Past Department Commander 2021-2022



Michael Taylor

The right leader

Alternate
National Executive
Committee
(ANEC)



Candidate for
Alternate National
Executive Committee
(ANEC)

Michael Taylor



Michael Taylor currently is working as Assistant City Manager and worked as Chief Deputy for Oklahoma County Commissioner District 2 Brian Maughan. Michael has worked for the State of Oklahoma with the Department of Labor and the Insurance Department. He served in the United States Air Force as a weather specialist. Honorable Discharge in 1993. Recently appointed to the Oklahoma Council of Bond Oversight by Speaker of the House Charles McCall. Currently serving on Oklahoma City oversight committee- Community and Neighborhood Enhancement Advisory Board.

He has also worked with the Alzheimer's Association as a Public Policy Coordinator for the Oklahoma /Arkansas Chapters.

He has served on the War Veterans Commission, appointed by Governor Henry.

Currently active in the American Legion for which he is a past State Commander and current National Legislative Commission.



American Legion Offices held.

- State Commander 2007-2008
- Vice Commander WEST
- Division West Commander (appt) and elected the next year.
- Historian
- District Commander
- Post Commander Post 12
- First Vice Post 12
- Historian Post 12
- Second Vice Post 216
- Adjutant Post 88
- National Appointments to:
- Americanism and Legislative Commissions
- Legion College- 2005
- State Appointment- Legislative Chairman (7 years)
- Ten- National Conventions



MICHAEL TAYLOR

CANDIDATE FOR
ALTERNATE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
ANEC

- ❖ VISION FOR THE FUTURE
- ❖ LEADERSHIP
- ❖ FORESIGHT

CANDIDATE for DEPARTMENT COMMANDER OKLAHOMA



Eric 'da Greek' Gagomiros

Eric C Gagomiros

PUFL – American Legion Post 12

1st Vice Commander Post 12

Director – American Legion Riders Chapter 12

Founding member - American Legion Riders Post 12

DEC District 5A, Oklahoma

I have been a member of the American Legion since the late 1990's in Woodbridge, Virginia. I am the 1st American Legion Rider on the Eastern Seaboard.

Posts I have held with the American Legion are:

- 1) Finance Officer
- 2) Chaplain
- 3) Vice Commander
- 4) Adjutant
- 5) Commander

I have held many posts in the 40 & 8, when it was the fun & honor society of the American Legion, up to Grande Directeur of Americanism. I am still a member of the 40&8. As a member of Post 12 here in Oklahoma I have recruited many members. I have also brought the Marine Corps League into a partnership with our post.

Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) - Phoenix, Arizona

2009 - 2010 - - 100% District 4 Commander

2009 - 2010 - - State Aide de Camp

2010 – 2011 - - All State Post Commander

2010 – 2011 - - 100% Post Commander

2010 – 2011 - - All American Post Commander

2010 – 2011 - - National Aide de Camp

Military Order of the Cootie - VFW

2009-2010 100% Seam Squirrel

2009-2010 Seam Squirrel of the Year, Pup Tent 11

.....
Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Chapter 20 AZ – Life Member

Marine Corps League – Life Member

Military Order of the Devil Dog (MODD) – Devil Dog

"I am not a bully" You will only hear from me, if you honor me to be the next Department of Oklahoma Commander, when you need help. If your Post has flat lined or you are not making any progress, I will use all the power you have granted me to help you out.

CANDIDATE for VICE COMMANDER EAST



Woody D. Alexander

I am a candidate for East Vice Commander for the upcoming election in July 2023.

My Military Background: I joined the United States Marine Corp as Logistics Specialist. I was transferred to Marine Barracks Concord, California and came home after first hitch. Joined National Guard short term. Then, joined the Army Reserves - where I excelled to Command Sergeant Major during my time. I led two Training Battalions with a mission to train Reserve and National Guard units for Iraq. Before joining the American Legion, I worked at the Uniroyal Tire Plant in Ardmore Oklahoma and was asked to join the Emergency Response Team training consisted of: Emergency Medical Technician, HAZMAT, Confined Spaces Rescue, and Fire Brigade

I have served as an NEC Committee member and Internal Auditor in the American Legion.

I have served as 3B District Commander, District Vice Commander and DEC. I have served as Post 136 Commander, Finance Officer and Adjutant.

I was asked to step in and setup a meeting of Post 136 and assign officer positions. The first meeting I submitted my resume for Commander Position.

What got me started was I was asked to come down to the Post and meet the Department Commander. I and my wife walked in and met Tim Smith. Tim Smith asked me what I thought about the American Legion. I told him I don't know anything about the Legion. That's when he informed me that the Legion helps Veterans and their families.

This is what I think needs to happen! District Commanders do a good job but sometimes if a Department Officer shows up at a Post and tells them that they appreciate what they are trying to do maybe just maybe some Posts could be saved.

If you believe as I do, please vote from me in July 2023, it would be greatly appreciated.



**LET'S ELECT
JOSEPH
MEYER**
for
**VICE
COMMANDER
EAST**



Hello, I am Joe Meyer, and I am asking for your vote in the upcoming election at the Department of OK Summer Convention 2023. As your next Vice Commander East, I will work hard for all veterans, and assist the District and Post Commanders with the same energy that I've brought to Post 1 and District 1B. I am a great believer in teamwork and of bringing people together to solve problems and think outside the box to encourage positive outcomes. I regularly attend the ODVA and Mayor's Advisory council meetings in Tulsa and work collaboratively with other Oklahoma veteran organizations to help Legionnaires on a daily basis. I look forward to meeting and speaking with you in the near future. Below are listed some related accomplishments:

- 10 year active-duty decorated Army veteran with 2 overseas tours and deployment to Central America (Operation Golden Pheasant)
- Legionnaire since 2002 and SAL member since 2019.
- 3 college degrees (AS, BA, MAT) from Cameron University
- District 1B 1st Vice Commander 2022
- District committee member on the Department Constitution/By Laws Committee 2022
- Coordinated 2 District Conferences Fall 2021 & Fall 2022
- served as District Adjutant (18 Posts) 2021-2022
- attends the DEC meetings and votes in absence of the District Commander as needed
- Multiple joint activities with sister Posts in 1A-1B
- Represented District during National Commander's 5-day visit May 2022
- served as Post 1 Adjutant 2020-2021 and Finance Officer 2020-2021
- Post 1 Executive Committee at large member 2020

CANDIDATE FOR VICE COMMANDER WEST

Lance Larson

Summer Convention - July 2023



Hello, my name is Lance Larson and I'm running for Vice Commander West. It has been a privilege to serve posts the past 5 yrs. and would like to continue to do so. Positions held: Post Historian 2018

- District Sgt-AT-ARMS-2018
- DEC REP 5A- 2018
- District Vice Commander-2019
- Dept. SGT-AT-ARMS-2019-2020
- District Commander-2020-2022
- Dept. SGT-AT-ARMS-2022- present
- C/BL Committee 2018-2022
- Finance Committee-2021-2022

I am also a Veteran Service Officer the past 4 years and really enjoy helping vets with their claims.

I spent eight years in the Coast Guard, and 6 ½ yrs. of that was sea duty. The best decision I ever made was joining, and it taught me a lot of life lessons. Some of these lessons I still use in everyday life, and out of this the only way we will get our membership back to where it should be is working as a team. It is the job of the Vice West Commander to get this started and make it work. During reports about the West we need to hear about posts, nothing else just post. This is just a couple of things I would like to get started with. We need to move forward, but with the traditions of The American Legion. I also have plans to start a membership committee in the west. Maybe, we can start off running and work on other things.

If you see fit to vote for Lance Larson, I promise to you that I will give the posts in the West 110% every day. Do I make mistakes and the answer is yes, all the time, but I always work to improve were I fail. Rex Ice is also running, and Rex is a good man. At this time, I'm ready to tackle the next endeavor and see where we can go.

Lance E. Larson
Dept. SGT-AT-ARMS

Save the Date

Wellness for Women Veterans
Advancing Veteran Health Care


Friday, March 8
8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Tandy Conference Center
OSU Center for Health Sciences | Tulsa

Join us for a day of national speakers, expert training and vendor networking to better support our women Veterans.

Register now to attend in-person or virtually.

More information including a list of special guests and speakers is available on the Wellness for Women Veterans webpage.



OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY
CENTER FOR HEALTH SCIENCES

THE OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
INVITES YOU TO CELEBRATE THE

75TH ANNIVERSARY

of the

WOMEN'S ARMED SERVICES INTEGRATION ACT SIGNED JUNE 12, 1948

**NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED AS
WOMEN VETERANS RECOGNITION DAY**

MONDAY JUNE 12, 2023

OKLAHOMA HISTORY CENTER 400 NORTH BLADE STREET, OKLAHOMA CITY, OK 73101
Anniversary Programs 10am - 4pm, Dover Great Hall
Women Veterans Resource Fair 11am - 4pm, Christopher Gallery



Hosted by the OSU Women Veterans Program
405.522.4200 Email: osuwv@okstate.edu
Registration: okstate.edu/wv

2023 The Sportsman's Adventure 10 Gun Drawing.

Drawing will be held July 15th, 2023.
at the Banquet at the Department Convention



Sportsman's Adventure 10 Gun Drawing

Drawings will be held at The Grand Casino Hotel & Resort in Shawnee

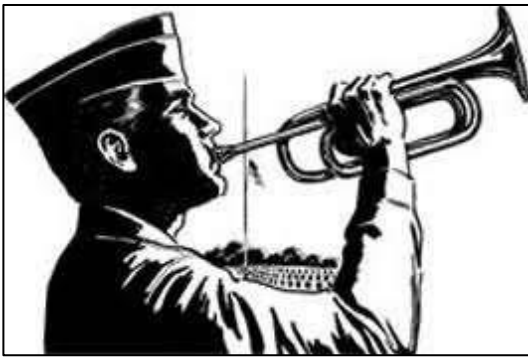
JULY 15TH, 2023 \$10.00



 THOMPSON CENTERFIRE VENTURE II	 BROWNING 12 GAUGE MODEL BPS	
 FRANCHI 41512 BOLT ACTION	 CANIK 9MM MODEL TP9SF	 RUGER AMERICAN COMPACT 9MM LUGER
 BROWNING X-BOLT COMPOSITE STALKER	 SIG SAUER P365 SAS NP RIGHT 9MM LUGER	
 MOSSBERG 500 FIELD PUMP ACTION	 STOEGER 9MM MODEL STR-9	 SIG SAUER P320 SAS 9MM LUGER

Winners of the Drawing must be of age and pass background check IAW State laws

Get your tickets today!



POST EVERLASTING



David Patterson

January 19, 1942 - February 19, 2023

David “Butch” Patterson, age 81, died Sunday, February 19, 2023. He was born January 19, 1942, in Washington, PA to Boyd Keith and Fannie Elizabeth (Sheppard) Patterson. He proudly served in the United States Army and later worked as a tank tester for McGraw Edison. He was a member of the Nazarene Church. You would most often find David working in his garden. He was preceded in death by his parents and brother Don K. Patterson. He is survived by his nephew, Dennis Patterson and wife Diane, great niece, Lindsay Anne Coffey and husband Jeff and great nephew Erick Keith Patterson and wife Ashley. Funeral Services will be 2:00pm, Wednesday, February 22, 2023, at the Mustang Nazarene Church, Mustang, OK. Visitation

for Butch will be held 3:00pm-5:00pm on Sunday, February 26, 2023, at the Piatt and Barnhill Funeral Home, Washington, PA with private family burial Monday, February 27, 2023 in the Washington Cemetery.



James F. Slusher

June 26, 1948 - February 24, 2023

American Legion Post Commander from Post 124 Afton. They have a 14-year member of Post 124 that succumbed to his long-term battle with cancer this morning. James F. Slusher, James was 74 born June 26, 1948 and died February 24, 2023. He joined Post 124 Afton November 2008. The family had been expecting his passing due to his ongoing battle with cancer.

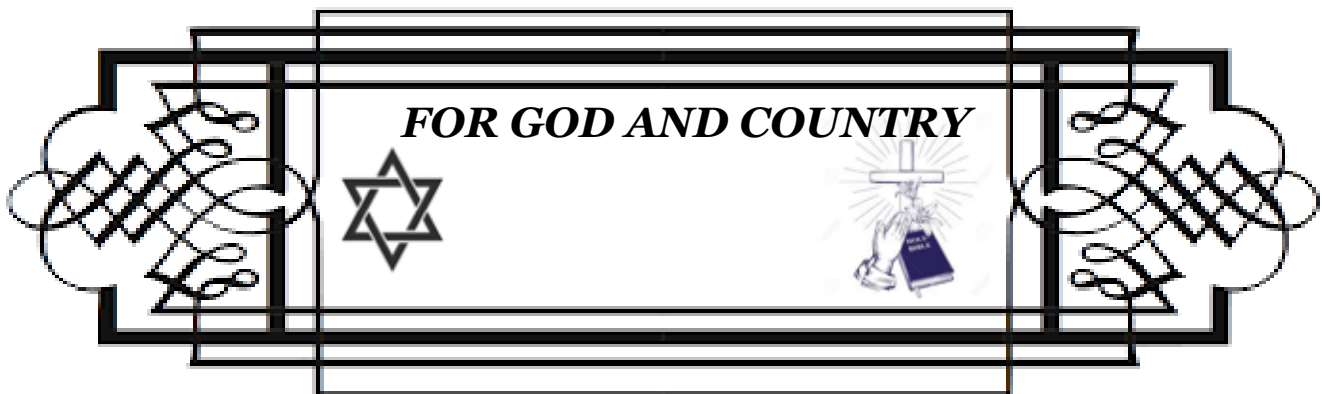


Navy Seaman 1st Class Donald A. Stott

February 27, 1923 – December 7, 1941

USS Oklahoma Sailor Accounted For From World War II (Stott, D.)
WASHINGTON – The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) announced today that Navy Seaman 1st Class Donald A. Stott, 19, of Monticello, Iowa, killed during World War II, was accounted for on March 26, 2021. On Dec. 7, 1941, Stott was assigned to the battleship USS Oklahoma, which was moored at Ford Island, Pearl Harbor, when the ship was attacked by Japanese aircraft. The USS Oklahoma sustained multiple torpedo hits, which caused it to quickly capsize. The attack on the ship resulted in the deaths of 429 crewmen, including Stott. From December 1941 to June 1944, Navy personnel recovered the remains of the deceased crew, which were subsequently

interred in the Halawa and Nu'uaniu Cemeteries. In September 1947, tasked with recovering and identifying fallen U.S. personnel in the Pacific Theater, members of the American Graves Registration Service (AGRS) disinterred the remains of U.S. casualties from the two cemeteries and transferred them to the Central Identification Laboratory at Schofield Barracks. The laboratory staff was only able to confirm the identifications of 35 men from the USS Oklahoma at that time. The AGRS subsequently buried the unidentified remains in 46 plots at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (NMCP), known as the Punchbowl, in Honolulu. In October 1949, a military board classified those who could not be identified as non-recoverable, including Stott. Between June and November 2015, DPAA personnel exhumed the USS Oklahoma Unknowns from the Punchbowl for analysis. To identify Stott's remains, scientists from DPAA used dental and anthropological analysis. Additionally, scientists from the Armed Forces Medical Examiner System used mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) analysis. Stott's name is recorded on the Walls of the Missing at the Punchbowl, along with the others who are missing from WWII. A rosette will be placed next to his name to indicate he has been accounted for. Stott will be buried on March 25, 2023, in Monticello, Iowa. For family and funeral information, contact the Navy Service Casualty office at (800) 443-9298. DPAA is grateful to the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of the Navy for their partnership in this mission. For additional information on the Defense Department's mission to account for Americans who went missing while serving our country, visit the DPAA website at www.dpaa.mil, find us on social media at www.facebook.com/dodpaa or <https://www.linkedin.com/company/defense-pow-mia-accounting-agency>. Stott's personnel profile can be viewed at <https://dpaa-mil.sites.crmforce.mil/dpaaProfile?id=aoJtooooooXgDcEAK>.



BE THE ONE



Tell your Post story, do the good things in your community, state and nation and your post will grow... Help, educate, mentor and be a leader by example. Honor those who served and sacrificed. And if your need assistance please reach out and we will help.

Michael H. Devenitch – The 1889 Land Run Newsletter - Editor
(Post 160, Yukon)

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The Legion: "Veterans Strengthening America."