

THE 1889 LAND RUN



DEPARTMENT
OF
OKLAHOMA



American Legion Newsletter

41st Edition, December 1, 2025

American Legion Department Commander

Fellow Oklahoma Legion Family,

It has been a busy November across the State and as we prepare to turn the calendar to December, I hope you all had a blessed Thanksgiving with your loved ones. In a time that should have been set aside for celebration across our Country we experienced a tragedy that many of you I'm sure you are aware of. Two of our brave American Soldiers were attacked in our Nation's Capital. We lost a young 20-year-old Soldier by the name of Specialist Sarah Beckstrom from the West Virginia National Guard, I ask you all to remember her family in your prayers that they may find comfort knowing that she gave the ultimate sacrifice defending the Country she loved. Her fellow Soldier Staff Sergeant Andrew Wolfe also from the WVNG continues to fight for his life so at this time I ask you to lift him up in prayer as well for health and healing. We are definitely not used to seeing our Troops face such danger on our own soil. Keep all our active men and women in your thoughts as we now see how quick our safety and comfort can be shattered here and abroad.

The Department has wrapped up the Fall Conferences this month with District 7 and 5. I want to thank all the Posts that hosted over the past two months with great hospitality, training, camaraderie and food. Now we will hopefully get a little rest and family time to celebrate the holidays. Midwinter Convention in January will be here before you know it, and I hope we have a packed house where we can all come together and share what's going on with the whole family.

Earlier this month we were invited to Guthrie by Commander Kim Vincent to honor many of our Korean War Veterans and loved ones of those that served with boots on the ground. A few of our Legion Family leaders were invited to present a few of the Ambassador for Peace Medals on behalf of the Ministry of Patriots and Veterans Affairs of the Republic of Korea. What an amazing experience, I recommend if any of you have not had a chance to attend one of these events, do so as it was quite an experience.

The Oklahoma Legion Family continues to do amazing things across this State for our communities and fellow Veterans. Last week we carried out my Commanders Project 22 a Day Vigil and from the bottom of my heart I want to thank all our family that came from far and wide to be part of it. The event was to bring awareness and prevention of Veteran Suicide. The outpouring of support was amazing. We had several families who have tragically lost loved ones to suicide turn out to share their stories, their loved one's stories, photos and tearful memories with many of us that were there. The Vigil started on the 22nd, with the first guards taking place

at 2:22, it lasted 22 hours with guard shifts changing out every 22 minutes. The first shift was stood by NVC Landkamer, SAL DC Sherbourne, ALA President McInnis and myself, followed by probably 50 plus of our Legion family taking a shift or multiple as well as many family members who suffered the tragedy requesting to take part.

Prior to and through the event, we hosted Nation Vice Commander Jerry Landkamer from Nebraska. He arrived Friday at Tulsa International. NEC and Past ALA President O'Leary and I greeted him. We went to Post 1 for a meet and greet and luncheon with a presentation from Commander Clay Ballinger and Alan Usry. We then headed over to Daniel Webster High School where we able to present four JROTC Cadets with their letterman jackets and spend a little time asking them question about what JROTC means to them, why they are involved and what their future may hold as far as Military aspirations. Then Post 308 Commander Coffee hosted for a short visit and tour of their facility. The evening wrapped up at the new Post 1776 where the Legion Family hosted a fundraiser dinner followed by the NVC officially presenting them with their new Charter and installing the Officers the Post has elected to lead them forward. Saturday morning, we took NVC Landkamer to a local breakfast stop, then met Otto Maynard from Post 178 at Monkey Island War Museum for a tour and then headed over to the F-4 Freedom Park where Otto and Pete Norwood also of Post 178 showed off the F-4 displayed and explained its capabilities as they flew the F-4. The rest of the trip culminated around the 22 Vigil before he departed back to Nebraska Sunday morning.

Public display and involvement go a long way to our mission. With 2026 being the year of our semi-quincentennial as a country, I encourage you to create events based around this celebration. Events themed around 1776 or 250 will greatly help us spread our mission while we celebrate.

Our membership continues to be doing great as we approach 73% membership. As of now we sit at 8537 members committed to the mission at 72.66%. Oklahoma has been bouncing between 10th and 12th place Nationally but less than 1% from jumping all the way up to 5th or 6th place. Our Mighty Midwest continues to lead the rest of the Regions as all Midwest Departments stay in top 14. We need to stay ahead of target as a little slip puts us playing catch up. Continue to take time to make genuine buddy checks and check in on our brothers and sisters. Not only are we seeing great strides in retention, but our new membership is doing awesome as we have welcomed 443 new Legionnaires into our family since July. I extend a round of applause to each and every one of you out there for the tremendous work you all are doing at the Posts.

Steve Thomas
Department Commander

American Legion Department-Senior Vice Commander

Hello Legion Family!!

November is always a busy month with Veterans Day and attending multiple Veterans Day programs. I truly enjoy telling students, families, and community members about our troops and the sacrifices they give each and every day. Please remember the two Guard members who were recently attacked. Please pray for the young lady's family as they mourn her loss.

I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving with friends and family, and that all your travels were completed without incident. I am truly blessed with being able to see all my family and spend time with them. If you do not have anyone to spend the holidays with, reach out to someone in your Post or community. There may be someone who would welcome you into their home.

Thank you to the Department of Oklahoma for allowing me the opportunity to attend National American Legion College (NALC). This was a wonderful experience. The focus was on Servant Leadership. I met Veterans from across the United States and many will become lifelong friends. We have already started networking in several areas within the Legion - recruiting, retention, membership, fundraising, and programs that are available in the different parts of the US.

You are all doing a fantastic job on membership. We have met our goals so far. The present goal is 75% by December 3rd. I know that is a short suspense, but let's push forward. We need 507 members to reach our goal. Reach out to members who haven't renewed, attend community events with Legion information in hand, and follow-up with individuals who have said they would think about it. Karen, Lance, and I are here to assist if needed.

I was honored to be invited to attend a Mental Health coalition program to discuss concerns of mental health, PTSD, and generational trauma. The program is in the infancy stages, but I feel that this will be very beneficial to our Veterans who may be struggling. There are multiple cultures involved and a variety of age groups who attended.

It was a privilege to be able to attend the 22 hour Vigil held at Grove, Oklahoma on Nov 22-23, to bring awareness to Suicides. I know that many of you have been affected by someone who has committed suicide. When an individual commits Suicide, it initially affects approximately 135 people, and that number can grow exponentially. Please understand that we are here to help. Be The One to listen, to care, and to get them to the hospital. This will take all of us working together to bring the number of suicides down. I also know that this time of year is one of the worst times for suicides - being lonely at the holidays, being away from home, struggling with life issues, and no one to listen. Don't be afraid to ask questions. You may save a life by asking.

"Be The One"

Respectfully,
Shirley May
Senior Vice Commander

Department Vice Commander – East

Greetings Legion Family,

As we enter December and bring another remarkable year to a close, I find myself reflecting on the incredible work I've witnessed throughout the East. Every Post I've visited—whether large or small, urban or rural—has shown the same unwavering commitment to serving veterans, their families, and their communities. The generosity, dedication, and spirit of service I see across our Posts truly embodies what it means to be part of the American Legion Family.

I also want to extend a heartfelt **thank you** to everyone who participated in the *Stand the Watch* event on November 22 in Grove to support and highlight our **Be The One** mission. It was a very cold 22 hours, but despite the weather, we came together with purpose and unity to make a powerful impact.

A special thank you to **Department Commander Steve Thomas II** and **Detachment Commander Chris Sherbourne** for their outstanding coordination of this event. Your leadership ensured its success and helped shine a light on an issue we are all committed to addressing.

I am also deeply grateful to **National Vice Commander Jerry Landkamer (NEB)** for taking the time to join us, meet with members of District 1B, and present the newest charter to the Department—**Post 1776**. What an incredible milestone for our Legion Family here in Oklahoma.

The holiday season can be a busy time, but it is also filled with opportunity. Many of our Posts are hosting food drives, supporting local families, placing wreaths, or partnering with community groups. These acts of kindness—often done quietly and without recognition—make a real difference. Thank you for continuing to show up, not just during the holidays but all year long. You strengthen your communities in meaningful ways every day.

December is also a month for connection. I encourage each Post to check in on your members—especially those who may be spending the season alone or who may need a friendly call or visit. A simple gesture can go a long way in reminding someone they are part of a caring Legion Family.

As we look ahead to a new year, I am excited to continue visiting Posts and sharing your successes. Please keep sending photos and updates—I am always proud to highlight your efforts on my Vice Commander East Facebook page. Your stories inspire others and showcase the impact we make when we work together.

Thank you for all you do, not only during the holidays but every day. Your dedication continues to uphold the values of service, honor, and community that define our great organization.

Karen Cruice
Vice Commander East
Department of Oklahoma

Department Vice Commander – West

Hello to all the Legion family.

November has been a busy month starting with me at Yukon on November 6 for post revitalization, which was successful, and then to Stillwater for post meeting. November 8 had a nice drive the night before to Sayre, Oklahoma. Had the privilege of seeing progress on the new post, and the district conference was second to none.

November 11 started Veterans Day off in Moore, Oklahoma. Got to hear from Genthner Drummond and Carrie Moore along with a few others. Post 184 all of you went above and beyond with the program. Then I was off to Post 301 Lexington, and Dale Haynes tried to teach me the art of playing dominos. In the end I think the person teaching me played me, but it was fun, I promise you that. At 1700 I went to Post 2024 and AMVET Post 6 in Lexington if anybody isn't aware this is our first prison post which we now have one in Granite and another wanting to

come online. They had a flag retirement ceremony and served a very awesome meal. Ken Wyatt and I received Afghan from Post 6 AMVETS which I was proud.

November 13 Jackie Sikes and I started out at Veterans Corner take 35 south to exit 9 and head towards Blanchard it will be on the right. We learned a lot and myself would like to put into Northwest. It would help out the process of doing claims in a more efficient manner. On to VA hospital in OKC Jackie and I talked to people that had been there three and a half hours which we all know is inefficient on time. We got paperwork people needed and had them start filling it out. When they went in it cut a lot of time off. Then it was off to Concho Post 401 they are working hard to get the post back up and running. Keep up the hard work Concho. Now if I can get an answer on White Eagle everything will be great.

November 15 District 5 Conference and it was good to be home with district 5. We had a good turnout and some of us hopefully was able to get rid of sour grapes I know I threw mine away at summer convention.

November 16, we had the Korean Peace Medals at Guthrie, Oklahoma, it was impressive. Kim Vincent, you have gone above and beyond with this project.

Thank you so much.

On November 22, I went to Grove, Oklahoma to do a couple of watches for the 22 a day vigil. Very humbling experience and great job Commander Thomas.

We are having VSO zoom meetings every Saturday morning 9 - 1030

Lance E. Larson

National Executive (NEC) Committeeman

Greetings legionnaires!

It was my honor along with other American Legion Department of Oklahoma Legion Family member from American Legion, Sons of American Legion, Legion Auxiliary and Legion Riders, to participate in the 22 A Day Vigil, a memorial to the 22 a day veterans who commit suicide every day and the Legion effort to stem the tide of veteran suicide and bring attention to the problem. Legion National also authorized the Midwest Division National Vice Commander Jerry Landkamer from the Department of Nebraska to attend. We were able to pick him up from the Tulsa Airport, take him on a tour of Tulsa area Posts including Post 1, Post 308 and even gave the new Post 1776 in West Tulsa their Charter and Post 178 in Grove.

Thanks to our Department Commander Steve Thomas, SAL Detachment Commander Chris Sherbourne for coming up with the idea and Auxiliary President Kim McInnis and Legion Riders for encouraging membership participation. They were able to get an empty casket from a local funeral home and set it up draped with the US flag in an open-air pavilion by the City of Grove municipal building in downtown Grove. There Legion members stood watch over the casket for 22-minute shifts for 22 hours starting at 1400hrs November 22nd and ending at 1200hrs November 23rd. Many people passing by stopped to ask what was going on and many had personal family experiences with suicide and several participated with the Legion Family members in the 22-minute ceremony. One father from Grove stayed up all night in honor of his son, an Army veteran, who committed suicide [and bought breakfast for everyone at 7:00 AM which was

appreciated]. Special thanks to Mike Kerr from Post 64 in Chandler who volunteered to be the Operations Officer for the event which included organizing the participants, being the timekeeper and maintaining a military bearing and formation for changing of the Honor Guard shifts for the entire 22 hours!

Thanks to all the others who I haven't mentioned for their participation and for Legion family members from western Oklahoma and OKC who participated also. This event was a true example of National Commander Dan Wiley's motto for this year: "BETTER TOGETHER", with the Legion family in Oklahoma working together for a somber cause that affects everyone in the Legion.

Charlie O'Leary
NEC, Department of Oklahoma

Alternate National Executive (ANEC) Committeeman

American Legion Riders

Greetings, fellow Riders,

The American Legion Riders, Department of Oklahoma, have some exciting news to share as we roll toward Midwinter and gear up for another strong year of riding, serving, and honoring our mission.

We are proud to announce that two new ALR charters will be presented at the upcoming Department Midwinter Conference. Our Department Riders Meeting will be held at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, January 17, and the new charters will be presented during that meeting or in the General Session on Sunday.

Please join me in congratulating our two newest chapters:

- ☐ Post 68 – Clayton
- ☐ Post 63 – Freedom

These posts now join the ranks of the American Legion Riders family here in Oklahoma, and we are honored to welcome their Riders into our growing statewide team. Their addition strengthens our footprint and expands the reach of our mission across the state.

In-State Legacy Run Mark Your Calendars

Planning is well underway for the 2025 In-State Legacy Run, and I'm pleased to share that the dates are now confirmed:

Friday, May 16 – Sunday, May 18, 2025

This year's Run will take us through large and small communities as we ride with purpose to support the Legacy Scholarship Fund and the Veterans & Children Foundation. More details on routes, stops, hotels, fuel plans, and registration will be released at Midwinter and updated regularly thereafter.

Fundraising Progress

Thanks to your drive, leadership, and generosity, we are already ahead of schedule. To date, we have surpassed \$7,000 raised months before kickstands even go up. To ensure full accountability and transparency, the Treasurer and I have opened a dedicated bank account for the American Legion Riders under The American Legion, Department of Oklahoma. Every dollar is being

handled properly, by the book, and exactly the way our Riders expect. Your trust in this program is an honor, and we take that responsibility seriously.

A Few Words on Safety

As we head into colder riding months, I want to offer a friendly reminder: please ride smart, ride layered, ride slow, and ride safe.

Cold weather means:

- ☐ More layers
- ☐ Thicker gloves
- ☐ Stiffer movements
- ☐ Less feel on the controls
- ☐ And more drivers out there who aren't watching for motorcycles

So, watch out for one another. If conditions don't feel right, don't hesitate to say, "Let's cage it today."

No ride is worth a Rider.

Moving Forward Together

I appreciate everything each of you does for your posts, your communities, your fellow Riders, and our Veterans. The heart of this program has always been the people who wear the patch and live its mission.

As the Riders of Post 308 like to say, "This is going to be the best In-State Legacy Run we've had to date." And I believe that wholeheartedly.

God bless each and every one of you.

For God, Country, and Service,

Brett Martin

Department Chairman

Past Department Commander's Corner

WARNING ORDER: SAVE THE DATE-SUNDAY JULY 12, 2026, 9:00 AM.

That's the date and time for the next Department election, where the Blue Caps, that's you, will decide who the new leaders for the Department of Oklahoma will be for the next year.

Please mark this date on your calendar and make plans to attend along with other members in your Post. Your voice CAN be heard if you participate in the process.

We have tried to make positive changes in the past 18 months in Department leadership with new members with new ideas, new enthusiasm and new direction for our Department and the Legion family. If you think this is a good idea, then let's stay the course and continue the mission to make Oklahoma an outstanding Legion Department again.

Your vote will count, but you must show up!

Not participating may let the Legion slide back to the days of discord, division and negativity.

Keep the Legion moving forward for all the Legion Family!

SAVE THE DATE: SUNDAY JULY 12, 2026, 9:00 AM.

V/R,

Charlie O'Leary

PDC 2021-2022

No One Left Behind

There's an old saying we've all heard somewhere along the way:

"Doing the right thing is easy... when everyone is watching.

The true test is what you do when no one is."

As Past Department Commander, I've had the honor of seeing the very best of our American Legion family across Oklahoma. I've watched posts rally around a struggling comrade, Riders stand in the cold for a final escort, and Auxiliary and SAL members quietly pay a bill or buy groceries for a veteran's family with no cameras, no headlines, no applause. Just the right thing, done for the right reason.

As we enter this holiday season, I've been thinking about what it means to "pay it forward," and how deeply that idea is woven into our Four Pillars of The American Legion—not as slogans, but as our daily marching orders.

Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation "Leave no veteran behind."

Doing the right thing for a veteran isn't always dramatic. It may be a welfare check on someone who's been quiet, a ride to an appointment, or helping a spouse navigate paperwork. Paying it forward means remembering that each of us could someday need that same lifeline—and honoring our own service by supporting those who served beside us.

National Security "Serving even when we're out of uniform."

For many, service ends with a DD-214. For Legionnaires, it never does. We support today's service members, their families, deployments, homecomings, and a strong national defense. Paying it forward means standing behind the young men and women who now fill the boots we once wore.

Americanism — "Love of country, lived out loud."

Americanism is not noise—it's example. It's flag etiquette for students, Legion Baseball, community programs, and respectful conversations even in disagreement. This season, paying it forward may be as simple as sharing your table with someone who sees the world differently, united under one flag.

Children & Youth — "Investing in a future we may never see."

The purest form of service is what we do for young people who may never know our names. Scholarships, Boys State and Girls State, shooting sports, mentorship, Christmas toy drives—they are all seeds we plant for a future that will outlive us.

The True Meaning of Selfless Service

Selfless service isn't a feeling—it is a choice.

It's giving when no one is keeping score.

It's stepping up when you're tired.

It's saying, "I'll handle it," even when no one will ever know.

During the holidays, many search for the "spirit of the season." For Legionnaires, that spirit is found in quiet acts of courage and kindness: an extra chair at the table for a veteran with no family, an anonymous gift card for a struggling parent, a hospital visit, or a ride on a cold night. We do these things because we once raised our right hand and swore an oath—one that does not expire when the uniform comes off. It simply takes a new form.

So as we move through this season, I challenge each of us, myself included, to ask every day:

"What is the right thing to do, right here, right now and how can I pay it forward?"

If we live by that question, our Four Pillars will not simply be printed words; they will be the heartbeat of our posts, our communities, and our homes.

For God, Country, and Service,
Brett Martin
Past Department Commander

Department Adjutant - Rick Redden

Adjutant's Corner

National Emergency Fund

Legionnaire Insurance Trust

VA Burial Benefit Fact Sheet, click on icon to access



VA Burial Benefit -
2.pdf

Oklahoma Veterans Commission – Brett Martin

THE OKLAHOMA VETERANS COMMISSION HOLDS A MOST REMARKABLE SESSION

The Oklahoma Veterans Commission convened on Friday, November 21st, at the Headquarters of the Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs for a meeting marked by genuine fellowship, meaningful progress, and a deep sense of purpose.

The morning opened with a moving presentation of Quilts of Valor to Director Bynum, Chief of Staff Paul Young, Commissioner Rick Mueller, Commissioner Ted Perry, and Commissioner Michael Dukes. These were the final quilt presentations, as the remaining Commissioners received theirs in the previous year.

A sincere word of appreciation is due to Mrs. Candice McIntire for coordinating this moment, and to the remarkable craftswomen whose skill brings these quilts to life — Mrs. Shauna Schwarm, Mrs. Cathy Hladik, and the entire Quilts of Valor team. Their work stands as a heartfelt tribute to all who serve Oklahoma's Veterans.

The Commission also recognized Mr. Shawn Kirkland, who was awarded his Ten-Year State Service Pin and Certificate by Director Bynum. Congratulations are well deserved for a decade of dedicated service.

On the business front, the Commission took a significant step forward by formally ratifying and approving the bylaws of the Oklahoma Veterans Foundation, positioning the organization to begin accepting donations soon.

In addition, a new partnership between ODVA and Oklahoma Contemporary was announced, offering free classes and creative programs to Oklahoma Veterans. This collaboration promises new opportunities for wellness, community, and connection through the arts.

Reports from the field affirm that our Veterans Homes remain strong, our Veterans Service Officers and Outreach Programs continue their steady growth, and our longstanding

partnerships with the Department of Oklahoma American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars remain firm.

The Commission was further honored by the attendance of Senator Brenda Stanley, who joined the meeting as final decisions were made regarding the legislative agenda for the upcoming session.

It was a productive, purposeful, and forward-moving gathering — exactly what our Veterans deserve.

For God, Country, and Service.

Brett Martin

Chairman, Oklahoma Veterans Commission

Sons of the American Legion

Women Veterans Outreach

Contact Karen Ritter at RitterK4505@gmail.com or Tina Kilmer at TKilmer2003@gmail.com for suggestions.

Child Well-Being Foundation

Established in 1954, The American Legion Child Well-being Foundation is to contribute to the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual well-being of children and youth; to aid progress in the field of child well-being; and to the sum total knowledge of children and youth through research, studies, surveys and projects, or in other ways, including but not limited to activities and programs benefiting the children and youth of this nation.

Banner Order Form

https://drive.google.com/open?id=1FktMBOH6aSTX8TXDstlW_FBhUsz1p3dl

2025-2026 Goal

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1Cgqp7FOd6zwOIUcvG-D34KIoU72eYPBo8yk4qXXrBCM>

American Legion Auxilliary

Kim McInnis

ALA Department President

Veterans Service Officer

If You have interest in being a VSO please fill out this form and return it to me.

Jack Sikes

Jsikesokamlvso@gmail.com

Organization's Request for Access

If you would like any individuals (such as supervisors) copied in email correspondence

regarding the following access request, please list here:

Access Request for: (first, middle and last name)

Will work location be on-site at Muskogee RO or remote?

What VA facility will be used for Fingerprints and PIV Badge Pick-up?

Address of work location:

Work phone number:

Work Email:

Personal Email:

Position Title:

Is the individual accredited with Office of General Counsel?

If so, what is the Accreditation Number?

If not, who will be the supervising accredited representative?

Does individual need sensitive 6 or 7 level access? If so, which level?

Jack Sikes

443-271-5545

Legion News

Awards

Let me begin by announcing Allen Usry, of Post 1, is the new Co-Chair of the Department Awards Committee. Allen, Thank You for Standing Up.

AWARDS

The Awards committee is kind of at a sit and wait stage. So, I am going to give you a holiday story.

This story has nothing to do with turkeys or Christmas trees, but it is about giving. It's about giving hope. It's about how dark this time of year can be to many people, and how knowing someone cares can brighten up the darkness. It's a story about how you can "Be The One" that brings that brightness into someone else's life.

Do "Buddy Checks". Ask your Post's Adjutant for a list of 5 or 10 members and their contact information. It doesn't take long, and a lot of those calls will end in voice mail, but maybe one will be the one that makes a difference. And from a selfish point of view, after making that call, both of you will feel better. A "Buddy Check" call is a self-rewarding event. It's the Holiday Season, give a gift to yourself. Make a Buddy Check call.

THE REASON, I said Holiday Season is because I checked and there are about a thousand different holidays lumped into November and December. Normally “I” say Merry Christmas, but this article isn’t about me, other than to say I know from personal experience, a phone call from a random person that I didn’t know but they cared if I was going to take another breath can bring some light into a dark place. You probably have no idea how brilliant a light you can be.

You don’t have to be a rock for them to stand on, be the light so they can see tomorrow. Be the One, make that call. Brighten up someone’s life.

Paul Ray: 405-921-5819 plainoldpaul@yahoo.com awards@mustangpost353.org

DD Form 214 Assistance

A great tool and often a quick turnaround to assist a Veteran or loved one request their DD-214. Quicker than snail mail, as soon as the following day.

[Help with a Federal Agency - Senator James Lankford](#)

Senator Lankford's reps in the Tulsa office work with the National Archives. They have been extremely helpful in requesting and following up with any documents needed.

Very self-explanatory when completing, although I will share, if you are not a direct family member, they will ask for a document from the next-of-kin; Driver's License, Birth Certificate, Marriage Certificate, etc., which is easy enough to follow-up with.



**92nd Anniversary (1935-2026)
Of the
Annual National American Legion Pilgrimage
To the
Tomb of Abraham Lincoln**

Post 32 – OPEN HOUSE – 4:00pm to 1:00am

Wednesday, February 11, 2026

Springfield Post #32, The American Legion

1120 Sangamon Avenue, Springfield, Illinois – Phone 217/523-3415

**Home of and originator of the National American Legion Pilgrimage to the
Tomb of Abraham Lincoln**

+++++

Our Mess Hall Restaurant presents, from 4-9pm Wednesday, Feb 11th.

All you Can Eat Spaghetti or All you Can Eat Chilli Mac - \$10.95 + tax

Chicken Parmesan - \$13.95

the following salads will also be available:

Chicken Strip Salad w/choice of dressing \$9.95

Taco Salad \$9.95

Chef Salad w/choice of dressing \$9.95

Italian Dinner Salad or Dinner Salad w/choice of dressing

By itself \$3.95 – w/dinner - \$2.50

Reservations suggested 217/523-3415 or email us: spfldpost32@outlook.com

Visit our website: www.springfieldamericanlegion.com

--Free Juke Box 8:00pm to Midnight

Video Gaming & Complete Bar Service

FREE Shuttle Service to the hotel until 1:00am

National Shooting Sports Foundation

**Matthew E. Herndon | Director
Internal Affairs & Membership**

Department Blood Program Chair

<https://ourbloodinstitute.org/>

Post 178 Grove reported 30 units of blood were collected at their Blood Drive last week. Commander Thomas donated Double Red blood making him ineligible for his next donation for 112 days. Double Red donations can be given 3 times per year. Great Example, Commander!!

Post 195 Jay has a drive scheduled 12-6pm at the Jay Community Center. If you're close, join them in making this a big success. Thank you for making this happen.

Post 353 Mustang has its annual blood drive competition with Post 160 Yukon on December 17 from 1-6pm. This has been a yearly event for ... several years and has always been a great success for both posts and the Our Blood Institute (Oklahoma Blood Institute changed their name some months ago as is has been a multistate organization for years ... think other states may have felt slighted.

Post 353 received their October drive has been reported by OBI as collecting 51 units. These drives add up over the year and certainly have received kudos from the OBI volunteer coordinators.

If your post has sponsored a blood drive or has one scheduled, please let me know. The Department of Oklahoma has an opportunity to shine nationally with just a little effort. If an organization in your community needs help with their blood drive, form a partnership and report your efforts.

For assistance to start a program, call the not-for-profit blood collection agency serving your area hospitals. For additional information about successful blood programs, call me. I can talk to you about our past results; upon invitation I can visit your post to discuss the Legion Blood program. Save a life. Serve your community.

JOHN G. BISHOP

405-414-2515, jbishop22@cox.net

DEPT OF OKLAHOMA BLOOD DONOR CHAIR 2025-2026



NVC Jerry Landkamer from Department of Nebraska with OK Department Commander Steven Thomas II, and he also addressed the Legion Family at the conclusion of 22 A-Day-Vigil.

Post 40 – Vinita





Veterans Day in Vinita at Post 40 we had a program at the Monument followed by a meal at the Post

District 1B

Post 227 – Barnsdall



J. D. Cole (left) and Claud Rosendale (right) folding a flag while Ivan Winger (center) is reading the flag folding ceremony at the Barnsdall, OK High School program.



Top: Ivan Winger reading the program.
Left: J. D. Cole and Claud Rosendale exhibiting the folded flag after completing the flag folding to the students at the Dewey, Oklahoma Elementary School program.

District 1B Webster Schrack American Legion Post 227 from Barnsdall, Oklahoma participate in two different area School's Veterans Day programs on November 11th.



Every Sunday afternoon following Veterans Day, District 1B Webster Schrack American Legion Post 227 from Barnsdall, Oklahoma conducts a Flag Retirement Ceremony. Retired flags that have been provided to the Post throughout the year will have the Star section separated from the stripes. The stripe section, along with other retired flags are burned. The Post will then pay special tribute to the Star section prior to burning them. 157 flags were retired at this year's ceremony. Following the ceremony, we had a dinner consisting of hamburgers, hot dogs with all the fixings including desserts and drinks.

Post 142 – Hominy

HOMINY HIGH SCHOOL VETERAN OF THE YEAR CELEBRATION

All the veteran members of Post 142 and all veterans in the Hominy area would like to give a heart felt thank you to everyone at Hominy High School (HHS) for the outstanding effort to honor the veterans throughout the Hominy area. An incredibly special thank you to Jera Taylor for all of her help. And last, but definitely not least, an incredibly huge thank you to all the Hominy High School students for such a wonderful presentation and program to include all the presenters and to the wonderful Hominy High School Orchestra.

THE BREAKFAST BEFORE



Chris & Connie King Dennis Kidder

Jim Evans & John Maker

Jim Hale & Russel Hancock



John Carter

Louis Hale

Phillip Ferro



Rex Long, Jimmy Himes, Don Rainwater, Dennis Kidder

THE CEREMONY



John Hamilton

The Flag Bearers

S. Swinford R. Hancock

R. Long J. Evans

C. King



J. Himes

J. Carter

J. Carter

L. Hale

Louis Hale

John Maker, Jim Hale, Dennis Kidder

THE VETERAN OF THE YEAR-BOB TAYLOR



Princess Jancee Lookout and Bob Taylor

Bryson

Bob & Caeol Taylor

Jolie

Post 131 – Skiatook



Local American Legion Post 131 member and Korean War Veteran Lucky Ladwig and his wife Myrna served as Grand Marshalls for the parade.

This year's Skiatook Veterans Day Parade held on November 8, 2025, was more than just a procession—it was a heartfelt tribute to the men and women who have served our country. The local American Legion Galentine-Price Post 131 proudly organized and marched alongside 20+ entries, including the local VFW Post 7977, The Patriot Guard, Sperry High School Band,

Northeastern Oklahoma Miata Club, and countless others reminding everyone of the deep bond between our veterans and the towns they call home.

The community lined the streets, waving flags, and cheering as the parade passed by, sending a powerful message: we remember, we honor, and we are grateful. These moments of unity strengthen the connection between neighbors and reinforce the values of service and sacrifice that veterans embody. For the veterans themselves, participating in the parade is a source of pride and joy. It's an opportunity to reconnect with fellow service members, share stories, and feel the appreciation of those they served to protect and are a welcome reminder that their efforts and sacrifices continue to resonate.



Adding to the celebration, the American Legion Post 131 Auxiliary hosted their annual spaghetti dinner for all veterans and their families after the parade with the assistance of members of the Pawhuska Boy Scout's troop #33. This warm gesture gave everyone a chance to gather, share a meal, and continue the spirit of camaraderie and gratitude well beyond the parade route.

When the community comes together to honor its veterans in celebration like this, they are living expressions of gratitude that create a legacy of respect that will endure for generations.

Post 2020 – Claremore

OPERATION HOMEWARD BOUND

WHO IS CL DANIEL?

C. L. Daniel was an American World War 1 veteran known for being the first victim of the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre identified from remains exhumed from mass graves in Tulsa Oaklawn cemetery.

C. L. Daniel was born and raised in Newnan, Georgia to Thomas Daniel and Amanda Merriweather. His father died before 1910 He was drafted into the United States Army in 1918 during World War I and served until 1919.¹ He was stationed at Camp Gordon in Chamblee, Georgia during his military tenure with the 47th Company, 12th Training Battalion, and the 406th Rescue Labor Battalion, Company B. According to an anthropologist at the University of Florida, he spent 19 days in a base hospital for a leg injury.

After the war, Daniel traveled across the United States. He was on his way home to Georgia from Utah when he was killed in the Tulsa Race Massacre In 2020, the city of Tulsa began exhuming suspected mass graves related to the massacre. In July 2024, Daniel was the first victim of the massacre exhumed from the graves positively identified using DNA. The city offered to help rebury Daniel according to his family's wishes. A memorial service was held in which the mayor of Tulsa G.T. Bynum eulogized Daniel and spoke of his relationship to his bereaved mother. A letter from his family was read: "Today represents more than a memorial for C.L. Daniel and those still resting in unidentified graves; it is a long-awaited acknowledgement of the lives impacted by the massacre.

The American Legion has been in contact with the family of CL DANIEL and has offered to transport his remains from Tulsa to Newman Georgia. The family is waiting for the death certificate in order to do this. As of Nov 2025, it has not been provided. And so, with winter coming it has been decided to wait until spring 2026. The veteran's remains will be transported in a Motorcycle Hearst with Military respect. All alone the way. And then upon arriving in Newman Georgia he will be reinterred into the family cemetery next to his mother. WITH FULL MILITARY HONORS. CL Daniel is a veteran and will be treated with respect. **If you want to join in the escort, contact Ray Watts 918-521-2016**

Motorcycle or Auto either is fine. This is over 100 years overdue for this veteran to be home to mommy, and the AMERICAN LEGION will see that it happens.

District 2A

Post 15 – Muskogee

We had a pancake breakfast for everyone from 7-10 am, before the town's Veterans Day Ceremony, including a flyover of a group of WWII planes.

Breakfast this year included pancakes and a fruit medley. The pancake mix was donated by our neighbor Boom a Rang.

Also, our SAL is having a toy run tomorrow. They will start at the Northpoint Plaza with lunch to follow at the post.

The TAL will kick off a Christmas food and toy drive soon after the SAL toy run.

District 2B

Post 10 – Okmulgee



Our Flag Retirement ceremony was in October.

Okmulgee FFA made a burn pit for the Post because our old one was stolen.

District 3A

Post 68 – Clayton



It all started on 31 October with Post 68 Legionnaires, Auxiliary and family members participating in the Trunk-or-Treat festivities in Clayton and Talihina. Over 800 bags of candy were distributed in just under 3 hours.



Next stop was November 7th with our American legion Axillary Unit 68 presenting nine hand-cut and sewn quilts to Veterans from the Kiamichi valley during their annual VETERANS QUILTS OF HONOR presentation. Auxiliary President Jeannie Little and Legion Commander

Quinton Phillips addressed the Veterans and their families that were in attendance expressing gratitude for their service to this great country and the local communities.



On 8 November 2025, The American Legion Post 68 Legionnaires, Auxiliary, and Sons met with local community members to place over 170 flags at local Veteran's gravesites in Talihina and Albion, Oklahoma. These gravesites ranged from the Civil War, through WWI, WWII, Korea, Vietnam and GWOT



November 11th had the Legionnaires attending and participating in Veterans Day ceremonies at both the Clayton and Tuskahoma Public Schools. Starting with breakfast with students and then presentation of the flags during the school assemblies with Commander Phillips delivering the keynote address at Tuskahoma.

Post 68 (Clayton) joined Post 180 (Hartshorne) to participate in the Hartshorne Veterans Day parade on November 15th where they met with civic leaders, community members and were treated to a ride in parade.

District 3B

Post 74 – Wright City

In November we raised \$10,000 on a gun raffle. Going to use money for repairs for our building.

Post 39 – Durant, Post 99 – Madill, and Post 164 – Tishomingo

All had good turn outs for Thanksgiving bake sale/fund raisers

15 Oklahomans completed Novembers Bergman & Moore 101 VSO class.

Next 101 class scheduled for Jan 2026. Time and Date TBD.

Contact jsikesokamlvso@gmail.com for enrollment.

District 4

District 5A

Post 88 Norman





District 5A-B Meeting on Saturday, November 15 at Post 88 in Norman, held in conjunction with the Auxiliary meeting

Post 58-Guthrie

AMBASSADOR FOR PEACE MEDAL



American Legion LeBron Post 58 Guthrie continues to build out at 125 W Rush Road. The Legion Family remains active with the holidays upon us.

The 97th Annual '89er Days Celebration committee meets monthly for the 2026 celebration April 14th -18th. The longest and oldest parade concludes the weeklong festivities on April 18th.

November 16th , Commander Kim Vincent, Post Chaplain Steve Sibley, Jaeho Yi, Vice chairman of the Korean War Veterans Committee, The Federation of Korean Associations, USA, and Intaek Choi, Consulate General of the Republic of Korea Houston, American Legion Dept Commander Steve Thomas, Vice Commander West Lance Larson, Dept Historian Wayne Flowers, NEC Charlie and Past Dept President Nancy O'Leary, SAL Detachment Commander Chris Sherbourne, and Auxiliary First Vice President Donna Snoggrass joined us, with some presenting veterans for their service during the Korean War with the Ambassador for Peace Medal.





Legionnaire Eileen Kupper Grubbs, Post 88 Norman, assisted with identifying Veterans from the Norman Post, living Vet Billy Leroy Hardage, deceased Veterans Ralph L Stevenson and Eileen's father Eugene Robert Kupper Jr, who were recognized posthumously. DEC D8 Jack Day with Post 91 Woodward applied for a dear family friend who passed away just days before his presentation. Jack accepted the medal for the Honorable Elroy Tidmore and presented it to the family. Wayne Flowers, Dept Historian, also joined us at Providence Place in Woodward to present the medal to the Honorable Bobbie Holloway. We are accepting applications on an ongoing basis and will set dates for future ceremonies. Ideally, we would like to coordinate in the quadrants of the state and hold larger ceremonies. Please let us know if you are available and we can all work together to locate Veterans in a larger area of 2-3 districts.



James Heflin, Post 40 Vinita, was on an Honor Flight to Washington, D.C., and shared Commander Vincent's contact info with a couple family members to process requests for their loved ones. Medals were mailed to Chandler, Ariz., for Dominic DiGiovanni's 95th birthday, and to the grandson of Capt. Charles Graham-Gibson, identified March 17, 2025, by DPAA (Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency), repatriated and laid to rest Oct. 11 at Fort Custer National Cemetery, Battle Creek, Michigan. His remains were part of the release of 55 boxes of remains by Kim Jong Un on Aug. 2, 2018; Capt. Charles was in box 48. See attached story:

<https://www.mlive.com/galleries/54BOTB3IX5C5FADBRQEPDBOZU4/>





Honoring Korea Defense Veterans

December 6th (Sat.), 2023
12:00pm (Doors Open)
Ceremony 12:30 (Lunch to follow)

The Korean Church of Tulsa
13000 E. 68th St. Broken Arrow, OK 74012

RSVP: Jaeho (Bruce) Yi (405-996-8984)
(Korean American Association)
Kim Vincent, American Legion (619-807-8431)

"Forever grateful for
your courage."

"Your sacrifice will
never be forgotten."











Auxiliary Members organized the annual Thanksgiving Food Baskets with 7 schools for a delivery of 10 baskets to families identified by the school counselors and a SAL member. Auxiliary members, Legionnaires and volunteers assisted in filling and delivering the baskets. Auxiliary members also signed approximately 280 Christmas cards for Veterans living in the

states Veterans homes for delivery by Kim McInnis, Auxiliary President Dept of Oklahoma and other Auxiliary members.

The American Legion LeBron Post 58 Guthrie, Oklahoma, is working alongside Guthrie JROTC for the Annual Wreaths Across America Ceremony on Saturday, December 13, 2025, at Summit View Cemetery. Sponsor a wreath or sign-up to volunteer. Remember, Honor, and Teach about the sacrifices made by Veterans.



Honor Park – Tims Body Worx gifted Brick Pavers for their employees who served. What a fantastic way to recognize and pay tribute to a Veteran employee. Proceeds help maintain the park and pay for the Brick Paver Replacement Project taking place by The American Legion



The weather warmed up nicely on Thanksgiving for the Auxiliary's 4th Annual Turkey Trot 5K and 1 Mile Fun Run. Prizes were given for the Largest Flock, Vintage Trotter, Turkeyling Trotter, Funniest Costume, as well as the Fastest Trotters



The American Legion LeBron Post 58 Guthrie, Oklahoma, is working alongside Guthrie JROTC for the Annual Wreaths Across America Ceremony on Saturday, December 13, 2025, at Summit View Cemetery. Sponsor a wreath or sign-up to volunteer. Remember, Honor, and Teach about the sacrifices made by Veterans.

We have an Opportunity Drawing for a custom Firepit Ring with the Legion Family – perfect for your backyard gatherings! Only 100 tickets available. Drawing will be held on December 15, 2025. Donation of \$10 / ticket.

All proceeds support the SAL program at LeBron Post 58, funding general operations and community programs that make a difference for veterans, their families, and our community. To make a donation for a Brick Paver or the Firepit Fundraiser please contact the office at 405-2828-2589

CashApp [https://cash.app/\\$TALnALALebron58](https://cash.app/$TALnALALebron58)

Venmo <https://venmo.com/u/TALPost58Guthrie>

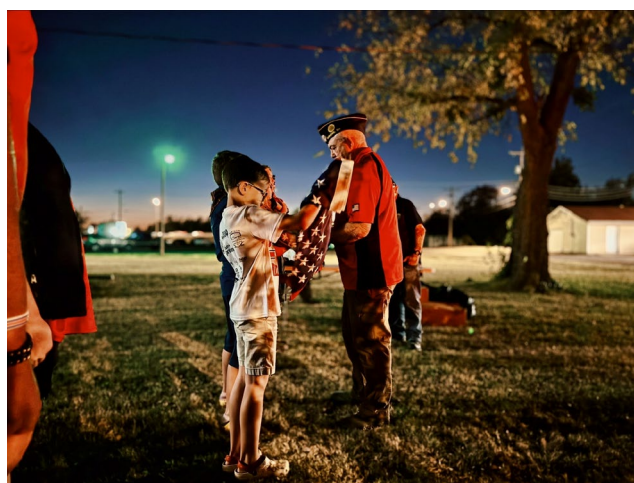


District 5B

Post 184 – Moore



The Veterans Day celebration this year stood as a meaningful reminder of the values that bind our community together, and American Legion Post 184 played a central role in bringing those values to life for the people of Moore. The event honored the legacy of service with a program that reflected both gratitude and unity. Distinguished guest speakers, *State Attorney General Captain Gentner Drummond, USAF (Ret)*; *Colonel Chuck DeBellevue, USAF (Ret)*; and *SSGT Norman Crowe, USMC (Ret)*, shared reflections that grounded the day in purpose and history, reminding everyone of the sacrifices that safeguard our freedoms. The choir's performance added depth and emotion, while the combined VFW and American Legion rifle detail demonstrated precision and respect that resonated across the crowd. Beyond the ceremony itself, the day showcased how Post 184 continues to serve Moore by fostering civic pride, supporting veterans and their families, and strengthening the connection between military service and community life. Each moment affirmed the importance of honoring those who served and highlighted Post 184's ongoing commitment to the city's well-being and the Legion it proudly represents.



Post 184 also carried out a dignified flag retirement ceremony, a tradition that reflects deep respect for the symbols of our nation and the values they represent. This ceremony serves as a moment of reflection, honoring the worn and weathered flags that have flown proudly over homes, schools, and businesses throughout Moore. Legionnaires approached the task with focus and pride, ensuring each step was performed with the reverence it deserved. The participation of Troop 287 added a meaningful layer to the event, demonstrating how the next generation is learning the significance of proper flag etiquette and the responsibility of stewardship. Together, Post 184 and the community fostered unity and purpose, demonstrating how shared traditions strengthen understanding, patriotism, and civic spirit.

District 6A

Post 5 – Kingfisher





KHS HONORS VETERANS IN MOVING ASSEMBLY

The [Kingfisher High School](#) held a moving Veterans Day assembly honoring the courage, service, and sacrifice of the men and women of the United States Armed Forces. Through poetry, music, and reflection, the program celebrated the ideals of freedom and reminded students that liberty is preserved only through the dedication of those who serve.

All student speaking parts, apart from the main veteran address, were presented by KHS Boys and Girls State representatives. The [Junior High](#) and High School choirs performed heartfelt patriotic songs, while the Pride of Kingfisher band, featuring both junior high and high school musicians, offered stirring renditions of military and ceremonial pieces that filled the auditorium with pride.

[American Legion Post 5](#) Commander Mark Kirchner delivered an inspiring message, encouraging students to honor veterans not only through words but through actions of gratitude, respect, and civic involvement. Kirchner, who has served in many places around the world, shared vivid reflections from his experiences in the military, describing the deep bonds of camaraderie formed through shared hardship and duty.

The ceremony also featured a poem of remembrance, an invocation, and recognition of veterans as the songs of each military branch were played. A moment of silence was observed in honor of America's fallen heroes, with an empty chair symbolizing those who never returned home. Attendees were encouraged to continue honoring veterans by showing respect during pledges and ceremonies and remembering the cost of freedom each day. After the assembly concluded, veterans and their families were invited to a special luncheon prepared in their honor, offering time for fellowship, conversation, and appreciation from the [Kingfisher High School Student Council](#) and school community.

Kingfisher High School's Veterans Day assembly stood as a powerful tribute to all who have served, inspiring students and community members alike to carry forward their legacy with enduring gratitude, respect, and responsibility.

Photos by AAK Maitland Woody.

Post 24 – Anadarko

- 1) Veterans Coffee each Thursday morning
- 2) \$5 Pancake breakfast at the Caddo County Fairgrounds, Sat. Nov. 08
- 3) The Monumental 5K, featuring the military monuments in town, Nov. 08
- 4) The Veterans Honor Walk, among the Veterans Honor Tree Memorial Nov. 08
- 5) Nov 8 held public program honoring County WWII POWs who survived to make our communities stronger: Raymond Cox (Eakly), Marcus House (Lookeba), Gerald Livingston (Anadarko) and Jim Fossey (Anadarko). Each is now deceased.
- 6) Placed 700 flags on Veterans' graves at Anadarko Memory Lane Cemetery assisted by the Anadarko 4H club Nov. 11
- 7) Helped place the Lions Club Veterans Crosses for Caddo County MIA and KIA (293 in all etched with names) Nov 9 and removal Nov. 13
- 8) Raised \$135 for Quilts of Valor program for Caddo County. Nov. 8.
- 9) Member Participated in American Indian Expo 5k which included Vet Honor Trees. Nov. 1
- 10) Member Participated in BIA Health Clinic Diabetes awareness 5K honoring Bob Zumwalt, Air Force Vet. (deceased). The Course included circling the Veterans Honor Trees, Nov 15.
- 11) Members assisted with meals for those in need Nov 8, with donations and service.
- 12) Members attended Anadarko High School Leadership class with VFW members to interact with students and answer questions about service in the military. (Nov18)
- 13) Member assisted fellow vet to VA in Ft Sill and then to help with paperwork (Nov 6)

Post 34 – El Reno



On behalf of the wonderful Auxiliary at Post #34 American Legion; Post Commander is presenting the Superintendent of El Reno Public Schools a trophy to kick off the 80th year of (GFTY) Gifts for the Yanks. Also, the Ladies Auxiliary raised over \$2,000.00 donation to kick this year off!

GFTY is a program started by the El Reno Public Schools which provides gifts to Veterans and their families that are presently in attendance at the VETERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL CENTER each year. This program has been in existence for 80 consecutive years and continues to operate each and every year from dedicated Educators that are working for El Reno Public Schools.



Becky Locker is currently spearheading this program that is running strong to this day! Past Auxiliary President presenting check for GFTY from Post #34.



Post 160 – Yukon

Constitutional Essay Contest



This year, two Yukon students entered the competition. Each speaker was introduced only by number, and judges were positioned around the room to ensure impartial scoring.

The first speaker, Mason Kelly, returned as last year's winner at the post and district levels and placed third in the state.

The second speaker, Elijah Davis, a newcomer to the contest, presented a strong speech focused on the framework crafted by the Constitution's writers.

After the speeches, judges took time to tabulate their scores, followed by the official post tabulator calculating the final results.

This year's post winner is Mason Kelly, earning a repeat victory. However, under state oratorical rules, both contestants advance to the District 6A competition in January 2026—meaning either student could ultimately win at the next level.

Elijah Davis earned the runner-up position with an impressive and well-delivered speech. The competition was extremely close, with only two points separating the contestants.

District 6A includes posts from Kingfisher, Anadarko, El Reno, Watonga, Carnegie, Hinton, Concho, and Mustang.

Yukon Legion installs flagpole for disabled Vietnam veteran



(L-R) Darrell Hill: Vietnam Vet, Bob Bebrin: Post 1st Vice Commander, Mike Devenitch: Post Commander)

This week, the James Albert Wheatley American Legion Post 160 assisted a Yukon disabled veteran by installing a flagpole at his home. After several calls between the veteran, Darrell Hill, and Post Commander Mike Devenitch, it was learned that Mr. Hill already owned the flagpole—he just needed help installing it.

Mr. Hill is a proud Marine Corps veteran who served on the ground in Vietnam. He enlisted in California in 1966/67, completing what was normally 12 weeks of training—condensed to only eight due to wartime needs. He was then sent to Okinawa for additional preparation before deploying to Da Nang as a radar artillery operator. His service also took him to other locations, including Khe Sanh.

James Albert Wheatley American Legion Post 160 to Host Veterans Day Ceremony



For the first time in decades, the James Albert Wheatley American Legion Post 160 will proudly host a Veterans Day Ceremony on Tuesday, November 11th at 2:00 PM in Chisholm Trail Park, Yukon. Veterans from Yukon and surrounding communities are invited to attend with their families to honor and recognize all who have served.

The ceremony will feature Guest Speaker Francisco Maldonado, Deputy Director of Security Services for the Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs (ODVA). An Army Veteran with more than 15 years of leadership experience, Maldonado brings a wealth of knowledge in military intelligence, counterintelligence, youth mentorship, and veteran advocacy. In his current role, he leads key initiatives that connect veterans and their families with critical benefits and resources through the ODVA.

THANK YOU, YUKON MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND,: Stopped by the rock star band that helped make Yukon Veterans Day world class! Delivered gift cards for the band to enjoy a pizza party on Yukon American Legion. These are great Americans Thank you Ms. Warford!



Yukon American Education Week

The American Legion is a co-founder of American Education Week, partnering with the National Education Association (NEA) to establish the event in 1921. This partnership was formed out of a concern for illiteracy rates among World War I draftees and was created to increase public support for education. Purpose: The initial goal was to generate public support for education by highlighting the accomplishments and needs of public schools.

Breakfast for the Best!



November 19

Wednesday

4:00 pm – 5:00 pm

The Yukon American Legion Post 160 is sponsoring a sweet program for American Education Week! Celebrate American Education Week by creating a special “Pancakes in a Jar” gift for your favorite teacher! Kids will layer up all the dry ingredients for a delicious pancake mix, decorate their jars, and make a handmade tag to show their appreciation. It’s a fun, crafty way to say “thank you” to the amazing educators who make learning so sweet!

Post 160 hosts Legion Day membership drive



The James Albert Wheatley Yukon American Legion Post 160 will host its first membership drive of the new recruiting year on Thursday, Nov. 6 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 1010 W Main.

During this special event, Post officers will be on hand to answer questions, sign up new members, and process applications on the spot. Current members are also encouraged to stop by to update mailing addresses, phone numbers, and email information on the membership roster.

Payments can be made by cash or credit card, thanks to the Post's new card reader. Any veteran who has served at least one day on active duty and received an honorable discharge is eligible to join immediately. New memberships will be valid through Dec. 31, 2026.

"If a Yukon or area veteran served just one day on active duty and has been honorably discharged, they're eligible to join on the spot!" Post 160 Commander Mike Devenitch said.

The Oklahoma Department Headquarters has set a goal of 123 members by Armed Forces Day on May 13, 2026.

Post 353 – Mustang



Pictured above, l to r, Johnny Wooden, John Bishop, Rebekah Carlisle, Tana Carlisle, George Kokendoffer, Jerry Wilbur, Ismael Rodriguez, Marie Enderton, Conley Wicker, John Sears. Distributors not pictured are Melvin Bishop, Sheila Schulte, David Castro and Joseph Vincent

American Legion Post 353 distributed 4,893 poppies to the community on 7 and 8 November at the doors at Mustang Walmart and accepted donations that will be used to support veterans in our hospitals and veteran's homes as well as those in need in our area. GREAT JOB LEGIONNAIRES!!

Tana Carlisle, daughter of Rebekah Carlisle, is the first designated POPPY PRINCESS in the 353 Family's long Poppy Program participation. May we encourage our young ladies to be an active part of this 101 year old program.

Thank you, Mustang Flowers and Gifts, for creating the Poppy Sash for our Princess.

All Mustang Public Schools celebrated Freedom Week 10 through 14 November with each of the 16 schools hosting assemblies with parents and all veterans invited. Post 353 furnished poppy stickers to all K through 6 classroom teachers for distribution to every student along with flyers giving the history of our Poppy Program and Flanders Field.

Post 353 will host our next blood drive December 17th from 1-6 pm at the Community Center. The December Drive is an annual competition between Mustang and Yukon. We look forward to winning with more donors than our neighbor post can muster. Again.

On December 11, Post 353 will have its annual Christmas Dinner for area veterans and families. Dinner starts at 6pm and is in lieu of a December business meeting. Regular meetings will resume on the second Thursday in January at 7 pm. This doesn't mean we rest on our laurels, lots of activities to report on next month.

November was a busy month though it was mostly in planning activities. A successful poppy distribution was conducted on 7 and 8 November. For the first time in known post history a young lady was named Poppy Princess. It feels great to renew a practice that seems to be dormant in our Department and from scanning the internet, also nationally. Let's work on this, Oklahoma.

District 6B

District 7



November 22nd I was invited to go visit Post 044 in Altus. Had a good lunch, all officers were sworn into positions in the post.

November was a good month for membership in District 7; we held the lead for long time. November 8th we had our district conference at Post 146 in Sayre. Had a really good turnout of district legionnaires and department officers. There was a lot of good information from posts in the district and department.



Post 146 in Sayre has been doing a lot of work on their building.



Senior Vice Shirley May and District 7 Commander Elmo May kept vigil for the 22 A Day Vigil in Grove, OK.



We finally have ALA officers for district 7! Sayre has been blessed with an amazing new facility and are working hard to get it all put together. Good job! It is going to be amazing!

District 8A

Post 53-Perry



District 8A & 8B Fall Conference 27 September

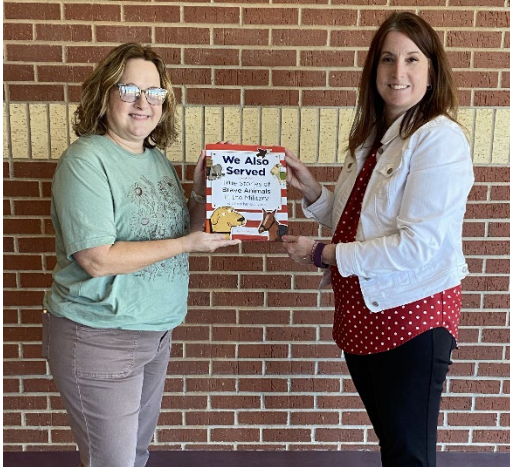


Perry's Veterans Day Parade



Members of the ALA and Volunteers that helped with the meal following the Parade.





For the 5th year Tina Kilmer read to the Perry Lower Elementary K-2 The books were then donated to the Perry Lower Elementary Library pictured Librarian Karee Grim and ALA member Katie Shaffer

Below ALA Katie Shaffer, Perry Carnegie Children's Librarian Savannah Rilee and Vice Commander Tina Kilmer



District 8B

Post 273 Laverne



New float with all the flags in place.



Veteran's Day School Program





Receiving our SAL Squadron Charter.

PLEASE SEND ALL
SUBMISSIONS TO
TALOK1889@GMAIL.COM
NO LATER THAN THE 28TH
OF THE MONTH

POST EVERLASTING



Thomas Alvin Luckinbill



<https://www.moorefuneralcremation.com/obituaries/Thomas-Alvin-Luckinbill?obId=46226850>

Tomie A. Rogers



<https://www.schillingfhg.com/obituary/Tomie-Rogers>

Troy David White Jr.



<https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/name/troy-white-obituary?id=59871054>

James Daniel Nelson Sr.



<https://www.wilsonlittle.com/obituaries/james-nelson-111/#!/Obituary>

Fredrick Lee Baker Jr.



<https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/name/frederick-baker-obituary?id=59997273>

Kenneth Dean Vanderburg



<https://www.yandaandsonfuneralhome.com/obituary/kenneth-vanderburg>

John Martin Keller



<https://www.smithgallo.com/obituary/johnny-keller>

William Franklin Thorn



<https://www.smithgallo.com/obituary/william-f-thorn>

Matildia Ann Hartman

ALA



https://www.smithgallo.com/obituary/matildia-hartman?fh_id=11970

Harold Gay

No Obituary or picture was available.

15-year member, U.S. Marine Corps, served in Vietnam