

THE 1889 LAND RUN



DEPARTMENT
OF
OKLAHOMA



American Legion Newsletter

48th Edition, July 1, 2026

American Legion Department Commander

Fellow Brothers and Sisters of the Legion Family,

This may be my shortest message to share yet, but I am traveling the Department currently with our National Commander Dan Wiley and his Aide Doug Hensley visiting many of our fellow members and Posts, so I apologize.

However, I do want to share a short message as my time as Commander of this Department winds down, I want to pass a huge thank you to each and every one of you for this amazing honor to serve you and all the amazing things I have seen you all accomplish this year. We may not have hit all the goals we set forth last July, but this year has been milestone after milestone due to you. This has been an honor I will never forget and will always cherish. I hope to see you all in Shawnee next week where we can share conversations, things we learned along this journey and see where we can lift each other up this next administrative year.

Steve Thomas
Department Commander

God Bless you all,
God Bless the America on this 250th Birthday!

Campaign for Department Commander



A little bit of information about me. I have been married to Elmo for 48+ years, we have four children, 11 grandchildren, and at the present time 7 great grandchildren with two more on the way. I enjoy spending time with my family, cooking, crocheting, and working outside. I recently retired from the Clinton Veterans Center, where I was a nurse manager and the infection control nurse. I continue to visit the Veterans Center to converse with the Veterans who live there. Now that I have retired, I enjoy spending more time with family and doing some traveling.

I joined the Navy Reserves in 1988 and stayed there for one year. The Army Reserve offered me a direct commission, so I transferred in Dec 1989. I went to Officer Basic in the summer of 1990 before receiving orders to go to Saudi Arabia for Operation Desert Shield/Operation Desert Storm. We went to Ft. Sill in November 1990 prior to leaving for Saudi Arabia the 2nd of Jan 1991. My position was an emergency nurse or critical care nurse in the 44th EVAC Hospital. I returned home in May of 1991 but stayed on active duty due to an injury. While at Ft. Sill, I was assigned to help out-process other Reserve and National Guard Soldiers. By November 1991, I was back to my Reserve Unit making plans to attend Officer Advanced in San Antonio.

I felt that I wanted to expand my career in the military and do something different. I was given the chance to move to a Drill Sergeant training Battalion, so I became the Company Commander at the 3/378th, 95th Training Division. As the Commander, I saw individuals come into the military and witnessed their transformation to becoming Soldiers. I continued with my military education throughout this time frame. After moving up in the Battalion, I eventually transferred to the Division Headquarters where I worked with the Surgeon. In 1995, I was again placed on active duty to help prepare and ensure the Soldiers that were being sent overseas from the 95th Division were medically and mentally prepared to help support ongoing operations for Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. When our Soldiers returned, I then assisted the Soldiers with obtaining any medical or mental health support that they needed. I

spent 9 years on Active Duty during this time frame. In December 2015, I retired from the Military.

My civilian career of nursing started in 1988. I worked primarily in the Emergency Department or Intensive Care Unit before going into Correctional Nursing. As a nurse, it was always important to listen to the patient and their family so that I could convey their concerns to the doctor. I thoroughly enjoyed being a nurse and continue to stay current on medical innovations.

I want to work with the Legion members in Oklahoma to bring our Department to the forefront in our communities and state. As Legion members we can do so much together. I have worked with members from all over our state trying to increase membership, helping to exchange ideas among the different Posts, and just being there to listen to you when needed. My service to my country didn't stop when I retired. Now I can focus on helping other Veterans, their families, and the youth in our community.

During my time with the American Legion, I have held several positions at the Post level – Vice Commander, Commander, Historian, and am currently the Adjutant. I have also been the District Commander for District 7, Vice West Commander, and currently serve as the Senior Vice Commander. With each of these positions I diligently worked to serve Veterans when they sought assistance or guidance.

My level of understanding of the American Legion and the Four Pillars has progressed with the various positions. I was in the first Oklahoma Legion College class where I was able to learn more about Oklahoma and the Legion. Most recently, I attended the National American Legion College where we focused on servant leadership and serving others. I feel that both my military and civilian careers have been connected to servant leadership and serving/helping others.

As Senior Vice, I was able to help and assist multiple Posts across the state with membership numbers, answer questions regarding Posts concerns, and assisted Posts with training and mentorship. I am willing to continue to help throughout the state as your Commander if elected.

"Be The One"

Respectfully,

Shirley May

American Legion Department-Senior Vice Commander

Hello Legionnaires!!

Thank you for all the hard work. This has been a great year. We are still moving forward. We are at 11,404 members which is 97.05% Fantastic!!

We have 20 Posts who have obtained 100% and 49 Posts who are over 100%. Awesome job!! There are 63 Posts who need 10 or less to be at 100%. That would be approximately 200 more members. The remaining 35 Posts need 50 or less to be at 100%. That would be approximately 800 members. We would be over 100% for both the National goal and the Oklahoma goal.

There are still over 800 members who haven't renewed yet. Let's reach out to them and see if they will renew. You can send text messages, emails, or make personal phone calls. We still have a chance to reach our goal of 100%. Let's do this.

I appreciate all of the hard work, time, and effort that is going into our Veterans. You are all doing a great job. Thank you for what you do.

This has been a year to make changes and grow. We are on the right path to bring Oklahoma to the forefront of the state and with National. We are in 8th place with National and are first in the Mid-West Region. Great job by everyone. The year is coming to a close, but we will continue to go forward.

As we close this year and prepare for next year, remember to check on your fellow Veterans. We are all in this together. Summer Conference is July 9-12 at the Grand Casino in Shawnee. There will be a lot of classes available for you to attend. Looking forward to seeing everyone there.

Please be careful over the 4th of July weekend. Celebrate our Country responsibly and safely.

"Be The One"

Respectfully,
Shirley May
Senior Vice Commander

Campaign for Senior Vice Commander



Hello!

I am Patricia Mathes-Kerr, Chandler Post #64 Past Post Commander, current Sergeant At Arms, 2024-2025 Vice Commander East, and **2026-2027 candidate for Department Sr. Vice Commander.**

The pending summer convention will be a topic for most posts across the State of Oklahoma during June meetings.

As a 2026-2027 candidate for Department Sr. Vice Commander, I want to encourage your attendance and vote! You make a difference!

I just so happen to be on the training development committee for the coming summer convention, and let me tell you, we are going to have some valid, effective, and educational training all day on Friday of the convention! We have listened to your requests and recommendations for training and have implemented them. The information is in the process of being added to the soon-to-be-published convention information.

Many have seen and heard my qualifications, platform, and strategic plan. If you have not, here is the link [2026-2027 Candidates](#). Here you will find all the Department candidates' information.

I want to send Kudos to the posts! You have done a phenomenal job of recruiting new members and retaining members! We still have work to do with retention, which is a topic upon which I will focus.

Throughout my years as a Licensed Mental Health Provider and a combat veteran, I have come to notice that when a veteran has support, success follows, which improves resiliency and quality of life.

This is where I learned Support=Success 4 Veteran Resilience. Dolphins exhibit this concept well. When alone, they struggle with life, which is why they "pod" together. Together, in support of each other, they thrive and succeed, whether in calm or stormy waters. They thrive with this support. Our American Legion Family is the same. We thrive when we support each other.

I appreciate your vote and look forward to seeing you at the summer convention!
For God and Country,

Patricia Mathes-Kerr, CPT(ret), MSW, MABC, LCSW
Always Forward Counseling & Consultation, PLLC -Owner/CEO

OKLBSW Board Approved Clinical Supervisor
OK American Legion Post 64 - PDVCE, PPC, Sergeant at Arms
Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child Capital City OK Area Coordinator
Matheny-Burt-Parrott Post #64 PPC, SGT-At-Arms
Oklahoma Department of The American Legion Sr. Vice Commander Candidate 2026-2027



Veterans serving Veterans, their Families and the Community

Campaign for Senior Vice Commander



Lance Larson

for Senior Vice Commander '26 - '27

Friends and Comrades:

“First 100 Days to Bring the Department to the Forefront”

Communication First

Rebuild trust through clear, consistent, and timely updates with District and Post leadership. No one gets left in the dark. If we’re not talking, we’re not helping.

Strengthening Membership

Post on the west side this year has had the freedom to work membership as they saw fit which has worked out really well. We are all grownups we don’t need to be stood over and told what to do.

Fix the Gaps – Especially VSO support prioritizes the areas with specific attention who need Veteran Service Officer coverage. Every veteran deserves access, support, and follow through.

Reignite Unity in the Ranks

You don’t have to like each other to work together. But if we respect the mission, and put the good of the Legion first, we can lead by example.

Restore the Spirit Let’s Have Fun Again

If you’re not enjoying what you’re doing in the Legion, we’re doing something wrong. Let’s bring back the camaraderie, the pride, and the sense of purpose that drew us here in the first place.

“We’re not just representing the Department we’re bringing it to the forefront.”

Lance Larson

Department Vice Commander – East

Greetings Legion Family,

As I write my final newsletter for this administrative year, I want to take a moment to say thank you. It has truly been a privilege getting to know so many of our Posts and Legionnaires across the East side of Oklahoma. I have enjoyed visiting your Posts, attending your events, and hearing about the incredible work you do in your communities. Thank you for welcoming me and allowing me to be a small part of your successes.

One of my goals this year was to improve communication between the Department and our Posts. I hope I have been successful in opening those lines of communication and providing resources, encouragement, and support whenever possible. I appreciate every invitation, every conversation, and every opportunity to learn from each of you.

As we close out this administrative year, I encourage everyone to attend the Department Convention in Shawnee. Friday's expanded training schedule is filled with practical sessions designed to prepare officers and members for the coming year. Saturday gives us the opportunity to reflect on what we have accomplished together during the past year, and Sunday we will elect the officers who will lead the Department in 2026–2027.

It has been an honor serving as your Vice Commander East this year. I sincerely hope I have earned your trust and confidence, and I would be honored to continue serving the East for a second term. Regardless of the outcome, I look forward to continuing to work alongside each of you as we strengthen our Posts, support our veterans, and advance the mission of The American Legion.

Thank you for your friendship, your dedication, and your service.

Be The One

Karen Cruice

Vice Commander East

Department of Oklahoma

Campaign for Vice Commander East

Dear Legion Family,

It has been an honor to serve as your **Vice Commander East** for the past year. Working alongside our Posts, District leadership, and Department team has been both humbling and inspiring, and I am grateful for the trust you have placed in me.

After much prayer, reflection, and encouragement from many of you, I am announcing my intention to **run for a second year as Vice Commander East**.

This past year has reinforced my belief in the strength of our Legion Family and the importance of recognition, training, and engagement at every level. I am proud of the progress we have made together—supporting Posts, celebrating achievements, strengthening programs, and keeping our focus on serving veterans, their families, and our communities.

If elected to continue serving, my commitment remains the same:

- to support our Posts and Districts
- to encourage leadership development and participation
- to recognize the hard work happening across the East
- to continue promoting *Be The One* in both words and action

There is still important work ahead, and I would be honored to continue serving alongside you as we move forward together.

Thank you for your continued support, dedication, and service to The American Legion.

Be The One

Karen Cruice

Department Vice Commander – West

Well folks, in two weeks the state convention will be here. I have learned a lot and one thing is not everything is as rosy as you may think. You might be thinking everything is great and all is good then boom something shows up on the radar. Now here is we're the learning part comes in and it is how you go about the situation. I had three people and they know who they are who showed me the way to be better at doing this and I will never be able to thank you enough. I

want to say thanks to all District Commanders in the West including all the posts for this opportunity and showing if we don't micromanage the post the job will get done. If you try to do all the jobs of Vice East or West you need at least 27 hrs. a day (LOL).

Membership, which is always the bad subject for some people, the whole state took that subject for a walk and got it lost in the woods. I know the West far exceeded what I expected because I knew it would take more than a year to start getting it to going the right way. I believe I can say now you far exceeded that. The west by next Wednesday should be just a little short or 95% and nobody did this but you the posts and nobody can take that from you.

Just to mention something here, all I've ever wanted in The American Legion is for everyone to go by the C/B&Ls and follow general rules. Now do we live in this perfect world, no we don't but we sure can try our best. TAL isn't military related, meaning no rank, saluting, and so forth but it doesn't mean to solve problems you jump everybody, people might not like me, but I have always been fair. If I feel I'm right I will try to walk out on situation it is better to walk than stoke the fire. Sometimes the people who are starting the stuff could be in the very same room with you. I put that out there because we can blame someone who gets the info. and has no choice but to do something with it to get answers. We have all done this and it is human nature; all you have to do is ask and I will tell you I'm an open book for the most part. Again, thank you to everybody for this chance I have enjoyed it and maybe I can get one more year.

Vice-Commander West
Lance E. Larson

Campaign for Vice Commander - West



Michael Harris

Candidate for Vice Commander West

2026-2027

I am running for the position of Vice Commander West. I have been a member of the American Legion for 16 years.

As a member of the American Legion Riders, Post 1340 I have served in various offices within the post. My leadership journey started when I was chosen to be the Chaplin of our riders post, from 2017-2021. I was elected Post Commander in 2021 and served in that position until 2024. I was elected as the DEC for District 5A in 2023 and then elected as District Commander for 5A in 2024.

I am a member of both the American Legion and the Sons of the American Legion. My military experience is USAF 3 years active duty and 23 years in the Oklahoma Air National Guard. I graduated from SEOSU in Durant with a degree in Aviation Management and a Minor in Business Finance. I retired from the FAA in July 2024 with 36 years and 8 months total Government work. I have an extensive background in working with various levels of government employees. I feel this knowledge and experience will give me the experience to serve the Department of Oklahoma as your Vice Commander West for the term of 2026-2027.

I would like to represent the West in the best way possible and to assure everyone, every decision I make will be following our Constitution and By-Laws.

Campaign for Vice Commander - West

Greetings American Legion Brothers and Sisters

My name is Wayne Flowers, and I have made the decision to run for Vice Commander-West. I have been a member of Laverne Post 273 since August of 2019, eligible by honorable service in the United States Army, which I joined after a few years of traveling 2 hours from my home in Dover, Oklahoma, to assist with funeral Honor Guard duties. After joining The American Legion, I was made Commander of Post 273 in March of 2020, and have brought Post 273 from having one meeting per year, to having regular monthly meetings, along with working alongside other area American Legion Posts and other Veterans Service Organizations, to provide Honor Guard services, community events, and started an American Legion Fishing Derby, which is held on American Legion Family Day Weekend. A position which I still hold to this day.

In 2022, I was voted in as District 8B Commander, where I expanded on getting Posts in District 8B to work together. I make both random and scheduled visits to posts in the District, not to reprimand or judge the post, but to see what I can do to assist the post with membership, or any other project or event that the post may need help with. I have started associations with other Veteran Service Organizations that assist veterans in crisis, and have direct contact with VA representatives, that call me when a veteran in my area needs immediate help. I have intervened, and gotten help for multiple veterans that were suicidal, and I have gotten contacts made, and used, to get assistance with veterans with housing issues, worries about not having food, and even getting or giving rides for veterans that needed rides to VA appointments, needed to get to a military base to get retired military ID cards, and event to Social Security offices, to apply for replacement cards or benefits. I am currently working with the Governor's office, State Legislator's, and Federal Legislators, to get answers as to why a VA clinic was promised in NW Oklahoma 5 years ago, which has not happened yet.

In 2024, I became a member of and started a Sons of The American Legion Squadron at Post 273. I acted as Interim Commander, until the National Charter was received, and an official election could be held. I now hold the office of Adjutant in Squadron 273. And I am the District Commander for all of the District 8 area.

Also in 2024, I was appointed Liaison between The American Legion and The Sons of The American Legion and was appointed as Department of Oklahoma American Legion Historian.

I was a Combat Medic, during service in the Army, and retired from civilian Emergency Medical Service, with 23 years on a civilian Ambulance, mostly volunteer. I am currently not

able to work a full-time job, due to injuries sustained while on active duty, which prevent me from doing many things without severe pain.

I believe that what the Department of Oklahoma American Legion needs, is to get past the infighting and bickering that has happened over the last few years. Some of us may not like each other, but we are supposed to be here for the purpose of helping our fellow veterans, without any judgment for any reason, or personal gain. We all learned in the military that there is no room for disrespect of any kind, or any reason. We all also learned that, despite our personal political beliefs, we have to keep an outward neutral position about anything political. We can make this Department the absolute best in the country, as we have seen our Sons of The American Legion Detachment, and our Boys State programs prove. I am also of the opinion that if you don't like the way your Post, District, Department, or any of our programs are operating, you as an individual need to take the initiative to STEP UP AND BE THE CHANGE!

I would appreciate your vote at Summer Convention!

Wayne Flowers, District 8B Commander

Cdrpost273@yahoo.com

National Executive (NEC) Committeeman

Greetings Legionnaires!

This month we will be voting on new Department officers or renewing some that have been serving. I fit into the latter category as I am running for one more term and National Executive Committeeman and then it will be time for me to step aside for others.

SELFLESS SERVICE

The past 20 years of being involved in Post, District, Department and National leadership positions has been very humbling and very rewarding. I have no regrets for the past 20 years.

As members of the Military and in the medical field my motto has always been "No one left behind"; as veterans we are supposed to take care of each other. I have tried to reach out to younger and new veterans and Legionnaires, especially female veterans, Native American and African American veterans to encourage them to set up in leadership positions. I have made progress in those areas.

I have tried to reach out to as many veterans as I can. Nancy and I have personally visited 96 or the 167 Posts in our Department.

POSITIVE CHANGE TO NATIONAL IMAGE

I feel in the past two years we have made changes in the eyes of National that sheds a new light on our Department, highlighted by being selected for American Legion National Convention in 2032. The work of the Convention Team along with the Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce presentation and successfully answering probing questions in the National Finance Committee which makes the final decision, were successful in being chosen for the future TAL Convention site.

PRIMARY FOCUS ON AMERICAN LEGION

While I am a big supporter of the American Legion Family [former First Husband with ALA] and SAL Dual Member, my primary focus is the American Legion and this is the

organization that I dedicate my energy and resources to make further progress in a positive direction.

I would appreciate your vote for NEC 206-27 on July 12, 2026 at the Department Convention for another term.

V/R,

Charlie O'Leary

NEC DPT OKLAHOMA 2024-26

Campaign for NEC



Greetings Legionnaires!

At the Mid-Winter Conference in January in Norman, I formally announced that I am running for another term as your National Executive Committeeman for the Department of Oklahoma. The NEC office is a two-year term and will end in August of 2026 when the National Convention in Louisville, KY adjourns.

The past eighteen months have been a learning journey for me, as I discovered many things I didn't know and have a new perspective on what National and Legion leadership thinks of us and expectations that I didn't know of when starting.

I have tried to get new and younger Legion leaders to step up and get involved, have had some success in that endeavor and would like to continue for another two years.

After that I will be stepping aside due to my age and the travel and involvement at National level but will still be involved actively at the Department level. I would appreciate your support in accomplishing this goal.

Remember the date: July 12, 2026, 9:00 AM at Department Summer Convention, NEC is the first vote of the day!

Respectfully,

Charlie O'Leary, NEC 2024-26, PDC 2021-2

Charlie-Mike,
Continue Mission

I am declaring my
candidacy for a
SECOND TERM
as Department National
Executive Committeeman



Double Thunderbird

45th Infantry Brigade 1980-2007
1791N, 2791N, 1801N, 160FA,
C-MED CDR 700 SB, 45BCT SURG



Active Duty/USAR 1967-1973
1st Special Forces Grp
Airborne, Okinawa
12th Special Forces Grp Airborne
OKC, Green Beret A-Team Member

Leadership Goals

- Representing Oklahoma in a Positive manner at National
- Developing new and younger Legion leaders in Oklahoma
- Helping regular Blue Caps across the State
- Working together with the entire Legion Family to benefit Veterans across the State.



CHARLIE O'LEARY
for
**National
Executive
Committee
2026-2028**

No One Left Behind

2



Attending Washington Conference Meeting
with Senator Marwayne Mullen

Caring and Compassionate

Tirelessly working to bring about a positive
image for the Department of Oklahoma
with Past, Current, and Future National
Commanders, Officers, and Staff

Diligently working to develop and mentor new
and younger leaders in Oklahoma

Advocating and empowering members to
constructively connect across our State

Working to project a positive image and foster
a cohesive spirit within the Department

Support integrity and transparency of word and
action in all of our members

FUTURE GOALS

- Wisely vote on financial and goal setting issues that affect all Oklahoma Legionnaires
- Work on camaraderie programs and projects to benefit veterans
- Reach out to Legionnaires across the State by continuing to visit Posts as I have done in the past.
- Increase communication with Blue Caps concerning issues with the VA and Congressional funding to benefit veterans, within the limitations of my duties and responsibilities as NEC

**LEGION
FAMILY
WORKING
TOGETHER
FOR YOU**



**Vote
For
Continued
Leadership
At
NEC**

Department First Term NEC Accomplishments

- Attended all required NEC meetings
- Voted on all National issues presented
- Served as NEC Liaison on National Finance Committee
- Participated in fiscal discussions
- Voiced opinion on Policy
- Appointed Finance Committee Chaplain
- Recommended new and younger Legion Members to Natl Committees, all approved by the NEC
- Recommended new ANAVICTUS members from Dept of OK including first Female nomination in this Century
- Reported NEC activities and issues to OK membership in monthly Dept Newsletter articles, District and Dept meetings

No One Left Behind

American Legion Riders

Attention Riders Across the Great State of Oklahoma!



Greetings to Riders,

Answering the Call: The Future of the Oklahoma American Legion Riders

Every successful organization reaches a point where the next generation of leadership must step forward. The Department of Oklahoma American Legion Riders is no different.

Over the past year, we have experienced tremendous growth across our state. New chapters have been chartered, membership has increased, thousands of dollars have been raised for veterans and their families, and Riders from every corner of Oklahoma have demonstrated what servant leadership truly looks like. None of those accomplishments happened by accident. They happened because ordinary men and women made the decision to raise their hand and serve.

On Saturday, July 11, during our Department Summer Convention, we will elect a new slate of officers to guide the Oklahoma American Legion Riders into the coming year.

Leadership is not about titles or recognition. It is about service. It is about showing up when the work needs to be done, supporting our chapters, mentoring new Riders, strengthening our programs, and ensuring that our mission continues long after our own term of office has ended.

If you have ever considered serving in a Department leadership position, I encourage you to take that step. We need individuals who are willing to invest their time, share their experience, and help build an even stronger future for the Riders of Oklahoma.

Whether your passion lies in membership, fundraising, veteran outreach, communications, event planning, or simply helping chapters succeed, there is a place for you to make a difference.

To help ensure a smooth and organized election process, I encourage anyone interested in running for office to let us know before the convention. Advance planning allows us to conduct a professional and efficient election while giving every candidate an opportunity to prepare.

Our mission has always been greater than motorcycles. We ride in support of veterans, active-duty service members, military families, and our communities. Every mile we travel and every event we support is rooted in that commitment.

The future of the Department of Oklahoma American Legion Riders will be shaped by those willing to answer the call to serve.

I hope you'll consider becoming one of them.

Together, we will continue building upon the strong foundation that has been laid and leave our organization stronger for those who follow.

For God, Country, and Service,

Brett Martin

State Director

Department of Oklahoma American Legion Riders

Past Department Commander's Corner

My fellow Legionnaires,

Build Your Toolbox, Not Your Title

During my 31 years on active duty in the United States Navy and throughout my years serving in The American Legion, I learned a lesson that has stood the test of time:

There is no substitute for experience.

Over the years, I've had the privilege of serving under exceptional leaders. None of them were concerned with collecting titles or building a personal brand. They weren't chasing recognition or trying to become the loudest voice in the room. They were focused on learning their jobs, mastering their responsibilities, and preparing themselves for whatever challenge came next.

That mindset is what built great leaders then, and it's what will build great leaders for tomorrow.

Today, it can be tempting to confuse visibility with leadership. A title may earn respect, and social media may create attention, but neither creates competence. Leadership isn't measured by likes, followers, or applause. It is measured by trust, sound judgment, humility, and the ability to make good decisions when people are counting on you.

Every position we hold teaches us something. Whether you're serving as an officer at your Post, volunteering on a committee, working membership, organizing community events, or accepting responsibilities at the District or Department level, each experience places another tool in your leadership toolbox.

Those tools matter.

The military understood this well. We didn't prepare commanders by allowing them to skip the steps that developed them. Every assignment had a purpose. Every responsibility built

upon the last. You learned to lead a small team before leading a larger one. You learned to solve problems before being asked to solve bigger ones. Experience wasn't optional, it was essential.

The American Legion is no different.

Strong organizations aren't built by placing people into positions before they're ready. They're built by mentoring future leaders, giving them opportunities to grow, allowing them to learn from both success and failure, and helping them build the experience they'll need when greater responsibilities come.

If we want to strengthen The American Legion for the next generation, we must invest in developing leaders, not simply electing them.

So, if you aspire to higher office, don't ask yourself, *"How quickly can I move up?"*

Instead, ask yourself, *"What can I learn where I am today that will make me a better leader tomorrow?"*

Every meeting you attend, every veteran you help, every membership drive you support, every fundraiser you organize, every difficult decision you make, and every challenge you overcome adds another tool to your toolbox.

One day, when the organization asks you to lead, you won't have to rely on the title.

You'll rely on the experience you've earned.

Don't spend your career collecting titles.

Spend it building your toolbox.

When you do, the titles will take care of themselves, and the organization will be stronger because of it.

For God, Country, and Service.

Past Department Commander Brett Martin

For God, Country, and Service,

Brett Martin

Past Department Commander 2023–2024

Greetings Legionnaires!

Please make an effort to attend our Department Convention July 9-12 at Grand Casino in Shawnee. There is plenty to do there and they have all new training planned and interesting guest speakers.

Plus, if you get bored with the meetings, the casino has free ice cream and free coffee to help you pass the time!

And, oh yeah, we get to elect new Department officers or keep the ones we think are doing a good job on the last day of the Convention too!

See you there!

Charlie O'Leary

PDC 21-22

NEC 24-26

Department Adjutant

CAM RAHN BAY AIR FORCE BASE- VIETNAM

REUNION - SEPTEMBER 10 - 13, 2026

"To all Cam Rahn Bay Air Base, Vietnam veterans. A reunion is now scheduled in Colorado Springs, CO for September 10 - 13, 2026". Information/registration can be found at: dicancook@gmail.com or on CRB

Web Site at: 2026 Cam Rahn Bay Reunion Colorado Springs.

Any questions contact information below.

Sincerely,

Jimmy M. White, Co-coordinator
Cam Rahn Bay Air Base Reunion
PO Box 334
Wadena, MN 56482-0334
218-631-3211

Oklahoma Veterans Commission & ODVA Update

As Chairman of the Oklahoma Veterans Commission, I am pleased to report that the Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs continues to make significant progress in fulfilling its mission of serving Oklahoma's veterans.

Working alongside Executive Director Rear Admiral James "Jay" Bynum, the Commissioners, and the dedicated employees across our agency, we continue to see positive momentum throughout the department, especially within our seven Oklahoma Veterans Centers.

One of the most encouraging accomplishments is our resident occupancy. Today, three of our seven Veterans Centers have exceeded 90 percent occupancy, an achievement that would have been difficult to imagine just a short time ago. That level of occupancy reflects not only increased confidence in our facilities but also the exceptional care, professionalism, and compassion demonstrated every day by our staff.

Financially, the department continues moving in the right direction as well. As I have shared previously, the Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs is operating in the black for the first time since 2019. This milestone is the result of disciplined leadership, sound fiscal stewardship, and a commitment to ensuring that every decision strengthens the long-term future of veteran care in Oklahoma.

While we are proud of the progress we've made, we also recognize there is still work ahead. Continuous improvement remains our focus as we strive to provide the highest quality care and services for the veterans who have earned them through their service to our nation.

Our next Oklahoma Veterans Commission meeting will be held on Friday, July 17, at 10:00 a.m. at the Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs Headquarters, located on Northeast 36th Street in Oklahoma City. During this meeting, the Commission will conduct elections for the upcoming year's officers and discuss our strategic plan and priorities for the year ahead.

It is an honor to serve the veterans of Oklahoma alongside an outstanding team of commissioners, leadership, and employees who remain committed to our shared mission.

Together, we will continue moving forward.

For God, Country, and Service,

Brett Martin

Chairman, Oklahoma Veterans Commission

Sons of the American Legion

The Sons of the American Legion, Detachment of Oklahoma held its 2026 Summer Convention at Post 1776 in West Tulsa today.

Excellent training was held along with State and National committee reports.

Squadrons from all over the state were represented and Sons team members spent the day sharing stories and experiences of how their Squadrons help their Communities and Veterans.

New Department Officers were elected to represent and serve the Sons around the State:

Commander - Chris Cook

Senior Vice - Brian DeGraves

Vice East - Kent Kirkham

Vice West - Cross Looney

SGT-At-Arms - Steve Sherbourne

NEC - Steven Thomas II







**Squadron 1776 received their Charter today from Commander Chris Sherbourne.
Congratulations 1776!!!!**

Thank you to:

Riders- Dave Stadler for briefing the delegates on the incredible Riders events around the state support Children & Youth initiatives.

ALA President - Kim McInnis for briefing on the amazing things that the Auxiliary are doing to support Veteran and Family causes.

A special thank you to Post 1776 for their hospitality in hosting the event.

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_FBhUsz1p3dI

American Legion Auxilliary

As I sit down to write my final article before Summer Convention, I can't help but reflect on what an incredible journey this year has been. My theme has been **"Road to the Reunion,"** and what an amazing road it has been! Every mile traveled, every handshake, every hug, and every conversation has reminded me why I love the American Legion Auxilliary.

One of the greatest privileges of serving as your Department President has been visiting our VA hospitals and veterans homes across Oklahoma. Spending time with our veterans has been one of the highlights of my year. Listening to their stories, celebrating birthdays, sharing meals, delivering Christmas cheer, and simply sitting and visiting are memories I will cherish for the rest of my life. Those moments remind us why our mission matters and why the work we do every day is so important.

Together, we have accomplished things that many thought were out of reach. Early in the year, we set our sights on reaching 100% membership. It was an ambitious goal, especially since we have no record of the Department of Oklahoma ever achieving 100% membership. Today, I am incredibly proud to say that **WE DID IT!** This achievement belongs to every member who made a phone call, sent a text, welcomed a new member, renewed a friend, or simply refused to give up. Thank you for believing we could make history. Because of your dedication, Oklahoma has done just that.

This month also marked another exciting milestone as we completed our American Legion Auxilliary Foundation Grant for the Sallisaw Veterans Center. On June 26, we delivered computers, printers, gaming equipment, recreation items, and much more to the veterans who call Sallisaw home. Watching their excitement as they explored the new equipment was unforgettable. They couldn't wait to get everything set up and begin enjoying the new recreation room. Thank you to every member and donor who helped make this project a reality. Your generosity will continue bringing joy to our veterans for years to come.

Looking back over the past year, I am proud of everything we have accomplished together. We traveled to each district for Fall and Spring meetings, where I witnessed firsthand the passion and dedication of our members. Our Fall Conference and Mid-Winter Conference provided outstanding training and opportunities to learn from one another. Our Christmas Tour allowed us to spread joy to veterans across the state, and we were honored to welcome our National President to Oklahoma and showcase the incredible work being done by our members. We also strengthened our organization by chartering three new units while closing only **one**,

ensuring that the American Legion Auxiliary continues to grow and serve communities across Oklahoma.

Now, Convention is less than two weeks away, and our "Road to the Reunion" is almost complete. I look forward to celebrating with all of you as we recognize an extraordinary year of service, friendship, and accomplishment. While my year as your Department President is coming to a close, the friendships we've built and the memories we've made will last a lifetime.

Thank you for allowing me the honor and privilege of serving as your Department President. It has truly been one of the greatest experiences of my life. I am incredibly proud of what we have accomplished together, and I know the future of the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Oklahoma is brighter than ever.

I'll see you at the reunion.

Together in Service, United as Family,

Kim McInnis

Department President

American Legion Auxiliary Department of Oklahoma

Veterans Service Officer

American Legion Oklahoma Tool Box

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1N7SEJNiLaggXafRX5XBSTkd2stJrhDhK?usp=sharing>

Jack Sikes

Jsikesokamlvso@gmail.com

443-271-5545

Legion News

AWARDS

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.

Department of Oklahoma Fundraising Committee

10 GUN DRAWING TICKETS \$10 EACH



SIG SAUER P226 9MM



**SIG SAUER P365 9MM FUSE ROMEO X
COMPACT SITE 2-21 RND & 1-17 RND MAG**



RUGER MINI 14 RANCH 5.56



CZ FS DRAKE 12GA



WATCHTOWER T15M 5.56



VENTURE 2 6.5 CREEDMORE



MOSSBERG 500 TAC 12GA



FRANCHI 6.5 CREEDMORE



CANIK TP9SF 9MM

**Thank you for supporting the
Oklahoma American Legion
Family and Oklahoma Veterans.**

Drawing JULY 11th 2026!

Winners must be of age and pass a background check and all IAW State Laws.



STOEGER STR-9 9MM

Legion Family,
Chris Sherbourne
Department Fundraising Committee Co-Chair
The American Legion, Department of Oklahoma

Department Blood Program Chair

Department of Oklahoma – Blood Donor Collection Chair

The 2025-2026 business year is over, and reports are due - actually overdue. I notice the Consolidated Post Report (CPR) furnished on the Department website clearly states the CPR "...documents each post's activities for June 1–May 31." and "...July 1 is the final date for transmittal to National Headquarters for post reports to be included in the national tabulation for the specified reporting year."

For my report to be given at the Department Convention I am using data available through reports to the Department. Currently (6/29/06), about half (80) of our posts have submitted their CPR. Based on these reports, 940 units of blood were donated by or sponsored by twenty-eight of our Department of Oklahoma posts. 351 donors were credited for these donations.

CPR input will be reviewed and results updated for discussion during our Convention. Hopefully these figures will rise.

Thank you, participating Posts and donors. 2026-2027 is a new year, let's make good things happen.

John Bishop, Blood Donor Program Chair,

Questions/Concerns, call or email me – John Bishop, jbishop22@cox.net, 405-414-2515

<https://ourbloodinstitute.org/>

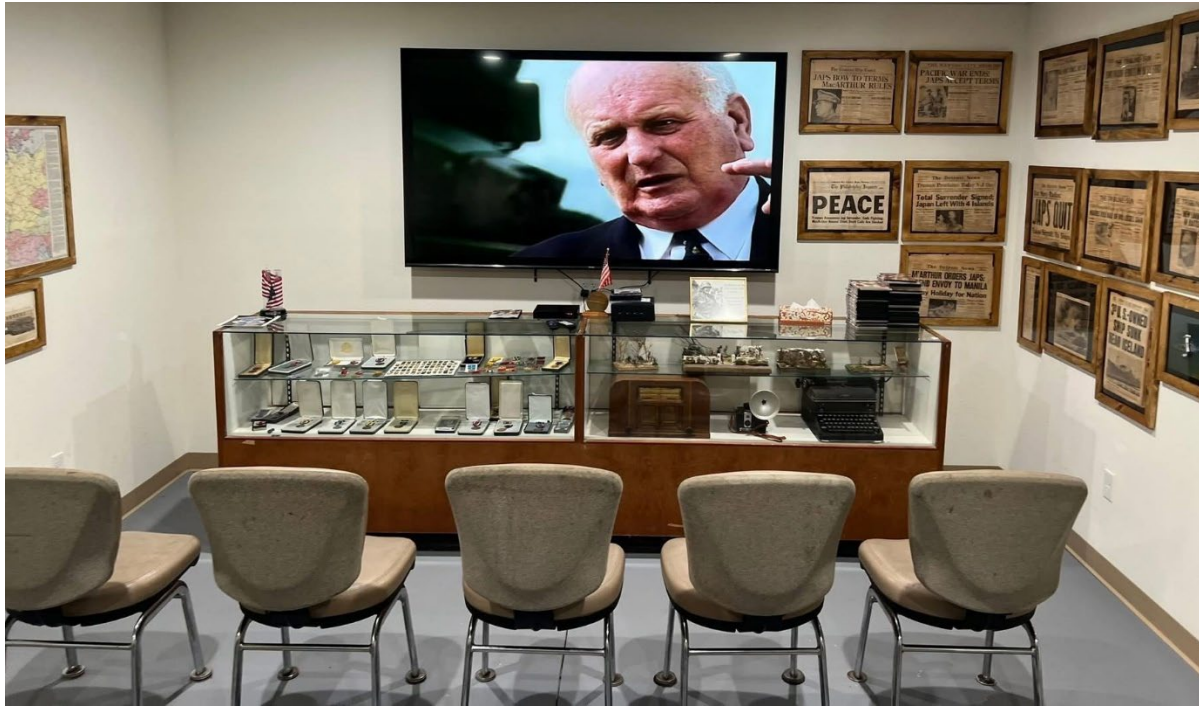
Post Everlasting is
placed after 8B, please
forward me your
obituaries.

For
submissions,
please include
District and
Post number
in Subject line

District 1A

Post 147 – Miami







The Post 147 Legion Family hosted National Leading Candidate Mr. Jay Bowen with his wife Jackie Bowen and Assistant Marvin Weaver in Miami to meet with the Legion Family and toured their incredible museum.

If you have not been to Miami Post 147 and toured their museum, then you are missing out.

Thank you to:

Post 147 Commander Curtis Nida
Post 147 Auxiliary President Sherry Nida

Department Commander Steven Thomas
Senior Vice Shirley May
NEC Charley O'Leary
Vice East Karen Cruice
District 7 Commander Elmo May
ALA PDP Nancy O'Leary
Vice East Candidate Patricia Mathes-Kerr
Thank you for all that you do to BeTheOne.

District 1B

District 2A

District 2B

District 3A

District 3B

District 4

Post 64 – Chandler





The Post 64 Legion Family held its annual Flag Retirement ceremony on 15 June 2026 at Tilghman Park in Chandler, OK.

Post Commander Dave Bandell coordinated with local fellow Veteran organizations to make the event a complete community event to honor our American Flag.

We were honored to have:

American Legion Vice East
 Karen Cruice, Legion District 4 Commander Tom Snodgrass,
 Department of Oklahoma Auxiliary President Kim McInnis, Department of Oklahoma Auxiliary
 1st Vice Donna Snodgrass, Senior Vice candidate Patricia Mathes-Kerr, VFW Post 1719
 Commander Mark Rackley and Chaplain
 Darrell Martin, along with Stroud Post 257 Legionaries, assist us in this vital endeavor.

“The American Legion in National Convention assembled in New York City, September 20-23, 1937, that the flag retirement ritual submitted and adopted for use by The American Legion and that it be made the official ceremony for the destruction of unserviceable American Flags.”

“The purpose of The American Legion in adopting this ceremony was to encourage proper respect for the Flag of the United States and to provide for disposal of unserviceable flags in a dignified manner. Resolution No. 373, approved by the National Convention of The American Legion meeting in Chicago, Illinois, September 18-20, 1944, re-emphasized the purpose of proper public Flag disposal ceremonies and encouraged greater use of this ceremony by The American Legion.”



The Post 64 Legion Family was honored to attend the unveiling of a new historical informational board highlighting Chandler's contribution as the "Hometown" and training site of the Oklahoma Army National Guard.

The effort was the vision of local resident Howard Dickman who has spent hundreds of hours researching and documenting Chandlers historical contributions to the Oklahoma Military.

The sign is located just east of Tilghman Park, near the Historic Military observation house.

District 5A

District 5A
June 26, 2026

Fellow Legionaries,

Welcome to Summer in Oklahoma.

I hope everyone is having a safe and relaxing summer. I also want to wish everyone a wonderful and safe Independence Day. This year is especially significant as we celebrate our countries 250th Birthday. I am hoping everyone will be able to celebrate this historic day in their own special way of celebrating. Just be careful and safe while celebrating with all your friends and family.

I would like to take a moment to tell everyone in District 5A how honored I have been to serve as your District Commander for the past 2 years. It has been an honor to represent each post in this district at all of Department meetings throughout the past two years.

As we go into the upcoming year, I hope that everyone will support the newly elected leadership, both at the district level and at the department level.

I hope to see everyone at the Summer Convention at the Grand Casino in Shawnee, July 9-12.

For GOD and Country.
Together as ONE.
Respectfully,
Michael Harris
District 5A Commander

Post 108 – Cushing/Drumright



On 5-11-26, Post 108 conducted their 2026-27 officer installation ceremony. L to R: Evelyn Ferchau, Historian; Delwyn Mayo, Chaplain; Tim Potter, Sergeant at Arms; Sean Martin, Adjutant; Robert Howell, Financial Officer; Don Tyson, 2nd Vice Commander; G. W. Davis, Commander; Leon Sullivan, 1st Vice Commander; sworn in by Steve Ferchau, Chaplain, District 5A



On 6-8-26, Mrs. Prewitt, representing the Quilts of Valor organization, awarded six quilts.



L to R: Don Tyson, Tom Jones, Leon Sullivan, Sean Martin



L to R: Rebecca Stowers, Tim Potter



Also on 6-8-26, Mrs. Patricia Seeberger donated a quilt she made to be displayed at Post 108 in the names of her sons: Andrew Seeberger, OSU Air Force Cadet and Phillip Seeberger, Navy Corpsman, E4. L to R: Mrs. Patricia Seeberger, Commander G.W. Davis.





A Father's Day Dinner was hosted by Post 108 on 6-19-26.





June 20, 2026 saw the Cushing Girl Scouts Troop taught respectful flag disposal by Legionnaires Leon Sullivan and Don Tyson.

Post 58 – Guthrie



TAL LeBron Post 58 remains steadfast on the mission of the organization. To follow our progress on Facebook visit LeBron Post 58 American Legion. Another step closer to our Grand Opening! The plumbing and parking lot is complete. Members are engaged to see this through, from one of our oldest (90 yrs) Legionnaires to our youngest (Auxiliary Juniors). What a difference each week holds!

Another group of Guthrie Job Corps Center Students assisted The American Legion LeBron Post 58 with our build out. The students have completed their 40 hours of pre-internship.





Ambassador for Peace Medal Ceremonies have been taking place across the state to recognize Veterans who served in the Korean War. For Earl Stoneburner, the ceremony plan initially was to present the medal to him at the Sand Springs Veterans Center ceremony in May, coordinated by TAL Sand Springs Post 17 Commander Robert Epperly, but Earl fell ill so Jaeho Yi and Commander Vincent then planned to visit him at his home, but the day prior to our meeting, Earl was called home to heaven. So Jaeho Yi and Post Commander Vincent attended a glorious Celebration of Life in Rose, Oklahoma, where Earl's service in the Korean War was recognized posthumously. James Hefner, TAL Post 240 Salina submitted Earl's information.

TAL State Capital Post 1000 Oklahoma City Commander Jeaneth Helton and the Del City Chamber of Commerce organized and hosted the next ceremony to honor Veterans. The Korean Consul General Kyung-eun Lee of the Consulate General of The Republic of Korea in

Houston, Texas, and Ministry of Patriot and Veterans Affairs, the Republic of Korea, joined us and presented the medal, along with presentations by city officials, Senator Lankford's Field Rep Estela Hernandez, and Rep Andy Fugate of Oklahoma's 94th District.

Korean Veteran Lloyd Fischer and son have become a fixture at ceremonies across the state. Recognizing Veterans is a passion of the Commander's. Contact Kim Vincent at the office 405-282-2589 to find out how to recognize Veterans who served in the Korean War, living or posthumously.



Legionnaires joined the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 58 for their annual Poppy Drive. While there we crossed paths with Patricia, who lost her spouse's memorial flag in the firestorm of 2025. We coordinated American flags flown over the nation's capital via Congresswoman Stephanie Bice, and were finally able to present her with it, there and again at our Memorial Day Ceremony the following day where Field Rep Michele Brown presented her the flag following her keynote address.

Post 58 Commander Kim Vincent and Field Rep Michele Brown also finally connected with Veteran James McFarland and Spouse Regina, who were impacted by the 2025 fire storm, for his flag presentation.



Honor Park Brick Paver Replacement Project continues. Ron Powell has dedicated many hours identifying brick pavers and creating a spreadsheet to assist in the immediate location of

Veterans' brick pavers. Michael Manning provides the grunt work! Longtime resident and Veteran Bob Powell was in attendance for his brick paver replacement, with Daughter and Son-in-law. Guthrie High School Class of 1962 students who joined the Armed Forces following graduation, were recognized by their classmate. What a special tribute! We were able to locate one living classmate / Legionnaire who served in Vietnam, Jerry Wamsley, and from him learned of 2 others still living, and will make contact with them in the near future. The community enjoys recognizing loved ones throughout the year. Donations are welcome for the completion of this project at \$30 per brick, with several rows to replace. To make a donation mail a check to The American Legion PO Box 69 Guthrie 73044.

District 5B





This was 12 June at the Norman Veterans Home, it was an Honor Ceremony for this Viet Nam Veteran, Post's that attended were:

88 Norman
184 Moore
261 Blanchard

District 6A

Post 353 – Mustang

Post 353 Mustang had a busy month wrapping up the business year. Three High School Seniors were selected to each receive a \$1000 scholarship to use for furthering their education. Scholarships are not restricted to colleges but can be used for Tech School programs or other educational purposes. Students are congratulated for their public-school achievements and encouraged to never stop learning.

Post 353 celebrates Flag Day each year on June 14th at Wild Horse Park's Veterans Pavilion. This year Commander Redden welcomed attendees to our Dignified Disposal Ceremony and members of the Post committed these "Ragged Old Flags" (google Johnny Cash if you must) to the flames with final honors.

Elections were held for our 2026-2027 business year. Swearing-In will take place at our August General Membership Meeting. Paul Ray will serve as Commander. All offices were filled and will be announced in the August edition of the Land Run.

The Post needs to acknowledge the sponsors for our recent Golf Tournament. They truly made this tournament our best ever. Jake Smith, from Smith and Orgain Welding, and post member Mickey White deserve all the credit for bringing together 30 sponsors and 80 players. Lessons were learned, terrific prizes, great food, and fantastic fellowship abounded. May we duplicate this in all future tournaments.

Five Post 353 delegates will attend the Summer Convention. All are looking forward to great learning, sharing, fellowship.

District 6B

Veterans are the backbone of our freedom and security, offering sacrifices that keep our nation safe. Their importance is defined by selflessness, courage, and a deep commitment to preserving democracy. Thank you for what you do at your Posts to take care of our Veterans and support your communities.

Jim Rees
District 6B Commander
American Legion Post 306

Post 55 – Duncan



Starting off with Girls State. Ella Cooper represented Post 55 for Girls State this year. She came to our June membership meeting and talked about her experience while at Girls State. From what she said, she had a blast! She received a certificate from the Post for her successful completion of Girls State!



Devan Johnson represented Post 55 for Boys State. Devan received 2 citizenship awards while participating in Boys State!





June 6th, 2026: Post 55 had a booth set up for the Chisholm Trail “Thunder on the Trail” Car Show. At our booth we talked about the American Legion, taught rifle drill and ceremony,

and sold raffle tickets from the American Hat Company in Bowie, TX. All proceeds go to the Post to help out our local veterans and community.

June 16th, 2026: During our Post membership meeting we honored our oldest and last World War II veteran Henry Clay James with a Post Everlasting Ceremony . He passed away on June 5th, 2026.



During the meeting we also honored former Post Commander, Vice Commander, and Chaplain Dalton Matthews with a Certificate of Appreciation for helping the post through his active membership and officer ship at the Post. He will be leaving for Virginia Theological Seminary on August 1st, 2026. He plans to continue to be a Post 55 member while in seminary. Congratulations to Dalton and we wish him the best of luck in his next chapter!



June 17th, 2026: Post 55 along with other local veteran organizations were invited to a Dream Flight Event sponsored by Wilkins Retirement Center. The Dream Flight was to give all interested veterans a short flight tour around Duncan. All those who came out had a great time!

Post 306 - Fletcher



On June 17, 2026, American Legion Post 306 presented a monetary donation to the Comanche Residential Youth Services (CRYS) program during a special gathering held in the Patriot Room at the Comanche Nation Headquarters.

The donation was presented by Commander Jim Rees and Lenn Sovo on behalf of the Post 306 Membership, marking a community-focused event aimed at supporting the CRYS program's mission. Such contributions are typically part of American Legion Posts' broader

efforts to support Children and Youth programs that help children succeed and thrive in their communities.





Post 308 had a good visit to the Ft Sill National Cemetery this morning. Thank you to Ft Sill National Cemetery Volunteer John McNeal for sharing his expertise about the history of the VA Cemetery and what different benefits we have as veterans and for our family members.





Join us at the
Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge for our

125th Anniversary Celebration



"Honoring the past, present, and future of the refuge"
June 2, 2026, at 1:30 p.m.

- Tour our new headquarters
- See a new film about the refuge
- Hear from staff and guest speakers
- See what's inside a recently rediscovered time capsule from 1926



¼ mile east of the Visitor's Center - 21088 State Highway 115, Cache, OK



Our Post asked to present the Colors at the 125th Anniversary Celebration of the Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge on June 2nd, 2026. We were glad to be part of the effort to help celebrate our Wildlife Refuge!



Post 306 participated in the Lawton Armed Forces Day parade. The Armed Forces Day Parade is an annual Lawton tradition honoring the men and women who serve and have served in the United States Armed Forces.

District 7

As this year comes to a close, all Post Commanders, Adjutants and Legionnaires had a great year as district 7 was amongst the top leaders in all aspects of The American Legion. I am very proud of what we accomplished this year. I am looking forward to another good year in 2026-2027. Hope to see everyone at state conference.

Elmo May
District 7 Commander

District 8A

Post 53 – Perry



Kris Morgan of Veteran Flags by Vets shared his inspiring story with attendees, speaking about both his military service and the mission that grew from his personal struggles. Morgan, a United States Air Force veteran, served seven years before being medically retired following his return from Saudi Arabia. After battling depression for nearly a decade, he found healing and purpose through woodworking after inheriting his grandfather's tools.

Seven years ago, Morgan began crafting a wooden American flag for himself, a project that soon evolved into a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting veterans and raising awareness about veteran suicide. His mission is simple yet powerful — to help reduce the reported 22 veteran suicides a day to zero.

During the organization's first year, Morgan raised \$22,022, a figure he said felt far too meaningful to be coincidental. Every dollar was reinvested into the nonprofit and its programs for veterans.

Today, Veteran Flags by Vets hosts between five and ten veterans each month at Morgan's workshop in Guthrie. Veterans spend the day building, gluing, and staining handcrafted wooden flags while enjoying fellowship and camaraderie. Lunches are generously donated by local restaurants, further reflecting the community's support of the mission.

The organization also offers veterans the opportunity to create a flag cross, though Morgan emphasized there are special rules attached. The crosses are not meant to be kept or given to family or friends. Instead, they are intended to be gifted to a veteran encountered in everyday life, you take a picture, send it to Kris and he has you come down and make another one to give out. as Morgan described it — as an act of encouragement and appreciation.

Morgan is currently reorganizing his workshop but expects to resume accepting appointment requests after Aug. 1, 2026. The primary point of contact for Veteran Flags by Vets is through Facebook and Facebook Messenger at Veteran Flags by Vets. <https://www.facebook.com/Veteranflagsbyvets>

Unit 53 – Perry



Alexis Richardson (our 2026 Girls State representative) with Katie Shaffer and Sharon Courtright.



Jeremy Hines presented Certificates of Appreciation from the American Legion for Peggy Haxton, Sharon Courtright, Katie Shaffer, and Bobbi Golay for all their hard work. Such a wonderful honor and surprise.





Commander Jeremy Hines presented a brief history of the American flag while Legionnaires Doyle Balzer and Don Betchan conducted a ceremonial flag-folding demonstration in observance of Flag Day. This year's program was held at the local nursing home during residents' activity time, allowing veterans and residents alike to participate in the meaningful tribute to the nation's flag and the values it represents.

District 8B

PLEASE SEND ALL
SUBMISSIONS TO
TALOK1889@GMAIL.COM

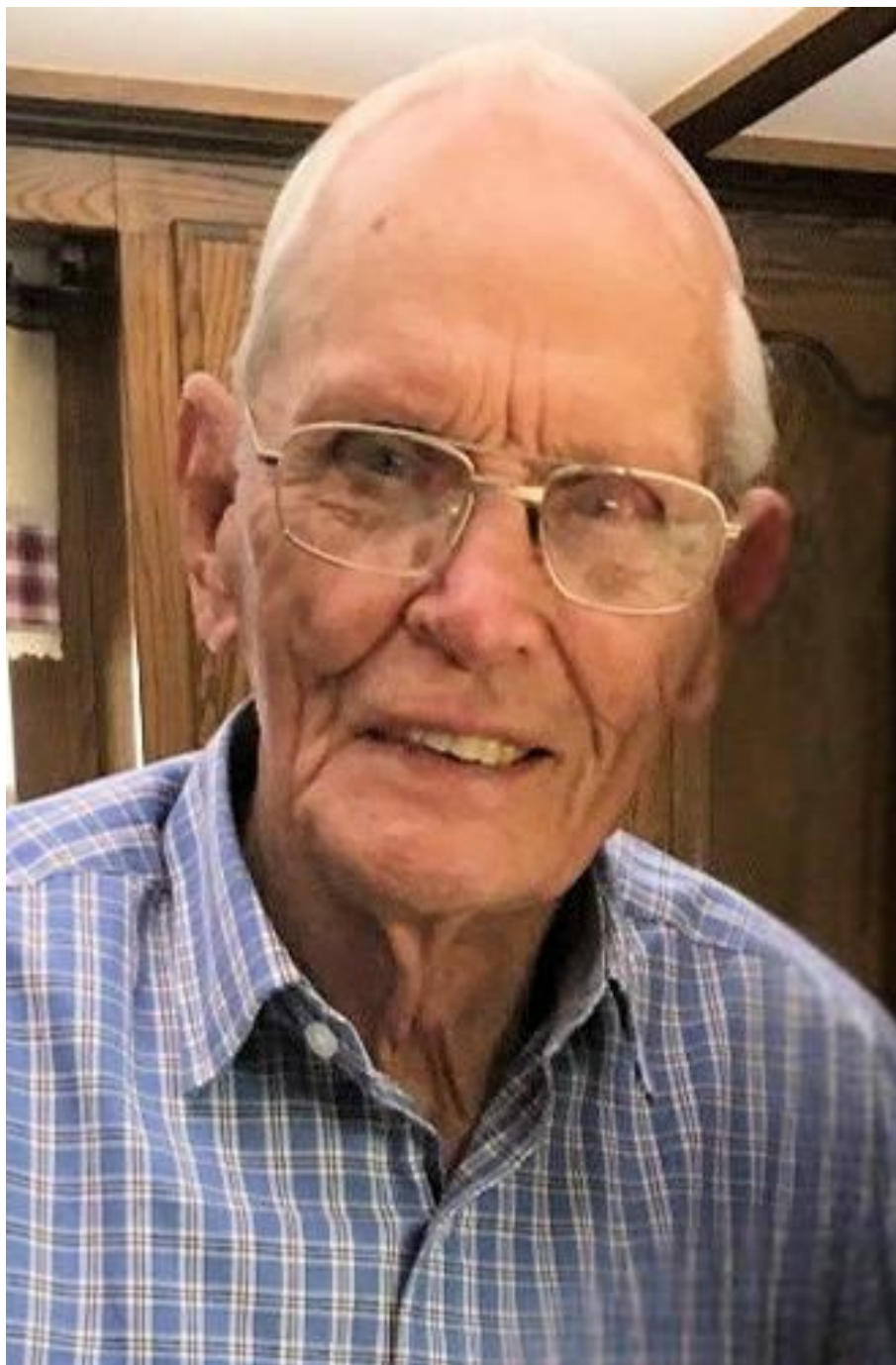
NO LATER THAN
1800hrs on the 28TH
OF THE MONTH

Please include District
and Post number in
the subject line for
submission

POST EVERLASTING



Henry Clay "Jack" James



<https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/name/henry-james-obituary?id=61646291>

Charles Albert Kumpe, Jr.



<https://www.smithgallo.com/obituary/charles-kumpe-jr>

Glen Ray Mayo --SAL



<https://www.clifforddgarrettfamilyfh.com/obituaries/glenn-mayo/#!/TributeWall>