

THE 1889 LAND RUN



DEPARTMENT
OF
OKLAHOMA



American Legion Newsletter

39th Edition, October 1, 2025

American Legion Department Commander

Hello Oklahoma Legion Family,

It has now been ten weeks since being elected by all of you. I am still overwhelmed with so much gratitude and feel so very honored that you all have placed such trust in me and our fellow leadership team. The Department of Oklahoma American Legion is off to an amazing start this year with a reenergized family feeling. Our membership drive is off to an amazing start which is the backbone to assisting as many Veterans and their families as we possibly can. We successfully hit the 50% membership goal about three weeks ahead of the September 10th goal date which puts us about 8% ahead of this same time last year. As I write this, we sit 14 shy of 7000 at 59.5%. We need to stay on time on target as playing catch up becomes overwhelming. If every post in the Department adds just one new or renewal a week on average, we will be back to growing as an organization. If we can take time to make genuine buddy checks, past members will naturally begin to return to the organization that they once strongly believed in.

Many of us returned from the American Legion National Convention in August. It is an amazing experience when you can make it to National Convention year after year. For those that have never had the opportunity to experience it, next year it will be in Louisville, Kentucky and I would suggest you try to plan to make it next August. It is truly a blessing to be with so many hero's and lifelong friends I have made across this great organization from all corners of the Globe. However, I am glad to have made it back to the Great State of Oklahoma as we have work to do here at home. Here is just a short recap from National Convention. Those of us in attendance were honored to hear from Medal of Honor Recipient Dwight Birdwell, Director of National Intelligence The Honorable Tulsi Gabbard, VA Director Doug Collins, Governor Ron DeSantis w/ Lt Gov Jay Collins, Country Artist Scotty Hasting, the sights and sounds of Tampa Bay, Florida and thousands of our fellow Brother and Sister Veterans and Legionnaire family from the Legion, Sons, Auxiliary and Riders. Congratulations to our new National leaders with Dan K. Wiley of Kansas leading the American Legion, Pam Ray of Illinois leading the Auxiliary and Bill Clancy of New York leading the Sons as well as all our new National Vices. It's going to be a great year for the American Legion organization near and far. Congratulations to the best Sons of The American Legion Detachment right here in The Detachment of Oklahoma cleaning up in the awards and accolades category. Congratulations to our American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Oklahoma on the Americanism award and the two speech winners from City of Grove. I am happy to pass along our Riders all made it safe and sound and managed to raise so

much money and awareness to help Veteran families in need. The Department achieved so much and it's only going to get better this year with everyone lifting simultaneously.

In closing, it has been a chaotic amount of business and travel, but it has been amazing seeing all the positive information coming out of all the Districts Meetings we have visited thus far and Posts across this State. Posts reviving, hitting couple year membership highs right out of the gate, adding the Legion Family components, sharing their events with headquarters so we can get information out. We are rolling on such a great path with nothing but good vibes. I look forward to seeing the districts scheduled this month and the Posts that have invited me to come visit.

Let's keep the momentum rolling!

Steve Thomas
Department Commander

American Legion Department-Senior Vice Commander

Greetings Legion Family!!

This is a great time to be in the Legion. You have surpassed the first two goals of the year and are well on your way to obtaining the 60% goal of October 1st. Lots of work being put in by you to get our numbers up.

September has been a busy month. 3 District Conferences have been held with great turnout by the Legion Family. One more coming up to finish the month. I was able to visit Post 40 in Vinita, and our newest prison post, Post 30 in Granite.

We are working our way to the top 10 for National. As of today, September 22nd, we are in 11th position, just over 1% from being number 10.

All of the Districts are now over 50%. 3 Districts have passed the 60% mark. Fantastic job by everyone! 115 Posts are over 50%, and we have 6 Posts who have obtained 100%. Another 366 members and we will reach 60%.

Keep up the effort in retaining and recruiting members. Call, text, email, or visit the members who have not renewed yet. Persistence pays off.

"Be The One"

Respectfully,
Shirley May
Senior Vice Commander

Department Vice Commander – East

Greetings Legion Family,

Over the past several weeks, I've had the privilege of attending multiple District Conferences, and I continue to be inspired by the dedication and energy of our members. Each of these gatherings showed not only the strength of our Legion Family but also the vision and teamwork that will carry us forward this year.

- **District 2, under Kayla Rector's leadership**, provided outstanding training that left members better equipped to serve their Posts and communities.
- **District 1, guided by Andrew Fisher**, demonstrated teamwork at its best, with members coming together in a spirit of unity and purpose.
- **District 3, led by Jackie Sikes**, offered valuable training and fostered a positive outlook for the year ahead.
- **District 8, under Wayne Flowers**, showed a clear commitment to growth and building a strong foundation for the future.

Each District Conference reminded me that when we invest in training and team-building, we strengthen the entire organization. I want to thank all of our District leaders for their hard work and dedication—it truly shows.

Membership is also going strong! **District 1A has already reached the 60% mark, and four other Districts are less than 10 members away from hitting that same milestone.** In addition, **43 Posts on the East side have already reached 60%.** This is an incredible accomplishment so early in the year, and it's a reflection of your hard work and commitment. If your Post is struggling, please don't hesitate to reach out to your leadership team. Every one of us is here to help you succeed, because we are stronger when we work together.

As we look toward October, remember our mission of supporting **Children and Youth**. Halloween Safety is an easy and meaningful area where your Post can focus its efforts. Consider sponsoring a Trick-or-Treat spot or hosting a safety event for kids in your community. **DEC 1B Ron Bunch and Unit President Debra Bunch have been doing this for years at Post 17**, and it's a wonderful example of how Posts can make a difference locally.

As we approach Veterans Day, it's a special time to reflect on the service and sacrifice of those who wore the uniform. It's also a reminder of the ongoing mission we share: to serve veterans, their families, and our communities. I encourage every Post to take this opportunity to not only honor veterans but also to connect with your communities and remind them of the important role the American Legion plays every day.

Finally, I want to recognize **Post 39 Durant** for their inspiring *Be The One* activity. Their "Post 22 Everlasting" was a 12-hour watch honoring the 22 veterans we lose each day to suicide. Members and supporters signed up for 22-minute shifts, with two people standing for each watch. **Great job to Hayden and the entire team** for leading this meaningful event. I'm sure Post 39 would be happy to share with other Posts how to host this activity, so we can continue to spread awareness and support across our Legion Family.

As always, I remain focused on recognition, excellence, and empowerment. Together, we can continue to achieve incredible things.

Be The One

Karen Cruice
 Vice Commander East
 Department of Oklahoma

Department Vice Commander – West

Hello, all legionnaires, membership is going way better than expected. At the District Conference this past weekend one was 17% better than last year and the other 20% many kudos to both. The conference was held in Perry, OK and the Commander and Tina Kilmer always go above and beyond to make it a class act. Post 308 Tulsa Mohawk went over and beyond, and may I say great job Bob Coffey and crew. Now I wouldn't be doing my due diligence if I didn't mention Argonne Post 0004 Enid. Now here was a post on life support, and this year Leroy Watkins and a few legionnaires have brought this post one member away from 100%. 🙌🙌 They also have that post getting involved with the community.

VSOs are something The American Legion should truly value. The look on a Veterans face after helping him/her with a claim is worth the time you spend on these claims. I've been a VSO five and a half years and if you don't learn something new every day then something isn't going right. We as a department could use more VSO's around the state. If you are interested in this, please contact your post commander so he can send requests to district.

Our Department Commander and Senior Vice have been the right choices for the job. We are all headed in the same direction, and it shows in the membership. So, on that front of our endeavor let's keep pushing forward. Posts are starting to work together, and communication is opening up. District Commanders remember communication is a two-way street by sending posts what you receive. Membership isn't a job it is an adventure. Have fun doing membership and I promise it is a lot easier.

Vice-Commander West

Lance E. Larson

National Executive (NEC) Committeeman

Greetings Legionnaires!

October is a pivotal month in the upper echelons of The American Legion at National Headquarters in Indianapolis. It is the month that Department National appointments expire, and the National Executive Committee [NEC] approved new appointments recommended by the 55 American Legion Departments. For each Department there is a scheduled meeting with the Committee on Committees where the Department NEC is called in before a panel of NEC members on this Committee and each Department recommendation is discussed and all questions from the Committee members are answered. The Committee then writes a report for the NEC who receives the report on the last day of NEC meeting and approves or disapproves the Department recommendations in the report.

When I ran for NEC last year, I did so on a platform of change and taking a new approach, trying to involve additional new and younger Legion blue-hats in the process of attending National

Meetings and reporting back to Department and District and Post meetings. This is a work in progress.

Congratulations to new members of the Department of Oklahoma who have been recommended for National Committee appointments and to Department members who have been reappointed.

The new nominees are: Clay Ballenger Post 1, Robert Chisolm Post 145, William Teel Post 105, Karen Ritter Post 178, Jim Rees Post 306, Rex Ice Post 111, Kimberly Vincent Post 58, Andrew Windham Post 73, Carrie Moore Post 184, Wayne Flowers Post 273, Jack Sikes Post 164, Shirley May Post 146.

Looking forward to working with new members and those continuing or reappointed to their National Committee assignments in the upcoming Legion year!

As our new National Commander Dan Wiley says, "BETTER TOGETHER".

Charlie O'Leary, NEC
Department of Oklahoma

Alternate National Executive (ANEC) Committeeman

American Legion Riders

Greetings, Team Oklahoma Riders,

I want to share some exciting updates with all of you our dedicated Riders across the state and those Posts considering starting a new chapter. The momentum is growing, and the future of the Oklahoma American Legion Riders has never looked brighter.

Growth Across Oklahoma

As of today, we have over 80 Riders actively involved statewide, and that number continues to climb. Even more encouraging, several Posts have requested information about starting new chapters. That tells me the Riders' spirit of brotherhood, sisterhood, and service is spreading strong across Oklahoma.

Looking Ahead

We are still awaiting word on CL Daniel's escort service, and we will share details as soon as they are confirmed. In the meantime, your leadership team and new committee members are already focused on:

- ☐ Building out our in-state Legacy Run for 2026
- ☐ Planning our participation in the National Legacy Run next year in Louisville, Kentucky
- ☐ Creating more opportunities for Posts to join in, ride, and serve alongside us

Fundraising With Purpose

Between our challenge coin sales and the support, we receive when we visit Posts across the state, we are on track to raise close to \$15,000 this coming year. That money will go directly to the Children's Welfare Fund of the National American Legion, a cause that represents the heart of who we are and why we ride.

This is an ambitious goal, but it is within our reach. Every mile we ride, every coin we sell, every dollar we raise brings us closer to making that vision a reality for the children and families who need us most.

Together, We Ride Strong

Brothers and sisters, remember take care of each other, keep your heads on a swivel, and never forget why we ride. The road ahead will bring challenges, but it will also bring incredible victories we will celebrate together. With unity, faith, and commitment, we will make 2025 and 2026 years to remember for the Department of Oklahoma American Legion Riders.

For God, Country, and Service,
Brett Martin

Past Department Commander's Corner

THE IMPORTANCE OF MENTORSHIP

Ever wonder what is the most important job a Past Department Commander should do? Sit around at meetings and complain about stuff and criticize every new idea or concept that comes up? No.

Past Commanders and in fact, all legionnaires should take the responsibility of being a mentor to younger or new legion members seriously. The old adage of "praise in public" and "criticize in private" should always be followed. More seasoned legionnaires should take it upon themselves to give advice when asked, and support new ideas and concepts as appropriate.

Personal contact is the key to success in this endeavor. There is nothing like a face-to-face meeting or a personal phone call, offering encouragement and a helping hand.

To do that you have to be willing to travel, willing to show up, willing to be available and make a positive contribution to each situation.

Be someone younger members can turn to for solutions and answers to questions and be available to be there to keep things moving in a positive manner.

All of us can remember in the military when we had older and more experienced members who would monitor us during our careers and time in the military. The same tradition still applies as legionnaires.

Having a problem at your Post or Squadron? Don't forget you can turn to those who have been there before and learn about pitfalls and what worked or didn't and what changes might be needed.

As our new National Commander Dan Wiley says, "BETTER TOGETHER"
Let's do it!

Charlie O'Leary
PDC 2021-22
No One Left Behind

Department Adjutant - Rick Redden

VA Burial Benefit Fact Sheet, click on icon to access



VA Burial Benefit - 3.pdf

Oklahoma Veterans Commission – Brett Martin

Greetings, Team Oklahoma,

I want to share an important update on where we stand with the State of Oklahoma Veterans Foundation—an effort that will transform how we support our veterans and their families.

Big Milestones

April 25, 2025 – SB-530 signed by Governor Stead establishing the Foundation.

May 29, 2025 – IRS issues our EIN; State of Oklahoma issues both our Certificate of Registration and Certificate of Incorporation as a nonprofit.

August 13, 2025 – IRS grants our official nonprofit status.

We're finalizing bylaws now, and they'll be up for approval at our November meeting.

Mission & Vision

Mission: To strengthen the lives of Oklahoma veterans and their families by supplementing and expanding programs of ODVA and our veteran-serving nonprofits—going beyond the limits of state funding.

Vision: A future where every Oklahoma veteran and family thrives with dignity, opportunity, and unwavering support. A future where no veteran is left behind and sacrifices are honored in ways that last.

Core Values

Service – Meeting needs with compassion and integrity.

Collaboration – Partnering to amplify impact.

Stewardship – Transparent, responsible resource use.

Innovation – Adapting to evolving needs.

Equity – Ensuring equal access for all veterans.

Looking Forward

Momentum is strong—donors and organizations are already standing by to support this mission. With your continued partnership, the future for Oklahoma veterans has never looked brighter.

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.

American Legion Auxilliary

BE THE ONE

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.

New Award Certificate for Educators

The Committee on Youth Education (COYE) is reviving The Americanism Commission Certificate of Appreciation for Education.

This program is to recognize individuals, in our Department and communities, that promote the four pillars of the American Legion, core values and educational goals of The American Legion by advancing the principles of Americanism, supporting the education programs, and helping to instill a sense of pride and civic responsibility in our nation's youth.

Each Department can nominate up to 3 individuals (members or non-members) each year. A list of Nominations to the COYE will be due to the Americanism National Headquarters before the Fall Meetings by September 26th. That means our Department must have them no later than September 15th.

Individuals that are nominated by each Department and approved by the Committee on Youth Education will receive a Certificate and a letter from the Americanism Commission that can be presented by the Department at their choosing.

We got this very late and the timeline is short because we expect many more than 3 nominations for the Awards Committee to evaluate. You must make the September 15th suspense date. The nominations must go through the Department Headquarters.

VA Healthcare Provider and VA Physician of the Year packages have been forwarded to National. They have a deadline of Sept 7th.

We are working on the National nomination packages for LEO, Firefighter and Employers of Veterans, we have a little time on those.

It is time for all of the Post to start talking to your Police and Fire Departments looking for nominees for next year. Give some thought to the VA Physicians and Healthcare Providers that serve you. There are many very good ones in the system that deserve recognition. A "Healthcare Provider" includes "ANY" VA healthcare provider; Xray tech, audiology tech, psychologist, Social Worker, and all of the other skills that are involved in direct patient care.

Take care of the people that take care of you. Recognize their excellence.

I am not going to steal the Auxiliary's thunder but Congratulations Clarise.

Find someone to recognize.

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

Additional information from Paul Ray

Just a little information about the CPR and why it's important.

The Consolidated Post Report is important for several reasons. It provides the data that the National organization takes to congress to prove our worth. The hours we volunteer are counted and congress assigns a dollar value to those hours to visualize how valuable Legionnaires and Post are to their Districts in many different categories. That along with the strength of our membership numbers gives our Congressional Representatives an idea of how many votes we can muster either for or against them. There is no part of me that believes Congress passes any legislation to benefit Veterans because it's a good idea. Or because it's the right thing to do. It's because of our influence.

The CPR lets Congress know how much influence we have in the community and that is what influences their votes. The CPR data got us the VA Healthcare system that many Veterans depend on. "It doesn't matter if you like the VA system or not," many Veterans depend upon it. Read that to say many of your brothers and sisters need that service. The CPR data got us the VA Education "GI Bill".

The CPR data was a significant factor in the PACT Act. The data that the Posts turn on the CPR matters. Your Post CPR makes a difference. The CPR works best if Legionnaires are active in the community and the community knows they can depend on Legionnaires. Be that guy. Be the person everyone else would like to be. Be an admired Veteran, be a Legionnaire.

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

National Shooting Sports Foundation

We are sending this to you for informational purposes and so that you can address any questions from members.

The American Legion reached agreement several months ago with the National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF), the trade association for the firearm industry, on producing a kit with materials related to safe storage, suicide prevention and the Be the One initiative.

Last week, two major law firms accused NSSF of violating the privacy rights of millions of gun owners by running a decades-long program that sent their information to political operatives without consent.

The American Legion only learned of the lawsuits on Friday, Sept. 26, after the kits had been shipped to every post with a physical address.

Please note: The American Legion did NOT provide any membership information to NSSF, just the physical addresses of the posts.

While The American Legion supports any measures to prevent suicide, including safe storage, it is up to the sole discretion of individual members on whether to engage with NSSF and/or provide them with personal information.

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

Department Blood Program Chair

<https://ourbloodinstitute.org/>

Does your post have a Blood Donor Program? Are you including Blood counts in your CPR? Our Blood Institute and the American Red Cross (in some areas) need YOUR individual and organizational support. 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
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jbishop22@cox.net
DEPT OF OKLAHOMA
BLOOD DONOR CHAIR
2025-2026

District Conferences

District 4--October 18--Post 260 Tecumseh

District 5--November 15—Post 88 Norman

District 6-- October 25 Post 34 El Reno

District 7--November 8--Post 146 Sayer

If you have any updates to this list, please contact Adjutant Rick Redden.

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

District 1A

Post 240-Salina



Post 240's Rich Conn and Jim McKibben, District Commander Andrew Fisher and Department Commander Steve Thomas representing the American Legion at the Gold Bond Golf Tournament. Gold Bond has a work force of approximately 25% of Veterans.

Post 178 – Grove



Our very own [Robert Bowers](#) and [Debra Bowers](#) at The Beaches of Normandy!



Ridgerunner Spotlight on Myla Kelly!! She attended Girls State over the summer and reported back to the sponsors of that program, The Grove American Legion. She finished her Eagle Scout. She was also recently elected to be the Robotics rep for Homecoming!! Keep up the great work!!!

District 1B

On September 13th, Districts 1A and 1B held a joint district conference. The central focus, as with the rest of our state and the nation, was Family: the core of our American Legion mission and purpose.

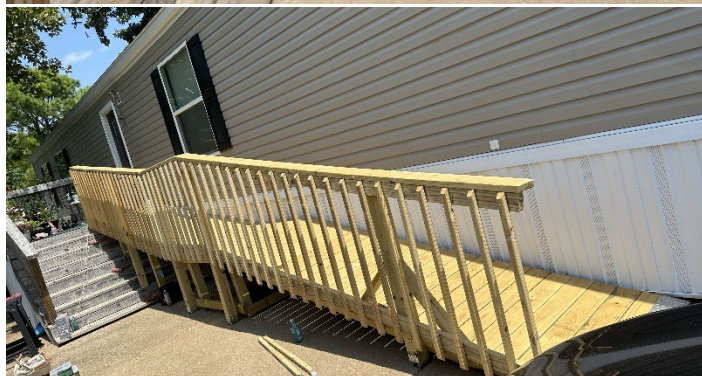
This year's meeting was steady and straightforward. There were no major votes, no new officers were elected, and no major announcements were made. Instead, it was an important opportunity to come together, connect with our Posts, and continue the work of strengthening our organization.

For me, this gathering held a special significance; it was my very first district meeting as District 1B Commander. I am grateful for the warm welcome, the engagement from our Posts, and the sense of unity that carried throughout the discussions. While no single moment stood out as "spectacular," the steady progress and connection we shared are what truly matter in building a strong district.

All in all, the meeting went well, and I look forward to working alongside each of you as we move forward this year.

Andrew Fisher
District 1B Commander

Post 17-Sand Springs



Sand Springs, Billie A. Hall Post 17: Serving Veterans and Strengthening the Community.

In the heart of Sand Springs, Oklahoma Post 17 continues to make a powerful and lasting impact through its unwavering commitment to veterans and community service.

Championing Veterans' Benefits

This year alone, our four dedicated Veterans Service Officers, representing The American Legion (TAL), Disabled American Veterans (DAV), and Vets That Matter (VTM), have helped 80 veterans secure 100% disability ratings. This accomplishment equates to an estimated \$9M in benefits added to our local community, reinforcing the economic and social value of our service.

Weekly Veterans Breakfast

In partnership with VTM, Post 17 hosts a weekly breakfast, drawing an average of 68 veterans, first responders, and their family members each week. These gatherings offer more than just a shared meal, they foster camaraderie, connection, and mutual support among those who've worn the uniform.

Community Bingo Nights

Every Thursday night, Post 17 opens its doors for community bingo, a beloved tradition that brings people together while supporting a greater cause. Proceeds from bingo directly benefit local initiatives, including recent assistance provided to a widow of a veteran and first responder facing significant medical expenses.

Funding and Hands-on Support for Veterans

Our collaboration with VTM extends beyond meals and meetings. Post 17 supplies materials for veteran focused projects such as wheelchair ramps, while VTM volunteers and Post 17 generously provide the labor. Together, we ensure veterans in need receive practical, respectful support that enhances their quality of life and dignity.

American Legion Billie A. Hall Post 17 stands as a beacon of service, compassion, and community spirit proudly living out the values of the 1889 Land Run legacy every single day.

District 2A

Post 15- Muskogee

American Legion Post 15 honors its namesake

By Ronn Rowland
rowland@muskogeejournal.com

James F. Smith Memorial American Legion Post 15 honored its namesake Friday on the 107th anniversary of his death.

Smith, whose full name is James Frederick Smith, was killed during World War I on Sept. 12, 1918 at the Battle of Saint-Mihiel, France. He was the first person killed at the battle and is buried at Greenhill Cemetery at the base of the main flagpole.

Members of the post gathered at his grave and a wreath was placed near his headstone.

Raul Rizo, post adjutant, said it's important to remember all veterans who made the ultimate sacrifice.

"Reason being is, we need to honor the memory and sacrifice which they gave for our great nation," Rizo said. "Those sacrifices lead us to today's freedom for all citizens, not just veterans."

Smith was born in Hunt County, Texas, Sept. 24, 1897, and died 12 days before his 21st birthday.

Four members of the post honor guard saluted Smith with a three-round salute. That was followed by the playing of "Taps." Rizo read a short biography about Smith afterward.



RONN ROWLAND/Muskogee Journal

Chris Cisneros, left, and James Waldron place a wreath at the grave of Pvt. James Frederick Smith, honoring him on the 107th anniversary of his death during World War I. Smith was killed at the battle of Saint-Mihiel Sept. 12, 1918, 12 days before his 21st birthday. American Legion Post 15 carries Smith's name.

"In 1917, James F. Smith was the first Muskogee citizen to be inducted," Rizo said. "For those old enough to remember, we called it the draft. He was drafted into the U.S. Army."

Smith was assigned to the 338th Machine Gun Company, 90th Infantry Division, at Camp Travis in San Antonio.

"The 90th Infantry was referred to as the 'Tough Hombres,'" Rizo said. "It was a combination of army

troops from Texas and Oklahoma. Therefore they used the initials T and O for the name."

Saint-Mihiel was captured by German forces in 1914, and recaptured by the American Expeditionary Forces during the battle that ended Sept. 19, 1918.

"Albert Sylvester, a fellow soldier, witnessed Smith's fall in the battle," Rizo said. "Sylvester was put in charge of informing the Smith family of James' death."

Smith was initially buried at the American Military Cemetery at Saint Mihiel and was returned to Greenhill Cemetery in 1921 for permanent interment.

"At his funeral in 1921, people lined the streets from Bradley Funeral Home on West Okmulgee Avenue, all the way to Greenhill Cemetery," Rizo said. "Otto L. Hine, the post's first elected commander, presented the U.S. flag to the Smith family."

District 2B

Post 22-Stigler

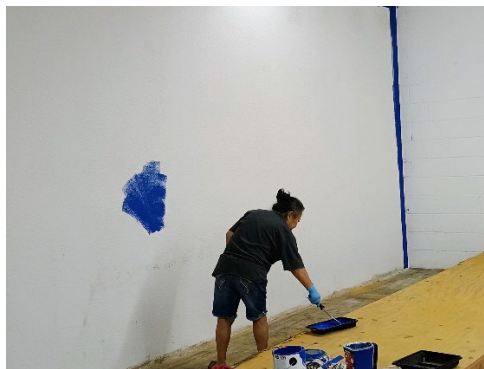


The Post 22 Everlasting. Past Vice Commander Alexander and PDC Hayden Woods and others stood our last watch for the day completing 6 watches.

District 3A

District 3B

Post 39 – Durant



Painting the accent wall at Green Bryant Post 39 here in Durant. Lang Woods helped, she picked the color and it looks great.

Post 99 – Madill



Post 099 Madill received their Auxiliary Charter 20 September.

District 4

Post 64-Chandler



The American Legion, Post #64, would like to invite the citizens of Chandler to join us in our monthly endeavor to keep downtown Chandler looking great. We meet at 7am on the 2nd Saturday of each month (that would be this coming Saturday, Sept. 13th) Park on 9th street by the courthouse. Bring your brooms, dust pans, leaf blowers, trash bags, gloves, etc. and let's keep Chandler looking great! (Should it rain, we will reschedule for the 4th Saturday of the month.) (We have adopted Manvel from 8th Street to 10th Street. If we have enough people show up we will expand our area.)

District 5A

Post 58-Guthrie



Honor Park Guthrie, Oklahoma - Laying U.S. Army Specialist Knittle's brick paver with the Knittle Family to honor Donnie's military service in Vietnam.

Thank you Donnie and Son, both Army Veterans, for your years of service, also Donnie's grandchildren who are currently on Active Duty, one stateside and another on an overseas tour.

Thank you for supporting The American Legion LeBron Post 58, as your brick paver purchase helps maintain the park and supports the Brick Paver Replacement Project



Auxiliary Member Lilly and volunteer Marie bagged beef patties for those in need, Diane with Synergy Home Care brought donuts to share with everyone; Legionnaire Fry gave several Fry's Chocolate Cream candy bars to all in attendance.



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

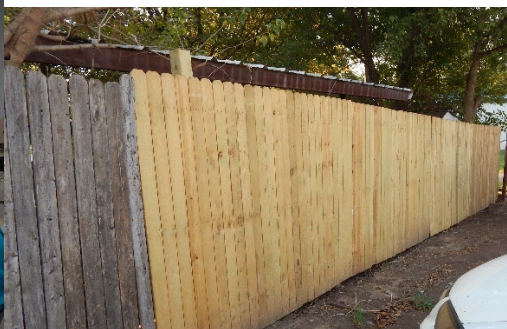
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Venmo <https://venmo.com/u/TALPost58Guthrie>

Post 108 Cushing/Drumright



September 2025 Activities of District 5A, Donaldson/Walker Cushing/Drumright Post 108: members raised three flags at a Drumright High School home football game; Honor Guard provided service at the funeral of James Scroggins; Mike Harris, District 5A Commander, visited and commended 108 for membership efforts; members raised the flag at a Cushing High School home football game; and members replaced pickets in a citizen's fence as well as added railroad tie stops to a City of Cushing parking lot.



Post 129- Stillwater



Post 129, September 4th, Installation of 2025-2026 officers.

I had the privilege and honor of visiting Post 129 on Thursday, September 4th for their monthly meeting. The Department Commander was in attendance to install the newly elected officers for 2025-2026.

The Post had a good turnout of membership to meet and greet the Department Commander prior to the monthly meeting. It was an honor for me to be in attendance along with Vice Commander West Larson, a member of Post 129.

Post 129 has many community activities they are involved in each year. Wreaths across America, Veterans Day celebrations and of course their annual pancake breakfast they hold every year. This year the pancake breakfast is on October 25th. You can get your tickets for the breakfast from any Post 129 member.

Post 170- Midwest City



September 6th, Post 170, 80th Anniversary celebration.

Vice Commander West Larson and myself, along with Past Department Commander Woods and other dignitaries from Tinker Air Force Base attended Post 170, Midwest City American Legion, celebrating their 80th Anniversary. This was also the SAL and the Auxiliary's 75th Anniversary. The Honor Guard from Post 73, Del City was in attendance to post the Colors and in support for Post 170.

After the ceremony everyone in attendance enjoyed a great catered BBQ lunch.

District 5B

Post 23- Lindsey



The Missing in Action chair, located on the 50-yard line of the Lindsay High School football bleachers, in perpetual memory of those who did not return will be dedicated at the first home football game. All veterans from all military branches are invited to come and be recognized for your service.

Post 88 - Norman



Today, members of the Norman Police Department joined [American Legion Post 88](#) for a 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony.

We are honored to stand alongside our community and fellow first responders to remember the lives lost, honor the heroes, and reflect on the resilience that continues to unite us.



American Legion Post #88 and Auxiliary Unit 88 visited the new Women's Health Clinic at 3625 NW 56th Street OKC today. Job well done VA.

Post 184 - Moore



Please add our Be The One Suicide Prevention Walk information to the newsletter.
Oct 4, 9 am at 700 S Broadway Ave, Moore, OK 73160



Honoring a True Trailblazer! 🇺🇸

On 25 SEP 2025, we were incredibly proud to share that our very own Commander [Carrie Moore](#) was honored in Washington, D.C. as one of 28 women veteran Trailblazers as part of the VA Center for Women Veterans' "Women Veterans Forging a Path" initiative.

This national recognition highlights Commander Moore's outstanding leadership, unwavering dedication, and the powerful example she sets for veterans and service members across the country.

Please join us in celebrating this remarkable achievement—Commander Moore, you make us all proud! 🎉

District 6A

Post 353-Mustang



At the regularly scheduled meeting of the American Legion Post 353 Mustang, held on August 14, the elected officers for Our 2025-2026 membership year were sworn in by Past Post Commander Paul Ray (facing officers). Newly appointed officers (left to right) are –

John Bishop, Historian
 Rick Redden, Commander
 Tom Panepinto, 2nd Vice Commander
 Don Kuntze, 1st Vice Commander
 Marie Enderton, Finance Officer
 Sheila Schulte, Adjutant
 John Sears, Chaplain (Co-Chaplain George Kokendoffer not pictured)
 Mickey White, Judge Advocate



At our 14 August 2025 post meeting ALA Unit 353 President Addie Sears receives a Certificate of Appreciation from Post 353 Commander Barry Carrington for her service repairing our flags flown as our Avenue of Flags to maximize their longevity. Her diligent effort allows these flags to be flown as much as four times longer than would otherwise be possible saving a tremendous amount of money for the Post and the community. A job well done. Thank You, Addie.

Second Blood Drive for 2025-2026 Year



Second Shift Volunteers, Left to Right – John Sears, Jasmine Martin (OBI Area Coordinator), and Elmor Mitchell receiving donors at our drive on Tuesday, August 19th, 2025, from 1-6 pm. All donors received an OBI t-shirt and folding chair, plasma donors also received an OBI lap blanket. First Shift Volunteers (picture not available) were the Blood Committee Chair John Traffanstedt and Johnny Wooden.



The 2025 Mustang Western Days Parade was led by Legion Flag Bearers carrying the National Colors, the POW/MIA Flag, Oklahoma State Flag, our American Legion Post 353 Mustang flag, and the Colors of the six branches of our Armed Forces carried by our Mustang High

School JROTC cadets.

It has been Post 353's Honor to lead this Annual event since inception in 1989. It leads a full weekend of fun with a car show, vendor with food and crafts, and a professional rodeo on Friday and Saturday evening.

EVERYONE IS INVITED TO A GREAT COMMUNITY EVENT

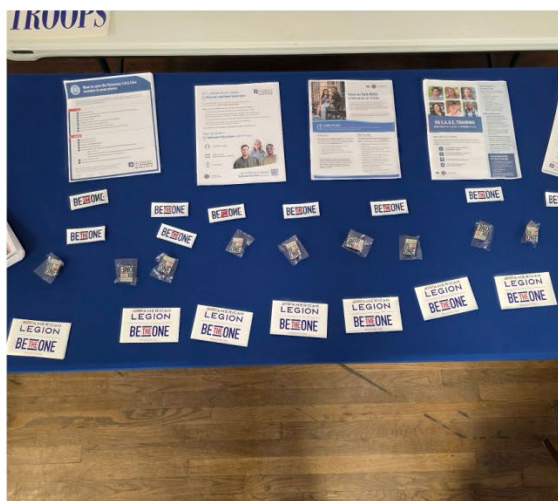
District 6B

Post 306-Fletcher



Range day with American Legion Post 306 (TAL & SAL members!) on 6 September. It's a joy to see brothers in arms laugh and enjoy each other's company. Love plinking. And enjoyed having mil-spouses come out and put lead on paper as well. What a great Saturday!

BE THE ONE



The Post had a great turnout for our "Be The One" event on 20 September. The Post Commander facilitated the event with thoughtful input from all the attendees. We had TAL, SAL, ALA, and family members attend. After the event, several members made their way outside to

enjoy the full flavor of masterfully crafted tobacco with a special blend of roasted beans with hot water, and shared ideas for future events to have with our membership.

I need to add that we had a woman come by the Post as we were all sitting outside and ask for help to change out a piece of medical equipment. Our 2nd Vice, Justin, volunteered to demonstrate his expert medical skills and followed her home and made quick work of changing the valve on her oxygen bottle.



A couple of our Post 306 members and an old Army/work Buddy were able to visit the Lawton Fort Sill Veterans Center during August. We had a good visit with Post members Drury and John, and left hygiene supplies for other Veterans.

We decided to do something a little different this time with our Post for an event this past Saturday, August 2nd. Our 2nd Vice, AKA Fun Meister Justin, was asked to find out what we would like to do as a group that didn't involve a meeting or a fundraising event. He made a fancy poll, and we sent it out to the membership with numerous options. What the group decided on by vote was lunch at the Old Plantation in Medicine Park. It was a GREAT day with our TEAM building memories!!



Post 55 – Duncan



Dobbs-Adams Post 55 has been in sore need of a makeover and we are happy to say that demo is finally underway. We are bringing it down to the studs and getting rid of the old wear and tear. Hopefully we will be able to have some great before and after pictures.



Fall means Football and Dobbs-Adams is happy to be continuing our long standing tradition of raising the flag at all of Duncan High School's home games.



We are also very honored to celebrate two of our long-standing members. Larry Davidson was presented with a certificate for 55 years as a legion member and Allen Ross was presented with his 30-year membership certificate.

District 7

Attended my first National Conference this year. There was a lot of good information put out. I attended the National Security council and committee meetings. Just a little bit about the meetings: POW/MIA recovery efforts are still going on from the Vietnam War. Southern border crossings have reduced significantly with the new administration. The wall is being built. 4 resolutions were presented, 3 were sent back to counsel for more information, 1 was rejected.

On 18 September Senior Vice Commander Shirley May and District 7 Commander Elmo May went to Post 30 in Granite, the state's second prison post. They had a 5k run for 911 remembrance. District 7 Commander swore in all their officers. Had a really good meeting, gave them information on different things they can do to help veterans. Pictures will be posted at a later date.

After leaving Post 30 went to Mangum for their smoked brisket dinner, some really good food and camaraderie.

For God and Country
District 7 Commander
Elmo May

Post 121 Mangum

Post 121 in Mangum had a blood drive, went to the schools in the county and spoke with the 11th grade classes about our Constitution. On the 18th we had a Smoked Brisket sandwich dinner and sold out.

Post 146-Sayre



Post 146 in Sayre, continues to work on their building, they said they will be ready for District Conference. On Friday, 12 September, Legionnaires from post 146 raised the American flag at the first home football game.



Post 41 - Clinton

Post 41 in Clinton conducted Pledge of Allegiance twice during Clinton city council meetings. Assisted with Bingo at Clinton VA center twice. Conducted worship service at Clinton VA center. Attended Clinton Chamber of Commerce annual banquet. Assisted Bridging Hope Ministry with warehouse operations. Provided opportunities for Drug Court participants to fulfill community service hours.

Post 91 Weatherford distributed college scholarships to veterans' children and grandchildren.

Post 181 – Elk City



Post 181 in Elk City participated in the rodeo of champion's parade; they rode in a 1944 Chevy truck. This truck was in WWII. Top speed is 45mph.

District 8A

Post 53-Perry



Officer Pam Keith brought K-9 Diesel with her for the American Legion Meeting held on 2 September 2025 at the Post Home at 716 Delaware. She has been with the Sheriff's Department for 4 years and had Diesel for 1 year, he was donated to the Noble County Sheriff's Department by the Garfield County Sheriff's Department. They are both CLEET Certified, and his nose is trained to sniff out numerous types of illegal substances.



Legionnaires Nik Leach and Jerry Dawes were presented with 20-year Certificates by Commander Jeremy Hines for their faithful membership.



Post 53 Perry commissioned Gene Hoffman to complete our mural and made it spectacular.

District 8 Fall Conference, held in Perry, OK 27 September 2025



District 8B



**Alva American Legion Post 92 is hosting a
FREE FISHING CLINIC!**

THIS SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27th,
*the Alva American Legion Post 92 invites kids 2nd - 8th grade
and their families, to join us for an afternoon of fishing.*



**Kids, bring your parents,
grandparents, or guardians!**

Arrive at 1:30 p.m. at
Moore's Venture Foods south parking lot;
The private pond is located approximately
20 miles northwest of Alva.

PLEASE SEND ALL
SUBMISSIONS TO
TALOK1889@GMAIL.COM

POST
EVERLASTING



Richard Gordon Wright



<https://www.koco.com/article/oklahoma-marine-killed-wwii-returns-home-after-82-years/65384284>

Lawrence Jerome “Jerry” Ring



<https://www.parksbrothers.net/obituaries/lawrence-ring>

Siegfried Alfred Fink



<https://www.johnirelandfuneralhome.com/obituaries/Siegfried-Alfred-Fink?obId=43793282>

Clarence Robinson



<https://www.hometownfh.com/obituaries/clarence-robinson>

Leroy Dunlap



<https://www.classicfunerals.com/obituaries/Leroy-Dunlap?obId=43834258>

Robert Carter



Our community lost a good man today. Robert Carter, or “Babo” to anyone who knew him, or even just knew of him, was the kind of man who carried love in everything he did. If you knew Babo, you knew he loved you because he always said it. I can’t remember a time when parting ways with him didn’t end with those words.

Babo was a cornerstone in our town. He served his country, and later, he was an active member of the American Legion and was heavily involved in our local Heritage group. He was known as Hominy’s “Flag Man,” and he earned that title. With quiet dedication, he made sure every grave of those who served our country in our local cemetery was honored with a flag. It was his way of making sure his brothers in arms were remembered, never forgotten.

He cared deeply about his family, his friends, and his community. If he could help you, he would. If he could brighten your day, he did. He lived with passion and conviction, and he gave so much of himself to others.

Babo leaves behind a great void in the lives of those who loved him and in the heart of our community. He will be missed, but his impact will not be forgotten.

James Norton



We lost one amazing Navy Veteran this evening, one of our American Legion Post 450 Legionnaires. He will be greatly missed. ❤️ He became such an amazing family friend. We share so many great memories for our family with him, with the Legion family & heard good stories of his ship. Jimmy-Jim, you have served faithfully... rest well, our friend... 🇺🇸 🇺🇸 🇺🇸 Our memories, we will cherish. (I believe you are in a better place & no longer miss your sweet Joan, wife of 60 years.)