

THE 1889 LAND RUN



DEPARTMENT
OF
OKLAHOMA



American Legion Newsletter

51st Edition, October 1, 2026

Department Commander



Hello Legionnaires!!

September has been a busy month. I have already attended 3 District Conferences and several Post meetings. Very interesting meetings with lots of members present at each. The training has been well planned and informative. Each of these Districts have a lot of events happening throughout their District. Please let me know if you would like for me to visit your Post.

The second Senior Leadership meeting was held in Norman, OK at Post 88. Thank you to Post 88 and Eric Grubbs for allowing us to meet in your Post. Again, this was well attended with

multiple discussions occurring. Our State Chaplain, Bobby Stewart, is working on putting together a Post Everlasting tribute to our recently passed Department Commanders, District Commanders, and Post Commanders. Please provide any information you may have to our Chaplain.

Recently, there was a Legion Rider who rode Highway 281 from the North Dakota/Canadian border through 6 states to the Texas/Mexico border to help bring awareness to Suicide Prevention. This was very personal to him, as it was a phone call that prevented him from taking his life. Thank you to Post 24 in Anadarko for hosting a stop at the public library allowing the Rider to speak to Veterans, law enforcement, and EMS personnel about his story. He encouraged all in attendance to check on their buddies, friends, and co-workers.

The Department of Oklahoma is in the Mid-West Region for National. I am proud to say that the Mid-West Region is the top region. Congratulations!! We have met the first two goals set by National; however, we are a bit behind where we were at this time last year. Reach out to your members and see if they will renew.

We are presently in 24th place Nationally, but we can easily get closer to the top. Last year we finished in 8th and we can finish in the top 5 this year with a little bit of effort. We can quickly move up with your assistance. Reach out and get one renewal or new member. If each of our Posts got 5 renewals or new members, we would be over 62%. You can do this. We can all make phone calls, send a text message, or send an email to our members.

I am looking forward to the coming months. Please stay involved with your Post and in your communities. Hosting a blood drive benefits so many individuals and is part of our annual CPR. October is the perfect time for Halloween activities - trunk or treat, haunted houses, and fall festivals. Please find something that interests you and be involved.

DEC #2 is scheduled for Oct 10th at Post 12. Senior Leadership meeting will be held on the third Tuesday, location TBD. Mid-Winter Conference will be Jan 14-17 (schedule is being planned).

Remember your buddy checks. Reach out to a friend if you need to talk. Thank you for everything you do.

"Be The One"

Legion Family moving forward as One.

Respectfully,
Shirley May
Commander
Dept of OK American Legion

Department Senior Vice Commander

VOICE OF THE SENIOR VICE

Hello Oklahoma American Legion Family!

I am sitting in Athens, Greece and am realizing one concept in its full reality;

The American Legion Family is World Wide.

Around the World the American Legion makes an impact.

I enjoy reaching out to fellow Veterans and seeking out the Legion Family's impact wherever I go!

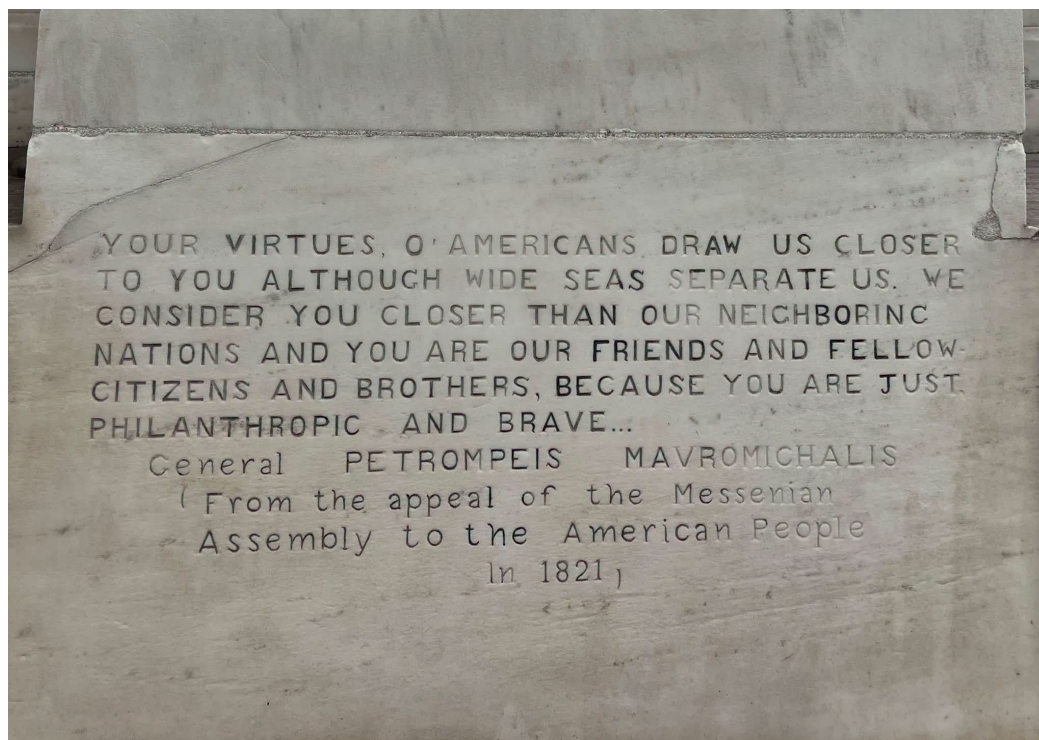
In Athens Greece American Legion members have helped erect monuments, donated buildings and kept in touch with each other through social media.

Next time you travel, be sure to research and reach out to fellow Veterans on your journey.

Thank you for your diligence and hard work on the 1889!!!!!!

For God and Country!

The obelisk-shaped stele was erected as part of the celebration of the national centenary, on the initiative of the American Legion in Greece. It was created thanks to a nationwide fundraiser by the Greek sculptor Georgios Dimitriadis, invoking the "Athenian", a pupil of Georgios Vroutos. On each side of the monument is a medal with an embossed cross-sectional profile of an American citizen, a supporter of the struggle for Greek freedom. On the front, there is the medal with the cross-sectional profile of Samuel Gridley Howe (1801-1876), Chief Medical Officer of the Greek Fleet. The left side bears the figure of Daniel Webster, an American lawyer, philhellene and attorney for Massachusetts and New Hampshire. On the back, there is the figure of Edward Everett, politician, classical philologist, orator and philhellene. Finally, on the right side is the cross-sectional profile of Henry Clay, an American philhellene, orator, and politician, who served as Speaker of the House of Representatives and Secretary of State.





Patricia Mathes-Kerr

Patricia Mathes-Kerr, CPT(ret), MSW, MABC, LCSW
Oklahoma Department Senior Vice Commander
PPC, Post #64 Chandler, OK

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

Let me start off by saying thank you to everyone for your prayers and support through my recent knee replacement surgery! I am slowly getting around more and am currently working on getting some much needed help to a few different veterans, that needed some help getting resources.

It is really good to sit in the recliner and see different activities that posts from all across the state have been doing to promote community engagement in their communities! I can't be there for most of these activities, quite yet, but as I get better, I will be increasing post visits and supporting any posts that may need a little help!

I have only had 2 posts brought to me for possible closure, so far, but I am not a fan of closing posts, so I will be doing everything I can, to keep these posts going, and get a fresh start, before having to close! Here in the West side of the state, posts tend to be smaller and have mostly older veterans for members. That doesn't mean that as members pass into post everlasting, that posts should be forced into closure! It means that we need younger veterans to step up, and "be the one" to bring our posts into modern times, with post activities and programs that entice younger veterans to join! Many of our younger veterans don't desire to be associated with the old stigma, of "a bunch of old codgers doing nothing but sitting around the bar, drinking alcohol, and telling lies". If your post has a bar, and it works for your post, that is great! But, you also need to think about what else can be done in your post, to encourage younger veterans and their families to join the post!

Membership in general is going pretty well, in my opinion, and I am proud of every post that is excelling in retaining membership and pushing to recruit new members! Please contact me if there is anything I can do to help your posts, and remember, if I randomly show up at your post (which I generally try not to show up unannounced), I am there as a blue hat first, to support your posts and activities!

Wayne Flowers
Vice-Commander West
[580-623-3262](tel:580-623-3262)
Cdrpost273@yahoo.com

National Executive (NEC) Committeeman

Greetings Legionnaires!

#1:

New National Commander JAY BOWEN is still encouraging all American Legion members to go on Legion.org/action where you will be able to send a message to our two National Senators and your National Congressman from your District in Oklahoma where you live to support the Take Care of America's Veterans Act. You can also do this by joining grassroots.org and signing up for their newsletter.

EVEN THOUGH THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES HAS GONE HOME THEY WILL BE BACK AFTER THE NATIONAL ELECTIONS IN NOVEMBER AND THIS WILL BE OUR LAST CHANCE TO PASS THE TAKE CARE OF AMERICA'S VETERANS ACT WHICH INCLUDES THE RICHARD STAR ACT, LOVE LIVES ON ACT AND 62 ADDITIONAL VETERAN-FRIENDLY BILLS THAT WILL HELP ALL VETERANS ACROSS THE NATION.

We have an opportunity to usher in an era of sweeping legislation that will positively impact the lives of veterans and their families for generations to come. But we need your support — now is the time to make your voice heard! **Tell your senators to pass the Take Care of America's Veterans Act via our [VoterVoice portal](#).**

This is our best opportunity to pass this critical legislation. We have received some messages in opposition to TCAVA from members. But the clear majority of direct feedback from our members has been strongly supportive of this legislation.

Right now, your senators are paying close attention to what they are hearing from you, their constituents. Tell them to pass TCAVA through our VoterVoice email. It only takes a minute, and you can send messages each day.

Throughout The American Legion's history we have successfully pushed through legislation that was unpopular at the time, but history shows was the right decision. The GI Bill is the prime example. But there were others including legislation related to Agent Orange.

I encourage you to visit [our special webpage](#) to familiarize yourself with TCAVA, what the legislation does and what it does not do. As you process the facts, ask yourself — will this massive package of legislation have a positive impact on the lives of veterans and their loved ones? And can I justify depriving future veterans of these benefits?

This is our moment to use our collective voices as the 1.4-million member strong American Legion to lead from the front, enact sweeping legislation and do what is right for the veterans of today and tomorrow. Go to legion.org/action and send a message to our Senators and Representatives to support this legislation! Go to grassroots@legion.org and sign up for their weekly newsletter that will keep you informed on these matters.

Let's get this done for the veterans in our State!

#2:

WHAT IN THE WORLD IS GOING ON WITH EMBLEM SALES?

Why is it taking so long for Emblem Sales Orders to be processed and mailed back home to you?

The answer is: NEW COMPUTER SOFTWARE PURCHASED IS NOT WORKING AS ADVERTISED AND IS CAUSING PROBLEMS.

Our National Adjutant Rodney K Rolard is keenly aware of this situation. His Emblem Sales are working diligently every day to fix the problem, but just like the problems with Personify several years ago when it was started with Legion.org and had to be eventually totally redone.

Emblem Sales is working as hard as they can to get the software fixed and back up to speed like it is supposed to be.

Hang in there, everybody!

V/R

Charlie O'Leary

NEC DPT OKLAHOMA

American Legion Riders

Come Ride with Our Tribe

As we move into the fall riding season, I want to take a moment to say how proud I am of what the American Legion Riders across Oklahoma continue to accomplish.

Our program is growing. We now have 22 chapters across the state, with additional interest continuing to develop. That growth is important, but numbers alone are not what define us. What matters is what those Riders are doing in their Posts, their communities, and for Oklahoma veterans and families.

This year has already reminded us exactly why we ride.

Oklahoma Riders raised \$20,600 for the Veterans & Children Foundation through our 2026 In-State Legacy Run. That money represents miles ridden, fuel burned, donations collected, meals shared, and countless hours volunteered by Legion Family members who believe deeply in the mission.

Then Oklahoma joined Riders from across the country for the 20th National Legacy Run, traveling from Lincoln, Nebraska, through the Midwest and ultimately to Kentucky. At the National Convention, Oklahoma proudly presented our \$20,600 contribution as part of a national effort that raised more than \$1 million.

Those are numbers worth celebrating.

But this year also reminded us that what we do is about much more than numbers.

During the National Legacy Run, we lost our friend and brother, Mike Haas. Mike was one of our Road Guards and one of the people who helped make the mission happen. His loss affected Riders far beyond Oklahoma, and his absence will be felt for a long time.

We will continue to remember Mike not simply for the miles he rode, but for the lives he touched

along the way.

That is really what the American Legion Riders are about.

It is not about the miles we ride. It is about the lives we touch along the way.

Looking ahead, planning is already underway for the 2027 Oklahoma In-State Legacy Run, May 14–16. Next year we will focus on the western half of Oklahoma, and we are looking for Posts and communities that want to be part of the route. I encourage every chapter to begin thinking now about how you can participate, support the run, and help us make the 2027 effort even stronger.

You will also continue seeing our “Ride with the Tribe” initiative as we work to strengthen communication and camaraderie among chapters throughout the state.

My challenge to every Oklahoma Rider is simple:

Keep riding.

Keep recruiting.

Keep supporting your Post.

Keep helping veterans.

Keep checking on one another.

And never forget that the patch on our backs represents something much bigger than motorcycles. We are part of The American Legion Family, and everything we do should support the Four Pillars, our veterans, our children and youth, Americanism, and a strong national defense.

Thank you to every Director, officer, Road Captain, Road Guard, chapter member, Auxiliary member, SAL member, Legionnaire, donor, and supporter who continues to make the Oklahoma American Legion Riders successful.

There is still plenty of road ahead of us.

And I am proud to ride it with you.

We ride for the cause, not the applause.

Come ride with our tribe.

For God, Country, and Service.

Brett “Skipper” Martin

Director, Department of Oklahoma American Legion Riders

Past Department Commander’s Corner

Greetings Legionnaires!

As the new round of Fall District meetings are underway, for once, I am impressed with the number of new and younger Legionnaires across the State who are stepping up into Leadership positions.

This is great news and a welcome sight for those of us who have been at the forefront for the past 10+ years in our organization.

For those of you who haven't stepped up yet, go ahead and take the first steps and start helping out. Most of these positions come with OJT [On-Job-Training], but you can do it and there is always someone who has been there before you, who will be willing to help you out. [If you can't find anyone to help or everyone is in sour mood, give me a call and we'll reach out together to come up with a solution]

All of us have been in the military. All of us have leadership potential. Don't hesitate to step up because it might not work out. You can get help along the way in our efforts to help veterans across our State!

Keep up the good work of those who have stepped up.
You other folks out there that can see a problem and can help fix it, time to "ruck up" and move out! Let's "Charlie Mike" [Continue Mission] till index!

Quotations for the Month:

Always do right. This will surprise some people and astonish the rest.

Mark Twain

Someone will always be looking at you as an example of how to behave.
Don't let that person down.

H. Jackson Brown Jr.

Charlie O'Leary
PDC 2021-2022

From a Past Department Commander

When the Silence Is Deafening

One of the lessons I learned during my time in command — and one that has followed me through military service, veterans organizations, commissions, boards, and volunteer leadership — is that communication is never optional.

You can delegate tasks.

You can delegate authority.

You can delegate responsibility.

But you cannot delegate away the responsibility to communicate.

Too often, problems inside an organization do not begin because people disagree. They begin because people stop talking.

Questions go unanswered.

Emails sit untouched.

Phone calls are not returned.

Decisions are made, but never explained.

Rumors begin filling the space where leadership should have been providing facts.

And eventually, the silence becomes deafening.

There is an old saying that no news is good news.

In leadership, that is rarely true.

When members do not know what is happening, they will naturally begin trying to figure it out for themselves. Sometimes they will be right. Sometimes they will be completely wrong. Either way, the information vacuum was created because somebody failed to communicate.

Communication does not mean telling everyone everything.

Leadership sometimes involves confidential matters, personnel issues, investigations, negotiations, or situations where information simply cannot yet be released.

That is understandable.

But even then, there is usually a way to communicate something.

“We are aware of the issue.”

“We are working through the process.”

“We do not have an answer yet.”

“We will provide an update when we are able.”

Those simple words can prevent days or weeks of unnecessary speculation.

Silence, on the other hand, often sends its own message.

It can appear that leadership does not care.

It can appear that nobody is paying attention.

It can appear that questions are being ignored.

And whether those perceptions are fair or not, perceptions eventually become reality inside an organization if leadership allows them to grow unchecked.

Good communication also means listening.

Some leaders become very comfortable speaking from the podium but uncomfortable hearing what comes back from the floor.

That is not communication.

That is broadcasting.

Real communication is a two-way street.

Listen to your members.

Listen to your officers.

Listen to the people doing the work.

And occasionally listen to the person telling you something you really do not want to hear.

Some of the most valuable information a leader will ever receive does not come wrapped in a compliment.

I also believe there is a difference between communication and constant communication.

We do not need twenty emails about something that could have been explained clearly in one.

We do not need meetings simply because the calendar says we should have a meeting.

And we certainly do not need leaders communicating merely to remind everyone that they are in charge.

Good communication is timely, accurate, respectful, and useful.

It answers the questions people actually need answered.

As a Past Department Commander, one thing I would encourage every Post Commander, District Commander, Department officer, committee chair, program director, and Legion Family leader to remember is this:

Your members should never have to guess whether their leadership cares enough to respond.

You may not always have the answer they want.

You may not even have an answer yet.

But acknowledge the question.

Return the call.

Answer the email.

Give the update.

Close the loop.

Because communication builds trust.

And trust is the currency of leadership.

Once people lose confidence that they will be kept informed, every future decision becomes harder. Every rumor becomes more believable. Every disagreement becomes more personal.

That is why silence can become so damaging.

Sometimes the loudest thing a leader can say is nothing at all.

And sometimes, the silence is deafening.

Communicate early.

Communicate honestly.

Communicate respectfully.

And when you do not yet know the answer, have enough confidence in your leadership to simply say:

“I don’t know yet, but I will find out.”

Those words can build more trust than pretending everything is fine.

Leadership is not about having every answer.

It is about making sure your people never wonder whether anyone is listening.

For God, Country, and Service.

Brett Martin
Past Department Commander
The American Legion, Department of Oklahoma

Department Adjutant

Oklahoma Veterans Commission & ODVA Update

From the Oklahoma Veterans Commission

Serving on the Oklahoma Veterans Commission continues to be one of the great honors of my post-military life.

The responsibility is significant. The Commission provides oversight and guidance for an agency charged with serving thousands of Oklahoma veterans and their families, and that means every decision we make should ultimately come back to one simple question:

Are we taking care of Oklahoma veterans the way they have earned and deserve?

That responsibility is especially important when it comes to our Oklahoma Veterans Homes. These homes are not simply facilities. They are home to men and women who once raised their right hand and served our nation. They deserve quality care, dignity, respect, accountability, and leadership that never loses sight of who we serve.

The Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs continues working to strengthen services throughout the state, from long-term care and veterans homes to claims assistance, outreach, and connecting veterans with the benefits they have earned.

One of the things I continue to emphasize is that good oversight is not about looking for fault. It is about asking the right questions, understanding the facts, identifying problems early, and making sure resources are being used where they can do the most good.

We should celebrate progress when it occurs.

We should also never become complacent.

Our veteran population is changing. Their needs are changing. Health care, long-term care, mental health, suicide prevention, claims assistance, transportation, housing, and access to services will continue to require our attention.

That means government agencies, Veterans Service Organizations, community partners, families, and veterans themselves must continue working together.

No single organization can do it alone.

Another area that remains especially important to me is making sure veterans understand the benefits available to them. Too many veterans still assume they are not eligible for assistance, have never filed a claim, or simply do not know where to begin.

Sometimes the most important thing we can do is ask a fellow veteran:

“Have you talked to someone about your benefits?”

That simple conversation can change a life.

As I continue my service on the Oklahoma Veterans Commission, I remain grateful for the opportunity to represent Oklahoma veterans and to help ensure their voices are heard.

I also want to thank the employees of the Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs, our Veterans Service Officers, caregivers, volunteers, Veterans Service Organizations, and families who quietly do this work every day.

Veterans advocacy is not a one-day event.

It is not something we do only on Veterans Day or Memorial Day.

It is a commitment we make every day to those who served before us, those serving today, and those who will wear the uniform tomorrow.

There is still work to do, and I am honored to be part of it.

Take care of veterans. Take care of their families. And never forget the responsibility that comes with being entrusted to serve them.

For God, Country, and Service.

Brett Martin

Oklahoma Veterans Commission
Past Chairman, Oklahoma Veterans Commission

Sons of the American Legion

Women Veterans Outreach

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

Child Well-Being Foundation

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

Banner Order Form

https://drive.google.com/open?id=1FktMBOH6aSTX8TXDstlW_FBhUz1p3dI

American Legion Auxilliary



A Message from Your Department President

What an exciting time to be an American Legion Auxiliary member in Oklahoma!

Our National Convention was a huge success, and I could not be prouder of our Oklahoma delegation! We had the honor of being on stage **three times**—what an accomplishment for our Department!

Our Oklahoma Girls State Representative went on to **Girls Nation** and gave a phenomenal report. We also celebrated as our past Department President, **Kim McInnis**, accepted the prestigious **Merit Medalion Award for Excellence** on behalf of our Department. And our **Member of the Year, Hellen Lawrence-Phillips**, was also recognized on stage. These accomplishments belong to all of us, because they reflect the dedication and hard work of our members across Oklahoma.

Our **membership is going strong**, and several of our units are going like gangbusters, already well over 100%! Keep up the great work! And remember, getting your membership in

before October 31st gives you an opportunity to be entered for a **PUFL**. Every member makes a difference, so let's keep that momentum going!

Our units have also been busy putting our mission into action. Many have been supporting the **Be the One** program and making those important **Buddy Checks** on members they haven't seen in a while. Sometimes a simple phone call or visit is all it takes to remind someone that they are valued and that their Auxiliary family has not forgotten them.

This past month, we also had the privilege of assisting **two VA centers with their annual baby showers**. These are the kinds of projects that demonstrate what the American Legion Family does best—coming together to serve veterans, military families, and our communities.

As I continue traveling to our District meetings, I am meeting so many new members who are eager to learn more about our programs and become involved. Seeing their enthusiasm is truly exciting! It reminds me that our future is bright when we share our knowledge, encourage one another, and work together.

I am looking forward to seeing many of you at our **Fall Conference on October 17th in Tecumseh**. I hope you will come ready to learn, share ideas, ask questions, and most importantly, enjoy being together.

We are Family. And when we work together, support one another, and share our passion for serving those who served, there is no limit to what we can accomplish.

I am so proud to serve alongside each of you.

Serving those who served,

Donna Snodgrass

Department President

American Legion Auxiliary

Department of Oklahoma

Veterans Service Officer

Monday October 5th at 1900 zoom/ open to All contact JoAnn Banes: jnnbns4@gmail.com for invite

Jack Sikes

Jsikesokamlvso@gmail.com

443-271-5545

American Legion Oklahoma Tool Box

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

Legion News

AWARDS

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

Membership



Welcome to The American Legion League!

Membership is a Team Sport

AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY

THE AMERICAN LEGION LEAGUE

WEEK 1 STANDINGS

MEMBERSHIP BUILDS TODAY ★ STRONGER VETERANS ★ BRIGHTER TOMORROW

HEAVYWEIGHT
200+ MEMBERS

1st Post 111 Edmond
2nd Post 73 Del City
3rd Post 178 Grove

★ TEAM OF THE WEEK ★
Post 170 Midwest City

VARSITY
100 – 199 MEMBERS

1st Post 353 Mustang
2nd Post 105 Bartlesville
3rd Post 129 Stillwater

★ TEAM OF THE WEEK ★
Post 147 Miami

JV
51 – 99 MEMBERS

1st Post 198 Pawhuska
2nd Post 123 Okemah
3rd Post 53 Perry

★ TEAM OF THE WEEK ★
Post 123 Okemah

ROOKIE
26 – 50 MEMBERS

1st Post 1340 Oklahoma City
2nd Post 13 Oklahoma City
3rd Post 259 Braman

★ TEAM OF THE WEEK ★
Post 31 Guyman

FOUNDERS
0 – 25 MEMBERS

★ FIVE WAY TIE! ★

Post 186 Westville
Post 445 Krebs
Post 144 Dustin
Post 7 Blakwell
Post 37 Medford

★ TEAM OF THE WEEK ★
Post 1776 Tulsa

WEEK 1 IS IN THE BOOKS — BUT THE SEASON IS JUST GETTING STARTED.

Who will move up the standings by October 14?

VETERANS
FAMILIES
COMMUNITIES
THE FOUR PILLARS

MORE MEMBERS ★ STRONGER POSTS ★ BRIGHTER TOMORROW

Be The One

RANK	DISTRICT	DISTRICT COMMANDER	POINTS
1	6A	Michael Devenitch	10
2	1A	Rich Conn	9
3	6B	Bobby Marshall	8
T-4	5A	Ezekiel Jenkins	7
T-4	5B	David Schacher	7
6	7	Elmo May	5
7	1B	Andrew Fisher	4
8	8A	Barry Vincent	3
9	4A	Vane Bell III	2
—	2A	Kayla Rector	—
—	2B	Kayla Rector	—
—	3A	Scott Hilgenberg	—
—	3B	Randy DeWitt	—
—	4B	Vane Bell III	—
—	8B	Philip Holland	—

VETERANS ★ COMMUNITIES ★ PROGRAMS ★ MEMBERSHIP ★ A STRONGER OKLAHOMA

HEAVYWEIGHT POST SPOTLIGHT

Frank H. Collings Post 111 — Edmond, Oklahoma

Head Coach: Vice Commander East Karen Cruice

2026–2027 Goal: 288 | Current Membership: 157 | 54.5%

Post 111 Is Already on the Board!

With the first Game Day of the American Legion League here, Frank H. Collings Post 111 in Edmond has already put its first points on the board. With **157 members toward a goal of 288**, Post 111 has reached **54.5%** and cleared the first National membership goal of 50% ahead of the deadline.

Now the challenge is turning that early lead into a winning season.

Last year, Post 111 finished with **279 members**, falling short of its goal. This year, Commander **Rex Ice**, Vice Commander and Membership lead **Steve Hernandez**, and the members of Post 111 are looking for those additional members—and their strategy begins with

making sure veterans throughout the Edmond area know there is a place for them in The American Legion.

A Legacy That Began in 1919

Chartered in **1919**, Post 111 is named for **Frank H. Collings**, a son of Edmond who died in France in 1919 while serving as an American soldier in the U.S. Army.

As a young man, Frank spent time beneath the trees of Edmond's Stephenson Park, reading books and fishing in the local pond. Today, Post 111 is located at **101 East Fifth Street, in that same area of Stephenson Park.**

More than a century later, the Post bearing his name continues that connection to Edmond through service to veterans, young people, and the greater community.

A Post in Motion All Year Long

Post 111's calendar demonstrates just how deeply the Post is woven into its community. Each year, Post 111 hosts the **Oklahoma Department Oratorical Competition at the University of Central Oklahoma**, supporting scholarship, academic achievement, and the development of Oklahoma's young people.

The Post conducts **flag retirement ceremonies twice a year**, working with local Scout troops to teach patriotism and proper flag etiquette. Each April, Post 111 awards the **Oren Lee Peters Scholarship** to a member of UCO's ROTC program, and in May its members help support Girls State at UCO.

Summer brings participation in Edmond's **LibertyFest**, while October includes the **Oklahoma County foster children's festival**. In November, Post 111 participates in Veterans Day ceremonies, and the year closes with a Christmas meal for veterans throughout the Edmond area.

And every Monday, a **Post Service Officer** is available to assist veterans with VA claims and questions about the benefits they have earned.

That weekly service does more than assist veterans—it also introduces veterans to The American Legion and to Post 111.

From the Coach's Playbook: Go Where the Veterans Are

Post 111 isn't waiting for prospective members to walk through its doors. Its membership plan includes strengthening relationships with **local National Guard members**, including supporting their unit Christmas party; continuing its relationship with **UCO Army ROTC**; and setting up information booths at events where veterans are likely to be found.

That means appearances at the **National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum's Senior Day**, **Tinker Air Force Base Retiree Day**, the **Edmond Arts Festival**, and local **concerts in the park.**

The Post also plans to continue using Facebook and other media to reach veterans. But Commander Rex Ice says their most effective membership tool is much simpler:

Their own members.

Word of mouth remains one of Post 111's strongest recruiting tools. Members who believe in what their Post is doing are often the best people to invite another veteran to become part of it.

Joining Is Only the Beginning

Recruiting a member is one thing. Giving that member a reason to stay is another. Post 111 encourages new and existing members to find something that interests them and participate at whatever level is comfortable for them.

Maybe that's helping with Fourth of July activities. Maybe it's a flag retirement ceremony, Scouting, a youth program, veteran service, or one of the Post's many community events.

The philosophy is simple: **people want to remain in a Post where they feel important.** Post 111 wants its members to understand that they aren't simply another membership number—they are part of the **Post 111 Legion family.**

The Challenge Ahead

Like many American Legion Posts, Post 111 is facing the realities of an aging membership.

Commander Ice points specifically to the Post's Vietnam-era veterans. Many who carried Post 111 for years are reaching an age when participating in activities has become more difficult. That makes reaching the next generation of eligible veterans increasingly important.

Connections with the National Guard, Tinker AFB, UCO Army ROTC, community events, social media, and veterans coming through the Post's Service Officer program all create opportunities to introduce new generations to The American Legion.

The challenge now is turning those introductions into relationships—and those relationships into members who find their own place within Post 111.



HEAVYWEIGHT SCOREBOARD

2026–2027 Membership Goal: 288

Current Membership: 157

Current Percentage: 54.5%



First Game Day Goal: 50%

2025–2026 Finish: 279

Membership Lead: Vice Commander Steve Hernandez

Chartered: 1919

And what happens when the scoreboard finally reads **288?**

Nothing complicated.



Post 111 is having a pizza party.

After more than a century of serving Edmond, that seems like a pretty good way for the Post 111 family to celebrate another winning season.

Every Post. Every Member. One Team.

Membership is a Team Sport.

Be The One!

Karen Cruice

Department of Oklahoma

Vice Commander East

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.

Oklahoma Legion College

Oklahoma Legion Family,

The Fall Oklahoma Legion College applications are now available on the website.

The class will be held in Spiro, Oklahoma on the 16-18 of October.

If you want to know more about the American Legion; if you want to be a future leader; if you want to gain more insight on how to grow your Legion family then please join us in Spiro.

<https://okamlegion.org/upcoming-events>

OKLAHOMA LEGION COLLEGE - 16-18
OCTOBER 2026-SPIRO, OK



	OKLAHOMA AMERICAN LEGION COLLEGE APPLICATION 2026	
	To be held at 105 NE 6 th St., Spiro, OK October 16th through October 18 th .	

SECTION 1-Applicant Contact Information

Name Last:	First:	MI:
Address Street	City	State
H Phone#	M Phone#	B Phone#
Email:		

SECTION 2- Military and American Legion Service

A: YRS of MIL. Service	to	Branch of Service:	
B: YR Joined TAL:	Membership ID #	AUX	SAL
C: OKAL Post #:	Department:		
D: Completed American Legion Education Institute (ALEI)/Basic Training:		Month:	Year:
E: Level of Elected or Appointed Position you've held at Post, District, of Department			
F: Have you attended a Mid-Winter, Conv. Or Lead Training:		YES	NO
G: Member in good standing:		YES	NO
		Under Investigation	YES
			NO

Application Fee:
\$50.00

Paid By: Post: _____ Individual: _____

Applicant's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Post Adjutant Signature: _____ Date: _____

Post Commander Signature: _____ Date: _____

Return Completed Application to: Registrar, Oklahoma American Legion College,
6101 NW 50th ST. Warr Acres, OK., or Email to

oklegioncollege@gmail.com

Deadline Date: 12th of October 2026

Department of Oklahoma Fundraising Committee

★ THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF OKLAHOMA ★

AMERICAN LEGION **AMERICA'S**

250
1776 ★ 2026

CELEBRATING
250
YEARS
OF FREEDOM!

HONORING THE PAST.
SUPPORTING TODAY.
BUILDING TOMORROW.

Freedom Drawing

★ YOUR \$10 TICKET CAN HELP CHANGE LIVES! ★

TICKETS \$10 EACH

EVERY TICKET YOU BUY
SUPPORTS OKLAHOMA VETERANS

Funds raised help provide vital programs and services for veterans, military families, youth and communities across Oklahoma – Together, we can make a difference!

PROUDLY SUPPORTING OKLAHOMA VETERANS!

GRAND PRIZE \$3,000

★ 10 CASH PRIZES! ★
\$10,000 TOTAL IN CASH PRIZES!

1 GRAND PRIZE \$3,000	4 4TH PRIZE \$750	7 7TH PRIZE \$750
2 2ND PRIZE \$1,500	5 5TH PRIZE \$750	8 8TH PRIZE \$500
3 3RD PRIZE \$1,000	6 6TH PRIZE \$750	9 9TH PRIZE \$500
	10 10TH PRIZE \$500	

★ YOUR SUPPORT HELPS FUND IMPORTANT PROGRAMS AND SERVICES: ★

 VETERAN SERVICE & ADVOCACY	 MILITARY FAMILY SUPPORT	 YOUTH PROGRAMS	 AMERICANISM & EDUCATION	 COMMUNITY OUTREACH	 AND MORE!
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DRAWING TO BE HELD AT THE DEPARTMENT'S MID WINTER CONFERENCE IN JANUARY 2027

★★★ *You Could Win Big While Supporting Those Who Served!* ★★★

ONE TICKET, ONE MISSION, ONE LEGACY OF SERVICE

Thank you for supporting those who defended our freedom. ★★ The American Legion Family ★ Strengthening America One Community at a Time

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

Department Blood Program Chair

All Posts are reminded to support the National Security Resolutions regarding blood and blood component donor programs. Nothing can really replace blood, IYKYK. Contact me if you have questions or need assistance organizing your drive and/or drive support. Our Blood Institute (OBI) has great t-shirts for donors; American Red Cross has announced cash rewards for donors.

Be involved.



John Bishop, [405-414-2515](tel:405-414-2515), jbishop22@cox.net
Blood Donor Program Chair,

<https://ourbloodinstitute.org/>

Fall District Conferences

East

- DISTRICT 1 - 07 November 2026, TBD
- DISTRICT 3 - 24 October 2026, Durant, OK
- DISTRICT 4 - 21 November 2026, Bristow, OK

West

- DISTRICT 5 - 14 November 2026, Moore, OK
- DISTRICT 8 - 03 October 2026, Perry, OK

DEC

- DEC #2 - 10 October 2026, Dept HQ

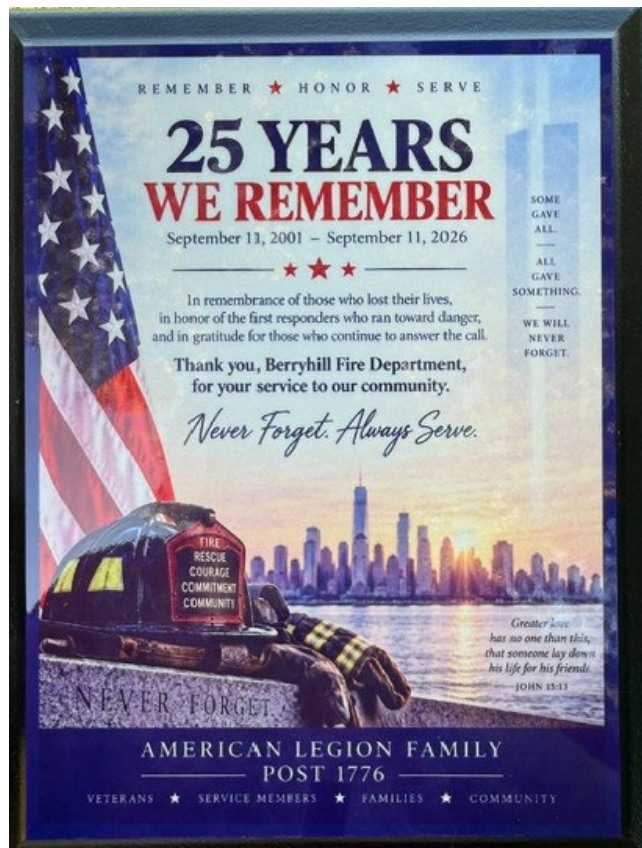
**Post Everlasting is
placed after 8B, please
forward me your
obituaries.**

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

District 1A
Rich Conn – Commander

District 1B
Andrew Fisher – Commander

Post 1776 – Tulsa



Honoring 9/11 with Berryhill Firefighters

On September 11, members of Post 1776 Family visited the Berryhill Fire Department to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks and recognize our local first responders.

Post 1776 Family provided the firefighters with an evening meal of pasta, salad, and bread and presented the department with a commemorative plaque honoring the lives lost on 9/11 and the first responders who answered the call that day.

Twenty-five years later, we remain committed to never forgetting the lives lost, the courage of our first responders, and the spirit of service and unity that brought Americans together.

**Celebrating the U.S. Air Force**

Post 1776 Auxiliary First Vice President, along with Unit 1 President Jen Mangum, helped celebrate the U.S. Air Force Birthday at the Tulsa VA Clinic. They served cupcakes, fruit, and water to veterans and helped make the day a little more special for those who served.

Remembering Our POWs and MIAs

While at the Tulsa VA Clinic, they also attended the POW/MIA Recognition Day ceremony, joining veterans and community members in remembering and honoring our nation's prisoners of war and those who remain missing in action.

These opportunities are a wonderful reminder of what being part of the American Legion Family is all about—honoring the past, supporting our veterans and first responders, and continuing to serve our community.

Post 308 – Mohawk



The American Legion * Mohawk Post 308
11328 E. Admiral Place * Tulsa, OK
OCTOBER 2026 BAND SCHEDULE

***Please follow us on the NEW Facebook page: ***

[TAL Mohawk Post 308 Tulsa](#) | [Tulsa OK](#) | [Facebook](#)

BUCKLE UP” BAND every Monday night

Fri. Oct 2nd - “American Strings”

Fri. Oct 9th - “Randy Bailey Band”

Fri. Oct 16th - “Bo Posey”

Fri. Oct 23rd - “Buckle Up”

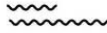
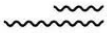
Fri. Oct 30th - “BK & The Brand”

****Friday Dances 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm. **Monday Dances 6:30 pm to 9:00 pm.**

Admission fees for all dances: \$8.00 per person

Cash bar is available for your favorite beverages.

“All Proceeds Benefit Veterans Programs”



MENU

Friday Night Dinner

Mohawk Post 308

11326 E. Admiral Place, Tulsa, OK

5:00–7:00 p.m.

October 2, 2026

Hosted by Post 308

Roast Beef with Mashed Potatoes — \$7

October 9, 2026

Hosted by ALA Unit 308

Loaded Baked Potato Dinner — \$5

October 16, 2026

Hosted by S.C.O.T.

Bratwurst Served with Chips — \$5

October 23, 2026

Hosted by ALR Post 308

Chili Served with Cornbread or Fritos
— \$5

October 30, 2026

Hosted by Raider Nation

Classic Hamburgers and Hot Dogs —
\$5

District 2A
Kayla Rector – Commander

District 2B
Kayla Rector – Commander

Post 22 – Ardmore

Raising Awareness, Building Connection, and Supporting Veterans



ARDMORE - On September 22, 2026, the Memorial Affairs Division hosted its second annual POST 22 event with a singular mission: to raise awareness of the need to prevent Veteran suicide.

The event featured a silent vigil at a flag-draped casket from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Throughout the 12-hour vigil, between two and 18 people stood post at any given time, taking turns in 22-minute shifts to honor those who have been lost and bring attention to the ongoing need for Veteran suicide prevention.

While some national statistics show a slight decrease in Veteran suicide rates, Oklahoma continues to face a significant challenge, ranking third in the nation for Veteran suicide. This reality serves as a stark reminder of the importance of raising awareness and ensuring Veterans have access to support, resources, and meaningful connections within their communities.

This year's event was held at Central Park in Ardmore, providing a larger and more visible location and allowing POST 22 to grow significantly from its inaugural year. Nearly 100 individuals stood post during the vigil, with some participants returning for two or even three shifts throughout the day.

A key part of this year's effort was expanding access to resources. The number of resource tables doubled from last year, giving Veterans and their families the opportunity to connect with organizations and businesses addressing a wide range of needs, including housing, mental health services, education, job placement, substance abuse support, and financial assistance.

The event also emphasized the importance of staying connected to the community. Among the new resource providers were organizations and businesses offering opportunities for Veterans to build relationships through clubs, hobbies, and group activities. These included horseback riding, the Patriot Guard Riders, remote-control racing, and a local board game café. While these activities may seem simple, opportunities to connect with others and build a sense of belonging are vital for Veterans in the community.

Veterans and supporters attended from Ardmore and surrounding areas, while others traveled 100 to 200 miles to stand post and offer resources at the event. Each participant brought a personal reason for supporting the mission, resulting in a day filled with stories, memories, and meaningful connections.

One of the most touching moments came through an unexpected reunion between two Veterans who had not seen one another in nearly a decade. Neither knew the other would be attending, but both were scheduled to stand post at the same time. What began as two individuals showing up to support the same mission became an unexpected opportunity to reconnect with someone from their past.

Stories like this captured the heart of POST 22: remembering those we have lost, supporting those who are still with us, and creating opportunities for Veterans to find connection within their communities.

District 3A

Scott Hilgenberg– Commander

Post 68 – Clayton



American Legion Post 68 in Clayton hosted a successful Open House Breakfast on Saturday, 15 August 2026. Local residents joined us for a great meal, met the newly elected Post leadership, and learned more about the programs, improvements, and upcoming events that continue to strengthen our presence in the community.

We also marked an important milestone that morning as the newly established **SAL Squadron 68** held its inaugural meeting. Officers were elected and formally installed by the District 3A Commander, setting a strong foundation for the Squadron's future service and growth.

This event showcased the momentum building within Post 68 and highlighted the commitment of our Legion Family to serving Veterans, supporting our community, and expanding opportunities for engagement.



Local Veterans, First Responders, their families, and community members gathered at Post 68 in Clayton to honor the victims, survivors, and all those whose lives were forever changed on September 11, 2001. This solemn observance brought our community together in reflection, remembrance, and gratitude for the courage and sacrifice shown on that day and in the years since.

During lunch, each attendee received a personal letter from the Post Commander emphasizing the enduring values of **Unity, Community, and Service**. The message expressed heartfelt appreciation for their individual and collective sacrifices, reaffirming that Post 68 stands committed to honoring their service and strengthening the bonds that hold our community together.

This gathering served not only as a tribute to the past, but as a reminder of our shared responsibility to carry forward the spirit of service that defines the American Legion Family.



Post 68 Commander Rebekah Hilgenberg and District 3A Commander Scott Hilgenberg helped represent Oklahoma at the 107th American Legion National Convention and the 54th SAL National Convention in Louisville, Kentucky. Both leaders described the experience as energizing and deeply meaningful, filled with opportunities to learn, share ideas, and connect with longtime friends and colleagues from across the nation.

Their participation reflects Post 68's and District 3A's continued commitment to strong leadership, professional development, and active engagement at every level of the American Legion Family.

District 3B
Randy Dewitt - Commander
District 4
Vane Bell – Commander

District 5A
Ezekiel Jenkins - Commander
Post 108 – Cushing/Drumright





On September 26, 2026, Post 108 raised the flag and set up an information/recruitment table at the 2026 City of Cushing Festival in the Park. A \$200 gift card was awarded to one of 30 veterans registered at the table. Members raising the flag were: Tim Potter, Don Hobbs, and Leon Sullivan. Members manning the table were: Leon Sullivan and Michelle Enterline, with other Post 108 members during the day.

District 5B

Dave Schacher - Commander

Greetings Legionnaires,

Hope all is well at all of the Post's in the District,

As fall approaches and hopefully cooler weather with the days ahead as Halloween is approaching and several posts have their Trick or Treat venues for their communities.

I have been fortunate enough to attend other Districts fall meetings and networking with other members.

As all are aware the Fall meeting for the District is 14 November hosted by Post 184 (Moore)

As for a side note if anyone within the District would like to step up and be on the District staff please get with me by COB 09 October.

If any member is interested in becoming a Veteran Service Officer please forward me with a message that you are interested , We would like to have at least 01 VSO at every post within 5B .

We have some exciting ideas coming as we are working with our District leadership from 5 A and hopefully these projects will be out for the membership in the next 30-60 days.

As usual in closing Thank you All for what you do and thank you for still serving.

Dave Schacher

5B Commander

okresqtek51@yahoo.com

[580-747-6234](tel:580-747-6234)

District 6A

Michael H. Devenitch – Commander

Post 353 - Mustang

At our September 10 General Membership Meeting our new officers were presented to the membership. We're looking forward to another great year.



Newly sworn 26-27 officers, l to r, Sgt-At-Arms Junior Rodriguez, Co-Chaplains George Kokendoffer and John Sears, Historian Greg Miller, Judge Advocate Mickey White, Finance Officer Marie Enderton, Adjutant Sheila Schulte, First Vice Commander Rebekah Carlisle, and Commander Paul Ray. We wish them every success. All greater Mustang active and/or honorably discharged military are encouraged to attend our meetings and see if this is an activity you'd like to be a part of. Service Before Self, Principles Before Personality.



The city asked Post 353 if they could help replace their van used for the Active Senior by donating \$500 to help with costs. Post 353 voted to approve the donation then individual members began saying they would chip in. \$1500 was donated to an appreciative City's motor pool. Our storage cabinet was plastered, pleasant surprise.

September 11 deserves remembrance after 25 years



Jacob Sturm
Staff Writer

By Jacob Sturm
news@mustangpaper.com

Never forget.

It's a phrase commonly associated with the tragic events of September 11, 2001 that shocked the nation as the horrific scene from New York unfolded on televisions across the world.

The atrocity resulted in 2,977 deaths, and innumerable families being affected by the

actions of 15 Saudis, 2 UAE, 1 Egyptian, and 1 Lebanese that led to Americans identifying and hunting down Al Qaeda general Osama bin Laden in the years following the event.

Admittedly, as a 28-year-old, my memory of the event is next to non-existent. Fortunately, the events were captured and preserved well, which showcased the immense weight of the

event, how it impacted so many people and showcased the fight and patriotism of so many first responders.

The scene is one that unified the country toward a common enemy, too.

Think back to George W. Bush's response, remember the heroes who fought the adversarial schemers on the airplanes that resulted in the foiled

plans for one hijacked plane before it could reach Washington D.C., recall the response of ferocity. That's the America I'm proud to be affiliated with.

With the event now 25 years old, the memories are sure to swarm back. The lasting images are sure to be burned into the minds of so many, from our military servicemembers to God-fearing citizens of this

great nation. With that, the goal is clear for the future—preserve and never forget.

That starts with sharing your experiences, whether that be at home to your kids or in the public square.

Regardless, those memories can help bring more youth, and folks like me who were too young to remember into the fold and gain that appreciation for the freedoms we have.

Post 353 discussed Patriot Day and National Day of Service and Remembrance and coordinated with The Mustang Times for Staff Writer Jacob Sturm's well written editorial. We will never forget.



At the annual Western Days activities on September 12, Post 353 led the three miles of parade entrants along the 2-mile-long parade route. This has been our honor since the early 90s and an honor we cherish.

Post 353 hosted the 6A/B Fall Conference on 19 September and reported our Honor Guard continues to provide military honors at the funeral of any honorably discharged veteran as well as color guards upon request. We post the American flag at the lighted poles along five full miles of Mustang's main thoroughfares. Further, 353 supports the Department fundraisers, distributes poppies to all K-8 Mustang School District teachers and students each Veterans Day Week to aid the schools with meeting the requirements of Oklahoma Statute Title 70 Section 24-152, distributes in excess of 3,000 poppies to the community each Memorial Day (in addition to posting 12x18 US flags at two area cemeteries), conducts Dignified Disposal of retired US flags each June 14th, and seeks opportunities to contribute to our youth, our city and citizenry, and our veterans. We annually gift NEF, TFA, CWF, Oklahoma Special Olympics, teachers and grant four \$1000 scholarships to our graduating high school seniors.



Post Adjutant Sheila Schulte accepts certificates acknowledging Post 353 participation in the Blood Donor Program and the highest number of blood units collected by a Department of Oklahoma Post.

District 6B **Bobby Marshall – Commander**

Post 55 – Duncan

Sept 11th Dobbs-Adams post 55 worked with The Stephens County Honor Guard, Amvets post 11, VFW post 1192, and the DAV for September 11th Remembrance Ceremony. The Picture is the representative from each organization During the event.



Pictured Above Erik Rasmussen Alan Ross and Stephen Hull



Alan Ross



Erik Rasmussen Alan Ross Stephen Hull, Bobby Marshall, Larry Davidson



Front: Larry Davidson, Back Stephen Hull and Bobby Marshall

We continue our tradition of Supporting Duncan Demon Football with our flag raising ceremonies. Attached are 4 pics. We must mention that Larry Davidson has now entered his 57th year of Flag raising at the Varsity games.



L to R: Stephens County Honor Guard, AMVets, DAV, VFW, American Legion, off to the side VFW's 2nd rep

District 7

Elmo May - Commander

The posts in district 7 have been very busy this month. Our membership is coming along, we are working together to keep moving forward.

Post 41 in Altus went to the Veterans center in Clinton on 19 September and had 29 Veterans attend. They also put in a ramp at a veteran's home.

Post 44 in Clinton attended and done the Pledge of Allegiance at two of the city council meetings. They are always doing bingo at the Veterans center in Clinton. Hosted District 7 conference. They also held church service at the Veterans center. They opened their doors for B/Battery 1-171 FA for a reunion.

Post 223 in Gage, are working very hard on membership and handing out membership cards. They are discussing Memorial Day activities for the four cemeteries they take care of. They had one of their members talk about being an aircraft controller.

Post 181 – Elk City



Post 181 in Elk City had two entries in the Elk City Rodeo of Champions parade. I had the honor to ride in the parade with legionnaires from post 181.



Post 91 – Weatherford

Post 91 in Weatherford had Boys State and Girls State reports by delegates at monthly meeting, DEC Doug Hale and some of the delegates spoke at the Weatherford Kiwanis meeting. Post 300 in Corn took food donation to the widow of a member that had passed away. Post 121 in Mangum had a 5k walk on Patriot's Day, attended district 7 conference. Talked to two schools about Constitution Day, provided lunch for the Mangum car show. Had a blood drive on September 26th with 29 people signing in and 24 gave blood. They also participated in the Mangum Block Party, handing out candy and constitutions. They also had Boots and Badges contest with the boots winning by 2.

Post 146 – Sayre



Post 146 in Sayre has been busy getting their haunted house ready. They raised the flag at the first high school football game with Cub Scouts of pack 3662.



Post 146 and Sayre Kiwanis both donated \$1500.00 each to the Sayre school football program for concussion helmets to wear during practice.

ROUTE 66 HAUNTED MORTUARY opens on 8 October - 31 October. Open each Thursday from 6pm to 9pm. Friday and Saturday 6pm to 10pm.

District 8A

Barry Vincent - Commander

Post 53 – Perry



Superintendent Chad Wilson and Commander Jeremy Hines

Perry Public Schools Superintendent Chad Wilson recently updated Ellis-Jirous American Legion Post 53 on the district's continued progress in academics, programs and student opportunities. Beginning his fourth year as superintendent, Wilson reported enrollment of 1,024 students and a staff of 138, with no emergency-certified teaching positions. Perry students continue to benefit from increased face-to-face interaction through the district's no-cell-phone policy, along with 40-minute recess for kindergarten through sixth grade. The district earned a sixth place ranking statewide in English Language Arts on the state report card, highlighting strong academic growth. Wilson also noted the return of the Presidential Physical Fitness Test and the expansion of STEM education from kindergarten through high school, including an aviation pathway that allows students to begin working toward a pilot's license. "We don't chase state testing," Wilson said. "We teach our youth to be good people," reflecting the district's guiding motto, "The Future of America is being determined here."

District 8B

Philip Holland – Commander

PLEASE SEND ALL
SUBMISSIONS TO
TALOK1889@GMAIL.COM

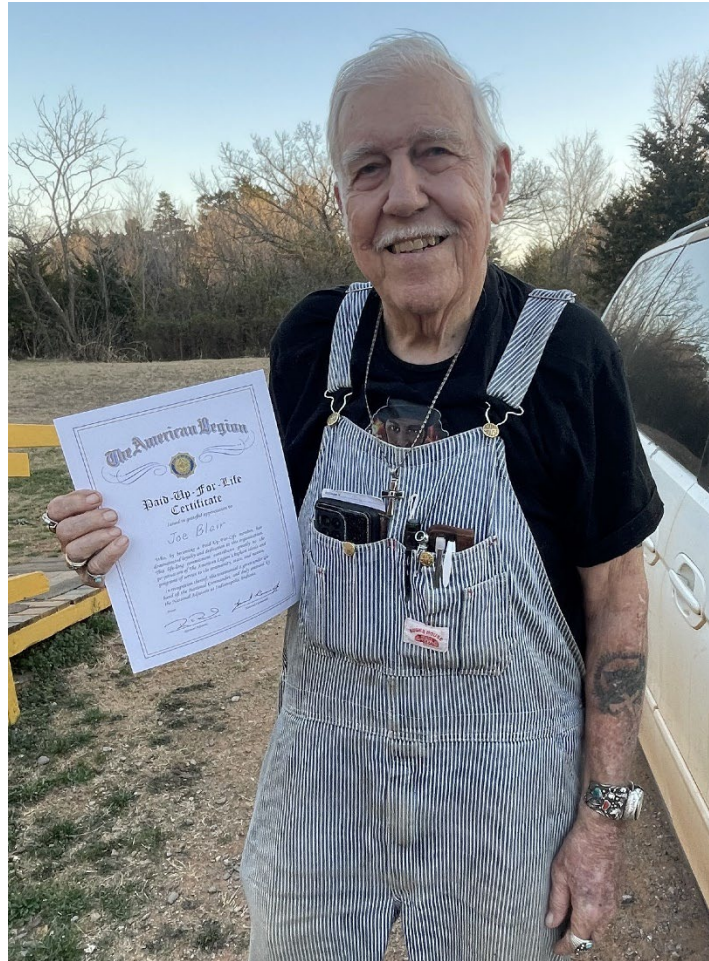
NO LATER THAN
1800hrs on the 28TH
OF THE MONTH

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

POST EVERLASTING



Joe Allen Blair



<https://www.hayesfh.com/obituary/joe-blair>

Robert Ernest Norton



<https://www.brown-duggerfuneralhome.com/obituaries/robert-norton>