

THE 1889 LAND RUN



DEPARTMENT
OF
OKLAHOMA



American Legion Newsletter

38th Edition, September 1, 2025

American Legion Department Commander

Fellow Oklahoma American Legion Family,

I come to you with an overwhelming amount of gratitude for the faith and trust you have all placed in me. Two weeks ago, you elected me to represent you as the Department Commander of this great State, and it took a little time for the whirlwind to settle in as we had so much to accomplish right out of the gates. We all know all too well how much work we all must do over the next year to make this Organization a success in our mission to lift our fellow Brothers and Sisters up.

I did not step into this role lightly as the preparation for this administrative year started back in February when I announced my candidacy and worked through the Spring District Conferences to fill a team around me to try and breathe fresh air and motivation into our mission. Once we fine-tuned a few positions after the elections I submitted my nominees for Committee Chairs and other positions to your elected Department Executive Committee as quickly as possible because everyone on this team was eager to get to work. We have several familiar faces across the State who will be stepping into new jobs that they are passionate about and with everyone working as a true team we will usher in a bright new direction of success and pride in our Oklahoma Legion. Yesterday (Saturday, 26 July), your Finance Commission from across the state met for several hours at Headquarters in Warr Acres to try and get our financial situation in a brighter place, we made great strides and will meet again shortly so we can provide you all with a brighter forecast.

Our Membership on the Legion side of the family has struggled for several years and none of us from headquarters have a magic wand but I do believe we have the right members with the ability to guide us back to growth. At the end of the day, it takes every single member as a foundation to build on. As the saying goes, you cannot build on sand, you need a solid foundation. As of now we have already reached 40% of all last year's numbers. That looks positive but as I challenged everyone on the Convention Floor to bring in one fellow Veteran this year, we got a lot of work to do. However, don't forget when bringing in that Veteran to include their spouse, children or even grandchildren. At the end of the day, we are a family. Carry your head high, be proud of the work we are doing, wear your Legion brand with pride, lift your fellow Legionnaires, Veterans and citizens up and people will want to join naturally. If you have an issue with a brother or sister, take it to them in private, celebrate them in public for their

achievements. We can all do better.

I have received probably 75 calls, texts or emails in the last two weeks and no one has gone without a response. I promised you open communication and will do my best to live up to that. I only have one year here to leave this organization better than I found it which means listening to you all, implementing great ideas where we can or getting them to the group that can, sharing ideas that work from all four corners of the state and working as a team. Several members have asked me what “my” plans are for this year. I have been searching for the answer to that question for a while. I realize now, that is the wrong question! As a sports coach of twenty years and owner of companies for fifteen, my plan is simply to put the right players in the right positions to let the team go out and succeed. Yes, we will have growing pains, and some may disagree with some of the calls at times, but I assure you every decision will be discussed, dissected and researched with the goal of improving this organization for every member.

What I want to see the next Commander take over next July is an organization with positivity within its membership towards one another, a positive membership report and a budget that is manageable. Yes, in that order, because in that order one will help solve two, two will help solve three and then we can solve much more not stressing over the past.

In closing, again it is my honor and privilege to serve this Department, and I look forward to an amazing year. To every member that has any desire to serve in a higher office, decide early, announce early and don't wait to start working until after you are elected but when you decide you want to serve. Lastly, every member is valuable in their own ability, and every member is a recruiter.

Thank you,

Steve Thomas II
The American Legion
Department of Oklahoma
Department Commander

American Legion Department-Senior Vice Commander

Greetings Oklahoma Legion Family!

Congratulations on reaching the 50% membership goal. You are all doing great! We have set a goal of 55% for September 10th. I know that this is obtainable due to your efforts in getting memberships.

We have 9 Districts who are above 50%, the other Districts are 40-50%. There are 35 Posts between 50-60%; 28 Posts between 60-70%; 13 Posts between 70-80%; 4 Posts between 80-90%; and 4 Posts that are at 100%.

I have already been fortunate to visit some Posts this last month (Granite - new prison post, Corn, Enid, and Elk City). I also attended the membership training in Indianapolis and got some ideas on recruiting and retention. At this time, I am attending the National Convention in Tampa. I am looking forward to sharing ideas and information with all of you.

If you are in a Post and are not receiving the membership numbers, please contact your District Commander or the Vice East / Vice West Commander as appropriate. If all that fails, contact me. I am here to assist.

Retention is probably the hardest part of membership. Reach out to those members who haven't renewed. Talk to them and see how they are doing. Tell them about what the Post is doing and see if they have an interest in helping.

Please let me know if you have any upcoming events that you would like for me to attend. I will make an attempt to be there.

Labor Day is our next Holiday. Please be safe if you are traveling or just doing some in your local community.

"Be The One"

Respectfully,

Shirley May

Senior Vice

Department Vice Commander – East

Hello everyone,

It's been a busy and inspiring month since I stepped into the role of Vice Commander East, and I wanted to take a moment to share some highlights and what lies ahead.

Earlier this month, I had the honor of representing Oklahoma at the American Legion National Convention in Tampa Bay, where I participated in the Veterans Employment and Education Commission. One key area of focus was improving the accessibility of education benefits for veterans. While the benefits themselves remain strong, the process to access them is being streamlined and made more user-friendly—removing barriers and making it easier for veterans to receive the support they've rightfully earned.

Another important takeaway from Nationals was the emphasis on addressing veteran homelessness. Each department across the country has been asked to establish a Veteran Homeless Committee, and I strongly support this initiative. We have both the responsibility and the opportunity to make a meaningful impact in the lives of our fellow veterans, and I look forward to seeing how our state can lead in this area.

Closer to home, District Conferences are kicking off this Saturday, and I'm excited to attend as many as possible. These meetings are a great way to stay connected, share ideas, and continue building the strong network of support that makes the Legion so special. I look forward to listening, learning, and working alongside you all as we continue serving our communities.

I'm also proud to report that four of the eight Districts in the East have already reached their 50% membership goal—an outstanding early achievement. Leading the way is District 4, with an impressive 55.6% of its Posts already at or above their 50% target. Thank you to all the Post and District leaders who are working hard to keep our organization strong and growing.

As always, I remain committed to recognition, excellence, and empowerment. Together, we can do incredible things for our veterans and for each other.

Be The One

Karen Cruice

Vice Commander East

American Legion Department of Oklahoma

Department Vice Commander – West

The month of August has flown by so fast. I have visited 9 posts, and they all are energetic about starting the new year. When Brett Martin was Commander, he went to Post 0004 and tried to get them going again to no avail. This Year Enid Post 0004 has new Commander named Leroy Watkins, and he is fired up and wants to get things going. Mr. Watkins, we are all here for you and don't be too shy to call out, and good luck with what you're trying to get done. We have all but two Districts at 50% and the two not there yet I'm positive they will be by Sept 12. We have three Districts that have met the October goal. I would like to see two members from each District attend VSO accreditation class Oct. 15-17 Bristow, OK. if possible. Remember have fun doing membership they see you enjoying doing Legion things they will want to join to enjoy also. Til next month and have safe holiday weekend.

Vice-Commander West

Lance E. Larson

National Executive (NEC) Committeeman



DEPARTMENT OF OKLAHOMA ATTENDS NATIONAL CONVENTION

The Department of Oklahoma attended the 106th National Convention in Tampa, Florida this past weekend. Approximately 50 members of the Legion, Sons of the American Legion and Auxiliary from Oklahoma attended the National Convention. Unfortunately, it rained every day we were there, so that dampened some of the ambience of the occasion, but everyone seemed to have a good time, and everyone had the opportunity to make memories.

Congratulations to new National Commander Dan Wiley, our neighbor, from the Department of Kansas. He will be a great leader for upcoming year emphasizing "Better Together", which is his motto.

Congratulations also to new SAL National Commander William "Bill" Clancy III from New York and new National Auxiliary President Pam Ray from Illinois on their selection for the upcoming Legion year. Of note is AUX President Pam Ray's sister was also a Past National AUX President, and this is the first time in Auxiliary history that two sisters have held the same office!

Oklahoma was inducted into the 1919 Society and honored at the National Convention.

We are looking forward to a rebuilding year ahead. We are already making new membership gains and will be concentrating on closing the back door and keeping current members active.

This coming week the new National Appointment Recommendations will be announced and those whose appointments have expired and were not re-selected will be thanked for their service as we move forward in a new direction in this year and the years ahead.

Charles O'Leary

National Executive Committeeman 2024-26

Department of Oklahoma

Alternate National Executive (ANEC) Committeeman - Michael Taylor

American Legion Riders



Left: Mike Harris after completing the Legacy run in Tampa, FL

Below Left: Registration Day August 16 in South Boston VA Parking Lot

Below Right: All Riders meeting August 16





Left: ALR August 21st entering Florida

Below: Final Leg entering Wesley Chapel
Harley Davidson



From the desk of District Commander Mike Harris,
Oklahoma District 5A Commander and AL Rider.

Wow, I have been home for 3 days and haven't gotten this done.

The 2025 Legacy Run has been completed. The American Legions Riders raised \$855,785 for the Veterans and Children Foundation this year.

I left home on Aug. 11 and rode to Kansas to meet up with 4 other Legion Riders. On Aug. 12 we headed out to South Boston, VA.

We arrived in South Boston on Friday. Between Friday evening and Saturday all the leadership had meetings and getting reacquainted with friends we haven't seen since last year. Sunday the 17th we started the Legacy Run heading to Tampa Bay, FL. We had 300+ riders every day. On Thursday, the 21st we rolled into the Tampa Bay area.

After spending a couple of days resting, Saturday the 23rd, the Kansas riders and I started back home. We spent the night of the 25th in Russellville, AR. The morning of the 26th we went our separate directions, me to Oklahoma & the other 4 to Kansas.

Around 2:45 on Tuesday, the 26th I rolled into the garage clocking 3,936.7 miles since I started on the 11th.

It was a great ride, and we ride for a great purpose.

Next year we will be riding into Louisville, KY for the start of the National convention there.

Past Department Commander's Corner



THE IMPORTANCE OF TRADITIONS

As we start our new Department of Oklahoma Legion Family year, it is appropriate to take pause to reflect on Legion Traditions that have taken place over time and serve as fitting reminders of generational unity which we all strive for. One of those traditions that takes place at Oklahoma Boys State Legion Night that is noteworthy, is the tradition of the actual Past Commander of the Boys State City named after them, to march, if physically and mentally able, in the Pass-In-Review ceremony.

At Boys State the students are grouped into sections of 30-35 students and each section is called a "City" and named after Past Department of Oklahoma Commanders.

This past Boys State Legion Night, I was privileged to march with "O'Leary City" which included 30 HS students who welcomed me and were impressed that the guy their City was named after actually showed up and was willing to march with them, as not all Past Commanders are able. Also the OKARNG including 45th Infantry NCO's who were present at TAC Officers and NCO's for Boys State welcomed me as I had served with some of them overseas and the rest had heard "rumors" about me over the years as I had served in the past in the same units they are serving in now. I managed to make it all-around the field still upright [not bad for a 77 y/o] and it was a meaningful occasion for all involved.

Thank you, Boys State, for continuing this 30-year tradition and here's hoping for many more such occasions in the future, linking the past and present and future for the Legion and our Country.

Charles O'Leary
Past Department Commander 2021-2022

Department Adjutant - Rick Redden



NOW AVAILABLE IN YOUR STATE

LEGION FAMILY:
IMPORTANT NOTIFICATION FOR LEGIONCARE

UP TO \$5,000.00

NO-COST-TO-YOU ACCIDENT INSURANCE PROTECTION

For Online Activation Visit: TheLIT.com/LegionCare2

0318
444636

Endorsed by Your American
Legion Department

49434

Oklahoma Veterans Commission – Brett Martin

Sons of the American Legion





The Detachment of Oklahoma leadership received YOUR “Triple Nickel” and membership awards today at the National Convention in Tampa.

Women Veterans Outreach

For all who attended the Women Veteran’s Meeting at the Summer Conference, I hope you were able to benefit from the subject of discussion. Discrimination isn’t an easy subject to talk about in almost any setting, we were able to peacefully discuss and hear other opinions. What would you like to hear about or talk about at the next meeting?

Contact Karen Ritter at RitterK4505@gmail.com or Tina Kilmer at TKilmer2003@gmail.com for suggestions. Also, the transcript of the last meeting should be out soon.

American Legion Auxilliary



Kicking Off the Year with Energy and Excitement
The 2025 American Legion Auxiliary year is off to a fantastic start!

The National Conference in Tampa, Florida was a huge success, with close to 20 Oklahoma members proudly representing our Department. Even though it rained most days, the weather didn't dampen our spirits. We celebrated the incredible work being done by Units across the nation and came home inspired to make this year our best yet.

Membership is in full swing, and September is the perfect time to get all those memberships entered! Please don't hold onto them—get them turned in as soon as possible. Remember, if your Unit reaches 25% by September 15th, your Unit will be entered into a drawing for a gift certificate from Emblem Sales.

We're also excited about the PUFL Drawing coming the first week of November. All senior members who have renewed for the 2025-2026 year will be eligible for this special prize.

District meetings kick off September 6th, and I look forward to traveling across the state to visit with as many members as possible. These meetings are a great chance to share ideas, learn from each other, and strengthen our Legion Family.

And don't forget—our Fall Conference will be held in Tecumseh on October 11th. We have a full day planned with training sessions, Q&A opportunities, and lots of valuable information to take back to your Units. Come ready to learn, connect, and grow!

Let's make this a year of action, excitement, and achievement—together as one Legion Family!

By Kim McInnis, President, American Legion Auxiliary Department of Oklahoma



Pictured Past Presidents Virginia Hare Sue Heil, American Legion (TAL) National Commander James LeCoursiere, Carol Blosch, Nancy O'Leary

American Legion Auxiliary Department of Oklahoma Report

The American Legion Auxiliary Department of Oklahoma proudly held its Summer Convention, bringing together members from across the state to reconnect, conduct organizational business, and further our shared mission of service to veterans, military families, and our communities. Units brought 22 baskets for silent auction as the Presidents' Fundraiser. We raised almost \$1900.00.

A highlight of this year was the historic, first-ever joint visit to Oklahoma by both The American Legion (TAL) National Commander James LeCoursiere and the American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) National President Trish Ward. Their visit marked a major milestone as they were both hosted simultaneously at The American Legion Grove Post 178 Family — the first time such a joint visit has occurred at any post in Oklahoma history. While in Grove, the TAL National Commander raised the American Legion flag on the iconic Sailboat Bridge, a powerful and symbolic gesture of honor, patriotism, and unity. The event was attended by local officials, veterans, Legion Family members, and the broader community. Following the flag-raising ceremony, the National Commander and National President participated in the "Be the One" Awareness Walk at F4 — a heartfelt community-driven event focused on veteran suicide prevention and mental health awareness. The initiative, part of the American Legion's national campaign, was embraced with strong participation from local citizens and Legion Family members. The presence of both national leaders at our events brought a renewed sense of purpose, pride, and unity. Their words and actions reminded us of the importance of service,

visibility, and community engagement. In addition to the Grove visit, the TAL National Commander made stops at several other Posts across the state, highlighting the strength and dedication of Oklahoma's Legion Family. His tour included visits to:

- Post 111
- Post 50 in Tahlequah
- Post 17 in Sand Springs

At each location, the National Commander met with local Legionnaires, Auxiliary members, Sons of The American Legion, and Riders, recognizing their contributions and reinforcing the mission and goals of The American Legion at the grassroots level. The presence of both national leaders at our events brought a renewed sense of purpose, pride, and unity. Their words and actions reminded us of the importance of service, visibility, and community engagement. The Department of Oklahoma is deeply honored to have hosted this milestone visit and remains committed to supporting the four pillars of The American Legion. The historic visit of our national leaders will long be remembered as a defining moment for our Department of Oklahoma. We extend our deepest gratitude to all who worked to make these events successful and meaningful.

Susan Engstrom

Past President

American Legion Auxiliary

Dept. of Oklahoma

Qualate-Pritchard Unit 178 President

Accredited Veteran Service officer

Delaware County TWV Suicide Prevention Program Coordinator



Congrats to our Americanism Chair
Jodi Chisolm for winning the Southern
Division Americanism National
Anthem contest! Oklahoma's anthem

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

District Conferences

District 1-- September 13-Post 308 Tulsa

District 2--September 6-Post 50 Tahlequah

District 3--September 20- Post 164-Kingston FD

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

District 8--September 27--Post 53 Perry

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 124-Afton



The newly elected officers of Afton Post 124 were sworn in by District 1A 1st Vice Commander Bobby Miller on 12 August 2025.

District 1B

Post 95-Jenks





Dedication of the Jenks Purple Heart Garden

District 2A

Post 50- Tahlequah



August 30th Post 50 held a Spaghetti Dinner that was very well received.

District 2B

Post 10-Okmulgee



Treasure Hunt Highlight: American Legion

Start your Saturday with coffee, donuts, and a chance at treasure! ☕🍩🗝️

Swing by the American Legion every Saturday morning for a warm welcome — and don't forget to grab your Treasure Hunt key while you're there! One of them could unlock the prize chest! 🏆

A big thank you to the American Legion for supporting the Okmulgee Times Treasure Hunt and our community! 🙏

See a full list of participating businesses in the latest edition of the Okmulgee Times.

Post 85-Henryetta



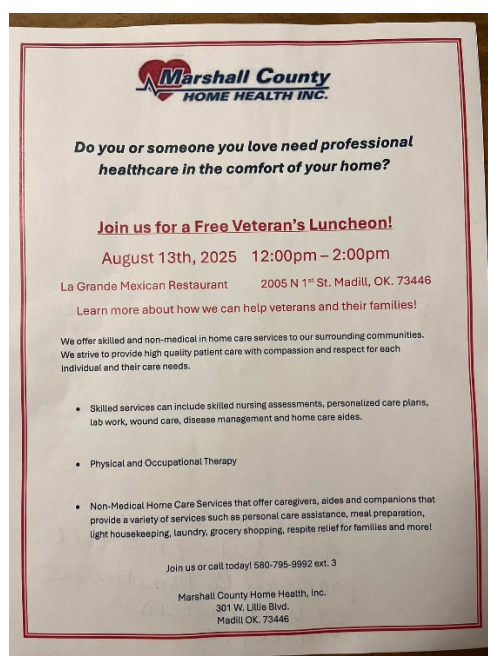
This Friday August 22, Cheryl & Debbie will be in the kitchen fixin chilis dogs. Come on out & let them do the cookin' for you. \$7 plate- 2 chili dogs n chips. 5:00pm until we run out!

District 3A

Post 79 McAlester



District 3B



District 4

Post 260-Tecumseh



September 5th Rusty will be making the trek to Dale's Diner for your dining & dancing pleasure!!! If you haven't made the trip to Tecumseh to hear Rusty play with us on Saturday nights, NOWS YOUR CHANCE! We have a great time and so will you!!!

District 5A

Post 58-Guthrie

American Legion LeBron Post 58, located at 125 W Rush Road, has been actively building out our new property. With our vision of the three phases, Fry Design Co is assisting with the development of the future property. Check out the news story. Guthrie American Legion plans space, houses for homeless veterans

The 97th Annual '89er Days Celebration is in the beginning stages of planning for next April's celebration. Dates to follow in October's Landrun.

Post 58 again partnered with the Quilts of Honor Oklahoma members to present beautiful handmade quilts to Active-Duty service member Air Force Captain Katie, and her spouse Master Sergeant Nick, Veteran. Ask me how to request a quilt for a Veteran. Also, quilts were given to Legionnaire Alan Lamons, and Honorary Member Stan Holtschneider RIP, and his spouse and Legionnaire Mary Lipsett.

We have an Opportunity Drawing for a custom Firepit Ring with the Legion Family – perfect for your backyard gatherings! Only 100 tickets available. Drawing will be held on December 15, 2025. Donation of \$10 / ticket. All proceeds support the SAL program at LeBron Post 58, funding general operations and community programs that make a difference for veterans, their families, and our community. To make a donation for a Brick Paver or the Firepit Fundraiser please contact the office at 405-2828-2589

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

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

Commander Kim Vincent assisted a Legionnaire apply for The American Legion National Emergency Fund grant following the Logan and Payne Counties fire storm in March. Legionnaire Pearson received a NEF grant in the amount of \$2,828.00, such a small amount, yet impactful for the loss he endured that March day.

Several members of the Legion Family attended Department Convention and really enjoyed themselves.

American Legion Auxiliary LeBron Unit 58 members delivered school supplies to Vance Air Force Base Eisenhower Elementary School, in support of our Armed Forces families.

Post 73-Del City



THE LEGION'S LOST ENTITY - THE FORTY AND EIGHT: TIME TO MEND FENCES

As everyone knows, the American Legion was established in 1919 immediately following World War I. A year later, a branch of the American Legion known as the Forty and Eight was formed by Legionnaire veterans that served in France. The name "Forty and Eight" was chosen due to the fact that upon arrival into France, service men were transported to the front lines in railroad box cars which held 40 men or eight horses. Both organizations were extremely successful with Forty and Eight members being hugely successful at recruiting veterans to join the American Legion (over 500,000 in 1945 alone). In 1949 France shipped 49 box cars full of "Thank You" gifts to the United States, one for each state and one for the District of Columbia. Oklahoma's is on display in Norman at J.D. McCarty Center, and its' contents are at the Oklahoma History Center. The years from 1920 to the late 1950's were massive growth years for both organizations.

But between 1959 and 1960, several reasons began dividing the two groups resulting in the two going their separate ways. Leading up to the split and despite their lower membership numbers, the 40&8 was superior at fund raising. Since the Legion saw the 40&8 as one of their entities, they felt entitled to 40&8 funds. Even more contested reasons for the breakup were the 40&8's horribly antiquated membership rules regarding minorities and women veterans. Women veterans had been able to join the American Legion since its' inception in 1919, and the Legion

urged the 40&8 to allow women and minorities into its ranks, which at the time the 40&8 refused to do. Those reasons led to the official separation between the two veterans' organizations in 1960.

40&8 membership was at its peak in the years following WWII, with over 95,000 members in 1947. But those numbers began to decline and that forced the 40&8 to rethink their outdated membership restrictions. The 40&8 began seeing the error of their ways, finally even allowing auxiliaries to be formed – these days known as the La Femmes, in 1963. They also realized their stance on membership requirements was severely outdated and not staying with the times and allowed minorities to begin joining in 1973. Taking much longer, they finally allowed women veterans to join beginning in 2006. With the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars becoming more popular to current and former service members, membership in the 40&8 continued to decline, with just over 15,000 members world-wide in 2024. Indiana has the most 40&8'ers with over 1700 members, while the State of Utah has none. Oklahoma has five active 40&8 groups called “Voitures” with nearly 100 members state-wide, most of whom are American Legion and or VFW members as well.

As a result of the breakup in early 1960, individual State, District and local Legions still treat their area 40&8 organizations differently, from not allowing 40&8 members into their establishments at all, to continuing the relationship as some still do today. This made sense to most, as in order to be a member of the 40&8 – one of the original conditions that no longer exists as of 2008, you had to be a member of the American Legion in good standing. It was either “we don't want anything to do with you”, or “we'll look the other way because most if not all of you are Legion members anyway.” To this day, the state-to-state relationship between the two military veteran organizations varies. For example, the State of North Dakota continues to not only recognize the 40&8 but includes them in their annual state conventions.

Here we are 65 years after the split. Posts worldwide - VFW, American Legion and Forty and Eight are closing. Recruiting new and younger members is an on-going challenge, as is changing the images of the organizations. Is it time to officially bury the hatchet and welcome the Forty and Eight back to the American Legion – not as a branch of the Legion, but as an equal veterans' organization? “United we stand and together we fall.” The Forty and Eight has so much to offer, with programs to include Child Welfare, Youth Sports, Americanism, Nurses Training and several more. So many veterans in communities belong to multiple organizations, and others should be encouraged AND excited to do likewise. “Strength in numbers.” Let's “extend the olive branch” and GET IT DONE!

District 5B

Post 301-Lexington



Americanism and Comradeship: Post 301 member Jack Steinman wanted to foster and perpetuate Americanism by flying the flag, but after a much needed renovation the light would not work. When he mentioned the problem during a meeting, fellow veteran Aaron Schaff stepped in to help. Together they were able to troubleshoot and fix the problem. As simple as it may seem, the importance of such acts are often overshadowed by fund raising and other events within a post. Veterans helping veterans or as stated in our Preamble "comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness" is a basic foundation of the American Legion that should not be overlooked.

Post 261 Blanchard



Above: Bond-Holden Post 261, Blanchard, OK initiated 7 new members at the August 2025 meeting. We are staying active in the community by having Blood Drives and having Prayer at the Flagpole on Monday mornings. The community and veterans are invited to attend. Following the prayer we have coffee and Donuts.

Left: The August meeting we had one of four boys who attended Boy's State this year. We invite them to come and share with the members what they learned during their experience.

District 6A

Post 160-Yukon



YUKON POST 160: Special Thanks to Matt Berry from Visiting Angels Community & Veteran Liaison for stopping by our post meeting and letting us know the great thing this Yukon business has to offer for veterans!

Thanks Matt!

Visiting Angels Yukon is a great resource for Veterans to use their benefits. We provide Home Health Aide (HHA) & Respite Visits as a benefit to Veterans for their service.

HHA visits are provided to help a Veteran remain living in their own home by assisting with everyday needs. Respite visits are designed to relieve the primary caregiver. Both are vital to the overall plan of care.



VISITING VETERANS: Getting our briefing before hitting the wards to visit America's Heroes! The post visits veterans every quarter with a donation. This month the post donated over \$200 in shoes. Oklahoma City VA.

District 6B

Post 55-Duncan



Our member meeting was on August 19th, where we were happy to swear in our new 1st Vice Commander Allen Nusbaum.



Our Commander Erik Rasmussen had the pleasure of presenting Fred Combrink with his certificate for 30 years as a member of the American Legion.

On August 9th we were happy to go out into the community to help give out school supplies to children at the Chisholm Trail Mall back to school event.

August 14th-16th we held a rummage sale at the post. We had some old and new faces show up to support us.

We also held our first ever Post 55 Dungeons & Dragons game for some of our Legion family and friends. A great time was had all around and we now have a standing game.

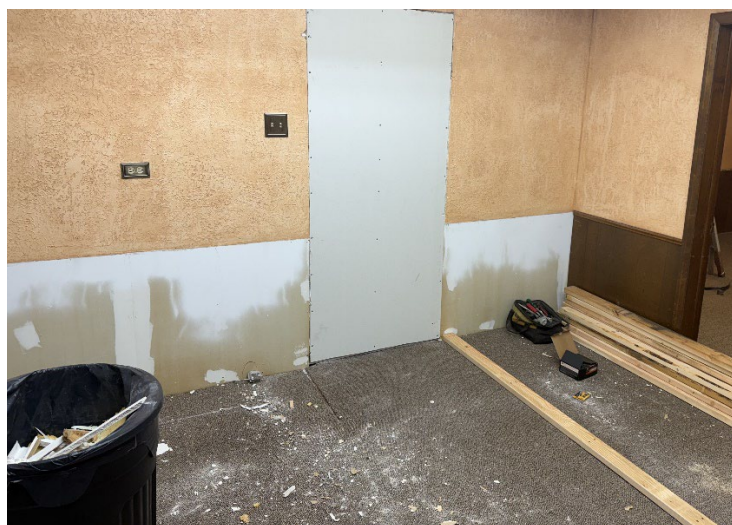
Finally, with heavy hearts, we held a Post Everlasting ceremony for our member Max Huntsinger Sr.

District 7

Post 146-Sayre



Post 146 in Sayre had there meeting on 11 Aug. They discussed the remodeling of their new building and the new sign they are purchasing. The remodeling has already began. They continue to do the cleanup on the outside of the building like trees and shrubs.



I am looking forward to working with District 7 on membership for this year. Continue to talk to possible new members and continue to work on retention.

I always enjoy going to the posts in district 7, so I went to visit Post 300 in Corn on August 1st, it is always a pleasure to visit the smaller posts. At their meeting they discussed their membership and flags for the cemetery. We had a really nice dinner after the meeting.

Went to Post 181 in Elk City on 4 Aug. Elk City always has a really good turnout of Legionnaires at their meetings. They have a farmer that donates a steer so they can raffle off 2 sides of beef. They have a rodeo parade coming up in September and are planning on having a float to show that the American Legion is alive and active in Elk City. These guys do a great job.

I had the privilege of going to Indianapolis with Senior Vice Commander Shirley May on 8-9 Aug. Went to several different classes during the 2 days we were there. Found out that the training is open to anyone that wants to learn more about the American Legion.

I am honored to be representing District 7 as well as The Department of Oklahoma at the National Convention in Florida. While at National Conference I attended the National Security Council meeting and National Security Committee meeting. I will go over the topics of discussion at district meetings as well as Mid-Winter conference. I also had the privilege of being the Sgt at Arms for Oklahoma during the convention.

I am looking forward to getting back to Oklahoma and continuing to visit the posts in District 7 as well as all District meetings throughout Oklahoma.

For God and Country
District 7 Commander
Elmo May

District 8A

Post 53-Perry



3rd Vice Commander Danny Meek installed Post 53's new Commander Jeremy Hines, Vice Commander Tina Kilmer and Finance Officer Rod Stirman, not pictured Trustees Nik Leach, Todd Hatchett and Jeff Goldsberry.

Post 190- Covington



Post 190 held a Community Potluck Paint Party before their regularly scheduled meeting August 14th at the Covington Senior Center. We had a great time tonight! I realized this was the first week of school so not many were able to make it.

Post 14- Ponca City**District 8B**

We welcome our new Commander, Aaron Thiele, who is sworn in by Joe Kingrey, 8th District Commander at our last meeting. The meetings are open to all member on the 2nd Thurs of every month at 7 pm. Our office is located at 426 W. Grand. Come join us Thank you for your service to our Country

PLEASE SEND ALL
SUBMISSIONS TO
TALOK1889@GMAIL.COM

POST EVERLASTING





<https://obituaries.enidnews.com/obituary/eugene-buckhannon-1093024794>

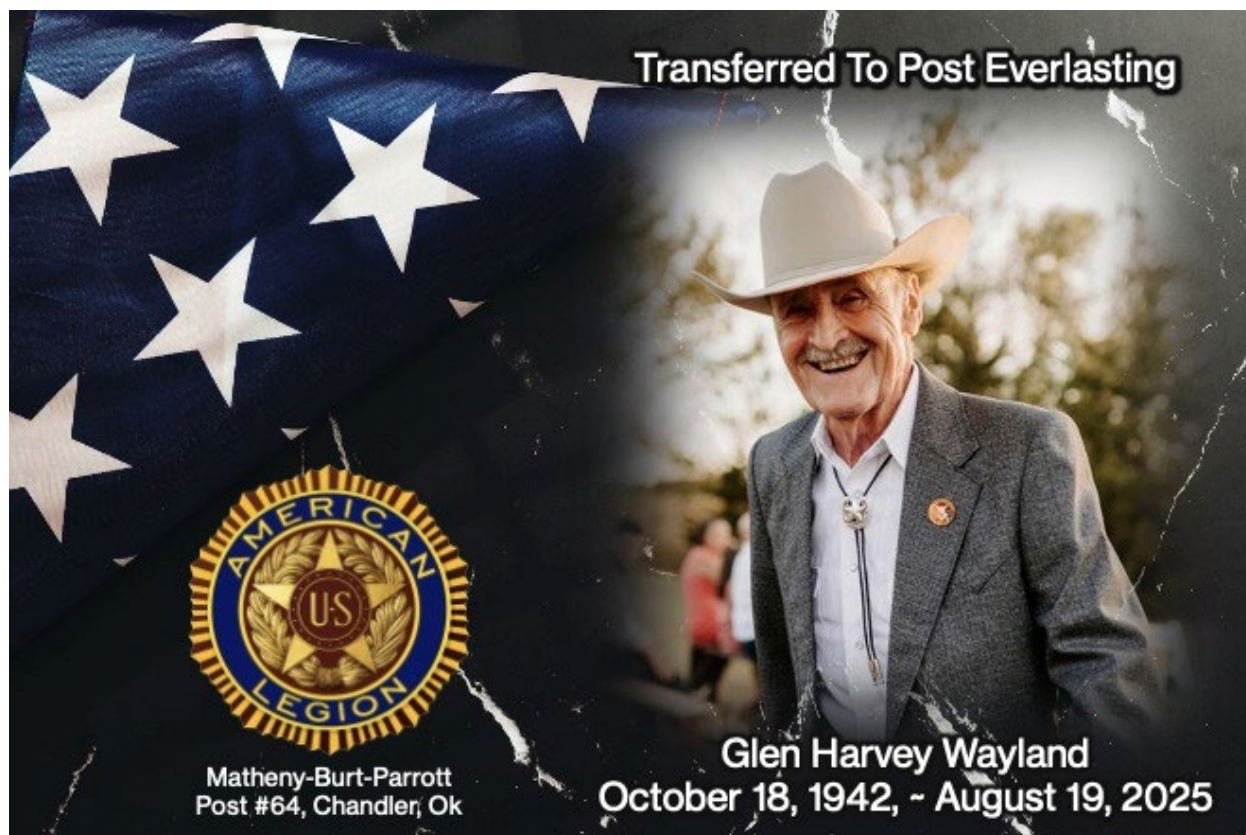
Freddie Charles "Charlie" Bevers was born on December 2, 1952, in Clinton, Oklahoma to Fred Bevers and Hope (Walker) Davis. He passed away on July 16, 2025, in Guthrie, Oklahoma.

Charlie will be laid to rest with military honors on Tuesday, August 5, 2025, at 10:00 AM at Fort Sill National Cemetery (2648 NE Jake Dunn Road, Elgin, OK 73538).

https://www.hayesfh.com/obituary/freddie-bevers?fh_id=13748



<https://www.whittfh.com/obituary/Max-Huntsinger>



<https://www.lehmanfuneralhome.net/obituary/Glen-Wayland>



<https://www.clifforddgarrettfamilyfh.com/obituaries/mark-young-18/#!/Obituary>