

THE 1889 LAND RUN



DEPARTMENT
OF
OKLAHOMA



American Legion Newsletter

46th Edition, May 1, 2026

American Legion Department Commander

Legion Family of Oklahoma,

Fellow Legionnaires as the calendar turns to May and we enter the homestretch of the administrative year, I hope you all have your plans in place to celebrate Americas 250th Anniversary as a Nation. We have now completed all our Spring District Meetings, and again, I'd like to thank and congratulate all of our newly elected or reelected District Officers. Many Posts will also soon be holding new Officer Elections, and I look forward to seeing who the new and upcoming leaders of the future will be.

Last week I had the honor to represent Oklahoma at the Annual LIT Conference in Tucson, Arizona and learned a lot about the Program and brought back vital tools to use in the near future as well as sharing some great ideas from my private business with them. The Chairman and I had several in-depth conversations and exchanged contact information to better our Departments involvement and benefit from that Program.

Last Saturday your elected DEC members met to handle the business of the Department, and it was a productive meeting that accomplished a great deal of work. Thanks to Post 12 for graciously hosting us all and to District Commander Mike Harris for arranging lunch with Mission BBQ and the great folks there that took care of us at no cost. While at the DEC I had the honor to swear our new Department Adjutant J. Stark Davis in and officially welcome him aboard.

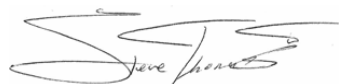
This coming week several of us from Oklahoma will be traveling to Indianapolis for the National Spring Meetings. While there, ANEC Michael Taylor and I will be meeting with some of the fine folks from Oklahoma City as they present their final pitch to the National Convention Commission in hopes to earn the bid for the 2032 American Legion National Convention.

Membership in Oklahoma continues to grow, Oklahoma has surpassed the 90% National Membership percentage and is now closing in on 95%, with just 60 member renewals to go. As part of the Midwest Region, we are neck and neck with several other Departments to lead the Mighty Midwest, within just tenths of a percent separating Nebraska, South Dakota and us. As of Nationals last update, Oklahoma sits number 6th Nationally only a lean 2/100ths of a percent behind number five. We are also only 646 members from reaching the 100% mark by Armed Services Day, May 13th, so I applaud each and every one of you doing buddy checks, community outreach and getting our message out to our fellow Veterans that we all still stand together.

Our Department has had many members step up and announce intention to run for various offices for the next administrative year, I encourage you all to support these candidates putting themselves out there and invite them to your Posts so you can get to know them and what direction and how they plan to assist you and lead us in to the future.

Public involvement goes a long way toward our mission. Stay engaged with our community events or create your own. With 2026 being the year of our semi-quincentennial as a country I again encourage you to create events based around this celebration. Events themed around 1776 or 250 will greatly help us spread our mission while we celebrate.

A little deeper look at the membership numbers for Oklahoma,
To reach 100% by Armed Services Day May 13th, we need 646
We currently trail #1 AZ by 260
We currently trail #2 FL by 129
We currently trail #3 UT by 88
We currently trail #4 WY by 14
We currently trail #5 NE by <1



Steve Thomas
Department Commander



LIT at the base of Santa Catalina Mountains



LIT at the base of Santa Catalina Mountains



LIT Eagle lit up on the side of Santa Catalina Mountains during Banquet



LIT Banquet



The Installation of Department Adjutant Stark Davis



District Commander Harris(L), Commander Thomas(R) with the volunteers from Mission BBQ (center) being presented with a certificate of appreciation.

Campaign for Department Commander



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

"Be The One"

Respectfully,

Shirley May

American Legion Department-Senior Vice Commander

Hello Legionnaires!!

This has been a very exciting and busy month. I have visited several Posts across the State and got to visit with many members. I am still planning on visits to some more Posts in May.

We continue to make some progress with membership. We are at 11,090 members for 94.38%. We still need 660 more members to reach 100% by May 13th. I know that you can all get out there and get some more renewals.

This morning (4-27-26) we dropped to sixth place Nationally at 94.37%. With 14 more members we could potentially be back in 4th place. The percentages in the National race are close. 1st place is 96.46%. If we could get 246 renewals, we could potentially take first place with National.

There was one District who increased by 1% on the 4-27-26 report. Several Districts continue to gradually increase their numbers. Six Districts are less than .5% to reach the next higher percentage. So proud of all the accomplishments being made.

We have 40 Posts who are over 100%, and there are 18 Posts who are at 100%. We still have approximately 70 Posts who need 10 or fewer members to reach 100%. Let's reach out to those Veterans who haven't renewed yet. Help our Veterans keep their years of membership active.

District Conferences have concluded. There was a lot of good information put out at each of the conferences. Next up is Boys State, followed by Summer Convention. Boys State is so close to reaching their goal of 450 attendees.

Remember to let your Post members know about Summer Convention. We are planning multiple classes that are beneficial to everyone. Also, anyone can attend the committee meetings. I am looking forward to seeing everyone at Summer Convention July 9-12th.

With the spring and upcoming summer weather, Oklahoma is known for severe storms and tornadoes. Reach out to your members when the weather hits your area. Let us know at Department if you need assistance when severe weather occurs. Stay safe.

"Be The One"

Respectfully,
Shirley May
Senior Vice Commander

Campaign for Senior Vice Commander



Hello American Legion Family!

First and foremost, I give God the praise and glory for the pathway my life has taken!

Literally 1-2 days after this publishes, I will be walking the stage for graduation at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary!

Five years ago, I began creating my retirement plan. I wanted to supplement my clinical social work license and use my decades of education, training and skills in a different capacity. My plan was to attend Law School and combine skills. I had already identified the university, applied to use my GI Bill, and was about to take the next steps. There was a running joke with my family, friends, co-workers and fellow military service members that I missed my calling as a lawyer.

God had other plans.

Just before I began law school, God impressed upon me to consider Seminary. My entire educational history was secular, so I didn't think I would stand a chance being accepted to Seminary. However, when God calls....

God knows our hearts. He know my love for helping fellow military veterans; providing hope, guidance, support and mentorship. He knew that I would be better developed to help through Seminary instead of Law School. Honestly, had I attended Law School, I wouldn't have engaged actively with the American Legion. It's disheartening to imagine the relationships and lives I would have missed. I firmly believe God puts us where He wants us; there are no accidents.

I am here for you. Here to provide hope. Here to provide guidance. Here to provide mentorship. Here to provide support.

Support=Success

For God and Country,

Patricia Mathes-Kerr, CPT (r), MSW, LCSW



Veterans serving Veterans, their Families and the Community

For GOD and Country

Campaign for Senior Vice Commander



Lance Larson

for Senior Vice Commander '26 - '27

Friends and Comrades:

I am formally announcing my candidacy for Department Senior Vice Commander for 2026-2027. My Goal is to continue and to expand **Departmental Support of *Post Initiatives, Post Goals and Post Programs***. This year **the Posts in the West and their Members** have achieved great success, including reaching **83% by mid-January 2026**. A true sign of the hard work by each Post to focus on the needs of their Members and their Communities. As Senior Vice Commander I wish to reinforce Departmental Support, not interference, of this Successful Revitalization that is energized by the combined efforts of the Posts to serve their Membership and Communities.

I joined The American Legion (PUFL) after serving in the US Coast Guard. So far, my greatest pleasure in my 16 years as a Legionnaire has been working as a certified Post Service Officer at Post 129 during the last 6 years. I was coached by some of our finest Service Officers, leaders like Past NVCDR Bobby Bryant and Post CDR Jim Hunter. This is one of the most important parts of our mission as set forth in the last sentence of The Preamble: “to consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.”

I currently serve as the Department Vice Commander – West (2025-26) and VCDR of Post 129. As an Instructor at the Department’s American Legion College for 4 years, I have built many friendships with leaders across the entire state. As VCDR-West, I have met and worked with even more friends at the Post and District Levels. We have helped each other navigate the renewed focus on taking The American Legion’s missions to the streets and schools of our communities.

My additional and varied experience as District 5A DEC (2017-18), District 5A VCDR (2018-19), District 5A CDR (2020-21 & 2021-22), Department Sergeant-at-Arms (2019-20 & 2022-23) and as Acting Department Adjutant (Oct. 2023-Nov.2024) has given me the chance to discover the original flexibility incorporated in 1919 by National HQ and the Department HQ, refined over a Century, relies upon and allow Posts to successfully define and meet the needs of Veterans in their Community and the needs of their Community. Like individual jigsaw pieces, local Posts join together in expanding the results for the entire Department. As Senior Vice Commander, I seek your vote to continue to build on these successful, local initiatives and to encourage sharing of comradeship and mission fulfillment across the state.

Lance Larson

Department Vice Commander – East

Greetings Legion Family,

As we close out the spring season, I want to take a moment to thank everyone who participated in this year's District Conferences. It has been a privilege to attend and see the continued dedication to training, leadership development, and strengthening our Posts. The work being done across eastern Oklahoma continues to move us forward in a positive direction.

I also want to recognize the success of **American Legion Family Day** this year. Across the Department, Posts found meaningful ways to come together—whether by partnering with neighboring Posts or hosting their own events. These gatherings highlighted what makes The American Legion strong: the unity of our Legionnaires, Auxiliary, and Sons working together in support of our mission.

As we move into the final stretch of the year, our focus begins to shift toward several important milestones. Posts should be preparing for **Memorial Week**, ensuring we properly honor and remember those who gave their lives in service to our nation. Preparations should also be underway for **Boys and Girls State**, one of our most impactful youth programs, as well as recognizing outstanding individuals in your communities through **end-of-year awards**.

Looking ahead, we will soon gather again for our **Summer Convention**, where we will continue our work, share best practices, and strengthen our organization. We also begin to look toward a historic milestone—the **250th birthday of our nation**. This is an opportunity for our Posts to engage our communities, promote patriotism, and showcase the important role The American Legion continues to play.

Thank you for your continued commitment to your Posts, your communities, and to each other. The work you are doing matters, and it does not go unnoticed.

Be The One

Karen Cruice

Vice Commander East

Department of Oklahoma

Campaign for Vice Commander East

Dear Legion Family,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Be The One

Karen Cruice

Campaign for Vice Commander East



Hello American Legion Family!



I am **Karen Ritter** of Post 178 in Grove, Oklahoma.

I am a candidate for the
Department of Oklahoma Vice Commander East
and I would appreciate your support and vote!

Support, Guidance, & Visibility: Be there to support the district commanders and guide them for the betterment of their assigned districts. Make myself available to the posts. I'm retired and don't work. Motivate and educate on how to retain membership and find ways to keep from letting them walk out the back door even if their current post is not the right place for them.

I'm willing to travel as evidenced by me attending the Lincoln Pilgrimage in Springfield Illinois on February 11th and 12th 2025 and the National Auxiliary President Pam Ray's Homecoming in October 2025. I can make myself available at most times to help work with the Districts and Posts.

I'm dedicated to supporting, guiding, and being available to those who need it. I know from experience of being a District Commander for almost 4 years that without the support from the District Team, the Post leadership, and the Department leadership that I would not have been able to do an effective job. We all need support to be successful in what we want to accomplish. I have had several mentors who helped guide me to get to where I am today. Without them I wouldn't have accomplished anything and would have failed from the beginning.

I want to provide that same thing to those who wish to move up as well or just to help them have a successful post. I want to remain visible. Without visibility, how are the membership supposed to know who you are and what you can do to aid them. Through visibility I will show that I am available when they need me. I am not afraid to ask for help if needed. If multiple issues arise, I will start with the priority issues first and work through them. I will ask for help, if need be, to respond in a timely manner.

Teamwork is key to being successful.

I am dedicated to helping make the American Legion better than it was yesterday.

Karen was born in Dillon, Montana in 1984 and moved around the Western and Central US until her family settled in Tahlequah, Oklahoma in 1994.

She is the granddaughter of a Navy Captain on her maternal side, the daughter of an Army Tech Sergeant, the cousin of a Navy Senior Chief Petty Officer, and the aunt of a Sergeant (retired), and the aunt of a Sergeant First Class still on active duty.

She wanted to follow in the footsteps of those before her after being in the JROTC program at her high school and during her first year of college the ROTC program there before joining the Army.

Since medically retiring from the Army, she went back to college and graduated in 2011 with a Bachelor of Science in Paralegal Studies/Criminal Justice degree.

Then she spent numerous hours volunteering in the local elementary and high school. In 2022, she joined the American Legion to continue her Voluntary Services to help Veterans as well. She spent 13 years as a caregiver to her Veteran father as well.

Karen is the mother of her son Lonnie Evans who is a Sons of the American Legion Squadron 178. She is also the Unit Auxiliary Secretary at Unit 178 and the Bingo Chairperson at her Post 178. She became a member of the Post and Unit 178 in March of 2023.



POST 178, Grove

proudly presents



Karen Ritter

for

Vice Commander East

2026 * 2027

Eligibility

Karen Ritter earned her eligibility in the American Legion for her service with the United States Army from July 2005 - June 2008 and through her deployment with Operation Iraqi Freedom from August 2006-June 2007.

She was a Heavy Wheeled Motor Transportation Operator (Truck Driver 88M). She medically retired as an E-4 Specialist. She has been a member of the American Legion since May 2022.

Education

Bachelor of Science

Northeastern State University 2011 (Paralegal Studies/Criminal Justice)

American Legion:

Oklahoma Legion College 2023



American Legion

Post Level Activities

Post Finance Officer,
Post Commander,
Bingo Committee Chairperson

District Level Activities

District Commander,
1st Vice Commander,
3rd Vice Commander

Department Level Activities

Women Veteran's Committee Chairperson,
Constitution & By-Laws Committee Chairperson

National Level Activities

Constitution & By-Laws Commission



Affiliations



Honors

ARCOM (Army Commendation Medal), Children and Youth Award for generous commitment to the Grand View Elementary Academic Team in Tahlequah, OK.

Memberships

TAL, ALA, Inaugural Oklahoma American Legion College



Department Vice Commander – West

There is a reason that moment matters, when Jesus walked into the temple and started flipping tables.

He wasn't being reckless. He was making a point.

Some tables don't deserve to be sat at... they deserve to be challenged.

And if we're honest, there are a lot of tables today that look pretty familiar.

Tables where political games are played while Veterans pay the price.

Tables where alliances expect members to carry the load but hesitate when it's time to stand with us.

Tables where leadership seems more focused on power, control, and narratives than putting the Vets first.

At some point, you have to ask yourself, why are we still sitting there?

Why are we tolerating what we know isn't right?

Why are we staying quiet when common sense says something needs to change?

There comes a time when you don't just sit at the table...you stand up, speak up, and if necessary, you flip it.

Not out of anger... but out of conviction.

Not for chaos... but for truth.

Not for self... but for something bigger.

The question isn't just about them anymore... it's about us.

What tables are we willing to walk away from?

And which ones are we finally ready to turn over?

So, when some say it is time to go back to our roots of 1919

It is for veterans and children and youth will follow. It is time

Time to get back to basics and quit being political

Vice Commander West

Lance Larson

Campaign for Vice Commander - West



Michael Harris

Candidate for Vice Commander West

2026-2027

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

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

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

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

Campaign for Vice Commander - West

Greetings American Legion Brothers and Sisters

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

provide Honor Guard services, community events, and started an American Legion Fishing Derby, which is held on American Legion Family Day Weekend. A position which I still hold to this day.

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

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

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

I was a Combat Medic, during service in the Army, and retired from civilian Emergency Medical Service, with 23 years on a civilian Ambulance, mostly volunteer. I am currently not able to work a full-time job, due to injuries sustained while on active duty, which prevent me from doing many things without severe pain.

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

I would appreciate your vote at Summer Convention!

Wayne Flowers, District 8B Commander

Cdrpost273@yahoo.com

National Executive (NEC) Committeeman

Greetings Legionnaires!

Don't forget we have rescheduled the visit to our State by National Leading Candidate for National Commander in two years Matt Shuman to May 29-31 who will be coming to Tulsa and historic Post 1 in Tulsa, for round table meeting with bluecaps to discuss issues of concern and what the Legion can do better for veterans. He will also be visiting Post 308 in Tulsa and Post 1776 in West Tulsa.

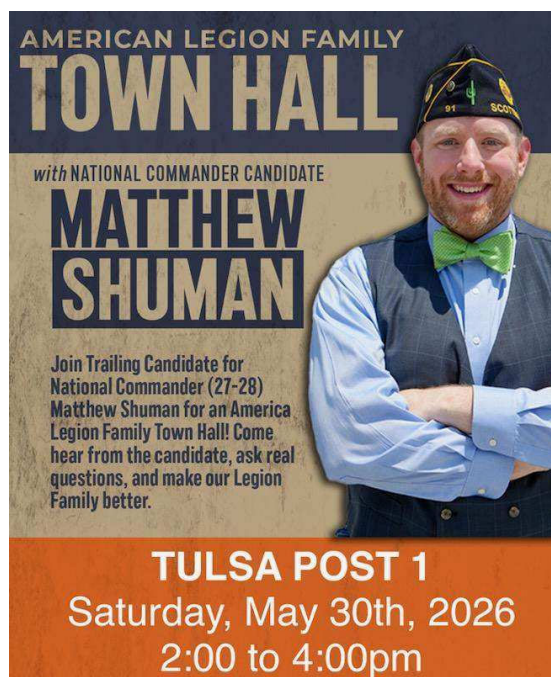
Also, the Leading Candidate for National Commander next year Jay Bowen from Colorado, called me and specifically requested to visit Tulsa as he and spouse have family in Louisiana and drive from Colorado Springs to Tulsa and spend the night and love it there and then go on to their family destination in Louisiana. Those dates will be June 5-7 and will visit the Tulsa area Posts including Post 17 in Sand Springs.

Other legionnaires from across the State are invited to attend these visits also. And these visits will be at no expense to the Department as we have found generous donors who are willing to make these events happen.

The National Commander Dan Wiley from Kansas will be making his official visit to the Department of Oklahoma June 28-July 3, 2026 and will be in the OKC area. He and his Aide have specifically requested to visit Bunker 58 Esports set-up at Post 58 in Guthrie. This visit is at the expense of the Department of Oklahoma and is done on a yearly basis.

There is also a possibility that another National Official may be visiting Oklahoma also, but let you know more about that when we get it firmed up! That visit will be at no expense to the Department also.

V/R,
Charlie O'Leary
NEC DPT OKLAHOMA



Campaign for NEC



Greetings Legionnaires!

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

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

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

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

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

Respectfully,

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

Charlie-Mike,
Continue Mission

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



Double Thunderbird

45th Infantry Brigade 1980-2007
179IN, 279IN, 180IN, 160FA,
C-MED CDR 700 SB, 45BCT SURG



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

Leadership Goals

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



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

No One Left Behind

2



Attending Washington Conference Meeting
with Senator Marwayne Mullen

Caring and Compassionate

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

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

Advocating and empowering members to
constructively connect across our State

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

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

FUTURE GOALS

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

**LEGION
FAMILY
WORKING
TOGETHER
FOR YOU**



**Vote
For
Continued
Leadership
At
NEC**

Department First Term NEC Accomplishments

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

No One Left Behind

American Legion Riders

Attention Riders Across the Great State of Oklahoma!



Greetings to Riders,

As we look across the Department of Oklahoma American Legion Riders, the message is clear, we are stronger than ever. For the first time in many years, every leadership position is filled, a true testament to the dedication, commitment, and belief in our mission that exists across this great state. With outstanding leaders like Ms. Monica Poindexter stepping forward, we are not just maintaining, we are building, growing, and leading with purpose.

That strength is reflected in our growth. We began this year with 8 chapters, and today we proudly stand at 13, with over 100 new riders joining our ranks. That kind of momentum doesn't happen by chance; it happens because people see something real here. They see a mission worth riding for, a cause worth standing behind, and a family worth being part of.

Our In-State Legacy Run, kicking off May 15th in Comanche and traveling through McAlester and Tulsa before finishing in Bethany Warr Acres, represents the very heart of who we are. With more Posts involved along the route than ever before and a goal of \$15,000, this ride is about more than miles, it's about impact. It's about standing up for our veterans and their families and proving what can happen when we come together as One Team, One Mission, One Oklahoma.

And we're not just making an impact here at home; we're representing Oklahoma across the nation. From the Kansas In-State Legacy Run to the Sojourn 250, and the 20th Anniversary National Legacy Run, our Riders are showing up and leading from the front. Through efforts like the Harley-Davidson Let's Ride Challenge, which helped generate \$100,000 for the American Legion last year and will generate more this year, we are proving that what we do matters far beyond our borders.

Behind all of this success is a renewed commitment to communication and teamwork. Monthly leadership Zoom meetings, statewide coordination, a unified team approach, and the use of platforms like Constant Contact have strengthened our connection like never before. Our growing social media presence and professional outreach ensure that our message is being heard loud and clear.

But more than anything, what truly defines us is our culture. The camaraderie, the shared purpose, and the pride in what we do, that's what sets us apart. The esprit de corps is alive and thriving in Oklahoma, and you can feel it in every handshake, every meeting, and every mile we ride.

So, to every Rider across Oklahoma, thank you. Thank you for your dedication, your passion, and your unwavering commitment to the mission. Because of you, we are not just growing, we are leading. And if there's one thing I know for certain, it's this: We are just getting started.

For God, Country, and Service,
Brett Martin
American Legion Riders Director
Department of Oklahoma

Past Department Commander's Corner

My fellow Legionnaires,

Building a Stronger Post: It Starts with Leadership

Let me ask you a simple question, does your Post set goals?

And while you're thinking about that, ask yourself a few more:

- When was the last time you reviewed your mission statement?
- Have you updated your Constitution and Bylaws?
- Are your standing rules helping your Post operate effectively, or holding you back?

These aren't just administrative tasks. These are the foundations of a successful Post.

Why Goals Matter

If you don't set goals, how do you know where you're going?

Goals give you a roadmap. They define where you want to take your Post, how you plan to grow your membership, and how you will serve your community. Without them, you're simply reacting instead of leading.

A strong Post doesn't drift; it moves forward with purpose.

Your Mission Statement, More Than Words. Your mission statement should be a living document. Yes, our core mission remains grounded in the Four Pillars of the American Legion; Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation, National Security, Americanism, and Children & Youth. That never changes. But how we carry out that mission does evolve. In my Post's case, we've expanded our outreach through partnerships like Reaching Our City to help feed our community, finding new ways to engage and serve our community. We're also exploring new initiatives, including gaming events, to connect with a broader audience and bring new energy into our Post.

That doesn't change who we are, it strengthens who we are. If your mission statement hasn't been reviewed in the past year, it's time. Governance Matters: Constitution, Bylaws & Standing Rules Your Constitution and Bylaws are your governing documents. While we follow

National and Department guidance, every Post must have its own structure in place. And don't overlook standing rules. Standing rules are what make your Post function day-to-day. They provide clarity, consistency, and continuity, especially during leadership transitions.

Leadership Accountability

At the end of the day, this responsibility falls on leadership. The officers you elect are entrusted to review, update, and improve these foundational elements, and then bring them before the membership for discussion, vote, and implementation. Leadership isn't about holding a title. It's about moving the Post forward.

Elections Are Coming, Ask the Right Questions

With elections right around the corner, here's a question every member should ask those running for office:

Have you read the Commander's Handbook?

Have you read the Adjutant's Handbook?

Because the truth is, the answers are already there.

If you don't have a copy, they are readily available online through our department website.

Final Thought

Everything I've mentioned, goals, mission statements, bylaws, standing rules, leadership resources: these are tools. And like any good toolbox, they only work if you use them. If we want to grow our Posts, attract new members, and remain relevant in our communities, we must be intentional. We must be engaged. And we must be willing to lead.

Because at the end of the day, strong Posts don't happen by accident, they are built.

For God, Country, and Service,

Brett Martin

Past Department Commander

Greetings Legionnaires!

Make plans now to attend the Department Summer Convention at the Grand Casino in Shawnee July 9-12, 2026. The General Membership Meeting will be Saturday July 11, 2026. The members will be voting on the Resolutions that will be sent out to each Post this month for review. We will also be voting on a new Department Constitution and By-Laws for our Department.

Sunday July 12, 2026, starting at 9:00 AM Department Elections for Department Officers will take place, starting with the NEC vote at 9:00 AM and concluding with the Department Commander vote.

BE THERE TO VOTE AND MAKE YOUR VOICE AND VOTE COUNT FOR NEXT YEAR'S LEADERSHIP!

Also, don't forget this year in order to vote all of your delegate voters must be paid up in advance. Department will be announcing when the cut-off date is to receive registration fees for delegate votes that can be cast at the time of voting. If you don't get your delegates paid up by

the designated pre-convention time, you will not get to cast those votes for your Post's candidates of choice.

In the past this rule in the current C&BL has not been enforced but my understanding is it will be enforced this year. You can't just walk up and register on Sunday morning and cast your Post's votes as had been done in the past.

PLEASE SEND IN YOUR POST'S REGISTRATION FEES BY THE REQUESTED TIME!

Thanks everyone!

Charlie O'Leary

Past Department Commander

2021-2022

Department Adjutant

CAM RAHN BAY AIR FORCE BASE- VIETNAM

REUNION - SEPTEMBER 10 - 13, 2026

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

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

Any questions contact information below.

Sincerely,

Jimmy M. White, Co-coordinator

Cam Rahn Bay Air Base Reunion

PO Box 334

Wadena, MN 56482-0334

218-631-3211

Department Adjutant Ameritas- Rick Redden



I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate the amazing Adjutant Ameritas Rick Redden on his pending retirement and on behalf of the entire Department thank him for his time, dedication and service to the Oklahoma American Legion Family. I speak for myself when I say that he has made my tenure as Department Commander so much better knowing my focus was outside the Headquarters walls because everything inside those walls was covered. I have got to know Rick and his sense of comedic excellence well and I am so thankful to have had him to work with this year. With all seriousness and the utmost respect and from the bottom of my heart, Sir, I thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Thomas".

Steve Thomas

Oklahoma Veterans Commission – Brett Martin

Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs (ODVA) Update

The work being done across the Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs continues to reflect a clear focus on mission, accountability, and care for our veterans.

Across all seven state veterans' homes, we are seeing steady progress and stabilization. Facilities such as Sallisaw have successfully passed key recognition surveys, while Norman

continues to maintain strong occupancy levels, and Lawton is improving as additional beds come online. Statewide, our system reflects a capacity of approximately 1,400 beds, with continued efforts to maximize occupancy and ensure every Veterans receive the care and dignity they deserve.

Additionally, ODVA is now operating in the black financially for the first time since 2019, and we are experiencing the highest bed occupancy levels since that same year. These are significant indicators of both improved operational performance and a renewed focus on long-term sustainability.

At the Commission level, we remain actively engaged in strengthening partnerships and expanding opportunities. Work is underway on grant initiatives, including efforts with major foundations, while ensuring compliance with all federal guidelines. The ODVA Foundation is also moving closer to launching its website, which will provide a streamlined way for Oklahomans to directly support our veterans.

We are also proud to report that Oklahoma continues to perform strongly on a national level, ranking among the top states in per-capita service to veterans. This is a direct reflection of the dedication of our staff, leadership, and partners across the state.

Recently, I had the privilege of witnessing an important step forward for veterans across Oklahoma. Progress was made to strengthen the Oklahoma Veterans Commission, with both the reappointment of Commissioner Ted Perry and the advancement of newly selected Commissioner George Thomas through the Senate committee process. Both now move forward for final consideration.

With these actions, we are bringing the Commission to its full nine-member panel—exactly as Senate Bill 1384 intended. That matters. A full commission ensures stronger oversight, broader experience, and a more unified voice advocating for Oklahoma’s veterans.

This did not happen by accident; it reflects vision, persistence, and leadership.

Thank you to Governor Stitt, Secretary Nash, and Senator Brenda Stanley for their continued leadership and commitment to Oklahoma’s veterans.

We are stronger today because of it, and our veterans will be better served because of it.

At the heart of it all is a simple truth: service is our purpose, and every veteran matters. The work continues, the mission remains strong, and we remain committed to ensuring Oklahoma leads the way in veteran care and support.

For God, Country, and Service,

Brett Martin

Chairman and Commissioner, 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_FBhUsz1p3dI

2025-2026 Goal

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

American Legion Auxilliary

As your Department President, I continue to be encouraged by the strength and consistency I see across Oklahoma. Our membership is holding steady at 7th in the nation, and that does not happen by accident. It reflects the dedication, follow-through, and teamwork happening at the unit, district, and department levels every single day.

I am especially proud to share that District 4 has joined District 5 in reaching 100% membership. That is a significant accomplishment. Several other districts are very close, needing only a few more members to reach that same milestone. This is the moment to stay focused and finish strong. Every member matters, and every renewal or new member brings us closer to our goals.

April 25th was American Legion Family Day, and many of you heard me talk about it often during district meetings. As the day approached, I saw so many of you truly embrace the purpose behind it. Units, posts, and squadrons stepped up in incredible ways. Some hosted all-day, community-driven events. Others organized breakfasts, and many joined in local community events while proudly promoting the Legion Family. That visibility and connection to our communities is exactly what strengthens our organization. I hope you take what you learned this year and begin planning now for next year, building on the momentum you created.

I also had the privilege of attending the 89ers Day Parade in Guthrie alongside Department 1st Vice President Donna Snodgrass. We had an outstanding time celebrating our state, connecting with the community, and representing the American Legion Auxiliary. Events like this remind us how important it is to be visible, engaged, and proud of who we are and who we serve.

Another exciting update is the grant we were awarded through the American Legion Auxiliary Foundation for the Sallisaw Veterans Home. This grant will help provide computers and gaming systems for their recreation room, enhancing quality of life and connections for the residents. As part of the grant, we are required to raise 20% of the total, which comes to \$842. If your unit, post, or squadron would like to contribute, please reach out to me at alaokpresident@gmail.com. I will gladly provide a link for online donations or the mailing address for sending a check to the department. This effort not only supports our veterans directly, it also brings us one step closer to completing the requirements for the Merit Medallion Award at the national level. We are very close, and your continued support makes all the difference.

Memorial Day is right around the corner. I encourage each of you to reflect on what your post, unit, or squadron has planned. These moments of remembrance are at the heart of what we do. Please be sure to share your activities with leadership. We want to hear your stories, see your

impact, and recognize the meaningful work being done across our state in support of veterans and the American Legion Family.

Thank you for all you continue to do. The work happening across Oklahoma does not go unnoticed, and I am honored to serve alongside each of you.

Kim McInnis
President
Dept of Oklahoma
American Legion Auxiliary



Veterans Service Officer

American Legion Oklahoma
Tool Box

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

Jack Sikes

Jsikesokamlvso@gmail.com

443-271-5545

Legion News

AWARDS

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

DD Form 214 Assistance

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

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

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

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

Department of Oklahoma Fundraising Committee

10 GUN DRAWING TICKETS \$10 EACH



SIG SAUER P226 9MM



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



RUGER MINI 14 RANCH 5.56



CZ FS DRAKE 12GA



WATCHTOWER T15M 5.56



VENTURE 2 6.5 CREEDMORE



MOSSBERG 500 TAC 12GA



FRANCHI 6.5 CREEDMORE



CANIK TP9SF 9MM

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

Drawing JULY 11th 2026!

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



STOEGER STR-9 9MM

Legion Family,
Chris Sherbourne
Department Fundraising Committee Co-Chair

The American Legion, Department of Oklahoma

Department Blood Program Chair

At your District Conference this spring each Department of Oklahoma American Legion Post was furnished a packet of information printed by the Our Blood Institute (OBI) identifying the need for blood collection support – a program adopted by the American Legion in 1942 and celebrated with a blood donor month each December. Hopefully all District Commanders ensured these packets reached their posts and encouraged participation.

Please copy and review the National's information at <https://www.legion.org/information-center/news/dispatch/2025/november/the-season-to-give-blood>. Links provide more information.

People have held blood drives and given blood since community service became an American value. It's only natural that The American Legion - with community service as one of its pillars - be heavily involved in blood donation efforts.

More Information

The American Legion Blood Donor Program has existed officially since 1942 to help that cause. Each year - especially since 9/11 - Legionnaires have donated in spades, and departments have coordinated efforts at the post level. The Blood Donor Program honors those departments that best participate in blood-donation efforts, recognizing departments in two areas: for post participation and individual Legionnaire participation. Post participation awards are given to departments with the highest number of participating posts. Individual participation awards are given to departments with the highest percentage of individuals giving blood to the program. Departments are separated into five categories (see below), according to membership size, and honored.

Legionnaires participate by giving blood and reporting it to their posts, which mark the donation on their annual Consolidated Posts Reports. Similarly, posts that host blood drives mark their participation on their Consolidated Post Reports, listing number of drives held and total pints donated (for Legionnaires and non-Legionnaires).

Be sure your CPRs include your support given/received through drives and individual efforts. OBI and ARC are waiting to assist you. I am available to ensure any obstacle can be overcome.

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

<https://ourbloodinstitute.org/>

DEPT OF OKLAHOMA BLOOD DONOR CHAIR 2025-2026

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

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

District 1A

Post 105 – Bartlesville

The Wall that Heals, A Vietnam Veterans Memorial - Event | VisitBart... <https://www.visitbartlesville.com/the-wall-that-heals-a-vietnam-veter...>



Community Events

THE WALL THAT HEALS, A VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL



May 7-10, 2026

Lee Lake
2200 SE Adams Blvd
Bartlesville, OK 74006

Schedule of Events

May 5th - 12:45-1:30 Line the streets to welcome the escort from Copan Truck stop down Hwy 75 to Lee Lake.

May 6th - 8AM Start building The Wall That Heals

- 6PM Volunteer Training
- Dusk (TAPS)

May 7 - 6PM Welcome Home Ceremony

- Dusk (TAPS)

May 8 - TBD - Bringing Light to PTSD Ceremony (TAPS)

May 9 - Dusk (TAPS)

May 10 - 1:45PM - Closing Ceremony (TAPS)

- 2:00PM - Break down The Wall That Heals and load the truck.

Contact

www.thewallthathealsbartlesville2026.org/

The main components of The Wall That Heals are The Wall replica and the mobile Education Center.

The Wall That Heals exhibit features a three-quarter scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. The replica is 375 feet in length and stands 7.5 feet high at its tallest point. Visitors experience The Wall rising above them as they walk towards the apex, a key feature of the design of The Wall in D.C.

Like the original Memorial, The Wall That Heals is erected in a chevron-shape and visitors can do name rubbings of individual service member's names on The Wall. The replica is constructed of Avonite, a synthetic granite, and its 140 numbered panels are supported by an aluminum frame. Machine engraving of the more than 58,000 names along with modern LED lighting provide readability of The Wall day and night.

By using this site you agree to our [use of cookies](#) to deliver a better site experience.

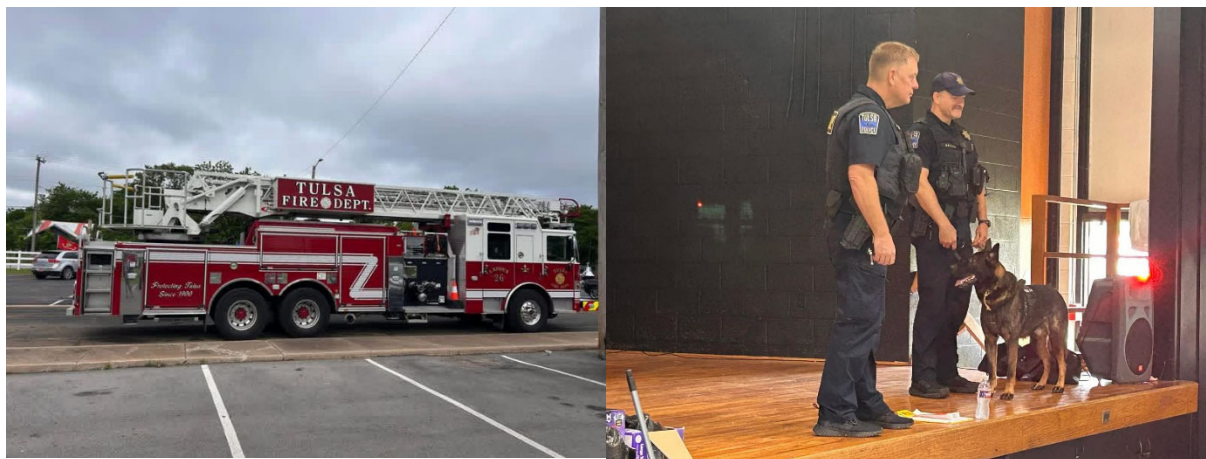
Okay

District 1B



What an incredible day at our American Legion Family Day!

A huge thank you to Post Family 1776, [The American Legion Post 1 Tulsa](#) and [TAL Mohawk Post 308 Tulsa](#) for coming together to host such a wonderful event. We had a fantastic day celebrating our Legion families and the local community that support us.



We want to extend a special thank you to the [Tulsa Fire Department](#) and the [Tulsa Police Department](#) for bringing out their K-9 units and giving amazing demonstrations with their dogs. It was truly a highlight of the day and enjoyed by everyone in attendance!



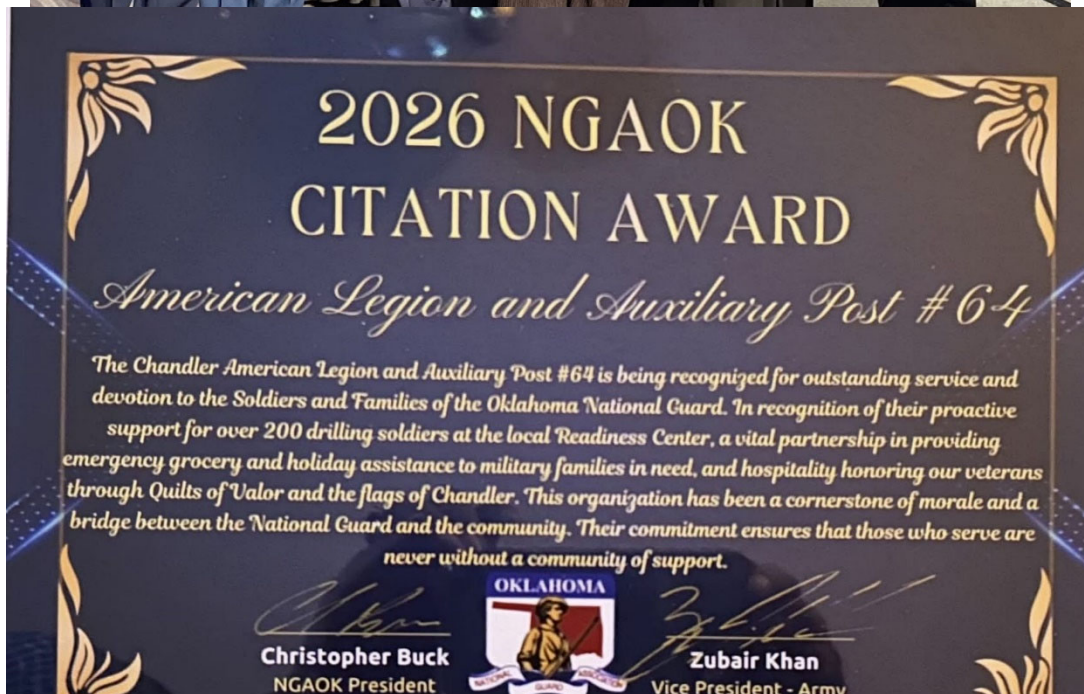
A big thank you as well to the band for their wonderful performance, all of the vendors who came out to support the event, and to [SquareOne Compassion](#) for graciously allowing us to use their building and space.

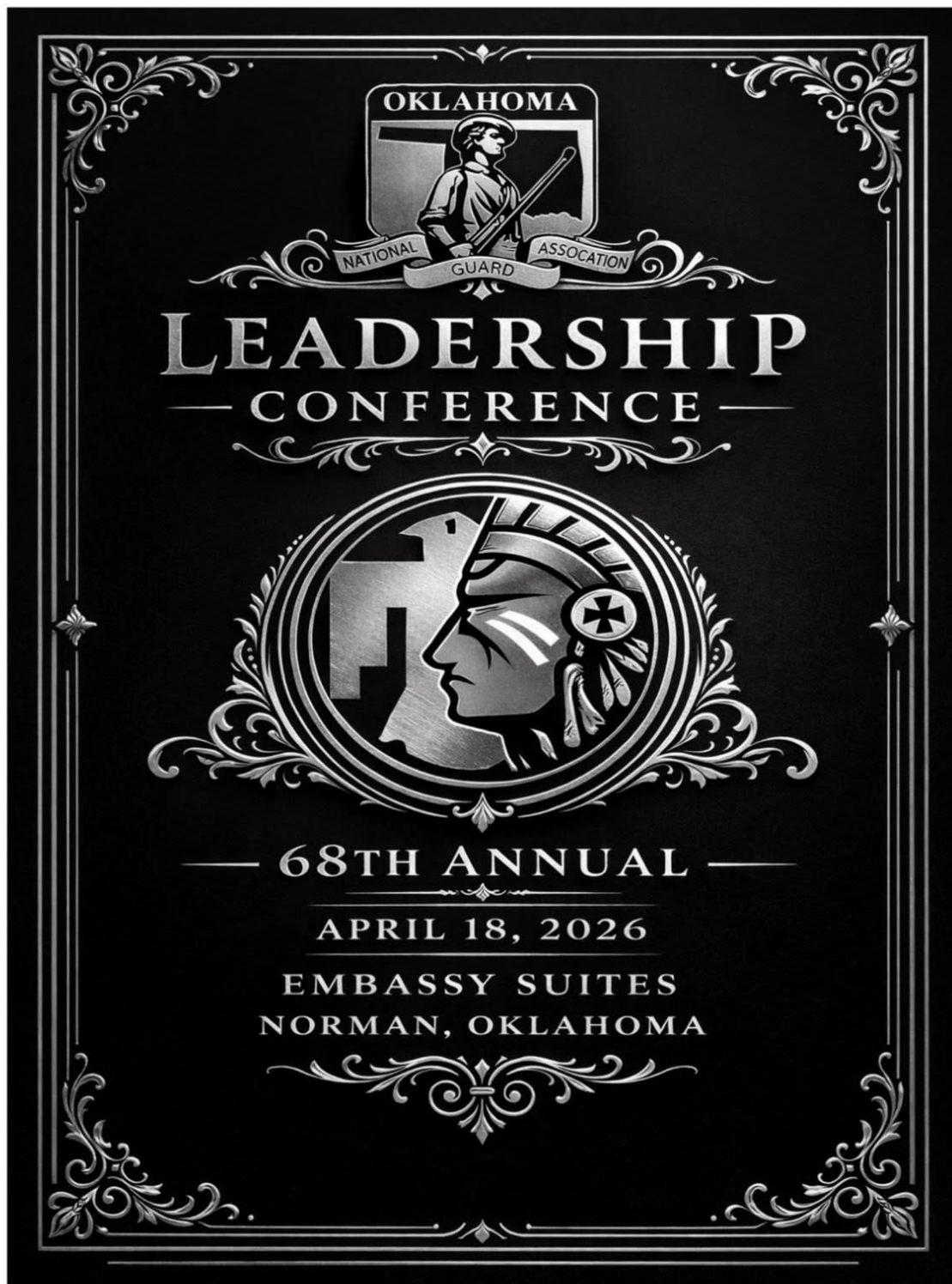
Events like this remind us how strong our community is when we come together in fellowship, service, and support. Thank you to everyone who helped make the day such a success!

District 2A
 District 2B
 District 3A
 District 3B

District 4

Post & Unit 64 – Chandler





1

The Chandler American Legion and Auxiliary Post #64 was recognized for outstanding service and devotion to the Soldiers and Families of the Oklahoma National Guard during the 68th

annual National Guard Association of Oklahoma Leadership Conference and Military Ball held Saturday, 18 April 2026.

“In recognition of their proactive support for over 200 drilling soldiers at the local Readiness Center, a vital partnership in providing emergency grocery and holiday assistance to military families in need, and hospitality honoring our veterans through Quilts of Valor and the flags of Chandler. This organization has been a cornerstone of morale and a bridge between the National Guard and the community. Their commitment ensures that those who serve are never without a community of support.”

The award was presented by the State Adjutant General, Major General Thomas Mancino, NGAOK President, Major Christopher Buck,

To Unit 64 ALA Treasurer Nellie Caldwell, Lyn Hughey and Post 64 2nd Vice Walter Hughey.

Congratulations to the Post & Unit 64 American Legion Family!

District 5A

Post 108 – Cushing/Drumright



4-1-26 A new Post 108 sign was designed, fabricated, and erected by Commander and Mrs. G.W. (Valerie) Davis, to replace the metal one that was showing definite aging.





4-1-26 The Cushing Senior Center presented a resource fair at which 1st Vice Commander, Leon Sullivan, and Historian, Evelyn Ferchau, passed out information regarding Post 108 to possible veterans and spouses.



4-6-26 Legionnaires Don Tyson, Delwyn Mayo, and Leon Sullivan raised the flag signaling the beginning of the City of Cushing annual Easter Egg Hunt.

Post 58 – Guthrie

TAL LeBron Post 58 remains active in the community in spite of ongoing construction. We remain focused on the mission of the organization. We appreciate Guthrie Job Corps Center for their support and commitment to assist us with our build out. The students must complete 40 hours of pre-internship with us.



TAL LeBron Post 58, Guthrie, community members and visitors enjoyed the 97th Annual ‘89er Days Celebration of the 1889 Landrun. We were honored to have NEC Charlie O’Leary & spouse Nancy, Dept of OK Dept President Kim McInnis and First Vice Donna Snodgrass, Governor Kevin Stitt, Attorney General Gentner Drummond, several other elected state and local officials, and many running for office, join us for a day of fun and celebration. The U.S. Marshalls and Buffalo Soldiers reenactors also joined us for the festivities.

The ‘89er Days committee received the Governor’s Proclamation at the state capital.





Members of the Legion Family prepared and delivered 15 Easter Food Baskets with Walmart Gift Cards to Guthrie Public Schools and 2 Legion Family members, assisting with food insecurity in our community.



The Inaugural Oklahoma Military First Capital Hall of Honor Induction Banquet recognized 6 fantastic Veterans who served with distinction. Several members attended and are on the committee.





Paid Up For Life (PUFL) Members from Guthrie, Edmond, Mulhall and Crescent received a visit by Commander Kim Vincent to be recognized for their dedication to the Post's mission as a lifetime member.





The backbone of the Legion Family is the Auxiliary Unit. They are planners and doers, and we are so proud to have them in our Legion Family. Cliff Hanks and Spouse / Auxiliary member Charlissa represented Post 58 during Guthrie Days at the State Capital. (upper left corner)



Post 58 attended the Oklahoma Home & Garden Show again with Adjutant Cliff Hanks sharing about membership, our programs, and the '89er Days Celebration.



District 5B

Post 301 – Lexington



Pictured Jerry and Sue Martin

Veteran of the Year

Jerry Dale Martin was selected to be the first recipient of the Lexington Veteran of the Year Award by the Lexington Chamber of Commerce. The award was presented at the annual 89er Festivities in Lexington. However, Jerry is currently recovering from illness in the Oklahoma City Veterans Hospital where he received the award and is pictured with his wife Sue.

Jerry moved to Lexington in 1983 where he married Sue. They have since made their home in Lexington raising a family of six children, 14 grandchildren, and 18 great grandchildren. His favorite pastime is going to Branson and attending family gatherings.

He graduated from Hughes High School in 1967 during the Viet Nam war era. Like many young men at that time, he was shortly thereafter drafted into the U.S. Army. After his initial training, he was assigned to Company A, Second Battalion, 5th Cavalry and in February 1968 he was sent to Quang Tri near Hue in Northern Viet Nam where he spent 10 months as a rifleman. He was then transferred to the Saigon area.

During an operation on December 10, 1968, Jerry was in the lead unit when they came under intense fire from a large enemy force. He was wounded twice but maintained his forward position. His action permitted other wounded members of the unit to be evacuated. He was awarded the Purple Heart due to the wounds received, and the Bronze Star Medal of Valor with Oak Leaf Cluster for meritorious achievement in ground operations against hostile forces.

Jerry was transferred to Tokyo Japan and later to the Lawton Military Hospital for treatment of his wounds. He was discharged from the military with the rank of Sergeant in November 1969. He is proud to have received a Quilt of Honor from the Blanchard group of Freedom Quilters and the National Quilts Honor Program. Jerry continues to serve his fellow comrades as a member of the American Legion and the Order of the Purple Heart Association.

District 6A

Post 160 – Yukon

VETERANS HISTORY PROJECT



LIBRARY

LIBRARY
OF CONGRESS

Veterans History Project




American
Red Cross

Hosted by James Albert Wheatley American Legion Post 160
1010 W. Main St., Yukon, OK

★

JAMES LANKFORD

★

U.S. SENATOR FOR OKLAHOMA

Saturday, June 6th, 2026 • Starting at 9 a.m.

Veterans sign-up for interview:
Register at Eventbrite

Volunteers conducting interviews:
Register at Eventbrite

For questions, call our office at **918-581-7651**

STARTING AN HONOR GUARD: Step one is complete — securing a gun safe. With that in place, the Post will now begin the process of obtaining ceremonial rifles. Special thanks to Jason O. for helping acquire the safe, and to his son's friend Evan for putting in the hard work to get it in place. Thank you as well to Wally and Cliff for preparing the Post for its arrival. It took a true team effort to get this done, and it's a great step forward in building our future Honor Guard.

Post 24 – Anadarko



Celebrate AMERICA DAY

JOIN US AS WE CELEBRATE 250 YEARS OF AMERICA!

**PARADE STARTS AT 10 AM AT RANDLETT PARK OKLAHOMA STREET
GATE EAST ON OKLAHOMA ST., TO SW 2ND, THEN NORTH ON 2ND TO
MAIN ST. WEST ON MAIN TO VFW.**

**SATURDAY
JUNE 13TH**

FESTIVITIES BEGIN AT 10 AM

 **RANDLETT PARK**
Anadarko, Oklahoma

FLAG FOLDING CEREMONY 

PRO BASEBALL PLAYERS 

CAR SHOW ON BROADWAY 

FREE HOT DOGS FOR EVERYONE AT THE VFW!
Provided by VFW Post 1015 Auxilliary at noon

ALL BUSINESSES, ORGANIZATIONS, CHURCHES,
AND TRIBES ARE ENCOURAGED TO JOIN THE
PARADE. SPONSORED BY THE AMERICAN LEGION.
CALL GLEN PRICE 405-402-0151 FOR MORE
INFORMATION.

Register for parade the day of @ 901 W.
Central American Legion Post

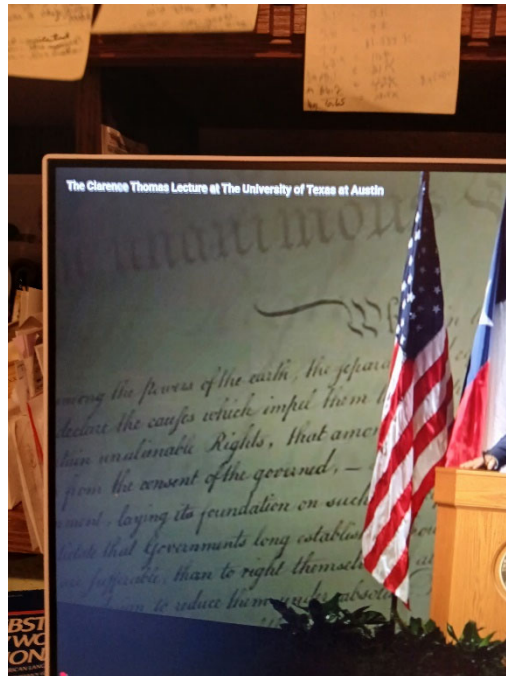
1 PM HONOR MILITARY (RANDLETT)

**FREE BOOTHS FOR VENDORS
NEAR BANDSTAND (RANDLETT)**

4 PM RETIRE USED FLAGS
VFW HUT

BRING YOUR LAWN CHAIRS!

MUSIC AT BAND STAND (RANDLETT) 



Post 24 is sponsoring a Celebrate America event on June 13, 2026, in conjunction with VFW Post 1015 here in Anadarko.

District 6B

District 7

Post 181 – Elk City



Post 181 in Elk City, had DAR Quilt of Valor ladies present 13 quilts to 12 Vietnam veterans and 1 Korean veteran at their post meeting on February 2nd.

Standing left to right: Washita Chapter National Society Daughters of the American Revolution members: Judy Tracy, Kathryn Harrison, Carol Ann Batterton, Vera Williamson; Elk City Post members: Joe Marraccino, Terry French, Ralph White, Ray Jones, Joe Webb, Glenn Bledsoe; Washita Chapter NSDAR members: Doris Minor(in blue), Linda Stewart, Elena

Womack and Marci Grant. Seated: Jerry Bohannon, Dale Hensley, James Potter, Frank Hamilton, Dennis Lister, Bob Berry and Ken Allen.

Congratulations to all those that received their quilts, also thank you NSDAR ladies for recognizing these veterans.

Post 146 – Sayre



On April 4th Sayre, OK had an Alumni parade, American Legion Post 146 along with Cub Scout pack 3662 was the color guard for the parade. Carrying the rifles are Post Commander Elmo May and Adjutant Shirley May. Carrying the American Flag is Cubmaster Shawn Holley and carrying the Oklahoma flag is den leader Morgan Combs. We had cub scouts carrying the military flags and POW/MIA flag. We also had 2 future Legion Riders, Allen Gilpratick and

Rodney Grinder. We received a lot of compliments on the color guard. It is so good to have pack 3226 co-located in our building.

Post 146 & Unit 146- Sayre



Post 146 also had their first blood drive on 31 Mar.

It is so good to have the Auxiliary American Legion working together.

Thank you, Post 146 Auxiliary.

Post 91 – Weatherford

Local news

American Post Legion 91 to send 15 students across Weatherford, Hydro-Eakly and Thomas-Fay-Custer to Boys, Girls State next month

David Topolewski
WDN Managing Editor

A group of local students will travel to Oklahoma City this summer to take part in Oklahoma Boys State and Girls State, a long-standing leadership and civic education program organized locally by American Legion Post 91.

Doug Hale, finance officer and Boys State and Girls State coordinator for Post 91, helped organize and select this year's delegates.

Boys State and Girls State bring together hundreds of high school juniors from across Oklahoma to participate in a weeklong mock government. Students are divided into parties, run for office, debate legislation and learn firsthand the structure and responsibilities of democracy. The program is designed to promote leadership, civic engagement and a deeper understanding of government at the local and state levels.

Throughout the week, delegates hear from elected officials, military representatives and members of Oklahoma's judiciary, offering insight into public service and the inner workings of government.

For some students, the experience can lead to significant recognition. Erin Smith, who attended last year representing Hydro-Eakly, earned one of the program's highest honors, selection for the Samsung American Legion Scholarship, a \$5,000 award given to a select group of Boys State and Girls State participants nationwide.

In an interview with the Weatherford Daily News last fall, Smith said the experience offered more than just a look at government. "Even if you don't want to go into government, it's still a really fun thing to do," she said. "Now when I watch the news, I actually understand what they're talking about. It's important to know what's going on in your state and your country."

Weatherford's group of students selected to participate in Boys State and Girls State this year meet with local sponsors of the event. Standing, from left, American Legion Post 91 Commander Dr. David Lawrence, Andy McPherson, Post 91 Boys State and Girls State coordinator Doug Hale, Amber Key, Gary Amen, Kay Byrge, Bryan Sperle, Owen Gunselman, Stryker Klein, Rhett Metscher, Victoria Stein, Kevin Perez-Mercado, Paylor Shields, Braylee Gramer and Kellee Vazquez; sitting, from left, Ella Strickler, Brizia Penaloza and Kaydence Ray.

Thomas-Fay-Custer Boys State and Girls State representatives Maria Alvarado, second from left, Evan Eyster, center, and Avery Alspuro, fourth from left, are joined by American Legion Post 91 Commander Dr. David Lawrence and Boys State and Girls State coordinator Doug Hale.

Hydro-Eakly Girls State representative Jasey Crisp, center, is joined by, from left, American Legion Post 91 Commander Dr. David Lawrence, Pharmcare sponsors Sarah Slagell and Erica Doan, and Post 91 Girls State coordinator Doug Hale.

Post 091 Weatherford Daily News newspaper article on B/G State delegates selected to attend B/G State for 2026. I recruit from 4 high schools. This year have 11 from Weatherford HS, 3 from Thomas-Fay-Custer, 1 from Hydro, did not get any from Cordell this year. All of these will receive AL Delegate Certificates at their 2026 HS awards assemblies.

Try to get as much PR for AL as I can. Post 091 always does a great job for Boys State/Girls State.



Hello Legionnaires!

District 7 Commander Elmo May and Senior Vice Commander Shirley May had the honor and privilege of attending a renaming of the VFW Post in Clinton, OK on April 21st. The Post chose to honor Medal of Honor Recipient (MOH) MSG Plumlee since he was born in Clinton. MOH Recipient MSG Plumlee is an American Legion member of Post 146 in Sayre, OK.

Master Sgt. Earl Plumlee was born in Clinton, Oklahoma. He grew up near Sayre, OK working on his family's cattle ranch and oil field instrument company. He began his military career by joining the Oklahoma National Guard, serving in the 45th Field Artillery Brigade as a rocket artilleryman (13M) during his junior year of high school. At this time, then SFC Elmo May was the full-time NCO at the armory in Elk City, OK.

After graduating high school in 2000, Plumlee joined the United States Marine Corps. He attended boot camp at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego, California and Marine Corps School of Infantry. Plumlee was then assigned to Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, located in Kaneohe, Hawaii, where he served his first enlistment in a weapons platoon.

In 2009, successfully graduated SFQC as a Special Forces weapons sergeant (18B) and was assigned to 4th Battalion, 1st Special Forces Group (Airborne). There, he served in various rotations through the Indo-Pacific area of responsibility. Plumlee deployed to Afghanistan in April 2013, where his unit was tasked with conducting stability operations. Later in this deployment, he was located at Forward Operating Base Ghazni, which was subject to a complex attack on Aug. 28, 2013.

Then-Staff Sgt. Earl D. Plumlee distinguished himself by acts of gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty while engaging with the enemy in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in Ghazni Province, Afghanistan, on Aug. 28, 2013.

"Be The One"

Respectfully,
Shirley May
Senior Vice Commander

District 8A

Post 53 – Perry



Commander Jeremy Hines introduced Terence Hulet, manager of the Perry Municipal Airport, outlining recent improvements, future expansion, and the airport's role in emergency and regional aviation. With seven years of leadership at the nearly 80-year-old facility, Hulet highlighted upgrades such as a new FAA-funded fueling system, plans to expand hangar capacity to 38 units with a maintenance shop, and construction of a 50-by-200-foot hangar on the south end. He noted the airport can accommodate aircraft as large as a Citation Latitude, supports Life Flight operations, and hosts occasional Vance Air Force Base training flights. Despite growth, a waiting list remains for hangar space, and while the airport operates daily from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Hulet added with humor that commercial air service would likely require 25,000 more residents in Perry.



Dannie Meek and other AL and ALA members made pancakes for our Annual Pancake Breakfast on April 11th, and a happy satiated family enjoys the view of the new mural and full bellies.



April 18th was spent improving the 131-year-old Post Home, so a new cote of paint was applied by AL, ALA, and SAL members.

District 8B

Post 273 – Laverne

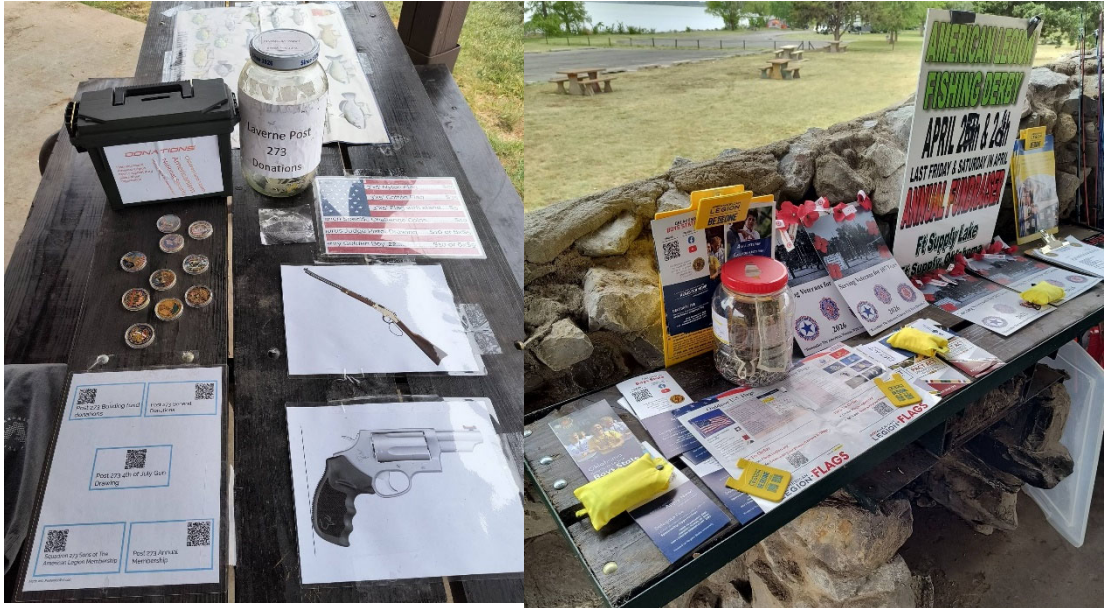
We had our District 8 meeting on April 11, 2026. It was well attended due to having two district meetings on the same date, but we learned a lot and got District business done. We also participated with Woodward, Post 19 and Freedom, Post 63, in running a booth for the Woodward Expo Show on April 10-12. We gave away free flags and sold some merchandise to help fund our Boys State delegates. Then, we had our Annual Fishing Derby at Fort Supply Lake to celebrate our American Legion Children and Youth Day over April 24-26. Here are the results of the American Legion Family Day Weekend Fishing Derby!

Adults: 15, Youth under 18: 11.....the youngest competitor: 1 1/2 years old!

Adult Bass: 11, Adult Crappie: 17, Adult Catfish: 8, Adult Walleye: 5, Youth Bass: 1, Youth Crappie: 75.

A good time was had by all contestants, and if you were a contestant that didn't receive your prize (all contestants were eligible to receive a prize, whether they caught anything or not), see District Commander Wayne Flowers.







The American Legion

FISHING Derby

APRIL 24, 25, 26TH 2026



- Participants must bring their own fishing equipment.
- All participants must have a valid fishing licence and follow state fishing regulations.

PRIZES | \$10 ADULT | \$5 KIDS UNDER 18

FT SUPPLY LAKE, FT SUPPLY, OK

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



Daniel H. “Dan” Pennigton

No photo provided

<https://www.echovita.com/us/obituaries/ok/guthrie/daniel-pennington-21409028>

Ronnie J Moore



<https://www.nicholsfuneralandcremation.com/obituaries/ronnie-moore-10/#!/TributeWall>