

THE 1889 LAND RUN



DEPARTMENT
OF
OKLAHOMA



American Legion Newsletter

49th Edition, August 1, 2026

Department Commander



Hello Legionnaires!!

Thank you for your confidence and support in selecting me as the new Commander for the Oklahoma American Legion. I appreciated your support last year and would like to continue to ask for your support this year as we proceed to move forward in Oklahoma.

We officially finished our membership at 97.35% with 11,439 members. I would personally like to reach 12,000 members this year. Again, this will require all of us working on recruiting new members, and retention of those members we already have. You did a great job recruiting last year. Let's get innovative on ways to keep our Veterans.

You have proven that we can do more in our state. Please send your event notices in so that they can be placed on the website and Facebook. More exposure throughout the state will benefit your Posts, communities, and all Veterans in the state.

You are in very unique positions to help other Veterans in your communities. Networking with each other allows us to provide more assistance as is needed. You have already stepped forward by joining the American Legion. Let's work together and help those who need our assistance.

I look forward to visiting your Posts this year. Please let me know date, time, and location so that I can start planning my visits throughout our state. If you have a special event, please let me know early so that I can try and make arrangements to attend.

LEGION FAMILY MOVING FORWARD AS ONE!

"Be The One"

Respectfully,
Shirley May
Commander
Dept of Oklahoma American Legion

Department Senior Vice Commander

VOICE OF THE SENIOR VICE

THANK YOU!

I want to give a resounding THANK YOU for all who participated in the Department Leadership voting Sunday, July 12, 2026! I felt greatly supported and encouraged, not just for the election, but for our collective path forward together this coming year! Here are most of your new Department Leaders for the 2026-2027 year:



(Note: my department hat came in after this photo...LOL!)

Proverbs 22:17-29 Words of the Wise

“Incline your ear, and hear the words of the wise...” I have been elected your Senior Vice Commander for the 2026-2027 term and am confident as I am surrounded by a legion of wisdom in our department! With God in the forefront and your wise counsel and support, I look forward to a year of servant leadership!

FYI:

1. In case you are unaware, our official capacities in our newly elected roles take effect following the National American Legion Convention which is 27AUG-03SEP2026. This means the previously elected leadership are still active in their roles while mentoring us newly elected leaders as we transition into our new roles. I am sincerely grateful for your patience during this time of transition!

2. I will have weekly office hours Wednesdays 1030-1530 at the Oklahoma Department HQ in Warr Acres. Come by and see me if you're in town! I am available via email, text, and phone other days of the week.

3. I would LOVE to come see you at your post events! While I can openly attend public events without invitation, IAW our C&BL's, I do need an invitation (email, letter, or text) to attend your post meetings and events—even an open invitation needs to be sent via email, letter or text. I will do my best to attend all I can!

4. Yukon Post 160 had a wonderful unveiling of their newest RTE 66 neon sign in July 18, 2026! I had the privilege of representing Department leadership!



5. Look for more to come as we start the race toward an outstanding membership year in the coming month, prepare for District Fall Meetings/Conferences, and begin planning for Midwinter and 2027 Summer Convention!

For God and Country!
Patricia Mathes-Kerr

Department Vice Commander – East

Greetings Legion Family,

First, I would like to sincerely thank everyone who supported me over the past year and for the confidence you have shown by re-electing me to serve another term as your Vice Commander East. It has been an honor to serve the Department of Oklahoma, and I remain committed to doing what is right for our veterans, their families, and our communities. I want every member to know that I am here to help. If I don't have the answer to your question, I will work to find it.

Summer Convention was a tremendous success, and I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to everyone who participated in our Friday training sessions. More than 73 instructors volunteered their time, experience, and expertise to provide quality training throughout the day. Their willingness to share their knowledge helped create a valuable learning experience for those who invested their time in attending. I truly appreciate each instructor's dedication to strengthening our organization.

As we begin planning for future conferences, I am always open to feedback. If there is a topic you would like to see offered or an idea that would benefit our members, please let me know. Our goal is to continue providing meaningful training that helps our Posts, Districts, and Legion Family grow stronger each year.

We will soon begin our Fall District Conferences, and I encourage every member to attend. These conferences provide an excellent opportunity to connect with your District and Department leadership, share ideas, ask questions, and learn more about the programs and resources available to help your Post succeed.

Our next major event will be the National Convention. Oklahoma has had an outstanding year, and I look forward to joining our delegation as we proudly represent our Department on the national stage.

As I close, I want to offer a special congratulations to our American Legion Auxiliary. They achieved **100% membership** and had one of Oklahoma's delegates elected as **President of Girls Nation**—an incredible accomplishment that reflects the dedication and leadership of our Auxiliary members. Congratulations on a job well done!

Thank you again for the opportunity to serve. I look forward to another year of working together as we continue to strengthen The American Legion and fulfill our mission of serving veterans, their families, and our communities.

Be The One

Karen Cruice
Vice Commander East
Department of Oklahoma

Department Vice Commander – West

I sincerely appreciate your votes to make me the Vice-Commander West! I haven't been in office for a month yet, and I'm already dealing with several posts that are having issues. Remember, I am here to HELP the Posts, and to give direction, when the post or a legionnaire are straying from our National and Department CB&L's, to keep bigger issues from going up to higher levels!

I said when I was running for office that all the bickering within the Department, needs to stop, and for the most part, there hasn't been many issues brought up to me about any issues currently going on, which is GREAT!

Some of the posts that I have visited since taking office are already making headway with membership! Let's keep up the good work, but remember that our main mission, is to support all veterans and their families, whether they are members, or not! Membership will take care of itself, if our communities actually see that we are out in the community, doing things that benefit our communities!

Wayne Flowers, Vice-Commander West

Cdrpost273@yahoo.com

National Executive (NEC) Committeeman

Greetings Legionnaires!

Our Department Convention has been completed and some of us are looking forward to attending the American Legion National Convention in Louisville, Kentucky August 28-September 3, 2026 representing the Department of Oklahoma. The National Executive Committee will hold two meetings during this time and I will be attending two days of National Finance Committee meetings as NEC-Liaison during this time also. Should be a great time for the Legion Family with American Legion Auxiliary, Sons of American Legion and American Legion Riders in attendance also.

National Commander Dan Wiley is still encouraging all American Legion members to go online to [Legion.org/action](https://legion.org/action) where you will be able to send a message to our two National Senators from Oklahoma and to one of our Congressmen/woman from the Congressional District in Oklahoma where you live to support Take Care of America's Veterans Act

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

The House paused a vote on TCVA last week, but the Senate is considering this legislation that incorporates 62 veteran-friendly bills, including ones The American Legion has testified on in recent years including the Major Richard Star Act, Love Lives On Act and more.

This is our best opportunity to pass this critical legislation.

We have received some messages in opposition to TCVA from members. But the clear majority of direct feedback from our members has been strongly supportive of this legislation.

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

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

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

This is our moment to use our collective voices as the 1.4-million member strong American Legion to lead from the front, enact sweeping legislation and do what is right for the veterans of today and tomorrow.

Dan Wiley
National Commander
Let's get this done for the veterans in our State!
V/R

Charlie O'Leary
NEC DPT OKLAHOMA

American Legion Riders

American Legion Riders Department of Oklahoma Update

The American Legion Riders Department of Oklahoma continues to build momentum, and I could not be more proud of what our members are accomplishing across our great state.

Our annual Department Convention in July marked another successful year of growth and leadership as we conducted elections for the 2026–2027 administrative year. I am deeply honored and humbled to have been re-elected to serve as your Department Director.

Joining me on the Department Executive Committee are Vice Director Monica Poindexter, Adjutant Rex Warlick, Treasurer Mike Harris, Second Vice Director and Road Captain Dave Stadler, Sergeant-at-Arms Archie Poindexter, along with Executive Committee members Rich Crumley, Jack Sikes, Mary Jo Turner, Scott Bullock, Jeff Hunter, and Jaxson White. Together, this outstanding leadership team is committed to moving the Department forward while keeping our focus on what matters most—serving veterans, supporting our communities, and mentoring the next generation of Riders.

Our Department continues to experience steady growth. During the first week of August, we will proudly charter another American Legion Riders Chapter as Chapter 1907 in Guthrie joins our family. Every new chapter represents more veterans and Legion Family members stepping forward to serve their communities through The American Legion's Four Pillars. It is exciting to watch our organization continue to expand, one chapter and one member at a time.

Planning is already well underway for the 2027 In-State Legacy Run, which will take place May 14–16, 2027. We are actively working with prospective host posts in western Oklahoma to build another outstanding event. Our goal is simple: make next year's Legacy Run even bigger, safer, and more successful than ever before while continuing to support The American Legion Legacy Scholarship Fund. The Legacy Run is more than a motorcycle ride—it is our opportunity to honor the families of America's fallen and disabled veterans by helping provide educational opportunities for their children.

We were also honored to welcome Dave Heredia, National Commander of the American Legion Riders, to Oklahoma during our convention. His leadership, encouragement, and support for our Department reaffirmed that Oklahoma continues to be recognized nationally as a Department that is growing, innovating, and making a difference.

As we move into the coming year, our priorities remain clear: continue chartering new chapters, grow our membership, strengthen existing chapters, support our communities, raise funds for worthy causes, and never lose sight of why we wear the American Legion Riders patch.

To every Rider across Oklahoma, thank you for your dedication, your volunteerism, and your commitment to serving something greater than yourselves. Together, we are proving that the American Legion Riders are far more than motorcycles—we are a family united by service, patriotism, and a desire to make a lasting difference.

The road ahead is bright, and together we will continue moving the Department of Oklahoma forward.

For God, Country, and Service,

Brett Martin

Director

American Legion Riders Department of Oklahoma

Past Department Commander's Corner

Greetings Legionnaires!

Thank you for your support in the recent Department elections where I was re-elected to another term as National Executive Committeeman for the Department of Oklahoma.

I pledge to do my best to carry out the prescribed duties of the office to which I was elected.

At the end of my two-year term, I will be stepping back from the NEC position as I believe the red-hat positions in the Department of Oklahoma should be limited to two terms, a total of four years and then someone else should be able to step up and try to get elected.

I want to thank all of the small Posts across the State who took the time and trouble and expense to drive to the Department Convention in Shawnee and take part in the new Legion officer election process.

I was able to win the election because of your support and I appreciate it. Also would like to give a shout-out to the larger Posts in the Tulsa area and medium to larger Posts in the OKC area for their support also.

My goal is that Nancy and I will continue to visit as many Posts in the State that we can and when our time as elected officials has ended, we will continue to be mentors to those coming after us and continue helping veterans in the future.

V/R,

Charlie O'Leary
PDC 2021-22

Department Adjutant

CAM RAHN BAY AIR FORCE BASE- VIETNAM

REUNION - SEPTEMBER 10 - 13, 2026

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

Web Site at: 2026 Cam Rahn Bay Reunion Colorado Springs.
Any questions contact information below.
Sincerely,

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

Oklahoma Veterans Commission & ODVA Update

Oklahoma Veterans Commission Update – July 2026

July marked an important transition for the Oklahoma Veterans Commission as we held our annual election of officers. It is my pleasure to congratulate **Daniel Orr**, who was elected to serve as the new Chairman of the Oklahoma Veterans Commission.

Serving as Chairman for the past two years has been one of the greatest honors of my public service career. I have been privileged to work alongside an outstanding group of commissioners and the dedicated leadership and staff of the Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs. Together, we have focused on improving the quality of life for Oklahoma's veterans while strengthening the long-term stability of our state veterans system.

Leadership is about service, and with every organization comes the opportunity for new perspectives and new ideas. I firmly believe that healthy organizations benefit from leadership transitions, and I have every confidence that Chairman Orr will continue moving the Commission forward. I look forward to supporting him and the entire Commission as we continue our shared mission of serving Oklahoma's veterans and their families.

The Commission continues to see encouraging progress across the Department. Our veterans homes remain on a solid footing with improved occupancy and financial stability, and we continue to focus on strategic planning to ensure Oklahoma remains a national leader in veterans' care.

One of the highlights of this past month came during the Oklahoma American Legion Department Convention, where the Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs Claims Team assisted **119 veterans** with claims and enrolled **25 veterans** into VA health care. Those accomplishments represent real lives changed and benefits delivered to the men and women who have earned them through their service.

While my role has changed, my commitment has not. I remain honored to serve as a Commissioner and will continue working alongside my fellow commissioners, Chairman Daniel Orr, Executive Director Rear Admiral Jay Bynum, and the outstanding ODVA team to ensure Oklahoma's veterans receive the care, respect, and opportunities they deserve.

Thank you for the privilege of allowing me to serve as Chairman these past two years. It has been an experience I will always cherish, and I look forward to continuing our work together in service to Oklahoma's veterans.

For God, Country, and Service,

Brett Martin

Commissioner, Oklahoma Veterans Commission
Immediate Past Chairman

Sons of the American Legion

Women Veterans Outreach

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

Child Well-Being Foundation

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

Banner Order Form

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

American Legion Auxilliary



Building Our Future Together: Why "We Are Family" Guides Our Path This Year

It is a profound honor to introduce myself to you as your new Department President for the Department of Oklahoma American Legion Auxiliary. Stepping into this role brings a deep sense of responsibility, but more importantly, an immense feeling of pride in our mission. As we embark on this new year together serving our veterans, military families, and communities, my vision for our department is anchored in a simple, universal truth: We Are Family.

When we view our organization through the lens of a family, our entire approach to service shifts. A family is a place of belonging, a network of unconditional support, and a team that works together to overcome any obstacle. This year, we will focus on throwing our doors wide open, ensuring every long-time member feels deeply valued and every newcomer feels instantly at home. When one of our units succeeds, we all celebrate; when a member faces a hurdle, we lift them up. Our shared history of service is rich, but our future relies entirely on how well we support one another today.

Looking ahead, we have set a clear path to turn this sentiment into action through three primary goals across Oklahoma:

- **Expanding Our Reach:** We will actively grow our membership by sharing our unique story and inviting others to join our mission of service.
- **Deepening Community Impact:** Our department will launch expanded outreach programs to provide vital assistance to local veterans and military families who need us most.
- **Strengthening Internal Connection:** We will introduce better communication tools to ensure every Oklahoma unit stays informed, involved, and seamlessly aligned.

We have a beautiful, busy year ahead of us. By treating each other like family, there is no limit to what our department can achieve for our veterans. Thank you for your trust, your dedication, and your passion. Let us build our future together.

Donna Snodgrass
Department President
American Legion Auxiliary Department of Oklahoma

Veterans Service Officer

National is currently reviewing the American Legion's VSO programs. It is a 5-year internal audit that is also being coordinated with the Office of General (the VA Lawyers) at DC.

All states are required to update and provide to National a current list of All the States' Accredited VSOs with today's criteria. There is NO "Grandfather" clause for the VA. Please call HQ with questions.

Jack Sikes Jsikesokamlvso@gmail.com
443-271-5545

American Legion Oklahoma Tool Box

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

Legion News

AWARDS

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

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

★ THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF OKLAHOMA ★

AMERICAN LEGION **AMERICA'S**

250
1776 ★ 2026

CELEBRATING 250 YEARS OF FREEDOM!

HONORING THE PAST.
SUPPORTING TODAY.
BUILDING TOMORROW.

Freedom Drawing

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

TICKETS \$10 EACH

EVERY TICKET YOU BUY **SUPPORTS OKLAHOMA VETERANS**

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

PROUDLY SUPPORTING OKLAHOMA VETERANS!

GRAND PRIZE \$3,000

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

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

★ YOUR SUPPORT HELPS FUND IMPORTANT PROGRAMS AND SERVICES: ★

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

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

ONE TICKET, ONE MISSION, ONE LEGACY OF SERVICE

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

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

Department Blood Program Chair

DEPARTMENT BLOOD DONOR PROGRAM CHAIR

2025-2026 is completed! It was a great year and let's make 2026-2027 even better. Let's remember our Consolidated Post Reports (CPR) are supposed to cover June – 31 May in order that all data collections and submissions can be made to the Department and transmitted timely to National. Post and Department participation in Legion Programs are measured by the submitted CPRs. Only 95 of our Oklahoma Legion Posts submitted their CPR. National's Annual Report to Congress only reflects 58.8% of our Department Post's yearlong contributions – in all categories. We must do better reporting. District Commanders and other leaders and subject experts are always available when guidance and assistance is sought.

Of the 95 Post CPRs submitted, 33 Posts submitted 1,010 units of blood. Congratulations and appreciation to each of these Posts. District Commanders were furnished with a full breakdown of their Posts activities and are expected to assist with more complete reporting this 2026-2027 Legion Year. A Post Blood Chair and one or two assistants can sponsor a mobile blood drive by Our Blood Institute or American Red Cross and make the difference for their communities, hospitals, and our standing as the best veteran's service organization world-wide. Your community donors are your donor count.

I am available to assist upon request. Call, message, email 405-414-2515 jbishop22@cox.net, for information and/or assistance with your Blood Donor Programs. Let's have a great New 108th Year.

John Bishop, Blood Donor Program Chair,

<https://ourbloodinstitute.org/>

Fall District Conferences

East

- **DISTRICT 1 - 07 November 2026, TBD**
- **DISTRICT 2 - 26 September 2026, TBD**
- **DISTRICT 3 - 24 October 2026, Durant, OK**
- **DISTRICT 4 - 21 November 2026, Bristow, OK**
- **DEC #2 - 10 October 2026, Dept HQ**

West

- DISTRICT 5 - 14 November 2026, Moore, OK
- DISTRICT 6 - 19 September 2026, TBD
- DISTRICT 7 - 12 September 2026, Post 41, 1705 S HWY 183, Clinton, OK 73601
- DISTRICT 8 - 03 October 2026, Perry, OK

DEC

- DEC #2 - 10 October 2026, Dept HQ

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

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

District 1A

Rich Conn - Commander

Post/Chapter 178 – Grove

Saturday July 25 American Legion Riders Chapter 178 out of Grove hosted several of our Riders from across eastern Oklahoma for breakfast before setting out on a ride that proceeded from Post 178 down to Kansas, the Tahlequah area to visit the gravesite of Mr. Ed the “talking horse” from the 1960’s sitcom.

Then the Ride made its most important stop. At a Monument of Honor in the tiny community Hulbert, Oklahoma that honors four fallen Vietnam War Soldiers. While there, the group took time to clean up the site, removing branches, twigs and leaves from on top of the monuments and walkways. Then after noticing the American Flag flying overhead was faded and tattered and the halyard knotted, they unknotted it lowered the old Flag and replaced it with a new one to honor,

Cpl Grover W Boston KIA May 2, 1968

Cpl William A Gritts KIA June 13, 1968

Cpl Thomas L McKinzie KIA October 17, 1968

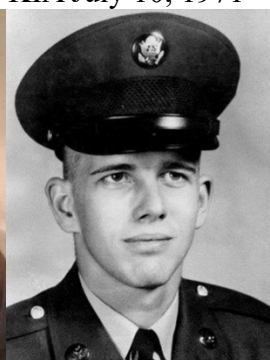
SP4 Ronald J Krieg KIA July 10, 1971



Boston



Gritts



McKinzie



Krieg



Then back on the road to lunch at Pig-N-Out in Salina. Back across the lake and back towards Grove. Thank you to everyone who joined us today.



District 1B
Andrew Fisher – Commander

Post 1 – Tulsa



Tulsa Historical American Legion Post 1 Newly Elected Executive Board Member Dr. Tamecca Rogers Wins a 2026 Heartland Emmy Award!

Congratulations to Dr. Tamecca Rogers on your election to the Tulsa Historical American Legion Post 1 Executive Board and on winning a 2026 Heartland Emmy Award!

Dr. Rogers exemplifies what it means to continue serving after taking off the uniform. As a dedicated member of the American Legion Americanism, Children & Youth Committee, she has revitalized our American Legion Oratorical Contest, inspiring high school students and their families, who are already preparing for the 2027 competition.

Through her visionary leadership as the founder of Keepin' It Reel: Script 2 Screen Youth Camp, she continues to empower middle and high school students with confidence, creativity, and hands-on experience in the film industry.

We are honored to serve alongside a leader whose dedication to youth, veterans, and our community continues to make a lasting impact.

Congratulations again, Dr. Rogers! Your leadership, service, and achievements make Tulsa Historical American Legion Post 1 and the Oklahoma American Legion family proud.



Our Chaplain, Whorley Holmes, at Post 1 Tulsa and myself, Bob Walker, District 1B Vice Commander, purchase a cake and deliver it to the Claremore Veterans Center on the last Friday of the month. We celebrate all the Veterans birthdays that month and it is an honor to our Post Veterans as well, and for them to have camaraderie with fellow Veterans.

Post 308 – Mohawk

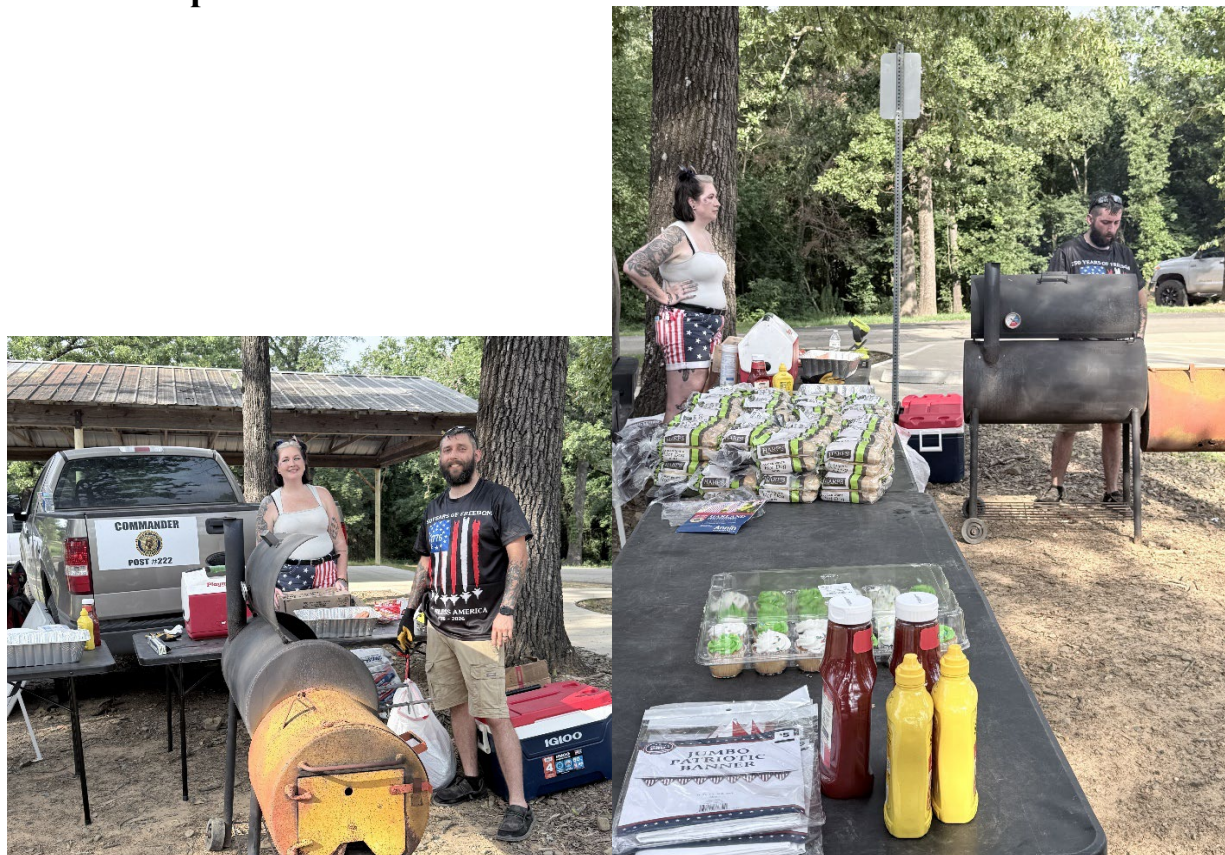


For all the members of Mohawk Post 308, congratulations on your hard work in making this the Post of the Year!

District 2A
Kayla Rector - Commander
District 2B
Kayla Rector - Commander

District 3A
Scott Hilgenberg– Commander -

Post 222 – Spiro



Good evening, I had the opportunity to go out to our city lake and provide hot dogs and ice water to the community during our 4th of July event. This was an amazing event that was put together on very short notice. We had a lot of help from the VFW Auxiliary post 4884. So, a huge Thank you to them. We were able to acquire donations from Arvest Bank, Harps in Spiro, and Atwood's of Poteau! We were very grateful to them for that.

Alex Brooks
 Commander

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

District 5A

Ezekiel Jenkins - Commander

Post 108 – Cushing/Drumright









July 4, 2026, found Post 108 putting final touches on their parade float. At the opening ceremonies, Cushing, Oklahoma, was designated as a Purple Heart City. Unfortunately, sometime later, a storm fast approached, which led city officials to cancel 10 minutes before the parade was to start. But the Post was, at least, able to take the parade route back to our building to disassemble the float before the rain and wind arrived. Our presentation also to included two jeeps, several other period vehicles, and Post 108 significant others dressed as "Rosie, the Riveter." Member James Medlock and wife, Sue, had been named Grand Marshals.

District 5B

Dave Schacher - Commander

Lots of things for the Month of July here in District 5B, Since the summer convention we as a whole organization have elected new leadership for the Department, the local posts have also elected new leadership , Congratulations to ALL New Post Officers and New members to the legion family.

Many posts in the District have various activities from Fish Fry's, Golf tournaments, Poker nights, Morning coffee etc.

As of now Post's 88,184,261,274, 301 Have Veteran Service Officers assisting veterans with their VA Claims.

For dates and times contact each respective post's (If I have omitted any Post I apologize for this.

We are looking forward for All to attend the Fall District Meeting Hosted by Post 184, 14 November 2026 in Moore.

Until next month stay safe and thank you all for what you do.

Dave Schacher

Commander 5B

Post 310 – Washington



A heartfelt thank you to **Boy Scout Troop 234** for picking up our unserviceable American flags for proper retirement. It is reassuring to know these flags will be disposed of with the honor, dignity, and respect they have earned through their service.

The members of **American Legion Post 0310** are grateful for the strong partnership we share with Troop 234 and appreciate their continued commitment to honoring our nation's flag and serving our community. Thank you for all that you do!

Post 261 – Blanchard

American Legion - Post 261

Four Person Golf Scramble
Proceeds Benefit Veterans Programs

SEPTEMBER 12, 2026

**Brent Bruehl
 Golf Course
 Purcell, OK**

\$300
 PER TEAM

TEE OFF 8:00 AM
REGISTRATION
6:30 AM - 7:30 AM

CALL OR TEXT TO REGISTER YOUR TEAM

Vaughn Vakulick Mike Whaley
 405-625-2925 405-818-3541

Make Checks Payable to American Legion Post 261



Post 184 – Moore





Members of **American Legion Post 184 of Moore** proudly represented our Post at the **2026 American Legion Department of Oklahoma Convention**, held July 9–12 at the Grand Casino Hotel & Resort in Shawnee.

Legionnaires from throughout Oklahoma gathered to conduct the official business of the Department, elect new officers, consider resolutions, participate in committee meetings and educational sessions, and celebrate the accomplishments of Posts and members from across the state. The annual convention also provided an opportunity for veterans to reconnect with longtime friends, exchange ideas for strengthening local Posts, and renew their commitment to The American Legion's mission of service to veterans, their families, and our communities.





Delegates from Moore American Legion Post 184 proudly represented our Post during the 2026 Department Convention in Shawnee.

Throughout the weekend, attendees participated in committee meetings, memorial observances, training sessions, and business meetings that will help guide the Department during the coming Legion year. Discussions focused on many of the programs that define The American Legion's mission, including veterans' advocacy, support for military families, Americanism, youth programs, community service, and continued efforts to strengthen membership across Oklahoma.

The convention also offered valuable opportunities to learn about veterans' benefits, legislative priorities, and programs designed to better serve those who have worn our nation's uniform. These sessions reinforced The American Legion's enduring commitment to ensuring that veterans receive the care, recognition, and support they have earned through their service.



A highlight of the convention was the election and installation of the Department's leadership for the 2026–2027 Legion year. Moore Post 184 extends its congratulations to all newly elected Department officers and wishes them continued success as they lead the Department of Oklahoma in service to veterans and their families.

As Post 184 begins another year of service, we remain committed to supporting veterans, promoting patriotism, serving our community, mentoring future generations, and upholding the principles upon which The American Legion was founded.

The friendships renewed, knowledge gained, and ideas shared during the Department Convention will continue to benefit our Post and the veterans we proudly serve. We look forward to working alongside Legionnaires across Oklahoma during the coming year as we continue fulfilling our mission of service.

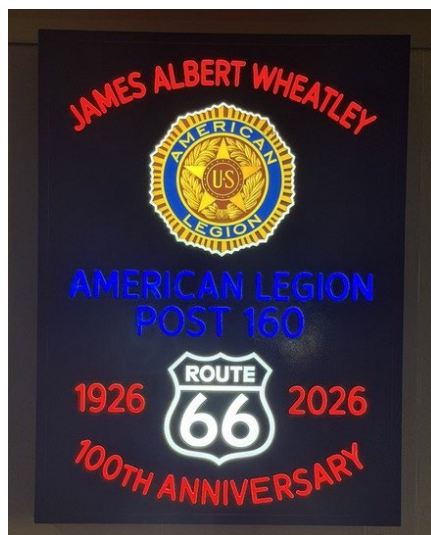
District 6A

Michael H. Devenitch - Commander

Post 353 – Mustang

July is always busy. Mustang is famous for the great LEGAL COMMUNITY FIREWORKS celebration. While the Post was not officially participating, we enjoyed (and suffered) the 27th of June through the 4th of July. We doubt any city surpassed our enthusiasm and support. Six delegates attended the Department Convention in Shawnee and received additional training sessions to make our Post even greater. Several awards were received by individuals and businesses nominated by our post. 145 3X5 US Flags adorned 6 miles of city light posts. Our businesses and residences were proudly displaying the Nation's Flag as well. Our monthly speaker addressed the Chamber of Commerce about "Who We Are" and how we support our community, our schools, and our veterans. Our newly elected slate of officers are preparing for installation at our August meeting. Transferring responsibilities and preparing for our new business year has filled our calendars. It's a great day every day when you're a legionnaire. Professionalism, not personality. Service Before Self.

Post 160 – Yukon





Yukon American Legion Post 160 Dedicates Route 66 Centennial Sign

YUKON, Okla. — American Legion James Albert "Buddy Al" Wheatley Post 160 proudly celebrated the 100th Anniversary of Historic Route 66 on Saturday, July 18, with the dedication of a new Route 66 Centennial Sign at the Post home in Yukon, Oklahoma.

The ceremony brought together American Legion members, veterans, elected officials, community organizations, and residents to commemorate one of America's most iconic highways while honoring the American Legion's enduring commitment to veterans, patriotism, and community service.

Canadian County Commissioner **Tomas Manske** delivered the keynote address, highlighting the importance of Historic Route 66 to Canadian County and the State of Oklahoma. He concluded his remarks by leading the ceremonial countdown to illuminate the new Centennial sign, marking the official dedication.

The program featured several Department of Oklahoma leaders. **Patricia Mathes-Kerr**, Senior Vice Commander of The American Legion, Department of Oklahoma, spoke on the importance of preserving the Legion's proud history and continuing its mission of service to veterans, their families, and local communities.

Post 160 First Vice Commander **Jason Oliphant** shared the history of James Albert "Buddy Al" Wheatley Post 160, established in 1943, and its long-standing presence on Historic Route 66. Second Vice Commander **Chris McNeil** presented the story of Route 66, recognizing its century-long impact on commerce, travel, military service, and American culture.

The ceremony opened with the Pledge of Allegiance led by **Charles Kelly**, followed by an invocation by Post Chaplain **Chad Kautz**. Members of the Community Chorus performed the National Anthem and patriotic selections that added to the spirit of the occasion.

The Post extends its appreciation to the Department of Oklahoma leadership, Canadian County officials, the City of Yukon, Yukon Main Street, the Yukon Veterans Museum, Legion Family members, veterans, and the many community supporters who attended this historic event. Special recognition is extended to the dedicated volunteers whose countless hours of planning, site preparation, guest hospitality, program coordination, and refreshments made the ceremony a tremendous success. Their commitment exemplifies the American Legion's spirit of volunteerism and community service.

The new Centennial sign now stands as a permanent tribute to the legacy of Historic Route 66, the service and sacrifice of America's veterans, and the continuing role of American Legion Post 160 as a community partner along the Mother Road.

As Route 66 enters its second century, Post 160 remains committed to preserving its history while advancing the American Legion's mission of service to veterans, mentoring youth, promoting Americanism, and strengthening communities.

The dedication served as a fitting reminder that while Route 66 has connected America for 100 years, the American Legion continues to connect veterans, families, and communities through a century of service and patriotism.

District 6B

Bobby Marshall - Commander

Post 55 – Duncan





July 4th: We participated in the July 4th Parade in Marlow, OK. We also had a booth set up in Redbud Park. Everyone had a blast especially Aphrodite (the dog).





July 25: We volunteered for the Dehydrator Race and had a hydration station set up along the course. The Dehydrator Race is a bike race that the Duncan High School Band Boosters have every year the last month of July to raise money for their band members. Everyone who volunteered at our station had a great time! We look forward to helping out next year!

Honorable Mention: Last month, I forgot one other young man that was a Post 55 delegate for Boys State and his name is Blake Norton. He sent us a thank you letter for sponsoring him to go to Boys State and that he had a great time!



Our very own Bobby Marshall is not only the Post Commander but was sworn in as District 6B Commander during the Department Summer Convention in Shawnee, OK.



Post Renovations: Things have slowed down a bit but our Post SAA Doug Carroll finally got our barn door for our bathroom ready to go! He did a wonderful job!

District 7

Elmo May - Commander

Post 223 – Gage



Post #223 members. made over 220 white crosses from 1/2 inch PVC pipe. These were made to hold a U.S. flag. Some have been in use for almost 9 months and seem to be weathering very well.

Post 146 – Sayre



Post 146 in Sayre placed 250 flags in front of their building in celebration of America's 250th birthday. You will have to zoom in to see the flags.





All Veterans in the area were asked to ride on a float for Wild Plum Festival.



The evening after the parade, legionnaires from post 146 were asked to transport concert goers from where they parked to the concert venue. We all had a lot of fun, meeting and visiting with everyone we transported.

Post 181 in Elk City eight boys for Boy's state and seven girls for Girl's state. This was a record for Post 181. Good job post 181.



Post 091 raising the flag at the Weatherford car show on June 20.

Pictured:

Commander David Lawrence,
Senior Vice Tracy Venerable,
Chaplin Jerry Unruh, and
Finance Officer Doug Hale

District 8A

Barry Vincent - Commander

Post 53 – Perry



Gunner Farrar, American Legion Ellis-Jirous Post 53's delegate to the 2026 Oklahoma Boys State program, recently shared highlights of his week-long leadership experience during the post's July 7 meeting. Held at Rogers State University in Claremore, Boys State gives high school students a hands-on opportunity to learn about government, leadership, and civic responsibility through elections, public service, and teamwork.

Farrar was elected Chief of Police for his city before later being chosen as County Sheriff, overseeing law enforcement for three cities. He said the experience strengthened his leadership, communication, and problem-solving skills while allowing him to build lasting friendships with delegates from across Oklahoma. He also enjoyed athletic competitions, Legion Night, the traditional Ice Cream Bowl, and hearing from distinguished speakers, including Governor Kevin Stitt and retired U.S. Army General Stanley McChrystal.

Reflecting on the week, Farrar said one lesson stood out: "The cream rises to the top," emphasizing that dedication and strong character set effective leaders apart. He hopes to return next year as a Boys State counselor, and his parents have already noticed increased confidence and initiative since his return. Post 53 Commander Jeremy Hines and Legion members congratulated Farrar for representing the post with distinction and thanked him for sharing his experience.

District 8B

Philip Holland – Commander

Post 63 – Freedom

AMERICAN LEGION



**The American legion is partnering
with Marcum Farms Meat for you to
win a side of beef.**

M A R C U M F A R M S
M E A T

Info@marcumfarmsmeat.com
marcumfarmsmeat.com
Alva, OK



1 in 2 chances to win a side of beef. One winner
per side. No double winners.

**The American Legion is also raffling 1 in 4
chances to win a \$300 Visa card. one
winner per card. No double winners.**



**Winners announced August
15th at the Rodeo**

Flyer created by Three Monkeys
www.threemonkeysdefense.com



Call For Vendors

Are you looking to showcase your product or services to a vibrant and engaged audience? Come join us during Freedom's annual rodeo. Vendors in starting at 7:00 am open at 9:00 am & stay as long as customers are coming in.

AUGUST 15

The American Legion Hatch-Vincent post 63
building Freedom, Oklahoma

First come first served unless you pay ahead of time.

Truck vendors starts at \$50, Outside \$35, inside \$50

hatchvincentpost63@gmail.com
405-986-9602

Flyer created by Three Monkeys
www.dealingmonkeysugar.com

American Legion Riders Hatch Vincent Post 63



Click this link to contribute

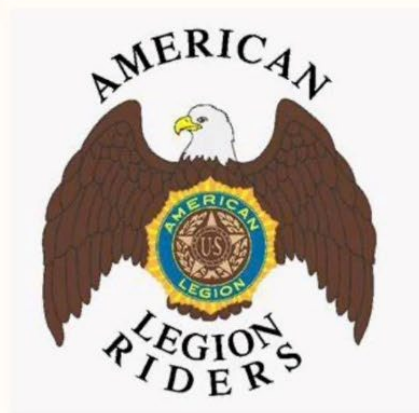
The American Legion Riders are a vibrant and dedicated group of motorcycle enthusiasts who channel their passion for riding into meaningful community service. This unique organization is deeply committed to supporting and advancing the programs and activities of The American Legion, with a focus on promoting patriotism and assisting those in need. They play a significant role in supporting veterans and their families, honoring their service and sacrifices. Additionally, the Riders are fervent advocates for children's welfare, actively engaging in initiatives like the Special Olympics and providing school scholarships to foster educational opportunities. Through their charitable endeavors, the American Legion Riders exemplify the spirit of service, camaraderie, and a steadfast dedication to making a positive impact in the lives of others.



Contact Us
405-986-9976



More Information
ALRPost63@yahoo.com



22 A DAY

Flyer created by Three Monkeys
www.threemonkeysdefense.com

Post 273 – Laverne



July 4th Parade



Flag Retirement Ceremony by Post 273 burned unserviceable flags.



Jay McDaniel received a Quilt of Valor at the Veteran's Home.

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

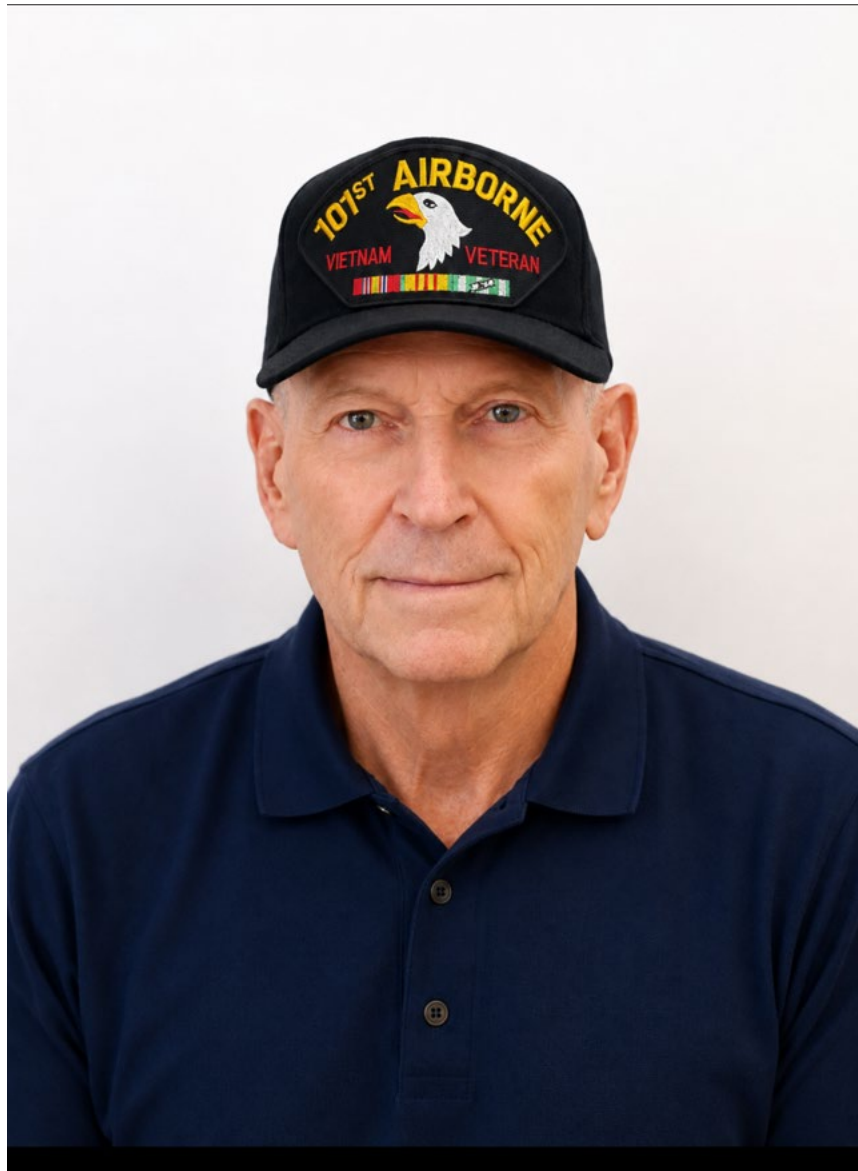


Bobby "Bob" Ray Kuykendall

No photo provided

<https://www.echovita.com/us/obituaries/ok/red-oak/bobby-ray-kuykendall-21744980>

John Logue Wilson



4. Military-Honors Version



****Military Tribute for Captain John Logue Wilson, U.S. Army****

Captain John Logue Wilson honorably served the United States of America as a Regular Army Officer from 1965 to 1970. A graduate of Iowa State University, he entered active duty upon graduation and deployed to Vietnam with the **101st Airborne Division, 2nd/502 Parachute Regiment**. For his actions in ground operations against hostile forces, he was awarded the **Bronze Star**. Upon completing his service, he resigned his commission as Captain and received the **Meritorious Service Medal**.

John continued a lifetime of service beyond the military—through his professional leadership, community involvement, and dedicated work with the **American Legion Madera Post 131**, where he served as Finance Officer, Executive Board Member, and Vice-Commander.

Today we honor Captain Wilson for his courage, his devotion to duty, and his unwavering commitment to his country. His legacy stands as a testament to the values he lived: honor, integrity, and service.

“On behalf of a grateful nation, we thank you for your service.”



In mid-2018, John and JoAnn returned to Moore, Oklahoma, to be closer to family. John immediately became an active and dedicated member of **American Legion Post 184**, where his leadership, professionalism, and steady presence were deeply valued. His service to Post 184 included:

- **First Vice Commander** (2021–2022)
- **Commander** (2022–2023)
- **Finance Officer** (2022–2025)
- **Interim Commander** (February 2–6, 2025)
- **First Vice Commander** (2025–2026, until his passing)

John’s commitment to the American Legion was an extension of his lifelong devotion to service—quiet, steadfast, and always guided by integrity. His leadership helped strengthen Post 184 during years of growth and transition, and his counsel was relied upon by members across the organization.

