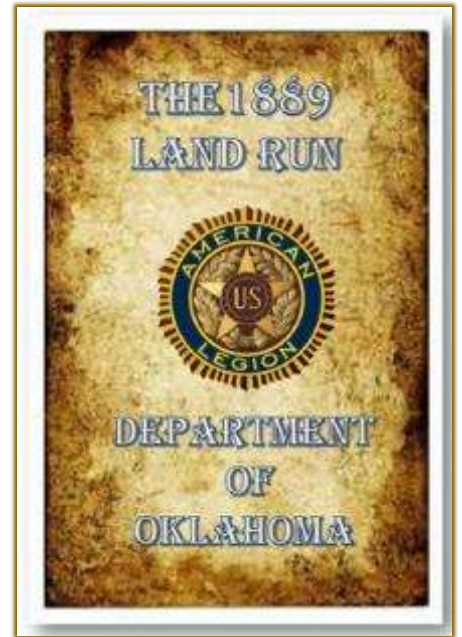


THE 1889 LAND RUN

****State Convention****
July 13-16, 2023 @
Grand in Shawnee
Agenda on Page 6

DEPARTMENT OF OKLAHOMA AMERICAN LEGION NEWSLETTER

18TH EDITION, JULY 1ST, 2023



DEPARTMENT COMMANDER - JIM F. QUINN

As the 2022-2023 Membership year comes to a close, I want to thank each one of the over thirteen thousand Legionnaires of the Department of Oklahoma that have made this year as your Department Commander very enjoyable. One of the many highlights of the year in office was to escort the National Commander Vincent J. "Jim" Troiola on a tour of the Department of Oklahoma. Commander Troiola expressed a desire to visit smaller Posts and visit the Legionnaires that make up those Posts, thus getting a better feel for the issues confronting the rank-and-file Legionnaire. To make this request possible we embarked upon a three-day excursion through Western Oklahoma.

Monday morning Commander Troiola started his day visiting Post 88 in Norman where a contingent of Legionnaires and local dignitaries showed the Commander the results of grant money awarded to Post 88. Next stop was Post 301



Lexington where representatives from several Posts in District 5B briefed Commander Troiola on what their Posts were doing for Veteran's Rehabilitation, community involvement, and children and youth programs. Guthrie, Post 58 hosted lunch and the Vice Mayor read a proclamation declaring June 26, 2023, Commander Vincent J. Troiola Day. A visit to Post 53, Perry was next on the agenda. There Commander Troiola listened to several Legionnaires from different Posts but got an in-depth briefing from Unit 53 Auxiliary as to their activities supporting the efforts of the Post. The final stop of the day was at Post 129 Stillwater, home of Past National Vice Commanders Bobby Bryant and Lawrence Roy and Past National Commander Preston Moore. The Post provided an excellent dinner and thoroughly briefed Commander Troiola on their activities throughout the year.



Tuesday the tour continued with the first stop in Lawton at Post 6. After a briefing by the Post and remarks from Commander Troiola, a visit to the Fort Sill National Cemetery and members of Post 309, Fletcher was in order. Commander Troiola learned that the cemetery currently has 10,000 graves and enough land to continue operation well into the 22nd century. Post 309 has a very important role in furnishing volunteer workers at the cemetery as

well as full time Veteran's Administration employees. Post 176, Tuttle hosted lunch and the feedback that Commander Troiola got from the members of Post 176 was very enlightening and useful. Post 160, Yukon the home of the Yukon Veteran's Museum provided Commander Troiola with a tour of the museum and the Yukon Mayor read a proclamation proclaiming June 27, 2023, American Legion and Commander Vincent J. Troiola Day. The evening was capped off by a Bar-B-Que dinner and discussion about the activities of the Post and happenings at the national level.

The final day of the tour, Wednesday, saw a visit to Post 91 Weatherford and the Stanford Air & Space Museum. Lunch was provided by Post 300 Corn plus a tour of the Corn Pioneer Museum. The day was topped off by a Burger Burn hosted by District 8B at Fort Supply Lake.

I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank Senior Vice Commander Brett Martin and Department Adjutant Robert Haugh for all the hard work they put in making this visit by the National Commander a success. Thanks must go out to all the Legionnaires and Posts that contributed their time and treasure to ensure that the National Commander was not only entertained but that he received the information he needs to better lead our magnificent organization.

Again, it has been a privilege and a pleasure to lead this outstanding organization for the past year. I stand before you humbly thanking you for your confidence in me to lead you for the past year and I look forward to serving this organization for many years in the future. God Bless You, Your Family and The American Legion and God Bless The United States of America

For God and Country
Jim F. Quinn
The American Legion
Department of Oklahoma
Commander

Senior Vice Commander
For God and Country
Brett Martin



I had the pleasure of setting the up the tour and driving American Legion National Commander Vincent J. "Jim" Troiola around on the Wild Wild West Tour. I want to thank all of the host Posts who answered the call to open their doors and welcome him along with many nearby Posts. Your hospitality put our Department of Oklahoma in an amazing light. I posted on our Department Facebook Page "As the sun sets on the Wild, Wild West Tour, a huge thank you goes out to American Legion National Commander Vincent J. "Jim" Troiola for his selfless service to our beloved American Legion and all Veterans. Thank you, Sir, for being that role model and for truly BEING THE ONE!

Safe Travels.

For GOD, Country, and Service"

National Commander Troiola replied back with "Thank you for those kind words. Thanks so much to the Department of Oklahoma for a wonderful tour you provided me during my visit. Your passion and perseverance does not go unnoticed. Special thanks goes out to Department Commander Jim, Sr. Vice Commander Brett, and Department Adjutant Rob for giving up their time to accompany me on the various visits. I especially enjoyed visiting the small communities and posts and watching the special camaraderie they enjoy.

Best wishes to all of you and continued success in your upcoming Legion year.

Be The One!

As we close out this Legion year and start the next, I want to thank everyone for all of your hard work on membership. During this upcoming year I feel we are on the cusp of turning our membership around and moving ourselves back into the top 25. With your help and support all things are possible.

**For GOD, Country, and Service,
Brett Martin
Senior Vice Commander**

For God and Country Paul Ray Vice Commander West

To the Legionnaires in the West. I want to take this opportunity to say Thank You so very much for your support over the last year. I am not going to try to mention specific events or Legionnaires, my article length is too limited to try to write a list that long. Besides that, I am old and cannot remember all of them, and the last thing I want to do is piss you off ...whoops, I meant to say, I wouldn't want to "Offend" you...in the last article I write as VC West.

I will say the District Commanders in the West are fantastic. I don't have the words to express how grateful I am to you. Thank You seems so insignificant, but those words come from deep within my soul.

We have accomplished a lot, but we have merely scratched the surface of what needs to be done. Don't give up, embrace the suck. Proceed at full speed ahead and get into the fight.

Thank You, that ain't enough , but it comes from the heart.

**Paul Ray
Vice-Commander West, I'm damned proud of that title.**

Awards Chairman

This is my last article for this year. The Awards Committee Chair is a one-year position nominated by the Department Commander. So, there is a possibility this will be the last article I write as the Awards Committee Chair. Only the next Department Commander knows.

So, I am going to say what I have wanted to say all year. Actually, for several years. If you or your Post did not nominate someone for an award, and you don't like the selection, Please, Please, don't complain about the Award Committee's selection. It is completely impossible for the Award Committee to select someone who was not nominated.

I can assure you everyone who was nominated was considered. Let me say that again, everyone who was nominated was considered. And I will also assure you it wasn't the Award Committee Chairman that made the selection. It wasn't the Department Leadership that made the selection. It was the members of the Awards Committee. They didn't put in that effort for personal recognition. They worked hard to recognize the accomplishments of others.

The Legionnaires who volunteered to be on the Awards Committee voted on all of the nominees. There were several nominees with significant nomination packages, and all of them were duly impressive. The Legionnaires on the Awards Committee put in a huge amount of effort into providing the Department with a very good selection of award winners.

In addition to the Award Nominations, the Award Committee is responsible for evaluating ALL of the Posts' CPRs and determining the Pillars Award winners. We use the Pillars Award winners to select the Posts of the Year. We are responsible for evaluating the Post's Yearbooks. Those are judged to a very strict standard established at the American Legion's National Historian.

The Awards Committee will put in several hours at the convention working on Posts Awards. Because of the timeline on CPR the convention is the only place we can do that work.

Don't give them grief. Don't question their selections. Just tell them Thanks. This "stuff" isn't easy.

Paul Ray Awards Committee Chair

Department Adjutant Robert Haugh

From the desk of the Department Adjutant

Welcome to July Oklahoma Legionnaires,

July 01 is the kickoff for the 2023-2024 membership year!!

I have fantastic news to share the membership cards arrived on time this year for both the Legion and the SAL. If your respective post or squadron has not already received your cards through the District commander distributing them or by picking them up at headquarters, they will be available for pick up at the Summer Convention.

I am very pleased to say that memberships have continued to come in right up to the end of the 2022-2023 membership year. The Department office continued to process memberships as they were received. I cannot stress enough about the importance of Auto-renewal feature to click the box and every year going forward your membership will auto renew on or about the same date. This can be a huge benefit for those posts who have to keep after members to get them to renew.

The "Sportsman's Adventure" 10 gun Drawing tickets have been pouring in and I expect a large chunk to be turned in for the drawing during the Summer Convention. Please continue to sell tickets right up to the time of the convention.





**Respectfully,
Robert Haugh
Department Adjutant**

104th Summer Convention Agenda

<https://acrobat.adobe.com/link/review?uri=urn%3Aaaid%3Ascde%3AUS%3A8569d8b6-ddd5-3cde-9eea-dac70f8f1c6a&viewer%21megaVerb=group-edit>

Past Department Commanders Corner

CHARLIE MIKE-CONTINUE MISSION

Fellow Legionnaires, NOW is time for ACTIONS besides words!

NOW is the time to SHOW UP FOR THE DEPARTMENT CONVENTION July 13-16, 2023, and VOTE!

VOTE for the RESOLUTIONS at Saturday morning Business Meeting on July 17, 2023.

They are all good resolutions and should be voted in, but YOU have to be there to MAKE IT HAPPEN!

VOTE in the annual Department Elections on Sunday morning July 16, 2023.

I'm running for ANEC and am the FIRST ONE UP in the voting process.

If you want change and go in a different direction, I'm your guy!

But YOU HAVE TO BE THERE to make it happen!

Only two offices, Department Commander and Department Judge Advocate are unopposed.

ALL of the other Department Offices have TWO OR MORE CANDIDATES running for office.

Anyone can sit on their fourth point-of-contact and stay home or show up late, but we need YOU TO LEGION-UP and VOTE!

Don't be a disappointment!

Let's make this happen!

Charles S. O'Leary
Past Department Commander 2021-2022
American Legion Department of Oklahoma

From the Legion Officer's Guide

JULY

Host a community Fourth of July celebration. Certify new officers with department headquarters. Installation of officers makes an impressive ceremony at a post meeting. Continue efforts on behalf of summer youth programs.

AUGUST

By now the post has received next year's membership cards from department headquarters. In many communities, school starts at the beginning or middle of the month. Begin planning a community Veterans Day observance.

From the Administrative Assistant

Diane Doudna



<https://www.okveteranscalendar.com/>



Next 'Be the One Days' is July 1

The American Legion

JUN 15, 2023

July 1 is the next “Be the One Days” – a resolution passed by the National Executive Committee during the American Legion’s Spring Meetings earlier this month that calls on Legion Family members to gear up and bring awareness to the Legion’s Be the One veteran suicide prevention initiative on the **first day of every month**.

Resolution 13 urges Legion Family members to wear a Be the One item on the first day of every month to show their commitment to reducing the stigma around mental health issues among veterans and servicemembers. And to start a conversation about what Be the One is and how to save the life of a veteran. **Legion posts should also promote Be the One on the first day of every month.**

We ask that all American Legion Family members wear a Be the One item ... anything that signals your personal commitment to ‘Be the One’ to save one veteran,” said American Legion Marketing Commission Chairman Paul Evenson during his report to the NEC at Spring Meetings. Be the One Days is “a great way to keep awareness high about this important issue all year long.”

Leading candidate for Department of Arkansas Commander (2023-2024) Patrick "Doc" Phillips and his wife Jammie showed their Be the One Days support on June 1 by taking a photo and sharing it on Legiontown.org.

Support "Be the One Days" and wear your Be the One gear on Saturday, July 1. You can purchase a Be the One shirt (some sizes are currently not available) or tack through American Legion Emblem Sales.

For American Legion posts, there are many resources available to use to promote Be the One at the resources web page. These resources include Be the One poster, customizable brochures, a banner, wallet cards and more.

We want to see your support of Be the One Days. You can share at legiontown.org under the Be the One category.

You can make a donation to Be the One here. You can also mail a check made payable to “American Legion Charities, Note: Be the One.”

Mail to:

American Legion Charities
Be the One
P.O. Box 7077
Indianapolis, IN 46207

Brand new this month!

Adjutants TAL and SAL: Read the directions in the article below, and experiment in myLegion.org. This is an exciting new way to contact expired members!

Send this renewal letter to your expired members

JUN 12, 2023

MyLegion has updated the reports area for American Legion post and Sons of The American Legion squadron commanders, adjutants and group administrators. Reports are now categorized by Membership and Revitalization.

Newly added to MyLegion is a pre-written renewal letter inviting expired post and squadron members to renew. [See an example of the renewal letter here.](#) This customized letter includes member and post/squadron information.

Create the letter as a report by:

- using report fields
- selecting last paid year
- entering name and title for closing and generate.

Please note, if you change Group selection, the contact information does not update automatically. Refresh page (F5) and select a new group to update.

Create mailing labels for the letters using Renewal Labels. Set the same last paid year filter and create labels.

Diane Doudna
Administrative Assistant
The American Legion
Department of Oklahoma

Oklahoma State Oratorical Robert Willis

The Department of Oklahoma American Legion Oratorical winner for 2023 is Jesse LaBahn, a freshman and home-schooled student from Norman. Jesse had advanced to the Semi-finals at the National level; her combined scholarship winnings totaled over \$5,000. Jesse will be a force to reckon with in 2024 as she has committed to competing again.

During the 2023 Boys State program, eight candidates participated in the Oratorical. Their subject matter was The Forgotten War: Korea; each gave the judges an 8 - 10-minute oration. The two candidates that will advance to the Department finals are James Grant of Gott City (Mannford)

and Kyle King of Ching City (Ponca City). All participating candidates are encouraged to continue in the Oratorical program by contacting the Post, which has sponsored them at Boys State.

Assigned Topics for the 2024 Oratorical Contest

Amendment II – A well-regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.

Amendment XXIII – The District constituting the seat of Government of the United States shall appoint in such manner as the Congress may direct: A number of electors of President and Vice President equal to the whole number of Senators and Representatives in Congress to which the District would be entitled if it were a State, but in no event more than the least populous State; they shall be in addition to those appointed by the State, but they shall be considered, for the purposes of the election of President and Vice President, to be electors appointed by a State; and they shall meet in the District and perform such duties as provided by the twelfth article of amendment.

Amendment XXV, Section 3 – Whenever the President transmits to the President pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives his written declaration that he is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office, and until he transmits to them a written declaration to the contrary, such powers and duties shall be discharged by the Vice President as Acting President.

Amendment V – No person shall be held to answer for a capital, or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a grand jury, except in cases arising in the land or naval forces, or in the militia, when in actual service in time of war or public danger; nor shall any person be subject for the same offense to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb; nor shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself, not be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation.

All Posts and District Legionaries, the Oratorical Constitution Speech Program starts today, and this information will provide your contestants the summer to prepare for the Post contest that will take place in December, followed by the District contest that should be held in January 2024. The Oratorical Department contest is tentatively scheduled for February 17, with an alternate date of February 24, 2024. The location is the W. Roger Webb Forensic Science Institute on the campus of UCO in Edmond, OK. The 2024 National Finals will be May 17-19 in Hillsdale, Mich., at Hillsdale College. The quarterfinal and semifinal contests are scheduled for Saturday, May 18, with the finals scheduled for Sunday, May 19.

The official rules and other information on the Oratorical Program can be found at www.legion.org/oratorical

Our Oklahoma Department Oratorical Winner, Jesse LaBahn, will be at the summer convention to give the winning speech that propelled her to the Semi-finals at the National contest. Please come out and hear this tremendous speech she has prepared on the US Constitution.

Rob Willis
Oratorical Chairman

OKC VA HealthCare System
PRESENTS

Veterans Coffee Socials



Veterans Coffee Socials enhance communication and foster bonds among Veterans, Service Members, their families/caregivers and supporters in the community. They are a place to meet friends, find resources, and have fun with other Veterans and community members.

COFFEE SOCIALS ARE BEING OFFERED THROUGHOUT
THE COMMUNITY WITH ADDITIONAL LOCATIONS
BEING ADDED MONTHLY
SCAN QR CODE FOR FULL LIST



<https://tinyurl.com/OKVeteranCoffeeSocial>

FREE TO JOIN! YOU ONLY PAY FOR YOUR COFFEE!

Questions? Contact: bryan.rich@va.gov



The American Legion Family

American Legion News



Palou wins again, Armstrong eighth in American Legion Honda in Detroit

The American Legion

JUN 05, 2023

A dominant May carried over into June for Chip Ganassi Racing's (CGR) Alex Palou.

After winning the GMR Grand Prix, and then capturing the Indianapolis 500 pole and rallying for a fourth-place finish in that race, Palou followed with an impressive showing over the weekend in Michigan. Driving the No. 10 Ridgeline Lubricants Honda that carried American Legion branding, Palou captured the pole of Chevrolet Detroit Grand Prix on Saturday. He followed that up by leading Sunday's race by as many as nine seconds at one point before holding off the field on two late restarts to cross the finish line by 1.18 seconds ahead of second-place finisher Will Power.

The win was the second of the NTT INDYCAR SERIES season for Palou, who now leads CGR teammate Marcus Ericsson by 51 points in the series point standings. And it marked another strong day for the Ganassi entire team. Scott Dixon took fourth, while rookie Marcus Armstrong – driving the No. 11 American Legion Honda – was eighth and Ericsson ninth.

"The No. 10 Ridgeline Lubricants car was on point today," Palou said via CGR media. "Honda gave us everything we needed in fuel mileage and all the power. I am super proud of the job we did. It was tricky at the end with those tires, I couldn't really get them up to temperature, but I am proud that we got another win this year.

"It's still too early to think about the championship. We'll keep focused on the next few races—there's a few that I really love coming up. We'll keep on pushing."

From the win, Palou will split \$10,000 with Chip Ganassi Racing and his chosen charity, The American Legion, for his victory as part of the PeopleReady Force For Good Challenge. And with his win on the Indy road course and then Sunday's street course victory, he is two-thirds of the way to earning a \$1 million bonus for picking up victories on all three racecourses. Palou can

collect the bonus – which will be split with The American Legion – by getting wins at any on the three remaining oval races: a doubleheader July 22-23 at Iowa Speedway and Aug. 27 at Worldwide Technology Raceway.

Armstrong continued his strong rookie season, earning a spot in the Fast 12 during qualifications and starting Sunday's race in 11th. He continued to move up during the race, picking up his second top-10 finish of the year and maintaining a 24-point lead over Agustin Canapino in the series' rookie standings.

"It was a good race," Armstrong said. "We stayed out of trouble. We didn't do anything too crazy. We had a lot of pace. I thought we were quicker than the cars ahead. I think we did make a couple of good on-track moves which was great.

"Ultimately, the car was amazing, and I think we're capable of a lot more which is a good sign for the future. Great job to the team all around."

Ericsson's No. 8 Huski Ice Spritz Honda also featured American Legion branding over the weekend. He called Sunday a "tough day" but added, "The team did really good with strategy and pit stops, we got some overtakes to get us back in the top 10. Overall, a decent points day but disappointing. Congrats to Alex and the team on the win."



Biden gives boost to military and veteran spouses, caregivers and survivors

The American Legion

JUN 09, 2023

President Biden today will announce a series of executive actions that will increase the economic security of military and veteran spouses, caregivers and survivors.

Military-connected families regularly sacrifice for our country, whether or not a loved one happens to be deployed. Many military and veteran spouses, caregivers, and survivors — the vast majority of whom are women — struggle to achieve their desired career goals due to the strains of multiple deployments; frequent moves with little control over their geographic location; caring for wounded, ill and injured servicemembers or veterans; time apart for training, and more.

Military spouses face a 21-percent unemployment rate, a rate that has not significantly changed over the past decade. These challenges are not limited to active-duty spouses, as Reserve and National Guard spouses must balance their careers against the challenges that arise when their servicemember is activated and deployed.

The American Legion has long supported these types of initiatives designed to assist military families.

For example, Resolution No. 81, approved by the National Executive Committee (NEC) at national convention in 2017, explicitly states that The American Legion supports and encourages the public and private sectors to hire military spouses.

Additionally, Resolution No. 18, the Comprehensive Supports for Caregiver Support Program, was approved by the NEC during its Spring Meetings in 2022. This resolution states that The American Legion supports supplemental support for veteran caregivers – specifically, that the Legion endorses programs that will help bereaving family member caregivers transition from VA caregiver supports and services.

Highlights of today's order include:

- Directing the development of a government-wide Strategic Plan on Hiring and Retention for Military and Veteran Spouses, Caregivers and Survivors. To ensure the coordination of military-connected hiring and retention efforts across the Federal government, the Executive Order directs the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), in consultation with the Secretaries of Defense, Labor, Veterans Affairs, and Homeland Security, to identify strategies to eliminate barriers to the hiring and retention of military and veteran spouses, caregivers and survivors. The Strategic Plan, due within 180 days, will include plans for marketing the talent, experience, and diversity of military and veteran spouses, caregivers, and survivors to agencies and encouragement for agencies to set benchmarks to improve performance and accountability.
- Increasing federal job postings using the Military Spouse Noncompetitive Appointment Authority.
- Setting government-wide standards to improve the Domestic Employee Teleworking Overseas (DETO) program. DETO enables certain federal employees to work remotely from an overseas location, helps the government carry out its global mission, supports family unification, and retains valuable talent and expertise in the federal workforce, including military spouses residing with their servicemember stationed overseas.
- Bolstering access to child care for military families. To continue building on the existing support and ensure that military families have access to affordable, high-quality child care allowing both the servicemember and the spouse to pursue professional opportunities, the Executive Order directs the implementation of Dependent Care Flexible Saving Accounts for servicemembers no later than Jan. 1, 2024, as well as expansion of pathways for military spouses to provide home-based child care on military installations.
- Directing OPM to issue guidance to agencies outlining telework and remote work flexibility for military spouses and caregivers.
- Encouraging federal agencies to collaborate to place a military spouse or caregiver in another position following changes to support continuity of care or relocation due to a PCS that makes it untenable for them to continue in their existing position.



Service Officer News



VA |  **U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs**

CHEYENNE AND ARAPAHO TRIBES AND THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS WILL BE HOSTING A

PACT ACT : PRESUMPTIVE DISABILITY CLAIMS EVENT: BRINGING VA BENEFITS HOME EVENT IN YOUR HOMETOWN

During the event, you can:

- Speak with representatives
- Get answers to VA Benefits and Claims questions
- File your claim
- Get same day decisions when you share complete information
- Receive VHA Toxic Health Screens

Friday, July 14, 2023
8:00 am—4:00 pm
RESPECT Gym
220 E. Black Kettle Blvd
Concho, OK 73022

For more information contact:
Mary Culley, 405-626-3426
Mary.Culley@va.gov
Jerry Levi, 405-422-7789
jelevi@cheyenneandrapaho-nsn.gov

*Cheyenne and Arapaho
Office: Veterans Affairs
200 Wolfe Robes Circle
Concho, OK
405-422-7728*



Scott Tafoya

American Legion Department of Oklahoma

Muskogee Regional Office (351)

125 S. Main St.

Muskogee, Oklahoma 74401

Email: al.vbamus@va.gov or scott.tafoya@va.gov

Phone 918-781-7760 or 888-253-4466 FAX:918-781-7761



VA News

VA Aid and Attendance benefits and Housebound allowance

VA Aid and Attendance or Housebound benefits provide monthly payments added to the amount of a monthly VA pension for qualified Veterans and survivors. If you need help with daily activities, or you're housebound, find out if you qualify.

Am I eligible for VA Aid and Attendance or Housebound benefits as a Veteran or survivor?

VA Aid and Attendance eligibility

You may be eligible for this benefit if you get a VA pension and you meet at least one of these requirements.

At least one of these must be true:

- You need another person to help you perform daily activities, like bathing, feeding, and dressing, **or**
- You have to stay in bed—or spend a large portion of the day in bed—because of illness, **or**
- You are a patient in a nursing home due to the loss of mental or physical abilities related to a disability, **or**
- Your eyesight is limited (even with glasses or contact lenses you have only 5/200 or less in both eyes; or concentric contraction of the visual field to 5 degrees or less)

Housebound benefits eligibility

You may be eligible for this benefit if you get a VA pension and you spend most of your time in your home because of a permanent disability (a disability that doesn't go away).

Note: You can't get Aid and Attendance benefits and Housebound benefits at the same time.

How do I get this benefit?

You can apply for VA Aid and Attendance or Housebound benefits in one of these ways:

Send a completed VA form to your pension management center (PMC)

Fill out VA Form 21-2680 (Examination for Housebound Status or Permanent Need for Regular Aid and Attendance) and mail it to the PMC for your state. You can have your doctor fill out the examination information section.

[Get VA Form 21-2680 to download](#)

[Find your PMC](#)

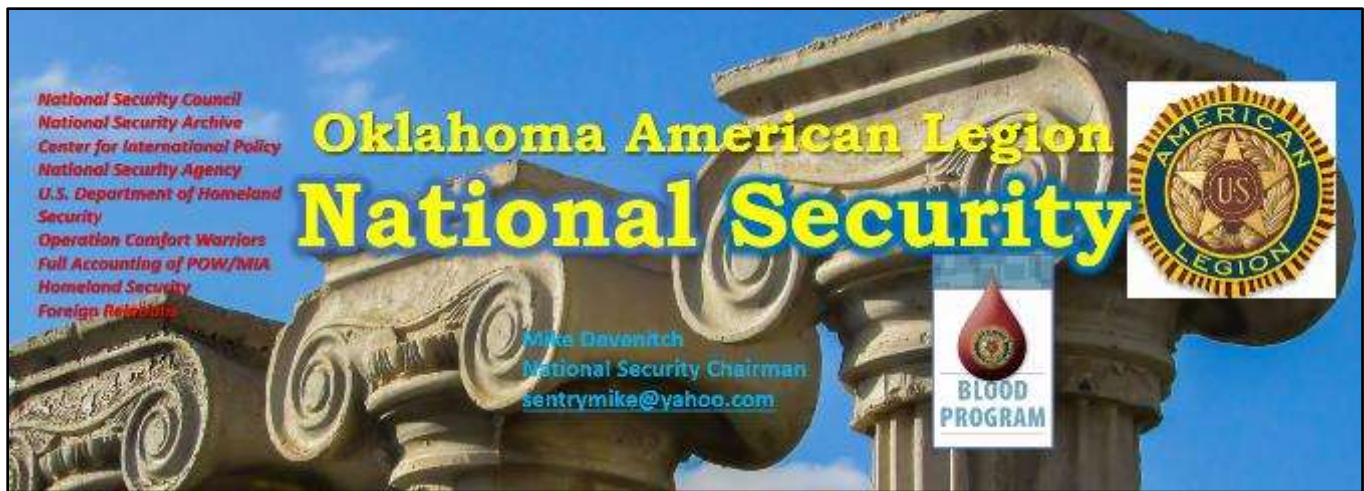
You can also include with your VA form:

- Other evidence, like a doctor's report, that shows you need Aid and Attendance or Housebound care
- Details about what you normally do during the day and how you get to places
- Details that help show what kind of illness, injury, or mental or physical disability affects your ability to do things, like take a bath, on your own

[Learn about the evidence you'll need to support your claim](#)

If you're in a nursing home, you'll also need to fill out a Request for Nursing Home Information in Connection with Claim for Aid and Attendance (VA Form 21-0779).

[Get VA Form 21-0779 to download](#)



The American Legion's National Security Policy

The American Legion believes national security must be maintained to fulfill the mandate for a strong national defense. As stated in the Preamble, **“FOR GOD AND COUNTRY WE ASSOCIATE OURSELVES TOGETHER FOR THE FOLLOWING PURPOSES: To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America... To safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy.”**

The Legion is an organization of veterans who fought for freedoms, which they are dedicated to keeping and preserving. As one of the Four Pillars it was founded on, the Legion believes national security is upheld by keeping a well-funded Department of Defense, a good quality of life for troops and a sensible transition between service and separation.

Michael H. Devenitch
National Security Member

National Commander Visits Oklahoma



National Commander Vincent J. Troiola visited Oklahoma on the 25 – 29 June 2023. This year's theme is the Wild, Wild West as all stops will be in the West. Thanks for all the support for the National Commander Troiola visit to Oklahoma!

VA Oklahoma City Health Care Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service (VAVS) Advisory Committee

We are excited to announce that on May 30, 2023, the Department of Veterans Affairs announced that **it has relaxed the masking requirement at VA medical facilities**, including all Oklahoma City Veterans Affairs Health Care System sites.

Now, with the exception of high-risk immuno-compromised patient areas, OKC VA facilities will no longer require masks in most clinical areas.

Masks are still required for Veteran patients and visitors in the following high-risk areas due to the nature of some of the patients in these areas:

- Infusion clinics and its waiting areas,
- Emergency Department and its waiting areas,
- The Spinal Cord Injury clinics, Community Living Center (Residents do not need to wear masks; staff and visitors are required to wear masks).
- Masking also continues to be required for those with a suspected or confirmed COVID-19 infection or other viral respiratory infection.

We fully support and respect the decision of those individuals who choose to continue to wear a mask. If any Veteran would like for their Health Care Personnel to also wear a mask, please ask.

Michael H. Devenitch
American Legion VAVS Representative
VA Oklahoma City Health Care System



Department of Oklahoma American Legion College to be held September 29th thru October 1st, 2023, at Tinker Event Center, 3900 Mitchell Ave. Oklahoma City, OK 73145. This course will be challenging and rewarding, it will cause you to think creatively to solve problems, to recruit new members, and to retain those who have already joined. This course will encourage new ideas and how to expand on programs already in use. In conclusion your attendance and completion of this course will make you a better Legionnaire, SAL or Auxiliary member and will strengthen the entire Legion Family.

Oklahoma Legion College will be held in the Gen. James E. Hill Conference Center Bld. 1093, located on Patrol Rd. Attire for the College will be Collared Shirt, slacks or Jeans. On Sunday there will be a group Photo, the current Commander's Polo, Legion Cover (Garrison), and a Sport Coat. If you do not have a Military I.D., or driver license that indicates you as a Veteran, please contact Department Adjutant at adjutant@okamlegion.org, or myself or the Registrar Brandy Paulson at oklegioncollege@gmail.com, (580) 579-6943.

Payments for the Oklahoma Legion College can be sent, or mailed to the Department of Oklahoma American Legion, Oklahoma City, OK [73152](#). Payment can be made by check, PayPal

or Square for PayPal you can use the Department website. For square the post or individual will contact Rob Haugh the Department Adjutant via email address of adjutant@okamlegion.org (preferred method) the Dept. pays the least amount of fees this way. Please inform the College Registrar Brandy Paulson of your enrollment, and payment status to the Oklahoma American Legion College. Please provide your contact information, application is available on the Department web-site- okamlegion.org. For up-to-date information please monitor the department website

Sincerely,

Hayden Woods, TAL Oklahoma College Dean
201 S. Capital Ave., Tishomingo, OK. 73460
580 579-6943/woodsho85@gmail.com

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Success Stories

Congratulations! The following Posts have earned big credit in 2023 to spend at Emblem Sales in 2024:
Over \$400 earned: Fort Gibson, OK Post 20

DISTRICT OFFICER / COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS FOR 2023-2024

1A

- **COMMANDER:** Garry Gibson, Post 101
- **1st Vice:** Howard Hicks, Post 101
- **DEC:** Rich Conn, Post 240
- **Adjutant:** Sharon Reese, Post 334
- **SAA:** Robert Miller, Post 101
 - **Finance:** Debbie Gordon, Post 195
 - **Resolutions:** John Hardison, Post 105
 - **C & BL:** Bill Teel, Post 105
 - **Americanism:** Debbie Gordon, Post 195
 - **National Convention:** Bill Teel, and Lee Cathey, Alt
 - **Internal Affairs:** John Hardison, 105
 - **Oratorical:** Gordon “Lucky” Ladwig, Post 131

1B

- **COMMANDER:** Joe Meyer, Post 1
- **1st Vice:** Bob Coffey, Post 308
- **DEC:** Ron Bunch, Post 17
- **Adjutant:** Esther Coker, Post 450
- **SAA:** Charlie O’Leary, Post 142
- **VICE CMDRS:**
 - **Ray Watts,** Post 2020
 - **Al Meyer,** Post 1
 - **Rhonda Tyler,** Post 308
 - **Frank Webb,** Post 131
 - **FINANCE:** Rhonda Tyler
 - **RESOLUTIONS:** Charlie O’Leary, Post 142
 - **C & BL:** Joe Meyer, Post 1
 - **AMERICANISM:** Ted MacElroy, Post 110
 - **National Convention:** Charlie O’Leary, Karen Cruice
 - **Oratorical:** Lucky Ladwig
 - **SAL Liaison:** Al Meyer, Post 1
 - **Legion Family Building:** Charlie O’Leary
 - **National Security:**
 - **Children & Youth:**

2A

- **COMMANDER:** Tom Russell, Post 20
- **1ST VICE:** Danny Gross, II, Post 50
- **DEC:** Jim Quinn, Post 20
- **ADJUTANT:** Jess Foreman, Post 20
 - **FINANCE:** Tyler Rector, Post 50
 - **RESOLUTIONS:** Kayla Rector, Post 50
 - **C& BL:** Kayla Rector, Post 50
 - **AMERICANISM:** Tyler Rector, Post 50

- **National Convention: Kayla Rector, Post 50**

3A

- **COMMANDER: Robert Chisolm, Post 145**
- **1st Vice: Gary Pierson**
- **DEC: VACANT**
 - **No Committee Assignments**

3B

- **COMMANDER: Jack Sikes**
- **1st Vice: Hayden Woods**
- **2nd Vice: Amy Manning**
- **DEC: Sammy Padgentt (standby) in event Woody Alexander doesn't make EAST**
- **ADJUTANT: Amanda Current**
 - **No Committee Assignments**

4A

- **COMMANDER: John Bloxom, Post 126**
- **1st Vice: Patricia Mathes-Kerr, Post 64**
- **DEC: George Wooden, Post 64**
 - **FINANCE: George Wooden, Post 64**
 - **RESOLUTIONS: Jimmy Keene, Post 64**
 - **C& BL: John Bloxom, Post 126**
 - **AMERICANISM: Patricia Mathes- Kerr, Post 64**
 - **National Convention: Patricia Mathes-Kerr, Michael Kerr.**

4B

- **COMMANDER: Will Spatz, Post 72**
- **1st Vice: James Kercheval, Post 72**
- **DEC: Sequeeta Potter, Post 204**
 - **FINANCE: Harris Thacker**
 - **RESOLUTIONS: Will Spatz, Post 72**
 - **C & BL: Sequeeta Potter**
 - **AMERICANISM: Will Spatz, Post 72**
 - **National Convention: Brandy Paulson, Post 72**

5A

- **COMMANDER: Rex Ice, Post 111**
- **1st Vice: Lance Larson, Post 129**
- **DEC: Mike Harris, Post 1340**
- **VICE COMMANDERS:**
 - **Melvin Hopkins, Post 157**
 - **Ezekial Jenkins, Post 157**
 - **FINANCE: Ezekial Jenkins, Post 157**
 - **RESOLUTIONS: Frederika Campbell, Post 111**
 - **C & BL: Kim Vincent, Post 58**
 - **AMERICANISM: Ken Wyatt, Post 111**
 - **National Convention: Brett Martin, Post 12**

5B

- **COMMANDER:** Dale Haynes, Post 301
- **1st Vice:** James Height, Post 301
- **DEC:** Stephen Worley, Post 184
- **2nd Vice:** Buddy Adams, Post 23
 - **FINANCE:** Betty Worley, Post 261
 - **RESOLUTIONS:** James Hight, Post 301
 - **C & BL:** Buddy Adams, Post 23
 - **AMERICANISM:** James Hight, Post 301
 - **National Convention:** Tia Blansett, Post 301

6A

- **COMMANDER:** Ed Lager, Post 34
- **1st VICE:** Mike Pruitt
- **DEC:** Michael H. Devenitch, Post 160
 - **FINANCE:** Cagel
 - **RESOLUTIONS:** Don Kuntze, Post 353
 - **C & BL:** Mike Pruitt
 - **AMERICANISM:** John Bishop, Post 353
 - **National Convention:** VACANT

6B

- **COMMANDER:** Larry Watson
- **1st VICE:** April Markham-Sanchez
- **DEC:** Jim Rees
 - **FINANCE:** John McNeal, Mike Pineada
 - **RESOLUTIONS:** April Markham-Sanchez, Carolyn Adkins
 - **C & BL:** Jim Rees, Bob Medina
 - **AMERICANISM:** Bob Medina, Keller Stewart
 - **National Convention:** John McNeal

7

- **COMMANDER:** Shirley May, Post 146
- **1st VICE:** Elmo May, Post 146
- **DEC:** Doug Hale
 - **FINANCE:** Larry Barker
 - **RESOLUTIONS:** Elmo May, Shirley May
 - **C & BL:** Walt Jackson, Sr
 - **AMERICANISM:** Doug Hale
 - **National Convention:** VACANT

8A:

- **COMMANDER:** Joe Kingery, Post 71
- **DEC:** Tina Kilmer, Post 53



District 1A

Commander's Corner

On May 25 at the Delaware Tribe of Indians Complex in Bartlesville Ok. The Lenape Warriors Society and Delaware War Mothers dedicated a new Veterans Memorial. Attending the dedication was several tribes, Lenape, Osage, Cherokee, Shawnee tribes represented along with Patriot Guard Motorcycle Group, DAV from 2 counties and 4 Legion Posts were represented: Salina, Owasso, Ramona- Ochelata, Pawhuska, all took part in the dedication. The New Memorial is open to the public at the Tribal complex at 5100 Tuxedo Blvd. Bartlesville, OK.



Submitted by Steven Donnell Service Officer Post 240 Salina.

District 1A Commander
Garry Gibson
For God and Country

District 1B Commander's Corner

It's been a busy month of June for our District 1B Legion family. Most Posts held Flag retirement Ceremonies on Flag Day as the US Army celebrated its 248th birthday on June 14. Tulsa 1 and Sand Springs 17 were two of many, and "Liver Eater Johnson" made an appearance at one of them. Collinsville Post 2 welcomed the *Wreathes Across America* traveling exhibit, participated in the *Hogs and Hot Rods*, and held Honor Guard training for all interested members of the District that wished to attend. Post 141 hosted a Legion Family fishing tournament. Post 227 was involved in Big Heart Day activities in Barnsdall, and Post 450 distributed clothing on the first Monday of the month as well as partnering with Post 1 to do the same every month on the 2nd Wednesday. Also, big news for Post 308 as they welcomed a new Service Officer this month. All of our Posts have had elections by now for the 2023-2024 membership year and I'd like to personally thank everyone who has agreed to step up and help in Officer or committee positions. District Vice Commanders and I will be making Post visits throughout our area in August to swear in Officers, offer assistance and guidance as needed, and to meet everyone. Hope to see all of you in Shawnee for the Department Convention July 13-16. Again, thank you to everyone who steps up to make the lives of Veterans better and honors those who have gone on to Post Everlasting.



FOR GOD AND COUNTRY
Joseph C. Meyer
American Legion Depart. of
Oklahoma
District 1B Commander

Jenks Post 95: The volunteers of the monthly clothing giveaways would like to thank Jenks Post 95 membership & Post Adjutant Don Spinar for the clothing donated at the 2nd Wednesday monthly clothing giveaway held at Tulsa American Legion Post 1. The donations combined gave more variety for those coming to get clothes: a variety of men, women, and children's clothing. Reminder all are welcome, simply ask no reselling.



Barnsdall Post 227: Bill Lynch and Jim Siggins presenting the \$500.00 American Legion scholarship check to McKenna Bryant at the Barnsdall school awards assembly.

"Membership from Ochelata American Legion Post 450 would like to give a Big Shout Out to Sand Springs American Legion Post 17 and say Thank You to Post 17 membership for helping a local Marine Veteran when we were not set up to assist the Veteran. We received a call that the Veteran was without power in May. Post 17 along with another Marine Veteran together paid the bill and power was restore within a few hours."

This month wraps up a project in which American Legion Post 450 (Ochelata) was able to help a Legionnaire from a neighboring American Legion Post reroof his home. Total donations received for this project were \$9,091.25. The homeowner will also receive a free day of landscaping by a group of volunteers.



Barnsdall American Legion Post #227 played a big part in celebrating the 70th annual Bigheart Day. On Monday, May 29, American Legion Post 227 held a Memorial Day Service at 10 a.m. at

Ethel Reece West Cemetery. Big Heart Day is organized each year by the Chamber of Commerce, the American Legion Post #227, and the help of the entire Barnsdall community Claude Rosendale, an officer of Post #227. Please plan to join in the festivities May 2024 (Saturday before Memorial Day).

Monthly Clothing Giveaway Information

American Legion Post 450 Ochelata

Day: 1st Monday Monthly

Time: 10:00am-5:00pm

Location: Ochelata Senior Center

329 Ochelata Street

Ochelata, Oklahoma

American Legion Post 1 Tulsa

Day: 2nd Wednesday Monthly

Time: 9:00am-4:00pm

Location: American Legion Post 1

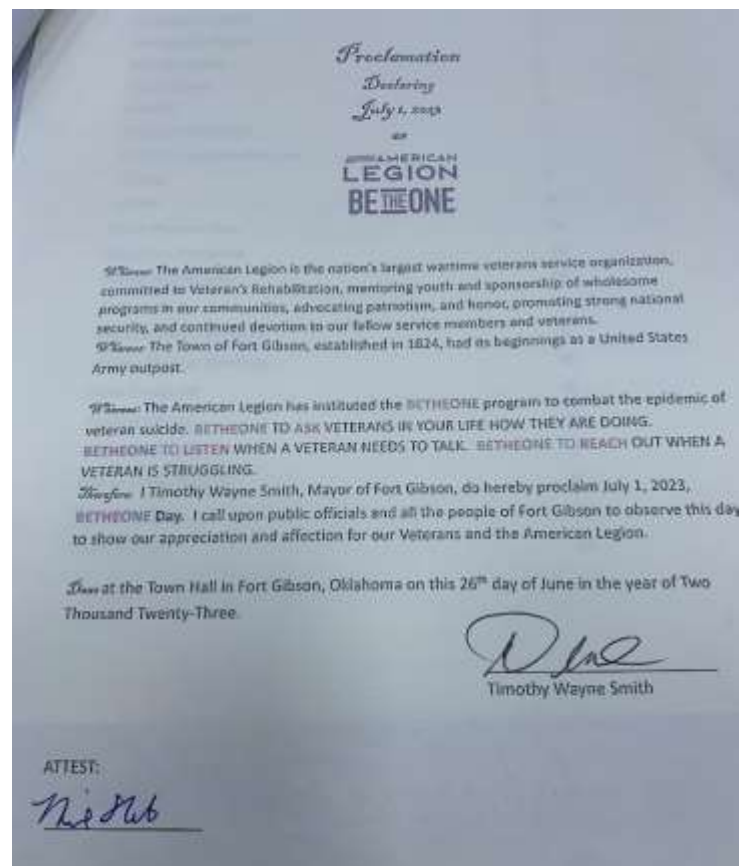
1120 East 8th Street

Tulsa, Oklahoma

**For God and Country,
Joseph Meyer
1B District Commander**

District 2A Commander's Corner

Fort Gibson Post 20: Be the One! The Oldest town in Oklahoma, Fort Gibson that got its beginnings as a US Army Outpost in 1824. To keep the peace between tribes has come a long way from an Army Outpost to a small community that cares not just about its people but its veterans and veterans across the US. On June 26th, 2023, at 6PM at a regular town hall meeting the Mayor and city council members put forth a Proclamation that on July 1st of each year would be known in the Town of Fort Gibson as **Be The One Day**. In following with the town's history and tradition of coming together for people in need and Veterans alike. The Town council voted the proclamation unanimously. Following a reading of the proclamation by the Town mayor Tim Smith a photo with over a dozen member of the Local American Legion Post 20, Sons of the American Legion and Axillary members was taken with the Town council. The Town of Fort Gibson and its citizens have always and continue to show their support for the veterans of the Armed



Forces of the United States. It does not matter if it's a BBQ sale, a dinner, a festival, Bingo or getting behind an American Legion push to help end veteran suicide the town and its leaders show their support.



District 3A Commander's Corner

Happy July To All. We want to thank all our Posts that timely submitted their CPRs this year. I know we all have 4th of July plans in preparation. Please be safe and enjoy your events. We are very much looking forward to our summer convention. Department Officer election day should be quite interesting with the number of candidates running and a long day of voting. Hope to have a good attendance. That's all for now.

Regards To Everyone
Robert C Chisolm

District 3B

Monthly Legion Meeting at Post 39 in Durant. Temp was a little toasty, but they are doing a great job rebuilding that Post. They had an out-of-town visitor who drove through 10-Counties in Oklahoma to get there!



Post Commander Jack Sikes
leading the meeting at Post 39



American Legion Post 39 in Durant Adjutant broadcasts all of their meetings live on Facebook for those veterans who are unable to attend!

They can also interact by sending Facebook posts and by texting the Adjutant.

More Posts should look into doing this.

Salute to Post 39 for leading the way in reach-out to veterans!



4A District Commander's Corner

Greeting Legionnaires,

Hope all are well, and I am looking forward to seeing many of you at the Department Convention next month. As another Legion year is drawing to a close, I am reminded that it has been a good year for some posts in District 4A, and a tough year for others. Shawnee Post 16 is still recovering from the April 19th tornado and has a long and difficult rebuilding process ahead. They need our prayers and our help. Chandler Post 64 is upgrading their facility, which was well overdue, and when finished the old building which was dedicated in 1933 will look much better. Post 64 was very active in presenting school awards as the school year ended and was proud to present another scholarship to a deserving Senior at the Chandler High School award ceremony. Many of the posts in 4A were involved in Memorial Day activities, and the Post 64 Honor Guard was proud to be on the front page of the Lincoln County News. All posts should be working on the annual forms that need to be turned in to the Department, including the Consolidated Post Report. It will be an interesting Convention, with many new candidates running for Department offices. It is also a

challenging time for our department, as well as the districts and posts, and we look for big things and new ideas from all the new officers that will be sworn in at the convention. Plenty of time before the convention to be selling raffle tickets, as it is a very important fundraiser for our department. Again, see you all at the convention!

George Wooden
DEC District 4A

5A District Commander's Corner Rex Ice

The month of June has been wonderful in District 5A. Things started out with Boys State at Claremore. Once again District 5A was well represented.



The photograph above shows State Commander, Jim Quinn, with members of Post 111 at Rogers State University. I am proud to announce the Boys State Governor came from District 5A.



Post 1340 went to Guthrie to honor veterans this month. The picture above shows the members of Post 1340 laying a wreath at the Guthrie Veterans Memorial



Mike Marxen, Department Riders Director, Charles Downs, Post 58 Commander, Mike Harris, Post 1340 Commander, and Rex Ice, District 5A Commander at the wreath laying ceremonies in Guthrie.



The photograph above shows Neal Helfrey receiving a flag from Tammy Ross of the DAR for a World War 2 veteran. Post 111 Commander, Rex Ice looks on as the flag is presented to the Post.

The District 5A personnel did a great job during the Memorial Day Holiday. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the folks in District 5A for the efforts put forth to remember those that gave the last full measure of devotion. May we long remember, and never forget those who sacrificed so much for our freedom.



The photograph above is an interview by American Legion member, A.L. Haislip. Andy Weber of KOCO, Channel 5 News in Oklahoma City Conducted the interview.

The upcoming days have many events for District 5A members. Please take this opportunity to show your American Legion pride by attending and participating in a Fourth of July event. We also have the Department Convention scheduled for July. Thank you to everyone for supporting the American Legion. Your efforts are really appreciated.



Hanner-Sharp Post 129 Presents Awards



At our last regular meeting we dedicated our program time to the presentation of post awards for first responders and a Legion member.

Four First Responders were recognized for their exemplary service to the community. After many years of being disappointed that we did not have any first responders to nominate to the state awards committee, we made direct contact with the heads of the various public service agencies in Stillwater. We encouraged each to submit a nomination and we received some outstanding nominations that have already been sent forward to the state committee. Our nominees included Left to Right in the attached photo: Captain Paul Fox, Payne County Sheriff's Office; Lieutenant Matt Webb, Stillwater Fire Department and Master Patrol Officer, Dusty Behne. These local award winners are flanked by Jim Rutledge, Post 129 Commander and Senator Tom Dugger, member of Post 129. Senator Dugger added a legislative commendation to the recognition for each recipient. A fourth officer, Josh Rudluff of the Stillwater Police Department was unable to attend the meeting. The post also recognized Past Commander, Stan Witte as the Post's Legionnaire of the Year. Witte was responsible for a complete renovation of the first floor of the Legion Hall, plus he has consistently been one of the best recruiters and one of the biggest fund-raisers for the post.

Post 58 Guthrie: The American Legion LeBron Post 58 Guthrie has teamed up with the Korean American Association to recognize and present the Ambassador for Peace Medal for U.S. Veterans who served in the Korean War. The recognition ceremony and Korean luncheon will take place on July 22 at Post 58 in Guthrie. Legionnaires Doug Westbrook and Adjutant Kim Vincent are

spearheading this recognition in conjunction with Jaeho Yi, President of the Korean American Association of Amarillo.

This is the 70th year anniversary of Armistice Day (July 27, 1953) for the Korean War, known as the Forgotten War, which has never been forgotten and never will be forgotten by the Koreans, Veterans, and their families. As this is a special day to recognize our Veterans, the Korean government would like to commemorate with a special thank you by awarding this medal for those who risked their lives to preserve and protect the freedom and democracy for their home country, The Republic of Korea (aka South Korea).

What began with a goal of identifying 12 Korean War Veterans, we are humbled by the response we have received and look forward to our next ceremony. Currently, twelve deceased Veterans have been identified, two who were Killed In Action, and nine who are living, including several Legionnaires from Guthrie (4), Perry (3), and Edmond (1), though membership is not a requirement. Those families with deceased Veterans will accept the medal posthumously. Family members will attend from as far away as California, Missouri, and Kansas.

Korean War service is verified by reviewing the DD-214, and then a short questionnaire with the Veterans information is completed. These two items are sent to the Korean Consulate to confirm and award the medals to the hosting organization for the ceremony. Post 58 is pleased to assist Jaeho Yi facilitate this recognition for our Korean War Veterans.

If you know a Korean War Veteran, please feel free to contact us so we can help you get them recognized with the Ambassador for Peace Medal.



Korean Appreciation Day
for
US VETERANS

 **Honoring** 
Korean War
Veterans

Presented by Jaeho Yi
Korean American Association



American Legion LeBron Post 58
123 N. First St.
Guthrie, OK 73044
RSVP 405.282.2589
lebronpost58@lebronpost58.org

 **Saturday, July 22, 2023**
Doors open at 11 a.m.
Ceremony at noon 





Are you a **Korean War Veteran**
or know someone who is?

Please contact Doug Westbrook of
The American Legion LeBron Post 58, or
your local American Legion to find out
how to receive your
Ambassador for Peace Medal

Issued from the Korean Government as a token of
Thanking You for your sacrifices for its freedom and hope.

American Legion, Doug Westbrook at Cell: 530-340-1778
Office: 405-282-2589 (please leave message or text)
123 N First Street, Guthrie, Oklahoma
Jdwestb.77@gmail.com

Post 108 Cushing: Cushing helping with food handout at Drumright, OK River Of Life Church at the monthly event. Not pictured Commander Fishers two grandsons and Lance Larson.

For God and Country
Rex Ice
5A District Commander



5B District

Commander's Corner

Dale Haynes

We had a good visit to Lexington Post 301 with National Commander Vincent J. Troiola and Department Commander Jim Quinn on the 26th. His stated goal was to meet with members of smaller posts and talk about involvement within the community. I think his goal was met by six members of Lexington Post 301, Adjutant David Pirtle of Elmore City Post 202, and Past Post Commander William Walker and Adjutant Buddy Adams from Lindsay Post 23. Thanks to all that took the time to make the visit a success. **I would also like to express special thanks to Elmore City Post 202 and Lindsay Post 23 for their continual faithful support of all requests from the District.**



Lindsay Post 23: Memorial Day began with flags placed at businesses participating in the flag program fund raiser. Then the members hit the road to visit 6 cemeteries, performing the 21-gun salute, playing taps, singing the National Anthem and hearing the true meaning of the holiday. They traveled to Ninnekah, Alex, Bradley, Lindsay, Erin Springs and Purdy. It was a long but satisfying day. Funeral Honors were also performed by Post 23 members in May for Lindsay residents – Kenny Scruggs and Jerry Cetrangolo.



Annie Fitch, 2nd Vice Commander, attended presentations on June 7th (National Headache Foundation) and June 12th at the Oklahoma Historical Society in Oklahoma City for Women Veteran's Day, celebrating the 75th anniversary

of the Women's Armed Service Integration Act signed by President Harry Truman on June 12, 1948. Valuable information was gained from both presentations to assist any veterans that may be struggling in these areas. Bob Bartley stepped down as Finance Officer and Annie Fitch was selected to the new position. Bill Walker volunteered to become 2nd Vice Commander to fill the vacancy created by Annie's move. Also, Adjutant Buddy Adams continues to represent District 5B on the Department Constitution and By-laws Committee.

Flag Day began with placement of flags at participating business locations. Then an Open House with an old-fashioned Cook Out for members and visitors, including the American Legion Riders from Oklahoma City (Michael Marxen, Director of OKALR, his spouse and two other riders). Women volunteers prepared the flags to be retired while hamburgers were grilled. The day concluded with the flag retiring ceremony. The event was enjoyed by the very young and the "very young at heart with years of experience" sharing time together. Patriotism is still alive in Lindsay, Oklahoma.





Lexington Post 301: The post received a \$67,000 federal grant from Cleveland County to renovate their facility. It may be noted the post has resided in their current building since 1947. The first order of business was to replace the leaky roof which has now been completed. They will now begin working their way down replacing old lighting with LED fixtures, replacing stained and broken ceiling tiles, and renovating the walls. Unfortunately, a sewer problem has occurred which will take precedence but did not prevent the post from hosting the National Commander visit as noted above.

For God and Country
Dale Haynes
5B District Commander

6A District Commander's Corner

Yukon Post 160: Legion Holds Family Day: On Saturday, June 3rd, the Yukon American Legion Post 160 hosted a Family Day at the Yukon Veterans Museum. Dozens of visitors tour the thousands of Yukon Veteran Museum. The museum hosts artifacts from the Indian Wars, Civil Wars, World War I, World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War. Children were presented with flags, American Legion educational flag books, patriotic coloring pages, and hot dogs. Tours of the museum were given to excited children and parents alike. The Yukon American Legion Post 160 has served veteran in the community since 1949 and hosted the Veterans Museum for the last 8 years.



El Reno Post 34: Awards presented by outgoing Commander Michael Pruitt to Adjutant Cody Huber, Finance Officer, Bar Manager





Senior Vice Commander Brett Martin installing newly elected officers at Post 34 in El Reno on June 8, 2023



New Post officers election and installation June 8, 2023 at Post 34 in El Reno

7 District Commander's Corner

I want to thank all the Posts in District 7 for there support and hard work for the last few years as my district command comes to a close. I know you all will be in good hands moving forward, please give Shirley May your new District Commander all the support and hard work you gave me. Continue to work in the schools and keep getting the boys to attend boys state. District 7 you all are awesome to work with.

Elmo May
District 7 Commander
The American Legion

8A District Commander's Corner



*New officer installation American Legion Post 53 in Perry.
Installation by PDC Charlie O'Leary
Dinner potluck by members*

Post 343 "Bingo Dinner" June 13, 2023



Charlie O'Leary and CW4-RET Larry Viet, both former 179 IN 45th IN BDE members and were fellow US Army Warrant Officers also.



Auxiliary "Head Honcho" Janet Vincent and her husband.



Morrison Post 334 hosting their big whoop-dee "Dinner and Bingo" on June 13th at the Morrison Fire Department Building.

PDC Charlie O'Leary shaking hands with new Morrison City Manager Barry Vincent [COL-RET] and fellow 179IN Thunderbird at the event. [Charlie even won \$25.00!]



Enjoying the "Bingo Dinner" at Post 334 in Morrison!

8B District Commander's Corner

District 8B Post 273 Laverne completed their annual Memorial Day Tribute Ceremony today and here are some of the pictures from it. We put the flags out for 12 cemeteries with the largest being our Laverne Cemetery where we have 340 veterans buried. During our monthly meeting we put zip ties on the top of all our flags so we can tell them apart from the families flags on the graves.





From the desk of Mike Marxen, OKALR Director

As most of you know our Annual State Legacy Run did not go as planned. After our second stop there was an accident in which several of our Riders were injured. The good news is that all are on the mend and recovering from their injuries. It was decided that the Run would be terminated at that point. There were many fortunate incidents that day. Once the 911 call was made, first responders showed up very quickly. Also, an angel arrived on scene. Stephanie Miller was having a normal day except for the fact that she was fifteen minutes behind schedule. Stephanie stopped at the scene and immediately started rendering aid and comfort to two of our downed riders. She has a medical background, and she knew exactly what to do. Her comforting and caring demeanor helped both riders and all who came in contact with her. Stephanie advised other riders who were wanting to help what to do and not what to do. After the EMTs had taken over the care of the Riders, I saw my wife Pam and Stephanie standing off to the side of the scene. I walked over but stopped short so as not to interrupt their prayer. As I stood by listening, I heard them lifting up all the Riders, EMTs and the whole situation. Stephanie did not leave the scene until she was satisfied that everyone was taken care of. Our deepest gratitude goes with her always. Truly she was put in the right spot at the right time.

With all that being said, all the stops were contacted so that we would not be able to finish our Run. Thank you to all for your understanding and concern. A big apology to the Hominy Post 142 for leaving them holding a lot of pizza. A suggestion was made by the Yale firefighters to see if the guys at the firehouse in Hominy would take it. Any donations not made from the Posts on the Run can be made at the Summer Convention. The Department of Oklahoma Riders appreciates any donations made to the Legacy Scholarship fund. We will have a table set up for information, raffles and auction items.

This is the last year that the National Legion Riders will be supporting the Legacy Scholarship Fund. Due to the success of this fund-raising effort, the Scholarship Fund is now self-sufficient. American Legion Riders National Chairman Mark Clark announced a new mission for American Legion Riders: Support of The American Legion Veterans & Children Foundation. The new mission will begin after the conclusion of the 2023 National Convention in Charlotte. We will still be supporting "the kids" but in a different way.

If you have a Riders Chapter at your Post but do not have Chapter Charter, please submit your Chapter Constitution and By-laws and verification of Post approval to the Department so we can officially recognize you.

The Riders Meeting at the Summer Convention will be held in Ballroom 4, Friday July 14th, 1000-1130. I am looking forward to seeing you there.

Legion Riders
Mike Marxen
Director, OKALR



**Candidates For the
104th Summer Convention
Department of Oklahoma 2023 – 2024 Elections**

Alternate National Executive Committeeman

Charlie O'Leary

Michael Taylor

Department Sergeant-at-Arms

Ed Lager

Department Treasurer

Sam McPherson

Department Judge Advocate

Ron Gott

Bill Teel

Department Vice Commander West

Rex Ice

Lance Larson

Department Vice Commander East

Woody Alexander

Joe Meyer

Department Senior Vice Commander

Lee Cathey

Elmo May

Hayden Woods

Department Commander

Brett Martin

**Post Commanders, please share with your Post members and decide
who you want to vote for and send your delegation to the Summer
Convention on 16 July 2023 to let your voice be heard!
For GOD, Country, and Service**

Department NEC: Tim Smith Is Running for National Commander

Let us support Tim in his bid for National Commander, please donate from your Post or as an individual Legion Member.

**For God
For Country
For Us
For National Commander!**

With your help, we can have an Oklahoman
at the helm
of
The American Legion!



Elections

If you are a declared candidate for an elected position above the district level, you are welcome to submit your election candidate information.





From Charlie O'Leary Candidate for Alternate National Executive Committeeman [ANEC]

I am respectfully asking for your support for the office of
ANEC from Department of Oklahoma.

If two or more candidates are running:

Who will do the best job for the Blue-caps in Oklahoma?

Listen to your heart.

Follow your gut instinct.

Show up on July 16, 2023 at the Grand Casino Event Center in
Shawnee at 9:00 AM.

The ANEC vote is first one up. Vote!

Charlie





Michael Taylor The right leader

Alternate
National Executive
Committee
(ANEC)



Candidate for
Alternate National
Executive Committee
(ANEC)

Michael Taylor



Michael Taylor currently is working as Assistant City Manager and worked as Chief Deputy for Oklahoma County Commissioner District 2 Brian Maughan. Michael has worked for the State of Oklahoma with the Department of Labor and the Insurance Department. He served in the United States Air Force as a weather specialist. Honorable Discharge in 1993. Recently appointed to the Oklahoma Council of Bond Oversight by Speaker of the House Charles McCall. Currently serving on Oklahoma City oversight committee- Community and Neighborhood Enhancement Advisory Board.

He has also worked with the Alzheimer's Association as a Public Policy Coordinator for the Oklahoma /Arkansas Chapters.

He has served on the War Veterans Commission, appointed by Governor Henry.

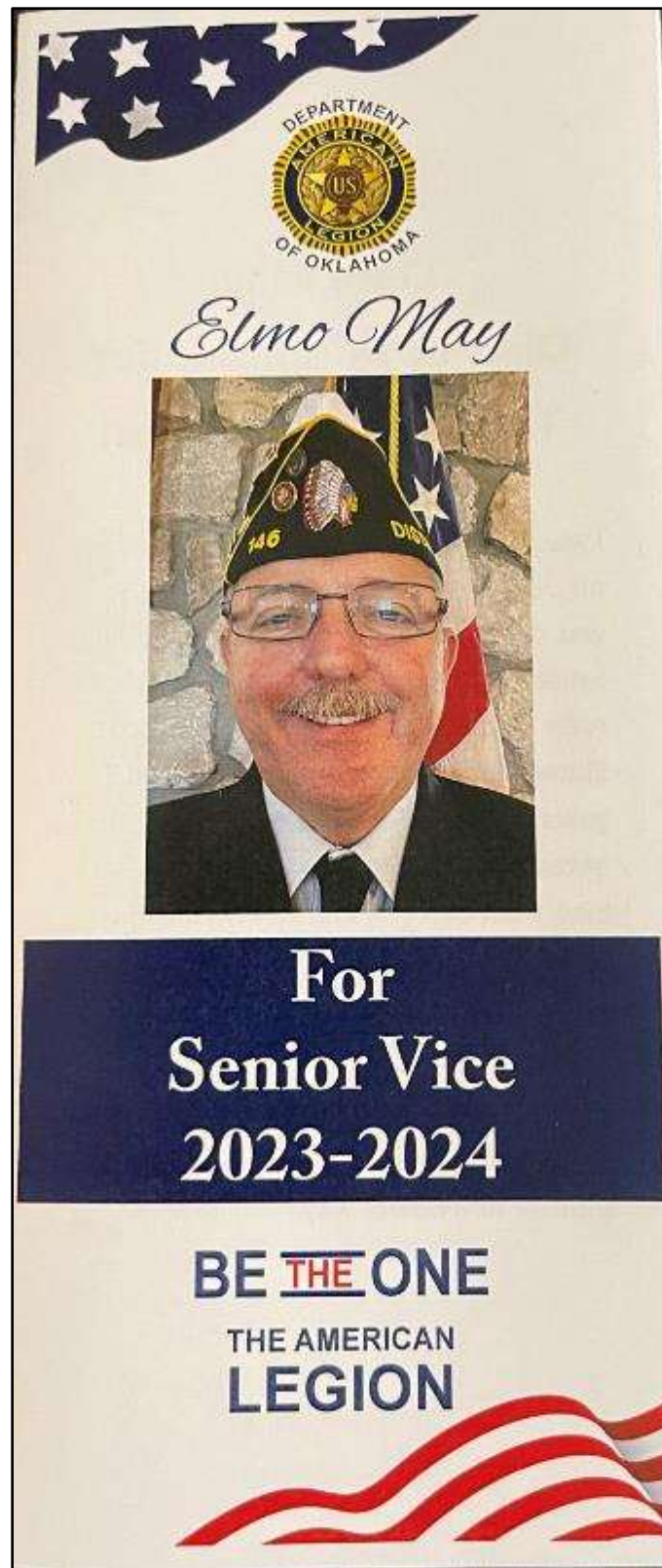
Currently active in the American Legion for which he is a past State Commander and current National Legislative Commission.



American Legion Offices held.

State Commander 2007-2008
Vice Commander WEST
Division West Commander (appt) and elected the next year.
Historian
District Commander
Post Commander Post 12
First Vice Post 12
Historian Post 12
Second Vice Post 216
Adjutant Post 88
National Appointments to:
Americanism and Legislative Commissions
Legion College- 2005
State Appointment-
Legislative Chairman (7 years)
Ten- National Conventions





ELMO MAY: I am officially announcing my candidacy for Senior Vice for the Department of Oklahoma 2023-2024. It would be my honor to serve the Legionaries of this great state. I believe in staying involved to continue our mission in moving forward and helping all Veterans. For God, Country, and Service.

CANDIDATE for VICE COMMANDER EAST



Woody D. Alexander

I am a candidate for East Vice Commander for the upcoming election in July 2023.

My Military Background: I joined the United States Marine Corp as Logistics Specialist. I was transferred to Marine Barracks Concord, California and came home after first hitch. Joined National Guard for a short term. Then, joined the Army Reserves - where I excelled to Command Sergeant Major during my time. I led two Training Battalions with a mission to train Reserve and National Guard units for Iraq. Before joining the American Legion, I worked at the Uniroyal Tire Plant in Ardmore Oklahoma and was asked to join the Emergency Response Team training consisted of: Emergency Medical Technician, HAZMAT, Confined Spaces Rescue, and Fire Brigade

I have served as an NEC Committee member and Internal Auditor in the American Legion.

I have served as 3B District Commander, District Vice Commander and DEC. I have served as Post 136 Commander, Finance Officer and Adjutant.

I was asked to step in and set up a meeting of Post 136 and assign officer positions. At the first meeting I submitted my resume for Commander Position.

What got me started was I was asked to come down to the Post and meet the Department Commander. I and my wife walked in and met Tim Smith. Tim Smith asked me what I thought about the American Legion. I told him I don't know anything about the Legion. That's when he informed me that the Legion helps Veterans and their families.

This is what I think needs to happen! District Commanders do a good job but sometimes if a Department Officer shows up at a Post and tells them that they appreciate what they are trying to do maybe just maybe some Posts could be saved.

If you believe as I do, please vote for me in July 2023, it would be greatly appreciated.



**LET'S ELECT
JOSEPH
MEYER
for
VICE
COMMANDER
EAST**



Hello, I am Joe Meyer, and I am asking for your vote in the upcoming election at the Department of OK Summer Convention 2023. As your next Vice Commander East, I will work hard for all veterans, and assist the District and Post Commanders with the same energy that I've brought to Post 1 and District 1B. I am a great believer in teamwork and of bringing people together to solve problems and think outside the box to encourage positive outcomes. I regularly attend the ODVA and Mayor's Advisory council meetings in Tulsa and work collaboratively with other Oklahoma veteran organizations to help Legionnaires on a daily basis. I look forward to meeting and speaking with you in the near future. Below are listed some related accomplishments:

- 10-year active duty decorated Army veteran with 2 overseas tours and deployment to Central America (Operation Golden Pheasant)
- Legionnaire since 2002 and SAL member since 2019.
- 3 college degrees (AS, BA, MAT) from Cameron University
- District 1B 1st Vice Commander 2022
- District committee member on the Department Constitution/By Laws Committee 2022
- Coordinated 2 District Conferences Fall 2021 & Fall 2022
- served as District Adjutant (18 Posts) 2021-2022
- attends the DEC meetings and votes in absence of the District Commander as needed
- Multiple joint activities with sister Posts in 1A-1B
- Represented District during National Commander's 5-day visit May 2022
- served as Post 1 Adjutant 2020-2021 and Finance Officer 2020-2021
- Post 1 Executive Committee at large member 2020



FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION!



REX ICE FOR VICE COMMANDER – WEST

**“TO TAKE CARE OF THOSE WHO HAVE BORNE THE BATTLE,
AND FOR HIS WIDOW AND HIS ORPHAN” –
ABRAHAM LINCOLN**

THIS IS A MISSION STATEMENT FOR ME, NOT JUST A QUOTE FROM HISTORY!



Lance Larson
Running For Vice Commander West
Summer Convention
July 2023

My name is Lance Larson, and I am running for Vice Commander West. We all know we need to get some excitement back into the Legion or we are going to lose even more numbers. So, you may ask how do we do that? The posts have to vote for who they feel is right and not the popular trend for the day. The posts in Oklahoma run the Department because if it wasn't for you there wouldn't be a Department. Holding one of these offices are decided by you and if elected it is an honor and privilege to hold that office. It isn't a god given right to hold these offices, and if you don't do your job, you should step down. I could give you a couple a quote from somebody who has been gone for a long time, but I won't, what I will give though is a promise though if I am lucky enough to get elected, I will get to work as soon as Vice Commander West election is over. I have a plan for the first 100 days to work in the west. In this plan is VSO, membership and a Membership Committee for the west. We must make this fun and get out of the gate fast. Remember Team West isn't a job, it is an adventure.

Lance Larson
Dept. SGT-AT-ARMS

2023 The Sportsman's Adventure 10 Gun Drawing.

The drawing will be held July 15th, 2023.
at the Banquet at the Department Convention

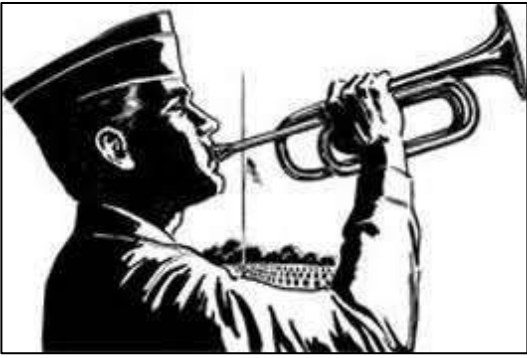


AMERICAN LEGION Sportsman's Adventure 10 Gun Drawing
Drawings will be held at The Grand Casino Hotel & Resort in Shawnee
JULY 15TH, 2023 \$10.00

THOMPSON CENTERFIRE VENTURE II
BROWNING 12 GAUGE MODEL BPS
FRANCHI 41512 BOLT ACTION
CANIK 9MM MODEL TP9SF
RUGER AMERICAN COMPACT 9MM LUGER
BROWNING X-BOLT COMPOSITE STALKER
SIG SAUER P365 SAS NP RIGHT 9MM LUGER
MOSSBERG 500 FIELD PUMP ACTION
STOGER 9MM MODEL STR-9
SIG SAUER P320 SAS 9MM LUGER

Winners of the Drawing must be of age and pass background check IAW State laws

Get your tickets today!



POST EVERLASTING



Marvin Harold Banta **December 15, 1925 - November 30, 2020**

Marvin Harold Banta was born December 15, 1925, in Hughes County near Wetumka, Oklahoma to Irving Banta and Dovie (Apple) Banta. He passed away Monday, November 30, 2020, in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma at the age of 94.

Marvin spent his childhood in the Wetumka area farming cotton. In 1944 he enlisted in the United States Army and was shipped out with the 70th infantry division from the Boston Harbor on the U.S.S. America. Action was seen as a rifleman in the Battle of the Bulge, and subsequent campaigns across the Saar River and into Germany. He was discharged to the U.S. in 1946 and received the Combat Infantry Badge, Combat Paratroop Badge and two major Campaign Battle Stars. In 1949, he began college at Abilene Christian College as a ministerial student; graduated in 1952 with a B.A. degree, carrying a double major – Bible and Eng. Lit., and a minor in German. In subsequent years he attended two other colleges in Texas and four in Oklahoma. Marvin worked in many different fields which included three years in the U.S. Border Patrol at El Paso, Texas and Calexico, California. Eight years as a policeman at Borger, Texas, six years as an English teacher and librarian in Miami, Texas, Paoli, Oklahoma and Hennessey, Oklahoma. Marvin also worked many years as a pumper in the oilfields around Hennessey, Lacy, Ames, Bison, Waukomis, Ringwood and Enid, Oklahoma before retirement.

He is preceded in death by his parents; two brothers, Newell and George and one sister, Marie.

Survivors include his four sons, Greg Banta and wife Amie, David Banta and wife Erin, James Banta and wife Andrea and Mark Banta and wife Angela; one brother, Milton Banta and wife Joyce; sister, Wanda Sue Dooley; 7 grandchildren, Mason, Logan, Griffin, Dovie, Jackson, Wyatt and Luke; two great-grandchildren, Joshua and Emma and a host of nieces, nephews and cousins. Serving as active Pallbearers will be Greg, David, Mark, Jeff, Mason and Jackson Banta.



Elmer Dale Yost
June 23, 1926 – August 26, 2022
Post 58, Guthrie

Dale Yost, 96, passed away peacefully on Friday, August 26, 2022, at Mercy Hospital in Oklahoma City. He was born at home on the farm near Mulhall, Oklahoma on June 23, 1926, to Ernest and Lillie Yost. He was preceded in death by his beloved wife of 66 years, Vona, his parents, and two sisters, Vinita Barker and Esther Donathan. Dale is survived by his daughter, Conna Woolsey and her husband, Paul, of Edmond, Oklahoma, and a niece, Janice Bennett and her

husband, Tom of Bryan, Texas.

Dale was a member of the Greatest Generation and proudly served in the U S Navy during World War II. In 2013 he was privileged to participate in one of the Oklahoma Honor Flights To Washington, D.C. where all the veterans were honored for their service. The memory of that trip brought him joy throughout the rest of his life.

Dale retired from the Oklahoma Department of Public Safety where he worked as a mechanic maintaining vehicles for the Oklahoma Highway Patrol.

Dale was a beloved husband and father. There will be a private interment at Oak Grove Cemetery in Payne County.



Keith Knipp Obituary
July 1, 1946 - September 26, 2022
Post 58, Guthrie

Keith Allen Knipp of Guthrie, OK passed away September 26, 2022, surrounded by family and friends in Shawnee, Oklahoma.

Keith was born on July 1, 1946, in Alliance, Ohio to Jesse Dennis and Mary Jane Knipp. He grew up in South Oklahoma City and graduated from U.S. Grant High School in 1964. He was married and divorced before signing up with the Marine Corps in 1968. This first marriage produced his first son, Jeff, who has preceded him in death.

Keith served the Marines from 1968 to 1970 and fought in the Vietnam War. After returning, he sought out his career as an

electrician in the Oil and Gas industry, to which he carried throughout his life before retiring from Duke Energy on June 12, 1999.

It was well known by anyone that knew him, or had even heard his name in a conversation, that his biggest passions in life was bird hunting and training bird dogs for hunting. Every minute of his free time was dedicated to some aspect of these activities and included family and friends in his hobbies.

Personality-wise, you either loved Keith or hated him and sometimes that choice wasn't left to you to decide. He was very colorful and had many lasting expressions that no one could forget. Most importantly, he was able to take anything thrown at him and laugh about it (eventually). Keith was preceded in death by his parents, Sister Mary Ann Knipp, son Jeff Knipp, grandsons Kolby Davis Knipp and Michael "Seth" Knipp and recently, his wife Paulette Knipp.

He is survived by his son Keith Elston, sons Kenny, Chris and T.J. Knipp, and all of their children and grandchildren.

To send flowers to the family or plant a tree in memory of Keith, please visit our floral store.



Joseph "Jake" Charles Ruhl
September 22, 1929 - September 23, 2022.
Post 58, Guthrie

Joseph "Jake" Charles Ruhl, 93, of Guthrie, OK was born September 22, 1929, in Cashion, OK to Joe and Annabelle (Moore) Ruhl. He died on Friday, September 23, 2022.

Jake graduated from Cashion High School with the class of 1947. He married Barbara Griffin on March 12, 1951, in Navina, OK and they celebrated their 71st wedding anniversary in 2022.

Jake joined the Oklahoma National Guard in Kingfisher while in high school and was forever proud to have been a part of Company M, 179th Infantry, 45th Division. The Division was mobilized in September 1950 to train at Ft. Polk, LA and then deployed to Korea in 1951. Upon returning home, he remained active in the National Guard, being honorably discharged and retired in 1989 as a Colonel.

Together with his wife, Jake owned and operated Ruhl Distributing Inc. in Guthrie and surrounding areas for 47 years before retiring in 2008.

He is a member of St. Mary Catholic Church, Knights of Columbus, American Legion Post 58 and Past Commander, VFW Post 4578 and past Commander and 45th Division 179th Infantry Regiment Association. Jake loved to hunt, especially the annual pheasant trips to South Dakota for many years. Jake and Barbara enjoyed traveling, revisiting Korea twice, Europe, England, The Islands and many states in the U.S.

He is preceded in death by his parents; brother, Gene Ruhl; sisters, Betty Frazier and Dorothy Burns; grandson, Jason Ruhl; and son-in-law, Gregg Ramsey.

Jake is survived by his wife of 71 years, Barbara; son, Joe Ruhl, Jr. and wife, Jan of Guthrie; daughters, Cheryll Lingerfelt and husband, Robert of Guthrie and Tamera Ramsey of Oklahoma City. Jake also leaves behind several grandchildren: Nichole Sterkel and husband, Brian, Adam Schuster, Jennifer Finch, Amanda Shields and husband, Parker, Steven Kriz and wife, Ashleigh, Lauren Blake, and Lindsey Caldwell. He is also survived by many great-grandchildren: Natalie Caldwell, Anna and Caroline Sterkel, Nora and Brody Finch, Sophia Schuster, Hannah, Jacob, and Sarah Shields, Joie and Camren Blake as well as his brother, Johnnie Ruhl of Kingfisher, OK.



Theodore (Ted) K. Karner
March 2, 1923 - April 17, 2023
Post 58, Guthrie

Theodore (Ted) K. Karner, 100, of Broken Arrow, Oklahoma was born on March 2, 1923, the only child born to G. Adolph Karner and Goldie (Hilton) Karner in Pleasant Valley, Logan County, Oklahoma. His father was a farmer and in the furniture business. His mother was a homemaker. Pleasant Valley is an old Oklahoma ghost town located between Stillwater and Guthrie, just south of the Cimarron River.

His early education took place in a rural school. World War II changed the course of his life. He joined the Army Air Corps which later became the U.S. Air Force where he served for 30+ years, attaining a rank of Chief Master Sergeant.

Ted loved all kinds of aircraft and worked as an aircraft ground mechanic until his retirement in 1986. He was a member of the Trinity Presbyterian Church in Bixby, Oklahoma and enjoyed woodworking and playing golf.

He and Norma Jean Barnard met at a movie house. They married on June 6, 1947, in El Reno, Oklahoma and enjoyed 51 years together before her passing in September 1998.

Ted is survived by his son, Donald Karner and his wife, Patti of Broken Arrow; granddaughter, Esther Diane McCrackin and husband, Justin of Broken Arrow; and grandson, David Karner and wife, Aubree of Broken Arrow. He is also survived by two great-granddaughters, Ashlynn and Reagan McCrackin of Broken Arrow.



Jerry Lowell Jackson

June 20, 1943 - June 15, 2022

Post 142, Hominy

Jerry Lowell Jackson was born June 20, 1943, in Simpson, Illinois to John and Wilma (Langford) Jackson. He was raised and educated there, then joined the Air Force in 1961. Following his honorable discharge, he was employed by General Dynamics in Dallas, Texas. He was united with Mary Brown in 1968. In 1995, Jerry was united in marriage to Billie Jean (Stallcup) Rushton.

Jerry came to Hominy from Dallas Texas in 1969 when he went to work for Ceja Corporation. He retired from Ceja in 2009 as an exploration supervisor. Jerry was a man of many talents and could fix almost (everything)anything, even building from scratch a 1902

Oldsmobile. He also enjoyed riding his gold wing motorcycle, flying his ultra-lite airplane, and his 1946-era coupe.

Other past times included him and Billie going to flea markets and Gas-Engine shows. Jerry was also a longtime member of the Hominy Church of the Nazarene.

Jerry was also a member of the Blackwell-Frazier American Legion Post 142. Jerry was always willing to lend a hand and help in any way he could. Jerry spent many years helping to keep the lawn up to par all around the post or Hut as the members have called it since it was purchased in the 1940s. Jerry and Billy always participated in the Hominy Christmas Parade driving his homemade 1902 Oldsmobile. Both Jerry and Billy were always on hand to help with special parties, post events, and the chicken noodle fundraisers. Even though Jerry was an avid breakfast attendee at the Hickory House in Cleveland, he always made it a point to stop by the Hut for our Monday morning breakfast at the Hut, if for nothing else than to join the other guys for a hot cup of coffee and some interesting conversation.

For those who wish, the family has requested that contributions be made to the: Blackwell-Frazier American Legion Post 142 - Flag Fund; Attn: Babo Carter; 118 South Wood Ave, Hominy, O K 74035.

Jerry Lowell Jackson, age 78, of Hominy, O K passed from this life on Wednesday, June 15, 2022, in Tulsa.



Carl Eli Prater

January 27, 1931 - November 21, 2022

Post 142, Hominy

Carl Eli Prater was born January 27, 1931, in Adair County and moved from Pryor to the Bennett Ranch in 1931 at the age of 6 months. Eli attended Hominy Schools where he graduated in 1949. During his four years of high school, Eli enjoyed shop class, which he enjoyed, and he lettered in. Eli also worked for JC Penney during his high school years. After high school, Eli worked at the Pettit theater as a projectionist and concession operator. He was a member of the Oklahoma National Guard, was called to active duty in 1950, and was discharged in 1952. Upon returning to Hominy, he worked at the ice plant in Hominy. Eli began working for Dowell as a truck driver and

equipment operator for 12 years, then Hominy Welding and Machine where he worked for his father-in-law, Shep. In the mid 1970's Eli worked as an independent welder and then later accepted a position for Unocal and worked as their welder. Eli retired in 1993.

After retirement, Eli began working to set up his wood working shop. He built numerous things for his family and friends including two grandfather clocks. Eli enjoyed water skiing when he was younger. He went on several mission trips, one being to Phoenix, Arizona to help a Baptist church build a building, along with Monty Patton. He took his own tools on that trip. Eli enjoyed going on trips to Branson. They would stay at their time share and go to museums and took in all the sites in the area.

Eli is survived by his wife, Donna of the home. Along with many children; Theresa (Nappy) Cowan, Noonie (Gary) Yarbrough, Corey (Shannon) Prater, Jill (Larry) Mowrey, Bradley Garrison, Mark (Rocio) Garrison, Joey Smart, Michael Garrison, and Jean Briscoe. Fourteen grandchildren; Jorey (Andrea) Cowan, Cammi (Dennis) Canady, Bettsey (Blaine) Coffee, Logan (Makena) Yarbrough, Dylan Ray, Garrett (Jessica) Prater, Jaylin Ray, Robert Garrison, Richard Scroggins, Amy, Brittinie Perry, Jennifer, Heather (Casey) Toyne, Leslie Briscoe. There are eleven great grandchildren: Jarrett Canady, Ellie Rae Prater, Kennie Jean Prater, Lincoln Coffee, Harley Scroggins, Nathan Scroggins, Grace Scroggins, Karleigh Perry, Kylianna Perry, Charlie Stammer, Eli Briscoe. Also, numerous nieces and nephews. and finally, his therapy dog, Kassey, who was with him for eight and a half years. Eli was preceded in death by his first wife, Nina Kay, his parents, two children Carla Kay Prater and Jeffrey Carl Prater, also seven brothers and three sisters. The last four years of Eli's life he was cared for by Tara Foster. Many thanks to the Complete Hospice.

A visitation for Eli will be at Powell Funeral Service in Hominy, Oklahoma on Saturday, November 26 from 10:00am to 2:00pm and Sunday, November 27, 2022, from 2:00-5:00pm. Funeral service will be 2:00pm Monday, November 28, 2022, at First Baptist Church in Hominy, with Mark Formby officiating. Burial to follow at A J Powell Memorial Cemetery. Arrangements are being handled by Powell Funeral Services of Hominy, Oklahoma. Family request in lieu of flowers, donations can be made to First Baptist Church, Hominy, Oklahoma

Carl Eli Prater, 91, passed from this life on November 21, 2022, at his home in Hominy, Oklahoma.



Patrick Sarsfield Magner
July 9, 1946 - December 5, 2022
Post 142, Hominy

Patrick was born in Washington, DC to James Peter and Florence Bernice Magner. He grew up with two sisters. Patrick went to a catholic high school in High Point, Maryland. Patrick went into the US Navy and ended up in Vietnam.

Patrick started working as a wastewater engineer. He then moved over to becoming a truck driver. Patrick was adventurous and loved moving around and being on the move. Patrick loved going to church as a young man, he enjoyed the fellowship with the people. Patrick was a homebody and loved antiquing. He enjoyed buying, selling, and

trading old cars; some thought of him as a junk dealer but he liked the adventure of it all. Patrick loved his pets; the dogs – Knucklehead and Shortie

Patrick enjoyed his time with his family. His children meant the world to him. He had two sons and two daughters. Then the grandchildren, Madelyn, Audrey, Alexandra, Kadon, James, and Austin came along.

Patrick is survived by his three of his children; Patrick Jr, Florence (Jeff) Smalley, Patti (Manny) Smith; his six grandchildren; one sister, Bridget (Bob) Frohreich; numerous nieces, nephews, and other family members. He is preceded in death by his parents; James and Florence; his son, Mikel Magner and one sister, Margaret Peters.

Graveside funeral for Patrick is 2:00pm Monday, December 12, 2022, at the pavilion in A J Powell Memorial Cemetery. Visitation will be Monday Morning from 9:00am till 12:00pm at the Powell Funeral Home. Powell Funeral Service handles all the arrangements.

Patrick Sarsfield Magner, 76, passed from this life on December 5, 2022, at his home in Hominy, Oklahoma



Clyde Arthur Henager
August 22, 1940 - February 27, 2023
Post 142, Hominy

Clyde was born on August 22, 1940, in Finley, Oklahoma, the son of Roy Jay and Ruth Opal (Rowan) Henager. Clyde attended school in and grew up in Sulphur, Oklahoma, Castle, Oklahoma, and Mounds, Oklahoma, before completing and graduating valedictorian of his class at Maramec, Oklahoma. As a young man, Clyde's first job was delivering the Tulsa World and The Grit in the Maramec area.

Following graduation, Clyde began working with his father driving a water truck and rolling asphalt-building roads. In August of 1960, Clyde joined the United States Air Force, initially stationed at Castle Air Force Base in California. Clyde returned to Oklahoma on July 25,

1961, and he was united in marriage to Betty Jane Frick in Maramec, Oklahoma. The two returned to Castle Air Force Base before transferring to Sheppard Air Force Base. In February 1964, Clyde was transferred to Pease Air Force Base in New Hampshire. Staff Sergeant Clyde Henager was honorably discharged from the United States Air Force on August 18, 1967, and returned to Tulsa, Oklahoma. Clyde accepted a position with Douglas Aircraft and received a job with American Airlines shortly after. Clyde worked as a mechanic for many years and retired

after 30 years as an inspector in 1996. Clyde was also a six-year continuous member of the American Legion and a member of Post 142 for more than a year. Clyde likes being outdoors, going fishing, and working on his Volkswagens. He also worked many hours working on genealogy. Clyde and Betty loved to travel, spending many months traveling the world, especially the European countries and Australia. Clyde has been a longtime member of the Cleveland Church of the Nazarene. Clyde had a big heart for helping children and was a longtime supporter of Children's International. Clyde Arthur Henager passed away from this life on February 27, 2023, at the age of 82, at his home in Cleveland, Oklahoma.



James Still
April 5th 1932 - May 14th 2023
Post 101, Nowata

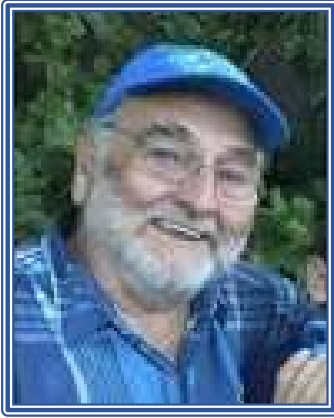
James Donald (Don) Still Sr. age 91 of Delaware, OK. Passed away peacefully in his home on Sunday May 14th 2023. Don was born April 5th 1932 in Wagoner County, OK. to James Franklin Still and Genevieve Carl Still. At some point when Don was a young boy, the Stills moved to California where Don attended Paso Robles High school, graduating as a 49'er. Don joined the Navy in 1950. During that time he met and married Dolly Romero, and they had two children together. That marriage Lasting from 1954 -1959.

Later Don met Jessie Ortiz, they were married from 1962-1983. Together they had three children. Don served in the Navy in the Submarine fleet Serving on the USS Kamehameha during Korea and Vietnam eras. Being discharged with honor as a Chief Petty officer in 1970. After the Navy, Don started his second career as a Postal worker from 1970 - 1990. Don also returned to school, getting degrees in business and real estate.

Don was a kind and generous person. He donated to many charities. He was a good provider for his family. He loved country and western music. He loved Oklahoma sports teams, especially the Cowboys. He enjoyed watching old western movies and working on his family genealogy. He was a citizen of the Cherokee Nation. He was also a contributing member of the American Legion and VFW.

Don was preceded in death by his Mother and Father, his siblings Roy Duffel, Bill Duffel, Maxine Cosentino, Willie Still, and Frank Still, as well as many cousins, uncles, aunts, nephews and nieces.

He is survived by his children, Bobby (Lisa) Still, Billy Still, James (Kay) Still Jr., Paul Still, Sharron (Dan) Freund, His grandchildren, Teresa (Scott) Sangduan, Kelly Still, Jessika Sparks, Raymond Still, Jackie Freund, James Still III. Great grandchild Alaina Sangduan. Also, cousins and other relatives.



Mervin Keith Bowman

July 7, 1942 - December 3, 2022

Post #076 Post Commander, Vici

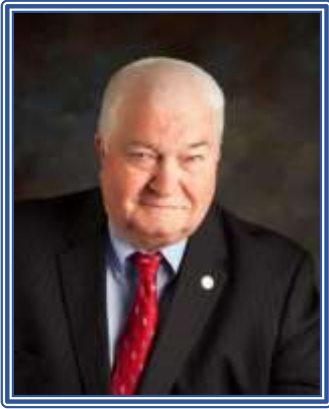
Mervin Keith Bowman, date of birth 7-7-42, Enlistment date 3-06-64, Army E-5, Vietnam, discharged 3-10-66, date joined American Legion 4-10-2001, passed away 12-3-22 Post Commander 21 years! Rest In Peace!

Mervin Keith Bowman, son of William Roy and Eva Annis (Shaw) Bowman was born in Vici, OK. on July 7, 1942. He passed from this life at the age of 80 in Guthrie, OK. on December 3, 2022. Mervin grew up on the family farm in the Harmon community and his school years

were spent in the Arnett Public Schools. Following high school Mervin worked in Texas for RH Fulton Pipeline. He lived in Dodge City, KS. for a time working at Ideal Laundry and later managed a furniture store in Garden City, KS. In 1964 he was drafted to serve his country in the U.S. Army and received his honorable discharge in 1966 at Ft. Hood, TX. He returned to make his home in Vici, OK. where he worked his way up to a drilling superintendent in the oilfield and was a town of Vici employee. In 1968 Mervin was united in marriage to Elizabeth Miller at the Vici Baptist Church. Three children, Michael Keith, Mark Leon and Katrina Lyn blessed their union. For eighteen years Mervin was a mechanic at his brother Gerald's business, Bowman's Garage in Mooreland, OK. He enjoyed commuting to Mooreland when the weather permitted on his bicycle. During this time, he served six and a half years on the Vici Town Board including two years as the Mayor of Vici. His final ten years of employment was spent at Goodman Automotive in Vici from which he retired in 2003. He served as the American Legion Post 76 Commander for many years and marking the graves of veterans for Memorial Day was very important to him. He was a member of the Vici Lions Club and he enjoyed the fellowship of attending the Vici Baptist Church and the Vici Nazarene Church. His hobbies included photography, playing his guitar, solving word search puzzles, watching the OSU Cowboys and tinkering in the garage. He had a great passion for two wheeled vehicles, namely his motorcycle and bicycle. He received numerous awards for various bicycle races and rides and he rode with a group of cyclists to Red River, New Mexico and to Mt. Rushmore in South Dakota. His favorite trip was FreeWheel Oklahoma, a ride across the state every June covering nearly eighty miles a day. Throughout his life Mervin believed in hard work. He was proud that his oldest grandsons followed in his automotive footsteps by opening Bowman's Tire Service. He was a peaceful man with a great love for his family and his community and he will be greatly missed by his family and friends.

Mervin is preceded in death by his parents William and Eva Bowman, his son Michael Keith Bowman and his siblings; brothers Glen Bowman, Wilmer Bowman, Orlin Bowman, Vernon Bowman and Gerald Bowman and his sisters Francis Valescu, Claretta Shaw, Eva Seely, Verla Watts, Dorene Bowman and Hazel McAlary. The mother of his children, Beth Blackwell and other loved ones.

His memory will be forever cherished by his children, Mark Leon Bowman and his wife Tina of Weatherford, OK. and Katrina Lyn White and her husband Joe Robert White II of Guthrie, OK. Five special grandchildren, Tyler Bowman of Weatherford, OK., Michael Bowman Jr. and wife Yesenia of Mustang, OK., Genevieve White, Austin White and Isabella White of Guthrie, OK., Four great grandchildren, Cashlie, Channing, Case'Lynn and Creed Bowman. Numerous nieces and nephews, other relatives and a host of friends.



Bill Flanagan

August 26, 1945 — April 12, 2023

Post 2020, Claremore

William Ervin Flanagan Jr., known as “Bill” to his family and friends, passed away on April 12th, 2023, at the age of 77 after a courageous battle with cancer.

He was born on August 26, 1945, in Hugo, Oklahoma to William and Charlene (Hayes) Flanagan. He attended Hugo High School graduating in 1963, both as an outstanding student and athlete. He went on to study accounting at Southeastern State University in Durant on a

football scholarship, later enlisting in the Army National Guard. He graduated from Officer Candidate School as a Lieutenant, spending six years as a medic both for the Army National Guard and Army Reserves. He married Connie Thomas in 1966 and moved to Tulsa where he worked for AMOCO and earned his CPA license. In 1973 they moved to Claremore where he began working for a local accounting firm, later establishing his own public accounting practice in Claremore, which he owned and operated for 35 years.

In 2009, Bill married Mary “Lou” Truitt. Soon after Bill’s retirement in 2013, he completed the late Mickey Perry’s mayoral term and subsequently ran for two more 4-year terms, serving Claremore nearly a decade as mayor.

Bill was active on many committees and boards, and was recipient of numerous awards. A few of them include trustee on the Rogers State University Foundation and board chairman of Hope Harbor Children’s Home for 20 years. He also served many years on the Claremore Park Board of Directors and was also a Charter member of Claremore Rotary Club. In 2004, Mayor Flanagan was named Claremore Citizen of the Year. In 2014 he received the Claremore Chamber of Commerce Career Achievement Award, and recently received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Rogers County GOP.

At the state level, he was appointed by the Governor to serve on the Oklahoma State Board of Education, was a trustee for both the Oklahoma Council on Public Affairs (OCPA), and the Oklahoma Liberty Foundation. In 2018, he received the prestigious Pillar Award from OCPA for his service.

In his spare time Bill enjoyed following politics, attending events that promoted his community, traveling, playing Sudoku and spending time with his family. He was a longtime member of the Claremore Church of Christ.

He is preceded in death by his parents, William Flanagan and Charlene Crain; late wife Connie Flanagan, sister Judy Rogers and infant grandson, Kai Flanagan.

Survivors include his wife, Mary Lou; children, Bo Flanagan and wife Tanja, bonus children Matt Truitt and Tiffany Fitzsimmons and husband Matt, sister, Kathy (Flanagan) Shearer, and brothers Jim Flanagan and Rick Flanagan. He also leaves behind grandchildren Jaxon Truitt, Romy Flanagan, Lucy and Alice Fitzsimmons and other relatives and friends.



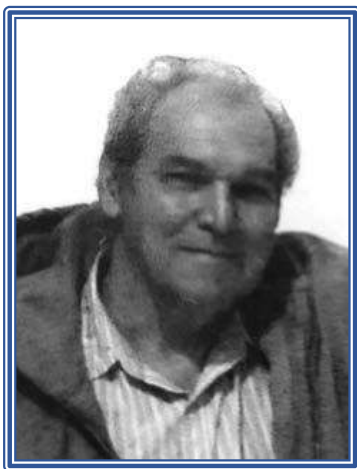
Jacob Lester Hunn
February 10, 1943 - October 26, 2021
Post 0117, Hobart, OK

Jacob Lester Hunn, 78, lifelong Hobart resident, passed away Tuesday, October 26, 2021. Jake was born on February 10, 1943, in Hobart, Oklahoma, the son of Millard "Sonny"

and Nora Belle (Everhart) Hunn. At the age of sixteen, with permission from his mother, Jake enlisted in the United States Army National Guard. He graduated from Hobart High School in

1961. Jake married Sally Carter at his parents home in Hobart on February 14, 1964, to this union two children were born, Lana and Jay. At the young age of twenty-one, Jake became a tank commander. This was his favorite job. After just nine years, he worked his way through the ranks to become a 1st Sgt, becoming the first 1st Sgt. at Frederick's National Guard Armory.

Jake served for twenty years and then entered the inactive reserves retiring just before 9/11 from Altus National Guard. In his early years, Jake worked at his father's and Uncle BF's tire shop. It was then that he started helping his uncle roof. After a few years, Jake went out on his own and began the Hunn & Son Roofing Company foaming and roofing many local and out of state commercial and residential properties. He was an accomplished pilot, having many airplanes which he used to fly to jobs in Texas and New Mexico. Jake had a passion for farming and ranching. His cattle were more like pets to him. On October 31, 2008, Jake married Shirley O'Niels in San Antonio, Texas. She was the love of his life. She preceded him in death on October 31, 2013. Jake enjoyed spending time on his farms and being with his family. Survivors include: his daughter, Lana Branch and husband Chris of Hobart; son, Jay Hunn and wife Kathy of Eufaula; sister, L'Nora Barger and husband Lanny of Granite; grandchildren, Seth Miller and wife Kindrah, Drew Miller and wife Whitney, Mercedes Gilliland and husband Todd, Jacquelyn Vorse and husband Dillion, Jake Hunn and fiancée Shyla, Josh Hunn and Cameron Branch; his great grandchildren, Aiden, Jayla, and Benton Miller, Sage, Sunny and Kalli Miller, Kollin and Coraline Gilliland and Joji Vorse. He is also survived by nieces Rhonda Hanlin, Kim Zachary and Lisa McClure, a host of great nieces and nephews and a sister-in-law, Judy Serpas. He is preceded in death by his parents, his wife, Shirley, and a great grandson Seth Miller II.



Charles Robert Bostwick
April 10th 1944 - May 5th, 2023
Post 58, Guthrie

Charles Robert Bostwick left this life Friday, May 5th, 2023. He was preceded in death by both his parents Leroy and Nellie. All his siblings Lawrence, Beulah, Donna, Irma, Bill, and Merle. And his son James. He is survived By his daughter Tina, his daughter in law Misty, 5 grandchildren Skylar, Kolten, Dalton, Xavier, and Kattie. He is also survived by 4 great grandchildren Aiden, Avery, Christopher, and Haizley.

Charles was born April 10th 1944. He graduated high school in 1967. He spent his Army years as a fuel injection specialist (mechanic) stationed in Germany. Consequently, he loved throwing a word or two of German into any conversation that he could.

After he returned home and married Linda Osborne. They set about starting a family.

Charles led a very simple life, saving as much money as he could, just in case he could help somebody else. He turned down more lucrative jobs, in lieu of ones that would allow him to be with his family in the evenings. He taught us that “It doesn’t do any good to buy a kid a bike, if there’s no one to teach them to ride it.” Family remained a priority throughout his life. Evidenced by the love felt and returned by his nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Charles loved being outside. He spent his free time doing lawn work, gardening and fishing. He spent his last day playing in the dirt. He repotted, and planted all his flowers and asked Xavier to find out online how to make hanging baskets.

He passed peacefully in his sleep, after battling heart disease for years. He will be missed immeasurably.



Jerry R. Cetrangolo
July 27, 1932 - June 9, 2023
Post 23, Lindsay

Jerry R. Cetrangolo of Lindsay, Oklahoma, joined his Lord June 9, 2023, six weeks before his 91st birthday.

Jerry was born July 27, 1932 in Paterson, New Jersey, to Nicholas and Mary (Hutchinson) Cetrangolo. Jerry grew up in central Vermont and graduated from Montpelier High School 1950. He enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1951, and was stationed in Germany for four years. There he met and married Hellen Knobloch in 1954, (she predeceased him in 1995). They lived in Michigan

many years where they had one son, Michael Anthony.

Jerry owned and operated several service stations in the Detroit area before moving to Vermont in 1981 to join his brother Dolivio ‘Nick’ in the family granite manufacturing business as Vice President. Jerry later retired in Oklahoma where he met and married his second love, Margaret Henson. They enjoyed singing with the Senior Choir of the First Baptist Church in Lindsay, Oklahoma. He and Margaret also whiled away many, many evenings ballroom and square dancing. Jerry had many interests including dancing, chess (became the Michigan State Champion), reading, mechanics, building and repairing anything electrical, mechanical, carpentry oriented and plumbing ... you name it. Jerry worked with his brother Nick to develop many inventions. Jerry was accomplished in all aspects of working with his hands. He not only drew the plans for, but also constructed a beautiful home in Michigan from the ground up solely by reading a manual.

He was preceded in death by his parents in Vermont, and brother Dolivio ‘Nick’ Cetrangolo of Goldsby, Oklahoma. Survivors include his wife Margaret Henson of Lindsay, Oklahoma, son Michael of Northfield, Vermont, sisters Dawna Washburn of Simpsonville, South Carolina, and Marietta Cetrangolo of New Port Richey, Florida, nieces, nephews, and grandchildren. Jerry was the consummate gentleman with a healthy sense of humor and a most gentle, kind, and loving personality. He will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved him. A celebration of Jerry’s life was held at Wilbourn Family Funeral Home Chapel in Lindsay, Oklahoma, Monday, June 12, 2023. In lieu of flowers, the family would greatly appreciate donations sent to your local food pantry.



Kenneth Ray Scruggs
September 14, 1949 - June 9, 2023
Post 23, Lindsay

Kenneth Ray “Kenny” Scruggs of Lindsay, Oklahoma was born on September 14, 1949 to Delno and Tina Lou (Dutton) Scruggs in Lindsay, Oklahoma and passed away on June 9, 2023, in Lindsay, Oklahoma at the age of 73 years.

Kenny spent his life in the Lindsay area. On April 26, 1968, at the Church of God in Lindsay, OK, he married Linda Bates. Through this union they had two children, Kevin and Marisa. Kenny enjoyed spending time with his family. The family

mentioned that “he was a good chief of the tribe”. He loved playing with the grandkids and attending any sporting event where they were involved. Kenny enjoyed fishing, tinkering, and piddling at the farm whenever it was possible. He was a “fixer” of anything that needed a little assistance. Blue River was a favorite destination on many occasions to unwind and spend time family and friends.

Kenny spent the majority of his career at REC in Public Relations. He enjoyed his work and developing relationships and friendships with his co-workers and members of the community he met.

Kenny was proud of his service as a fireman and EMT for the City of Lindsay. His service to his community was important to him as he considered it a true calling to serve.

Survivors include wife, Linda Scruggs of Lindsay, Oklahoma; Son, Kevin Scruggs and wife Brittany of Lindsay, OK; Daughter, Marisa Stevens of Lindsay, OK; Sisters, Joy Stewart of Lindsay, OK, Della Thomas and husband Mike of Lindsay, OK, Becky White and husband Carlton of Lindsay, OK, Twana Shoemake and husband Glen of Lindsay, OK; Sisters-in-law, Janice Selzer of Lindsay, OK, Kathie Elred of Tulsa, OK; Brother-in-law, Larry Bates and wife Mildred of Yukon, OK; Grandchildren, Creed Taylor, Harper Scruggs, Jeter Scruggs, and Brier Scruggs and numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and friends whom he loved dearly.

Kenny was preceded in death by his Grand-parents, Bill and Oma Dutton, Henry and Ethel Scruggs; Parents, Delno and Tina Lou Scruggs; Brother, Ricky Scruggs; Nephew, Kyle Scruggs; Brothers-in-law, Bob Stewart, Rich Elred, Robert Selzer and Gene Bates; Grandchildren, Aisley Scruggs and Denson Scruggs.

Funeral services will be held at 10:00 am on Tuesday, June 13, 2023, at the REC Multipurpose Building in Lindsay, OK. Officiated by Brandon Cottrell. Arrangements under the direction of John W. Williams of Winans Funeral Home of Maysville, Oklahoma. Words of comfort may be sent to the family at www.winansfuneralhome.com





Tell your Post story, do the good things in your community, state and nation and your post will grow... Help, educate, mentor and be a leader by example. Honor those who served and sacrificed. And if you need assistance - please reach out and we will help.

Michael H. Devenitch – The 1889 Land Run Newsletter - Editor
(Commander: Post 160, Yukon)

sentrymike@yahoo.com

The Legion: "Veterans Strengthening America."