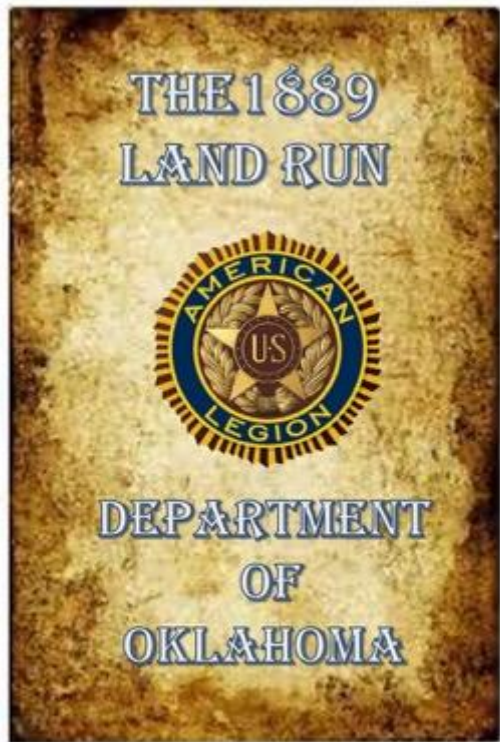


THE 1889 LAND RUN DEPARTMENT OF OKLAHOMA NEWSLETTER, 9TH EDITION AUGUST 1ST, 2022



"The greatest leader is not necessarily the one who does the greatest things. He is the one that gets the people to do the greatest things."

- Ronald Reagan, 40th President of the United States, and former Captain in the Army Reserves

Department Commander Corner

"Hello Oklahoma Legionnaires." As I write this, I am in Indianapolis attending the 2022-2023 Membership Workshop, and I am extremely excited about the future of the Department of Oklahoma and our future as Legionnaires. The Department has scored a major coup with the new Commander because our Post Data Report and our Consolidated Post Report suspense was met by 89% of our posts. Thank You Team Oklahoma. The new National Commander was highly impressed by our Senior

Leadership Team, they represented you admirably. We

have our membership goals established and if every post retains the members they currently have and recruits just three percent of their current membership we will obtain our goal for the year. Our goal for the Department is 15,131 or 3% above or official end strength of 14,691 that is an increase of 440 members. Just a reminder, gather the low hanging fruit first. Some low hanging fruit are those individuals that did not renew in 2022, 2021, 2020, get as many of them as you can back into the fold, and you have your membership goal in the bag all sewn up.

Your District Commander will be hosting a dinner for your Post Commander and membership chair. The purpose of that dinner is to discuss membership goals and best practices on how to obtain those goals, hopefully they will be returning to your Post with the latest and greatest ideas on how to achieve your membership goals. Embrace them eagerly and give them honest trial to ascertain if they do in fact bring the results, we all are expecting.

For you District Commanders, Vice Commander East and West will be conducting Zoom meetings with you regularly as I will with the senior leadership. I encourage you District Commanders to continue the communication down to the Post Commanders. Communications up and down the chair of responsibility is imperative for the Legion to

function efficiently effectively, so every Legionnaire is apprised of the goals, programs objectives of the American Legion and the Department of Oklahoma.

A special Thanks to District 1B Commander Karen Cruice. Your service as District Commander was Outstanding and you will be sorely missed not only in your District but in the Department as a whole. Good Luck to you in all your future endeavors. When you have time let me know. You and I and Todd will get together for a cup at Starbucks.

I would like to take this opportunity to Thank each and every one of you for the confidence you have displayed in me as electing me your Commander for the 2022-2023 Membership year. I pledge to you I will perform the duties and responsibilities of this office to the best of my abilities and will seek the advice and counsel of all the subordinate leaders throughout this organization. I will ask you humbly to remember me in your prayers to ask the Lord to grant me the wisdom and knowledge to make the necessary decisions that will not only be the best for the organization but will bring glory to our Heavenly Father and our personal Savior his Son Jesus Christ. Again, Thank You for the support and confidence you have in me.

**For God and Country,
Jim Quinn
Commander, Department of Oklahoma**



Senior Vice Commander

Greetings my fellow Department of Oklahoma Legionnaires, as I write this, I am attending the 59th Annual National Membership Workshop in Indianapolis. After our membership team lead by Commander Jim Quinn met with the Leading Candidate for National Commander Vincent James “Jim” Troiola, The Department of Oklahoma’s 2023 membership is set at 15,131. According to National’s membership records we ended our 2022 membership goal with an end strength of 14,691 so that means we need to cover all bases on renewals as well as new memberships. This goal is not

only reasonable, but also attainable and we need everyone to be an American Legion Recruiter.

For those who haven't renewed yet, have you ever thought of signing up for auto renew? It is a fast and safe method of paying your membership dues where you don't have to think about it. It is not only automatic, but it is safer than paying by check where multiple individuals touch your check and can see your bank account number as well as your routing number. It also means, less renewal notices from National.

For those of you who haven't signed up for a My Legion Account I encourage you to do it.

~It is critical that we decrease the amount of paper we are using and take advantage of technology to provide faster service to you, while at the same time saving millions in printing and postage cost.

~I encourage all Posts and Members to have an online account on <https://mylegion.org/>

~ Some of our corporate partners have expressed interest in providing new benefits and discounts in 2023 but those may only be available via email. Please make sure you are opted into the national email database, so you don't miss the fun surprise.

Talking with Prospective Members

~National Advocacy

- The American Legion has a history of solving the biggest problems facing Veterans. This could mean something as significant as the GI Bill or fighting for better healthcare benefits. Today, it means fighting to lower Veteran suicide rates.
- Thousands of Veterans Service Officers around the country and 15 accredited Department of Oklahoma American Legion Service Officers along with 48 more Post Service Officers provide free service to help Veterans receive VA Benefits. In 2020, the American Legion helped secure more than \$14 Billion in health-care benefits and assistance, all free of charge.

~ Local Communities

- More than 12,000 posts across the country and 157 here in Oklahoma do the grassroots work of helping local communities and Veterans.

~Membership Matters

- Membership is open to anyone who has served or is serving in the United States Armed Forces.
- More members = more influence at the local, state, and national level as we fight to improve the lives of all Veterans.
- Volunteering at the local level is optional, The Department of Oklahoma recognizes that some people have the time to devote to their local post activities, but some Veterans aren't able to do that at this point in their lives. That's OK.
- On average, membership is only \$45 a year and joining is as simple as going to <https://www.legion.org/join> remember to select auto renew.
- Members are eligible for a variety of benefits, such as the potential to get up to \$3000 in relief funds if your home is damaged during a national disaster.

Take care of each other and remember everyone is an American Legion Recruiter. With your help and leadership, we will get to the goal 15,131.

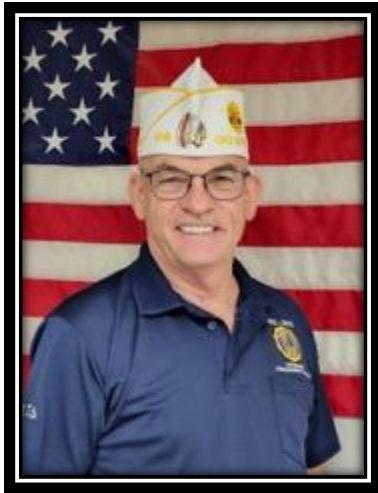
Please watch this 6 minute 20 second video entitled District Commanders ~ Motivating Members

<https://www.legion.org/legiontv/PLHMR9MmnivfP48Z1yEbOpOztS9GxYKaxt/w2xxiWC1cIE>

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS



**For God and Country,
Brett Martin
Senior Vice**



Lee Cathey Vice Commander East

I'd like to start by congratulating all those selected to be in the leadership of the Department of Oklahoma and to all the posts that won awards during the convention. I think it is also important to thank Charlie O'Leary for his leadership as Department Commander.

It is the beginning of a new year and new responsibilities throughout the department. I am humbled by the confidence you all have shown in me to lead the East. Thank You.

As you all should know by now, I am big on the Legion Family. I hope to see every post in your Districts grow with the whole family concept. If you do not have a son's squadron or Auxiliary or Legion Riders, please let me know and let's start working toward getting every post in the Department with each one of these vital organizations and programs. Membership is always going to be a big issue in the American Legion as the more members we have the larger our voice is in Washington DC. It's also help to have a large number of memberships in our State Capitol. Retention of current members is an issue that we have in the department. I really feel that Buddy Checks and calling new members within 2 weeks of them joining is a big help to keeping members. What else do you do to retain membership?

Communications from the Department to each of you is a big concern of mine. I want to have zoom meetings monthly with all district commanders on the East. Quarterly, I can see a meeting with District Commanders and Post commanders and adjutants. Please keep the lines of communications open and positive. Doing so keeps our membership positive and informed. We have to do a better job communicating to the membership. This program with the 1889 is a great tool for district commanders to use every month. I ask each District and Post commander to obtain emails for everyone in your area of responsibility and forward to me so that I can get them on the mailing list. Brett Martin our Senior Vice Commander has done an awesome job with the 1889, lets help him to help you get the word out!

Again, thank you for all you do daily to improve the American Legion Department of Oklahoma.

**Lee Cathey
Vice Commander East
Department of Oklahoma**

Vice Commander West

I am Humbled. Thank You West Division for giving me the opportunity to serve you. That is what I am here for. To serve you. I have a couple of things I would like all Legionnaire to consider.

The first, as I am sure you have already guessed is membership. Membership is the volume knob we need, when we talk to Congress, or our State Legislature, the larger our membership number the louder our voice. We need to be heard. Recruiting new members isn't really all that hard. Normally all you have to do to get a Veteran, any Veteran to help is ask. Just ask them to join. The American Legion National Headquarters has asked us to increase our membership number this year by 3%. Give that a little thought. If you are Post with a membership of 10 members and you recruit 1 new member in the next 365 days, you will increase your membership volume by 10%. That is well above and beyond what National is asking. If you are a 100-member Post all we are asking for is 3 more members in the next year. You have 365 days to recruit 3 more member. Even if you are a 300-member Post, 3% is only 9 more members. 300 Legionnaires should be able to recruit 9 new Legionnaires in 365 days with no problem. All you have to do is try. I am sure you already know I will have more on this subject next month.

But for now, I want to talk a little about the **PACT ACT**. What is it and Why should you care? "This bill's genesis came from the fact that 70 percent of veterans **"with illnesses" RELATED TO BURN PITS**, were being denied, and as a result couldn't access health care. Sick veterans couldn't meet the burden of proof," Montreuil said. And, yes, this includes burning latrine barrels.

The PACT ACT (**The Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act**) is an American Legion sponsored Bill before Congress to:

The PACT Act provides a comprehensive framework to improve the presumptive process for burn pit veterans by streamlining access to health-care benefits for those who served in areas of known toxic exposure — regardless of disability status — and provides health care for as many as 3.5 million veterans exposed to airborne hazards and burn pits.

The bottom line is maybe 3 and 1/2 million "VETERANS" who were exposed to burn pits smoke are suffering medical issues because of that exposure and can't get help from the VA because it is impossible to "prove" that downwind exposure to burn pits caused those respiratory health issues. Science cannot prove the connection "BUT" the Congress can approve it. We need to make this happen for our Brothers and Sisters at Arms.

I need to stop this rant. Use this link [Action Center \(votervoice.net\)](https://www.votervoice.net)

to go to a page that sends an email to Senators Inhofe and Lankford. The letter is already written all you have to do is identify yourself as a constituent and hit send.

Thank You for what you do, we are here to serve those who served. “We are Legionnaires”

Veterans serving Veterans

**For God and Country,
Paul Ray
Vice Commander Wes**

The Power of Communications

As we all know, Membership and the Legion Family is an important factor in a successful American Legion Post. This coming year we need to concentrate efforts on retention of our members while getting new members into the Legion. We have had discussions as to how to do a better job.

District Commanders should have a lunch, dinner or some kind of meeting as soon as possible with your post commanders and adjutants to discuss the upcoming years goals and possible programs that draw members back into the fold of the post. Brainstorm thoughts to also keep members back into the post as members. Vice Commander East and West will attend your meetings to listen, help and be there to help spread the better ideas throughout the Department.

The Departments membership goal is 15,131 and we can make that this coming year. Do not wait, let's work as a team and get there together.

Bring the whole American Legion Family along to build membership in the Sons, Auxiliary, Riders and TALARC. Oklahoma has over 300,000 veterans and we are currently having 14,735 members equals a very low percentage.

TOGETHER EVERYONE ACCOMPLISHES MORE

Feel Free to contact us for more information

Lee Cathey, Vice Commander East (918) 786-9860 or (901) 487-9060
okvice2223@gmail.com

Paul Ray, Vice Commander West, (405) 921-581

MESSAGE FROM PAST DEPARTMENT COMMANDER O'LEARY

Fellow Legionnaires Department of Oklahoma. Thank you for the opportunity this past year to be your Department Commander. Thank you for joining me in the journey to turn our Department in a new direction. I will not be fading away. I will continue the good fight to not only support us older Vietnam Veterans but continue to reach out to Desert Storm, Iraq, Afghanistan, GWOT & Cold War vets and Women Veterans in our State. I will continue to welcome our LEGION FAMILY in all that we do. Press on! Do not falter! Let us continue our mission! Charlie Mike!





Greetings Oklahoma Legionaries,

National Security is the second of the four pillars in the American Legion. It is our duty to keep up-to-date on current news involving the defense of our country. I have found the easiest way to do this is to sign-up for a daily email. Defense news provides great information every weekday about 8 am. Please sign up at: <http://link.defensenews.com/join/5ba/sign-up-ebb>. Just put in your email, your country of residence and verify you are not a robot and click sign up! I get the emails every day. VR mike

Mike Devenitch
National Security Chairman
Department of Oklahoma
sentrymike@yahoo.com



American Legion National Commander Paul Dillard calls on Senate to pass the Honoring our PACT Act now

<http://www.votervoice.net/Shares/B2ySzAa1AC5WVAslhda7FAA>

Despite initial bipartisan agreement, the Honoring Our PACT Act is now in jeopardy. This transformative bill providing healthcare to veterans exposed to burn pits and toxic hazards initially passed both the House and Senate with bipartisan support in June, and again in the House of Representatives just two weeks ago in a 342-88 vote.

You heard that right: this same bill has already passed the House twice and the Senate once and required a final 60-vote confirmation in the Senate to be sent to the President's desk. And on July 27th the vote fell short 55-42.

As Senate Veterans Affairs Committee Chairman Jon Tester said, "This is a sad day in the U.S. Senate. The American people are sick and tired of the games that go on in this body."

We must break this cycle of care that is considered "too little, too late" for our veterans, and inform our Senators of their solemn duty to our nation's heroes. If you are sick and tired of political deadlock, contact your Senators today and urge them to prioritize and pass this much-needed legislation.

URGE YOUR SENATOR TO SUPPORT THE "HONORING OUR PACT ACT"

The American Legion will continue to work tirelessly on behalf of our toxic-exposed veterans, and your help makes all the difference.

Let's Change the narrative. Instead of talking about the staggering number of daily suicides, BE THE ONE to save ONE veteran. We can end the stigma surrounding mental health with your help!



BE **THE** ONE

TO **ASK** VETERANS IN YOUR LIFE HOW THEY ARE DOING.

TO **LISTEN** WHEN A VETERAN NEEDS TO TALK.

TO **REACH** OUT WHEN A VETERAN IS STRUGGLING.

Please click and watch the video: https://youtu.be/kc_9AWxbd6k

On July 14th, 2022, the Department of Oklahoma American Legion Riders set out on the 3rd Annual State Legacy Run. Our starting point was the Woodring Honor Wall Museum in Enid. The museum was a gracious host by providing supper on Wednesday night and coffee and doughnuts the following morning. “Kickstands Up” was scheduled for 9:30 Thursday morning and we worked in a lot of activities before we left. The museum conducted a Vietnam Veterans’ pinning ceremony for all era vets present. Afterwards the Riders performed a wreath laying ceremony at the wall. Taps was performed by Chris Krueger of the Kansas ALR. There was not a dry eye evident as we departed Enid.

In Cherokee we were met by members of the Verner E. Utterback Post 33. It was a very welcome sight when we saw the coolers on the tailgate. It was already starting to warm up. After about a half an hour of comradeship, we fired up the motorcycles and headed to Alva.

On the way to Alva, I missed a left turn, and we took the “scenic route” into Alva. Good thing is the Kansas riders got a look at home. We toured the museum that is in the same building as the Meyer-Sheil Post 92. They have some real interesting old west memorabilia there. Wish we had had more time, but it was on to Freedom.

Freedom is an interesting town. It looks like the wild west still. The Hatch-Vincent Post 63 treated us to a great lunch. Brett Martin sworn in the new Post Commander, and we learned quite a bit of Freedom history. If you noticed they weren’t at the Summer Convention, they had a rodeo to manage. Also, there was something about a movie being filmed there. Lot of action for such a small town. Our last leg of the day was to the Delius-Bratton Post 31 in Guymon. A quick safety stop was made in Buffalo for rehydration and personnel check then we were back on the road. Nothing much to say about this part of the trip except it was hot and long. We stopped in Hooker (my inner 12-year-old giggled) for gas and a cool down then a quick jaunt into the Guymon Post. Hamburgers and hotdogs were had all around and washed down with cold beverages. It was a welcomed end to a long day.

Day two started off cool but soon turned hot. The first stop of the day was at the Shattuck High School Gym. We were humbled when we saw “Welcome American Legion Riders” on their electronic marquee in front of the gym. There we conducted a wreath laying ceremony at the Veterans’ Memorial with help from members of Drake Post 223 of Gage. Our next stop was the Albert V. Williams Post 19 in Woodward. The Post provided lunch and a nice air condition space to cool down. Next stop was the Washita Battlefield National Historic Site in Cheyenne. This was just a fun stop. There was a wreath ceremony at the Historic Site Trail Head Memorial. From this point you could look out over the battlefield and take in the scope of the conflict. After this we took refuge in the visitor center to watch a video of the battle and recharge before we headed to Sayre’s Glenn

Russell Martin Post 146. As we approached Sayre, we were escorted to the Community Center by one of Sayre's finest and two members of the post. There was a great time had by all over supper with members of the post. End of day and overnight was in Elk City.

Our first stop of Day three was Roby Estes Haybeck Post 41 in Clinton. This was a quick trip on the back roads, quite pleasant. From Clinton another quick trip on I-40 to Weatherford where a wreath laying ceremony was performed at the Veterans Memorial at the Weatherford cemetery. On the way out of town we paraded past the Vietnam Memorial Wall at the city park. I wished we had planned more time in Weatherford. We were escorted, by a member of Post 24, to the courthouse in Anadarko. We performed a wreath laying ceremony at the courthouse Veterans Memorial and then proceeded to the Havens-Cannon Post 24. The post provided us with a very nutritious lunch consisting of fresh Native American inspired dishes. If you didn't get full it was your own fault. From Anadarko we headed west again to Mangun. After a quick stop in the Hobart Walmart parking lot for a safety break, we arrived at the Paul Garrett Post 121 in Mangum. Trying to stay on schedule we bid adieux to Mangum and headed to Altus. The Roach-Lemer Post 44 Commander met us at the Altus cemetery Veteran's Memorial. This memorial is an American Legion cemetery plot with a large headstone with the American Legion emblem. Our last stop of the day and the run was the Ft. Sill National Cemetery at Elgin. We were met by members of the Chandler-Bilyeu Post 306 in Fletcher with cold beverages and snacks. After performing a wreath laying ceremony we headed to Lawton where the Lt. Col. Meech Tahsequah Post 6 hosted supper at Mikes Sports Bar and Grill. We appreciate all the posts along the way who helped quench our thirst, filled our bellies and made contributions to the cause. Also, a big shout out to now Senior Vice Brett (Waterboy) Martin for providing support vehicle and water buffalo service for the ride. When we stopped, he had the tailgate down and coolers out before we could get off our bikes. He was literally a life saver on the Run. Thanks to Commander O'Leary for joining us in Elk City and being an additional support vehicle. From myself and the Oklahoma and Kansas American Legion Riders,

Thank-you!
Mike Marxen
Director, OKALR

District 1A Commander's Corner

The Newton Martin McKellar American Legion Post 101 of Nowata supports the youth of the community by providing scholarships to graduating seniors and sponsoring candidates for American Legion Boys State. This year the post awarded \$500 scholarships to Hannah Morris and Minnie Moore. Both students exhibited outstanding scholarship ability, excelled at community service activities and expressed a goal to be leaders in the community. The post takes pride in being able to assist these students in furthering their education.



*2022 American Legion Scholarship Recipients
Hannah Morris and Minnie Moore*

**For God and Country
Gary Gipson
1A District Commander**

1B District Commander's Corner

Congratulations District 1B for such an awesome turnout at the Department of Oklahoma Summer Convention in Shawnee. It was great to see so many delegates representing our Posts and attending the training sessions.

We have had a change in the leadership team as Commander Karen Cruice has stepped down due to personal reasons. We thank her for her strong and constant leadership and will continue to strive for excellence as we did under her direction. We are starting a new year and the focus will be on membership retention while continuing to serve you and to make an impact for veterans every day. We will each do whatever it takes to find the answers to your questions and share ideas we find around the area. If you haven't joined our Facebook page, please do so. Just as Karen did, I will share your posts and brag on you whenever I can. OK District 1B

Continue to let me know what you are doing so the Leadership team members can come visit. See you at the District 1A- 1B Fall Conference on September 24, 2022 at Post 1!

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



veteran Clyde Case on his and America's birthday, then they had a party sponsored by Oak Street Health for all veterans. They went to Military Appreciation night at the FC-Tulsa soccer match at ONEOK field and worked with Post 450 member and District 1B 4th Vice Commander Esther Coker on a 2 day Clothing giveaway for Tulsa and the surrounding community. They also held a Pig Run poker run/party to benefit veterans this month!





A large, well-lit room with a light-colored wooden floor. Numerous round wooden tables are arranged throughout the space, each covered with a large pile of various clothing items, including shirts, pants, and jackets in different colors. Several people are standing around the tables, actively sorting through the clothing. In the background, a large American flag is displayed on a wall, and there are other people and tables visible, suggesting a busy sorting or distribution center. The room has a high ceiling with some lighting fixtures visible.



Post 2: Post 2 helped bring the Colors down Main Street during the 4th of July Parade, and the Post and Auxiliary float was in fine form!

They hosted a "Thank-You" burger and dog cookout July 9th for the 4-H, FFA, Masonic Lodge, and Collinsville Downtown Inc volunteers who supported the Post this year. They cooked around 75 burgers and hot dogs in appreciation of those who helped place Flags for memorial and veterans' days.

c.

Post 17: . Bingo is happening twice a week over the summer. The regular Thursday night is for the Post and the added Monday night is a fundraiser.

"Were it left to me to decide if we should have a government without newspapers, or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter." -- Thomas Jefferson



\$1

Collinsville TIMES STAR



VOLUME EIGHT, NUMBER THIRTY-SIX

WWW.COLLINSVILLETIMESSTAR.COM

THURSDAY, JULY 7, 2022



There was a good parade Saturday, July 2nd in historic downtown Collinsville. And while the crowd may have been a little smaller than usual, it was a great parade with a fine color guard from the VFW and American Legion veterans and a World War II Veteran, Guy Williams as our Grand Marshal, the newly named Commander of the local chapter of the Disabled American Veterans group here. It was a wonderful day to celebrate a great country's independence! --Times Star photos



VETERANS ALLIANCE CORPS OF SAND SPRINGS

Post 60: Post 60 put the flags out for the 4th of July. Doing the 4th Chelsea Style.

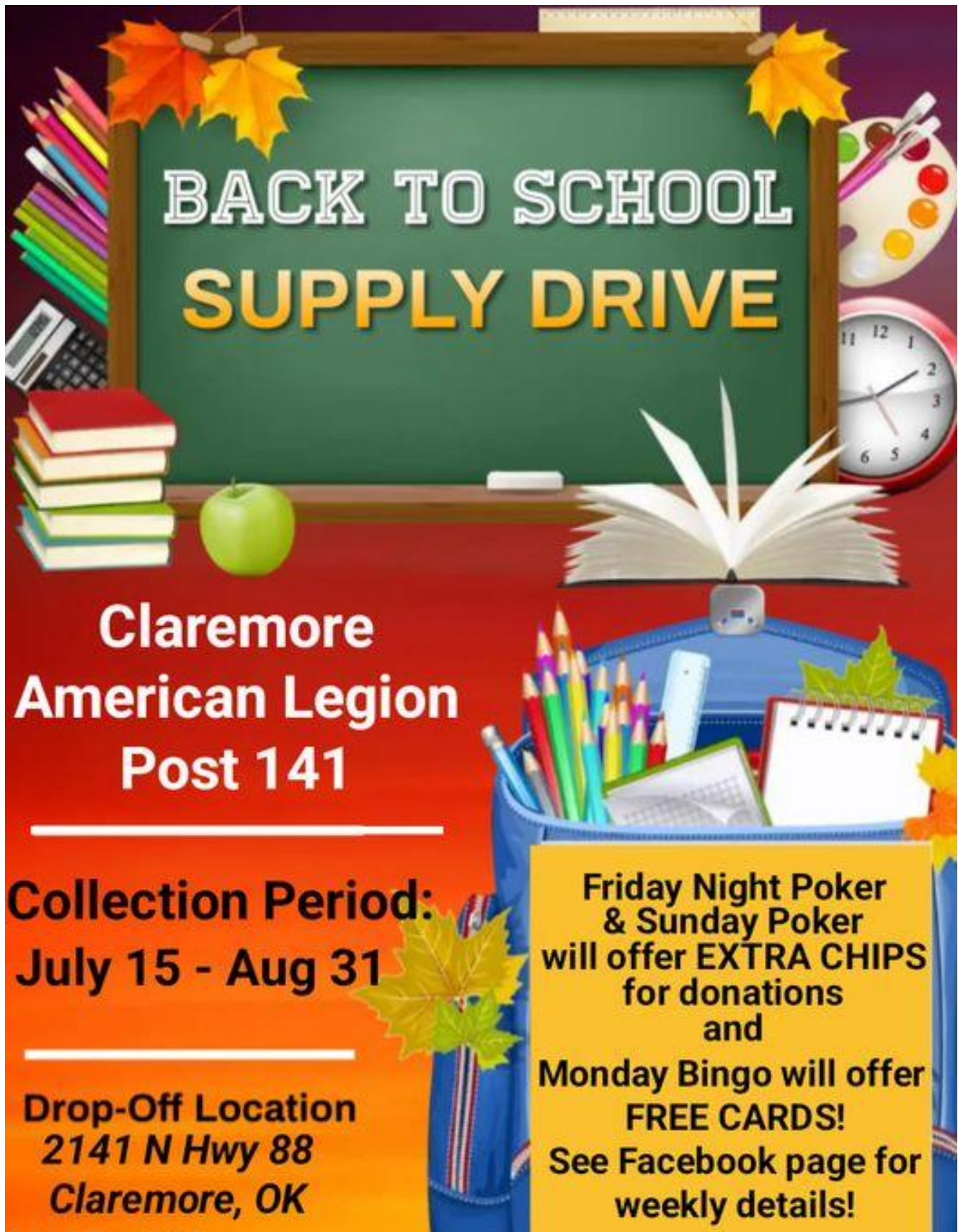


Post 110: Post 110 held an Independence Day Ceremony at Broken Arrow Veterans Park and John R Becker was presented with an award for 35 years membership in the American Legion.





Post 141: Post 141 held a Back to School Supply Drive this month, hosted Saturday night Karaoke and also held their monthly PTSD Support Group meeting. Post officers were installed for 2022-2023

A vibrant poster for a 'Back to School Supply Drive'. The background is a collage of school-related items: a green chalkboard with the title 'BACK TO SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE' in white and yellow block letters; a stack of colorful pencils on the left; a stack of books and a green apple below them; a red alarm clock on the right; and a blue backpack filled with supplies at the bottom. The text is arranged in a clear, organized manner with horizontal lines separating sections.

**BACK TO SCHOOL
SUPPLY DRIVE**

**Claremore
American Legion
Post 141**

**Collection Period:
July 15 - Aug 31**

**Drop-Off Location
2141 N Hwy 88
Claremore, OK**

**Friday Night Poker
& Sunday Poker
will offer EXTRA CHIPS
for donations
and
Monday Bingo will offer
FREE CARDS!
See Facebook page for
weekly details!**

Claremore American Legion

KARAOKE

NITE

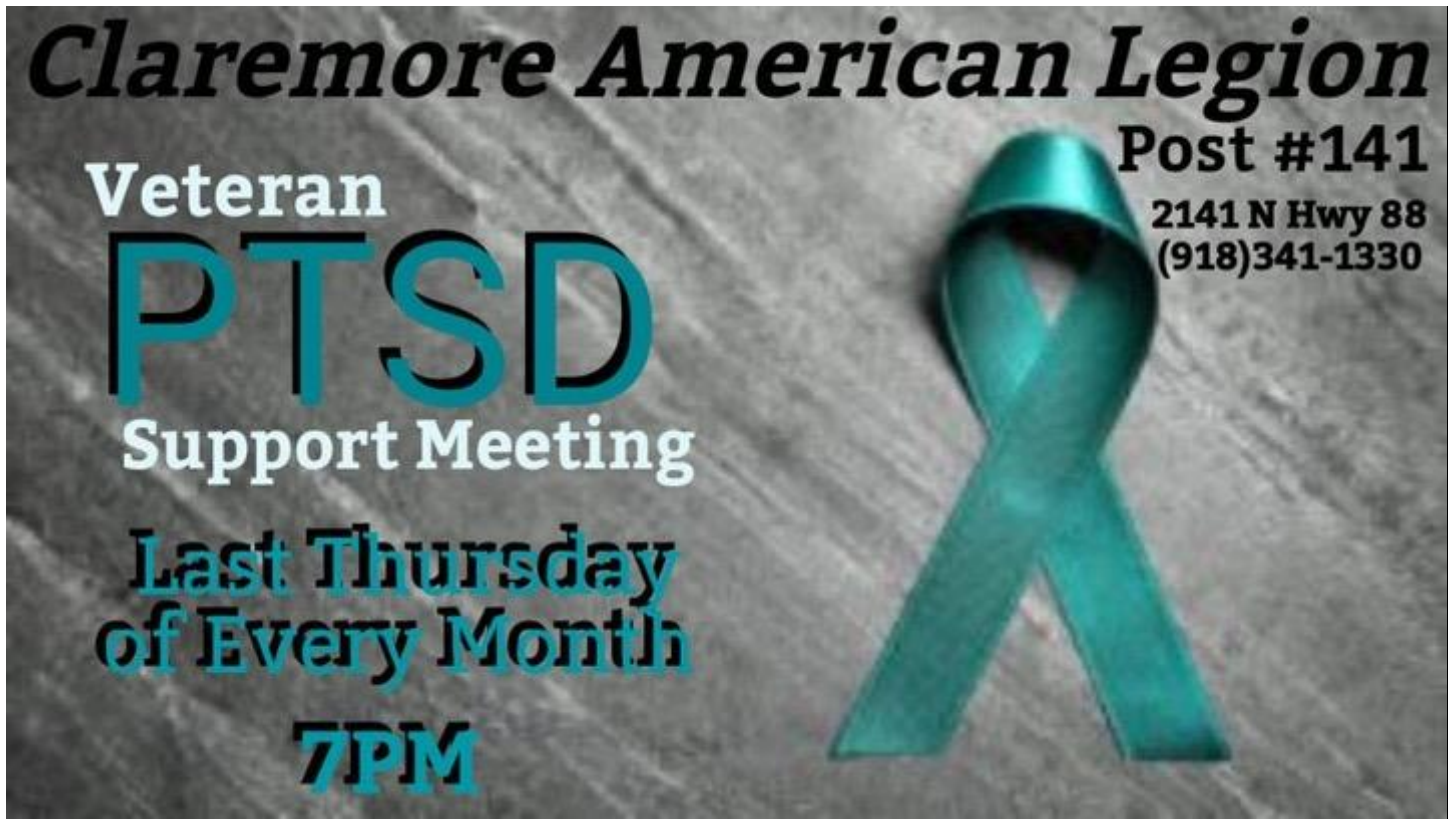


Full Throttle Karaoke

July 23rd & 30th

2141 N Hwy 88
Claremore, OK
(918)341-1330

8pm-12am



Post 308: Post 308 held their annual “Corn Feed” which was deemed a big success for providing many plates of Brisket and ears of corn. They also continued their regularly scheduled Monday and Friday Night weekly dances and Saturday Karaoke

Post 450: Female Veteran and District Vice Commander Esther Coker helped with the Clothing Giveaway at Post 1 by providing, transporting and displaying all of the clothing given away on both days





2A District Commander's Corner

We just had our Department Convention. Our newly elected Officers are, National executive committeeman is Tim Smith, Department sergeant-at-arms is Ed Lager, Department Treasurer is Jack Vaughan, Department Judge Advocate is Bill Teel, Department Vice Commander West is Paul Ray, Department Vice Commander East is Lee Cathey, Department Senior Vice is Brett Martin, and the Department Commander is Jim Quinn.

The Legion membership cards are in. I have those for the posts that did not attend the Convention. The Sons membership cards are not in yet, Lets take this opportunity to get renewals. Please let me know how i can help with membership drives. My email is tomarrussell@gmail.com.

Lets open communications via, email, phone, zoom meetings or texts. I am looking forward to hearing from you.

Please document with photos and a short story of events of your post. Then email me copies to be included in the 1889 newsletter.

Future events--a Kayak trip at the Clinkenbeard park, in Ft. Gibson, on the 17th of September. There will be hiking. Fishing, cornhole games, music, and a 5-mile kayak float. Bring the family and a picnic lunch. We will have the District Conference on the 19th of November. The location to be determined.

**For God and Country,
Tom Russel
District 2A Commander**

3A District Commander's Corner

Greetings 3A District for those of you who don't know me let me introduce myself. I am Gary Pierson, and I am your new 3A District Commander. I look forward to serving you this upcoming year and ask for your support in helping me have material for this great newsletter. If your Post or community has a function, please take some pictures, and write a paragraph letting me know what it was all about, and I will get it into the 1889 Newsletter. My email address is pierson687@outlook.com

**Gary Pierson
For God and Country
District 3A Commander**

3B District Commander's Corner

We go with the Ones we have. Not the Ones we desire. Train, evaluate, remedial train, evaluate until Our good is Our better and Our better is Our best. Having One walk the plank is not a motivator nor builder for success. There is a limited number on this vessel. Where were all the Delegates? Ray Charles can see recruiting won't get it done when there are issues with current membership. The apple will rot from the core.

TO FOSTER AND PERPETUATE A 100 PERCENT AMERICANISM...Americanism is the gist of the American ideals of freedom, justice, individual rights and unfenced-in opportunities. It embraces all the freedoms we cherish and all the rights that are guaranteed to us. It is the very opposite of hatred, bigotry and intolerance. Americanism is the creed that has blazed the world-wide trail for justice, fair play, decency, belief in God, private enterprise, universal education, and progress in all human endeavors. It puts a premium on the virtues of loyalty, patriotism, hard work and thrift. Tish 164 is leading the way! Three of the four pillars awarded.

**Semper fi
Jack**

4A District Commander's Corner

Congrats to all newly elected officers. As a new District Commander, myself I have a lot to learn and with 12 Posts in my district combined with my wife being elected and installed as Department of Oklahoma President of the American Legion Auxiliary I will be a very busy Commander traveling the State of Oklahoma this year as well as attending this year and next year's National Conventions. So, I hope you all can bear with me as I am sure to make mistakes along the way. I will be attending the Bristow, Ok post meeting on the 8th of August to install their newly elected officers and the two Shawnee Post on the 16th of August to install their newly elected officers. Again, congrats to all new officers for 2022 - 2023 year. Looking forward to working with our newly elected Department officers helping all of us to becoming more and more of a united American Legion Family.

**James Keene, District 4A Commander
American Legion Post 64
Chandler, OK**

4B District Commander's Corner

Hello Legion members of Department of Oklahoma. The 103rd Summer Convention was a success. I attended all 4 days. The training for the first two days was a great idea. We had some informative speakers on Saturday and then the Department elections on Sunday. The new District 4B Commander, William (Will) Spatz was sworn in Sunday. He is from Ada Post 72 and is looking forward to being a District Commander. District 4B had a 50% attendance at the convention, thank you to the Post's that showed up.

Update on Post 204 Seminole. We have a contract to get the roof replaced, the materials could take up to six months to come in then install time. Commander Odom and I would like to thank everyone who donated for the Tornado damage. We appreciate your generosity very much.

This will be my last 1889 post, Will Spatz will be taking over in the future, so give him some support. I'll have updates on Post 204 rebuilding from time to time. Thank you for all you do, be safe and God Bless the U.S.A.

**Robert Gatzke
Commander
District 4B**

5A District Commander's Corner

Hello, I am the new 5A District Commander, my name is Jean Moses. I will be sending out information to you and I will be visiting you and making sure you know who I am. My email is mosesjean40@gmail.com. And my number is 405-696-2081, if you can't reach me by calling please text me, I am in charge of many things and constantly on the phone. Please let me know what your Post is doing every month so we can get other posts involved. And I can let Brett Martin, the Senior Vice Commander, know for the Newsletter. Also, continue working on MEMBERSHIP which is very important.

**For God and Country,
Jean Moses
District 5A Commander**

5B District Commander's Corner

Thanks to all our posts that were able to attend the convention in Shawnee. As many know, our family had a light case of Covid which caused us to cancel the special District meeting scheduled in July. All are fine now, and we are looking forward to our next District 5 meeting on Saturday, November 5th. It is tentatively planned for Post 88 in Norman so mark your calendars.

Lindsay Post 23 welcomes new Commander David Hardin and thanks Past Commander William Walker for his many years of service. They continue to support and represent the Legion within the local community. They recently participated in funeral services for Army veteran Jimmy Condit and Air Force veteran Royce Freeman. They also placed flags at local businesses for July 4th. The placement of flags is a unique fund-raising program for the post.



Norman Post 88 reminds all their Service Officers are available each Monday and have aided in obtaining \$1,800,000 in benefits the last fiscal year.



Blanchard Post 261 also welcomes a new Commander. Commander Jo Ann Banse moved up from the Vice Commander position when Past Commander Keith Schmidt accepted a position with the U.S. Border Patrol. We wish them both well in their new roles. The post also continues to support and represent the Legion within their community. Pictured below are Commander Banse and Adjutant Ken Andrews at a local event where they sold raffle tickets and accepted donations for crocheted poppies handmade by Jo Ann.

**For God and Country
Dale Haynes
5B District Commander**

6A District Commander's Corner

Greetings 6A legionnaires. It was great seeing everyone at our summer convention. Your participation makes the event that much more special. We are in our new membership year, and I need your help in making District 6A competitive with the other Districts when it comes to Membership renewals and new members added. Add our now Senior Vice said in his last 1889 input, we are all American Legions recruiters and I know with your help we can and will make everyone in District 6A proud. Our overall membership goal is very attainable, and I know we can do it.

On a very dear and near to my heart request, please call a Legion member you haven't heard from in while and check on them. When it comes down to it, we may be all that member has in the way of someone who cares. Please make the time to call, visit and see if they are alright or need anything. Thank you for doing that.

If there is anything I or Department can do for you or your Post, please don't hesitate to ask me. We are here to serve you and each Post. At the end of the day, we will make this the best year Oklahoma has seen in while.

Take care and God Bless each of you.

**Thanks for all you do,
Don Kuntze
District Commander 6A**

6B District Commander's Corner

Oklahoma's 103rd Summer Convention is in the history books and, with it, many changes in leadership. Congratulations to Jim Quinn (Department Commander), Brett Martin (Senior Vice Commander), Paul Ray (Vice Commander West) and other newly elected officers. District 6B experienced turnover as well. As the new District Commander, I want to express appreciation and admiration to John McNeal for his selfless service and congratulate District officers April Markham-Sanchez (1st Vice Commander) and Jim Rees (Department Executive Committee Representative). In the days ahead, I will be filling additional staff positions.



John McNeal passing the torch



(L-R) Larry Watson, District 6B Commander; Jim Rees, DEC Representative; April Markham-Sanchez, 1st Vice Commander; John McNeal, Past District Commander

I'm honored to serve as your District Commander and look forward to meeting and working with many of you in the coming months. There's much to be done, and fundamental emphasis remains on retention, recruitment, and training. We have many exciting things in store for the coming year. I'll be sharing details with you as I make my rounds. I encourage each of you to embrace those three objectives and join with me in working to make 6B a shining example of Veterans helping Veterans.

**Regards,
LARRY WATSON
6B District Commander, Post 176
(405) 520-2020**

7th District Commander's Corner

I would like to start with thanking the Legacy riders for their western ride this month. As they made their way out of the Panhandle to Shattuck, Post 223 from Gage met the riders in Shattuck, there was a rededication and Post 223 was pleased to offer a contribution to the riders for their cause.





They left Shattuck and arrived in Sayre, Post 146 riders and a police officer met them on the north end of town for a police escort to the meeting place. Post 146 had a really good meal ready for them. They took a nice break, but before departing Post 146 gave them a nice donation.





The next morning, they left Elk City and went to Clinton where they met with Legionnaires from Post 41, learned about the Post and received a donation as well. They had a great visit before heading to Weatherford. Members of Post 91 met them and done a rededication at the War Memorial and received a contribution from Post 91. They made their way on down to Mangum, Post 121. Had a visit with them before heading to Altus. The Commander of Post 44 and some other legionnaires were present and had a good visit. Post 44 offered a contribution to the riders for everything they do. District 7 was very pleased to have the Legacy riders visit the posts.

On July 2nd, Post 91 in Weatherford participated in the dedication of their new replica of the Vietnam Wall Memorial (there is only two in the state of Oklahoma). Post 91 had several members at the dedication, including Woodie Sylvester, who will be 105 on August 2nd.



Also Post 91 members were at the dedication of the restored Huey helicopter at the Heartland Museum. The ceremony had over 60 pilots and crew members, that came from all over the United States. They flew the helo in Vietnam and stateside.



BELL**UH-1D****IROQUOIS / "HUEY"**

VIETNAM

United States Army, 10th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Squadron, D Troop



Around the end of March 1967 UH-1D tail number "135" arrived in D Troop as a replacement for one that had been destroyed. We had a total of 5 UH-1D's assigned to D Troop as Aero Rifle Platoon Slicks (meaning they were troop and cargo carriers rather than the much better armed gunships) although it was very rare to have them all out of maintenance and flyable on any given day. The pilot schedule rotated assignments daily, so we rarely were assigned to fly the same aircraft more than one day before being assigned to fly a different one on the next day. And sometimes we even got a day or two off from flying when too many ships were in for maintenance. When "135" arrived, I had already been promoted from the pilot position in the right front seat, to the Aircraft Commander position flying from the left front seat. The Crew Chief was the main person with responsibility for keeping the ship in flyable condition and sat in the left rear seat manning a M60 machine gun. The Door Gunner sat in the right rear seat manning the other M60 and was responsible for keeping the guns clean and in top condition along with helping the Crew Chief with his duties.

I personally flew in "135" on 17 different days. My first mission was on 4/15/1967 and the last on 7/28/1967. We regularly flew "135" on our 6 types of slick missions.

1. D Troop had a unit of infantry type troopers that we flew in and out of different LZ's (Landing Zones), often in multiple locations in a day to search for and destroy the enemy troops. The troopers and the 5 D model helicopters and flight crews were known as the Aero Rifle Platoon.
2. We also had a unit of LRRPS (Long Range Reconnaissance Patrols), which we dropped off in the boonies in 5-man teams, where they would stay for about 5 days on a reconnaissance patrol. If they were spotted, or the enemy was too close, we needed to get them out immediately, which happened a lot.
3. Then we had routine Courier Missions, which was the only mission that did not require us to be escorted by our Gun Ships (UH-1C Hueys that carried different combinations of Machine Guns, Mini Guns, Rockets, and 40mm Grenade Launchers). On these missions, we would deliver food, ammunition, and other supplies to the forward areas. We would also fly troops to and from the different forward areas. It was not unusual when flying this type of mission to suddenly be called upon to perform an emergency LRRP extraction or Med-Evac mission.

4. We also did a lot of those Med-Evac missions, sometimes that meant landing in the middle of a battle to rush the wounded to the Hospital, or just picking up someone from the forward areas who was sick or had a broken limb.

5. Flare Ship Standby required one slick to be loaded up with aerial parachute flares nightly, and the crew to be on standby to drop flares in case our base camp or forward areas came under enemy attack during the night.

6. Miscellaneous missions included everything from flying at tree top level alongside where a giant B-52 bomber formation strike force high above would be dropping a hundred big two thousand pound bombs and then we would be dropping in a LRRP team in the middle of it before the dust settled to count enemy bodies. Also, spraying agent orange along the dirt highways to kill the brush the enemy would hide in, and picking up a load of nurses from the Evac Hospital to attend a party at the O Club.

The following is an "amusing" story of what happened on just one of those days flying "135" from my flight records and Diary and a few notes on what followed:

5-3-1967

I was back in "135" for 3 hrs. and 50 mins. of flight time, 1 hour of which was at night. My diary states: "Like Wow" The day started normally dropping off 3 different LRRP teams out west by the Cambodia border. Then we lost contact with one of the teams and circled for an hour searching for them. Another of our ships finally made contact with the team but they were under fire and wanted out. Another slick and two gunships met up and picked them up and flew them back to base. Then we got a desperate call from another team out in another area by the border that said they were hearing lots of noise around them and requested an immediate emergency extraction. As we raced out towards their position in "135" it was already starting to get dark. Another slick was closer, so they went in first to try to find them even though they were technically supposed to wait for us to arrive overhead as backup. As we monitored the company frequency on the way there it was now pitch black and the first slick to arrive was trying to direct the very scared sounding LRRP team on the radio to a LZ near their location for pickup. They were frustrated that they couldn't direct the team to the LZ fast enough and again violated policy by turning on all their lights. This included their bright landing lights and they landed in the LZ and waited for the team to

get there. I was close enough to see the bright blaze in the dark jungle ahead as we headed out there at max speed. Then we heard the team radio operator start calling the slick on the ground in a very scared voice, then suddenly let out a long blood curdling scream on the radio and then there was complete silence. Several radio calls were made to the LRRP's but there was no answer. I couldn't believe that the slick sitting in the jungle LZ continued to just sit there with all of its lights on as we arrived overhead. I was sure that they must all be dead. Several minutes later the scary silence was broken when we received a call from the slick in the LZ that they had all 5 LRRP's on board and were taking off. I was in total amazement as I dropped into my backup position in formation behind the other slick and we dropped the team back at our forward command post where they were based before returning to DMBC (Dragon Mountain Base Camp). It wasn't until late that evening when the flight crews met up back up at base camp that we finally found out what had happened. As the scared to death LRRP's ran for their lives through the pitch-black jungle towards the lighted up slick ahead the radio operator was hit in the face by a tree branch and while screaming the radio flew out of his hands into the jungle and they just kept running!

7-8-1967

I did not fly on this day, but it was very special. It rained very hard all day as celebrated the completion of 1/2 of my one-year tour in Vietnam, and I was all and hadn't even been wounded by all the tracers I had seen flying my way started to think that I might live through my whole year in Vietnam after all!

7-11-67

Oops, a lot changed on this day with me, "135," and its stablemate "777" including me thinking that I actually had a chance to live for 6 more months flying helicopters in Vietnam. "777" was shipped back to the States for a year to have all of its bullet holes patched up and to be rebuilt. I earned a Purple Heart but was back in action flying my fellow survivor "135" the very next day on a revenge mission. But it is much too long of a story for here. (Published on September 2022 you will find the rest of the story through Amazon in Volume 1 Troop 1/10th Cavalry 1966-1971 In Our Own Words, by John Gayle.)

Ray Pollok, Chief Warrant Officer

UH-1D "135" in action.

UH-1 "Huey" Sound

JB Richardson



Ray Pollok





I finished up July by visiting Post 44 in Altus. Passed on some of the information that was given out at the state conference. Had a really good visit and dinner. Thank Post 44 for inviting us (myself and the District 7 Vice Commander) to your post meeting.

Post 91 in the Spotlight

A group of Oklahoma American Legion Riders visited the American Legion Veterans Memorial at Greenwood Cemetery this past Saturday morning, July 16th, at 9:30 am. They were conducting a three-day Department of Oklahoma Legacy Run in Western Oklahoma. The Riders presented Weatherford's Post 91 with a Certificate of Appreciation for hosting and supporting the Riders. The Riders placed a wreath at the Memorial, and Post 91 presented them a \$400 check to support the many programs of the Riders and the American Legion. Post 91 provided ice-cold bottled water, Starbucks coffee, and Daylight glazed donuts. The Riders departed at 10:00 am. for their next stop in Anadarko.



**For God and Country
Elmo May
7th District Commander**

8A District Commander's Corner

Greetings 8A District for those of you who don't know me let me introduce myself. I am, Joe Kingery and I am your 8A District Commander. I look forward to serving you this upcoming year and ask for your support in helping me have material for this great newsletter. If your Post or community has a function, please take some pictures, and write a paragraph letting me know what it was all about, and I will get it into the 1889 Newsletter. My email address is kingeryelectric@gmail.com

8B District Commander's Corner

As District Commander these are my current goals,

1. Americanism
2. Flag education and presentation.
3. Membership: Both new and retention.

First, I would like to state that the convention this year was attended by more Legionnaires from District 8 than ever before. The new members came and were highly discouraged, by the pomp and circumstance, they stated that they learned absolutely nothing on assisting Veterans and/ or Veteran Families. This needs to be addressed and changed.

Freedom Post 63 provided lunch for the American Legion Riders during their legacy ride.

The following week a movie was being filmed and three Posts provided support in the way of food preparation for the cast and crew.

Alva Post 92 is

- placing a 25' flagpole at a Korean War veterans' home,
- providing community support during local fundraising efforts
- Corrections Department Leave No Vet Behind campaign, assisting families with whatever they need.

Laverne Post 273 No current communication.

Woodward Post 19

- Is fundraising for the Vietnam Memorial in Woodward to upgrade its presentation.

Beaver Post 149 has no meetings and no current communication.

Guymon Post 31

- Provided dinner during the American Legion Riders Legacy run, also a snack for the morning just prior to departure.
- Meets on 4th Tuesday at 1900

Hooker Post 137 Meets on 1st Tuesday at 1900

Waynoka Post 106 Waiting for news from National that it can be closed

Keys Post 286 . has no meetings and no current communication

**For God and Country
Brad Perot
8B District Commander**



Greetings Legion Family,

First off, I want to thank each of you for coming out and supporting your American Legion Family at the 103rd Department of Oklahoma Convention, 33rd Detachment of Oklahoma Convention and the 103rd Department of Oklahoma American Legion Auxiliary Convention it was a huge success. I want to personally

Thank Department Adjutant Rob Haugh, Department Administrative Assistant Diane Doudna and Department Sgt-At-Arms Ed Lager for all their hard work and dedication to The American Legion Department of Oklahoma Family. Congratulations to all the newly elected Department and Detachment and Auxiliary officers I look forward to serving with each and every one of you over the next year.

Now that the 2022/2023 membership year has begun its time to get out in our community's and build relationships and let them know who we are, what we do and what we have to offer. All of us can be recruiters for The American Legion Family so let's get out and build those relationships. But let's not forget our current or former Legion Family members as they serve a vital role in our Legion Family. Remember to do your buddy checks call them go by and visit with them let them know how important they are to The Legion Family. Our membership retention rate has dropped over the last few years and its time we fix this problem, so I challenge you to reach out to them and invite them to come back home to The American Legion Family.

At the 33rd Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Oklahoma Convention you elected your new officers for the 2022/2023 year.

Detachment Commander
Chris Sherbourne
chrissherbourne@yahoo.com

Vice Commander East
Ty Anderson
medictaa@yahoo.com

Vice Commander West
Bart Looper
bart@looperbrand.com

Detachment Adjutant
Rick Cook
okrcook@aol.com

Detachment Sgt-At-Arms.
Kent Kirkham.

Detachment NEC
Chris Cook
sal.chriscook@gmail.com

Detachment Alt. NEC
Jay Cook
jcookoksal@yahoo.com

Detachment Judge Advocate
Jared Harrison
harrijh@mac.com

**For God and Country,
Detachment Commander
Chris Sherbourne**



SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION DETACHMENT OF OKLAHOMA

Fellow Members,

It's that time of year again to renew your membership. You see every member makes a difference, whether you attend meetings or not, every member helps us support the ideals and principles of The American Legion.

Our membership dues assist in fighting for veterans' benefits, by providing funds to the National Organization, who in turn keeps a staff in Washington D.C. and lobbies on behalf of our veterans. They also help support many children and youth programs both locally and nationally, Americanism programs, and Veterans Rehabilitation efforts.

I know that many of you have done an outstanding job in the past assisting the members of The American Legion with their endeavors, and I personally thank you for your contributions. Please pay your 2023 membership dues in the near future to help your Squadron and Detachment meet our membership goals and continue to receive membership benefits. This is a small price to pay considering the price that was paid by many of our parents and grandparents that served this country in the Armed Forces.

Please contact your Squadron Adjutant or Squadron Commander to pay your 2023 dues and update your contact information. We need to collect emails, phone numbers, address and birthdates and update them in mylegion.org.

For God and Country
Thank You for your continued support,

Chris Sherbourne

Chris Sherbourne
Detachment Commander
918-616-9537
chrissherbourne@yahoo.com

Rick Cook

Rick Cook
Detachment Adjutant
918-636-6937
okrcook@aol.com

Greg Galatian

Greg Galatian
Membership Chairman
918-402-2498
salokgalatian@yahoo.com

Get your Concealed Carry Permit



Cost is \$75

**Classes will be held at Post 12
6101 NW 50th St**

**Date: August 13.
From 08:00 - 17:00
Giving us drive time to range and lunch**

Please be there NLT 07:45

**Private 1 and 2 person
Oklahoma Concealed Carry (SDA) Class available
for additional cost.**

**To Register Send an email to
Jeff Long
adjutantpost12@gmail.com**

Department NEC man 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!



Oklahoma Veterans Registry

No Later Than July 1, 2023

Pursuant to Senate Bill 415, effective November 1, 2021, all new applicants for sales tax exemption based on a veteran's 100% service-connected disability status are required to register in the *Oklahoma Veterans Registry* to verify eligibility. Veterans (and surviving spouses) previously awarded sales tax exempt status prior to November 1, 2021 **must register in the *Oklahoma Veterans Registry* no later than July 1, 2023 in order to remain eligible for the benefit of sales tax exemption.**

If you have not already registered, please do so immediately to avoid a delay or suspense in this important state benefit. The Oklahoma Veterans Registry can be accessed at the following link: <https://registry.odva.ok.gov/registration>

This is not just for those who are 100% disabled, this is for all Veterans. This will help with getting a more accurate count of veterans in Oklahoma to aid in legislation that will help veterans across the state.

Those who are 100% disabled will get a new card in the mail for your tax exemption and the old one will not be accepted anywhere in the state of Oklahoma after 1 July 2023.

If you have questions regarding the Registry, please call the ODVA office in Muskogee at (918) 781-7766.



Sweepstakes winners from the 103 Summer Convention

Bob Vincent \$2,000.00 Grand Prize Morrison, OK
Jimmie Severson \$1,000.00 prize Edmond, OK
George Sizemore \$100.00 Antlers, OK
Russell Greer \$100.00 Okemah, OK
Richard Faurot \$100.00 Bixby, OK
Robert McNeal \$100.00 Owasso, OK
Emmett Perkins \$100.00 Coyle, OK

10 Gun Raffle Winners List

#1 Ty & Tammie Richard 313 Wewoka Drive Norman, Oklahoma 73071 405-593-9161
Ruger 10/22 Carbine 22LR

#2 Jeffery Singleton 12720 NW5th Street Yukon, Oklahoma 73099 405-543-8551
Browning 243 Winchester

#3 Tim Smith 17415 West Hwy 66 Calumet Ok 73014 405-414-0755
Springfield Armory 9mm Luger

#4 Gerald Ransford 7213 S 228th East Ave Broken Arrow, OK 74014 918-694-7815
Browning A-Bolt III Hunter 270 Winchester

#5 Ann Raines 126000 S Hwy 77 Lexington, OK 73051 405-527-9757
Ruger PC Carbine

#6 Ryan Traffanstedt 1816 E Longview Mustang, OK 73064 405-204-3693
Charles Daly Model 500 410 Ga

#7 Jimmy Rupe 918-914-9521
Tri Star Settler over/under 20 Ga

#8 Karen Perkins 11300 S. Hiwassee Rd OKC, Ok 73165 405-834-1646
Colt AR-15A4

#9 Michael Bumpas 55500 E 315 Rd Jay, OK 74346
Ruger Wrangler Revolver 22LR

#10 Mark Rogers 60135 E 68th St OKC, OK 73135 405-532-6286
Ruger 10/22 22LR

Alternate 1 Edward Hilliard 18813 S Cayuga Wyandotte, OK 74370 918-678-2656

Alternate 2 Alecia Holt 918-391-8443

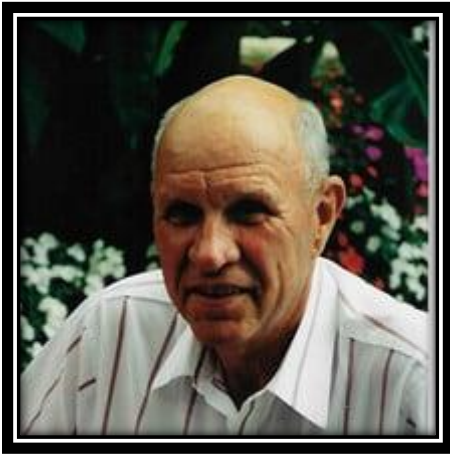
Alternate 3 Connie Ratzlaff 14008 Hawk Circle Piedmont, OK 73078 918-914-1633



POST EVERLASTING



Jimmie Ray Condit



Jimmie Ray Condit, 90 of Lindsay, completed his earthly journey Thursday, June 23, 2022. As family members observed, he was given his Final Salute by the honor guard while “Taps” was being played at the Oklahoma Veterans Center in Norman as he exited the building.

Willie Ray and Lillie Edna (Wright) Condit became the proud parents of their son Jimmie Ray Condit on August 21, 1931 at Foster. He graduated from Doyle High School and served his country in the U.S. Army during the Korean Conflict. Jim married Mary Kate Flurry, and she preceded him in death in 1991. Jim made a career working in the oilfield and was ultimately a salesman in that industry. Jim and Glynna Schuler were married at the Pernell Church of Christ on October 10, 1992.

Jim is survived by: Spouse – Glynna Condit; Sons – Bruce Ray Condit (Joyce) and Donald Alan Condit (Karen); Daughter – Kimberly DiAnn Mays (Richard); Step-daughters – Carolyn Hamit (Rusty) and Tina Casey (Terry); Brothers – Glynn Condit and Doyle Condit (Charlene); Sisters – Barbara England (Jim) and LaVern Russell; Grandchildren – Krista Rhea Reimer (Matt); Melissa Perez (Nick); Ami Bax (Benjamin); Christopher Condit (Ashley); Brittany Essaili (Hassan); Jarrett Mays (Leah) and Gretchen Peshoff (Robby); Great-grandchildren – Taylor and Caitlin Reimer; Enzo and Phoenix Perez; Emma, Jack, Joey and Jude Bax; Easton Condit; Owen Essaili; Jakobi, Christian, and Kea Mays; Hannah Parks; Tyler Stafford; and Zayne, Jaxson, and Gracin Peshoff; Great-great-grandchild – Blakeley Mays. Jim is preceded in death by his parents, the mother of his children, Mary Kate Flurry Condit, and brothers Lynn Condit and Leon Condit.

Funeral services to honor and give thanks for the life of Jimmie Ray Condit are scheduled for 1:00

p.m. on Monday, June 27th in the Lindsay Church of Christ with Brant Stubblefield officiating. Graveside services with military honors will follow in the Purdy Cemetery.

ROYCE FREEMAN



Royce Lee Freeman Sr. was born on September 16, 1938, to Robert Lee "Bud" Freeman and Hazel Lucille (Abney) Freeman. He passed from this life on July 9, 2022, at the age of 83.

Royce attended Lindsay High School and was a graduate of the class of 1955. Shortly after high school, he attended college and joined the Air Force. While he was stationed in Waco, Texas, Royce met his loving wife of 60 years, Sharon Ann (Branch) Freeman. Together they had four sons, Royce Lee Freeman, Robert Howard Freeman, Darryl Edward Freeman, and Richard Wayne Freeman.

Royce spent all of his adult life in Lindsay, Oklahoma, and raised his four children during that time. He worked in the family business until semi-retiring in 1992. Royce was a member of the First Baptist

Church in Lindsay.

Royce also belonged to the Masonic Lodge in Tishomingo, Oklahoma, the American Legion in Lindsay, Oklahoma, the Rotary Club, and many more organizations. Royce enjoyed supporting Lindsay Schools Athletics, FFA, and Booster Clubs.

After retirement, Royce joined his three sons, Royce, Robert, and Richard, and their drag racing business in Oklahoma City, Lindsay, Pauls Valley, and Wynnewood. His idea of the perfect "retirement" was working with his boys and celebrating their continued success in the automotive and drag racing profession. Drag racing was truly Royce's life passion. So, he found great joy as he watched his three sons race and build arguably one of the most historic Pro Stock teams to date. Royce was instrumental in the foundation of this successful business, along with the many more of the Elite Motorsports family. There is no doubt that Royce's legacy will live on through his sons and grandchildren.

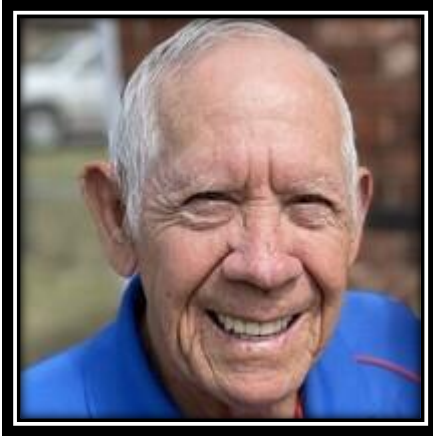
In his final years Royce was a member of Trinity Baptist Church in Pauls Valley, Oklahoma. He also found enjoyment in riding Cushman Motor Scooters.

Left to cherish the memory of Royce are his wife, Sharon, of the home, his sons, Royce Freeman and wife Lisa of Duncan, Oklahoma, Robert Freeman of Wynnewood, Oklahoma, Richard Freeman and wife Kim of Wynnewood, Oklahoma, his grandchildren, Kenley Freeman, Cale Freeman and wife Sidney, Chase Freeman, Casey Freeman, Austin Freeman, and Tyler Freeman, his sisters, Beth and Richard Skinner of Humble, Texas, Linda and Don Moore of Kilgore, Texas, and Donna and Randy Thompson of League City, Texas, along with numerous nieces and nephews, and tons of friends.

Royce is preceded in death by his parents, Robert Lee "Bud" Freeman and Hazel Lucille (Abney) Freeman, his son, Darryl Edward Freeman, and his brother, Robert Don Freeman.

A funeral service to honor the life of Royce is set to begin at 2:00 P.M. on Wednesday, July 13, 2022, at Trinity Baptist Church in Pauls Valley, Oklahoma. He will be laid to his final rest at Green Hill Cemetery in Lindsay, Oklahoma, following the service.

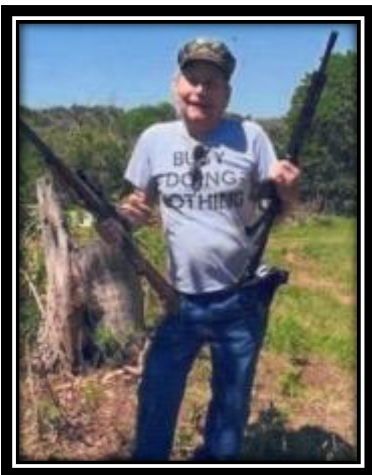
JAMES CROSSLAND



Jim Crossland, age 80 of Purcell, passed away Tuesday, July 19, 2022. James Ezell Crossland was born June 8, 1942, in Mangum, OK, the youngest of three children born to Carroll Gordon Crossland and Verble Ollie (Shelby) Crossland. Jim was raised in Mangum and attended school there, graduating with the Tigers Class of 1960. Jim joined the United States Army and served his country proudly during Vietnam. He was the proud father of two sons, Mike and Wade. Jim began working for United Supermarkets and worked his way up through the company. Jim retired after more than 40+ years of dedicated service to the company. By chance, Jim reconnected with an old high school friend, Jimmie (Tinsley) Caffey.

They married on June 16, 1995, in Purcell, and two families became one. Away from work, Jim enjoyed playing golf, watching golf and talking about golf. He never missed an opportunity to watch an old western and especially like John Wayne and Audie Murphy. Jim cherished family, and especially his grandchildren and great grandchildren. He will be dearly missed! He was preceded in death by: his son, Wade Crossland; his parents Carroll and Verble Crossland. Jim is survived by: his wife, Jimmie of the home; son, Mike Crossland and wife Katrina of Ponca City, OK; step son, Mark Caffey and wife Denise of Mustang; and step daughter, Jayne Andrews of Mustang; 7 grandchildren, Jeffrey, Joel, Camille, Austin, Allan, Halle and Olivia; 3 great grandchildren, Harper, Holden and Addilyn and a host of other family and friends. Graveside Services are scheduled for 10:00 A.M. Wednesday, August 3, 2022, at Hillside Cemetery, Purcell, OK.

Eddie Jay Crawford



Eddie Jay Crawford was born to Martin and Ella Mae (Beesley) Crawford on July 27, 1948 in Oklahoma City, OK. He departed this life on July 1, 2022 at the Oklahoma City Veterans Hospital at the age of 73 years.

Eddie made Noble his home since 1980. He attended school in Arkansas and completed the 9th grade before enlisting in to the United States Navy. He was a member of the Slaughterville Baptist Church. On June 23, 1972 he married the love of his life, Jannett Albertson, in Oklahoma City. Eddie was employed with United Design for many years as a Welder and Machine Maintenance Technician. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, being outdoors and spending time with his family.

Eddie was preceded in death by his parents, baby brother Eddie, sister Martina Hood and brother-in-law Ralph Landers. He is survived by his wife Jannett of the home, (3) sons: Michael Crawford and wife Melissa of Harrah, Eddie M. Crawford and wife Sarah of Noble, Timothy Crawford and wife Samantha of Noble, (3) sisters: Martha Thompson and husband Harold of Oklahoma City, Carol Powell of Oklahoma City, Linda Landers of Norman, (7) grandchildren; Ashley, Calye, Avery, Jacie, Mason, Ethan, Dalten (2) great-grandchildren: Leo and Lira, brothers and sisters-in-law and many other relatives and friends

Jake Leroy Conrad



Jake Leroy Conrad, age 77 started his eternal life on Tuesday, July 12, 2022. He was born in Scottsbluff, Nebraska on October 18, 1944, to Jake and Helen (Richards) Conrad. Jake joined the US Army in 1963 and traveled the world. Upon his military retirement, Jake and his family settled in Mustang. He couldn't get enough of the military life, so he worked at Tinker Air Force Base as a civilian employee. After his retirement from Tinker, he filled his time with his family. He kept busy by taking his wife, LaVonne, to their grandsons' school and sporting events and church functions. His pride and joy was his family. He is preceded in death by his parents, sister, and wife. Jake is survived by his daughter; Christy Mitchell and

husband Eddie, grandsons; Jordan Mitchell and wife She'lea; Payton and Logan Mitchell as well as great-grand daughters Sophia and Edyn Mitchell and great grandson Marcus Mitchell and two sisters; Connie and Peggy. Memorial services will be held at 10am, Monday, July 18, 2022, at the Mustang United Methodist Church.

ROBERT CULBERT OBITUARY



Robert Wayne Culbert, 81, was born on Wednesday, April 9, 1941 in Niagara Falls, NY, the second son of William Culbert of Rutherglen, Scotland and Rebecca Whitla Culbert of Newtownards, Ireland, he peacefully passed away at his home surrounded by his family on Wednesday, July 27, 2022

Robert graduated from LaSalle Senior High School, Niagara Falls, NY. He attended the University of Michigan for a short time before joining the U. S. Air Force. He went through Tech School at Lowry AFB, Denver, CO. He was assigned to Vandenberg AFB, CA where he met his beautiful wife of 56 years, Patricia Ann Kennerknecht. She was an Air Force Nurse from New Hartford, NY. They were introduced by a mutual friend PJ Lew who

fancied himself as a Chinese Match Maker.

Together Bob & Pat traveled the world together for the next 19 years compliments of the U. S. Air Force. They moved to Denver, CO shortly after being married. He was an Instructor at Lowry, AFB. Their first son, Richard was born at Fitzsimmons Army Hospital, Aurora, CO. After two years Bob cross trained into the Air Force Office of Special Investigations (AFOSI) He specialized in Fraud Investigations. His first assignment was back to Niagara Falls, NY. He was there for 18 months and

their second son, Sean, was born there. They then moved to Clark AFB, Republic of the Philippines, for three years. From the Philippines they were assigned to Scott AFB, IL. They adopted their daughter Allison there and their son Stephen was born at Scott, AFB. They spent six years at Scott AFB before moving to RAF Lakenheath, England for three years. They moved from England to Tinker AFB, OK

During his Air Force career Bob attended several universities and night schools. 15 years after graduating from high school he finally received his Bachelor's Degree in Business and Economics from McKendree College, Lebanon, IL, in 1975.

Bob retired from the Air Force in 1985 as a Senior Master Sergeant. Bob then worked for the Oklahoma State Insurance Fund as Field Auditor for 17 years before finally retiring full time. Bob loved to go on cruises with Pat & friends. They also went on several bus trips around the United States with friends they knew from Vandenberg AFB. He visited 39 countries and 49 of 50 states with Oregon remaining. Bob was a member of St. Andrew Catholic Church, Moore, OK. He was active in the Knights of Columbus and was elected Faithful Navigator of Assembly 3070. He was also active in the American Legion Post 88 in Norman, OK as the Finance Officer.

Bob was preceded in death by parents William and Rebecca and stepmother Dorothy Culbert; brother Bruce Culbert and two children Sean Robert Culbert and Allison Marie Culbert who died in service to her country.

Bob is survived by his lovely wife Pat, two sons, Richard and his wife Kristi and their two children Cailin and Jake of Midland, TX and Stephen and his wife Amber and their two children Megan and Liam of Oklahoma City. He is also survived by his brother Dick Culbert and his wife Marietta of Poinciana, FL; sister Jean Croley and husband Ken of Mount Dora, FL and many nieces and nephews. Bob's memory will be forever be cherished by his loving family and all those whose lives he touched.

Raymond Claude Osborn Sr., beloved husband, father, brother, grandfather, and great-grandfather, passed away at the age of 76, Sunday July 3rd, 2022, while battling cancer.

Raymond, AKA "Raymond Claude Pierre Jose Gonzalez George Washington Roostus Crassus Fertilizer Johnson Watermelon Brown Osborn..Inc" to anyone that asked what his REAL name was, was born in Blackwell, Oklahoma to John and Lottie "Josephine" Osborn on November 19th 1945. He had two younger brothers, Minuard, who tragically preceded him in death in 1965, and Clark Lee. He was also preceded in death by his father in 1956, and his mother in 2004.

He attended Tonkawa High School. In 1964 he wed Beverly Lambert in a union that brought four children, Robin of Wichita, KS, Raymond "Ray" Jr. of Fairview, TX, Randall of Owasso, OK, and John of Moore, OK. He proudly served his country in the United States Army from 1964 to 1966, during which time he was deployed to Korea.

In the late 60's and early 70's, Raymond worked the oil fields in Oklahoma, Colorado, and Wyoming. In 1975 he suffered a major back injury that required surgery and over two years to recover. During those years he attended Northern Oklahoma College in Tonkawa and attained an Associates Degree in Electrical Engineering. In 1979 he moved the family to Skiatook and the following year to Oologah where he worked for PSO and operated a video arcade/pool hall. After a short stint with Fischer and Porter from 1984-86 he made the bold decision to "be his own boss".

He founded Instrument Specialties and in late 1986 and had great success. This in turn gave him the capital to venture into the auto and plate glass industry. In 1989 he moved to Oklahoma City to be near Aladdin's Glass and to better service his instrumentation customers in central and Western OK. Although the glass business fell short of his expectations he continued to service a major water treatment facility in western Oklahoma until he fell ill. He was one of only a few people with the knowledge and expertise to install and maintain the vast radio network that keeps the plant in communication with numerous municipalities they served

Raymond was a huge fan and supporter of not only NASCAR but also the local stock car racing scene. He sponsored several cars with his companies and was always quick to help out the little guy. In 1992, the three cars which carried the Aladdin's Glass name on their cars won the season championship at State Fair Speedway. He was also a staunch supporter of the Oklahoma Sooners and his adoration of The Duke and all his films was Brobdingnagian.

He married Martha Ann in March of 1993 and with that four more children, Melissa Ann of OKC, Bo of Perkins, OK and Paul and Jerry, both of OKC, were added to the mix.

Him and Martha also ran 2 bars in Oklahoma City. They had a love of meeting strangers and enjoyed the company of 100s of friends. These establishments also provided them a place they could participate in one of their favorite pass-times: shooting darts. They won many league championships with various teams through the years. Cookouts and BBQs or whatever gathered the masses were regular happenings and all were always welcomed at their table.

Raymond is survived by his wife, Martha, his brother, Clark of Burbank, OK, all of his children, 15 grand children, 16 great-grandchildren, 2 nieces, several cousins and innumerable friends. He was a benevolent fellow that would help anyone in need. Many people took up residence with him through the years. Whether it was one of his children's friends from high school that were in need of shelter or a meal, or an acquaintance that was down on their luck, there was always room in Raymond's family for more.

There is a massive magnolia tree in the back yard that stands testament to his legacy through the initials of his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. And although the tree stands taller it is dwarfed when measured against the love in his heart

The family will hold a viewing from 9 am to 1 pm Saturday July 16th at Bill

Merritt Funeral Service located at

6201 NW 39th Expy, Bethany, OK 73008

The Family invites you to come and celebrate the the life and times of one of the original Gunfighters from 3 pm to 6 pm Saturday July 16th at The Mustang Community Center located at

1201 N Mustang Rd, Mustang, OK 73064



Thank you one and all for what you do for our state and country. If there is anything I or Department can do for you, your Post, or community, please call or email me.

I look forward to serving and visiting your Post!

Respectfully and Humbly, For God and Country,
Brett Martin