



DURAN Y GALLEGOS AMERICAN LEGION POST 69

9000 4TH St. NW, Albuquerque, NM 87114

Website – <http://duranygallegospost69.org/>

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Bar/Hall Rentals 505-898-9918



Commander David Stevens		
1st Vice Rick “Ponch” De La Rosa	2nd Vice Commander Vacant	3rd Vice Commander Vacant
Finance Officer Vacant	Chaplain Pepé Mendoza	Adjutant Vacant
Sergeant-at-Arms Rudy Chavez	Service Officer Vacant	Historian Robert Jaramillo
Executive Committee: Dee-Dee Chapman, Pro Padilla, Eddie Santillanes		

Well, we reached April and so far, all is well here at the Post!

The Legion held nominations for Officers to serve the 2026-2027 Legion year, and we had very few changes.

- Commander - David Stevens
- 1st Vice Commander – Rick De La Rosa
- Chaplain - Pepe Mendoza
- Sergeant-at-Arms - Rudy Chavez
- Historian - Robert Jaramillo
- 3-year Trustee - Eddie Santillanes

The listed officers were elected by acclamation, and the offices of 2nd Vice, 3rd Vice, Service Officer, Finance, and Adjutant will be appointed by the incoming Commander. If you feel you would like to be a part of the Leadership Team here at Post 69, please contact an officer to express your interest!

The Post is doing well, and we are getting a lot of comments on how wonderful the Post looks! Keeping the Post clean is everyone's job. I would also like to thank our Bartending crew for the job they have been doing! There have been a lot of changes in the past few months, but they have been doing a fantastic job.

Until Next Month,

David Stevens
Post Commander



APRIL 2026



New Mexico VA Health Care System ...

1501 San Pedro SE, Albuquerque, NM, Unit...



If you can't attend in person...
Watch the Town Hall on Facebook
Go to our New Mexico VA Facebook Page:
<https://www.facebook.com/VANewMexico>

VA | U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Health Administration
New Mexico VA Health Care System

IN-PERSON VETERAN DISCUSSION
**New Mexico VA
Health Care System**
TOWN HALL
Tuesday, April 14
5 p.m.-7 p.m.
Information fair
Tuesday, April 14
4 p.m.-5 p.m.
1501 San Pedro Drive SE
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87108
Auditorium Building #39



Congratulations to Squadron 69 members Andy Maestas and Eddie Garcia, new graduates of The American Legion College held in Silver City, 20-22 March!

AMERICAN LEGION HONOR GUARD

Honoring Fallen Comrades

January 30, 2026 - Accorded comrade John Bluma Full Military Honors at Vista Verde.

February 24, 2026 - Accorded comrade Michel Andrew Campbell Full Military Honors at Vista Verde.

March 19, 2026 - Accorded comrade Frank Mestas Full Military Honors at Nativity Church in Alameda.

March 24, 2026 - Accorded comrade Elwood Nawman Full Military Honors at Vista Verde.



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

AN EASTER BLESSING OF HOPE FOR ALL!

Dear friends, as I sit here writing this article, I find myself reflecting on the religious Lenten Season (for those of the Christian faith), that started during the previous month with Ash Wednesday and ending with Palm Sunday. This year, the Holy Week started on March 30 through Easter Sunday on April 5, 2026. Reflecting back, we follow Jesus through the journey and steps that take him from his triumphant entry back to Jerusalem (Palm Sunday), the washing of his apostles' feet on Holy Thursday, showing us to be servants to those less fortunate, and assisting those who have no one to care for them. Good Friday brings us to the anguish of his beating, whipping, and crown of thorns embedded on his head as well as carrying the heavy cross (for the world's sins), to His crucifixion.

During the crucifixion, Jesus had two revolutionaries (criminals) who were also to be executed. One of the criminals mocked him to save them all if He was the King of the Jews. The other criminal rebuked him, for not believing in Jesus. Luke 23:42 (SJR) "He said (criminal who believed) "Remember me when you come to your kingdom," "Jesus replied to him, Amen I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise." Dear friends, we too can be with Him in paradise, if we follow His example and give ourselves to his cause. Follow the compass to a better life, by reading his printed word. He was buried on Good Friday, and the stone was secured and guarded on Holy Saturday. On Easter Sunday he was arisen from the dead to be with His Holy Father in Heaven. Jesus's road was filled with those who hated His words and miracles. But Almighty God had a mission for his Son.



That mission was to give Hope to those who believed His words, followed his examples of goodness, serving others less fortunate, reading his words of being a better person, attending religious services to reinforce and educate oneself, family, and those needing a positive direction in their lives.

As we are enjoying our Easter Sunday with our Easter egg hunts, and family gatherings, let us reflect on what Easter Sunday means to us on a personal level. Almighty God has blessed us with Hope for a better tomorrow. I want to personally wish all of you in the Duran y Gallegos American Legion Post 69 Family/Familia a Blessed and Joyful Easter Season.

Please, try to attend one of the many religious services being held in the Albuquerque community. Have a safe month of April 2026.

Respectfully in Christ,

Pepé Mendoza, Chaplain
Duran y Gallegos
American Legion Post 69



President Yolanda J. Montoya		
1st Vice President Virginia Sanchez	2nd Vice President Dee-Dee Chapman	Secretary Vacant
Treasurer Annette Brown	Historian Vacant	Sergeant-at-Arms Vacant
Chaplain Debra Sandoval	Executive Committee: Luz Abeyta, Debra A. Archuleta, Cathy Nieto-Martinez	

Hi everyone! Spring is here, flowers are blooming, and we are looking forward to April showers. Please see below for upcoming news and events.

National President Visit

District 9 recently had a visit from National President Pam Ray. She shared valuable information regarding webinars, the ALA Academy, and Buddy Checks. She also noted that the April 13-15 Honor Flight will consist of all female Veterans with ALA members as companions. Her program, Scholarship and Spirit of Youth, focuses on educating our Juniors and bringing them into the Legion; they are our future.

ALA Nominations

April is ALA officer nomination month. Everyone is welcome to join our meeting. If you would like to become an officer, we welcome you.

District 9 Meeting

The District 9 meeting is scheduled for April 26, 2026, at Post 13. Your presence is important, so please plan on joining us.

ALA Car Show

ALA will host a car show on May 16, 2026, from 8 AM to 2 PM. We welcome all oldies, muscle cars, bikes, and motorcycles. The entry fee is \$20 per vehicle. Craft vendors are also welcome. Come vote for the best vehicle and enjoy hot dogs, burgers, sides, and a live band.

Monthly Food Sales

Please join the ALA every third Friday of the month for food sales in the hall. All money raised will be distributed to Veteran and Community Programs.

Installation of Officers

On May 9, 2026, the entire Legion family is invited to join us as all American Legion Officers are installed.

Thank you, Veterans, for 250 years of freedom (1776-2026).

Best regards,

Yolanda J Montoya
Unit 69 President
505-492-6210

Lymontoya810@gmail.com



Commander Danny Padilla		
1st Vice Commander Eddie Garcia	2nd Vice Commander Randolph Montoya	Adjutant Andy Maestas
Finance Officer Vacant	Chaplain Carlos E. Gurulé	Sergeant-at-Arms Eddie Padilla
Executive Board: Randolph Montoya, Danny Padilla		
Historian: Leonard Duran		

Hello, everyone!

I hope everyone is doing well. First, I would like to thank all my officers for 2025-2026 for all their hard work throughout the year. It was a pleasure working with all of you. Thank you!

The new officers for 2026-2027 are:

- Commander – Danny Padilla
- 1st Vice Commander – Eddie Garcia
- 2nd Vice Commander – Randolph Montoya
- Adjutant – Andy Maestas (appointed)
- Finance Officer – Vacant (appointed)
- Chaplain – Carlos Gurulé
- Historian – Leonard Duran
- Sergeant-at-Arms – Eddie Padilla

Congratulations to all the newly elected officers.

We will be holding our next monthly Flea Market on April 4 from 7 AM-1 PM. Just \$10/space. Bring your own table and chair; the weather is cooperating for a good turnout.

Membership is rocking at 89%!

Our annual matanza raffle was a tremendous success! I want to acknowledge our top raffle book sellers (10 minimum): Eddie Garcia 54, Mario Ramirez 50, Teresa Montano 41, Andy Maestas 28, Elizabeth Arzola 24, Randy Montoya 24, Ed Padilla 20, Robert Jaramillo 20, Carlos Gurule 20, Dee-Dee Chapman 18, Lisa Griego 14, Leonard Trujillo 11, Jeff Velasquez 10, and Carl Radosevich 10. To everyone who sold and purchased books, thank you, thank you, thank you!

The Squadron 69 meetings are on the second Saturday of each month. Get free breakfast and then stay for the meeting. Executive board meeting at 8 AM, general membership meeting at 9 AM.

Thank you,

Randolph Montoya
SAL Commander



SQUADRON 69

Flea Market

April 4, 2026
7 AM-1 PM

American Legion Post 69
9000 4th St NW

Space Rental: \$10
Bring your own table!
Randy Montoya, 505-238-1291
for more information.



Director Anthony "Airborne" Leyba		
Assistant Director <i>Liz "DragonLady" Martinez</i>	Secretary <i>Veronica "Hitchhiker" Zapata</i>	Treasurer Deb "Bruh" Garcia
Sergeant-at-Arms Robin "Grumpy" Cohee	Road Captain <i>Ben "BenJammin" Martinez</i>	Chaplain Joseph "Papa Joe" Lovato
Historian Ali "Hot Flash" Leyba	OWW Chair <i>Veronica "Hitchhiker" Zapata</i>	

Hello everyone,

I want to thank everyone that participated in the escort of Los Alamos Chapter 19 Post 90 Riders to pick up the Never Forgotten Traveling Eagle and to all those who helped at the welcome lunch.

Now that April is the first full month of Spring and the warm riding season has begun, be sure to perform the proper maintenance on your bike and make sure to **STAY HYDRATED**. We will be putting out a schedule for upcoming Post fun rides for this spring season.

HAPPY EASTER. RIDE SAFE!



The SONS are hosting a flea market on Saturday, April 4, and don't forget Red Shirt Fridays! I also want to wish everyone a safe and Happy Easter!

Your director,

Anthony "Airborne" Leyba
Duran y Gallegos
American Legion Post 69
ALR Chapter 10



How Purple Up! Day Began

Held on April 15 of each year, “Purple Up! For Military Kids” is a day for Department of Defense Education Activity communities to wear purple to show support and thank military children for their strength and sacrifices. There’s an emphasis in United States military culture on “the total force”, the “whole person concept” and similarly-themed philosophies that hold that troops, their families, and their extended families are more than the sum of their parts.

The notion of the “total force” should rightfully include families as they are the lifeline between military service (especially overseas) and individual officers or enlisted members. With that in mind, former Defense Secretary Casper Weinberger established the Month of the Military Child as a Department of Defense-wide commemoration in 1986.

APRIL 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
			1 April Fool's Day 1830 – Riders Mtg.	2 1730 - Honor Wall Committee Mtg.	3 It's Wear R.E.D. FRIDAY! 1900 – Live Music & Food	4 0700 – SONS Flea Market
5 Gold Star Spouses Day 1700 - Karaoke W/Allan	6 1730 – Entertainment Mtg.	7 1800 – Auxiliary Mtg.	8	9 National Former POW Recognition Day	10 It's Wear R.E.D. FRIDAY! 1900 – Live Music & Food	11 0800-1030- Breakfast 0900-Finance/Exec. Comm. Mtg. 1100 – General Mtg. 0900 – SONS Gen. Mtg.
12 1700 - Karaoke w/Allan	13	14 Air Force Reserve Birthday	15 Purple Up! Day	16	17 Good Friday 1730-1900 – ALA Food Sales 1900 – Live Music	18
19 Easter 1700 - April Birthdays, Karaoke w/Allan	20	21	22 Earth Day	23 Army Reserve Birthday	24 It's Wear R.E.D. FRIDAY! 1900 – Live Music & Food	25 OWW ALR Event
26 0900 – District 9 Mtg., Post 13 1700 - Karaoke w/Allan	27	28	29	30 National Military Brats Day		

SILVER STAR FAMILIES OF AMERICA



To remember, honor and assist our wounded, ill, injured and dying from all wars, the Silver Star Families of America is dedicated to supporting and assisting the wounded and ill and their families since 2004. Our goal is to recognize the blood sacrifice of our wounded and illnesses incurred during combat and remember their efforts by honoring them with the Silver Star Banner. We are also advocates for the Wounded and ill and assist in educating their families and the public concerning their plight. Silver Star Families of America touches the lives of our wounded, ill and families nationwide of all branches of service and all wars. The Silver Star Flag and Banner are symbols of remembrance and honor for those wounded or incurring illnesses during combat while honorably serving in the United States Armed Forces. It may be displayed or flown at anytime, not just wartime, and by families as well as the wounded and ill service members. It is our wish that all of America never forgets the sacrifice of our service members. The Silver Star Service Flag represents the blood shed by our wounded Service Members from ALL wars.

MAY 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
					1 Silver Star Banner Day 1900 – Live Music & Food	2 0700 – SONs Flea Market
3 1700 - Karaoke w/Allan	4 1730 – Entertainment Mtg.	5 1800 – Auxiliary Mtg.	6 1830 – Riders Mtg.	7	8 Military Spouse Appreciation Day 1900 – Live Music & Food	9 0800-1030-Breakfast 0900-Finance/Exec. Comm. Mtg. 1100 – General Mtg. 0900 – SONs Gen. Mtg. 1300 – Post 69 Officers Installation & Potluck
10 1300 – Mother’s Day Potluck Luncheon 1700 - Karaoke w/Allan	11	12	13 Children of Fallen Patriots Day	14	15 Armed Forces Day 1730-1900 – ALA Food Sales, Green Chili Cheeseburgers 1900 – Live Music	16 0800-1400 – ALA Car Show
17 1700 - May Birthdays, Karaoke w/Allan	18	19	20	21	22 National Poppy Day 1900 – Live Music & Food	23
24 1700 - Karaoke w/Allan	25 Memorial Day	26	27	28	29 1900 – Live Music & Food	30
31 1700 - Karaoke w/Allan						

Every Friday is RED shirt day; Remember Everyone Deployed!!!