



DURAN Y GALLEGOS AMERICAN LEGION POST 69

9000 4TH St. NW, Albuquerque, NM 87114

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

Email – duranygallegospost69@yahoo.com

Bar/Hall Rentals 505-898-9918

NATIONAL
**BLOOD
DONOR**
MONTH



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

Well, we are almost into a new year, and things keep rolling along here at Post 69!

This past week, December 20, we held our annual Children's Christmas Party here at the Post and it was very well attended! A big shout out to ALR Chapter 10 for taking the lead, and all the volunteers who were here to volunteer to help!

There have been some changes here at the Post as many of you already know, but the Post will still carry on. We ask that you bear with us for as you know, when there are changes, there will be bumps. We are working on them as we speak and hopefully before too long, we will see business as usual.

Please keep in mind that Legionnaire dues will increase by \$5.00 on the first of January, so now is the time to renew if you haven't already.

On behalf of every officer here at our Post, I would like to wish everyone a happy holiday season and a prosperous New Year!

Until Next Year,

David Stevens
Post Commander





NATIONAL WRITE TO CONGRESS January 3, 2026

The U.S. observes National Write to Congress Day on January 3 every year, a day for the citizens to exercise their democratic rights. It is crucial to write to the State and Federal level representatives, relaying all concerns to them. Veterans and small businesses can also write to their elected representatives about any recent bills that might affect them. Very few people do or even know the number of representatives in their state, which makes this day that much more meaningful. It is our duty as the citizens who elected them to hold our representatives accountable. New Mexico has three representatives with their contact information below.

Melanie Stansbury (D), District 1

The Honorable Melanie Stansbury
United States House of Representatives
1421 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
Phone: 202-225-6316
Contact form: <https://stansbury.house.gov/contact>

Gabe Vasquez (D), District 2

The Honorable Gabe Vasquez
United States House of Representatives
1517 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
Phone: (202) 225-2365
Contact Form: <https://vasquez.house.gov/contact>

Teresa Leger Fernandez (D), District 3

The Honorable Teresa Leger Fernandez
United States House of Representatives
1510 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
Phone: 202-225-6190, Fax: 202-226-1528
Contact Form: <https://fernandez.house.gov/contact>



As part of The American Legion Be the One mission to end veteran suicide, we have joined forces with Columbia University to develop training for those who want to learn more about interacting and responding with veterans who may be in crisis. Virtual training is scheduled for **January 7, 2026, 12:30-2 p.m. MST**. After the training, participants will be able to:

- Use the Columbia Suicide Severity Rating Scale to determine at-risk individuals.
- Identify risk factors and warning signs.
- Outline the types of suicidal ideation and four behaviors that indicate imminent risk.
- Communicate effectively with an individual who may be at risk of hurting themselves.

Training registration link:

<https://zoom.us/meeting/register/wLeaboANRM2dI-JpwrjkZQ#/registration>

There are eight (8) days left to renew your 2026 membership. You are considered delinquent until renewed. Expect to show your membership card at any time if a bar employee requests it. There is so much to look forward to in 2026 at Post 69!

POST 69

NEW YEAR'S EVE DINNER & DANCE

Wednesday, December 31

***Dance to Tino &
the Band!***

**Denim,
Diamond
&
Masquerade
Theme**

**Roast Beef
Dinner,
7-8 PM,
Party
Favors,
Posolé &
Champagne
at Midnight!**

**\$30/Person
or
\$50/Couple**

**Doors
open at
6 PM!**

**GET YOUR TICKETS FROM RICK DE LA ROSA (505-553-9552) OR
YOLANDA MONTOYA (505-492-6210)**

9000 4th St NW, Albuquerque, NM 87114

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

GOD'S NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION TO YOU

Dear Friends! Here we are welcoming and bringing in the New Year of 2026! Many of us will be celebrating the new life of promise and hope along with the crisp cold air of optimism and a new direction in Life itself. Some folks make resolutions in say, losing weight, getting a new job, being more active in the church and community. And some promising to be better neighbors to others. This sometimes last for a very short time only to say they had a resolution. Others might stick to their resolutions for a few weeks or even a month or two, then forget about what they promised to themselves. Others even last a few months extending more than four to five months then find themselves at a crossroads and decide it is easier to join the crowd in being comfortable and in what others think and what they should do instead of relying on their own better judgement.

But on a good note, there are a few who struggle through in believing in their God and His Son, to get them through the many challenges they faced and overcame. To see that their New Year's resolutions come to full fruition. Seeing their commitment to see their promises to themselves in completing their personal resolutions from beginning until end. Rejoicing in their personal success!

Friends, let us not be like the individuals mentioned in Luke 8:5-7, who's Sowers seed fell on the path and was trampled and eaten by the birds. Being only temporary and to the moment. Or those who's seed fell on the rocks with a little soil or faith, and their growth did not last a long time. Or the seeds that fell on good soil but shared it with thorns, that was choked by others, with their overshadowing comments, and found it easier to "go with flow of others" and not their own beliefs.

But my Dear Friends, Luke 8:8, "Let us be like the seeds that fell on fertile soil and produced a hundredfold." We can complete our own personal resolutions for a healthier and better spiritually filled Life by believing in Almighty God and His Son's desire for us. By reading what is found and known as the book of Life, the Holy Bible.

In ending, I want to personally wish all the Duran y Gallegos American Legion Post 69 Family/Familia, Sons of the American Legion, Auxiliary, Riders, and those reading this article "A Blessed New Year of 2026!" Remember that you are never alone in Life. Almighty God is always there to hear you, and your prayers, and petitions.

Respectfully in Christ,

Pepé Mendoza, Chaplain
Duran y Gallegos American Legion Post 69

May the faith of God
be with you this year.
May the peace of God
surround you,
and may you be blessed
each day!

Happy New Year



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

Dear Unit 69 members!

We are deep into holiday mode right now. Be safe while out and about by always checking your surroundings getting into or out of your car.

The 2026 Mid-Year Conference will be held at the Crown Plaza Hotel, January 30-February 1. Registration fees for the Auxiliary is \$15 and Juniors are \$5. Pre-registration cutoff is January 23. I will email the registration form via email soon. There is so much to learn at this convention about what is happening with units across the state. I encourage all unit members to attend!

Our monthly fundraiser dinners are now on the ***third*** Friday of every month. We will start up again on January 16, 5:30-7 PM. We will be selling Frito pies with sides on the 16th, so come help Unit 69 raise funds for our veteran's and children's programs.

Membership dues for 2025 expire on December 31. Mail in your renewal sent by national, pay online at alaforveterans.org, or complete a renewal form from the Auxiliary Book near the gaming cage in the lounge.

Member meetings are held at the Post on the 2nd Tuesday of every month. Every member's input and participation is greatly appreciated!

Happy New Year,

Yolanda J Montoya
Unit 69 President
505-492-6210
Yolanda.J.Montoya@al.org



HAPPY NEW YEAR!



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

Hello, everyone!

I hope everyone is doing very well and ready for the new year holiday! Our membership is now at 60%; we are doing well! If you have not paid your 2026 membership, please pay as soon as possible. Your membership means a lot to the Squadron!

It has been brought to my attention that there has been fighting in the lounge and arguing with squadron members. This needs to stop immediately! This is a veteran's post, so let's respect our veterans. If you are caught fighting or arguing, you will be asked to leave and not return until you attend the next E-Board meeting.

Very important, members are not signing in their guests in the sign-in book. You are only allowed to bring two (2) guests, and you must write in their names when you sign your name. They may remain the duration you are in the lounge, but your guests must leave when you leave.

The Squadron will be holding our Annual Matanza fundraiser on February 21, 2026, at 12:30. I challenge all 300 SONs members to buy or sell at least one (1) book. Please call me if you need books of raffle tickets (505-238-1291).

We are looking at creating a "challenge coin" for Squadron 69. More information to come on these coins.

I would also like to thank all the volunteers that helped with the post clean-up from the Riders and Legion and all who participated in Wreaths Across America. Please use the trash cans in the post or toss your trash at home and not in the parking lot. Please help keep the post clean inside and out!

Squadron 69 meetings are on the second Saturday of each month. Eat eggs any style and stay for the meeting. Executive board meeting at 8 AM, general membership meeting at 9 AM.

Happy New Year,

Randolph Scott Montoya
SAL Commander

ANNUAL MATANZA FUNDRAISER
February 21, 2026, 12:30 PM

GRAND PRIZE - Heritage 92 .44 Magnum Lever-Action Rifle
1st Prize - GSG Firefly Pistol .22 Long R
(Background check required for rifle and pistol!)

2nd Prize - \$300 Cabela's Gift Certificate
3rd Prize - Disco Grill with Burner
4th Prize - \$200 Meat Order Certificate

\$2.00 Per Ticket or \$20 Per Book.
Need Not Be Present To Win!



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

I would like to introduce myself. My name is Anthony Leyba, and I am a Retired Combat Army Veteran. I was born and raised in Albuquerque's South Valley. I've spent 20 years with the US Army and full-time with the New Mexico National Guard.

I would like to invite everyone to join me in thanking all the outgoing ALR officers and all the Post members for a fantastic year serving our Veterans and our community.

I would like to introduce the 2026 ALR officers as follows:

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

I want to remind everyone about the Annual Bibo Run on January 1, 2026, New Year's Day, and we will also be picking up the Never Forgotten Traveling Eagle from Chapter 12, Post 4 in Deming, NM, on January 17, 2026. I would like to thank everyone for finishing off the end of 2025 with great success. Let's all look forward to another successful year!

Your Director,

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





JANUARY 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
				1 New Year's Day	2 It's Wear R.E.D. FRIDAY! 1900 – Live Music & Food	3
4 1700 - Karaoke W/Allan	5	6	7 1830 – Riders Mtg.	8	9 It's Wear R.E.D. FRIDAY! 1900 – Live Music & Food	10 0800-1030-Breakfast 0900-Finance/Exec. Comm. Mtg. 1100 – General Mtg. 0900 – SONs Gen. Mtg.
11 1700 - Karaoke w/Allan	12	13 1800 – Auxiliary Mtg.	14	15	16 1730-1900 – ALA Food Sales. Frito Pies 1900 – Live Music & Food	17
18 1700 - January Birthdays, Karaoke w/Allan	19 Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday	20	21	22	23 It's Wear R.E.D. FRIDAY! 1900 – Live Music & Food	24
25 1700 - Karaoke w/Allan	26	27	28	29	30 Mid-Winter Conference, Crowne Plaza	31 Mid-Winter Conference, Crowne Plaza

National Salute To Veteran Patients

The week of February 14 is notable for Valentine's Day, but there is another observation during this week that has special significance for anyone with a veteran family member receiving medical care. The National Salute To Veteran Patients happens Sunday, February 8 to Saturday, February 14 and pays tribute to just under 100,000 patients a day that receive medical treatment in VA medical facilities as well as the nine million U.S. veterans who get care every year. According to the Department of Veterans Affairs, this week-long tribute to veteran patients has always been observed the week of Valentine's Day and is intended to pay tribute to veterans, increase community awareness "of the role of the VA medical center", encourage visits to hospitalized veterans, and to encourage volunteerism with the VA.

This observation is meant for some nine million veterans getting care in:

- VA medical centers.
- VA outpatient clinics.
- Those receiving VA domiciliary care.
- Veterans in nursing homes.



FEBRUARY 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
1 Mid-Winter Conference, Crowne Plaza 1700 - Karaoke W/Allan	2	3 Four Chaplains Day	4 USO Birthday 1830 – Riders Mtg.	5	6 It's Wear R.E.D. FRIDAY! 1900 – Live Music & Food	7
8 1700 - Karaoke W/Allan	9	10 1800 – Auxiliary Mtg.	11	12	13 It's Wear R.E.D. FRIDAY! 1900 – Live Music & Food	14 Valentine's Day 0800-1030-Breakfast 0900-Finance/Exec. Comm. Mtg. 1100 – General Mtg. 0900 – SONs Gen. Mtg.
15 1700 - February Birthdays, Karaoke w/Allan	16 President's Day	17	18	19 Coast Guard Reserve Birthday	20 1730-1900 – ALA Food Sales 1900 – Live Music & Food	21
22 1700 - Karaoke w/Allan	23	24	25	26	27 It's Wear R.E.D. FRIDAY! 1900 – Live Music & Food	28