



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



June 14

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 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 Albert Tazasi |
| Sergeant-at-Arms Rudy Chavez | Service Officer Vacant | Historian Robert Jaramillo |
| Executive Committee: Dee-Dee Chapman, Pro Padilla, Eddie Santillanes | | |

It's already going to be June as the year just slips away!

We elected and installed new officers on May 9, and they are ready to get started on a new Legion year! We do have a couple of slots to fill on the Legion board so if you are interested, please give me a call.

As I have said in past articles, we have a few members/patrons who think that the post is their own little playground! We come into the Post to have a drink and see our friends/comrades and enjoy ourselves! We still have a few who insist on causing problems. We are doing our best to rid the Post of the ones that have no respect for Post 69 or our Veterans and will continue to do so. We have a great post here and everyone should be proud of it so let's get on board and show some respect. Don't forget that the Bartenders are in charge of the Social Quarters when they are on duty. Please respect that!

The American Legion State Convention will be held June 26-28, 2026, at the Crown Plaza Hotel here in Albuquerque. Every member of Post 69 are encouraged to attend. Let your family leaders know if you are interested in attending. So much to learn and experience!

Our membership is coming along just fantastic as we have achieved 100% once again! Let's keep it up.

Until Next Month,

David Stevens
Post Commander



JUNE 2026

POST 69 OFFICER INSTALLATION MAY 9, 2026



POST 69 LEGION OFFICERS



POST 69 AUXILIARY OFFICERS



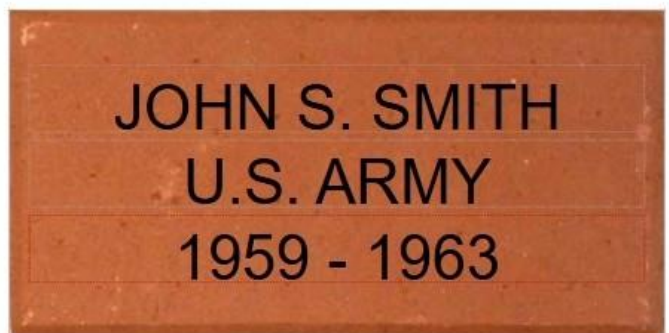
SQUADRON 69 OFFICERS



CHAPTER 10 OFFICERS

AMERICAN LEGION POST 69 WALL OF HONOR

Don't forget to purchase
your brick to honor your
veteran. Applications are
located at our Post!



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Have a Blessed June Month!

Friends, I am sitting here writing my June article, and realize that half the year is almost ended. It seems like only yesterday that we were starting a New Year and I was trying to get all my paperwork ready for tax season. The month of June brings numerous Holidays, for example, on June 14, we celebrate the creation and ratification to establish and official flag of these United States of America. Our stars and stripes were born in 1776. Ushering in an Independent Nation representing the original 13 colonies. On the same day we also celebrate the U.S. Army's 250th Birthday in defense of this Great Nation and our Freedoms.

We also must focus on a Holiday we simply know as Father's Day in which we take the time to give thanks for those fathers that provided a living for their families, put food on the table, a roof over their heads, and nurturing their children's growth in the Faith. Some fathers, sorry to say, have taken the wrong avenue in this endeavor in Life, but they are still our fathers. Let us pray for them, and all fathers who have struggled, but have done the best they could. An excellent example of a man who did a great job, to me, is St. Joseph who had a quiet strength unsurpassed in his father's responsibilities. Knowing that his son was a blessing from Almighty God, to be the Savior of the world, and knowing that he had to raise him the best way he could by example. St. James 3:13 spells it out perfectly in my opinion, quote "Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show it by his good life, by deeds done in humility that comes from wisdom."



Being a father is more than the creation of a blessed child. It is being ready to direct his children and family in the paths that are pleasing to Almighty God in not only word but practice.

In closing, Dear Friends, I want to wish all of you in the Duran y Gallegos, American Legion Post 69 Family/Familia, a blessed and safe month of June 2026. Also, please wish your fathers a Happy and Joyful Father's Day!

Respectfully in Christ,

Pepé Mendoza, Chaplain
Duran y Gallegos
American Legion Post 69



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

American Legion Auxiliary Unit 69

Spring has brought excitement, fellowship, and patriotism to our American Legion Family!

Installation of Officers

On May 9, Installation of Officers for the Legion, Auxiliary, SONs, and Riders was a wonderful success. It was inspiring to see our entire Legion Family come together as we begin another year of service to veterans, our community, and our nation.

A special thank you goes out to everyone who brought delicious dishes and desserts for the potluck meal. Your generosity and fellowship made the afternoon extra special.

1st Annual Car Show Success

The 1st Annual Auxiliary Car Show on May 16, 2026, was a fantastic event filled with classic cars, community spirit, and family fun! Thank you to everyone who participated, volunteered, donated, and attended. We are proud of the support shown by the entire Legion Family in making this event such a great success. We look forward to making this an even bigger tradition in the years ahead.

Memorial Day

Memorial Day, observed on the last Monday of May, honors the brave U.S. military personnel who died while serving our nation. It also marks the unofficial beginning of summer, reminding us to cherish the freedoms made possible by their sacrifice.

Thank you to all our members and volunteers for your continued dedication, patriotism, and service to our veterans, our Legion Family, and our community. For more information, please contact Yolanda J Montoya, 505-492-6210, lymontoya810@gmail.com!



Women Veterans Day *June 12th*

Honoring the signing of the Women's Armed Services Integration Act which granted women the right to serve as permanent, regular members of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and the recently formed Air Force.





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| 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 | | |

" Whether you think you can, or that you can't, you are probably right" ~ Henry Ford

There is so much truth to "Time Flies". We are already approaching the halfway point of 2026. Make the most of your summer. In our newsletter calendar you will find events for the next 2 months. We have our country's "Big 250" coming up. I believe it will be easy to attend and/or participate in events leading up to the 4th of July. Don't forget Father's Day on the 21st. Without our parents, we would not be.

I am happy to say our SAL membership is 104%. We now have 284 members, making us by far the largest Squadron in the state. Eddie Garcia is doing a great job in membership. The 2027 membership cards will be available in July. We will have an "Early Bird" discount period for members that have a 2026 card.

On June 26-28 is The American Legion State Convention at the Crown Plaza Hotel. Please let me know if you are interested in attending the SAL session. We have our general meeting on the second Saturday of the month (June 13th) at 9 AM and our Flea Market on Saturday the 6th, 7 AM-1 PM.

I want to shout out a thank you to Andy Maestas. He has been our Sergeant-at-Arms and now Adjutant. He is doing a tremendous job here at our Post. You can see it in the woodwork in the hall, at our cemetery, and in preparing our newsletter. He is running for SAL State Detachment Commander. Needless to say, we will give him 100% of our support. If you see Andy, tell him thank you.

Look both ways,

Danny





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| Director Anthony "Airborne" Leyba | | |
| Assistant Director <i>Liz "DragonLady" Martinez</i> | Secretary <i>Veronica "Hitchhiker" Zapata</i> | Treasurer Ali "Hotflash" Leyba |
| Sergeant-at-Arms Steven "Slick" Fernandez | Road Captain <i>Ben "BenJammin" Martinez</i> | Chaplain Vacant |
| Historian Ali "Hot Flash" Leyba | OWW Chair <i>Veronica "Hitchhiker" Zapata</i> | |

Hello everyone!

May was a successful month which started off with a weekend ride to Tombstone to meet with other ALR Riders from different chapters. Some of our riders participated in the installation of all the Post Officers then took a day ride through Madrid, NM. We also had a good turnout on our first monthly ALR dinner on May 8 with barbeque pulled pork sandwiches.

I want to thank everyone who participated and/or helped in the First Annual Auxiliary Car Show and a special congratulations to Jim "Kize" Kaiser for taking first place with his 1955 Bel Air.

On June 25-June 28 is the American Legion Convention, with the NMALR State meeting being held on Saturday, June 27, time TBD.

On Friday, June 5 at 4 PM, everyone is invited to meet at the Albuquerque Sunport to welcome home the Veterans that are on the 2026 Honor Flight. Let's join together to show our respect.



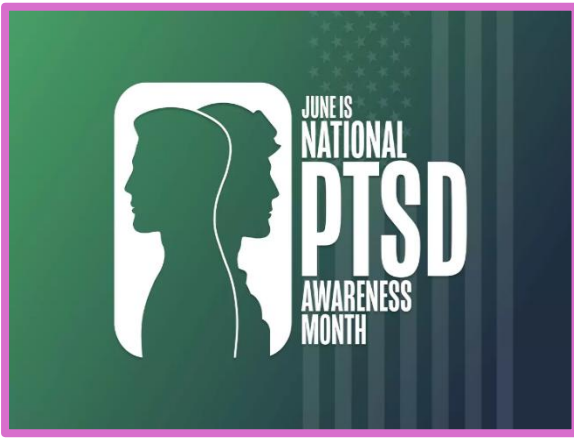
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Just a reminder, June is National PTSD Awareness Month, so I want everyone to keep our Veterans in their prayers and remember like they say, "Not all wounds are visible". This month is also the start of Summer, so remember to ride safe, be aware of your surroundings and always stay hydrated.

I also want to wish all the dads a Happy Father's Day this month.

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



PTSD Awareness Day is observed every year on June 27th. **PTSD stands for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder** and is a condition that many veterans and non-veterans alike suffer. PTSD can occur when someone experiences or witnesses a traumatic event. This condition wasn't always understood properly by the medical or military community, and Department of Defense press releases often point to earlier attempts to identify PTSD symptoms in the wake of service in World War 2, Vietnam, and other conflicts. PTSD via a "day of awareness" in tribute to a North Dakota National Guard member who took his life following two tours in Iraq (S. Res. 541).

The History Of PTSD Awareness Day--In 2010, Senator Kent Conrad pushed to get official recognition of Staff Sergeant Joe Biel who died in 2007 after suffering from PTSD; Biel committed suicide after his return from duty to his home state. SSgt. Biel's birthday, June 27, was selected as the official PTSD Awareness Day, which is now observed every year. In 2014, the Senate designated the full month of June for National PTSD Awareness (S. Res. 481).

JUNE 2026

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THUR | FRI | SAT |
|---|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|---|--|
| | 1 1730 – Entertainment Mtg. | 2 1800 – Auxiliary Mtg. | 3 1830 – Riders Mtg. | 4 1730 – Honor Wall Meeting | 5 It's Wear R.E.D. FRIDAY! | 6 D-DAY 0700 – SONs Flea Market |
| 7 1700 - Karaoke W/Allan | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 1800-2000- Ramblin Rodeo | 12 WOMEN VETERANS DAY It's Wear R.E.D. FRIDAY! | 13 0800-1030-Breakfast 0900-Finance/Exec. Comm. Mtg. 1100 – General Mtg. 0900 – SONs Gen. Mtg. |
| 14 ARMY BIRTHDAY FLAG DAY 1700 - Karaoke w/Allan | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 JUNTEENTH It's Wear R.E.D. FRIDAY! | 20 |
| 21 FATHER'S DAY 1700 - June Birthdays, Karaoke w/Allan | 22 | 23 COAST GUARD AUXILIARY BIRTHDAY | 24 | 25 1800-2000- Ramblin Rodeo | 26 STATE CONVENTION. CROWN PLAZA HOTEL It's Wear R.E.D. FRIDAY! | 27 PTSD AWARENESS DAY STATE CONVENTION. CROWN PLAZA HOTEL |
| 28 STATE CONVENTION. CROWN PLAZA HOTEL 1700 - Karaoke w/Allan | 29 | 30 | | | | |



JULY 2026

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THUR | FRI | SAT |
|--|--|---|---|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| | | | 1 1830 – Riders Mtg. | 2 1730 – Honor Wall Mtg. | 3 It’s Wear R.E.D. FRIDAY! | 4 AMERICA’S 250TH ANNIVERSARY 1200 – Burgers, Brats, and Dogs 0700 – SONs Flea Market |
| 5 1700 - Karaoke W/Allan | 6 1730 – Entertainme nt Mtg. | 7 1800 – Auxiliary Mtg. | 8 | 9 1800-2000- Ramblin Rodeo | 10 It’s Wear R.E.D. FRIDAY! | 11 0800-1030-Breakfast 0900-Finance/Exec. Comm. Mtg. 1100 – General Mtg. 0900 – SONs Gen. Mtg. 1300 – ALA Christmas in July |
| 12 1700 - Karaoke w/Allan | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 It’s Wear R.E.D. FRIDAY! | 18 |
| 19 1700 – July Birthdays, Karaoke w/Allan | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 1800-2000- Ramblin Rodeo | 24 It’s Wear R.E.D. FRIDAY! | 25 |
| 26 1700 - Karaoke w/Allan | 27 National Korean War Veterans Armistice Day | 28 National Buffalo Soldiers Day | 29 Army Chaplain Corps Anniversary | 30 | 31 It’s Wear R.E.D. FRIDAY! | |