



**DURAN Y GALLEGOS AMERICAN LEGION POST 69**

**9000 4<sup>TH</sup> St. NW, Albuquerque, NM 87114**

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

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***Bar/Hall Rentals 505-898-9918***



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

Another Matanza has passed and again the SON's did another fantastic job! The Post was packed and everyone seemed to be having a great time. I would also like to thank The American Legion Riders and the Auxiliary for being there and helping get the Matanza across the finish line! It just goes to show what we can do if we all work together!

I would also like to thank our Bartenders for their work at the event and even before the 21st! We have gone through some changes here at the Post and they have come in and made sure the job got done! Thank you to all!

Just a reminder that at our March meeting on the 14<sup>th</sup>, we will have nominations for Officers of the Post 69 Legion. Please come to the meeting and be heard!

Again, I must state that drugs and weapons are not permitted in or on the Post property! Please obey these rules so we can all enjoy our Post!

As I mentioned earlier, we have gone through some changes here at the Post, some of you will notice and some you won't! Please bear with us as we keep doing things to make Post 69 a place that people want to visit! We also have a new bar manager, Jessie Maestas, so come on down, meet Jessie and enjoy companionship with your friends and fellow Veterans!

Until Next Month,

David Stevens  
Post Commander

**MARCH 2026**

For the 2025 tax year, New Mexico has significantly increased the veteran property tax exemption to \$10,000 of taxable value, up from \$4,000, following the passage of House Bill 47. Additionally, 100% disabled veterans are eligible for a full property tax exemption on their primary residence.

### Key 2025 New Mexico Veteran Property Tax Updates

- Standard Exemption: Increased to \$10,000 off the taxable value of property, up from \$4,000.
- 100% Disabled Veteran Exemption: Veterans with a 100% service-connected disability rating are eligible for a 100% exemption from property taxes on their primary residence.
- Eligibility: Must be an honorably discharged veteran (or spouse) and a New Mexico resident
- **Application: Applications must be submitted to the local County Assessor's office, usually within 30 days of the Notice of Value mailing.**

### Additional Benefits

- Surviving Spouses: The exemption may apply to the unmarried surviving spouse of a qualifying veteran.
- State Park Access: Free, lifetime access to state parks for disabled veterans.
- Vehicle Fees: Reduced motor vehicle registration fees for qualifying veterans.

For specific applications and to check for additional local requirements, veterans should contact their local County Assessor's office or the NM Department of Veterans Services.

## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

### MARCH IS A TIME FOR ST. PATRICK'S DAY BLESSINGS!

Dear friends, when we think of the month of March, we look forward for the strong winds to blow the gloom and cold of winter away to make room for Spring which is just around the corner. But most of us are busy preparing large parties for celebrating St. Patrick's Day festivities for family and friends. Irish lore and history tell us of a young man who was kidnapped at a very early age from his parents and family in England and taken to Ireland as a slave to be sold in servitude for life. He was treated and suffered badly at the hands of his master. This young man planned his escape within a few years of servitude. His self-determination, and desire for freedom helped him survive his escape back to England. He returned and with his desire to help the pagan nation of Ireland to the road to Christianity, he completed his studies, and seminary, and was ordained a priest, then with his hard work and perseverance became an Archbishop.

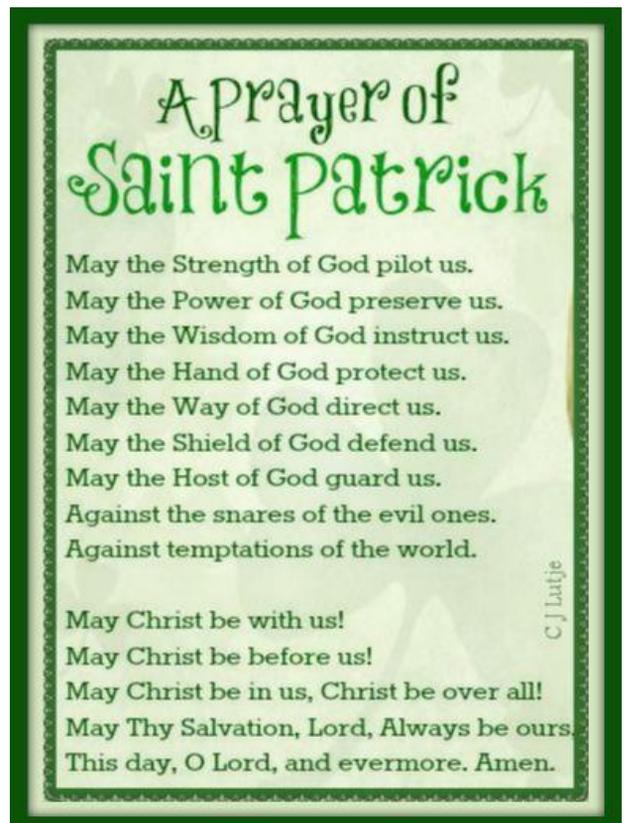
He petitioned the Pope to be permitted to go to Ireland to help convert the many pagan people, to be believers to the faith. He was granted his request and travelled to Ireland. He survived several years of suffering at the hands of the pagans, going out to do God's work and was very successful in communicating his Love for others, and the sharing of the faith. He also used the plentiful and simple three leafed clover to show that the Holy Trinity (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) who would bring them hope and salvation, in simple and understandable terms. He is mentioned in Irish lore that he got rid of all the snakes in Ireland and brought Christianity to the Emerald Isle converting the pagans to Christianity.

Please take a few minutes of your busy schedules and get together with family and friends on St. Patrick's Day, March 17 to say a prayer for the work that St. Patrick accomplished with his love and kindness that directed him to do Almighty God's work.

I want to personally wish all the members of the Duran y Gallegos American Legion Post 69 Family/Familia and safe and joyous month of blessings for March 2026.

Respectfully in Christ,

Pepé Mendoza, Chaplain  
Duran y Gallegos  
American Legion Post 69



Unit 69  
St. Patrick's Day Fundraiser  
Sunday, March 15, 1-3 PM

Corned beef, cabbage, calabacitas,  
potatoes, red chili, torta huevo, drink,  
and dessert for \$15.00!



All funds raised  
support the  
Girls State  
program!

**BAKE SALE**  
Homemade goodies for sale--cupcakes,  
cakes, cookies, pies, and more!

**HAPPY  
ST. PATRICK'S  
DAY**



<b>Commander Randolph Montoya</b>		
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander Eddie Garcia</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander Eddie Padilla</b>	<b>Adjutant Andy Maestas</b>
<b>Finance Officer Danny Padilla</b>	<b>Chaplain Carlos E. Gurulé</b>	<b>Sergeant-at-Arms Andy Maestas (Acting)</b>
<b>Executive Board: Randolph Montoya, Danny Padilla</b>		
<b>Historian: Leroy Montoya</b>		

Hello, everyone!

I hope everyone is doing well! We had our Annual Matanza on February 21. This year's turnout is the best one so far! There are so many to thank for helping to put on this successful event: our beautiful Post 69 that allows us to host the matanza, all the long hours and hard work of the officers and members of Squadron 69, Unit 69 members, Chapter 10 Riders for security and parking, the kitchen staff that served over 125 plates of food, so many donors to the cause, and the Post 69 bartenders. And a special thanks to all members, friends, and families of the Post for attending the matanza every year!

Winners of the drawing are: Grand Prize, William Harmon, Heritage Rifle; 1<sup>st</sup> Prize, Debra Archuleta, Firefly Pistol; 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize, Leonard Trujillo, \$300 Cabela's Gift Card, 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize, Leonard Trujillo, Disco Grill; 4<sup>th</sup> Prize, Winant, \$200 meat package. Congratulations to all the winners.

Our first monthly Flea Market starts on March 7 from 7 AM-1 PM. For just \$10/space, give me a call to reserve your spot.

Membership is now at 83! Kudos to all members in getting in their renewals!

Nominations of Squadron 69 officers will be held on March 14, at 9 AM. If you are interested in running for a position or would like to nominate someone or yourself, please attend this important meeting. Elections are held prior to the general meeting in April.

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





## MARCH 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
<b>1</b> <b>Seabee Birthday</b>  1700 - Karaoke W/Allan	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> <b>Navy Reserve Birthday</b>  1800 – Auxiliary Mtg.	<b>4</b> <b>Hug a GI Day</b>  1830 – Riders Mtg.	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> <b>It's Wear R.E.D. FRIDAY!</b>  1900 – Live Music & Food	<b>7</b> <b>0700 – SONS Flea Market</b>
<b>8</b> 1700 - Karaoke W/Allan	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> <b>K-9 Veterans Day</b>  1900 – Live Music & Food <b>It's Wear R.E.D. FRIDAY!</b>	<b>14</b> <b>0800-1030- Breakfast</b> <b>0900-Finance/Exec. Comm. Mtg.</b> <b>1100 – General Mtg.</b>  <b>0900 – SONS Gen. Mtg.</b>
<b>15</b> <b>AMERICAN LEGION BIRTHDAY</b>  1300-1500 – St. Patrick's Day Fundraiser  1700 - March Birthdays, Karaoke w/Allan	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> <b>St. Patrick's Day</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> <b>1730-1900 – ALA Food Sales</b>  1900 – Live Music  <b>It's Wear R.E.D. FRIDAY</b>	<b>21</b> <b>Rosie The Riveter Day</b>
<b>22</b> 1700 - Karaoke w/Allan	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> <b>Medal of Honor Day</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 1900 – Live Music & Food <b>It's Wear R.E.D FRIDAY!</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> <b>National Vietnam War Veterans Day</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>				



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