



DURAN Y GALLEGOS AMERICAN LEGION POST 69
9000 4TH St. NW, Albuquerque, NM 87114
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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 Albert Tazasi
Sergeant-at-Arms Rudy Chavez	Service Officer Vacant	Historian Robert Jaramillo
Executive Committee: Dee-Dee Chapman, Pro Padilla, Eddie Santillanes		

School is back in session, and the school bus stops are busy! Pay attention and watch for our children! They are the future!

As I have said in the past, any aggressive behavior in the lounge and you will be asked to leave. It is happening and will continue until everyone just comes in to enjoy themselves!



Taco Tuesday is back and everyone is welcome to join in and enjoy themselves! They sell for \$2 a taco and are very good! They start serving at noon!

We are signing up a lot of new members so when you see them in the lounge, please welcome them to our post!

Until next month,

David Stevens-Post Commander

SEPTEMBER 2026



Dinner, in honor of Post 69's Honor Guard, for past and current members was held August 15. A full plated pork chop dinner was served by all families of the Post and an amazing POW-MIA presentation by Area 2 Vice Alfredo Gomez and MC for the evening was Post 69's 1st Vice Commander Rick De La Rosa!

We are launching exciting new updates at Post 69, **and** we are thrilled to kick off Taco Tuesdays at noon for just \$2.00 a taco.

We are also implementing new changes with our all-inclusive Hall Rental to include Bartender and Security on all new contracts.

Finally, I am your new Gaming Manager. Please be patient and kind towards our staff and machines as we smoothly transition into these next steps throughout.

Thank you,

Rick "Ponch" De La Rosa
1st Vice-Commander

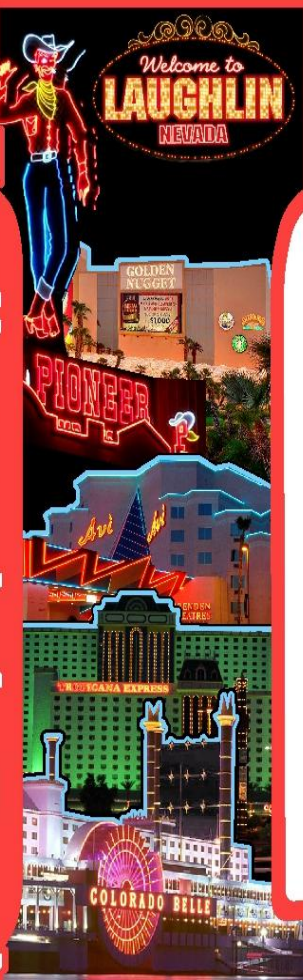
**Robert Jr. and Nora Jaramillo
honorary blood drive on
Sunday, September 20, 1000-
1400 at Post 69. Schedule
appointment on vitalant.org or
call Valerie Preston at
505-918-2346 or Virginia
Sanchez, 505-353-0955.**





The Sons of The American Legion's "birthday" is September 15 and is celebrating their **94-year-old** birthday. The date was officially established at The American Legion's 14th National Convention in Portland, Oregon. The organization was formally authorized on September 15, 1932, marking its founding date and the anniversary typically recognized as its birthday. This establishment occurred during the 14th National Convention of The American Legion, where Resolution 456 created the Sons of The American Legion as a non-political, non-sectarian civilian organization. The group was founded to include male descendants of U.S. veterans and to support the mission and programs of The American Legion.

LAUGHLIN



POST 69 Trip to Laughlin, Nevada, November 8-11.
Double Room - \$320, Single Room - \$240.
Contact Virginia Sanchez to reserve your spot, 505-353-0955.





AMERICAN LEGION HONOR GUARD

Honoring Fallen Comrades

July 14, 2026 - Accorded comrade Phillip Joe Gallegos Full Military Honors at Vista Verde.

July 17, 2026 - Accorded comrade Richard Zeeck Full Military Honors at Vista Verde.

July 21, 2026 - Accorded comrade Bobby Cruz Full Military Honors at Vista Verde.

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER



Dear Friends! Can it be possible that we are now entering Autumn and the Fall Season on the 22nd of this month? This month we start transitioning from hot and muggy days into a more pleasing and welcomed cooler breezes during the day and evening hours. Let's celebrate in surviving yet another hot summer!

September ushers in our Federal Holidays of Labor Day on the 6th, followed by Patriots Day on the 11th, in which America was attacked by terrorists using airline jets as bombs and instruments of destruction, killing thousands of Americans. They destroyed the Twin Towers in New York City, portions of the Pentagon, and a jet plane killing all on board in a field in Pennsylvania. Let us all say a prayer on that day, for all the innocent victims, their families, and all the first response personnel that saw death first-hand. Seek God's direction and He will get you

through all your challenges in Life. Saint Matthew brings this to the front in Chapter 11:28-29 (Gideons Bible), "Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." "Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I will find rest for your souls."

Friends, in closing, I want to say that whenever we might feel that we have no one to turn to in our troubles and challenges in our Lives, we will always have Almighty God there for you and yours. Have faith in Him and his Son, as they Love you and are always there by your side no matter what.

I want to wish all the members of the Duran y Gallegos American Legion Post 69 family/familia, and those reading this article to "Be The One", to make a positive difference in someone's Life. Please have a safe and fun filled month of September 2026.

Respectfully in Christ,

Pepé Mendoza, Chaplain
Duran y Gallegos
American Legion Post 69



President Yolanda J. Montoya		
1 st Vice President Debra A. Maestas	2 nd 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	

Serving Veterans, Their Families, Our Youth & Our Community

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As we begin a new ALA year, I want to thank each and every member of Unit 69 for your continued support, dedication, and willingness to volunteer. Our strength comes from working together and remembering why we belong to the American Legion Auxiliary — **Service Not Self**.

Every meal served, veteran supported, community project completed, donation collected, and event attended makes a difference. I encourage everyone to stay involved, attend our meetings, volunteer when you can, and share your ideas. Let's continue to make Unit 69 a place where members feel welcomed, appreciated, and proud to serve. **Thank you for all you do!**

— Yolanda J. Montoya
President, American Legion Auxiliary Unit 69

SEPTEMBER — A MONTH OF REMEMBRANCE

September gives us several important opportunities to honor those who have served our country.

September 11 — Patriot Day

September 16 — American Legion Day

September 18 — National POW/MIA Recognition Day

September 27 — Gold Star Mother's Day

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS!

Membership is the heart of our organization. Now is the perfect time to reach out to a friend, family member, veteran, or eligible member and invite them to become part of the American Legion Auxiliary. Our goal is not simply to increase our numbers — it is to build an active and involved Unit. **Bring a friend to a meeting! Invite someone to volunteer! Encourage a former member to come back!** Every member has something valuable to contribute. The 2027 national membership program identifies September as the **50% Early Bird/NEF kickoff target date**, making September an important month for membership efforts.

Our Auxiliary has been busy serving our veterans, families, schools, and community. Thank you to everyone who has donated their time, talents, food, supplies, and hard work. As we move into the fall months, we will continue supporting: Americanism activities, Veterans and their families, Children & Youth programs, Community service projects, volunteer opportunities, Poppy Program activities, upcoming holiday projects, and American Legion Family activities. **If you see a need, bring it forward. If you can help, please volunteer.**

Please make every effort to attend our monthly meetings. Your voice matters! Meetings are where we discuss upcoming programs, fundraising, community service, membership, finances, and ways our Unit can better serve veterans and our community. **You cannot participate in the decision-making process if you are not at the table.** Let's communicate, listen to one another, respect different opinions, and work together for the good of Unit 69.

Unit 69 is always looking for members who are willing to lend a hand. Whether you have an hour, an afternoon, or can help with a special project, **we need you!** Remember: **"Many hands make light work."** Let's continue to work together, support one another, and make Unit 69 a positive force in our veterans' lives and our community.

Thank you to all of our members who continue to show up, volunteer, donate, cook, organize, clean, support our veterans, and represent the American Legion Auxiliary with pride. **Our mission continues because of YOU. SERVICE NOT SELF • VETERANS • FAMILIES • YOUTH • COMMUNITY**



MONTHLY UNIT MEETING REMINDER

The American Legion Auxiliary Unit 69 meets the FIRST TUESDAY of every month at 6 PM at Post 69. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend! Your participation, ideas, and voice are important to the success of our Unit. Come be part of the discussion, learn about upcoming programs and events, and find ways to get involved.



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

"Those that fail to learn from history are doomed to repeat it." ~ Winston Churchill
(House of Commons speech, 1948)

As do many of my friends and family know, I have always been into history. I start my newsletters with a quote or reading from the past. I call it "food for thought." I ask everyone to pick up a book or get online to read about the World Wars, the Korean war, the Vietnam war, and the wars in Iraq, Afghanistan and now Iran. By doing this, you will have more of an appreciation of our Veterans. I also hope that we all make it a point to encourage our youth to study history.

Our flea market will be on Saturday, September the 5 at 7 AM. Our tractor show will be in October. The Son's general meeting will be on Saturday, September 12 at 9 AM, followed by the Post general meeting at 11. We need help. Help by attending our meetings. Help in doing some volunteer work. Our Chaplain, Pepe Mendoza, wrote a beautiful letter last month called "Let's be good Samaritans". Be the person who comes to the aid of another. Please go back to last month's newsletter and read his article.

Every fourth Friday, we will sell fajitas with sides for just \$10.00! Now, that's a deal you can't pass up. Your support helps us to continually help our Veterans!

I want to thank those that have given me positive feedback on what I have written in the past newsletters.

The Veteran I am acknowledging this month is Elfego Montoya. A lifetime resident of Alameda, he was born in 1924 and died on New Year's Day in 1998. He was a World War II Navy Vet. He is the father of Danny, Leroy and Randy Montoya.

Mira Sempre a Ambos Lados,

Danny "Sin Nombre" (My Legion Rider Name)



Director Rick "Ponch" De La Rosa		
Assistant Director Steven "Slick" Fernandez	Secretary Odilia "Lila" Rodriguez	Treasurer Ali "Hotflash" Leyba
Sergeant-at-Arms Augustine "Silver Fox" Trujillo	Road Captain Jesus "Zap" Zapata	Chaplain Ann "Raven" Fernandez
Historian Jim "Thud" Stewart	OWW Chair Veronica "Hitchhiker" Zapata	

American Legion Riders

Upcoming Events

The American Legion Riders have several exciting events coming up, and we'd love to see our members and supporters participate!

VA S.A.F.E. Run — August 29

Our VA S.A.F.E. Run is coming up on August 29! This will be an overnight motorcycle trip to Angel Fire, New Mexico. It's a great opportunity to ride together, enjoy some time with fellow Riders, and support the mission of the VA S.A.F.E. program.



Forgotten Heroes Ceremony — September 17

Please join us on **September 17** as we honor and remember our **Forgotten Heroes**. This is an important opportunity to come together as Riders and Legion Family members to pay tribute to those who deserve to be remembered.

ALR State Picnic — Chapter 10

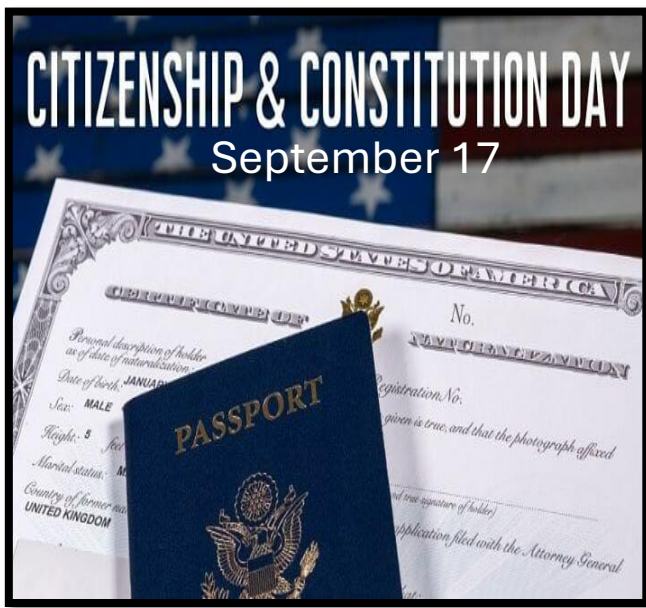
American Legion Riders will be participating in the **ALR State Picnic** September 25-27 at Caballo Lake.

Chapter 10 Riders have claimed the "Never Forgotten" Eagle from Chapter 2 in **Clovis, New Mexico**. We will be traveling to pick it up first part of October. We look forward to bringing this special symbol back and representing Chapter 10 along the way!

Thank you to everyone who continues to support the American Legion Riders and our commitment to our Veterans and our community.

Ride safe, ride proud, and remember — Never Forgotten.

Rick "Ponch" De La Rosa
ALR Director



These observances as being created to both commemorate the signing of the Constitution on September 17, 1787, and “recognize all who, by coming of age or by naturalization, have become citizens.” During this time, the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services “encourages Americans to reflect on the rights and responsibilities of citizenship and what it means to be a U.S. citizen.”

SEPTEMBER 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
		1 1200 - \$2.00 Taco Tuesday 1800 – Auxiliary Mtg.	2 1830 – Riders Mtg.	3 1730 – Honor Wall Mtg.	4 1730 – Bar Food Sale Mariachi Elvis Night	5 0700 – SONS Flea Market
6 1700 - Karaoke W/Allan	7 LABOR DAY 1730 – Entertain- ment Mtg.	8 1200 - \$2.00 Taco Tuesday	9	10	11 PATRIOT DAY 1730 – ALR Food Sale Mariachi Elvis Night	12 0800-1030-Breakfast 0900-Finance/Exec. Comm. Mtg. 1100 – General Mtg. 0900 – SONS Gen. Mtg.
13 1700 - Karaoke w/Allan	14	15 1200 - \$2.00 Taco Tuesday	16 AMERICAN LEGION DAY	17 CITIZENSHIP AND CONSTITUTION DAY	18 NATIONAL POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY AIR FORCE/AIR NATIONAL GUARD BIRTHDAY 1730 – Auxiliary Food Sale, Green Chili Enchiladas Mariachi Elvis Night	19
20 0700-1400 – Blood Drive 1700 – Karaoke w/Allan	21	22 1200 - \$2.00 Taco Tuesday	23	24	25 1730 – SONS Fajitas Food Sale Mariachi Elvis Night	26
27 GOLD STAR MOTHER’S DAY 1700 - Karaoke w/Allan	28	29 VFW DAY 1200 - \$2.00 Taco Tuesday	30			

Day of the Deployed is a day to honor our deployed troops and their families for their bravery and the sacrifices they are making for our country. Supporters of the military are urged to get personally involved in activities that send care packages, offer messages of encouragement, and other morale-boosting activities to those currently deployed overseas and the military families of the deployed. Most states have some form of recognition of the holiday. While Day Of The Deployed is not treated like a state holiday with facility closures and time off from work, it is celebrated much in the same fashion as **POW/MIA Day**, with ceremonies by private and public institutions to honor those in uniform.



OCTOBER 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH!! EVERY FRIDAY IS WEAR RED FRIDAY, "REMEMBER EVERYONE DEPLOYED!"				1 1730 – Honor Wall Mtg.	2 1730 – Bar Food Sale Mariachi Elvis Night	3 0700 – SONS Flea Market and Tractor Show
4 1700 - Karaoke W/Allan	5 1730 – Entertainment Mtg.	6 1200 - \$2.00 Taco Tuesday 1800 – Auxiliary Mtg.	7 1830 – Riders Mtg.	8	9 PATRIOT DAY 1730 – ALR Food Sale Mariachi Elvis Night	10 0800-1030-Breakfast 0900-Finance/Exec. Comm. Mtg. 1100 – General Mtg. 0900 – SONS Gen. Mtg.
11 1700 - Karaoke w/Allan	12	13 US NAVY BIRTHDAY COLUMBUS DAY 1200 - \$2.00 Taco Tuesday	14	15	16 1730 – Auxiliary Food Sale, Chili Dogs Mariachi Elvis Night	17
18 1700 – Karaoke w/Allan	19	20 1200 - \$2.00 Taco Tuesday	21	22	23 1730 – SONS Food Sale-Fajitas Mariachi Elvis Night	24
25 1700 - Karaoke w/Allan	26 DAY OF THE DEPLOYED	27 NAVY DAY 1200 - \$2.00 Taco Tuesday	28	29	30	31 1300-1600 – Children’s Trunk O Treat 1900 – Adult Costume Party