



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		

Summer’s here, it's hot and you don't know what to do? Come on down to the Post and enjoy a cold beverage with the gang! We open everyday at 11 AM!



Let's not forget that school starts in just a few weeks so we need to watch out when driving through school zones. Always be aware of your surroundings.

I have mentioned in the last several articles that we were done putting up with bad behavior in the lounge! It seems to be working! The incidents have settled down quite a bit, but we still have room for improvement. Let's all continue to make this a place that people want to come in and have a good time! Like I said, it's working but we still have room for improvement!

Don't forget to pay your 2027 dues! The cards are in for the Legion and the SONs! If you come to the Post, you may pay your dues with the Bartender!

Until next month,

David Stevens-Post Commander

AUGUST 2026

FROM YOUR
1ST VICE COMMANDER

The 2027 membership drive is on! For the 2027 Early Bird Membership Drive, we will be offering BBQ, hamburgers, hot dogs, chips, and dessert. The date is still to be determined!

Also, we have gone a different route on our Veteran's Wall of Honor bricks. Our wall will be placed inside our hall, protected and maintained within our Post. Bricks will be tile-type, allowing up to 15 characters instead of the previous 13. Service Emblems to be included on each brick. Bricks are to honor veterans only. Must have proof of service and the cost is \$100 per brick. Applications are available at our Post.

JOHN S. SMITH
U.S. ARMY
1959 - 1963

POC
Rick De La Rosa
505-553-9552

**There's no elevator to
success.
You have to take the stairs.
One step at a time.
One lesson at a time.
One challenge at a time.
Some days will be harder
than others.
Some days you'll feel like
giving up.
But keep climbing.
Success isn't about moving
fast.
It's about refusing to stop.
Stay patient.
Stay consistent.
Your efforts will pay off.**



Remember Everyone Deployed

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Let's Be Good Samaritans

Dear Friends! Here we are again trying to stay cool in our homes and only going outside when the heat of the day is tolerable. We just want to wait it out, in the hope that the temperature will cool down during the "Dog Days of Summer", as we sometimes refer to the month of August. We just complain about the weather, yet do nothing to replace the broken-down swamp cooler, or upgrade the outdated A/C system, to make life a little more comfortable. Only "hoping" for the breezes of September to start soon, ushering in the Fall Season to take care of the heat problem.

It's a shame that we sometimes think that we can improve our Post to be the best in the state yet put no effort to help and volunteer to assist our groups in achieving maximum participation or giving a hand with our programs to become even better. Complaints are heard in the Lounge, and those folks who have concerns should make it a point to attend the General Membership meeting to air their concerns and find out more of what Post 69 does for the community. The General Membership meeting is held the second Saturday of each month at 11 AM. Would love to see you there! Our Duran y Gallegos, American Legion Post 69 is a place for special programs for the entire family/familia to enjoy.

Did you know that Post 69 has the second largest membership rolls in the State of New Mexico. Yet, sorry to say, most of the times we cannot have an official General Membership Meeting as we do not have the members in attendance for a quorum. What a shame! Friends, let's repair our own personal and internal thinking and thoughts of our own non-functioning swamp coolers, and getting our own personal air-conditioning upgraded and become "Good Samaritans", by being more involved in "Your Post 69" programs and also attending the monthly General Membership meeting. As defined in Websters *New World Dictionary*, to be a "Good Samaritan" means, "A person who comes to the aid of another." So, I ask you to be that Good Samaritan with our Post 69 family/familia and volunteer your time.



Great news, Friends! Just in case you haven't heard the news from the 106th American Legion State Convention held here in Albuquerque from June 26-28 with Legion Posts from throughout the State. The Body voted for a new Department Commander for the 2026-2027 time period. Our own **Dee-Dee Chapman** was elected as the new Department State Commander for The American Legion. Also elected was **Andrew "Andy" Maestas** to be the Detachment Commander for the Department Sons of the American Legion, and his spouse **Debra Maestas** as the Auxiliary Department Chairman for the Legislative Program. And I was blessed to be appointed as the new Department Chaplain for The American Legion and the State of New Mexico. I ask all of you to say some special prayers for us, as we face the new challenges in our new American Legion positions. It would be greatly appreciated!

In ending, I want to wish all of you in the Duran y Gallegos American Legion Family/Familia and those reading this article, a safe and cool month of August 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	

American Legion Auxiliary Unit 69 – August Newsletter

As we move through another busy month, I want to thank each of you for your dedication, volunteer hours, and continued support of our veterans, military families, and our community. Every event, fundraiser, and act of service reflects the heart of our American Legion Auxiliary mission.

As we begin planning for the upcoming membership year, please watch for information about our **Early Bird Membership Drive**. Renewing your membership early helps our Unit remain strong and allows us to continue the programs and services that make a difference in the lives of so many. We encourage everyone to renew early and invite a friend or family member to join our Auxiliary family. Early Bird renewal date will be posted soon.

School of Instruction will be held **July 25–26 at Hotel Mesa**. This is an excellent opportunity to learn more about the American Legion Auxiliary, gain valuable leadership skills, and help better understand our programs, procedures, and responsibilities. Whether you are a new member or a long-time volunteer, there is always something new to learn, and your participation helps strengthen our Unit.

Meatloaf, mashed potatoes, veggies, roll, and dessert on the menu for our next dinner fundraiser on August 21, 5:30-7 PM. Enjoy a great dinner!

I also want to encourage everyone to attend our monthly meetings. Meetings are where we share ideas, make important decisions, plan future events, and support one another. Your voice matters, and your participation helps ensure that our Unit continues to grow and thrive. Even if you are unable to volunteer at every event, simply attending meetings and staying engaged makes a meaningful difference. First Tuesday monthly at 6 PM.

Together, we can continue building a positive, welcoming environment while honoring our commitment to serving veterans, active-duty servicemembers, their families, and our community.

Thank you for everything you do for Unit 69. I look forward to seeing you at our upcoming meetings, School of Instruction, and future events.

For God and Country,

Yolanda Montoya

President

American Legion Auxiliary Unit 69



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		

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called the children of God"
~Matthew 5:9 (The Beatitudes)

I hope everyone had a great July 4th. The saying is so true, time does fly! Now that we are in the second half of the year, I hope we are getting things done and that everyone is in good health. Take the time to reach out to family and friends, especially those with whom we have not spoken to in a while. This day will never come around again, make the most of it.

I am proud of our Post 69! We have tremendous representation at the State level. The Sons of The American Legion, Detachment Commander Andy Maestas; NEC (National Executive Committeeman), Carl Radosevich; American Legion, Department Commander Dee-Dee Chapman; Department Chaplain Pepé Mendoza; Membership Chairman Bill Jennings; ANEC (Alternate National Committeeman) David Stevens; ALA (American Legion Auxiliary) Department Legislative Chairperson Debra Maestas; and Mary Lou Lopez VAVS Representative.

They are all true volunteers that deserve our thanks and appreciation.

We will have our flea market on Saturday, August 1 at 7 AM. We will have a tractor show and flea market in October. We have our general meeting on the second Saturday of the month (August 8) at 9 AM. I challenge my SAL brothers to make it to the meeting. Come and support our Post.

The 2027 membership cards are here and are \$30.

The Veteran I am acknowledging this month is Milton Duran. A lifetime resident of Alameda, he was born in 1896 and died in 1977. Served in the Army during World War I between 1912 to 1914. Being 16 years old, he lied about his age to enlist. How is that for courage! He is the grandfather of Leonard Duran.

Stay frosty, my friends, and look both ways,

Danny



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	

From the ALR Chapter 10:

I'm happy to report on your newly elected officers for our Chapter 10. Please take the time to congratulate your new elected officers. I want to thank all for stepping up to these positions.

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

We had a great turnout for our Christmas in July event. We have placed a gift donation barrel by the sign-in book in the lounge. We are collecting unwrapped toys for our annual Children's Christmas Party to be held in December.

We want to remind all that every 2nd Friday of each month we will be serving DinDin for our food fundraiser. Menu TBD.

Be safe!

Your Director,

Rick De La Rosa

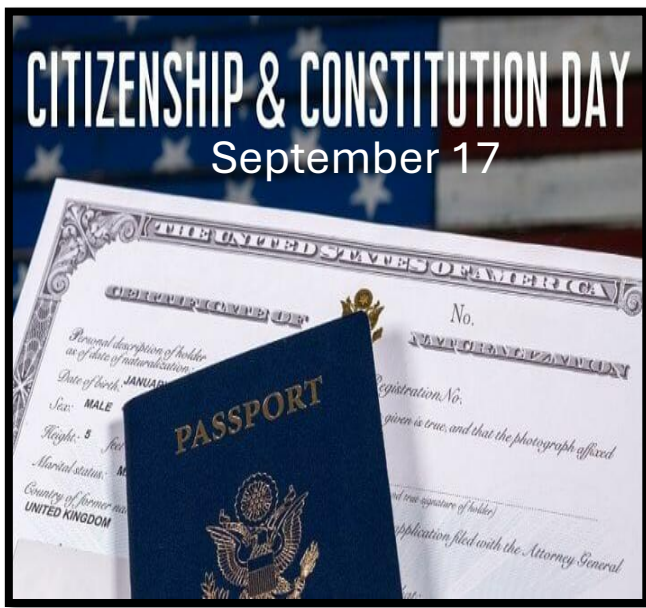
**Fundraising
Dinner**
AUGUST 14

National Senior Citizens Day on 21 August is intended to increase awareness of the factors and issues that affect older adults, such as health deterioration and elder abuse. It is also a day to recognize and acknowledge the contributions of older people to society. The history of the National Senior Citizens Day dates back to 1988, when it was officially proclaimed by the President Ronald Reagan. He had signed Proclamation 5847 on 19 August 1988 for the first National Senior Citizens Day on 21 August. National Senior Citizens Day is an opportunity to celebrate and appreciate senior citizens for their services, accomplishments and dedication they have given in their lives.



AUGUST 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
						1 0700 – SONS Flea Market
2 1700 - Karaoke W/Allan	3 1730 – Entertainment Mtg	4 COAST GUARD DAY 1800 – Auxiliary Mtg.	5 1830 – Riders Mtg.	6 1730 – Honor Wall Mtg.	7 PURPLE HEART DAY 1730 – Bar Food Sale 1800-Gazebo Night Music	8 0800-1030-Breakfast 0900-Finance/Exec. Comm. Mtg. 1100 – General Mtg. 0900 – SONS Gen. Mtg.
9 1700 - Karaoke w/Allan	10 DOD BIRTHDAY AGENT ORANGE AWARENESS DAY	11	12	13	14 NAVAJO CODE TALKERS DAY 1730 – ALR Food Sale	15 1700 – Post 69 Honor Guard Dinner
16 NATIONAL AIRBORNE DAY No DJ, hall rented.	17	18	19	20	21 NATIONAL SENIOR CITIZENS DAY 1730 – Auxiliary Food Sale, Meatloaf & Mashed	22
23 1700 - Karaoke w/Allan	24	25	26	27	28 1730 – SONS Food Sale	29 MARINE CORPS RESERVE BIRTHDAY
30 1700 - Karaoke w/Allan						



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 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 – Entertainment Mtg.	8	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	16	17 CITIZENSHIP AND CONSTITUTION DAY	18 NATIONAL POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY AIR FORCE/AIR NATIONAL GUARD BIRTHDAY 1730 – Auxiliary Food Sale Mariachi Elvis Night	19
20 1700 – Karaoke w/Allan	21	22	23	24	25 1730 – SONs Food Sale Mariachi Elvis Night	26
27 GOLD STAR MOTHER'S DAY 1700 - Karaoke w/Allan	28	29 VFW DAY	30			