



DURAN Y GALLEGOS AMERICAN LEGION POST 69

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Commander David Stevens		
1st Vice Jim Hambor	2nd Vice Commander Robert Jaramillo	3rd Vice Commander Vacant
Finance Officer Rudy Chavez	Chaplain Pepé Mendoza	Adjutant Steve Marsh
Sergeant-at-Arms Rudy Chavez	Service Officer Martin Abeyta	Historian Vacant
Executive Committee: Phil Baca, Pro Padilla, Eddie Santillanes		
Immediate Past Commander, Dee-Dee Chapman		

I hope that this newsletter finds everyone safe and healthy! The new year has begun and we are off and running here at the Post!

Our Membership is doing well but we still have a few stragglers who have not paid their 2025 dues. The bartenders are asking customers for 2025 cards. To be served, you must have it! Please obey the bartenders when they ask to see your card because they are following Post and State Laws!

A couple of housekeeping notes - please do not move the pool tables, they do not belong to us. Ask permission when you need them moved. Also, please leave the thermostat alone! Our cooling/heating system is new and when people mess with them we could lose our warranty!

As you all know, we will be hosting the SAL's Annual Matanza in February! We are asking that people get used to not parking overnight in the back parking lot! If a car is parked there on the day of Matanza, it will be towed away at the owners expense! Let's just get used to it now!

We have a lot of functions coming up so please check the calendar for dates and information!

Until next month!

David Stevens-Commander
American Legion Post 69

FEBRUARY 2025



FOUR CHAPLAINS *Day*



VALOR • SERVICE • SACRIFICE

February 3

Remembering the First Chaplains

by

Pepé Mendoza, Post 69 Chaplain

The American public usually looks forward to the annual Super Bowl football game during the first weekend of February that overshadows Four Chaplains Day. These four chaplains of different religious faiths gave their own lives to save others. On February 2, 1943, the U.S. Army Transport (USAT) Dorchester, with 902 combat soldiers and crew headed for England, was torpedoed by a German submarine during the early morning hours of February 3 off the coast of Greenland.

Chaos and panic filled the ship and situation. Throughout the confusion, the four chaplains assisted those in need by passing out the last of the life jackets and seeing to the injured and those needing last rites. In an act of spirited strength, the four chaplains took off their own life jackets and gave them to the badly injured getting on the last lifeboat.

Before the entire ship sank, the four chaplains gathered united on a desk of the ship linking their arms together in unity, singing hymns and praying before the ship sank in the freezing and unforgiving waters of the North Atlantic Ocean. Never again to see the four chaplains.

Their personal actions remind me of a reading in the Epistle of James, Chapter 2: verses 15-17; (St. Joseph's Edition of the New American Bible) which states that an individual must have both FAITH and WORKS (action) to be complete. Those two requirements were surely met by those four chaplains.

Let all the members of the Duran Y Gallegos American Legion Post 69 Family, take a few minutes during the first week of the month and throughout February to say a prayer in remembrance to chaplains: Lt. Clark V. Poling, Dutch Reformed minister; Lt. Alexander Goode, a Jewish Rabbi; Lt. George L. Fox, Methodist minister; and Lt. John P. Washington, Roman Catholic priest. These chaplains not only had FAITH but also WORKS that serves as an example for all of us in this New Year of 2025, in helping others.

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

God's Special Love

The chilly winds of February brings in a special Holiday known as Valentine's Day which is on the 14th of the month. A day in which family members remember those they Love in their own special way. Those that they want to know better in a romantic or friendship way. Or those who have left their side. Some folks give them red roses, valentine cards, chocolates, or stuffed cuddly animals. This is a special way we reflect our Love for others in a meaningful way.



This is also the month that we can never forget the love and sacrifices of Four Chaplains of different denominations in which they gave their own life jackets in a sinking ship so that others could live. This was after their transport ship the USAT Dorchester was sunk by a German submarine on February 2, 1943, in the icy cold waters off Greenland. Their ship carried 902 Army soldiers going to war in Europe. Let us remember, Chaplain and Army Lieutenants, George Fox, a Methodist minister, Alexander D. Goode, Jewish Rabbi, Clark Poling, Dutch Reformed Church, and John P. Washington, Roman Catholic Priest.

These four chaplains did not ask what church they belonged to before helping others who were critically wounded or dying before their eyes. Comforting them in their last hours on earth and giving last rites to those who were already dead on the ship. Assisting others into lifeboats handing out life jackets. And all four chaplains giving their own lifejackets to those who might have a chance to survive this disaster. Not considering their own safety. Truly Loving others, they did not know.

As the ship went down to the dark depths of the Atlantic Ocean witnesses stated seeing the Four Chaplains linking their arms together in unity singing hymns of hope and encouragement to those in the waters, struggling for some sign of hope. What a scene it would have been. So Dear Friends, as we celebrate our own Valentines Day with our loved ones, let us remember the Four Chaplains throughout the month as an example of giving of oneself to help others in their time of need. Our reward will not be of this world, but of another. Let us reflect on John 3:16 (SJNB) "For God so loved the world that he gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life."

Dear Friends, I want to personally wish all of the Duran y Gallegos American Legion Post 69, Family/Familia and those reading this article a safe and blessed month of February 2025.

Respectfully in Christ,

Pepé Mendoza, Chaplain

Duran y Gallegos American Legion Post 69

American Legion Post 69
TRIP TO LAUGHLIN, NV
April 27-30, 2025



**3-night stay at the Tropicana!
Two people per room \$400,
\$300 for one.**

**If interested call Virginia at
505-353-0955.**

**Full payment due by
April 5, 2025.**



Commander Randolph Montoya		
1st Vice Commander Vacant	2nd Vice Commander Leonard Duran	Adjutant Michael Chavez
Finance Officer Danny Padilla	Chaplain Carlos E. Gurulé	Sergeant-at-Arms Daniel Montoya
Executive Committee: Randolph Montoya, Michael Chavez		
Historian: Vacant		

Hello Squadron members!

Our next event will be our annual Matanza on February 22, 2025, at 12:30. Raffle tickets are going fast and as always, we have some great prizes to give out. Twenty dollars a book or \$2.00 each. If you purchase a book, you get two extra tickets. Extra parking is always available next door at Rosedale Motor Sports.

I challenge all Squadron members to buy a book. They are selling like hotcakes! The meal tickets will be \$15/plate. Two bands will also be playing, Black Pearl and Influence. Plus, a dance class will be performing. Non-food vendors are also needed.

We will have the Post 69 cleanup on February 8, 9:30 AM-1 PM. Plenty of help is very much needed, so please volunteer and bring a rake and gloves!

Thank you,

Randolph Montoya
SAL Commander

P.S. Our membership renewals are doing well. If you have not paid your membership, please pay ASAP or you will not be allowed in the Post. Please remember to sign the guest book as you enter. Bartenders will be asking to see a 2025 membership card.

Sons of the American Legion monthly meetings are on the second Saturday of each month. Executive board meeting at 8 AM, membership meeting at 9 AM. Your support and input is very important and always welcome!



Director Rick "Ponch" De La Rosa		
Assistant Director <i>Liz "DragonLady" Martinez</i>	Secretary <i>Veronica "Hitchhiker" Zapata</i>	Treasurer <i>Joyce "Bubbles" Maestas</i>
Sergeant-at-Arms <i>Lila "Enforcer" Rodriguez</i>	Road Captain <i>Ben "BenJammin" Martinez</i>	Chaplain <i>Jesus "Zap" Zapata</i>
Historian <i>Steven "Slick" Fernandez</i>	OWW Chair <i>Veronica "Hitchhiker" Zapata</i>	

Hello Everyone,

I can't believe that January has come and left us! We are still waiting for Post 25 ALR Chapter 2 to visit our post for the transferring of the "Never Forgotten" Eagle. They claimed it a couple of months ago, but it has been a couple of cold months to travel from Clovis, NM, on motorcycles. So, the date is still TBD.

Several events are in the works right now. We're excited to be involved and participate in these events. By the time this newsletter goes out, we were asked, and we delivered to our New Mexico American Legion Riders (NMALR) Operation Wounded Warrior (OWW) to help and donate to the devastating fires in California. We were able to raise funds and collect health and comfort items to be sent to veterans who were affected by these fires. I'm happy to report that we at our Post 69 are a very giving and supportive Post! When asked for donations, you all were there! I feel very good and happy to be a part of Post 69! Thank you, thank you!

We will be partnering with our SONS for the cleanup of our Post on February 8. This is in preparation for their Annual Mantanza Fundraiser on February 22. I invite everyone that is willing to volunteer a few hours to help in the cleanup effort to keep our Post clean and presentable to all our members and guests! Also. If you have never attended a SONS Mantanza, this is the one to go to! Awesome, delicious food, good music, the best of all, fellowship with our members and guests.

Our NMALR State Road Captain and our Chapter 10's Chaplain will be in Grants on February 8 to teach a Motorcycle Safety Class. If you ride and would like to brush up on some skills, or learn additional information on motorcycling, please give Jesus "Zap" Zapata a call at 505-220-8289.

Once again, I want to thank all our Riders and Associate members that have stepped up and participated to make all our events successful. But most of all, the support we receive from our American Legion Post 69 membership, the Legion Families, the staff and above all, our Post Commander Dave Stevens. I thank you all!

Remember Everyone Deployed-RED Friday awareness, every Friday. Wear anything that is the color **Red**. Thank You!

Your director,

Rick "Ponch" De La Rosa
Duran y Gallegos American Legion Post 69 ALR Chapter 10

TEAM USA



**ARMY
MARINE CORPS
NAVY
AIR FORCE
SPACE FORCE
SOCOM**

Fifty-six competitors will represent the Department of Defense on Team U.S. at the Invictus Games Vancouver Whistler 2025 from February 8-16. The Invictus Games Vancouver Whistler 2025 is the seventh edition of the international sporting event for wounded, injured and sick servicemen and women.

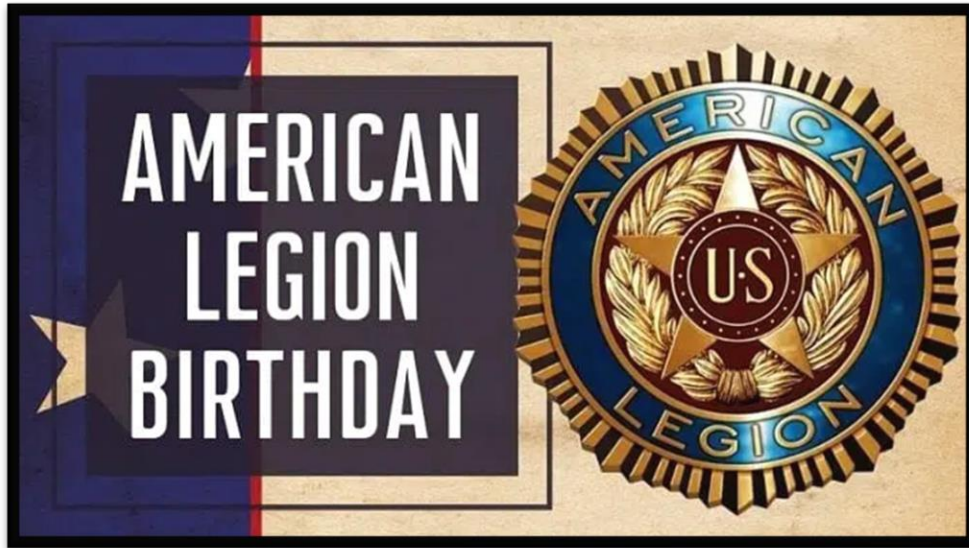
The 2025 event will also be the first Invictus Games to incorporate winter sports, along with the core adaptive sports competition. Team U.S. will join 500 participants from up to 25 countries competing in Alpine skiing and snowboarding, Biathlon, Indoor Rowing, Nordic Skiing, Sitting Volleyball, Skeleton, Swimming, Wheelchair Basketball, Wheelchair Curling, and Wheelchair Rugby.

The Invictus Games were inspired by the United States' Department of Defense Warrior Games and are designed to use the power of sport to inspire recovery, support rehabilitation and generate a wider understanding of, and respect for, those who serve their country and their loved ones. The Games were founded in 2014 by Prince Harry, The Duke of Sussex, a former captain in the British Army. The Invictus Games Foundation, of which The Duke is Patron, celebrates its 10th anniversary this year. Follow along as these warriors represent Team U.S. during the Invictus Games on the Team U.S. [Facebook](#), [X \(formerly Twitter\)](#), and [Instagram](#) channels.

FEBRUARY 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
						1 1000 – Riders Mtg.
2 1700 - Karaoke W/Allan	3 Four Chaplains Day	4 USO Birthday 1200 - \$1.50 Tacos till gone!	5	6	7 R.E.D. FRIDAY 1900 – Live Music & Food	8 1800 – PRE- SUPER- BOWL POTLUCK 0800-1030-Breakfast 0900-Finance/Exec. Comm. Mtg. 1100-General Mtg. 0900 – SAL Gen. Mtg.
9 1800 - SUPERBOWL SUNDAY POTLUCK	10 President's Day	11 1200 - \$1.50 Tacos till gone!	12	13 Mardis Gras	14 Valentine's Day 1900 – Live Music & Food	15
16 1700 - February Birthdays, Karaoke w/Allan	17	18 1200 - \$1.50 Tacos till gone!	19	20	21 R.E.D. FRIDAY 1900 – Live Music & Food	22 1230 - SAL Matanza
23 1700 - Karaoke w/Allan	24	25 1200 - \$1.50 Tacos till gone!	26	27	28 R.E.D. FRIDAY 1900 – Live Music & Food	

HAPPY 105th BIRTHDAY!!!



MARCH 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
						1 1000 – Riders Mtg.
2 1700 - Karaoke w/Allan	3	4 Hug a GI Day 1200 - \$1.50 Tacos till gone!	5	6	7 R.E.D. FRIDAY 1900 – Live Music & Food	8 0800-1030-Breakfast 0900-Finance/Exec. Comm. Mtg. 1100-General Mtg. 0900 – SAL Gen. Mtg.
9 Daylight Savings Starts 1700 - Karaoke w/Allan	10	11 1200 - \$1.50 Tacos till gone! 1800 – Auxiliary Mtg.	12	13 K-9 Veterans Day	14 R.E.D. FRIDAY 1900 – Live Music & Food	15 AMERICAN LEGION BIRTHDAY
16 1700 - March Birthdays, Karaoke w/Allan	17 St. Patrick's Day	18 1200 - \$1.50 Tacos till gone!	19	20	21 Rosie the Riveter Day 1900 – Live Music & Food	22
23 1700 - Karaoke w/Allan	24	25 Medal of Honor Day 1200 - \$1.50 Tacos till gone!	26	27	28 R.E.D. FRIDAY 1900 – Live Music & Food	29 National Vietnam War Veterans Day
30 1700 - Karaoke w/Allan	31					