



**DURAN Y GALLEGOS AMERICAN LEGION POST 69**

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

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

Email – [duranygallegospost69@yahoo.com](mailto:duranygallegospost69@yahoo.com)

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



Happy Valentine's Day to our Troops!

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

We have a great Post here with entertainment, food, drinks and comradery! But a problem that has been arising at the Post lately is that people are coming onto the property with nothing but disrespect for the Post and veterans that are members here. They bring in weapons and drugs, not to mention an attitude that everything is about them. It's NOT! ***This is a veteran's Post!*** I am asking that when you enter the property that you remember that! No weapons, drugs or bad attitudes. If you are found to have weapons or drugs, you will be asked to leave immediately, the police will be called, and you will lose your Post privileges!

We don't want any of this to happen, so we are asking for everyone's help so we can continue with the Post everyone wants!

As for your attitude, maybe a drink and comradery will help!

David Stevens  
Post Commander

**FEBRUARY 2026**





## AMERICAN LEGION HONOR GUARD

*Honoring Fallen Comrades*

December 9, 2025 -  
Accorded comrade  
Joseph Ziabreg Full Military  
Honors at Vista  
Verde Cemetery.

January 2, 2026 - Accorded  
comrade Richard Pederson  
Full Military Honors at Vista  
Verde Cemetery.

**NOTICE - Every member  
entering the Post must have a  
2026 membership card and  
sign-in as you enter, including  
your guests (3 limit).**

**Expect to present your  
membership card if asked by  
bartenders or other personnel.  
Thank you!**

## HALL RENTAL PROCESS

Post 69 hall rentals will be on  
Tuesdays and Thursdays from  
10 AM to 2 PM.

POC Rick "Ponch" De La Rosa  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander  
505-553-9552

This coming February 2026 will  
never happen again in your  
lifetime. Because this coming  
February will have:

4 Sundays  
4 Mondays  
4 Tuesdays  
4 Wednesdays  
4 Thursdays  
4 Fridays  
4 Saturdays

This only happens once every  
823 years. This is called  
*MiracleIn*. 'MiracleIn' means  
'Miracle or 'by the hand of God'  
in Ukrainian.

Rudy Chavez  
USMC

## **CHAPLAIN'S CORNER**

FEBRUARY IS A MONTH FILLED WITH GOD'S LOVE



May this Valentine's  
Day Be Filled With  
the Greatest Love Of  
All.....**Jesus**

Dear Friends! February is a month where we celebrate Valentine's Day, a day in which husbands, wives, significant others, and children share gifts expressing their feelings of sincerity to those they like and love. Those gifts might include jewelry, roses, chocolates, stuffed animals, and Valentine cards, just to name a few. But to me, the most important gift I could ever receive and shows me true Love, is the gift that Almighty God gave his only begotten Son to us, as a most loving gift. That being, a new direction in our lives filled with Love and redemption in a life in Paradise with Him, and those that follow his word. John 3:16-17 spells it out perfectly, "For God so loved the world that he gave his Son, so that everyone who believes in Him might not perish but might have eternal Life." God gave us the most important gift for Valentine's Day, and every day of our lives, that being, his Son.

The entire month of February reflects that of Love. Let us remember Four Chaplains Day, which is celebrated on February 2 which four chaplains of different faith groups: Lt. Clark V. Poling, Dutch Reformed minister; Lt. Alexander Goode, a Jewish Rabbi; Lt. George L. Fox, Methodist minister; and Lt. John Washington, a Roman Catholic priest. They all gave their own lifejackets so that others could live. When a German submarine torpedoed their transport ship U.S.A.T Dorchester on February 2, 1943, off the coast of Greenland. There was a total of 902 soldiers on the transport, heading to England. With all the lifeboats filled, and all the lifejackets given out. The four chaplains gave their own lifejackets to the wounded soldiers who were without. They assisted the wounded men, and those dying, as well as administering last rites, to the dead. Eyewitnesses on the lifeboats stated that they could see the Four Chaplains with their arms linked together in unity, singing songs of faith, on the deck of the ship, as the chaplains and the ship went down into the black and icy waters of the Atlantic Ocean.

Dear friends of the Duran Y Gallegos, American Legion Family/Familia please take a few minutes of your busy lives during this month of February, and especially the first week of the month to remember in prayer the Four Chaplains who gave the supreme sacrifice, as an example of their Love for others, they did not know. Only, that they were God's Children, in their eyes.

Respectfully in Christ,

Pepé Mendoza, Chaplain  
Duran y Gallegos American Legion Post 69



**AMERICAN LEGION POST 69 ANNUAL TRIP**

**APRIL 26 - 29TH**

# **LAUGHLIN** **Nevada**

**PRICE:** \$300 **FOR SINGLE**  
\$400 **FOR DOUBLE OCCUPANCY**

**CALL OR TEXT VIRGINIA**  
**FOR MORE INFORMATION 505.353.0955**



**Super Bowl LX  
Watch Party  
at Post 69,  
February 8, 3:30  
PM. Potluck, door  
prizes, 50/50, and  
a lot of fun!!**



# ★ ★ *Showcase Your Voice,* ★ ★ *Shape Your Future!*

DEPARTMENT OF NEW MEXICO

— ♦ ORATORICAL CONTEST ♦ —



## American Legion *A Constitutional Speech Contest*

High school students  
under age 20 are eligible.

- ✓ Sharpen Your Public Speaking Skills
- ✓ Win Scholarships and Awards
- ✓ Make Your Voice Heard!

Winner will go to The 2026 National Finals  
held May 15-17 in Hillsdale, Michigan.

**March 15th, 2026 at Post 13**

★ **9:30 AM** ★

1201 Legion Rd NE, Alb, NM 87102 **Register Here**

Contact Clarence Ortega at

★ **1 (505) 697-9880** ★

or email

**nmlegionoratorical@gmail.com**

for more information.







President Yolanda J. Montoya		
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President Virginia Sanchez	2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President Dee-Dee Chapman	Secretary Vacant
Treasurer Annette Brown	Historian Vacant	Sergeant-at-Arms Lisa (Chelo) Kavanagh
Chaplain Debra Sandoval	Executive Committee: Luz Abeyta, Debra A. Archuleta, Cathy Nieto-Martinez	

### From the President

Dear Auxiliary Sisters,  
As we step into February, let us take a moment to reflect on the love of service that brings us together. This month reminds us of the importance of patriotism, compassion, and continued dedication to our veterans, military, and their families. Thank you to everyone who has contributed their time and talents—you truly make a difference.

### February Highlights & Observances

**Black History Month**--Honoring the contributions and sacrifices of African Americans in our nation's military history.

**Valentine's Day (Feb. 14)**--A perfect time to show love and appreciation to our veterans and community.

**Presidents' Day (Feb. 16)**--Celebrating leadership, service, and American values.

### Upcoming Meetings & Events

**Unit Meeting:** 02/3/2026, 6 PM at Post 69  
**(TEMPORARY DATE CHANGE TO FIRST TUESDAY MONTHLY)** until further notice.

### Special Event/Fundraiser:

February 13, 2026--ALA Friday Night Dinner, 6 PM, meatball subs with all the fixings. Bring your sweetheart and celebrate early. XOXO.

March 7, 2026, 2 PM--Initiation of new ALA members. Potluck to follow.

March 15, 2026--St Patrick's Day fundraiser, 1-3 PM.

**Volunteer Opportunity:** SONs Annual Matanza to be held on February 21, 2026, 12:30 PM.

### Auxiliary in Action

Thank you to everyone who helped with the **January Fundraiser (Friday Night Dinner)**. And with the celebration of food for the ALR bringing home the Traveling Eagle. Your dedication continues to strengthen our mission of service.

### Membership Matters

Our membership goal for the year is **250** members, and we are currently at **115**. If you haven't renewed yet, it's not too late! Please invite eligible family members to join us—membership keeps our programs strong and our voice heard. *We encourage all members to attend and bring a friend!* For questions about membership, contact: Virginia Sanchez 505-353-0955

### Veterans & Community Support

This month we will be focusing on **MEMBERSHIP**. Let's continue to show our veterans they are never forgotten.

### Did You Know?

The American Legion Auxiliary was founded in **1919** and continues to be one of the largest patriotic women's organizations in the world, advocating for veterans, education, and youth programs.

### February Thought

*"No one has ever become poor by giving."* – Anne Frank

Thank you for all the ways you give back through the Auxiliary.

### Contact Information

President: Yolanda J Montoya  
lymontoya810@gmail.com

In Service,

**Yolanda J Montoya**



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

Hello, everyone!

We will be having Squadron 69's Annual Matanza on February 21 starting at 12:30. Please come out and support us with great food and lots of fun. We have amazing prizes for this year's raffle, so get your tickets before they are all gone. I challenge all Squadron 69 members to sell at least one book or purchase a book for just \$20. If you need more books of tickets, contact me at, 505-238-1291, Eddie Garcia, 505-235-4292, or Eddie Padilla, 505-203-8321.

Many volunteers are needed to put on such a huge event as the Matanza. Please, all hands-on deck needed of Squadron 69 members. Call me to volunteer and offer help where most needed!

Membership renewals have been phenomenal placing us at 78% in meeting our projected goal. To enter and enjoy all your membership benefits at Post 69, you must have your 2026 membership card. If you have not paid your 2026 membership, please pay as soon as possible. Contact our membership chairman, Eddie Garcia, 505-235-4292, with any membership questions.

The month of March will come up on us quickly and so will Squadron 69's monthly Flea Market Saturdays. More information to come in next month's newsletter.

As always, 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



Get your raffle tickets  
before they're all sold out!  
Come early before  
all the **Chicharrónes**  
are gone!



# **SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION SQUADRON 69**

## **ANNUAL MATANZA**

**9000 4<sup>th</sup> St NW**

**February 21, 2026, 12:30 PM**

**\$12.00/Person until gone!**

**BOOGIE WOOGIE  
TO  
INFLUENCE  
BAND!**

**\$5.00 for a  
Bowl of  
Chicharrónes!**



### **ANNUAL MATANZA FUNDRAISER**

**GRAND PRIZE – Heritage 92 .44 Magnum Lever-Action Rifle**

**1<sup>st</sup> Prize – GSG Firefly Pistol .22 Long R**

***(Background check required for rifle and pistol!)***

**2<sup>nd</sup> Prize - \$300 Cabela's Gift Certificate**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Prize – Disco Grill with Burner**

**4<sup>th</sup> Prize - \$200 Meat Order Certificate**

**\$2.00 Per Ticket or \$20 Per Book.**

***Need Not Be Present To Win!***

**CRAFT VENDORS NEEDED.**

**CALL RANDY FOR MORE INFO AT 505-238-1291**





<b>Director</b> <b>Anthony "Airborne" Leyba</b>		
<b>Assistant Director</b> <i>Liz "DragonLady" Martinez</i>	<b>Secretary</b> <i>Veronica "Hitchhiker" Zapata</i>	<b>Treasurer</b> <i>Deb "Bruh" Garcia</i>
<b>Sergeant-at-Arms</b> <i>Robin "Grumpy" Cohee</i>	<b>Road Captain</b> <i>Ben "BenJammin" Martinez</i>	<b>Chaplain</b> <i>Joseph "Papa Joe" Lovato</i>
<b>Historian</b> <i>Ali "Hot Flash" Leyba</i>	<b>OWW Chair</b> <i>Veronica "Hitchhiker" Zapata</i>	

Hello everyone,

I can't believe it's finally 2026 and so far, it started off with some successful events like a nice chilly ride to Bibo, NM, on New Year's Day, where we met up with other post riders to have lunch. On January 10, a few of our Riders attended Darlene Herrera's, from Post 13, cancer benefit ride and lunch.

I want to thank everyone for all their support on retrieving the Never Forgotten Traveling Eagle. It started with great support from Riders of Post 4 in Deming, NM, that we met in Hatch and escorted us to their Post. We were treated to a delicious dinner and presentation of The Traveling Eagle, followed with an evening of karaoke. The trip was completed with a warm Post 69 welcome from a large number of members, family, and friends, and a presentation of the Eagle to Commander Stevens, and ended with a wonderful dinner made by our Auxiliary members.

Looking forward to seeing our Post members at this year's Mid-Winter Conference and the ALR State Meeting the end of the month. Just a friendly reminder of our Annual Matanza on February 21.

Your Director,

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



# National Salute To Veteran Patients

The week of February 14 is notable for Valentine's Day, but there is another observation during this week that has special significance for anyone with a veteran family member receiving medical care. The National Salute To Veteran Patients happens Sunday, February 8 to Saturday, February 14 and pays tribute to just under 100,000 patients a day that receive medical treatment in VA medical facilities as well as the nine million U.S. veterans who get care every year. According to the Department of Veterans Affairs, this week-long tribute to veteran patients has always been observed the week of Valentine's Day and is intended to pay tribute to veterans, increase community awareness "of the role of the VA medical center", encourage visits to hospitalized veterans, and to encourage volunteerism with the VA.

This observation is meant for some nine million veterans getting care in:

- VA medical centers.
- VA outpatient clinics.
- Those receiving VA domiciliary care.
- Veterans in nursing homes.



## FEBRUARY 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
<b>1</b> <b>Mid-Winter Conference, Crowne Plaza</b>  <b>1700 - Karaoke W/Allan</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> <b>Four Chaplains Day</b>  <b>1800 – Auxiliary Mtg.</b>	<b>4</b> <b>USO Birthday</b>  <b>1830 – Riders Mtg.</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> <b>It's Wear R.E.D. FRIDAY!</b>  <b>1900 – Live Music &amp; Food</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> <b>1330 – Post 69 Superbowl Watch Party</b>  <b>1700 - Karaoke W/Allan</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> <b>It's Wear R.E.D. FRIDAY!</b>  <b>1900 – Live Music &amp; Food</b>	<b>14</b> <b>Valentine's Day</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>1700 - February Birthdays, Karaoke w/Allan</b>	<b>16</b> <b>President's Day</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> <b>Coast Guard Reserve Birthday</b>	<b>20</b> <b>1730-1900 – ALA Food Sale, Meatball Subs</b>  <b>1900 – Live Music</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> <b>1700 - Karaoke w/Allan</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> <b>It's Wear R.E.D. FRIDAY!</b>  <b>1900 – Live Music &amp; Food</b>	<b>28</b>





## MARCH 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
<b>1</b> Seabee Birthday  1700 - Karaoke W/Allan	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> Navy Reserve Birthday  1800 – Auxiliary Mtg.	<b>4</b> Hug a GI Day  1830 – Riders Mtg.	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> It's Wear R.E.D. FRIDAY!  1900 – Live Music & Food	<b>7</b> 0700 – SONS Flea Market  1400 – Unit 69 Initiation Ceremony
<b>8</b> 1700 - Karaoke W/Allan	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> K-9 Veterans Day  It's Wear R.E.D. FRIDAY!  1900 – Live Music & Food	<b>14</b> 0800-1030-Breakfast 0900-Finance/Exec. Comm. Mtg. 1100 – General Mtg.  0900 – SONS Gen. Mtg.
<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> St. Patrick's Day	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 1730-1900 – ALA Food Sales  1900 – Live Music	<b>21</b> Rosie The Riveter Day
<b>22</b> 1700 - Karaoke w/Allan	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Medal of Honor Day	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> It's Wear R.E.D. FRIDAY!  1900 – Live Music & Food	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> National Vietnam War Veterans Day	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>				