



DURAN Y GALLEGOS AMERICAN LEGION POST 69

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Bar 505-898-9918, Main 505-890-5343



Commander David Stevens		
1st Vice Jim Hambor	2nd Vice Commander Robert Jaramillo	3rd Vice Commander Rick "Ponch" De La Rosa
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		

The year is certainly going right on by us as we are at the end of February already!

We still have a lot of functions going on here at the Post so be sure to check the calendar for dates and times.

I once again must inform you; the bartenders are in charge of the Lounge! We still have customers that come in and want to take charge but remember, the Bartender is in charge. If you have a complaint, either talk to the Bar Manager, an Officer, or write a letter to the Executive Board.

We have had complaints of our customers doing drugs in the parking lot! We are in the process of updating our cameras and overall surveillance of the parking lot and if someone is caught; they will be reported to the police. We are all members here so lets all take care of our post home!

At the next monthly Legion meeting on March 8, we will be having nominations for Post Officers! If interested in running for an office, please plan to attend!

Until Next Month,

David Stevens
Post 69 Commander

MARCH 2025



AMERICAN LEGION HONOR GUARD

Honoring Fallen Comrades

February 1, 2025 - Accorded comrade
Luvín J. Contreras Full Military Honors at Post 69.

February 7, 2025 - Accorded comrade
Alonso Chavez Full Military Honors at Nativity
Church in Alameda.

February 4, 2025 - Accorded comrade
Eric Swardson Full Military Honors Post 69.

February 15, 2025 - Accorded comrade
Thomas Buster Mabry with Honors (Flag Folding
and Presentation) at Crown Plaza Hotel.

National Vietnam War Veterans Day – Submitted by Rudy Chavez

March 29 was chosen as National Vietnam War Veterans Day because on March 29, 1973, Military Assistance Command, Vietnam (MACV) was disbanded and the last U.S. combat troops departed the Republic of Vietnam. The last unit was elements of MACV's Infantry Security Force (Special Guard), actually special couriers.

On March 29, 2012, President Barack Obama proclaimed March 29, 2012, as Vietnam Veterans Day. The proclamation called "upon all Americans to observe this day with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities that commemorate the 50-year anniversary of the Vietnam War."

On December 26, 2016, the Vietnam Veterans Day Coalition of States Council presented a letter to President Elect Donald Trump and Congressional leadership outlining the history and timeline of cause to establish March 29 as Vietnam War Veterans Day and requesting that it be one of the first legislations passed and signed into law during the 115 Congress.

On March 28, 2017, President Trump signed the *Vietnam War Veterans Recognition Act of 2017*. This act officially recognizes March 29 as National Vietnam War Veterans Day. The Act also includes the day among those days on which the US flag should especially be displayed.

TAX EXEMPTION TO PROVIDE AN EXEMPTION AND INCREASE FOR FAMILIES OF VETERANS REGARDLESS OF DISABILITIES - Submitted by Rudy Chavez

Veterans in New Mexico could have less of a tax burden, after voters in the state appeared to approve two constitutional amendments providing for a property exemptions. In the November 5 general election, Amendment 1 appeared to pass with 82% of the vote, and Amendment 2 appeared to pass with 72% of the vote. Amendment 1 changes Article 8, Section 15 of the state constitution to extend a property tax exemption to veterans with less than a 100% disability, rather than the previous requiring a 100% disability. The tax exemption would also be extended to widows and widowers of veterans. According to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, disabilities are rated based on the severity of the disability and how it decreases overall health and ability to function.

THE HISTORY OF CHALLENGE COINS

Although nobody knows for certain when and where challenge coins originated, it is [widely accepted that the tradition began amongst soldiers in the military](#). The earliest known account dates back to Ancient Rome, where special coins were given to soldiers as a token of appreciation for valor in battle. Some historians claim that these coins were uniquely marked with their legion's insignia, prompting many soldiers to keep them as souvenirs.

Another origin story, though likely a myth, can be traced back to World War I. There, it is alleged that an officer of the Allied Powers stamped bronze medallions with the insignia of his flight squadron and distributed them to his soldiers. One of them was shot down over Germany but managed to escape back to France.

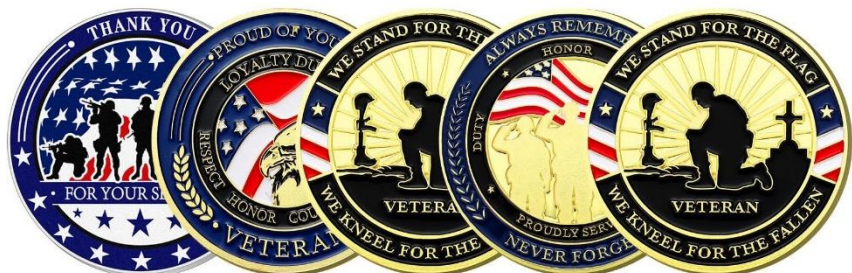
Upon arrival, the soldiers took him for a German spy and attempted to execute him. Trying to clear his name, the pilot showed his medallion. One soldier recognized it, and his identity was soon confirmed, hence saving his life.

But how did these coins evolve from simply memorabilia into a challenge? Some say that the challenge was brought back by the America GIs that frequented the bars in occupied Germany after World War II. There, locals often performed "pfennig checks" on each other, and whoever could not produce a pfennig (the German equivalent of the U.S. penny) had to buy a round of drinks for those who could.

But if everyone had a pfennig, the challenger had to buy the drinks. The Americans slightly modified this, using their unit's specially marked coins in place of a pfennig, and true to the American way, slamming them down instead of merely displaying them.

This practice took off during the Vietnam War. Special Forces soldiers had formed bullet clubs, and members of which always carried an unfired bullet. Officers soon became worried because soldiers would often slam down live ammunition when the challenge was presented, possibly leading to a fatal accident. They banned the bullet clubs, and instead distributed rare Special Forces coins. Soon, each unit had their own unique coin.

Rudy Chavez
USMC



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER



Each year we prepare ourselves and our homes from the cold and gusty winds of March. One bright spot during this month is the celebration of St. Patrick's Day on March 17. It is said that during St. Patrick's life (389-461 AD) that he suffered greatly in his youth. His perseverance and guiding light was his Love of God and his son Jesus. St. Patrick's calling was to convert the pagan inhabitants in Ireland to Christianity.

There was danger around every corner in this endeavor and death was always in the forefront. It is said that he used the three-leafed clover to teach the pagan converts about the Holy Trinity. Legend also has it that he vanquished all the snakes in Ireland, as another one of his miracles.

You're probably asking yourselves how does this relate to me or my family? As we prepared ourselves and our homes during this windy month, we must also prepare ourselves for the Lenten Season ahead of us, leading to the glorious resurrection also known as Easter. Proverbs 3:5-6, (NVBJSE) spells it out for us "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, on your own intelligence rely not; In all your ways be mindful of him, and he will make straight your path, (NABSJE)."

I want to personally wish all the members of the Duran y Gallegos American Legion Post 69, their families, friends, and those reading this article, a joyful and safe St. Patrick's Day celebration. Now is a perfect time to prepare ourselves to this year's Lenten Season.

Sincerely in Christ,

Pepé Mendoza, Chaplain
Duran y Gallegos
American Legion Post 69



"May the wisdom of God instruct us.
May the hand of God protect us.
May the Word of God direct us."
--St. Patrick

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

3-NIGHT STAY AT THE TROPICANA!



**Two people per
room \$400,
\$300 single.
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!

I must thank everyone that came out for our Annual Matanza and to all the volunteers that helped cook, the kitchen staff, and the ticket sellers. Thank you, Black Pearl and Influence, for your great entertainment, along with the Spanish dancers that performed. Others to thank are our bartenders and security personnel and so many volunteers that made this an amazing fundraiser!

Thank you to Teresa Montaña who sold the most raffle tickets with over 100 books. She receives \$100 for putting her ticket-selling skills to work!

April 5 will be our first Flea Market for the year and each first Saturday of the month thereafter till October, 7 AM-1 PM. Still just \$10/space, so start getting your items ready to sell.

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!

Thank you,

Randolph Montoya
SAL Commander





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,

March is here! Time just keeps flying by! I'm happy to report that the "Never Forgotten" Eagle has landed at Post 25, Chapter 2 in Clovis, NM. Their riders came down during the Matanza and claimed the Eagle. They had claimed it back in November, but it was too cold to ride for it.

Remember Everyone Deployed – R.E.D. Friday awareness, every Friday. Wear anything on you that is Red in color.

R- remember
E- everyone
D- deployed

R.E.D. Fridays will always be RED and I encourage everyone to continue to support this great event by wearing red on Fridays. ALR Chapter 10 has spear-headed this and we will soon have additional shirts to sell.

Last month we partnered with our SONS for the "clean-up" of our Post event. We also cleaned all the hall's tables and chairs. Thanks to all who participated in these two events. Greatly appreciate you who volunteer your time to make our Post the best.

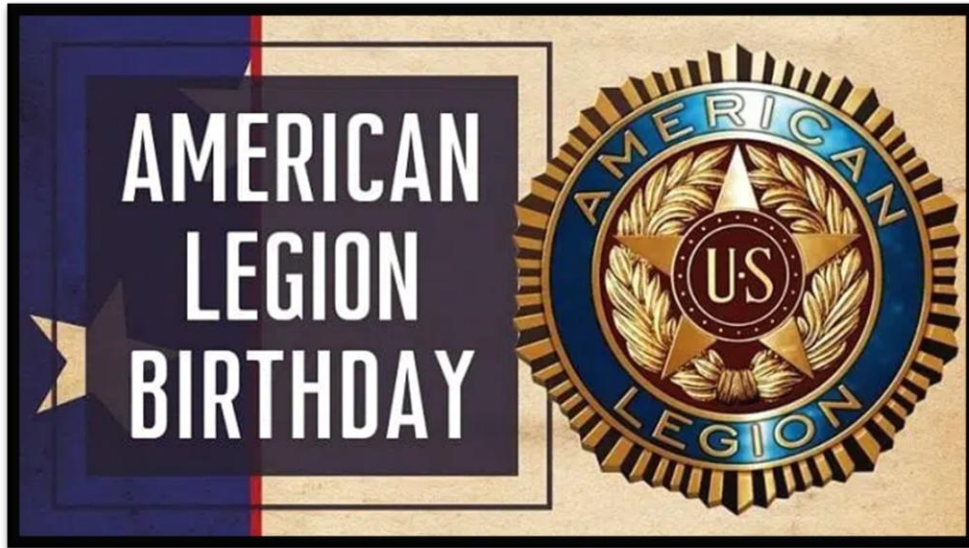
I challenge all members to scan our premises and if you see any trash or debris, please pick it up and dispose of it properly. Many thanks on this!

Don't forget our Post 69 ALR Chapter 10 Legacy Gala is on March 22! You can scan the QR code and reserve your place in this wonderful event. You don't have to ride! All are welcomed!!

Your director,

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

HAPPY 105th BIRTHDAY!!!



MARCH 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
						1
2 1700 - Karaoke W/Allan	3	4 Hug a GI Day 1200 - \$1.50 Tacos till gone!	5 1830 – Riders Mtg.	6	7 It's Wear 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 It's Wear 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 It's Wear R.E.D. FRIDAY! 1900 – Live Music & Food	29 National Vietnam War Veterans Day
30 1700 - Karaoke w/Allan	31					



APRIL 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
		1 April's Fools Day	2	3	4 It's Wear R.E.D. FRIDAY!	5 Gold Star Spouses Day 7 AM-1 PM – SAL Flea Market
6 1700 - Karaoke W/Allan	7	8 1200 - \$1.50 Tacos till gone!	9 Former POW Recognition Day 1830 – Riders Mtg.	10	11 It's Wear R.E.D. FRIDAY! 1900 – Live Music & Food	12 0800-1030-Breakfast 0900-Finance/Exec. Comm. Mtg. 1100-General Mtg. 0900 – SAL Gen. Mtg.
13 1700 - Karaoke w/Allan	14 Air Force Reserve Birthday	15 Purple Up! Day 1200 - \$1.50 Tacos till gone!	16	17	18 Good Friday It's Wear R.E.D. FRIDAY! 1900 – Live Music & Food	19
20 EASTER 1700 - April Birthdays, Karaoke w/Allan	21	22 Earth Day 1200 - \$1.50 Tacos till gone!	23 Army Reserve Birthday	24	25 It's Wear R.E.D. FRIDAY! 1900 – Live Music & Food	26
27 1700 - Karaoke w/Allan	28	29 1200 - \$1.50 Tacos till gone!	30 National Military Brats Day			