



DURAN Y GALLEGOS AMERICAN LEGION POST 69
9000 4TH St. NW, Albuquerque, NM 87114
Website – <http://duranygallegospost69.org/>
Email – duranygallegospost69@yahoo.com
Bar/Hall Rentals 505-898-9918



Commander David Stevens		
1 st Vice Rick “Ponch” De La Rosa	2 nd Vice Commander Vacant	3 rd Vice Commander Vacant
Finance Officer Vacant	Chaplain Pepé Mendoza	Adjutant Albert Tavasci
Sergeant-at-Arms Rudy Chavez	Service Officer Vacant	Historian Robert Jaramillo
Executive Committee: Dee-Dee Chapman, Pro Padilla, Eddie Santillanes		

Well, we finally have a new roof on the Post and new ceiling tiles in the hall. The Post is looking good but we still have more to do. We must all remember that it is everyone’s job to keep our Post looking as good as we can.

Membership is coming along fairly well but we still need to get all memberships in. We are picking up a lot of new members as well as transfers. People are starting to see what our Post has to offer.

We are doing much better on behaving ourselves when at the Post but there is still some room for improvement. Again, it's everyone's job to make sure everyone has a good time when at Post 69!

Until Next Month,

David Stevens
Commander

NOVEMBER 2026





AMERICAN LEGION HONOR GUARD

Honoring Fallen Comrades

October 2, 2026 - Accorded
Comrade Arsenio Duran
Full Military Honors at
Las Placitas Cemetery.

SANTA FE NATIONAL CEMETERY

Current Status

Open for Burials: The cemetery continues to actively schedule and perform casket and cremation burials, as well as military funeral honors.

Future Capacity: The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) projects that the Santa Fe facility will reach capacity around the mid-2030s.

New Alternative Planned: To provide relief and long-term space, the VA purchased 230 acres in Albuquerque to build a new **Albuquerque National Cemetery**, which is designed to accommodate area veterans for centuries.

If you need help checking **pre-need eligibility** or arranging a service at the Santa Fe National Cemetery, you can contact the **National Cemetery Scheduling Office** directly at **800-535-1117**.

Hello,

I am writing to remind everyone to renew their 2027 memberships.

We will be hosting a Veterans Day Celebration, during which our Honor Guard will pay tribute to our Veterans. We encourage you to attend this ceremony, which will be followed by lunch on Wednesday, November 11. Ceremony starts at 1100.

The Post will also be holding a Thanksgiving luncheon on Sunday, November 22 from 1300-1500.



Our Veteran's Wall of Honor will soon be commencing. We currently have a total of 42 bricks. I highly recommend paying honors to a fellow veteran by purchasing a brick in their honor. Each brick costs \$100, and proof of veteran status is required. Proof of veteran status can be provided in the form of a DD214, VA card, photograph of the headstone, or obituary. You do not need to be deceased for the purchase of a brick. Once the wall has commenced, all applications and bricks will be placed as they are ordered. Please complete the attached order form, return it to Rick De La Rosa for purchase and approval.

Sincerely,

Your 1st Vice Commander
Rick De La Rosa

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Dear friends! As we start the month of November, we start seeing the leaves of the trees turning a bright yellow, orange, brown, and a golden hue. Letting us know that winter is just around the corner. We start the month with two Holy days for the Christian faith, those being All Saints Day on the 1st, and All Souls Day on the 2nd. We also see the end of Daylight Savings time as well. But the Holiday I look forward to is known as Thanksgiving Day, on the 26th. This day is a time to reflect on the blessings we have received throughout the year. Which in my home is usually a vocal expression by each family member on what they are thankful for, prior to enjoying the roasted turkey and all the fixins.



This year this has been a little more meaningful to me as the Post 69 Chaplain, and as the American Legion, Department Chaplain, for the State of New Mexico. I have been honored and blessed to say that I have been visiting numerous assisted living communities, private homes, including physical therapy rehab inpatient centers, that hold our veterans and non-veterans as well. Friends, are you aware that we are losing over 2,000 veterans a month due to suicide? My personal assessment is that most of those are due to loneliness of our veterans who have been misplaced by their loved ones, and in some cases forgotten. The family visits are not as frequent anymore, or simply a visit once or twice as year. I don't want to depress you, but I do want you to know, that those individuals are so lonely for someone to just acknowledge that they exist. We sometimes argue on whether we are to have turkey or a ham for Thanksgiving, when there are Almighty God's creations walking the streets, only wanting crumbs, and a clean water to drink.

There is an old saying that goes; "I complained that I had no shoes, then I saw a man with no feet." Dear friends we should all give a Special Thanksgiving Blessing for the little things we take for granted, that others wish they had. Give thanks for the breath of life you have, the eyes you have to see the beauty of God's creations, the ears to hear the sounds of the small birds giving praise to Him who created them, your arms, hands, and legs that help you getting from one place to another and grasp those things you need with your hands. Before I end this article, I ask you dear friends, to make an asserted effort to visit those in assisted living homes. Believe me when I say this, you will be blessed even more. Matthew 5:16 (NIV), seems to fit perfectly as it reads; "Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds, and glorify your Father in heaven".

I just want to "Thank You", members of the Duran y Gallegos American Legion Post 69 family/familia, and those reading this article, for my Special Thanksgiving Blessing to you in being your Post 69 and Department of New Mexico Chaplain, have a safe and bless month of November 2026.

Respectfully in Christ,

Pepé Mendoza, Chaplain
Duran y Gallegos
American Legion Post 69



President Yolanda J. Montoya		
1st Vice President Debra A. Maestas	2nd Vice President Virginia Sanchez	Secretary Vacant
Treasurer Luz Abeyta	Historian Yvonne Lovato	Sergeant-at-Arms Cathy Nieto-Martinez
Chaplain Vacant	Executive Committee: Annette Brown, Dee-Dee Chapman, Sadie Nieto	

A MESSAGE FROM OUR UNIT PRESIDENT

As we welcome October, I want to thank each of you for your continued dedication, generosity, and commitment to our American Legion Auxiliary mission. Every hour volunteered, every donation given, and every act of kindness makes a difference in the lives of our veterans, military families, children, and community.

Unit 69 family continues to demonstrate what it means to serve with compassion, patriotism, and pride. I encourage everyone to stay involved, welcome new members, share your ideas, and continue working together to strengthen our Unit. Unit 69 is proud of the difference our members make through service to veterans, children, and our community.

Our efforts include:

- Supporting children and youth through school projects, donations, and community activities.
- Promoting Americanism, flag etiquette, and respect for our nation's flag.
- Honoring veterans through memorial activities, thank-you cards, and community outreach.
- Supporting local schools and encouraging young people to learn about patriotism and citizenship.
- Participating in community cleanups, poppy distributions, and veterans' remembrance events.

Every act of service reflects our commitment to the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary.

MONTHLY AUXILIARY MEETING, First Tuesday of every month at 6 PM

All members are encouraged to attend our monthly meetings. Your voice, participation, and ideas help us plan meaningful programs and continue serving our community. Whether you are a longtime member or new to the Auxiliary, you are welcome!

🌟 MEMBERSHIP CORNER, Have you renewed your membership?

Your membership helps us continue our mission and strengthen our voice in support of veterans, military families, and children. Please invite a friend or family member who is eligible to join. New members bring fresh ideas, enthusiasm, and helping hands to our organization. Let's continue building a welcoming Unit where members support one another, learn together, and serve with pride.

As we prepare for Veterans Day in November, let us remember that honoring veterans is more than a single day of recognition. It is a commitment we demonstrate throughout the year through our actions, volunteer work, and support.

Let us continue to lead with integrity, treat one another with respect, communicate openly, and work together toward our common mission. Remember, **we are stronger together, and every member matters!**

With appreciation and gratitude,

Yolanda J. Montoya

Unit President, Duran Y Gallegos Unit 69

Please check the American Legion Post 69 Facebook page for event updates and additional activities.



Commander Danny Padilla		
1st Vice Commander Eddie Garcia	2nd 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		

"The most wasted of all days is one without laughter." – E. E. Cummings

With the holidays quickly approaching, it is easy to feel stressed and anxious. I hope everyone takes time to connect with family and friends. Consider setting aside your phone and computer to enjoy a game night, watch a movie or sports event, or simply talk with one another.

On the back of our Legion card, there is a message to "Be the One"—to ask, listen, and reach out. This applies not only to Veterans, but to everyone in your life. While it is important to focus on what we want to achieve, it is even more important to determine who we want to be. A little laughter with friends and family goes a long way.

Upcoming Events: Please check our newsletter for the calendar of events for the next two months.

Membership Renewal: We are continuing our 2027 "Early Bird" membership renewal through November 11 (Veterans Day).

Squadron Meeting: Our next meeting is on Saturday, November 14 at 9 AM.

Veteran Spotlight

This month, I am acknowledging First Sergeant/E8 Perfecto Adan Maestas, who served in the Army, Reserves, and National Guard for 39 and a half years! He was a Korean War Veteran born on May 22, 1932, and passed away on February 5, 2014. He was a proud father of six, including his son Andy, who serves as our Squadron Adjutant and State Detachment Commander.

As always look both ways and "Carpe Diem".

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	

American Legion Riders Chapter 10

As we approach the upcoming Toy Runs and Thanksgiving festivities, it is imperative that we remain vigilant and attentive to the presence of motorcycle riders on the road. While the holiday season often draws us into our own thoughts, it is crucial to prioritize safety and awareness.

From personal experience, I have observed that the common response when a motorcycle is involved in an accident is often a lack of visibility. As riders, it is our responsibility to ensure that we are easily identifiable to other road users. Wearing appropriate safety gear is essential for both our protection and the protection of others.

Our ALR College is November 21 at our Post; this is an all-day event. All riders are encouraged and welcomed to attend.

During the season of giving, I extend an invitation to all to contribute to our children's Christmas wishes. We have established a designated barrel for the collection of unwrapped toys. Regrettably, this year, the barrel has remained empty. I acknowledge the challenges faced by many due to economic hardships, but I urge you to consider the impact of your generosity on a child's happiness during this festive season. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to those who have or will contribute toys to our cause.

I extend an invitation to all members of our American Legion Post to visit our "Never Forgotten" traveling eagle. This majestic bird has recently arrived at our Post and is currently resting in our bar, to the right. We traveled several hundred miles to bring it to our home. Please note that the eagle will be claimed by a new home (Post) in a few weeks.

Your ALR Director,

Rick "Ponch" De La Rosa



NOVEMBER 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
1 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS END	2 1730 – Entertainment Mtg.	3 1800 – Auxiliary Mtg.	4 1830 – Riders Mtg.	5	6 It's Wear R.E.D. FRIDAY! Mariachi Elvis Night	7
8 NO Karaoke W/Allan	9	10 MARINE CORPS DAY/ BIRTHDAY 1200 - \$2.00 Taco Tuesday	11 VETERANS DAY 1230-1430 – Veterans Day Lunch	12	13 It's Wear R.E.D. FRIDAY! Mariachi Elvis Night	14 0800-1030-Breakfast 0900-Finance/Exec. Comm. Mtg. 1100 – General Mtg. 0900 – SONs Gen. Mtg.
15 1700 - Karaoke w/Allan	16	17 1200 - \$2.00 Taco Tuesday	18	19	20 It's Wear R.E.D. FRIDAY! Mariachi Elvis Night	21 0800 – ALA Riders College
22 1300-1500 – Post 69 Thanksgiving Lunch 1700 – Karaoke w/Allan	23	24 1200 - \$2.00 Taco Tuesday	25	26 THANKSGIVING DAY POST CLOSED!	27 It's Wear R.E.D. FRIDAY! Mariachi Elvis Night	28
29 1700 - Karaoke w/Allan	30					



WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA

Parts of the Wreath Symbols

Evergreens = Longevity & Endurance
 Red Bow = Great Sacrifice
 Forest Scent = Purity & Simplicity
 Circular Shape = Eternity

When The Wreaths Are Complete, What Happens To Them?

When placement time is near, a sponsored wreath is sent to the designated location. On the appropriate day, a volunteer places it on the grave site of a veteran. This placement includes a ceremonial act by the volunteer laying the wreath. According to the official site, "That volunteer will then 'say (the veteran's) name' to ensure that the legacy of duty, service and sacrifice of that veteran is never forgotten."

DECEMBER 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
		1 1800 – Auxiliary Mtg. 1200 - \$2.00 Taco Tuesday	2 1830 – Riders Mtg.	3	4 It's Wear R.E.D. FRIDAY! Mariachi Elvis Night	5
6 1700 - Karaoke w/Allan	7 NATIONAL PEARL HARBOR REMEMBRANCE DAY 1730 – Entertainment Mtg.	8 1200 - \$2.00 Taco Tuesday	9	10	11 It's Wear R.E.D. FRIDAY! Mariachi Elvis Night	12 0800-1030-Breakfast 0900-Finance/Exec. Comm. Mtg. 1100 – General Mtg. 0900 – SONs Gen. Mtg.
13 U.S. NATIONAL GUARD BIRTHDAY 1700 - Karaoke w/Allan	14	15 1200 - \$2.00 Taco Tuesday	16	17	18 It's Wear R.E.D. FRIDAY! Mariachi Elvis Night	19 WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA 1300-1500 – Children's Christmas Party
20 1700 – Karaoke w/Allan	21	22 1200 - \$2.00 Taco Tuesday	23	24	25 CHRISTMAS DAY POST CLOSED	26
27 1700 - Karaoke w/Allan	28	29 1200 - \$2.00 Taco Tuesday	30	31 1800 - New Year's Eve Dinner/Dance		



AMERICAN LEGION POST 69 WALL OF HONOR

The American Legion **Post 69 Veteran Wall of Honor** is dedicated to recognizing and honoring the service of our nation's veterans. The engraved bricks placed within this memorial will serve as an everlasting tribute to the brave men and women who stepped forward in service to protect God and Country.

Each brick in our Veteran Wall of Honor will be inscribed with the name of a veteran as a lasting reminder of their dedication, sacrifice, and commitment in support of Freedom and Democracy. It is our hope that this Veteran Wall of Honor will continue to inspire future generations to follow the example of those who served.

The Veteran Wall of Honor will be conducted in phases as time and resources allow for its growth. Designated sections will be available to recognize veterans from the following branches of service.

CHOOSE ONE:

US ARMY	US MARINE CORPS	US COAST GUARD	US NAVY	US AIRFORCE	US SPACE COMMAND	MILITARY RESERVE UNIT	NATIONAL GUARD
---------	--------------------	-------------------	---------	----------------	---------------------	-----------------------------	-------------------

Eligibility and Guidelines

1. Any veteran who served and was honorably discharged is eligible to be recognized.
2. The requestor must provide proof of military service.
3. The wording engraved on each brick must follow a uniform format and will be reviewed and approved by the Honor Wall Committee.
4. Each brick allows **three (3) lines**, with **up to 20 characters per line**.
5. The cost per brick is **\$100**.

PURCHASER

NAME: _____ PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

APPLICATION WITH PAYMENT WILL ONLY BE ACCEPTED.

NAME													
BRANCH													
DATE OF SERVICE OR WAR ERA													

APPROVED:

Wall Committee _____

Date approved _____