

# American Legion LeBron Post 58

## OBSERVER



123 N. 1<sup>ST</sup> Street Guthrie, Oklahoma 73044

Office: 405-282-2589/web: <http://www.lebronpost58.org>

lebronpost58@lebronpost58.org

OCTOBER 2014



### Commander's Message



I would like to start off by apologizing for not having a monthly newsletter for a few months. As you can see, we have changed the entire layout for our monthly newsletter. Our Newsletter will now be called the "Observer". We had a lot happening in the past 2 months, but everything is moving forward. We have not been having Legion meetings the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month because there have been no Legionnaires coming. It is very important that we each make the monthly meeting, as there will be a lot of things coming up in the near future that you might just want to know about - like where LeBron Post 58 is heading. I want to also thank each one that has renewed their membership to the Post for 2015. This should be the first year in a long while that we will be 100 % in membership. We have 174 members, with only 60 left so that every member will be paid in full. Rentals are a success and money is slowly processing in. Lot of repairing and remodeling have been completed in the last few months. Albert Hawkes has worked diligently on painting and restoring the C.E. Herrick Auxiliary Hall. Our hall and its representation is a reflection on us. The Honor Park is also looking great and Steve Gentling, our master gardener, has done a great job making the Honor Park look fantastic. New signs have been placed there that our own 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander Myrl Waggoner built. The signs placed state "No Dogs Allowed", and "Honor Park Maintained By the American Legion LeBron Post 58".

As for our Department of Oklahoma office, our new leadership is paving the way to a better and brighter future for this great state. Let's remember not to dwell on the things of the past and move on to a better tomorrow. Our VA Rep, Linda Turner, is still coming every Monday from 9:30am till 2:30pm. If you have any questions about any VA claims, our VA rep is very good at working with veterans and getting what is deserved them! We welcome everyone to stop by the office anytime that you may be in the neighborhood to see what has been done. We will always have a pot of coffee ready and fresh for you to have a cup. I invite you also every Thursday mornings at 9:30am-- we have coffee and refreshments and just enjoy each other's company. If you every have any question please feel free to contact me at the office and I will do my best to assist you.

For God and Country

Jerry A. Webster

Jerry.webster@lebronpost58.org

### 2014 Post Officers

#### Commander

**Jerry A. Webster**

#### 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander

**Myrl Waggoner**

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander

**Leroy Barnes**

**SGT at Arms**

#### Finance Officer

**Marsha Hudson**

#### Adjutant

**Albert Hawkes**

#### Chaplain

**Kenneth Yohey**

#### Executive Committee

**Jerry Webster**

**Myrl Waggoner**

**Leroy Barnes**

**Marsha Hudson**

**Albert Hawkes**

**Larry Woods**

**Steve Gentling**

**Jack Smith**



**FOR GOD AND  
COUNTRY**

## 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander's Message



I would like to begin by saying a big thanks to Albert Hawkes for his work on our basement to improve our American Legion building. When you see Al be sure to thank him for the many hours he has put in. His next project will be the stair case on the north side of the building.

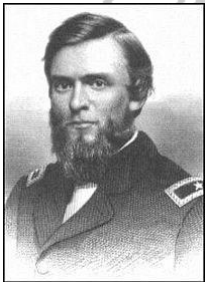
### A HISTORY OF FORT SILL



Fort Sill was officially established by General Philip H. Sheridan on January 8, 1869 in the Indian Territory (present day Oklahoma). Its purpose was to control the Comanche, Cheyenne, Kiowa and other tribes that had roamed the Southern Plains hunting buffalo or making frequent raids on settlements in Texas and Mexico in search of captives and horses. Some of the most famous military leaders and units in American history have served at Fort Sill over the decades. The first **military occupation** of the site was in 1834 when the 1st US Dragoons arrived to establish "Camp Comanche" and began negotiations with the local tribes. Several individuals important in American history such as General Henry Leavenworth, Jefferson Davis, George Catlin, and Nathan Boone were included in this expedition.

In 1852, Captain Randolph Marcy arrived to explore the Red River and made the first recommendation that a permanent fort be established at this place. This was followed by a company of Chickasaw Indians scouting the Medicine Bluffs in 1858 under the command of Colonel Douglas Cooper. He also made a recommendation that a fort be established in this area.

In late December 1868, General **Phil Sheridan** arrived with the 7th US Cavalry under Colonel George A. Custer; the 10th US Cavalry commanded by Colonel Benjamin Grierson; the 19th Kansas Volunteers and the 6th US Infantry. The new post was soon staked out according to Sheridan's plans and construction began on the permanent stone buildings in 1869-70. The fledgling post was soon named Fort Sill after General Joshua Sill, who was killed during the Civil War in 1862. All four of the Black regiments that were later referred to as the "Buffalo Soldiers" (9th & 10th US Cavalry, 24th & 25th US Infantry) served at Fort Sill



during the late 19th century. Colonel Ranald S. Mackenzie and the 4th US Cavalry occupied the fort during the Red River War of 1874-75. With the final surrenders of the Plains tribes in 1875, the mission of the army shifted toward maintaining law and order in the Territory. The protection of Indian lands from illegal Kansas and Texas "Intruders"; patrolling the Chisholm Trail in pursuit of rustlers, murderers, whiskey peddlers; and generally maintaining the peace, became the priority of the day. In 1894 the Chiricahua Apache Prisoners of War came to Fort Sill from their prisons in Alabama and Florida. For the first time since their surrender in 1886 they were able to regain their respect and warrior status by enlisting in the all Indian unit, Troop L, 7th US Cavalry at Fort Sill. One of the **more** famous warriors of this group was Geronimo. Fort Sill was a pivotal **INSTALLATION** during the Indian Wars of the late 19th century, yet it was almost abandoned around 1900. Faced with a changing mission from the Cavalry and Infantry to Artillery, Secretary of War William H. Taft visited Fort Sill in 1907 to determine the fate of the frontier army post. Even then, the history of the old fort was considered so significant that the future President decided to preserve it forever instead of rebuilding or tearing it down to render it more suitable for the new mission. Thus, a "New Post" was constructed further west in 1909-11 to accommodate the Field Artillery. The last Cavalry unit departed in 1907 and in 1911, the **new Field** Artillery School of Fire Headquarters was established in the historic old teamster's quarter on the Quadrangle.



In 1915 Fort Sill would come into the air age with the arrival of the 1st Aero Squadron, the first aviation unit in the American military. This unit TRAINED at Fort Sill until receiving orders for Texas and the Mexican border. The move to Texas became the first squadron flight in aviation history. Fort Sill soon became the **home** of Army aviation and CONTINUED until 1954 when that mission shifted to Fort Rucker, Alabama. The establishment of the airfield represented a clash of cultural priorities and remains the watershed event that nearly lead to the demise of the final burial ground of at least 114 Comanche Indians.



Fort Sill National Cemetery in Elgin, Okla., was dedicated on Nov. 2, 2001. The Fort Sill National Cemetery was the second national cemetery to be constructed in Oklahoma and became the 120th national cemetery to be administered by the National Cemetery Administration. Fort Sill National Cemetery lies in southwestern Oklahoma, approximately 75 miles from Oklahoma City and five miles north of Lawton. Land for the national cemetery was transferred from the Department of the Army's Ft. Sill Military Reservation in 1998.

The cemetery is situated on land that was once Indian Territory. A military reservation was staked out in January 1869 by Maj. Gen. Philip H. Sheridan and was formally established as Camp Wichita the following month. Sheridan later renamed the garrison as Fort Sill in honor of fellow West Point classmate, Brigadier General Joshua W. Sill, who died in the Battle of Stones' River during the Civil War. Fort Sill's mission was one of law enforcement for the expanding American frontier. The arrival of the Quohada Comanche's to Fort Sill in June 1875 marked the end of Indian warfare of the south Plains.

In the 1890s, Apache Chief Geronimo and 341 other Apache prisoners of war were brought to Fort Sill by the government. Geronimo was granted permission to travel briefly with Pawnee Bill's Wild West Show and also visited with President Theodore Roosevelt. Geronimo died of pneumonia at Fort Sill on Feb. 17, 1909, at the age of 83 and is buried in the post cemetery at Fort Sill. Lt. Hugh L. Scott instructed the remaining Apache prisoners of war on how to build houses, raise crops and herd cattle. Many spent the remainder of their lives at Fort Sill.

The last Native American lands in Oklahoma opened for settlement in 1901 and 29,000 homesteaders registered at Fort Sill for the land lottery during July. On August 6 of that year, the town of Lawton sprang up and quickly grew to become the third-largest city in Oklahoma. As of 2005, Lawton currently is the fourth largest city in Oklahoma, having fallen behind Norman in the last census. With the disappearance of the frontier, the mission of Fort Sill gradually changed from cavalry to field artillery. The first artillery battery arrived at Fort Sill in 1902 and the last cavalry regiment departed in May 1907.

The School of Fire for the Field Artillery was founded at Fort Sill in 1911 and continues to operate today as the world-renowned U.S. Army Field Artillery School. In 2007, the Fort Bliss Air Defense was added to Fort Sill, they both operate under one umbrella called the Fires Center of Excellence. At various times, Fort Sill has also served as home to the Infantry School of Musketry, the School for Aerial Observers, the Air Service Flying School and the Army Aviation School. Today the U.S. Army Field Artillery Center at Fort Sill remains the only active Army installation to continuously serve the Southern Plains since the Indian Wars.

My next cemetery will be our own Summit View focusing on the military section.

Later,  
Myrl Waggoner  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander



**Myrl & Patty Waggoner**

Home (405) 282-5625  
Mobile (405) 640-1220

10400 W. College Ave.  
Guthrie, OK 73044

## 2nd Vice Commander's Message



Thanks to the hard work of Myrl Waggoner and Albert Hawkes our signs are up at Honor Park. If you haven't seen them, drive by and take a look. The signs must be working because the last time it was mowed there was no dog poop. Hopefully we have our Honor Park back. If you haven't been by the Post lately you need to see the improvements that have been made. It's amazing what a coat of paint will do. There are a few projects that still need to be done, such as fixing our flag pole. Last week an old Marine with a bum knee, and an old Navy Seabee with a bad back, climbed a 20' ladder, then an 8' ladder to check the flag pole on the roof to see what needed fixing. What we decided was-- we needed younger volunteers with a few hours to donate and don't mind climbing ladders!! Please help fix the flag pole, so the stars and stripes can once again fly over your Post. If you have time and would like to help, come by and we'll discuss what needs to be done.

As a veteran that served during the Vietnam War, upon my return I experienced some of the discontent the American people showed the veterans. I very seldom talked about my service or my time in Vietnam when I retired from my private sector job. I bought a hat that said "Vietnam Veteran" while on vacation. People would see the hat and say *"Thank You for your service!"* At first I didn't take it serious, because it was from younger people who were not even born during the Vietnam War era. As time went by, more people of all ages acknowledged my service. The one acknowledgement that almost brought this old veteran to tears was the one I received while standing in line at the checkout at Walmart. A young man with his two young boys, about 5 & 7 yrs. old were there. My day hadn't been the best and all I wanted to do was get out of there and go home. My wife tapped me on the shoulder and told me to look at the youngest boy. When I turned around, there he was, standing as straight as he could and saluting me. I was surprised and my wife told me to salute him. I gave him a salute, and he turned around and looked at his dad, who he had a big grin on his face, and seemed to be very proud of what his son had done. As for me, my day suddenly got better and brighter, and I was once again proud to be a veteran.

**2nd Vice Commander  
Leroy Barnes**

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## Adjutant's Message



Our garage sale had to be postponed due to sickness in our family. The good news is it has been rescheduled for October 17-18. I would like to thank everyone who has donated items for the sale. We still could use more items please take a look around the house for items you no longer need anymore. If you looked on the back side of the building you would have noticed the bricks and the mortar falling off the walls and around the windows -- the cost will be about \$1500 to \$2000. The money we make from the garage sale will help cover the cost. The downstairs rooms are almost finished, with a new coat of paint. Now that's a good enough reason for you to stop by and have a cup of coffee, and see what is happening. Remember Thursday coffee 9:30am.

***REMEMBER IT'S TIME TO REPLACE YOUR FILTERS IN THE HOUSE – SO YOUR FURNACE WON'T WORK SO HARD THIS WINTER.***

Adjutant  
Albert Hawkes

**Ads:**

We are accepting business card sized ads, etc. To help offset of newsletter costs. They are \$6.00/month or \$60.00/year. Please contact the Legion office if interested.



**JEFF L. HIRZEL**  
ATTORNEY-AT-LAW

Phone: (405) 282-5355 • Fax: (405) 282-5377  
119 South Broad Street • Guthrie, OK 73044  
jhirzel@coxinet.net

**Service Officer's Message**

**VETERANS** – you should take advantage of the VA benefits that you worked so hard to earn!

Post 58 Service Officer Linda Turner is available to help navigate through the paperwork requirements of the VA claim process. You can come and see the Service Officer every Monday from 9:30 – 2:30. It is a first come first serve basis. I encourage each one of you to get what you deserve.

**City of Guthrie Councilman**

**John Wood, PHD**

**Ward 1 – Please call him if you have any City related needs. Cell: 372-6178**

**Fax: 282-0192**

**P.O.Box 908 Guthrie, OK 73044  
(USMC) 1989-1997**

**Auxiliary President's Message**

Your renewal cards are out...Please remit your renewals to me at your earliest convenience for 2015. We are going to be forming a new executive officer listing as I now have some women interested in serving and helping me on the Auxiliary side. Thank you to those ladies and ANYONE who is an auxiliary member and would like to be involved, there is a meeting on Tuesday, October 14<sup>th</sup>, at both 12 noon and 6 pm. This is to see which time is better for members to come. I will be at both meetings and tell you all what is coming up for the year. I have been appointed to the National Auxiliary as state chairman for Americanism, so I need everyone's help.



**REMEMBER – October 14<sup>th</sup> at 12 noon and 6 pm at the American Legion Auxiliary Room, downstairs at the Legion.**

Pollyanne Hawkes, President



**4-DICE**

**STUMP GRINDING SERVICE, LLC**

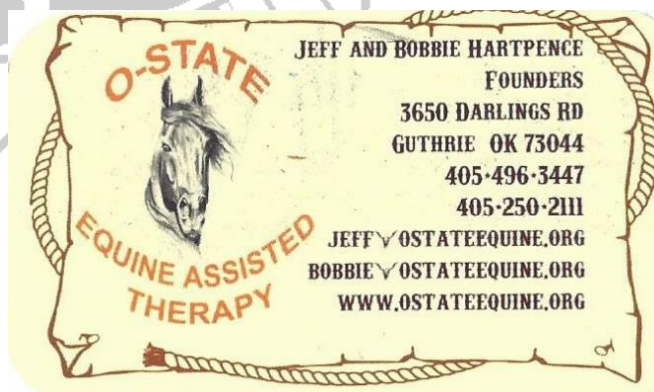
**Roots-Small Trees & Shrub Removal**

**Larry Fordyce, Owner/Operator**

3800 South Horseshoe Drive, 73044

Home: (405) 282-5097

Cell: (405) 919-4572



## **EXTRA!!! EXTRA!!! READ ALL ABOUT IT!!!**

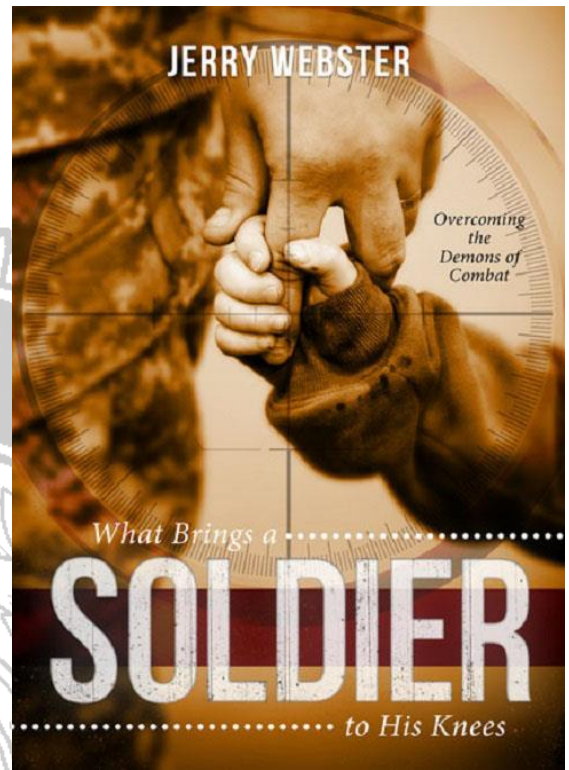
### **NOW AVAILABLE!!!**

Our commander Jerry Webster's new book is out and ready for purchase. "**What Brings a Soldier to His Knees**" is available online or you can come by the Legion office and buy an autographed copy today. Jerry Webster knows what it's like in the trenches. As a retired member of the United States Army, he has seen the gruesome sights of war and fought the battles on the front lines. Webster also knows what it's like in the trenches of a soldier's mind. In **What Brings a Soldier to His Knees**, Webster explores the battlefield that many soldiers, and their loved ones, fight: how to handle deployments, coping with the sights and sounds of combat, and finding the strength to ask for help. In his book, Webster gives encouragement, helpful tips, and straightforward talk to those veterans and families struggling with life after the front lines. Also available in digital download. He is also willing to speak for meetings and gatherings.

**Book: \$11.99**  
**E-Book: \$10.99**

Available at:

<https://www.tatepublishing.com/bookstore/book.php?w=978-1-62994-420-3>



**WE NEED YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS SO THAT WE CAN START SENDING THE NEWSLETTERS ELECTRONICALLY TO SAVE MONEY! SEND YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS TO: [LEBRONPOST58@LEBRONPOST58.ORG](mailto:LEBRONPOST58@LEBRONPOST58.ORG)**

**GARDEN TIP OF THE MONTH:** Even though our days and nights are cooling off we are still in need of rainfall. Keep your flowers watered (*but let them dry some between watering*) and they will continue to bloom until frost.

**FARMER MYRL**

**BEST HEALTH TIP IN THE WORLD:** Take care of your body, it's the only place you have to live. Everything in moderation!

**DOC MYRL**

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[fmbmortgage.com](http://fmbmortgage.com)

**Jed Waggoner**  
Vice President

### **TAPS**

If you know of a Legionnaire that has transferred to the Post Everlasting please notify the Legion office at 282-2589.



Founded in 1932, Sons of The American Legion exists to honor the service and sacrifice of Legionnaires. S.A.L. members include males of all ages whose parents or grandparents served in the U.S. military and were eligible for American Legion membership. Members of The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary and Sons of The American Legion comprise the Legion Family, which has a combined membership of nearly 4.2 million. Although Sons has its own membership, the organization is not a separate entity. Rather, S.A.L. is a PROGRAM of The American Legion. Many Legionnaires hold dual membership in S.A.L. The Sons organization is divided into detachments at the state level and squadrons at the local level. A squadron pairs with a local American Legion post; a squadron's charter is contingent upon its parent post's charter. However, squadrons can determine the extent of their services to the community, state and nation. They are permitted flexibility in planning programs and activities to meet their needs, but must remember S.A.L.'s mission: to strengthen the four pillars of The American Legion. Therefore, squadrons' campaigns place an emphasis on preserving American traditions and values, IMPROVING the quality of life for our nation's children, caring for veterans and their families, and teaching the fundamentals of good citizenship. For all of our members that exist here at Post 58 let's try to build our S.A.L. membership.

### **GUTHRIE LIBRARY NEWS**

Tuesdays from 1 - 3:30 pm, starting 7 October: Diabetes Self-Management Program

Tuesdays @ 6:30 pm - Crochet Group

Wednesdays @ 10:30 am - Children's Story Time

Thursdays, 9 & 16 Oct from 4 - 6 pm - Teen Movie Nights

Monday, 6 Oct @ 6 pm - Teach Something/Learn Something

Tuesday, 7 Oct @ 6:30 pm - Ghost Stories with Jeff Provine

Saturday, 11 Oct from 11:30 am - 1 pm - Caregiver Support Group

Monday, 20 Oct @ 6 pm - Teach Something/Learn Something: You are both the teacher AND the student.

Thursday, 23 Oct from 3:30 - 5:30 pm - Lego Club

Friday, 24 Oct from 4 - 5:30 pm - Family Movie

Saturday, 25 Oct from 11 am - 1 pm - Anime Club

Monday, 27 Oct from 6 - 8 pm - Let's Talk About It, Oklahoma

Thursday, 30 Oct from 6 - 8 pm - Teen Ghoul Game Night

Friday, 31 Oct from 3:30 - 4:30 pm - Halloween Crafts

Check our website at [www.guthrielibrary.com](http://www.guthrielibrary.com) or call 282-0050 for more information!



## ROMA'S ITALIAN RESTAURANT

1202 S. Division  
Guthrie, OK 73044  
405-260-1552  
www.Romasitalianrestaurant.com  
CATERING AVAILABLE

**Welcome to our new members:**

Troy L. Smith    David P. Wolek    Michael Manning    Harry Pulse (transfer in)

**!!REMINDER!!!!REMINDER!!**

**MEETING REMINDER!!! COME TO THE LEGION FOR YOUR MEETING ON OCTOBER 16<sup>TH</sup> 1800 HRS.**

**AUXILIARY MEETING – OCTOBER 14<sup>TH</sup> AT NOON AND 6 PM.**

**GARAGE SALE ITEMS NEEDED FOR OCTOBER 17<sup>TH</sup>. IF YOU NEED PICKUP, CALL JERRY OR ALBERT OR BRING THE ITEMS TO THE LEGION. THE MORE WE HAVE, THE MORE WE MAKE!!!!**

**MEMBERSHIPS NEEDED!! IF YOU LIKE WHAT YOU ARE SEEING, TELL OTHERS – IF YOU DON'T, TELL US!!! WE NEED MEMBERS TO KEEP GROWING!! NEXT MONTH, WE WILL GO OVER THE REQUIREMENTS FOR MEMBERSHIP IN ALL THE LEGION AREAS – LEGION, AUXILIARY, SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION, ETC. WATCH FOR OUR NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER!!!**