



# THE AMERICAN LEGION

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Contact: NMALR State President**  
**Name: Kenneth Nadeau**  
**Phone Number: 505-695-0528 or 695-5715**  
**E-mail Address: [nadeau410@msn.com](mailto:nadeau410@msn.com)**

### ***Local American Legion Riders journey 2000 miles to collect dollars in New Mexico for The American Legion Legacy Scholarship***

Carlsbad, NM, 7-9 June 2019 – Members of American Legion Post 7, in Carlsbad, NM will ride their motorcycles 1000 miles round trip across Southern New Mexico. They will be joined by members from across the State for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual New Mexico American Legion Rider Legacy Run.

100% of donations collected will be deposited to create a single combined check that will be presented to The American Legion National Commander, Bret Reistad during the National Convention events in Indianapolis, IN August 23-29, 2019.

The American Legion Legacy Scholarship, provides college funds for the children of disabled veterans and military personnel who lost their lives on active duty on or after 9/11, or that became 50% or more disabled in the line of service. The American Legion Legacy Run raised more than \$1 million for the scholarships last year, with New Mexico's contribution being just over \$6,000. We would like to offer everyone the opportunity to participate and contribute for this annual event.

"The American Legion Riders are some of the most charitable, caring and community-minded people you will find," former National Commander Dale Barnett said. "The Legionnaires and Riders are truly committed to the American Legion Legacy Scholarship which provides educational grants to children of service members who died while on active duty following 9/11 as well as children of veterans who have been assigned a disability rating by the Department of Veterans Affairs of 50 percent or greater and served after 9/11."

Since its inception in 2002, over \$14 million has been donated to the scholarship fund, due largely to the efforts of The American Legion Riders nationally who contribute significantly on an annual basis through the annual American Legion Legacy Run. They also support countless other national, state, and local programs and charities for veterans, military families, and communities.

"Supporting our local community is at the core of who we are as a motorcycle association," said Kenneth Nadeau, State President of the New Mexico American Legion Riders (NMALR). "We believe in taking care of the families of the fallen, those injured in service to this country, and we must support our local communities."

The NMALR is in its second annual run. This year the ride is being divided into two parts, a southern route that will begin on June 7<sup>th</sup> in Carlsbad, NM through June 9<sup>th</sup>. A northern route will be conducted June 14 through 16.

The southern route will be collecting funds at The American Legion Posts in Carlsbad, Alamogordo, Las Cruces, Deming, Silver City and Elephant Butte. Additional stops will be made at the Ft. Bayard Veteran's Hospital on Saturday, June 8<sup>th</sup> at 10:30am and at the Veteran's Home in Truth or Consequences on Sunday, June 9<sup>th</sup> at 10am.

The northern route will be collecting funds at The American Legion Posts in Grants, Albuquerque, Alameda, Rio Rancho, Los Alamos, and Santa Fe.

The ride also gives The American Legion the opportunity to draw attention to key programs and services the nation's largest veterans service organization provides, including assistance with benefits claims, career and education support, temporary and emergency financial assistance and help for the wounded, ill and injured who have served our nation in uniform. The American Legion showcases support of important youth programs like American Legion Baseball, American Legion Boys State and American Legion Auxiliary Girls State, and multiple programs and scholarship opportunities that help develop tomorrow's leaders. At various points along the Legacy Run route, veterans from all eras are engaged to discuss advocacy efforts to ensure that the issues most important to them are top priorities to The American Legion leadership.

If you, your organization or business would like to make a donation to The American Legion Legacy Scholarship, please make **checks payable to: New Mexico American Legion Riders with: Legacy Scholarship Fund 2019 in the memo**. Please deliver your donation to the below American Legion Posts, or show up on the dates times\* below to present it in person.

**About The American Legion and The American Legion Riders:** With a current membership of 2.2 million wartime veterans, The American Legion was founded in 1919 on the four pillars of a strong National Security, Veterans Affairs, Americanism and Children & Youth programs. Legionnaires support their communities through nearly 14,000 posts across the nation. Currently more than 110,000 members are also American Legion Riders. In New Mexico, there are 24 Chapters and about 600 members. To find out more about The American Legion, The American Legion Riders, or New Mexico American Legion Riders please visit [Legion.org](http://Legion.org), or [www.nmalr.org](http://www.nmalr.org). If you would like to participate the contacts are listed below.

Southern Route, contact Bob Walker ([legionriders3@gmail.com](mailto:legionriders3@gmail.com)):

June 7	8AM	Post 7, Carlsbad, NM
	10AM	Post 34, Alamogordo, NM
	12PM	Post 10, Las Cruces, NM
	4PM	Post 4, Deming, NM
June 8	10:30AM	Ft. Bayard Veteran's Hospital
	3PM	Post 44, Elephant Butte
June 9	10AM	Veteran's Home, Truth or Consequences

Northern Route, contact Ricardo Vallejos ([rickypete@hotmail.com](mailto:rickenpete@hotmail.com)):

June 14	4:30 PM	Department of New Mexico HQ
	6:30 PM	Post 80, Grants, NM
June 15	7:30 AM	Post 80, Grants, NM
	9:00 AM	Post 72, Albuquerque, NM
	10:00 AM	Post 13, Albuquerque, NM
	11:00 AM	Post 95, Albuquerque, NM
	12:00 PM	Post 99, Albuquerque, NM
	2:00 PM	Post 69, Alameda, NM
	3:30 PM	Post 118, Rio Rancho, NM
June 16	6:00 PM	Post 90, Los Alamos, NM
	10:30 AM	Post 1, Santa Fe, NM

\*-times are subject to change and are based on best estimates according to times, distance, and weather conditions.

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