



Retired and Senior Volunteer Program

January through June 2021

In This Issue

- RSVP Birthday Banquet
- MLK Service Act: Encouragement Cards
- National Service Recognition Day
- New Advisory Council Board Members
- COL Trash Off Event
- New Volunteers
- In Memoriam
- Corrections
- Volunteer Spotlight
- Station Spotlight
- Photos

Upcoming Dates:

August 27
Volunteer Recognition Banquet

September 11
September Service Act
TBD

November 12
Veteran Corps Pinning Ceremony

RSVP Birthday Banquet: Celebrating 48 years of Service

This year's birthday celebration was a long-awaited occasion after last year's banquet cancellation due to the pandemic.

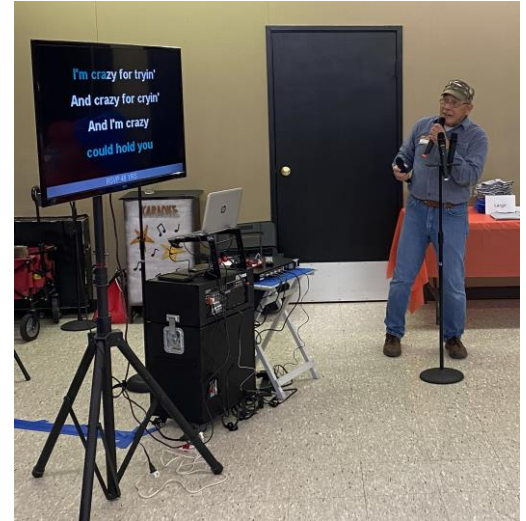
Volunteers and guests gathered on April 23 at the Great Plains Coliseum to celebrate RSVP's 48th birthday. Guests enjoyed a Southern chicken dinner and karaoke entertainment while re-connecting with fellow volunteers.

This year's banquet was a "Volunteer Round-up" Western theme complete with bandanas, hay bales, and mason jar giveaways filled with beef jerky, peanuts, and mints.

Guests enjoyed fried chicken, macaroni salad, and green beans while RSVP volunteer Juan Peredo showed off his fabulous karaoke skills! For dessert, guests enjoyed individual cupcakes that featured cowboy boot decorations!

The evening concluded with door prize drawings in which each volunteer went home with a gift. Many won a "Grow The 580" gift card to support local businesses.

Check out more birthday banquet pictures on page 8 or our Facebook page!



Juan Peredo provided the karaoke entertainment for the evening.



Mae & Sam Samuels celebrated their 62nd wedding anniversary at the banquet!



MLK Service Act: Encouragement Cards

For the 26th annual Martin Luther King Day of Service Act, RSVP created "encouragement cards" to give to seniors living in long-term care facilities throughout Lawton.

RSVP delivered the card bouquets February 1st to the activities coordinator at each facility. They in turn distributed the cards to residents they felt would most benefit from the supportive messages provided.

Brookridge Retirement Community posted on Facebook: *"On behalf of the residents, THANK YOU SO MUCH for taking your time doing this."*



National Service Recognition Day at St. John's Missionary Baptist Church

On April 8, RSVP volunteers helped prepare and serve grab-n-go meals at St. John's Missionary Baptist Church Feeding Ministry as part of National Service Recognition Day (officially April 6).

City of Lawton Mayor Stan Booker presented St. John's Missionary Baptist Church with a proclamation recognizing the church and its feeding ministry. The mayor also recognized RSVP, its volunteers, and partner stations for their positive impact on the community.

Volunteers who participated included RSVP members Robert Cole, Mary Fountain, Linda Hills, Micheal Tice and Tony Washington as well as volunteers with the church.

Volunteers also distributed hygiene bags to the public that included hand sanitizer, masks, soap, first aid kits, toothpaste, and toothbrushes.

National Service Recognition Day brings awareness to our community that more and more cities across the nation are utilizing volunteers to solve the toughest challenges. Through our local partnerships with 37 organizations, our volunteers are responding to natural disasters, the COVID-19 pandemic, supporting veterans and military families, and strengthening our community.



Mayor Stan Booker presents RSVP Administrator Jessica Musselman and St. John's Deacon Harold Davis with a copy of the City's proclamations.



Mary Fountain and Tony Washington volunteer for National Service Recognition Day.

New Advisory Council Board Members

RSVP Advisory Council advises program staff on how to better utilize the funds and resources of the Program. The RSVP Advisory Council Board consists of Ed Davis, Sam Samuels, Lennetta Davenport, Tony Washington, and Mary Ann Hankins. Our newest members include:

Mary Fountain: Joined RSVP in 2015 and volunteers with America's Veteran Supporters and the Senior Center for Creative Learning.

Joyce Grimes: Joined RSVP last September and volunteers with CCMH, Mobile Meals and the Lawton Fort-Sill Chamber of Commerce.

Shirley Williams: Joined RSVP in 2016 and volunteers with the Salvation Army.

Gloria Monroe: Joined RSVP in 2016 and volunteers with the Salvation Army.

Volunteers Help Cleanup Lawton Parks

On May 8th RSVP volunteers participated in the City of Lawton's "Trash Off" event. Fifteen volunteers picked up litter at Union and Mattie Beal Parks as an effort led by the Lawton Enhancement Trust Authority and the City.

Every year volunteers come together to beautify our community by promoting responsible disposal of waste and by picking up litter at public parks, along roads, neighborhoods, lakes and streams.

Thanks to everyone who participated in giving back to the Lawton community!



RSVP volunteers at Mattie Beal Park.



Ed Mayfield and Linda Hills.



Gloria Monroe & Shirley Williams.

Welcome New Volunteers

Volunteer	Station
Shirley Bogges	Senior Center for Creative Living
Lynn Iris	Senior Center for Creative Living
Ronald Davie	City of Lawton RSVP
Claudia List	Complete Home Health & Hospice
Patti Puckett	Birthright Lawton
Greta Pufall	Senior Center for Creative Living
Nolin Wilder	Mobile Meals

In Memoriam: Glenda Coggins

Glenda Coggins joined RSVP in September 2019 and volunteered with the First Baptist Church. She passed away December 18, 2020.

Glenda served in various churches throughout her travels. She sang in the choir, taught Sunday School and recently at First Baptist Church in Lawton she was a part of the seniors group and enjoyed participating in their activities. She was a great cook and volunteered whenever a meal was needed at the church.



In Memoriam: Cecil “Bud” Arnez

Bud Arnez joined RSVP in November 2008 and volunteered with the Korean War Veterans Association. He passed away May 28, 2021.

Bud was an active man – military man, businessman, leader of community organizations and an amateur artist. He was a lifetime member of the Korean War and Defense Veterans of America, VFW, Non-Commissioned Officers Association, Disabled American Veterans and the Association of the Vietnam Veterans.



Corrections

In our last newsletter, we highlighted the “Quilts of Valor” ceremonies. We inadvertently identified VFW 1193 as the host of the ceremonies when it was America’s Veteran Supporters who hosted both ceremonies at the VFW 1193 Post.

RSVP volunteer George Murff was not properly recognized in the last newsletter. Those masks make it difficult to recognize our volunteers when you can see only half a face.



RSVP Volunteers George Murff (left) and Harold Davis (right) receive their Quilts of Valor.

Volunteer of the 1st Quarter
Kendal Miller



Kendal joined RSVP in 2016 and volunteers with CCMH and the Flower Ministry. She's at CCMH four hours every day, every work week of every month! During the onset of the pandemic in 2020 and throughout today, Kendal has served at CCMH Pharmacy, never once missing a day!

Volunteer of the 2nd Quarter
Ken Horner



Ken joined RSVP in 2004 (with his wife Chris) and volunteers with the Lawton Public Library. He has volunteered with the Friends of the Library's annual book sale for over three decades!

Station Spotlight:
Fort Sill Post Thrift Store

Located aboard the military installation at 1713 Gruber Road, the thrift store volunteers sort and price donated items before placing them on the floor for the public to purchase at a fraction of their original cost. This win-win cycle of decluttering and saving money benefits the Lawton-Fort Sill community and also provided donations totaling over \$22,000 to organizations that help service members and families.



Station Supervisor/Thrift Shop Manager, Taynna Cabrera told Tribune Staff that after being shut-down for two months in 2020 due to COVID-19 they weren't sure they were going to be able to donate as much as they did. In fact after reopening the doors in mid-May 2020 the thrift shop had a huge influx of shoppers.

While the store receives donated items from consignors, families decluttering, and those service members PCSing, it also pays it forward by giving items that do not sell after 60 days to BirthRight of Lawton and Teen Challenge.

We currently have nine RSVP volunteers who provide services at the Fort Sill Post Thrift Store. Thank you for all that you do and your continued service!!!

RSVP Volunteers in Action



Carol Stayer, Berty and Juan Peredo, Pat Powell and Mary Fountain volunteering for Wreaths Across America Day.



Marsha Black and Eddy Dear helped decorate the Benjamin O. Davis High Rise facility for Christmas.



Karon Kyllingstad volunteering at City Hall.



Sheril Threatt made masks for RSVP volunteers.



Barbara Curry answers the telephone at the Chamber of Commerce.



Shirley Terry, Sandy Baker, Lisa Lo and her husband Ed at the Trash Off event.

RSVP Volunteers in Action



Linda Hills helps assemble to-go meals at St. John's Feeding Ministry.



Julia Montoya at Birthright Lawton, making sure supplies are well stocked.



Shirley Terry, LPN (right), Complete Home Health Hospice Volunteer Coordinator, recognizes volunteer Clarene Carter during National Volunteer Week.



Micheal Trice prepares to-go meals at St. John's Feeding Ministry.



Barbara Gratten volunteering at the American Red Cross at Fort Sill.



Marilyn and Ted Janosko accept the Veterans Family of the Year Award from the Oklahoma Veterans Council (Facebook photo).

RSVP Birthday Banquet Photos

Do you have something you would like to see in the next newsletter?

Send your pictures, stories, events to rsvp@lawtonok.gov



Maurine Wiseman and Station Supervisor Jeanine Lilly.



John Hoffman and his wife Dodie.



Tomoko Kassik, Mary Fountain and Berty Peredo performing karaoke.



Bo Fallon (left front), Shirley Williams and Gloria Monroe.



Representing Benjamin O. Davis Highrise Volunteer Station: Deta Turner, Jan Rhodes and Eddy Dear.



Petra Taylor and Dodie Greenwalt.

Links

Facebook:
www.facebook.com/LawtonRSVPCouncil

City of Lawton Website:
<https://www.lawtonok.gov/department/retired-and-senior-volunteer-program>

Contact Us

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