

Retired and Senior Volunteer Program

January through July 2022

In This Issue

- Birthday Banquet
- MLK 2022 Service Act
- National Service Recognition Day
- Trash Off Event
- AmazonSmile NCSA Program
- Nutritional Classes
- New Volunteers
- In Memoriam
- Volunteer Spotlight
- Station Spotlight
- Photos

Upcoming Dates:

August 26
Volunteer Recognition Banquet

September 1-30
9/11 Service Act

September 5
Labor Day Office Closure

November 4
Veterans Corp Pinning Ceremony

November 24-25
Thanksgiving Holiday Office Closure

December 26
Holiday Office Closure

Birthday Banquet: Celebrating 49 Years of Service

Aloha! Can you believe RSVP is commemorating 49 years of service? To celebrate RSVP held a Luau-themed birthday celebration on April 15 that featured Hawaiian cuisine, a tropical punch, and all the fruit you could imagine. Volunteers were entertained with a game of "Get To Know The Guest" where they had to find another guest in attendance that fit the clue. We often become creatures of habit and sit with our known friends and co-volunteers. This game pushed attendees out of their comfort zone and encouraged them to mingle with someone new briefly throughout the evening. Dinner was catered by the Great Plains Coliseum and consisted of Hawaiian flavored pulled pork sandwiches, macaroni salad, and baked beans. Following the meal, names were pulled at random for the door prizes given to each volunteer in attendance in appreciation for their continued service to the Lawton-Fort Sill community.



MLK Service Act: Donations for Rescues

For the 27th annual Martin Luther King Day of Service Act, RSVP collected pet products for donations for rescue animals.

Volunteers donated dog/cat food, treats, toys, other items that RSVP distributed to the Humane Society of Lawton-Comanche County and Lawton Animal Welfare. These two organizations work in partnership with local foster families, businesses, and organizations to accomplish to rescue hundreds of animals each year.

Thanks for your generous donations!



National Service Recognition Day

Throughout the month of April our program collected donations for the Lawton Food Bank in honor of National Service Day. Volunteers collected nonperishable food items, hygiene gear, children's books, plastic bags, and egg cartons. These items were then taken to the Food Bank on April 29th for our in-person day of service. Jessica, RSVP Administrator, and six fellow volunteers spent the morning packaging bags and boxes to be distributed to local community members via drive thru operations. Thank you to all who donated items to support the Lawton Food Bank. A sincere shoutout to those six volunteers who gave their morning, Pat Powell, Mary Fountain, Peach White, Shirley Williams, Gloria Monroe, and Linda Hills.



Our next service act to support the local community will be in September in honor of 9/11. You can get a jump start now by collecting stuffed animals and blankets for those effected by domestic violence and/or loss of personal items due to fire. All donations in September will be donated to Lawton Fire & Police Departments.

Trash Off Event

On April 30th RSVP volunteers participated in the City of Lawton's "Trash Off" event. volunteers picked up litter and debris at Union and Mattie Beal Parks as an effort led by the Lawton Enhancement Trust Authority and the City.

Every year volunteers come together for this Lawton-Fort Sill Beautification Day. The event is designed to promote 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



AmazonSmile NSCA Program

Are you a frequent Amazon customer? If so, please consider using AmazonSmile and support the National Senior Corps Association (NSCA)!

When you shop at AmazonSmile, they will donate a portion of your eligible purchases to NSCA! NSCA can receive .5% of all purchases made on AmazonSmile. To sign up, visit the AmazonSmile page and follow these steps: Log in to your account, and search for "National Senior Corps Association" (look for the small orange "Supporting" banner under the Search bar. From there you can select NSCA as your charity recipient). It's that easy! Remember that when you make purchases, you must always do so from the Amazon Smile page (not the Amazon general page) for NSCA to receive the donation. Also note: AmazonSmile can now be accessed on the Amazon app on most smart phones. Thank you for your ongoing support!

Nutritional Classes

In collaboration with OSU Extension, RSVP is looking to offer bimonthly nutrition classes at the Owens Center. Classes were scheduled to begin in February but were cancelled due to low participation.


Classes will offer information on cooking for 1-2, addressing health while aging and various other topics. In-class cooking demonstrations and/or grab-n-go recipe bags.

If you are interested in participation in a session, please notify the office. Pre-registration is required.

1 hour long class
offered every other month

OSU
Extension Ed
TALKS

Learn about nutrition
Keys to Embracing Aging



RSVP Stations Remember Veterans (and goats and sheep, too!)

Last December, RSVP stations America's Veteran Supporters and Society of Military Widows (and many volunteers) placed 1,100 wreaths at Fort Sill National Cemetery in Elgin as part of the Wreaths Across America program to remember and honor our veterans.

In January AVS and SMW - joined by Purple Heart and Elgin Middle and High School Student Council - picked up the wreaths after Wreaths Across America. They donated them to Black Dog Farm of Fletcher to feed their goats and sheep!





Black Dog Farm said on Facebook: "We received 1,100 wreaths from Fort Sill cemetery today! Our goats and sheep loved them. The animals eat the needles and bark, and we chip the remainder for bedding. Pine is a natural dewormer for goats and sheep. Research has shown that goats and sheep that are able to forage on pine have up to 30% less egg/worm count. I love finding ways to help keep my flock naturally healthy and not rely so heavily on chemicals and medications! Win-win!"

Welcome New Volunteers

Volunteer	Station
Lucinda Gryder	Complete Home Health & Hospice Care
Joy Kitchens	Mobile Meals
Barbara Calvin	Mobile Meals
Barbara Hulslander	SWMC, FSTS
Josefina Kirk	Lawton Public Library
Irma McKnight	Owens Center
Johnny Millender	Mobile Meals
Don Mims	LFSVC, LFSCC
Michael Morales	Mobile Meals
George Noland	Mobile Meals
Vicki Turner	Hearts That Care

In Memoriam: Claude F. Bates, Jr.

Claude joined RSVP in 2017 and volunteered with the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 751 (VVA). He passed away January 23, 2022.

Claude joined the Army in 1964 to serve in the Vietnam War. He retired in 1989 after having proudly served his country for 25 years. Claude believed in the power of veterans helping veterans, community and youth and was a past commander in the American Legion and a former vice president of the VVA.



In Memoriam: George E. Murff

George joined RSVP and volunteered with Lawton Mobile Meals and St. John's Missionary Baptist Church Feeding Ministry. He passed away January 21, 2022.

George joined the Army and served his country honorably from 1959 through 1979. During his 20-year military career he completed overseas tours in Vietnam, Korea, Japan and spent the last two years of his service at Ft. Sill. His pastimes included watching Jeopardy, playing solitaire, and completing crossword puzzles.



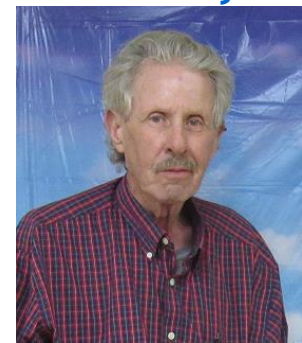
Volunteer of the 1st Quarter
Sandy Baker



I first met Sandy during a routine station visit to the Flower Ministry aboard Fort Sill. Sandy and her fellow members were repurposing alter flowers into individual boutonniere sized boutiques to deliver to inpatients at local hospitals.

Since COVID has impacted this service activity Sandy has stepped out of her normal role to find other volunteer opportunities to continue serving. She continues to provide rides to friends, has volunteered for the City of Lawton Trash Off, donated several items for our service acts, and assisted the Lawton Public Library with updating the RFID stickers on all the media.

Volunteer of the 2nd Quarter
Michael Wynne



Member of Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 751, Michael has dedicated his time to preserving the memorials in Elmer Thomas Park and maintaining the flags. You can often see him picking up debris to help keep Lawton beautiful.

Michael is an Army Veteran; he has been an RSVP volunteer for over 12 years and accumulated over 24,000 volunteer hours.

Thank you for your continued service and dedication to Lawton-Fort Sill and this Country.

Station Spotlight:

Lawton Community Centers

Owens Center • H.C.King Center • Patterson Center



Many families across Lawton-Fort Sill are beginning to look for more opportunities to get out and get active. The Community Centers are looking to incorporate more diverse programming to bridge the generational gap and increase participation within the centers. Activities such as story time, themed movie nights, instructional craft classes, workout classes for beginners are just a few ideas of upcoming events.

Lawton Community Centers could use the help of RSVP volunteers with a variety of tasks such as event setup/breakdown, chaperoning, craft bag assembly, reading aloud during story time, or even conducting a class on your specialized hobby. The opportunities are endless, so contact one of the community centers to see how you can get involved in engaging the local community and providing a safe place to learn, grow and be creative.

RSVP Volunteers in Action



Above:
Trash Off
Volunteers
with Mayor
Booker



Right: Mary
Fountain at
LFB Day of
Service



Association President Aaron Boone (second from right) presents a check to the Central and Southwest Oklahoma American Red Cross Chapter from the Lawton Korean War Veterans and Vietnam Veterans Chapter 751.



Left: Pat Powell
picking up debris
in the parks for
COL Trash Off



RSVP Advisory Council member Tony Washington (far right) and his Lawton-Ft. Sill Buffalo Soldiers Chapter prepared their annual Christmas boxes for 33 families.

Below:
Volunteers with
MLK Day
Donations during
the holiday banquet



*CHH&HC Volunteers
Claudia List and Joe Jones*

Birthday Banquet Photos



Don Burton



Silvia Morgan & Daughters

Michael & My-Anh Wynne



Birthright Gals

Patti, Barbara, and Julia



Left:
Wynn Ann Wright

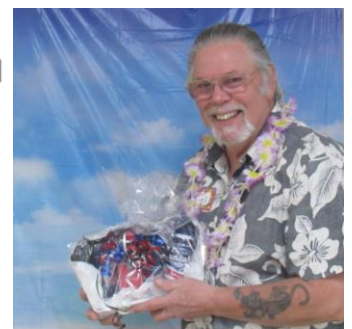
Right:
Aaron & Linda
Boone



Mae Samuels



Ed Mayfield



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

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

Links

Facebook:



City of Lawton Website:



Contact Us

Address: 1405 S 11th St
Owens Multipurpose Center

Phone: 580-581-3408

Email: rsvp@lawtonok.gov

How to use monthly tracking logs...

Volunteer Tracking (Yellow) – individual volunteers can “self” track all their hours at one or multiple stations and turn hours in to RSVP Office each month.

Station Tracking (Blue) – Station supervisors are provided with these sheets to track ALL volunteer hours at their site and turn into RSVP office each month.

Travel Reimbursement Claim (Green) – volunteers may claim travel reimbursement once they notify the RSVP office, and have updated DL & Auto Insurance card on file. This sheet tracks volunteer hours and odometer readings and must be signed off by the station supervisor and turned into RSVP office each month.

All forms are located outside the RSVP office, or you may download off our City website.

Are you ready to get back to volunteering?

All RSVP stations are open and ready for volunteers to return to service. Several new volunteer opportunities have been added lately. All three Lawton Community Centers (Owens, H.C. King, and Patterson) are looking to bridge the generational gap and bring volunteers back in to assisting with programming. Assistance is needed with preparing craft ideas/kits summer camps, chaperoning during activities, teaching classes if you have specific ideas, reading during story time, and much more. Contact the center of your choice to inquire about volunteer opportunity dates and times.

Owens Center POC: Aaliyah Climes, aaliyah.climes@lawtonok.gov
1405 S 11th Street •580-581-3483

H.C. King POC: David Campbell, david.campbell@lawtonok.gov
1705 NW 20th Street •580-581-3481

Patterson Center POC: Yolanda Allen, yolanda.allen@lawtonok.gov
4 NE Arlington Drive •580-581-3485

