

From National Public Relations Division, The American Legion, Indianapolis 6, Indiana

PRESTON J. MOORE
National Commander, The American Legion
(Biographical Sketch)

Preston J. Moore, of Stillwater, Oklahoma, was elected National Commander of The American Legion on September 4, 1958, at the final session of the Legion's 40th National Convention in Chicago, Illinois.

His election to the top office in the world's largest veterans' organization climaxes 13 years of Legion service for the World War II Army and Air Force veteran.

Joining James H. Teel Post 105 of The American Legion at Bartlesville, Okla., while still on terminal leave in 1945, Commander Moore later transferred to the Thomas G. Reynolds Post 303 on the campus of the University of Oklahoma. He was first elected Post Service Officer and in 1947 was chosen as Commander of the Post. That year, under his leadership, the Post increased its membership from 300 to more than 1,000 and developed an extensive community service program, including a \$12,000 budget for community playgrounds.

Moore's leadership of Post 303 in 1947-48 vaulted him to the state Commandership of The American Legion in Oklahoma in 1948. He was the first World War II veteran to become Department Commander in that state.

During the past ten years the Legion's top officer has held many Post, Department and national offices. He has been Department Judge Advocate, Alternate National Executive Committeeman and served as National Executive Committeeman from 1955 to his election as National Commander in Chicago. In addition, he has been a member of several Legion national committees and commissions, including the 1946 National Convention Foreign Relations Committee, the National Commander's Advisory Committee, 1956-57, and the National Executive Committee's Liaison Committee on National Security and Subcommittee on revision of the Legion's Constitution and By-Laws.

While holding these national offices he still found time to serve as Commander of Carter C. Hanner-Mamon G. Sharp Post 129 in Stillwater in 1953-54 after transferring his membership to that Post when he moved to his present home. He has also been an active member of the Forty & Eight.

The Legion's new chief executive was born in Colton, Okla., February 7, 1920, and grew up in Bartlesville, Okla. Graduated from Bartlesville High School in 1937, he attended Oklahoma State University, formerly Oklahoma A and M, at Stillwater for two years before enlisting in the Army as an infantry private in July 1941.

After attending OCS, Moore was commissioned a 2nd lieutenant in January 1943. He saw combat duty in the Southwest Pacific with the Army Air Force, serving with the 5th Bomb Group, 13th Air Force, on New Guinea, Morotai and Samar, P.I. Among the military decorations awarded him were the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with nine battle stars, the Distinguished Unit Badge, Good Conduct Medal, Philippine Liberation Ribbon with two stars, and Philippine Independence Ribbon.

After the war Moore graduated from the University of Oklahoma with an LLB degree and entered law practice with his uncle, Brown Moore, now deceased, in Stillwater. He is now the senior partner in the law firm of Moore and Murphy (Robert M.) in Stillwater and Vice President and General Counsel of American Life Insurance Company.

Commander Moore is married to the former Nella Mae Reinhardt, of Chanute, Kan. They have two sons, Preston J. Moore, Jr., 12, and Brown Moore, 8. His mother, Mrs. Leta Moore, is a specialist in family relations with the Extension Division of Oklahoma State University at Stillwater. His father, C. F. Moore, a disabled World War I veteran and member of American Legion Post 105 in Bartlesville, died in 1945.

In addition to the many honors he has held in The American Legion, Preston J. Moore is also recipient of the Legion of Honor award by the International Order of De Molay at Milwaukee in recognition of his civic leadership. He has been active in Boy Scout and YMCA work as well as in the Methodist Church in Stillwater. Currently he is a member of the official board of the church. In addition, he is a trustee of the Elks, a 32nd degree Mason and a member of such other organizations as the American and Oklahoma Bar Associations, alumni associations of the University of Oklahoma and Oklahoma State University, Kiwanis, American Businessmen's Club and the Isaak Walton League. Golf and fishing are his favorite hobbies.