



**Old Armory Restorers (OAR) • 1023 Manvel Avenue
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NEWS – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Public Invited to Chandler Armory And Route 66 Commemorative
Ribbon Cutting “Arms Around The Armory” Ceremony January 14**

Dignitaries and community invited to share in a group “hug” and ribbon-cutting ceremony signifying the start of renovation for the Chandler Armory and recognition of Oklahoma’s Route 66 being named an Oklahoma Scenic By-way

CHANDLER, OK – For over 70 years, the old Armory Building in Chandler has stood as a sentinel to those traveling Route 66 through Chandler, Oklahoma. With its completion in 1934, it housed the first unit of what was to become the Oklahoma National Guard. Later, it served as leased office and industrial space. Over the past several years, it has fallen into disrepair and has been empty, housing only pigeons and the occasional rodent.

Clearly, as the only remaining Armory building of its era in Oklahoma, this important historical building deserves protection. Through significant community involvement and support, and the ongoing efforts of the Old Armory Restorers (OAR), community members, and city officials, the Armory now has a new lease on life. Over \$1 million in grants and donations have been raised to renovate the building and transform what once was an eyesore into the only interpretive center on this stretch of Route 66.

Starting at 11:00 am on January 14, 2006 at the Armory building, the citizens of Chandler, invited dignitaries and the surrounding community will share in a ribbon cutting ceremony commemorating the start of the Armory renovation and official recognition of Oklahoma’s Route 66 as an Oklahoma Scenic By-way.

The event, called *Arms Around the Armory*, will include [insert dignitaries names and titles], in addition to all OAR and Route 66 supporters. All members of the public are encouraged and welcome to share in this celebration of renewal for the Armory and recognition of our portion of the “Mother Road” as an Oklahoma landmark.

In addition to the ribbon cutting and “community hug” for the Armory, the *Arms Around the Armory* event will include a color guard presentation and drum blessing ceremony by members of the Sac and Fox Nation, and a benediction by [insert Pastor’s name]. Refreshments will be served.

For more information regarding the Chandler Armory or the Oklahoma Route 66 Association, please call 405-258-0008.

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About OAR – The Old Armory Restorers (OAR) are a group of local citizens who are dedicated to helping restore and remodel the Chandler Oklahoma Armory building. OAR is a non-profit organization and none of its members receive compensation for the work donated on behalf of the Armory. All gifts are charitable, tax-deductible and greatly appreciated.

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