"Back to Basics"

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you very much for giving me the opportunity to serve as your Department Commander. I am deeply honored and promise you that I will do my best to serve you in the way you would expect a Department Commander should. Past Commander Branch had a great year. He was able, with the help of many members throughout the state, to establish seven new Posts.

I would like to thank all of you for your support through the years in helping me achieve my goal in becoming your Department Commander. A very special thank you to my Post 29 Family for all of your support this past year and for helping to make my dream come true. Thank you especially for all your help with the hospitality rooms at Fall Conference and at Department Convention this summer.

This last year has been very exciting. My campaign took me to many posts throughout the State. I was amazed at how many posts were already going back to the basics to update what is important to help our Veterans and children. I strongly believe that we need to continue to find ways to serve our veterans, their families, and our community, state, and nation as our forefathers have done since our establishment. That is why we need to determine what needs to be done at each and every post to make sure we continue to grow.

We have an added challenge this year. The needs of members are greater. Many will need assistance due to the downturn of the economy. This does not always mean financial aid but should include ways to help our members help themselves including résumé preparation, the development of interviewing skills, and direction to places to locate jobs. By helping others help themselves we also help them maintain their dignity while we add to the improvement of our communities and their economies.

To accomplish everything we want to do this year, we are greatly challenged. We have to start at the basics by ensuring that all of our new and re-elected officers understand the responsibilities of their offices and by giving them the support they need to carry out those responsibilities. We are trying to find a way to make training available to all but, in the meantime, each District and Post needs to set up some sort of internal training.

I am looking forward to working with all of the fine elected officers and appointed chairman this year. I know that I have a wonderful group of leaders to work with and look forward to all we will accomplish together.

Let’s all work together to make our posts a gathering place for our Veterans and families to fulfill the original purposes of our American Legion principles.

Hope to see you all at the National Convention in Louisville August 21-27, 2009.

For God and Country
Carol Hamburger, Commander
Department of Arizona

Espinoza Area “B” Coach of the Year

Ernie Espinoza was awarded The American Legion Baseball Area “B” Coach of the year this week at Alhambra High School baseball field. Ernie has gone overboard to support the league by offering his field to teams in need and provided volunteer field preparation services.

The award certificate and The American Legion Gold Baseball Medal were presented to Ernie, coach of the Alhambra Lions in recognition and sincere appreciation of the outstanding service, dedication and assistance which contributed to the advancement of The American Legion Baseball Program and youth activities dedicated to God and Country.

Alhambra Lions are the first place team from the area and will compete in the State Tournament in Tucson on July 28. Ernie has coached teams in the Valley for many years and has participated in many American Legion Baseball Tournaments in the past. He has offered his services to the Area “B” and Detachment Baseball committees for the 2010 season and is a new Son’s of the American Legion member.

Legion Golfers Raise $9000

On May 20th a check in the amount of $9,000.00 was presented to the SAVAHCS for the patient’s fund. This fund is used for special rehab and patient services not covered by the VA budget. Accepting the check from Nils Nilsen, Program Chairman, is Mary Walters, Chief of rehab services and Gayle Duncan, Volunteer coordinator.

These funds are proceeds from the 7th annual golf tournament held at Davis Monthan AFB on May 17th. Each year a committee made up of representatives from several veteran and civic organizations start planning next years fund raiser immediately after the check is presented. These are dedicated volunteers and make this program a fun and rewarding experience.

Nils Nilsen PDC

Mary Walters (left) and Gayle Duncan (right) The handsome gentleman in the middle is a has been golfer.
ABSTRACT: The Arizona Legionnaire features an article about the Post-9/11 GI Bill, which provides financial aid to Veterans participating in the Post-9/11 GI Bill. The article also highlights the Yellow Ribbon Program, which supports Veterans in higher education. The Legionnaire also covers events such as the American Legion World Series and the annual encampment at Emmanuel Pines Camp. The magazine is published by The American Legion and includes information about membership, leadership, and news related to Veterans and their families.

WASHINGTON — Over 1,100 colleges, universities and schools across the country have entered into “Yellow Ribbon” program agreements with the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to improve financial aid for Veterans participating in the Post-9/11 GI Bill.

Over 3,400 agreements were received from the 1,100 schools participating in the Yellow Ribbon Program. “This is a strong response to a new benefit,” Keith Wilson, Director of VA’s Education Service, said. “We are pleased so many institutions are supporting our Veterans.”

“The Post-9/11 GI Bill is an important part of fulfilling our promise to the men and women who have served our country so honorably,” Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki said. “Implementing this landmark legislation and providing even more veterans with a quality education is a top priority for VA. We are grateful so many schools are joining us as partners in this unprecedented effort.”

The Yellow Ribbon program, a provision of the new Post-9/11 GI Bill, funds tuition expenses that exceed the highest public in-state undergraduate tuition rate. Institutions can contribute up to 50 percent of those expenses, and VA will match this additional funding for eligible students.

The Yellow Ribbon program is reserved for Veterans eligible for the Post-9/11 GI Bill at the 100 percent benefit level. This includes those who served at least 36 months on active duty or served at least 30 continuous days and were discharged due to a service-related injury.

For information on specific schools participating in the Yellow Ribbon program, go to www.gibill.va.gov/GI_Bill_Info/CH33/VRP/VRP_List.htm.

Former Diamondback Luis Gonzalez Joins ALBSW

On Oct. 2, 2004, Kent surpassed Ryne Sandberg of the Chicago Cubs as the second baseman with the most home runs, hitting number 288 out of the park.

Gonzalez played baseball for American Legion Post 248 in Tampa, Fla., before moving on to the big leagues. He starred as an outfielder with the Arizona Diamondbacks, hitting 57 home runs in 2001. That same year, he drove in the winning run of Game 7 in the World Series, giving Arizona the championship.

On May 22, 2004, Gonzalez slammed a two-run home run to give the San Francisco Giants a 3-1 win over the San Diego Padres. He drove in the winning run of Game 7 in the World Series, giving Arizona the championship.

Gonzalez is a two-time All-Star (2000, 2004) and a three-time Gold Glove Award winner (2000, 2001, 2002). He was named the National League’s Most Valuable Player in 2000. He played high school baseball in California and was drafted by the Toronto Blue Jays in 1989.

Additional information about the Post-9/11 GI Bill and Yellow Ribbon program, as well as VA’s other educational benefits, can be obtained by visiting VA’s Web site www.gibill.va.gov or by calling 1-888-GIBILL-1.
A recent edition of The American Legion Dispatch printed co-sponsors for both House and Senate Flag Protection Amendments. Here is the list but where are Arizona’s Senators and Representatives?

H.J. Res. 47 (introduced by Rep. Jo Ann Emerson, R-MO); Judy Biggert, R-IL; Marsha Blackburn, R-TN; Charles Boustany, R-LA; Henry Brown, R-SC; Steve Buyer, R-IN; Mike Conaway, R-TX; Chet Edwards, D-TX; Mary Fallin, R-OK; John Fleming, R-IA; Randy Forbes, R-WA; Scott Garrett, R-NJ; Phil Gingrey, R-GA; Bart Gordon, D-TN; Steve Kagen, D-WI; Peter King, R-NY; Tom Latham, R-IA; Robert Latta, R-OH; Frank LoBiondo, R-NJ; Cynthia Lummis, R-WY; Don Manzullo, R-IL; Jim Marshall, D-GA; Mike McCaul, R-TX; John McHugh, R-NY; Mike McIntyre, D-NC; Michal Michaud, D-ME; Candice Miller, R-MI; Jerry Moran, R-KS; Randy Neugebauer, R-TX; Erik Paulsen, R-MN; Todd Platts, R-PA; Bill Posey, R-FL; Bill Shuster, R-PA; Mike Simpson, R-ID; Ike Skelton, D-MO; Christopher Smith, R-NJ; Harry Teague, D-NM; Todd Tiahrt, R-KS; Joe Wilson, R-SC; Frank Wolf, R-VA; C.W. Bill Young, R-FL; Roy Blunt, R-MO; John Boehner, R-OH; Steve Buyer, R-IN; Travis Childers, D-MS; Randy Forbes, R-VA; Scott Garrett, R-NJ; Daniel Lipinski, D-IL; Gary Miller, R-CA; Tim Murphy, R-PA; David Roe, R-TN.

S.J. Res. 15 (introduced by Sen. David Vitter, R-LA); Evan Bayh, D-IN; Sam Brownback, R-KS; Jim Bunning, R-KY; Richard Burr, R-NC; Saxby Chambliss, R-GA; Tom Coburn, R-OK; Thad Cochran, R-MS; Mike Crapo, R-ID; Jim DeMint, R-SC; Michael Enzi, R-WY; Chuck Grassley, R-IA; James Inhofe, R-OK; Johnny Isakson, R-GA; Mike Johanns, R-NE; Richard Lugar, R-IN; Lisa Murkowski, R-AK, James Risch, R-ID; Pat Roberts, R-KS; Richard Shelby, R-AL; Olympia Snowe, R-ME; Debbie Stabenow, D-MI; John Thune, R-SD; Roger Wicker, R-MS; Susan Collins, R-ME.

It is time for all of us to urge our own Senators and Representatives to sign on if they haven’t done so to date. It is ironic that our flag needs the protection of the Constitution. The Flag was actually in existence before the Constitution. The Flag was actually in existence before the Constitution. It is ironic that our flag needs the protection of the Court Justices took away our right to protect the U.S. Flag. We must continue to fight to gain this right back. It takes much time and effort but it is worth it no matter how long it takes.

Fly your Flag,

Maria F. Currie, C.F.A. Chairman

Lowes Helps Prescott Valley Family

As Past Commander of Post #91 in Chandler, it is my honor to salute the Lowes Corporation again. The location this time was in Prescott Valley.

On May 20th, Hank Cozine of Prescott Post 6 passed away. His son, Alfred (who resides in Long Island), and I have been friends for many years. Alfred had flown out to Arizona for his father’s funeral and he and I stayed at his parent’s home. While there, we noticed that the back porch of the home was an accident waiting to happen. I and a few family members went to Lowes Home Center and met with the store manager. Robert of Lowes had heard of my past involvement with assisting veterans through the Lowes in Chandler and asked if he could help and help he did. One of the employees, Trevor, helped us get the right materials needed to do the job of making and building a new deck for the family.

Hank was also a member of the VFW and the DAV Service Officer at the Prescott Veterans Administration facility.

Thank you, again, to Lowes for your assistance with the safety of a veteran’s family.

Sincerely,

G. Kris Kryskowiak
Past Commander Post #91 Chandler

ROBERT A. ECKERT AMERICAN LEGION POST #81
181 PASEO DEL SOL
LAKE HAVASU CITY, AZ 86403
(928)-855-2552

Dept of Arizona-Fall Conference
Lake Havasu City

Program Book Advertising Prices
Book Size: 8 1/2 x 11

Outside Back Cover………………………………………….. 300.00
Inside Front Cover…………………………………………… 250.00
Inside Back Cover…………………………………………….. 250.00
Full Page………………………………………………………. 200.00
Half Page ………………………………………………………. 120.00
Quarter Page…………………………………………………… 80.00
Business Card………………………………………………….. 40.00
Booster Page (each name)…………………………………. 2.00

• Covers are one each, subject to prior sale.
• All ads are black and white
• All ads, except Booster Page names, are based on “camera ready” art
• All material and payment must be received by September 30, 2009

Please send Ad materials and payment to: American Legion Post #81
Attn: Program Book Chairman
181 Paseo Del Sol
Lake Havasu City, AZ 86403

Questions? Please call Jill or Ken @ (928) 855-2552 or E-mail: post81@npgcable.com
June Convention’s Photo Finish

Ann Branch, Commander Henry and PDC Louie Pellon. Louie presented Commander Henry with his Past Department Commander Cap and Pin.

Clarence Hill, Incoming National Commander.

Paul Griffin, Congressman Harry Mitchell, Commander Henry, Adjutant John Aldecoa, Neal Sundeen Presenting Congressman Mitchell with the “Legislature of the Year” Award (Neal presented Congressman Mitchell with framed copies of articles that were in the AZ Legionnaire and the National Dispatch).

2009-2010 Department Legion and SAL Officers being sworn in.

Bob Hamburger, newly elected Commander Carol and PDC Louie. Louie is presenting Commander Carol with her cap, pin and gavel.

Andy Jaime, Commander-Post 44 Scottsdale, receiving his “Legionnaire of the Year” pin from Commander Henry.

Jessica Matteson, Jr. Auxiliary President and Jim Ashley, SAL Detachment Commander presenting a memorial wreath.

PNC Jake Comer, Keynote Speaker.

Vickey Zwall, Auxiliary Department President and Henry Branch, Department Commander presenting a memorial wreath.

Daniel Sandoval, 2009 AZ Boys State Governor.

Elaine Scruggs, Mayor City of Glendale bringing greetings.

Golden Legionnaires, Post 61- Avondale, retiring Colors.

Auxiliary and SAL lost the Membership Challenge—What a circus it was!

Scottish American Military Society performing their Memorial Service.
Andres “Andy” Jaime, Jr
New Membership Director

My first article will be short and I will start by saying Thank You to our Department Commander, Carol Hamburger, for appointing me as the Department Membership Chairman.

I am really excited about this year’s goals for membership and look forward to working with our Commander, the Area Vice Commanders, District Commanders and each of the Posts. I can be reached at the following:

(480) 678-0887 Cell
(480) 947-3993 Home
(480) 941-0130 Post 44 Office
Post44@yahoo.com

If anyone feels like sharing ideas or would like me to help with whatever I can in membership, please let me know. Leave a message so that I can get back to you. I am aware of the great work the many chairmen before me accomplished, and I am anxious to get started. Looking forward to serving all of you as well as our future members.

For God & Country
Andres “Andy” Jaime, Jr.
Membership Chairman

P.S. On July 22nd, Posts 26-Mesa, 35-Chandler, and 44-Scottsdale distributed “goodie bags” to the 3666th Battalion National Guard who were being deployed. The Posts also gave out “Why You Should Belong” brochures and self-addressed envelopes to send the applications back to their Post of choice. The Posts are paying for their first year of membership. What a great way to say “Thank You” for your service and recruit new members.

Arizona Senator Appointed Assistant Secretary of The Boys Nation Senate

Daniel Sandoval of Tucson, AZ was appointed to the position of Assistant Secretary of The American Legion Boys Nation Senate at Marymount University, Arlington, VA, on Saturday, July 18, during the senate session.

BACKGROUND
Daniel Sandoval was appointed as Assistant Secretary for the 2009 American Legion Boys Nation program with the following duties and responsibilities:

1. The Assistant Secretary shall aid the Secretary of the Senate in maintaining the Journal of the Boys Nation Senate.
2. The Assistant Secretary shall aid the Secretary of the Senate in examining all bills, amendments and resolutions before they go into committees and conduct hearings on bills, allowing delegates to learn the proper legislative procedures according to the U.S. Senate. American Legion Boys Nation provides aspiring young men with the opportunity to learn about the federal government while participating in a hands-on experience with the electoral process.

Editor’s Note: Daniel Sandoval, Governor-2009 Boys State and Blaze Baggs, Speaker of the House-2009 Boys State, were the Senators representing the Department of Arizona at Boys Nation this year. Daniel is from Salpointe Catholic High School in Tucson; Blaze is from Queen Creek High School in Queen Creek. Both of these young men did an excellent job and really enjoyed the experience of Boys Nation.

Letter to the Editor

My Dad - My Hero

My Dad went to Korea and fought for our country when he was only 17 years old. He spent three days on a submarine to get there. He has told me a few things about his time there but one thing has stood out more than others. He and some guys “requisitioned” a jeep and were on a bridge when they were fired upon by the enemy. Everybody jumped off the bridge and no one saw each other again.

Then 40 years later, my Dad was on vacation in Missouri in a rented motor home and stopped at a filling station to get gas. The gas attendant looked familiar and it turned out he was one of the guys on that bridge in the jeep 40 years before. They sat down and talked for two hours.

When 9-11 happened a little something was lost that day. It’s one of those things you can’t see or put into words. But for all the guys that went away to fight a war in another country, a little something was lost. You can see it in the faces of Vets and people that love this country.

So today, we all enjoy our freedom thanks to guys like my Dad who put it all on the line and fought for our country. So, thanks Dad from your son, for all you did for your country and for me all these years.

Thanks to All Vets.
Michael Minson
The Arizona Legionnaire

August 2009

Post Everlasting

1 Louis G Blakely
2 William A Curtis
3 Charles E Earle
4 John W Hardy
5 Stephen T Novak
6 John R Ortega
7 Ron Pew
8 Rodney D Taylor
9 Lyle E Wall
10 Robert Dunstan
11 Charles F Eckerl
12 Patrick G Kearney
13 Kenneth L Shook
14 William B Brown
15 Frederick L Crow
16 Robert L Small
17 James Carlin
18 Joseph E Houze
19 Edward V Hyde
20 Ralph A Rose
21 Karl I Snyder
22 James L Stoltz
23 Ken Van Deberg
24 Darrell Lede
25 Tallin Phyliss G Lopez
26 Stanley A Morgan
27 Gus Rink
28 Orell E Sorrenson
29 Kenneth H Krumbweid
30 Harrell Mede

Chaplain’s Corner

By God’s Grace

How do you define a friend? Do you rely on that person, male or female, for advice? Do they keep your secrets, for better or worse? Would you go to that person when in ill health, for help in a financial situation? Are you able to say “thank you” for the good in your life? Isn’t this what we have God for? Do we not “Give it to God in Prayer”? We so often blame other sources for our trouble; and yes, we are unable to control the National economy and often the loss of our job. It is within our means to prepare for sickness and times of need. We say we cannot afford health insurance while driving a brand new car. Do we tithe to our church? Do we donate or volunteer to our favorite charity? We see we cannot prepare for the future, while driving a brand new car. Why don’t we tithe to our church? Do we donate or volunteer to our favorite charity? We say we cannot afford health insurance while driving a brand new car. Do we tithe to our church? Do we donate or volunteer to our favorite charity?

I thank God for my Grandmother who taught me to save 10% of all I have ever earned. Sure, we all want the finer things in life but they do not come automatically, we must work for it. If I were to work for God’s Grace, why not “Give it to God in Prayer”? They are all mostly comfortable, well educated, and healthy because we “Give it to God in Prayer”.

ATTENTION: Post Commanders & Elected Post Officers

July 2009 starts a new membership year for The American Legion. This is the time to review your Constitution and By-Laws. If you are satisfied with your current Constitution and By-Laws and they have been working and have been approved by Department, you are good to go. However, if you need to revise your documents to correct flaws and errors; do it now.

Write the changes, inform your members, vote on the changes and get them approved. Don’t wait until February 2010!

Ole Bjork, Department Judge Advocate

Congratulations To Sweepstakes Winners

$3,000 Ralph Herrick, Prescott Valley
$2,000 Thomas Rowe, Peoria
$1,000 Ann Seney, Kingman

The following were winners of $500 each: Roy Alford, Dolan Springs; Earl Leet, Jr., Glendale; Allen Branch, Bullhead City; James Polich, Fountain Hills; Kenneth Boswell, Mesa; Samuel Boudreau, Phoenix; Earl Yingling, Chandler; Fred Wright, Golden Valley

The Winner of the Limited Edition Gun Raffle is: Andy Olson, Stockholm, Maine - Congratulations!

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Sweepstakes and the Gun Raffle!
Earl E. Mitchell American Legion Post and Unit #29
Win Richard H. Bieri Memorial Cooperation Trophy

For the year 2008-2009, Unit and Post 29 accompanied, participated in and actively worked jointly primarily in Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation. Each month, on the first Friday of the month, we treat a group of [16-20] residents from the VA Home to free dinners and non-alcoholic beverages. During this monthly event, the residents get to share conversation and enjoy live music.

In July, we held a Watermelon Bash at the VA State Home, with hot dogs and hamburgers. The whole family participates in this—Legion, Auxiliary and S.A.L.—with each faction contributing their own part, including donations of toiletries, books, games and whatever items the residents can use to make their lives less lonely.

Post and Unit 29 solicit for donations of funds and toys for Glendale’s Heart for the City, an organization that furnishes needy children and their families with food and supplies. In August, we collected school supplies and backpacks for these children.

The Post donated the recreation hall to Heart for the City for purposes of fund raising with “Casino Night”. During this event, Legion, Auxiliary, S.A.L. and A.L.R. members were able to mix with the community during a night of fun and frivolity.

On September 1st, we provided free lunches for the Glendale police, fire and EMT groups, in commemoration of 9/11. This includes food cooked in the Post kitchen and desserts donated by the Auxiliary, Legion and S.A.L.

In October, we jointly commemorated the POW/MIAs with the Post’s annual ceremony. For Halloween, we participated in District 11’s Military Night at the Fear Farm in Avondale. Our Post and Unit donated hot dogs and soft drinks. The Legionnaires and S.A.L. did the grilling; the Auxiliary did the serving. These refreshments were distributed free of charge to all those who partook. Also, on Halloween, the Post and Unit manned game and activity booths for children at Sunland Park. We used this as an opportunity to furnish and distribute Halloween Safety brochures and coloring books to the children.

In November, we furnished the residents of Victory Place, in Phoenix, with a Thanksgiving dinner. Turkey, stuffing, potatoes, salad and pies were served to approximately 100 residents and staff. We collected new clothing and personal items, including toiletries, books, videos and games to give to them, along with phone cards so that they could make local and long distance calls to family and friends over the holidays. The Unit purchased new flags for the residents’ flag poles. The Color Guard and Honor Guard held a flag raising ceremony.

In December, Post, S.A.L. and Auxiliary members volunteered to work at the VA Gift shop. We also held a Special Military Family Christmas event. In order to fund this, the Auxiliary held a special fundraiser in October, obtained names of six active duty military families who are in need; then we went on a heavy duty buying spree to purchase gifts, grocery items, toys, cookies and candy to enable the families to have a real Christmas with all the trimmings.

We held our annual Children’s Christmas party. Post 29’s Adjutant was Santa Claus to our Unit’s 2nd Vice Mrs. Claus. The American Legion Riders Chapter 29 provided safe motorcycle rides for the children. The children also enjoyed snacks, games; and each child received a gift.

In February we held our annual Valentine’s Day dinner and dance. This event is to raise funds for the AEF. We can always count on the Legionnaires and S.A.L. members to cheerfully purchase tickets and bring their sweethearts to the function. The Legionnaires also helped serve the dinners.

Every March, we get together and assemble Poppy packages to be mailed out. The Legion prints the letters and envelopes, free of cost, for the Auxiliary, then a group of Legion, S.A.L. and Auxiliary members get together to fold, stuff and label the envelopes for mailing. The Legion provides bulk mailing privileges in order that we may mail over 2,100 poppy envelopes out to our members at low postage rates.

In April, we hosted an Easter party for children. The S.A.L. and Legion members cooked hamburgers and hot dogs. The Auxiliary provided games, snacks and Easter baskets for each child. The children also enjoyed face painting, cookie decorating, and a piñata at the end of the party.

Post, S.A.L. and Unit 29 participated in flag disposal ceremonies, not only at Post 29 but at other locations such as Sunland Memorial Park and one in Buckeye. We support each other with our Boys and Girls State programs. The Legion Honor Guard donated enough money to our Girls State program to fund two girls.

The Unit furnishes decorations, cake and other food for all patriotic holiday potlucks. This past Memorial Day, the S.A.L. provided hamburgers and hotdogs for the potluck; the Auxiliary and Legion members provided side dishes. The Post paid for the live music.

We jointly support the Color Guard in parades, attend funerals with the Honor Guard, and pass out poppies to those in attendance. During “memorial drives”, the Legion, S.A.L. and Auxiliary set up tables at different locations, including the jazz and chocolate festivals at Murphy Park, to encourage people to join The American Legion Family. We distribute poppies during these events.

The Unit also purchased an American flag, a state flag and a POW/MIA flag for the Post home when the current ones needed to be replaced.

In April, the Post 29 Service Officer organized a picnic for the residents of the VA Home. Legion, S.A.L. and Auxiliary members donated food and time to bring this event to fruition.

Starting in May, the Unit and Post presented over 30 school and JROTC awards to deserving students at 20 schools. This project ended the first week of June.

Also in May, we all participated in a cook out at Victory Place. Hot dogs and hamburgers, soft drinks and chips were given out to the residents. S.A.L. and Legion members did the cooking; the Auxiliary did the serving.

We have encouraged people to vote, and helped register those who were not yet registered.

We purchased and distributed pocket flags to our military people. We helped collect clothing and personal items for citizens in Iraq.

The Auxiliary helps the S.A.L. each month with the S.A.L. breakfast and annually with the S.A.L. Mother’s Day breakfast.

The Legislative Chairs for Legion and Unit 29 sent letters to senators, congressmen, and local politicians regarding Veterans benefits. We applauded those bills that promoted the welfare of our veterans and active military personnel. Conversely, we denounced those bills, proposals and announcements that were detrimental to our veterans, i.e., the document generated from Homeland Security classifying returning soldiers as “terrorists” and President Obama’s proposal to charge our veterans for their medical treatment of service-related illnesses and injuries. We sent letters to the editors of local newspapers with the intent of educating the public about veterans’ benefits.

In addition to our membership drives, we attempt to “meet and greet” people in order to intent of educating the public about veterans’ benefits.

For Halloween, we participated in District 11’s Military Night at the Fear Farm in Avondale. Our Post and Unit donated hot dogs and soft drinks. The Legionnaires and S.A.L. did the grilling; the Auxiliary did the serving. These refreshments were distributed free of charge to all those who partook. Also, on Halloween, the Post and Unit manned game and activity booths for children at Sunland Park. We used this as an opportunity to furnish and distribute Halloween Safety brochures and coloring books to the children.

In November, we furnished the residents of Victory Place, in Phoenix, with a Thanksgiving dinner. Turkey, stuffing, potatoes, salad and pies were served to approximately 100 residents and staff. We collected new clothing and personal items, including toiletries, books, videos and games to give to them, along with phone cards so that they could make local and long distance calls to family and friends over the holidays. The Unit purchased new flags for the residents’ flag poles. The Color Guard and Honor Guard held a flag raising ceremony.

In December, Post, S.A.L. and Auxiliary members volunteered to work at the VA Gift shop. We also held a Special Military Family Christmas event. In order to fund this, the Auxiliary held a special fundraiser in October, obtained names of six active duty military families who are in need; then we went on a heavy duty buying spree to purchase gifts, grocery items, toys, cookies and candy to enable the families to have a real Christmas with all the trimmings.

We held our annual Children’s Christmas party. Post 29’s Adjutant was Santa Claus to our Unit’s 2nd Vice Mrs. Claus. The American Legion Riders Chapter 29 provided safe motorcycle rides for the children. The children also enjoyed snacks, games; and each child received a gift.

In February we held our annual Valentine’s Day dinner and dance. This event is to raise funds for the AEF. We can always count on the Legionnaires and S.A.L. members to cheerfully purchase tickets and bring their sweethearts to the function. The Legionnaires also helped serve the dinners.

Every March, we get together and assemble Poppy packages to be mailed out. The Legion prints the letters and envelopes, free of cost, for the Auxiliary, then a group of Legion, S.A.L. and Auxiliary members get together to fold, stuff and label the envelopes for mailing. The Legion provides bulk mailing privileges in order that we may mail over 2,100 poppy envelopes out to our members at low postage rates.

In April, we hosted an Easter party for children. The S.A.L. and Legion members cooked hamburgers and hot dogs. The Auxiliary provided games, snacks and Easter baskets for each child. The children also enjoyed face painting, cookie decorating, and a piñata at the end of the party.

Post, S.A.L. and Unit 29 participated in flag disposal ceremonies, not only at Post 29 but at other locations such as Sunland Memorial Park and one in Buckeye. We support each other with our Boys and Girls State programs. The Legion Honor Guard donated enough money to our Girls State program to fund two girls.

The Unit furnishes decorations, cake and other food for all patriotic holiday potlucks. This past Memorial Day, the S.A.L. provided hamburgers and hotdogs for the potluck; the Auxiliary and Legion members provided side dishes. The Post paid for the live music.

We jointly support the Color Guard in parades, attend funerals with the Honor Guard, and pass out poppies to those in attendance. During “memorial drives”, the Legion, S.A.L. and Auxiliary set up tables at different locations, including the jazz and chocolate festivals at Murphy Park, to encourage people to join The American Legion Family. We distribute poppies during these events.

The Unit also purchased an American flag, a state flag and a POW/MIA flag for the Post home when the current ones needed to be replaced.
THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF ARIZONA
FALL CONFERENCE
OCTOBER 30-NOVEMBER 1, 2009

AMERICAN LEGION PRE-REGISTRATION: $10.00
(AT CONFERENCE-$12.00)
PLEASE RETURN FORM WITH CHECK MADE OUT TO:
ROBERT A. ECKERT POST #81
Attn: Jill Richeal, Club Manager
181 PASEO DEL SOL
LAKE HAVASU CITY, AZ 86403

POST #_________________ AMOUNT ENCLOSED:__________

NAME ___________________________ POSITION/TITLE _________________
1. ___________________________ ________________________________
2. ___________________________ ________________________________
3. ___________________________ ________________________________
4. ___________________________ ________________________________
5. ___________________________ ________________________________
6. ___________________________ ________________________________
7. ___________________________ ________________________________
8. ___________________________ ________________________________
9. ___________________________ ________________________________
10. ___________________________ ________________________________
11. ___________________________ ________________________________
12. ___________________________ ________________________________
13. ___________________________ ________________________________
14. ___________________________ ________________________________
15. ___________________________ ________________________________

PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE NAMES MUST BE RECEIVED BY:10/15/09

DEPARTMENT OF ARIZONA
2009 FALL CONFERENCE
OCTOBER 30 - NOVEMBER 1, 2009

HOSTED BY:
ROBERT A. ECKERT POST #81
181 PASEO DEL SOL • LAKE HAVASU CITY, AZ 86403 • (928) 855-2552

CONFERENCE HOTELS
QUALITY INN & SUITES
271 S. LAKE HAVASU AVE • LAKE HAVASU CITY, AZ 86403 • (928) 855-1111
157 Rooms @ $69.00 + tax • 20 Suites @ $99.00 + tax

ISLAND INN (AUX HOTEL)
1300 McCULLOCH BLVD • LAKE HAVASU CITY, AZ 86403 • (928) 680-0606
100 Rooms @ $52.00 + tax

ISLAND SUITES
236 S. LAKE HAVASU AVE • LAKE HAVASU CITY, AZ 86403 • (928) 855-7333
44 Rooms @ $59.95 + tax

CUT OFF DATE 10/1/09 FOR ALL HOTELS

POST #81 PLANS TO SERVE FOOD FROM FRIDAY LUNCH
THROUGH SUNDAY MORNING BREAKFAST.
POST #81 PLANS TO HOST A HALLOWEEN COSTUME PARTY ON
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31ST FROM 6-10 PM
SHUTTLE SERVICE WILL BE PROVIDED FROM THE 3 HOTELS,
POST #81 & AQUATIC CENTER
POST #81 WILL SPONSOR A CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT ON
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30TH, 8:00 A.M. SHOT GUN START
$60.00 PER PLAYER, ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT LEGION PROGRAMS

CONTACT: KEN HAUGEN, COMMANDER • (928) 855-2552