



For God & Country



THE ARIZONA LEGIONNAIRE



VOLUME 2012

• OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE AMERICAN LEGION, DEPARTMENT OF ARIZONA •

ISSUE 1

Two Words

Traditionally, this space is reserved for the Department Commander to raise awareness about important American Legion programs. This issue, we are doing something a little different that we believe is very significant.

Our message is to remember the value of saying “Thank You”. In volunteer organizations like The American Legion, that is often the only compensation for a job well done. To those currently serving our country in uniform, a little bit of unsolicited gratitude can go a long way toward easing the often lonely tension of wartime service far from home. As for us older veterans, we learned that a company interested in learning what makes Legionnaires tick found that it certainly wasn't



money or fame, but gratitude and remembrance. This makes a lot of sense, we see it everywhere and know our fellow Legionnaires do too.

We see it in the way the Post Historian carefully assembles a scrapbook of photos, news clips and event programs

year after year; a half century after fighting at the frozen Chosin Reservoir. We see it at the front desk of the VA Medical Center where the same clutch of Legionnaires and Auxiliary members can always be found helping patients and families get where they need to go. When U.S. flags magically appear for patriotic holidays along your town's main street, chances are some unassuming veteran with a good pickup truck made it happen; wanting nothing in return except the satisfaction of having done something that needed doing.

When elected to lead our Department, we stand before the Convention delegates and thank them. Mark Twain wrote that “kindness is a language which the deaf can hear and the blind can see.” An unknown author wrote that “the two most important words are ‘thank you.’ The one most important word is; ‘we.’ The least important

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Santa and Elves Deliver “Presents” to MANA House

Santa and his elves from Christopher J. Lapka Post #105 American Legion Family were very busy on Sunday, December 18th assisting the Madison Street Veterans Association. Six trucks and a few cars were loaded up with boxes full of sweatshirts, jackets, clothes, boots and shoes, toiletry items, snacks, and canned food. One of the Auxiliary members donated 300 blankets for the outreach program.

These items were donated by the members and collected throughout the past few months and delivered to the MANA House for homeless Veterans. The trucks were

led by Santa and his elves (American Legion Riders), it was chilly but they didn't mind. When Santa arrived, the Veterans came out and helped everyone unload the trucks and they were really excited to see the amount of items that were given to them. They also received bus passes and cash for each Veteran living at the MANA House and a check was also presented to the Director, Terry Araman. What a great Christmas for these Veterans and for the volunteers!

*Editor's note: Thanks John for the ride...it was fun!



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Resolve To Make A Plan and Stick To It!

So, you're still thinking about that New Year's resolution that traditionally comes on the first of the year...well I've always found that a commitment to making a change for the "good" can come at any time. If you're still pondering whether you should make a resolution to write your Post's history, then **STOP** wondering and make a plan to start writing!

I can't disagree that you've lost some valuable time by procrastinating, but you still have six months to get it together and now is the time while Thanksgiving and Christmas are still fresh in your mind.

The first place to start is with your Commander; ensure that the Historian job is still open - someone else may have been appointed to the position and if so, talk with that person... she or he may need an assistant, that could be YOU!

If the job is still open, then your next moves should be:

Step 1 – search out the Post/Auxiliary/Sons/ALR project person/s for the recent Thanksgiving activities – dinner, gift baskets, etc.

Step 2 – follow Step 1 for Christmas activities. I promise you, with a couple of phone calls



to the right person, you'll have enough information and photos that will put you even with those of us who started working our histories from "day one!" Just remember with a plan and determination, it's never too late to resolve for a change that is for the greater good.

In closing, I want to leave you with a reminder that if you were unable to attend my yearbook training class at Fall Conference and would like a copy of the handout that I put together, PLEASE contact me at either 928-649-3374 or email me at: sicily84@cablone.net and I'll mail you one. The purpose of the handout is to give you ideas, suggestions and guidance which may be helpful to you as the Post Historian and...as my dear old mamma used to say "just because you date a fellow, don't mean you gotta' marry him", *translation* - take a look at your options (to include the handout), before you commit to any thing or any one style!

Until next time,
Jeri Strande, Department Historian

Commander continued from page 1

word is "I."

With that in mind, please think about that special person or persons in your community. It might be a veteran or a member of the National Guard or Reserve who never complained about the number of deployments that led to missed birthdays or anniversaries. It might be a family who weathers the stress of a loved one at war or struggles to find a job in this difficult economy. It might be a teacher who always does a great job preparing students to compete in The American Legion Oratorical Contest or the local newspaper reporter who never forgets to publish stories about it.

It's certainly the young man or woman in the military uniform pacing nervously at the airport or train station, in transit from one training installation to another, or from a training installation to a combat outpost.

Please walk up and thank them for their service to our great country. Remember to send a card from time to time. Let them know that when good people humbly sacrifice their time and energy or even risk their lives for the benefit of others, we have a couple of words we'd like to share; "THANK YOU".

For God and Country,
George Cushing, Commander

Scouting Program Growing

It has been a very good year for The American Legion Scouting Program.

Three new Scouting Units have been chartered by American Legion Posts in Arizona. A Cub Scout Pack was chartered at Post 15 in Winslow thanks to Commander Hernandez and also through the fine efforts of James Brown, Department Scouting Committee member from Post 3 in Flagstaff. A Venturing Crew was started at Post 44 in Scottsdale, and at Post 32 in Safford. We are still working on getting a Crew at Post 29 in Glendale where the Post has recently started a Junior Shooting Sports Team.

Area A has also done a good job with their program providing flags to newly awarded Eagle Scouts. It is through the efforts of Ed Davis, Ken Smith and David Raymond and

others that this program is working. Area B's units have yet to award a flag. We have the program in force. We just need to know when a prospect is ready to receive his flag. Any Post that sponsors a scout unit with a boy that is eligible to receive this honor can apply. If you know of anyone, please contact me.

We have one project that needs to be addressed before the Legion year ends. Memorial Day is fast approaching, we would like to make sure all Veterans graves have flags placed on them for Memorial Day. If you as a Post are interested, I can give you the names of the Scout District Executives to make this happen. There are enough boys and girls in Scouting to accomplish this project. Alone in the Valley there are some 58 cemeteries. Most of the larger cemeteries like National, Greenwood and Resthaven

are already covered. It is the smaller ones that need help with flag placement. A list is available for all cemeteries in Maricopa County. Please contact me if your Post is interested.

I would like to wish everyone a Prosperous and Happy New Year. Thanks to the Scouting Committee members for all of their efforts as well.

Please don't forget the Eagle Scout of the Year Award. Applications are available at legion.org and at Department Headquarters and need to be submitted to Department by March 1, 2012.

For God and Country,
Wayne Chatfield
Scouting Committee Chairman
whiskeycharlie2503@yahoo.com
Cell Phone 602 803-6048

Heading To 100% Goal

Happy New Year TEAM ARIZONA! We are in the second half of our Legion year and my goodness, how time flies when you're having fun. We hope that everyone had a little break and now, we are back on the race track to 100%. We didn't make our December goal of 75% but TEAM, I have faith we will make 100% and I know you do too. BIG THANKS to everyone who has been working so hard to get the membership into Department. Ms. Sheila loves to get envelopes full of membership renewals and new members; just ask her, she'll tell you.

Since we are now in the New Year, everyone should have their 2012 cards and if you don't, you need to fix that today...right now! When folks come in the Posts, make sure they have their current card and if not, help them to get it. We all get caught up in our busy day-to-day lives and sometimes we forget (I call it brain farts). We should be at 100% before the end of February in my calculations; we actually should have hit that number the end of December, especially with renewals. Make sure each Post sends in the members' money to Department; this is vital! Your members want their current card; make it happen!

Our Commander has been traveling to our Posts throughout Arizona, fulfilling a promise he made while campaigning; that he would be back and darned if he isn't making that promise good. We got that honor at our January meeting and what a treat it was to see George and Jan at Post 109! While speaking, Commander Cushing talked about our Four Pillars and this information has gone out in our All Post mailings. Do you know the Four Pillars of The American Legion? Just in case you don't, they are: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation, National Security, Americanism, and Children & Youth. This is what we were founded on; these are our principles. Now if you're sitting there rolling your eyes and thinking; here we go, I know all this stuff, I've heard it for years; well, here it is again.

With all the activities and celebrations at our Post, we need to stay grounded on what we stand for. These are the topics we discuss when we talk to and recruit our members. The dinners and drinks are fun but where are we concentrating our efforts? We have lost almost one million (yes, one million) members since WWII and I guarantee it isn't all due to Post Everlasting. Have you contacted members that haven't renewed and asked them WHY? Remember...JUST ASK! There are reasons people aren't renewing or joining and you'll never know why if you don't just get out there and find out. I have spoken about the mylegion.org site where you can download reports; please make sure your Post has an account - it's free!!!



At the Fall Conference, our National Commander put the Four Pillars in a pretty cool perspective and I'd like to share it. Think of a large jar and in it, you put four large rocks, representing the Four Pillars. Is the jar full? No, because you add numerous pebbles that fill in the gaps around these large four rocks, representing our members. Is the jar full? No it isn't; you add sand that fills in the space around the pebbles, representing all the volunteer hours worked. Is the jar full yet? No, because now it's time to add some liquid to celebrate our accomplishments. Now the Legion jar is full with the Four Pillars, members, hours worked and liquid of choice. If you start off filling that jar with liquid and forget what we stand for, we've lost the foundation that our forefathers started in 1919.

We all know The American Legion is a great organization and we love giving back to those with a greater need, still serving our Great Nation. Don't lose that spirit; don't lose being positive and sharing stories about the great things your Posts are doing. Nothing happens without our membership; without you. Al and I have been traveling throughout our great state and we've enjoyed so many fun times. You are all doing so much and we know everyone was busy over the holiday season with activities to raise funds. In the December 16th Dispatch, National asked us to tell our story. They want to share your Post's holiday generosity in the December 2012 issue of The American Legion Magazine. Send a description of what your Post did along with a contact person's name and phone number, to Assistant Editor Laura Edwards at ledwards@legion.org...share your stories!

Let's make 100% right away, keep our members, and mentor new members into our Posts. TEAMARIZONA has a lot to offer and we need you to stay a part of The American Legion Family and gain strength through numbers. Thank you for all that you do; it truly means a lot. Take care and God Bless.

For God and Country,
Jackie Salter-Miller (Your Membership "Mom")

Oratorical Contest Dates and Times

Post 27 (Local) Sat., February 11, 2012, 10 a.m.
American Legion Post 27
1018 S. Meridian, Apache Junction, AZ 85220

District 11 (Western Phoenix Metro)
Sat. February 18, 2012, 10 a.m.
American Legion Post 29
6822 N. 57th Dr., Glendale, AZ 85311

District 12 (Eastern Phoenix Metro)
Sat. February 18, 2012, 10 a.m.
American Legion Post 27
1018 S. Meridian, Apache Junction, AZ 85220

Northern & Eastern AZ (Area C)
Sat. February 18, 2012, 11 a.m.
Prescott VA Medical Center--Auditorium Bldg. 15
500 N. Hwy 89, Prescott, AZ 86313

District 2 (Tucson) Sun., February 19, 2012, 1 p.m.
American Legion Post 109
15921 S. Houghton Rd., Corona de Tucson, AZ 85641

Area B (winners from District 11 and 12 plus Yuma)
Sat. February 25, 2012, at 10 a.m.
American Legion Post 44
7145 E. 2nd St., Scottsdale, AZ 85251

Southern Arizona (Area A) Sun., February 26, 2012, at 1 p.m.
American Legion Post 109
15921 S. Houghton Rd., Corona de Tucson, AZ 85641

State Finals (winners from Areas A, B, and C)
Sat. March 3, 2012, at 10 a.m.
Ahwatukee Recreation Center
(hosted by American Legion Post 64)
5001 E. Cheyenne Dr., Phoenix, AZ 85044

USS Radford DD/DDE 446 Association Looking For Former Crew Members

The USS Radford was in commission from 1942-1969 and was honored to receive 26 Battle Stars.

Since the founding of the association in 1991, over 1,400 crew members have been located.

They recently relocated the USS Radford National Naval Museum to the USS Orleck in Lake Charles, Louisiana. A newsletter is published three times a year and they have an annual reunion.

For more information, please contact Charles A. "Chuck" Parsons (62-66 BTC USS Radford)
(304) 927-0094
or email at kjp263@localnet.com.



Veteran's Day Around the State



U.S. Submarine Veterans-Perch Base



Pearl Harbor Survivors Association



Luke Greenway Post #1

2011 Phoenix Veterans Day Parade



Thomas Tang Post #50



Purple Heart Veterans



Tony F. Soza-Ray Martinez Post #41



Commander George and Jan Cushing in the Tucson Veteran's Day Parade.



Daisy Mountain Veterans Day Parade

Greenway High School NJROTC Drill Team demonstrating what they do best.



Department Commander George Cushing, Department Auxiliary President, Sharon Doran and VFW State Commander, Tim Borland.

Photos: Stephen Goodman



70th Anniversary Ceremony of Pearl Harbor Bombing

Above: Beth Nehring, 20 & 4 Director VIP Echelon 35; Judi Beischel, 20 & 4 National Director VIP; George Cushing, Department Commander and John Aldecoa, Department Adjutant (20 & 4 is the Honor Society of Women Legionnaires)

Below: Pearl Harbor Survivors presenting a wreath at the Pearl Harbor Memorial in Phoenix.

Photos: Sheryl Fricke



(L to R) Tony Rigney, Post 36 Commander; 'Mo' Mulholland, Post Sgt-at-Arms and Christmas basket Co-Chairman; Vicki Harke, Bravely Waiting; Dave Klages Christmas Basket Co-Chairman; and Ken Dowse, Post Judge Advocate (and candidate for Department Commander 2012-2013)

John P. Burns Post #36 Assists Bravely Waiting

During the Christmas season of giving, John P. Burns Post #36 of Tucson, gave Bravely Waiting \$2,500.00 in \$50.00 gift certificates to Fry's Food Stores and at least a dozen boxes of food. Bravely Waiting is a tax free organization in Tucson that assists the families of deployed service members. These gifts were in addition to the food baskets presented to needy veterans' families. Dave Klages and "Mo" Mulholland presented the items to Vickie Harke who is in charge of Bravely Waiting.

Submitted by Tony Rigney and Dale Schunke, Post Historian

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Bob Bloom Recognized

American Legion Department of AZ Area "C" Vice Commander, Bill Dawson (left), & American Legion Auxiliary Unit 81 President, Judy Harvey (right), honor Pearl Harbor survivor, Bob Blum, with a "Thank You for Your Service" coin on Veterans' Day 2011 at American Legion Post 81.

Assisting Veterans with VA Disability Claims - Appeals Only*

Theodore C. Jarvi, Attorney at Law
Retired JAG - Legion Member
1050 E. Southern Avenue, Suite G3
Tempe, AZ 85282
Tel: (480) 838-6566; Fax: (480) 838-8810
E-Mail: tjarvi@jarvilaw.com

*Federal law permits the payment of attorney fees by the veteran for assistance with any VA claim if Notice of Disagreement is filed after June 20, 2007.



Post Everlasting

1
Harold E Bryant
Allan D Colletti
Harold L Dimke
Vincent F Hertzling
Randall R Ranstead
Woodrow J Wilson

2
Henry A Wedell

3
Michael Blair
Billy C Honahni
Joan L Jensen
Larry Lukus
Eddward L McDevitt
John G Montfort
Guifford W Moore
Wendell Page
A H Strasser

4
John A Cronin
Dennis R Mason
Edwin Powell
Francisco Ramirez
Velva D Ray
Jackie Stanneart
Jack Thomas

6
Charles A Hay
E J Mason
Bruce D Moore
Richard H Proper
Harold W Wolfe

7
Grant E Jefferies
Richard J Loss
James F McNulty

Uil G Rabb
Lloyd Raber
Truman Rue

8
John W Banwarth
Harry Kopiak

10
Walter N Richardson

11
Ben Flores
Raul U Jordan
Joe V Rodriguez

12
Paul F Miller

13
John Carillo

14
Ramon S Gonzales
Fred E Young

16
William J Franks
Joe B Giacoletti

18
Francisco F Guzman

19
Henry C Anaya
William S Franks
Clifford A Hart
Paul S Jones
Frank H La Riviere
Robert G McMorris
David D Nolan
Charles M Stein
Eldred E Winter

20
Emerson Scott

22
Range D Neilsen

23
Eduardo M Corral

24
William Bouton
Russell G Freeman
Alfred B Jepson
Kelsie E Marquess
Herbert M Moor
Anthony T Perotti

25
Clarence W Hudson
Edward Kierznowski
Arthur Mainwaring
C P Spence
Jack S Stalo

26
John D Beck
Jack D Brause
Daniel J Casillas
Donald J Clark
Gerald Ellis
Willaim F Jostes
Gerald D Kearns
Jerry R Kennedy
Gary R Kremer
Robert N Kunkle
Richard H Magdaleno
Ysmael Manriquez
Ronnie W Stauffer
Jerald L Stephen
Donald R Swisher
Fredrick L Wilson

27
William Ashcraft
Gary A Blake
Howard L Breeden
John F Dassinger
Robert E Emore
Rosalie Hernandez
Robert K Johnson
Robert F Lenartz
Lawrence L McElroy
John Schritz
Robert Steven
Robert L Thompson
Richard L Winter

29
William L Babcock
Bob L Campbell
Gordon L Drake
John P Johnson
Joyce W Myers
Willard M Young

30
Dieter Krueger

31

Alvin H Dodge

32
William A Bright
Gerardo P Smith
Joseph L Smith

34
Lee R Ballard

35
Tommy Dean
John E Henry
Carl Rispoli
Ronald F Ritter

36
Warren J Cuny
Elinor F Patton
Raymond W Whistler

39
Wendy J Tripp-Hams

40
Norman L Litt

41
Arthur Angulo
Henry F Blanco
Arnulfo Murrrieta

42
Louie D Cryts
Jim Mc Donel

44
Jack Allison
John J Angel
Edward P Baltz
Harold E Dannenberger
Tom Dean
John R Dresback
Richard A Duchemin
Edwin W Fleming
Robert G Gronemann
Bernard L Jacobs
Peter J McCarthy
Elmer E Miller
George Wesley

45
Alan P Sloan

50
Paul Lou

52
Thomas H Ellery
Robert C Gallagher
Phillip T Hall
Mark R Mills
Robert E Smith
Homer Williams

54
Robert R Samler

55
Charles F Gulbrandsen
Henry J Hamilton
Stuart D Kush

56
Walter Williams

57
Francis L Sturgeon

58
Carl Auer
Sam E Cobb
Roger M Deangelis
Rob Howes
Roger C Pranske

60
Herman Lovato

62
Jack A Colombo
Jack W Copp
Leon S Cornell
Gary N Dalessandri
Randall J Daniels
Carl R Duncan
Merle G Groenwold
Francis J Gudgeon
Jerome A Hayes
Scott M Honeychurch
Raymond Hoover
D E Klucas
Bernard A Lobenstein
Donald E Siemek
John B Wayne

64
Frank Harrison

65
Elmos Caston

66
Jerold G Gallagher
Frank T Kinch

67
John A Baross
Raymond L McKibben

68
James J Dickson
Moises G Navarrette

69
Alan Eberle
Climith W Rogers
Junior E Stith

73
Earl Meyer

75
William H Powell

76
Jack E Brown
Gregory R Kozakiewicz
Vic Rivera
Rosendo Vargas
Samuel S White

78
Dale E Gifford

79
Harry W Dickey

81
Earl W Caldwell

Phylliss L Caldwell
Fred Krenkler
Edward J Panner

83
James F White

84
Kenneth Terry

87
Jerry C Call
Telesforo M Escamilla
Art Garner

88
Larry O Wallace

89
William Abrams

91
Russell F Kotila

100
Michael Barton
Kennedy Baughman
Robert A Billek
Lyle Blaker
Donald Collins
Lawrence Couey
Emmett J Douglas
Roy Duffey
Marshall R Fering
John M Flores
Stanley W Fogler
John H Hay
George Howell
Thomas N Jones
Carl K Karsgor
Donald H Le Roy
Richard Macaluso
Sanford McCall
James F Michael
Tony Novak
Frank Perea
Edward W Sheble
Fred Shirley
Otto Smith
Robert C Snyder
Charles P Wilson

101
James R Berry
James E McDonald
John J Ohara
James V Sterne
Walter W Washchuck

102
Harold Hagman

104
Jack B Hansen

105
Joseph H Handley
David H Lehtinen
Joseph Parillo

108
Herbert L Carpenter

117
Bradley Linthicum

131
Donald R Damico
Rodney G Stebbins

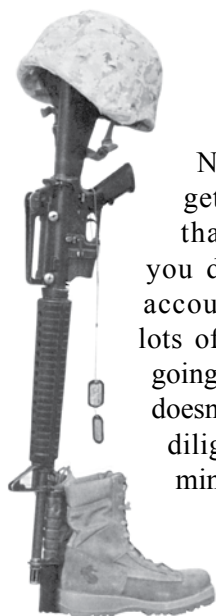
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Stuart W Fordyce
Dennis L Vandewiele

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David Romo

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John M Galuski
David M Moreland

Chaplain's Corner

How To Get Rich Quick GUARANTEED!!!!



Now that I have your attention, get ready to enjoy more wealth than you've ever imagined. If you don't already have a savings account, open one ASAP and get lots of deposit slips because you're going to need them. Realizing riches doesn't necessarily come easy. It takes diligence, awareness and an open mind that will allow you to consider all possibilities that are available to you. Once you've amassed your wealth, you may begin various ways to invest for the

highest possible return.

GETTING STARTED: If you are reading this article, you've been granted the gift of eyesight, have had at least an elementary education enabling you to comprehend the written word and have served your country honorably; you're an American Legionnaire. Get out a deposit slip. Time to start building that wealth. Do you have your health, a roof over your head and food on the table? Ka-ching! Rather than bore you with reminders of just how rich you are, I'll ask you to stop reading now and do a quick review of your life to date. I'm guessing you'll find it's overflowing with

Chaplain continued on next page



**Department of Arizona
American Legion 2012
Annual Convention
June 21-24, 2012**



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Rooms Coordinator**

For Hospitality Rooms contact:

Steve Allen 602 908-4311