Greetings From Your New Commander Andy Jaime

My Fellow Legionnaires, the Department Convention has passed and I want to take this opportunity to thank all of you who attended. I also want to thank you for electing me. Being Commander of The American Legion Department of Arizona is a privilege and honor and I’m looking forward to serving you and the Department to the best of my ability.

Our Department Organizational meeting was well attended and we are still waiting for a few more appointments from some Districts. This information is added to the Department Directory.

On the 31st of July, the Area Vice Commanders, District Commanders, Membership Director, Department Adjutant and I will be going to Indianapolis National Headquarters for the annual Membership Workshop. Each of you did an outstanding job with membership this year and I hope we can repeat and exceed this year’s efforts.

I am excited about all that is ahead; the continued command centers throughout the Department to assist Veterans with VA issues; and serving our communities. I have a great team of officers and chairmanships and I expect they will be just as involved in their duties as the Department Commander.

In closing, I would like to remind everyone that The American Legion is a “Volunteer Organization”. Let’s get inspired, let’s volunteer and let’s all invite Veterans to join our ranks. “VOLUNTEERISM...Let’s get Inspired”

For God and Country,
Andy Jaime, Department Commander

ALLECA Class of 2014

The American Legion Law Enforcement Career Academy (ALLECA) had another successful year. The 2014 Class took place from May 31st to June 7th and we graduated 21 Cadets (including Cadet Advisors). We had to send two Cadets home for integrity and disciplinary issues and we had a few fail to check-in. Throughout the week, we teach the cadets that Integrity is a must and if you violate it, you are terminated from the program for that year, so that is how we handle disciplinary issues.

We received 48 applications this year and all but three were for this class. We were planning to have a second class session at Camp Navajo in July, but due to a lack of applications, we cancelled the second class. By May 30th, we were expecting 25 Cadets to check-in which would have brought our total numbers to 30, but by May 31st, we expected 23 to arrive.

What brought the numbers down this year? Eighty percent of the applications submitted this year were not completed properly or lacked physical examinations by Doctors. Ten percent of the applicants or families did not return any phone calls or emails after the application was submitted. The remaining ten percent either double scheduled themselves...
L-R: Jim Beischel, S.A.L. Detachment Chaplain; Byron Weston, Area B Assistant Chaplain; Carol Stensby, Department Chaplain; Sherrie Mercier, Area C Assistant Chaplain; and Jan Cushing, Auxiliary Department Chaplain singing “God Bless America” at the Memorial Service.

The Arizona Legionnaire
August 2014

L-R Jonathan Larkin, Legislator of the Year; Commander Judi and Larry Bahill, Department Legislative Chairman

L-R Commander Judi and Department Auxiliary President, Karen Smith presenting the wreaths at the Memorial Service.

L-R Wayne Chatfield, Scouting Chairman; Michelle, Aidan’s Mom; Aidan Schneider, Eagle Scout of the Year (second year); and Commander Judi.

Commander Judi receiving her Past Department Commander’s Pin from her husband Jim.

Andy Jaime, newly elected Department Commander, taking the oath of office.

L-R Gene Chewning, Area A; Scott Miller, Area C; Commander Judi; and Domingo Bonilla, Area B.


L-R: Commander Judi; Alt. NEC, Dick Perry; Mike Helm, Leading Candidate for National Commander; at the S.A.L. Opening Session.

Jake Comer, Past National Commander, showing his gift from Department as Commander Judi looks on.
DEPARTMENT OF ARIZONA
FALL CONFERENCE
NOVEMBER 7-9, 2014

CONFERENCE HEADQUARTERS
DOUBLETREE REID PARK
445 S. ALVERNON WAY
TUCSON, AZ 85711

ROOM RATE:
$99.00 per room per night
single/double occupancy

For Reservations call: (520) 323-5202

Be sure to mention The American Legion to receive special rates.

A Golf Tournament will be held.
More information forthcoming.

For Hospitality Rooms, contact:
Angel Juarez (602) 264-7706

Please make reservations by
OCTOBER 17, 2014
to receive $99.00 discounted rate
**ALLECA continued from page 1**

for the summer or had other issues that prevented them from attending. What are we doing to make a positive change for 2015? Past American Legion District 11 Commander Frank Myers has found someone that will be a Physician’s Assistant by 2015, so we will be able to administer physical examinations without families having to pay additional costs or making appointments.

The ALLECA 2014 graduating class ran five miles for their graduation run totaling 21 miles run for the week. Cadet Robbie-Ann Hardesty was the Class President. The Most Improved Cadet was Jacob McDuffey; the Never Quit-Never Award went to James Smith (the Guidon); and the Most Physically Fit Male and Female Awards went to Santiago Pesqueira and Class President Robbie-Ann Hardesty.

I still find many of our Legion Family asking me what is ALLECA; so I’ll define it for you. ALLECA is a partnered youth program between the Department of Arizona American Legion and the Arizona Department of Public Safety (AZ DPS) that began back in 1981 and has now reached its 33rd year. ALLECA is one of only seventeen such programs in the United States that are geared toward those individual teenagers who have shown an interest in some phase of law enforcement or military and ours is unique because much of the program is focused on physical fitness. This is one of the many “Children and Youth” Programs that are sponsored by The American Legion and our program is seen as the national model for such programs. The program consists of a seven-day encampment and is held at the St. Joseph’s Youth Camp (Mormon Lake Village), which is about 23 miles south of Flagstaff. The program is offered to youths between the ages of 11 and 18. The cadets are fed three meals a day and are provided quarters and uniforms. This camp is not meant to correct disciplinary problems, but is one developed for kids interested in law enforcement or the military. Physical training is rigorous, so cadets attending the academy must be in good shape and able to run 1.5 miles within 15 minutes, and complete 35 push-ups and sit-ups (depending upon age group) upon entering the program. The cadets experience many aspects of law enforcement including, but not limited to; first-aid, defensive tactics, SWAT, collision investigation, Citizenship and Americanism, building searches, active shooter, what not to do when driving, how to prevent bullying, etc. The encampment is under the direct leadership of the Arizona Department of Public Safety with most of the instruction being provided by certified Arizona or Federal law enforcement officers. For more information about ALLECA, please visit the ALLECA website at: www.orgsites.com/az/legionalleca .

I want to send out a special thank you recognizing all of the Arizona American Legion Posts, Women’s Auxiliary, Sons of the American Legion, American Legion Riders, private citizens, and businesses for supporting numerous cadets that could not financially meet the cost to attend the academy. Thank you letters from the Cadets you supported will be arriving in the mail soon. A huge thank you goes out to Post #3 in Flagstaff and their Sons of the American Legion for feeding the staff and cadets for the first day, as well as for providing refreshments and lunch during the graduation.

As Sgt. Palmer said in the “I’m a New Person Now,” American Legion Magazine 2009 article, “If we can save one youth, then we’ve been successful” and I think we have as we near over 1,300 graduates since the creation of the program back in 1981. We have created a “Facebook” ALLECA Graduates group page where alumni of the program can stay in touch and look at and download photographs and videos. The group page has already grown in numbers and it reaches out and touches alumni back to 1993, and we are searching to find older alumni to join the group too. Within this group page, the alumni can tell us of their future plans and what exactly ALLECA did for them. Speaking of Alumni, we had one of our 1993 ALLECA graduates actually graduate from the Arizona Law Enforcement Academy (ALEA) in 2014 and he is now an Officer with DPS. He spent the last 20-years in the United States Marine Corps (USMC) retiring as a Bomb Technician. Congratulations Officer
Arizona American Legion Riders

Traveling Trophy Program

ALR in Arizona now has a “TRAVELING TROPHY” Program. ALR 87 (Bullhead City) was the first to offer to buy the trophy and will be the first ALR Chapter to display it. Whichever ALR Chapter has won the trophy, must prominently display it in the Post’s clubroom/lounge so everyone can see it. When FIVE or more ALR members RIDE to a Post, they can claim the Trophy and bring it back to their Post. Once a Chapter claims the Trophy, it is “safe” for a seven day period and during that seven days cannot be claimed by another Chapter. ALR 5 (Phoenix) will donate $100 to the charity designated by the ALR Chapter which has won the traveling trophy the most number of times between now and the 2015 Annual AZALR Meeting.

As of our last Department Convention in June, there were six new ALR Chapters formed, for a total of 56 ALR Chapters in Arizona, with a total ALR membership of over 2,261. In the preceding year, ALR Chapters in Arizona donated 176,573 hours to charitable, community and veterans’ organizations, and donated $360,450 to charitable causes. A total of 134,071 hours of time and $101,280 was donated to their sponsoring Posts. The American Legion Riders continues to be one of the fastest growing and most exciting new programs of The American Legion. Any Post interested in forming an ALR Chapter can contact me at prescottbikers@hotmail.com for information.

Finally, if you are interested in seeing what is going on with all of the ALR Chapters in Arizona, feel free to visit our website at www.azalr.yolasite.com

John Moffitt
prescottbikers@hotmail.com
Member
American Legion Riders National Advisory Committee
Chairman
American Legion Riders, Department of Arizona (AZALR)
prescottbikers@hotmail.com

2014 USO Show
Saturday, September 13th
American Legion Post 2 and our American Legion Family and VFW Post 3632 & VFW Auxiliary
Request your presence at the:
2014 USO Show Saturday, September 13th
No Host Bar - 4:00 to 5:00PM
Introductions – 5:00PM
Mess Hall – 5:15PM until GONE or 6:15PM
Featuring Sloppy Joe Sandwiches with all the fixings
USO Show – 6:30PM

For more information, call Post 2 at 480 967-2968 or Judy Galvez at 480 528-2508 or email: judygalvez@cox.net

What do the cadets say each year about The American Legion and the ALLECA program? Thank you for your support; we want to see more representation of American Legion members during the week and we want to eat lunch with them; thank you for your service to our country; thank you for your donations to keep the program running; thank you for taking a chance on me and sponsoring me during the week; thank you for creating this program—it is the best thing that has ever happened in my life; and thank you for helping me become a better citizen and American. Thank you to Post #29’s Color Guard, Department of Arizona American Legion Commander Judy Beischel, and newly appointed American Legion District 11 Commander Wayne Chatfield for spending time with the Cadets this year.

A very special thank you goes out to all of the law enforcement officers and U.S. Army ROTC Cadets that continue to volunteer their time each year from the Arizona Department of Public Safety, Gila County Sheriff’s Office, and the Phoenix Police Department. All of these officers/deputies are wonderful mentors and provide outstanding leadership to the cadets throughout the week and without them, the program would not be as successful. It should be noted that the law enforcement officers only received 40-hours of pay and donate over 120-hours during a week for the ALLECA Program. These are the officers; Sgt. Dave Hornung (GCSO and Deputy Camp Commandant); DPS Sgt. Diana Mondragon (Assistant Camp Commandant); DPS Detectives/Officers Brady Little, and Tiffany Harold; Phoenix PD Reserve Officer Mike Warren, and U.S. Army ROTC Cadet: Cadet Private Ashley Chastain (ALLECA 2010 Graduate). A HUGE special thank you goes out to our ALLECA Volunteer Maria Lopez (ALLECA 2012 Graduate) for taking time away to run our command post. Thank you to

ALLECA continued page 11

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ALLECA continued page 11
AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF ARIZONA
CONFERENCE
November 7-9, 2014

S.A.L. PRE-REGISTRATION - $10.00
(AT CONFERENCE - $12.00)

PLEASE RETURN FORM WITH CHECK MADE OUT TO:
American Legion Department of Arizona
4701 N. 19th Ave. Suite 200, Phoenix, Az. 85015

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PRE-REGISTRATION DEADLINE NOV. 1, 2014
DO NOT MIX LEGION WITH SAL
NO REFUNDS OR SUBSTITUTIONS
AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF ARIZONA
CONFERENCE
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PRE-REGISTRATION DEADLINE NOV. 1, 2014

DO NOT MIX LEGION WITH SAL
NO REFUNDS OR SUBSTITUTIONS
The Pat Tillman American Legion Post 117 Family had a fabulous 2013-2014 year working collaboratively to uphold the principles of The American Legion. The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, Sons of the American Legion and American Legion Riders of Post 117 worked closely together to ensure that we served our Veterans, Active Duty Military members and their families with honor and dignity.

The Post 117 Family started off the year in July 2013 with the 2nd Annual “Indoor Picnic” since it’s too hot to have one outside. The event was to drive membership but everyone worked together to raffle military items to raise funds to be put toward the Post Building Fund.

In August 2013, the Post 117 Family worked collectively to collect school supplies for the children of the Air/Army National Guard, Sunshine Kids and the Children’s First Academy. The drive began very late in the month but working together, the Post 117 Family was able to donate enough school supplies to provide for 368 children. This effort took 275 volunteer hours and yielded donations valued at $5,528.00.

Beginning in September 2013 and running through December 2013, many Post 117 Family members participated in two deployments in Phoenix and two in Tucson. During these deployments, the soldiers were given packets which contain a pocket Flag, Poppy and a copy of the Flanders Field Poem. Also, each child of a deploying soldier was given a G.I. Josh Dog which is a stuffed animal wearing a camouflage bandana that is meant to comfort the child and acts as a communication tool. During these four deployments, 550 pocket Flag packets and 750 G.I. Josh Dogs were distributed. More than 450 volunteer hours and goods valued at $11,200.00 were donated by members of the Post 117 Family.

In October 2013, the Post 117 Family held the 2nd Annual Harvest Hillbilly Hoedown. This was a western themed dinner and dance. The American Legion members decorated the Post home and the American Legion Auxiliary members provided the meal. The Sons of the American legion ran a Texas Hold’em table and the American Legion Riders held a raffle. Through the efforts of the Post 117 Family, this event yielded $1,300.00 which was used to provide military families in need for the holidays. For Thanksgiving, five families received all the fixings for a traditional Thanksgiving meal as well as a $25.00 Fry’s Gift Card for any additional items they may need. For the Christmas holiday, five additional families received all the fixings for a traditional Christmas meal and a $25.00 Fry’s Gift Card. The five families had 18 children among them and each child was provided with several gifts to open on Christmas day. When the deliveries were made, members of each entity of the Post 117 Family were there to express their gratitude for the service they have provided to our Country and to say Thank You to their families for their sacrifices.

In November 2013, the Post 117 Family worked together on Veterans’ Day to provide a wonderful meal for all of our Veterans. The Post was decorated all in red, white and blue and a huge spread of food was provided for all to enjoy. Several of the Auxiliary members worked together to create a Poppy wreath to honor all of our Veterans’ service to our Country. The Post 117 Family also worked together to donate funds to the Turkeys for Troops Program. This is the fourth year in a row that the donation has been made and it continues to grow each year.

December 7, 2013 was a great day. Dozens of Post 117 members grouped together to do the “Run To The Guns” ride to celebrate the dedication of the WWII Memorial at Wesley
Bolin Park. While it was a cold day for a motorcycle ride, it was a wonderful experience for all to be a part of this great memorial park dedication. Also in December, the Post 117 Family distributed more than 1,500 holiday cards to troops overseas, to the Veterans at the Carl T. Hayden VAMC, the AZ State Veterans’ home, Mary Ellen’s Place, Madison Street Homeless Veterans’ Shelter and Victory Place.

By the beginning of January 2014, the Post 117 Family had been collecting toiletries, food items, games, cards and various other sundries for several months. Collection boxes were set up in the Post for anyone to drop their donation items. This was a very special drive in that all of the items collected were specifically for female soldiers overseas as well as homeless female Veterans here in Arizona. Hundreds of items were collected worth over $2,500.00. Also in January, the Post 117 Family held the 2nd Annual Chili Cook Off. The cook off was a great success with almost $500 raised to be donated to the AZ Stand Down. In addition to the funds that were raised, the Post 117 Family donated more than 300 towels and sheets to the Stand Down this year.

March 2014 saw the culmination of one of the largest, collaborative events in Pat Tillman Post history. The 2nd Annual Tillman’s Ride took place on Saturday March 29th. This ride took more than 1,500 volunteer hours and many months to plan. The ride was attended by more than 600 Legionnaires, Auxiliary, S.A.L. and ALR members from all over the state. The event raised more than $2,000.00 which was donated to the Military Assistance Mission (MAM), the Pat Tillman Scholarship Foundation and the 100 Club. Without the Post 117 Family members working together in such a cooperative way, this caliber of event could have never been the huge success that it was.

In April 2014, the Post 117 Family again worked as a group to hold a fundraiser to benefit Boys State and Girls State. “James Bond Night” was a fun filled event that included black jack and roulette games, raffles, special fancy foods and great decorations. Members of all entities worked very hard to make the event a great success. More than $450.00 was raised to be split between the entities to help cover the cost of sending the delegates to Boys and Girls State events.

One ongoing event this year is the “Get to Know Your Post Run”. This event is run by the Post 117 ALR members but all Post 117 Family members donated hours and goods to make this run a success. This event raises money to be donated specifically to Veterans rehab organizations and facilities.

While every American Legion Post hopes to avoid tragedy with regards to any of their members, unfortunately, tragedies do happen. The Post 117 Family lost one of its Auxiliary members this past year. When her family contacted the Post to inform us of her death, her family also let us know that they didn’t have any money to cover her funeral costs. In less than 24 hours, the Post 117 Family had collected almost $2,000.00 to help her family with not only her funeral costs but anything else that they needed to settle her affairs. It was a sad event and she is greatly missed but she would be proud to see how the Post Family rallied to help her family. Later in the year, one of our Legionnaire’s was run over by a taxi while on his motorcycle. The Post 117 Family quickly rallied together to raise funds to help cover his medical costs. Additionally, medical equipment was donated to assist with his recovery.

The Post 117 Family was very aware of the need for public relations and its importance in spreading the work through the community about the work being done. All entities utilized social media (Facebook and Twitter) to announce fundraising events. Print and radio media outlets were also utilized to educate and promote participation in the Post 117 American Legion events and fundraisers.

In conclusion, Pat Tillman American Legion Post 117 is proud to work together as a collaborative, family oriented group to hopefully make a positive impact on the lives of our Veterans, active duty Service Men and Women and their families.

Respectfully submitted,
Stacey Mayberry
Pat Tillman Unit 117 Auxiliary President
Henry Burks, Post 117 Commander
Steve Allen, Post 117 Adjutant

Congratulations!
Department Convention
2014 Sweepstakes Winners

1st Prize $3,000 – James L. Trump-Post 127
2nd Prize $2,000 – Harry C. Caseldine-Post 78
3rd Prize $1,000 – William Parish-Post 1

Next winners each received $500
John Kobylnski, Post 61 • John Raffino, Post 62
Robert J. Quintin, Post 62 • Joseph A. Baca, Post 78
Edward Ranahan, Post 100 • Raymond F. Yone, Post 100
Tom Buohl – Post 107 • Alton B. Clausen – Post 108

Thank You to each of you who participated in the Sweepstakes drawing! We do appreciate your continued support of The American Legion programs.
1
Don A Cisneros
George S Condos
Alvin R McKinney
Donald Prusakowski
Robert L Rinks
2
Terry G Pandel
3
George J Gosch
Michael A Kolek
Mike M Reid
4
Robert P Casillas
6
Raymond J Fortune
William G Montierth
Howard W Moxham
Lois R Richardson
7
James Graham
Ken Johnson
Gilbert M Nunez
Frederick E Theiss
8
James J Fox
11
Emmett M Davis
Alejandro M Santacruz
12
Ramon K Rodriguez
14
Robert A Ellis
Joseph E Gatineau
Milton T Goldsmith
John D Nadenciek
Max E Stokes
19
Antonio Marquez
James H Schollmeyer
20
Rex B Cotherman
22
Michael T Finnin
24
Katherine V Boman

Al Valdez
Paul J Wenzel
Cpt. Jerome J Wilkens

Reinold M Hjerpe
Walter D Rogers
Lyle M Thurman
40
John N Hendrickson
Don Ready-Grout
Roland R Rochon
41
Hector Duarte
Ruben Quezada
Danny R Valdivia
Roy M Vega
44
Richard E Ackman
Norman B Metteer

Lloyd L Jackson
Raymond L Kervahn
Melbourne Schulte, Sr

Jess Beckham
54
Paul Ambacher
Ray L Carnes
Donald W Currie
Caleb T Hale
55
Oscar C Lowe, Jr
Samuel O Roland
Max L Royer
Paul Schemers

Joseph G Warrington
Alex T Williams
58
Charles E Gallagher
Duwayne E Moore
32
Hugh A Britt
Garland E Cole
Ellis M Foster
Alvan G Vanleuven
Alberto H Vasquez
35
Alan Weeks

46
Virgil C Albert
Daniel J Byrne
John R Hakala
Lucas F Reyes
James E Starkey
53
Patrick Auriemmo

Robert B Bailey
Robert M Blocher
Reginald L Commodo

Roy A Davidson
Matthew Medina
Herman A Schairer
Phillip R Soike
George E Swendra
Raymond P Woodruff
68
John B Gabusi, Jr
James H Greenlee
Joseph O Builen
Frank R Mendoza

James G Stewart
73
Carlos Garcia
75
Richard L Hoy
Calvin F Vance
76
Dennis L Hill
Willie E Jolly
81
Henry L Aubin
Henry A Bilodeau
Rocco H Demase
Robert J Gilmore
Bill G McDonald
Richard Moen
B J O’Hara
Austin E Robbins
James E Tillinghast
83
Don Davis
William G Ewing
62
Dean Barr
Wilfred H Beecher
William R Dunahay
Robert E Jarvis
John McMenamin
Amzie R Miller
Larry Ruble
William See
Andrew J Warianka
Robert N Warren
Patrick J Williams

64
Bertram O Woodworth
66

Raymond F Babeu

100
Frank Balla, Jr
Leroy Berghoefer
George P Christie
Minor Collins
John W Davis
Wilmer E French
Marion D Frock
James Frohlich
Raymond C Gauss
Teddy L Gibson
William R Glattfelder
John E Holmes
RW Bill Koning, Sr
Kenneth T Kopin
Edward A Majchrzak

William B Peterson
Alton P Porter
John D Reynolds
Armand P Santucci
Dom J Savino
Dale R Say, Jr
Lloyd Sharp
Wallace J Smith
Charles W Spears, Sr
George C Stover
Michael E Sullivan
Lloyd F VanSickle
William E Welsh
James C Wilson
101
Walter C Eilbrecht
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Roger Andrews
Douglas P Mikus
Theodore R Taylor
107
Donald W Miller
Harold E Phelps
Bill Taylor
108
Raymond Prellwitz
109
John Miklochik
130
Jim McInnis
131
David G Bell
William J Edmons
Kevin C Kessler
James F Manning
138
Walter B Allen
Keith Jenkins
Dade R Sisneros
In order to understand fear we must have faith. Faith is the reciprocal of fear.

As we grow physically, we must also grow spiritually. Hearing the Word of God is of the utmost importance. And if you’re listening carefully, He’s telling you to “Fear Not”! It’s mentioned more than 60 times in the Bible. God is pleading with us to hear His Word and do not be afraid. He tells us over and over again that there is nothing to fear; that He will always be there for us.

So keep the faith, hear His Word and there will be nothing to fear; seeing is believing doesn’t work here. Only faith in God does.

For God and Country,
Sgt. Dan Palmer
ALLECA Director/Camp Commandant

Chaplain’s Corner

Fear Is Part of Life

“The only thing we have to fear is fear itself.” That quote made famous by FDR in his inauguration address in March 1933, has a far deeper meaning than most associate with it.

Fear - it’s part of life, instilled in us by our parents, our teachers, our government, the news media, law enforcement and oddly enough, by our religious leaders.

As parents, we teach our children not to talk to strangers and to look both ways before crossing the street. Teachers advise students that if they fail to study they will not receive passing grades. Our very own government controls our lives through fear. If you do not buy the health insurance you will be fined. The news media is fueled by government leaks that strike fear into the hearts of our citizens. Law enforcement tells you that if you break the law there will be consequences. Even religious leaders preach that if we fail to obey the laws of God we will suffer eternal damnation.

It seems fear is stalking us at every turn. Of course, if there were no rules, we’d live in a world completely run amok. So, a certain amount of fear is understandable in our lives in order to ensure that we are not surrounded by utter chaos.
Quilt of Valor 2014 Awardee

Clarence F. Wittman Jr

Some 20+ years ago a family of the five Barber sisters made it a point to have a get together for a sister’s weekend. All of them loved to sew, so they used that occasion to bring their sewing machines to create something that would come to be known as the “Quilt of Valor.” In doing so, it came to be something to honor a deserving veteran for honorable time spent in their chosen service to the United States of America. Their overview for issuance was to be rotated among the sisters yearly. Qualifications for the award were simple; present it to a known veteran of your choice that you feel deserving.

Each year they would individually pick colors to be embedded in the design of the quilt and together, once the colors were established, a name would be chosen. This year its name is “Autumn Nine Patch”. Along with the quilt presentation is a colorful picture sequence of the sisters involved in their cooperative effort in making the quilt. The final picture is individually signed and ends with “May this quilt be a warm reminder that we are thankful for your dedication & bravery in keeping our beautiful country, The United States of America free! May God Bless You & Thank You.”

For the year 2014, Lori Phillips was to pick her chosen recipient. Her choice happened to be Green Valley, Arizona resident, retired SMSGT Clarence F. Wittman Jr., better known as Butch. He served in the U.S. Air Force from 1958-1981, a time that he holds in his memory with varied assignments, but also remembering the many individuals he served with. Having moved 14 times, his service time was spent in many regions overseas and the Western US, many of which were not well liked locations, but he made the best of each with involvement in base and community activities.

After all these years he’s still serving America and his fellow veterans by his involvement in American Legion Madera Post #131 in Green Valley, Arizona as it’s Adjutant and has for the last 4+ years. Membership recruitment along with associated people skills has garnered him National Awards for each of those years.

We would like to recognize these five sisters for their dedication in honoring a veteran for their service to our country with such an inspirational award presented yearly by a different sister whom they feel deserves their very nice thought, TO HONOR – TO COMFORT. He is honored and humbled with this thoughtful presentation.

The sisters and their resident cities are as follows:

Carol Sherwood, Dike, Iowa
Debbie Walker, Omaha, Nebraska
Becky Kock, Algonquin, Illinois
Lori Phillips, Ionia, Iowa
Pam Klooster, Mason City, Iowa

Lori Phillips presenting the Quilt of Valor to Butch Wittman