



For God & Country



# THE ARIZONA LEGIONNAIRE



VOLUME 2015 • OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE AMERICAN LEGION, DEPARTMENT OF ARIZONA • ISSUE 5

## First Couple of Months A Whirlwind

It has been a whirlwind couple of months. I have informally visited many Posts where I have met many Commanders, officers, and members, as well as getting stamps on my ALR Get to Know Your Post Map. While traveling to and from Post 52 Sierra Vista to give greetings at the 40 & 8 Grand Promenade, I stopped by Posts 7, 36, & 59 in Tucson, Posts 66 & 131 Green Valley, Post 109 Vail and Post 24 in Tombstone.

On July 24th, I met with the Governor's staff and representatives from several Veterans groups to discuss Veteran concerns. Directly from the Governor's office, I traveled to Tucson for the opening ceremony of American Legion Baseball Tournament. I was very impressed with the talent of these young men. I presented trophies to the runner up team sponsored by Post 59, and the winning team sponsored by Post 7. The Post 7 team went on to come in second at the regional tournament in Colorado. Congratulations boys and Post 7. Between baseball games, I visited Post 59, Post 7, Post 36, and Post 109.

The next weekend, I took a day to collect some more stamps on the ALR Map. I visited Post 62 in Peoria, Post 12 Wickenburg, Post 79 Yarnell, and Posts 34 and 107 in Cave Creek.

Sadly, on August 6th, I attended the funeral of my longtime friend and mentor, Past Department Commander Tony Valenzuela. He did so much for The American Legion and he will be greatly missed. We toasted his life at Post 41 after the services. That evening, I met with Area Vice Commanders and District Commanders from out of town

for a presentation on the Arizona Wall Project before flying out early the next morning to Indianapolis for membership training with the rest of the Membership Team. We had a weeks' worth of training in two days.

I visited Post 44 Scottsdale for Thirsty Thursday with S.A.L. Detachment Commander-Greg Mekula; candidate for S.A.L. National Commander and Western Region Vice Commander and

*Commander continued page 4*



Commander's Message



## Local Veteran Receives Life Changing Gift

Mr. Wilbur Quick, a local Korean Veteran, recently received a generous gift from the Cottonwood Home Depot Store – the gift was a new handicap ramp for safer and easier access



to his home!

For the past several years, Mr. Quick's home has had a ramp that had been constructed by volunteers from the Cottonwood Fire Department, after the original ramp had collapsed, injuring him. In the past year, Mr. Quick's health has declined to such a degree that he was relegated to using a motorized wheelchair, resulting in the existing ramp no longer safe for him to enter or exit his residence. In fact, on a few occasions, he took a tumble leaving his residence.

With such a vital need for assistance to a senior Veteran, American Legion Post 135, Sgt-at-Arms, John Maddox, contacted the Manager at the Home Depot in Cottonwood to see if they could provide assistance in

*Gift continued page 5*

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## 2015 National Convention



## The Wait Is Finally Over!!!



Newly elected National Commander, Dale Barnett from Georgia; along with the newly elected National Vice Commanders. Our very own George Cushing, National Vice Commander Western Region is to the right of National Commander Barnett. Congratulations George!

It has been fourteen months since I was endorsed as Arizona's candidate for the high office of National Vice Commander 2015-2016. During our National Convention in Baltimore, I was elected and installed to this high office.

I want to take this opportunity to thank all the members of The American Legion Family for all their continued support and encouragement during the endorsement and election process. I am authorized two (2) visits to the thirteen (13) States in the western region in support of the National Commander and the national membership team.

If you are having a Post or District event and would like me to attend please feel free to contact me (information in the directory); I would be honored to attend as well as any membership related events.

I will do my best to represent the National Commander, the National Organization, the Western Region, the Department of Arizona and Earl E. Mitchell Post #29.

For God and Country,  
George Cushing

**DEPARTMENT OF ARIZONA  
FALL CONFERENCE  
NOVEMBER 6-8, 2015**



**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 REBECCA: 520 323-5219

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 18, 2015  
to receive \$99.00 discounted rate**

## THE ARIZONA LEGIONNAIRE

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Free online at [www.AZLegion.org](http://www.AZLegion.org) and e-mail subscriptions are free. Call or e-mail The Arizona Legion Office to sign up or for more information.

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(C) **Sherie Mercier (928) 856-2437**

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**Ken Johnson (805) 714-9369**

District 11 Commander  
**Dan Palmer (602) 377-4405**

District 12 Commander  
**Scott Reeves (602) 722-0587**



## Upcoming Events:

Friday, October 16 2015

### American Legion Riders Post 105 Third Annual Legacy Run

KSU: 0800 at Post 105, 12450 N. 35th Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85053 Riding to Bullhead City with return on Sunday, October 18, 2015 (Remember your helmet if going to Laughlin)

Saturday, October 17, 2015

### Viet Nam Veterans - BBQ

The Casa Grande Valley Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution will host a BBQ in honor of the 50th Anniversary of the end of the Viet Nam war at the Coolidge American Legion Hall on Oct. 17. Every Viet Nam veteran in Pinal County has an invitation to be present. Doors open at 3 p.m. at The American Legion Hall, 408 N. Main Street, Coolidge, Arizona.

All organizations that support veterans in Pinal County are invited to participate by identifying and inviting Viet Nam veterans in their area. This event is free of charge to those who served during the Viet Nam conflict. Family and others are asked to donate \$5 per plate with children 5 and under free.

For info contact Merrilyn Ridgeway, 520-421-1376, [merrilynridgeway@gmail.com](mailto:merrilynridgeway@gmail.com) or Regent Gail Piggott, 520-723-3844, [gailmp53@gmail.com](mailto:gailmp53@gmail.com).

Saturday, October 31, 2015

Noon to 5:00 pm

### Fall Festival BBQ

BBQ will be held at Saguaro Ranch Park, 9802 N. 59th Avenue, Glendale

Kids Best Costume Competition at 2:30 P.M. Variety of Food and Drinks Available at Cabanas 50/50 Raffle Event. All proceeds go towards supporting Posts #144 and #145 in District 11, Please RSVP to: [azpost144@gmail.com](mailto:azpost144@gmail.com)

Wednesday, November 11 2015

### Veterans Day

Please check with your local Chamber of Commerce for events going on in your community honoring our Veterans.

Saturday, January 9, 2016

### American Legion Family Department Open House

12:00 NOON – 5:00 P.M.

4701 N. 19th Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85015

## Phoenix Veterans Day Parade

Phoenix Veterans Day Parade presented by Honoring Arizona's Veterans Wed, 11/11/2015, 11:00 am - 1:00 pm Starts at North Phoenix Baptist Church, Montebello and Central South on Central at Montebello, East on Camelback, South on 7th to Indian School Road, Phoenix, AZ, 85012

**Details:** The Phoenix Veterans Day Parade, presented by Honoring Arizona's Veterans ([www.honoringarizonasveterans.org](http://www.honoringarizonasveterans.org)) has a long history of pride and patriotism in Phoenix on Veterans Day. This year's theme is "No Longer Forgotten, Remembering Korean War Veterans".

This family friendly event glistens with a beautiful tribute to our true heroes our Veterans.

You'll see large helium balloons, Veterans Service

Organizations, JROTC entries, a 30x60 foot American Flag carried down the route, floats, equestrian units, military flyovers and much, much more.

The Phoenix Veterans Day Parade Committee is an all-volunteer, non-profit group of dedicated Veterans, Military, and community leaders who support the mission to ensure our Veterans are recognized on their special day through this parade.

Ongoing since 1997, this parade features 45,000 attendees, 100 parade entries, and seven announcers booths along the route for you to learn more about our Veterans. For more details please contact our Parade Coordinator: Paula Pedene 480-772-2934

*Commander* continued from page 1  
other S.A.L. officers and members.

On Saturday, August 14th, I drove to Window Rock to attend festivities for Navajo Code Talkers Day. What a remarkable group of Veterans that are finally getting recognized. I stopped by Post 37 Holbrook and Post 86 Overgaard on the way home.

I would like to visit each and every Post in Arizona. If your Post is having an event or meeting you would like me to attend, please contact Adjutant Angel Juarez at [adjutant@azlegion.org](mailto:adjutant@azlegion.org).

For God and Country,  
Billy Ellis, Department Commander



**Arizona American Legion Riders****Busy Summer For ALR**

This summer was a busy time for the Arizona ALR Family.

In June, ALR 91(Chandler) donated \$1,200 to the Missing in America Project; \$500 to a disabled Veteran with cancer; \$500 to Hope Covenant Church for shoes for underprivileged children; and \$100 to buy school supplies. In July, they donated \$900 to the Honor Flight to send our third WWII Veteran to Washington DC this year. In August, they donated \$250 to Canine Companions for Independence (they train service dogs and give them for free to Veterans with PTSD) and made a \$2,000 donation to their Post. ALR 91 also held a poker run to benefit the PGR which raised a total of \$1,173 (\$150 of that was returned by the winner of the high hand, and \$60 of that was a partial return from the winner of the 50/50 drawing.)

In August, ALR 58 (Fountain Hills) established an Honor Tree, the first of its kind in Arizona. The Honor Tree (originally conceived by 58 Rider Lee Norman, and skillfully constructed by Dutch Gottschalk, 58's Road Captain) was designed to recognize Veterans both past and present for their service. Veterans are honored with a dog tag engraved with their name, branch of service, and specific military conflict that is displayed on the tree. Submission details can be obtained by contacting ALR 58 President John Weedo at 480-390-7714.

In August, ALR District 12 launched a new Facebook page - American Legion Riders District 12 Arizona. The page was created to provide a social media mechanism for showcasing activities and events occurring within District 12 for the purpose of promoting effective communication, cooperation, and support among the District 12 Chapters as well as highlighting their activities and accomplishments. The Facebook page contains several unique features including a summary listing of all American Legion Rider events within all 10 Arizona Districts as well as an interactive map showing the location and contact information for every District 12 Chapter.

ALR 131 (Green Valley) continues to serve a free full breakfast to the residents of the Blind Rehab Clinic at the VA Hospital in Tucson once a month. Their riders are trained in the handling of the blind, and the blind patients don't ever go away hungry.

And welcome to our newest ALR Chapter - Post 13 in Williams.

At the Legion's National Convention in Baltimore, not only did the Legion Riders lead the National Parade, but it was announced that \$1,249,684.13 had been raised (primarily by the Riders) for The American Legion Legacy Scholarship Fund. National Commander, Mike Helm, asked for a standing ovation for the ALR for setting another record. Arizona ALR was well represented on stage by John Moffitt (ALR 6), Judi Beischel (ALR 58), Steve Aguirre (ALR 59) and Holly Jensen (ALR 52) (Jim Beischel, ALR 58, was there as always - in the audience taking pictures). The Arizona ALR contributions made to the Legacy Fund at the National Convention totaled \$21,478.05. Many thanks to the Arizona Chapters (and their members) who contributed: ALR 4



(\$3,000), ALR 5 (\$750 + \$100 on behalf of ALR 39 for winning the traveling trophy last year the most number of times), ALR 6 (\$500), ALR 8 (\$500), ALR 12 (\$250), ALR 14 (\$220), ALR 29 (\$1,778.05 + \$1,430 in honor of Fred Manske), ALR 34(\$900 + \$100), ALR 36 (\$500), ALR 52 (\$750), ALR 58 (\$500 from their ALR, \$500 from the Post, \$500 from their S.A.L., and \$500 from their Auxiliary), ALR 59 (\$100 personally donated by Steve Aguirre), ALR 61 (\$2,000), ALR 69 (\$100), ALR 93 (\$500), ALR 97 (\$100), ALR 105 (\$1,050 + \$400 personally donated by Linda Morris), ALR 109 (\$500), ALR 131 (\$100), ALR 138 (\$500) and District 8, Department of Arizona (\$100). Additionally, ALR 86 presented \$3,250 to the National Commander during the Legacy Run itself (\$1,500 from the Post, \$1,500 from ALR 86 and \$250 from SAL Squadron 86).

If you are ever 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](http://www.azalr.yolasite.com). If you want to start an ALR Chapter in your Post, please contact me at the e-mail address below for information on how to get started.

For God and Country,

John Moffitt, [prescottbikers@hotmail.com](mailto:prescottbikers@hotmail.com)

**Member**

American Legion Riders National Advisory Committee

**Chairman**

American Legion Riders, Department of Arizona (AZALR)

*Gift continued from page 1*

upgrading the ramp to make it safer for Wilbur. Working directly with the Cottonwood Store Manager Steve Macheck, Mr. Maddox was informed of a program recently instituted by the Home Depot Foundation, with \$1 million set aside for projects just like this. Within a few weeks, the paperwork was completed and the project was approved.

The Home Depot Foundation volunteer construction team provided all the manpower and womanpower to get the job done. Within less than four hours, they dismantled the existing ramp (hailed it away), and installed a new 12-foot ramp that extended from the porch to within a foot of the street, making it safer to mount the ramp, at a safer angle and at a safe distance from the passing vehicles on the road.

According to Legion Project Officer, Mr. Maddox, "the all wood ramp, with hand railings, is state of the art, was constructed at the store and transported to Mr. Quick's home for ease of installation." He went on to say that the walkway is approximately four feet wide to accommodate Mr. Quick's newer wider mobile chair and is illuminated with six solar light caps on the hand railing supports to provide lighting during dark hours.

When asked about the new ramp, Mr. Quick says, "I can't believe how great my new "runway" looks and I'm truly grateful to Home Depot for not only helping me, but for all the Veterans who will also benefit from this program." With this new handicap ramp, Mr. Quick can now come and go without fear of leaving and returning home.

Home Depot Team members consisted of Team Captain, Lou Thompson; Mark Griffes; Sally Reynolds; Rosita Garcia; and Jerry Garrett. A HUGE THANK YOU TO HOME DEPOT!



AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF ARIZONA  
CONFERENCE  
NOV. 6-8, 2015

**AMERICAN LEGION REGISTRATION - \$10.00**  
**(AT CONFERENCE - \$12.00)**

PLEASE RETURN FORM WITH CHECK MADE OUT TO:

American Legion Department of Arizona  
4701 N. 19<sup>th</sup> Ave. Suite 200, Phoenix, Az. 85015

POST NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_ AMOUNT ENCLOSED \_\_\_\_\_

NAME (PRINT)

POSITION/TITLE (PRINT)

If also ALR Rider  
then place an X

1 \_\_\_\_\_

2 \_\_\_\_\_

3 \_\_\_\_\_

4 \_\_\_\_\_

5 \_\_\_\_\_

6 \_\_\_\_\_

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14 \_\_\_\_\_

15 \_\_\_\_\_

**PRE-REGISTRATION DEADLINE NOV. 1, 2015**

DO NOT MIX LEGION WITH SAL  
NO REFUNDS OR SUBSTITUTIONS

# Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Arizona Fall 2015 Conference

DoubleTree Hotel - Reid Park, Tucson, Arizona  
Detachment Meetings Start Saturday Morning, November 7th, 8:30am  
Fall Conference: November 6, 7 & 8th, 2015

Registration is \$10.00 per SAL member attending. Registration fees are non-refundable.  
Registration after deadline subject to higher fees.

Your Squadron #:  Amount Enclosed:  Check Number:

Check box if  
ALR rider

PRINT or TYPE full name

PRINT or TYPE Position/Title

1	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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9	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**DEADLINE:** SAL Conference Registration and Payment must be *received at AZ Department Offices* by close of business on Wednesday, October 28th, 2015. **Make check payable to 'Department of Arizona'.**

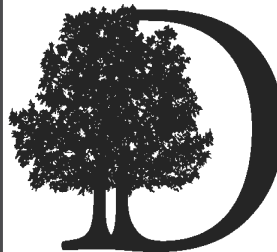
**HOTEL:** *Reservations are made directly with the DoubleTree - Reid Park by October 18 to receive 'The American Legion Meeting Rate'.* Conference Dates Nov 6-8th, 2015.

**Send Conference Registration:**

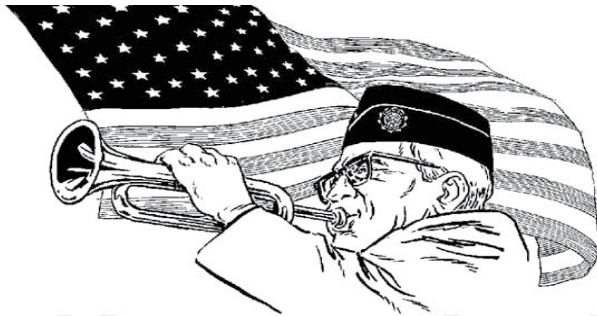
**Make your Hotel Reservations:**



MAIL Check and completed form to:  
**Department of Arizona**  
4701 N. 19th Ave Suite 200  
Phoenix, AZ 85015-3799



**DoubleTree Hotel  
Tucson Reid Park**  
*Mention: Legion Conference*  
445 S. Alvernon Way  
Tucson, Arizona, 85711  
TEL: 1-520-323-5219



## POST EVERLASTING

1	Michael J Traurig	John LaDuca	81
R. Allen	Gene W White	Richard A Reed Sr.	Bud Coons
Arthur Cushman	28	45	Vernon Doshier
Ernest A Montenegro	E. B Edwards	Joseph R Beaudet Sr.	Robert E Estu
Michael Olexa	29	46	Wallace E Ice
Walter A Wolf	Pablo V Alvira Jr.	Walter M Iker	John E Lacey
2	Joseph W Caffiero	Laurice H Richardson	Meredith R Peterson
Fred G Pitsenberg Jr.	Robert E Lewis	52	Michael L Scarano
Kenneth C Ramsey	Charles M Minglin	Michael T Bianchino	James M Sigg
5	Herbert Noftz	54	James K Smith Jr.
Arnold T Abney	Richard P Toth	Roger W Koons	James S Tritten
Richard Brunette	31	Garland Reeves	John Y Vargas
Cliff E Riley	Ben Stallings	56	84
6	32	George Auza	Masaji Inoshita
Angel Aguilera	Fred D Cates	57	87
7	Gene E Coons	Lawrence D Barnett	Elaine Bodge
Stan V Brewster	Lee Maylen	58	John M Lovell
M. G Rhodes Jr.	34	John B Kendall	88
9	Robert N Swift	Peter W Kiewel	Arthur Deloof
John W Baker	35	59	91
11	William J Giles	Joseph R Alvarez	James Combs
Ruben Duron	William J Mahoney	59 Ralph K Barlow	Ray R Frey
Vicente E Perez	Raymond E McClintock	62	96
12	John H Spinck Jr.	James K Butler	William J Dohrer
Raymond G Hernandez	William H Walsh	Charles M Butts	Lyle E Huntley
Richard E Tingley	Daniel P Welsh	Richard C Dick	100
13	36	Richard H Engbretson	Robert Harrington
Anthony J Ulrich	James M Click	Andrew Frison	Ralph Woodbridge
14	Harry L Eshelman	MacDonald T Greene Jr.	William Bird
Kelse L Plumb	Michael B Foster	Ralph Grembowski	Raymond A Black
15	Howard G Martin Sr.	Jerry Long	Ken Clifton
Dennis B Hernandez	Frank Padilla	Robert G Rodriquez	Glenn L Coughenour
19	John R Pulley	Gordon J Schempp	Lloyd Dady
Scott D Corstange	Carl E Reynard Sr.	Robert L Schroeder	Howard Dimmit
23	Robert B Vandenplas	W. D Tracy	Robert G Emery
George B Ortega	Dennis D Kennedy	Paul F Walker	Edward P Heard
25	37	Stanley S Young	John S Lara
Michael H Brown	Marlin F Gillespie	64	Robert Marion
Michael C Fourzan	Robert J Slade	Neilson A Bertholf Jr.	Lowell K Masley
Ernest H Gabrielson	40	R. W DeMoss	Robert D Maxwell Jr.
Norman L Norvell	Edwin C Leiding	August Salvo	Warren Mizokami
Leland D Shoptaugh	Bert L Ransom	65	John A Noel Sr.
Wilmer O Twit	Richard L Wilson	Albert Kurdinat	Edward M Nunez
26	41	66	John L O'Connor Sr.
Austin B Acuff Jr.	Eddie M Acevedo	Charles J Axton Jr.	Raymond E Persson
Anthony A Lizdas	Robert Fierro	Orville L Doughty	James V Quinn
Dexter Sargent	Albert Howard	Perry F Iler	Merwin A Ross
Ruth S Shreve	Manuel C Perez	Mark A Kowalski Sr.	Adam G Salwinski
27	Marco A Valenzuela	Norman H Moore	Richard M Swech
Dwayne D Erickson	44	Dennis R Reams	William S Watson
Doyle L Harnish	Paul A Alix	Robert C Turner	101
Denys H Hemen	William J Caley Jr.	Roger L Valley	Arnold Thompson
Charles A Pobuda	Paul W Donars	68	James R Cramer
John C Reigle	Irving A Fleming	Ruben H Gonzalez	Richard W Dewey
Betty G St Germain	Albert L Hoffman	Andy Guerra	Robert J Ruppert
		Enrique A Ohnesorgen	107
		Ruben A Perez	Carl L Coker
		73	Robert W Moyle III
		Arthur S Carlsten	109
		Jerold N Coulon	Del L Bedsaul
		75	Juan V Escalante
		John W Hartlauer Sr.	Bertram S Falbaum
		Louis Bridda	Colin K Guptill
		William A Burgan	Ronald J Iman
		Michael T Sita	Leroy R Landers
		78	Gerald G Massengill
		Roger A Englund	
		William J Steinmetz	

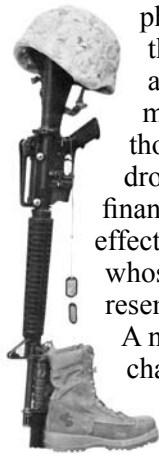


Chaplain's Corner

# Dealing With Loss

Upon hearing the word loss, people automatically associate it with death as opposed to something as trivial as losing a cell phone. Oddly enough, some folks consider the loss of the phone catastrophic. These folks might consider a reorganization of their priorities. Loss comes in many forms and often is not even recognized by those closest to the one who suffers the loss. A huge drop in the stock market could easily leave someone financially devastated. Loss of a job would have an equal effect. Having to care for a loved one or family member whose mind is gradually diminishing and no longer resembles the person you knew can be heart-breaking. A negative diagnosis from the doctor can bring mental chaos to someones mind as they experience their daily life becomes more and more restrictive as they are able to do less and less for themselves. Being able to care for ourselves is a cherished gift we don't recognize until that ability starts to disappear.

When any type of loss occurs, we go through five mental stages. The first is denial where you are simply unable to believe that



this loss could be happening to you. The second is anger as you question what in the world you could have possibly done to deserve this. The third stage is when you start negotiating with the Almighty. You try to bargain with the Lord, promising to do this or that if you can be relieved from this unjust situation. The fourth is depression and finally, fifth is acceptance.

Had you invited God into your heart at the first stage, the severity of the next four stages could have been reduced greatly. Having a close relationship with God provides an inner peace that cannot be compared to anything. It stills your mind and your heart when you realize that whatever it is that's happening is the will of God. God will provide you with the strength you need to deal. All you have to do is sincerely believe in His love for you.

Do this when you are assailed by any problem. Invite God over for happy hour. Have a long visit. It might not cure what ails you but it can make the ailment a lot easier to deal with.

Asking for prayers for PDC's Paul Griffin and Bruce Conklin both of whom are dealing with health problems. Please keep all Veterans and first responders in your daily devotions.

For God and Country,  
 Carol Stensby, Chaplain,  
 The American Legion, Department of Arizona

## National Commander Applaudes "Get Out the Vote" Program

It's hard to miss the political rhetoric these days. Thanks to 24-hour news, social media and the headline-grabbing half-truths, the 2016 presidential campaign is already in full swing.

Many of us would prefer candidates stick to the issues. We would like real answers on real issues. How would candidates address concerns with VA care? How would candidates prioritize national security issues such as ISIS, our southern border and North Korea?

Even if we sometimes feel disenchanted with our political system, it's still the best in the world. We, the people, get to cast our votes and decide who will represent us from town council to city mayor to state governor to federal lawmakers and, of course, the president.

There are many opportunities throughout the year when Legionnaires register voters in their communities. One example: at a naturalization ceremony last month in LaPlace, La., Legion Family members signed up new citizens to vote. But your post doesn't have to hold such a ceremony to sign up new voters.

The Legion's "Get Out the Vote" program encourages American Legion posts, districts and departments to be actively engaged in the electoral process by serving as poll volunteers, poll workers and by encouraging and assisting others to register and vote.

In just a few short months, the first ballots for the 2016 presidential nominations will be counted at primaries and caucuses. I would encourage posts and districts to consider how best they can promote the Legion's Get Out the Vote program (download the PDF: <http://www.legion.org/sites/legion.org/files/legion/publications/Get-Out-The-Vote-Brochure.pdf>) and assist nonregistered voters in your community to participate in our election process.

We have all fought for the right for free elections. Let's take that another step by educating our fellow citizens on the process.

Duty. Honor. Country.  
 Dale Barnett, National Commander

American Legion  
 2015 Conference  
**PROGRAM BOOK**

Outside Back Cover	\$300
Inside Back Cover	\$300
Full Page B&W Only	\$200
Half Page	\$120
Quarter Page	\$80
Business Card Size	\$40
Boosters—Per Name	\$2

**ALL ADS MUST be PRINT Ready or Email**

---

Mail your Ad and/Or Booster along with payment made out to:  
 American Legion Dept of AZ  
 4701 N. 19th Ave #200  
 Phoenix, AZ 85015

ALL ADS ARE DUE NO LATER THAN  
 Oct. 23, 2015



# National Night Out

The purpose of National Night Out is to build strong partnerships between the police and communities and to promote crime awareness programs such as Neighborhood Community Watch groups. This year was one of the largest in attendance of all the NNO events north of Phoenix, Arizona for the 6th year in a row. Along with American Legion Post 25 and 135, there were approximately 35 other businesses and civic groups represented. Local guests had over 3,500 bottles of water and over 100 cans of soda; all the snow cone supplies and ice cream to say nothing of all the hot dogs and hamburgers that were consumed!



*Showing the Legion force at the Cottonwood National Night Out: (l-r) Post 135 Adjutant, Jan Allbright; Post 25 Executive Committeeman, Stan Makow; District 8 Commander, Ken Johnson; Post 25 Commander, Bill Tinnin; and Post 135 Assistant Adjutant, Jim Strande. At their respective membership tables, post members talked with Veterans, offered valuable information concerning the Legion and had fun with the nearly 2,000 other participants. (Photo by Jeri Strande)*

# Bullhead Veterans Memorial An Emotional Experience



After retiring in Beautiful Bullhead, my bucket list included joining The American Legion as a Sons of The American member in honor of my father and all who served. I had my dad's DD214 and documents filled out and thought why not go to the Legion on Memorial Day, my first visit.

I walked out to the Veterans' Memorial site first and was quite overtaken with it. After prayers, I read the many names on the plaques and saw the disrepair over those hallowed names. I went into the Legion to take a look and sat with a brother Elk and City Councilman and his friend. I spoke of the condition of the Memorial and they said they had been working on its inspection and next stages.

I looked up our Legion site again and noticed the Memorial actually belonged to the city's Parks and Recreation Department. Bingo! Our Mayor, Tom Brady, was the Director of our County

Parks and Recreation for 19 years, a Bronze Star Veteran and VFW member. The city council is a sponsor of the Memorial. I sent an email to Parks and Recreation, the Councilman and Mayor. The Memorial was repaired within a week.

Short version, the Mayor was notified of the neglect of respect to our heroes and he did his duty!

Thank you to Mayor, Tom Brady; City Manager, Toby Cutter and everyone who worked on preserving this great Veterans' Memorial.

Curt Mantle

Editor's Note: THANK YOU Curt for bringing this to the City's attention!

# HOHP 39 Foot Mobile Health Center

HOHP (Honoring, Helping, Hiring Our Heroes of Pinal County). About a year ago, HOHP had the opportunity to secure a 39 foot Mobile Health Center from the County of Pinal. The Pinal County Health Department Director, a Veteran himself, put in a request to transfer the vehicle to HOHP so that it could be converted into a much needed Mobile Veteran Outreach Center. The request was taken before the Board of Supervisors for consideration. Initially, Pinal County received a grant from the Gila River Indian Community for the mobile outreach clinic for the county and it was no longer in use.

On December 17, 2014, the Board of Supervisors unanimously voted to sell the Mobile Unit to HOHP for \$1.00. HOHP worked with local organizations to secure the funding needed through donations to wrap the vehicle in its current beautiful uniform. You can tell by all the Eagles displayed on the unit that it was honorably named "Eagle One"!

Eagle One is a bold statement of what can be accomplished through the cooperation and coordinated efforts of people from all walks of life (Veterans and their families, concerned Veterans Organizations, 501c(3) organizations etc.). A Grant to operate the mobile unit in Pinal County for the next three years was approved by the Gila River Indian Community and the Pinal County Board of Supervisors.

We hope to have the Mobile Unit serving veterans in the rural areas of our county in mid-October 2015.



# American Legion Department Baseball Tournament



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The 2015 Department of Arizona Baseball Tournament was held on July 24th through the 27th. Eight teams competed in the double elimination tournament held in the Keno Sports Complex, Tucson. The teams were Post 7 Badgers, Post 8 Spartans, Unit 29 Phoenix Bruins, Squadron 29 Alhambra, Post 59 Dirtbags, Post 91 Champions, Post 97 Broncos and the N.W. Red Raiders.

In attendance was our Department Commander Billy Ellis, Adjutant Angel Juarez, Area A Vice Commander Steve Aguirre, Area B Vice Commander Michael Thelen, Dept Chaplain Carol Stensby



*Post 7 Badgers, Arizona Department Champions 2015*

Baseball Chairman Robert Krumwiede, and Baseball Financial Officer and Past Baseball Chairman Rollin Kohrs. Detachment Commander Greg Mekula and Past Detachment Commander Joe Miller also attended. Our Tournament Director was Scott Ehret who has also been selected as one of the three American Legion Baseball Regional Tournament Directors in Asheboro, N.C.

The weather, for this time of year, was the best it could be for baseball. Only 103 degrees, humid, with an occasional overcast, which was a vast improvement over last year.

The championship game was played on Monday the 27th. Post 7 played the Post 59 team for all the marbles and a trip to the Regional Tournament in Boulder Colorado in August. The game was very close with the Post 7 Badgers winning in the 10th inning, 2 to 1.

I would like to thank the Department Baseball staff for all their help this tournament and all season long. Rollin Kohrs – Finance Officer, Scott Ehret – Rules and Compliance, Tom Kusek- Executive Officer, Bill Leith – Area A Chairman, and Baseball Coordinators Robin and Richard Park.

On behalf of the Department of Arizona Baseball Committee I wish to express a most sincere thank you to all the Legion Posts, Auxiliary Units, S.A.L. Squadrons and Rider Groups for your continued support of the baseball program. Without your support we could not have the program. Again, Thanks!

### **Post Script**

The Post 7 Badgers went to the Regional Tournament in Boulder, Colorado on August 5th. They won their first game against Utah but lost the second game to Hawaii. On Friday, Post 7 beat Nevada and on Saturday they beat New Mexico in a close game, 8-7. They had to beat Hawaii twice on Sunday to advance to the American Legion World Series in North Carolina. Post 7 won the first game 6-3 but lost the second game 10-6. Congratulations to the Post 7 Badgers on having a great season. This is Hawaii's fourth straight year in The American Legion World Series.

Robert J. Krumwiede, Baseball Chairman, Department of Arizona

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## **Assisting Veterans with VA Disability Claims - Appeals Only\***

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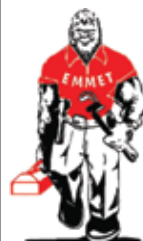
Tel: (480) 838-6566; Fax: (480) 838-8810  
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\*Federal law permits the payment of attorney fees by the veteran for assistance with any VA claim if Notice of Disagreement is filed after June 20, 2007.

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