



THE ARIZONA LEGIONNAIRE

VOLUME 2008

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

ISSUE 4

“Just Ask” Be Proactive This Year

I want to thank God for allowing me to serve The American Legion as Department Commander of Arizona. I am extremely proud and humble to have this opportunity to serve. I want to thank my wife Ann for her sincere understanding and support for my commitment to this endeavor. I am highly appreciative to the dedicated Legionnaires of the Department of Arizona who elected me. I am dedicated to serving our veterans as this organization has supported me and I have a year to do the best job that I can.

I enjoyed visiting the Districts and Posts this past year while campaigning and meeting so many hardworking Legionnaires. I was unable to visit the District 3 meeting in the Sierra Vista and Douglas area due to our intense campaign schedule, however, I will come there on my first chance.

My theme for this year is **Just Ask** because I believe we should be more proactive and aggressive when recruiting new members. Just Ask potential new members to join and be a part of our great organization. Just Ask are you a veteran? Would you like to be on our team? My goals are to promote and increase our membership numbers.

My commander's pin will sport The American Legion Emblem with a message of leadership, communication, and programs. I believe we should be forward moving and



strongly encourage our Area Vice Commanders, District and Post Commanders to work on our goals of service to our membership and organization. We are a service giving organization and it should be an honor to serve. I am asking my officers and committee chairmen to give some good sound leadership and teamwork.

I expect a year of complete dedication from our Commanders on all levels. Their duties are outlined in the Department, District and Post Constitution and By-laws and should be used at every opportunity to further business in our operations. I expect our officers and committee chairmen to fully familiarize themselves with the duties and responsibilities of their offices. A key element in my message is leadership because we need it to be effective in giving guidance and direction to our members and officers.

I believe we should all come together in unity...working under one “tent” (Legionnaires, Auxiliary, Sons of the American Legion and Legion Riders). All working together to become a great American Legion Family and we should be giving and showing respect for each others goals and objectives.

We need to spend our time and talents working our programs (Boys & Girls State, High School Oratorical Contest, Legion Baseball, ALLECA, Boy Scouts, Children & Youth, National Security, etc.) and keep these treasures alive and well. It's also important to have the Consolidate Post Report (CPR) completed promptly and timely so we will receive full credit for all of our accomplishments by National.

During my campaign for Department Commander, I gave speeches about the exciting events scheduled for the upcoming year here in Arizona. The Department of Arizona will be host to the 2008 Western Regional Baseball Tournament. The tournament will be held August 13 through 18 at the Surprise Sports Complex in Surprise, Arizona. We are pleased and proud to host this tournament and welcome all The American Legion baseball players, coaches and fans to this outstanding event. Tickets are on sale and can be obtained by contacting The American Legion, Department of Arizona or Baseball Chairman, Rollin Kohrs, member

Commander continued on page 2

John J. Morris American Legion Post & Unit 62

Winners of the State of Arizona “Richard H. Bieri Memorial Cooperation Trophy”

This prestigious Department of Arizona American Legion Award was presented to John J. Morris American Legion Post & Unit 62 at the Annual American Legion Department Convention that was held in Tucson in June. The award was presented by The American Legion, Department of Arizona Department Adjutant, John Aldecoa.

The trophy award is given to the Unit submitting the most complete year-round narrative report in activity

cooperation between the Unit and Post in the Department of Arizona. The award entails involvement in Veterans Affairs, Children & Youth, Legislative Activities, Community Service, Americanism, Education and Public Relations in their area. This was the first time for this award to be presented to John J. Morris American Legion Post 62 Family.

The Sun City/Peoria Legion Family has more than 3,500 members locally helping our veterans and community

with many projects.

Pictured are the 2007/2008 John J. Morris American Legion Post and Unit Officers with the Richard H. Bieri. Sitting displaying the award with their officers are Jack Shoemaker, Commander of Post 62 and Jane Shoemaker, President of Unit 62.

Submitted by Jane Shoemaker

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Dist 8 Commander Joseph J. Duggan, III (928) 567-5540

Dist 11 Commander Robert Hicks (623) 486-5192

Dist 12 Commander Thomas Will (480) 726-0991

Commander continued from page 1

of hosting Post 29 in Glendale. Come out and enjoy one of our great youth programs.

Department of Arizona will also host the annual American Legion National Convention August 22 through 28, 2008 in Downtown Phoenix. National Commander, Marty Conatser, and his officers are expected to attend with over 10,000 delegates from the 55 different American Legion Departments. This will be an excellent occasion for our members to meet and greet their fellow comrades from other states. I am requesting we roll out the welcome mat and be a proud and gracious host to all the distinguished officers, guests, and delegates. You many contact the Department for additional details on the scheduled activities.

The Department Fall Conference is scheduled for October 3 through 5, 2008 in Tucson. This conference will feature training to inform and educate our officers and members about American Legion history and our programs.

We have a continued need to stay current and knowledgeable and the information from this conference will enable us to better serve our membership. Hopefully, I can get National trainers to attend and give training and certification of completion on the American Legion Extension Institute Course during the conference.

I have appointed Comrade Jeri Strande, from Post 25 in Cottonwood, as the new Membership Director and she is fired up and ready to go to help our state reach another "ALL TIME HIGH"!!! With your focus and support, I have no doubt she will help us reach our membership goals in an outstanding manner.

Another element of my message to you this year is communication. I deeply believe we should stay connected to enable us to better serve our veteran community. The lines of communication MUST be open among us. I will be available to you by mail, phone or e-mail. We are all veterans and I am dedicated and

committed to keeping us in the forefront of serve to veterans, the community, state and nation.

I ask for all of your support as we embark on this new year. It is my goal to meet all challenges to move us in the right direction. The Department Executive Committee has authorized me to form an exploratory committee to review our programs. The National Americanism Commission has recommended that we take a look as our programs on the State and local levels because nationally some programs have been struggling. I am in the process of formulating this committee and will be asking for volunteers to serve.

We should remember to enjoy and have fun this year. I am confident with God's guiding hands we will reach our goals and have a great year. Don't forget to Just Ask a veteran to join. God bless you. Again, I thank you for this opportunity to serve.

FOR GOD & COUNTRY Henry Branch, Commander

BOOSTER SIGN UP

THE AMERICAN LEGION FALL CONFERENCE OCTOBER 3-5, 2008

NAME & POST/UNIT/SAL

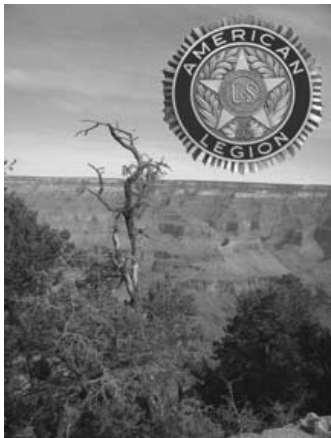
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For the Latest Legion Info www.azlegion.org

Time To Pass the Torch

guess it is a natural thing to think “your” war was the most important ever. That no one else has faced the fire and survived, that your combat was the worst ever. When the WWI vets formed The American Legion, they were making a place for themselves.

They held on to their little club and would not let anybody else in. It was with much adversity that membership was opened to WWII vets. They were not very welcome as I was told by some WWII members. The WWI guys didn’t think WWII was bad enough to let those “kids” into the organization.

WWII vets inherited that attitude and held the doors unwelcome to following vets. Some didn’t think the Korea guys belonged as that was the war this country tried to hide, hence “The Forgotten War”. Then came Vietnam. We weren’t welcomed with open arms either. We were the ones who “lost” the first war in U.S. history.

Never mind America was driving Toyotas and Hondas, never mind that at the end of WWII Mitsubishi merely went from making Zeros to making cars, which they would have done no matter what the outcome in 1945. Never mind the Korean theatre has never been resolved, to this day, but Vietnam was “lost”. Given away by a weak government to a bunch of unruly mobs is more like it.

The WWII vets are directly responsible for the formation

of the Korean War Veterans Association and the Vietnam Veterans Organizations because they held on to “their” club. Each preceding group is fighting the newcomers for control of the Legion. Now I see the same thing happening to the Iraq and Afghanistan vets. They are fighting a hell of a battle over there, just like we did, no more, no less. It is time we embraced these people and “their” war.

If The American Legion is to survive, we must actively recruit the veterans of today’s war. We do not have to let memories of the battles of yesteryear be forgotten and the best way to preserve them is to pass them on to the new breed of veterans; veterans who have fought, bled and some died doing the same thing we did in earlier wars.

I know it is hard to look at some of today’s veterans with their tattoos, piercings, and spiked hair and acknowledge they are as “good” as we were. Just think how “we” looked in 1942 or 1952 or 1965. Many were doubtful that we could or would “do the job”, just as we may feel about these “different” looking troops. The point is, we looked “different” to others too.

As far as “good as”, they are better. They are better for our example. They have better equipment, better chow and better tactics, gleaned from our mistakes. It’s time to realize that these vets of today are the future of this country and we are the past. They are better for our example and we will not be forgotten because of them. Iwo is gone,

Inchon is gone, Khe Sahn is gone, and Baghdad is here. Let’s not make the same mistake our fathers made. Let’s make today’s war and its vets the most important. The survival of The American Legion depends on it.

Semper Fi
Tom Hinsdale

Military Family Relief Fund Provides New Hope to Arizona Families

(Phoenix, AZ) – Arizonans seeking to support our troops can now do more than display a bumper sticker! The Arizona Military Family Relief Fund provides funds to families whose loved one has been seriously injured or killed while fighting the Global War on Terror. The Fund is administered by the Arizona Department of Veterans’ Services, so donors are assured that the money goes to Arizona military families in need.

By law, no more than 5% of all donations can be used for administrative costs. It provides taxpayers with an avenue for charitable giving that actually gives the contributor a tax incentive.

“Everybody always asks what they can do to help, and this is a great opportunity to make a real difference,” said Col. Joey Strickland, newly named Director for the Arizona Department of Veterans’ Services. “We have helped three families so far – two of whom were facing homelessness while dealing with combat-related injuries.”

Arizona taxpayers seeking to give back to those who have answered the call of duty can also receive a tax credit. Donors are essentially telling Arizona how to spend a portion of their tax dollars when they give to the Military Family Relief Fund (up to \$200 for a single tax filer and up to \$400 for a couple filing jointly).

Military Family Relief Fund recipients can use the support in a variety of ways. From mothers facing financial calamity after their loved one has been killed, to parents purchasing overseas plane tickets to be by their injured son or daughter’s side in the hospital - the fund will be there when people need it most.

For more information visit www.azmfrf.gov

2008 Cash Raffle Winners

\$3,000	William Langley Post 94
\$2,000	William Barnett Post 25
\$1,000	Johann Brown Post 100

Next 8 winners each received \$500

Ted Jackovich Post 4
Robert Rosenquist Post 75
Arthur Fesler-Butts, Jr. Post 27
Warren Thomas Post 81
Joe Aredondo
Norbert Konzal Post 29
Connie Tyree Post 19
Noah Adams Post 62

Congratulations to the winners and Thank You to each of you for your participation in this year’s Cash Raffle.

AMERICAN LEGION, DEPARTMENT OF ARIZONA

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Fall 2008 Conference
TUCSON, Arizona

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Book Size: 5 1/2 x 8 1/2

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Inside Front Cover*	125.00
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Full Page	100.00
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Quarter Page.....	40.00
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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 5, 2008

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Working together for Another All Time High



Membership Director

Here we are, starting off another membership year and with the preceding All Time Highs, there's just no reason why we can't make it 4 YEARS RUNNING. That is, if the new Department Commander, Henry Branch, and I get the same great support as you have shown in the past!

This year, I am especially pleased to have been selected as your Department Membership Director and have already spent many sleepless nights thinking of how we can make this year memorable; again with your help, I know you can do it!

My personal goal is to help you. Help you come up some new innovative membership ideas, help you develop

those ideas and then, help you deliver them - together I'm sure we'll find what works for Arizona!

Along with my goal to help you, I'll be seeing you as well...one of my first endeavors will be to set three membership training classes in each area for Area and District Membership Committee persons to attend. I promise to come "armed" with benefits and programs that even the hardest non-American Legion member can be swayed into saying "sign me up". Then once we get that training out of the way, I'll be visiting your individual District Meetings to offer my assistance. And let's not forget to sell our Auxiliary, Sons of the American Legion and American Legion Riders family members - we all need to grow in order to keep our posts strong!

In closing, remember I was appointed by the Department Commander, but he and I work for YOU and as a total team, we'll have another successful and fun year!

For God and Country,

Jeri Strande, Membership Director

P.S. Please watch for my little chili pepper cowboy - because if you see him, you know I won't be far away - trying to "lasso membership and fire'em up"!

Ashley New S.A.L. Commander

My Fellow Blue Caps,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your trust in electing me your Detachment Commander for the 2008 - 2009 year.

Commander Frain had an excellent year with all of your support and I will ask you once again for the support for the coming year. National Convention is just around the corner and we will be hosting 55 Detachments in Phoenix. Do not forget to register and stop by the Convention Center in downtown Phoenix to support The Detachment of Arizona.

By the time you receive this we will have had our Organizational Meeting for the year, at Mesa Post 26 on July 19, 2008, where we set our goals for the coming year.

Once again, thank you for your support.

For God and Country,

Jim Ashley
Detachment Commander

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* Federal law prohibits the payment of attorney fees by the veteran for assistance with any VA claim prior to final, negative Board of Veterans Appeals decision.

Henry Branch Ta the Arizona



Department Commander Henry greeting the newly elected officers of the Auxiliary



Newly elected 2008-2009 Officers being installed

Both Young and Plaudits at th



Paul Griffin, Timothy Bee, Legislator of the Year, Larry Bahill, Tim's daughter and wife

Taking the Plung Confe



Commander Bruce, another plunge in the Dunk Tank which raised \$476.00 for Victory House for Homeless Veterans

Take the Reins of a Legion



Newly elected Department Commander, Henry Branch, receiving the Commander's gavel from PDC Louie Pellon



Peggy Dettori, National Vice Commander, our keynote speaker

Old Received Conference



Nathan Coury, Eagle Scout of the Year, Ariel, Rodriguez, Commander Bruce

at the Summer Conference



Department Adjutant John, "WOW! that's cold" Thanks to all who volunteered to take the plunge!

VA Announces New Sports Clinic for Newly Injured Veterans

WASHINGTON – One hundred recently injured veterans from around the country will participate in a unique rehabilitative sports experience this September in San Diego, the National Veterans Summer Sports Clinic, sponsored by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

"This new rehabilitative event is a therapeutic extension of the superior health care veterans receive in our medical centers each day," said Dr. James B. Peake, Secretary of Veterans Affairs. "The sports clinic will strengthen veterans battling back from injury, improving their mental and physical well-being."

The event is open to recently injured veterans who have spinal cord injuries, traumatic brain injuries, certain neurological conditions, amputations, other mobility impairments, or post-traumatic stress disorder. For many injured veterans, this event will provide their first exposure to recreational sports and other activities after being injured.

The National Veterans Summer Sports Clinic will take place Sept. 28 through Oct. 3 at several venues in the San Diego area. Events include sailing, cycling, surfing, kayaking and track and field events. Admission for the public is free.

Sea World and the San Diego Marriott Hotel and Marina will be the site of the opening and closing ceremonies along with some of the week's events. Other events will be held at the U.S. Olympic Training Center in Chula Vista, Kellogg Park in La Jolla Shores, the Embarcadero Marina Park and the Mission Bay Yacht Club.

Recreational sports can be an important part of the therapy for many disabilities. VA is a recognized leader in rehabilitation, with therapeutic programs available at VA health care facilities across the nation.

The event will become the fifth national rehabilitation event offered by VA to promote the healing of body, mind and spirit, joining the National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic, the National Veterans Wheelchair Games, the National Veterans Golden Age Games and the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival.

The VA San Diego Healthcare System is hosting the 2008 Summer Sports Clinic. Specific event activities offered will change each year.

For more information about the National Veterans Summer Sports Clinic or to volunteer during the week, visit the clinic Web site at www.summersportsclinic.va.gov.

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Post Everlasting

1	11	John E Weiland	John G Jacobson	68	Joseph Byrne
Frank R Baratta	Robert E Boggs	Jackie L Wood	Edward E Mattila	John B Lopez	Francis A Cummings
James M Coffroth	12	27	John R Moskalik	Juan Rico	Leonard Davenport
George A Curry	Jerrald J Hawkinson	Richard D Bolme	James B Peterson	Tom Woods	David E Denham
William E Damon	Eugene J Montague	Lyle G Bullock	Anthony J Piccirillo	69	Earl E DeWitt
Richard F Delf	14	John T Comstock	William H Shaw	Bradley D Brunkow	Charles J Ferguson
Helen A Derego	Herbert A Barker	Robert J Gravis	George E Shiner	Kenneth F Hahn	Lawrence R Gordon
Raymond R Engles	Philip R Brock	Shirley R Griffin	C P Stewart	Ralph L Long	James H Hall
Jose S Gill	15	William R Johnson	Charles S Williams	70	Richard E Hanno
John W Grubb	Robert W Olague	Michael Lawson	45	Mike Martinez	Adolph Hauser
John F Hancock	16	Leif Lee	Donald H Bardella	73	Robert B Hegland
Betty M Judkins	Raul Villaescusa	Dean F McCraw	52	Ludwig C De Kok	Hugh M Helm
Wayne Kessler	18	John W Meier	James W Fox	Anthony Marsh	David G Hogarth
Eugene R Otte	Gilbert R Celis	John W Miller	Raymond V Hasty	75	Alexander F Hogg
Robert J Peers	James H Sult	29	Douglas H Mann	Lovatt F E Burges	Robert B Holland
Kenneth L Shafer	19	Gino D Bartoletti	Arthur A Scerbo	Thomas A D'Ambrosio	Robert W Iosty
Fredrick Townsend	Darrell S Bomgaars	Bertram A Doney	54	Harold M Jeffries	Eugene Jensen
Carolyn W Walker	William B Nind	William N Evans	Philip A Duteau	Curtis D May	Robert T Kelley
2	Russell J Wallauer	Fidel G Galletti	Charles L Price	Leon G Mc Millan	William H Knost
Don E Hoover	20	Luis Gonzalez	55	Jerome F Talbow	Arthur C Krzywicki
Ida J Kuczynski	George O Wilson	Jerry Griggs	Herbert H Holbrook	William W Wallis	David R Leikvold
Howard Mickle	22	Daniel T King	58	76	Carl G Lindberg
John K Moloney	Donald C Maggarr	Richard J La Vera	Robert G Costa	Lawrence E Alexander	Joaquin Lira
3	Pierre G Melante	Raymond T McLoud	Dale R Hintermeister	George Ruston	Kenneth Long
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Clyde W Palmer	Fidel Enciso	Charles R Rancier	59	Franklin Showa	Henry W Lysek
Roman C Torrez	24	John R Rizzo	Santos Pena	78	Harold Martin
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John H Bowen	Charles W Eng	J H Terrell	Dorman K Chisum	79	Emil Offer
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Ladd F Murawski	E R Crose	32	James V O'Donnell	81	Douglas Patterson
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Robert E Raymo	Frank Ozga	Frederick Hanna	Frank Bartlett	84	Fred Rosenquist
Dwight E Regnier	26	Philip S Rush	John A Bucher	Austin F Lewis	William Rossbach
Elmer E Simmons	Walter W Barnes	36	Bill R Danford	87	Alfred R Ryan
Robert W Wing	William F Bowden	Patrick J Clark	William H Heminghaus	Ray C Albitton	Walter Satchwill
7	Anthony C Colonnese	Rudolph W Cooper	Wallace Hitzeman	Dale Christensen	Charles Sheehan
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Charles E Lees	Frank J Mascarelli	Ralph R Scavo	Arthur C Marcinell	Ronald F Wolfe	Leslie E White
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8	Larry J Root	Benedict Grinis	Norman Turner	Thomas Noel	Fred D Reed
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Robert S Burke	Bruce F Wauters	Joseph P Rios	Edwin B Chapman	Gale Tyrrell	107
		41	Adolph J Midtskog	R M Wood	George B Chiappini
		Hector T Acedo	66	94	Bill J Lord
		Edward E Acosta	Henry G Buehrer	William P Cass	Warren W Wilson
		Angel M Barcello	Carl E Colman	David W Guschewsky	108
		Willie S Bingochea	Frederick E Gomez	Edward J Mendyka	John J Bechtold
		Robert T Crow	Vernon N Green	Davis M Vannortwick	Lee R Mudgett
		Thomas E Gonzales	James D Holt	100	Christ J Storck
		44	Nelson W Jones	Joseph Alfieri	112
		John A Bedford	Arthur W Lind	Francis L Broedel	Joseph H Curley
		Warren W Fritz	William E Macaulay	Edward D Brown	115
		Edward P Gormley	Richard E Maloblocki	Richard K Burke	Alan H Wierman
		Paul Hembise	Earl J Meehan	Richard Bushno	129
					Charles Jessup

Chaplain's Corner

Freedom Is Never Secure

They speak of liberty and of the struggles and sacrifices by which liberty was won. To all the world they proclaim the glory of a nation created not to make its leaders strong, but to make its people free. To all Americans they hold a message vital in its import, compelling in its urgency.

Freedom is never permanently secured. By each successive generation, it must be defended anew. Always, its price is eternal vigilance. Always its preservation demands faith and valor and sacrifice.

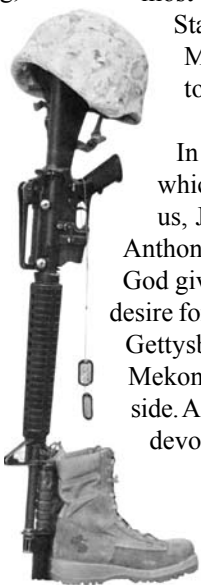
Freedom is a peculiar trust of our nation. Here, free government was established; here it must be preserved. With the privileges liberty brings, comes the responsibility of upholding it and defending it.

In our battle to keep men free, we do not fight alone. Behind each of us is the past free life of America; freedom of speech, freedom of dissent, freedom of

free election, freedom of travel without restraint, “sensible taxation” to help those in more distress than ourselves, and most important; freedom of religion – these United States guarantee this freedom for Christians, Jews, Muslims, etc. even atheists – all have this option to worship in their own way.

In back of all of us, is the spirit of our founders which our nation immortalizes. Washington is with us, Jefferson and Lincoln, John Paul Jones, “Mad” Anthony Wayne, and Davy Crockett still uphold this God given list of freedoms and stand for this country’s desire for all to live free. The men who fell at Lexington, Gettysburg, Chateau Thierry, Chosen Reservoir, the Mekong Delta, and now Iraq/Afghanistan, are at our side. All who fought for freedom, all who knew the great devotion, are still our comrades and exemplars.

With such a comradeship, with such a heritage, we cannot hesitate, we cannot fail; under such examples, we cannot falter.



Hold high the light of liberty, hold high our belief in an omnipotent God; hold high the honor of our American Legion. This is the message to all, this is the message to you.

“For what avail the plow or sail,
Or land, or life, if freedom fail?”

Be with God, and pray for our service people all over the world.

Richard J. Kepler, Department Chaplain – Post #78

GNUTS Luncheon Report

The Arizona fun group called “GNUTS” (past and current post, district and department adjutants) held its semi-annual luncheon on June 21st at Post 36. The dues collected barely covered the cost of lunch and liquid libations. Question is: If we continue our practice of making a cash donation to the outgoing commander’s favorite American Legion program, we must do one of two things. Raise the dues from \$10 or find a more profitable means to raise at least \$500 per year. You GNUTS think it over and we will discuss this issue at the Fall Conference Luncheon.

Nils Nilsen,
Collector & Grunt

JON KYL
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TUCSON, AZ 85704
(520) 575-8633

July 8, 2008

Mr. Neal Sundeen
Arizona American Legion
4701 N. 19th Avenue
Suite 200
Phoenix, Arizona 85015

Dear American Legion Veterans:

I appreciate the opportunity to explain the reasons for my vote on the domestic spending amendment to the emergency wartime supplemental appropriations bill, H.R. 2642. I opposed the amendment because I believe the extra spending on a variety of programs was unwarranted as an emergency, which means it will only add to the federal deficit. Although I supported the goal of expanding G.I. education benefits, I thought the McCain alternative was a far better approach than the one taken in the amendment to H.R. 2642. The Senate, however, was denied the opportunity even to vote on the alternative.

As to the spending, the amendment would divert some \$20 billion that could have been used by our troops to instead pay for prison construction (\$178 million); a 13-week extension of unemployment benefits (\$8.2 billion, including \$178 million to administer it); "science initiatives" (\$400 million); the 2010 census (\$210 million); a food safety initiative (\$150 million); and Katrina housing vouchers (\$73 million). Some of this spending is unwarranted, none of it is an emergency and none of it should have reduced funds for our troops.

As to the G.I. Bill expansion, the version that made it into the amendment (also known as S. 22, a bill sponsored by Senator Webb) was seriously deficient in a number of respects. For example, it would extend the new benefits *only* to service members who have served on active duty since September 11, 2001. Second, benefits will vary from veteran to veteran because monthly tuition benefits will be determined by the cost of the most expensive public school in each state. As a result, veterans with the same length of service will receive significantly different benefits. For instance, a veteran who served three years on active duty and attends a college in Arizona will receive about \$15,775 per year, while a veteran who similarly served three years on active duty but attends a college in New York would receive about \$29,360 per year – a significant inequity for any veteran attending school in Arizona. I could not support an amendment that would shortchange veterans in Arizona in such a way.

The alternative that I cosponsored with Senators McCain, Graham, and Burr would have expanded education benefits for *all* veterans who are eligible for G.I. benefits, including those who served on active duty prior to September 11, 2001. The McCain alternative would increase benefits to cover the average cost of a four-year public college, including room, board, tuition, and fees. It would distribute benefits based upon length of service without regard to the state where veterans live. Unlike the version included in the House-passed amendment, the McCain alternative would also extend increased educational benefits to all eligible National Guard and Reserve members and allow service members to use up to \$6,000 per year of their education benefits to repay federal student loans. The McCain alternative would also address the military's concern over the retention issue more than the Webb bill. And, because Webb chose to reorganize the way the benefits are administered, it would cost \$24 billion more over 10 years than the McCain alternative.

I am confident that the Senate could have drafted a compromise bill that would have increased current G.I. benefits to cover the costs in an equitable and fiscally-prudent manner, and am disappointed that the Majority decided to attach the G.I. bill to the bloated emergency spending package without even providing a chance to fix some of the deficiencies I've mentioned. I know of no other way to register my opposition both to the substance and the procedure than to vote no.

I hope you will feel free to share this information with fellow veterans. If you or others have any questions about the legislation or my vote, please don't hesitate to let me know. And, rest assured, that now that the bill has become law, my office and I will do all we can to assist Arizona veterans to take advantage of this new opportunity.

Sincerely,

JON KYL
United States Senator



THE ARIZONA LEGIONNAIRE



VOLUME 2008

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE AMERICAN LEGION, DEPARTMENT OF ARIZONA

ISSUE 4

Arizona American Legion Fall Conference

Holiday Inn



4550 S Palo Verde Rd • Tucson, AZ • (520-746-1161)

OCTOBER 3, 4 & 5, 2008

HOSTED BY: American Legion Dept of Arizona

4701 N 19TH AVE

PHOENIX, AZ 85015

Pre-registration Form Check One: Legion ___ SAL ___

Please Print

Name: _____ Post# _____ Title: _____

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Name: _____ Post# _____ Title: _____

Name: _____ Post# _____ Title: _____

Name: _____ Post# _____ Title: _____

Name: _____ Post# _____ Title: _____

Name: _____ Post# _____ Title: _____

Send completed form and **ten (10) dollars** per person pre-registration fee to American Legion Department of Arizona, 4701 N 19th Ave, Ste 200, Phoenix, AZ 85015

Registration fee(s) at the conference will be twelve dollars (12) per person.

Bashas Supports Chandler's Veterans

High prices are challenging everyone today but they make it even tougher for our struggling veterans. American Legion Post 91 sought support from a local Bashas on Pecos and McQueen and, thanks to Roger File, Store Manager, they got it!

Food cards and food donations have been provided to the Post so they can prepare and serve meals to the veterans, their families, and the needy. The donations have been instrumental in helping the Post serve up quarterly meals to the veterans living at the Phoenix VA Home and getting meals to those with extremely limited incomes.



left to right: Kris Kryskowiak (Past Commander, Post 91), CDR Thomas Addison, Janie G from Bashas, Mark Hopf (Jr Vice, Post 91), Byron Weston (Chaplain, Post 91), Corey Swindler (Jr SAL member, Post 91), DeImar Swindler (Post 91 Exec Comm member), Valerie Nevius (Past Commander, Post 91) and Dawn Bushnell (Commander, Post 91)

Post 91 sponsored a benefit dinner on Saturday, June 28, in which proceeds helped defray costs for a Post 91 family member awaiting a heart transplant. Bashas provided the majority of the food for this important event and Post 91 greatly appreciates their support and dedication to Chandler's veterans!

Golf Tourney Raises \$12,300



Jonathon Gradner, Director of SA/VAHCS and Nils Nilsen, Chairman of Arizona Veterans Benefit Program present a check for \$12,300 raised by the 6th Annual Veterans Benefit Golf Tournament held at the Tucson Omni Golf Resort.

Flag Amendment at a Standstill

There has been no new progress concerning the flag protection amendment. National Headquarters was contacted. The protection amendment was introduced in the House of Representatives in January. Very few co-signers have signed up. Nothing has been done in the Senate.

CFA officials feel the election is taking our law-makers attention and issues important to both parties are taking precedence.

The American Legion National Commander continues to consider the flag issue most important. We will continue to work for an amendment no matter how long it takes.

A question arose concerning the correct flying of the flag for Memorial Day. Many who flew the flag did it incorrectly. The flag should be raised to the top of the pole, lowered to half -staff until noon, and then raised for the remainder of the day.

Until new action takes place, continue to support the CFA.

Fly your Flag,
Maria F. Currie, C.F.A. Chairman