



For God & Country



THE ARIZONA LEGIONNAIRE

VOLUME 2011

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ISSUE 4

I Am Ready "To Serve"

"TO SERVE"

Treat everyone fairly, **O**bey the laws of the land, **S**olve problems, **E**xplore possibilities, **R**espect differences, **V**alue cost, **E**nergize others to serve

Thank you all very much for your over whelming vote of confidence, trust, support, and honor by electing me "TO SERVE" as your Department Commander 2011-2012.

A huge thank you to the entire American Legion Family of Earl E. Mitchell Post 29 in Glendale, Commander Jim Gallagher and all the people who worked so hard in the hospitality rooms at our Fall Conference and our Department Convention. Thank you just doesn't seem sufficient enough for your tremendous support.

Our campaign took us to over two-thirds of the Posts and all ten Districts throughout our State. My wife, Jan, and I want to thank you for courtesies and you camaraderie, it was an honor and pleasure to be able to spend time with each of you.

As a grassroots organization, the strength and reputation of our Posts are crucial to our success.

Our District Commanders are closest to the action and are vital to making us successful, by visiting each Post, helping them when necessary and ensuring their Posts are participating in our programs.



Our Legion Riders chapters bring in new members to all three branches of The American Legion Family.

Women Veterans are important to our future as there are more serving today than ever before. We need to attract more of them and get them involved in our programs and encourage them to take on positions of increased responsibility.

We also need to attract the younger veterans serving our great nation today. We need to think outside the box; be more creative in what we offer in our Posts and think of some non-traditional uses of our Posts. Consider hosting adventure and family activities that they are interested in.

There are over 600,000 veterans in our State; only 45,000 are members of our organization. They are out there; **JUST ASK** and they will join.

We are looking forward to working with our elected officers, appointed chairman and members throughout the year.

For God and Country,
George Cushing
Department Commander

Farewell To Our Friend

Dear American Legion Family,

Please accept our sincere thanks for all you did to honor Mom and to comfort us. We would have been lost without you.

Post 29, the Auxiliary, the SAL, and the Legion Riders all contributed to make her memorial service a tribute to her and her work with Veterans. When the Patriot Riders from across Arizona roared into the cemetery it brought tears to our eyes and comfort to our hearts.

Mom loved the Legion and supported all of its programs. More than that, she loved and supported every Veteran. She wanted to utilize the incredible potential of the Legion and other Veteran's groups to provide for the needs of Veterans and their families. The support of Post 29 helped make her work possible. Thank you for your love and support over the years and especially over the past few weeks. God bless you all.



The Hamburger Family

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DEPARTMENT OFFICERS

Commander
George E. Cushing
(602) 418-0605

Vice Commanders
(A) Gary B. Nelson (520) 591-5764
(B) Judi Beischel (480) 229-1581
(C) Bill Dawson (928) 706-3300

NEC
D.M. "Joe" Aguilar (520) 705-6291

Alternate NEC
Paul Griffin (602) 938-0918

Dist 1 Commander
Andrew Noriega (928) 580-5190

Dist 2 Commander
Gene Cheurning (520) 780-6177

Dist 3 Commander
Al Reyes (520) 559-1080

Dist 4 Commander
Larry Moore (480) 882-3461

Dist 5 Commander
Ray Theissen (928) 965-6979

Dist 6 Commander
Donald Coffman (602) 316-2480

Dist 7 Commander
Scott Miller (928) 635-5904

Dist 8 Commander
Wilbur Quick (928) 649-3684

Dist 11 Commander
James McCrady (623) 332-3117

Dist 12 Commander
Jim Ashley (602) 315-3246



Bieri Report

John J. Morris Legion Post #62 Family

Our Legion 62 Family started this year 2010-2011 by setting our sights with the "POWER OF ONE, SERVICE NOT SELF" from our National Auxiliary President's theme and "ALL FOR ONE AND ONE FOR ALL" from our Department Auxiliary President's theme. We worked hard to make these themes our goals. It is with great pleasure that we write this 2010-2011 report.

Post 62 Family's year started with the joint installation of officers. Department Area B Vice Commander, George Cushing, installed the Legion and S.A.L. Officers and Doris Theiss and Jane Shoemaker installed the Auxiliary Officers.

On Memorial Day, we held a flag raising and provided a pot luck and music following the ceremony. In June, the Legion Riders had a campout in Tombstone where approximately 300 bikes invaded the town.

Department of Arizona Convention was fun and informative. Unit 62 made a lot of noise and won many awards. In June, we had a reception for Doris Theiss, our newly elected Department Auxiliary President.

On the Fourth of July, we had a flag raising, music and pot luck with a new idea; we filled a kid's inflatable pool and put the salads and desserts in it to keep them cold. The Post 62 Family hosted the first District 11 Organizational Meeting at our Post home---could it have been because the District Commander, Jim McCrady, is a member at Post 62?

Our National Security Program sponsored a Blood Drive/Bake Sale. Christmas in July was a Children & Youth fund raiser. We served 88 dinners and the 50 angels donated from the tree for back packs and school supplies for Luke School. The Four Chaplain ceremony was presented at our general meeting. Our adopted Marine, Jessica Paz, came back from deployment in Afghanistan. We donated \$1,000.00, which was raised at our St. Patty's Day in September, towards the Susan G. Komen 60 mile Race for the Cure for Breast Cancer which Jessica participated in.

"Make A Difference Day" was celebrated with "Operation Kids" at Luke Air Force Base for the children of deployed parents. The purpose of this project was to put the children through the process their parents go through from recruitment, deployment and to the homecoming. We were involved in the homecoming and gave out goodie bags. We were written up in the ALA e-News for this project.

Our Girls/Boys State Dinner was held. The Unit sponsored 21 girls and the Legion sponsored 19 boys.

During "Legion National Family Week" we held a Golf Cart Poker Run which raised money "To Educate Children of Warriors".

Our 3rd Annual Christmas Party for children of deployed parents from

Luke AFB was a smashing success. The committee and elves did a spectacular job. Santa arrived; there was a petting zoo, hayrides, arts and crafts, face painters, balloon master, a magician, lunch and a make your own ice cream sundae bar. There were approximately 40 families-88 children. Donations were made by all entities which made this party grand. One member donated \$4,000.00 to be divided among the families so they had extra money. All families were given a ham to take home and all the gifts and memories for a lifetime.

Our New Year's Eve Bash was great fun for 70 couples with hats, noise makers, and a champagne toast to bring in the new year at 10:00 P.M. (EST).

We donated pocket flags to the Purple Heart Association and to a squadron of WWII Veterans who use our Legion for their monthly meetings.

Letters were written for the Flag Amendment and other legislative issues in support of democracy. Our Legion Family members worked the polls and encouraged members to vote.

The Auxiliary paid per capita for two of our Legion Ladies to welcome them into the Auxiliary as dual members. Quarterly, we donated to the City of Peoria Cake Walks.

The Legion Family had a Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast awarding Legion Volunteer of the Year, Ron Green and Auxiliary Volunteer of the Year, Jane Shoemaker.

Labor Day weekend was filled with music, picnic potluck and a lot of fun. We also celebrated the U.S. Marine Corps 235th Birthday with a ceremony and cake. Veterans Day was celebrated with a flag raising and potluck, followed that week by our "Early Bird" Dinner. On Pearl Harbor Day, we celebrated with a flag ceremony.

The Legion presented two Americanism Awards and the Unit presented three Americanism Awards to the Air Force JROTC Dining Out.

Our Legion Family had the great pleasure of welcoming National Auxiliary President, Carlene Ashworth with 172 guests. Our Legislative Chairman went to Peoria City Hall to have a proclamation drawn up which was presented to Carlene by Peoria Mayor, Bob Barnett, to proclaim February 9, 2011 as "THE POWER OF ONE DAY".

Unit 62 sponsored a Habitat for Humanity dinner to honor a crew that had just finished a house. The builders were ALL women! Certificates were given out and to top the evening off, 20 Air Force Cadets from Colorado Springs Air Force Academy joined us. They gave up their spring break to come to Peoria to help build the house.

Continued on next page...

We had a great surprise for our Auxiliary member, Shirley Collins, who folds all our pocket flags and is legally blind. Jonathan Nagel, connected by Skype from Georgia, did a special presentation with an American Flag that was flown in Afghanistan and signed by all the troops in Jonathan's squadron in honor of Shirley; very emotional for all of us.

Bar Bingo was started as the Ladies Auxiliary donated the money to buy the equipment. This allowed the Legion Family to raise money and have fun too. The Auxiliary in turn gets the profits on the second Sunday of the month. This was a wise joint effort enjoyed by everyone.

Our Color Guard has been active all year with funerals, memorials, graveside burials, flag raisings, meetings, functions and many fundraisers presenting the colors. They consist of 14 Legion Family members. The POW/MIA Flag is presented at every meeting with Resolution 288 read.

We attended District meetings and Department functions.

Our Past Presidents Parley Dinner was a big success with the money being donated to the Nurses' Scholarship Fund. The Unit's Education Scholarship went to Shauna Scott for nursing school.

Several press releases were sent to the local media; our newsletter goes out six times a year and our website was revised. Flyers have gone to Luke AFB Social Services and their base publications about our events.

People wonder how we make our money to be so generous. We work very hard at fund raising. Wednesday dinners, Friday Fish Fry, Bingo every Thursday and Saturday, two Sunday brunches a year, Golf Cart Poker Run, St. Patty's Day in September, Christmas in July, Auxiliary Craft and Bake Sale, two National Security Blood Drive and Bake Sales.

Donations are made to the Bob Stump VA Center of afghans, caps, lap robes, socks and other necessities for the Veterans. Other donations that were made through the year were: \$1,500 "The Angel Flight" for WWII Veterans to go to Washington, D.C. to be honored at the WWII Memorial. The Auxiliary sent Mary Warner and the Legion sent Bill Schneider; \$500 to Creative Arts, \$500 to Fisher House, \$300 National President's Visit, \$2,000 Flat screen TVs, \$100 Girl Scout Troop 612, \$500 Valley View Food Bank, \$150 Honorary Department Junior President's Special Project, \$1,100 Department President's Special Project, \$100 Pregnancy Crisis Center, \$150 Trevor Brown JRTOC, \$200 Peoria JROTC, \$1,250

Boy Scouts Pancake Breakfast, \$50 WWII Memorial Fund, \$1,500 "Children of Warriors", \$810 to Military Support Group for sending packages to the troops, \$200 each month from the AL Riders to the Military Support Group for sending packages to the troops (packages consist of candy, books, CDs, toilet articles, lip balm, instant beverages, socks, q-tips and much more). A total of 3,200 boxes were sent this year. We provided five families in the Peoria School District with full Thanksgiving dinners, \$300 Westside/St. Mary's Food Bank, \$900 to AEF, \$1,500 Children of Deployed Parents Christmas Party from AL Riders, \$500 to Luke Kids Christmas Party from the S.A.L., \$500 to VA&R for pillows, socks and shorts going to the Veterans Home in Phoenix, \$1,000 Operation Kids from AL Riders/Unit, \$500 for Habitat for Humanity, \$200 to Ronald McDonald House, \$200 fallen police officer, Travis Murphy, \$2,000 Wounded Warrior's Golf Tournament Unit/Riders.

Wayne Chatfield Heads Scouting Committee

I would first like to thank Commander George Cushing for selecting me to be the new Department Scouting Chairman. I am a member of Earl E. Mitchell Post #29 in Glendale. I have been a member of the Boy Scouts of America for 30 years and am presently serving as an Assistant Council Commissioner for Grand Canyon Council. I am a Silver Beaver recipient and hold a Doctorate from the Boy Scout College of Commissioner Science. One of my many awards is The American Legion Square Knot and I am also a Vigil Honor Member of the Order of the Arrow.

The American Legion has been affiliated with the Boy Scouts of America since 1919. Today, more than 2,500 Legion Posts are chartered with the Boy Scouts of America. These Posts are responsible for over 72,000 youth in America. Between the two Scouting Councils in Arizona (Grand Canyon and Catalina) there are 20 Legion Posts that sponsor scouting units. These units comprise Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts. With the adult leaders, we have a scouting presence in the State of Arizona.

My goals for the coming year:

1. Increase Post participation in scouting by having a Legion Auxiliary, S.A.L. or ALR unit sponsor a scout organization.
2. Have more Boy Scouts participate in the Eagle Scout of the Year Program.
3. Have more adult leaders who are also Legionnaires, receive The American Legion Square Knot Award.

These are my primary goals. I along with the members of the Scouting Committee will be calling on your Posts for help in attaining our goal.

The Legion Consolidated Post Report has been done and the Auxiliary supplemental reports have been written and submitted. This report was read at our joint meeting and approved by the membership. In closing, we have had a spectacular year and we are thankful for the opportunity to provide care and strive to improve conditions for all Americans. We know our joint programs have helped the integrity of the family in support of our local children and military families. We believe in helping physically, spiritually and patriotically for our community, state and nation, as well as providing emotional support in all our facets of our programs.

For God & Country,
Unit 62 President, Mary Ann San Souci
Post 62 Adjutant, David Broyles
Post 62 Commander, Albert San Souci

The Scouting organizations that are available today are Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts and Venturing (a high adventure co-ed program consisting of boys and girls 14-20 years of age). If you are interested in becoming a chartered organization or receiving information, please contact me at whiskeycharlie2503@yahoo.com.

For God and Country,
Wayne Chatfield
Department Scouting Chairman

Congratulations! Department Convention 2011 Cash Raffle Winners

Kim Ramsey	P-52	\$3,000
Clemens Plattner	P-132	\$2,000
Kenneth Gardner	P-29	\$1,000

Next winners each received \$500

James Malmgren	P-24
Billie Stephens	P-2
Russell Hartley	P-14
Clemens Plattner	P-132
Dean Juneau	P-62
Gary Hill	P-30
W. R. McLellan	P-94

Thank You to each of you who participated in the Cash Raffle!

The Goals Are Set

I am so very honored to have been appointed as your Department Membership Director. When Commander Cushing asked me to fill this vital position, I was truly humbled and very surprised.



First and foremost, thanks to Ken Dowse for serving as our Membership Director last year. He did an outstanding job and left me some big shoes to fill. Thank you, Ken, for your time and dedication. Some of you may not know me, so here's a little Jackie history. I joined The American Legion in 2005 after being assigned to Arizona and just coming in from a year in Korea. I served for 22 years and 10 months in the Air Force and it was the greatest time of my life. My dear friend signed me up in the Legion and immediately got me involved; she volunteered me to cook breakfast and join the Color Guard. I ended up serving as Adjutant, Chaplain, Newsletter Editor, Post Commander...and yes, I'm still going strong. I met the love of my life at American Legion Post 109; Mr. Al Miller. His support has been vital in all of my endeavors, including this one.

After the Department Convention in Carefree, Commander Cushing gave me a challenge; we will be #1 in the Nation. Holy cow! Now, ladies and gentlemen, that is going to take some work so start your engines; we're headed down the road, getting

back to the basics and reaching out. Last year, Arizona ended up in 13th place nationwide; no small feat in our trying times. What factors may affect your Post membership? We spoke of a few things at Convention; finances of our members, Post Everlasting, and weak Post leadership. Now since our Department Commander wants us at the top, we've all got

to hit the road running. Here are our initial goals (please put these dates on your calendar):

Early Bird/NEF Kickoff	Sept 12 th	50%
Fall Meetings	Oct 17 th	55%
Veterans Day	Nov 14 th	65%
Pearl Harbor Day	Dec 12 th	75%

That's the start of your goals and we can make it happen. As my hubby and I traveled last year throughout Area A, attending conferences/convention, and talking with folks visiting Post 109, there was a common question: How do we get the younger members? Here are a few thoughts: Are you having functions at your Post that attract younger members? Remember they have families. Do you have an American Legion Riders chapter? Think of the age group of our Riders and all the wonderful things they are doing for The American Legion and the communities throughout Arizona. The Riders hosted a "Get to Know Your Posts" contest with the final drawings at our Department Convention. Quite a few Posts signed up but we should have had every Post on that map. This year it's happening again; sign your Post up right away.

When is the last time your Post did something in the community? When local people see what we do, they want to become a part of something great and volunteer where they can. Also, the younger folks don't dress like us and they love to text and use the internet; it's a different generation. That doesn't make us wrong or them right; it just means we need to open our minds. Another group is our female Veterans; one out of five Veterans are women; think about that. When a woman walks into your Post, do you assume she'll join the Auxiliary or do you inquire if she ever served our great Nation. JUST ASK!

Does your Post have members that simply cannot pay their dues? Maybe you can ask a Post member to sponsor one of them and continue their years of membership in the Legion. The mylegion.org is a great site that offers member reports. You can access people that haven't renewed; contact them and find out why. We all think our Posts are great, at least you should,


but there is always an opportunity to improve so find out why they haven't stayed with the Legion. Did you invite them to a meeting or ask them to get involved? We need to keep our members; take them under your wing. If you've been a Post Officer for many years, why aren't you grooming your other members to take on leadership roles? Get your members involved and make them feel welcome and a part of all the great things you're doing.

When was the last time you went through your membership and asked them to bring one person to a meeting...a meal...join you for a beer...or simply talk with them...again, JUST ASK. It takes a little effort to reach out to folks but the benefits are huge. We must grow and prosper because we all believe in The American Legion and our light shines brightly. Now, some Posts are located in pretty remote locations. When life gives you a challenge, turn it into an opportunity. We are very Blessed to have so many folks live in Arizona to enjoy our wonderful winters; take advantage of that. Could your Post be used as a community center, coffee club, senior center...think about what you can do if you just try. Do you host dinners, breakfast, fairs that are open to the public, food drives, school supply drives, packages for the deployed troops...so many possibilities for putting The American Legion in the spotlight. When you are doing great things, contact your local newspaper or share your story in the Legionnaire. Put your Post or District in the spotlight, showing your local communities that we're not just a bunch of old GIs that sit around and drink; we are truly giving back.

When you get your members' renewals and new memberships in, send them in right away. All of that money is not yours; it needs to get to Department and ultimately to National. Do not hold on to the cards and money; process it through your finance officer, get the report done and send it in. I've heard of Posts getting in a lot of trouble and almost losing their charter; don't be one of them. Do the right thing and "git 'er done".

I look forward to getting to your Posts and Districts with my tall drink of water (that'd be my hubby), traveling our great state, and meeting as many of you as possible. I'm here for you and if you need to contact me, my email is jjsalter@hotmail.com; home phone is 520-762-9261 and cell is 520-870-1106. I may not have all the answers, but I'm not too proud to ask and you will receive an answer. With all this said, get your motor running and head on down the highway. Keep a positive attitude, a smile, and remember, JUST ASK.

Hope to see you soon.
For God and Country,
Jackie Salter-Miller



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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.

Department Announces First Place History Book

Isn't it amazing we are again preparing for another American Legion membership year...don't know where the time goes, but it's great that we have our Post Historians to record the events!

Before I go into my article, I want to thank all the posts that submitted history books at the Department Convention. My husband and I have served on the Department Trophies and Awards Committee for several years and this is the **FIRST** year that there were so many history books entered. Of course, we did not judge history books, since I had entered one.

As you know, the contest consists of three categories based on Post membership; Small Post (15 – 100 members), Medium Post (101 – 750) and Large Post (751 and higher). Taking top honors for 1st Place Small Post was Cornville Post 135, Historian - me; 1st Place Medium Post went to Oro Valley Post 132, Historian - Ken Smith; and 1st Place Large Post went to Tucson Post 36 Historian - Dale Schunke. Additionally, 1st Place District History Book went to District 11, Historian - Al Cruz.

At the conclusion of the competition, it was unanimous among the judges that all the books were excellent and



they look forward to seeing even more next year. All first place winning books are eligible for National Competition in Indianapolis in September.

Also at Convention, I hosted the Department Historian Training and although the participants were less than last year, we had a great meeting. We discussed book content, layout and even caption writing. My goal for Fall Conference Historian Training (scheduled at the Carefree Resort, October 28th – 30th) is to make

available a handout of suggestions that I learned from judging history books at the National History Book Contest. Some "chatter" has occurred concerning electronic or paperless history books...it will be interesting to see the position our national organization has taken in reference to this concept.

In closing, I want to pass on a couple of possible internet research locations that we discussed during training. The information was provided by Post 108 Commander, Bob Davis, who indicated that if you'd like to expand your research base for your Post history, go to either: www.google.com or www.ebay.com. I know these sound like "unlikely" locations for your Post history, but if you're stumped, then take a minute to check it out...and, if you're successful, please be sure to share your experience with the rest of us at the Fall Conference training.

Until next edition...
Jeri Strande
Department Historian



PDC Louie Pellon after being "hanged" by the Tombstone Vigilantes at Commander Perry's Homecoming.



PDC Carol Hamburger; Sherry Hall, Dept. Auxiliary Chaplain; Gayle Reed, Echelon 35 Member; & Beth Nehring, Dept. VIP Echelon 35, laying wreaths at the National Cemetery Memorial Day Ceremony.



PDC Mac Maklary presenting a gift to Commander Dick Perry at his Homecoming Dinner



Department Commander Richard and Department President Doris presenting the Memorial Wreath.



Newly elected S.A.L. Detachment Commander, W.L. Foster and newly elected Department Commander George Cushing, being installed by PDC Louie Pellon.

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1
Travis G Billings
Hayes W Heinrich
Emmett J Lythgoe
Richard E Polenske
Joseph J Reilly
Charles J Shoup
Malcolm Straus

2
Joseph A DeJesus

3
James W Daniel
Thomas C Fleming
Gerard M Harrigan

4
Wade O Thurlo

6
Albert L Cordova
Richard J Cunningham
John Dahl
Joseph M Helhoski
George A Heroux
Robert C Morgan
Edward G Roberts
Gary N Ryan
Frank H Sullivan
Melvin H York

7
Edward Ahrens
Newell W Allison
Peter L Formo
Paul B Jarratt
Norris B Luther
Clarence W McClain

11
Robert P Jones

12
Walter S McDonald

14
Marion A Bostick
Humberto L Garcia

Thomas E Murray
16
Ralph D Ruiz
18
Genaro S Cota
19
Carol B Christ
Marie M Craig
Harold G Jones
John V McCullen
Larry Mitchell
Donald D Thompson
Chris W Wenger
24
Louis B Cooper
Robert W Roelfsema
Harold D Swarengin
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Robert Beaupre
James F Bork
Lee W Foster
Donald J Harmon
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Lloyd Tucker
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Roy F Baker
Charles R Baklund
William C Burtenhouse
Samuel C Green
Edward L Harper
Robert Ingram
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Jerry L Martin
Marvin G Oelrich
Walter E Peterson
Glenn A Wagner
Lowell C Wein
Lorenzo B Ybarra
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Samuel Aramian
Donald Arend
David D Bergstrom
Richard H Brown
Gwendolyn H Cochran
Lyle M Goodwin
Carol A Hamburger

Michael Kiley
Fred Moore
Harold B Nice
Tony Palmer
Samuel Pendergrass
Gerald M Rose
Robert E Schmitz
Ralph E Shattuck
Thomas A Valerio
George L White
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Reed A Johnson
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Veldon J Nuttall
Daniel M Runyon
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Wayne W Willer
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William M Small
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Melvin A Anderson
Richard B Barner
Clarence F Fieber
Ray Fischer
Richard L Gamez
Earl C Homan
Richard E Hughes
Eldon J Jones
Stanley Nemece
Ervin W Norton
Don A Pelley
Miguel C Perez
Edward D Stierman
Billie E Stuart
Edward Taylor
John E Walker
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Robert R Kaecker
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Anthony V Avalos
Louis B Baiz
Fernando Diaz
Ralph G Rivera
Danny S Urias
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Mae I Bertram
Elizabeth H Fimea
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Morris S Alford
Louis E Bohrer
George W Dagrass
Vol D Halley
Don G Herzer
William A Moser

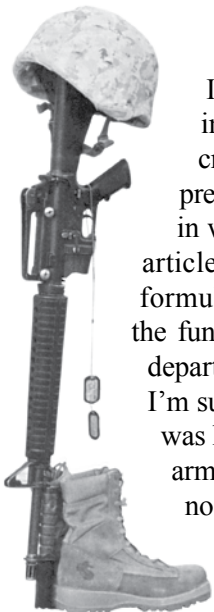
Edward A Peterson
Joe Pickart
Jewell E Robbins
Roger D Shepherd
45
Jerald L Grover
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Verne D Hegge
Leslie L Potts
David C Weidemann
Lester N Wilmarth
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Kenneth R Erickson
Arthur D Howe
Charles R Newman
Betty H Nichepor
Paul A Slater
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M S Anderson
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Harry L Brewer
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Preston L Hooper
Frank E Smith
William F Streitz
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Herbert B Brooks
Jerry Brutger
Jerry D Burns
Nick Bycura
George T Dorcheff
Theodore J Dreveniak
H Mick Eaton
Lewis E Gregory
Harry H Hewitt
Deland Hovious
Henry E Kolakowski
Frank A Lasusa
Roy C Littler
Jon A Mattson
Robert W Stocker
Joseph A Tropeano
William Weaver
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Jesse E Dixon
Harvey Eisenberg
Donald W Jones
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Timothy S Brown
Carroll E Engelkes
John R Lewis
Emery E Roe
James W Sammis
Warren A Warburton

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Pedro G Betancourt
Ramon B Borboa
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Louis Dombrady
Dan B Hearne
John Las
P L Phillips
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Buell D Richmond
Helena E Snyder
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Robert L Chevraux
Darrel D Nelson
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Thomas Milan
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Joseph P Moore
Vernon E O'Riley
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Elwood P Hillard
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George F Calvi
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Orville F Lutgen
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Benedict Martorano
Harold V Tull
100
Howard N Capps
John G Carioscia
Randolph Clark
William Collins
Louie W Darnell
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Harry W Doty
John H Gerhart
Francis A Gregory
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Richard W Heinauer
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Chaplain's Corner

Faith Will Carry You Through



It's often easy to be a bit short on inspiration during these lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer and that is precisely the situation I found myself in when it came time to submit my article. Unfortunately, this idea was formulated on the drive home from the funeral and memorial for our dear departed PDC, Carol Hamburger. As I'm sure many of us did and still do, I was having a hard time wrapping my arms around the idea that Carol was no longer with us. In fact I found myself asking God "WHY?". Like the good Father He is, God replied in the most

gentle of voices "because I said so!". God so calmly reminded that this is one of those times when faith must be placed in Him.

As this is being written, our representatives on the "hill" in Washington, D.C. have yet to find a viable solution to the looming budget crisis. Unemployment is at an all time high with no end in sight, our fighting men and women in service to this nation are still sacrificing life and limb on a daily basis in our defense, no one is able to determine if Social Security, military retiree and VA benefits will be forthcoming in August. The stock market is falling faster than the temperature is rising in Phoenix and besides all of this, you've got a hang-nail or some such other physical malady that's bothering you. This is not the time to lose heart - it's time to reach out

and grab onto your faith in God.

God has never been known to give us more than we can handle. It may well seem that way at times but it's not so. God is on your side. Always remember that and put your faith and trust in HIM. Ask for His help and guidance when you are distraught. If, at times, your plate just seems to be too full, HE RECOMMENDS YOU KEEP EATING!!!

Please keep the family of Carol Hamburger in your prayers.

For God and Country,
Carol Stensby
Department Chaplain

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