



For God & Country



THE ARIZONA LEGIONNAIRE

VOLUME 2011

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

ISSUE 1

A New Year and New Challenges

Greetings fellow Legionnaires, let me wish everyone a healthy and successful new year. The previous year brought many challenges which we met with outstanding success. I am confident the same will be true this new year as we move to reach attainable, measurable and challenging goals.

One of the goals is membership. With your hard work we will make this goal. We have two new posts. Post 137 located in Tonopah and Post 138 located in Scottsdale. Welcome to the family. Also, at the end of the year we had 15 Posts at 100%. Way to go, you will receive honor ribbons from National at our Department Convention in June.

Congratulations to all of you for making our 80% goal at National! Please remember my challenge – sign up one new member.

I want to thank all our Posts for their hard work and for your wonderful charitable actions this past year. We, The American Legion Family, can accomplish much when we roll up our sleeves and get down to work with pride and purpose. I feel strongly and I know you do that we will continue to find ways to serve our



Commander's Message

Veterans, their families, our Communities, our State and our Nation.

District Commanders: the Post Excellence Award program has been continued by National Commander, Jimmie Foster. Please get acquainted with this program. You must be the leader and you must also certify the Posts that meet the criteria. **Leaders at all levels are the key to success.**

All Posts should be working on lining up your Oratorical contestant and prepping them for the contest. Oratorical Directors, this is your time to shine, let's see if we can make this year the BEST.

New Congressmen and women have taken their seats. There has been a surge of concern about the growing financial deficit. They will try and cut numerous programs. Tri-care and Social Security will be in their sites. In fact, all Veterans' programs will be targeted; so 2011 is going to be a crucial year. We must stay engaged so we can protect all Veteran's programs. This is not a time to relax.

Since Fall Conference, I have been to a Veterans' Luncheon in Phoenix, Post 8 Veterans Day Parade, Elgin School Veteran's Day Program, Tucson Veteran's Day Parade, Post 11 Early Bird Dinner and Post 50's Annual Dinner. I gave a career talk to two classes at Tombstone High School, participated in a parade in Tombstone, and at a VA Ribbon Cutting Ceremony in Tucson on December 1st. I attended Christmas parties at Unit 11, Post 52, and Post 24 and also visited the Crisis Center in Huachuca City with the 40/8. I'm looking forward to visiting all the Districts in this New Year.

Thank you,
For God and Country,
Dick Perry, Department Commander

They Are Home!!!

Family Recognition and Awards Ceremony to Welcome Home the 855th

The 855th has been responsible for helping to maintain our country's efforts in assisting the Iraqi people with Operation Iraqi Freedom.

On Saturday, January 22, 2011, a crowd gathered to welcome home the 855th Military Police Company at the National Guard site on McDowell Road in Phoenix.

Family, friends, children and loved ones as well as American Legion and Patriot Guard Riders greeted them with American Flags, some attached on the back of the bikes and various vehicles as well as the ones being waved by the hands of the people there to welcome them home. There were lots of smiles, handshakes, cheers and most of all a lot of THANK YOU'S!

The day was sunny and the mood was joyous for all involved. Seventy nine bikes along with some cages (vehicles) and the PGR Military Escort vehicle made thunderous sounds as they all escorted the 855th MP Company to celebrate their homecoming as well as the Changing of Command to the next group of troops getting ready for deployment to Iraq.

The group first went to American Legion Post 39 in Gilbert where they gathered to have coffee and donuts. After a short time there, they all headed to American Legion Post 91 in Chandler where the official staging instructions were given by the Patriot Guard Riders. At 9:25 kickstands went up and John "Big John" Lundquist and Cristina "Angel" Sipos-Convery led the way as road captains for the PGR as the group continued onto American Legion Post 35 also in Chandler where the crowd of bikers, ALR, PGR, soldiers and their families and friends all gathered in the traditional circle and joined hands while the traditional Lee Greenwood song "God Bless the USA" was sung by all. A prayer was then said to keep our returning soldiers safe as well as to



remember the many heroes still serving us and fighting for our freedoms, overseas.

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(480) 947-3993

Membership Work Shop Well Attended

With the holidays behind us, I do hope everyone had a blissful Christmas and will have a grand New Year. Half of our year is now complete and with a fair success. In my last article, I noted that we had reached our 65% goal ahead of schedule. We, unfortunately, missed our December 8th National goal of 75% just under 1%, a bit disappointing. Since then, there has been an increased surge in renewals and new members which helped us reach our January 18th goal of 80% and will get us on our way to reaching the February 7th goal of 85%. Those of you who have renewed and know of any Legionnaires who still have not, speak with them and encourage them to do so as soon as possible. Thank you in advance for all your efforts.

In an earlier article, I had noted many of the resolutions that our delegation addresses with our congressional representatives. One of these was amending the Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Bill to add vocational

schools, on job training, etc. Your American Legion led the charge in getting most of this accomplished. On December 13th, the Senate passed the amended bill. The House version was passed on the 17th and was sent onto the White House for the President's signature. The Post-9/11 Veterans

As our National Commander stated, "The passage of this act is the latest milestone in The American Legion's longtime advocacy for the GI Bill. About 400,000 more veterans will become eligible for their education benefits when the President signs this bill into law".



This is one of the reasons why we belong to our American Legion; helping our fellow veterans. You should be proud of this achievement. Keep up the good work.

Recently, when attending the District 3 meeting in Tombstone one of our fellow Legion members spoke and stated; "Membership is an ongoing process. The Legion is membership; without membership there is no Legion." I cannot think of a better way to express our organization. Have you signed up your new member yet?

For God and Country,
Ken Dowse, Membership Director

Educational Assistance Improvements Act makes it easier for veterans to take advantage of their education benefits, helps them enter the civilian workforce more successfully, and extends benefits to more National Guard and reserve members.

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 19, 2011

66th Anniversary Iwo Jima Flag Raising Commemoration on the Gila River Indian Community in Sacaton hosted by Ira H. Hayes American Legion Post #84 and Auxiliary Unit #84. Parade with a military flyover begins at 0900 followed by ceremonial events at Mathew B. Juan-Ira H. Hayes Veterans Memorial Park, Sacaton. Contact (520) 562-8484 or email: ihpost84@gilanet.net or ihunit84@gilanet.net

February 19, 2011

11th Annual West-Mitchell Invitational Drill Meet sponsored by Sons of the American Legion Squadron #1 Phoenix at the Air Refueling Wing, 3200 East Old Tower Road, Phoenix. Students competing in the Drill Meet are from High School JROTC Units in Arizona and surrounding states as well. Drill Meet starts at 0800. Contact Pete Palandri (602) 820-3237 or Steve Blank (602) 708-3275

March 26, 2011

5th Annual "Legacy Scholarship" Rally hosted by ALR Post #29 Glendale. Registration: 8:00 – 10:00AM First Bike out at 9:00AM - Last Bike in at 2:00PM. This Post #29 American Legion sponsored rally is open to the public. For pre-registration and more information contact Steve Ybarra (602) 620-4441 or email: steveybarra@cox.net

April 9, 2011

District 11 Veterans Rehab Dinner/Auction at Post #1 Phoenix Roast Beef or Baked Chicken Dinner \$12.00 No host cocktails 5 PM, Dinner 6 PM Auction 7 PM... Items needed – Contact Jim Katzenberger (623) 628-6297

April 16, 2011

Veterans Helping Veterans Event at Phoenix VA Hospital West Parking Lot featuring food, music, health screenings, friendship and special guests. Donations and assistance will be appreciated. Contact – Michael Thelen (480) 282-0815

May 14, 2011

Department Commander Perry's Homecoming at Post #24 Tombstone Western Dress Social Hour 1800, Dinner 1900 BBQ Ribs or Chicken \$15.00 per person. Please RSVP by May 1st. Contact Post #24 (520) 559-0030
Lodging, etc. information will be in the April Legionnaire.

THANK YOU

To everyone who attended the OPEN HOUSE at Department Headquarters. It was great to see so many "old" friends and to meet some new ones as well.

The food was awesome and everyone had a great time!

Utah Beach Dedication & Iceland Highlight Tour

WWII veteran Dr. Brooks Ranney and wife Vi from Yankton, SD will again be escorting three WWII tours to Europe in 2011. With a departure in June, July and August, all tours feature Paris, the Beaches of Normandy, Reims, Patton's Grave, Battle of the Bulge area, Remagen Bridge and a Rhine River Cruise. Heidelberg, Hitler's Eagles Nest, Dachau Concentration and a stop over with sight-seeing in Iceland are unique to the August tour.

The June departure includes the many activities planned for the 67th anniversary of D-Day where our WWII veterans are honored at all special ceremonies, including the dedication of the new museum on Utah Beach. Call the Ranney's at 605-665-3596 for a brochure.

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION DETACHMENT OF ARIZONA 2011 CAMPOUT APRIL 15TH, 16TH AND 17TH

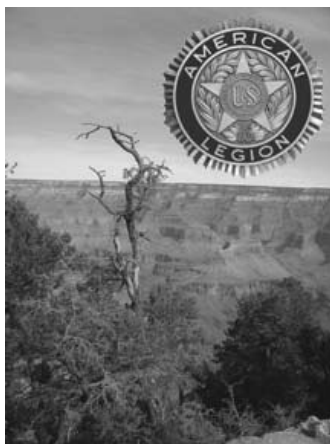
LA PAZ COUNTY PARK
7350 Riverside Drive, Parker, AZ 85344
Tent and RV Sites available

For registration form and information contact:
Dana Dobson, Campout Chairman - 480 603-7099
or Jeff Frain - 602 418-0508

FOURTH ANNUAL VETERAN'S EXPO & EDUCATION SATURDAY MARCH 5, 2011

11:00AM to 3:30PM
MOHAVE CROSSING
101 Aztec Road, Fort Mohave, AZ 86426
Sponsored by Vietnam Veterans of American
Chapter 975

Guest Speakers from:
Department of Veterans Affairs, Department of AZ
Veterans Services & Department of NV Veteran Services
For more information, contact:
Gene Crego – crego@frontier.com or 928 600-0561
Ralph McKie 928 279-5772



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GI Josh Dogs

The S.A.L. is continuing to give out the GI Josh Dogs to our deploying troops and their families. The response from both the troops and their families is overwhelming to say the least. They are really grateful that we care enough to do this. I would like to invite any member of The American Legion Family to join us at the next deployment and help hand out some GI Josh Dogs. It will be an experience they will never forget.

With all the fuss over the GI Josh Dogs, we have not forgotten about Child Welfare; we have set a goal of \$30,000.00 for the S.A.L. this year and are well on the way. If anyone would like to make a donation to either the GI Josh Dogs or Child Welfare Foundation, please contact either myself or Jeff Frain by calling American Legion Headquarters in Phoenix at (602) 264-7706.

The Annual S.A.L. Campout will be held in Parker, AZ at the LaPaz County Camp Grounds north of Parker approximately eight miles on the Colorado River April 15 -17, 2011. Please contact your S.A.L. Squadron for reservation. We have plenty of full hook-ups. The cost is \$10.00 per person, not to exceed \$20.00 per family with children under 16 years old. Anyone over 16, there will be a small charge. Pets are allowed, but there is a refundable pet fee for each one.

Just to let you know ahead of time, if the Detachment has a 100% membership by Campout, the Commander and the three Vice Commanders will have to wear FE-MALE attire to the meeting on Saturday morning. So get after your S.A.L. Squadrons and get their membership up to 100%.
For God and Country
Jeff Johnson, Commander, S.A.L.

HOMECOMING continued from page 1

Some of these soldiers are returning to civilian life, some are already looking at another deployment in the near future.

During the day, I had the pleasure of speaking with a 37 year old female soldier. Her speech was peppered with a lot of *Yes Ma'am* and *No Ma'am* as she stood with her three boys ranging from the age of 15 down to 10 and spoke of the difficulty of leaving her boys for her first deployment. When I asked how her husband handled it, I was surprised to learn that he was also one of the returning soldiers in the same MP Company. I also had the pleasure of meeting with him as well. He told me that he "only" has approximately 10 more years until he will be able to retire from the Military. While speaking to this young husband and wife about the sacrifices that they have made as parents in the military, the admiration and awe that I felt was extremely humbling.

During the day, the soldiers and their families were treated to steaks grilled by the ALR, spaghetti and meatballs, various cakes and ice cream, all served by the ALR members. The changing of command ceremony was performed and afterwards, the children (and some adults) had a blast with some hula hoops and bean bag toss games, among other games that were provided and set up by the many volunteers.

While many ALR members from various posts participated in this Welcome Home, the event was hosted and planned by American Legion Posts 39 Gilbert, 91 Chandler and 35 Chandler along with the Patriot Guard Riders. It took months to plan and prepare for this event.

Many thanks to American Legion Rider Chapter Presidents, Marinos Garbis (39) John Nevins (91) and John Lundquist (35) for their long hours and dedication to make this an awesome event that will be remembered for months. There were a lot of people, too many to mention, who worked hard in the planning stages of this event, setting tables up and tearing down, cooking for and serving the guests.

As this article started, it will also end with a great big **THEY ARE HOME** and **THANK YOU** to all that serve this awesome country!

Article and photos submitted by Sue "Brat" Ashe, ALR Post 35

It's never too late to start your history ...

Here we are over half way through our membership year and I hope all the post Historians have got a good start on this year's history. In most cases, posts went out of their way to recognize the less fortunate during Thanksgiving and Christmas...these are two obvious events that should be recorded in your post history book. Some other events might be Halloween parties, POW/MIA recognitions, Blue and Gold honors, clothing drives or a flag etiquette class hosted at a local school.

FYI – when using photos, include only those that are in focus and that really tell the story; lastly, remember to identify everyone in the photo (left to right) and be sure to include full names and current positions held. And, please don't think that every photo has to have the post commander or auxiliary president in it; include the "little people", you know the volunteers you call when you need help setting up a pot-luck or children's Christmas party. We say we're a family organization, so let your history include photos that represent your family!

Please don't forget those items that ran in the local newspaper reporting the results of a post event...yes, clip

it out (with the dateline) and include that in your history. An original photo along with that news article would really make your event "pop out" and give credibility to the event.

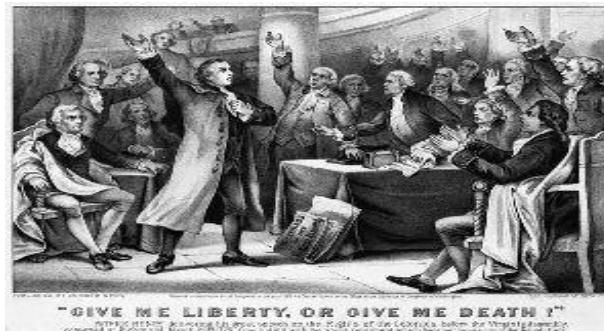


Things like programs from events, clippings and photos help tell your story, but if you don't have any added graphics, just use descriptive words. Your post is working hard for veterans, youth and community, so show and tell everyone what you've done!

And, show Department what you're doing by entering the Annual Department History Contest. Producing a post history is a lot of continuous work - not something that can be done at the last minute. However, if you're a little slow getting started with your history, don't despair...get with your post "shutterbug" and see what photos you can borrow and make your New Year's resolution **NOW** to get that history started... after all, there's no time like the present!

In closing, remember for complete guidelines for organizing your history, see the step-by-step assistance in the article "Histories are Important" located in the Officer's Guide or, call me at 928-649-3374 and I'll help you lay out a plan!

Happy New Year....
Jeri Strande, Department Historian



UPCOMING AMERICAN LEGION ORATORICAL COMPETITIONS

DISTRICT 11
Sat., Feb. 5, 2011
10:00 am
Post 29
6822 N. 57th Dr.
Glendale, AZ 85311

DISTRICT 12
Sat., Feb. 19, 2011
10:00 am
Post 27
1018 S. Meridian
Apache Junction, AZ 85220

DISTRICT 2
Sun., Feb. 6, 2011
1:00 pm
Post 109
15921 S. Houghton Rd.
Vail, AZ 85641

AREA C
Sat., Feb. 19, 2011
10:00 am
Prescott VA Medical Center
Auditorium Bldg. 15
500 N. Hwy 89
Prescott, AZ 86313

POST 27 LOCAL
Sat., Feb. 12, 2011
10:00 am
Post 27
1018 S. Meridian
Apache Junction, AZ 85220

AREA A
Sun., Feb. 20, 2011
1:00 pm
Post 109
105921 S. Houghton Rd.
Vail, AZ 85641

POST 64 LOCAL
Wed., Feb. 16, 2011
3:00 pm
Ahwatukee Rec. Center
5001 E. Cheyenne Dr.
Phoenix, AZ 85044

AREA B
Sat., Feb. 26, 2011
10:00 am
Post 2
2125 S. Industrial Park Ave.
Tempe, AZ 85282

DEPARTMENT FINALS
Sat., March 5, 2011
10:00 am
Post 44
7145 E. 2nd St.
Scottsdale, AZ 85251

American Legion Gilbert Post 39 Forms New Color Guard

American Legion Gilbert Post 39, located at 206 N. Gilbert Road recently formed a new Color Guard that has participated in many community events. Lewis Payne, Color Guard Commander, has spent time with many color guards from various Legion posts and presented a proposal to the post executive committee last year. The Color Guard is made up of members from the Auxiliary, S.A.L. and Legion Riders. Practice for the color guard began Sunday mornings last August in the post parking lot. The uniforms were purchased for the members attending the majority of practices.

The first appearance of the new Color Guard was at the Town of Gilbert's Veterans Day Ceremony held on November 10th at the Town Municipal Complex and was very successful. Following on the heels of this event, the Color Guard marched in the town's annual Gilbert Days Parade. The color guard was asked to present the colors all three days of the Gilbert Days Rodeo, the color guard was happy to fulfill this request.

The most recent event for the Color Guard, was participating at American Legion Bushmasters Post 114's Pearl Harbor Day Program at the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community. Their program included



Gilbert Post 39 Color Guard presenting colors at the Gilbert Days Rodeo and marching in the Gilbert Days Parade. Photos and article submitted by Lewis Payne.



the unfolding, airing and refolding ceremony of an entrusted Flag that had been flown over the USS Arizona Memorial. The Flag was escorted to the State Capitol for a ceremony revolving around the anchor from the USS Arizona Battleship. The Flag was on display in the State Capitol Museum Rotunda for the day under the watchful guard of Post 114, their ROTC Unit and Post 39 members. The Post 39 members were quite honored to participate in this solemn ceremony.

The six appearances in less than 30 days provided a ton of "baptism by fire" for all the members and they certainly were up to the challenge. They are currently practicing for memorial services of fallen comrades and expect to be able to provide this ceremony in the near future for members of Post 39, as well as others who may have a need for this ceremony. If you would like more information, or would like them to participate in a program for your organization, please contact Lew Payne at 480-907-4528 or email to Lewis.Payne@ge.com

Legion Open House Reunited Many Old Friends



Department Commander Dick Perry, Department Adjutant, John Aldecoa and Joan Sisco, Veterans First



*Past Department Commanders
LtoR: Back Row: Henry Branch, Carol Hamburger, Bud Hansing, Jimmy Phillips, Bill Bingham, Larry Cox and Department Commander Dick Perry
Sitting: Al Tercero, Paul Griffin and Bruce Conklin*



Commander Perry and Department Auxiliary President, Doris Theiss

Post 113 Veteran's Day



LtoR-Department Commander Richard Perry; Brig. Gen James A. McDivitt; Kenny Dowse, Department Membership Director; Lance Hurst, District 2 Commander; Chuck Stockton, Post #113 at the Veterans Day Ceremony hosted by Post #113 and the Sonoita-Elgin School District.

Casa Grande Veteran's Day Parade



Somewhere on the far right is Department Commander Perry. He participated in the Casa Grande Veterans' Day Parade hosted by Fred A. Humphreys Post #8 in Casa Grande.



Post 109 Legion Family getting ready to serve dinner



Post 109 American Legion Riders on their Ham Run

Post 109 Veterans Proudly “Giving Back”

The proud “family” members of American Legion Post 109 truly emulate the term “giving back” when it comes to community service.

In the past six months, this group of over 1,400 members accomplished the following:

- Raised over \$7,150 for the Christmas Angel program that supported 20 families and over 40 children. The max given in past years: \$1,000. This was made possible by donations from Post members, local businesses for raffle prizes, support from Mr. Jim Click, and a brisket dinner with all food donated and all proceeds given to the Angel Fund.
- Held a free Thanksgiving Dinner for the community; served over 170 and delivered meals to homes and local fire department.
- Provided 150 gift bags, 30 homemade lap quilts, and 15 crocheted shawls to the patients at the VA Hospital. Donations came from Post members and our Girl Scout Troop.
- Collected homemade goodies and various items for 20 gift boxes that were put together and sent to our troops serving overseas.
- Every Wednesday they host a “Senior Day” from 10am to 2pm. There are games and lunch provided to all seniors in attendance. A Christmas party was held for 31 seniors with gifts for each person.
- Blood drives are held monthly
- The Ladies Auxiliary volunteered at the VA Hospital and decorated for Christmas, setting up trees and other festive decorations.

- The American Legion Riders hold a monthly cookout at the VA Hospital, feeding our Veterans and spending time with them.
- Weekend breakfasts and two dinners a month are served with patients from the VA Hospital attending and being fed for free.
- Provided a \$250 and \$500 Fry’s gift card to two needy families.
- Supported the Toys for Tots Program, providing over 100 toys.
- Collected food for the local Food Bank; over 200 items donated.
- The Riders held a Turkey Run for Thanksgiving; 67 turkeys with all the fixin’s donated along with \$3,000 and a Ham Run for Christmas garnered over 35 hams with fixin’s and a \$1,600 donation; these proceeds went directly to the Salvation Army.
- Donated \$1,000 to support the Tucson Veterans Day parade; the funding was not available from the City of Tucson so the Veteran organizations funded the parade along with a \$1,500 donation from Davis Monthan AFB
- Fed homeless Veteran traveling and a couple on horseback; both parties stayed at the Post one evening.
- Had Christmas Carols by the campfire one evening and held a Christmas Day potluck dinner for those who have no family members in the local area.

None of these events would be possible without the support of the community, the Post family volunteers,

or donations from our members and local businesses. We were truly touched by the tremendous outpouring of support and are truly humbled. We are a very dedicated group who embrace the spirit of giving back and wish to extend a heartfelt thank you to all who have and continue to support our endeavors. We are never done with giving to those with a greater need and this year, we hope to exceed last year’s efforts in these very trying times for so many.

From our hearts, thank you to those who gave so much.

For God and Country,
Jackie Salter-Miller, Post 109 Commander

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

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

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WWII Veterans Honored



Byron Weston, Commander Post #55 and Masaji “Mas” Inoshita, Post #84. “Mas” was a guest speaker at Post #55s September meeting. He was in the Gila River internment camp and spoke about his experience there.



Members of James O. Shroeder Post #55 Sun Lake at their meeting on December 22nd. Certificates were given out honoring WWII Veterans for their service.

Photos submitted by Byron Weston

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Post Everlasting

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2
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3
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Panagiotis Kretsedemas
James F Peeler
6
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Kenneth R Henderson
Thomas E Merryman
Robert L Nordyke
Vernon G Silva
7
Augustine C Battisti
10
James Burchfield
11
Arthur Gastelum
12
Glenn E Bowers
Miguel Rubio
14
Martin H Ahlene
Leonard C Koivu
17
Clarence J Cook
19
Duane L Hacking
Goldie Hernandez

L E Jackson
Quentin C Woodward
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Raymond Blanke
25
Donald L Beausoleil
27
Richard D Burbidge
Ron Felton
Melvin L Mantor
Gerald E Nelson
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Lance Aaron Clark
Fred M Cox
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Woodrow W Clark
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Richard P Page
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Robert H Jennings
Vernon Kendell
Julian G Mastrine
Kenneth H Phillips
Sherwood Propst
Howard E Rice
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Citizen's Flag Alliance
20 New Senators are Veterans

On January 5th, the nation witnessed the swearing in of the 112th Congress. Twenty of the new senators are Veterans-of these, seven are Legionnaires. Five new women members also look favorable to the protection amendment. Of course, in this new Congress, all bills have to be reintroduced. At this printing, the first week's work was not yet available.

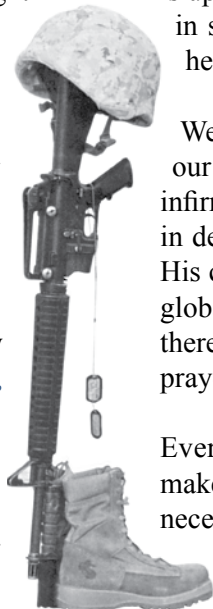
Meanwhile, the C.F.A. has launched a website that will help members reach out to Congress to urge their support of a flag amendment. There are step by step directions for writing letters or editorials to Congress or to their own local newspapers. To keep up with breaking news or other facts about the flag, use this website: www.cfa-inc.org.

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

Chaplain's Corner

Time is of the Essence

In light of the recent attempted assassination of District 8 Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords in Tucson on January 8th and the ensuing carnage and murders of her staff and innocent bystanders, this might be a good time to reflect upon our personal relationships with the Almighty.



Life on earth is fleeting; more so for some than others. It's a mere blip on Gods' radar screen. We never know at just what instant our life will be snuffed out. I can't imagine that the parents of a nine year old girl ever contemplated the fact that their precious child could be shot to death at Safeway but it happened! In a matter of seconds, countless lives were altered forever.

A times like this, millions fall to their knees asking God for help in one way or another. We are moved by the horror of it all to offer sympathy and help in some

way. But where are these same masses on a "normal" day when the need for God never crosses their minds? Why would they bother? The stock market is up, the car is running fine, the kids are doing great in school, there's enough money and everybody is healthy. What a great life! Who needs God?

We all need God at all times to be an intimate part of our lives. We should be praying daily for the poor, the infirm, the hungry, the disillusioned and those mired in despair and sorrow. We should also be asking for His continued blessings upon us. It should not take a global news event of this proportion to remind us that there are millions of souls worldwide that need our prayers daily.

Everyone should make a New Year Resolution to make God and prayer a part of our daily life. It's not necessary to be on your knees to have a one-on-one with God. He is always there for us and He is always listening. Pray during a quiet cup of coffee, while dressing, during the drive to or

from work or when retiring at night.

God pays little attention to the conditions surrounding our prayer-time. He's just happy that you cared enough to give him a call. So, go ahead and make that call every day. You never know when your connection may be broken.

P.S. Don't forget to say "thanks".

For God and country,

Carol Stensby, Chaplain
Department of Arizona

NMCB Reunion

Navy NMCB 128 will hold a mini reunion August 18-21, 2011 at the Country Inn Suites in Romeoville, Illinois phone number (630) 378-1052. For more information, contact John York (815) 372-3152 or email sargejohn@comcast.net. This event is open to all MCB 128 Seabees.

Louie Romero

for Department Commander

2011 - 2012



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Steve Allen 602-908-4311

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