

# National Commander Mike Helm Visits Post 24

Hello again Legion Family. As you might guess, a lot has been accomplished since the last issue of the Legionnaire with more to come.

Our Department was honored to host a visit by our National Commander, Mike Helm, who visited Post 24 in Tombstone and

got to do some sightseeing; Fort Huachuca Army Base; Post 109 in Corona; Post 36 in Tucson; Posts 56 and 19 in Yuma; and the Yuma Marine Base. Thank you to all of the Posts that provided dinners, goodie bags, and gifts to our National Commander. He enjoyed his time in Arizona and sends his "Thank You" for the Arizona hospitality.

I was privileged to attend five more VA Town Hall Meetings; two VSO Meetings at the

Phoenix VA and a quarterly meeting at the Tucson VA. On May 14th, I attended the Prescott VA Medical Center Ribbon Cutting of the new VA Mental Health Unit that is now open to treat our Veterans. It is a two story building that will provide care for men and women Veterans; each with a private entrance.



My trip to Indianapolis for the National Spring Meetings was productive and I attended at least two sessions daily. Our NEC, Dick Perry, will cover some of the resolutions and upcoming issues at the Department Convention.

The ALR Western Romp will be in Heber-Overgaard at Post 86

the first weekend of June and I have been invited to bring greetings.

As the end of my year of service as Department Commander nears, I want to take this opportunity to say "Thank You" to all of the Posts in the Department of Arizona that allowed me to participate in your functions and the dinner invitations and gifts. This has truly been a year that I will remember for the rest of my life. It has

been an honor to serve you and all Arizona Veterans.

Thank you all for your efforts in membership, so much so, that the Department of Arizona was awarded the National Commander's Eagle Award for the second year in a row for surpassing the Commander continued on page 4

# **Call To Convention**

Call to the 97th Annual Convention of The American Legion Department of Arizona.

By authority of the Department Executive Committee, the 97th Annual Convention of the American Legion Department of Arizona is hereby called to meet in Carefree, Arizona, June 25 - 28, 2015.

The Convention business sessions will be held in the Saguaro Ballroom of the Carefree Resort Hotel in Carefree, Arizona.

The Annual Department Convention is the legislative body of The American Legion, Department of Arizona.

The convention is called for the purpose of setting the programs of The American Legion for the ensuing year, amending the Department Constitution and Bylaws and for the transaction of such other business as may be brought before it.

At twelve o'clock noon of the final day, or at the conclusion of all

other business of the Department Convention, whichever occurs first; on Sunday, June 28, 2015, officers for the ensuing year will be elected. These being the Department Commander, and three Department Vice Commanders, in that sequence.

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# **Department Commander Andy's Homecoming at Sipe-Peterson Post #44 in Scottsdale on April 23**





Commander Andy had a lot of Legion Family Members welcoming him home to Post 44



L to R: PDC Ken Dowse; Area C Vice Commander Doug Keller; and PDC George Cushing



L to R: Jim and Judi Beischel; Commander Andy; Tommie and Angel Juarez



Commander Andy at the ribbon cutting ceremony for the new Mental Health Clinic & Psychosocial Rehabilitation Recovery Center (PRRC) at the Prescott VA on May 14th. Sherie Mercier, Post 78-Adjutant; Gary Sheldon, Post 6-Chaplain; and Doug Keller, Area C Vice Commander, Post 108, and the Post 6 Color Guard participated in the ceremony also. The American Legion Family was well represented there.

### The Arizona Legionnaire

## Arizona American Legion Riders Riding Season Finally Here

Riding season for the ALR is finally here; which means not only a lot of riding, but a lot of fundraising for our Veterans and our communities. ALR 46 (Bouse) hosted the Colorado River Blues

Festival in Parker at the Bluewater Casino. Proceeds from the raffles and donations came to \$2,300, which was donated to Operation Comfort Warriors. ALR 46 was given special recognition from our National Commander, Michael Helm, who awarded the riders with "Stay On Course" pins.

ALR 117 (Phoenix) held its 3rd annual "Tillman's Ride" in March, and had more than 450 registered riders. The two charities for the ride were the 100 Club and the Military Assistance Mission. They raised \$13,000.00 which was given to the charities!

ALR 24 (Tombstone) hosted the Blind Vets from the Tucson VA, where they were brought to Tombstone as part of their training and rehab. ALR 24 provided a meal for them and then took them on activities in Tombstone, including a tour of the OK Corral, riding the Tombstone Trolley, attending the Comedy Gunfight at Old Tombstone Western Town, and touring the World's Largest Rose Tree. The Riders paired up with them to guide and assist as needed. One of the participants bought a cutting of the Rose Bush and stated he may never see it, however he can touch and smell it daily.

In April, ALR 58 (Fountain Hills) hosted their second annual Spring Legion of the Silver Rose Induction Ceremony. Approximately 300 guests attended the Ceremony that inducted 16 brave Veterans to the Legion of the Silver Rose, three posthumously. Approximately 30 riders from California ALR Chapters also attended. The Ceremony featured a 16 car motorcade, carrying the inductees, followed by approximately 180 motorcycles that was escorted by members of the Arizona PGR and officers of the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office. Music and food followed making it a memorable day for those that attended.

ALR 97 (San Tan Valley) sponsored a fishing derby for kids under 18 in April. Members manned the BBQ grill and served over 200 hot dogs, chips and drinks for 97 anglers and their families. The youth, while enjoying their hot dogs, caught catfish in the four pound range. A variety of prizes were given to the anglers. The

derby chairman said "Thanks for the help. The event would not have been the same without the ALR."

An ALR Rider from ALR 131 (Green Valley) spent most of the year at home sick, fighting cancer. However, he still found time to write books, which he sold through Amazon and to Veterans by word of mouth. From the sales of his book, he was able to donate in excess of \$20,000 to Veterans' charities such as the Wounded Warrior Project and Fisher House.

We still had time for fun – ALR 93 (Camp Verde) stepped up at the last minute to host the annual AZALR Campout in April, which was a great success by all standards. Our quarterly statewide meeting was held in April at ALR 8 (Casa Grande); and ALR 86 (Overgaard) is ready to host the Western ALR Romp in June, where ALR Riders from throughout the Western Region will come to Arizona.

If you are interested in seeing what is going on with all of the ALR Chapters in Arizona, feel free to visit our website at www.azalr. yolasite.com. If you want to start an ALR Chapter in your Post, please contact me at the e-mail address below for information on how to get started.

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

# State Baseball Tourney July 24

Hi All!

Some great coverage on Legion TV on the link below! www.legion.org/legiontv?pid=PLBD4D786063EFAE52



AND, Here's to hoping that you're part of the growing and unfolding planning for our local Department Tournament at the

Kino Veterans Sports Complex, Tucson, the site for the 2015 American Legion Department (State) Baseball Tournament starting July 24.

The games on July 24-25-26 will be played at the South Complex Fields. The Department

Championship game will be played inside Kino Veterans Stadium on Monday, July 27. With Opening Ceremonies: Friday, July 24 at 6:00 PM on Field 5

Contact Information:

Bob Krumwiede - Department of Arizona Baseball Chairman Email: rkrumwiede@gmail.com 480-229-8336

Bill Leith - Area A (Tucson) Baseball Chairman

kinobbl@comcast.net 520-730-2506



Scott Ehret - Dept of Arizona Baseball Rules and Compliance Email: rscott.ehret@gmail.com 623-374-3785

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# THE ARIZONA

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Dist 11 Commander Wayne Chatfield (602) 803-6048

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## Area B Report Cross Country Action This Spring

Here we are again, enjoying the beautiful weather in Arizona. March came in quietly for all to enjoy the annual District 12 Picnic held at Post 41 this year. Then it was two days at the State Capitol for different Veterans bills being heard on the 3rd and 4th. On the 5th it was off to a Townhall Meeting with ongoing VAMC issues at the Veterans Administration Offices.

March 8th, I attended the District 11 Meeting at Post 1, then another legislative hearing at the Capitol on the 9th. I hope everyone celebrated the Legion Birthday; I celebrated it on the 14th at Post 19 in Yuma, then attended the District 1 Meeting on Sunday. Monday morning was another trip to the Capitol for a hearing on Veterans Affairs.

Saturday the 21st was a busy day, in the morning, I attended the General Meeting at Post 1, then that evening, it was off to the District 11 Rehab Auction and Dinner. Rumor has it that it was the best one in a number of years. Finally, on the 27th, I had the pleasure of attending the introduction meeting of our new Director of Veterans Affairs for Arizona, Col. Wanda Wright. Saturday and Sunday I attended the annual celebration for Veterans at the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Reservation POW-WOW sponsored in part by Post 114, where they honored two Veterans with warrior blankets.

April started off with a final confirmation hearing for the new State VA Director, Col. Wright. The 7th of April was also a busy day, I attended a wonderful event at Post 62, held in conjunction with Post 94 in which eight WWII Veterans were honored by the French representative with the Legion of Valor: the highest honor the country bestows on a person. Then it was across the valley to Post 114 for their General Meeting at 6:00 pm.

The 15th was another busy day, first it was off to Post 64 for their General Meeting, where a presentation was held showing the Vietnam Wall Park Project which will be constructed in Gilbert starting next fall. From there it was off to Post 35 for their General Meeting then a quick stop at Post 91 on my way home. I ran into the District12 Commander at Post 65's General Meeting, and then on Monday was Post 55's evening for Bingo at the Veterans Home. The next day, I attended the VAVS meeting at Post 1. On the 23rd, it was off to Post 44 for the Commanders Homecoming, and it was a great event. I finished off the month with a Legion business meeting at Post 39.

May has been good so far. I attended a conference on a project by the United Way which hopes to eradicate Homeless Veterans in phoenix by next year. Then on Saturday a trip to Gilbert where a press conference was held to introduce the Vietnam Wall Project by Rick Romley and local mayors.

I wish to thank everyone for the invitations to events throughout my year. I have enjoyed meeting wonderful people serving our Veterans. Congratulations to the Area B members we WILL make 100%!! Thank you Commander Jamie for a great year!

I STAND UP FOR ALL VETERANS!

Danny Bugh Area B Vice Commander

*Commander* continued from page 1

previous year's total. I ask all of our Posts to please continue to send in membership to Department, we still have a ways to go!

Lastly, the Department Convention is fast approaching, it's my hope to see as many of you there as possible. New and prior Post Officers and any member of your Post can attend Convention. Encourage your members to go and learn. Remember, your Post must pay your District Per Capita to your District in order to vote at Convention. Don't forget to pre-register for Department Convention.

I still have traveling to do, meetings to attend, Posts Officers to install, and VA Town hall Meetings. I look forward to each of these with the same enthusiasm as I did  $10 \frac{1}{2}$  months ago.

I want to publicly thank my Adjutant Angel and Department Staff – Sheila, Gayle and Tina for an outstanding year of productivity in service to The American Legion Department of Arizona. I'm so proud of them!

Still Serving America, Andres "Andy" Jaime, Jr. Department Commander



#### AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF ARIZONA CONVENTION JUNE 25-28, 2015

## **AMERICAN LEGION REGISTRATION - \$10.00**

#### (AT CONVENTION - \$12.00)

# PLEASE RETURN FORM WITH CHECK MADE OUT TO:

Department of Arizona,

4701 N. 19th Ave, #200, Phoenix, AZ 85015

POST NUMBER	AMOUNT ENCLOSED	
NAME (PRINT)	POSITION/TITLE (PRINT)	If also ALR Rider then place an X
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## **PRE\_REGISTRATION DEADLINE JUNE 10, 2015**

DO NOT MIX LEGION WITH SAL

NO REFUNDS OR SUBSTITUTIONS



AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF ARIZONA CONVENTION JUNE 25-28, 2015

S.A.L. PRE-REGISTRATION - \$10.00

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## PRE-REGISTRATION DEADLINE JUNE 10, 2015

DO NOT MIX LEGION WITH SAL

NO REFUNDS OR SUBSTITUTIONS



Joe E. Estrella Richard E. French Donald E. Stillings Richard L. Crookston 3 Duwain E. Jones Thelma R. Goodwin Francisco Gallardo 4 Felix G. Cordova 6 Russel D. St Pierre Robert K. Hunt Raymond W. Duffy Russell W. Rusing Dale Leslie John C. Reed 8 Gary V. Hoyman 12 Donald R. Flammang Bob Fredericks 14 David P. McVicar 15 Delford O. Williams 19 Jack D. Chandler Lyndale Hill 22 Alfred B. Palmer Joe E. Davis Billy J. Hasting Merlin Pierce 24 Stuart A. Ross Robert Bill 25 June C. Huston Herbert D. Salmon Phillip L. Billingsley Robert R. Ruppel Harry Renninger 26 Joseph L. Daigle 27 Charles H. Shaw Jr. Raymond L. Grove Eugene R. Burch Glen Schisel 28 Philo J. Edgerton

29

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#### Buzz Jacobs 81 Bruce B. Fergueson Daniel C. Jensen James H. Backwell Thomas M. Rolfe 83 Joe Toombs 87 Eugene W. Mounts 89 Lawrence A. Quiroz 91 Kris Kryskowiak 93 Joseph H. Johnson Leonard Krautbauer 94 Ray A. Stites Billy J. Worley Sr. 96 Francis W. Schaefer 100 Richard A. Greenfield Patricia A. Steinlicht Alfonzo B. Evaro Thomas B. Parker Robert C. Stevenson William C. Walker Richard F. Fenton Kenneth G. Bowen Douglas H. Deane Earl J. Clancy James M. Bobbitt Kenneth M. Powell Earl R. Whittington Jr. Tommy Altsisi Sr. Alfred Fuller Paul Goodyear Carl Johnson Joseph Malec Dale Palmer James Strassels Frank Toscano Carl Unger Gerald Vendsel 102 Donald D. Hotz Sr. Ruth E. Schumaker Ysobell E. Stephens James N. Montesano Joseph R. Helvey Benedict Elchlepp Charles Vanauken 107 Robert C. Glenn 109 Gerald P. Schott 128 Billy D. Steele 131 John W. Vandegrift Ivan Harper 132 Robert E. Harbert 134 Thomas A. Dysan 138 Raymond H. Filak

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## Chaplain's Corner Lest We Forget

For some unknown reason human memory just isn't very good. If it were, we would learn from the mistakes we've made in the past and not repeat them. Unfortunately, this is not the case and we simply continue to march along to the

same drummer and messing by the numbers. Internation relations are enough to boggl the brain and the death tc worldwide from one war another is frightening. We forgotten.

Onlyrecently, we observed Ma Day. The average America likely views this as just holiday; reason for celebratia paid day off from the salt Relatively few, percentage actually spend the day as it intended; honoring our fa Veterans. The sad part of this story is that there are newly fallen Veterans to honor every day. It should



be a historical function where we are honoring those who fought to maintain our freedom long ago. But mankind has forgotten.

This nation was established because people were in search of religious freedom; the right to worship their God in their own manner. Yet so many wars, be they big or small, are pursued today because of religion.

We keep forgetting. It didn't work before and it's unlikely to work this time. Each of us is entitled to freedom of worship.

In summation let's remember to always respect the other persons' right to worship and our duty to honor our fallen Veterans.

Department Convention is right around the corner. Hope to see many of you there.

For God and Country,

Carol Stensby, Chaplain The American Legion Department of Arizona

## American Legion • Department of Arizona Membership Report, May 18, 2015

A Al Reyes B Danny Bugh C Doug Keller HQ Andy Jaime Grand Totals High: Area B – 98.66% • District 4	I −102.74% • Po	9,487 17,746 7,581 7,690 42,534 st 143 – 2	9,273 17,538 7,342 4,971 39,124 42.94%	97.74 98.66 96.85 64.64 91.98
District 1 - Commander: Terry Gree Post Name 19 H.H. Donkersley 46 Chic Chisom 47 Somerton 56 Floyd G. Jefferson 67 Frank Mick 70 Freman Sharp District Totals	ene City Yuma Bouse Somerton Yuma Roll Parker	Goal 942 107 15 163 20 35 1,282	2015 979 120 1 167 3 36 1,306	% Goal 103.93 112.15 6.67 102.45 15.00 102.86 101.87
District 2 - Commander: Steve Agu Post Name 7 Morgan McDermott 10 Organ Pipe Cactus 23 Ridge-Igo 36 John P. Burns 59 Cocio-Estrada 66 Green Valley 68 Sahuaro 73 Casas Adobes 102 Tucson Mountains 109 McCulloch-Wagner 111 Patagonia 113 Burton E. Buck 125 Yoem 131 Madera 132 Oro Valley 142 District Totals	irre City Tucson Ajo Nogales Tucson Tucson Tucson Tucson Tucson Tucson Vail Patagonia Sonoita Tucson Green Valley Oro Valley Tucson	Goal 348 62 65 1,256 345 1,378 320 136 96 832 17 19 55 756 270 19 5,974	2015 328 63 68 1,225 322 1,388 333 130 91 763 19 12 42 777 331 19 5,911	% Goal 94.25 101.61 104.62 97.53 93.33 100.73 104.06 95.59 94.79 91.71 111.76 63.16 76.36 102.78 122.59 100.00 98.95
District 3 - Commander: Mike Stou Post Name 11 Fred A. Hilburn 16 L. A. Engle Jr. 20 Tenely - Lopez 24 Roy Fourr 45 Vicente Manzo 52 Bill Carmichael 141 Pearce District Totals	tt City Douglas Bisbee Willcox Tombstone Benson Sierra Vista Pearce	Goal 283 74 42 635 99 745 16 1,894	2015 281 40 42 599 99 688 12 1,761	% Goal 99.29 54.05 100.00 94.33 100.00 92.35 75.00 92.98
District 4 - Commander: Roy White Post Name 8 Fred A. Humphreys 9 McClellan-Parsons 17 William P. Kern 18 P.A.L. 48 Francis M. Bunch 51 Haskel Osife Antone 54 William David Hood 97 San Tan 129 Duane Ellsworth 133 Bernie G Crouse District Totals	e City Casa Grande Florence Superior Kearny San Manuel Blackwater Coolidge San Tan Footh Queen Creek Maricopa	Goal 251 146 21 40 23 37 123 ills 60 56 81 838	2015 259 152 18 38 16 43 111 62 53 109 861	% Goal 103.19 104.11 85.71 95.00 69.57 116.22 90.24 103.33 94.64 134.57 102.74
District 5 - Commander: Richard R Post Name 4 Henry Berry 28 Lloyd C. Hill 32 Swift-Murphy 49 McCulloch-McNair 95 Lopez-Hernandez District Totals	odriquez City Globe Clifton Safford Duncan Solomon	Goal 185 137 328 46 85 781	2015 185 124 308 44 79 740	% Goal 100.00 90.51 93.90 95.65 92.84 94.75
District 6 - Commander: Don Coffi Post Name 15 Frank Perkins 30 John H. Slaughter 31 Greer-Dewitt 37 Navajo 60 Whiteriver 69 Tonto Rim 76 WilliamHouse 80 Lori Piestewa 82 Warren L. Dempsey 86 John D. Wibby 126 Snowflake - Taylor 130 Joseph McCarthy District Totals	nan City Winslow Springerville Saint Johns Holbrook Whiteriver Payson Show Low Kykotsmovi Ganado Overgaard Snowflake Concho	Goal 87 160 30 54 44 440 161 48 15 441 24 34 1,538	$2015 \\ 77 \\ 141 \\ 21 \\ 40 \\ 36 \\ 417 \\ 159 \\ 54 \\ 1 \\ 432 \\ 23 \\ 29 \\ 1,430$	% Goal 88.51 88.13 70.00 74.07 81.82 94.77 98.76 112.50 6.67 97.96 95.83 85.29 92.98

Dist	rict 7 - Commander: James Ro	SCOP			
	Name	City	Goal	2015	% Goal
3	Mark A. Moore	Flagstaff	533	474	88.93
13	Cordova	Williams	105	106	100.95
14	Swaskegame	Kingman	285	276	96.84
22 33	Golden Valley Jerry & Daw	Golden Valley Tonalea	215 15	218 12	$\begin{array}{r}101.40\\80.00\end{array}$
42	John Ivens	Grand Canyon	144	124	86.11
57	Robert Fulton	Ash Fork	87	94	108.05
81	Robert A. Eckert	L. Havasu City	1,186	1,197	100.93
87	Mohave Valley	Bullhead City	448	418	93.30
88 103	Dolan Springs Meadview	Dolan Springs Meadview	111 48	98 51	88.29 106.2
112	Curtis Huskon	Leupp	26	20	76.92
123		Seligman	30	21	70.00
127	Mohave Valley	Mohave Valley	35	36	102.86
	Yucca	Yucca	22	23	104.55
Dist	rict Totals		3,290	3,168	96.29
Dist	rict 8 - Commander:Tom Shac	kelford			
	Name	City	Goal	2015	% Goal
6	Ernest A. Love	Prescott	687	687	100.00
25 40	Verde Valley Bobby Bisjak	Cottonwood Chino Valley	543 351	530 338	97.61 96.30
78	Humboldt	Humboldt	284	275	96.83
79	Taylor-Keehner	Yarnell	272	270	99.26
90	Black Canyon City	Black Cyn Cty	46	51	110.87
93	David C. Johnson	Camp Verde	266	273	102.63
104		Bagdad	24	21	87.50
108 122		Prescott Vly Cordes Lakes	84 37	85 38	$101.19 \\ 102.70$
135		Cornville	66	73	110.61
	George D. Reiff	Crown King	17	24	141.18
140	Prescott Valley	Prescott Vly	76	79	103.95
Dist	rict Totals	-	2,753	2,744	99.67
Dist	rict 11 – Commander: Wayne O	Thatfield			
	Name	City	Goal	2015	% Goal
1	Luke-Greenway	Phoenix	751	664	88.42
5	Southern Meadows	Phoenix	61	59	96.72
12 29	Kellis-Draper	Wickenburg	362	351	96.96
29 43	Earl E. Mitchell Hazel Morton	Glendale Phoenix	1,271 10	1,222 7	96.14 100.00
50	Thomas Tang	Phoenix	46	43	93.48
53	Hazelton-Butler	Buckeye	98	89	90.82
61	Crandall-Palmer	Avondale	582	659	113.23
62	John J. Morris	Peoria	1,879	1,837	97.76
72 94	Dwight Eisenhower MaryEllen Piotrowski	Phoenix Sun City West	15 327	18 328	120.00 100.31
96	Surprise	Surprise	196	1185	94.39
101	John H. Harries	Sun City	100	90	90.00
105	Christopher J. Lapka	Phoenix	572	547	95.63
128	Daisy Mountain	Anthem	84	85	101.19
134	Laveen	Laveen	65	88	135.38
137 143	Isaiah Mays-Bill Mauldin Goodyear	Tonopah Goodyear	47 17	38 43	82.85 252.94
	Glendale	Glendale	0	15	113.33
145	Peoria	Peoria	15	5	33.33
Dist	rict Totals		6,480	6,375	97.93
Dist	rict 12 – Commander:Glenn W	hite			
Post	Name	City	Goal	2015	% Goal
2	William Bloys	Tempe	354	380	107.34
26	Mesa	Mesa	757	674	89.04
27 34	Apache Frank W. Wright	Apache Jct Cave Creek	2,601 362	2,560 384	98.42 106.08
35	Mathew B. Juan	Chandler	626	586	93.61
39	Merrill-Mitchell	Gilbert	640	731	114.22
41	Tony F. Soza	Phoenix	808	812	100.50
44	Sipe-Peterson	Scottsdale	980	1,062	108.37
55 58	James O. Shroeder Fountain Hills	Sun Lakes Fountain Hills	194 478	185 462	95.36 95.65
63	Lena Vaughn Whitney	Mesa	33	27	81.82
64	Ahwatukee	Ahwatukee	141	167	118.44
65	Travis L. Williams	Phoenix	330	250	75.76
75	Sunnyslope	Phoenix	193	184	95.34
83 84	East Mesa Ira H. Hayes	Mesa Sacaton	105 56	93 44	88.57 78.57
91	Wayne V. McMartin	Chandler	264	264	100.00
107	Irving B. Selmer	Phoenix	473	467	98.73
114	Bushmasters	Scottsdale	60	44	73.33
115	North Scottsdale	Scottsdale	59	15	25.42
117 124	Pat Tillman Guadalupe Veterans	Phoenix Guadalupe	233 28	227 30	97.42 107.14
138	James Witkowski	Tempe	209	209	100.00
	rict Totals		9,984	9,857	98.73

#### The Arizona Legionnaire

## **AI Kitts Takes Honor Flight**

Al Kitts, Past Commander of William Bloys Post 2 in Tempe, was on the recent Honor Flight with fellow WWII Veterans to see the WWII Memorial in Washington, D.C. He was accompanied by Dave Grey, Commander of William Bloys Post 2.

It was a very overwhelming experience for both Al and Dave; one they will remember for a long time.



Al Kitts was born on August 10, 1925 in Phoenix Arizona and moved to Tempe Arizona at the age of 4. He joined the Army in 1943 at the age of 18 and served until 1945. At the age of 19 he saw the Battle of the Bulge and was wounded in action at the Rhine

## **A Culmination Of Memories**



Where has the time gone? My year as Area C Vice-Commander is coming to a close and it is difficult to remember all of the things I've been involved in representing the American Legion Department of Arizona. It isn't necessarily the "big events" like the opening of the joint venture of the Indian Health Services and the Northern Arizona VA Health Care System Veteran's clinic in Polacca, AZ or the opening of the just completed Mental

Health Building at NAVAHCS that necessarily stand out in my mind. Most of the time it's the more routine things like attending post meetings and getting to know the members, or discovering the pictures and displays in their posts.

Serving Veterans starts at the street level; that is, thanking a Veteran you see on the street, parking lot, or in a store for his/her service. Inviting them to a post meeting, or to join the American Legion, or helping them with an issue...it's on a personal level. It is this one on one action, one Veteran helping another Veteran that really makes the difference. While the American Legion leads the way nationally on Veteran's issues, it is the personal touch and the day to day serving of Veterans that grows our ranks and makes us that strong national voice. Being a strong Veteran advocate starts with you and from what I've seen in my travels, you are being true to that advocacy and you are doing great things for the Legion, Community, State, and Nation.

Thank you all for the honor and privilege of serving as your Area C Vice-Commander this year. It has been a great ride!



River in Germany when a grenade went off and shrapnel went into his arm. He was with the US Army 75th Infantry Division attached to the 291st Infantry Unit.

# American Legion Department of Arizona 2015 Convention Golf Tournament Thursday June 25, 2015

RANCHO MANANA GOLF CLUB 5734 E. RANCHO MANANA BLVD, CAVE CREEK, AZ. 85331

CHECK IN AT 6:30am, SHOTGUN START 7:00am 4 PLAYER SCRAMBLE \$60 PER PLAYER

Entry Fee Includes: Green Fees, Cart Fees, Range Balls, Bag Handling, Scoring, Tournament Services, Pavilion Use, Catered Buffet Lunch, Cash Bar Setup. *Lunch Will Be Served at Smoke House* 

in Cave Creek

Send Registration and Payment to: Pat Tillman Post 117 Attn: Steve Allen 16428 N 32nd St, Suite 101 Phoenix, Az, 85032

Player Name

Phone Number

#### **MUST BE RECEIVED BY JUNE 15, 2015**

Area C Vice Commander Doug Keller

# Area C Riders Cheer "Run For the Wall"

American Legion Riders from Area C met at Post 57 in Ash Fork last week and then headed for the County Line Road overpass with 30+ American Flags and cheered on the "Run for the Wall" riders that started out in California and were heading down I-40. The riders have been doing this for many years and it just fills you with pride and joy...especially Vietnam Veterans. The pickup truck was full of kids from Ash Fork that were also cheering on the riders. What wonderful kids...gives me great hope for the future of our country!



Another large group of riders left from California and came through Phoenix on May 13th in the evening. One of the riders on the southern route is John Beeler from Pinetop-Lakeside who is a member at Oliver-De Clay Post 60 in Whiteriver. This is John's second time doing this; last year he went on the northern route. Safe travels to everyone participating in the "Run for the Wall". For more information and to keep track of where the riders are, follow them on www.rftw.org.



**Mission Statement:** To promote healing among ALL veterans and their families and friends, to call for an accounting of all Prisoners of War and those Missing in Action (POW/MIA), to honor the memory of those Killed in Action (KIA) from all wars, and to support our military personnel all over the world.



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\*Federal law <u>permits</u> 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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