



For God & Country



THE ARIZONA LEGIONNAIRE



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Family First, The Legion Way

My Fellow Legionnaires in the State of Arizona. My wife Yolanda Bonilla, Department Auxiliary President and my-self decided to drive to Reno for the 99th National Convention. It was a good way to see our Department and neighbors along the way.

I want to say thanks to the Department of Arizona officers of The American Legion who were there as delegates supporting our state. I am sure all of the delegates took classes or information that was given out, especially from speeches that were given by our then National Commander Charles E. Schmidt, famously asking, "who is going to fill our shoes?"

To that I say, that we have. We have filled those shoes. We have elected officers with many years of experience in The American Legion.

Some have gone to The National American Legion College. The more that we understand our programs, we understand how best to help our Veterans.

Remember to hold up our Four Pillars, strengthened by training. Training is important at all levels of our legacy regardless of gender or age.

Our newly elected National Commander, Denise Rohan, is focused this year for us all to work as a family in our programs which will build up and retain our members.

In Arizona, we are working together as Legionnaires, Auxiliary, Sons, and American Legion Riders. Remember to think outside the box. Work as a family in our communities and let's do this! We will soon see that it will attract others. Remember too, that the Soaring High Eagle Trophy is looking for a home.

Chaplain's Corner –

John 15:13 – “Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one’s life for his friends.” I pray that we will always keep this in our thoughts and lives and live by it. May we always be prepared to go the extra mile for all.

First of all, I want to remember a few people in my column here. I failed at Fall Conference to mention the passing of PDC Ildefonso “Al” Tercero, who passed away, on August 29th. Knowing Al was a privilege and he was a great commander. He will be sorely missed and please continue to keep his wife, Donna, in your prayers and thoughts. We also lost, Ernie Smith, Past Department Vice Commander Area A, as well as District 3 Commander and Post 11 Commander.

Please keep Past Department Auxiliary President Karen Smith in your prayers and thoughts.

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DEPARTMENT OFFICERS

Commander
Domingo Bonilla
(602) 418-0605

Vice Commanders

- (A) Ben Headen (520) 678-2804
- (B) Ken Queen (480) 358-6923
- (C) Ken Johnson (805) 714-9369

NEC

Richard "Dick" Perry (520) 559-0058

Alternate NEC

Judi Beischel (480) 229-1581

Dist 1 Commander

Terry Greene (928) 246-6670

Dist 2 Commander

George Molina (520) 829-7153

Dist 3 Commander

Gary Hamelstrom (520) 457-2446

District 4 Commander

Robert Krumwiede (480) 229-8336

District 5 Commander

Michael Aranda (928) 651-0473

District 6 Commander

Timothy Gillman (928) 245-6227

District 7 Commander

John Timmons (928) 864-9774

District 8 Commander

Ralph Nowakowski (928) 458-0600

District 11 Commander

Don Bergeron (602) 520-4509

District 12 Commander

Ben Carrillo (480) 722-9230



(Chaplain Continued from page 1)

At Fall Conference we had an excellent Chaplain Training for The American Legion Family members. There were representatives from all four family groups. Booklets were given with good resource materials to all. I'm hoping to do something similar at Convention next June.

Lastly, please keep Sharon Doran (Past Auxiliary Department President) in your prayers. She is battling the cancer again. Sharon, you were sorely missed at Fall Conference!!

Sherie Mercier, Chaplain, American Legion, Department of Arizona 2017-2018

PEAR Committee – Attention!!

Back in April 2017, Department Commander Danny Bugh formed the ADHOC committee to assist with protocol and rules and named me as the Chairperson. PEAR stands for Protocol, Ethics And Rules Committee.

We produced a handbook to help with rules, etiquette and procedures as well as ethics at the Post level. The handbook was given at the Fall Conference in Tucson and Department will be including it in an all-mail to the Posts soon.

Sherie Mercier,
PEAR Committee Chairperson

View These Legionnaire's Stories and Tell us Yours



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US Army

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**Denise Rohan
National Commander
The American Legion**

To my fellow Legionnaires and Legion Family members in the Department of ARIZONA: There are

many ways to demonstrate compassion for veterans, but at the top of the list is caring for their families. It is why President Lincoln included widows and orphans in his famous pledge to veterans and it's why I chose Family First as the theme for my year as national commander. A recent White House proclamation called it "our patriotic duty" to honor veterans and military families. The American Legion wholeheartedly agrees. It is demonstrated in all 55 departments of our organization every time we award a temporary financial assistance grant, an American Legion Legacy Scholarship or answer a call from our Family Support Network. It is demonstrated every time an American Legion service officer helps a veteran access the VA health care system, which can ease the burden of expensive medical costs that so many families face today.

As the first national commander who also belongs to the American Legion Auxiliary, I am also blessed to have an immediate family that includes Sons of the American Legion members and Legionnaires. My home department of Wisconsin is also the birthplace of a company called Harley Davison, a brand that holds special significance among many of our American Legion Riders. My point is that every component of our American Legion Family is important, just as every relative in our immediate family is important. We have had some outstanding legislative accomplishments in 2017, including the signing of the Veterans Appeals Modernization Act by President Trump on the stage of our national convention and the passage of The American Legion 100th Anniversary Commemorative Coin Act. This would not have been possible without the hard work of American Legion Family members who contacted their senators and representatives and asked them to do the right thing. Numbers equal influence, which is why it is so essential that we recruit, renew and revitalize all of our American Legion components to include posts, units, squadrons and Riders chapters. Reconnect with our active-duty, reserve and Guard units by supporting Family Readiness Groups and letting them know that they are all valued by our American Legion Family.

We have outstanding programs and I am asking for your support in raising money to provide training for our outstanding corps of service officers and temporary financial assistance for children in need.

I thank you for your service as military veterans, as Legionnaires and as members of the Legion Family.

The American Legion Extension Institute

If you haven't already completed the American Legion Extension Institute Online Training program, please take a look soon. Soon materials from this "basic" training about The American Legion will be available free of charge by other means.

You'll be able to learn more about the American Legion and the programs that our members can fulfill for Veterans, our Military, and children in our community. Many Posts rely on this program as a prerequisite for their elected leaders. Training is important at all levels of our Legion Family. <https://www.legion.org/alei>

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Arizona American Legion Riders ALR Riding in Service

With Fall coming upon us

Riders in the desert areas are riding more – and those of us in the mountains are riding less. Even with the change in weather, however, we are keeping busy.

Unfortunately, we have lost a number of ALR Riders (and Post family members) this year.

ALR continues to support the Patriot Guard Riders in escorts and flag lines for our fallen heroes – some of which have included fallen ALR members.

In November **ALR 59 (Tucson)** along with the Patriot Guard Riders provided a magnificent color guard and service for their fallen comrade Ronald Lee Shelton, US Army. He was the loving husband to Connie Shelton, Unit 59 Auxiliary.

In October, ALR chapters from **ALR District 8 (ALR 6-Prescott, ALR 25-Cottonwood, ALR 40-Chino Valley, ALR 78-Dewey-Humboldt, ALR 93-Camp Verde, ALR 108-Prescott Valley and ALR 140-Prescott Valley)** put on their annual free BBQ at the Prescott VA for our patients and staff and served almost 200 meals.

ALR 27 (Apache Junction) raised \$3,450.00 for Veterans' charities through a number of events in September and October.

As they do every year, **ALR 44 (Scottsdale)** transported the US, POW, American Legion flags and the three flags of the ALA, SAL and ALR from the Post to the Scottsdale Civic Center for the ceremony held every year for our Veterans. The ALR also joined the Post honor guard for the ceremony, and the rifle squad on several occasions.

ALR 58 (Fountain Hills) Chapter 58 made a substantial donation to Boots In The House to send packages to our troops overseas and is planning a poker run in 2018 with all proceeds to go to Boots In The House. They also had an event in October called "Cowboy Up" and all proceeds went to Dogs4Vets.

On November 8, **ALR 61 (Avondale)** riders came together to escort the Vietnam Wall to Buckeye AZ. There was a grand total of 106 bikes that participated and 13 cars.

ALR 81 (Lake Havasu City) visited with Veterans and patients at the Lake Hill Inn Convalescent Center

in Lake Havasu City and had lunch with them. The patients were very excited and thankful for the visit and loved looking at all the motorcycles and talking about everyone's military service.

On November 11, the City of Maricopa held its first ever Veteran's Day Parade. **ALR 133 (Maricopa)** participated in this inaugural event with members of

Chapters 5 (Phoenix) and 8 (Casa Grande)

joining in. A barbeque was put on by Tom "Pee Wee" Seagroves, Chapter 133

Assistant Director, for all the Riders who participated.



ALR 131 (Green Valley) is trained in handling blind Patients, and is continuing to host Blind Veterans from the VA Hospital in Tucson each month for a free all-you- can-eat breakfast at their Post.

Special thanks to **ALR 36 (Tucson)** for manning the ALR Table at the registration area during the Fall Conference.

One Chapter has gone inactive since our last Column – **ALR 35 (Chandler)**. We hope to see them up and running in the near future.

UPCOMING: **ALR 27 (Apache Junction)** will be hosting our statewide AZALR quarterly meeting on January 13th. Lunch is at noon; meeting starts at 1300 hours. All Arizona ALR members are invited to attend.

Many ALR Chapters are having toy runs and other special fundraisers to raise money for children in need and our troops and Veterans during the holiday season. 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
Chairman, American Legion Riders,
Department of Arizona (AZALR)
prescottbikers@hotmail.com

Leadership is not about being elected or appointed to an office. The office does not teach someone how to be a leader. Leadership is an attitude cultivated over time. Are you one to stand up for what you believe in and 'face the music' even when that music happens to be unpleasant? Do you have a purpose and follow that purpose to get the ends you desire? Do you have a vision? These are all questions that true leaders answer in the affirmative. But how do you become a leader?

There are certain characteristics found in some people that seem to naturally put them in a position where they're looked up to as a leader. Whether in fact a person is born a leader or develops skills and abilities to become a leader is open for debate. There are some clear characteristics that are found in good leaders. These qualities can be developed or may be naturally part of their personality. Let us explore them further.

A good leader has an exemplary character. It is of utmost importance that a leader is trustworthy to lead others. A leader needs to be trusted and be known to live their life with honesty and integrity. A good leader "walks the talk" and in doing so earns the right to have responsibility for others. True authority is born from respect for the good character and trustworthiness of the person who leads. A good leader is enthusiastic about their work or cause and about their role as leader. People will respond more openly to a person of passion and dedication. Leaders need to be able to be a source of inspiration, and be a motivator towards the required action or cause. Although the responsibilities and roles of a leader may be different, the leader needs to be seen to be part of the team working towards the goal. This kind

of leader will not be afraid to roll up their sleeves and get dirty.

A good leader is confident. To lead and set direction, a leader needs to appear confident as a person and in the leadership role. Such a person inspires confidence in others and draws out the trust and best efforts of the team to complete the task well. A leader who conveys confidence towards the proposed objective inspires the best effort from team members.

A leader also needs to function in an orderly and purposeful manner in situations of uncertainty. People look to the leader during times of uncertainty and unfamiliarity and find reassurance and security when the leader portrays confidence and a positive demeanor. Good leaders are tolerant of ambiguity and remain calm, composed and steadfast to the main purpose. Storms, emotions, and crises come and go, and a good leader takes these as part of the journey and keeps a cool head. A good leader as well as keeping the main goal in focus can think analytically. Not only does a good leader view a situation, but is able to break it down into sub parts for closer inspection. Not only is the goal in view but a good leader can break it down into manageable steps and make progress towards it.

A good leader is committed to excellence. Second best does not lead to success. The good leader not only maintains high standards, but also is proactive in raising the bar to achieve excellence in all areas. These characteristics are foundational to good leadership. Some characteristics may be more naturally present in the personality of a leader. However, each of these characteristics can also be developed and strengthened. A good leader whether they naturally possess these

qualities or not, will be diligent to consistently develop and strengthen them in their leadership role.

Many see community service to an end, while others may view it as unfortunate and often inconvenient situation; once again true community service is an attitude. Are you doing it for the right reasons? I'm not saying there won't be Saturday mornings when you would rather sleep your heart out than paint your heart out. What I'm talking about is that in the end, when it is all done, and you are once again well-rested, you can look back and realize that you did something worthwhile. That you helped your fellow man in some way. Remember as John Donne said, "No man is an island entire of himself."

Finally, character. If there is any one thing that is evidenced by your daily choices, it is your character. I truly believe what Thomas Macaulay said, "The measure of a man's real character is what he would do if he knew he would never be found out." What do you do when no one's around? The teacher steps out of the room for a moment while you are taking a test. You know exactly where in your notes the answer to question 23 is. Do you look? Little chance of being caught! The answer to this question is the key to your true character. For while being honest and honorable when others are watching is important, being true to yourself is much more important. And in the end, these private day-to-day decisions will eventually reveal your true character to the world. All in all, are we making the tough choices worth it? While it would be easier to slide through life without a purpose, without a code, it would not be fulfilling. Only by setting difficult goals and achieving them can we find true self-worth.

Continued on page 7

Americanism and 2018 Oratorical Schedule

Sat. Feb. 3, 2018
Department Headquarters Training 10:00 am to 4:00 pm
By appointment with Roger Munchbach 480-705-9527
legionoratoricalcontest@msn.com

Sat. Feb. 17, 2018 District 12, 10:00 am, Post 35
2240 W. Chandler Blvd
Chandler, AZ 85224
Contact Roger Munchbach 480-705-9527
legionoratoricalcontest@msn.com

Feb 17, 2018 District 11, 2:00 pm
Location not yet determined

Sat. Feb. 24, 2018 Area B, 9:00 am, Post 27
1018 S. Meridian
Apache Junction, AZ 85220
Contact Roger Munchbach 480-705-9527
legionoratoricalcontest@msn.com

Area A, 1:00 pm, Post 102 (mobile home park
clubhouse) 5975 W. Western Way
Tucson, AZ 85713
Contact Ken Dowse 520-834-4043
k.dowse@att.net

Department Finals

Sat., March 3, 2018 10:00 am, Post 64
(Ahwatukee Rec Center)
5001 E. Cheyenne Dr.
Phoenix, AZ 85044
Contact Roger Munchbach 480-705-9527
legionoratoricalcontest@msn.com

National Finals

April 13, 14, 15, 2018 Indianapolis, IN

NEC Report -- Dick Perry, N.E.C.

Forwarded for Curtis L. Coy

Dear Fellow Veterans and Colleagues,
In this 99th year of commemorating Veterans Day on November 11, VA has broadened that observance and appreciation to designate the entire month of November as National Veterans and Military Families Month. At VA, we like to say that every day is Veterans Day, but this month and year it has been especially evident as we begin implementing several new provisions enacted by the Harry W. Colmery Educational Assistance Act of 2017, also known as the "Forever GI Bill."

We plan on sending out periodic communications trying to keep everyone up to date on the 34 provisions of the law. For example, just yesterday I did interviews with 23 radio and TV stations across the country talking about the wonderful new benefits of the Colmery Act. Earlier this month, we outlined several sections that went into effect immediately. Today we're underscoring the wide range of expanded educational benefit eligibility for Veterans and dependents that go into effect on August 1, 2018. While that may seem like a long ways off, we're putting things in place now to ensure our Veterans are informed and the process is as smooth as possible.

Expansion of qualifying time for Post-9/11 GI Bill to certain Reserve and Guardmembers - The law expands the definition of "active duty" to include Reservists and Guardmembers ordered to active duty to receive authorized medical care, or to be medically evaluated for disability, or complete a Department of Defense (DoD) health care study. The expansion applies to service on or after September 11, 2001. An individual may use this entitlement to pursue a course of education beginning on or after August 1, 2018.

Purple Heart recipient Post-9/11 GI Bill eligibility - Servicemembers and honorably discharged Veterans who were awarded a Purple Heart on or after September 11, 2001, will be entitled to Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits for up to 36 months. This facet of the law closes a sort of "loophole" where Servicemembers who may not have otherwise had enough time in for full Post-9/11 eligibility are now fully entitled. An individual may use this entitlement to pursue a course of education beginning on or after August 1, 2018.

Yellow Ribbon extension to Fry Scholarship and Purple Heart recipients - Recipients of the Fry Scholarship and Purple Heart will be eligible for the Yellow Ribbon Program. This program provides assistance with tuition and fee charges not covered by the Post-9/11 GI Bill, such as charges over the annual cap for a private school or out-of-state charges. Institutions enter into an agreement with VA to pay uncovered charges (schools decide the amount), and VA matches the amount the school waives. An individual may use this entitlement to pursue a course of education beginning on or after August 1, 2018.

Expansion of qualifying Reserve service - Those called to active duty under 12304, 12304(a), and 12304(b) orders on or after June 30, 2008 may have this service credited towards their Post-9/11 GI Bill eligibility. An individual may use this entitlement to pursue a course of education beginning on or after August 1, 2018.

These amendments extend educational benefit eligibility to a greater population of Veterans and dependents who have responded to the call to serve - and sacrifice - for our country. This Veterans Month, and every day, we continue to thank you.

As always, thank you for your service and feel free to pass this on.
Regards,
Curtis L. Coy
Deputy Under Secretary for Economic Opportunity
Veterans Benefits Administration
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Vice Commander Area "A"

Department of Arizona Fall Conference is over and it was great seeing so many new faces and new officers attend. Commander Bonilla brought some new and exciting changes to this year's event, along with The American Legion Auxiliary, Madame President Yolanda Bonilla, and Sons of The American Legion Detachment Commander Matt Griffis.

Our National Vice Commander Western Region Paula Stephenson attended and brought us a message from our National Commander Denise Rohan.

We had many educational classes for our members to take part in, now we must take back to our Posts the knowledge we learned.

Having as many new members attend and a reminder to those that have been coming for many years, the Conference and Convention is not over until Sunday.

I also would like to remind our District Commanders that the Department Executive Committee meets right after the closing of the session on Sunday. It is vital that you attend or have your Vice Commander attend. This is where decisions about Department are made.

Thanks again, for attending.

Ben "Coach" Headen

Department of Arizona Vice Commander Area A

Vice Commander Area "C"

Happy Holidays to all Arizona Legion Family members.

It has been a busy first part of our year. I have been attending as many functions in Area C as I can, so if you have a meeting or function that you would like me to attend, please let me know. Remember membership is our lifeblood, so let's keep up the good work. One of our new tools is the door hangers that are available through headquarters. If anyone in Area C needs my help, I will do what I can to answer any questions.

Ken Johnson

Vice Commander Area "C"

Leadership - *Continued from page 5*

One final thing, each person's goals are different, and what comes easy to one may be difficult for another. Therefore, do not squash others' dreams. This is a surefire way to know that you aren't working towards fulfilling your own. So, I ask you the same question our Past National Commander asked, "Who will follow in our footsteps?"

Ben Headen, Arizona Legion College Facilitator

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**VETERANS HELPING VETERANS
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The 11th Annual Marine Toys for Tots Charity Ride was held on Saturday, November 25th hosted by Mathew B. Juan American Legion Post 35 in Chandler. The ride started at the Chandler Harley Davidson and toys were collected at Post 138-Tempe; Post 58-Fountain Hills; Post 39-Gilbert; Post 91-Chandler; and ended at Post 35-Chandler with lunch, door prizes, music, vendors and lots of fun!



Thank you to the riders and passengers from The American Legion Family, Posts and businesses that participated in this awesome event. The amount of toys collected was overwhelming!

Photos and Reporting by Joy Hickok
Post 35 Sr. Vice Commander

Cancer Care Insurance Plan

Help protect your future from the unexpected cost of cancer.



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Let's Fight Cancer Together

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You can even collect benefits if you don't have cancer. **That's right! We'll send you money to cover the cost of diagnostic testing (cancer screenings) because detection is the first step if fighting cancer.

<https://www.thelit.com/cancer-care-insurance-plan>

**An Extra Note from Department
Commander Bonilla about our Membership**

I want to thank everyone who attended Fall Conference 2017 and hope that you had fun and learned all that was available for you. Also, a huge thank you to our Guest, Paula R. Stephenson, our National Western Division Vice Commander, who brought greetings from our National Commander Denise Rohan. Our National Commander is stressing Family Pride by encouraging our Legion Family to host military and Veteran events to show our appreciation for their service. Take advantage of Thanksgiving by hosting an event either at your post home or partner with your community by having an event at a local city park. Let's go outside of the box and sponsor a membership drive and showcase our programs. Include your entire Legion Family and see just how many new members you can recruit. Reach out to younger people while educating them about our Four Pillars – Americanism, Children and Youth, National Security and Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation.

We tried a new concept at Fall Conference, with our three Area Vice Commanders saying a few words when they covered topics such as membership retention, the four pillars, the Consolidated Post Report which is very vital to our mission, the American Legion College, Service Officer Training and classes available to our members.

In my travels during the past four months, I am listening to you with your concerns and issues. The world is not perfect but we as a Legion Family have the obligation to listen and believe me, I do. It is our obligation to mentor our younger members, and pass on information. As a Post Commander ask your Adjutant to take minutes and record your meetings.

Distribute your minutes. Keep copies for your files so that there is an official record of the proceedings. Comply with your Constitution and By Laws and if need be review them every year. If you do update your documents, send your update to the Department Office. Enough of that!

We need to take a pledge to support our members, whether they are Legionnaires or a member of the Legion Family, Auxiliary or Son. and yes, our Legion Riders.

Thank you Committee Chairmen and Committee Members for your support. Also, Area Vice Commanders, Sergeant at Arms and Assistants for a job well done at Fall Conference. We still have a long way to go, let's put Arizona on top this year. Our Door Hangers are working. Keep an eye out for the new membership trophy, Soaring High for Membership. The trophy needs a home. And keep our Membership Director, Manny Beltran, aka "Manny Balboa" busy with events. He needs to complete the Membership Mission. I'll be on the road to your Post home very soon. Just remember to notify our Adjutant Angel Juarez when you schedule an event and he will add it to the Calendar.

I'm calling on our District Commanders to bring you vital information from our National Organization and Department to keep you informed and in the know. It is in our Constitution that all District Commanders must visit their Posts. That's why they were elected. Let's keep on working as a Family, with kindness for the same outcome to help our Vets.

God Bless America!

November 17, 2017 Updated Goal Report

Area ATotals: 9,097 6062 66.64 %
Area B Totals: 17,219 10534 61.18 %
Area C Totals: 6,790 4267 62.84 %
Grand Totals: 39,000 22,100 56.67 %

Post Name & City Goal 2018 % of Goal
LGN 0048 San Manuel 0 6 0.00 %
LGN 0075 Phoenix 0 25 0.00 %
LGN 0089 Phoenix 86 50 58.14 %
LGN 0100 Phoenix 5,808 1,145 19.71 %
LGN 0115 Scottsdale 0 5 0.00 %
District Totals: 5,894 1237 20.99 %

District 1 Terry Greene
Post Name & City Goal 2018 % of Goal
LGN 0019 Yuma 922 605 65.62 %
LGN 0046 Bouse 121 41 33.88 %
LGN 0056 Yuma 150 89 59.33 %
LGN 0070 Parker 44 38 86.36 %
District Totals: 1,237 773 62.49 %

District 2 George Molina
Post Name & City Goal 2018 % of Goal
LGN 0007 Tucson 291 201 69.07 %
LGN 0010 Ajo 65 46 70.77 %
LGN 0023 Nogales 59 39 66.10 %
LGN 0036 Tucson 1,225 879 71.76 %
LGN 0059 Tucson 265 147 55.47 %
LGN 0066 Green Valley LGN 0068 Tucson 1,433 1,095 76.41 %
LGN 0073 Tucson 298 217 72.82 %
LGN 0102 Tucson Mountains 108 32 29.63 %
LGN 0109 Vall 67 52 77.61 %
LGN 0111 Patagonia 783 314 40.10 %
LGN 0113 Sonoita 19 0 0.00 %
LGN 0125 Tucson 16 3 18.75 %
LGN 0131 Green Valley LGN 0132 Oro Valley 43 29 67.44 %
LGN 0142 Tucson 769 544 70.74 %
District Totals: 5,863 3888 66.31 %

District 3 Mary Hamelstrom
Post Name & City Goal 2018 % of Goal
LGN 0011 Douglas 261 145 55.56 %
LGN 0016 Bisbee 76 59 77.63 %
LGN 0020 Willcox 38 5 13.16 %
LGN 0024 Tombstone 585 399 68.21 %
LGN 0045 Benson 101 76 75.25 %
LGN 0052 Sierra Vista 651 548 84.18 %
LGN 0141 Pearce 25 19 76.00 %
District Totals: 1,737 1251 72.02 %

District 4 Robert Krumwiede
Post Name & City Goal 2018 % of Goal
LGN 0008 Casa Grande LGN 0009 Florence LGN 0017 Superior LGN 0018 Kearny LGN 0051 Blackwater LGN 0054 Coolidge LGN 0097 San Tan Valley LGN 0129 Queen Creek LGN 0133 Maricopa 110 66 60.00 %
District Totals: 811 468 57.71 %

District 5 Michael Aranda
Post Name & City Goal 2018 % of Goal
LGN 0004 Globe 176 116 65.91 %
LGN 0028 Clifton 109 59 54.13 %
LGN 0032 Safford 277 185 66.79 %
LGN 0049 Duncan 38 29 76.32 %
LGN 0095 Solomon 86 66 76.74 %
District Totals: 686 455 66.33 %

District 6 Tim Gillman
Post Name & City Goal 2018 % of Goal
LGN 0015 Winslow 85 58 68.24 %
LGN 0030 Springerville 144 109 75.69 %
LGN 0031 Saint Johns 31 22 70.97 %
LGN 0037 Holbrook 47 20 42.55 %
LGN 0060 Whiteriver 34 15 44.12 %
LGN 0069 Payson 342 213 62.28 %
LGN 0076 Show Low 155 89 57.42 %
LGN 0080 Kykotsmovi 32 2 6.25 %
LGN 0086 Overgaard 442 290 65.61 %
LGN 0126 Snowflake 29 28 96.55 %
LGN 0130 Concho 38 31 81.58 %
District Totals: 1,379 877 63.60 %

District 7 John Timmons
Post Name & City Goal 2018 % of Goal
LGN 0003 Flagstaff 431 256 59.40 %
LGN 0013 Williams 100 65 65.00 %
LGN 0014 Kingman 276 180 65.22 %
LGN 0022 Golden Valley 201 123 61.19 %
LGN 0033 Tonalea 16 0 0.00 %
LGN 0042 Grand Canyon 90 67 74.44 %
LGN 0057 Ash Fork 80 43 53.75 %
LGN 0081 Lake Havasu City 1,030 615 59.71 %
LGN 0087 Bullhead City 418 273 65.31 %
LGN 0088 Doan Springs 100 39 39.00 %
LGN 0103 Meadview 63 71 112.70 %
LGN 0112 Leupp 19 15 78.95 %
LGN 0123 Seligman 16 7 43.75 %
LGN 0127 Mohave Valley 25 1 4.00 %
LGN 0136 Yucca 21 15 71.43 %
District Totals: 2,886 1,770 61.33 %

District 8 Ralph Nowakowski
Post Name & City Goal 2018 % of Goal
LGN 0006 Prescott 557 366 65.71 %
LGN 0025 Cottonwood 459 319 69.50 %
LGN 0040 Chino Valley 315 210 66.67 %
LGN 0078 Humboldt 270 167 61.85 %
LGN 0079 Yarnell 284 140 49.30 %
LGN 0090 Black Cyn Cty 57 26 45.61 %
LGN 0093 Camp Verde 229 145 63.32 %
LGN 0104 Bagdad 22 8 36.36 %
LGN 0108 Prescott Valley 83 60 72.29 %
LGN 0122 Cordes Lakes 32 24 75.00 %
LGN 0135 Cornville 83 68 81.93 %
LGN 0139 Crown King 36 0 0.00 %
LGN 0140 Prescott Valley 58 37 63.79 %
District Totals: 2,525 1620 64.16 %

District 11 Don Bergeron
Post Name & City Goal 2018 % of Goal
LGN 0001 Phoenix 584 403 69.01 %
LGN 0005 Phoenix 93 45 48.39 %
LGN 0012 Wickenburg 382 217 56.81 %
LGN 0029 Glendale 1,134 735 64.81 %
LGN 0043 Phoenix 15 20 133.33 %
LGN 0050 Phoenix 34 23 67.65 %
LGN 0053 Buckeye 116 65 56.03 %
LGN 0061 Avondale 694 359 51.73 %
LGN 0062 Peoria 1,727 1,138 65.89 %
LGN 0072 Phoenix 24 20 83.33 %
LGN 0094 Sun City West 381 256 67.19 %
LGN 0096 Surprise 228 135 59.21 %
LGN 0101 Sun City 87 63 72.41 %
LGN 0105 Phoenix 433 246 56.81 %
LGN 0128 Anthem 78 39 50.00 %
LGN 0134 Laveen 92 36 39.13 %
LGN 0137 Tonopah 44 14 31.82 %
LGN 0143 Goodyear 71 61 85.92 %
LGN 0144 Glendale 80 70 87.50 %
LGN 0145 PEORIA 101 66 65.35 %
District Totals: 6,398 4011 62.69 %

District 12 Ben Carrillo
Post Name & City Goal 2018 % of Goal
LGN 0002 Tempe 364 221 60.71 %
LGN 0026 Mesa 536 343 63.99 %
LGN 0027 Apache Jct 2,595 1,700 65.51 %
LGN 0034 Cave Creek 453 321 70.86 %
LGN 0035 Chandler 675 391 57.93 %
LGN 0039 Gilbert 811 450 55.49 %
LGN 0041 Phoenix 845 492 58.22 %
LGN 0044 Scottsdale 985 592 60.10 %
LGN 0058 Fountain Hills 450 315 70.00 %
LGN 0064 Ahwatukee 196 120 61.22 %
LGN 0065 Phoenix 316 138 43.67 %
LGN 0083 Mesa 84 11 13.10 %
LGN 0084 Sacaton 64 44 68.75 %
LGN 0091 Chandler 256 144 56.25 %
LGN 0107 Phoenix 509 255 50.10 %
LGN 0114 Scottsdale 45 2 4.44 %
LGN 0117 Phoenix 202 130 64.36 %
LGN 0124 Guadalupe 37 22 59.46 %
LGN 0138 Tempe 161 59 36.65 %
District Totals: 9,584 5750 60.00 %

THERE'S SOMETHING FOR ALL VETERANS IN DISTRICT 11

It wasn't just Veterans' Day this year for District 11; it was Veterans' Weekend! It started out early Friday evening with a baseball game, Saguaros vs. Javelinas, free for Veterans and their families. The game was held at the Peoria Sports Complex with Post 62, Peoria, providing the color guard, and District Commander Don Bergeron throwing out the first pitch. He was hoping for a perfect pitch, and the catcher assured him that it was, a perfect pitch after the first bounce! Evidently, a second first pitch was required, and that one was indeed a perfect pitch thrown by the president of another local Veterans' organization. Bergeron's comment: "That guy practiced!"



Left to right is Don Bergeron, District 11 Commander; Dottie French, District 11 Auxiliary President; Alex Jackson, catcher who was drafted by the Braves, and Emily Quigg, President of the Junior Auxiliary.

The baseball game was just the beginning of the activities. Early risers on Saturday had a choice of two events; the first was an early morning run also starting at the Peoria Sports Complex, complete with an opening ceremony. The second option was the Veterans Memorial Dedication Ceremony at Rio Vista Park in Peoria, followed by a free breakfast complete with omelets cooked to order! Attendees also had the opportunity to view the documentary about Vietnam Veterans titled "Take Me Home Huey." The full day was topped off by a free concert, titled "Taste n' Tribute," also at the Sports Complex, from 6 to 11 p.m. The weekend was made possible by the City of Peoria.

Post 134 Legion, Auxiliary and Riders set up information tables in front of the Applebee's Restaurant in Laveen on Veterans Day and signed up several new members for the Legion and Auxiliary. Our deepest gratitude goes out to the Applebee's for their cooperation in this effort. It was very impressive that they had a POW/MIA Table, correctly displayed inside the front door for all to see and appreciate. Thanks to the management of Applebee's for their patriotism and support of Veterans everywhere.

Posts 134, 144 and 145 handed out poppies for donations on Friday and Saturday at multiple locations in Laveen, Glendale and Peoria. On November 4th, Post 134 participated in the South Phoenix Festival Parade and had entries from the Legion, Auxiliary, and Riders. Post 61 co-sponsored, with the City of Avondale, a stand-down in Avondale, including having the District Service Officer available to disseminate information.

Veterans' Weekend was followed closely by Post 145 and guests having the opportunity to hear a presentation about VA Burial/Cremation Benefits. Representatives from the National Cremation Society articulated its mission: "Over 1,700 Veterans pass away daily, and generally, there are little or no Veteran government benefits for their funeral or cremation services. You were there for us, and we will be there for you," is the promise the NSC makes. Veterans were advised to "Plan, Protect, Relax."

The Rock Bottom Brewery, located at 7640 West Bell Rd, made a special beer for the month of November called Freedom Beer. They donated 25 cents from every beer sold during the month of November to District 11 to help support our Veterans. If you're in the neighborhood, stop by and check it out. Special thanks to Candace and the whole crew at the Brewery for their support of our Veterans.

On October 7th, the District sponsored a poker run as a benefit for the Arizona Veterans Home. Forty-two Riders participated and raised nearly \$1,300 for the cause. They were joined by the New Founders of Freedom, another area Veterans group. Our thanks to the NFF for their support of this worthy cause.

Also in October, Ed Hill, one of the District 11 Service Officers, hosted a Service Officer Information Session. As a result of that session, Hill recruited six new Service Officers for Posts in the District. One has already completed the week-long training, and the others are scheduled to do so at the next session in February. Ed also managed to obtain scholarships for all new SO's attending the training.

The District 11 Rehab Dinner is scheduled to be held on March 3rd at Post 29 in Glendale. In keeping with doing things a little different at District 11 this year, we are changing up the rehab dinner. Instead of just a dinner and auction, we are having a casino night! We are including a condensed auction but the main attraction is the casino games that will be there for your enjoyment. We are accepting donations for auction items and are asking the Posts to sponsor the casino tables. To sponsor a half table will cost \$175 or to sponsor a whole table is \$300. Any Post, Auxiliary, S.A.L. Squadron or Rider chapter sponsoring a table will have their information displayed on the table to advertise participation in the event. For more information, contact our Jr. Vice Commander Dee Hoisington. Her contact info is in the District Directory. More information will be provided in the next issue.

Heartfelt thanks go out to all of the area organizations who provided goods, services, and space to make Veterans' Month a spectacular one, and who continue to do so. Veterans and families are very appreciative and honored to be part of such a supportive community. Expect to read a lot more about Posts of District 11 in future issues.

**IN OBSERVANCE OF CHRISTMAS AND
NEW YEAR'S, THE AMERICAN LEGION
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS WILL BE
CLOSED ON THE FOLLOWING DATES:**

MONDAY-TUESDAY DEC 25 & 26 -

ALL BUILDINGS WILL BE CLOSED

MONDAY-TUESDAY JAN 1 & 2 -

ALL BUILDINGS WILL BE CLOSED

Customer service will not be available on the above dates.

Reports and site features will remain available.

Regular processing of membership will be done during the early parts of each of these weeks to ensure the best processing possible.



**Prescott's
American
Legion Post 6
Honor Guard**

With members from wars of Korea, Vietnam, Lebanon/Granada, Desert Storm and Operation Enduring Freedom,

Post 6 Honor Guard regularly provides Military Honors following the death of a Veteran. Post 6 Honor Guard is one of very few Veterans Service Organization Honor Guards in the State of Arizona that is certified by the United States Department of Defense. These members maintain duty 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, all volunteer of course. When asked, this Team will travel to any location in Arizona. In an average year, the squad renders Military Honors for nearly 300 deserving Veterans.

The American Legion, Department of Arizona, has named this award-winning squad as the "Number One Honor Guard or Color Guard" 14 times since their beginning in 1995. The Guard's parade entry this year was smaller than usual because they are also responding to their primary duty, to provide Military Honors. This year, they were awarded "Best Marching Group" for the Veterans Day Parade. The Post 6 Honor Guard is ALWAYS on duty.

**American Legion Department of Arizona
office will be closed special days in
December this year.**

We will be open through December 22;
Closed December 25.

We will be open through December 29;
Closed January 1



The American Legion
of Arizona
100th Anniversary
Member Directory
Project
is about to begin!

The American Legion of Arizona has contracted with Publishing Concept (PCI), a trusted partner, to create this special member publication.

Watch for postcards and emails from PCI with instructions to update your information so we can take advantage of this great opportunity to celebrate our rich history and heritage!

PCI not the big company

www.publishingconcepts.com

Holiday Greetings

A Blessed Christmas to all! In
Memory of PDC Al Tercero
Love, Donna

Wishing all our Legion Family a wonderful
Holiday. Merry Christmas
and a fruitful New Year.
PDC Kenneth Dowse

Wishing peace and joy to our
Arizona Legion Family.
Ernie & Rebecca Faris

Merry Christmas and may all your
wishes come true. Have a safe New Year.
PDC Andres "Andy" Jaime, Jr.

Merry Christmas to The American Legion,
Auxiliary, S.A.L. & ALR-Love you All!
In Memory of Bunny Hamilton
from her Family

A Very Merry Christmas and a happy and
prosperous New Year to all our Legion Family!
PDC Joe & Jeannie Aguilar

Blessings during this season to all our Legion
Family. Prayers that our troops
return Home safely and soon.
20&4 Honor Society of Women Veterans
Echelon 35

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!
Shirley Kavis and Family

Best wishes for the season.
Merry Christmas & Happy New Year.
PDC Bud Hansing & Sandy Adams

Wishing our Legion Family a very
Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.
PDC George & PDP Jan Cushing

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas
and a Happy and prosperous New Year.
PDC Larry & PDP Ginger Cox

Merry Christmas with wishes for a healthy
and Happy New Year.
PDC Danny & Stella Bugh

God bless our Troops, their families and All of
You!
Merry Christmas & Happy New Year.
In Loving Memory of Kenny☺

Blessings for you and yours during this wonder
filled time of the year!
Angel & Tommie Juarez & Family

Feliz Navidad "y" Prospero Ano Nuevo.
John & Sylvia Aldecoa

Merry Christmas!
In Memory of PDC Bruce Conklin
Love, Sandy

Best wishes for a Happy & Healthy
Christmas and New Year.
Bob Stephanik, District 2

Happy Holidays from Area C
Ken Johnson, Vice Commander

Holiday Cheer to our
American Legion Family
Ken & Cindy Queen

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year
Post 24 American Legion Family

Merry Christmas!
Post 29 Patriots Color Guard
Steve Jones

Wishing our American Legion Family a
safe, healthy & blessed Christmas and a
prosperous New Year!
Judi & Jim Beischel

Merry Christmas to The American Legion
Family, Department of Arizona
Steve & Debbie Aguirre

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year
to our American Legion Family.
God Bless our servicemen and women serving and
their families at home! Keep them safe!
Your Department Staff☺

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year
Domingo and Yolanda Bonilla
Department Commander and President

Wishing all of you a
Merry Christmas and a
Healthy and Happy New
Year. PDP Helen Griffin
in Memoriam
PDC Paul Griffin

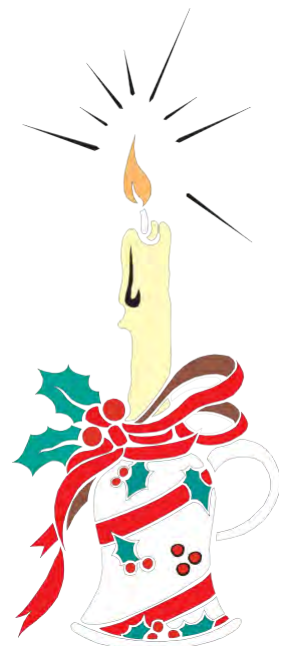
May the love and peace of the
Lord be with you during this
Holy Season and in the coming
New Year
Sherie Mercier, Department
Chaplain

Season's Greetings for
a safe and
Happy holiday season! The
American Legion Family of
Christopher J. Lapka Post 105

Holiday Greetings!
NECDick & Elaine
Perry

Wishing all of you a very
Merry Christmas
Kenneth King

Merry Christmas &
Happy New Year
PDC Billy and
Margaret Ellis



Vice Commander Area "B"



Mary Ann Anderson-Jaymes with Ken and Cindy Queen

Our celebration of Veteran's Day started early Friday evening, November 10th, when my wife Cindy (ALA Department Vice President) and I joined Commander Bonilla and his wife Yolanda (ALA Department President), John Aldecoa (Past Department Adjutant) and his wife Sylvia and Angel Juarez (Department Adjutant) and his wife Tommie at Travis L. Williams Post 65, Phoenix for their Annual Veteran's Day Celebration and Dinner.

Commander Marcus Spells, Wanda Wright (Director of VA Services) and a host of other dignitaries attended the dinner with Past S.A.L. Commander Dennis Prince as the Master of Ceremonies. After saluting the flag and reciting the Pledge of Allegiance, we viewed a video recounting Francis Scott Key's experience at Fort McHenry when, during the war of 1812, the British Navy tried in vain to eradicate our country's flag. Commander Bonilla spoke briefly about his reverence for Veterans Day. He was followed by guest speaker Wanda Wright, Councilwoman Kate Gallego, Major Gwyn A. James (Salvation Army) and James A. Marks, Major Gen US Army (Ret). It was a wonderful event and the meal was excellent.

Veterans Day morning my wife and I participated in the Apache Junction Veterans Day Parade. Cindy drove our '96 Corvette in the parade escorting Mary Ann Anderson-Jaymes (ALA Unit 27 President). I rode on our float along with three WWII Veterans, two Korean War Veterans, a Gold Star Mother, and other Veterans from the Vietnam Era, Iraq and Afghanistan. It was quite rewarding and a humbling experience. After the parade, we celebrated Veteran's Day at Apache Post 27, observing a moment of silence at 11:11:11 AM and later watching the posting of colors by the Post.

That evening Cindy and I attended the Veterans Day Celebration and Dinner hosted by Thomas Tang Post 50 at the Great Wall of China Restaurant in Phoenix. Also attending the dinner were Commander Bonilla and his wife Yolanda; Manny Beltran (Department Membership Director) and his guest Gracie; Steve Aguirre (Past Vice Commander Area A); Ben Headen (Vice Commander Area A) and his guest Denise. We watched and applauded as several members of Post 50 were presented with Certificates of Appreciation for 50, 60 and 70 years of continuous service to The American Legion.

We were then treated to a presentation about the lives of several recipients of the Medal of Honor and the actions they took which lead to their award; all received the award posthumously.

At the conclusion of the presentations we were treated to an absolutely delicious, seven course feast of Chinese cuisine. These Veterans Day activities brought The American Legion Family together to honor and remember our Veterans.

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION PLANNING—

Get excited everyone!!

We now have our official State American Legion Centennial Challenge coins!! Cost is \$10 a piece. Please contact Ken King or myself for more information on how to get them.

Use them as a fund raiser for your Post! We have more items on the horizon including a yearbook with loads of information and pictures. Also, we are currently working on a Centennial pin and possibly an ALR patch for those of you who are Riders.

We are in search of some extra people to assist us on the Centennial Committee. It is less than two years until we celebrate The American Legion's 100th birthday. Please consider joining us.

Ken King's email address – kingkennethd@q.com and mine is smercier05@gmail.com
Sherie Mercier, Centennial Committee Chair



ATTENTION

All Military Veterans and Relatives of Veterans

You May Qualify to Join THE AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY

Serving Our Community by Focusing on:

**Children &
Youth Programs**

**Veterans Legislation
& Benefits**

**Scholarship &
Financial Aid**

**National Security &
Protection of Our Flag**

To Learn More, Contact:

Eligibility Dates

Gulf War/War on Terrorism Aug. 2, 1990 – present*	Korean War June 25, 1950 – Jan. 31, 1955
Panama Dec. 20, 1989 – Jan. 31, 1990	WWII Dec. 7, 1941 – Dec. 31, 1946
Lebanon/Grenada Aug. 24, 1982 – July 31, 1984	WWI April 6, 1917 – Nov. 11, 1918
Vietnam War Feb. 28, 1961 – May 7, 1975	* if currently serving on active duty today, <i>you are eligible.</i>

NATIONAL COMMANDER DENISE H. ROHAN
2018 MEMBERSHIP INCENTIVE PIN
Certification Form
(3) New Members

Please make sure that the address, phone number and email address provided is for the recruiter and not the post. One pin per recruiter, incentive goes through June 30, 2018 or until quantities are depleted.

Date: _____

Recruiter's Name: _____

Membership ID Number: _____

Street Address or PO Box: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Email Address: _____

Daytime Phone Number: _____

Send to Post

Send to Recruiter

TO QUALIFY YOU NEED TO RECRUIT (3) NEW MEMBERS INTO THE AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY. (A NEW MEMBER IS DEFINED AS ANY ELIGIBLE PERSON JOINING FOR THE 2018 MEMBERSHIP YEAR WHO WAS NOT A MEMBER OF THE AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY DURING THE 2017 MEMBERSHIP YEAR).

REVISION FOR QUALIFICATION FOR THE NATIONAL COMMANDER INCENTIVE PIN IS OPEN TO ALL AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY MEMBERS BY RECRUITING 3 NEW MEMBERS INTO EITHER THE AMERICAN LEGION, SAL, OR AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY. THIS INCLUDES ANY COMBINATION THEREOF.

(3) NEW MEMBERS:
(Include full name, department, post, squadron, or unit)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

All requested information is mandatory. Please ensure form is filled out completely before submission. Please allow up to 2 weeks for processing.

Return completed forms to:
The American Legion
National Membership Division
PO Box 1055
Indianapolis, IN 46206

Fax: 317-630-1413
Email: ksingleton@legion.org





Arizona Welcomes 2018 Great Western Promenade

April 5 - 8, 2018 • American Legion Post 24, Tombstone

Registration Date: April 6 • Registration Fee: \$75 for Member, \$25 for Dinner Guest

Early Bird Party: Thursday, April 5, Post 24 Grand Hall

Promenade Registration: April 6

April 7: Business Meeting (Members Only) at Post Grand Hall

La Femme Meeting at historic Schieffelin Hall

Historic Gunfights and Skits • Dinner • Cash Bar • Band • Historical Fashion Show

April 8: Farewells at the Post – 7 - 9am

HOTELS (Please mention that you are part of the Great Western Promenade)

Budget Host Inn:

\$79 + tax per night

(520) 457-3478

Larian Motel:

\$79 + tax per night

(520) 457-2272

Wells Fargo RV Park

Price depends on lot size

800-269-8266

For more information or questions, please call

President: Dick Perry, Grand Chef de Gare (Passé) (520) 559-0058

Mike Stout, Grand Chef de Gare (Passé) (520) 678-2581

Registration Deadline: March 23, 2018

Mail completed form and check or money order to: Ben Headen, 1065 N. Catalina Dr, Sierra Vista, AZ 85635

Member Name: _____

Voiture/Grande: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email Address: _____

Number of Attendees: _____ Amount Enclosed: _____

Please Make Checks Payable to Voiture 987

The Arizona Department of Veterans' Services

is proud to launch the Veteran Toolkit Program. It was created to help unemployed veterans get the supplies they need to start working.

"It could be something as simple as 'I could start work tomorrow, but I need transportation and my alternator went out. I found a place that will fix it for \$500. Can you pay for that?' My answer is sure. If you're going to start work on Monday, let's make it happen," ADVS Assistant Deputy Director, John Scott says.

ADVS Director, Wanda Wright, and Scott toured the state asking veterans how they could help them become gainfully employed. Veterans repeatedly said they were ready to work, but needed things to get them there, ranging from boots and tools to bicycles. 62-percent of veterans polled said if they had this program, they would have a job immediately.

"The program isn't confined to just one industry or need. People think because it's called the toolkit, it's just for construction. If your application shows you've done the leg work looking for employment, you have a potential employer, and you just need a few things to start that job, we can help," Scott adds.

Qualifying veterans must:

- Live in Arizona
- Be enrolled in an Arizona Department of Economic Security employment program
- Identify the job they need supplies for

This pilot program will offer \$150,000 over the course of this fiscal year, with a limit of \$750 per veteran. We will use the results from this year to determine the program's next step.

Find your local DES employment office here.

For more information, call 602-255-3373.

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602-264-7706

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