



DETACHMENT OF ARIZONA

Chris Balsley, Commander 23-24

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Hello fellow Detachment members!!!

We should all take a minute today and reflect on the events that happened on 9/11. We lost thousands of everyday people and first responders. The events that day also had consequences that our veterans are dealing with today and will continue to deal with for years to come. But this is why we are the Sons of the American Legion, to support our military family and friends so we can enjoy the everyday freedoms they have fought to defend. Please take some time to remember all who have served in our Armed Forces.

National Commander Donald "JR" Hall has issued a commander's challenge to all Squadrons to participate, it would be great if we can have most of these completed prior to his visit to our campout in April. If we start working on this now, we should be able to complete these with ease. Below is Commander JR's proposal...

"I believe in the Four Pillars of our organization, and what they stand for. The American Legion was built believing in VA&R, Americanism, Children & Youth and National Security are they are still the core beliefs of what the American Legion Family stands for. I have issued a commander's challenge to all Squadrons to support the four pillars and become a National Four Pillar Squadron. To do so all you need to do is raise one dollar per member for each OCW(VA&R), CWF (Children and Youth) your departments Boys State program (Americanism) and hold a blood drive (National security). You will then receive an award for being a National Four Pillar Squadron. That is not that hard to do, if we plan and work to get it done."

Good luck with this goal and let me know if there is anything I can do to help your squadron out completing these goals.

Earlier this week, I was able to attend the monthly meeting of John J. Morris Squadron 62 with Vice Commander David Alfaro from Area B. Then Wednesday was treated to dinner the famous chicken fried steak dinner Squadron 62 does monthly. The dinner was fantastic and even Vice Commander from Area C Jeremy Davalos was able to make an appearance and enjoy the evening together. If you are ever in Peoria the First Wednesday of the month this is a must stop and eat meal.

The weekend took us to the Annual Squadron 36 Commanders Tournament at Conoa Ranch Golf Resort in Green Valley, Az. We had PDC Mike Simon, Alt. NEC Dan Ashley and Vice Commander Alfaro all make the trip with me. We started with stops and American Legion Morgan McDermott Post 7 and American Legion Madera Post 131 where we met up with Legion Commander Steve Sperl, Sons NEC Joe Roberts. From Post 131 we traveled to Green Valley American Legion Post 66 to support a great game of bingo. Then the final stop was the Resort on Saturday afternoon for a Potluck welcoming dinner. Sunday morning, Vice Commander Chas Bird Area A made the trip to Conoa Ranch to join the foursome and we made our way to the golf course for a great round of golf celebrating the American Legion. Once golf was complete, we headed to American Legion John P. Burns Post 36 for lunch and award ceremonies.

Please contact the Adjutant for scheduling to any function that you would like the Detachment of Arizona to support. Here is a link to make things as easy as possible. It is a first come, first serve and availability of your Officers to attend. We would like to make all events successful and that only works if we are aware. With this form you can make it a custom invitation to each event.

[Request A Commander \(Event or Meeting\) \(cognitofirms.com\)](http://cognitofirms.com)

For God and Country,

Commander Chris Balsley

S.A.L. Detachment of Arizona

