

THE VERDE VALLEY BUGLE CALL

Post 25 Cottonwood AZ
480 S. Calvary Way



POST
25
COTTONWOOD AZ

THE AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY



March 2024

newsletter@alpost25az.org

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First Vice - Nancy Hay (USAF)

Adjutant - James Galzycinski (USN)

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Finance Officer - DeDe Dexter (USAF)

Second Vice - Suzan Lehnertz (USAF/USN)

Sergeant-at-Arms - Tony Walker (USCG)

Commander's Message



Wayne Boren's celebration of life will be on March 16th from 12 to 4pm at Post 25. Please mark it on your calendars, he will be greatly missed. On another issue, your Post needs volunteers in the kitchen, on the grounds, and in other areas. Please, if you have any extra time come and see me and we'll talk about finding you a new hobby. Anyone interested or considering in running for a Post Officer position is asked to make their interest known. Come see me and we'll talk about the various positions available. Depending on your interest, some take very little time and of course, some take a lot of time. Officer nominations for next year will be held at the general meeting on April 15th at 5:30pm. Hope to see you there.

I want to remind all members that the new Bingo Machines are available for your use, I gotta say, "they're pretty good!" Other than that spring is on it's way, have a great time!

Bill Tinnin, Commander

Veterans Service Officer's Message



H.R. 2413, the Dental Care for Veterans Act Please add your support for this bill which would require the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to furnish dental care in the same manner as any other medical service, and defines a 4-year implementation plan beginning with veterans in Priority Groups 1 and 2 (veterans with service-connected disabilities rated at 30% or more) in year one. For additional details and how to use the prepared email to contact your representative, go to <https://dav.quorum.us/campaign/56660/>

Jamie Galczynski, VSO

Adjutant's Message



Change to Membership Dues and Duration: As of January 22, 2024 existing members can renew their membership for 3 years at <https://www.legion.org/renew> and for new members at <https://www.legion.org/join>. On July 1, dues will increase to \$55.00 per year. Since dues will remain at \$45.00 until July 1, 2024, be sure to renew before that date. To save more money you could renew for 3 years at a cost of \$135 before July 1st, because after that date it would cost \$165.

Officer Profiles

So members can learn more about our Post 25 leadership, we are providing a Bio for one or two of our Officers each month from the Legion, Auxiliary, and Sons of the America Legion.

Chaplain – Chuck Desch



Chuck has been a member of the American Legion for 15 years and Post 25 for 12 years. He has been the Post Chaplain for several years. Chuck served in the USNR with active duty from 1964-1965 as an Aerographer (Airman E-3) on the USS Randolph (CVS-15) an anti-submarine aircraft carrier operating in the Mediterranean. He attained a Bachelor of Science degree from Philadelphia College of the Bible in 1973. As a civilian, Chuck was a minister for 25 years serving U.S. servicemen in Germany. From 1998 to 2008 he was a police officer in Newport News, VA. Chuck lives in Cottonwood, has been married to Annette for 22 years, has 3 children, and 5 grandchildren. Hobbies are Pencil Sketching and Photography.

General Announcements

Membership Changes: Post 25 welcomes the following 3 new members:



ARMY



MARINES



NAVY



AIR FORCE



COAST GUARD

Jason Cook – Marines and Army **Stephen Fowler** – Army **Eric Thoeming** – US Coast Guard

Meeting Attendance drawing: The next Legion general meeting is **March 18th at 5:30 PM**. Since the attendance drawing winner, **David Allen** of Phoenix was not present at the February meeting, the March drawing will stay at \$100. After it is won, the prize reverts to \$20. The winner has to be present at the meeting and in good standing.

Personal Letter Donated to the Post: At the February meeting Post Sergeant-At-Arms Tony Walker donated a letter dated April 25, 1967 from Bob Hope to Catherine Marris (now age 87 of Sedona). She had seen a Bob Hope USO Christmas Show in Canada in 1966 and wrote a thank you letter to Bob. The donated letter is Bob's thoughtful and patriotic response. It is displayed on the rear of the support column as you enter the bar area. Catherine is a friend of Tony's wife Leanna.

Post Scholarship 2024: Applications for the competitive \$1000 annual award are due by May 5th. The Post has already received some applications. See website or this link: [AL Post 25 Scholarship Application](#)

General Announcements (Continued)

American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship Program: On February 17 the Post sponsored the District Oratorical Contest between Mitchell Gordon representing Post 135 in Cornville and Frank VanDevender representing Post 25, both are Mingus High School students. The contest was on assigned amendments of the U.S. Constitution with emphasis to the attendant duties and obligations of a citizen to our government. The prepared oration had to be not less than 8 minutes nor more than 10 minutes. Winners of each District advance to the Area competition on March 9th at the Camp Verde Library. Subsequent winners will advance to the state contest the following month, earning scholarship money at each level. Many thanks to the approximately 40 of our Post 25 members who attended and provided support. The winner was Mitchell who had been practicing for 3 years. Despite only learning of the contest 2 months ago, Frank did a fantastic job. I spoke to several attendees and all were very impressed with him and the contest. Amy said her son Frank was happy with his performance. Way to go Frank!

Arizona Crisis Team (ACT) Volunteer: ACT is a non-profit organization that provides emotional, practical, and resource assistance to citizens in Yavapai County. Training for volunteers begins for the Prescott/Quad Cities and Verde Valley/Sedona areas on Friday, April 12, 2024. For more information, see: https://alpost25az.org/documents/ACT_Training_Information_April_2024.pdf

Supporting Veterans and Troops

Support Our Troops: The Post is collecting toiletries consisting of unopened shampoo, conditioner, hand cream, body wash, soap, toothpaste, etc. for our troops stationed overseas. Hotel size is great. If you have some to donate, please drop them off at the SAL office by the end of the day Saturday, March 17th. Place them in the drop box just inside the SAL office. On Sunday March 18th, Billy and Fran will deliver them to American Legion Post 81 in Lake Havasu City for packaging and mailing.

Support Local Veterans: Post 25 has a Veterans Assistance Fund which is dispersed to help local veterans in need. In February the fund paid 3 nights hotel lodging for a veteran who was living in his car.

POW/MIA Empty Chair



Each Legion general meeting starts with the following: “Resolution 288, adopted at the 67th American Legion National Convention, calls for designating a POW/MIA Empty Chair at all official meetings of The American Legion as a physical symbol of the thousands of American POW/MIAs still unaccounted for from all wars and conflicts involving the United States.” Did you ever wonder how these POW/MIA servicemen are being accounted for or what the current status is?

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency is charged with finding these individuals. At present, more than 81,500 Americans remain missing from WWII, Korean War, Vietnam War, Cold War, Gulf Wars, and other conflicts. Out of the more than 81,500 missing, 75% of the losses are located in the Indo-Pacific, and over 41,000 of the missing are presumed lost at sea (i.e. ship losses, known aircraft water losses, etc.). Each month more names get added to the identified list based on the conflict. The list is searchable and includes a photo with information about the still missing and found men and women. (Editor - I searched for one of my high schoolmates named Richard Fitts, Army Special Forces Sergeant. His helicopter was lost in Laos on 11/30/68, and he was finally recovered on 3/26/89.) The following link is also on the Post 25 website. <https://dpaa-mil.sites.crmforce.mil/dpaaRecentlyAccountedFor>

Military News – Army and Navy

Soldiers Tested in Arctic Combat: A Joint Pacific Multinational Readiness Center large-scale training exercise involving more than 8,000 soldiers took place from February 8th to 22nd. The training included a 150-mile helicopter deep strike, flying a rocket launcher 500 miles to operate above the Arctic Circle and snowmobile hunter-killer teams armed with shoulder-fired rockets. In addition to the 11th Airborne Division from Alaska, it included a Mongolian Armed Forces infantry company and 600 Canadian troops. Other partner nations such as Sweden, Finland, and South Korea sent forces to work with staff sections of U.S. units. An additional 18 nations sent observers to the exercise. Reference: <https://www.militarytimes.com>

Navy to Establish Second Surface Drone Unit This Spring: Admiral Samuel Paparo head of U.S. Pacific Fleet said the Navy will launch Integrated Battle Problem 24.1 in March, which will pair manned and unmanned capabilities. He mentioned that prior exercises involved drones traveling 50,000 miles over 7 months, as well as experiments involving the placement of SM-6 missile launchers on large surface drones. A primary goal of the work is to not unnecessarily risk sailor lives, he said. “Don’t send a human being to do something dangerous that a machine can do better, faster, and more cheaply.” Reference: <https://www.defensenews.com>

Post Activities – March 2024

Post General meetings:

AL Riders Meeting – Saturday March 2 at 11AM

SAL Meeting – Saturday March 2 at 12:30 PM

Auxiliary Meeting – Monday March 11 at 5PM

Legion Meeting – Monday March 18 at 5:30PM

All other activities:

March calendar at https://alpost25az.org/documents/Calendar_March_2024.pdf

Facebook Page at <https://www.facebook.com/AmLeg.Post.25>

Humor for the Month

