

# THE VERDE VALLEY BUGLE CALL

Post 25 Cottonwood AZ  
480 S. Calvary Way



POST  
**25**  
COTTONWOOD AZ

THE AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY



May 2026

Newsletter@alpost25az.org

Editor: David Kauppinen (USN)

Commander: Bill Tinnin (USA)

First Vice Cdr: James Galczynski (USN)

Adjutant: John Scott (USN)

Executive Committee: Keith Vogler (USMC) - Jamie Galczynski (USN) - Winifred Follett (USAF)

Finance Officer: DeDe Dexter (USAF)

Second Vice Cdr: Vacant

Sergeant-at-Arms: Dave Bickel (USA)

Previous issues of this newsletter are available at <https://alpost25az.org>

*Post Officers through their leadership are vital to advancing the American Legion's Four Pillars: I - Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation, II National Security, III Americanism, and IV - Children & Youth. (Reference [Why You Should Belong](#))*

## Commander Message



I think that most everybody knows by now that I'm not running for Commander or any other position at Post 25. I'm tired, but I do believe that we had a VERY good run. We've done some major accomplishments for the Post like the smoking/drinking patio, getting a paved parking lot, 3 or 4 new AC units, a walk-in fridge outside the bar, metal chairs from the Elks Club, new silverware, tables and chairs from Hilton Resorts. Some of us painted the building interior during covid. I've always wanted a sign saying "American Legion Post 25", well we got the mural that says just that.

At the April General Meeting the following individuals accepted nominations to be the 2026-2027 Post Officers. Since there was only one nominations for each position, there will not be a ballot election in May. The Officers will be sworn-in in June.

Commander: John Scott (USN)

First Vice Cdr: David Kauppinen (USN)

Adjutant: Marilyn James (USN)

Executive Committee: Keith Vogler (USMC) - Winifred Follett (USAF) - Clint Lisk (USAF)

Finance Officer: DeDe Dexter (USAF)

Second Vice Cdr: Vacant

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I want to GREATLY thank all the members that have helped me through the years, and I want to wish the next regime the BEST!

Bill Tinnin, Commander

## Adjutant Message



Post 25 Member Status: As of April 16, Post 25 is at 373 Active members, (94%) of our 2026 membership goal of 398. Updated 2026 member rosters have been distributed to the Board Members.

Haven't received your Card from National? Turn around times for cards being sent from Legion National are being delayed by the new requirements to process a lot of them through the American Legion Department of Arizona. For a variety of reasons, after 1 February, anyone who wasn't current with renewal were listed as "Expired" and any "Transfers" require Department approval. I'm working on a solution with District to get past these barriers. So what can we do to get a valid card in your pocket? The solutions are:

1. I've been downloading copies of current Member Cards and started sending these to 2026 members.
2. We have Temporary Cards I have been filling out and providing directly to any new transactions. These are good for all of 2026, so it buys time to work out solutions. I can issue these for renewals, new applicants, and transfers.
3. Mailouts started this week as I go through the records. If you don't have at least a Temporary Card, then do one of the following: (I'll be calling you back to get you a card ASAP.)
  - leave a note with your name, Mobile/phone number, and address at the Bar,
  - send an email to [amprouxo@hotmail.com](mailto:amprouxo@hotmail.com),
  - or send me a text at (928) 301-2261 with this information

John Scott, Adjutant

## Veterans Service Officer Message



In Cottonwood, Arizona, veterans can access a range of benefits and services through various organizations. The Arizona Department of Veterans' Services (ADVS) provides advocacy and support for veterans, service members, and their families, offering direct services such as connecting with state and federal benefits. They manage skilled nursing facilities and operate State Veterans' Memorial Cemeteries. Veterans can also find assistance with benefits through the VA's Phoenix Regional Office (VARO), which administers services like compensation, education, insurance, and pension. For specific health services, the Cottonwood VA Clinic offers primary care, specialty health services, and more. Additionally, the US Department Of Veterans Affairs Cottonwood provides counseling services and referrals to other institutions. These resources are designed to ensure that veterans receive the benefits and services they have earned.

Jamie Galczynski, VRO



Reminder - [Post Scholarship Applications](#) are due May 8<sup>th</sup>.

Volunteers are needed to review the scholarships. If you can help, please contact Keith Vogler at [scholarship@alpost25az.org](mailto:scholarship@alpost25az.org)

## New Members

Post 25 welcomes the following new and transfer Legion members:



ARMY



MARINES



NAVY



AIR FORCE



COAST GUARD

*Robert Beckner - Army*

*Leone Rene DuFresne - Navy*

*Marilyn James - Navy*

## Auxiliary President Message



Poppy Day - May 22 and 23 from 9AM to 11:30AM. Locations are still in the works, however we need volunteers to hand out Poppies. The Sign Up Sheet will be available at the Bar on May 5th or see Julie Bickel. Thank you in advance for helping out.

Memorial Day - May 23 Potluck from 1PM to 4PM. Auxiliary Raffle "Memorial Day Wagon", 6 tickets for \$5.00. Drawing will be at 3:30PM - no need to be present to win.

DeDe Dexter, President Unit 25

## SAL Squadron Commander Message



Reminder that our next monthly meeting is on May 4th at 5pm. Looking forward to seeing everyone. The Sons Dinner will be on May 14th starting at 5pm. We will be serving Pulled Pork, Baked Beans and Cole Slaw. Please come out and support your Squadron.

Reminder to renew your 2026 membership cards now to keep your Post privileges current. Our 2027 membership cards will be available in July. Membership fees are \$40.00. To renew your membership, see Rick Shriver or Vinny Berdar. Membership dues can also be paid by mail to: American Legion Post 25 Attention Rick Shriver, 480 S. Calvery Way, Cottonwood AZ 86326. Checks should be made out to "American Legion Squadron 25".

Rick Shriver, Squadron Commander

## Upcoming Post Activities – May 2026

Legion Family meeting dates and additional information can be found on the Post Calendar at <https://alpost25az.org> and <https://www.facebook.com/AmLeg.Post.25>

- The following meals will occur on Thursday Bingo nights this month from 5PM to 6:30PM:
  - May 07 - Food Truck: Dog Town
  - May 14 - SAL: Pulled Pork, Baked Beans and Cole Slaw.
  - May 21 - Boy Scouts: Spaghetti
  - May 28 - Auxiliary: Chicken Enchiladas
- May 25, Memorial Day Potluck 1 – 4 pm, Auxiliary Raffle, at 3 pm
- May 30 - Concealed Carry Weapons (CCW) Class 9 am-1 pm. See [US Concealed Carry Registration](#) If registering on-line, Post members should leave the Credit Card spaces blank and use Coupon Code "ALP25", or register at the door prior to 9 am.

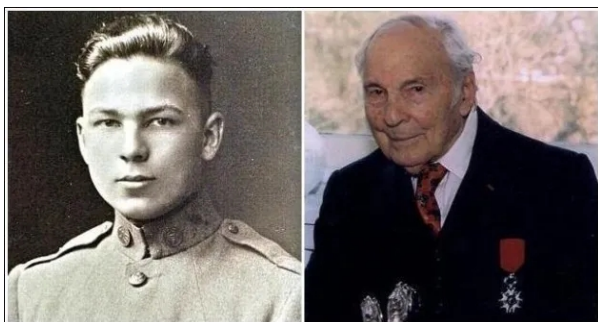
## Military News



Northrop Grumman to Advance Kratos XQ-58 Valkyrie Drone for Marine Corps 'Loyal Wingman' collaborative combat aircraft (CCA) initiative by developing autonomous software and expanding production lines of the Kratos' XQ-58 Valkyrie unmanned aerial vehicle. The defense contractor recently won a contract to provide additional capabilities for the Marine Air-Ground Task Force Uncrewed Expeditionary Tactical Aircraft (MUX TACAIR) program, which aims to enhance the capabilities of the service's

F-35 fighters against near-peer opponents via what the Marine Corps described as "risk worthy" drones. The Marine Corps integration and development of unmanned systems into its aerial combat operations follows a joint service CCA trend, which has seen significant investments from the **Air Force** and **Navy**. Navy officials have repeatedly referred to a manned-unmanned teaming concept to describe the future of aviation in the service. (Reference [USNI News January 2026](#))

## Military History



Frank Woodruff Buckles, the last living American World War I veteran in military history died on February 27, 2011 at the age of 110. In World War I he served as a clerk and ambulance driver in England and then France. After the end of hostilities, he was assigned to a unit that escorted former prisoners back to postwar Germany. He returned home as a Corporal in January 1920 and eventually took a job with a steamship company and traveled the world.

During World War II, Buckles was a prisoner of war in the Philippines, where he was working as a civilian when that country was invaded by Japan in 1941. After more than three years in a Japanese internment camp, he was freed and repatriated in early 1945. Thereafter he lived quietly as a West Virginia farmer until 2008, when it was officially determined that he was the last living of the 4,734,991 Americans identified as veterans of World War I. Buckles spent his final years lobbying for the creation of a national World War I monument in Washington, D.C. In 2008 the federal government agreed to waive the usual requirements so that "the last living doughboy" could be buried in Arlington National Cemetery. (Reference [Britannica Biography - Frank Buckles](#))

Frank Buckles lobbying paid off. The WWI Memorial was eventually approved and completed. On September 13, 2024, it was officially unveiled by the World War 1 Centennial Commission and the Doughboy Foundation. [WWI Memorial](#)

