

THE VERDE VALLEY BUGLE CALL

Post 25 Cottonwood AZ
480 S. Calvary Way



POST
25
COTTONWOOD AZ

THE AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY



October 2025

Newsletter@alpost25az.org

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

Veterans Resource Officer Message



Overpayment Scam: Have you received a call, text or letter from someone pretending to be with the Department of Veterans Affairs alleging you have a substantial VA debt due to overpayment? It can be a scam! The scammer uses high pressure tactics to insist the debt must be repaid immediately via wire transfer, gift cards, cryptocurrency, or other non-traditional payment methods. The VA will never demand that Veterans repay their debts in full up front, because they offer many [flexible payment plans](#) at no additional cost. Official VA Debt Management Center (DMC) communication will provide specific details about the debt, offer secure payment through www.pay.va.gov, and your appeal or waiver rights.

If you are suspicious of a communication alleging to be VA, you can verify authenticity with VA at 1-800-827-1000 or the DMC at 1-800-827-0648. Never share sensitive information, such as social security numbers, bank account details, or credit card information, when responding to unsolicited requests.

Jamie Galczynski, VRO

New Members

Post 25 welcomes the following new Legion members:



ARMY



MARINES



NAVY



AIR FORCE



COAST GUARD

Glen Patten, Jr. - Army

James W. Stuart - Army

Adjutant Message



For New/Renewal Members: It's now October and you can still get your 2026 "Early Bird" dinner benefit in November by renewing before October 31st. There are several ways to renew your membership:

1. Catch me during Office Hours 1300-1600 Monday/Wednesday and during Legion events (always at Friday Fish Fry).
2. Drop off a check/cash for \$50 at the bar with your Renewal Invitation. If you didn't get one, please provide name and Legion number. The bartenders will ensure that I get it.
3. If you want to pay by Credit Card, go to our website at <https://alpost25az.org/>. The Legion Renewal link is on the first page, left side under "Legion Links".
4. For this or any other Adjutant matters, email me at adjutant@alpost25az.org and I'll respond by email/phone call.

John Scott, Adjutant

Auxiliary President Message



A special thanks to the Auxiliary and all the Legion Family volunteers who helped make our Yard Sale Fundraiser a success. On Wednesday and Thursday there was a lot of work involved (sorting, folding clothes, pricing, moving tables, etc.). On Friday and Saturday the sales tables were manned and we took in \$2100 (our goal was \$2,000). Bravo Zulu !

On October 31st we are having a Karaoke night with prizes for the scariest and best costume. Also, members are reminded to renew your membership by October 31st so you can get the free Early Bird Dinner in November.

DeDe Dexter, President Unit 25

Keith Vogler - Volunteer Messages



Post 25 is hosting the 2025 Veterans Day Event at the Verde Valley Military Service Park, 100 Brian Mickelsen Parkway (Garrison Park), at 1300 on November 11, 2025. Some volunteers are needed prior to, during, and at the conclusion of the event. If you are willing to participate, then please attend a meeting at 1700 on October 8 at the Legion. Here are some of the tasks that we need to support:

1. Find a guest speaker
2. Notify/ask for assistance from other veteran organizations in the Verde Valley
3. Coordinate with Cottonwood Parks & Recreation
4. Assist John Padgett with the sound system
5. Physical setup for sales of VVMSP Challenge Coins, water, etc.
6. Replace current flags with new 5 branch of service flags, POW/MIA flag, and Arizona flag
7. Lower and tri-fold current American Flag
8. Tri-fold the new American Flag - this will be given to the Camp Verde Cavalry for presentation at the beginning of the event
9. Coordinate with Greater Verde Valley Chamber of Commerce for advertising, communications

Arizona Crisis Team (ACT) Volunteer Opportunity: 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 Saturday, October 11 2025. For more information, see: https://alpost25az.org/documents/ACT_Training_Information_Oct2025.pdf

Keith Vogler (928-301-7358)

SAL Squadron Commander Message



Reminder: renew your 2026 SAL membership today. To qualify for the free Early Bird dinner, your membership card must be picked up by October 31, 2025.

See Rick Shriver or Vinnie Berdar.

Rick Shriver, Squadron Commander

Upcoming Post Activities – October 2025

Legion Family meeting dates and additional information can be found on the Post calendar

<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:
 - October 02 - DogTown Dinner
 - October 09 - SAL Dinner: To be determined
 - October 16 - Boy Scout Dinner: To be determined
 - October 23 - Auxiliary Dinner: Potato Bar
 - October 25 - Concealed Carry Weapons Class 9 am-1 pm. See [US Concealed Carry Registration](#)
Post members - leave the Credit Card spaces blank and use Coupon Code "ALP25".
You can also register at the door prior to 9 am.
- October 4: District 8 Picnic, 12 pm - 4 pm, at Goldwater Lake in Prescott, tickets \$7 per adult.
- October 10: Bike Fest registration, Oct 11: breakfast 8:30 am, live band Aces and Eights 7 pm-10 pm
- October 31: Pot Luck - 2 pm, Spooky Karaoke 5 pm - Scariest and Best Halloween Costume Prizes

Military News



September 24, 2025 - The Air Force announced changes to its Physical Fitness Assessment and a new fitness program in tandem with its recently unveiled "Culture of Fitness" initiative. The new assessment applies to Total Force Airmen which includes the Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve units. The PFA evaluation is in four categories:

1) cardio respiratory fitness, 2) waist-to-height ratios, 3) muscle strength, and 4) muscle core endurance. It also introduces a two-mile run.

The PFA will be mandatory every six months. The transition period to the new assessment will start January 1, 2026, with official scored testing set to begin in September 2026. The interim period will give airmen time to adjust to the new standards.

The new standards follow a study released in April 2025 which revealed that more than two-thirds of Guard and Reserve troops are overweight. The service has also [released a guide](#) called "The Warfighter's Fitness Playbook," which outlines tips for meeting the new standards, and includes steps for exercises and a sleep diary, among other resources.

The Air Force is also reworking meal options following a 2024 report by the Government Accountability Office that noted poor nutrition options and limited access to healthy meals for service members.

Reference: [Military News - Air Force New Fitness Standards](#)

Military Technology



Artificial Intelligence powered autonomous ground vehicles (AGVs) will become indispensable in the next generation of security operations, offering enhanced survivability, endurance, and the ability to operate in hazardous environments, protecting U.S. military personnel from harm throughout many types of ground missions. Built to maximize operational availability, Kodiak's technology is designed for straightforward maintenance and rapid service supporting field

readiness when and where it matters most. Quick-swap components help reduce downtime and get vehicles back in operation faster. For more information see <https://kodiak.ai/>

Military History

Medal of Honor Recipient Dakota L. Meyer, USMC



On September 8, 2009 Corporal Dakota Meyer maintained security at a patrol rally point while other members of his team moved on foot with two platoons of Afghan National Army and Border Police into the village of Ganjgal, Kunar Province, Afghanistan for a pre-dawn meeting with village elders. Moving into the village, the patrol was ambushed by more than 50 enemy fighters firing rocket propelled grenades, mortars, and machine guns from houses and fortified positions on the slopes above. Hearing over the radio that four U.S. team members were cut off, Corporal Meyer seized the initiative. With a fellow Marine driving, Corporal Meyer took the exposed gunner's position in a gun-truck as they drove down the steeply terraced terrain in a daring attempt to disrupt the enemy attack and locate the trapped U.S. team. Disregarding intense enemy fire now concentrated on their lone vehicle, Corporal Meyer and his driver made three solo trips into the ambush area. Despite a shrapnel wound to his arm, Corporal Meyer made two more trips into the ambush area in a third gun-truck accompanied by four other Afghan vehicles to recover more wounded Afghan soldiers and search for the missing U.S. team members. Still under heavy enemy fire, he dismounted the vehicle on the fifth trip and moved on foot to locate and recover the bodies of his team members. Corporal Meyer's daring initiative and bold fighting spirit throughout the 6-hour battle significantly disrupted the enemy's attack and inspired the members of the combined force to fight on. His unwavering courage and steadfast devotion to his U.S. and Afghan comrades in the face of almost certain death reflected great credit upon himself and upheld the highest traditions of the Marine Corps and the United States Naval Service. (Reference: [Battle of Ganjgal](#))

