



42 Continuous Years of 100% Membership

Issue 42-3 May 2010

Voice of Democracy & Patriots Pen 2009-2010



Arizona VFW Voice of Democracy honorees 2009-10 (Front L-R) Amanda Harrison \$100 (6790 Welton), Marshall Klarfeld \$1000 (720 Phoenix), Hillary Burgess \$2000 (1760 Mesa), Jascelyn Quick \$100 (549 Tucson), Quayla Skenington \$100 (9907 Show Low), Matthew Floyd \$100 (10342 Huachuca City), Darylle Garcia \$3000 (9401 Lake Havasu City), Xander Deputy \$100 (8053 Sun Lakes) Not pictured Ashley Bunting \$100 (9632 Page).

It was a glorious evening as VFW Comrades and Sisters, honorees, and family and friends gathered at VFW Post 720 in Phoenix for the 2009-2010 Voice of Democracy and Patriots Pen Awards Ceremony and Banquet. Following tradition, the evening began with posting of the colors by the Arizona VFW Department Color Guard led by Shorty Larson, and then a delicious dinner was served by cadets from the Carl Hayden Army ROTC. Department VOD and PP awards were then presented. The evening concluded with remarks by Department Commander V Joe Reagan, Department President Mercy Montgomery, LAVFW National Junior Vice President Gwendolyn Rankin and past National CinC John Gwizdak.

Kathleen Jackson, sponsored by VFW Post 4903 in Tucson, was awarded first place in the Patriots Pen

program. Darylle Garcia, sponsored by VFW Post 9401 in Lake Havasu City, was awarded first place in the Voice of Democracy program. Darylle is now eligible to compete with other department honorees for a VFW National scholarship award valued at \$30,000.

Serving as Department Committee Co-Chairs' for the 2009-2010 Voice of Democracy and Patriots Pen programs were Richard While, Gary Harlan and Julie Anderson. This was a grand event and VFW Post 720 was a grand host ... everyone clearly enjoyed the evening.

Congratulations to all who entered for you are all winners in promoting patriotism. Thanks to all of the VFW and Auxiliary members who worked to make this program successful. A special thanks to our VFW and Auxiliary Chairpersons for their tireless efforts in this program.



Arizona VFW Patriots Pen honorees 2009-10 (L-R) Naomi Harshman \$500 (10227 Prescott Valley), Kathleen Jackson \$750 (4903 Tucson) and Christin Casillas \$250 (7968 Apache Jct.)

2010-2011 VOD Theme "Does My Generation Have a Role in America's Future?"

Entry Deadline Nov. 1, 2010

Since 1947, the Voice of Democracy has been the Veterans of Foreign Wars' (VFW's) premier scholarship program. Each year, more than 50,000 high school students compete for more than \$2.5 million in scholarships and incentives. Students compete by writing and recording a broadcast script on an annual patriotic theme.

For more info and an entry form go to www.vfw.org and click programs and then Scholarships and follow the links.

State Convention Set For Mesa June 10-12, 2010

The 90th annual Arizona Veterans of Foreign Wars State Convention will be held June 9-13, 2010 in Mesa, AZ at the Phoenix Marriott Mesa (Code VFW Dept. of AZ). Rooms are \$74 + tax. The complete schedule for the convention can be found on page 7 of this issue of "Arizona News".

Its Official, DD-214's Are NOW Online.

<http://vetrecs.archives.gov/>

The National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) has provided the following website for veterans to gain access to their DD-214s online: <http://vetrecs.archives.gov> This may be particularly helpful when a veteran needs a copy of his DD-214 for employment purposes. NPRC is working to make it easier for veterans with computers and Internet access to obtain copies of documents from their military files. Military veterans and the next of kin of deceased former military members may now use a new online military personnel records system to request documents. Other individuals with a need for documents must still complete the Standard Form 180, which can be downloaded from the online web site. Because the requester will be asked to supply all information essential for NPRC to process the request, delays that normally occur when NPRC has to ask veterans for additional information will be minimized. The new web-based application was designed to provide better service on these requests by eliminating the records center's mailroom processing time. Please pass this information on to former military personnel you may know and their dependents.

Renew Your Membership Online

Pay your annual dues, become a Life Member or change your mailing address online. VFW's eMembership program has made renewing membership so easy, even a caveman can do it. All you need is your VFW membership card and a credit card.

1. Go to <http://emem.vfw.org/>
2. Click "Register" (if you are NOT currently registered) and follow instructions

It's that easy and your new card will be sent to you.

Home Depot Grant Program

Home Depot has been extremely generous with the VFW, and especially VFW Posts. They have provided approximately \$700,000 (cash) worth of grants to VFW Posts for their infrastructure needs. Their grant program continues for 2010. VFW Posts can request infrastructure grants up to \$2,500. The next Home Depot grant period begins May 15th, 2010, and closes July 1st, 2010. The point of contact at the VFW Foundation is Crystal Lauver, 816-968-2784, CLauver@vfw.org.

Arizona VFW Dept. Officers 2009-2010

Commander

Joe Reagan 1677 Casa Grande

Sr. Vice Commander

Dennis Dole 769 Quartzsite

Jr. Vice Commander

Corky Gripp 10188 Tucson

Quartermaster

Ski Kuczynski 3632 Tempe

Adjutant

Ray Thomas 3632 Tempe

Judge Advocate

Tim Borland 9972 Sierra Vista

Surgeon

Mike Ferguson 7968 Apache Jct.

Chaplain

Ken Buckley 9400 Phoenix

Service Officer

Terry Dalton 3513 Scottsdale

District Commanders

#1 Donald Rapp 6790 Wellton

#2 Pete Seippel 6739 Camp Verde

#3 William Whiddon 8015 Phoenix

#4 Eric Gagomiros 9400 Phoenix

#5 E. Wendal Hague 549 Tucson

#6 George Robinson 8987 Eagar

#7 Don Bush 9977 Pearce

#8 Frank Emery 9401 Lake Havasu

#10 Roger Gowen 7968 Apache Jct.

Auxiliary Officers

President

Mercy Montgomery 40 Avondale

Sr. Vice President

Pauline Servin 1677 Casa Grande

Jr. Vice President

Sheila Shutts 10005 Bullhead City

Secretary

Kim Sloan 10188 Tucson

Treasurer

Nancy Kane 3513 Scottsdale

Chaplain

Donna Dole 769 Quartzsite

Conductress

Dee Bong 40 Avondale

Guard

Catherine Seippel 6739 Camp Verde

Chief of Staff

Ronnie Heinemann 549 Tucson

Patriotic Instructor

Diane Philippi 1677 Casa Grande

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Sharon Diehl 9399 Apache Jct.

District Presidents

#1 Mary Ann Peck

#2 Christina Vess

#3 Ruth Tamilio

#4 Ethel Rozelle

#5 B. Jean Redmond

#6 Sharon Ashby-Robinson

#7 Sharon Ward

#8 Mary Salisbury

#10 Diane Philippi



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azvfwnews@gmail.com

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From the State Commander *Joe Reagan 1677 Casa Grande*



Comrades,

I want to thank everyone who worked hard on the Voice of Democracy program. Due to your efforts, you found a jewel in our winner, Daryelle Garcia. I had the privilege of escorting our young winner in Washington, and watched as she received a top placement at National. In fact, she has beaten all previous placements at National for our State.

I would like to remind everyone, the teachers are starting to plan next year's curriculum. Now is the

time, you could assist next year's chairmen, and work VOD and Patriot's Pen into the school systems.

Membership, it has been wonderful that you all are working so hard and we are so close to 100% mark, but. . . I think one more effort, to get there, is needed. Several Districts are at 100%, but several of their Post could use a little encouragement or help in getting to their 100%. Every little bit helps.

I'm keeping this short as the resolutions are coming out in this issue.

Joe Reagan, Commander, Department of Arizona, Candidate for National Council of Administration

From the State President *Mercy Montgomery 40 Avondale*



Comrades and Sisters 2009 - 2010 is slowly coming to an end. To our Sisters in this Great Department of Arizona. Thank you, for your Love, Caring, Support that you give to Our Veterans. By working and promoting our programs.

I had the opportunity to attend Washington DC with our Commander Joe Reagan. Escort our Voice of Democracy winner Daryelle Garcia down the winners aisle. She is our 1st to received \$2,500.00. We are very proud and exited on her accomplishment. I also travel to Las Vegas for the Mid Year Conference and one

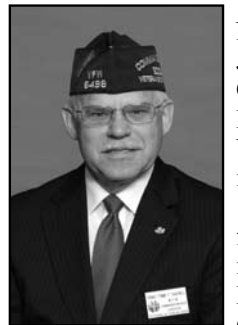
of fifty-two department Presidents that received a medallion for reaching 90% on membership by Dec. 31st. Thank you for all your hard work, we are 98.26% as of 3-28-2010.

Commander Joe Reagan, thank you for your support, courtesy and a great year.

I'm looking forward to seeing everyone at our Department Convention. Our National Representative will be Past National President Lorraine Frier. She is a great lady, let's give her a nice welcome. Thank you, for giving me the honor to represent you this year as your Department President.

Mercy Montgomery, Department President, Ladies Auxiliary

Thomas J. Tradewell, Sr. "Commander-in-Chief" Will Be in Mesa for State Convention



Thomas Tradewell will represent National at our State Convention in Mesa June 10-12, 2010. "Tommy T" was elected Commander-in-Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars on August 20, 2009, at the VFW 110th National Convention, held here in Phoenix.

Tradewell served in the U. S. Army from 1966-1968 and earned VFW eligibility while serving with B Company 26th Engineers 198th Light Infantry Brigade (Americal Division) in South Vietnam as a demolition specialist. His decorations include the Vietnam Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal, Purple Heart and Good Conduct Medal.

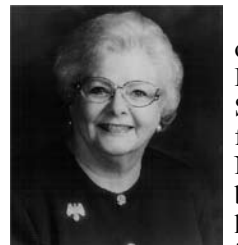
Tradewell joined the VFW in 1968 at Post 6498 in Milwaukee

where he is a Life Member. He has served in elected and appointed positions at the Post, District and Department (state) levels culminating with his election as Department Commander 1999-2000. He served as national inspector general in 2001-2002. He also served as the District 11 National Council representative for members from the Departments of Wisconsin and Iowa in 2003-2005. Tradewell earned an associate's degree in industrial safety.

Tradewell retired from Briggs and Stratton in 1998 as a Metallurgy Laboratory Technician after 30 years of service. He is a member of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, Military Order of the Cootie, American Legion, Disabled American Veterans, Vietnam Veterans of America and Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association.

Tradewell married Sharon in 1966 and they make their home in Sussex, Wisconsin.

Ladies Auxiliary Past National President Lorraine Frier Will Visit Arizona



Past National President Lorraine Frier of Fargo, North Dakota will be the Arizona Ladies Auxiliary National Rep. during the State convention in Mesa. The first person from North Dakota to hold the office of National President, she led the organization behind the theme, Free to Fly. As a result of her leadership, monies raised for the Auxiliary Cancer Aid and Research Fund topped 3 million dollars for the 12th consecutive year and members volunteered more than 2 million hours during the year in America's hospitals. As National President, she traveled to the Far East in the fall and in June the VFW and Auxiliary joined other groups at the commemoration of the first battle of the Korean War, 50 years earlier. She served in the five offices leading to the National Presidency and represented the organization on tour of Europe when she was National Senior Vice- President.

She joined on the eligibility of her brother, Allen G. Engfer, who served in the U.S. Navy from 1962-65. A Life Member of Arthur W. Jones Auxiliary #7564 of West Fargo, she has served in many offices including Auxiliary, District, and State President; State Convention Chairman; and National District Council Member. Other National offices include Historian, Membership Director, and Western Conference Chairman on the Membership and Safety programs. Retired from her position as Office Manager for Answer Plus where she was employed for thirty years, she is past President of Professional Business Women of Fargo, and listed in Who's Who in Business for Executives and Professionals. Today she enjoys semi-retirement, working part-time for AARP and an attorney, and participating in Auxiliary activities. She belongs to the American Legion Auxiliary, Fargo Chamber of Commerce, and the American Diabetes Association of North Dakota. Her family includes two grown children and five granddaughters.

LIFE MEMBERSHIP, A Deal of a Lifetime

State Sr. Vice Commander

Dennis Dole, 769 Quartzsite



Comrades, What a year, our programs are completed and the winners have represented the State of Arizona well. Our membership is closing in on a 43rd year of continuous growth. New officers will be elected for the coming year and State Convention is rapidly approaching.

Now is the time to make sure all of your reports are in, the Posts Trustee's audits are done and the commanders Resume is in to state. These are requirements for All State Post Judging. We have many Posts that will be 100% in membership by the end of April and that will be the first the All State judges will look to. Membership, Reports, Trustee Audit's, Programs, Buddy Poppy's et al. You have worked hard this year so get everything done so your Post and Auxiliary will receive the recognition they deserve.

Finally, Lindsey Botkin took it upon himself to present a Bill to the AZ Congress concerning the flying of the POW/MIA flag and that the State

of Arizona conform to the Nations Flag Code for proper flying of the Flag.

He got with Dave Hampton from the AZ Dept of Veteran Services and found a sponsor for the Bill, (Representative, Dave Gowan (R-Dist 30)), in the House of Representatives. The House Committee for Military Affairs gave it a Do Pass recommendation. The House passed the bill and it was referred to the Senate. HB 2684 was passed out of the Senate Veterans and Military Affairs Committee. We are currently awaiting the outcome of the a full Senate vote. It looks good and Lindsey has done an excellent job in his presentations to the House & Senate Committees and we all need to thank him for the dedication he has shown on this issue.

If the Senate Passes this legislation, Arizona will be the first state to adopt the POW/MIA Flag code as outlined in Section 1082 of the 105th Congress's defense Authorization Act. This legislation will set the corner stone for similar legislation throughout the country. All because one man saw the need to set things right.

*Yours in service,
Dennis Dole, Sr. Vice Commander*

State Judge Advocate

Tim Borland 9972 Sierra Vista



Dear Comrades and Sisters!

Well the year is almost over and soon it will be time for elections for new State Officers. The past two years has absolutely been an honor to serve Arizona and I look forward to another year as your Junior vice Commander if elected. I will continue to

push issues with Veteran's Affairs (VA) and helping younger veterans to be aware of the Veteran's of Foreign Wars (VFW), get them the help needed for their injuries and most of all help their families when in need. I will continue to recruit these young Americans and all others who are eligible to join. In our last article I wrote about three new ailments for Agent Orange and now will write about Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom to keep you abreast with what is going on with VA.

The Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki on 18 March 2010 announced the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is taking steps to make it easier for Veterans to obtain disability compensation for certain diseases associated with service in the Persian Gulf War or Afghanistan. This will be the beginning of a historic change for how VA considers Gulf War Veterans' illnesses. Following recommendations made by VA's Gulf War Veterans Illnesses

Task Force, VA is publishing a proposed regulation in the Federal Register that will establish new presumptions of service connection for nine specific infectious diseases associated with military service in Southwest Asia during the Persian Gulf War, or in Afghanistan on or after September 19, 2001. The proposed rule includes information about the long-term health effects potentially associated with the nine diseases: Brucellosis, Campylobacter Jejuni, Coxiella Burnetii (Q fever), Malaria, Mycobacterium Tuberculosis, Nontyphoid Salmonella, Shigella, Visceral Leishmaniasis and West Nile virus. With the proposed rule, a Veteran will only have to show service in Southwest Asia or Afghanistan, and a current diagnosis of one of the nine diseases. For more information about health problems associated with military service during operations Desert Shield, Desert Storm, Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom and related VA programs go to www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/gulfwar/ or go to www.va.gov for information about disability compensation.

In closing, thanks for a good year and let's get 43 consecutive years in a row with 100 percent in membership growth or more. I am announcing my candidacy for your State Jr. vice Commander for 2010-2011! I appreciate all your support; thanks for what you do.

*Yours in comradeship,
Tim Borland, tangles99@earthlink.net*

State Jr. Vice Commander

Loren "Corky" Gripp 10188 Tucson



Comrades, Sisters, and Friends

This reporting year is quickly coming to an end. It seems like only last week we were all in Mesa for our Department Convention.

I would personally like to thank all the entrants in our Voice of Democracy and Patriots Pen competitions this past year. I believe this was one of the best participation's in many, many years. A hats off to Richard White and Julie Anderson for the outstanding effort they put forth to make these

programs a success. I salute you both!

NOW is the time for the 2010-11 chairpersons to get the word out across the department for all chairpersons in the district and post levels to contact the schools early to enable the teachers to get these programs into their Fall/Winter curriculums. If you do not have the themes for this year they are as follows: Voice of Democracy; "Does My Generation Have a Roll in America's Future?" Patriots Pen; "Does Patriotism Still Matter?"

The VFW National Surgeon General, Dennis Guthrie, will be making an unofficial visit to Arizona in May, 2010. He will be in Prescott on May 12th, Phoenix on May 13th, and in Tucson on May 14th and 15th. VFW Post 10188 in Tucson will be hosting a very informal reception for Mr. Guthrie from approximately 1700-1800hrs, (5-6pm), on the 14th after he visits the SAVAHCS (VA Hospital) during that afternoon. Anyone interested in meeting Mr. Guthrie are more than welcome to stop by. He will be spending the night in his RV and then leaving the next morning.

Ski told us all to keep our articles short this time due to only 8 pages this issue. So, in closing, I would like to let you all know that I am a candidate for Department Sr. Vice Commander for the 2010-2011 year.

As always I will remain yours in Comradeship and Friendship,
Loren L. "Corky" Gripp, Department Jr. Vice Commander

State Surgeon

Mike Ferguson 7968 Apache Junction



It seems like this year is really moving way to fast or is it just me? I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their kind words, thoughts and standing by me during my downtime adventure this last quarter. All is well now, moving a little slow but moving. It was just a friendly reminder that sometimes your body just can't keep up with your mind and heart. So, as your surgeon, I'm suggesting you heed your body's warnings and slow down and check in with

your doctor – early. Mainly because, I really take pleasure in seeing you during my visits to your area and at state events. Speaking of state events, I've enjoyed, learned many new things, met fantastic people and visited really great posts as your Surgeon this year.

Getting the chance to serve our fellow Veterans and Sisters in Arizona has really been a honor for me. I hope I have performed my duties and served you as you anticipated when I was elected, last year. I'm asking for the chance to serve you, as your Judge Advocate for this upcoming 2010-2011 year. I'd be proud and honored to serve the Veterans and Sisters as your JA next year and I'm asking for your vote. Again, thank you for giving me this chance at this honored position. Inclosing if you ever have any questions or comments for me please feel free to contact me any time.

As Loyalty Day chairman: I'm sure every Commander (District -extra- & Post) has already got their Loyalty Day Event planned for this coming May first. If you're having a problem or need any help - please just give me a call. Thanks for all you've done
Yours in service, Mike Ferguson, Department Surgeon

Because they protect us every month of the year...



Show your support for our heroes every month through VFW's **Partners in Patriotism**—the most efficient way to help our brave troops and proud veterans. Monthly giving keeps administrative costs down and stretches your donation even further.



Call VFW Donor Services at (816) 756-3390, x6318 to get started.

VFW Sponsored Insurance

AS A MEMBER OF THE VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS, you have access to insurance and other life planning products. The VFW offers quality insurance products and services for VFW members and their families. Because you are a VFW member, you are entitled to group rates on these plans. Whether you are single, married, starting a family or an empty-nester, there is something for you. For all you've done for our great country, you deserve the best. For more information go to <http://www.vfwinsurance.com/>

Need Help With a VA Claim?

Terrence Dalton VFW Service Officer
3333 N Central Ave, Ste 1049
Phoenix, AZ 85304
Phone: 602 627-3316 FAX: 602 627-3320

9.9 Million Victims of Identity Theft Last Year.

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Source: Javelin Strategy & Research, "2009 Identity Fraud Survey Report," February 2009.



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District 4 News *Eric Gagomiros 9400 Sunnyslope*



1760 Mesa
1796 Black Canyon City
3513 Scottsdale
3591 N. Scottsdale
3632 Tempe

7507 Fountain Hills
9400 Sunnyslope
12006 Mesa
12031 Anthem

District 4 - Riding out in front for our nations veterans. What a year ! I first would like to thank all District 4 Post Commanders for the hard work and dedication in making our district 100% in March 2010. THANK YOU. I am sure next year will be just as good if not better for the new administration. You have placed your confidence in George Baker from Post 9400 who is a 100% Post Commander for his post. I know we will be a great District next year from what I have seen this year. All our programs are at 100%, all our Posts are gaining new members, more veterans are being cared for in the VA facilities due to your efforts, and it only gets better from here. I would like

to congratulate the new state line officers and wish them the best of luck in the coming year. Arizona can only be as good as the veterans/friends we elect to represent us. I hope to see you all at the state convention and some of the district conventions I might be able to attend. Thank you all for allowing me to be the District 4 Commander for 2009~2010 and representing the finest District in the State of Arizona.

***** I am running for the office of State Junior Vice Commander 2010~2011 *****

Semper Fi, Eric "da Greek" Gagomiros, District 4 Commander

District 7 News *Don Bush 9977 Pearce/Sunsites*



426 Douglas
836 Bisbee
2066 Nogales
6271 Benson

6850 Willcox
8667 Rio Rico
9972 Sierra Vista
9977 Pearce

10342 Huachuca City
10385 Thatcher
10432 Patagonia

I am proud to say that District 7 was the first district to have a Post reach 100% membership this year. Huachuca City Post 10342 attained 100% in October and at the time of this writing had reached over 136% and leads the state in Post membership. And in spite of District 7 having the largest membership in the Department, we were the first to reach 100% in membership. My Membership Chairman, Lindsey Botkin has been a tremendous asset in achieving these numbers. Thank you to Lindsey and Department Judge Advocate, Tim Borland who have worked together to achieve our goal.

We have another first for our District. On March 20th, we held our first District picnic at Benson Post 6271. It was a fun time for all and will be, I hope, an

annual event where Post members can meet others from the District on a strictly social basis, make new friends and bring our District closer together.

Our programs are finished and now we look forward to the District and then the Department Convention. I have been District Commander for two years and now it is time to step aside and encourage others to step up. I would like to thank all those who have helped me in the past two years, I have had some exceptional officers and to them, I would like to say a big THANK YOU!. And I would hope that everyone will give the incoming officers their support whether it be at the Post level, District or Department.

Donald Bush, District 7 Commander

New ID Cards Are Required at Luke

There is a new security system being implemented at Luke AFB. All people with military ID cards, including reserve, dependents, and retirees, must go to Luke and get their ID Cards registered before 1 July 2010. There are two locations, one at the Base Exchange next to the food court and the other one is at the Visitor's Center at the Lightning Gate. They are open Monday - Friday from 0800 to 1700 (8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.) excluding federal holidays.

The ID cards need to be scanned into the new

system and the right and left index fingers are electronically scanned. Failure to comply with this, will result in the card holder being refused access to Luke unless they have an escort. I recommend that when you go, don't go around the lunch hour. From what I have been told, this will be a world wide requirement and Washington State has already implemented the new system. On 1 July 2010 there will be scanners at all the gates at Luke, if your card is not registered you will not be able to get on base.

Fred Irwin, ADVS Training Officer & Info Manager, Director's Office, Arizona Department of Veteran Services, 3839 N 3rd Street, Suite 209, Phoenix, Arizona 85012 firwin@azdvs.gov, Phone: (602) 234-8432

Life Membership is a Click Away

The Life Membership plan can be joined anytime of the year. Member is not required to be a currently paid annual member. Plan features 12 or 24 month payment schedule.

Payment requires a \$35 down payment, followed by either 11 or 23 monthly payments, each of which includes a \$1.75 monthly service fee. Plan can be paid off early, in which case no further monthly service fees will be due.

Member will elect, upon receipt of first monthly invoice to pay via CHECK, CREDIT CARD, or ACH DEBIT. An automatic payment option is available. The \$35 down payment can be made via check or credit card. (Post may accept cash)

Member will receive upon processing of down payment, a provisional "Life Membership Card." A regular "Life Membership Card" will be issued upon completion of the installment payment plan. Each invoice will include a payoff amount for the member to use if paying early.

This information can be found on the inside back of membership application, contact your VFW Post today or you can enroll online at <https://emem.vfw.org>. To enroll by mail, call National Life Membership at 1-800-963-3180 for an enrollment form, or you can call your Post Quartermaster.

Attained Age on 12/31	One Time Payment	12 Month Payment	24 Month Payment
Thru Age 30	\$425	\$40.39	\$20.23
31-40	\$410	\$39.02	\$19.58
41-50	\$375	\$35.84	\$18.05
51-60	\$335	\$32.20	\$16.32
61-70	\$290	\$28.11	\$14.36
71-80	\$225	\$22.20	\$11.53
81 and over	\$170	\$17.20	\$9.14

State Inspector

Frank Page 7968 Apache Junction



Looks like we are closing in on another year. Let me start by saying thank you to the District Inspectors that got their inspections done as early as possible. I know we had some problems because of the new forms, but we will get better as we go. I've been asked to be the State Inspector this coming year, so with that I have two requests.

#1- All incoming District Commanders be sure to choose an inspector that can & will do the job properly, #2- I would like to see Districts 5, 6, 7 & 8 to appoint an assistant inspector due to the large area or the number of Posts. This should help to make the inspections go a lot smoother. That's all for now, see you at the convention in Mesa.

Yours in Comradeship, Frank Page, State Inspector

District 10 News

Roger Gowen 7968 Apache Junction



1677 Casa Grande
3713 Coolidge
7401 Chandler
7968 Apache Junction

8053 Sun Lakes
9399 Apache Junction
12043 Maricopa

Comrades, the year is almost over, Elections are being held for the District this month for the upcoming year. We have had a great year and I have to thank you for the great job you've done on membership, programs and your reports. But we still need to work on membership, the years not over. It does not end until June 30.

Remember reports go on all year long; they don't stop because we change the comrades in office. If you're not going to stay in your current position then show your replacement how to make out the report. A new Service Officer, Chaplain, Hospital Chair, and Community Service Chair have never made out these reports. Training and help with the reports before they take over can do wonders for the Post, and this way the Commanders won't have to make up the reports at a later date.

I ask each Post and their Auxiliaries in District 10 to promote Loyalty Day on May 1st by conducting a ceremony remembering our fallen comrades and the heroes of today. Please don't forget our Reserves, Air Guard and National Guard units. They also have served on foreign shores and are still out there today.

One area that many forget is Veterans Affairs Volunteer Services (VAVS); volunteers are needed at our VA Hospitals and Clinics. I would like to see all Posts and Districts have a Chair-person for this position and that Chair-person finds the personnel to fill all the needed spots at the hospital. We have volunteers driving golf carts in the parking lot to shuttle patients in to see the doctors and others working in all areas of the hospital and clinics that you can think of. This is one way we "Honor the Dead by helping the Living."

I would like to hear your thoughts and opinions on how we can improve upon what we do in the District. Working towards a common goal will make our district GREAT.

Yours in Comradeship, Roger Gowen District 10 Commander

Terry Dalton
VFW Department Service Officer
3333 North Central Avenue, # 1049
Phoenix, AZ 85304
Phone: 602 627-3316 Fax: 602 627-3320

Alice's Place

Dear VFW Members:

Please accept our most sincere gratitude for the generosity shown to us regarding the purchase of the building located at 312 E. Second St. in Winslow, AZ. We especially want to recognize and thank Kim Sloan and Leonard "Ski" Kuczynski for their tremendous help during this process. We believe Kim and Ski went well above the call of duty in affording us the ability to rent and purchase the building within our limited time and resources.

As you probably know, Alice's Place is a grass roots non-profit organization dedicated to helping victims and survivors of domestic violence. The building operates as both a thrift store, Alice's Attic, which generates revenue as well as housing the program offices for Alice's Place.

Without the help of the VFW, we do not believe this would have otherwise been possible.

*Very Sincerely,
Greg Hackler, Board President,
Theresa Warren, Executive Director*

Service Officer Report by Terry Dalton DSO/PHXRO



Your VFW Department Service Office employs the following individuals: (besides myself)

Lisa Miller

Claims Consultant

John Pfeifer

Receptionist/Consultant

Jim Caldwell – Volunteer – Vietnam Veteran – serves about 20 hours per week. Jim receives

100% disability compensation for wounds received in combat. He assists Veterans in filling out forms and helps with filing. Both John and Lisa have completed all the required VA Security Training. It is not always necessary to speak to me about a case, as both John and Lisa have complete access to all computer files in the VA system, and can retrieve any information from the Veteran's "C" file. They are excellent resources for you.

Your Department Service Office saw 3,791 Veterans in 2009 – approximately 1,000 of them had appointments – an increase of 54% from two years ago. 172 of those appointments were for Decision Review Hearings and another 77 were for Bureau of Veterans Affairs or BVA, hearings. Each BVA hearing takes one full week out of our office routine – and in 2009 we had four such BVA hearings. We actually lose more than the 4 weeks of hearings, as the week prior is used to meet with the Veterans who will be seeing these Federal judges. We use this time to "prep" them, as it's usually been a 2-3 year wait since they filed their appeal for the hearing – and they've forgotten specifics of their claim.

We lost another two weeks in April and September when we attended VFW training in Annapolis So – all in

all, these Veterans were seen in a shorter period of time than ever before – and more Veterans were processed than in any previous year. Even given this significant increase in the number of Veterans seen, and the fact that we receive – on average – 130 phone calls per day, your Service Office has been quite successful in adjudicating claims for our Veterans.

On Thursday, January 14, 2010, a Vietnam Veteran came into the office to personally thank us for helping him receive his 70% PTSD award. The \$1,228 he will receive every month for the rest of his life will change his life. He had received the letter from the VA just that morning and drove down to thank us in person.

On Friday January 15, a Vietnam Veteran and his wife came into our office to drop off additional evidence for an injury claim, and I was fortunate enough to tell them that only hours before he had been granted 100% FOR HIS Service Connected PTSD. We had represented him before the BVA in June and helped him successfully prosecute his claim. He will now receive \$2,823 per month and, since his claim was decided retroactively to 2005, he will also receive a check in excess of \$132,000.00. These cases are not exceptions. Your VFW Department Service Office is making a difference in the lives of Veterans – and you should know that. Granted it is impossible to satisfy everyone – it can't be done – and while making yourself crazy attempting to do so – the majority suffers. We will not allow that to happen. But the reputation your VFW Department Service Office has among the vast majority of VA Benefits employees that we interact with daily, and the Veterans that walk through our door – seeking us out – is testimony to the care and consideration – and success – the office provides.

The number of Veterans being serviced will only continue to grow. The VA is about to expand Presumptive Agent Orange Benefits to an additional 185,000 Veterans from Vietnam – and their widows. The new ruling will lead to a 20% increase in VA awards. Thousands of widows whose husbands died of Agent Orange exposure and the attendant disabilities may qualify for retroactive benefits and back pay – as well as DIC payments. The VA will re-examine 85,000 claims previously denied before 1985 to see if they meet the criteria. \$14 billion is expected to be paid for heart disease alone. Both the VBA and the VHA expect to be deluged by these new claims for compensation.

Presently some 3.8 million Veterans are receiving entitlements from the VA. This number could double in the next 5-8 years – and all Service Offices will be overwhelmed. We need to plan accordingly – and not react when these numbers hit.

As our Veterans age, and new disability claims emerge, the delays in processing will be intolerable. We are averaging 25 Veterans per day in our office now. Without an increase in resources – primarily additional people – we will not provide the care necessary and will only add to delays.

In conclusion, I leave you with this...

The quality of care and service the Veterans receive from your VFW Service Office is better than any other organization. The VA knows this, our Veterans know this, and now you know it. The VFW is second to none when it comes to servicing the needs of our military men and women.

Thank you,

Terry Dalton, VFW State Service Officer

State Candidates For 2010-11

Vote Early & Vote Often

<p>Candidate for Dept. Commander</p>  <p>Dennis Dole Post 769 Quarzsite</p>	<p>Candidate for Dept. Sr. Vice</p>  <p>Loren "Corky" Gripp Post 10188 Tucson</p>	<p>Candidate for Dept. Jr. Vice</p>  <p>Tim Borland Post 9972 Sierra Vista</p>	
<p>Candidate for Dept. Jr. Vice</p>  <p>Eric Gagomiros Post 9400 Phoenix</p>	<p>Candidate for Dept. Quartermaster</p>  <p>L. Ski Kuczynski Post 3632 Tempe</p>	<p>Candidate for Dept. Judge Advocate</p>  <p>Mike Ferguson Post 7968 Apache Jct.</p>	<p>Candidate for Dept. Surgeon</p>  <p>Greg Kozakiewicz Post 9907 Show Low</p>
<p>Candidate for Dept. Surgeon</p>  <p>Tony Mangine Post 6790 Wellton</p>	<p>Candidate for Dept. Chaplain</p>  <p>Arnie Bulick Post 6790 Wellton</p>	<p>Candidate for Dept. Chaplain</p>  <p>Janie Miller Post 1677 Casa Grande</p>	<p>Candidate for Dept. Chaplain</p>  <p>Buddy Reynolds Post 9977 Pearce</p>

VFW Publication Looking for Outstanding Service Officers

The VFW "Checkpoint" would like to hear about the hard work your Post and Department service officers are doing. If you would like to see them receive some much-deserved recognition, send us a brief note explaining why. Please send information to:

Checkpoint
Attn: Outstanding Service Officers
406 W. 34th Street, Kansas City, MO 64111
or call (816) 968-1171 or e-mail tdyhouse@vfw.org

Department Membership Chairman *Tim Borland 9972 Sierra Vista*

Dear Comrades,

The time is coming before the State of Arizona needs to be at 100 percent again for the 43rd year in a row. Congratulations go out to Districts 7, 4 and 10 in that order for that's the order they became 100 percent in membership. As of this writing, 22 March 2010, the State is current at 95.83 and only needs 1096 more new, reinstated or renewed members by June 30th; that's approximately 11 members per day through 30 June! Let's get another push for new members; if everyone can recruit, think how big we would grow. There are quite a few posts out there that need 10 or less to become 100 percent. I highly encourage Quartermasters to go into membership tools by going to www.vfw.org and see which comrades have not renewed as of yet and maybe drop them a letter or phone call their way. If you see comrades who might be financially challenged then pick up their dues by using your relieve fund. There's no reason why all our post can't be 100 percent by the end of the year. Keep up the great work and go out and RECRUIT!!!!

Your Comrade in Arms, *Tim Borland, www.tj6enterprises.com*

Copy Machine For Sale

The Ladies Auxiliary Department Secretary has a large capacity copier that the Department is willing to sell for \$500. It has 4 paper draws and sorts. It would be perfect for a Post/Auxiliary newsletter printing. The copier is in Tucson and the Buyer would be responsible for arranging transportation. For more information, please contact Department Secretary Kim Sloan at 520-256-9687 or email auxvfw-arizona@msn.com



Camaraderie • Troop Support • Assistance with the VA • Job Assistance • Advocacy in Washington, DC.

VFW
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

Open to all deployed to overseas conflict zones, receiving imminent danger/hostile fire pay, or serving in Korea.

Learn more at JoinVFW.org

ARIZONA VFW WEBPAGE
INFORMATION AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

[HTTP://WWW.VFWAZ.ORG/](http://WWW.VFWAZ.ORG/)

Resolutions To Be Considered At The Upcoming National Convention In Indianapolis, Indiana

Resolution No. 401 SUPPORT THE TROOPS AND THEIR MISSION IN THE WAR ON TERRORISM

The intent of this resolution is: To support and fund the troops and intelligence agencies prosecuting the U.S. war on terrorism.

Resolution No. 402 SECURE AMERICA'S BORDERS

The intent of this resolution is: To secure America's borders from all threats, foreign and domestic, and to identify and deport illegal aliens who commit crimes.

Resolution No. 403 HALT ROGUE NATION WMD PROGRAMS

The intent of this resolution is: To call upon the Administration to stop the development and transfer of weapons of mass destruction by North Korea and Iran.

Resolution No. 404 INCREASE THE DEFENSE BUDGET

The intent of this resolution is: To urge the Administration and Congress to provide adequate funding for readiness, training, modernization, health care, and quality of life initiatives for our armed forces.

Resolution No. 405 BUILD A BALLISTIC MISSILE DEFENSE SYSTEM

The intent of this resolution is: To support a ballistic missile defense system and urge Congress to fully fund the program.

Resolution No. 406 SUPPORT NATO EXPANSION

The intent of this resolution is: To support the continued expansion of NATO to ensure the future security of Europe, as well as U.S. strategic interests in the region.

Resolution No. 407 SUPPORT THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA

The intent of this resolution is: To urge the U.S. government to keep a military presence in the Republic of Korea and provide them with military aid and assistance to ensure stability in the region.

Resolution No. 408 SUPPORT THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA ON TAIWAN

The intent of this resolution is: To urge the Administration and the Congress to strictly adhere to the concepts of the Taiwan Relations Act; to urge the U.S. government to employ its full range of influence to contain aggressive posturing of the Peoples Republic of China; and to afford the Taiwan Head of State equal respect and privileges.

Resolution No. 409 RE-DESIGNATE THE POSITION OF SECRETARY OF THE NAVY AS THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY AND MARINE CORPS

The intent of this resolution is: To change the position of the Secretary of the Navy to Secretary of the Navy and Marine Corps

Resolution No. 410 RAISE MILITARY BASE PAY TO EQUAL PRIVATE-SECTOR WAGES

The intent of this resolution is: To achieve full military base pay comparability with private-sector wages.

Resolution No. 411 LOWER THE RESERVE COMPONENT RETIREMENT PAY AGE

The intent of this resolution is: To support legislation that will reduce the Reserve Component retirement pay eligibility age to 55.

Resolution No. 412 CORRECT THE FY08 NDAA RESERVE RETIREMENT PAY PROVISION

The intent of this resolution is: To urge Congress to retroactively grant early retirement credit — as outlined in the FY08 National Defense Authorization Act — to all National Guard and Reserve members who served on active duty since September 11, 2001.

Resolution No. 413 OPPOSE TRICARE FEE INCREASES

The intent of this resolution is: To oppose any Tricare fee increase, and to move the authority to set fees from DOD to the Congress.

Resolution No. 414 REFORM THE UNIFORMED SERVICES FORMER SPOUSES PROTECTION ACT

The intent of this resolution is: To urge Congress to reform the Uniformed Services Former Spouses Protection Act.

Resolution No. 415 INTERSTATE COMPACT ON EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY FOR MILITARY CHILDREN

The intent of this resolution is: To call upon all state governments to adopt the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children.

Resolution No. 416 CHILD CUSTODY PROTECTION FOR DEPLOYED SINGLE PARENTS

The intent of this resolution is: To urge Congress to amend the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act to prevent permanent changes to child custody arrangements while servicemembers are deployed.

Resolution No. 417 MILITARY ABSENTEE VOTING

The intent of this resolution is: To urge State and Federal government officials to implement measures to ensure military absentee voters have at minimum a 45-day window in which to request, complete and return their absentee ballots by the Federal election due date.

Resolution No. 418 CONCURRENT RECEIPT OF MILITARY RETIREMENT PAY AND VA DISABILITY COMPENSATION

The intent of this resolution is: To support legislation for the full concurrent receipt of military retirement pay and VA disability compensation without offset and regardless of the rating percentage.

Resolution No. 419 NATIONAL HONORS TO WW I GENERATION

The intent of this resolution is: To urge the President to proclaim the U.S. Flag to be flown at half-staff upon the death of America's last World War I veteran.

Resolution No. 420 CHANGE ARMED FORCES EXPEDITION-

ARY MEDAL AUTHORIZATION DATE

The intent of this resolution is: To change the authorization date of the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal from July 1, 1958, to March 3, 1946, and award it to participants of military operations that qualify.

Resolution No. 421 AMEND AWARD CRITERIA FOR WORLD WAR II ARMY OF OCCUPATION MEDAL

The intent of this resolution is: To petition Congress and the Secretaries of Defense and Army to award the Army of Occupation Medal to those Soldiers who served in Trieste, Italy, from May 8, 1945, to October 25, 1954.

Resolution No. 422 AWARD A COLD WAR VICTORY MEDAL

The intent of this resolution is: Support the creation and awarding of a Cold War Victory Medal to all eligible U.S. service personnel who served in the U.S. military during the Cold War era, from September 2, 1945, to December 25, 1991.

Resolution No. 423 AWARD PURPLE HEART TO ELIGIBLE COLD WAR SERVICEMEMBERS

The intent of this resolution is: To award the Purple Heart Medal to military members killed or wounded-in-action during the early Cold War period of May 9, 1945, to April 25, 1962.

Resolution No. 424 EXPAND VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL ELIGIBILITY DATES

The intent of this resolution is: To expand the dates of eligibility for the Vietnam Service Medal.

Resolution No. 425 OPPOSE REPEAL OF "DON'T ASK, DON'T TELL"

The intent of this resolution is: To keep the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy intact.

Resolution No. 426 POW/MIA FULL ACCOUNTING COMMITMENT AND AGENCY FUNDING

The intent of this resolution is: To achieve the fullest possible accounting of all POW/MIAs from all wars, and to urge the President and Congress to fully fund JPAC with a dedicated line item appropriation.

Resolution No. 427 RENEW POW/MIA DISCUSSIONS WITH NORTH KOREA

The intent of this resolution is: To encourage the U.S. government to renew bilateral talks with North Korea to resume MIA recovery operations.

Resolution No. 428 CALL FOR VIETNAM POW/MIA UNILATERAL ACTION

The intent of this resolution is: To request the Government of Socialist Republic of Vietnam to release all documents and possible remains pertaining to Americans lost during the Vietnam War.

Resolution No. 429 U.S.-RUSSIA JOINT COMMISSION ON POW/MIA AFFAIRS

The intent of this resolution is: To request the Russian government appoint a co-chairman to the U.S.-Russia Joint Commission, and to request the leadership of the House of Representatives to appoint a member to fill a vacant position on the Democratic side of the commission.

Resolution No. 601 ADEQUATE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS BUDGET

The intent of this resolution is: To have Congress pass a budget that fully funds and sufficiently maintains all VA entitlement programs and services.

Resolution No. 602 CONSIDER TREATMENT FOR A PRESUMPTIVE SERVICE CONNECTED CONDITION AS A CLAIM FOR VA COMPENSATION

The intent of this resolution is: To provide legislation that would consider treatment for a presumptive service connected condition as a claim for VA Compensation.

Resolution No. 603 EXTENDING GULF WAR PRESUMPTIONS, REGISTRY AND HEALTH CARE TO AFGHANISTAN THEATER VETERANS

The intent of this resolution is: To extend Gulf War benefits to include veterans serving in Afghanistan.

Resolution No. 604 OPPOSE VA PHARMACEUTICAL CO-PAYMENT INCREASES

The intent of this resolution is: To oppose raising VA co-payment for medication.

Resolution No. 605 ENTITLEMENT TO NURSING HOME CARE

The intent of this resolution is: To urge the Congress to establish a standard VA nursing home entitlement for all veterans.

Resolution No. 606 HEALTH CARE FOR VETERANS WITH TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY

The intent of this resolution is: To provide sufficient funding so VA can provide appropriate screening, diagnostic services and treatment for veterans with Traumatic Brain Injuries and increase the research on screening methods, diagnostic tools, and more effective treatment modalities.

Resolution No. 607 VETERANS EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING PROGRAMS

The intent of this resolution is: To urge Congress to support effective employment and training programs for veterans.

Resolution No. 608 HIGH QUALITY VA SERVICES FOR WOMEN VETERANS

The intent of this resolution is: To ensure VA health care and access to mental health services for women veterans are available at all VA medical centers or nearby network facilities. To further mandate a full-time women veterans program manager position at all VA medical centers and to increase priority and outreach to women veterans.

Resolution No. 609 EXTEND A PRESUMPTION OF SERVICE CONNECTION TO BLAST SURVIVORS

The intent of this resolution is: To encourage Congress to extend a presumption of service connection for TBI.

Resolution No. 610 VETERAN ENTREPRENEURSHIP

The intent of this resolution is: To require Congress to eliminate the barriers impeding veterans from establishing and maintaining a small business by providing sufficient funding for veterans small business training, and increasing veterans access to capital, in order to raise veterans capacity and capability at a level sufficient to provide the federal government with 3% of all their contracts for goods and services.

Resolution No. 611 REQUIRE ATTENDANCE OF DEPARTMENT OF LABOR (DOL) TRANSITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS FOR SEPARATING AND DEMOBILIZING SERVICEMEMBERS

The intent of this resolution is: Seek legislation to require DOD policies require TAP attendance by all military personnel who are separating or demobilizing from the military.

Resolution No. 612 VA CLAIMS BACKLOG

The intent of this resolution is: To urge Congress to continue allocating the necessary resources for the Veterans Benefits Administration to hire sufficient employees to implement the necessary training and transitional planning that will allow VBA to substantially reduce the claims backlog. Further, to encourage Congressional oversight to speed comprehensive IT initiatives to enhance processing efficiencies and ensure improved quality in claims processing.

Resolution No. 613 IMPROVE TREATMENT FOR CHRONIC OBSTRUCTIVE PULMONARY DISORDER

The intent of this resolution is: To urge VA to improve health care treatment options for Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disorder.

Resolution No. 614 HEALTH CARE FOR VETERANS WITH POST TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER (PTSD)

The intent of this resolution is: To urge Congress to adequately fund VA mental health treatment and research programs.

Resolution No. 615 PRESUMPTIVE SERVICE CONNECTION FOR TINNITUS AND HEARING LOSS

The intent of this resolution is: To authorize presumptive service connection for veterans with a hearing loss or tinnitus due to combat or occupational acoustic trauma.

Resolution No. 616 ENFORCEMENT OF VETERANS EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS

The intent of this resolution is: To ensure current veteran employment preference laws are being followed and considered by both governmental agencies and federal contractors.

Resolution No. 617 BURIAL PLOT ALLOWANCE

The intent of this resolution is: To increase the VA Burial Plot Allowance to what is called for in the Independent Budget.

Resolution No. 618 MINIMUM COMPENSATION FOR HEARING LOSS

The intent of this resolution is: To urge the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to amend the rating schedule to provide a minimum compensation evaluation for any hearing loss for which a hearing aid is medically indicated.

Resolution No. 619 REPEAL THE SURVIVOR'S BENEFIT PLAN AND DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION OFFSET

The intent of this resolution is: To seek legislation to repeal the SBP and DIC benefits offset.

Resolution No. 620 INCIDENT REPORTING OF SEXUAL ASSAULT AND HEALTH CARE FOR MILITARY SEXUAL TRAUMA (MST)

The intent of this resolution is: To improve and expand access to healthcare services for the treatment of MST and PTSD resulting from MST and to develop more responsive and appropriate reporting processes available to survivors of sexual assault.

Resolution No. 621 PAYMENT FOR LOSS OF QUALITY OF LIFE

The intent of this resolution is: To increase the amount of VBA service disabled compensation by also taking into consideration the veteran's quality of life.

Resolution No. 622 EXEMPT CATASTROPHICALLY DISABLED VETERANS FROM PAYING ANY VA CO-PAYMENTS

The intent of this resolution is: To exempt catastrophically disabled veterans from paying any VA co-payments.

Resolution No. 623 HOMELESS VETERANS PRIORITIES

The intent of this resolution is: To urge the President and Congress to establish homeless veterans as a priority and ensure that veteran homeless programs are fully funded so that they may meet and exceed their potential in assisting each sub-category of veteran that constitutes the homeless veteran population.

Resolution No. 624 PROVIDE FAMILY CAREGIVER SUPPORT

The intent of this resolution is: To create a family caregiver support program that benefits severely disabled service members.

Resolution No. 625 VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION AND EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY

The intent of this resolution is: To urge Congress to change the delimiting date for eligibility to VA Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Services, enhance the stipend, extend benefits to families and children of beneficiary, and to streamline eligibility to provide earlier assistance.

Resolution No. 626 INCREASE THE BENEFIT LEVEL FOR THE SURVIVORS AND DEPENDENTS EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (DEA)

The intent of this resolution is: To urge Congress to increase the Survivors and Dependents Educational Assistance Program benefits.

"Gamble Against Cancer" ... 25 Years and Counting

It was a festive atmosphere in Tucson, as VFW and LAVFW members, family, and friends came from all points of the compass to attend Arizona's LAVFW 25th "Gamble Against Cancer", that was hosted by VFW-4903. Formally known as the "Wanda Stuart Memorial Gamble Against Cancer", 'patrons' receive script in exchange for a donation, and winnings are then exchanged from items donated or created by the LAVFW. This single event, created by Mary 'Ronnie' Heinemann, generates upwards of \$7,000 for Cancer Aid Research, which approximates \$175,000 over the events 25-year life cycle.

This 25th anniversary celebration actually began early in the morning, when members of the VFW Riders 'Old Pueblo' Chapter assembled at VFW-4903 to begin a tour of Tucson area VFW Posts. Their journey took several hours to complete a circle around Tucson, while stopping at VFW Post along the way to collect donations for Cancer Aid Research. This "Old Pueblo Bikers Run" concluded at VFW-4903, just in time to set up a raffle booth and arrange for a display of "Memorial on Wheels".

There was a particularly poignant moment at this 25th anniversary celebration, when Mr Richard Lopez, resident of Tucson and creator of the "Memorial on Wheels", presented a specially created miniature motorcycle to VFW-4903 and the VFW Riders "Old Pueblo" Chapter. This bike is lavishly painted all around, with the VFW emblem of the right side of the gas tank. On the left side of the Gas tank is the POW/MIA logo with names of known Tucson POW/MIA. This presentation evoked considerable emotional responses from those in attendance, especially by former POWs.



Dept. of Arizona Installation of Officers Dinner Banquet

Saturday June 12, 2010

Chicken Marsala or Beef Tips Burgundy
Sweetsnap Peas/Baby Carrots & Dessert

Dinner Tickets - \$30.00ea. (After May 25, \$35.00)

For Tickets mail this form to:

Gary Harlan

2151 W. Felicia Place Tucson, AZ 85741

520-219-1184

When ordering tickets please specify your choice of meals. If you desire to sit with a group, send names and payment at the same time so as the tables could be numbered accordingly.

How Many? Beef Tips _____ Chicken _____

_____ Tickets @ \$30.00ea = \$ _____

Name (please print)

Address

City/State/Zip

Phone

All tickets will be distributed at the Convention

Past Commanders Club



This year VFW Post 1760 (65 S. McDonald St. Mesa), will be hosting our Past Commanders Club Meeting and Dinner on 11 June 2010, with no host cocktails at 1700 Hrs, dinner to follow at approximately 1800 Hrs. This year we will be serving Steak Off The Grill" with all the fixings. There will be a donation of \$20.00 for the meal.

If you would like your tickets early, send me a CHECK (no cash) made out to the PCC of Arizona. Include a self-addressed stamped envelope for return snail-mail.

**"See you all at the
Department Convention!!!"**

**Life Member: \$15.00, Dinner: \$20.00, PCC Ball Cap: \$12.00,
PCC Pin \$3.00 Total \$50.00**

Mail Checks payable to "Past Commanders Club" and mail to:

Loren "Corky" Gripp, 1845 W Lester Street
Tucson, Arizona 85745-1938

New Look for The State Color Guard



From left to right (Rifle) Fausto Valenzuela, (AM Flag) Barbara Groggett, (AZ Flag) Bernadette Valenzuela, (Rifle) Joe Larson and Shorty Larson, Commander, VFW Post 9972 are out in front.

State Convention 2010 Mesa, Arizona

June 9 thru June 13, 2010 Marriott Mesa

200 N. Centennial Way Mesa, AZ 85201

Phone reservations 480-898-8300 or 888-236-2427

Group Code: VFW Dept. of AZ

Room Rates: Single, Double, Triple or Quad \$74.00 + tax

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 9, 2009

1:00 PM - 4:00 PM REGISTRATION
5:00 PM OUTGOING COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION

THURSDAY, JUNE 10, 2009

7:00 AM - 1:00 AM REGISTRATION
9:00 AM JOINT OPENING MC RAY THOMAS, PDC
WELCOMING REMARKS
INTRODUCTIONS
PRESENTATION OF AWARDS
DEPARTMENT COOPERATION AWARDS
GIL LAMONTAGNE AWARD
ADDRESS BY AUXILIARY NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE
ADDRESS BY VFW NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE
ADJOURN (LUNCH ON YOUR OWN)
12:00 NOON OPENING BUSINESS SESSION *SPECIAL NOTE...*
1:00 PM *Commander/Quartermaster All-State Will Be Announced At Business Session*
ADJOURN
3:30 MEMORIAL SERVICES - V.F.W. AND LADIES AUXILIARY
7:00 PM

FRIDAY, JUNE 11, 2009

7:00 AM - 1:00 AM REGISTRATION
8:00 AM - 8:30AM PRESENTATION OF 2007-08 COMMANDERS & PRESIDENTS
(Auxiliary District Flags And Banners Only)
9:00 AM RESUME BUSINESS SESSION
NOMINATIONS FOR DEPARTMENT OFFICERS FOR 2010-2011
Q & A SESSION WITH CANDIDATES IN MEETING ROOM
6:00 PM PAST COMMANDER CLUB MEETING & DINNER POST 1760 MESA

SATURDAY, JUNE 12, 2009

7:00 AM - 10:00 AM REGISTRATION
8:00 AM - 8:55 AM SCHOOL OF INSTRUCTIONS FOR ALL SERVICE OFFICERS,
CHAPLAINS AND INSPECTORS
9:00 AM RESUME BUSINESS SESSION
10:00 AM AWARD PRESENTATIONS
FINAL CREDENTIAL REPORT
5:00 PM NOMINATIONS & ELECTIONS OF 2010-2011 DEPT. OFFICERS
6:00 PM STATE COMMANDER AND STATE PRESIDENT'S RECEPTION
8:30 PM STATE COMMANDER AND STATE PRESIDENT'S BANQUET
INSTALLATION OF 2010-2011 DEPARTMENT OFFICERS

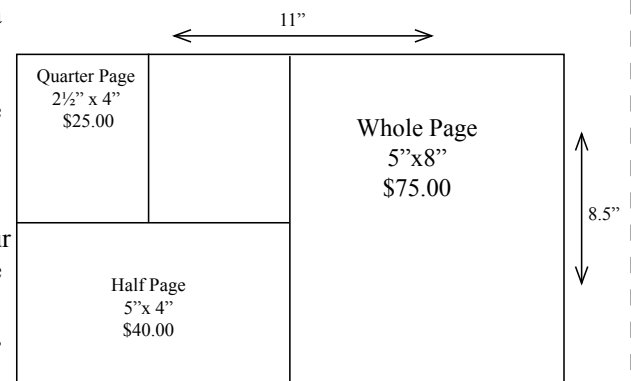
SUNDAY, JUNE 13, 2009

9:00 AM INCOMING COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION MEETING
(All times are subject to change.)

2009-10 Arizona Veterans of Foreign Wars Convention Book Advertising Opportunity

Take this opportunity to promote your business, candidate, or publicize a Post/District in the 2009-10 convention program. Simply complete this form and mail it along with a CAMERA READY AD COPY. Please no color copy.

Materials must arrive at the Arizona VFW state office by May 15, 2010 to be included in this book. Payment must accompany the ad copy. We have the right to refuse ads not conforming with VFW viewpoints and values. VFW Dept. of AZ is a 501(c) (19) tax exempt organization. #86-0076886. Upon request, a receipt will be mailed to your address listed below. Checks should be made payable to: VFW Dept. of Arizona Questions may be directed to Ski Kuczynski, at the state office by calling 480-941-5258



_____ One-quarter page (\$25.00) _____ One-half page (\$40.00) _____ Full page ad (\$75.00)

Mail to:
VFW Dept. of Arizona
6907 E. Thomas Rd.
Scottsdale, AZ 85251

Name (Contact Person)

Address

Phone

City, State, Zip

E-Mail

Senator John McCain Visits Post 9972 Membership in Siera Vista



(left to right) Joe Larson (VFW Post 9972 Commander), Tim Borland (State Judge Advocate), Senator McCain and Bob Currieo (Past VFW National Commander in Chief)



Tim Borland, State Judge Advocate, and Senator John McCain chumming it up for photo.



Senator McCain and Reba Dermody (VFW Post 9972 Auxiliary President)

Operation Heros Huachuca City



Outback Restaurants: Operation Home Front

Outback Steakhouse restaurants are kicking off their "Operation Home Front" program. A program that was started over 20 years ago by Outback Steakhouses in support of all Troops.

Outback will donate a portion of the price of every meal sold to Operation Home Front. The program kicked off March 3, 2010 and will run for one month at every Outback Steakhouse across the United States.

Susan Thompson, the proprietor of the Outback Steakhouse in Surprise, Arizona contacted me to invite about 30 Veterans to her restaurant for a meal and to thank them for their military service. Members from seven posts in District 3 attended as well as the Mayor, Police Chief, City Council and some of the Detectives from the City of Surprise. I presented Susan Thompson with a plaque on behalf of the VFW and Post 6310.

The Tolleson Post 6310 Color Guard presented the colors and Post Chaplain Andy Alcaraz said the opening prayer. Post 6310 also held a Buddy Poppy drive and collected \$63.00 in donations. The day was a huge success and everyone present enjoyed an excellent meal - Thanks to Outback Steakhouses.

Ralph Arvizu, Commander, VFW Post 6310, Tolleson, Arizona



(Top Left) Post 6310 Commander Ralph Arviso and Buddy Poppy Chairman Tommy Wallis preparing for a sales drive. (Top Right) Arvizu and District 3 Commander Bill Whiddon planning the strategy for the days festivities. (Bottom Left) The group SGT. Morris, Andy Alcaraz and Simon Amavisca door greeting at Operation Homefront. (Bottom Right) Commander Arvizu presents proprietor Susan Thompson a VFW plaque for her work with Veterans.

Post 1433 Welcomes Home "Warrior Citizens"



March 15, 2010 • VFW National Military Services Update

VFW Post 1433 Commander Dan Muller's first experience with VFW's Adopt-a-Unit program was more than a success. The attendance at the "Welcome Home" event the Post threw for the HHC 492nd Civil Affairs Battalion totaled more than 413 veterans and family members.

The 63 members of the unit returned from Afghanistan, and were greeted with barbecue and appreciative smiles, as they received awards and listened to speakers, including State Representative Debbie Lesko, R-Ariz.

"This ceremony gave all our Post members great pride seeing the awards given out and talking to the returning vets. Personally, I was really proud of the Post. It gave me chills

when the speakers spoke to the returning vets and their families," said Muller.

It all started when a member of the 492nd who was familiar with the VFW, contacted VFW's Military Assistance Program about adopting his unit. Post 1433 from the VFW Department of Arizona was up for the honorable challenge.

The Post and its Ladies Auxiliary, as well as the community, contributed substantially in order for the "Welcome Home Warrior Citizen" to go off without a hitch.

Post 1433's service officer was there to answer any questions, and the Post senior vice commander signed up 12 new members.

Without the \$900 VFW MAP grant, Muller says an event like this would have been impossible to pull off. Muller said, "If it was not for the MAP program, we would have never been able to provide this type of welcome to the vets. Again, thank you."

On Monday, March 8, 2010, at the Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C., 21 VFW Departments made donations to National Military Services totaling \$137,923.50