



51 Years of 100% Membership

Issue 51-1 Oct. 2018

AZ VFW Honors Senator, Comrade



Arizona Army National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Brian A. Barbour

Courtesy Photos

The Arizona Army National Guard's Military Funeral Honors Team carries Arizona Sen. John McCain's casket from the Arizona State Capital Building Rotunda to an awaiting hearse Aug. 30, 2018. VFW and Auxillary members from across the state were on

hand to honor McCain, a 32 year Life Member of Arizona VFW Post 7401, at the Capitol before his transition to his final resting place in Annapolis, Md, after loosing his battle with brain cancer earlier that month.

VFW Awards Nearly \$790,000 in College Tuition for Veterans More than 170 student veterans have been awarded scholarships for the fall semester

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (August 7, 2018) – The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. is pleased to announce 172 student veterans have been chosen as 2018 fall semester recipients of the VFW's "Sport Clips Help A Hero Scholarship." Together, these student

veterans will receive nearly \$790,000 in college scholarships.

For more than a decade, the VFW's long-standing relationship with Sport Clips Haircuts has focused on assisting service members, veterans and their families. In 2014, the focus

expanded to establish the Help A Hero Scholarship program.

With the continued rising costs of education, military education benefits often run out or fall short of covering the full costs of a college education which leaves many student veterans

Tuition Cont. Page 4

6423 S. Ash Ave, Tempe, AZ 85283

State Commander

Gene Wood, Post 12043 Maricopa



Comrades, Sisters & Brothers, Here we are 3 months into the year. We know what the mission is and what is expected of us by CIC BJ Lawrence. I ask that each of you read the Program Book (Make It Happen) as well as the Department Roster to familiarize yourselves with what is required for you and your Post and District to reach All State and All American status for this year. There are a few changes and new forms. Make sure you have made everyone aware of these changes. Everyone works hard, using incorrect forms or errors in reporting could be costly. When we all work together on the programs and membership the result is success this year. First, standing by our logo "No one does more for our Veterans". Second, reaching out to the Comrades you meet to see if they or a family member of a Comrade are in need of assistance of any kind like education information, VA claims information and available benefits. Sometimes a Comrade or a family member needs a "Hand Up" not a "Hand Out". Part of the team is our

Commander Cont. Page 4

State Auxiliary President

Kim Harney, Post 9972 Sierra Vista



The Department Auxiliary M.I.T. trainings have begun. The Department officers along with the Program chairman have held 5 trainings already since convention. There will be two more. One on August 11th at Auxiliary 769 in Quartzsite and Sept 15th at Auxiliary 9401 in Lake Havasu City. Trainings are from 10-3. VFW members are more than welcome to attend our trainings. Please come and learn more about the programs that your Auxiliaries are doing this year.

I have been able to attend District meetings in District 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8. Auxiliaries in these areas are all in the planning stages for their events. I enjoyed participating in the "Bowl for Vets" that Auxiliary 2364 held in Pinetop. The District 6 commander, Mario Villegas and I had a healthy competition over who would bowl the best which added to the fun.

I also wish to pass on that our Department has lost

Auxiliary Cont. Page 4

Arizona VFW & Auxiliary Officers 2018-19

State Officers

National Councilman - **Mike Ferguson** 3632 Tempe
 Commander - **Gene Wood** 12043 Maricopa
 Sr. Vice Commander - **Tom Judd** 9907 Show Low
 Jr. Vice Commander - **Jeffery Eiler** 1433 Glendale
 QM/Adjutant - **Ski Kuczynski** 3632 Tempe
 Judge Advocate - **Larry Williams** 3713 Coolidge
 Surgeon - **Mike Kemery** 12043 Maricopa
 Asst. QM/Adjutant - **Ray Thomas** 3632 Tempe
 Chaplain - **Ralph Teagardin** 5990 Marana
 Service Officer - **Mike Ferguson** 3632 Tempe

District Commanders

#1 **Dennis Dole** 769 Quartzsite
 #2 **Alan Tobish** 7400 Cottonwood
 #3 **Rickey Mindt** 3715 Phoenix
 #4 **Manuel Blea** 9400 Sunnyslope
 #5 **Raymond L. Gerving** 549 Tucson
 #6 **Mario Villegas** 1704 Globe
 #7 **Clarence Larson** 9972 Sierra Vista
 #8 **David Price** 10005 Bullhead City
 #10 **Carlos Lozano** 8053 Chandler

Auxiliary Officers

National Council Member #15 - **Kim Sloan** 10188 Tucson
 President - **Kim Harney** 9972 Sierra Vista
 Sr. Vice Pres. - **Shelia Lee-Eiler** 1433 Glendale
 Jr. Vice President - **Melody Judd** 9907 Show Low
 Secretary/Treasurer - **Kim Sloan** 10188 Tucson
 Chaplain - **Janae Kemery** 12043 Maricopa
 Conductress - **Rhonda Follett** 11014 Meadview
 Guard - **Johnette Gibson DeBoard** 404 Mohave Valley
 Chief of Staff - **Bambi Johnson** Apache Junction

Auxiliary District Presidents

#1 **Paula Walter**
 #2 **Vernell Tobish**
 #3 **Carolyn Quinton**
 #4 **Weezie Burrell**
 #5 **Marie Monsen**
 #6 **Charlene Kozakiewicz**
 #7 **Elizabeth Frost**
 #8 **Bobby DeBoard**
 #10 **Kim Minor**

*Arizona Veterans of Foreign Wars
and Auxiliary Present*

Winter Conference

Organizational Training

Voice Of Democracy

Patriots Pen & Teachers

Awards Banquet Saturday February 2, 2019



Four Points by Sheraton
2532 W. Peoria Ave
Phoenix, AZ 85029
602-943-2341



code: "Veterans of Foreign Wars"

\$119.00 + Tax Room Reservation Deadline - Jan.11, 2019

Room rate includes FREE Breakfast for up to 2 persons per room.

8:30-12:30AZ Capital Visit (Students, Parent only)

9:00-NoonVFW and VFW Auxiliary Training

4:00pm Student/Parents/District Commanders & Presidents Reception (Pictures)

5:00pm No Host Cocktails - Banquet Room Foyer

6:00pm Dinner & Awards

Deadline for Dinner Reservations is Jan.1, 2019 - \$30 after Jan.1 - \$40

Chicken Parmesan Italian Buffet

*Fresh Garden Bar, Sliced Fruit, Basil Pesto Tortellini, Meat Lasagna,
Garlic Bread Sticks, Assorted Desserts, Iced Tea & Coffee. All this for only \$30*

Make checks Payable to "VFW Dept of AZ"

Mail to: Tim Ogden
4128 W Redfield Rd
Phoenix, AZ 85053
(602)9202724
ogdentim@cox.net

Table reservations can ONLY be made for tables of ten. \$300 must be on ONE check and noted "VOD Table of 10". Please indicate who will pick up tickets. All others are first come, first served.

VFW & Auxiliary C of A Meetings are Sunday at 9:00am

State Sr. Vice Commander

Tom Judd, Post 9907 Show Low



Comrades and Auxiliary Members, Congratulations! You achieved 51 years of 100 percent or better membership. It is you, the Members, who did it because you are the Department of Arizona. I am thanking our Auxiliary because they do a lot of work and recruiting also. So where am I going

next, yes we are working on 52 years, and I know that we can do it. At the end of the 2017-18 year we had 2,500 members who did not renewed their dues, and we will not survive at that rate. One of the many things we are working on is to help Posts that are having a hard time doing the work of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. How do we do this? One way is to get our members active in the Post doing what we were formed to do 119 years ago, taking care of our Veterans and Families. When we get our members involved in something they like to do, look at what we can get done.

In many cases, we have lost touch with our members. We need to know who they are and what their needs are. Let us get back to basics—our first priority is taking care of our members and the veteran community as a whole. We need to build a strong organization for the future, recruit new and recover unpaid members, retain and men-

Sr. Vice Cont. Page 5

Commander Cont.

Auxiliary Sisters and Brothers. They are working with us, and we with them, as a team to make Arizona successful. Let us all work together and change the stigma of the Veterans of Foreign Wars from a "VFW Bar" to an organization that supports Veterans, their families, Youth programs and Community. Third, membership for the VFW to stay alive is crucial, members are what keeps us going. What a success story for Arizona to have 51 years of 100% Membership! National is saying we can't do 52 years. I say that with 600,000 Veterans in Arizona that our goal of 25,000 in membership by 30 June 2019 is very achievable! Recruit Comrades and their eligible family members. Tell them why you joined the VFW and what this organization is all about.

Let's all have a fun filled successful year. Paula and I will see you all somewhere on the road!

Gene Wood
Commander

State Judge Advocate

Larry Williams, Post 3713 Coolidge



I would like to thank you all for having the faith in me to serve as your State Judge Advocate for the year 2018-2019. It was a wonderful year last year as your State Surgeon. I hope to have a great year with everyone. And try to keep up the high standards that have been set by the others of this office. Remember to read

your national bylaw book and use the change of command by going to your district commander before you bring it to department.

The way we make it a great year is though communication with each other. We don't want something small to become a big problem. I would like to remind all of the comrades, male and female, that it will take us all to make this year one of the best by working together. If your post has an auxiliary, please work with them. They will help your post though the hard times and the good times. They are a valuable asset to our wonderful organization so please try to be one unit. So let's talk to each other, communicate and make this the one of the best years. Let's make this the 52 sec. year at 100% in Membership for you and the State. Thank you for all you do.

Larry Williams
State Judge Advocate 2018-19

Auxiliary Cont.

two of our Auxiliaries since convention. Post 10342 in Huachuca City merged with Post 9972 therefore Auxiliary 10342 also merged with Auxiliary 9972. Auxiliary 10188 surrendered their charter due to having a difficulty time fulfilling officer positions as required by the bylaws. Members from both Auxiliaries have transferred.

Congratulations to all of the VFW officers who were elected at this year's state convention. National convention was great fun. Congratulations to our VFW Department for 51 years in a row of 100% in membership. I am looking forward to working with the State Commander, Gene Wood this year, as we both work for our Veterans and their families.

Kim Harney
Auxiliary President

Tuition Cont.

without a degree. The Help A Hero Scholarship provides student veterans with the chance to achieve their education goals without incurring excessive student loan debt.

To date, the Help A Hero program has awarded nearly \$5 million in college tuition assistance and has provided scholarships to more than 1,100 service members and veterans.

“Through the generosity of the VFW, Sport Clips, and the many individual donors

and supporters, the aspirations and potential of veterans are able to be realized,” said scholarship recipient Andrew Mueller, an Army veteran attending Iowa State University. “Thank you for believing in veterans like myself and in your continued support of servicemen and servicewomen all over our nation. It is because of you that thousands of veterans are able to make continued education a reality.”

Help A Hero scholarships are awarded exclusively to service members and veter-

Sr. Vice Cont.

tor existing membership, develop new Posts and revitalize existing Posts, increase Life Membership and increase Legacy Life Membership.

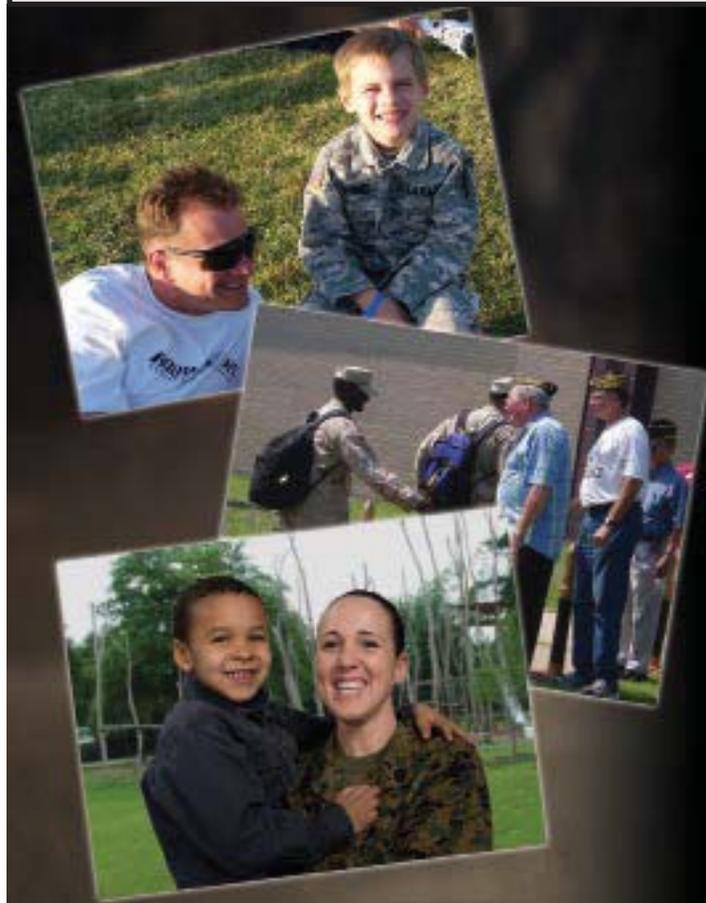
As you can see we have a very busy year ahead of us with lots of work to do and this will be done by our State Line Officers, District Line Officers as well as our Posts and Members. And if we are doing what we enjoy, then we can have a lot of fun.

I would like to Thank Ken Marshall Jr. Past State Commander for a Great Year 2017-18 and we will have a Great Year with Gene Wood as our State Commander 2018-19.

ans twice a year and help cover the cost of tuition and fees. Scholarship applications are currently being accepted for the 2019 spring semester.

Need Help With a VA Claim?

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



VETERANS & MILITARY SUPPORT PROGRAMS

WE'RE THERE FOR OUR NATION'S HEROES WHEN THEY NEED IT MOST.

- Grants awarded to military families in crisis
- Free phone time for troops & hospitalized veterans
- Deployment send-offs & welcome home events
- Scholarships for veterans & service members

IT'S WHAT WE DO.



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.

www.vfw.org

Why I Joined VFW, What I Discovered

by Carlos Lozano, District 10 Commander

After retiring from 34 years of service from the US Navy, I was often asked to join the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW). I pushed back for a multitude of reasons but primarily because I always envisioned (and observed) a smoked filled bar with many inebriated patrons, telling crude jokes and embellished war stories (sea stories for us Navy types). It also appeared to me to be a “good ole boys club” and, if you were not one of them, you did not belong— not once did anyone try to change my opinion or perspective. This environment did not appeal to me so I made no effort to join.

Many years after retiring, I began to hear and read stories about the VFW and what it was doing both legislatively at the national level, but also at the local post level, to help my fellow veterans. My interest was piqued. I initially contacted a local post to inquire about joining – I got no response. Well, that settled that interest so I moved on.

Fast track another few years and suddenly, thanks to sequester, I became retired-retired. Finding myself with nothing to do, I decided to seek out the VFW once again. I contacted a different post and they quickly and gladly invited me to join – so I did. Well, I soon discovered what “be careful for what you wish for” means. On my very first post meeting I was asked if I wanted to be a Jr. Vice Commander and, because I did not know what I did not know, I said OK - and so began my journey of discovery.

Before I share my personal observations and views, I need to make certain disclaimers. The opinions presented here are strictly my own. They are based on several years as a post line officer, past post commander and current district commander. These opinions do not represent the views of

all VFW members and in many cases, do not reflect what goes on at every post. Many will disagree with me and that is fine. I only hope that this fosters a healthy discussion about how to move the VFW forward to become a better and more effective organization.

So back to the initial question posed in the title – “Why did I join the VFW?” I joined the VFW because, as its motto states, “no one does more for veterans,” and I wanted to be part of that force that helps veterans. The other reason that inspired me to join is the work that we do with our community – vets in the classroom, Patriots Pen, Teacher of the Year to name a few. In addition, for those posts that have an active Auxiliary and a robust financial account, many veteran and

civic organization benefit immensely by the post’s generosity. All of these shine a very positive light with their community and reflects greatly on the VFW. The other reason I joined the VFW even though it was not apparent to me at the time,

is the work that VFW at the national level does to fight for benefits, legislation that benefits the veterans (VA, GI Bill, Agent Orange, etc.) and its political lobbying power in congress.

What is not apparent to those who are not active in their VFW posts, is how much work it takes to do all the things the VFW says it does or requires - and therein lies the problem. It takes a lot of work to run the VFW programs, to raise funds, and to meet all the requirements necessary to effectively run a post. While many do join (1.3 million or so nationwide), few attend the monthly meetings and even

fewer actually do all the work. What I quickly discovered after being “volunteered” to become a post officer is that the more you do, the more is expected of you. Acerbating the problem, the remainder of the personnel who are never there to help are the first to promptly criticize, bad mouth, and in many case conspire to derail any chance of success. Those who have some expertise, rather than choosing to mentor the new folks coming in, are instead reluctant to help because of the illusion that “knowledge is power”. Leaving the new folks to fend for themselves only to face criticism when they make a mistake.

During the opening ritual of a post meeting, it is stated “... do not let jealousies or trivial personalities influence

"We need to identify and roust those mal contents from our ranks and put in place folks who have the leadership skills to inspire and motivate."

our deliberations. Let us uphold always the obligations of unselfish comradeship and loyalty to our organization ...”. In many cases, this is far from reality. The posts are fraught with people who demonstrate petty jealousies, bickering, back

stabbing and disruptive behavior. Like a cancer, these folks create an atmosphere that has an odious and insidious affect in the health and well-being of the unit. They constraints recruitment of new people and stifle the creativity of those who are there and want to do good. In short, the environment that I address earlier has not changed very much – in some cases, some posts are still smoke filled, full of grumpy old men, have not fully evolved into a more inclusive unit, and are still telling the same old stories.

We need change. We need to identify and roust those mal contents

Discovered Cont.

from our ranks and put in place folks who have the leadership skills to inspire and motivate. We need to evolve away from the smoke filled bars and create a more welcoming environment for all veterans, young and old. We need to develop a more effective mentoring program to ensure that new post commanders have the people, skills and tools to succeed. We need to demonstrate true comradeship – not just through honest friendship, but because we have common goals and objectives. How can we help our fellow veterans in need if we are not even willing to help our fellow veterans within our own posts? Yes, we need change and it has to start with you and

me. We must become the change agent that inspires and motivates those around us. We must provide and articulate a vision for the future where everyone is pushing in the same direction. We must recognize and acknowledge those who contribute the most, while encouraging those that are not. We must set the example both morally and ethically so that we can lead by example and finally, we must provide an environment for continues learning, mentorship and growth. Lastly, we must remember that we honor the ultimate sacrifice of our comrades by how we live and by how we comport ourselves – make them proud of us!

SOME SAY THEY'VE GOT YOUR BACK.

WE PROVE IT.

PROOF BY THE NUMBERS.

- 14.3 billion: The amount in VA benefits that we helped to recover for veterans in the last three years.
- 15.6 million: Total dollars in financial assistance awarded to military families in times of crisis since 2004.
- 2,831,456: Service members and their family members looked after at 18 W events since 2005.
- 27: The number of times we have testified before Congress on vital veterans' issues in the last 12 months.
- 7.8+ million: Number of free connections home we've provided for deployed service members.
- 1989-2010: The years during which we have been at the forefront in the battle **FOR VETERANS.**

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NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.
www.vfw.org

ARIZONA NATIONAL GUARD MUSTER

Dec. 2 | 11 am | Kino Veterans Memorial Stadium, Tucson, AZ

dema.az.gov/muster | facebook/AZNationalGuard

Our State, Our Nation

Community Expo Starts @ 9 am



Arizona VFW Commander Gene Wood swallows his pride with a face full of cream during the 3rd Annual Cootie Carnival where his effort raised \$120.

Dept. Cmdr. Takes Plunge For Funds at 3rd Annual Cootie Carnival

The Residents, Cooties and State Home employees (including the Director) all had a great time on Wednesday at the Third Annual Cootie Carnival. Our Grand Commander went into the dunk tank and nearly drowned. Weezie dunked him on her first throw.

Our VFW Department Commander did a fund raiser for the State Home for over \$120.00. A whipped cream pie throwing contest was added to the afternoon games. Cooties could purchase a paper plate full of whipped cream for \$10.00 to throw at Gene. Attached is a photo of Manny ending his career in the VFW as he hit our Commander in the face with whipped

cream.

I am sure that many more photos of Gene will appear on the electronic board in the canteen and elsewhere. We also need to be sure that photos of the Grand Commander in the dunk tank are widely circulated.

Bill Talcott
Hospital Chairman
Cootie Pup Tent 11
VFW Post 9400



Military Order of the Cootie

Maynard "Mike" Uhlig
GRAND OF ARIZONA
Commander

3347 Greenwood Drive
Sierra Vista, AZ 85635-4267
(520)452-0371
Cell: (520)236-6007

Ourtime and work benefit veterans

Cootie E-mail: 33grandmoeedn@cox.net
Home Email: Uhlig@cox.net

Cootie News

We Cooties and Cuties are Comrades, Brothers, and Sisters first as I stated in my address at the Arizona Department Convention. I look forward to leading the Grand in supporting the Arizona VFW Department in hospital work and having a great year. Both the National VFW and MOC Supreme conventions provided a lot of information and approved changes to the Bylaws and Rituals. Congratulations to our comrade, Darin Combs for election to MOC Supreme Jr. Vice Commander-in-Chief. Continue to work hard and recruit worthy members. We Cooties will do the same and "Keep 'em Smilin' in Beds of White."

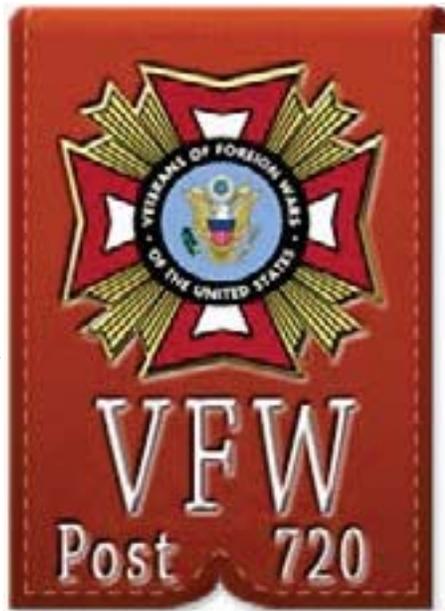
Greetings to all and thank you all for your time. Maricopa VFW Post 720 begins its 97th year this year and, I invite you all out to see our facility. Over the past year, we have made upgrades to our facility as they were needed after our roof and ballroom was destroyed by the monsoon last year. Our quartermaster Gary Crawford has dedicated countless hours leading the charge, and our post is most grateful for his passion and enthusiasm for our post and our organization. Our post is lucky to have some dedicated members such as Gunny, Andy, Art, Rocky, Tommy, Bill, Jaime, Larry, Pat and Lon that support our mission.

Lots of changes at our post as we continue to rebound and grow. VFW Post 720 has plans for a Veteran Resource Center in our Post where our veterans can come in and utilize the computers to help file for benefits, research and find help in their area. Looking forward to starting the project in the fall and assisting our veterans once completed. Thank you, Herb Harrison, for taking the lead on this project!

Our Auxiliary is focused and supporting and continues to shine. We are lucky to have such a wonderful dedicated bunch. We welcome Wanda Majaeski as our President this year and look forward to working with her as we welcome Our National President in February 2019. Claire Quartermaster –Crawford is the backbone of our organization and a tireless volunteer. David Smith is a workhorse and very rarely says no when asked to help out. And of course, where would our Post be without Ms. Liz Wolfenbarger. Ms. Liz's commitment and love for our post are second to none. We are also grateful to our Friends of the post, Mark Stevens, Glen, Kathy and Bill, whose dedication to our Post are immeasurable.

We have one of our own, life member Dr. Steve Ferrara running for Congress in CD9. Dr. Steve Ferrara is retired Navy, was the chief medical officer of the Navy, is a Native Arizonian and believes in supporting us Veterans. Please take some time and look into him, as we will find no better-quality advocate for the VFW than Dr. Steve Ferrara.

Our Post will be inducting former multiple Past President Virginia Kuecker and member Bob Snooty into VFW Post 720 Hall of Fame in March 2019. Virginia's



contributions and dedication to our post are truly inspiring, and her knowledge of our history is priceless. Mr. Bob Snooty is an Army Korean War Veteran, and his commitment and devotion are motivating others to volunteer. Few people have volunteered as many hours to our Post then these two remarkable Americans and our Post is lucky to have them.

VFW Post 720 has been a part of Phoenix for 97 years, and we are hoping to be here at least another 97 years. Thank you all for your time, and I hope to continue VFW Post 720 tradition to helping and serving the veterans of our community. I am honored to continue our Post's customs as we continue to build our membership and take care of our veterans, someone should and why not us!

Joseph Dora
Post 720 Commander



DONATE TO THE VFW...

Receive Income for Life!

A Charitable Gift Annuity (CGA) through the VFW can give you guaranteed income for life and ensure that future generations of veterans will be helped by the VFW! With a CGA, you give a donation, and in return, receive fixed payments over your lifetime at an attractive rate. To see what your payments and tax benefits would look like, use our FREE CGA Illustrator at www.VFWWinWin.org.

FIND OUT MORE:
 (816) 968-1119
plannedgiving@vfw.org
www.vfw.org/plannedgiving



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Joe Hardt Museum and Art Gallery A Hidden Gem of the Tonto Basin

Photos and Story by PDD Frank (Gunny) Alger, Post 818

The Private Joe Hardt Museum and Art Gallery is located in a small and fairly unknown community most people associate with Tonto Basin. Punkin Center, Ariz., hosts a first class military Museum and Art Gallery that while little known holds a rich history and is a great learning tool for schools and other youth organizations.

The detachment and museum is named after Marine Private Joseph H. Hardt, a World War I Marine who served in France. Pvt Hardt was born in 1894 in Payson, AZ about 30 miles north of Punkin Center. He passed away in 1974 and was the only Marine buried in the Tonto Basin cemetery when the detachment was formed in 1992.

The Detachment asked his daughter's permission to use her father's name for the detachment. The Museum started when the detachment was given these pictures by Pvt. Hardt's daughter after they asked permission to use her father's name for our detachment. She donated several pictures and artifacts from Pvt. Hardt's military history, which the detachment put on display. Members also donated items and the Museum was off to a humble beginning. In 1996, the museum began to grow as people saw what the Detachment was doing. Donations flowed in from all corners of the state. Now the facility consists of three modular buildings, the Museum, the Art Gallery and the Detachment HQ's.

The Museum is filled with Items going as far back as WWI

and the The included pictures are of some of the Items in the Museum and artwork in the Art Gallery. Most of the art work was created by Marine Austin Deuel, who was a Marine Combat Artist in Vietnam. The paintings were done from his on site observations during his time in Vietnam. Ausin is mostly know for western genre, figure paining, sculptures, and murals but he has produced a fine collection of painings for the Pvt. Joe Hardt Art Gallery depicting various military scenes.

The Pvt. Joe Hardt Detachment and Museum is looking to make some much needed renovations and upgrades to their facility. They are looking to raise about \$50,000 to ensure that this facility can continue to educate the local community and visitors from around the country that come to enjoy the unique items and the stories that go with them as told by the curator PDD Don Davis. If you would like a Tour of the Museum and Art Gallery or to make a donation please contact the PVT Joe Hardt Detachment at:

PVT. Joe Hardt Detachment 818
P. O. Box 798
Tonto Basin, AZ 85553-0798
928-479-2479 or pvtjoehardt818@gmail.com



dema.az.gov/muster | [facebook/AZNationalGuard](https://www.facebook.com/AZNationalGuard)

ARIZONA NATIONAL GUARD **MUSTER**

December 2, 2018 | 11am
Kino Veterans Memorial Stadium, Tucson, AZ



Our State, Our Nation



Ceremony From 1100 -1500



Cooties Appreciated for Caring by VA Patients

Cootie Pup Tent 11 (Post 9400) in Phoenix was recently treated to a picnic by former and current patients from the Phoenix VA Hospital. Cooties are accustomed to hosting VA patients but they are very, very seldom hosted by the patients. The patients wanted to thank the Pup Tent for thousands of dollars in donations and

numerous entertainment events. The picnic took place off site at Indian School Park in July. Pictured are Cooties, Cootie Auxiliary along with current and former VA patients. *(Photo Courtesy Bill Talcott, Cootie Pup Tent 11, VFW Post 9400)*

VFW Urges MIA Families to Provide DNA Samples

Return of American MIAs from North Korea begins

WASHINGTON (July 27, 2018) — Now that North Korea has unilaterally turned over 55 boxes of remains believed to contain missing American servicemen from the Korean War, the new national commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States is urging the families of Korean and Cold War missing to ensure the Defense Department has a DNA reference sample on file to help speed the identification process.

“Some 5,300 of 7,699 American unaccounted-for war dead are believed to be in North Korea, and 111 of our 126 Cold War missing are in the vicinity of the Korean peninsula, yet family reference samples on file only account for 91 percent of Korean War missing and 85 percent of Cold War losses,” said new VFW National Commander Vincent “B.J.” Lawrence.

“We have to do better than that, and

that’s why I’m calling on more than 1.6 million VFW and VFW Auxiliary members to canvas their neighborhoods and urge every MIA family — even distant relatives — to provide a family reference sample in the hope that the next identification announcement is their long-lost soldier, sailor, airman, Marine or contract civilian.”

According to the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, all immediate family members, as well as maternal and paternal relatives, are eligible to donate a family reference sample, which is essentially a cotton cheek swab. Relatives should contact a military service casualty officer for information on how to provide a DNA sample. Those numbers are:

- U.S. Army: (800) 892-2490
- U.S. Marines: (800) 847-1597

- U.S. Navy: (800) 443-9298
- U.S. Air Force: (800) 531-5501
- Dept. of State: (202) 485-6106

“Today marks 65 years since the signing of the armistice, or cease-fire agreement,” said Lawrence, of Alamogordo, N.M. “The potential for peace on the peninsula in the macro sense has to be on denuclearizing North Korea, but to the families of the missing, their macro view of the world begins at home, where for more than six decades they have been asking questions that have mostly gone unanswered. This is why ensuring a family reference sample is on file is so important. Identifications can be made through strong circumstantial evidence, but nothing says proof-positive better than an actual DNA match.”

VFW Ranger's Mounted Color Guard

We Honor Our Nations Veterans: Past, Present, and Future and to foster True Patriotism and Americanism and Honor to our National Flag.



Let Us Honor Your Next Ceremony

- Assist in Veterans Memorial Ceremonies
- Assist in Holiday presentation
- Flag Raising and Presentation
- Teach Flag Education Classes
 - Parades
- Welcome Home and Sendoffs
 - Dedications
 - And more

For more information contact: SGT Toni Johnson: 520-471-3172 or email vfwrangermountedcolorguard@gmail.com or Facebook: VFW Rangers Mounted Color Guard