

THE VERDE VALLEY BUGLE CALL

Post 25 Cottonwood AZ
480 S. Calvary Way



POST
25
COTTONWOOD AZ

THE AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY



April 2022

Editor: Joe Herman

newsletter@alpost25az.org

The regular monthly Post meeting will be on Monday April 18 at 6 PM. At this meeting nominations for the 2022-2023 Post Officers will occur. The actual Officer election will be on May 16. In addition, the first reading of the revised Post Constitution and revised By-Laws will be read. The second reading and acceptance vote will also occur on May 16.

For the many other weekly recreation and meal events and monthly activities, be sure to check the Post calendar located on our new website <https://alpost25az.org>

If you are interested in becoming part of a Post 25 Honor Guard, contact DeeDee at 560-370-0080 or 2vcommander@alpost25az.org or contact James at adjutant@alpost25az.org to sign up.

The Post could use some kitchen help on Thursday and Friday evening. Cashiers and dishwashers are just a couple of the assistance needs. Servers would need a food handler's certificate (which is easy to get). It's just a few hours per month with the opportunity to bump shoulders with other members of our Legion family.

Post Commander's Update

High five to the Auxiliary for continuously bailing us out in the kitchen. We are looking for a little help with the yard maintenance. Bill Tinnin

Post Adjutant's Update

For the month of March we added 6 new members and had 7 members transfer to our Post. And don't forget there is still time to renew and get your 2022 membership cards. Thank you, James Galczynski

Veterans Service Officer's Update

The VSO assisted 5 new Veterans in the Month of March! New Business cards available at the Post home behind the bar. Jamie Galczynski

Unit Auxiliary President Update

Hello everyone. I hope you are enjoying the beautiful weather in Arizona. The Auxiliary has been busy. We purchased a new shed and could use container donations. There is an Easter raffle at the bar. Please come and support the raffle. Money donated for tickets will go to our scholarship fund. We are having a clothing exchange event Sunday April 24th from 12 to 2pm. This is a great way to rid yourself of clothing you no longer want and exchange for something else. Please join us for our meetings every 2nd Monday at 5pm in the Hall. We can always use some fresh ideas. Lisa Young-Tinnin

S.A.L Commander's Update

Just a reminder that Sons have lunch on Friday at the Post and don't forget about our Steak Dinner on the 16th. Billy Wright

Riders Director's Update

The Riders are sponsoring the Armed Forces Car Show on Saturday May 21 from 10 am to 2pm. In addition, there are activities on Friday evening and Sunday during the day. See website for registration details. <https://alpost25az.org> The Riders are also sponsoring The Thunder Valley Rally Poker Run on September 17. We would appreciate volunteers to assist with both of these events. Billy Wright

A Word From The Editor

My original question when interviewing our Legion leaders is "which volunteers have been doing a great job, and deserve to be recognized." What we came up with is all of them. I am so grateful for all the volunteers that keep our Post doors open and running smoothly. My wife Cindy and I have been members for just over a year and we love our Legion. It fits like your favorite pair of jeans. Thanks to all who work so hard to make Post 25 a nice place to go. Joe Herman

- Military History - The Submarine Lifeguard League By David Kauppinen



USS Tang (SS-306) CDR Richard O'Kane
with 22 rescued airmen April 1944

In addition to sinking over 1300 ships during WWII, U.S. submarines rescued 504 airmen whose planes had been shot down in the Pacific theater. The most aviator rescues in one patrol occurred when USS Tang (SS-306) was on lifeguard duty near Truk in April 1944. In that battle 35 Navy airmen were shot down. Since many of them were close to shore, Commander Richard O'Kane requested urgent assistance from Navy fighter planes to suppress enemy fire while taking the men on board. Subsequently, the Tang was able to rescue 22 airmen. After seeing the success of Tang rescue mission, the Army Air Force requested lifeguard submarines for all their bombing missions. This is when the term "Submarine Lifeguard League" came into use.

The USS Finback (SS-230) was on lifeguard duty during air strikes on the Bonin Islands in early September 1944. While on station the Finback rescued 5 pilots, however, one of them was notable. An

Avenger Torpedo Bomber piloted by future President LTJG George H.W. Bush of Torpedo Squadron 51 from the USS San Jacinto (CVL-30) was hit by anti-aircraft fire while bombing a radio station. After completing the bombing run, Bush managed to fly the plane 7 miles out to sea before bailing out with one of the crewmen whose parachute did not deploy. The third crewman went down with the plane. A Japanese boat was sent to capture Bush, but it was driven off by other pilots involved in the same bombing. His position was reported to the USS Finback and four hours later she surfaced near him for the rescue. Later Bush recollected, "I saw this thing coming out of the water and I said to myself, 'Jeez, I hope it's one of ours. I thought being rescued by the submarine was the end of my problem. I didn't realize that I would have to spend the last 30 days of the submarine patrol on board. When we were getting depth charged, the submariners did not seem overly concerned, but the other pilots and I didn't like it a bit. There was a certain helpless feeling when the depth charges went off that I didn't experience when flying my plane against AA."

References

- 1) Mission: Lifeguard, American Submarines in the Pacific Recover Downed Pilots, by Nathaniel S. Patch, <https://www.archives.gov/files/publications/prologue/2014/fall/lifeguard.pdf>
- 2) U.S. WWII Submarine War Patrol Reports, <https://maritime.org/doc/subreports.htm>

