

# THE VERDE VALLEY BUGLE CALL

Post 25 Cottonwood AZ  
480 S. Calvary Way



POST  
**25**  
COTTONWOOD AZ

THE AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY



August 2025

Newsletter@alpost25az.org

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Finance Officer: DeDe Dexter (USAF)

Second Vice Cdr: Vacant

Sergeant-at-Arms: Dave Bickel (USA)

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

## Commander Message



I would like to let everyone know that the Post 25 kitchen has changed from fryer oil to beef tallow. My research shows that it is more flavorful and healthier. Cooking with beef tallow will be starting with Chicken Wings on July 31st at 5 pm.

On a more somber note, within the Legion family why is it that the vast majority of volunteers for any of our functions are the Sons and the Auxiliary?

Bill Tinnin, Commander

## Adjutant Message



Hello Members of Post 25: John Scott here, new Adjutant for 2026. The Post 25 2026 Legion membership cards have arrived. As an incentive for those who renew early between July 1 and October 31, an "Early Bird" stamp will be applied to your card which gives you a free "Early Bird" Dinner hosted by the Post in November. Don't miss out! To renew, you have several options:

- 1) On line at <https://alpost25az.org/> (see Announcements on first page).
- 2) Using the pre-addressed envelope you received, mail a \$50 check to "American Legion Post 25, 480 S. Calvary Way, Cottonwood, AZ 86326".
- 3) Drop off the envelope with \$50 cash or check at the Post. I am there typically

Monday and Wednesday from 1300-1600 or on Fridays at the Fish Fry. Alternately, give it to the bartender who will place it in my mail slot at the bar.

John Scott, Adjutant

## Veterans Resource Officer Message



All military retired pay is exempt from Arizona income taxes. In addition, Arizona offers special benefits for service members, Veterans and their families including, tax and license fee exemptions, education and tuition assistance, vehicle license plates, state park benefits, hunting and fishing license privileges, and more. Details at [Arizona Veteran Benefits](#).

If you qualify for VA health care benefits, you may be able to get some or all of your vision care through the VA. Details at [VA Vision Care Benefits](#)

Jamie Galczynski, VRO

## Auxiliary President Message



Service to Veterans volunteers are American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) members who provide service to Veterans away from a VA Medical Center. Whether organizing a stand-down, assembling care packages/tray favors/greeting cards, assisting with a Veteran's burial or gravesite upkeep, sewing, cooking, or shopping for active-duty Military/Veterans and/or their families, member volunteers are at the heart of the Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Program structure (Pillar I).

We have a lot of ALA members whose spouse or family member is a VETERAN and they do not report their hours. On the Auxiliary web page, see [Unit 25 Reporting Hours Explanation](#) and the [Unit 25 Service to Veterans Tracking Log](#). If you live with a Veteran it is automatically 10 hours a week - this adds up. We would like to have the log completed monthly. You can drop the completed log form off at the Post in the ALA box by the ALA meeting room, or you can email a copy to the Unit President at [debdexter2010@yahoo.com](mailto:debdexter2010@yahoo.com). Thank you all for hard work and dedication to our Veterans.

DeDe Dexter, Unit 25 President

## SAL Squadron Commander Message



Your 2026 SAL membership cards are now available. Get yours today to qualify for the Early Bird dinner. Membership cards picked up after October 31, 2025, will not qualify for this free dinner which is provided by the American Legion. Also note that we still have some 2025 membership cards that need to be picked up.

Importantly, you must have a current membership card (2025 or 2026) to enjoy the privileges here at Post 25. This is an Arizona State Liquor Law, so make sure your card is current and with you while at the Post.

Annual membership dues are \$40.00. Checks should be made out to 'American Legion Squadron 25'. Dues may be paid 1) by mailing to American Legion Post 25, Attention SAL, 480 S. Calvary Way, Cottonwood, AZ 86236 or 2) delivering cash or check in person to the Post - see Rick Shriver or Vinny Berdar.

Next year the SAL State Detachment is hosting the Sons Campout at Dead Horse Ranch. We are accepting donations to help make this a successful event. See Rick Shriver for more information.

SAL would like to Welcome our new members who joined in July: Will Patton, Jim Jaap, and Gary Whitney

Rick Shriver, Squadron Commander

## Officer Profile

### Executive Committeeperson – Winifred Follett



Wini has been a member of the American Legion and Post 25 for 27 years. Currently she is on the Executive Committee and volunteers regularly at the Post to help coordinate dinners, especially the Friday night Fish Fries.

She served in the Air Force from 1978-1986 as a Staff Sergeant (E-5), Vehicle Operator Dispatcher. Wini was stationed at Lackland AFB (Texas), Keesler AFB (Mississippi), Kunsan AB (Republic of Korea), Minot AFB (North Dakota), Osan AB (Republic of Korea), and Tyndale AFB (Florida).

Wini is married and lives in Cottonwood. She currently works as a Label Specialist at Mold In Graphic Systems in Clarkdale. Wini is also a Stage Manager for St. Andrews Episcopal Church. Her hobby is Site Seeing.

## New Members

Post 25 welcomes the following new members:



ARMY

*Dillon Wood-USMC (Korea)*



MARINES



NAVY

*Scott Poole-USAF*



AIR FORCE



COAST GUARD

*Jakob Carter-USCG*

## Upcoming Post Activities – August 2025

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

- The following meals will occur on Thursday Bingo nights this month from 5PM to 6:30PM:
  - August 07 - Dog Town USA food truck
  - August 14 - Philly Cheese Steak Sandwiches, Tater Tots & Cowboy Coleslaw by the Sons
  - August 21 - Boy Scouts (meal to be determined)
  - August 28 - Taco Bar by the Auxiliary
- August 9 - Celebration of Life for SAL member Doug Keatts (8-Ball) at 2 pm
- August 16 - "Turning 65 Party" for 11 of our Legion Family members. Menu is pulled pork.  
Open to all Post members. Attendees may bring a potluck side dish.
- August 24 - Concealed Carry Weapons (CCW) Class 9 am-1 pm.  
See [US Concealed Carry Registration](#) If registering on-line, Post members should leave the Credit Card spaces blank and use Coupon Code "ALP25". You can also register at the door prior to 9 am.
- August 27 & 28 - VA Benefits Event (more information to follow)

## Military History

### U.S. Army Base Built Under Greenland Ice During Cold War

Camp Century was constructed as part of Project Iceworm, a plan to build a network of nuclear-missile launch sites beneath the Arctic ice. The Camp was designed to store 600 medium-range ballistic missiles to use in case of war with the Soviet Union. At one point during the Cold War, the U.S. maintained 17 bases in Greenland, including Camp Century, and kept about 10,000 troops there. Today, there are less than 200 troops in Greenland at the one remaining base, Pituffik Space Base.

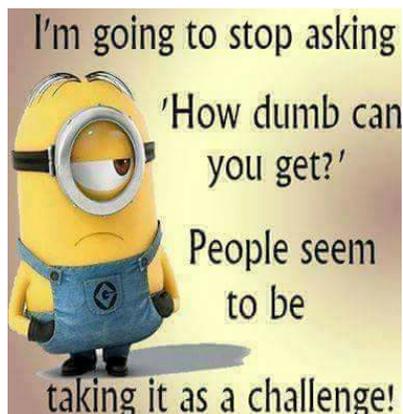


Camp Century was partially constructed in 1959, and it contained 21 interconnected tunnels covering almost 2 miles. The tunnels contained sleeping quarters, a gym, latrines, labs, and a mess hall supporting about 200 military personnel. The camp was powered by a nuclear reactor that had been transported more than 130 miles across Greenland including 25 miles across the ice sheet. This reactor was also used to provide heat for melting ice to provide potable water.

Camp Century was abandoned in 1967 after the ice sheet was deemed too unstable to support a missile-launch network. When it was abandoned, only the Nuclear Reactor was removed. Over the years, ice accumulated and the facility is now mostly collapsed and buried under at least 100 feet of ice. (Ref. Wall Street Journal, May 13, 2025)

A US Army video from the 1960s with original and recent narratives describe what happened from beginning to end. [Camp Century Video | The First Human Settlement Under The Ice](#)

*End Note: Cricket Kauppinen's father, Stewart T. Campbell, retired after 30 years in the Army as a CWO3. In his extensive military records he has this narrative: "In the summer of 1961 I was assigned Temporary Duty from Fort Eustis Virginia to the Port of Thule, Greenland. I was responsible for the maintenance and transportation for the resupply of Thule Airbase, Camp Tuto, Camp Century, and the Danish village of Dundas. Transported to Camp Tuto was a nuclear reactor and components where they were loaded on to ice sleds and towed about 25 miles to Camp Century. The movement was a success without happenings or mishaps."*



Do you feel lucky?  
Friday night you could be >>>>

