

THE VERDE VALLEY BUGLE CALL

Post 25 Cottonwood AZ
480 S. Calvary Way



POST
25
COTTONWOOD AZ

THE AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY



February 2024

newsletter@alpost25az.org

Editor: David Kauppinen, USN

Commander - Bill Tinnin (USA)

First Vice - Nancy Hay (USAF)

Adjutant - James Galzycinski (USN)

Executive Committee: Dave Bickel (USA), Keith Vogler (USMC), and one vacancy

Finance Officer - DeDe Dexter (USAF)

Second Vice - Suzan Lehnertz (USAF/USN)

Sergeant-at-Arms - Tony Walker (USCG)

Commander's Message



I regret informing you that Wayne Boren, one of our favorite Post Officers and very helpful member, retired Navy Officer, and a very good friend, has passed. He will be greatly missed. I was informed that his celebration of life will be held at Post 25 on March 16, so please, everyone come and show your respects.

See obituary - <https://obits.smartcremation.com/kenneth-boren>

On a lighter note, the Auxiliary will be having what is becoming an annual event, the Sweetheart Dance on February 10th. Make reservations at the bar or call 928-634-3004. I'm sure it'll be a lot of fun again. Hope to see you there.

Wishing everyone well, Bill Tinnin, Commander

Veterans Service Officer's Message



Change to Burials at the VA National Cemetery in Prescott

All scheduling of burials are now handled by the VA National Cemetery line at (800) 535-1117. Note that the National Cemetery Association will no longer make requests for Military Honors Teams. This means that the veteran receives no Military Honors unless the veteran's family takes the lead. Prescott American Legion Post 6 will respond to all requests for their Honor Guard and Bugler to attend funerals. The flag is normally supplied by the Funeral Director handling the cremation or casketed remains; make sure the flag is covered by whoever is handling the remains of the veteran.

Transportation help: Rides, fuel cards, vehicle repairs, and other needs are available from the Be Connected organization. For more information visit <https://connectveterans.org/ride/> or call 866-429-8387.

Jamie Galczynski, VSO

Officer Profiles

So members can learn more about our Post 25 leadership, we are providing a Bio for one or two of our Officers each month from the Legion, Auxiliary, and Sons of the America Legion.

Executive Committee – Dave Bickel



Dave has been a member of the American Legion for 4 years and Post 25 for 4 years. He also is on the House Committee, maintains the Post air conditioning units, and assists with yard sales. Dave served in the U.S. Army as a Food Service Driver (E-4) from 1967 to 1970. He was stationed at Fort Riley, Kansas and Vietnam. While in Vietnam Dave was awarded a Silver Star, Purple Heart, and Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross. After the Army, he was a heating and air conditioning contractor owning his own business. Dave lives in Clarkdale and is married to Julie Bickel who is on the Unit Auxiliary Executive Committee. Dave has a stepson and stepdaughter in addition to 6 grandchildren. His hobby is watching sports.

Editor comment: I knew that Dave was awarded the Purple Heart, but did not know he was also awarded the Silver Star in the same battle. When I asked for details, he told me what happened and humbly showed me his medals and the award letter (excerpt/edited):



“Award of the Silver Star, 18 October 1969 - Specialist 4 Bickel distinguished himself by exceptional valorous actions on 18 May 1969 during an attack on Husky Compound in the Long Khanh Province, Vietnam. Early in the morning, a determined enemy force assaulted the northeast perimeter of the compound. Despite the heavy barrage of automatic weapons and rocket-propelled grenade fire, Bickel volunteered to evacuate the wounded. Although he received fragmentation wounds when the vehicle he was riding in sustained a rocket-propelled grenade hit, he proceeded to aid the wounded and evacuate the casualties. Specialist 4 Bickel’s gallantry in action was in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service, reflects great credit upon himself, his Unit, and the U.S. Army. (signed) George L. Mabry, Jr., Major General, U.S. Army”

Interestingly, this happened on his last day of his tour in Vietnam, and one of the wounded he evacuated was his replacement. Obviously there is a lot more detail to this story. Dave asked me to relay this message: “Ask people to never forget our brothers and sisters who never made it home.”

General Announcements

Membership Changes: Post 25 welcomes the following 9 new members:



ARMY



MARINES



NAVY



AIR FORCE



COAST GUARD

***Orlin Gregory – Navy
Roy Walker – Air Force
Michael Rice – Army***

***Jeffrey Boyd – Marine Corps
John Heerkens – Air Force
Jesus Guzman – Army***

***Jason Estrada – Air Force
David Platt – Army
Steven Pierce – Army***

Post Volunteer: Thank you member Jim Cox for volunteering at the meeting to assist the House Committee in keeping the parking lot and vegetation surrounding the Post clean and maintained.

Meeting Attendance drawing: The next Legion general meeting is **February 19th at 5:30 PM**. Since the attendance drawing winner, **William West**, of Rimrock was not present at the January meeting, the February drawing will stay at \$100. After it is won, the prize reverts to \$20. The winner has to be present at the meeting and in good standing.

Post Everlasting:

Post Member and Navy Veteran and Korean War Veteran **Robert Kelly** of Peoria recently passed on. Additional details were not available at the time of Bugle publication.

Arizona Crisis Team (ACT) Volunteer: ACT is a non-profit organization that provides emotional, practical, and resource assistance to citizens in Yavapai County. Training for volunteers begins for the Prescott/Quad Cities and Verde Valley/Sedona areas on Friday, April 12, 2024. For more information, see: https://alpost25az.org/documents/ACT_Training_Information_April_2024.pdf

Supporting a Veteran in Need



The entire Legion family at American Legion Post 25 contributed funds and Home Depot provided a generous discount to buy Post member and Navy veteran Orlin Gregory a new generator. Orlin lives in a camper trailer and was in need of electricity. Left to right in photo are Post members Robert, Orlin, Billy and Joey.

Upcoming Post Activities – February 2024

The Post calendar is at <https://alpost25az.org> and <https://www.facebook.com/AmLeg.Post.25>

****Concealed Carry Weapons (CCW) Class** – Saturday February 3, 9AM-1PM, register at <https://www.safearizona.com/events/cottonwood/> Post members use discount code “ALP25” (credit card not necessary)

Free Pool – all day every day of the week

Scottish Doubles Pool – Saturday February 17, 5:30PM, \$5 buy-in, Blind Draw

Pool Tournament – Sunday February 18, bar opens at 11AM

Live Country Band – every Sunday 2PM-5PM except 1PM-4PM on Feb 11 before Super Bowl

In-house Dart League – every Tuesday, 7PM

Electronic Bingo Machines (new) – all day Tuesday through Saturday each month

Bar Bingo – every Thursday of each month at 5:30PM, February 15 - Boy Scout Chili Dinner 5PM

Pot Luck Dinner – Thursday February 29, 5-6:30PM

***Sweetheart Dinner and Dance** – Thursday February 10, 5PM, \$30 single/\$55 double. Prime Rib or Chicken, get tickets at the bar. See https://alpost25az.org/documents/Sweetheart_Dance_2024.jpg

***Super Bowl Party and Pot Luck** – Sunday February 11, 4PM

SAL Friday Lunch – First three Fridays of February, 12-2PM, see Calendar for menu

Friday Fish Fry – First three Fridays of February, 5-6:30PM

Auxiliary Dinner – Friday February 23, 5-6:30PM, Ribs and fixings plus meal raffle

SAL Dinner – Saturday February 17, 5-6:30PM, Sloppy Joes and curly fries

Karaoke – every Friday at 7PM

AL Riders Meeting – Saturday February 3 at 11AM

SAL Meeting – Saturday February 3 at 12PM

Auxiliary Meeting – Monday February 12, 5PM

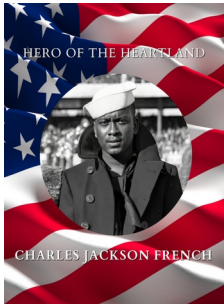
Legion Meeting – Monday February 19, 5:30PM

Military News – Army



U.S. Army Sgt. Maciel Hay, who serves as a cavalry scout with the 173rd Airborne Brigade, passed the Army's sniper course in November 2023 at Fort Moore, Georgia. Her accomplishment marked the first time an active duty female had passed the rigorous course, coming after a National Guardsman from Montana became the first woman overall to earn the elite qualification. Her next assignment will take her to Anchorage, Alaska, where she will serve with the 1st Squadron (Airborne), 40th Cavalry Regiment. Hay said she is now setting her sights on becoming a jumpmaster, while others have encouraged her to attend Ranger School. <https://www.foxnews.com/us/female-soldier-graduates-armys-sniper-school-historic-first>

Time Capsule – 81 Years Ago



On January 10, 2024, Secretary of the Navy Carlos Del Toro announced that the Navy will name a new Arleigh Burke-class destroyer the USS Charles J. French (DDG-142) in honor of French's heroic actions during a naval battle near Guadalcanal. On September 5, 1942 converted destroyers USS Gregory and USS Little patrolled the area between Savo Island and Guadalcanal after delivering a Marine Raider battalion to Savo Island. Three Japanese destroyers entered the area and gunfire erupted. With the destroyers previously stripped of virtually all their armament to make room for landing boats, the outgunned Gregory lasted just three minutes before her boilers burst and calls to abandon ship rang out. Mess Attendant 1st Class French was among the very few left uninjured by the ship's

conflagrations. Despite standing at just 5'8 and 195 pounds, French was a strong swimmer and calmly swam around the sinking ship gathering 15 of his injured comrades onto a raft and towed the raft with a rope for about 8 hours through shark infested waters before being spotted and rescued. Subsequently, hero French was hailed as the "Human Tug Boat". For his actions, French was recommended for the Navy Cross.

However, likely due to his race, the Cook received only a letter of commendation from Admiral William "Bull" Halsey, Commander of the Southern Pacific Fleet. French died on November 11, 1956 at age 37.

<https://www.navytimes.com/news/your-navy/2024/01/15/navy-to-name-destroyer-after-wwii-hero-charles-french/>

Cybersecurity Facts

A phishing attack is when an email user is duped into revealing personal or confidential information such as account passcodes, sending emergency money to a friend, or soliciting the reader to click on a link which has nefarious results. In many case the sender misrepresents him/herself from a company that you have done business with or is actually a personal friend of yours. Usually this is obvious: the email address associated with the senders name is incorrect, the grammar is obviously not correct, or the company logo graphics are poor quality. When purchasing online, remember that **credit cards are protected from fraud, but debit cards are not**. To learn more about this subject, see the free online publication [Cybercrime Magazine](#).

Humor for the Month

