

# THE VERDE VALLEY BUGLE CALL

Post 25 Cottonwood AZ  
480 S. Calvary Way



POST  
**25**  
COTTONWOOD AZ

THE AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY



February 2026

Newsletter@alpost25az.org

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

## Adjutant Message



Welcome to the official 2026 Legion Membership Year. I hope all 2025 members took advantage of the Grace Period in January to get renewed. If you missed it, your 2025 card is now expired and the Bartenders will be checking and can only accept 2026 cards to provide services at the Bar. You can still attend activities that are open to the general public. We can still do a "late payment" to the Legion to get you back to current membership. Be aware the Legion typically will take up to two weeks to process payments and issue a new card based on our submittals from the Post. My advice

would be to submit payment directly by Credit Card to the National Legion Website at <https://www.legion.org/renew> as the process time is much faster. Alternately, drop off \$50 at the bar or see me to renew your card.

Moving forward this year, my next priority is to sort a smooth method of Transfers of Members who wish to Join our Post. The Transfer process has now been taken over by the Department of Arizona Legion Adjutant who now oversees Transfers, particularly within AZ Legion Posts. More on that as we progress.

John Scott, Adjutant

## Veterans Resource Officer Message



The **Arizona Department of Veterans' Services** has more than 50 Veterans Benefits Counselors (VBCs) statewide, dedicated to helping Veterans, service members, and families navigate federal and state benefits. Veterans wanting to make an appointment with a VBC can now do so online via Calendly. Click here to [schedule an In-person Appointment](#), click here to [schedule a Virtual Appointment](#), or call the VBC appointment line at 602-535-1215 and the staff will help with the process.

Jamie Galczynski, VRO

## New Members

Post 25 welcomes the following new and transfer Legion members:



ARMY



MARINES



NAVY



AIR FORCE



COAST GUARD

*Dennis Deal - Army*

*Robert Beckner - Army*

*Gerard Witkowski - Army*

*Jeff Lindaman - Navy*

## Scholarship Committee Chairman



The Post 25 Legion Community Scholarship for 2026 and the Marine Corps League Department of Arizona Scholarship for 2026 are able for download at <https://alpost25az.org> (see Post Sponsorship section). Submittals are due in early May, so check each application for specific dates.

Keith Vogler

## Auxiliary President Message



We had a wonderful turnout for our Chili Cookoff Fundraiser for Hospice/Caregivers that was held on January 22. There were 11 crockpots with some amazing Chili and raised \$1100.00. The proceeds will go to the Sisterhood Foundation in support of Camp Courage. Camp Courage is an extraordinary therapeutic camp designed exclusively for burn survivors aged 6 to 20 in beautiful Prescott, AZ. The winners this year: First Place Bobby Dixon, 2nd Place Terrie from Sisterhood Foundation, 3rd Place Pat Scott, Tied for 4th Jackie and Pam. A big thank you for all the cooks: Bobby, Terrie, Pat, Jackie, Pam, Michele, Melanie, Kat, Amy, Patty Tucker, and Cindy.



DeDe Dexter, President Unit 25

## SAL Squadron Commander Message



Reminder - our next monthly meeting is on February 2nd at 5pm; looking forward to seeing everyone. The Son's Dinner will be on February 12th starting at 5pm. We will be serving Ham, Scalloped Potatoes, and Green Beans. Please come and support your Squadron.

Reminder - renew your 2026 membership cards to keep your Post privileges current. Membership fees are \$40.00. Bartenders will be checking and can only accept 2026 cards to provide services at the Bar. To renew your membership, see Rick Shriver or Vinny Berdar. Membership dues can also be paid by mail to: American Legion Post 25 Attention Rick Shriver, 480 S. Calvery Way Cottonwood AZ 86326. Checks should be made out to "American Legion Squadron 25".

Rick Shriver, Squadron Commander

## VA News

Check out this link: [Military and Veteran Discounts Available Year-round](#)

## Upcoming Post Activities – February 2025

Legion Family meeting dates and additional information can be found on the Post Calendar at <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:
  - February 05 - DogTown and Beyond: Food Truck
  - February 12 - Sons Dinner: Ham, Scalloped Potatoes, and Green Beans
  - February 19 - Boy Scouts: Chili and Cornbread
  - February 26 - Auxiliary: Surprise Dinner
- February 7: Celebration of Life for Cindy Trembly from 11AM to 2PM



**AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY**  
**American Legion Post 25 Sweetheart Dance**  
Saturday February 14th at 5pm

Last Call @ 4pm  
Bar Closes @4:30pm  
reopens @ 5pm

5pm – 6pm Cocktail Hour  
6pm – 7pm Dinner

❖ Roasted Chicken Breast  
❖ or Grill Salmon  
❖ Baked Potatoes  
❖ Vegetables  
❖ Salad and Roll

Single - \$30.00  
Couple - \$55.00  
Tickets Available At The Bar 928-634-3004

**Music Provided by Renegades @ 7pm**  
After 7pm there will be a \$10.00 band charge at the door.

Silent Auction 5pm -9pm  
50/50 Raffle  
proceeds to Support Veteran's Programs.

Mr. & Mrs. John (Skip) Heerkens Wedding Reception

- February 28: District 8 Oratorical, 9 am - Noon

## After Retirement - Making a Difference

The following are excerpts from a Wall Street Journal article on January 16, 2026, *"The Retirement Crisis No One Warns You About: Mattering"*

"We plan for our wealthspan and healthspan, mapping out financial security and physical well-being. Yet very few of us prepare for an equally essential dimension of retirement: our mattering span, or how we will continue to feel seen, useful, and capable of making a difference in this next chapter of life.

To understand how to deal with the problem, it's useful to think of mattering as having four main components, captured in the acronym SAID: feeling significant (seen and essential), appreciated (valued for your contributions), invested in (supported and cared for) and depended on (needed by others). These ingredients offer both a diagnosis - why retirement can feel destabilizing - and a solution for strengthening your mattering span at any age."

"If you're in a hole, feeling like you don't matter, go somewhere you're needed, where you're relied on, where people depend on you," one retiree said. "You have a responsibility to make yourself useful again." This article is adapted from Jennifer Breheny Wallace's recently published book, "Mattering: The Secret to a Life of Deep Connection and Purpose".

Editor's Note: American Legion Post 25 has many opportunities to "make a difference", these include the House Committee (keep the Post building and grounds in shape, minor electrical work, carpenter work, plumbing, etc.), Scholarship Committee (be on the team to review the applications and determine who is awarded a \$1000 scholarship), help in the Kitchen when meals are prepared. You can also make a difference by coming to a General Meeting; in January we did not have a quorum of 12 members to vote on issues. (Note that we have about 400 Legion members at Post 25). For more information, contact the Adjutant at [adjutant@alpost25az.org](mailto:adjutant@alpost25az.org)

## Military News

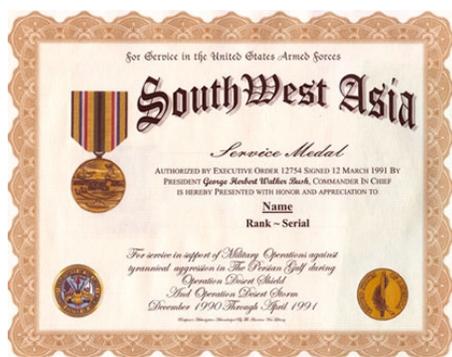
A new Army military occupational specialty, MOS 40D Tactical Space Operations Specialist, will be officially established Oct. 1, 2026, and is open to soldiers in grades E-4 through E-9 across the active duty Army, National Guard, and Army Reserve. “This is the first space-specific MOS for enlisted soldiers,



and it couldn't have come at a better time,” Lt. Gen. Sean Gainey, commanding general of the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command, said. The Army is planning to open 1,000 slots for the new specialty, which could swell to 1,500 by 2032. Command Sgt. Maj. John Foley, the senior enlisted leader of U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command, emphasized that unlike other space capabilities, Army space soldiers are expected to operate alongside ground forces. “Army space soldiers must be on the ground to provide effects to the warfighter and operate in deep enemy and extended deep areas,” Foley said, according to the press release,

adding, “That is the distinct difference that only soldiers can do for our Army.” According to Army doctrine, space-based systems help soldiers communicate, navigate, forecast the weather, gather intelligence and receive missile warnings, etc. [New Army Space Force MOS January 28, 2026](#)

## Military History



The Gulf War (1990–1991), also known as the Persian Gulf War or Operation Desert Storm, was an international conflict triggered by Iraq's invasion and occupation of Kuwait on August 2, 1990. Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein justified the invasion by claiming Kuwait was historically part of Iraq, owed Iraq a large debt from the Iran–Iraq War, and was engaging in slant drilling that damaged Iraq's oil fields. In response, the United Nations demanded Iraq's immediate withdrawal and imposed a comprehensive economic embargo. The United States led a 42-nation coalition, to defend Saudi Arabia and liberate Kuwait.

On February 24, 1991, the coalition launched Operation Desert Sabre, a ground offensive that advanced from Saudi Arabia into Kuwait and southern Iraq. The ground war lasted just 100 hours and ended with a ceasefire on February 28, 1991.

Key outcomes: Iraq was forced to withdraw from Kuwait and accept UN terms, including the destruction of weapons of mass destruction. Approximately 8,000 -10,000 Iraqi soldiers were killed, compared to around 300 coalition troops. Saddam Hussein remained in power, but Iraq's military and regional influence were severely weakened. The war introduced precision-guided munitions, stealth technology, satellite navigation, and live battlefield reporting - earning it the nickname “Video Game War.”

Reference [Gulf War History](#). Also see veteran [Gulf Campaign Appreciation Display](#).

**Picked up a hitch-hiker. Seemed like a nice guy.**

**After a few miles, he asked me if I wasn't afraid that he might be a serial killer?**

**I told him that the odds of two serial killers being in the same car were extremely unlikely**