

THE VERDE VALLEY BUGLE CALL

Post 25 Cottonwood AZ
480 S. Calvary Way



POST
25
COTTONWOOD AZ

THE AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY



March 2026

Newsletter@alpost25az.org

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Adjutant: John Scott (USN)

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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>

First Vice Commander Message



I would like to thank the Sons and Auxiliary for all they do at the Post, we really appreciate their volunteering. The 2026-2027 Post Officer nominations will be at the General Meeting on April 20th and the election will be held on May 18th. All Post Officer positions are Open; we need you.

Jim Galczynski, First Vice Commander

Adjutant Message



Maintenance volunteers are needed to help keep our Post in good repair. If you have some handyman skills in plumbing, painting, electrical, or HVAC, we could sure use your help. Please let us know at info@alpost25az.org.

Post 25 Member 2026 Status: As of February 13, our Post is at 365 Active Members, (91.7%) of our 398 membership goal. I distributed updated 2026 member rosters to the Executive Board Members for supporting our new focused renewal and recruitment efforts. We're in Membership year 2026 and you'll need to have a 2026 Membership Card in hand to get service at the Bar - Bartenders will be checking. To renew, see the instructions under Announcements on our website <https://alpost25az.org/>

John Scott, Adjutant

Veterans Resource Officer Message



On February 17, 2026 the Department of Veterans Affairs announced effective immediately, that they will not report Veterans to the FBI's National Instant Criminal Background Check System as "prohibited persons" only because they need help from a fiduciary in managing their VA benefits. This corrects a three-decade-old wrong that deprived thousands of Veterans of their Constitutional right to own a firearm without a legal basis. Ref: [Veterans 2nd Amend Rights](#)

Jamie Galczynski, VRO

New Members

Post 25 welcomes the following four new and transfer Legion members:



ARMY



MARINES



NAVY



AIR FORCE



COAST GUARD

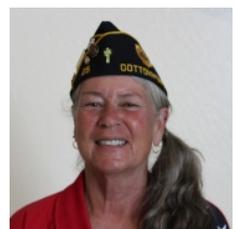
Jacqueline Meyer - Army

William Decker - Army

Fred Shay - Army

Richard Corral - Navy

Auxiliary President Message

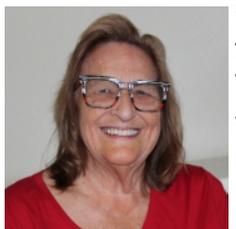


I am sending a GREAT BIG THANK YOU to all the volunteers from the Legion, Auxiliary and SAL who helped setup, decorate, cook, or did takedown/cleanup for the following:

- Annual Sweetheart Dance on Feb 14th (next year will be a Valentine Barn Dance)
- Four Chaplains Memorial Service on Feb 25th (attendees - please spread the word on your experience so hopefully we will have more in attendance next year)
- District 8 Oratorical competition (we had three contestants representing District 8, and I wish them all the best at Area C's Oratorical competition on March 14th, 9:30AM at the Camp Verde Library.

DeDe Dexter, President Unit 25

American Legion Child Well-Being Foundation (CWF)



Our challenge to the Post Auxiliary, Legion, SAL and Riders is donate to the CWF by due date April 1, 2026. "Every Child Deserves a Chance to Thrive", every day children across our nation face challenges that no young person should have to carry alone. Illness, trauma, family hardship, and unexpected crises can change the course of a child's life in an instant. The CWF exists to step in at those moments with compassion, resources, and hope. We have the privilege of helping ensure that children receive the support they need to heal, grow, and thrive. Through grants, emergency assistance, and community programs, the foundation provides life-changing help to families who often have nowhere else to turn. This spring we joined the nationwide effort to raise funds for the CWF. Please consider making a donation and help us continue our family mission of service. Donations can be submitted to the Legion, Auxiliary, SAL and Riders or online at [CWF Donate](#). Thank you for the support.



Peggy Miller, Auxiliary CWF Chairperson

SAL Squadron Commander Message



Our next monthly meeting is on March 2nd at 5pm, looking forward to seeing everyone.

March 12th starting at 5pm we will be serving Cottage Pie. Please come and support your Squadron.

March 27-29th is the Troop Box/Car Show at Post 81, Lake Havasu. Remember to reserve your lodging ASAP. See Rick Shriver for any questions.

Bartenders will be checking and can only accept 2026 Membership cards to provide service at the Bar. To renew your membership (\$40.00), see Rick Shriver or Vinny Berdar, or send a check 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

AL Department of Arizona 2026 Commander Candidate - Ross Bergstresser

Ross was the guest speaker at our February 16th General Meeting. He is running for Department Commander on a platform which is summarized by the following four points he presented:

1. Strengthen our Legion's knowledge, history, and the awareness and principles of service.
2. Increase our humility. In doing so, we can clearly "choose the right," being non-contentious with no bid for notoriety.
3. Seek help from others. No one person knows it all. Surround yourself with good people who have in their hearts "service before self".
4. Be patient. We are all a "work in progress"; we are all at different stages of life and service. Every member is a volunteer, and we should always acknowledge their efforts, no matter how small we may think they are. Say "thank you" to everyone. Reward and recognize all that they do. In doing so, they will continue to press on in their efforts.

Ross recently attended the American Legion College and the new curriculum taught the necessity of a "Servant Leadership" in all leadership positions within the Legion. A servant leader can best be described as serving with empathy for others, humility, stewardship, the ability to listen, and empowering others (trust). Using these abilities with visionary thinking and leading by example."

For more information about Ross, see his impressive biography: [Ross Bergstresser Bio](#)

Upcoming Post Activities – March 2026

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>

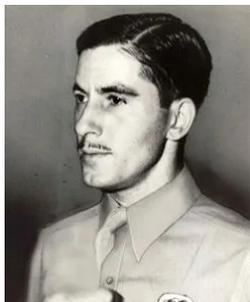
- The following meals will occur on Thursday Bingo nights this month from 5PM to 6:30PM:
 - March 05 - DogTown and Beyond Food Truck
 - March 12 - Sons Dinner: Cottage Pie & Soda Bread
 - March 19 - Dinner: Bill's Wings
 - March 26 - Auxiliary Dinner: Chicken Enchiladas, Rice & Beans
- March 17 - St. Patrick's Day Celebration, 50 cent off drinks if you wear green
- Reminder - [Post Scholarship Applications](#) are due May 8th

Upcoming Area Activities – March 2026

- March 25 from 9AM -2PM, Verde Valley 5th Annual Stand Down 2026 at Cliff Castle Casino. See [VVSD March 2026](#) for details.

- 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 on Friday, April 11, 2026. For more information, see [Arizona Crisis Team Volunteer](#).

Military History - WWII



Leonard Funk at age 25 was drafted into the Army before Pearl Harbor (June 1941) and was assigned to the 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment (82nd Airborne Div). During D-Day (June 6, 1944) First Sergeant Funk found himself with others 20 miles from his planned drop zone. He assembled a group of 18 men, and traveling at night with a badly sprained ankle, led them to the safety of U.S. forces. For his actions at Normandy, he received a Silver Star, a Bronze Star, and the first of three Purple Hearts. Funk also jumped into the Netherlands as part of Operation Market Garden, and was awarded a Distinguished Service Cross and two more Purple Hearts.



On January 29, 1945 acting as the Company Executive Officer who had been killed, Funk helped lead an attack on Holzheim, Belgium. They captured 80 German soldiers and left 4 men to guard them while he led patrols through the town to quell any further resistance. Meanwhile, ~20 enemy soldiers dressed as American soldiers infiltrated the area where the prisoners were held and overpowered the 4 guards. When Funk returned, a German officer stuck a pistol into his stomach. Feigning surrender, Funk went through the motions to disarm. Instead, he slipped his slung submachine gun from his shoulder and, in a flash, killed the officer and kept firing at the ~100 Germans in front of him. He shouted to his men to pick up the weapons of the dead and join the fight. Within 45 second, 21 Germans lay dead, and the rest were either wounded or surrendered. Part of the Medal of Honor citation reads “First Sgt. Funk’s bold action and heroic disregard for his own safety were directly responsible for the recapture of a vastly superior enemy force, which, if allowed to remain free, could have taken the widespread units of Company C by surprise and endangered their entire attack plan.” Ref: [Leonard Funk MOH Citation](#)

**AS YOU GET OLDER YOU’VE
GOT TO STAY POSITIVE.
FOR EXAMPLE, THE OTHER DAY
I FELL DOWN THE STAIRS...
INSTEAD OF GETTING UPSET
I JUST THOUGHT,
“WOW, THAT’S THE FASTEST
I’VE MOVED IN YEARS”**