



American Legion
Joseph Q. Johnson Post 96
PO Box 7096
Surprise, Arizona 85374-0101



Newsletter No. 243

azalpost96.com

November 2023

Commander: Mike Elliott 623-533-4377
1st Vice-Commander: Arnold Kohl 602-692-0659
2nd Vice-Commander: Kelly Donlevy 602-299-5007
Finance Officer: George Van de Langeryt 623-547-6668
Adjutant: VACANT
Chaplain: Joe Urshan 623-584-4653

Executive Committee:

Mike Elliott, Arnold Kohl, Kelly Donlevy
George Van de Langeryt, Nancie Scalercio

Post 96 Officers

Newsletter: George Van de Langeryt gvan8888@aol.com
Sergeant-At-Arms: Kirsten Dube 623-694-2473
Judge Advocate: George Van de Langeryt
Fundraising Chair: Kelly Donlevy 602-299-5007
Membership: Mike Elliott & George Van
VA Hospital Coordinator: Rodney Hage 478-501-6625
Photographer: Paul Satkowski 207-706-6250
Historian: Nancie Scalercio 623-826-3488
Past Commander: Nancie Scalercio
ALR Chapter 96 Director: Eddie Jenness 480-584-1145

The Surprise Post 96 Newsletter is the official publication of Joseph Q. Johnson Post 96

IMPORTANT NOTICE!

THERE WILL BE NO NOVEMBER POST 96 BUSINESS MEETING.

NEXT Post business meeting 1800 December 28 at AZ Traditions Neighborhood Center
17225 N Citrus Rd., Surprise, AZ 85374

Post Officer's meeting is canceled for November

Riders meeting 1700 Saturday November 4 at Surprise Chevrolet

Voiture 1154 Promenade 1000 November 4 at Nancie's Scalercio house

Marty Schwab Memorial Breakfast 1000 Sunday November 19 NEW LOCATION
Richi's Diner - 15609 W Bell Rd #100, Surprise, AZ 85374

Post 96 Veterans Day Fundraiser on November 4 & 5 at Sam's Club!

Happy 248th Birthday to the US Marine Corps on November 10

Happy Veterans Day to All!

Very Happy Thanksgiving Post 96 & Friends!

COMMANDERS CORNER



Here we are in October already. The year is drawing to a close and some of you have not paid your dues. Please pay them before December 31.

Gail and I went to the Rider's Marty Schwab Memorial Spaghetti Dinner held October 21, 2023. There was a good turn out and it looked like everyone enjoyed the food. My hat is off to the Rider's for putting on a successful event.

How many have a pin of your branch of service? While at the dinner, I was introduced to two more pins that Marty and Bobbie's son, Ken, can make. One has the American Legion logo on it and the other is for Purple Heart recipients. They both look pretty good.



A reminder that we will **not** have a meeting in November. Our meeting would fall on Thanksgiving Day. Have a great and safe Thanksgiving.

For God and Country,

Mike Elliott, Legion Rider, Post 96 Commander

FROM THE SR VICE-COMMANDER



What Do the Items on the POW/MIA Table Represent?



“Those who have served, and those currently serving in the uniformed services of the United States, are ever mindful that the sweetness of enduring peace has always been tainted by the bitterness of personal sacrifice. We are compelled to never forget that while we enjoy our daily pleasures, there are others who have endured and may still be enduring the agonies of pain, deprivation and imprisonment.”

Meaning of the symbols:

The small table is set for one. It symbolizes the members who are missing from our midst. They are commonly called POWs or MIAs; they are “comrades.” They are unable to be here and so we remember them.

The table is smaller than the others, symbolizing the frailty of one prisoner alone against his oppressors.

The tablecloth is white, representing the purity of their intentions to respond to their country’s call to arms.

The empty chair depicts an unknown face, representing no specific Soldier, Sailor, Marine or Airman, but all who are not here with us.

The table is round to show that our concern for them is never ending.

The Bible represents faith in a higher power and the pledge to our country, founded as one nation under God.

A black chair cover with white insignias and lettering reminds all POWs/MIAs “You are not forgotten.”

The black napkin stands for the emptiness these warriors have left in the hearts of their families and friends.

The single red rose reminds us of their families and loved ones, and the red ribbon represents the love of country, which inspired them to answer the nation’s call.

The candle is reminiscent of the light of everlasting hope, which lives in our hearts to illuminate their way home, away from their captors to the open arms of a grateful nation.

The candle is lit to symbolize the upward reach of their unconquerable spirit.

The slices of lemon on the plate remind us of their bitter fate.

The salt upon the plate represents the tears of their families.

The wine glass turned upside down reminds us that our distinguished comrades cannot be with us to drink a toast or join in the festivities.

According to the U.S. Department of Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, there are about 81,600 Americans missing — from the battlefields of World War II to recent conflicts. About 75% of those are in the Indo-Pacific region. About 41,000 of the 81,600 missing are presumed lost at sea.

Let us be ever mindful of those American service men and women who are no longer able to participate in these events. Let us be especially mindful of the continuing pain, sorrow, and sacrifice of our comrades-in-arms who bear the title of Prisoner of War or Missing in Action whose story remains unfinished. Let us remember.

For God and Country,
Arnold “Arnie” Kohl, 1st Vice Commander

FROM THE JR VICE-COMMANDER



2023 VETSGIVING

Thanksgiving holiday is right around the corner and I for one am looking forward to delicious meals including turkey, side dishes, and lots of yummy pumpkin desserts. I plan to spend it with my family and just enjoy time with them that we don't get when we are so busy and wrapped up in our daily lives. This is a time to slow down and extend wishes of joy and gratitude to family and friends and emphasize togetherness and the value of bonding with those in our lives. So, make time for those loved ones and get involved in some festive activities with them. Below is one of those fun-filled festivities for you to consider.

The Phoenix VA is hosting a Vetsgiving this Saturday, November 4 at the Carl T. Hayden VA Medical Center and the gates will open at 1000 and go until 1400. This is a free event for veterans and their families and will have lots of food, turkey giveaways, live music, and even carnival games. They will also provide health screenings and vaccinations, if you need any. If you are looking for something fun to do and want to win a turkey, then this is the place to be. The address is 650 E. Indian School Rd, Phoenix, AZ 85012.

Veterans, please bring your Veteran ID or DD214 to get a turkey, as they are limited to one per Veteran.

Have a Happy Turkey Day!

For God and Country,

Kelly Donlevy, 2nd Vice Commander

FROM THE FINANCE OFFICER AND JUDGE ADVOCATE



I am happy to say the revised by-laws were presented to the Post and accepted by the membership. I will submit them to Dept. for approval.

The budget for 2023-24 was submitted and approved. It was a busy and productive meeting in October.

Semper Fi!

George Van de Langeryt
Finance Officer & Judge Advocate

Past Commander & Legion Rider
AZ Veterans Hall of Fame – Class of 2018

FROM THE CHAPLAIN



NOVEMBER – MONTH OF REMEMBRANCE

We pray for confidence in the loving mercy of God, for faith in the Resurrection to new life, and for the hope of being reunited in God's kingdom. Priest: Our Lord comes to raise the dead, and comforts us with the solace of his love.

Lord, we pray for the people of Israel as their peace has been shattered by terrorists. May they gain hope and strength with their faith in God. We pray again for peace in the Holy Land.

Amen.

For God and Country,
Chaplain Joe Urshan

SICK CALL

Last month we told you about Ed Foerster, a Charter Member and the First Post Commander. He moved into a nursing home but I forgot to give you his new address. I guess I had a senior moment.

Edward G. Foerster
Arbor Hills Nursing Center, Room 41A
7800 Parkway Dr.
La Mesa, CA 91942

Please call or write Ed and say Hi!

His room phone is 619-460-2330, he has a cell but prefers calls on his room phone. Ed does not do texts or email.

Please inform Chaplain Joe if you or your family are having medical problems. The Post will pray for you.

POST EVERLASTING

No reports

FROM THE FUND RAISING CHAIRMAN



Hello brothers and sisters,

We have our Veteran Day fundraiser coming up on November 4 and 5 at Sam's Club off Bell Rd and the 303. We will be there from 0900-1700 on Saturday and 1000-1600 on Sunday. We still have a few spots available, if any of you would like to join us. We ask for just 2 hours of your time to engage with the customers and hand out poppies or flags. We will give flags on Saturday and poppies on Sunday. For those who cannot stand for long periods, there will be comfortable chairs for you to rest your legs. We would love to get to know any of you we haven't met yet and see those we haven't seen in a while.

Please give me a call at 602-299-5007 to set up your time.

For God and Country,

Kelly Donlevy, Fundraising Chair

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Our Sgt@Arms, Kirsten Dube, who is on active duty with the Air Force, checked in. She is currently stationed at Dubai in the United Arab Emirates. All is well but hot and humid. With the events going on in the Mid-East, military personnel are restricted to base.

The winner of the Membership Drawing at the October 26 meeting was Michael Shane Peters who, unfortunately, was not present to win. It pays to attend meetings.

As of August 30, we have 35 pay the post, 26 pay online and 35 PUFL's. Total is 97. Our goal is 183 so we have 53.01% paid! Keep those cards and letters coming; don't forget your \$40 check.

Have you moved, changed your phone number or email address? If so, please contact Mike or George. Give us the new information and we will update the records so you will continue to get your Legion Magazine and the Post Newsletter mailed or emailed to the proper address.

Mike & George

Voiture Locale 1154 Report



Our next Promenade will be 1000 on November 4 at the home of Nancie Scalercio.

Interested in the 40&8? Please talk to any of our members in Post 96.

Nancie Scalercio, Past Commander
Voiture Locale 1154 Fundraising Coordinator

American Legion Riders Report



The American Legion Riders of Post 96 Surprise, AZ would like to thank everyone who helped make this event a success and help raise funds for our local Veterans in need. Special thanks to the Schwab family who attended as our special guests. Also special thanks for the donations, raffle and 50/50 contributors. Chef Peter's and his crew at Happy Trails did a fantastic job.

See page of photos.

Eddie Jenness, ALR Director

November Calendar

Wednesday November 1 – 0900-1000 - Veterans Coffee Hour at Surprise Funeral Care, 16063 W Bell Rd, Surprise, AZ. Every 1st Wednesday of each month, Veterans are invited to a free coffee hour, compliments of Dignity Memorial.

Wednesday November 1 – Senior Day at Fry's, Bashas' and Albertsons. 10% discount on your groceries.

Thursday November 2 – 1600 Post 96 Officer's Meeting is canceled for November.

Thursday November 2 – 1000 American Legion Post 94, in Sun City West, meets 1st Thursday, of each month. Sun City West Foundation Building at 14465 RH Johnson Blvd, Sun City West, AZ. No Zoom connection.

Saturday November 4 – 1700 American Legion Riders Chapter 96 meeting at Surprise Chevrolet.

Saturday November 4 – 1000 40&8 Hassayampa Voiture 1154 Promenade at the home of Nancie Scalercio.

November 4, 1862 - Richard Gatling patented his first rapid-fire machine-gun which used revolving barrels rotating around a central mechanism to load, fire, and extract the cartridges.

Tuesday November 7 - 0700-1100, Post 94 Pancake Breakfast. See flyer. Don't miss this event! Great food and great service and a good cause.

Friday November 10 – 248th Birthday of the US Marine Corps.

November 11 - Veterans Day – This is the anniversary of the signing of the armistice treaty, which ended World War I and is a day to thank military Veterans for their service.

Saturday November 11 - Veterans Day – 0830 - The annual Veterans Day Ceremony will take place at Sunland Memorial Park by the North West Valley Veterans Association. Lots of music, flags, patriotic speakers and a picnic lunch. See flyer.

Tuesday November 14 – 0900-1000 Veteran's Coffee Hour at Sunland Memorial Park. All vets and friends are invited for coffee and nibbles. Second Tuesday every month. In the Chapel building at 15826 N Del Webb Blvd, Sun City, AZ 85351.

Saturday November 18 – 0900 NWVVA meeting Sunland Memorial Park.

Sunday November 19 - 1000 Marty Schwab Memorial Breakfast at Richi's Diner, Bell & Reems. All veterans and family are invited to this informal gathering.

Sunday November 19 – 1400 District 11 meeting at Kellis – Draper Post 12, 176 N. Frontier St., Wickenburg, AZ 85390

November 19, 1863 – President Abraham Lincoln delivered the Gettysburg Address during ceremonies dedicating 17 acres of the Gettysburg Battlefield as a National Cemetery. Famed orator Edward Everett of Massachusetts preceded Lincoln and spoke for two hours. Lincoln then delivered his address in less than two minutes. Although many in attendance were at first unimpressed, Lincoln's words have come to symbolize the definition of democracy itself.

November 21, 1920 - The IRA (Irish Republican Army) shot and killed 14 British soldiers in Dublin in what became known as "Bloody Sunday."

Thursday November 23 – THANKSGIVING DAY!

Thursday November 23 – NO LEGION MEETING IN NOVEMBER.

November 22, 1963 - At 12:30 p.m., on Elm Street in downtown Dallas, President John F. Kennedy's motorcade slowly approached a triple underpass. Shots rang out. The President was struck in the back, then in the head. He was rushed to Parkland Memorial Hospital where fifteen doctors tried to save him. At 1 p.m., John Fitzgerald Kennedy, 35th President of the United States, was pronounced dead. On board Air Force One, at 2:38

p.m., Lyndon B. Johnson was sworn in as the 36th President.

November 26, 1789 - The first American holiday occurred, proclaimed by President George Washington to be Thanksgiving Day, a day of prayer and public thanksgiving in gratitude for the successful establishment of the new American republic.

SAVE THE DATE

March 23-24 2024 - Luke Days Airshow

Up Coming District 11 Meetings

All Meetings on Sunday with Training at 1300 and General Meeting at 1400

Jan. 14, 2024: John J. Morris Post 62
9847 W. Desert Cove Ave., Peoria, AZ 85345

Mar. 10, 2024: Hazelton – Butler Post 53
402 E. Narramore Ave., Buckeye, AZ 85326

Remarks: Officer Nominations

May 19, 2024: Earl E. Mitchell Post 29
6822 N. 57th Dr., Glendale, AZ 85301

Remarks: Officer Elections and installations



FROM THE EDITOR

Please help us find new businesses or individuals to advertise in our newsletter. It is only \$5 (\$60/year) and we give Legion Members a 20% discount.

John Wallick Jewelers has a new business card in this issue. Note they have new hours, 0930 to 1600 Monday to Fridays. Saturdays is 0930 to 1500.

George Van de Langeryt
Past Commander & Newsletter Editor



Congresswoman Lesko Weekly Update

I'm Retiring from Congress at the End of My Term

You might have seen in the news this week that I announced my plans to retire from Congress at the end of my term on January 2, 2025. It is an honor to represent

the people of Arizona's 8th Congressional District and I look forward to continuing to serve you for the next 15 months.

Being away from my family three weeks out of every month and traveling back and forth to Washington, D.C. almost every week is difficult, especially since Congress is in a state of gridlock and it is hard to get anything done. I want to spend more time with my husband, children, grandchildren, and my 94-year-old mother. Please know that my office and I will continue to passionately serve you until my term is done.

A FEW PHOTOS FROM THE MARTY SCHWAB MEMORIAL BREAKFAST ON OCTOBER 15 AT RICHIE'S DINER. NEXT BREAKFAST IS NOVEMBER 19 AT RICHIE'S; PLEASE JOIN US AT 1000 FOR GOOD FOOD AND FELLOW VETERANS.



A few photos from the Legion Riders Marty Schwab Memorial Spaghetti Dinner on October 21 at Happy Trails.



Honored guests - The Schwab Family - Ken, Bobbie and Neil



ALR Chairman Eddie Jenness on right



Post Commander Mike Elliott and wife Gail



Sign-in table with Karina Burch (on right)



Tom Roark serves Desert (on left)



Two patrons, Jeff Richie, a friend, Nancie Scalerio and Dave



The silent auction and raffle table



Mike Elliott talks with Jack Coyle, Post 94 Commander



Bobbie Schwab thanks all who attended and the Riders



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All proceeds support Soldier's Best Friend, ALLECA (American Legion Law Enforcement Career Academy) & Catholic Charities MANA House, "Veterans Helping Veterans"



VETERANS DAY CELEBRATION

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 11

0830 PATRIOTIC MUSIC BEGINS

0900 CEREMONY

PICNIC LUNCH IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING

Sunland Memorial Park

15826 Del Webb Blvd., Sun City, AZ 85351

623-933-0161

Distinguished Guest Speaker

LTC Charles Stewart



Guest Chaplain

Ted Stults



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