



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



Newsletter No. 244

azalpost96.com

December 2023

**Commander:** Mike Elliott 623-533-4377  
**1<sup>st</sup> Vice-Commander:** Arnold Kohl 602-692-0659  
**2<sup>nd</sup> 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!**

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

***Post Officer's meeting 1600 December 7 at AZ Traditions Classroom***

***Riders meeting 1700 Saturday December 2 at Surprise Chevrolet***

***Voiture 1154 Promenade 1000 December 2 at Nancie's Scalercio house***

***Marty Schwab Memorial Breakfast 1000 Sunday December 17 NEW LOCATION  
Richi's Diner - 15609 W Bell Rd #100, Surprise, AZ 85374***

**Very Merry Christmas Post 96 & Friends!**

**COMMANDERS CORNER**



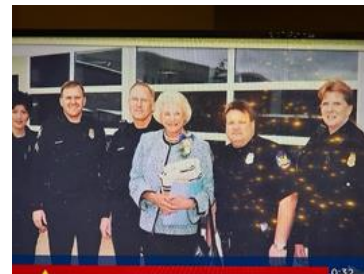
I hope everyone had a good Thanksgiving. Sorry we could not have a November meeting. Our last meeting for this year is December 28. Please attend, bring a friend. An over cap of the year shows that we have been successful in helping veterans and the community. This is accomplished by donations (a.k.a. fundraising) and paid dues. We have added a Service Officer, helped and sponsored the Boy Scouts, attended funerals, and the list keeps growing. I thank each and every one who has made our Post is an example of how we veterans are a pillar in our community. With that said, I wish everyone a very Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year.

For God and Country,  
Mike Elliott, Legion Rider, Post 96 Commander

**FROM THE SR VICE-COMMANDER**



On December 1, 2023, Arizona, America and the world lost a wonderful person Sandra Day O'Connor. She was the first woman to serve as a United States Supreme Court Associate Justice, but she



was so much more than that. She wasn't aloft, she was a kind caring person who didn't consider her prestigious position made her better than others. Justice O'

Connor had time to converse with you and you could tell she cared.

The photo on the left was taken upon the dedication of Sandra Day O'Connor High School in north Phoenix. She was at the school to speak, and my

squad had the privilege to provide security. Justice O'Connor took the time to talk with us and pose for this photo, which I cherish, and have a copy of on my desk. That was the only time I personally met her but since she was from Arizona, she frequently spent time here. I have read posts from another Phoenix Police Officer who provided security for her describing her kindness and unpretentiousness.

When she was at Sky Harbor Airport waiting for a plane, she would ask to be taken to the employee breakroom where she would talk with the airport employees and others.

Justice O'Connor grew up on a large family ranch near Duncan, Arizona. She attended Stanford University where she graduated with an undergraduate degree and then a law degree. After graduation, she couldn't find a job in a law firm even though she graduated third in her class, as law firms were only hiring males at that time. She traveled to Germany with her husband who was an Army lawyer and she worked as a civilian lawyer there. Upon returning to the U.S., she started a law firm in Phoenix. From 1965 to 1969, she served as an Arizona Assistant Attorney General. In 1969, she was elected to the Arizona State Senate where she served until 1974. She was then elected to the Arizona Superior Court, and she was later appointed to the Arizona Court of Appeals. In 1981 U.S., Senators Dennis DeConcini and Barry Goldwater (AZ) recommended Justice O'Connor to President Ronald Reagan to fill a vacancy on the U.S. Supreme Court. Justice O'Connor served on the U.S. Supreme Court from 1981-2006 when she resigned to become a caregiver for her husband, John Jay O'Connor who was diagnosed with Alzheimer's. She cared for him until his death over two decades later.

Justice O'Connor was a brilliant, extremely accomplished woman, but more important than that, she was a caring woman who cared for her family, her State, her Country and all people. Rest in Peace Your Honor.

(Pictured in photo L-R Barbara Galvano, Sgt. Bryan Cooley, Det. Arnold Kohl, Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, Hal McCall and Karen Freund).

For God and Country,  
Arnold "Arnie" Kohl, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander

## **FROM THE JR VICE-COMMANDER**



Stacey Holland is the School Liaison Program Manager for Luke AFB grades pre-K through 12<sup>th</sup> grade. She is also the State Lead for all Military Installations in the State of Arizona. Each military service has a dedicated set of civilians, like herself, who serve as liaisons between families, individual schools, base leadership, and the community. So, you can see she plays an important role in guiding and helping military families to essential resources and in transitioning from one community to another. Ms. Holland not only educates these families on challenges faced but also provides training, educational activities, and networking events.

Last month on November 9, Rod Hage and I delivered a check for \$1000.00 to Luke Elementary School through Stacey Holland. This money goes to help the children whose parents are deployed which allows kids to cope better and adjust to life while their parent(s) are deployed and/or to a new base after a PCS move. It gives them supplies for the different programs that are not currently well budgeted in public schools.

While Rod and I were there, they were having their Veterans Day Celebration, and we were asked to be a part of this day. It was a blessing to be there and watch our future generation learn about Veterans Day and honor those who answered the call.

Please see the attached pictures of that day...

For God and Country,  
Kelly Donlevy, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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**



Welcome to the 12<sup>th</sup> month of the year. It is my prayer that December brings you all the blessings January to December didn't. May the Lord crown the year with goodness for you and yours.

Blessed are you, Our God, Ruler of the Universe, who makes us holy through Your commandments, and commands us to light the Hanukkah lights.

God, you are the source of our wisdom. We pray for wisdom and courage to do justice, to respond to what is wrong in the world by acting to make it right; we pray for wisdom and courage to grow in the unity of your Son, Jesus Christ, who with you and the Holy Spirit, reigns forever and ever.

Amen.

For God and Country,  
Chaplain Joe Urshan

### **SICK CALL**

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**



Last month we had our final fundraising weekend of the year. Not only did we have lots of fun outside Sam's Club, but we also raised a bit of money! Our total for the two days came to \$2223.71! Customers were happy, fun to talk with, and willing to give to help our brothers and sisters.

A great big THANK YOU to all those that answered the call to serve over the weekend.

Phil Ellis who shows EVERY fundraiser and on both days!

Michael Hood who always brings a smile and a great story!

Tom Frizzell who spent 6 hours there with me on Saturday!

Bob Cornfield, a first timer with us, who has a sparkling personality!

Russ Harlan who has a kind word or funny joke, for everyone that passes by!

Finally, my husband Rob, who helps me with everything!

These fundraisers would not happen without all the help from these good people, and I appreciate each of them and the time they spend helping. There is a page of photos in this newsletter.

May they and all of you have a very Merry Christmas season!

### **VETERANS DAY FUNDRAISER Financial Report**

Total for both days, deposited by George Van de Langeryt and Kelly Donlevy on 11/08/2023.

11/04/2023 Saturday-flags:

Cash \$1029.48

Square \$ 10.00

Total: \$1039.48 (General Fund)

11/05/2023 Sunday-poppies:

Cash \$1134.23

Square \$50.00

Total \$1184.23 (Veterans Fund)

Total deposit: \$2223.71

The Square amounts are charged to the donor's credit card.

For God and Country,  
Kelly Donlevy, Fundraising Chair

### **MEMBERSHIP REPORT**

We are nearing the end of 2023. Dues for 2024 will be late after December 31, so please get your dues paid. Best way to pay them is online at MyLegion.org. Membership is on a fiscal calendar. Starting July 1 of the current year and ending June 30 of the following year. For the 2024 membership dues, that means July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024. Again, please pay your dues. Our membership is 183, but only 120 have paid for 2024. That is only 65.57 percent that have paid. We would like to see 100 percent. There are Posts that have met or exceeded 100 percent because their members paid and/or their recruited more.

As of December 1, we have 44 pay the post, 41 pay online and 35 PUFL's. Total is 120. Our goal is 183 so we have 65.57% paid! Keep those cards and letters coming; don't forget your \$40 check. Thanks to all who paid their dues. It is easy to pay online. If you use a credit card, we don't mail your membership card because you can print your own online. But if you want one, let George know and he will mail it to you.

**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 December 2 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

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### **American Legion Riders Report**



Shamrock foodservice warehouse teamed up to make sure everyone had a happy holiday this Thanksgiving. 300 turkeys arrived on November 18 before they are distributed to those in need. I got involved dropping off some of them to the American Legion Post 105, Post 107 and I dropped some at the Luke AFB.

During the holiday season, we want to make sure we can provide a level of dignity and grace to individuals who are experiencing some financial hardships during the holiday season. I, and the Riders, are looking forward to help those in need at Christmas.

Karina Burch, ALR Treasurer

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### **December Calendar**

**Saturday December 2** – 1700 American Legion Riders Chapter 96 meeting at Surprise Chevrolet.

**Saturday December 2** – 1000 40&8 Hassayampa Voiture 1154 Promenade at the home of Nancie Scalercio.

**Wednesday December 6** – 0900-1000 - Veterans Coffee Hour at Surprise Funeral Care, 16063 W Bell Rd, Surprise, AZ. Every 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of each month, Veterans are invited to a free coffee hour, compliments of Dignity Memorial.

**Wednesday December 6** – Senior Day at Fry's, Bashas' and Albertsons. 10% discount on your groceries.

**December 6, 1877** - At his laboratory in West Orange, New Jersey, Thomas Edison spoke the children's verse "Mary had a Little Lamb..." while demonstrating his newly invented phonograph which utilized a revolving cylinder wrapped in tinfoil to record sounds.

**December 6, 1917** - Two ships collided at Halifax, Nova Scotia, resulting in an explosion that killed more than 1,500 persons and injured 8,000. The Norwegian ship *Imo* collided with the French munitions ship *Mont Blanc* which was loaded with supplies for the war in Europe, including 5,000 tons of TNT. A tidal wave caused by the explosion destroyed much of the city.

**December 6, 1921** - The Irish Free State became an independent member of the British Commonwealth.

**Thursday December 7** – 1600 Post 96 Officer's Meeting at AZ Traditions Classroom.

**Thursday December 7** – 1000 American Legion Post 94, in Sun City West, meets 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday, of each month. Sun City West Foundation Building at 14465 RH Johnson Blvd, Sun City West, AZ. No Zoom connection.

**December 7, 1941** - The U.S. Naval base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, was attacked by nearly 200 Japanese aircraft in a raid that lasted just over one hour and left nearly 3,000 Americans dead.

**Thursday December 7** - Hanukkah begins at nightfall. Hanukkah is a Jewish festival that reaffirms the ideals of Judaism and commemorates in particular the rededication of the Second Temple of Jerusalem by the lighting of candles on each day of the festival. Although not mentioned in the Hebrew Scriptures, Hanukkah came to be widely celebrated and remains one of the most popular Jewish religious observances.

**December 8, 1991** - The USSR (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) ceased to exist, as the leaders of Russia, Byelorussia and the Ukraine signed an agreement creating the Commonwealth of Independent States. The remaining republics of the former USSR, with the exception of Georgia, joined the new Commonwealth.

**Friday December 8** - Immaculate Conception of Mary

**Saturday December 9** – 1200 Wesley Bolin Plaza Stadium, 1700 West Washington, Phoenix,



Commemorating Pearl Harbor:  
“A Date Which Will Live In Infamy”

This is a personal story from U.S. Navy veteran Ed Miklavic about that fateful day on Dec. 7, 1942. Ed will place the Pearl Harbor Survivors wreath at the Commemorating Pearl Harbor Day Ceremony hosted by Honoring America's Veterans at noon on Dec. 9 at Wesley Bolin Plaza.

**Tuesday December 12** – 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.

**Friday December 15** - Hanukkah ends at nightfall.

**Saturday December 16** – 0900 NWVVA meeting Sunland Memorial Park.

**Sunday December 17** - 1000 Marty Schwab Memorial Breakfast at Richi's Diner, Bell & Reems. All veterans and family are invited to this informal gathering.

**December 17, 1777** - At Valley Forge in Pennsylvania, the Continental Army led by General George Washington settled in for the winter.

**December 18, 2019** - Donald Trump, the 45<sup>th</sup> U.S. President, was impeached by the House of Representatives on charges of Abuse of Power and Obstruction of Congress. The charges alleged that Trump sought help from Ukraine to investigate Democratic rival Joe Biden and his son Hunter Biden, to interfere with the 2020 presidential election, and that Trump attempted to obstruct the House's impeachment inquiry by directing his aides to ignore subpoenas for documents and testimony. Trump was acquitted on February 5, 2020 when the U.S. Senate failed to reach the two-thirds majority needed for conviction.

**December 19, 1946** - War broke out in French Indochina as Ho Chi Minh attacked the French seeking to oust them from Vietnam. This marked the beginning of a thirty-year conflict, which eventually led to heavy U.S. involvement and ended with a Communist victory in April 1975 after U.S. withdrawal from South Vietnam.

**Friday December 21** – Winter Solstice, winter begins in the Northern Hemisphere. In the Southern Hemisphere today is the beginning of summer.

**Monday December 25** – Christmas Day, commemorating the birth of Jesus of Nazareth. Although the exact date of his birth is not known, it has been celebrated on December 25 by the Western (Roman Catholic) Church since 336 A.D.

**December 26** - Boxing Day in the United Kingdom and many other countries, a day of gift giving when boxes of food, clothing and other gifts are traditionally given to employees, tradespeople and other service providers.

**December 28, 1947** - Victor Emmanuel III, the last King of Italy, died while in exile in Alexandria, Egypt. He had become king upon the assassination of his father in 1900. Following World War I, he named Benito Mussolini to form a cabinet and then failed to prevent Mussolini's Fascists from seizing power. In 1946, he abdicated and went into exile.

**December 30, 1922** - The USSR (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) was established through the confederation of Russia, Byelorussia, Ukraine and the Transcaucasian Federation.

**December 31** - New Year's Eve, the final evening of the Gregorian calendar year, traditionally a night for merry-making to welcome in the New Year. If you party, drive sober and safe.

**SAVE THE DATE**

**February 20, 2024 – 1145 Massing of the Colors & Service of Remembrance.** Palm Ridge Recreation Center, 13800 W. Deer Valley Dr., Sun City West

**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

**Gary Vaughn, District 11 Commander**  
garyavaughan@gmail.com

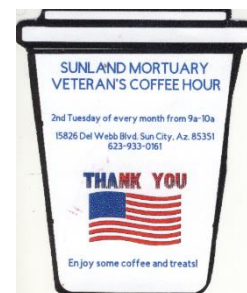
**Jan. 14, 2024:** John J. Morris Post 62  
9847 W. Desert Cove Ave., Peoria, AZ 85345

**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. 57<sup>th</sup> 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/month (\$60/year) and we give Legion Members a 20% discount.

Karen and I wish all our fellow veterans and families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

George Van de Langeryt  
Past Commander & Newsletter Editor

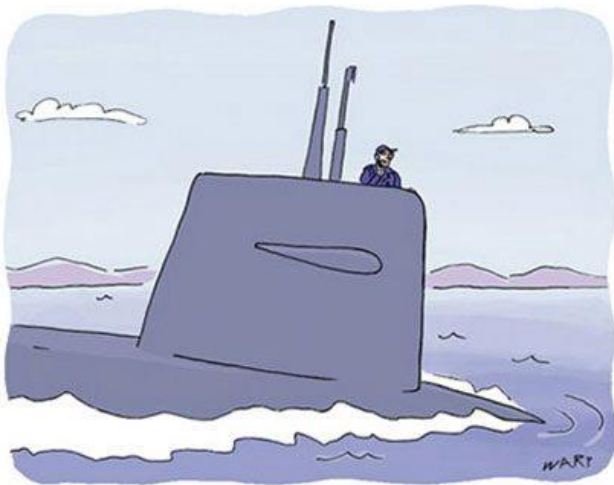
On the way out of the church one Sunday morning, the preacher grabbed Jack by the hand and pulled him aside.

"You need to join the Army of the Lord, Jack!" he said.

Jack replied, "I'm already in the Army of the Lord, Pastor."

Pastor questioned, "How come I almost never see you except at Christmas and Easter?"

Jack whispered back, "I'm in the secret service."



"Hey, it's been great talking to you, Mom, but I really have to go."



"Gesundheit."

An F-16 comes careening down the runway. It's anything but smooth, fishtailing, and leaving a line of burnt rubber and sparks behind it.

Tower: "Need any assistance, Airman?" Pilot: "I don't know, we're not done crashing yet!"

What's the Marines' main mission?

To make sure the Army never gets their feet wet.

An airman, soldier, and Marine are sitting around talking about hardships they faced on their last deployment.

Airman: "The worst was when the air conditioner in our tent broke and it was 110 outside!" Soldier: "WTF, you had air conditioners?" Marine: "Wait, stop. You had tents?"



## Photos of the Fundraiser Team at Sam's Club November 4 & 5



Tom Frizzell



Robb Donlevy



Michael Hood



Phil Ellis & Friend



Russ Harlan & a donor



Bob Cornfield



## Photos from Luke AFB elementary school and the Post 96 \$1000 Donation with Kelly Donlevy and Rod Hage







The City of Surprise is excited to announce the inaugural Vet Fest – an event focused on bringing veterans together for fun, community and connections to services.

Saturday, February 10, 2024, 5 – 8 p.m.  
Mark Coronado Park, 15960 N. Bullard Ave.

Enjoy music, food, vendor booths, information from veteran service providers and more!

## CITY OF SURPRISE VET FEST SPONSORSHIP

The City of Surprise is excited to announce the inaugural **Vet Fest** will be held on **Saturday, February 10, 2024 from 5 p.m. - 8 p.m.** at Mark Coronado Park, 15960 N. Bullard Ave.

The City would like to invite everyone in your organization to attend and for your business to consider supporting this event with a financial sponsorship. Your sponsorship will contribute to the ongoing mission of Surprise to be Veteran-friendly city, offering support services and building community connections.

Below you will find the various sponsorship levels. Sponsor registration must be completed by **December 22, 2023**.

For questions, please contact Danielle Osborne, Community Initiatives Supervisor at 623-222-1034 or [danielle.osborne@surpriseaz.gov](mailto:danielle.osborne@surpriseaz.gov).

For more information, visit:  
[surpriseaz.gov/VetFest](https://surpriseaz.gov/VetFest)



### SPONSORSHIP LEVELS

Note on Display Tables:

The event will only allow promotion of free services for veterans at the tables;  
Promotion of services for a fee will not be allowed.

TITLE SPONSOR	ENTERTAINMENT SPONSOR	STAGE SPONSOR	TABLES & CHAIRS SPONSOR	FRIEND OF EVENT
<b>\$4000</b>	<b>\$3500</b>	<b>\$2000</b>	<b>\$1000</b>	<b>\$500</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• “Diamond Sponsor” distinction &amp; logo placement on marketing material</li><li>• Display table (6’) for organization marketing</li><li>• Organization logo on a sponsorship banner at event</li><li>• Sponsorship acknowledgement during announcements</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• “Platinum Sponsor” distinction &amp; logo placement on marketing material</li><li>• Display table (6’) for organization marketing</li><li>• Organization logo on a sponsorship banner at event</li><li>• Sponsorship acknowledgement during announcements</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• “Gold Sponsor” distinction &amp; logo placement on marketing material</li><li>• Display table (6’) for organization</li><li>• Organization logo on a sponsorship banner at event</li><li>• Sponsorship acknowledgement during announcements</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Organization logo on a sponsorship banner at the event (“Silver Sponsor”)</li><li>• Display table (6’) for organization</li><li>• Organization logo on a sponsorship banner at event</li><li>• Sponsorship acknowledgement during announcements</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Organization logo on a sponsorship banner at event (“Bronze Sponsor”)</li><li>• Display table (6’) for organization</li><li>• Sponsorship acknowledgement during announcements</li></ul>





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



*Forwarding Service Requested – December*



**Have you signed up a *NEW* member for 2024?**