



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



Newsletter No. 246

azalpost96.com

February 2024

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:
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 February 22 at AZ Traditions
17225 N Citrus Rd., Surprise, AZ 85374
We meet in the Traditions Neighborhood Center 18265 Traditions Loop Rd E
PLEASE – ASK THE GATE GUARD FOR DIRECTIONS!

Post Officer's meeting 1600 Thursday February 1 at the Commander's home
Voiture 1154 Promenade on 1000 Saturday February 3 at the Post 145 meeting room.

Marty Schwab Memorial Breakfast 1000 Sunday February 18 NEW LOCATION
Richi's Diner - 15609 W Bell Rd #100, Surprise, AZ 85374

ALR Chapter 96 will be meeting after the Post meeting on February 22 at AZ Traditions.

COMMANDERS CORNER



Happy New Year 2024. This year as our 25th anniversary of our Post. How time flies, right? It is once again time to hear campaigns of people running for an office position. I am not talking about federal offices; I am talking about

Legion offices. Department Commander position runner is Robert B Gilmore Jr. (aka: Bubbles). Department Area 'B' Vice Commander: Jesse Fernandez. National Executive Committeeman: Andres "Andy" Jaime Jr. Alternates to National Executive Committeemen are Michael Simon and Kenneth "Ken" Queen. The positions mentioned are voted on at the annual Department Conference in June 2024.

Here at our Post we too have election time. Our elected positions are Commander, 1st Vice

Commander, 2nd Vice Commander, and Finance Officer. If anyone wants to run for these positions, please come forward.

Thank you to those who come to our meetings and your volunteerism to support veterans and the community.

Membership

This is a new calendar year, but the Legion New Year started last July. We still have members who have not paid their annual dues. Easiest way is to pay online at WWW.MyLegion.org. If you prefer, you may come to our meeting or mail in the reminder form to pay your dues.

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

FROM THE 1st VICE-COMMANDER



Greetings,

I have a few small subjects to address this month. First, I revised our meeting sign-in forms, and we started using them at our January General meeting. The new form includes service hours, which we haven't been collecting and should have been. Your attendance at the meeting counts as 2 hours if you were there at 1800 hrs. The time you spend doing any other veteran support activities, Post fundraisers, etc. should also be included. These hours are reported to the Department of Arizona, who in turn forwards them to National. National uses these service hours to justify American Legion support from Congress. Please report your service hours on the sign-in form and let both Department of Arizona and National know that Post 96 is an active post fulfilling the four Pillars of the American Legion.



George Van de Langeryt has been the MC for the last several years at the City Saturday Memorial Day Ceremony. Photo from in 2019.

Corps League always took the lead on the ceremony and provided an honor guard. For some reason in 2023, the Marine Corps League didn't organize this ceremony and it didn't occur. Post 96 has started the ball rolling to reactivate the ceremony and is taking the lead, with support from DAV Star 24. Contact is being made with the City of Surprise who annually supplied the wreath and provided other

Next, for many years Post 96 and The Marine Corps League White Mountain Detachment held a wreath laying and memorial service on the Saturday before Memorial Day, to honor the thousands of men and women who trained at Luke AFB Auxiliary Field #3 during World War 2. The Marine



City Council and dignitaries at the WWII Army Air Corps Monument by the lake. Photo from 2019 ceremony

support. Luke Auxiliary Field #3, also known as Fighter Field, **City Council and dignitaries gather at the monument after the ceremony in 2019.** Air Force landing field located near what is now Surprise City Hall. A monument honoring those who trained there is in Surprise Park by the library and that is where the ceremony is held. More information will be provided as it becomes available, and I ask you all to attend and participate in the ceremony.

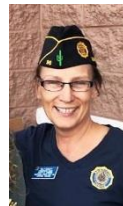


Peoria Sports complex. There were many interesting vehicles Jeeps, tanks, Deuce and half trucks, and five-ton trucks some dating back to World War 1. Also, a scale model of the USS Arizona. It was a great afternoon.

This is a World War 1 Quartermaster truck, which had wooden spoke wheels and solid rubber tires. Yes, it still runs.

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

FROM THE 2nd VICE-COMMANDER



Kelly and family are out of town visiting sick family in Texas. Keep the Donlevy family in your prayers.

For God and Country,
Kelly Donlevy, 2nd Vice Commander

FROM THE FINANCE OFFICER AND JUDGE ADVOCATE



Sorry to say we have 30 members delinquent in dues. No chance of becoming a 100% Post unless they pay up quick. Some are only one-year members who never come to meetings. You get out of the Legion, and any other

organization, what you put into it. If you do not attend meetings, how can you decide it is not for you? Come and at least see what you are missing.

February is a busy month for veterans. If you attend any functions, please wear your Legion cover. Be proud of your membership.

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

Dear Lord, as February is often associated with love, I pray for a deeper understanding of Your divine love in my life. May Your love be the foundation of all my relationships and may it guide me in my interactions with others.

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.

Karen Van de Langeryt had a cervical spine (neck) anterior fusion of C6-C7 on January 16. They had to cut through the front of her neck. It all went fine and she is recovering. It has affected her throat and she had problems swallowing solid food. Doing much better.

POST EVERLASTING

No reports

FROM THE FUND RAISING CHAIRMAN



We will be fundraising at Sam's Club, on Bell Road by the 303, Friday-Sunday May 24-26 and November 8-10. So, please mark your calendars to set aside a couple hours those two weekends as we can sure use the help. I will send out more information about those weekends as we get closer to the fundraiser.

For God and Country,
Kelly Donlevy, Fundraising Chair

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Chaplain Joe Urshan won our December Membership Drawing. Congratulations Joe, you get next year's dues paid by the Post. It pays to attend meetings.

Norman Phillips, who unfortunately was not present to win, won the January drawing. Sorry Norm!

We have a new member who submitted her papers at the January meeting. Welcome aboard Nina Olsen, a US Navy veteran of Vietnam. She also has joined the Legion Riders.

The January meeting was well attended. We have 19 members, 1 new member, and 23 guests. Bubbles Gilmore visited as he is running for Dept Commander.

As of January 27, we have 55 pay the post, 58 pay online and 35 PUFL's. Total is 148. Our goal is 183 so we have 80.87% paid! We have 30 members who have not paid yet!

Thanks to all who paid their dues on time. A list of delinquent members is in this newsletter. It is easy to pay online. If you use a credit card, we do not mail your membership card because you can print your own online. However, 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

From the VA Hospital Coordinator

For God and Country,
Rod Hage, VA Hospital Coordinator
DAV Star Chapter 24 Commander & Service Officer

Voiture Locale 1154 Report



Our next Promenade is scheduled for 1000 February 3 and we will meet again at Post 145.

Interested in the 40&8? Please talk to any of our members in Post 96. `1

Nancie Scalercio, Past Commander

Voiture Locale 1154 Fundraising Coordinator

American Legion Riders Report



ALR96 Riders

A few American Legion Riders Post 96, Surprise AZ Participated in the Fiesta Bowl Parade December 16, 2023. The Riders teamed up with Valors Veterans and other volunteers to maintain control during windy conditions of the largest Balloon in the parade, a GIANT Pinata. Great fun and exercise was had by all. This parade really is a first class event.

The Riders of Post 96 will join forces with Post 96 to have combined meetings at Traditions until further notice as we make recruiting a priority.

Post 96 Riders also participated on January 12 at a District 11, Post 61 rider memorial service for John Repaty, a Marine Veteran, led by the Patriot Guard; we did a road march with full colors and flashing light from Post 61, onto the 303 to the National Memorial Veterans Cemetery. Approximately 42 Bikes, and 5 vehicles involved in the road march.

Eddie Jenness, ALR Director
480-584-1145

February Calendar

Thursday February 1 – 1600 Post 96 Officer's Meeting at Mike Elliott's home.

Thursday February 1 – 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.

Friday February 2 – Candlemas - Occurring 40 days after Christmas, Candlemas celebrates the birth of light. It commemorates the presentation of Jesus at the Temple, which occurs in Luke 2:22-40. On this day, all candles to be used in the church for the next year are blessed. Also known as the Feast of the Holy Encounter, the Feast of the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary, or the Feast of the Presentation of Jesus Christ.

Saturday February 3 – 1100 40&8 Hassayampa
Voiture 1154 Promenade at
Arrowhead Valley Apartments
20025 N 81st Ave
Peoria, AZ 85382

This is a Zoom Meeting. Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89838520005>

Meeting ID: 898 3852 0005

One tap mobile

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Find your local number:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89838520005>

Saturday February 3 – 1100 -1400 Legacy Traditional School Car Show. See flyer.

Wednesday February 7 – 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 February 7 – Senior Day at Fry's, Bashas' and Albertsons. 10% discount on your groceries.

Thursday February 8 – **Lailat al Miraj** - Muslims remember Prophet Muhammad's pilgrimage from Mecca to Jerusalem on this holy day. After his arrival, he ascended to Heaven.

February 10 - 1700-2200 Surprise Vet Fest at Mark Coronado Park. See Flyer.

Saturday February 10 – **Chinese New Year** -This celebration of the New Year on the lunisolar Chinese calendar is one of the most important holidays in Chinese culture. It also influences the Lunar New Year celebrations of nearly 56 other ethnic groups, including Korea, Vietnam, Indonesia, and Malaysia. 2024 is the year of the Wood Dragon.

Tuesday February 13 – 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.

Wednesday February 14 – **Ash Wednesday** - This day marks the start of Lent, 40 days of fasting and prayer for Christians before Easter.

February 14, 1912 – Arizona became the 48th State. The United States acquired most of the area of Arizona from Mexico in 1848. The United States acquired additional area, comprising the southern part of Arizona, from Mexico in 1853 as part of the Gadsden Purchase. Arizona Territory was organized from the western part of New Mexico Territory on February 24, 1863. Part of Arizona Territory north and west of the Colorado River was added to the state of Nevada in 1866, resulting in generally the same boundary as the present state of Arizona.

Wednesday February 14 – **Valentine's Day** - also called Saint Valentine's Day or the Feast of Saint Valentine, is celebrated annually. In honor of one or two early

Christian martyrs named Saint Valentine and, through later folk traditions, has become a significant cultural, religious, and commercial celebration of romance and love in many regions of the world.

Saturday February 17 – 0900 NWVVA meeting Sunland Memorial Park.

Saturday February 17 – 0800 White Tank Mountain Hike-A-Thon – To STOP Veteran Suicide. See Flyer.

Saturday February 20 – 1000 Wickenburg Veterans Stand Down, hosted by Legion Post 12 and Elks Lodge 2160. See flyer.

Sunday February 18 - 1000 Marty Schwab Memorial Breakfast at Richi's Diner, Bell & Reems. All veterans and family are invited to this informal gathering.

February 20 – 1145 Massing of the Colors & Service of Remembrance. Palm Ridge Recreation Center, 13800 W. Deer Valley Dr., Sun City West. See Flyer. Post96 Officers will be there with our Post flag. If you attend, please wear Legion cover and shirt.

Thursday February 22 – 1800 Social Hour, 1900 Business Meeting. American Legion Post 96 meeting is at the AZ Traditions Neighborhood Center. Come for the raffle prizes! Bring a guest.

Thursday February 22 – About 2000 American Legion Riders Chapter 96 meeting is now held after the Post 96 business meeting at AZ Traditions. This is a temporary change.

SAVE THE DATE

March 5 – Post 94 Pancake Breakfast. See flyer.

March 23-24 - Luke Days Airshow

March 23 – Veterans Ceremony Concert. See flyer.

May 24-26 - Friday-Sunday Post 96 Fundraiser at Sam's Club

November 8-10 - Friday-Sunday Post 96 Fundraiser at Sam's Club

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

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/month (\$60/year) and we give Legion Members a 20% discount.

George Van de Langeryt
Past Commander & Newsletter Editor

LUKE VETERINARY CLINIC MOVES

On Oct 23, 2023, a ribbon cutting ceremony was held for the new Luke AFB Veterinary Treatment Facility, which is now located on base across from the Block House. The larger facility allows the team to treat pets with general wellness and more specialized medical services. Pets owned by active duty, reserve, and retirees and their family members are eligible for treatment that ranges from vaccines to heartworm tests.

Luke AFB Veterinary Treatment Facility (623) 856-6453
or email LukeAFBVet@gmail.com.

POST 96 DELINQUENT MEMBERS

The following Post 96 members are delinquent and their membership cards have expired. They have not paid 2024 dues and until they do, they may not attend any Legion function, including Post and Rider meetings. If you know any of these members, please give them a call and remind them to pay their dues. We hate to lose 30 members this year.

Maria E Baltran
Patrick J Becker
Leisa Boyd
Steve L Cockling
Randy Coffman
Barry E Crow
Michael E DeLay
Jeffrey W Dick
Christopher A Dorr
John H Draper
Joseph A Fletcher

David Hernandez
Frank C Hofmann
Janos S Hottya
Ronald D Howell
Larry R Kisicki
Vernon A Komenda
Charles Manuel
Scott D McEachern
Raymond A McLaren
Ennis B Miller
Chester (Rusty) Morgan

Christine Patterson
Robert R Pickrel
Albert Polito
Gerald R Pontius
Norbert L Reischl
Gerald L Schwartz
Donald L Swanson
Robert L Tovey
William C Turner

If you have an issue that is causing you to not pay your dues, PLEASE call Commander Mike Elliott and discuss it with him. We don't want to lose you as a member of Post 96.



LEGACY SCHOOL
TRADITIONAL Car Show

Saturday February 3, 2024
11:00 AM - 2:00 PM
4545 N 99TH AVE, Phoenix, AZ

School fundraiser for field trips, value day, and other student events
\$2 Spectator admission, 3 years and under are free
\$10+ Suggested donation for vehicle entry
Register vehicle using QR code:

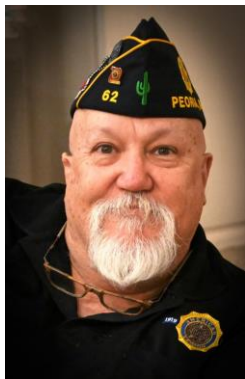


KONA ICE
frios
gourmet pops

1st place - Vehicle video & photo session
2nd place - Vehicle photo session
3rd place - Vehicle photo session
All builds welcome, Any make, model, cars, trucks and bikes

This is the school where Pat Boyd teaches. The fundraiser supports the school and helps keep tuition low. The Post and the Riders have both donated to this worthy cause,

A few photos from the January 25 Post & Riders meeting, thanks to Post Photographer Paul Satkowski.



Bob "Bubbles" Gilmore has served in a number of positions in the Legion. In 2021, he was Area B Vice Commander. He is now running for Dept Commander.



Bobbie Schwab is an honorary member of the Post. She is the wife of Marty Schwab.



The Officers bow for the Opening prayer. L-R George Van de Langeryt, Finance Officer, Mike Elliott Commander, Arnie Kohl 1st Vice, and Rod Hage VA Hospital Coordinator and Service Officer. Rod is Commander of the DAV Star Chapter 24 and Commander of the NWVVA. Busy person.



Doug Gitchel is a long time member of Post 96. He made an interesting presentation at the Jan meeting about the military service and some issues with the DD214.



Eddie Jenness is the Director of Post 96 ALR.



Michael Hood and Steven Van Meter



Carolyn Roark and new member Nina Olsen.



Tom Frizzell assists Doug with his presentation graphics.



The Riders meet after the Post. Karina Burch, Carolyn Roark, Nina Olsen, Pat Boyd, George, Mike, Eddie Jensen and Tom Roark.



Riders Karina Burch and Tom

Come to a meeting and see your photo here!

ARIZONA VETERANS HALL OF FAME SOCIETY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM



For Arizona Veterans & Military
Scholarships range from \$5000 to \$7500
Apply NLT February 15, 2024



APPLICANTS MUST:

- Be an honorably discharged veteran, active duty or National Guard/Reserve unit member.
- Be attending an institution of higher learning within the State of Arizona that is eligible to receive GI Bills funds, to include trade schools and associate degree programs.
- Be a permanent Arizona resident.

ELIGIBILITY AND APPLICATION GUIDELINES:

- Additional requirements, general information, and the Scholarship Application Form can be found by scanning the QR Code or go to our website at:
<https://avhof.org/awards-scholarships/scholarships/>



SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION NLT FEBRUARY 15, 2024 TO:
SCHOLARSHIPS@AVHOF.ORG

ABOUT US: The Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame Society is a non-profit 501c(3) Veteran Service Organization founded in 2001 by the Unified Arizona Veterans. The Scholarship Program was the first program authorized by Society members. Over \$150,000 in unrestricted scholarship funds have been awarded since its establishment in 2008.

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 pm

Mark Coronado Park, 15960 N. Bullard Ave.

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



SURPRISE
ARIZONA

SURPRISE

Vet Fest

Bringing Our Community
& Veterans Together

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

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& COMMUNITY
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CITY OF SURPRISE

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MIGHTY WARRIORS
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 **OURAZ**

surpriseaz.gov/VetFest

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**THE AMERICAN LEGION
MARY ELLEN PIOTROWSKI POST 94**



FALL PANCAKE BREAKFAST FUNDRAISER

Tuesday, March 5, 2024, 07:00 – 11:00

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Adjutant Jim Heller at 623-975-4300
Commander Jack Coyle at 219-746-0360
or any Post 94 Legionnaire.

Proceeds from ticket sales support the Needy Veterans, Veterans First, St. Vincent DePaul (Veterans Ozanam Manor) and other Veteran Organizations that Post 94 supports.

WHITE TANK MOUNTAIN HIKE-A-THON TO STOP VETERAN SUICIDE

Saturday February 17th, 2024

20304 W White Tank Mountain Rd, Waddell, AZ 85355

Area 7: Ramada's A, B, & C

8:00am - 1:00pm (Check-In begins at 7am)

\$25 Entry
Includes:
Park Day Pass,
T-Shirt, Hiker
Goodie Bag,
Fundraising
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TO 33100**

For Questions Call: Jeff Richie
@ 602-813-1222

  @MY22VETERANS

THE MILITARY ORDER OF THE WORLD WARS



Chapter 131, West Valley, AZ

PRESENTS

Massing of the Colors and Service of Remembrance



With the Desert Brass Band

**A Patriotic Ceremony in Memory of Our POWs, MIAs, and Our Deceased
Military Men and Women Who Have Served Our Country**

Featured Speaker

Wanona “Winnie” Fritz

“Life in the US and Jordan Military”

“Memories, Lessons and Gifts”

Tuesday, February 20, 2024 at 11:15 a.m.

**Palm Ridge Recreation Center,
13800 W. Deer Valley Drive, Sun City West, AZ**

STAND BESIDE THEM



Our service members have stood by us, unconditionally with incredible courage, commitment to duty, honor, and integrity, at great sacrifice. Now it's our turn to stand beside them.

- Stephanie Richmond, CEO and Founder

OUR STORY

Stand Beside Them, Inc. (SBT) was launched in 2013 by a certified coach who understood the positive impact that coaching could have on veterans returning home from Iraq and Afghanistan.

We match veterans, spouses, and caregivers with **free** coaching services to help them navigate professional and personal challenges as they transition to post-service life.

Today we have more than 215 coaches in 30 states. All of our coaches hold credentials from International Coaching Federation (ICF)-accredited programs.

THE NEED

200,000 veterans transition out of the military into civilian life each year.

66% of post 9/11 veterans said readjustment to civilian life was difficult.

22 Veterans commit suicide each day, or one every 69 minutes.

"Some things are priceless, and my experience with SBT is one of them."

- Brian Alegia, Marine Veteran

OUR IMPACT

2K+	92%	94%	100%
veterans, spouses and caregivers received SBT coaching since 2013.	felt empowered to follow the action plan they developed in coaching.	reported coaches helped them identify and remove barriers to their success.	would recommend coaching to another transitioning service member, veteran, military spouse, or caregiver.

AREAS WE COACH



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HOW TO REACH US

19243 Fisher Island Drive
Miami, FL 33109

kabernathy@standbesidethem.org
Coaching Coordinator

[standbesidethem.org](https://www.standbesidethem.org)

'Life-changing. The value is boundless in what it does for the veteran psyche and morale.'

- Edwin Peck, MCPO, Coast Guard Veteran

Have you heard of Stand Beside Them?

Stand Beside Them, a non-profit offers free coaching and a guiding hand through the challenges of returning to civilian life. **Stand Beside Them** is on a mission to coach and empower America's veterans and their spouses/caregivers.

Why It Matters:

Curious about overcoming the unique challenges of life? **Stand Beside Them** is your pillar of support, providing FREE coaching to navigate these obstacles.

Apply for free coaching here: <https://www.standbesidethem.org/register-for-coaching>

REGISTER AT THE GOOGLE LINK BELOW.

You will be notified when Ticketmaster tickets go on sale for your families.
This notice is for registration for only the Military and Veteran Women.

Ceremony & Concert

Honoring Military & Veteran Women



General Admission for Veterans, Family, Friends, Public

★★★★ Tickets \$15 ★★★★★
Available at [Ticketmaster](#) or Box Office

TICKET INFO COMING SOON

Saturday, March 23, 2024

3 pm to 6 pm

Madison Center for the Arts

5601 N 16th St, Phoenix AZ 85016

FREE

**Complimentary
Ticket for
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Women**

★★★★

For **FREE** Ticket
Register at
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Contact: Darlene Gonzales, US Navy Res (ret.) dgonzales@veteransfirstltd.org



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