



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



**Newsletter No. 249**

**azalpost96.com**

**May 2024**

**Commander:** Mike Elliott 623-533-4377  
**First Vice-Commander:** Arnold Kohl 602-692-0659  
**Second Vice-Commander:** Kelly Donlevy 602-299-5007  
**Finance Officer:** George Van de Langeryt 623-547-6668  
**Adjutant:** VACANT  
**Chaplain:** Joe Urshan 623-584-4653  
**Judge Advocate:** George Van de Langeryt  
**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  
**Membership:** Mike Elliott & George Van  
**Fundraising Chair:** Kelly Donlevy 602-299-5007  
**Service Officer:** Rodney Hage msgtrod@hotmail.com  
**VA Hospital Coordinator:** Rodney Hage 478-501-6625  
**Photographer:** Paul Satkowski 207-706-6250  
**Historian:** VACANT  
**Past Commander:** Nancie Scalercio 623-826-3488  
**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 May 23 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 May 2 at the Commander's home***

***Voiture 1154 Promenade on 1000 Saturday May 4 at the Post 145 meeting room.***

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

***ALR Chapter 96 will be meeting after the Post meeting on May 23 at AZ Traditions.***



Post 96 Commander Mike Elliott, District 11 Commander Gary Vaughn and Chaplain Joe Urshan

## **COMMANDERS CORNER**



Latest on future meetings: Bobbie Schwab is our Post representative allowing us to continue using AZ Traditions Neighborhood Center. Thank you, Bobbie. With that being said, the word of this did not get out to anyone in time for our meeting March 28. Only a handful of us showed up and had to be the shortest meeting at 20 minutes.

The American Legion is the largest Veteran Service Organization. There are over 12,000 Posts, which started with only a few Posts in 1919 (105 years ago). Their energetic enthusiasm help build what we enjoy today. On the American Legion website ([WWW.LEGION.ORG](http://WWW.LEGION.ORG)), there is a tab "ABOUT" with a category of "By the Numbers". Last year's report from all of the Posts show an excellence of support to veterans and the community. One of the reports shows the "We" as Legionnaires have volunteered over 2 million hours. To get that many hours many had to volunteer and then report their accomplishments. These reports are collected annually and sent to National in a Consolidated Post Report. National collects those reports, sums the totals, then reports to Congress the progress of The American Legion. With that said, I am in the beginning process of collecting information to be placed in this year's report. I am in the midst of collecting all reports of how we supported Veterans and the Community.



### **Membership:**

I don't want to be a broken record, but we need everyone to renew their dues.

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

## **FROM THE FIRST VICE-COMMANDER**



### **The Wall That Heals**

"The Wall That Heals" or the traveling Vietnam Wall came to Pleasant Harbor at Lake Pleasant in Peoria from April 11-14, 2024. The wall is a ¾-scale replica of the Vietnam Memorial Wall in Washington, D.C., which is transported around the country and set up in various locations for viewing by both veterans and the public.

On 12 April Commander Mike Elliot and Service



Officer Rodney Hage accompanied me and visited the Memorial and displays from the Vietnam War era. We also had the honor of participating in an Agent Orange Awareness Candlelight Vigil, which took place that night. While the Wall was at Pleasant Harbor Many Legionnaires watched over it.

Photos in order: #1- American Legion Post 145 Commander Paul G. Johnson was guest speaker

Photo #2- District 11 Commander Gary Vaughan recited the poem- "The Soldier",

Photo #3- Post 145 Chaplin Joel Larson gave the invocation,

Photo #4- Agent Orange Memorial Plaque.



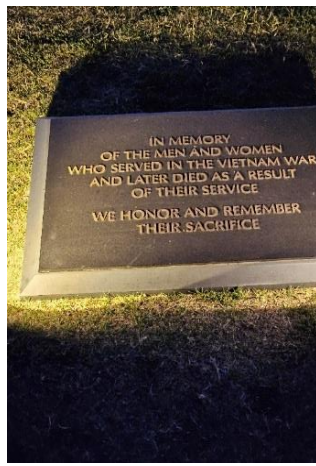




On Sunday April 14 at 1400 a closing ceremony was conducted before the Wall was disassembled and packed away to travel to Texas where it will next be displayed. Approximately 25 volunteers took part in the disassembly and packing. Thank you to all the volunteers. Yes, it

all fits in the trailer.

While at the Wall, I was able to locate the name of a friend and fellow squad member, Marc Belon.



HONORED ON PANEL 10W, LINE 38 OF THE WALL  
MARC BRADLEY BELON  
PANEL / LINE  
10W/38  
DATE OF BIRTH 06/20/1949  
DATE OF CASUALTY 05/14/1970  
BRANCH OF SERVICE  
ARMY First Cavalry Division C/5/7  
RANK CPL

Marc was my RTO and was killed in Cambodia by an RPG when we were ambushed while doing a recon after our company set up for the night. It's hard to believe that was almost 54 years ago. RIP.

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

### **FROM THE SECOND VICE-COMMANDER**



*2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Kelly has been ill recently and unable to submit an article. Keep her, and family, in your prayers.*

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

### **FROM THE FINANCE OFFICER AND JUDGE ADVOCATE**



The new By-laws and Constitution have been sent to the District Commander. They are now in effect. If you would like a copy, let me know and I will email them to you.

Sorry to say we have 28 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.

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**



Lord, I don't know what lay before me today, but I commit it all to You. Please give me strength and courage to get through the joys, challenges and happenings of the day. I thank You for my life and for all that I have; I commit this day to You. No matter what happens, I know You have me in the palm of Your hand.

Amen.

For God and Country,  
Chaplain Joe Urshan

### **SICK CALL**

Your Editor, among other jobs, was taken very ill early March. My gall bladder was clogged with some stones and the bile tube was blocked. This caused an infection that destroyed the gall bladder

itself. I had no symptoms of this happening other than I had no appetite. Concurrently, I developed a few polyps in my stomach, one of which bled causing the hated black stool. Went to Abrazo Emergency room and they took me by ambulance to the Abrazo hospital in Arrowhead. They operated next evening, had to wait until I was loaded with antibiotics, and removed what was left of my gall bladder. Normally this is a one-hour surgery, in my case it took four. Next day they went down my throat and removed the stomach polyps. They kept me in the hospital a week. At home, I could barely get out of bed for two weeks. I lost 25 lbs. and I hope to keep it off. That is why there was no April Newsletter. I thank Karen for taking great care of me.

Kelly Donlevy is having some medical problems. Please pray for her and her family.

Joe Urshan is dealing with a painful hip. Please pray for our Chaplain.

Commander Mike is looking at shoulder surgery soon.

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**



We will be fundraising at Sam's Club, on Bell Road by the 303, Friday through 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.

See the signup sheet on page 6. Call Kelly with the times you and serve your post.

For God and Country,  
Kelly Donlevy, Fundraising Chair

### **MEMBERSHIP REPORT**

As of April 28, we have 59 pay the post, 59 pay online and 36 PUFL's. Total is 154. Our goal is 183 so we have 84.15% paid! We have 24 members who have not paid yet! Does not look like we will hit

100% this year.

The winner of the Membership Drawing at the April 25 meeting is Michael Siglar who, unfortunately, was not present to win. It pays to attend meetings.

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 / Service Officer**

If anyone needs help with VA claims or other assistance, PLEASE reach out to me at MSgtRod@hotmail.com for an appointment. I am working all claims in partnership with DAV Chapter 24 to expedite the overall process. Please feel free to give my email address to others who might need my help, membership with and VSO has no impact on what kind of help I give them.

Rod Hage

The American Legion Post 96 Service Officer  
DAV Chapter 24 Service Officer  
Commander, DAV 24  
Commander, NWVVA

### **Voiture Locale 1154 Report**



Our next Promenade is scheduled for 1000 May 4 and we will meet again at Post 145. Yeah, it is a drive but the meeting room is very comfortable.

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 Vietnam Veterans Wall That Heals returned to our area for a memorable event. ALR96 was involved in every aspect of the visit including the escort from South Peoria to the staging area, the construction of the mobile memorial, and a 0200-0600 overnight watch. The 2/3 scale replica of the actual wall was a sight to be seen and not forgotten as we remember and honor our Vietnam Veterans.

Eddie Jenness, ALR Chairman  
alr96.president@gmail.com

## **May Calendar**

**May is National Military Appreciation Month**, is a month-long observance in the United States, dedicated to people who are currently serving in the United States military.

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

**Thursday May 2** – National Day of Prayer - The National Day of Prayer is an annual observance held on the first Thursday of May, inviting people of all faiths to pray for the nation.

**Saturday May 4** – 1100 40&8 Voiture 1154 Promenade at Arrowhead Valley Apartments  
20025 N 81<sup>st</sup> Ave  
Peoria, AZ 85382

This is a Zoom Meeting join:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89838520005>  
Meeting ID: 898 3852 0005  
One tap mobile: +16694449171, 89838520005# US  
Find your local number:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89838520005>

**Wednesday May 8** – 1000 NWVVA Memorial Day Pre-Event meeting at Sunland for all interested.

**Sunday May 12 – Mother's Day** is an annual holiday celebrated in the United States on the second Sunday in May. Mother's Day recognizes mothers, motherhood and maternal bonds in general, as well as their positive contributions to their families and society. It was established by Anna Jarvis, with the first official Mother's Day celebrated through a service of worship at St.

Andrew's Methodist Church in Grafton, West Virginia, on May 10, 1908.].

**Tuesday May 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 May 18** – 0900 NWVVA meeting Sunland Memorial Park.

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

**Sunday May 19 – 1400 District 11 Meeting** at Earl E. Mitchell Post 29, 6822 N. 57<sup>th</sup> Dr., Glendale, AZ 85301. Remarks: Officer Elections and installations. All Legionnaires welcome. Lunch included.

**Thursday May 23** – 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 May 23** – About 2000 American Legion Riders Chapter 96 meeting after the Post 96 business meeting at AZ Traditions. This is a temporary change.

**May 24-26** - Friday-Sunday Post 96 Fundraiser at Sam's Club. We need HELP! Please give us TWO hours of your time to help Post 96 HELP VETERANS! Call Kelly Donlevy, Fundraising Chair, at 602-299-5007. The only volunteer we have right now is Rod Hage.

**Saturday May 25 – 0900 Annual Memorial Ceremony at the Lake** – Post 96 and DAV Chapter 24 will host a memorial ceremony at the Luke Auxiliary Field #3 WWII Memorial (by the Library). Mayor Skip Hall is our speaker, MC is George Van de Langeryt. Wear your Legion cover and shirt.

**May 27 – Memorial Day** - originally known as Decoration Day, is a federal holiday in the United States for honoring and mourning the U.S. military personnel who died while serving in the United States Armed Forces. From 1868 to 1970, it was observed on May 30. Since 1971, it is observed on the last Monday of May.

**Monday May 27 - Memorial Day – 0900 NWVVA Ceremony at Sunland Memorial Park.** Come early and enjoy the patriot music. Ceremony will last one hour and afterwards enjoy a luncheon sponsored by Dignity Memorial.



### SAVE THE DATE

**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**



#### 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



### **SIGN UP SHEET FOR FUNDRAISER! Is your name on here?**

**Post 96 Memorial Day Weekend Fundraiser**

**Sam's Club Bell Rd. at 303**

**Contact Kelly Donlevy 602-299-5007**

Fri May 24							
		NAME	CELL#	NAME	CELL#	NAME	CELL#
0900	1100	Rod Hage	478-501-6625				
1100	1300						
1300	1500						
Sat May 25							
		NAME	CELL#	NAME	CELL#	NAME	CELL#
0900	1100						
1100	1300						
1300	1500						
Sun May 26							
		NAME	CELL#	NAME	CELL#	NAME	CELL#
1000	1200						
1200	1400						

**Please call Kelly and fill one or two of the empty slots!**

## A few photos of the Vietnam Traveling Wall, thanks to Eddie Jenness





## A few photos from the April 25 meeting, thanks to Post Photographer Paul Satkowski.



Bobbie Schwab, with photos of Marty, is a frequently attendee at Post 96 meetings.



Commander Mike and First Vice Arnie at the Officer's Table.



Rod Hage Post 96 VA Coordinator and Service Officer



Doug Gitchel is a long time Post 96 member.



District 11 Commander Gary Vaughn visited Post 96 for the meeting on April 25.



Post 96 Riders are holding their meetings after the Post meeting. Here is Karina Burch, Nina Olsen, Pat Boyd, Tom Roark, Chairman Eddie Jenness and Mike Elliott



City of Surprise Community and Recreation Services in partnership with American  
Legion Joseph Q. Johnson Post 96 and Disabled American Veterans Star Chapter 24  
present:

# **MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND WREATH LAYING CEREMONY**

**Saturday, May 25, 2024, 9:00 A.M.**

EVENT WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE WWII MEMORIAL  
LOCATED BY THE REGIONAL LIBRARY  
16089 N. BULLARD AVE. SURPRISE, ARIZONA

**Speaker Mayor Skip Hall**

HOSTED BY GEORGE VAN DE LANGERYT  
FOR MORE INFORMATION: (714) 206-7959

**NORTH WEST VALLEY VETERANS ASSOCIATION  
ANNUAL MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY**

**0900 May 27, 2024**

**Sunland Memorial Park**

**15826 N. Del Webb Blvd, Sun City**

**Guest Speaker: COL Larry Leighton**

**Patriot music at 0830 - Flyover by Falcon**

**Warbirds & Post 96 Legion Riders at 0900**

**MARY ELLEN PIOTROWSKI AMERICAN**

**LEGION POST 94 Honor Guard**

**BBQ buffet lunch following ceremony by  
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Forwarding Service Requested – May



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