



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



Newsletter No. 260

azalpost96.com

November 2025

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: Michael Finley 858-414-0080
Chaplain: John Chlopek 623-584-4653
Judge Advocate: George Van de Langeryt 714-206-7959
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: Rod Hage 478-501-6625
Membership: Mike Elliott & George Van
Fundraising Chair: Kelly Donlevy 602-299-5007
Service Officer: Kelly Donlevy
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 meeting 1800 January 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 November 6 at the Commander's home

Voiture 1154 Promenade on 1000 Saturday November 22 at the Post 145 meeting room

Marty Schwab Memorial Breakfast 1000 Sunday November 16

Richi's Diner - 15609 W Bell Rd #100, Surprise, AZ 85374

Congratulations to Legion Member Scott Burdick! Scott received the Top Member Recruiter of the Year Award at the Disabled American Veterans National Convention. Scott recruited 149 new DAV members.

Happy 250th Birthday to the US Marine Corps on 11/10!

Happy Veterans Day on November 11!

Happy Thanksgiving Day on November 27!

COMMANDERS CORNER



Commander Mike is current traveling to California. We pray they come home unscathed.

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

FROM THE FIRST VICE-COMMANDER



Honor Flight Arizona Mission 121

I will start out with, "What an experience!" In the early hours of October 22, I Ubered to Sky Harbor Airport to meet with others and begin a journey with Honor Flight Arizona to visit the many memorials in Washington, D.C. Our group of Arizona veterans and their guardians was a large one.

Sixty-eight veterans, their guardians, Honor Flight staff and five paramedics.



Yes, we are an old group with many in wheelchairs and with other mobility and health issues, so they had

paramedics along for the whole trip. After checking in with the coordinators we were served a continental style breakfast by Daughters of the American Revolution. A couple hours later, we were on a Southwest Airlines 737 and flying off to Baltimore Washington International (BWI).

Upon arrival in the late afternoon, the two-chartered buses picked us up and transported us to the BWI Hilton. There we were served a nice dinner and were issued the key to our room.

The next morning, we were up early and had a nice breakfast at the hotel before boarding the buses for the pleasant hour's drive to D.C. Our second day is a whirlwind when you visit all the memorials. Although you see the White House, Capitol building, Washington and Lincoln memorials from a distance this is not a trip to tour



them. It is a trip to visit war and military memorials. We visited the Navy Memorial, Marine Memorial, World War two memorial, Vietnam War wall and memorial, Korean War memorial, Military Women's Memorial, the 9-11 Memorial at the Pentagon, Arlington and the Tomb of the Unknowns with a changing of the guard. After the changing of the guard and a wreath laying ceremony at the Tomb, we were

treated to a private question and answer time with



one of the guards who was off duty. After touring all these places, we boarded the buses and were taken to VFW Post 160, Glen Burnie, Maryland, which is only a couple miles from the hotel where we were greeted and served dinner. Then back to the hotel for the night.

The next morning, we got an early start. We had breakfast at the hotel, boarded the buses and headed to BWI to board the Southwest Airlines 737 Max for the flight home. Upon our arrival back at Sky Harbor we were greeted by an honor guard and many from the community welcoming us home.

We were honored to have Destry Jetton from Phoenix channel 12 and a video photographer accompany us the entire trip. They did personal interviews and recorded our journey. I believe their story is scheduled to air sometime on Veterans Day.

It was short and fast, but what an honor. I was fortunate to have several veterans I know, Bob Hammer and Paul Van Rooy from Post 94 among



others along on the flight and that made it even more special.

If you are a WW2,

Korean War, or Vietnam War veteran and haven't been in an Honor Flight, I highly recommend you sign up for it. The trip is free to the veteran. Guardians, someone to assist you if you are wheelchair bound or have mobility problems are charged about \$1200 to escort you. To sign up go to <https://honorflightaz.org/veterans/> Fill out the application and submit it.

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

FROM THE FINANCE OFFICER AND JUDGE ADVOCATE



The financial audit has been delayed because I had foot surgery and have been unable to get out. We plan to get it done at the January meeting.

I will present the 2025-2026 Post Budget at the meeting as it is last as well.

Semper Fi!

George Van de Langeryt
Finance Officer & Judge Advocate
Past Commander & Legion Rider
AZ Veterans Hall of Fame – Class of 2018

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

As of 10/29 we have 27 pay the post, 31 pay online, and 35 PUFL for a total of 93 paid. That is 56.36% of our goal of 165. We have 59 members on the roster who have not paid.

Remember if you pay online, we DO NOT mail you a new membership card because you can print your own card online. Those members who have paid multiple years can print their own 2026 membership card online. If you want a card mailed, contact George.

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

American Legion Riders Report



RIDERS FROM POST 96 and 62
Celebrated

Elmer Leroy (Lee) Radzik as he
turned 100 years old on October 21.



We had a celebration for him on October 20 held at the Pueblo El Mirage golf resort in El Mirage.



Lee served in the Navy from 1944 through 1946 as a Gun Captain on a converted LCI G64 Gunship in the Pacific. He was 19 years old at that time.

Special thanks to Post 62 for joining us to insure a successful

celebration.

Eddie "Brohammy" Jenness, Director ALR 96
alr96.president@gmail.com

FROM THE FUND RAISING CHAIRMAN



In a few short days, we will be having our Autumn Fundraiser over Veterans Day weekend, and we could use some help. Just a few people would make a big difference.

We will be at our usual place, which is Sam's Club off Bell Road by Loop 303. On Friday the 11/7 and Saturday the 11/8, we will be out front handing out flags and poppies from 0900-1700. On Sunday our hours are 1000-1600. We also have military buttons for each service to give out to our veteran brothers and sisters.

Just 2 hours is all we ask of your time, and there will be chairs to sit on for anyone who is unable or just doesn't want to stand while we are out there. It looks to be in the low 80's those days, so it should be a really nice day to hang out and enjoy our time. When you're done, you can go inside and enjoy a berry or chocolate caramel sundae or get some shopping done for Christmas.

Please call 602-299-5007 to save a time slot for you!

For God and Country,
Kelly Donlevy, Fundraising

November Calendar

November 2, 1962 - During the Cuban Missile Crisis, President John F. Kennedy announced on TV, "the Soviet bases in Cuba are being dismantled, their missiles and

related equipment being crated, and the fixed installations at these sites are being destroyed."

Tuesday November 4 – 0700-1100 American Legion Post 954 Pancake Breakfast in Sun City. SEE THE FLYER.

Tuesday November 4 – All Day – Maricopa County Election. This is a mail in only election.

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.

Wednesday November 5 – 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 and hosted by Veterans Affinity.

Wednesday November 5 – Senior Day at Fry's, Bashas' and Albertsons. 10% discount on your groceries.

Thursday November 6 – 1600 Post 96 Officers meeting at Mike Elliott's home.

November 10, 1775 - The U.S. Marine Corps was established as part of the U.S. Navy. It became a separate unit on July 11, 1789.

November 11 - Celebrated in the U.S. as Veterans Day (formerly called Armistice Day) with parades and military memorial ceremonies.

Tuesday November 11 – 0800-1200 Veterans Day Ceremony at Sunland Memorial Park. SEE THE FLYER.

November 13, 1927 - The Holland Tunnel was opened to traffic. The tunnel runs under the Hudson River between New York City and Jersey City and was the first underwater tunnel built in the U.S. It is comprised of two tubes, each large enough for two lanes of traffic.

November 13, 1942 - The five Sullivan Brothers from Waterloo, Iowa, were lost in the sinking of the cruiser *USS Juneau* by a Japanese torpedo off Guadalcanal during World War II in the Pacific. Following their deaths, the U.S. Navy changed regulations to prohibit close relatives from serving on the same ship.

Saturday November 15 - 0900 North West Valley Veterans Association meeting Sunland Memorial Park.

Sunday November 16 - 0900 Marty Schwab Memorial Breakfast at Richi's Diner, Bell & Reems. All veterans and family are invited to this informal gathering.

November 20, 1789 - New Jersey became the first state to ratify the Bill of Rights.

Saturday November 22 – 1000 40&8 Voiture 1154 Promenade at Arrowhead Valley Apartments. Henceforth, all Voiture 1157 Promenades will be on the fourth Saturday of each month.

Tuesday November 25 – 1000 Disabled American Veterans Star Chapter 24 meets at Flagstar Bank, 14543 W Grand Ave., Surprise 85374. The meeting is held in the basement and there is an elevator. All veterans are invited.

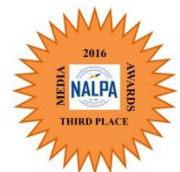
Thursday November 27 – **THANKSGIVING DAY** - Enjoy and turkey and your family gathering.

Thursday November 27 – **NO POST 96 MEETING**

November 30, 1782 - A provisional peace treaty was signed between Great Britain and the United States heralding the end of America's War of Independence. The final treaty was signed in Paris on September 3, 1783. It declared the U.S. "...to be free, sovereign and independent states..." and that the British Crown "...relinquishes all claims to the government, propriety and territorial rights of the same, and every part thereof."

SAVE THE DATE

Massing of the Colors – February 10, 2026



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





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



FALL PANCAKE BREAKFAST FUNDRAISER

Tuesday, November 4, 2025, 07:00 – 11:00

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All proceeds support American Legion Programs for
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Children and Youth in Arizona.



VETERANS DAY CELEBRATION

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 11

FREE ADMISSION

0830 PATRIOTIC MUSIC BEGINS

0900 CEREMONY

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Paul Van Rooy



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Have you signed up a *NEW* member for 2026?