



Bert Black Jr. Post 7400 Warrior Journal

Veterans of Foreign
Wars

Volume 12 Edition 10
October 2015

From the Commander's Desk

Hello Comrades:

September was a busy month for the Post with the opening of our totally cleaned and repainted Kitchen. Thank you to all the volunteers who gave up some of their personal time to help out.

As we begin the month of October, we start off with our Post meeting at 1900 hrs on Friday October 2. Plan to attend so you will be informed of all activities and happenings at the Post.

We are in need of more volunteer help at the Post. You are the lifeblood of this organization. This is your Post so come on in and help make it the finest VFW Post in District 2.

There will be a Flag Raising on October 9, 2015 at 11a.m, to commemorate the start of "Operation Enduring Freedom" in Afghanistan in 2001.

On Saturday, October 10th, there will be a District 2 meeting in Williams. The following weekend, starting October 16th, we will be attending the Fall Conference in Lake Havasu City.

Please plan to attend our Post Specialty Dinner on October 17th, starting at 5PM. It will be a Special German Dinner with all the trimmings put on by our own Quartermaster Tom Nester.

Sunday October 18th is Recognition of Women in Military Service. There will be a flag raising at 11:00 a.m.

Fund Raising for The Verde Valley Military Service Park is making good progress. See Ron Luce or Larry Stover for indepth information.

The Post is also supporting the City of Sedona in preparing for next year's Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day Celebration on April 2. In commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War there will be a traveling replica of the Vietnam Memorial on display at Possee Grounds Park in Sedona March 30 - April 3, 2016. Contact Ed Uzumeckis, WHVVD 2016 Committee Chairperson, to find out how you can contribute to and get involved with this special event.

I will see you all at the Post.

In Comradeship,

Alan R. Tobish
Post Commander

•Ponderisms•

The easiest way to find something lost around the house is to buy a replacement.

If Jimmy cracks corn and no one cares, why is there a song about him?

Did you ever notice that when you blow in a dog's face, he gets mad at you, but when you take him on a car ride, he sticks his head out the window?



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From The Auxiliary President's Desk

Another month has bit the dust! Summer is just about over and I don't know about you but I am ready for pumpkins, leaves on the ground, and all the fall colors.

September's Lunch in the Lounge was a big success, we had Taco Salads and just about sold out.

Our meeting in September was well attended. There were quite a few new faces. It was good to see all of you.

I went to Thunder Valley Rally where the Verde Valley Military Sservice Park had a fund raising booth. We don't know the final results of our efforts but I understand initial results indicated we did quite well. A big THANK YOU to all who participated all weekend!



Now for October events: First there is the Auxiliary Meeting 10/12 at 2 p.m. The District meeting in Williams is next on 10/10. Anyone that would like to go and needs a ride call me. The Fall Conference is in Lake Havasu on 10/16 & 17.

All the dinners are back: Taco Wednesday, Spaghetti feed, and Specialty Dinner, check the calendar for dates and times.

We will begin to prepare for Veterans Day and our Buddy Poppies fund raising activities as we get closer to the end of the month so keep your eyes open for the sign up sheet. We are also working with APS and Habit of Humanity, they want names of Veterans that might need some assistance on their homes, painting, yard work, wheel chair ramp, etc. They want to do this on Veterans Day. I am their contact person so if you know of anyone please let me know.

Helping our Veterans,

Pam Van Winkle
Auxiliary President

A reminder! When sending correspondence to the Auxiliary by mail please address it to: Auxiliary, Post 7400, P.O. Box 3944, Cottonwood, AZ 86326

Fallen Comrades 2013 - 2015

We are saddened by the passing of our comrades:

J. Flammia
G. Gocha
O. Gregory
J. McDowell
C. Self
C. Smith

F. Spencer
W. Villa

The following comrades are fondly remembered:

L. Atkisson
H. Bean
L. Best

W. Boley
H. Herring, Jr.
D. Johnston
V. Mayer
G. Murray
R. Ochoa
D. Rhodes
G. Straube
O. Stuart



Fallen Sisters 2013 - 2015

We are saddened by the passing of our sisters:

Anita Bennett
Susan Biddle
Evelyn Kelly
Burnetta Ooley
Dorothea Sue Rostatter

Bonnie Rognholt
Jennifer Tobish
Bonnie Yarger

The following sisters are fondly remembered:

Beulah Helgeson
Eleanor Hull
Lois Kellenbenz
Vivian Schlagel
Shirley Straube



Service Officer's Corner

The NPRC records fire of 1973 Up to 18 million military records were engulfed in flames Author: Jason Davis

The files were stored in cardboard boxes stacked on steel shelves lining the sixth and top floor of a large, rectangular federal building in a small, northwest suburb of St. Louis. They were packed so tightly within the thousands of boxes that, when the fire erupted, it burned so intense, so quickly, so out of control, it took the responding 43 fire departments more than two days to smother. When the smoke settled and the interior temperature cooled, the building's staff found that up to 18 million of "the most fragile records in our nation" had been reduced to smoldering piles and puddles of ash.*

There was no motive, no suspect, and few clues. The person(s) responsible for destroying 80 percent of Army personnel records for soldiers discharged between 1 Nov 1912 to 1 Jan 1960 and 75 percent of the Air Force records of Airmen discharged between 25 Sep 1947 to 1 Jan 1964 (with surnames beginning with Hubbard and running through the end of the alphabet) has never been found.
NPRC Fire 1973

The NPRC records fire of 1973 destroyed up to 18 million WWI, WWII, and Korean War Veterans' personnel records.

The NPRC records fire is 42-year old news, yet even today it continues to impact the lives of our most sacred Veterans and their dependents and survivors.

How does an Army Air Forces bombardier from our Greatest Generation apply for VA healthcare and benefits without records of his service? What can be done for the fiduciary of an Army Nurse Corps Veteran looking for records to piece together his grandmother's legacy? How does NPRC staff deal with the thousands of records requests from this time period it fields each year?

In the days following the fire, NPRC used experimental treatments to recover about 6.5 million burned and water-damaged records. Today, it has a preservation program, split between two teams (1 & 2), reconstructing what was recovered. This has proved helpful and hopeful for the many "treasure hunt" stories that occasionally surface in media profiles.

But, what about those whose records were not recovered?

You can help VA help NPRC reconstruct the damaged record. There is a specific request you must fill out that gives VA the authority to ask NPRC to reconstruct that file. This request provides information that allows the NPRC to search for other types of documents, such as individual state records, Multiple Name Pay Vouchers from the Adjutant General's Office, Selective Service System registration records, pay records from the Government Accounting Office, as well as medical records from military hospitals (current Army list; current Air Force list), unit records and morning reports, and entrance and separation x-rays and organizational records, that would assist you with your VA healthcare access or compensation claim, or for valuable research on your family member's service history.

When it comes to VA compensation, however, maybe you don't have time to play detective. It is critical, in the request you send to VA, that you provide as much information as you can, including the units you were assigned to, as well as the name of the company, battalion, regiment, squadron, group, and/or wing.

VA will accept, as alternate sources for records, statements from service medical personnel, certified "buddy" statements or affidavits, accident and police reports, Employment-related examination reports, letters written during service, photographs taken during service, pharmacy prescription records, insurance-related examination reports, medical evidence from civilian/private hospitals, clinics, and physicians that treated you during service or shortly after separation, and photocopies of any service treatment records that you may have in your possession.

It is important to note that, although these details can significantly help, VA does not rely only on service treatment records when deciding claims for cases that are related to the 1973 fire.

While this can appear daunting, there is help available; VA encourages you to work with an accredited representative or agent if you need assistance. You can also request an attorney, claims agent, or Veteran Service Organization representative online.

The ramifications of this tragedy have been longstanding and well documented, and it couldn't have happened to a more heroic group of Veterans at a worse time—when those files were needed most. Archaeologists two centuries from now are not going to magically dig up microfiche duplicates that were never created. Those records are lost to time. With NPRC's assistance, VA is committed to ensuring that no eligible but affected Veteran goes without the benefits and services (or information) to which he and she have earned.

*In 2012, NPRC relocated to a new building housing 60 million records (from the Spanish-American War to about the year 2000) in 1.8 million boxes "in a climate-controlled warehouse with a constant temperature of about 35 degrees and with a relative humidity that never dips below 40 percent."



VFW National and Arizona News

DEPT. OF ARIZONA VFW & LADIES AUXILIARY FALL CONFERENCE 2015

POST 9401 LAKE HAVASU CITY, AZ

266 LONDON BRIDGE RD • LAKE HAVASU CITY, AZ 86403 • (928) 855-5374

OCTOBER 16-18, 2015

Tentative Schedule:

Friday 10/16/15 Dinner at Post, Regular Menu Items
This is a Prime Rib Night

Saturday 10/17/15 Conference - Dinner on own, list of
Restaurant's in area will be handed out
to all at Conference, also a map to the
Establishments.

Sunday 10/18/15 C of A's To Be Determined

HOTEL RESERVATIONS: DEADLINE - OCTOBER 1, 2015

HAMPTON INN-(928) 855-4071
(Directly behind Post) Code: VFW 2015
245 London Bridge Road, Lake Havasu
\$99.00 Room
Complimentary Breakfast

QUALITY INN-(928)855-1111
Code VFW 2015
271 Lake Havasu Ave, Lake Havasu
King Bed-\$75.00-- Queens-\$85.00
Complimentary Breakfast

OTHER HOTELS; NO CODE

ROADWAY INN-(928) 453-4656
335 London Bridge Rd, LHC

SUPER 8 MOTELS (928) 855-8844
305 London Bridge Rd, LHC

Stan Wilkinson (928) 208-7106
Fall Conference Chairman
Suzie Gleason
Past Department President
LAVFW Chairman

New 2015 - 2016 Arizona Department Officers

Commander	Robert Hysko	Post: 9400	Email: post9400@vfw.phxcoxmail.com
Sr Vice Commander	Roger Gowen	Post: 7968	Email: gowen59@msn.com
Jr Vice Commander	Ken Marshall	Post: 8053	Email: kbck1221@msn.com
Quartermaster	Ski Kuczynski	Post: 3632	Email: Qmskiaz@gmail.com
Adjutant	Ray Thomas	Post 3632	Email: vfwhdqtrs@gmail.com
Judge Advocate	Gene Wood	Post: 12043	Email: lsgvet@cox.net
Surgeon	Derek Tramondo	Post: 7968	Email: azmarinesniper777@yahoo.com
State Chaplain	Ralph Teagardin	Post: 5990	Email: teapotjr1943@yahoo.com
Chief Of Staff	Christopher Kozakiewicz	Post: 9907	Email: pegasus_i@yahoo.com
Inspector	Derek Tramondo	Post: 7968	Email: azmarinesniper777@yahoo.com
Jr Pdc	Gregory Kozakiewicz	Post: 9907	Email: Lonepole@yahoo.com



Warrior Journal

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 8:00 a.m. Post Work Day 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Service Officer in Sedona 5:00 p.m. Karaoke in the Lounge	2 10:00 a.m. Koffe Klatch 11:30 a.m. Lunch in The Lounge 7:00 p.m. Post Meeting	3
4 12:30 p.m. Bingo 7:00 p.m. Karaoke in the Lounge	5 Service Officer 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.	6 Service Officer 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.	7 3:00 - 6:00 p.m. Tacos in the Lounge	8 8:00 a.m. Post Work Day 8:00 a.m. Quilters Meeting 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Service Officer in Sedona 5:00 p.m. Karaoke in the Lounge	9 Start of "Operation Enduring Freedom" Afganistan-2001 11:00 a.m. Flag Raising	10 8:30 a.m. Post Breakfast District 2 Meeting Williams AZ
11 12:30 p.m. Bingo 7:00 p.m. Karaoke in the Lounge	12 Service Officer 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. 2:00 p.m. Auxiliary Meeting	13 Service Officer 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.	14	15 8:00 a.m. Post Work Day 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Service Officer in Sedona 5:00 p.m. Karaoke in the Lounge	16 VFW Fall Conference Lake Havasu AZ	17 5:00 p.m. Specialty Dinner OctoberFest VFW Fall Conference Lake Havasu AZ
18 11:00 a.m. Flag Raising Women in Military Service 12:30 p.m. Bingo VFW Fall Conference Lake Havasu AZ 7:00 p.m. Karaoke in the Lounge	19 Service Officer 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.	20 Service Officer 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. 5:00 p.m. Spaghetti Dinner	21 3:00 - 6:00 p.m. Tacos in the Lounge	22 8:00 a.m. Post Work Day 8:00 a.m. Quilters Meeting 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Service Officer in Sedona 5:00 p.m. Karaoke in the Lounge	23	24
25 12:30 p.m. Bingo 7:00 p.m. Karaoke in the Lounge	26 Service Officer 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.	27 Service Officer 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.	28	29 8:00 a.m. Post Work Day 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Service Officer in Sedona 5:00 p.m. Karaoke in the Lounge	30	31

Veterans of Foreign Wars



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 admin@vfwpost7400.org



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 COTTONWOOD, AZ 86336
 PERMIT NO. 49



Bert Black Jr. Post 7400 Officers for 2015 - 2016

October Dates to Remember	Commander	A. Tobish	284-8820	President	P. Van Winkle	300-6968
October 2	Sr. Vice Cdr.	L. Stover	634-6348	Sr. Vice	L. White	221-2703
Koffee Klatch 10 a.m.	Jr. Vice Cdr.	J. Razo	634-6617	Jr. Vice	B. Luce	649-2129
Lunch in The Lounge 11:30 a.m.	Quartermaster	T. Nester	639-4616	Treasurer	V. Tobish	649-1897
Post Meeting 7 p.m.	Adjutant	T. Nester	639-4616	Secretary	V. Davis	202-9548
October 9	Chaplain	J. Bryan	649-0642	Chaplain	P. Wright (480)	748-0796
Operation "Enduring Freedom" Flag Raising 11 a.m.	Judge Advocate	G. Rekow	634-2722	Conductress	D. Norvell	646-5232
October 12	Surgeon	R. Powell	646-6492	Guard	B. Kuzala	646-7166
Auxiliary Meeting 2 p.m.	Guard	A. Gallegos	634-5802	1 Year Trustee	J. Strande	649-3374
October 20	1 Year Trustee	D. Finney	639-1526	2 Year Trustee	R. Sperry	639-4753
Spaghetti Dinner 5 p.m.	2 Year Trustee	E. Uzumecikis	202-2193	3 Year Trustee	S. Whitacre	567-7409
October 17	3 Year Trustee	R. Luce	649-2129	Patr. Instructor	J. Strande	649-3374
Specialty Dinner 5 p.m.						
October 18						
Women in Military Service Flag Raising 11 a.m.						

Proudly Serving

Service Officers: Ron Luce, Tommy Nester, and Ed Uzumecikis, PhD
 Service Office Hours: Monday and Tuesday 9 a.m.-12 p.m., Thursday 9 a.m.-1 p.m. in Sedona,
 or by appointment.
 House Committee: Don Finney, Bob Powell, Tommy Nester, Al Tobish, Ron Luce, Larry Stover,
 John Razo, and Art Gallegos, Meeting 11:30 a.m. Thursdays
 Work Days: Thursday 8:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m., Phone: 634-9769
 Bingo Manager: Ron Luce
 Bingo Hours: Sunday 12:30 p.m. - 4:15 p.m., Phone: 634-9769
 Honor Guard Commander: Larry Stover, Phone: 634-6348
 Lounge Manager: T. Nester, Phone 639-4616
 Newsletter Editor: Ed Uzumecikis, PhD - Email: editor@vfwpost7400.org, Phone: 202-2193