



Department of Arizona Bulletin

59 Continuous years of 100% Membership

September 2026



Message from the Commander-

Comrades, Auxiliary Members
and Supporters,

As we move forward together, our focus remains steadfast on our core mission: advocating for our veterans, supporting their families, and strengthening our local communities. Achieving this mission requires more than just dedicated effort—it demands that we operate as a cohesive, welcoming, and resilient team.

Building a Culture of Unity and Growth

Lead Through Mentorship: Experience is one of our greatest assets. By actively mentoring new members, we pass on vital knowledge, preserve our legacy, and empower the next generation of leaders to carry the torch effectively.

Treat One Another with Kindness: Mutual respect and camaraderie are non-negotiable. Approaching every interaction with empathy and goodwill strengthens our bond and ensures our Post homes remain safe, welcoming havens for all service members.

Ask Questions and Stay Curious: No one is expected to have every answer. Encouraging open dialogue and asking questions when unsure prevents misunderstandings,

sharpens our operations, and ensures we execute our programs with precision.

Foster Teamwork for the Mission: Individual effort achieves goals, but unified teamwork sustains lasting impact. When we pool our strengths, align our priorities, and support each other, our capacity to serve veterans expands exponentially.

Embracing New Perspectives

Growth requires adaptability. Being open to new ideas and welcoming new people into our ranks is essential to our long-term success. Every new member brings unique skills, fresh energy, and diverse life experiences that can revitalize our posts and elevate our community outreach.

When we combine our time-tested traditions with innovative thinking, we build a stronger, more inclusive organization. Let us keep our doors open, our minds receptive, and our focus firm. **NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS!**

Yours in Comradeship,

Deuce Brandt

Commander 2026-2027

Department of Arizona

Veterans of Foreign Wars

"Advocacy with Integrity and Mentorship"



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Jr. Vice Commander

Hello Comrades,
This month I want to take a moment about staying motivated in your role. By now you may be wondering how

you ended up as a commander or leader in a role and can begin to suffer from insecurity or fatigue so here are some tips to help keep the drive alive.

Keeping motivated as a leader in the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) relies on returning to the core principle of servant leadership, where success is measured by service to others rather than holding a specific title. Focus on Servant Leadership

- **Serve daily:** Remember that the finest post leaders cook meals, maintain facilities, and organize events rather than just wearing a commander's cap.
- **Anchor in the mission:** Revisit the foundational objectives of the VFW Congressional Charter to foster patriotism, support local communities, and assist fellow veterans.

- **Remember the impact:** Focus on individual veteran stories and direct local support to sustain your personal drive.

Engage and Mentor Members

- **Build connections:** Listen closely to newer or younger members to discover what motivates them and match their unique skills to post programs.
- **Share the load:** Delegate authority fully when assigning tasks to committee members, empowering them to take ownership of their roles.

- **Recognize contributions:** Give credit where it is due, thank volunteers often, and celebrate small wins to keep morale high across the post. In following these guidelines will hopefully see higher morale in your membership and in doing so you will get a sense of accomplishment that will sustain you thru your command year.

Respectfully,
Jim Shanley



From the Quartermaster

It's been a very busy 3 Months on the job. Rest assured, Keith and I are working great together taking care of

veterans and all the calls coming into headquarters. One thing that I have noticed is that some of you are still a little confused about our website and getting your bonds, buddy poppy and audits in. It's really too easy to submit if you have a computer. Go to vfwaz.com and click on "resources" for bonds, and "programs" for buddy poppy. Of course, if you don't have a computer or just don't want to use one, we still process any requests through mail. A new area that we added is "news" for the Arizona State Fair sign-ups. We can use help in recruiting and if you are not that good at recruiting, believe me when I say this; you will be when you do a shift. We all have a different way to engage



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future members but it's all for us as a whole. Attached to this bulletin, you will see the "Arrears sheet" to where it shows your post or district on what you have already submitted. The one confusion out there is the number of poppies that need to be ordered. Just remember the one "Golden Rule", 5 per member with a minimum of 500. Poppies come in boxes of 500 so you must round up. Most of you have done an outstanding job submitting bonds and audits but there are still a few of you who need to complete your requirements. At any time, you can call me for assistance, and I will walk you through it. I would like to welcome a new "Corporate Sponsor", Cornerstone to our list of partners who will work closely with us as a partner in helping veterans. If you have a veteran in need who might need living assistance in their later years, this organization is here for us. Please reach out and they will help. Certificate of Bonds are being emailed to those who have paid for them. Please be patient, the certificates are in the process and remember; there is a 90-day grace period on your current bonds. In closing, "keep up the great work". It's an honor to work for the Department of Arizona. "Together Everyone Achieves More", teamwork is the name of the game.

Faithfully Serving
Tim Borland

Department Quartermaster

480-597-5023

Comrades,

Upcoming Events

Sep	01	Staff Call- 10:00am Headquarters/Zoom
	01	District Commanders Call 6:00pm Zoom
	01	Post Commander's Call 7:00pm Zoom
	04-06	Fall Conference JW Starr Pass Resort Tucson
	10-13	Department QM/Adj Training Kansas City, Mo
	14-17	Fall Legislative Conference Washington D.C.
	24-27	C-in-C Homecoming Milwaukee, WI
Oct		
	01-04	Jr Vice Commanders Training Kansas City, MO
	04-09	NVS Accredited Skill Training Annapolis, MD
	04-09	NVS Basic Training for Accredited Reps Annapolis, MD



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(Upcoming events continued)

- 06 Staff Call - 10:00am
Headquarters/Zoom
- 06 District Commanders Call
6:00pm Zoom
- 06 Post Commander's Call
7:00pm Zoom

Department Convention Pictures





September 2026

[illegible]



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.
NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.

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**POW / MIA
RECOGNITION EVENT**

**SEPTEMBER 18TH, 2026
1:00 PM**

ARIZONA HEROES MEMORIAL
810 W Naranja Dr, Oro Valley, AZ 85737

**JOIN US TO HONOR THOSE WHO GAVE ALL
AND THOSE WHO HAVE NOT RETURNED.**

**Co-Hosted by: Oro Valley VFW Post 12222
Oro Valley American Legion Post 132**

The poster is framed with a decorative border featuring stars and stripes. The background image shows a desert landscape with mountains, a cactus, and an American flag. The text is in bold, sans-serif fonts, with the event title and date being the most prominent.



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★★★ YOU ARE NOT FORGOTTEN ★★★

POW/MIA EMPTY CHAIR — CEREMONY —

A SOLEMN REMEMBRANCE OF AMERICA'S
PRISONERS OF WAR AND THOSE STILL
MISSING IN ACTION.

 **SATURDAY
SEPTEMBER 19, 2026
★ 2:30 PM ★
IN THE HALL**

 **4724 S. 12TH AVE.
TUCSON, AZ**

 Join our American Legion and VFW families as we honor America's prisoners of war and those still missing in action through the traditional POW/MIA Empty Chair Ceremony.

 A table set for a solemn ceremony with a white tablecloth, a black chair with a POW/MIA logo, a lit candle, a red rose, a glass of water, a Bible, and a plate with a lemon wedge. The chair and tablecloth both feature the POW/MIA logo and the text "YOU ARE NOT FORGOTTEN".

**OPEN TO OUR MEMBERSHIP
& THE COMMUNITY**

— ALL GAVE SOME. SOME GAVE ALL. UNTIL THEY ALL COME HOME. —

★ AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY ★	★ VFW FAMILY ★
   	  
WILLIAM D. AVILES SAHUARO POST 68 LEGION • AUXILIARY • SAL • RIDERS	COL. LOWELL H. SMITH POST 10015 VFW • AUXILIARY • RIDERS

UNITED IN HONOR ★ FOREVER IN MEMORY
★ YOU ARE NOT FORGOTTEN ★



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TOGETHER TO SAVE LIVES

The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention is holding their annual community walk!

The Out of the Darkness Community Walk gathers many to support the AFSP mission, saving lives and bringing hope to those affected by suicide.

When and Where?

Saturday, Sept 26, 2026 - Prescott
554 6th St, Prescott, AZ 86301

Saturday, Oct 3, 2026 - Flagstaff
2400 N Gemini Rd, Flagstaff, AZ 86004

Saturday, Oct 24, 2026 - Phoenix
7555 N Pima Rd, Scottsdale, AZ 85258

Sunday, Nov 15, 2026 - Tucson
900 S Randolph Way, Tucson, AZ 85716

What time should I be there?

It starts at 9:00 am, but get there early as registration starts at 8:00 am.

You won't want to miss any booths, including the VFW! If you are interested in helping run the VFW booth, contact Allison Helm for information below!

What will we be doing?

Dress accordingly, you will be outside!
Everyone gets together and walks a set path that is about a mile and a half long!

Want to pre-register online?

This will make it easier to check in on the day of the walk! Use the link below to pre-register!

<https://afspwalks.donordrive.com/>

Then select find community walk

Questions?

Reach out to Allison Helm
623-810-6909
helm3253@gmail.com



Want to donate to AFSP?

Scan the QR code above to support!



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JOIN ME AT THE RACE!

BLACKLIGHT RUN PHOENIX 2026 5K

SATURDAY
SEPTEMBER 26, 2026

END 22 A DAY
VETERAN SUICIDE AWARENESS

LET'S GLOW. RUN. MAKE A DIFFERENCE TOGETHER. WE CAN END 22 A DAY.

5K GLOW RUN/WALK
ALL AGES WELCOME!
RUN. RAISE AWARENESS. SAVE LIVES.

SATURDAY
SEPTEMBER 26, 2026
PHOENIX, ARIZONA
5K GLOW RUN/WALK
BLACKLIGHTRUN.COM
EARLY REGISTRATION OPEN NOW!

VFW
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.
★ ARIZONA ★
PROUDLY REPRESENTING
VFW ARIZONA &
COMBAT TESTED GAMING

WE RUN FOR THOSE WHO CAN'T.
YOU ARE NOT ALONE.
WE'VE GOT YOUR SIX.

DEPARTMENT OF ARIZONA VFW FAMILY

VFW VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS
VFW AUXILIARY
MILITARY ORDER OF THE COOTIES

★ PRESENTED BY DEPARTMENT OF ARIZONA VFW COMBAT TESTED GAMING & FAMILY ★
SUPPORT VETERANS ★ BUILD COMMUNITY ★ END VETERAN SUICIDE
VETERANS GAMING TOGETHER. STAYING TOGETHER.

04:47

Is this a private team?

☐ No - anyone can join

☒ Yes - require a password

Team password *

VfwAZ

3 Merchandise

cecu.active.com

Come on out and Join the Fun!!!



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VFW & AUXILIARY 2026 FALL CONFERENCE

— ★ September 4 – September 6 ★ —

FRIDAY

4:00 – 5:30 PM	Youth Programs Training & Presentation
5:30 – 6:30 PM	Website, Social Media & Media Training
6:30 – 7:00 PM	Auxiliary Council of Administration Setup
7:00 – 8:00 PM	Auxiliary Council of Administration

SATURDAY

8:00 – 9:00 AM	Registration & Sign-In
9:00 – 9:30 AM	Opening Ceremony & Welcome
9:30 AM – 12:00 PM	Leadership & Conflict Resolution Training • 10-minute break between sessions
12:00 – 1:00 PM	Lunch (On Site)
1:00 – 3:00 PM	Program Seminar • 6 Programs – 20 Minutes Each
3:00 – 3:30 PM	Closing Remarks
5:30 PM	Banquet & Guest Speaker

SUNDAY

9:00 – 10:30 AM	VFW Council of Administration
9:00 – 10:00 AM	Optional Auxiliary Training Session



- Registration begins at 8:00 AM Saturday.
- Sunday's Auxiliary Training Session is optional.





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Room Deadline has been extended to August 10th!!!

VFW FALL CONFERENCE 2026
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.
★ DEPARTMENT OF ARIZONA ★

THE NATIONAL CONVENTION IS BEHIND US
and the
FALL CONFERENCE
IS RAPIDLY APPROACHING!

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!
Join us for the
Department of Arizona
Fall Conference!

- Connect with fellow Comrades & Auxiliaries
- Strengthen our mission and programs
- Plan for a strong future for Arizona VFW

IMPORTANT DEADLINE!
★
HOTEL REGISTRATION WINDOW CLOSES
AUGUST 6, 2026
Reserve Your Room TODAY!

CONFERENCE INFORMATION AVAILABLE ONLINE!
Visit **vfwaz.com**
and look under
Resources →
Conferences/Convention Information

BOOK YOUR ROOM NOW!
HOTEL RESERVATION LINK:
<https://book.passkey.com/go/DeptofAZVeterans>

★ Please pass this information around! ★

Questions? Contact: Keith MacDonald Adjutant
 adj@vfwaz.com (480) 590-0072

★ TOGETHER, WE SERVE. TOGETHER, WE SUCCEED. ★



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VFW
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

HEROES IN THE STANDS

HONORING THOSE WHO SERVED.
UNITED AS ONE.

ARIZONA CARDINALS *VS* **WASHINGTON COMMANDERS**

SUNDAY
NOVEMBER 29, 2026

2:25 PM MST
KICKOFF

STATE FARM STADIUM
GLENDALE, ARIZONA

BUY THROUGH OUR VFW FEVO LINK AND RECEIVE:

- ★ EXCLUSIVE COMMEMORATIVE COIN**
Every ticket purchased through our VFW link receives one limited-edition coin.
- ★ GIANT FLAG EXPERIENCE**
The first 300 ticket purchasers will help hold the giant American flag during the National Anthem.
(First 300 only)
- ★ VETERANS TAILGATE PARTY**
Join fellow veterans, military families and supporters before kickoff for food, fellowship, and fun!

SCAN HERE TO PURCHASE YOUR TICKETS!

*** **ONE GAME. ONE CAUSE. ONE COMMUNITY.** ***

Purchase tickets at: gofevo.com/event/veteransforeign38 or use QR Code above



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2026 VFW & AUXILIARY WESTERN CONFERENCE November 6-8, 2026

Arizona is excited to host the 2026 Western Conference

Registration

Registration Fee \$170 each

Registration includes

- Conference Bag
- Friday Hot Coffee/Tea
- Saturday Hot Coffee/Tea
- Saturday Buffet Lunch
- Saturday Banquet
- One Raffle Ticket for Free Room Night
- Hospitality Room
- Coupon for one Photo Booth Photo

Host Hotel

DoubleTree Phoenix Mesa
1011 West Holmes Ave, Mesa, 85210
Rate: \$169.00 plus taxes

Our Group rate includes Complimentary
Overnight Parking and Wifi

This hotel does not have an airport
shuttle.

SCAN
ME!

MORE INFO



Deadline to Register
Online is
October 19, 2026





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NICKY D. BACON VFW POST 285

FORE!! THE VETS

6TH ANNUAL

FORE THE VETS

GLENN STARK MEMORIAL

GOLF TOURNAMENT

SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE

HOLE SPONSORS • VETERAN GOLFER SPONSORS • CORPORATE PARTNERS



SCAN FOR DETAILS
& REGISTRATION

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2026

7:00 AM

 17225 N CITRUS RD
SURPRISE, AZ 85374

 CONTACT: GREGORY AKERS
AKERG17@GMAIL.COM