June 2026

Blue Cap News

Detachment Conference Call at 7 P.M. on Tuesday, June 9, 2026

For the lastest information about Sons of the American Legion, Detachment of Arizona visit

azsal.org

Celebrating 250 Years of American Independence

As we welcome the month of July, Americans across our great nation prepare to celebrate a truly historic milestone—the **250th Anniversary of the United States of America!**

For two and a half centuries, our nation has stood as a symbol of **Freedom, Opportunity, and Democracy**. This July, we celebrate not only Independence Day but also honor the generations of Patriots, Service Members, Veterans, and Citizens whose sacrifices have protected the liberties we enjoy today.

As Sons of the American Legion, this historic anniversary reminds us of our continuing mission to uphold the values established in 1776:

- ✅ Patriotism
- ✅ Citizenship
- ✅ Service
- ✅ Honor
- ✅ Community

Across Arizona, Sons are making a difference every day through:

- Youth Programs
- Boys State
- ALLECA
- Community Service Projects
- Veteran Support Initiatives
- Membership Growth Efforts

Whether you're volunteering at an event, supporting your Post, mentoring a young person, or helping a fellow veteran, your efforts help ensure that the spirit of America remains strong for the next 250 years.

🤝 Detachment of Arizona Area Roundtable Coming to Post 26 🇺🇸

The **Detachment of Arizona Sons of the American Legion** invites all Squadron officers, members, and those interested in strengthening our organization to attend the upcoming **Area Roundtable Meeting**.

📅 **Date:** Saturday, August 2, 2026
⏰ **Time:** 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM
📍 **Location:** American Legion Post 26

The Area Roundtable is designed to bring together Sons from across Arizona to share ideas, discuss challenges, celebrate successes, and collaborate on ways to strengthen our Squadrons and support the mission of The American Legion Family.

Topics of Discussion Include:

✅ Membership Recruitment & Retention
✅ Squadron Best Practices
✅ Youth Programs & Community Outreach
✅ Upcoming Detachment Initiatives
✅ Leadership Development
✅ Questions & Open Discussion

This is an excellent opportunity to network with fellow Sons, learn from successful Squadrons, and discover new ways to engage members and communities throughout Arizona. Whether your Squadron is large or small, every member has valuable experiences and ideas to contribute.

Why Attend?

🤝 Connect with fellow Sons from across the state
📈 Learn strategies to grow your Squadron
🎯 Share successful programs and events
🇺🇸 Strengthen support for veterans and communities
💡 Exchange ideas that can help all Squadrons succeed

The strength of our Detachment comes from the dedication and involvement of our members. By coming together, we can continue building a stronger future for the Sons of the American Legion in Arizona.

🎖️ **Mark your calendars and plan to join us on August 2!**

Together, we continue our mission of **Service, Patriotism, and Commitment to Veterans and Youth.**

🚓 ALLECA Continues to Build Arizona's Future Leaders in Law Enforcement 👮

One of the greatest investments we can make as members of the Sons of the American Legion is in the next generation of leaders. The American Legion Law Enforcement Career Academy (ALLECA) continues to do exactly that by providing Arizona's young men and women with an unforgettable week of leadership, discipline, teamwork, and career exploration.

Each year, motivated students from across Arizona come together to experience life as a law enforcement recruit. Throughout the academy, participants receive hands-on instruction from experienced law enforcement professionals representing agencies from around the state. Cadets are challenged both physically and mentally while learning about ethics, leadership, criminal justice, investigations, defensive tactics, emergency response, and the importance of serving their communities with honor.

But ALLECA is much more than a career camp.

The academy instills confidence, responsibility, respect, integrity, and a commitment to service—qualities that will benefit these young adults regardless of the career path they ultimately choose. Many graduates leave the academy inspired to pursue careers in law enforcement, corrections, public safety, military service, or other fields dedicated to protecting and serving others.

The 2026 Academy once again demonstrated the tremendous impact this program has on Arizona's youth. Thanks to the dedication of volunteer instructors, agency partners, American Legion Family members, and generous sponsors, cadets were given opportunities that few young people ever experience. Their growth in leadership, teamwork, and self-confidence was evident throughout the week and reflected in the overwhelmingly positive feedback received from participants and their families.

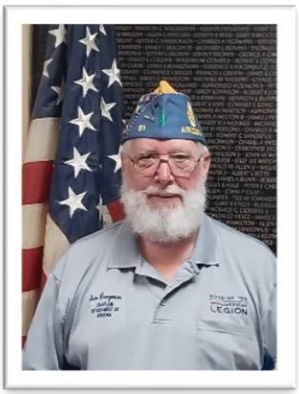
As Sons of the American Legion members, we should be proud to support programs like ALLECA. They embody our Four Pillars by investing in America's youth, promoting citizenship, and preparing future leaders who understand the meaning of duty, honor, and service.

As our nation celebrates its 250th Anniversary, programs like ALLECA remind us that the future of our communities rests in the hands of young Americans who are willing to answer the call to serve. By continuing to support these opportunities, we help ensure that the next generation of law enforcement professionals will carry forward the same values that have guided The American Legion Family for more than a century.

The future is bright because today's cadets are becoming tomorrow's guardians.

For more information about ALLECA visit http://www.alleca-az.org/

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER



An Unexpected Obstacle to Prayer

But when you are praying, first forgive anyone you are holding a grudge against, so that your Father in heaven will forgive your sins, too. —Mark 11:25

If you sense that your prayers are not being answered, it may be due to a spirit of unforgiveness in your heart.

The Bible makes it clear that unresolved conflict with others can get in the way of our relationship with God. In His Sermon on the Mount, Jesus said, *"So if you are presenting a sacrifice at the altar in the Temple and you suddenly remember that someone has something against you, leave your sacrifice there at the altar. Go and be reconciled to that person. Then come and offer your sacrifice to God"* (Matthew 5:23–24 NLT).

"…forgive our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us…" sound familiar, it should, it's directly from the Lord's prayer

Unresolved conflict gets in the way of prayer—and the blessings that come from it because it reveals a heart that isn't aligned with God's.

The apostle Paul wrote, *"Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander, as well as all types of evil behavior. Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you"* (Ephesians 4:31–32

God has forgiven Christians an incredible debt. He has wiped all our sins away. For us to harbor unforgiveness toward someone else is an offense against Him. Because we understand just how much forgiveness we've received, we should be the most forgiving people on the face of the earth.

Is there someone you hate right now? Is there someone you're bitter toward? Is there someone who causes you to seethe every time you see them? Is there someone you can't stand to be around? Is there someone you've been plotting revenge against? Is there someone you gossip about?

The more sincerely you reconcile with the estranged, angry, and hurting people in your life, the more effective your prayers will become.

- A devotional by Pastor Greg Laurie

Americanism

The 13 Original Colonies

(Part 1)

Alright, here's a little brain teaser. This is a little test to see just how acute your knowledge of our foundation is in becoming the most dynamic Republic the world has ever known.

Yes, I want you to name the original 13 colonies that were the foundation of the birth of America. Right now, I can bet a dime to a doughnut you can't. (That was a somewhat common challenging statement when I was growing up some 65 years ago)

Want the answers? Write your guess at the answers, keep them handy and next month you'll have the facts.

Meanwhile, some facts and tidbits

- Plymouth Colony was the first New England colony, and its settlers signed the Mayflower Compact, an early self-governing agreement.
- Maryland was founded as a haven for Catholics and was home to the only Catholic signer of the Declaration of Independence.
- New Hampshire was the first colony to form an independent government and adopt a state constitu tion.
- The 13 original colonies were divided into Southern, Middle, and New England regions.

Bonus Question

Name colonies that made up each of the 3 regions.

🧢🇺🇸 A New Chapter Begins: Leadership, Legacy, and Looking Ahead 🇺🇸🧢

The 2026 Detachment of Arizona Sons of the American Legion Convention marked another successful gathering of dedicated members committed to strengthening our organization and advancing our mission of "For God and Country." Delegates from across Arizona came together to celebrate accomplishments, conduct the business of the Detachment, recognize outstanding service, and prepare for another exciting membership year.

One of the highlights of the convention was the transition of leadership within the Detachment.

👏 Past Detachment Commander Gary Manwell concluded a successful year of service, leadership, and dedication to the Sons of the American Legion. Throughout his term, Commander Manwell worked tirelessly to support Arizona's Squadrons, encourage membership growth, strengthen communication across the Detachment, and promote the values that define our organization. His commitment to serving our veterans, mentoring members, and advancing our youth programs has left a lasting impact that will continue to benefit the Detachment for years to come.

💙 On behalf of the entire Detachment, we extend our sincere gratitude to Past Detachment Commander Gary Manwell for his outstanding leadership and unwavering commitment. We thank him for his service and wish him continued success as he remains an active member of the American Legion Family.

🎉 The convention also welcomed Lance Bymers as the newly elected Detachment Commander of the Arizona Sons of the American Legion. Commander Bymers begins his term with a vision focused on strengthening Squadrons, expanding membership, developing future leaders, supporting veterans and their families, and ensuring that every member has an opportunity to make a meaningful impact within their community.

As our new Commander takes the helm, members across Arizona look forward to working together to build upon the strong foundation established by those who have served before him. The coming year presents exciting opportunities to grow our organization, enhance our youth programs, increase community engagement, and continue honoring the sacrifices of America's veterans.

🏛️ The convention itself was filled with meaningful moments—committee reports, officer elections, awards presentations, training sessions, and fellowship among members from every corner of the state. It served as a reminder that while we come from different Squadrons, we are united by a common purpose: serving veterans, mentoring youth, promoting patriotism, and strengthening our communities.

🌟 As America celebrates its 250th Anniversary, the Sons of the American Legion remain committed to preserving our proud heritage while embracing the future. Together, under Commander Lance Bymers' leadership, we will continue to grow our Detachment, support the programs of The American Legion Family, and inspire the next generation of patriotic Americans.

Congratulations to Detachment Commander Lance Bymers, thank you to Past Detachment Commander Gary Manwell, and thank you to every member who attended the 2026 Convention. The work ahead is exciting, and together we will continue to make a difference across Arizona.

us Together We Serve. Together We Lead. Together We Grow.

For God and Country! 🧢

🇺🇸 🏛️ Arizona Boys State 2026: Building Tomorrow's Leaders Today 🏛️🇺🇸

One of the greatest legacies of the American Legion Family is our unwavering commitment to developing the next generation of leaders. Each year, Arizona Boys State provides outstanding young men from across our state with a life-changing opportunity to experience democracy in action while learning what it truly means to lead and serve.

For one unforgettable week, delegates step into the roles of elected officials, legislators, judges, law enforcement officers, and community leaders. Through hands-on participation in a simulated state government, they learn firsthand how local, county, and state governments operate while gaining a deeper appreciation for the responsibilities of citizenship.

🤝 The Sons of the American Legion proudly stand beside The American Legion in supporting this premier youth program. Our Squadrons contribute through fundraising, sponsorships, volunteer service, mentoring, and by encouraging qualified young men in our communities to apply for this remarkable experience.

But Boys State is about much more than politics.

🌟 It is about developing:

- 🎯 Leadership
- 🤝 Teamwork
- 🇺🇸 Patriotism
- 🗣️ Public Speaking
- ⚖️ Civic Responsibility
- 💡 Critical Thinking
- ❤️‍🩹 Respect for Others

Many Boys State alumni have gone on to become military officers, judges, educators, business leaders, first responders, legislators, and community volunteers. The lessons learned during this week continue to shape lives long after the program concludes.

As America celebrates its 250th Anniversary, the mission of Boys State has never been more important. Our nation depends upon informed, engaged citizens who understand both the privileges and responsibilities of freedom. Programs like Boys State ensure that the ideals upon which our country was founded continue to inspire future generations.

💙 The Sons of the American Legion are proud to invest in Arizona's youth because we know today's delegates will become tomorrow's leaders. Every sponsorship, volunteer hour, and word of encouragement helps strengthen not only this outstanding program but also the future of our communities, our state, and our nation.

🇺🇸 Because of Their Service... We Invest in Our Future.

Together, let us continue supporting Arizona Boys State and every young leader who answers the call to serve.

📣 From the Editor's Desk – Blue Cap News

📝 Celebrating Freedom, Service, and Our Legacy us

July is a month that reminds us why we proudly wear the Blue Cap. As Americans gather to celebrate Independence Day, we also celebrate the spirit of service that has defined our nation for 250 years. The freedoms we enjoy today were earned through the courage and sacrifice of generations who answered the call to serve.

As Sons of the American Legion, we are entrusted with carrying that legacy forward. Every membership drive, youth program, community event, volunteer hour, and act of kindness strengthens our organization and honors the veterans whose service made our own possible.

Across Arizona, Squadrons continue to demonstrate what it means to be *"Because of Their Service."* Whether mentoring young leaders, supporting our Posts, participating in community outreach, or simply lending a helping hand, your dedication is making a lasting impact.

As we move through the summer, I encourage every member to remain engaged, welcome new faces into our family, and continue building a stronger Detachment. Together, we are preserving our traditions while inspiring the next generation of patriotic Americans.

Thank you for everything you do for the Sons of the American Legion, our veterans, our communities, and our nation.

Have a safe, joyful, and patriotic Fourth of July!

For God and Country,

📬 Submit today and be part of the story!

Submit your stories or ad info to:
📧 bluecap@azlegion.org

Stay blue-capped and proud,
John "Radar" Meyer
— The Editor
The Blue Cap News