

August
2026

Blue Cap News



**Detachment
Conference Call at
7 P.M. on Tuesday,
Sept 8, 2026**



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

azsal.org



TWENTY-FIVE YEARS LATER: WE REMEMBER, WE HONOR, WE STAND TOGETHER

This Patriots Day, September 11, 2026, our nation will mark the 25th anniversary of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001—a day that forever changed America.

Nearly 3,000 innocent people lost their lives. First responders ran toward danger, demonstrating extraordinary courage and selflessness. Firefighters, police officers, emergency medical personnel, military members, airline crews, and ordinary citizens answered the call to help others.

In the days that followed, Americans stood together. Flags appeared everywhere, neighbors helped neighbors, and communities united. The words “United We Stand” reflected the spirit of our nation.

As members of the Sons of The American Legion, we have a responsibility to preserve the memory and lessons of September 11. Our commitment to patriotism, service, and remembrance calls us to honor the fallen, recognize our first responders, and support the veterans and military members who served in the years that followed.

Across Arizona, Squadrons can honor this anniversary by attending memorial ceremonies, displaying the American flag, supporting first responders and veterans, serving our communities, and teaching younger generations why September 11 matters.

Twenty-five years later, we remember those we lost, honor those who served, and reaffirm our commitment to the ideals that make this nation worth defending.

May we never forget.

God Bless those we lost, those who served, and the United States of America.



POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY

Remembering Those Who Have Not Come Home

September brings with it an important reminder of our responsibility as Americans and as members of the Sons of The American Legion—to remember those who served our country and never made it home.

POW/MIA Recognition Day will be observed on Friday, September 18, 2026. It is a day set aside to honor American service members who were prisoners of war and those who remain missing in action.

For many of us, the black-and-white POW/MIA flag is a familiar sight at American Legion Posts, government buildings, veterans' events, and military ceremonies. Its message is simple and powerful:

“YOU ARE NOT FORGOTTEN.”

That message represents more than the service member who is missing. It also represents the families who have spent decades wondering, waiting, and hoping for answers.

WHAT CAN YOUR SQUADRON DO?

POW/MIA Recognition Day provides every Squadron with an opportunity to put the SAL's commitment to patriotism and remembrance into action.

Consider including a POW/MIA recognition ceremony at your September meeting or community event. Display the POW/MIA flag, explain the meaning of the Missing Man Table, or invite local veterans and community members to participate.

Most importantly, tell the story.

For younger members of the Sons, September 18 can be more than another date on the calendar. It can be an opportunity to learn why the POW/MIA flag flies beside the American flag and why our nation continues to account for those who have not returned.



A PROMISE WE MUST KEEP

As Sons of The American Legion, we proudly carry forward the legacy of those who served before us.

Our responsibility is not simply to remember the veterans who came home.

It is also to remember those who did not.

This September, when you see the POW/MIA flag, take a moment to stop and think about the empty chair.

Think about the service member.

Think about their family.

Think about the generations of Americans who have carried the unanswered questions.



POW/MIA — YOU ARE NOT FORGOTTEN.

Let us continue to remember. Let us continue to honor. Let us continue to bring them home.

Excellence in Leadership: SAL Members Graduate from American Legion College

Congratulations to the 2026 American Legion College Graduates

The American Legion College is more than a classroom—it is an opportunity to develop the knowledge, leadership skills, and dedication needed to strengthen the American Legion Family. Recently, members of the Sons of the American Legion joined fellow Legion Family members at American Legion Post 27 to celebrate the graduation of another class of American Legion College participants.

The Sons of the American Legion extends its sincere congratulations to all of this year's graduates for their commitment to learning and their willingness to invest in the future of the American Legion Family. Among those recognized were several members of the Sons of the American Legion, demonstrating once again that SAL members are stepping forward to learn, lead, and serve. Their participation in programs such as American Legion College reflects the importance of developing strong leaders at every level of our organization.

A Special Congratulations to Phillip Coleman

A special congratulations goes to **Squadron 27 member Phillip Coleman**, who earned the distinction of Honor Graduate for achieving the **highest score** in this year's American Legion College class.

This outstanding accomplishment represents more than academic success. It reflects dedication, preparation, participation, and a commitment to understanding the principles and responsibilities of leadership within The American Legion Family.



Phillip's achievement is something his fellow members of Squadron 27 and the entire Sons of the American Legion can be proud of. His success serves as an excellent example of what can be accomplished when members take advantage of opportunities to grow their knowledge and leadership abilities.

Investing in Tomorrow's Leaders

Leadership development is essential to the continued success of the Sons of the American Legion. As our organization grows, we need members who are willing to step forward, accept responsibility, learn from others, and help guide the next generation.

The graduates of American Legion College have taken an important step in that journey. Their experience and knowledge can be brought back to their Posts, Squadrons, Districts, and Detachments, strengthening the entire American Legion Family.

Blue Cap News congratulates all of the American Legion College graduates—especially our Sons of the American Legion members—and salutes Phillip Coleman on being named Honor Graduate.

Your dedication to learning and leadership is an investment not only in yourselves, but in the future of the American Legion Family.

Congratulations, graduates! Keep learning. Keep leading. Keep serving.

For more information about Arizona Legion College <https://azlegioncollege.org/>



As I look back on my 1st 2 months as Detachment Commander I'm amazed by what I have seen. We started with the membership card issue. That has been resolved and we then jumped right into the Round table preparation. Now as we prepare for National Convention in Louisville I'm reminded of all the great programs we have to offer our membership and our countries youth. Programs like the Be the One program and doing buddy checks are so important in growing our membership. The voice that we have as an American Legion Family is incredible. Boys and Girls State, oratorical and ALLECA are great examples of youth leadership programs. We have so much to tell the masses about, we are so much more than a cantina.

I've had the privilege of attending the American Legion State Baseball Championship series. To see these young men compete with each other in a positive manner is very encouraging for Americas' future. I attended our organizational meeting at Post 25 and met with our leadership to plan our next year. These are incredible people doing incredible things. Our round table at the beginning of August at Post 26 was well attended and some great things came out of the meeting. We are planning another in Southern Arizona in early 2027. I have had the privilege of visiting over 30 posts, and heard of the many things that each Post does to be successful in their own way. The many charities that they support and the membership they support in limitless and uplifting.

The months ahead are already scheduled and very full of events. If you would like me to attend your event please reach out to me at salcommander@azlegion.org or the adjutant at saladjutant@azlegion.org.

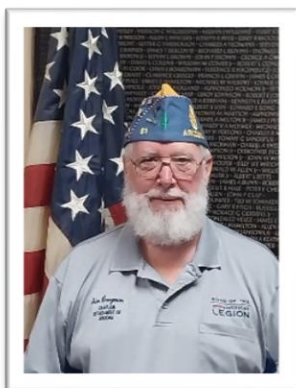
I'm excited to report back to you about National Convention and learn more about how we can help our Squadrons and the Legion Family.

For God and Country,

Lance Bymers
Detachment of Arizona Commander



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER



It's never too late, the door will be open, you are welcome to walk through it.

I took a few excerpts from a daily devotion I found on Christianity.com and thought I would share with you. I strayed for many years in the past, but through prayer and petition, I found my way home, so can you when you're ready.

If you have wandered away from God and your spirit has been telling you that something isn't right, it's time to make things right with the Lord your God. He is always ready to hear from you; you are only a prayer away.

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. - [1 John 1:9](#)

If you have wandered away from God and your spirit has been telling you that something isn't right, it's time to make things right with the Lord your God. He is always ready to hear from you; you are only a prayer away.

Prayer is a powerful tool in the life of a believer because access to God is free. There is never a busy signal, and the connection is always open. God wants to hear from you, and He wants to restore the fellowship you once shared with Him.

You don't know when you will take your last breath, so make things right with God today.

Jim Borgman
Arizona Detachment Chaplain

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TOO LATE

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Americanism



At one point I served on the National Americanism Commission and I saved some of the articles that we put forth. I thought I would share this one with you now at the start of a new membership year. If you don't have one, consider appointing a Historian for your squadron and task him with preparing a scrapbook that could be submitted at next year's National Convention to be judged in the annual contest. You'll be able to look back on fond memories for years! Feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Americanism Commission - Community Service Scrapbook Contest By National Americanism Commission Chairman Greg "Doc" Gibbs

Start your year off right and begin collecting information for your Community Service Scrapbook. Squadrons, and even Detachments can enter the Americanism Commission's Community Service Scrapbook Contest. Please see pages 39-40 in the SAL Administrative Manual for complete criteria, rules, judging, points, and deadline information. The manual is available online at www.legion.org/sal.

Scrapbooks must be properly bound so there are no loose pages, they must be typed or neatly written, spelling and grammar must be correct, and the information presented must be in chronological order. All submissions must have dates and descriptions and only articles taking place this year may be submitted for judging. Points will be awarded according to this and other criteria listed in the manual. The scrapbook with the highest point total is eligible for an award.

The usual deadline is just prior to the Pre-Convention NEC Meeting, likely to be due in mid-August. You mail your completed scrapbook to National Headquarters, Sons of The American Legion, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, Indiana 46206 with a return receipt requested.

Scrapbooks are judged from the criteria in the SAL Manual by the Americanism Commission members present at the Pre-NEC Convention Meeting. Winners are recognized at the Convention.

The Americanism Commission would love to see many Squadrons and Detachments enter. Start by collecting those photos, news articles, and information on your events early so you can compile your scrapbook as the year progresses, and you'll be ready by the August deadline.

***Jim Borgman,
Americanism Chairman***



Building a Website for You and Your Squadron

Over the past several months, I've been working hard behind the scenes to **revamp and modernize the Detachment of Arizona Sons of the American Legion website — AZSAL.org.**

The goal is more than simply giving the website a new look. I want **AZSAL.org to become a useful resource for every member, officer, and Squadron across Arizona.** Whether you're looking for forms, programs, training resources, membership information, upcoming events, or ideas to help your Squadron succeed, the website should make finding that information easier.

Have you visited the new AZSAL.org yet?

If you haven't, I encourage you to take a few minutes and check it out. There is still work being done, and the site will continue to evolve as we add resources and improve the information available.

But here's the most important part:

I Want to Hear From You!

What would make the website more useful to you and your Squadron?

Maybe there's a resource you're always searching for. Perhaps you have an idea for a page, a tool that would make your job as a Squadron officer easier, or information you think every Squadron should have access to.

Send me your suggestions. Good, bad, or somewhere in between—I want to hear them.

My goal is for **AZSAL.org to be a website built around the needs of our Squadrons and our members,** not just a website built for the sake of having one.

So, take a look, explore the site, and let me know what you think.

Your ideas can help make AZSAL.org better for everyone.

For God and Country,

Johnathan "Radar" Meyer

Editor, Blue Cap News

Detachment of Arizona – Sons of the American Legion



Submit today and be part of the story!



bluecap@azlegion.org

SEPTEMBER MILITARY ★ DATES TO HIGHLIGHT ★ HONORING SERVICE. STRENGTHENING AMERICA.		
★	DATE	MILITARY CONNECTION ★
	SEPT. 2	V-J Day / End of WWII commemorations
	SEPT. 11	Patriot Day and 25th Anniversary of 9/11
	SEPT. 17	Constitution Day
	SEPT. 18	U.S. Air Force Birthday
	SEPT. 29	Gold Star Mother's and Family's Day
	SEPT. 30	End of the federal fiscal year, and a good time to look back at the year's military milestones
PATRIOTISM ★ SERVICE ★ COMRADESHIP SONS STRONG FOR GOD AND COUNTRY		