March 2026

Blue Cap News

Detachment Conference Call at 7 P.M. on Tuesday, April 14, 2026

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

azsal.org

🌷 April in Action: Service, Growth, and Legacy – The Sons Lead the Way 🌷

As spring takes hold across Arizona, April brings a season of renewal—and for the Sons of the American Legion, it's a powerful reminder that our mission continues to grow stronger with each passing month. Rooted in service, guided by patriotism, and driven by community, our Squadrons stand ready to make an impact where it matters most.

April is more than just a change in seasons—it's a call to action. Across the Detachment of Arizona, Sons are actively supporting their local Posts, organizing community events, and stepping up to ensure that the values of the American Legion Family remain vibrant and visible. Whether it's volunteering at local functions, assisting with youth programs, or honoring our veterans through meaningful outreach, the work of the Sons continues to reflect dedication beyond self.

🌼 Strengthening Our Purpose

The Sons of the American Legion exist to honor the service and sacrifice of those who came before us. In April, many Squadrons begin preparing for end-of-year reporting, officer nominations, and upcoming conventions. This is a critical time to reflect on accomplishments, identify opportunities for growth, and ensure the continued success of our programs. Strong leadership and active membership remain the backbone of our organization.

🐰 Community & Youth Engagement

Spring events are in full swing, and April provides countless opportunities to connect with our communities. From Easter celebrations and local fundraisers to youth outreach and scholarship promotion, the Sons play a key role in making these events successful. Our visibility in the community not only strengthens our mission but also helps grow future membership and awareness of what we stand for.

Honoring the American Legion Family

As proud members of the American Legion Family, we stand shoulder to shoulder with the Legionnaires, Auxiliary, and Riders. April is a perfect time to reinforce those relationships by supporting Post activities and collaborating on shared goals. Unity within the Legion Family ensures our collective impact is felt far and wide.

📣 Looking Ahead

With District and Detachment conventions on the horizon, now is the time to ensure your Squadron is prepared. Submit reports, recognize your volunteers, and consider stepping into leadership roles. The future of the Sons depends on those willing to lead, serve, and inspire others.

From Arizona to the Nation's Capital: Leadership in Action at the Washington Conference

There's something different about Washington, D.C. in the winter months, brisk air, busy streets, and inside those marble buildings, decisions being made that shape the lives of veterans across the country. This year, the Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Arizona had a strong voice in those rooms, carried by Detachment Commander Gary Manwell and Western Region Membership Director Matt Griffis.

Their journey to the Washington Conference wasn't just another trip, it was a mission. Representing Arizona with pride, Commander Manwell and Director Griffis stepped into a national arena where advocacy takes center stage. The Washington Conference brings together Legion Family leaders from across the country to meet with members of Congress, discuss key veteran issues, and ensure that the needs of those who served are never overlooked.

But behind every handshake on Capitol Hill is something deeper, stories from back home.

Commander Manwell brought with him the voices of Arizona veterans, the ones sitting at Post meetings, volunteering at community events, and relying on the Legion Family to stand in their corner. Every conversation he had in Washington carried those stories forward, turning local impact into national awareness.

At the same time, Matt Griffis focused on what keeps this organization strong at its core: membership. He understands that every new member isn't just a number, it's a future leader, a volunteer, a voice. His work at the conference centered on strengthening the foundation of the Sons of The American Legion, ensuring that growth and engagement continue across every level of the organization.

For many, it's easy to overlook what happens at a conference like this. But those who have walked those halls know the reality—long days, tight schedules, and meaningful conversations that don't end when the meetings do.

And here's why it matters.

It matters when Arizona shows up.
It matters when our leadership is in the room.
And it matters when the work being done in our Posts and Squadrons is carried all the way to Capitol Hill.

Because what happens in Washington doesn't stay there, it comes back home. It influences legislation, strengthens programs, and reinforces the mission we all believe in.

Commander Manwell and Director Griffis didn't just attend the Washington Conference, they represented every member of the Detachment of Arizona. Every volunteer hour, every membership drive, every act of service was part of the story they carried with them.

That's leadership in action.

And that's something worth standing behind.

Squadron 97 Leads the Way at the 9th Annual Youth Fishing Derby

https://stvlegion.com/fishing-derby

On March 7, the Sons of the American Legion Squadron 97 proudly took the lead in hosting the 9th Annual Joe Foss Post 97 Youth Fishing Derby in San Tan Valley, Arizona—continuing a valued tradition of community engagement, mentorship, and outdoor fun for our youth.

This year's event welcomed **45 young anglers**, all eager to cast their lines and enjoy a day of friendly competition and camaraderie. Thanks to their enthusiasm and a well-stocked pond, the derby proved to be a great success. By the end of the day, participants had caught **20 fish**, totaling an impressive **40+ pounds**. The standout catch of the day weighed in at a remarkable **7.2 pounds**, earning well-deserved recognition.

Squadron 97 members stepped up in a big way—organizing logistics, assisting families, and ensuring each participant had a memorable and safe experience. Their leadership and dedication exemplify the mission of the Sons of the American Legion: fostering patriotism, supporting our veterans, and investing in the next generation.

Events like the Youth Fishing Derby not only bring families together but also create lasting memories for our community's youth. Squadron 97 extends its gratitude to all volunteers, supporters, and families who made this event possible.

We look forward to continuing this tradition and making next year's derby even bigger and better!

For God and Country

Americanism

Service to God and Country"

"Service to God and Country" is an American Legion and Sons of The American Legion program whose saying describes our members' attitude and way of life. Nondenominational and nonsectarian, the Legion's support for religion in the public square is basic Americanism. Rather than acting independently of religious groups, the Sons of The American Legion desires to cooperate with and join them in reminding the American people with one voice that God is the author and architect of our beloved "land of the free." Without God, there is no Americanism.

The American Legion's and the Sons of The American Legion's founders believed that God and country cannot be treated as mutually exclusive if the United States is to survive and prosper. Thus, they created the office of chaplain, charging it with keeping this association high in the minds of members. As spiritual leaders, chaplains see that the Legion's and the Sons of The American Legion's "Service to God and Country" program is carried out. This includes encouraging regular public worship, daily family prayer and the religious education of children, all in an effort to bring Americans closer to the Creator.

In addition, they promote individual citizenship, service to the community, and our obligation to uphold and defend the Constitution.

That we rededicate ourselves to the service to God portion of our Preamble, through religious tolerance of all faiths; we encourage regular attendance at religious services, and religious training of our children; and that we as American citizens, as a result of our faith in God, should model integrity, self-sacrifice, hard work, and a life of caring for one another and members of our communities. That includes caring for our families, helping the elderly, mentoring youth, working for the good of the community, and continuing to support our veterans and active military.

Gerald Hammerschmidt
Americanism Commission Vice Chairman

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

Jim Borgman,
Detachment Chaplain

📣 From the Editor's Desk – Blue Cap News

📝✨ From Your Squadron to the Spotlight! 🌟📸

Got a story to tell? A moment to celebrate? A photo that captures the spirit of your Squadron? Don't keep it tucked away—**share it with your Blue Cap News family!** us💙

Every meeting, every project, every act of service is a thread in the larger tapestry of our Detachment. Whether it's a successful fundraiser 💰, a community event 🤝, or a simple moment of camaraderie 😄—**your Squadron's story matters**.

📣 Let your voices be heard
📸 Let your moments be seen
📰 Let your impact inspire others

By submitting your articles and photos, you're not just reporting—you're **motivating**, **connecting**, and **strengthening** the Sons of the American Legion across Arizona. Who knows? Your story might spark the next great idea in another Squadron! 💡🔥

So dust off those photos, jot down those highlights, and send them in! Together, we make Blue Cap News more than a publication—we make it a living, breathing story of service and pride.

📮 **Submit today and be part of the story!**
🎖️ *For God and Country*

Got an event or something to promote? Submit an advertisement for the Blue Cap News with just a $5 (per month) donation to the Commander's charity — COTA (Children's Organ Transplant Association).

Send donations (made payable to SAL COTA FUND) to:

Detachment Adjutant
4701 North 19th Avenue, Suite #200
Phoenix, Arizona 85015
(make sure you put your Squadron on the memo)

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

Let's keep the SAL spirit strong and share your stories with the whole Detachment!

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

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION
DETACHMENT OF ARIZONA
SAL CAMPOUT
2026
COTTONWOOD, ARIZONA
APRIL 10-12, 2026
DEAD HORSE RANCH STATE PARK
For information or reservations, contact:
saladjutant@azlegion.org

RIDING SIDE BY SIDE WITH COTA

Children's Organ Transplant Association

2025 POLARIS RZR 1000 WITH TRAILER

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

Join the Son's of the American Legion Arizona in supporting COTA to help remove the financial barriers to life-saving transplants for children in Arizona

APRIL 12, 2026 DRAWING

$30 TICKET OR 4/$100

PURCHASE HERE