

September
2026

Blue Cap News



Detachment
Conference Call at 7
P.M. on Tuesday, Oct
13, 2026



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

azsal.org

October: More Than a Month on the Calendar – It's a Time to Serve

October brings cooler evenings, fall activities and the excitement of Halloween, but for the Sons of The American Legion, it is also a great time to remember **why we wear the blue cap**.

Our mission is simple: honor the service and sacrifice of our veterans by supporting them, our communities and the American Legion Family.

Across Arizona, Squadrons are making a difference every day—supporting veterans, participating in flag ceremonies, helping their Posts, serving their communities and providing opportunities for our youth. Every act of service, large or small, helps carry forward the legacy of the veterans who came before us.

Membership Is More Than a Number

October is also an important time for membership. Take a moment to ask someone, **"Are you a member of the Sons of The American Legion?"** If they aren't, tell them what your Squadron does and invite them to get involved.

But don't just focus on membership numbers. **Focus on membership activity.** A strong Squadron is one that is visible, active and making a difference.

As we approach Veterans Day in November, let's make October a month of action.

Wear the Blue. Honor the Legacy. Serve Our Veterans. Strengthen Our Communities.

Arizona Sons, let's continue showing our Posts and communities what the Sons of The American Legion can accomplish when we **serve together!**

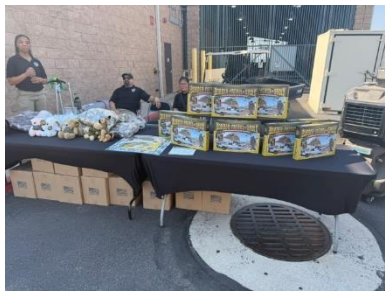


More Than a Burger: Serving Those Who Serve

The American Legion Family's Border Patrol Burger Burn Tradition Continues

The Department of Arizona hosted its first "Border Patrol Burger Burn" January 2024 at the Nogales Border Patrol Station in Nogales, AZ. The idea was born after now National Vice Commander Ben Headen and then District 3 Commander Bruce Callaghan approached Legionnaire Gerard Brinkmann about what The American Legion could do to help the US Border Patrol. In addition to being a Retired Marine and TAL member, Gerard was serving as the Veteran Support Program Coordinator for Tucson Sector of the US Border Patrol as a Border Patrol Agent. Gerard said "feed us". At the time of inception of the "burger burns", the Border Patrol was facing record apprehensions and assaults on federal agents. In keeping with National Security pillar and supporting "to maintain law and order" (as stated in our preamble to the constitution), Ben and Bruce wanted to serve, literally and figuratively.

The first year, it was Department run and they fed most of the Border Patrol Stations in the Tucson Sector. Each Station they served, the AZ legion team spent long days to ensure all three shifts were fed and thanks were given for their mission and dedication.



Thanks to the relationship formed, the Department of Arizona also provided a burger burn to all who attended a "Quick Claims Clinic" that was sponsored by Customs and Border Protection in Tucson, AZ. Over 600 Veterans were seen at that event. This was organized by Legionnaire and US Border Patrol employee Keith Hamblin, who succeeded Gerard as the Tucson Sector Veteran Support Program Coordinator.

After the first year, Districts from the Department of Arizona have continued the Border Patrol Burger Burns with the Douglas, Naco, Three Points, Sonoita, and Nogales Border Patrol Stations annually.

On Saturday, August 6th 2026, four members representing each of The American Legion Family entities and programs continued what has become a Department of Arizona enduring tradition supporting the four pillars.

Detachment of Arizona Commander Lance Bymers, Brian Kempker and Gerard Brinkmann (both Legionnaires, Sons, Riders), and Auxiliary Member Misty Lacy showed up that hot August morning not realizing that they would hit all four pillars in one event.



It was family day at Tucson Sector and District 2, Department of Arizona, was invited to cook. Manning the grills and feeding the stomachs, they also fed the souls of the Border Patrol Agents, professional staff, and their families. While family day participants waited in line, the four engaged all in conversation; each in their own respect. Conversations ranged from Legion Baseball, to American Legion Law Enforcement Career Academy, Boys State, Girls State, Oratorical, VA benefits, scholarship opportunities, how they can join The American Legion, or what Post they are a member of.

240 burgers were burnt, 200 hot dogs boiled and braised, 50 brats perfectly cooked, 4 Legion Family members were pleased with their volunteer efforts but most importantly: all 4 pillars were served and many souls were touched. Without a doubt, Tucson Sector knows who The American Legion is.



Story submitted by Lance Bymers

Remembering PNC Jeffrey Frain



The Sons of The American Legion Family will come together on **Sunday, October 11, 2026, at 3:00 p.m.** to honor and remember **Past National Commander Jeffrey Frain**. Services will be held at **Apache Post 27**, located at **1018 S. Meridian Road, Apache Junction, AZ 85120**.

Jeffrey Frain was a dedicated member of the American Legion Family whose service extended well beyond his local community. His commitment to the Sons of The American Legion brought him to the national level, where he served as a leader and advocate for the growth and strength of the organization. In 2016, Frain was a candidate for National Commander of the Sons of The American Legion and promoted the importance of strengthening the entire Legion Family through membership and participation.

His involvement with The American Legion Family was also evident through his work with American Legion Post 1 in Phoenix and his participation in community events.

For those who knew Jeffrey, however, his legacy is about more than titles and positions. It is found in the friendships he formed, the members he encouraged, and the continued work of the Legion Family that he helped support.

A Day of Service and Remembrance

Apache Post 27 will also host a **Blood Drive from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.** on the day of the services. Members and guests who are able to donate are encouraged to arrive early and give blood in honor of Jeffrey's life and commitment to serving others.

The Post is also working to secure a **discounted rate at a Hilton property** for those traveling from outside the area who need accommodations.

Because a large turnout is anticipated, **Apache Post 27 is asking those planning to attend to provide a headcount as soon as possible.** Members of the Sons from across the country have already reached out regarding their plans to attend.

This gathering will be an opportunity for members of the Legion Family, friends and fellow Sons to come together—not only to say goodbye, but to celebrate the life, leadership and lasting contributions of **Past National Commander Jeffrey Frain**.

Sunday, October 11, 2026 — 3:00 p.m.
Apache Post 27
1018 S. Meridian Road
Apache Junction, AZ 85120

Please make plans to join fellow members of the Sons of The American Legion and The American Legion Family as we remember a fellow Son and honor his years of service.

Save the Date: Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Arizona Conference



The Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Arizona is gearing up for an important day of fellowship, training, information, and planning at the upcoming Detachment Conference on Saturday, November 7, 2026.

The conference will be held at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Tucson–Reid Park, located at 445 S. Alvernon Way in Tucson.

This conference is an opportunity for Sons from across Arizona to come together, strengthen our programs, share ideas, and prepare for the remainder of the 2026–2027 membership year. It is also a chance to connect with fellow members, learn more about the programs and activities of the Detachment, and continue building the future of the Sons of The American Legion in Arizona.

DON'T WAIT — REGISTER TODAY!

Registration must be completed by Friday, October 30, 2026.

Whether you are a Squadron officer, committee member, or simply a member who wants to become more involved, your participation helps make our Detachment stronger.

Register online at:

azlegion.org/26-dept-conf/

Mark Your Calendar

Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Arizona Conference
Saturday, November 7, 2026
DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Tucson–Reid Park
Tucson, Arizona

Come prepared to learn, participate, share ideas, and enjoy the camaraderie that makes the Sons of The American Legion special.

We look forward to seeing you in Tucson on November 7!

REGISTER BEFORE OCTOBER 30 — DON'T MISS OUT!



Greetings Sons,

It's been a great month!! National Convention in Louisville was awesome. So many things going on from tours, committee meetings and elections. The biggest for Arizona Sons was the election of Matt Griffis from Squadron 109 as National Vice Commander for the Western Region. His nomination for National Vice Commander was given by Chas Bird. On the Legion side Matt Shuman from Post 91 moved from trailing candidate to leading candidate in his quest to become National Commander of The American Legion. Congratulations to both of these great leaders.

I have been busy visiting many Post and Squadrons since my return from Louisville. I have attended Squadron meetings from both Squadron 109 and Squadron 36 as well as a District 2 meeting.

Looking forward to October, I will be attending the NEC meetings in Indianapolis, hosting a blood drive and attending many events. Please look to my Commanders Corner Article to see where I will be. I hope that you can also join me at the events as they come up. On October 11th I will be attending the Celebration of Life for PNC Jeff Frain at Post 27. Please join us in remembering PNC Frain.

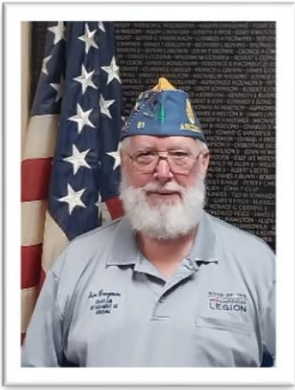
Don't forget to register for the upcoming Fall Conference in Tucson. There is a link on our website to the registration page. Please plan on attending.

Membership goal is 35% for October 14th. Please help us reach this goal.

As always if you would like me or one of the Vice Commanders to attend your event you can go to our website at AZSAL.org and invite us.

For God and Country,

Lance Bymers
Detachment of Arizona Commander



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Don't Forget

What joy for the nation whose God is the LORD, whose people he has chosen as his inheritance. —Psalm 33:12

A few decades ago, the 75th anniversary issue of Forbes magazine featured a theme that still resonates today: "Why do we feel so bad when we have it so good?" The magazine noted that most Americans live better than almost any other people on the planet, yet many people in our culture struggle with depression and an unfavorable outlook on life.

Editor James Michaels wrote, "Why is this nation that marched so proudly into the 20th century slouching so dejectedly toward the third millennium?" The article went on to cite the alarming loss of values, absolutes, and meaning in contemporary life.

What's gone wrong? The person on the lowest rung of the economic ladder in America still has it better than most other people in the world today. We enjoy things that citizens of other countries can only dream about, yet we still have a sense of emptiness. Why?

I think Abraham Lincoln answered that question well when he said, "We have forgotten God. We have forgotten the gracious hand which preserved us in peace and multiplied and enriched and strengthened us, and we have vainly imagined, in the deceitfulness of our hearts, that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own."

President Lincoln was right. We have forgotten God. And it's even truer today than it was when he made that proclamation in 1863. We've tried to push God out of the courtroom, out of the classroom, and, for all practical purposes, out of our culture. As a result, we've lost the joy, fulfillment, and sense of purpose that come from remembering, celebrating, and obeying our heavenly Father.

The psalmist wrote, "What joy for the nation whose God is the Lord, whose people he has chosen as his inheritance" (Psalm 33:12 NLT). The flip side of that would be, "What misery for the nation whose God is not the Lord, whose people have rejected His inheritance." And that's where we find ourselves today.

Will good ever prevail over evil? Or are we simply doomed to failure? The answer to America's problems isn't political; it's spiritual. We need to turn back to God. We need to take Him at His Word. In 2 Chronicles 7:14, the Lord said, "Then if my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sins and restore their land" (NLT).

Therefore, it is my belief that our country has two choices before it. One is judgment. The apostle Paul wrote, "Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap" (Galatians 6:7 NKJV). That goes for nations as well.

The other option is a spiritual awakening or revival. And that's what we need to pray for today in the United States of America.

Please join me in prayer that our country's divisiveness receives healing and a revival. Let's get the Lord back in our daily lives, one and all.

- A devotional by Greg Laurie

Jim Borgman
Arizona Detachment Chaplain



"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

***Jim Borgman,
Americanism Chairman***





Fall is here, and the Sons of The American Legion are continuing to hit the ground running!

As we move into October, Squadrons across the Detachment of Arizona are busy supporting our Veterans, participating in community activities, and finding new ways to strengthen their Squadrons and serve their communities. This is also an important time of year for membership, Americanism, and preparing for the many activities and events ahead.

One of the best things about being part of the Sons of The American Legion is seeing the difference our members make at the local level. Whether it's organizing a fundraiser, supporting a Veteran, participating in a patriotic ceremony, helping at a food drive, or simply being there when your Post needs a hand — every effort matters.

I encourage every Squadron to share what you are doing. Photos, success stories, upcoming events, membership ideas, community projects, and even a little Squadron humor are all welcome. The *Blue Cap News* is your newsletter, and the more you share, the better we can showcase the great things happening throughout Arizona.

As we head into another busy season, remember that our strength comes from membership, participation, and teamwork. Get involved, support your Post, work alongside your Legion Family, and most importantly, never lose sight of why we serve — honoring the service and sacrifice of those who came before us.

Until next month, keep up the great work, keep sending those stories and photos, and keep the Blue Cap moving forward!

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

UPCOMING SQUADRON EVENTS

AMERICAN LEGION POST 35
2240 W Chandler Blvd., Chandler AZ 85224
CO-HOSTED BY SAL 91

BE THE ONE

BEER PONG

Tournament

POST 35 vs ALL

SATURDAY-SEPTEMBER 26

\$20 ENTRY FEE | REGISTRATION @ 1PM | 2-PERSON TEAMS
PER PERSON GAMES START @ 2PM *2 FREE DRINK TIX

1 **\$100 1ST PLACE** 2 **\$40 2ND PLACE**

Benefiting
THE AMERICAN LEGION'S
BE THE ONE
MISSION

50/50 RAFFLE
RAFFLE PRIZES

*ENTRY FEE INCLUDES 2 DRINK TICKETS

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION, SQUADRON 35
presents our...

10TH ANNUAL CAR & BIKE SHOW

2240 W. CHANDLER BLVD. CHANDLER, AZ 85224

~ EARLY CAR PARKING 7AM ~ EVENT HELD 9 AM-1PM
~ SERVING COFFEE & WATER ~ BAR SERVING DRINKS

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17TH

*Food & Vendors
*Live DJ
*50/50 Raffle
*Free Admission
*All makes & models
*Open to the Community

The American Legion & The City of Chandler are not responsible for any damages or accidents.

TROPHIES

*TOP 3
*BEST ENGINE
*BEST PAINT
*BEST INTERIOR
AND MORE!

FUNDS BEING RAISED FOR...
AMERICAN LEGION CHARITIES

\$25 BEFORE 10/03 (May pre-register \$25 @ "Eventbrite") -OR-
Make checks payable to: "S.A.L."
\$30 AFTER 10/03

DETACH & MAIL COMPLETED FORM W/NON-REFUNDABLE PAYMENT
TO: Rick Buss 949 W. Sherri Drive, Gilbert, AZ 85233
CONTACT RICHARD BUSS: 480-455-7029 nepatfan1949@yahoo.com

Name: _____ Phone: _____
Year: _____ Make: _____ Model: _____
Email: _____

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION **Walk this Way...** SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

.5K-9 NO FUN RUN

(Seriously it's Only 1,600 feet)

Benefiting **SOLDIER'S BEST ★ FRIEND**

Saturday Nov. 14, 2026 11am-3pm
\$25 Entry Fee
Start: Monkey Bar End: Post 36
Because it's so long there's a Rest Stop Half Way

Bring your Dog
Dogs welcome at both Venues
Drink Specials at both Locations
Raffles & Lunch at the Legion

50/50 Raffles

Scan the QR Code and Pay Online
<https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/5k-9-no-fun-run-2>



SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION SQUADRON 97
Invites You to Our

ARMY vs NAVY

GAME WATCH PARTY

★ A RIVALRY. A TRADITION. A BROTHERHOOD. ★

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2026
DOORS OPEN: 12:00 PM
(Kickoff: 1:00 PM Arizona Time)

SAN TAN VALLEY VETERANS CENTER
5764 E. Hunt Highway
Florence, AZ 85132

WATCH THE GAME
on the big screen with sound

FOOD & DRINKS
Pizza • Hot Dogs
Chips • Snacks • Drinks & More!

FOOTBALL SQUARES
Fundraiser (Details on site)

FELLOWSHIP
Good Food.
Great Company.
Support a Great Cause.

FREE ADMISSION
Food & Fundraiser Options Available
All Are Welcome!

Show Your Support!

Wear Your Army or Navy Gear!

WHY WE SERVE
Honor our veterans.
Support our youth.
Strengthen our community.

SUPPORTING SQUADRON 97 PROGRAMS FOR VETERANS, YOUTH & COMMUNITY