October 2026

Blue Cap News



Detachment Conference Call at 7 P.M. on Tuesday, Nov 10, 2026

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

azsal.org

November in Arizona: Honoring Our Veterans, Continuing Our Mission

From the pine forests of northern Arizona to the deserts of the south, November brings a special opportunity for the Sons of The American Legion across our state to reflect on the meaning of service, sacrifice, and patriotism. As Arizona communities prepare to honor Veterans Day, we are reminded that behind every uniform is a story of courage, dedication, and a commitment to protecting the freedoms we enjoy today.

Here in Arizona, our connection to the military runs deep. Veterans, active-duty service members, military families, and retirees are part of the communities we call home. From the installations surrounding Tucson and Phoenix to the smaller towns where veterans gather at their local American Legion Posts, our state has a proud tradition of supporting those who have served. As members of the Sons of The American Legion, we have both the privilege and the responsibility to carry that tradition forward.

Veterans Day is more than a ceremony, a parade, or a flag displayed outside a Post. It is a reminder that honoring our veterans must continue long after November 11. It happens when a squadron checks on a veteran in need, supports a military family, assists a local community project, or brings new members into our organization who are ready to serve.

Across the Detachment of Arizona, our squadrons have countless opportunities to turn our commitment into action. Whether you are serving a meal, organizing a fundraiser, supporting youth programs, or working alongside your American Legion Family, every effort helps strengthen the communities we represent.

As we enter the final months of the year, I encourage every squadron to take a fresh look at what you are doing and what more you can accomplish together. Celebrate your volunteers, welcome new members, and remember that even the smallest project can make a meaningful difference in someone's life.

To our Arizona veterans, thank you for your service and sacrifice. To our Sons members, thank you for keeping the spirit of service alive throughout our great state.

This November, let us honor those who served by continuing to serve. Arizona's veterans deserve nothing less.

Serving Those Who Served - Today, Tomorrow, and Always.

Veterans Day: Honoring All Who Served

A day that began as a celebration of peace has become a lasting tribute to all who have worn the uniform.

On November 11, 1918, at 11:00 a.m., the armistice between the Allied nations and Germany took effect, bringing an end to the fighting on the Western Front of World War I. The moment became known as the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month.

One year later, President Woodrow Wilson recognized November 11 as Armistice Day, a time to remember those who served in the Great War and reflect on the hope for lasting peace. In 1938, Armistice Day became a federal holiday.

As our nation faced World War II and the Korean War, millions more Americans answered the call to serve. The meaning of November 11 grew beyond the memory of a single conflict. In 1954, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed legislation officially changing Armistice Day to Veterans Day, establishing a day to honor all American veterans.

For the Sons of The American Legion, Veterans Day represents more than a date on the calendar. It is an opportunity to recognize the courage, sacrifice, and dedication of the men and women who have defended our freedoms and protected our way of life. Their service reminds us of the values we strive to uphold: patriotism, honor, duty, and service to others.

As Sons of The American Legion, we carry forward a proud tradition of supporting veterans, serving military families, strengthening our communities, and teaching the next generation the importance of Americanism. We may not all have worn the uniform ourselves, but we can honor those who did through our actions, our service, and our commitment to the principles for which they stood.

This Veterans Day, let gratitude become action. I challenge every Son of The American Legion to do more than simply thank a veteran. Reach out to a veteran in your community. Visit a local VA facility or veterans home. Support a veteran-serving organization. Assist a military family in need. Recruit a new member who shares our commitment to service. Most importantly, make veterans support a year-round priority in your Squadron not just an activity reserved for special occasions.

Our Four Pillars Americanism, Children and Youth, National Security, and Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation give us a clear mission and meaningful ways to make a difference. Every project, every act of service, and every veteran we help is an opportunity to demonstrate what the Sons of The American Legion stand for.

We cannot change the sacrifices our veterans have made, but we can honor those sacrifices through the work we do today. Let us lead by example, strengthen our Squadrons, engage our communities, and ensure that no veteran feels forgotten or left behind.

This November 11, let our actions speak louder than our words. **Be present. Be involved. Be of service. And show your community what it truly means to be a Son of The American Legion.**

Their service deserves our gratitude not just on Veterans Day, but every day of the year. Our mission is to make sure that gratitude is put into action.



COMMANDER'S Corner

Hey Sons, hope your October was a good one. Mine was a both good and sad. Sad because we said goodbye to 2 Arizona leaders. Celebrations of life were held for Past Department Commander Judi Beischel and Past National Commander Jeff Frain. They will both be missed for their leadership and mentorship. Please keep their families in your prayers.

On the positive side the NEC meeting was incredible. The opportunity to meet new people and reconnect with old friends was amazing. The business of the Sons was conducted and committees met with incredible ideas exchanged in Committee meetings. If you would like to listen in on a Committee meeting let me or Adjutant Vandez know and we will get you the information for the call.

There are 2 National Commander challenges for this year. The 1st is to qualify to be a 4 Pillar Squadron. This is very achievable for every Squadron if you plan and put your effort behind it. I challenge every Squadron in Arizona to strive to achieve this goal. The 2nd challenge is to raise awareness for our MIA/POW mission. The goal is to place a MIA/ POW table or Poster in businesses across the Nation to raise awareness. If you want more information on either of these challenges please reach out.

Fall Conference is coming up Nov. 6 -8, 2026 in Tucson, Az. Please plan on attending as we have many things planned to make this Conference a memorable one.

Also in November you have 2 opportunities to meet the Crew of the USS Arizona on Nov. 9th at Post 39 for a breakfast from 9am to 10:30am. Later that week on the 13th of November you also can meet them at Post 3 in Flagstaff for a luncheon from 11am to 1pm. Hope to see many of you there. Planning is underway for Wild Willy's Western Region Rendezvous in Las Vegas Jan. 29-30, 2027. The training will be led by National Vice Commander Matt Griffis.

Please reach out if you need any help with membership as the Vice Commanders, District Representatives and Membership Chairman, as well as myself and our Adjutant are hear to help you!

Thank you for all the invitations to your Squadron events, they are really appreciated. Keep them coming

For God and Country,

Lance Bymers
Detachment of Arizona Commander



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

As I was reading one of my daily devotionals, I came across this writing on Christianity.com. It struck me directly where it needed to and perhaps you may experience the same.

A Prayer to Protect Your Words

By: Whitney Hopler

Bible Reading

"Set a guard over my mouth, LORD; keep watch over the door of my lips. Do not let my heart be drawn to what is evil so that I take part in wicked deeds along with those who are evildoers; do not let me eat their delicacies." - Psalm 141:3-4, NIV
Remember how you felt the last time you said something you regretted? Whatever it was – a rude remark during an argument, a bit of gossip, or something else – you probably wished you could have taken those words back. We've all experienced situations where we speak before we think about whether what we're planning to say is wise.

A Prayer to Protect Your Words
In Psalm 141:3-4, King David offers a powerful prayer asking God to protect him from speaking evil and harmful words. I love the imagery David uses here. He asks God to "set a guard" and "keep watch over the door." He's essentially God, sending him spiritual security for his speech. David recognizes that he can't always guard his own mouth perfectly, so he asks the Creator of language to step in and help.

Words are incredibly powerful. Positive words are tremendously helpful for encouraging one another. But the harshness of sharp words can lead to tremendous damage to relationships. It's important to be as careful as we can when we choose the words we speak or write to other people.

In verse 4, David connects his mouth to his heart. He knows that if he wants his words to stay pure, he must keep his heart from being "drawn to what is evil." He doesn't want to get sucked into the "delicacies" of the world. Those are things like feeling superior to others by winning an argument with a sharp remark or having fun at other people's expense by gossiping or joking about them. All you have to do is look at social media posts to see how much some people enjoy rude and mean words like delicacies.

Our words reveal what's happening in our souls. When we're stressed, hurt, or feeling self-righteous, that's usually when unwise words start leaking out. So, when you catch yourself saying something you regret, you've got to do more than just try harder to have better manners the next time. You need to ask the Holy Spirit to help you. God's Spirit can purify your soul and teach you to cultivate the fruit of the Spirit – such as kindness, gentleness, and self-control – that can empower you to choose wiser words in the future.

Our culture celebrates just saying whatever comes to mind, often without any regard for what's wise or not. It's so easy to let that culture rub off on us. If you're not careful, you might find yourself joining in on a conversation to vent negative feelings at work, church, or home. Or, you may send a heated text or email you really shouldn't have sent.

But God calls us all to use our words for positive purposes. God wants to help you protect your words. Through his Holy Spirit, God wants to be that "guard" at the door of your lips, guiding you with discernment so you can choose the best words and avoid saying sinful words. When you let God guard your words, you'll see that your sense of peace and your relationships will all grow stronger.

So, approach your conversations with the awareness that God is standing guard. Before you enter a meeting, jump into a group chat, or go home to your family, ask God to help you choose words that reflect his character. Then other people will notice that God is really at work in your life.

Jim Borgman
Arizona Detachment Chaplain



Americanism

"Knowledge is Power"

American Education Week - American Education Week is held each November, this year it will be from November 16 thru the 20. During WW1 with men and women from coast to coast coming together in the war effort and seeing first hand so many in action it was observed that 25 percent of the country's World War I draftees were illiterate and 9 percent were physically unfit. When the American Legion was founded, this was one of their first priorities. The American Legion met with the National Education Association in 1919 to seek ways to seek standardized curriculum, including physical fitness, and to generate public support for education.

The conventions of both organizations subsequently adopted resolutions of support for a national effort to raise public awareness of the importance of education. The first observance of American Education Week occurred December 4-10, 1921, with the NEA and American Legion as the cosponsors. A year later, the then U.S. Office of Education joined the effort as a cosponsor, and the PTA followed in 1938.

This year, the 2016 theme will be, "Great Public Schools: A Basic Right and Our Responsibility," with special observances each day of the weeklong celebration:

- Monday, November 16, 2016: Kickoff Day
- Tuesday, November 17, 2016: Parents Day
- Wednesday, November 18, 2016: Education Support Professionals Day
- Thursday, November 19, 2016: Educator for a Day
- Friday, November 20, 2016: Substitute Educators Day

If you have children or grandchildren in either public or private schools I urge you to seek more information on this week and get involved to support your children, your grandchildren, or the children of your community, and the educators that are shaping all those lives. More information is readily available on the American Legion website.

Jim Borgman,
Americanism Chairman





Submit today and be part of the story!

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UPCOMING EVENTS











