



AHWATUKEE AMERICAN LEGION POST 64

December 2020

<http://www.americanlegionpost64.com/>

**CHECK OUT THE POST WEBSITE. INFORMATION INCLUDED:
Photos, Newsletters, Uniforms, Veterans' Benefits, Congressional
Contacts, Items of Interest,
Links to other Veterans' Websites, Flag Etiquette, and Much More !**

Commander's Report

The American Legion Post #64 help a Veteran's Day Ceremony in the parking lot of the ARC. Also the flag pole and two flags were dedicated by the Legion to the ARC.

Inside the Social Area a POW/MIA Remembrance Table was set up by Alice Maynard, Dave Von Tersch and Pete Meier. Poppies were also available for a donation.

Membership

Membership renewal has been slow perhaps in part to the current situation. The beginning of the year we were 215 members strong, between 2019 and 2020 we have unfortunately had five pass on to Post Ever Lasting. We had 29 renewal online 53 renewal by mail. This puts at about 39%.

We have had one transfer in so let's welcome Buford Springfield Junior. If you know someone who has not renewed give them a ever so gentle reminder. For God and Country. Rod Green,

Service Officer Report

Post 64 meetings are on the third Wednesday of every month. We are no longer meeting at the ARC, but we are meeting at the Ahwatukee Park. So if you have any friends or neighbors who served in the military, please ask them to join us. In addition all of our members should join our color guard. Our Color Guard is very active and we could use all the members possible. If I can assist you in any way in joining our club do not hesitate to contact me. emangan3@aol.com, (602)501-0128
Ed Mangan



Spring & Fall -2020

Submitted by John Boyer

Due to COVID 19, we are well aware that face-to-face Post activities have been curtailed, but our Mission to serve veterans and our community has not diminished. For example, earlier in the year at the height of the virus we launched a "Buddy Check" call program for members thought to need some help and those living alone or in assisted living facilities. It was so rewarding for us to hear "thank you for the call". We asked if they needed any help, rides for food or medicine or to the VA. Thankfully, they all seemed to be doing well.

Our Service Officers (PSOs) continued to work with veterans on benefit questions, disability claims and providing information as requested.

In October, a small Post Honor Guard met runners with "Arizona Run For the Fallen", and presented the colors as the runners stopped momentarily. This year over 520 Arizona heroes who served in the "Gulf War Conflicts" was honored by the runners who began in Tucson and ended in Phoenix. We have done this for a number of years, as well as present the colors at their closing ceremony in downtown Phoenix, where family and friends of the fallen attend to honor their loved ones, a very moving event.

On Veterans Day, the Color Guard met at the new ARC flag pole (provided by the Post) to honor all veterans. Prayers were said, colors were presented, flags raised and 'taps played. The event was small and dignified, and represented the true meaning of this special day.

Our practice has been to curtail meetings during the summer and resume with them in the fall, which we did. However, due to COVID, we met in Western Star City Park for the October and November meetings, out in the beautiful footings of South Mountain. With a little "G.I." ingenuity, this venue worked very well.



11.18.2020 Meeting In Western Star Park
From left to right: Pete Meir (Commander),
Roddy Charlton (Asst. Color Guard Command-
er), Bob Smithson, Ken Diembec and
Dave Von Tersch (Color Guard Commander)

Veterans Day 2020

Installation of the new ARC flagpole



On November 11 at 11:00 AM at Ahwatukee Recreation Center (ARC) Post 64 (AL) presented a ceremony to commemorate Veterans Day, November 11 at 11:00 AM.

The Ceremony consisted of performing a dedication for the new Flag Pole and US Flag raising event at the ARC. A week prior to this event; Pete Meier, Roddy Charlton (Assistant Sgt-At-Arms) and Dave Von Tersch (Sgt-At-Arms) worked on the concrete foundation for the flag pole, concrete pad and associated hardware assembly to ensure long time use of this new Flag Pole and flags. There is a solar disk at the top of the telescopic flag pole with LED lights to provide lighting when it is dark. (So, there is no need to lower or raise the flag on a regular basis).

Reveille (To the Colors, or "wake up everybody") was played by our Bugler. A prayer was provided by our Chaplin, John Boyer. Commander Pete Meier gave an opening statement. The Color Guard (CG) marched in formation to line up at the new Flag Pole. Command Attention was given to the CG, then Hand Salute. Audience was asked to stand if possible. US Flag was attached to flag pole, and the US Flag was raised. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by CG members and audience. Bugler played Taps. After "Taps", a command was given to end the salute. Commander Pete thanked and dismissed the audience. CG was marched out. (submitted by Dave Von Tersch, Sgt-At-Arms/Color Guard)



The original installation of the ARC flag pole in 1984



Installation of ARC flag pole 2020

Each item on the Missing Man Table, Remembrance Table, represents the emotions and feelings reserved for those who did not come home. The ceremony symbolizes that they are with us, here in spirit. All Americans should never forget the brave men and women who answered our nation's call to serve and fought for our freedom with honor.



Pearl Harbor Day Ceremony
December 7, 2020
7:00 AM
ARC Parking Lot

The American Legion Post 64 will be holding a short service at the flag pole in the ARC parking lot/ There will be a presentation of the colors, a short remembrance service and the lowering of the flag to half mast



On Sunday morning, December 7, 1941, the Imperial Japanese Navy Air Service attacked the neutral United States at Naval Station Pearl Harbor near Honolulu, Hawaii, killing 2,403 Americans and injuring 1,178 others. The attack sank four U.S. Navy battleships and damaged four others. It also damaged three cruisers, three destroyers, and one minelayer. Aircraft losses were 188 destroyed and 159 damaged.

National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day, also referred to as Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day or Pearl Harbor Day, is observed annually in the United States on December 7, to remember and honor the 2,403 United States citizens who were killed in the Japanese surprise attack on Pearl Harbor in Hawaii on December 7, 1941 which led to the United States declaring war on Japan the next day and thus entering World War II.

On Pearl Harbor Day, the American flag should be flown at half-staff until sunset to honor those who died as a result of the attack on U.S. military forces in Hawaii.^[4] Pearl Harbor Day is not a federal holiday – government offices, schools, and businesses do not close. Some organizations may hold special events in memory of those killed or injured at Pearl Harbor.^[4]



U.S. Navy battleships at Pearl Harbor on 7 December 1941 (l-r): USS *West Virginia* (BB-48) (sunk), USS *Tennessee* (BB-43) (damaged), and the USS *Arizona* (BB-39) (sunk).

Our next in person Post Meeting is scheduled for

Wednesday January 20, 2021

4:00 PM

The meeting will be held **OUTSIDE** (not virtual), at

Western Star Park

4401 E. Western Star Blvd.

Phoenix, AZ 85044

The park is accessed by going North from Elliot Rd. on 48th St. to Western Star Blvd. and turning west. We will assemble on the south / southwest side of the park. There are a number of trees at this area.

Color Guard please arrive by 3:35 pm for a practice run. The meeting will begin at 4 pm.

Bring your own chair, beverage, and **MASK UP!**

We will be limited to 25 people.





Veterans, Gold Star Families get free entrance to national parks, refuges, other public lands - Vantage Point

by Vantage Point Contributor

Veterans and Gold Star Families will be granted free access to national parks, wildlife refuges and other Federal lands managed by the Department of the Interior starting on Veterans Day this year and every day onward.

“With the utmost respect and gratitude, we are granting Veterans and Gold Star Families free access to the iconic and treasured lands they fought to protect starting this Veterans Day and every single day thereafter,” said Secretary of the Interior David L. Bernhardt.

Entrance fees for the National Park Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and standard amenity recreation fees for the Bureau of Land Management and the Bureau of Reclamation sites will be waived for Veterans and Gold Star Families. They will have free access to approximately 2,000 public locations spread out across more than 400 million acres of public lands, which host activities to fit any lifestyle, from serene to high octane, including hiking, fishing, paddling, biking, hunting, stargazing and climbing.

Many Department managed lands have direct connections to the American military, such as frontier forts, Cold War sites, battlefields, national cemeteries, and memorials. These special places pay tribute to our veterans and serve as reminders of their courage and sacrifice throughout the history of our nation, from Minuteman National Historic Park where colonists stood in defense of their rights, to Yellowstone National Park, which was protected from vandalism and poaching by the 1st U.S. Cavalry before the National Park Service was established, to Mount Rushmore where modern warriors attend reenlistment ceremonies.

Details on program

For purposes of this program, a Veteran is identified as an individual who has served in the United States Armed Forces, including the National Guard and Reserves, and is able to present one of the following forms of identification:

- Department of Defense Identification Card
- [Veteran Health Identification Card \(VHIC\)](#)
- Veteran ID Card
- Veterans designation on a state-issued U.S. driver's license or identification card

Gold Star Families are next of kin of a member of the United States Armed Forces who lost his or her life in a “qualifying situation,” such as a war, an international terrorist attack, or a military operation outside of the United States while serving with the United States Armed Forces.

The Interagency America the Beautiful National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass Program already includes a free annual pass for active duty members of the U.S. Military and their dependents. Other free or discounted passes are available for persons with permanent disabilities, fourth grade students, volunteers, and senior citizens age 62 years or older.

The Department also offers free entrance days for everyone throughout the year to mark days of celebration and commemoration including the birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr., National Public Lands Day, Veterans Day, and the signing of the Great American Outdoors Act.