

## JUNE 1992 TO JUNE 1993

The "colonizing" group for the new Post was affiliated with American Legion Post 39 in Gilbert, Arizona. They made a sizable monetary donation to get the Post started. Ahwatukee Post 64 received its Temporary Charter on May 12, 1993. There were 15 Charter Members:

Scott Beardon Richard Dunn Lowell Faulkinbury Ron Guein Tyrone Helland Thomas Holmquist  
Michael McClure Troy Mefferd Keith Park Katy Parker Robert Smith Glen Steely  
Wayne Watson Kenneth Yackytooahpah Anthony Zwiener

Sometime before the end of June 1993, an Initiation and Installation Ceremony for the new Post 64 was held in the club house of the Presidio Apartments, conducted by the Department Commander Bill Bingham. The first Post 64 Commander was Harold (Hal) Chedester.

## JUNE 1993 TO JUNE 1994

The Department Commander was Maria Currie. Hal Chedester continued as the Post 64 Commander. The Permanent Charter for Ahwatukee Post 64 was granted on September 30, 1993.

By November of 1993, meetings were held at the Grace Inn restaurant, where at least 10 people had to buy a meal to be able to use the facility. (Roger Munchbach transferred to Post 64 in November 1993.) Unfortunately, much of the first year was marred by money questions and problems.

Meetings were moved to the Ahwatukee Recreation Center, where they had to pay to use the facility. The amount is not recorded.

In Spring of 1994, American Legion Auxiliary Ahwatukee UNIT 64 was chartered. They were Initiated and Installed at ARC by Department President Leona Proper. The first Unit President was Sharon Haley (soon to be Sharon Smith). Unit 64 surrendered its Charter in 2000, and most of the records have not been kept, so details of its history are sketchy. Deb Munchbach was a Charter Member.

The Department of Arizona Convention was held from June 23-26, 1994, in Yuma, Arizona. The highest ever recorded temperature to date in Arizona of 122 degrees was registered that weekend. Post and Unit 64 had a group of 7 who attended the Convention.

## JUNE 1994 TO JUNE 1995

Sometime during this year, Post 64 tried to hold its meetings at a construction office trailer off of Desert Foothills Parkway, which they were allowed to use for free. These meetings were poorly attended, so meetings returned to the Ahwatukee Recreation Center, where they paid \$1 per person attending in "rent" to use the facility. Meetings continued to be at 7:00 pm on the third Wednesday of the month, as they had been from the beginning.

The Department Commander was Adrian "Catfish" Roberts. The Post Commander continued to be Hal Chedester. And Sharon Haley continued as the Unit 64 President.

On April 15, 1995, Post 64 had an entry in the Ahwatukee Easter Parade (the 19th annual) for the first time. It was a convertible in which Hal and Lance Chedester, George O'Brien, and Bill Mines rode and waved while 4 to 5 other people walked and handed out candy. Deb Munchbach had arranged for the Color Guard from Post 1 to lead the parade at the last minute, when the previously scheduled Color Guard had to back out.

School Awards were presented to Regan Whitesell (Mountain Pointe High School), Jimmy Tricco (Centennial Middle School), and Erin Frazier (Akimel Middle School).

Post and Unit 64 sponsored Boys and Girls State citizens from Mountain Pointe High School: J.W. Salazar, Bruce Woodmansee, Kelly Bennett, Jessica Branch, and Tara Martinez.

Four Post and Unit members attended Memorial Day services at the National Cemetery. Department Convention was held at the Holiday Inn Palo Verde in Tucson from June 22-25, 1995.

### **JUNE 1995 TO JUNE 1996**

Department Commander was Jim Phillips. Post 64 Commander was Roger Munchbach. Unit 64 President was Julie Chedester. Meetings were held at the Ahwatukee Recreation Center on the third Wednesday of the month at 7:00 pm. Sometime during the Fall of 1995, Charles Roloff transferred to Post 64. Kit Gleason, who worked at Legion Headquarters in Phoenix, transferred to Unit 64.

Members of the Post and Unit participated in the 5K Alzheimer's Walk in Phoenix on October 7, 1995. On November 11, 1995, they attended the dedication of the new State Veterans Home next to the Phoenix VA Hospital and Indian School Park. On November 11, 1995, the state of Arizona introduced the new AZ Veteran's License Plate. On February 25, 1996, members of the Post and Unit volunteered at AZ Senior Olympics, as Charlie and Renee Roloff were active participants in the program.

Kaleen Love from Mountain View High School in Mesa was the First Place winner of the 1996 American Legion National High School Oratorical Contest.

On March 24 and April 28, 1996, members of Post and Unit 64 attended demonstrations at the Phoenix Art Museum over a display on use of the American flag in "protest art".

On April 6, 1996, the Post and Unit had a pickup decorated as a bunny rabbit in the 20th annual Ahwatukee Easter Parade. The Color Guard from Post 1 again led the parade.

On May 11, 1996, members of the Post and Unit distributed poppies at Fry's on Ray Rd. and Safeway on Elliot Rd. They raised \$296.90 in donations.

On May 18, 1996, members of the Post and Unit attended the dedication of the first Ahwatukee Foothills Police Substation at 48th St. and Ray. They attended Memorial Day services at the National Cemetery.

School Awards were presented to Bruce Woodmansee (Mountain Pointe), Jonathan Wright (Centennial Middle School), Kelly Clevenger (Akimel Middle School), and John Hatlelid (Altadena Middle School). Roger, Debra, and Alex Munchbach, and Julie Chedester posted colors at the Altadena program using the school's flags.

Boys and Girls State citizens from Mountain Pointe High School were Sundeep Suchdev, T. Clayton Kamm, Megan Burgoyne, Katie Longworth, and Heather Steinhauer. This was Boys State 50th anniversary, and the Department of Arizona American Legion commissioned and donated a sculpture to Northern Arizona University. The sculptor was Tom Oliver, who lived in the Lakewood subdivision of Ahwatukee.

Department Convention was at the Sheraton San Marcos in Chandler from June 20-23, 1996. Post 64 ended the year at 108.33% in membership (39 of 36).

### **JUNE 1996 TO JUNE 1997**

Department Commander was Andy Rasmussen. Post Commander was Roger Munchbach. Unit President was Julie Chedester. During the summer, the Post obtained their first US and Post Colors, a set of flags surrendered to Department when Post 96 (all police officers) was discontinued. Deb Munchbach removed the old Post name from the American Legion banner. Kit Gleason and her mother Roxie McGhee re-monogrammed the banner with "Ahwatukee Post 64". Charlie Roloff donated an Arizona flag set, and became the first Post 64 Color Guard Commander. Charlie also became the Membership Chairman that year, looking for members for his new Color Guard. Two M-1 rifles were loaned to Post 64 by Department Headquarters.

On September 27, 1996, members of the Post and Unit attended the dedication of Desert Vista High School. On October 5 they participated in the Phoenix 5K Alzheimer's Walk.

At National Convention Fall 1996, Unit 64 member Maita Floyd was selected as the Western Division Community Service Volunteer of the Year for her work as a victim's advocate with the Maricopa County Superior Court.

Post and Unit 64 co-hosted the Department Mid-Winter Conference with the Legion family of Post 39 in Gilbert at the Grace Inn in Ahwatukee from January 10-12, 1997. They received \$2500.00 for their efforts.

Members of the Post and Unit volunteered at the AZ Sr. Olympics on March 15, 1997.

On March 29, 1997, Post 64 had a Color Guard in the Ahwatukee Easter Parade for the first time, but it was not yet ready to be at the head of the parade. The Color Guard members were Roger Munchbach, Bob Fischer, Charlie Roloff (Color Guard Commander), Gill Scott, Paul Cherep, and Fred Alderman. The Color Guard from Post 29 was the lead-off group.

May 24, 1997, poppies were distributed at Fry's and Safeway, raising \$347.45. The Post and Unit participated in Memorial Day services at Valley of the Sun Cemetery in Chandler as guests of Chandler Post 35.

School Awards were presented to Tim Sikorski (Mountain Pointe High School), Mitchell Radigan (Centennial Middle School), Erin Eckerman (Akimel Middle School), and Daniel Kim (Altadena Middle School).

Boys and Girls State citizens from Mountain Pointe High School were Derek Barber, Jeff Hart, Ashanti Decker, Annie Romero, and Katie McGinnis. Stephanie Martin from Seton Catholic High School was also sponsored to Girls State by the Unit.

Department Convention was at the Safari Resort in Scottsdale from June 19-22, 1997. Membership ended the year at 110% (44 of 40).

### **JUNE 1997 TO JUNE 1998**

Department Commander was Bobby Reyes. Post Commander was Roger Munchbach. Unit President was Julie Chedester.

July 4, 1997, was the first time that the Post 64 Color Guard presented Colors at ARC for the Independence Day Celebration. They also started posting Colors for their monthly meetings, which were still held at 7 pm on the third Wednesday of the month.

Members participated in the 5K Alzheimer's Walk on September 27, 1997.

On November 11, 1997, the Post participated in the Veterans Day program at Valley of the Sun Cemetery in Chandler as guests of Chandler Post 35.

For Thanksgiving 1997 the Post and Unit bought holiday meals for six families in cooperation with Mountain View Lutheran Church in Ahwatukee.

On December 17, Post 64 held its first ever "Holiday Party". Everyone was asked to bring desserts to share. They provided gifts for one Christmas family through Department Headquarters.

On February 21, 1998, the Post Color Guard presented Colors for the opening of AZ Senior Olympics at ASU.

On April 3, 1998, members of the Post and Unit attended Patriotic Day at Akimel Middle School for the first time. It was their 4th annual program. The Colors were raised in the outdoor amphitheater by the Color Guard from East Mesa Post 83.

The April 11, 1998, Easter Parade was the first time that the Post 64 Color Guard led the annual parade. They wore their first official uniform shirts on that day. It was also the first time that they carried the burial flags of local veterans mounted on special poles following the Color Guard. Color

Guards from Post and Unit 1 and Post 29 were further back in the parade. The first ever "hot dog feed" was held on the ARC patio, hosted by Post and Unit 64, following the parade.

Ahwatukee's 25th Anniversary was commemorated at ARC on April 25, 1998. Post 64 had a table display at the event.

Poppies were distributed at Fry's and Safeway on May 23, 1998, raising \$350. The Color Guard participated in Memorial Day services at Valley of the Sun Cemetery in Chandler as guests of Chandler Post 35.

School Awards were presented to Marcia Jones (Mountain Pointe High School), Brian Haller (Centennial Middle School), Lora Pittman (Akimel Middle School), and Tyler Barratt (Altadena Middle School).

Boys and Girls State citizens from Desert Vista High School were Zachary Wagner, Alison Stover, Theresa Sullivan, and Caitlin Dahill; from Mountain Pointe High School Krystal Klein; and from Seton Catholic High School Meaghan Brown and Sophia Acord.

Department Convention was held in Sierra Vista, AZ, from June 18-21, 1998. Membership ended the year at 148.89% (67 of 45).

### **JUNE 1998 TO JUNE 1999**

Department Commander was Julius "Mac" Maklary. Post Commander was Roger Munchbach. Unit President was Debra Munchbach. The Auxiliary started holding their meetings at the Munchbach home on the third Saturday of the month at 1:00 pm.

On July 4, 1998, the Color Guard presented Colors for the party at ARC, and wore their shiny gold ascots, sewn by Renee Roloff, as part of their uniforms for the first time.

Members participated in the 5K Alzheimer's Walk on October 10, 1998.

The Post reached 102.9% of their membership goal in NOVEMBER 1998. The goal was 69.

On November 11, 1998, the Color Guard was part of the Veterans Day ceremony at Valley of the Sun Cemetery in Chandler.

Starting in November of 1998, during Odd Numbered months the Post 64 General Meeting was held at 7:00 pm at ARC, and during the Even Numbered months it was at 3:00 pm.

For Thanksgiving the Post provided holiday dinner supplies for 8 families in cooperation with Mountain View Lutheran Church in Ahwatukee.

During December members went caroling at the Phoenix VA Hospital with the VAVS Representatives. Charlie Roloff presented his "Evolution of the American Flag" Program for the first time at the Holiday party in 1998. Charlie wrote this program and purchased and donated to Post 64 all of the flags and banners used.

On February 20, 1999, the Color Guard presented Colors for the opening of AZ Senior Olympics. The Color Guard led the Easter Parade on April 3, 1999. They presented Colors (their first time) at the 5th Annual Patriotic Day at Akimel Middle School on April 9, 1999. The Post also obtained and presented to Akimel a US flag which had flown over the US Capitol Building earlier in 1999.

On May 29, 1999, poppies were distributed at Fry's and Safeway, raising \$559.00. On Memorial Day the Color Guard participated in ceremonies at Valley of the Sun Cemetery in Chandler.

School Awards were presented to Peter Thatcher (Mountain Pointe High School), Brian Wie (Desert Vista High School), Dustin Moody (Centennial Middle School), Corrine Walker (Akimel Middle School), and Katherine Hickman and Andrew Rico (Altadena Middle School).

Boys and Girls State citizens from Desert Vista High School were JP Benedict, John Hatlelid, Ryan Schmoll, Annie Atkinson, and Stephanie Gauby.

Girls State Citizens from Mountain Pointe High School were Sheryl Seibert and Kristen Wong.

Department Convention was held at the Holiday Inn Palo Verde in Tucson from June 17-20, 1999. Roger Munchbach received his first First Place award for the Post 64 History Book. Membership ended the year at 124.64% (86 of 69).

### **JUNE 2001 TO JUNE 2002**

Department Commander was Al Smith. Post Commander was Don Simmons. Charlie Roloff was Post Color Guard Commander and Bob Bowden was his Assistant. During the year, the Post 64 Color Guard presented Colors, the Evolution of the Flag, or other patriotic programs for: the Ahwatukee Senior Association, Arrowhead Middle School, Akimel Middle School, Daughters of the American Revolution, Corpus Christi Catholic Church, AZ Project Challenge, and Foothills Baptist Church.

September 11, 2001, was a sad day for all Americans.

On October 16, 2001, Post 64 participated in the Charity Shopping Day at Robinson's-May. This event heralded the opening of the much anticipated Chandler Fashion Center at Chandler Blvd. and the Price Freeway (101).

On October 17, 2001, there was a special program hosted by Post 64 for member Leon Grammens. Post Chaplain Dave Seward had done the paperwork to get Mr. Grammens the medals he earned 57 years earlier during WWII. He received 7 medals in all, including a POW medal, and the Air Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster. Leon Grammens entered Post Everlasting in June 2002.

Members went caroling at the Phoenix VA Hospital with the VAVS Representatives.

On March 30, 2002, the Post Color Guard asked the band from Akimel Middle School to join them leading the Easter Parade. As they had since 1998, Post members also carried the burial flags of local veterans mounted on special poles in the now-very-large Post 64 parade entry. Following the parade the traditional hot dog picnic was hosted by the Post at ARC, with the addition of a jazz band concert given by Akimel students.

From May 25-27, 2002, the Post grilled and sold hot dogs at Ace Hardware at 48th St. and Warner Rd. They raised \$608.00.

The Post sponsored two boys from Mountain Pointe High School and three boys from Desert Vista High School to attend Boys State, but their names were not recorded.

School Awards were presented at all of the usual schools, but names were not recorded.

Department Convention was held at the Sheraton San Marcos in Chandler from June 20-23, 2002. The membership goal was an even 100, and was achieved, but the exact number of members was not recorded. (approximately 104)

### **JUNE 2002 TO JUNE 2003**

Department Commander was Joe Aguilar. Post Commander was Bob Fischer. The Color Guard Commander was Bob Bowden. Flag presentations or other flag programs were performed during the year at ARC, the opening of Pony League Baseball, Centennial Middle School, Akimel Middle School, Altadena Middle School, AZ Project Challenge, the AZ State Veterans Home in Phoenix, the AZ State Fair, Daughters of the American Revolution, and the first anniversary commemoration of 9-11 at Mountain Pointe High School.

With the new membership year, Post 64 raised its dues for the first time, from \$20 to \$25. It was decided that the Post would no longer have General Membership Meetings during the summer months of July and August. Beginning in September 2002 the Post started its practice of having guest speakers following the General Membership Meeting.

On July 4, 2002, the Post Color Guard raised the flag at Monte Vista Park at 48th St. and Knox Rd. before the Ahwatukee Fireworks.

On October 5, 2002, members attended groundbreaking at the US Army Reserve Training Center at Williams Gateway Airport.

Akimel Middle School's Annual Patriotic Day was on April 4, 2003, with the Post Color Guard presenting Colors at the beginning of the program.

The Easter Parade was on April 19, 2003. The Post 64 Color Guard led the parade, with Ahwatukee policemen helping to carry the burial flags this year. The Akimel Middle School Band marched with the Post and then the Akimel Jazz Band gave a concert during the hot dog picnic at ARC after the parade.

May 24-26, 2003, Post members grilled and sold hot dogs at Ace Hardware at 48th St. and Warner Rd., raising \$500.00, and ended the weekend with a Memorial Day service outside the store, School Awards were presented at the usual schools, but names were not recorded.

The Department Convention was held at the Sheraton San Marcos in Chandler from June 19-22, 2003. The membership quota for the year was 105, and by March 2003 was over 120.

On June 23, 2003, member Rudy Verbeeck received a Bronze Star at the office of Sen. John McCain. It was earned in 1945 during WWII.

#### **JUNE 2003 TO JUNE 2004**

Department Commander was Roger Upchurch. Post Commander was Ray Kubiak. Color Guard Commander was Bob Bowden. During the year the Color Guard presented Colors or other patriotic flag programs at Centennial Middle School, Mountain Pointe High School, Altadena Middle School, ARC, Akimel Middle School, and AZ Project Challenge.

From mid 2002 until April 2009, all of the Post's belongings were faithfully stored by Charlie Roloff in his garage. Sometime during these years, the M1 rifles which had been loaned to us by Department Headquarters in 1996, were returned to them following an inspection by the US government on items that had been "loaned" over the past decades. This inspection focused on proper storage, and since the Post was unable to store the rifles in a locked gun safe, they were returned.

July 4 was celebrated in conjunction with ARC. The Post promoted the World War II Memorial under construction in Washington DC.

The membership goal was reached before December 31, 2003. In March 2004 there were 126 members. April was recorded as 120%.

Meetings continued on the third Wednesday of the month at 3 pm at ARC, with guest speakers after the business concluded.

Patriotic Day was at Akimel Middle School on April 2, 2004. The Easter Parade was April 10, 2004. This year, Ahwatukee firefighters helped to carry the special burial flags of local veterans.

May 29-31 the Post grilled and sold hot dogs outside Ace Hardware at 48th St. and Warner Rd., and finished the hot weekend with a Memorial Day program outside the store.

On May 29, 2004, several members attended the dedication of the World War II Memorial in Washington DC.

Department Convention was held at the Sheraton San Marcos in Chandler.

#### **JUNE 2004 TO JUNE 2005**

The Department Commander was Paul Griffin. Post Commander was George Pogue. Color Guard Commander was Bob Bowden. Flag presentation and patriotic programs were done by the Color Guard at ARC, Akimel Middle School, Altadena Middle School, Centennial Middle School, and Daughters of Great Briton.

Renee Roloff passed away on November 17, 2004.

Post 64 led the Easter Parade on March 26, 2005. April 1, 2005, was Patriotic Day at Akimel Middle School.

100% membership was attained by April 2005.

Boys State citizen from Mountain Pointe High School was Alex Munchbach and from Desert Vista High School was Christopher Nagata. Christopher went on to attend Boys Nation and was a Jr./Sr. Counselor at AZ Boys State for many years to follow. Alex also received an American Legion School Award and was a Jr. Counselor at AZ Boys State.

From May 28-30, 2005, Post members grilled and sold hot dogs at Ace Hardware at 48th St. and Warner Rd., ending the weekend with a Memorial Day program outside the store. \$500.00 of the proceeds was donated to the AZ State Veterans Home.

Department Convention was held at the Wigwam Resort in Litchfield Park from June 16-19, 2005.

### **JUNE 2005 TO JUNE 2006**

Department Commander was Larry Cox. Post Commander was Thomas Smith. Color Guard Commander was Bob Bowden. Flag presentations and patriotic programs were done by the Color Guard at Akimel Middle School, Centennial Middle School, Altadena Middle School, ARC, and AZ Project Challenge.

In October 2005, members participated in the Phoenix Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Walk.

Post 64 members were guests of Post 124 in the Guadalupe Veterans Day Parade on November 11, 2005.

Flowers were delivered to area schools during National Education Week, November 13 to 19, 2005.

Wal-Mart gave Post 64 a \$2000.00 grant for continued community service.

Pete Meier joined Post 64 in February 2006.

Patriotic Day was March 3, 2006, at Akimel Middle School.

The Easter Parade, hot dog feed, and jazz band concert were on April 15, 2006.

Poppies were distributed at Mt. View Lutheran Church on May 28, 2006, raising \$183.00.

The Post reached 100% membership in June 2006.

Department Convention was held at the Wigwam Resort in Litchfield Park from June 15-18, 2006.

### **JUNE 2006 TO JUNE 2007**

Department Commander was Tom Cosgrove. Post Commander was Hank Johnson. Color Guard Commander was Hank Ubowski. The Color Guard presented Colors or patriotic flag programs at ARC, Centennial Middle School, Altadena Middle School, and Akimel Middle School. The Honor Guard attended funerals/memorial services for Robert Rockwell, Joe Lewallen, and Bill Kramer.

Ed Mangan, Rod Green, and Bob and Judy Enns are pictured in the History Book for the first times during this year.

On October 8, 2006, members walked in the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Walk.

On November 14, 2006, flowers were delivered to area schools for American Education Week.

Akimel Patriotic Day was April 5, 2007. The Easter Parade/picnic/concert was April 7, 2007.

School Awards were presented to Jordan Ahern and Aubri Carman (Mountain Pointe High School), Erik Lee and Laura Johnson (Desert Vista High School), Emanuel Aguirre and Nicollette Villescay (Centennial Middle School), Casey Cantor and Alisa Partland (Akimel Middle School), and Kearney Dylan and Khaira Charnjeer (Altadena Middle School).

June 21-24, 2007, was the Department Convention at the Wyndham Hotel in downtown Phoenix. The Post attained its 06-07 membership goal of 126.

### **JUNE 2007 TO JUNE 2008**

Department Commander was Bruce Conklin. Post Commander was Hank Johnson. Color Guard Commanders were Hank Ubowski and Ed Mangan. Hank Ubowski entered Post Everlasting on April 1, 2008. The Color Guard presented Colors or patriotic flag programs at Centennial Middle School, Akimel Middle School, ARC, and Monte Vista Elementary School. The Monte Vista program was on November 9, 2007, and the Post gave the school 35 American flag kits, one for each classroom.

Candy was delivered to area schools during American Education Week, November 11 to 17, 2007.

December 1, 2007, Post 64 hosted its first "catered" Holiday Party, with 192 people attending. The membership goal of 126 was attained by February 2008.

Roger and Deb Munchbach attended the Creative Arts Festival at the Phoenix VA Hospital on February 14, 2008. They have returned to help with that program every year since then.

The Easter Parade, hot dog picnic, and jazz band concert were March 22, 2008.

Color Guard Commander Hank Ubowski entered Post Everlasting on April 1, 2008. A large Honor Guard from Post 64 attended his funeral mass on April 4, 2008.

Patriotic Day at Akimel Middle School was on April 4, 2008. The National Commander of the Sons of the American Legion, Raymond Giehl, Jr., was a special guest.

School Awards were presented to Garret Geughan and Paul Liska (Centennial Middle School), Taylor Baron and Brittney Boeke (Akimel Middle School), and 6 other students (2 each at Mountain Pointe High School, Desert Vista High School, and Altadena Middle School.)

Roger Munchbach served for the first time as a Sr. Counselor for Boys State at Northern Arizona University from May 31 to June 7, 2008. He has returned every year except for one since then.

At the Post meeting on June 18, 2008, Maricopa Co. Sheriff Joe Arpaio was the guest speaker. Close to 200 people came to hear him speak about his job, his supporters, and his critics.

Department Convention was June 19-22, 2008, at the Holiday Inn Palo Verde in Tucson. Membership ended the year at 110% (138).

### **JUNE 2008 TO JUNE 2009**

Department Commander was Henry Branch. Post Commander was Hank Johnson. Color Guard Commander was Ed Mangan. The Color Guard presented Colors or patriotic programs at ARC, Akimel Middle School, Monte Vista Elementary School, and the Post Golf Tournament.

The American Legion National Convention was held in Phoenix from August 22-28, 2008.

Post 64 had a year of elected public officials giving guest presentations at their monthly meetings. US Representative Harry Mitchell (October 15, 2008), State Treasurer Dean Martin (November 19, 2008), Phoenix City Councilman Sal DiCiccio (March 17, 2009), and State Senator John Huppenthal (April 15, 2009).

In October 2008, Post 64 donated \$581.00 to the new "Support the Troops Club" at ARC to help send packages to troops deployed overseas. This program has continued ever since, with the support of Post 64 among others.

Candy was delivered to the schools during American Education Week.

In December 2008, Post 64 donated teddy bears and books to the American Legion Auxiliary Gift Shop. In December 2008 they also gave \$500.00 to the Military and Veterans' Lounge at Phoenix Sky



Harbor Terminal 2. Through the years, as the airport lounge was taken over by the USO and moved to Terminal 4, Post 64 has continued making donations.

December 12, 2008, was the catered Holiday party.

April 11, 2009, was the Easter Parade. The Post 64 entry that day was restricted to the main Color Guard only, as for the first time in 33 years, the parade took place in a soaking rain. We still had the hot dog picnic and jazz band concert, though!

April 17, 2009, was Patriotic Day at Akimel Middle School.

In April 2009, the Post was given storage space in Building B at ARC for all of their property and records. Charlie Roloff was finally able to reclaim his garage for his own use.

May 17, 2009, was the first annual Post 64 Golf Tournament at Foothills Club West. The Chairman was Rod Green. Approximately \$4500.00 was raised.

Home-schooled student David Godfrey was sponsored by Post 64 to attend Boys State.

School Awards were presented to Kyle Dominy and Kathryn Johnson (Centennial Middle School), Alexis Apodoca and Lauren Hockenberger (Akimel Middle School), and Zachary Elwell and Nana Sarkodee-Adoo (Altadena Middle School). Mountain Pointe did not choose recipients in 2009. School Awards and, and for the first time, \$100 scholarships were presented to Luke Catena and Ashley Booth (Desert Vista High School).

Department Convention was June 18-21 at the Renaissance Hotel in Glendale. Membership goal for the year was 140, and 100% was achieved by March 2009.

#### **JUNE 2009 TO JUNE 2010**

Department Commander was Carol Hamburger. Post Commander was Rod Green. Color Guard Commander was Ed Mangan. The Color Guard presented colors or other patriotic programs at ARC, Akimel Middle School, ARC Women's Club, Marcos de Niza High School, the Post Golf Tournament, and Centennial Middle School. The Honor Guard attended the memorial service for member Charles Evanello.

During the year, members helped the City of Phoenix Parks Department with clean-up and trail development in the South Mountain 620 area.

The Post started purchasing name tags through American Legion Emblem Sales for any member requesting one. The Color Guard members were the first.

Guest speakers of note at monthly meetings were: Art Sloane, author of the "Veterans Voice" in the *Arizona Republic* and Arizona Secretary of State Ken Bennett.

The Post was also able to make some sizable donations because of successful fundraising (especially the golf tournament): \$250.00 to the AZ Veterans Stand Down at the state fair grounds; \$250.00 to the Support the Troops club at ARC for packages to deployed service persons; \$250.00 to the Veterans' and Military Hospitality Room at Sky Harbor Airport; \$250 to a local Marine paralyzed from the neck down in an auto accident; \$250.00 to the US Vets Initiative in Phoenix; \$114 to the American Legion Auxiliary Christmas Gift Shop at the Phoenix VA Hospital; and \$35 to United Food Bank.

In July 2009, the Post donated to the First Ahwatukee "Red, White, and Boom" fireworks held on July 3, 2009. The Color Guard presented Colors before the fireworks began at Ahwatukee Country Club. They also had a veteran's display table at ARC over the holiday.

Candy was delivered to area schools during American Education Week.

The catered Holiday Party was held on December 5, 2009, with 157 in attendance. The JROTC from Desert Ridge High School in Gilbert performed the POW/MIA Remembrance Table Ceremony and joined the Post for dinner.

The Support the Troops Club sent packages twice this year, in the fall and again in the spring, with continued assistance from Post 64 members. Before Christmas 89 boxes were shipped.

On February 20, 2010, members attended the JROTC drill competition sponsored by Sons of the American Legion Squadron 1 at the Air National Guard complex at Phoenix Sky Harbor. It was done in a pouring rainstorm.

March 26, 2010, was Patriotic Day at Akimel Middle School. Essay Contest winners were Nicole Ramirez and Arasela Stewart. The topic was "What is my patriotic role as a US citizen?"

April 3, 2010, was the Easter Parade, hot dog picnic, and jazz band concert.

April 10, 2010, was the second annual Post 64 Golf Tournament at Foothills Club West. 96 golfers participated.

May 31, 2010, for the first time, the Post 64 Color Guard marched in the Parade of Colors and presented a wreath at the Memorial Day program at the National Cemetery. They have participated every year since then.

June 14, 2010, Post 64 conducted a flag retirement program in the ARC parking lot for the first time. There were 100 people in the audience.

School Awards were presented to Alex Pepe and Jessica Rein (Centennial Middle School), and Matthias Wilson and Tricia Andrews (Akimel Middle School). The other recipients that year were not recorded.

Boys State citizens that year sponsored by Post 64 were Connor McCook and Quinn Tucker (Mountain Pointe High School) and Timothy Lee (Desert Vista High School).

Department Convention was at the Renaissance Hotel in Glendale, June 17-20, 2010. Membership reached 100% in May 2010.

### **JUNE 2010 TO JUNE 2011**

Department Commander was Dick Perry. Post Commander was Rod Green. Color Guard Commander was Ed Mangan with Emil Jansky as his Assistant. The Color Guard presented Colors or other patriotic programs at: ARC; Akimel Middle School; Hawthorne Court Sr. Housing; Marcos de Niza High School; Pearl Harbor Day commemoration at Wesley Bolin Plaza; Centennial Middle School; an AZ Rattlers' game; the Rotary Club; and the Post Golf Tournament. The Honor Guard attended funerals or memorial services for Joe LeChaix and Matt Miller.

On July 3, 2010, the Color Guard opened the fireworks for the Ahwatukee Red, White, and Boom at Ahwatukee Country Club. They donated \$300 to the fireworks.

The USO took over the military and veteran lounge at Sky Harbor Airport and moved it to Terminal 4. Post 64 donated \$250. Other donations that year went to: YOPAS \$100; United Food Bank \$120; American Legion Baseball \$100; Mary Ellen's Place \$105 (for female veterans); AZ Veterans Stand Down \$250; American Legion Auxiliary VA Hospital Christmas Gift Shop \$179; Support the Troops Club at ARC \$250; and Girls Scout Cookie "Sweets to our Troops" \$50.

Post 64 was incorporated with the State of Arizona on September 20, 2010. Their official incorporation publications appeared the first week of January 2011. They applied for and received their Supplemental Charter from National and a new EIN to reflect their incorporated status.

They continued to volunteer with the South Mountain 620 trail project.

136 packages were sent to deployed service members in November 2010, and 125 packages in April 2011.

December 4, 2010, was the catered Holiday party. The POW/MIA table ceremony was performed by the JROTC from Desert Ridge High School in Gilbert. Christmas gifts were purchased for a family of 5 in south Phoenix, along with paying the family's outstanding bill with Southwest Gas. A tree was set up by the Post at the VA Hospital in Phoenix for the first time. The Post has continued to set up a tree every year since then.

In March 2011, Post 64 purchased their electronic ceremonial bugle.

April 1, 2011, was Patriotic Day at Akimel Middle School. The essay contest winners were 6th grade: Maya Williams (first place) and Mya Carrizosa, Josh Ridgeway, and Jacqui Williams (all honorable mention); 7th grade: Veronica Gasparro (first place) and Rylee Franks, Jenna Waterkotte, and Erica Richardson (all honorable mention); and 8th grade: Tayler Pyper (first place) and Albert Wang, Brian Ingersoll, and Jacobus Schieke (all honorable mention). This year's topic was, "How can I encourage my friends to show pride in being an American?"

April 9, 2011, was the third annual Post 64 golf tournament, however, the venue was changed to the Ahwatukee Country Club.

April 23, 2001, was the Easter Parade, hot dog picnic, and jazz band concert.

May 30, 2011, the Color Guard marched in the Parade of Colors and presented a wreath at the AZ National Cemetery. For the first time, the entire Post 64 delegation to the national cemetery stopped at Post 107 for Poppy Brunch following the ceremony.

June 14, 2011, there was a flag retirement program in the ARC parking lot.

Boys State citizens sponsored by Post 64 were Joseph Kim from Desert Vista High School, and Grady Bensted and Daniel Nyx from Mountain Pointe High School.

School Awards were presented to Xavier Balderamma and Madelyn Guyton (Centennial Middle School), Jacobus Schieke and Alexa Ryder (Akimel Middle School), and Michael Solomentsev and Aolfe Malone (Altadena Middle School). School Awards and \$100 scholarships were presented to Jacob Sciacca and Adrianna Preston (Mountain Pointe High School) and Dale Nicholls and Samantha Jaskolski (Desert Vista High School).

Department Convention was June 23-26, 2011, at the Carefree Resort. The membership goal for the year was 154 but was not attained. The highest number recorded was 145.

## **JUNE 2011 TO JUNE 2012**

Department Commander was George Cushing. Post Commander was Rod Green. Color Guard Commander was Ed Mangan, and his Assistant was Emil Jansky. The Color Guard presented Colors or other patriotic programs at: ARC; Department Oratorical Contest; the Ahwatukee Bowl on September 9, 2011, (Mountain Pointe vs. Desert Vista in football); Carl Hayden High School; Akimel Middle School; Williams Field High School (Veterans Day); DAR; Marcos de Niza High School; Kiwanis/Lions/Rotary Recognition Dinner; a separate Lion's Club meeting; the Post Golf Tournament; and Dobson Ranch Community Center. The Honor Guard attended funerals or memorial services for George Gulliford, Bob Roe, and Dale Morgan.

On July 3, 2011, the Post had a booth at the Red, White, and Boom Carnival at Ahwatukee Country Club and presented Colors before the start of the fireworks. Members helped with the Independence Day festivities at ARC.

The Post purchased wooden plaques of the emblems of the 5 major military branches to display at meetings and other events.

Packages were mailed to deployed service members in November.

On November 11, 2011, members attended the dedication of the new AZ State Veterans Home in Tucson.

The catered Holiday Party was on December 3, 2011. The JROTC from Desert Ridge High School in Gilbert performed the POW/MIA recognition ceremony. The Christmas family was from south Phoenix. A tree was set up at the Phoenix VA Hospital, and \$125 was donated to the Auxiliary Christmas Gift Shop at the VA hospital.

On March 3, 2012, the Department Oratorical Contest was hosted at ARC by Post 64 for the first time.

On March 24, 2012, the Post took part in the dedication of the Blue Star Memorial in Ahwatukee Park at 48th St. and Warner Rd. They purchased two pavers for the memorial: one engraved with American Legion Post 64 and the second with the ARC Veterans Club. The Desert Foothills Garden Club had been the organizing group behind the memorial, and had given presentations at several Post meetings during the year.

March 30, 2012, was Patriotic Day at Akimel Middle School. Essay contest winners were 6th grade: Rebecca Rockmaker (first place) and Adrianna Todd, Caleb Redshaw, and Louisa Mulderrig (all honorable mention); 7th grade: Nicole Trujillo (first place) and Anamaria Romero, Michaela Hernandez, and Matthew Martinez (all honorable mention); and 8th grade: Shiane Morrison (first place) and Kaylar Moser, Hunter LaRavia, and Skye Lindholme (all honorable mention). The topic was "How do I show patriotism in my community?"

March 31, 2012, was the 4th annual Post 64 golf tournament at Ahwatukee Country Club with 95 players.

April 7, 2012, was the annual Easter Parade, hot dog picnic, and jazz band concert.

That spring, the Post 64 website at [americanlegionpost64.com](http://americanlegionpost64.com) went live thanks to Jim Woods.

Boys State citizens sponsored by Post 64 from Mountain Pointe High School were Avi Dasgupta and Andrew Argaez. Andrew went on to attend Boys Nation.

School Awards were presented to Kelly Molera and Samariah Riggins (Centennial Middle School), Kaylar Moser and Kenneth Moser (Akimel Middle School), and Mara Kemmer and Adrian Perez (Altadena Middle School). School Awards and \$100 scholarships were presented to Garrett Gaughan and Taylor Trujillo (Mountain Pointe High School) and Kathryn Boyle and Sterling Boyns (Desert Vista High School).

June 14, 2012, a flag retirement ceremony was held in the ARC parking lot.

Department Convention was at the Carefree Resort from June 21-24, 2012. Membership ended the year at 148 of 146 (101.4%).

### **JUNE 2012 TO JUNE 2013**

Department Commander was Ken Douse. Post Commander was Pete Meier. Color Guard Commander was Ed Mangan. The Color Guard presented Colors or other patriotic programs at: ARC; Carl Hayden High School; Akimel Middle School; Higley High School; the Ahwatukee Car Show; Mesa Dobson Ranch Park; ARC Women's Club; Marcos de Niza High School; the Pearl Harbor Commemoration at Wesley Bolin Plaza; Vietnam Veteran Recognition Dinner; Gold Star Wives at the AZ State Veterans Home; DAR; Department Oratorical Finals; First Responders Dinner at Foothills Golf Course; YOPAS; the Post Golf Tournament and Centennial Middle School. The Honor Guard attended funerals or memorial services for Dick Downing, Frank Thraen, Jr., Virgil Tracy, Martin "Skip" Oddo, George Lambert, and Charlie Roloff.

At the July 3 "Red, White, and Boom" Celebration the Post had a booth at the carnival and presented Colors before the fireworks. On July 4 they co-hosted a picnic at ARC. They also put up a patriotic display table at ARC.

That Fall the Post became part of the Phoenix Adopt-A-Street Program. Four times a year they became responsible for clean-up along Elliot Rd. from 48th St. to Equestrian Trail. The city put up signs recognizing the Post at both ends of their assignment. They have continued this service every year since beginning.

The Post continued to give money and hands to the Support the Troops program at ARC in both November 2012 and April 2013.

December 1, 2012, was the catered Holiday party. The JROTC from Desert Ridge High School once again performed the POW/MIA Recognition Ceremony. A tree was put up at the Phoenix VA Hospital. \$125 was donated to the Auxiliary Gift Shop at the VA hospital.

On January 25, 2013, the Post was part of the 40th Anniversary Celebration at ARC.

February 23, 2013, was a Vietnam Veteran Recognition Program at ARC in cooperation with Gold Star Wives.

February 24, 2013, the Post did their second street clean-up, receiving assistance from Girl Scout Troop 612.

March 2, 2013, the Post hosted the Department Oratorical Finals at ARC.

On March 6, 2013, long-time Post 64 Color Guard advocate, Charlie Roloff, entered Post Everlasting.

March 16, 2013, the Post Color Guard was part of a re-dedication ceremony for the Blue Star Memorial in Ahwatukee Park at the corner of 48th St. and Warner Rd.

March 23, 2013, was the fifth annual golf tournament at Ahwatukee Country Club. Craig Annis was the Chairman.

The Easter parade, hot dog picnic, and jazz band concert took place on March 30, 2013.

Patriotic Day was April 5, 2013. Essay Contest winners were: 6th grade: Aditi Chaudhari (first prize) and Caitlyn Bellamy, Makayla Belfiore, and Allison Ray (all honorable mention); and 8th grade: Madeline Bucci (first prize) and Michaella Hernandez, Kendall Schwartz, and Bryan Burnett (all honorable mention). The essay topic was "What freedom do I enjoy the most?"

May 27, 2013, the Color Guard marched in the Parade of Colors and presented a wreath at the Memorial Day Ceremony at the AZ National Cemetery. Madeline Nicholls, a freshman at Chandler Preparatory Academy, was a speaker, giving a speech which she had written about how veterans had affected her life. The entire Post delegation had brunch at Post 107 after the program.

Boys State citizens sponsored by Post 64 from Mountain Pointe High School were Max Ferraro and Neeraj Vij.

School Awards were presented to Caroline Cook and Sarah Ding (Centennial Middle School), Mya Carrizosa and Colin Smith (Akimel Middle School), and Luck Heywood and Audrey Scalia (Altadena Middle School). School Awards and \$100 scholarships were presented to Jessica Zhu and Lucas Hunter (Mountain Pointe High School) and Josh Greene and Carly Contract (Desert Vista High School).

Department Convention was June 20-23, 2013, at Carefree Resort. The Post 64 Color Guard took part in the Color Guard Exhibition on Saturday afternoon. The members of the Color Guard were Ed Mangan, Pete Meier, Rod Green, Dave VonTersch, and Mike McCarron. Membership ended the year at 139 of 148 (93.9%).

#### **JUNE 2013 TO JUNE 2014**

Department Commander was Judi Beischel. Post Commander was Pete Meier. Color Guard Commander for the first half of the year was Ed Mangan, and for the second half of the year was Rod Green. The Color Guard presented Colors or other patriotic programs at: ARC; Akimel Middle School; DAR; the Ahwatukee Car Show; Marcos de Niza High School; the Pearl Harbor Day Commemoration at Wesley Bolin Plaza; South Mountain Community College; the Post Golf Tournament; and Centennial Middle School. The Honor Guard attended the funeral service of Andrew Wink.

June 14, 2013, the Post conducted a flag retirement ceremony in the ARC parking lot.

The Post made a \$250 donation to the Ahwatukee Red, White, and Boom celebration. Once again they had a booth at the carnival and presented Colors before the start of the fireworks on July 3, 2013. On July 6, 2013, there was a potluck at ARC celebrating Independence Day. The Post had a table display of patriotic and veterans' items.

On August 6, 2013, President Barak Obama paid a visit to Desert Vista High School.

Quarterly street clean-ups continued all year.

In September 2013, the Post purchased a POW/MIA flag for the flag pole in the ARC parking lot.

That Fall, the Post was approved to receive 10 M1 ceremonial rifles and 1200 rounds of blank ammunition. Terri Williford donated a gun safe which was installed in the Post storage room in Building B at ARC.

In November 2013 the Post took part in sending 100 packages to deployed service members along with the Support the Troops Club at ARC.

The Post purchased a paver for the new WWII Memorial built at Wesley Bolin Plaza, and the Color Guard attended the dedication of the memorial on Pearl Harbor Day 2013.

The Holiday Party was held on December 7, 2013. Post members performed the POW/MIA recognition service before dinner. A tree was set up at the Phoenix VA Hospital. A Christmas family of 4 and another Christmas family of 2 were sponsored by the Post through Operation Holiday Arizona, a program of the Women's Army Corps Veterans Association.

In February 2014, Bob Smithson participated in the Phone-a-Thon to get Post 100 members to transfer to Post 64, with between 20 and 30 members actually transferring.

March 1, 2014, the Post hosted the Department Oratorical Finals.

April 17, 2014, was Patriotic Day at Akimel Middle School. Essay contest winners were: 6th Grade: Leah Kahldon (first prize) and Elena Bradstream, Natalie Lewkowitz, and Aubrie Raposa (all honorable mention); 7th grade: Kalen Owes (first prize) and Riley Walker, Carsten Weick, and Alyssa Hall (all honorable mention); and 8th grade: Alex Depriest (first prize) and Jake Wadzeck, Tara Yngelmo, and Jacob Niileksela (all honorable mention). The topic this year was "How can I show my pride in being an American?"

April 19, 2014, was the Easter Parade, hot dog picnic, and jazz band concert.

April 27, 2014, was the 6th Annual Post 64 Golf Tournament at Ahwatukee Country Club. Mike McCarron was the event Chairman. Over \$7000.00 was raised.

Michael Beiley from Mountain Pointe High School was chosen for Boys State but did not attend. Roger Munchbach made 12 gavels to present to the Boys State mayors.

School Awards were presented to Ashley Cantrell and Jacob McKeon (Centennial Middle School), Jenny Ngo and Cameron Gardner (Akimel Middle School), and Sylvia Kelley and Duane Miller (Altadena Middle School). School Awards and \$100 scholarships were presented to Margarita Garcia and Timothy Hernandez (Mountain Pointe High School) and Christian Beasley and Alexia Foster (Desert Vista High School). This year, for the first time, the scholarship money was all donated in memory of Charlie Roloff by his 3 daughters; Diane Laubmeier, Debra Bruns, and Renee McLaughlin.

May 26, 2014, the Post Color Guard marched in the Parade of Colors and presented a wreath at the Memorial Day commemoration at the AZ National Cemetery. Afterward, the Post 64 delegation attended brunch at Post 107.

June 26-29, 2014, was Department Convention at the Carefree Resort. Membership goal was 140, and the Post reached 100%.

## **JUNE 2014 TO JUNE 2015**

The Department Commander was Andy Jaime. Post Commander was Rod Green. For various reasons there were 3 different Color Guard Commanders this year: Mike McCarron, Tim Davis, and Ed Mangan with John Boyer as his Assistant. The Color Guard presented Colors or other patriotic programs at: a meeting of the Ahwatukee Board of Management; ARC; Carl Hayden High School; Akimel Middle School; Pearl Harbor Day at Sun Devil Stadium; the AZ Run for the Fallen stop at I-10 and Baseline Rd.; the Ahwatukee Car Show; South Mountain Community College; Department Conference in Tucson;

Marcos de Niza High School; Centennial Middle School; and the Department Oratorical Contest Finals (which the Post hosted at ARC on March 7, 2015). The Honor Guard was present at funerals or memorial services for Robert Busch, Josephine Oblander, and Keith Danforth.

Bob Smithson took over as the Membership Chairman (First Vice Commander).

On July 3, 2014, the Color Guard was ready to present Colors before the Ahwatukee Red, White, and Boom Fireworks, but sudden violent weather canceled the event. The Post still participated in an indoor picnic at ARC, where there was also a veterans' display table. *The Ahwatukee Foothills News* ran a special article highlighting several Post 64 veterans: Bob Guignard, Ed Mangan, Dave Seward, Bill Shesto, Bob Smithson, Dave VonTersch, and James Woods.

All year, the Post distributed *Korea Reborn* books. The city of Gilbert approved the construction of the AZ Vietnam Wall which Post members actively supported. They continued with their quarterly street clean-up along Elliot Rd. between 48th St. and Equestrian Trail.

Treats were delivered to area schools during American Education Week. The Post assisted the ARC Support the Troops Club with sending 161 boxes in November 2014. Included in those packages were socks and T-shirts donated by the Jr. National Honor Society from Akimel Middle School.

The catered Christmas Party was on December 6, 2014. The Post provided Christmas to a family through Operation Holiday Arizona. The Post also set up a tree at the Phoenix VA Hospital.

April 4, 2015, was the annual Ahwatukee Easter Parade, hot dog picnic, and jazz band concert.

Patriotic Day was held at Akimel Middle School on May 7, 2015. The Americanism Essay Contest topic for the year was "What Freedom Means to My Family". Winning essays were awarded as follows: 6th Grade: Alexandra Strimelle (first place), Adam Cooper, Ty Parker, and Sedona Remus (all honorable mention); and 7th Grade: Tori Roberts (first place), Briana Gutierrez, Stevie Ostman, and Alexander Hawkins (all honorable mention).

On May 25, 2015, the Color Guard marched in the Parade of Colors and presented a wreath during ceremonies at the AZ National Cemetery.

Boys State citizens chosen from Mountain Pointe High School were Travis Hueber and Jacob Tripp, but Jacob did not attend. Brian Cuenca from Desert Vista High School was sponsored by Tempe Post 2.

School Awards were presented to Timothy Liska and Brett Bell (Centennial Middle School), Sevanna Hanson and Nicolo Pia (Akimel Middle School), and Parker Lischwe and Averie Webster (Altadena Middle School). School Awards with \$100 Charlie Roloff Memorial Scholarships were awarded to Maggie Fye and Robert Mathis (Mountain Pointe High School) and Matt Kellogg and Nisha Velu (Desert Vista High School). The scholarship money was donated by Charlie's 3 daughters Diane Laubmeier, Debra Bruns, and Renee McLaughlin.

A Flag Retirement program was conducted in the ARC parking lot on June 14, 2015, and Wanda Wright, Director of the AZ Department of Veterans Services was a guest in the audience of 60 people.

Department Convention was June 25-28, 2015, at the Carefree Resort. Department put forth a re-districting proposal which was soundly defeated. Membership ended the year at 173 of 141, or 123%. (100% was reached in January 2015!)

## **JUNE 2015 TO JUNE 2016**

Department Commander was Billy Ellis. Post Commander was Rod Green. Color Guard Commander was Ed Mangan. The Color Guard posted Colors or presented patriotic programs at Carl Hayden High School; ARC; Akimel Middle School; YOPAS; Mt. Park Senior Living Center; the Pearl Harbor Commemoration at Wesley Bolin Plaza; the AZ Run for the Fallen stop at I-10 and Baseline Rd.; South Mountain Community College; ARC Women's Club; Opening of Special Olympics at ASU; Marcos de Niza High School; Department Oratorical Finals (which Post 64 hosted); LaVita Auditorium in Surprise, AZ;

Gold Star Wives; and Centennial Middle School. The Honor Guard attended funerals or memorial services for Gary Zook, Gus Salvo, Thomas Lynch, and Gordon Miner.

The July 3, 2015, Ahwatukee Red, White, and Boom Celebration was held at Pecos Park for the first time. The Post Color Guard had a booth at the carnival and presented Colors before the start of the fireworks.

August 8, 2015, Post members attended a spaghetti dinner hosted by AZ Run for the Fallen at Post 35.

Quarterly street clean-ups continued all year.

The Post supported the ARC Support the Troops Club in November 2015 with sending 150 boxes to deployed servicemen and women. Students from Kyrene Traditional Academy wrote letters, and students from Akimel Middle School once again donated socks and T-shirts for the boxes.

The Post provided Christmas to a family through Operation Holiday Arizona. The Post purchased 4 wreaths for the AZ National Cemetery through Wreaths Across America. Again they set up a Christmas tree at the VA Hospital in Phoenix.

On January 1, 2016, Post 64 dues were increased to \$30 per year to cover increases in the portion of dues going to Department and National. The Post still retained only \$3.00 of each member's dues to go toward the Post's expenses.

Because of an extensive building project at the Ahwatukee Rec Center, the "Christmas" Party was moved back to January 23, 2016, and called a "Holiday" Party. Attendance was so good, and those in attendance enjoyed the late date so much, that it was decided to always have the holiday celebration in January.

On February 13, 2016, members of the Post participated in the Agent Orange Town Hall in Mesa, AZ. During the month of February they made repairs to the flag supports around the parking lot at ARC. Between 30 and 40 US flags are still posted around the property for patriotic holidays and other special events (like the Department Oratorical Contest and memorial services). On February 20, 2016, the Post 64 Color Guard marched in the Iwo Jima Commemoration Parade in Sacaton, AZ.

On March 6, 2016, the Post 64 Color Guard presented Colors to begin the ARC Grand Re-Opening Celebration following their construction and remodeling project. On March 19, 2016, members attended the ground breaking for the "AZ Wall" in Gilbert, AZ. Commander Rod Green and Terri Williford were part of the "living wall" during the program to show the audience where the final wall would be constructed. March 26, 2016, was the annual Easter Parade, hot dog picnic, and jazz band concert.

In April 2016, the Support the Troops Club and Post 64 sent 150 more packages to deployed servicemen and women.

In May 2016, the Post 64 started to include a monthly "calendar" for members to hang in their homes.

May 9, 2016, was Patriotic Day at Akimel Middle School. The topic of the year's Americanism Essay was "How do we keep Lincoln's promise to our veterans and their families?" The 6th grade students receiving prizes were: Rebecca Adricula (first place) and Anabella Wright, Bailey Payan, and Kiera Gunther (all honorable mention).

Boys State citizens from Mountain Pointe High School were Ryan Kern and Logan White, and from Desert Vista High School were Seth Grieser and Douglas Sellers.

School Awards were presented to David Palosika and Molly Harrison (Centennial Middle School), Hogan Miller and Amelia Palacheck (Akimel Middle School), and David Utagawa and Olivia Evans (Altadena Middle School). School Awards with \$100 Charlie Roloff Memorial Scholarships were awarded to Dillon Swann and Madison Coffman (Mountain Pointe High School) and Michael Kolodziej and Bethany Henthorne (Desert Vista High School). The scholarship money was again donated by the Roloff sisters.



May 30, 2016, the Color Guard marched in the Parade of Colors and presented a wreath at Memorial Day services at the AZ National Cemetery.

June 14, 2016, the Color Guard conducted a flag retirement program in the ARC parking lot.

Department Convention was June 23-26, 2016, at the Carefree Resort. Membership ended the year at 181 of 172 (105%).

### **JUNE 2016 TO JUNE 2017**

Department Commander was Danny Bugh. Post Commander was Ed Mangan. Color Guard Commander was Dave Von Tersch. The Color Guard posted Colors or presented other patriotic programs at: DAR; ARC; Centennial Middle School; Ahwatukee Red, White, and Boom Celebration; Carl Hayden High School; YOPAS; the AZ Run for the Fallen stop at I-10 and Baseline Rd.; the opening ceremony for Paralympics at ASU; Akimel Middle School; Mt. Park Sr. Living Center; Marcos de Niza High School; Pearl Harbor Day Remembrance at Wesley Bolin Plaza; Vietnam Remembrance Day at Wesley Bolin Plaza; and Department Convention. The Honor Guard attended funerals or memorial services for William Keller, Mark Hayball, Herb Mauch, Steve Conder, and Jeannie VonTersch.

Commander Ed Mangan was also active in other veteran's organizations: VVA (Vietnam Veterans of America), MOAA (Military Officers Association of America), and ESGR (Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve). Member John Boyer joined him with ESGR. Member Doug Patterson was active with the Marine Corps League.

July 1 the Color Guard presented Colors before the Ahwatukee fireworks and had a booth at the carnival. July 3 they helped with an Independence Day celebration at ARC. July 30 Roger and Deb Munchbach attended the ALLECA (American Legion Law Enforcement Career Academy) graduation at St. Joseph Youth Camp near Mormon Lake.

Quarterly street clean-ups along Elliot Rd. between 48th St. and Equestrian Trail continued.

The Support the Troops Club and Post 64 sent 150 boxes to deployed service members in November 2016 and another 150 in April 2017. Students from Kyrene Traditional Academy provided letters and socks/t-shirts for the boxes. Students from Akimel Middle School provided socks and t-shirts.

The Post continued with recognition of Ahwatukee schools during American Education Week.

A veteran's family of four was supplied gifts for Christmas through the Save the Family organization. The Post set up a Christmas tree at the VA hospital in Phoenix. January 21, 2017, was the catered Holiday Party.

Members attended a PTSD Town Hall Meeting in Mesa on February 11.

Patriotic Day at Akimel Middle School was held earlier this year, on February 22, 2017.

April 15, 2017, was the Easter Parade, with cadets from Camelback High School JROTC and the East Valley Boys Service Club helping to carry the burial flags of Ahwatukee veterans behind the Post 64 Color Guard leading the parade. Hot dogs and a jazz band concert were enjoyed at ARC afterward.

There were no Boys State citizens this year.

School Awards were presented to Jake Harrison and Michaelangelo Walter (Centennial Middle School), Olivia Thorpe and Bailey Busby (Akimel Middle School), and Clark Lemon and Suttyn Lappin (Altadena Middle School). School Awards with \$100 Charlie Roloff Memorial Scholarships were awarded to Daniel Diaz and Sara Bacon (Mountain Pointe High School) and Braden Gaines and Eryn Holden (Desert Vista High School). The scholarship money was again donated by the Roloff sisters.

May 29, 2017, the Post Color Guard marched in the Parade of Colors and presented a wreath at the AZ National Cemetery in observance of Memorial Day. That evening they participated in a Memorial Day observance at ARC.

June 14, 2017, was the annual Post 64 Flag Retirement Ceremony in the ARC parking lot.

Department Convention was June 22-25, 2017, at the Carefree Resort. The Post 64 Color Guard participated in the Color Guard competition on June 24, 2017, receiving third place. Membership reached 100% in March 2017 and finished the year at 194 of 177 (110%).

### **JUNE 2017 TO JUNE 2018**

Department Commander was Domingo Bonilla. Post Commander was Ed Mangan. Color Guard Commander was Dave VonTersch with Roddy Charlton as the Assistant. The Color Guard presented Colors or other patriotic programs at: ARC; the Ahwatukee Foothills Chamber of Commerce Business Expo; several other Chamber events; Shadow Mountain High School; the National Run for the Fallen both at the I-10 and Baseline Rd. stop and also at Wesley Bolin Plaza; USO Volunteer Recognition Lunch; Mt. Park Senior Living Center; Ahwatukee Sr. Citizens Center; Vietnam Veterans Recognition Day at Wesley Bolin Plaza; the Post 64 Golf Tournament; and Urban Air Park. The Honor Guard attended a memorial service for Martin Barreras.

Quarterly street clean-ups continued.

The Post participated in July 4 festivities at ARC.

During the summer, Post 64 joined the Ahwatukee Foothills Chamber of Commerce and had their official ribbon-cutting on September 19, 2017.

On October 21, 2017, Post 64 and the Support the Troops Club sponsored their first Oktoberfest, which raised funds to send 200 boxes to deployed service members in November 2017. Kyrene Traditional Academy students wrote letters to include in the boxes.

In October 2017 Ed Mangan was inducted in to the Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame.

On Veterans Day 2017, members marched with Post and Unit 124 in the Guadalupe Veterans Day Parade.

The Post held a Golf Tournament on December 16, 2017, at the Legacy Golf Course. Co-Chairmen were Pete Meier and Doug Patterson. \$3000.00 was raised. A tree was set up at the Phoenix VA Hospital for Christmas. Four wreaths were purchased for the AZ National Cemetery through Wreaths Across America. Two female veterans with a child each were the Christmas families supported through Save the Family.

January 20, 2018, was the Holiday Party.

February 10, 2018, members were present at an Agent Orange Seminar in Mesa.

February 21, 2018, was Patriotic Day at Akimel Middle School.

The Easter Parade, hot dog picnic, and jazz band concert were on March 31, 2018.

April 23, 2018, a National Run for the Fallen was greeted by the Post Color Guard at their I-10 and Baseline Rd. stop. The Color Guard then proceeded on to Wesley Bolin Plaza, the final stop for the Arizona leg of the run.

Tanner MacDonald from Mountain Pointe High School was a Boys State citizen.

School Awards were presented to Paul Arcieri and Matthew Luoma (Centennial Middle School), Raelynn Brady and Wyatt Ostermeyer (Akimel Middle School), and Riley Kendall and Sophia Siekierski (Altadena Middle School). School Awards and \$200 scholarships were presented to Lauren Everett and Antoine Kepczyk (Mountain Pointe High School) and Karisten King and Nicholas Miller (Desert Vista High School). The Post accepted a challenge from the Roloff sisters to match their yearly scholarship donation of \$400 in memory of Charlie, thus increasing the scholarship money given to each high school student.

May 28, 2018, the Color Guard marched in the Parade of Colors and displayed a wreath at ceremonies at the AZ National Cemetery. The Post 64 delegation attended brunch at Post 107.

The Department Convention was held June 21-24, 2018, at the Sheraton Wild Horse Pass. Membership ended the year at 195 of 196 (99.5%).