



AHWATUKEE AMERICAN LEGION POST 64
5001 E. CHEYENNE DR.
PHOENIX, AZ 85044

THE AHWATUKEE POST 64 COLOR GUARD 2017-2018 REPORT ENDING MEMBERSHIP 192

The Ahwatukee Post 64 Color Guard is 15 members strong. The Color Guard Commander is David VonTersch, and the Assistant Color Guard Commander is William 'Roddy' Charlton. Both men are Vietnam era Navy veterans. Post 64 members serving with the Color Guard are: John Boyer; Tae "Dan" Chong; Kenneth Dembiec; William 'Rod' Green; Lester 'Bob' Guignard; Joseph Gustafson; Ed Mangan; Peter Meier; Roger Munchbach; Doug Patterson; Robert Smithson; and James Woods. Also sharing her talents to the Post 64 Color is American Legion Auxiliary member Alice Maynard.

The Color Guard uniform consists of an American Legion uniform cap, white short-sleeved uniform shirt (with American Legion emblems, Color Guard patch, and American flag patch), navy blue trousers with gold stripe, white belt, and black shoes, with optional name tag and military service ribbons. Gold shoulder cords and ascots are used for all events except funerals and memorial services, at which time black shoulder cords and ascots are used. Each member is responsible for the cost and upkeep of their own uniform. The Color Guard uniform costs approximately \$150.00 per person. (See attached photos). In a show of support, many of the members attending meetings and functions wear parts of the Color Guard uniform even though they can no longer march or do other "physical" acts of patriotism as formal members of the Color Guard.

Post 64 does not have a separate Honor Guard for funerals and memorial services. The members of the Color Guard change shoulder cords and ascots to black for Honor duties. This year, they

performed Honor duties for 3 veterans: Herbert Mauch; Martin Barreras; and Steve Conder. The Honors presented were modified versions of those included in the American Legion *Manual of Ceremonies*. An electronic bugle is used to play *Taps*. They do not use a firing squad. The Post 64 team provides Honors for any veteran without asking for donations or payment; the veteran does not have to be a member of Post 64 or the American Legion. The members provide and pay for their own transportation.

On March 31, the Color Guard led the Ahwatukee Easter Parade, as they have for over 20 years. This year, 18 burial flags of deceased Post and Community members were carried right behind the Color Guard. Since Easter is a powerful symbol of the Resurrection and Afterlife in the Christian religion, the act of carrying these flags in the parade is beautiful and comforting for friends and family of the deceased veteran. Combined bands from Akimel and Altadena Middle Schools were part of the Post 64 parade entry and provided marching music and drum cadence. Following the parade the Color Guard hosted a "hot dog feed" and middle school jazz band concert for approximately 300 people.

On November 11, 2017, two Post 64 Color Guard members marched along with the Color Guard from Conrado Francisco Bilducia Post 124 in the Guadalupe Veterans Day Parade. Guadalupe and Ahwatukee are adjacent communities.

The Color Guard also participated in the Color Guard Drill Competition at the Department of Arizona Convention on June 24, 2017. They received the third place award.

The Color Guard presented and posted Colors at 13 functions hosted by Post 64: 10 monthly Post 64 meetings; the Post 64 Golf Tournament; the Department Oratorical Contest; and the Holiday Party. At the Holiday Party the Color Guard also performed the POW/MIA Table Ceremony and an Armed Forces Salute utilizing the military service flags.

The Color Guard took part in 22 different events in the Ahwatukee and greater Phoenix areas as follows:

--Five events included presenting and posting Colors for the Ahwatukee Chamber of Commerce. Post 64 joined the Chamber this past year. They also gifted an indoor US flag set for use at the Chamber's meetings.

--They presented and posted Colors for five events hosted by the Ahwatukee Recreation Center, which is their adoptive home. Ahwatukee Post 64 is officially considered "Homeless", however, the Ahwatukee Recreation Center and Retirement Community (ARC) has become their patron. One of the things which ARC provides is a storage room for all of the Color Guard equipment. In gratitude, the Post Color Guard purchases and maintains 37 U.S. flags which are posted along the walkways of the ARC building on patriotic holidays and special events. The Post also supplies US flags to the Rec Center Gift Shop for purchase by customers.

--Colors were presented and posted by Post 64 at two school events. In addition, the Post banner was taken to a "Massing of the Colors" at Shadow Mountain High School in memory of 9-11, where it was carried in the program by a JROTC cadet.

--The "Charles Roloff Memorial Evolution of the Flag Program", an educational presentation giving the history of the American Flag, was performed for the public on three occasions. Mr. Roloff was a long-time member of the Post 64 Color Guard, and purchased some of the Post's original Color Guard equipment in 1996.

--Members of the Color Guard took the Post Colors and met participants in the "Run for the Fallen" twice this year, on October 15, 2017, and again on April 23, 2018, as it made its scheduled stop near I-10 and Baseline Rd. Members of the Color Guard are closely involved with the national Honor and Remember organization, which sponsors the run.

--The Color Guard presented and posted Colors for the opening of the Paralympics at ASU. They marched in the Parade of Colors at the National Cemetery on Cave Creek Rd. on Memorial Day 2017. They conducted a Flag Retirement/Disposal Ceremony in the ARC parking lot on Flag Day 2017 which

was attended by 60 people. And they attended the Vietnam Remembrance Ceremony at Wesley Bolin Plaza on March 29, 2018.

In summary, from May 1, 2017, to May 1, 2018, the Post 64 Color Guard members volunteered 1000 hours, and drove 1500 miles, at an estimated cost of \$1650.

To quote the National organization, “The uniform groups of the American Legion are ‘display cases’ so to speak. Every Post can participate in uniform group activities if it so chooses.” The Post 64 Color Guard continues to function in the Post’s leadership role in public relations, flag education, youth activities, and patriotic displays.

Respectfully submitted,

David VonTersch
Post 64 Color Guard Commander

Roger Munchbach
Post 64 Adjutant

MEMBERS OF THE POST 64 COLOR GUARD



POST 64 COLOR GUARD COMMANDER
DAVID VONTERSCH
US Navy, Vietnam
Legionnaire 6 years



ASSISTANT COLOR GUARD COMMANDER
WILLIAM 'RODDY' CHARLTON
US Navy, Vietnam
Legionnaire 3 years



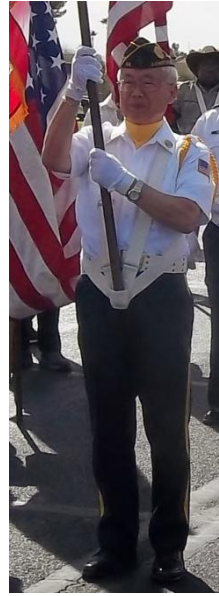
LESTER 'BOB' GUIGNARD
US Air Force, Korea
Legionnaire 11 years



WILLIAM 'ROD' GREEN
US Air Force, Persian Gulf
Legionnaire 18 years



PETER MEIER
US Army, Vietnam
Legionnaire 15 years



TAE 'DAN' CHONG
US Army, Vietnam
Legionnaire 16 years



JAMES WOODS
US Army, Vietnam
Legionnaire 8 years



JOHN BOYER
US Army, Vietnam
Legionnaire 6 years



ROGER MUNCHBACH
US Navy, Vietnam
Legionnaire 27 years



EDMUND MANGAN
US Air Force, Vietnam
Legionnaire 14 years



DOUG PATTERSON
US Marine Corps, Vietnam
Legionnaire 1 year



ROBERT SMITHSON, JR.
US Navy, Korea
Legionnaire 41 years



KENNETH DEMBIEC
US Air Force, Vietnam
Legionnaire 8 years



JOSEPH GUSTAFSON
US Army, Korea
Legionnaire 30 years



ALICE MAYNARD
American Legion
Auxiliary 2 years