



**AHWATUKEE AMERICAN LEGION POST 64**

**November 2022**

**<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 !**

**General Meeting**

**Wednesday, November 16, 2022, 4:00 pm**

**ARC Main Hall**

Pictures from the October 19, 2022 meeting taken by Brenda Smull



## First Vice Commander – Brenda Smull

The total number of Paid members is 74. We are at 67% renewed.

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### September 21, 2022 Meeting Minutes—Roddy Charlton

**Commander Pete Meier** opened the meeting with greetings to 15 members in attendance. The colors were pre-posted. Members recited the Pledge of Allegiance. **Chaplain Rebecca Schmidt** provided a prayer. The POW / MIA Empty Chair Ceremony was abbreviated with the banner pre-posted. As the minutes of the September meeting were published in the Post Newsletter, the reading of the minutes was dispensed by the Post Commander.

**Commander Pete Meier** provided an update for the Support The Troops Shred-a-Thon, to be held November 12, 2022 from 8 AM to 10 AM at the ARC. He also discussed annual Winterfest dinner and dance fundraiser is in work.

**First Vice Commander Brenda Smull** disused an article she posted in the October 19, 2022 in the Ahwatukee Foothills News, Memorial Tribute to Legionnaire Dave Von Tersch. This was an article on the passing of our Post member, Color Guard Commander and friend. The article was very well written and touched on his life, military service and family. The article included pictures of Dave taken by Brenda's husband and professional photographer Steve Smull.

**Adjutant Roddy Charlton** conducted the Installation of Post Officers Ceremony for **Finance Officer Jay Hendrix** and **Sgt-at-Arms Mark Shillinger**. Congratulations to these post officers This completes the Post Officer Installation for 2022-2023.

**Adjutant Roddy Charlton** conducted an Honor and Remembrance Ceremony for passing Post member Dave Von Tersch. Dave completed his military service in the Navy from May 1970 to May 1976. He was a Second Class Petty Officer, Machinist Mate rating and served on the Nuclear Attack Submarine USS Sunfish (SSN 649). **Chaplain Rebecca Schmidt** provided a special prayer. Roddy Charlton, a fellow Navy seaman, discussed Navy history and traditions of the ships Quarterdeck, how it is used as a ceremonial area and where the Officer Of The Deck and Bosun's Mate stand a twenty for hour watch in port. The tradition of arriving and departing, seaman saluting the ships colors and the Officer Of The Deck. To honor deceased sailors, the seaman is "Piped Ashore" with the Bosun's Pipe. Roddy Charlton sounded the Bosun's Pipe and Post members rendered a hand salute; "Piped Ashore Petty Officer Second Class Dave Von Tersch, Departing." and "Carry On" **Commander Pete Meier** completed the ceremony with Honor and Remembrance

**Refreshment Chairperson Alice Maynard** provided refreshments. Thank You..

## **Adjutant - Roddy Charlton**

### **Honor and Remembrance Ceremony- Dave Von Tersch**

A Honor and Remembrance Ceremony was held for the passing of Post Member and Sgt-at-Arms, Dave Von Tersch. Dave served the Navy aboard the USS Sunfish (SSN -649), a Sturgeon Class Nuclear Attack Submarine. He was a Second Class Petty Officer and his military service spanned from May 1970 to May 1976.

As a fellow Navy sailor and keeping in Navy tradition, a Honor to Deceased Sailors "Farewell To Shipmates" ceremony was conducted in his honor. Navy tradition is to conduct this ceremony on the Quarterdeck of the ship. The Quarterdeck goes back to sailing ships as a raised deck where the Captain commanded the ship, where the colors were kept, and the Bosun's mate stood watch. This tradition continues today with all Navy ships having a designated Quarterdeck. In port the Quarterdeck is where the accommodation ladder or gangway is utilized for all arriving and departing sailors. Seamen arriving face the colors and render a salute, turn to the Officer Of The Deck and salute with a "request for permission to come aboard sir." The Officer Of The Deck returns the salute "permission granted." Seamen departing follow this same process with "request permission to go ashore," and "permission granted" from the Officer Of The Deck. When the ship's Captain arrives or departs the ship, the same etiquette is used, with the addition for the Boson's Pipe sounding "piped ashore," or "piped over the side."

In Honor to Deceased Sailors, the deceased seaman is "piped ashore" with the Bosun's Pipe and hand saluted. In keeping with tradition, this ceremony was preformed at the October Post meeting. All members stood and rendered a hand salute. I sounded the Bosun's Pipe and the announced "piped ashore Petty Officer Second Class Dave Von Tersch, departing." A "carry on" completed the ceremony.

#### **Submariner's Prayer**

**Bless those who serve beneath the deep  
Through lonely hours their vigil keep.  
May peace their mission ever be  
Protect each one we ask of thee.  
Bless those at home who wait and pray  
For their return by night and day.  
Amen**



### **Acting Sgt-At-Arms – Mark Shillinger**

As your new Sgt at Arms, I would like to say that I am honored to serve.

I would also like to thank all who have (and continue to) help me to learn my new role and duties.

We are also in need of additional color guard team members. We have a number of color guard functions every year that require our attendance, and we don't always have enough members available to fill that need.

If you are interested, or know of someone who may be, please contact me at [markshillinger@hotmail.com](mailto:markshillinger@hotmail.com).

Uniform patches, badges and training will be provided. We also have a limited number of gently used shirts and pants that are available.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

## Chaplain—Rebecca Schmidt

### A PRAYER FOR VETERANS DAY (Friday, November 11, 2022)

Dear Lord,

Today we honor our Veterans, worthy men and women who gave their best when they were called upon to serve and protect their country.

We pray that you will bless them for their unselfish service in the continual struggle to preserve our freedoms, our safety, and our country's heritage, for all of us.

Bless them abundantly for the hardships they faced, for the sacrifices they made, and for their many contributions to America's victories over tyranny and oppression.

We respect them, we thank them, we honor them, we are proud of them. We pray that You will watch over these special people and bless them with peace and happiness.

-- Author: Joanna Fuchs

### WITH DEEPEST SYMPATHY

Dave Von Tersch (Navy/Vietnam) passed on Oct 5, 2022.

Ed Mangan (Air Force/Vietnam) passed on Oct 17, 2022.

Our Nation was blessed with their patriotism, honor, dedication, and all they did. And we were blessed with their friendship. Please keep their families and friends in your thoughts and prayers.

### SICK CALL

Jerry Crutcher and Jim Woods. Lord, we ask you to watch over and heal them. Amen.

### THANKSGIVING DAY (Thursday, November 24, 2022)

Keep us, O Lord, grateful as a nation for the blessings that are ours. Preserve in our hearts the appreciation of Your gifts that inspired our forefathers to set aside a special day of Thanksgiving, and may we ever be mindful of Your goodness and kindness. Amen



# November 2022

## American Legion Post 64



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9 <i>Executive Meeting ARC 4:30 pm</i>	10	11 	12
13	14	15	16 <i>General Meeting ARC Main Hall 4:00 pm</i>	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25 	26
27	28	29	30			



### Post 64 Contact Information

Commander	Pete Meier	602-690-3361	petehmeier@gmail.com
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Finance Officer	Jay Hendrix	480-831-9121	jayhendrix@cox.net
Post Chaplain	Rebecca Schmidt	602-292-8401	rebeccacinaz@aol.com
Sergeant-At-Arms	Mark Shillinger		markshillinger@hotmail.com



## Memorial Tribute to Dave Von Tersch

Written by Brenda Smull

What impressed me most about Dave Von Tersch was his **dedication and loyalty** to fellow veterans, friends, and the members of the community. Dave's commitment to and passion for the Ahwatukee American Legion Post 64, where he was an active member since 2013, was evident in the long list of volunteer roles and leadership positions he held.

Dave helped to organize and support so many important events including ceremonies for Flag Day, 4<sup>th</sup> of July, Memorial and Veterans Day, the spring Easter Parade, Evolution of the Flag, the annual Winterfest and Color Guard and Honor Guard for countless school, community and funeral events. He also assisted in the installation and dedication of the new flagpole and flags at the Ahwatukee Recreation Center (ARC).

Dave was a true servant leader who could be counted on to lend a helping hand and served as the Post 64 Sergeant at Arms for many years.

I first met Dave when he was the Color Guard Commander in 2018 and greatly appreciated how he enthusiastically led us with strong and confident "*forward, march*" "*column left, march*", "*right face*", "*present arms*" commands. He was serious and earnest when it came to proper flag protocol and etiquette and took to heart the solemn and crucial obligation to honor and respect our fallen comrades.



At a Post Meeting in September 2022. Photo by Steve Smull.

Another vivid memory I have of Dave Von Tersch is from Flag Day 2019 when he bravely and tirelessly endured extreme heat and large flames to ensure the proper disposal of unserviceable US flags. This was the first time I had ever witnessed such a ceremony and I was in awe of Dave's strength, commitment, and respect for our nation's banner.

On a personal level, Dave was born in Sioux City, Iowa and was one of eight kids. He had a twin sister and his childhood nickname was Dutch. Dave married the love of his life, Jean (Jeannie) and they spent 22 wonderful years together before she passed from Alzheimer's. He is survived by his two daughters, Lara Clagett and Stephanie Jones, step children Shirley Archuletta, Darci Strang and Toby Ellis, his sister Jeanette (Nettie) Graham, and three brothers, Sid, Tim and James Von Tersch. Dave loved to dance, play cards, and tell silly jokes. He could often be found dancing up a storm at the many Winterfest and Oktoberfest events at the ARC!

From May 1970 to May 1976 Dave served on Active Duty in the US Navy and achieved the rank of Petty Officer Second Class (E-5) Machinist Mate. He received the Silver Dolphins badge and served on the USS Sunfish SSN-649, a Sturgeon-Class Nuclear Attack Submarine.



After his six years in the Navy, Dave worked thirty years in technical positions such as Test Engineer supporting Agilent 3070 In-Circuit and Takaya 94xx Flying Probe test systems. Dave was a proud military Veteran and enjoyed serving his community.

In April 2022, Dave attended his last Spring Easter Parade and proudly marched alongside the Post 64 Color Guard for a good portion of the route. Dave was a strong man who took his responsibilities and obligations seriously. He kept active for as long as he was able and he never quit. His fortitude was unfaltering.



Dave marching in the Easter Parade, April 2022. Photo by Steve Smull

Dave Von Tersch embodied the mission and values of the American Legion by continually advocating patriotism, honor, and duty to his fellow veterans. He was committed to **selfless service** to his friends, family, and community and will always be deeply respected by those who had the privilege of knowing him.

The US Navy motto is **Not Self but Country** (Non sibi sed patriae) and Dave certainly lived by these words.

**Rest In Peace Dave Von Tersch.**

