



# American Legion Joseph Q. Johnson Post 96 PO Box 7096 Surprise, Arizona 85374-0101



Newsletter No. 253

azalpost96.com

September 2024

Post 96 Officers

<b>Commander:</b> Mike Elliott	623-533-4377	<b>Newsletter:</b> George Van de Langeryt	gvan8888@aol.com
<b>First Vice-Commander:</b> Arnold Kohl	602-692-0659	<b>Sergeant-At-Arms:</b> Kirsten Dube	623-694-2473
<b>Second Vice-Commander:</b> Kelly Donlevy	602-299-5007	<b>Membership:</b> Mike Elliott & George Van	
<b>Finance Officer:</b> George Van de Langeryt	623-547-6668	<b>Fundraising Chair:</b> Kelly Donlevy	602-299-5007
<b>Adjutant: (Acting)</b> Arnold Kohl		<b>Service Officer:</b> Rodney Hage	msgtrod@hotmail.com
<b>Chaplain:</b> Joe Urshan	623-584-4653	<b>VA Hospital Coordinator:</b> Rodney Hage	478-501-6625
<b>Judge Advocate:</b> George Van de Langeryt		<b>Photographer:</b> Paul Satkowski	207-706-6250
<b>Executive Committee:</b>		<b>Historian:</b> VACANT	
Mike Elliott, Arnold Kohl, Kelly Donlevy		<b>Past Commander:</b> Nancie Scalercio	623-826-3488
George Van de Langeryt, Nancie Scalercio		<b>ALR Chapter 96 Director:</b> Eddie Jenness	480-584-1145

*The Surprise Post 96 Newsletter is the official publication of Joseph Q. Johnson Post 96*

**IMPORTANT NOTICE!**

***NEXT Post business meeting 1800 September 26 at AZ Traditions***

***17225 N Citrus Rd., Surprise, AZ 85374***

***We meet in the Traditions Neighborhood Center 18265 Traditions Loop Rd E***

***PLEASE – ASK THE GATE GUARD FOR DIRECTIONS***

***Post Officer's meeting 1600 Thursday September 5 at the Commander's home***

***Voiture 1154 Promenade on 1000 Saturday September 7 at the Post 145 meeting room***

***Marty Schwab Memorial Breakfast 1000 Sunday September 15***

***Richi's Diner - 15609 W Bell Rd #100, Surprise, AZ 85374***

***ALR Chapter 96 will be meeting after the Post meeting on August 22 at AZ Traditions***

**Dues are coming in by mail and online. If you renew online, we do NOT send you a new membership card because you can print your own online.**

**If you want it mailed to you, ASK FOR IT FROM MIKE OR GEORGE.**

**POST 100 MEMBERS BE AWARE YOUR DUES ARE NOW \$75. POST 96 DUES ARE \$40. PERHAPS YOU SHOULD TRANSFER? Contact George or Mike.**

**HAPPY 78<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY TO THE US AIR FORCE ON SEPTEMBER 18**

**COMMANDERS CORNER**



What did you do for summer break? Ever dread that question on your first day back at school? We only had July off and it is now August.

If you were at the meeting, you would see that I have experienced something. I had reverse shoulder surgery. My right shoulder was giving me a lot of pain and my doctor said it was time to replace the rotator cuff. So far, this is better than

my previous two surgeries. But I am not out of the woods yet. I still have exercises to do at home when I am cleared to do so. Enough of my August, how was yours? Sturgis must have been fun for those who went.

Ok, down to Post business. I thank everyone who have paid his or her dues. Please keep it up. If you know some who lives in our area, but is in Post 100, please tell them that those dues are \$75. Save money and transfer to Post 96.

For God and Country,  
Mike Elliott, Legion Rider, Post 96 Commander

### **FROM THE FIRST VICE-COMMANDER**



### **Military Trivia**

This month I decided to just play a game of Military trivia. Like all trivia games, some questions you will know, others you will guess and get right and some will stump you. I hope you have some fun with it. The answers will be below.

- 1) The Spanish word for “little war” gave us what G-word term for a type of warfare in which small groups of fighters take on larger and less mobile military?
- 2) Passwords have played a role in the military for centuries. In the opening of what famous WWII battle did U.S. paratroopers use the password “flash” which was to be answered with the counter-password “thunder”?
- 3) To Dungeons and Dragons players, an RPG is a role-playing game. To service members, the acronym RPG stands for what kind of weapon?
- 4) Which typically improvised incendiary weapon is named after a Soviet politician and diplomat who died in 1986? (Two-word answer)
- 5) Sharing a name with Captain Nemo’s vessel in Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea, what was the name of the world’s first operational nuclear-powered submarine?
- 6) Pollywogs appear before King Neptune and his court to become shellbacks in a weird, unofficial U.S. Navy ceremony commemorating a sailor’s first official crossing of what imaginary line?
- 7) What four-letter term was used by NATO for missiles developed by the USSR in the Cold War, which were sold to and used by Iraq during the Gulf War?
- 8) Though no actual wolverines were harmed during the mission, the U.S. military operation to capture Saddam Hussein was given the name of what 1984 action flick about Russia invading the U.S.?
- 9) Not just a game on your 90” s PC, which name refers to a warship that blows up underwater explosives as it sails along?

- 10) A French word for “undermining” is the source of what S-word for combat engineer?
- 11) The profile of General George Washington appears on what United States military decoration?
- 12) What is the slang military term for the distance of one kilometer?
- 13) What is the highest enlisted rank a soldier can hold in the U.S. Army?
- 14) In 1952 the United States Air Force created Project Blue Book to study what?
- 15) What is the minimum height requirement to become a fighter pilot in the U.S. Air Force?
- 16) What is the name of the US military detention center located in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba?
- 17) The United States has 750 military installations overseas in 80 nations. Which country has more Army bases than any U.S. state?
- 18) What is the motto of the U.S. Air Force?
- 19) True or False: The US Coast Guard has two official flags.
- 20) True or False: In the US Navy there are no windows, walls, or bathrooms.

Answers:

- 1) Guerilla
- 2) Normandy
- 3) Rocket-propelled grenade
- 4) Molotov cocktail
- 5) USS Nautilus
- 6) Equator
- 7) Scud
- 8) Red Dawn
- 9) Minesweeper
- 10) Sapper
- 11) Purple Heart
- 12) Klick
- 13) Sergeant Major of the Army
- 14) UFO’s
- 15) 5 Feet 4 inches
- 16) Camp Delta
- 17) Germany
- 18) Fly, Fight, Win
- 19) True. (Coast Guard Standard and the Coast Guard ensign)

20) True. (Ships don't have walls, they have bulkheads. Ships don't have windows, they have portholes. Your left side is your portside and your right side is starboard, the deck is where you walk, and bathrooms are called the head.)

I hope you had fun with this.

For God and Country,  
Arnold "Arnie" Kohl, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander

**FROM THE SECOND VICE-COMMANDER**



A few days ago, I had the pleasure of helping Vice Commander Arnold Kohl and Service Officer Rod Hage dispose of the unserviceable flags we have collected. It was crazy hot out there between the weather and the hot barrels and we definitely got dirty, but I say pleasure because I wondered where each flag came from and the story behind it. I wondered about those that flew the flags and knew that they must love our country because they chose to turn them into us so they could be disposed of properly rather than throwing them away. It is also always a joy to work with those who love their country as much as I do. Some photos of the men at work are in the newsletter.

"We thank Thee for our Country and its Flag and for the liberty for which it stands". To clean and purging flame we commit these Flags, worn out in worthy service. As they yield their substance to the fire, may Thy Holy Light spread over us and bring to our hearts renewed devotion to God and Country, Amen."

For God and Country,  
Kelly Donlevy, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander

**FROM THE FINANCE OFFICER AND JUDGE ADVOCATE**



At the meeting on August 22, the members voted to raise Post 96 dues to \$50/year. This will take effect on 1 January 2025. Pay your dues before then and \$40 is all you have to pay. This increase is necessary because National

has raised the dues we pay by \$10.

Semper Fi!

George Van de Langeryt  
Finance Officer & Judge Advocate  
Past Commander & Legion Rider

AZ Veterans Hall of Fame – Class of 2018

**FROM THE CHAPLAIN**



As the seasons change and we transition into the latter part of the year, let us draw near to God with hearts full of faith and expectation. September, a month of harvest and reflection, reminds us of God's faithfulness and the bountiful blessings He bestows upon His people. It is a time to remember that, just as the earth yields its fruit in due season, so too will the seeds of faith we have sown bear fruit in our lives.

Amen.

For God and Country,  
Chaplain Joe Urshan

**SICK CALL**

Commander Mike had a shoulder replacement of his right shoulder on August 15. He is recovering quickly and we pray he is soon back to normal.

Please inform Chaplain Joe if you or your family are having medical problems. The Post will pray for you.

**POST EVERLASTING**

No Reports

**FROM THE FUND RAISING CHAIRMAN**



Hello Brothers and Sisters,

I hope you are looking forward to cooler weather coming and planning on helping with our next fundraiser. Mark your calendars and plan for a 2-hour stint to volunteer at Sam's Club on Bell, by the 303, one of the 3 days in November for our Veterans Day fundraiser. We will be there November 8 from 0900-1700, November 9 from 0900-1700, and November 10 1000-1600. We will hand out flags and poppies to the customers. I will have chairs available if anyone prefers to sit during the 2 hours you choose to help and will bring bottled water.

Next month at the monthly meeting, I will bring the fundraising sign-up sheet for any that would like to sign up early.

For God and Country,  
Kelly Donlevy, Fundraising Chair

## **MEMBERSHIP REPORT**

As of 8/30, we have 25 members pay dues to the Post, 33 pay online and 35 PUFL's: total 93. Our goal is 170 so we are at 54.71% of goal.

The winner of the Membership Drawing at the June 27 meeting is Riders Chairman Eddie Jenness who, fortunately, was present to win. Congratulations Eddie your 2025 dues are PAID! Attend meetings and you might win.

It is easy to pay online. If you use a credit card, we do not mail your membership card because you can print your own online. However, if you want one, let George know and he will mail it to you.

**Have you moved, changed your phone number or email address?** If so, please contact Mike or George. Give us the new information and we will update the records so you will continue to get your Legion Magazine and the Post Newsletter mailed or emailed to the proper address.

Mike & George

## **From the VA Hospital Coordinator / Service Officer**



From YOUR Service Officer!

Regardless of when or how you served it is very possible that you were either injured during service or were exposed to a toxic material. If you served 2 years or 30 years, I am here to assist you and your friends or family with VA claims. Reach out to me so we can sit and plan your possible benefits with the VA and/or the State of Arizona!

We are planning a few upcoming events. One is a joint event with Legion Post 94 to provide local training for suicide prevention. American Legion national and department goals include each post provide local suicide prevention training, and we are establishing local opportunities for you to receive some basic training of how to identify traits in a veteran of non-veteran that may be thinking of or planning taking their own life. More to follow once we get it all worked out.

Another event is I and a few other service officers from other Legion posts and from Disabled American Veterans (DAV) are putting together a mini seminar on what claims or benefits you or

others might qualify for. I have drafted up a session but need to really expand part of it. Once done we will provide the opportunity to attend these sessions at least quarterly until interest declines. Again, more to follow.

YOU are part of the service officer team; you just may not know it. BE THE ONE is linked to service officer work in that it is about helping our fellow veterans and or their families in need. Learn about what initiatives are out there that you can help spread the word about via these initiatives and you will be a real part of the solution to veterans and their families' challenges. I thank you all for the exceptional support Post 96 gives to our growing veteran community and me.

Semper Gumby, Always Flexible!

Rod Hage

The American Legion Post 96 Service Officer  
DAV Chapter 24 Service Officer  
Commander, DAV Star Chapter 24  
Commander, NWVVA

## **Voiture Locale 1154 Report**



Our next Promenade is scheduled for 1000 September 6 and we will meet again at Post 145. Yeah, it is a drive but the meeting room is very

comfortable.

Interested in the 40&8? Please talk to any of our members in Post 96.

Nancie Scalercio, Past Commander  
Voiture Locale 1154 Fundraising Coordinator

## **American Legion Riders Report**



The Riders of American Legion Post 96 would like to focus on two things in order of importance. Safety #1 and Recruiting #2.

Having witnessed a near fatal motorcycle crash recently during a fundraiser for another motorcycle accident victim, I thought it appropriate to post these facts and to remind us all to focus on motorcycle safety. There has been a string of serious motorcycle accidents in our area recently.



6,218 motorcyclists were killed in traffic crashes in 2022, which represents 15% of all traffic fatalities.

The fatality rate for motorcyclists was 22 times more than the passenger car occupant fatality rate in 2022, per 100 million vehicle miles traveled.

35% of all motorcycle riders involved in fatal crashes in 2022 were speeding, compared to 22% of all passenger car drivers. Motorcycle riders 21 to 24 years old involved in fatal crashes had the highest speeding involvement at 51% in 2022.

Of the 2,254 motorcycle riders who died in single-vehicle crashes in 2022, 42% were alcohol-impaired.

Motorcycle helmet use increased among motorcycle riders from 64.9% in 2021 to 66.5% in 2022. Similarly, among motorcycle riders with passengers, helmet use increased: 52.1% in 2021 and 58.3% in 2022.

We continue to keep our eyes open for good servant leadership potential members to join our Riders group. Riders who want to help, serve and have some fun as well.

Eddie Jenness, ALR 96 Director  
alr96.president@gmail.com

### **September Calendar**

**Monday September 2** – Labor Day - celebrated on the first Monday of September every year, and is a federal holiday in the United States. It started on Tuesday, September 5, 1882.

It is an important date as The United States of America honors the American labor movement and pays tribute to the social and economic contribution of the laborers toward society and recognizes their individual rights.

**Monday September 2 – VJ Day** Victory over Japan Day celebrated when the formal surrender occurred aboard the battleship USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay in 1945.

**Wednesday September 4** – 0900-1000 - Veterans Coffee Hour at Surprise Funeral Care, 16063 W Bell Rd, Surprise, AZ. Every 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of each month, Veterans are invited to a free coffee hour, compliments of Dignity Memorial.

**Wednesday September 4** – Senior Day at Fry's, Bashas' and Albertsons. 10% discount on your groceries.

**Thursday September 5** – 1600 Post 96 Officers meeting at Mike Elliott's home.

**Saturday September 7** – 1100 40&8 Voiture 1154 Promenade at Arrowhead Valley Apartments  
20025 N 81<sup>st</sup> Ave  
Peoria, AZ 85382

This is a Zoom Meeting join:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89838520005>  
Meeting ID: 898 3852 0005  
One tap mobile: +16694449171, 89838520005# US  
Find your local number:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89838520005>

**Tuesday September 10** – 0900-1000 Veteran's Coffee Hour at Sunland Memorial Park. All vets and friends are invited for coffee and nibbles. Second Tuesday every month. In the Chapel building at 15826 N Del Webb Blvd, Sun City, AZ 85351.

**Wednesday September 11**, - Patriot Day. An annual observance to remember those who were injured or died during the terrorist attacks in the United States on September 11, 2001.

**Sunday September 15** - 1000 Marty Schwab Memorial Breakfast at Richi's Diner, Bell & Reems. All veterans and family are invited to this informal gathering.

**Friday September 15** - Rosh Hashanah – the Jewish New Year, begins today at sundown and ends on Sunday, September 17.

**Wednesday September 18** - US Air Force Birthday – the USAF was established as a separate military branch on this day in 1947. The National Security Act, signed by President Truman, created the Air Force as an independent service, equal to the Army and Navy.

**Friday September 20** – **National POW/MIA Recognition Day** – We have not been able to find out what is going on at Luke AFB. They usually have an event planned for this special day.

**Saturday September 21** - 0900 NWVVA meeting Sunland Memorial Park.

**Tuesday September 24** – 1000 Disabled American Veterans Star Chapter 24 meets at Flagstar Bank, 14543 W Grand Ave., Surprise 85374. The meeting is held in the basement and there is an elevator. All veterans are invited.

**Tuesday September 24/25** - **Yom Kippur** this is one of the Jewish faith's most essential Jewish high holy days. The central themes of Yom Kippur are atonement and repentance.

**Thursday September 26** – 1800 Social Hour, 1900 Business Meeting. American Legion Post 96 meeting is at the AZ Traditions Neighborhood Center. Come for the raffle prizes! Bring a guest.

**Thursday September 26** – About 2000 American Legion Riders Chapter 96 meeting after the Post 96 business meeting at AZ Traditions. This is a temporary change.

**Thursday September 29** - Gold Star Mother's and Family's Day, A day set aside to honor the mothers and families of our nation's fallen service members

**SAVE THE DATE**

**October 26 – Stand Up for Veterans** – AZ Christian University.

**November 8-10** - Friday-Sunday Post 96 Fundraiser at Sam's Club

**November 11 – 0830 Annual Veterans Day Ceremony at Sunland Memorial Park.** Hosted by North West Valley Veterans Association and sponsored by Dignity Memorial. All are invited for the one-hour ceremony and followed by a buffet lunch, compliments of Dignity Memorial. Rick Kreiberg, from Veterans Affinity, is the guest speaker.

**Up Coming, District 11 Meetings**

All Meetings on Sunday

**Gary Vaughn, District 11 Commander**

Note: Post Commanders are required to attend District Meetings. They may be accompanied by members of their leadership teams. If a Post Commander cannot attend, a “proxy” may be assigned in writing and delivered to the Adjutant before the meeting. “In person” attendance is preferred, however participation via ZOOM link is permissible (link to be posted on the Facebook page and sent by message to District and Post leadership).

July 21, 2024: Luke—Greenway Post 1  
364 N. 7th Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85007

Times: Training 1300-1345, GMM 1400-1600  
Remarks: District 11 Organization Meeting

Sept. 8, 2024: Earl E. Mitchell Post 29  
6822 N. 57th Dr., Glendale, AZ 85301

Times: Training 1300-1345, GMM 1400-1600  
Remarks: Final Budget approval

Nov. 17, 2024: John J. Morris Post 62  
9847 W. Desert Cove Ave., Peoria, AZ 85345 Times:  
Training 1300-1345, GMM: 1400-1600

Jan.12, 2025: Eugene C. Yount Post 145  
20025 N. 81st Ave., Peoria, AZ 85382

Times: Training 1300-1345, GMM: 1400-1515

Mar. 9, 2025: Hazelton – Butler Post 53  
402 E. Narramore Ave., Buckeye, AZ 85326

Times: Training 1300-1345, GMM 1400-1600  
Remarks: Officer nominations

May 18, 2025: Crandall-Palmer Post 61  
35 N Dysart Rd, Avondale, AZ 85323  
(3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday change due to Mother’s Day)

Times: Training 1300-1345, GMM 1400-1600  
Remarks: Officer elections

**Coordinating Instructions:**

- District Officer and Committee Chair reports are due to the District Adjutant one week prior to the published meeting date so they may be distributed for review before the meeting.
- Training will include Service Officer and other administrative training deemed necessary by the District Commander or as requested by Post Commanders.



**FROM THE EDITOR**

Please help us find new businesses or individuals to advertise in our newsletter. It is only \$5/month (\$60/year) and we give Legion Members a 20% discount.

George Van de Langeryt  
Past Commander & Newsletter Editor



**SURPRISE**  
ARIZONA

**SAVE THE DATE**

**2024 Surprise Area Interfaith & Golden Rule Community Breakfast**

**Tuesday, September 24**

8 a.m. - Breakfast & Networking  
8:30 - 10 a.m. - Program & Surprise Community Legend Awards

**Dysart Unified School District Office**  
Governing Board Room  
15802 N. Parkview Pl.  
Surprise

**Free community event**

**RSVP by September 14 at**  
[surpriseaz.gov/GoldenRuleRSVP](http://surpriseaz.gov/GoldenRuleRSVP)

Join us for uplifting stories about people living the golden rule.

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## Surprise Area Interfaith & Golden Rule Community Breakfast - September 24

All are welcome to attend this community gathering to celebrate and promote the “Golden Rule” in our lives, our organizations and throughout our community and region. *Space is limited and filling up quickly! Please RSVP today to secure your seat.*

This year’s breakfast will be held on Tuesday, September 24 at the Dysart Unified School District Office in the Governing Board Room at 15802 N. Parkview Place. The celebration starts at 8:00 a.m. with breakfast and networking, followed by a program at 8:30 a.m.

Since 2017, Surprise has been designated as a Golden Rule Community by the Arizona Interfaith Movement. We believe events like this encourage partnerships and dialogue between leaders from faith-based and non-profit organizations, and are vital to strengthening our community, building resiliency and supporting all people.

The second annual Surprise Community Legend Awards winners will be announced at the event! The award program, created by the Surprise Veterans, Disability & Human Services Commission, celebrates the actions of individuals and groups making a difference in Surprise. The commission will honor the winners in the categories of Individual Legend, Volunteer of the Year and Organization of the Year. *Note: At the inaugural awarding of the Legend awards last year, George Van de Langeryt of American Legion Post 96 was the winner of the Individual Legend award.*

Sponsors and supporters of this year’s event include Dysart Unified School District, the City of Surprise, Health Choice Blue Cross Blue Shield, and the Dr. Bruce Sorter Golden Rule Fund-Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Surprise.

**There is no cost to attend, but you must RSVP. Space is limited.**



The Post 96 Crew: Arnie Kohl, Kelly Donlevy and Rod Hage, did the duty retiring American Flags on August 23. As members of the North West Valley Veterans Association, Post 96 is assigned a few weeks a year to retire flags at Sunland Memorial Park. Here is a few photos of the process thanks to Kelly. The NWWVA has five Barn-Yard Burners, used to burn trash in rural environments. They blow air into the 55-gallon barrel that is filled with flags and set afire. After about 45 minutes, the flags are ash and grommets. The barrels are refilled and the process starts again until all the flags in the shed are gone. Flags are collected by all the NWWVA members throughout the year.





A few photos from the August 22 Post 96 meeting, thanks to Post Photographer Paul Satkowski,



Commander Mike in a sling after recent shoulder replacement surgery



2nd Vice Kelly prepares the raffle.



Chaplain Joe offers the opening prayer.



Audio guru Tom Frizzell handles the PA system.



Past Commander Don Jankowski



Potential transfer David Samaniego talks with Rod Hage, VA Hospital Coordinator and DAV 24 Commander.



Commander Mike, 1st Vice Arnie and 2nd Vice Kelly, bow in prayer at opening of meeting.



C7 to George



*DLA Piper LLP (US)\* invites you to participate in a*

## **FREE LEGAL CLINIC FOR VETERANS**

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**August 2, 2024  
October 11, 2024  
December 6, 2024**

VA Community Resource and Referral Center  
1500 E. Thomas Road Suite 106, Phoenix, AZ, 85014  
Room 1133

**TO SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT, PLEASE CALL: (480) 606-5180**

This clinic is by appointment only. NO WALK-INS WILL BE ACCEPTED.

**NOTE:** This is an advice and referral clinic only. Representation will not be provided. Veteran benefit cases cannot be addressed.

\* VA assumes no responsibility for the professional ability or integrity of the organization whose name appears on this flyer. This referral does not constitute an endorsement or recommendation by VA.



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