



# FOUNTAIN HILLS POST #58

16837 East Parkview Avenue, Fountain Hills, AZ 85268

Rodger Shuttleworth, Adjutant

John Weedo, Commander

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Dec. 1	Bingo	5:30 p.m.
Dec. 2	Planning Meeting	5 p.m.
Dec. 2	ALR Meeting	6 p.m.
Dec. 2	Line Dancing (Beginners 6:30 p.m.)	7:30 -8:30 p.m.
Dec. 3	Fish Fry Music by Mat Roe	6-9 pm.
Dec. 4	Karaoke with Kim and Deb	6-9 p.m.
Dec. 5	Football Day Food by Chef Ben	12 p.m.
Dec. 8	Bingo	5:30 p.m.
Dec. 9	Line Dancing (Beginners 6:30 p.m.)	7:30 -8:30 p.m.
Dec. 10	Fish Fry Music by Still Cruising	6-9 p.m.
Dec. 11	SAL General Membership Meeting	10 a.m.
Dec. 11	Auxiliary Holiday Bake Sale	11 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Dec. 11	Music by Serria Outlaws	6-9 p.m.
Dec. 12	Football Day Food by Chef Ben	12 p.m.
Dec. 13	Auxiliary General Membership Mtg	11:30 a.m.
Dec. 14	Post Executive Board Meeting	5 p.m.
Dec. 15	Bingo	5:30 p.m.
Dec. 16	Line Dancing (Beginners 6:30 p.m.)	7:30 -8:30 p.m.
Dec. 17	Fish Fry Music by World's Smallest Qt	6-9 p.m.
Dec. 18	Post General Membership Meeting	9:30 a.m.
Dec. 18	Auxiliary General Membership Meeting	11:30 a.m.
Dec. 18	Music by Hoodo Casters	6-9 p.m.
Dec. 19	Football Day Food by Chef Ben	12 p.m.
Dec. 22	Bingo	5:30 p.m.
Dec. 23	Line Dancing (Beginners 6:30 p.m.)	7:30 -8:30 p.m.
Dec. 24	Fish Fry Music by Tommy Fontain	6-9 p.m.
Dec. 26	Football Day Food by Chef Ben	12 p.m.
Dec. 31	New Years Eve Party Music by D.J. Ed	6-Closing



### SEE WHATS HAPPENING BELOW FOR DETAILS

#### COMMANDER'S MESSAGE(S)

It is now the Christmas season and what I consider a very prosperous year for Post 58. We have accomplished many things this year one of the major things being the Bar Rehab it looks great and hope you all come to enjoy it. Next month in January we will be appointing the Nominating Committee to gather nominations for the Post elected offices for the 2022-2023 membership year. I guess this is a good time to tell you that I will not be seeking reelection and the Post Adjutant/Veterans Service Officer is considering if he should stay as the Post Adjutant and Veterans Service Officer next year.

Anyhow the nominations will close at the 26 February 2022 General Membership Meeting and the election will take place at the 26 March 2022 General Membership Meeting. Good Luck to those that will be running for office.

**This year only the Post Commander, Senior Vice Commander, Junior Vice Commander, Finance Officer, three Executive Committee Members, and the Sergeant at Arms** will be running for election. The Post Adjutant, Chaplain, Historian, Judge Advocate, and

Veteran Services Officer will be appointed in accordance with the new Post By-Laws.

It has been great being your Commander for the last four years but it is time for me to move on with new adventures in my life. Thank you for all your support over the last four years together we accomplished some great things.

### **WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

**We are glad to have three new members since the last Newsletter. Still growing.**

#### **New Members**

Matthew R. Rutledge U.S. Army veteran

Roy S. Garland, U.S. Army veteran

Desta H. Bronte, U.S. Air Force veteran

#### **Transfers in:**

None

If you see them around the Post, please introduce yourself and say hello and make them welcome.

### **WHAT'S HAPPENING**

1 Dec, Bingo 5:30 p.m.

2 Dec, Line Dancing, Beginners 6:30 pm all others 7:30 pm to 8:30 pm.

3 Dec, Music by Matt Roe 6-9 p.m.  
Fish Fry by Ben served from 4:30 -7 p.m.

4 Dec, Karaoke with Kim and Deb, 6-9 p.m.

5 Dec, Football Day Food by Chef Ben, 12 p.m.

8 Dec, Bingo, 5:30 pm.

9 Dec, Line Dancing, Beginners 6:30 pm all others 7:30 pm to 8:30 pm.

10 Dec, Music by Still Cruising, 6-9 p.m.  
Fish Fry by Ben served from 4:30 -7 p.m.

11 Dec. Music by Sierra Outlaws 6-9 p.m.

12 Dec, Football Day Food by Chef Ben, 12 p.m.

15 Dec, Bingo, 5:30 pm.

16 Dec, Line Dancing, Beginners 6:30 pm all others 7:30 pm to 8:30 pm.

17 Dec, Music by World's Smallest Quartet, 6-9 p.m.  
Fish Fry by Ben served from 4:30 - 7 p.m.

18 Dec, Music by the Hoodo Casters, 6-9 p.m.

19 Dec, Football Day Food by Chef Ben, 12 p.m.

22 Dec, BINGO, 5:30 p.m.

23 Dec, Line Dancing, Beginners 6:30 pm all others 7:30 pm to 8:30 pm.

24 Dec, Music by Tommy Fontain, 6-9 p.m.  
Fish Fry by Ben served from 4:30 -7 p.m.

26 Dec, Football Day Food by Chef Ben, 12 p.m.

31 Dec, New Years Eve Party, Music by D.J. Ed, 6 until closing

**HAPPY HOUR WITH DRINK SPECIALS EVERY DAY FROM 12 to 6 pm.** Daily Drink Specials will be on sale by the Bar Manager.

Veterans get their nails done free at Deluxe Nails every last Saturday of the month before starting the General Membership Meeting. Location across from Bashas on Palisades. The Deluxe Nail staff is excellent and very efficient. Come and visit them.

Pool Tournament every Monday starting at six p.m.

Euchre every Tuesday at 1 pm.

### **TAPS**



**Kenneth D. Nichols, U.S. Army veteran**

### **SERVICE RECOGNITION CORNER**

The following named members have been issued continuous membership certificates so far this year. Congratulations on your achievement. When you pay your dues for 2022, if you have 10, 20, 30, or 40 years of Legion service you will receive a certificate and pin, All certificates over 50 are issued by the National Headquarters.

None this month.

## VETERANS NEWS CORNER

### **VA prepares to get ahead of a surge in backlogged claims**

**WASHINGTON** — Starting in October, the Department of Veterans Affairs will hire and train new staff to ensure Veterans' claims are adjudicated quickly and help reduce an expected increase in the backlog of claims pending more than 125 days.

VA is taking the following proactive steps to help in the reduction:

Hire and train 2,000 new employees to assist in claims processing.

Utilize funds provided via the American Rescue Plan for overtime to ensure timely claims processing.

Deploy requested the fiscal year 2022 budget resources to support Agent Orange presumptive processing, as well as for general Compensation and Pension claims processing.

As of October 11, there were more than 204,000 backlog claims in an inventory of 603,000 total claims. VA identified more than 70,000 claims to review for additional entitlement stemming from the presumptive relationship between Agent Orange and Parkinsonism, bladder cancer, and hypothyroidism. Many of these will enter the backlog in October which is projected to reach 260,000 pending claims.

“VA is committed to ensuring timely access to benefits and services for all Veterans. This includes making sure Veterans who may have experienced adverse health effects from military-related exposures can get access to the benefits they need,” said VA Secretary Denis McDonough. “As we process claims such as those for three new disabilities presumptively linked to Agent Orange exposure, including the proactive application of Nehmer provisions, as well as three new Gulf War particulate exposure presumptive, we anticipate the claims backlog to increase this fall. The hiring of new employees will help us resolve these claims more quickly.”

Several factors have contributed to the recent backlog. Beginning in March 2020, operational changes necessitated by the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in an untimely delay of the Federal Records Centers' retrieval of documents and suspended Compensation and Pension examinations. While these actions were necessary to protect the health and safety of employees and veterans, they slowed the processing time for claims. VA workload has also increased as a result of the aforementioned recent decisions and actions, including a court order mandating the review of previously denied

Veterans based on qualifying service in the 12 nautical miles surrounding Vietnam.

The backlog has decreased by more than 14,000 claims since the end of August 2021. With the continued improvement of VA's ability to obtain C&P examinations and Federal Records, and with all requested resources received, VBA plans to address the impending increase and then further reduce the current claims backlog to 100,000 claims by April 2024.

### **Contaminated drinking water at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune.**

**WASHINGTON** – The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced today that it plans to propose expanded disability compensation eligibility for Veterans exposed to contaminated drinking water while assigned to Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune.

From 1953 to 1987, water sources at the base were contaminated with industrial solvents that are correlated with certain health conditions. Secretary of Veterans Affairs Robert A. McDonald decided to propose presumptions of service connection for certain conditions associated with these chemical solvents following discussions between environmental health experts at the Veterans Health Administration and the Department of Health and Human Services Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR).

“The water at Camp Lejeune was a hidden hazard, and it is only years later that we know how dangerous it was,” said Secretary McDonald. “We thank ATSDR for the thorough review that provided much of the evidence we needed to fully compensate Veterans who develop one of the conditions known to be related to exposure to the compounds in the drinking water.”

ATSDR determined that the drinking water at Camp Lejeune was contaminated with perchloroethylene, trichloroethylene, vinyl chloride, benzene, and other petroleum contaminants from leaking storage tanks from 1953 to 1987. ATSDR also determined that prolonged exposure to these chemicals increases the risk of certain health conditions.

Based upon VA's review of current medical science and ATSDR's findings, Secretary McDonald intends to propose the creation of a presumption of service connection for the following conditions:

Kidney Cancer  
Liver Cancer  
Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma  
Leukemia  
Multiple Myeloma  
Scleroderma

## Parkinson's Disease

### Aplastic Anemia / Myelodysplastic Syndromes

The Secretary's proposal would also expand benefits eligibility to Reserve and National Guard personnel who served at Camp Lejeune for any length of time from August 1, 1953, through December 31, 1987. This personnel would be presumed to have been exposed to the contaminated water during their Reserve or National Guard service and, in appropriate circumstances, to have been disabled by such exposure during service, thus allowing them to qualify for VA benefits under the statutory definition of "Veteran."

This would make them eligible for VA disability compensation and medical care for any of the presumptive conditions, and their surviving dependents would be eligible for dependency and indemnity compensation and burial benefits.

VA is working on regulations that would establish these presumptions, making it easier for affected Veterans to receive VA disability compensation for these conditions. While VA cannot grant any benefit claims based on the proposed presumption of service connection for these conditions until it issues its final regulations, it encourages Veterans who have a record of service at Camp Lejeune between August 1, 1953, and December 31, 1987, and develop a condition that they believe is related to exposure to the drinking water at the base, to file a disability compensation claim with VA.

VA will continue to grant claims for disabilities claimed to be associated with exposure to the contaminants that can be granted under current regulations and review the evidence in each case. If a claim for service connection for one of the proposed presumptive conditions would be denied under current regulations, the denial will stay until VA issues its final regulations. VA will announce when the regulations are final and presumptive benefits can begin to be awarded. For more information on applying for these benefits, visit [http://benefits.va.gov/compensation/claims-postservice-exposures-camp\\_lejeune\\_water.asp](http://benefits.va.gov/compensation/claims-postservice-exposures-camp_lejeune_water.asp).

Veterans who served at Camp Lejeune for 30 days or more between August 1, 1953, and December 31, 1987, are already eligible to receive VA healthcare for up to 15 health conditions.

## MILITARY HONOR FLAG DAYS IN DECEMBER

December 7 Pearl Harbor Day

## FLAG IS HALF-STAFF IN DECEMBER

Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day, December 7th  
(sunrise to sunset)

## SHIRT SALES

### American Legion Post 58 Polo Shirts

The polo shirts with a pocket are \$35. Add \$6 if you wish to have your name imprinted on them.

The "breathable shirt" is \$45 This shirt has no pocket. Add \$6 if you want your name imprinted on it.

We will have soon a supply of shirts for sale without your name. Contact a bar manager or officer for purchase. If you wish to have your name on it, you will have to order one.

## VETERAN SERVICES OFFICERS CORNER

Your Veterans Services Officer is available to you for disability claims and all other personnel requests relating to the VA and military awards.

## AUXILIARY CORNER

If you are not receiving regular emails from our Unit, please contact Judy Kling at [judykling11@gmail.com](mailto:judykling11@gmail.com) or Pat Stuart at [pl8stu@hotmail.com](mailto:pl8stu@hotmail.com) to provide an updated email address.

The Holiday Bake sale will be on Saturday 11 December 2021 from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in conjunction with the Army-Navy football game at Post 58.

The American Legion Auxiliary, Unit 58 will have their General Meeting Saturday 18 December 2021 at 11:30 am. A Holiday luncheon will be served following the meeting.

2022 DUES ARE ALWAYS PAYABLE AND ARE \$30.00 THIS YEAR. There are several ways to pay your dues.

Checks must be made out to "ALA UNIT 58." You can bring a check to the Post in an envelope to make sure you include your name, address, and phone number and address the envelope to CINDY RUIZ, our membership chairman (you can leave it with the bartenders). You can also pay by credit card, but please make sure you get a receipt from them to make a copy to give to Cindy so she can send you a card. Her email is [cynthia.ruiz@cox.net](mailto:cynthia.ruiz@cox.net).

You can mail your check to CINDY RUIZ, AMERICAN LEGION POST 58, 16837 PARKVIEW AVENUE, FOUNTAIN HILLS, AZ 85268. WE DO SUGGEST THAT YOU DO NOT PAY YOUR DUES WITH CASH.

## CHAPLAINS CORNER

NOVEMBER 2021

Here's hoping this month is one that brings your family together in a joyous celebration of the holidays. I know it's not possible for everyone. I know that there may be some who will be alone during Christmas or Hanukah. So, if you know of a Veteran or a couple who will be alone...maybe invite them to join you and your family. Another idea, give them a call and wish the greetings for the Season. My long-time Marine friend Bill would always say, "Let's remember the reason for the Season". As Americans watching the news and attentive to social media, let us not be dragged into the controversy of the day. Let's stay united in the belief we live in the greatest country in the world and we will somehow work through it. Marines say, "Adapt, Improvise and Overcome".  
God Bless

### A CHRISTMAS POEM

By Bob Frost

Honorary Poet Laureate Emeritus, City of Scottsdale

**As the winter stillness glides through barren trees  
and the noise of December clamors in our brains,  
there is a rush that is felt by the sensuous mind.  
It is like a silent power that lets go of our reins.  
Perhaps it's joy and warmth and love.  
Or, maybe it's...peace.**

**On days like today, it's fun to remember  
those pleasant places and time-spaces,  
those days when our young hearts grew.  
Simple joys and animal toys were daily friends for  
life.**

**Outside, puffy clouds slip onto new horizons  
taking with their thoughts and dreams and rain.  
This winter coolness is welcomed by the tepid mind.  
It is like a gift that washes away our pains.  
Perhaps it's life and goodness and truth.  
Or, maybe it's...Christmas.**

**On days like today, I'll always remember  
those toys and joys and family times,  
those days when our young minds grew.  
Simple joys and animal toys are my daily friends for  
life.**

Blessing to all. Bob Frost, Post Chaplain.

Remember I need your help in identifying members who are sick or in the hospital. With your help, I am happy to call on or visit our Legion family members who may

need some encouraging words or prayer. My email is [azbobfrost@gmail.com](mailto:azbobfrost@gmail.com) phone: (602) 550-5289.

## HISTORIANS CORNER

### **Historian Report for November 2021**

BM1 Jonathan Shine, USCG is our Veteran of the Month for November. Please see his photo and biography on the pillar in the Post Lobby.

**We need your help. As I try to contact individuals for the Veteran of the Month award, I've discovered that many of the email addresses and phone numbers are either incorrect or disconnected. If you have changed providers, addresses, or phone numbers in the last several years, please send an update to Post 58's Adjutant Rodger Shuttleworth.**

## SAL CORNER

For newsletter input contact, Squadron Commander Sid Freed [sidbe@aol.com](mailto:sidbe@aol.com)

## MEMBERS CORNER

There will be a Rio Verde Veterans Appreciation Golf outing, free to all veterans on December 2<sup>nd</sup>, meal to follow. Registration will begin on November 5 at 10 am. Details to follow. Limited to first 100 registered. Any questions please feel free to contact John McCavitt at [jmriveride2002@yahoo.com](mailto:jmriveride2002@yahoo.com)

## ADJUTANTS CORNER

It is unclear right now what the future holds for me. I have been your Post Adjutant and Veteran Service Officer for five years now and have seen Post 58 transform into one of the best Posts in Arizona, we are what an American Legion is supposed to be and I am glad I was a part of it. We have done a lot of great things over the last three years but I have also had to deal with a lot of what could only be considered abuse from some of the members of the Post. Regardless of all that it has been my pleasure to serve the members of Post 58 and I wish them well in the future. One more thing please keep the Post the way it is it took a long time to get us here and it would be a shame to go backward.

Our membership goal for 2022 is 700 members. To date since 1 November 2021, we have had over 375 members pay their membership dues for 2022

## **UPCOMING HALL AND PATIO RENTALS**

Rotary Club of Fountain Hills 9 November and 23 October 2021, both are Tuesday dates, 4 p.m. to 5 p.m., Banquet Hall.

## **COLOR GUARD EVENTS**

Pearl Harbor Day Post/Retrieve Colors - 12/07

## **GOLF COMMITTEE**

Dates and meeting times for the Golf Committee

### **December 14, 6 p.m.**

Please remember we are always looking for volunteers for Bingo, Golf, and just events around the Post. If you have the time, please volunteer your time to assist your Post, in any event, you would like.

The Golf Committee always needs members to help the Committee so we can have a BIGGER and BETTER tournament in 2022. As this is the Post 58s' biggest charity fundraiser we must have more support because only 2 members from the post make up the committee.

John Fraska  
Golf Committee Member

## **MARINE CORPS LEAGUE DET 1439 CORNER**

Detachment 1439 Marine Corps League Meeting  
Schedule -2202

The first Tuesday of the month @ 1800 hrs.

Jan 4, 2022  
Feb 1  
Mar 1  
Apr 5  
May 3  
June 7  
July dark  
Aug dark  
Sep 6  
Oct 4  
Nov 1  
Dec 6

Bob Frost  
Commandant MCLDetachment 1439/Chaplain Post 58

## **SUBJECTS FOR NEWSLETTER**

If you would like to post any items in the Newsletter, please contact Rodger Shuttleworth, Post Adjutant.  
Email [adjutantalpost58@outlook.com](mailto:adjutantalpost58@outlook.com)