

SUNSHINER



American Legion Post 7

Vol. 8 Issue 4 April 2011

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Commander's Message

Abraham "Abe" Rodriguez

First off, I would like to thank everyone that made the Department Commanders visit a a wonderful night.

Well, as we near the end of the year it is that time again for elections we had our first nominations on the 17th of March and they will be open till the end of the meeting in April. With elections in May so don't forget to stop by and vote.

The Friday Fish Fry's are turning out pretty good, please keep supporting the events. Remember that we are here for the veterans not our selves. And here is something to remember we need members that do things not that talk things and don't do anything. Until next month.

Abraham{ Abe }Rodriguez

Post Commander

520-404-4286

Memorial Day

It's April already and the next event coming up that I am proudly attached to again this year is the Morgan McDermott Post 7 sponsored Memorial Day Ceremony at Evergreen Cemetery. Evergreen has allowed Post 7 the honor of holding this Ceremony in their beautiful surroundings for decades and go well out of their way to accommodate us with printing of the programs, a covered area with chairs and a speaker's podium. Their staff even provide hot dogs after the event.

Many Post 7 members including American Legion, S.A.L., American Legion Auxiliary and American Legion Riders and our friends from Alcoa participate not only in the Ceremony but in its preparation; the laying of over 2,300 American Flags at the soldiers graves to both honor and remember them as these brave souls so rightly deserve.

Please come and join us at Evergreen Cemetery on May 30th @ 9am. It's an enriching experience and one you will remember.

An added note-If you wish to lay a wreath during this year's ceremony please contact me (at 744-6410) or the Post Secretary (622-8703) and leave a message stating who you are and what military branch you wish to honor along with your contact number.

Thank you

Joe Miller

American Legion Post 7

Memorial Day Chairman

**LEGION RIDERS SADDLE BAG
LOU "EL MARTILLO" SCHEER, PRESIDENT**

Greetings everyone. Hope everyone is well and ready for the warm weather. Just a few things in the saddle bag this month. First, I want to thank everyone for your positive feedback to my articles and the Riders. It means more than you know. Second, the Riders are putting on a run to benefit the Blind Rehab Center at the VA. May 7th is the day. Come on down. You don't have to have a scooter to take part. It is a poker run so there will be a high hand prize as well as a low hand prize. 50/50 Drawing and door prizes and music.

We are still supporting the Blind Rehab Vets at the VA along with Post 59 Riders. BBQ's still taking place once a month but different format now. Get a hold of me if you want to come some Saturday. The Vet's love the chance to socialize and with most of them from out of state it means a lot. The riders are also looking at helping out the Blue Star Mothers of Arizona-Tucson. Look for an upcoming event soon.

Some more changes are on the horizon for Post 07. It takes all of us to make the Post work. Please don't be the person to complain about something happening when you haven't been there to participate or make suggestions. Actions speak louder than words. I have opened my inner thoughts to the Auxiliary through this very forum. As my old platoon sgt used to tell me, it's their ball now.

We have some new Riders and will introduce them at our next function. For now I want to welcome Anna Mae, Jim, Bob C, Bob, Shawn and Joe G. If someone has an easier way for Auxiliary folks to join the Riders I am all ears. Enjoy the weather. Take that unknown exit once in a while. As Robert Frost would phrase it, the path least traveled. Life is a journey folks, not a destination. enjoy the ride. Keep the shiny side up.

Take care, Lou "Martillo" Scheer.

Last U.S doughboy laid to rest



National Vice Commander Eugene Pytka has a moment of solemn reflection near the casket of World War I veteran Frank Buckles, who was buried at Arlington National Cemetery today. Photo by Craig Roberts

Frank Woodruff Buckles, the last American veteran of World War I, was laid to rest March 15, 2001 in Arlington National Cemetery. He passed away Feb. 27 at the age of 110.

Buckles received his final military honors at interment and lay in state at the cemetery. The American Legion rendered its salute with a visit from National Vice Commander Eugene Pytka. Pytka, who had traveled from his home in Rhode Island to pay his respects. Pytka was granted a special privilege by Arlington officials and allowed to stand in a reserved area as he regarded the memory of “the last doughboy.”

Buckles was not a combat veteran. He saw no action in the Great War, but through his remarkable longevity and tenacious advocacy on behalf of his generation of military veterans, he distinguished himself as a symbol of nearly forgotten, but historically significant, American sacrifice.

Buckles was a 13-year-old Missouri farm boy when Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria and his wife, Sophie, were shot dead in Sarajevo by a 19-year-old Serbian named Gavrilo Princip. Expected to last just a few months, the ensuing war dragged on without U.S. involvement. But nearly three years after the start, the United States entered the war after British cryptographers deciphered a telegram from German foreign minister Arthur Zimmermann asking Mexico to join the war in exchange for the return of Texas, Arizona and New Mexico.

Sixteen-year-old Frank Buckles joined the rally in August 1917.

He was determined to serve. First, he visited a Marine recruiter but was rebuffed for being too young, even though he had lied about his age and said he was 18. He tried the Navy but was told that his arches had fallen too far, though Buckles suspected they, too, thought the skinny farm kid was a bit too fuzzy faced. He carried his claim to be of age to the Army. They either bought it or didn't care, and Buckles was fitted with the khakis he wanted so badly to wear.

In December, Buckles was shipped out. He sailed aboard the Carpathia, the ship that had plucked Titanic survivors out of the icy Atlantic nearly six years before. He landed in Glasgow, Scotland, and was posted down the island in England. "While in England," Buckles recalled, "I drove a Ford ambulance, a motorcycle with sidecar, and a Ford car for visiting dignitaries."

Buckles wanted to go where the action was, however. He asked for a transfer to the continent. At first, he was refused. Then, he said, "I finally got an assignment to escort an officer to France who had been left behind by his original unit. I had various assignments and was at several locations. After Armistice Day, I was assigned to a prisoner-of-war escort company to return prisoners back to Germany.

"After two years with the AEF (American Expeditionary Force), I returned home on the USS Pocahontas in January 1920. I was paid \$143.90, including a \$60 bonus."

Though he never saw combat in the Great War, Buckles' long life was not without wartime adventure. After a little time in the banking business, he was lured back to the sea and got a ship-borne job as an assistant purser. He stayed abroad for many years, serving on a variety of cargo and passenger ships.

Then, he said, "In 1940, I accepted an assignment to expedite the movement of cargoes for the American President Lines in Manila. Unfortunately for me, my stay was extended by the Japanese invasion of the Philippines in 1941. I spent three and a half years in Japanese prison camps..."

Buckles was rescued in early 1945, came home, got married and settled back to the land as a West Virginia farmer.

In his later years, as his Great War compatriots grew more and more scarce, Buckles spoke on their behalf, advocating for a National World War I Memorial in Washington, D.C., and in his home state of Missouri. In 2008, he went home to his native Missouri where he was honored at the National World War I Museum in Kansas City.

Cost of the Sunshiner:

It cost close to \$200.00 to mail it

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It takes many wonderful
volunteer man hours to fold them

A MONTH

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**ALR Chapter 7
Will be hosting
The American Legion Riders
Arizona Quarterly Meeting
On
April 9, 2011**




**Thank you Lou Scheer, President
and all your Riders for all you do
to support Post 7.
Your efforts are greatly
appreciated by the members of
Post 7.**

IMPORTANT!!!! PLEASE READ!!!

During the March 17th General Meeting a motion was made to amend the constitution and by-laws of Post 7 to drop the quorum requirements from 15 to 10.

There was also a motion made to amend the constitution and by-laws to change the meeting time to the 2nd Saturday at 10 AM.

April

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed
			
3 <i>Ramblers playing in the hall 3-7 Come out and dance!</i>	4	5	6
10 <i>1PM SAL Meeting 3PM Steak Fry</i>	11	12 <i>Barrio Hollywood</i>	13 <i>Airborne Me 6 PM Executi</i>
17 <i>Ramblers playing in the hall 3-7 Come out and dance!</i>	18	19	20 <i>7pm League o can American</i>
24 <i>Closed!</i> <i>Happy Easter!!!</i>	25	26	27

2011

	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 <i>Fish Fry</i> 5:30-7 <i>Live Music in the DUGOUT</i>	2
	7 6PM –Executive Committee	8 <i>Fish Fry</i> 5:30-7 <i>Live Music in the DUGOUT</i>	9 ALR Quarterly Meeting!! DJ @ 6PM in the hall
Meeting Executive	14 6PM Auxiliary Executive 7Pm Auxiliary Regular	15 <i>Fish Fry</i> 5:30-7 <i>Live Music in the DUGOUT</i>	16 <i>Private Wedding in the hall</i>
League of Mexican Women	21 7PM General Meeting	22 <i>Fish Fry</i> 5:30-7 <i>Live Music in the DUGOUT</i>	23
	28	29 <i>Live Music in the DUGOUT</i>	30 10 AM Legion Rider Meeting <i>Private Party</i>

Sunshiner Booster

Kelly & Joe Roberts
Tina & Carl Armbruster
Maurice Wainwright
Joanne Sullivan
William (Sully) Sullivan
Donald & Evelyn Peetoom
Ken Johnson x2
Pat Susanna & Richard Weichert
Roderick Craigen
Charles Leon
Mary Skaggs
Donald Batson
Gilda Pellon
Louie Pellon
Larry Enloe
Fernando Fimbres
Boots & Clark Borth
Richard Loss
Lou Scheer

Thank you all for your support!

SOAP BOX 1

I am going to take this spot and Thank all those that helped make sure the Department Commanders Dinner was a success and fun. First, I would like to thank Pat Susanna and Richard Weichert two people I can count on to always be there for me & the post. Pat made the wonderful dessert and helped in the kitchen with Richard. I would also like to thank our two servers, Victoria Barnett and Alexis Moss, who did a great job.

We had a lovely dinner catered by Micha's and it was so good. The chicken was the best. Pat made her wonderful blueberry dessert requested by me.

Thanks to all the Post 7 members who came out and made a great showing. It was nice to see all the Riders who showed up and stayed to dance. It was a great time..Thank you.

Kelly Roberts

Wednesday, April 27th is national Secretary's Day. I would like to publicly acknowledge the wonderful job Kelly Roberts does for this Post. I don't think a lot of people know how much she does here, not only does she do her job between 9 and 1 to keep the Post running smoothly, but also is one of our volunteer bartenders, helps with all the dinners and various functions.

She bartends on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, please stop by during Secretary's week and thank her for all she does for us. A few extra dollars in her tip jar wouldn't hurt!

Pat Susanna

SOAP BOX 2

Well, last month I said “ it’s a damnable shame that with over 300 plus members of Morgan McDermott Post 7, that we can’t muster 15 in attendance at a General membership meeting.” Last night March 17th, we did it, with exactly 15 in attendance. The following members answered the call: Abraham Rodriguez, Dale Moss, Dennis Matson, Russ Dillow, Louis Pellon, Abram Lares, Bill Leek, Richard Weichert, Stanley Mead, Lou Scheer, Don Peetom, Eddie Barnett, Joe Crowder, Baldamar (Baldy) Cervantes, and Chuck Hudson. It seems that, if these loyal members are concerned enough to take the time to ensure that necessary business would be conducted, what is your reason for not being there. I understand that many have health reasons, and that is acceptable, but how about all you healthy dudes? Why wait for the Sunshiner to come out, be there to get it 1st hand, fresh from the horses mouth. See you next month.

Chuck Hudson, Past Commander
Email: arizonalegionaire@yahoo.com

If you would like to express your feelings please email them to me at post7@morganmcdermottpost7.com and I will publish them. No anonymous entries allowed

SAL NEWS

Hello everyone. We're all through with "March Madness" so that can mean only one thing, summer is coming. Don't forget to stop by the Dugout to cool off and enjoy a cold beverage. Before you know it, the heat of summer will be upon us. Enjoy this while it lasts.

First up is MEMBERSHIP!! Our squadron continues to lag behind our membership goal. The Legion year is nearly over and we are barely above 50% of our goal. I completely understand that times are tough, but right now we need your help. If you have not yet paid your 2011 dues, please do so.

And I would like to take a moment to thank everyone who turned out for the March steak fry. The turnout was magnificent. Special thanks goes out to Georgina, whose fashion jewelry show certainly brought in some folks who might not otherwise have been there. But I was really pleased to see some of our longtime members come in to enjoy a steak. And for those who did, I apologize for overlooking the special we had intended to have. I promise something special for April, so please come out to see what we have in store for you. And we will be increasing our quantity so that we shouldn't run out again.

Finally, we have lots of events in the coming months. Stop by to see what we have planned, and come out and enjoy yourselves. The events we hold are for the benefit of our members, and the funds are for the benefit of our charities. When you support Post 7, we all win. I hope to see you all soon!

Until next month...

For God and Country

Joe Roberts

Veterans Day Parade

I wanted to give everyone a bit of insight into this year's Veteran's Day Parade. Yes, we are already planning for the parade in November. There is an old saying about how those who do not learn from the past are doomed to repeat it. We are doing everything we can to make positive strides this year and produce a worthy event.

The Veteran's Day Parade Committee held its first meeting of 2011 in early March. It was a very productive meeting and I truly believe we are hitting the ground running this year. We had a wonderful turnout with 4 different American Legion posts represented as well as a VFW post. We have created group leads in areas such as staging, marching bands, food, and transportation. Plans are in the works for a fund-raising golf tournament. We have begun our search for a reviewing officer and a theme for this year's parade. I believe our committee members will continue to support and work hard to make this the best parade yet. And as we get closer, we will begin to reach out to our members to ask for your volunteer efforts. I hope we can count on your support.

Our next meeting is scheduled for May 4, 2011 at 6:00 pm. If you are interested in attending, your input will be appreciated and I'm sure we can find an area for you to help us in. I will continue to update the membership through the newsletter. Thank you all for your support last year, and thank you in advance for this year.

Joe Roberts, Veteran's Day Parade Chairman

**HAVE YOU SIGNED UP YOUR
NEW MEMBER YET?**



I would like to thank all those that helped make February and March really good months for the DugOut. Lets keep this trend going...April should be good with the Riders Quarterly meeting, Fish Fry every Friday and parties.

I would like to thank our regulars that come in and support us. You make the post an enjoyable place to be for me and the others who come in. I look forward to your visits and you know if you don't come in on your regular days, I worry. :) Thank you!
Kelly

**MARK YOUR CALENDER
YOU DO NOT WANT TO MISS THESE
EVENTS**

Hollywood Trio in the DugOut

Every Friday

ALR Quarterly Meeting

April 8th-10th

Fish Fry

April 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd

Ramblers in the Hall

April 3rd & 17th

3-7

Steak Fry

April 10th

3-6

EASTER CLOSED

The Sunshiner

Morgan McDermott Post 7
The American Legion
330 W. Franklin Street
Tucson, AZ 85701-8208

Vol. 8 Issue 4 published monthly
April 1, 2011

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