



Wayne V. McMartin

American Legion Post 91, Chandler, AZ

# SMALL BUT MIGHTY - MAIL CALL

## December 2024

### Meeting Information:

#### American Legionnaires (TAL)

General: 3rd Sunday at 10:00 AM

E-Board: 1st Wed at 6:00 PM

#### American Legion Auxiliary (ALA)

General: 3rd Sunday at 09:00 AM

E-Board: Tues prior to meeting day

#### Sons of The American Legion (SAL)

General: 3rd Sunday at 12:00 PM

E-Board: Tues prior to meeting day

#### American Legion Riders (ALR)

General: 3rd Sunday at 11:00 AM

E-Board: Wed prior to meeting day



Wayne V. McMartin



### Commander's Corner

Post 91 Family -

I hope all of you are doing well!

November was a very busy month for the Post! We started out with the Department of Arizona Fall Conference in Oro Valley. The following weekend was the Marine Corps Birthday, which we held a cake cutting ceremony for - and then Veterans Day where we served 110 Ribeye Steaks to Veterans, their Families and guests. On Thanksgiving, we were able to provide a feast here for any and all who showed up - turkey, ham, stuffing, tamales, desserts, etc - truly amazing! With the Queen of Hearts jackpot being so large, every Wednesday is very busy at the Post. All of these events take tremendous effort and coordination from many volunteers. Hats off to all!

December will be very busy as well. Our Early Bird Dinner is scheduled for Saturday, December 7th at 1 pm. This is a thank you to all that have paid their 2025 membership dues prior to Veterans Day - we appreciate you! Please come by for Pancakes with the Grinch on Sunday, December 8th at 8 am. It is always fun to watch the children have such a great time! Saturday, December 14th has many events going on. Wreaths Across America at Valley of the Sun Cemetery, the ALR Bike Raffle, and...the main event - the 125th Army/Navy Game! We will be hosting a watch party, as this is the first time ever that The American Legion is a sponsor of this event. I'm sure it will be a great time!

A couple of different charitable efforts are also going on this month as well. We are still in the middle of our Matthew's Crossing Food Bank Drive - please bring in food or monetary donations before Tuesday, December 17th - as the reveal for this is on Wednesday, December 18th, 6 pm at Post 35. Additionally, we are once again collecting toys for the W Steven Martin Toy Drive. More details to come on when we need these toys, but we're looking at the second week of December (9th through the 13th). More information on this effort can be found here: <https://www.911toydrive.com/>.

As usual, we will be having Commanders' Call on Christmas Day, from 12:00 to 5:00 pm. Come on down and watch me, some of our Past Commanders and members of your Post 91 Leadership Team run the bar for this charitable event. \$1.00 you call it - all tips will go to charity.

Please be safe during this holiday season, and reach out to those that may need a little support. Be the One is not just a slogan - it is a mission! Be the One to say something if you need help, and also Be the One to lend an ear or a helping hand to those that are in a time of need.

Thank you for all that you do for our Veterans, their Families and our Community.

**Small but MIGHTY!**  
**For God and Country,**  
**Commander Dave**

## **Vice President of the Auxiliary**

### ***A Soldier's Night Before Christmas, by James M. Schmidt***

Twas the night before Christmas, he lived all alone, In a one bedroom house made of plaster and stone.  
I had come down the chimney, with presents to give and to see just who in this home did live

As I looked all about, a strange sight I did see, no tinsel, no presents, not even a tree.  
No stocking by the fire, just boots filled with sand. On the wall hung pictures of a far distant land.

With medals and badges, awards of all kinds, a sobering thought soon came to my mind.  
For this house was different, unlike any I'd seen. This was the home of a U.S. MARINE.

I'd heard stories about them, I had to see more, so I walked down the hall and pushed open the door.  
And there he lay sleeping, silent, alone, Curled up on the floor in his one-bedroom home.

He seemed so gentle, his face so serene, Not how I pictured a U.S. MARINE.  
Was this the hero, of whom I'd just read? Curled up in his poncho, a floor for his bed?

His head was clean-shaven, his weathered face tan. I soon understood, this was more than a man.  
For I realized the families that I saw that night, owed their lives to these men, who were willing to fight.

Soon around the Nation, the children would play, And grown-ups would celebrate on a bright Christmas day.  
They all enjoyed freedom, each month and all year, because of Marines like this one lying here.

I couldn't help wondering how many lay alone, on a cold Christmas Eve, in a land far from home.  
Just the very thought brought a tear to my eye. I dropped to my knees and I started to cry.

He must have awoken, for I heard a rough voice, "Santa, don't cry, this life is my choice  
I fight for freedom, I don't ask for more. My life is my God, my country, my Corps."

With that he rolled over, drifted off into sleep, I couldn't control it, I continued to weep.

I watched him for hours, so silent and still. I noticed he shivered from the cold night's chill.  
So I took off my jacket, the one made of red, and covered this Marine from his toes to his head.  
Then I put on his T-shirt of scarlet and gold, with an eagle, globe and anchor emblazoned so bold.  
And although it barely fit me, I began to swell with pride, and for one shining moment, I was Marine Corps deep inside.

I didn't want to leave him so quiet in the night, this guardian of honor so willing to fight.  
But half asleep he rolled over, and in a voice clean and pure, said "Carry on, Santa, it's Christmas Day, all secure."  
One look at my watch and I knew he was right, Merry Christmas my friend, Semper Fi and goodnight.

**Melissa Englert**  
**Membership Chair and Vice President**

## **Commander of the Sons of the American Legion**

Commander Jason Stephens

Howdy Sons,

Queen of Hearts and WIng Wednesday are still cranking. QoH jackpot as of December 1st is \$52,267!!! There will be no QoH drawing held on Christmas day. And there will be no kitchen, wings, on Christmas day and New Years Day.

We had another great turn out at our November meeting. Remember, meetings are held on the 3rd Sunday of the month. Our next general meeting will be December 15th. Hope to see as many of you there as possible.

The 30 for 30 raffle tickets will be available after our meeting on December 15th. Thank you again for everyone's continuous help on this fundraiser.

If you have not paid your 2025 dues yet, please do so as soon as possible. We are striving to reach 100% membership by December 31st.

Hope everyone has a Merry Christmas and an Amazing New Year!!!!

**Yeah buddy!!**  
**Jason Stephens, Commander**

## Director of the American Legion Riders Post 91

Hello Family!

A Very Merry Christmas to Everyone! Hard to believe the year is almost over already!

Want to give thanks to everyone that donated money to our Turkey drive this year. We ended up with 190 Turkey's going to Matthew's Crossing and 15 Turkey's went to the Veterans of Co Op this year! WOWZA! What an honor to be part of something so wonderful as ensuring a family is able to enjoy a turkey on Thanksgiving day. BLESSED!

We are really looking forward to December 14th as it is our biggest fundraiser of the year! We have a beautiful ride planned and will be drawing the grand prize winner at RideNow Powersports in Chandler at 2pm if you would like to be there in person. As always, we welcome anyone and everyone to join in the ride. We will have wonderful raffles upon our return and finish giving out prizes as we have increased the give back this year!

We look forward to our Post events that are coming up in the month of December and enjoy getting out to support other posts as they do their part to support our Veterans and our communities. Thank you for the support that you give this chapter. May you all have a wonderful Christmas with family and friends and best wishes for a wonderful New Year that is just around the corner!

Much Love,  
Director Kathleen "Kat" Valle

## Chaplain's Corner

First I want to wish our entire Post 91 family and friends a very Happy Holidays!

Another year has passed us by and we can't imagine how fast another year has come and gone. Life has certainly happened in all aspects to us as a country, in politics, the economy, our health, our personal life and our families. We are certainly busy people. With all this busyness going on, we sometimes don't take time to stop and give thanks for the blessings, the care and the love we have!

So many times we equate our blessings according to our material possessions and how much we have. I believe we truly do our hearts, our minds, our body and our souls a huge disservice with this kind of thinking! You see, our true thankfulness is not tied to what we have or don't have in material items. Our true thankfulness comes from our ability to be thankful for the little things that surround each of us.

So this Holiday Season, I challenge you, your family, your friends, whoever you spend the holiday with to write your names on a small piece of paper, put all the names in a hat, a basket whatever works for you and each of you draw a name out. Then take turns in front of everyone and say something you like and are thankful about that person! A truly powerful time of thankfulness to share with all.

And remember to always give thanks to God with a grateful heart for all He has given to us with His endless love and care for us because believe it or not God is thankful for YOU!

God Bless,  
Post 91 Chaplain, Harry Ridge

## Upcoming Events:

- 12/02 - 1000 A.L.A. putting up Christmas decorations
- 12/04 - 1800 T.A.L. e-Board Meeting
- 12/06 - 1900 Karaoke Night
- 12/07 - 1400 Early Bird Dinner
- 12/07 - 1700 Bingo
- 12/08 - 0800 Breakfast with the Grinch (Event includes Wounded Warrior Project)
- 12/10 - 1800 A.L.A. eCommittee Meeting
- 12/10 - 1900 A.L.R. eCommittee Meeting
- 12/13 - 1900 Live Music with the D-Maz Band
- 12/14 - 0700 A.L.R. Ride, Raffles and Prizes
- 12/14 - 0900 Wreaths Across America Event (Ceremony to begin at 1000)
- 12/14 - 1200 S.A.L. Army-Navy Game Activities
- 12/14 - 1800 Bingo (**Note: One hour later due to the A.L.R. Bike Raffle and Event**)
- 12/15 - 0830 Breakfast Burritos (A.L.R. sponsored event)
- 12/15 - 0900 A.L.A. Meeting | 1000 - T.A.L. Meeting | 1100 - A.L.R. Meeting | 1200 - S.A.L. Meeting
- 12/15 - 1300 S.A.L. 30/30 Gun Raffle Begins!
- 12/16 - 1700 Golf Meeting
- 12/16 - 1800 House Committee Meeting
- 12/17 - 1000 Mathew's Crossing Shopping Event (Bring your truck!)

12/18 - 1700 Mathew's Crossing Reveal at Post 35  
 12/20 - 1900 Karaoke Night  
 12/21 - 1300 A.L.A. Charcuterie Board (Red and Green Theme)  
 12/24 - 1200-1700 Christmas Eve (**NO BINGO**)  
 12/25 - 1200-1700 Christmas Day - Commander's Call (**NO WINGS or QUEEN of HEARTS**)  
 12/27 - 1900 Jukebox Night  
 12/31 - 1200-2200 New Year's Eve activities

**Please note: Activities, dates, and times are subject to change.**

American Legion Post 91	American Legion Auxiliary Unit 91	Sons of The American Legion Squadron 91	American Legion Riders Post 91
Commander: Dave Melka Sr Vice Commander: Chris Englert Jr Vice Commander: Wes Burns Executive Committee: Cynthia Archuleta Executive Committee: J. D. Geiser Executive Committee: Bob Willeford Judge Advocate: Glenn White Adjutant: Rebecca Tupy Finance Officer: John Archuleta Service Officer: Valerie Goodwin Chaplain: Harry Ridge Sergeant of Arms: Brad Ness Past Commander: Mike Simon	President: Rae Hopf Vice President: Melissa Englert 2nd Vice President: Elizabeth Fry Secretary: Valerie Goodwin Treasurer: Robin Vandeventer Sergeant at Arms: Debbie Ashley Historian: TBD Chaplain: Ann Willeford Members at Large: Megan Osinga Members at Large: Debbie Jennings Members at Large: Carol Wuertemburg Past President: Barbara Suitt	Commander: Jason Stephens Sr. Vice Commander: Ralph Foster Jr. Vice Commander: Matt Fry Adjutant: Andy Foster Finance Officer: Chris Balsley Sergeant at Arms: Trevor Olsen Historian: Justin Reed Chaplain: Bob "Skipper" Willeford Past Commander: Aaron Beauvais	Director: Kathleen "Kat" Valle Asst Director: KJ Vorhees 2nd Vice Director: Matt "Peaches" Fry Secretary: Liz "Cream" Fry Treasurer: Paul Pawlowski Chaplain: Lou Carufel Historian: TBD Sergeant at Arms: Scott "Tiny" Bender Road Captain: Paul Neale Past President: Bob "Skipper" Willeford



*Please Join Us!*

Every Thursday Morning - 7:30 - 8:45 am  
Wayne V. McMartin, American Legion Post 91  
922 N Alma School Rd, Chandler, AZ  
(SW corner of Ray Rd and Alma School Rd)

[www.chandlerbusinessalliance.com](http://www.chandlerbusinessalliance.com)

***Together, We Can Make a Difference!***

The Chandler Business Alliance is a networking group that bridges the gap between the business community and the non-profits in Chandler & the surrounding areas. We are focused on building and maintaining relationships of trust among business and non-profit members. Our business members are always active in the community and strive to give back to local non-profit organizations.



Join Chandler Business Alliance Foundation the 2nd Wednesday of each month for our Lunch Bunch networking event!

Check our upcoming events at

[www.chandlerbusinessalliance.com](http://www.chandlerbusinessalliance.com)

and find out our next location & featured non-profit presenter.

***Together, we can make a difference.***

## LOCALITY

real estate

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NOW IT'S TIME WE SERVE YOU.

WE HAVE A HISTORY OF HELPING MILITARY FAMILIES FIND THEIR DREAM HOMES ACROSS ARIZONA. LET US TREAT YOU TO A COFFEE AND DISCUSS YOUR OPTIONS.



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602-672-9301

[JaimeeTheFoxandWrenTeam.com](mailto:JaimeeTheFoxandWrenTeam.com)

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### Interested in advertising in the Wayne V. McMartin American Legion Post 91 monthly bulletin?

Only

**\$50.00** a year

for each area

(Approximately 2.5" height x 4.0" width, in color).

**\$100.00** a year

for each area

(Approximately 5.0" height x 4.0" width, in color).

**\$150.00** a year

for each area

(Approximately 5.0" height x 8.0" width, in color).

*Advertisement must be approved by the American Legion Post 91 Legionnaires officers.*

If interested, please contact American Legion Post 91 Sr Vice Commander Chris Englert at [englertchrisa@gmail.com](mailto:englertchrisa@gmail.com) or by cell 480.717.7449.

## All About You Placement and Senior Resources

Need additional help for you or an aging loved one and don't know where to start?

All About You Placement and Senior Resources can assist in finding the right care that meets your needs as well as your budget. We never charge our clients for our services!

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### Veteran Benefits:

VA Benefits can apply to single veterans, married veterans, and a surviving spouse of a veteran



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# LUNCH BUNCH

Wednesday, November 13th ~ 11:30 am-1 pm

**AMERICAN LEGION**

**AMERICAN LEGION POST 91**  
922 N Alma School Rd, Chandler, AZ 85224  
(480) 855-3268 | [www.azlegion91.org](http://www.azlegion91.org)

LUNCH  
will be catered  
by Floridino's  
Pizza & Pasta  
\$10 per person

### Featured Non-Profit



Our November featured non-profit is:  
American Legion Post 91 (funds going  
to support Honor Flight Arizona)  
Suggested donation. Pls bring cash  
or check made out to: Chandler  
Business Alliance Foundation  
or make a donation online to:  
[www.azlegion91.org](http://www.azlegion91.org)  
and be entered into a drawing!

### Business Sponsor



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*Together, we can make a difference.*

The Lunch Bunch is sponsored by the Chandler Business Alliance Foundation. The purpose of the Lunch Bunch is to create a networking group to build a bridge between business and the needs of our community.

[www.chandlerbusinessalliance.com](http://www.chandlerbusinessalliance.com)



**Survival**

**American Legion Post 91**

922 N Alma School Rd, Chandler, AZ, 85224

### What are we doing?

We are making dog leashes with members of American Legion Post 91, and we will give the leashes to Veterans and service dog organizations.

If you are a Veteran, a military caregiver, or part of a military family, you can keep the 1st leash you make.

### Why?

We make leashes to connect military-caregiving families (MCFs who we are) with the community. It's not about the leash, it's about the conversation that happens between the leashes.



Funded in part by the Arizona Department of Veterans' Services as made available through the Arizona Veterans' Charitable Fund.

Website  
[www.azlegion91.org](http://www.azlegion91.org)














Facebook  
<https://www.facebook.com/azlegion91>

**It's Not About the Leash!**

Local  
[azlegion91@coopsurvival.com](mailto:azlegion91@coopsurvival.com)

Phone  
480-329-6174

# December 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
			1800 T.A.L eBoard Meeting 1800 Wing Wednesday 1900 Queen of Hearts 	1900 BINGO	1900 Karaoke 	Early Bird Dinner 1400-1700  1700 BINGO
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
0800 Pancakes with the Grinch 		A.L.A. eCommittee Meeting A.L.R. eCommittee Meeting 1900 BINGO	1800 Wing Wednesday 1900 Queen of Hearts 	1900 BINGO	1900 D Maz Band 	0700 A.L.R. Ride 1000 Wreaths across America 1200 Army-Navy Game 1800 BINGO
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
0830 Breakfast - A.L.R. 0900 A.L.A. Mtg 1000 T.A.L. Mtg 1100 A.L.R. Mtg 1200 S.A.L. Mtg 	1700 Golf Meeting  1800 House Meeting	1000 Matthews Crossing Shopping 1900 BINGO	1800 Matthews Crossing Reveal Post 35 1800 Wing Wednesday 1900 Queen of Hearts 	1900 BINGO	1900 Karaoke 	1300 Charcuterie Board Competition 1700 BINGO
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
		Christmas Eve Post will close at 1700 (5:00PM)  NO BINGO!!!	Christmas Day 1200 - 1700 Commander's Call  No Wings!!! NO Queen of Hearts!!!	1900 BINGO	1900 JukeBox Night 	1700 BINGO
29	30	31				
	1700 Co-Op Leash Building 	NEW YEARS EVE Post will close at 2200 (10:00PM) 1900 NEON BINGO				

# January 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Pot Luck ALL DAY <b>No Wings!!!</b> <b>NO Queen of Hearts!!!</b>	2 1900 BINGO	3 1800 A.L.R. Bike Night 1900 Karaoke	4 1700 BINGO
5	6	7 1900 BINGO	8 1800 T.A.L eBoard 1800 Wing Wednesday 1900 Queen of Hearts	9 1900 BINGO	10 1900 Trivia	11 1700 BINGO
12	13	14 A.L.A. eCommittee Meeting A.L.R. eCommittee Meeting 1900 BINGO	15 1800 Wing Wednesday 1900 Queen of Hearts	16 1900 BINGO	17 1900 Karaoke	18 1400 A.L.R. Ride Stop 1800 White Elephant 1700 BINGO
19 0830 Breakfast by A.L.A.. 0900 A.L.A. Meeting 1000 T.A.L. Meeting 1100 A.L.R. Meeting 1200 S.A.L. Meeting	20 1700 Golf Meeting 1800 House Meeting	21 1900 BINGO	22 1800 Wing Wednesday 1900 Queen of Hearts	23 1900 BINGO	24 1900 Bunco	25 1700 BINGO
26	27 1700 Co-Op Leash Building	28 1900 BINGO	29 1800 Wing Wednesday 1900 Queen of Hearts	30 1900 BINGO	31 1900 Paint Night w/Bear Ross	