



Post 9401 & Auxiliary Nov - Dec 2016

Victor H. Meliza
"All American"
VFW Post 9401
266 London Bridge Road
Lake Havasu City, AZ 86403
(928) 855-5374



Views Publisher:

VFW Post 9401

Views Managing Editor

Olga Knock

Views Production Editor

Carl Piacitelli

Feature Writers

Post Commander, Stephen D. Knock
Sr. Vice Commander, Doug Meyers
Post Quartermaster, Carl Piacitelli
Auxiliary President, Jim Mack
Canteen Manager, Lynda Rodgers
Kitchen Manager, Mary Powell

Contact Information

(928) 855-5374 ext. #2
theviews9401@gmail.com

VFW Post 9401 on the web:

www.vfw9401.org

Facebook as

Victor H. Meliza "All American" VFW Post 9401 and Auxiliary

Victor H. Meliza
"All American"
VFW Post 9401
266 London Bridge Road
Lake Havasu City, AZ 86403
(928) 855-5374

VFW

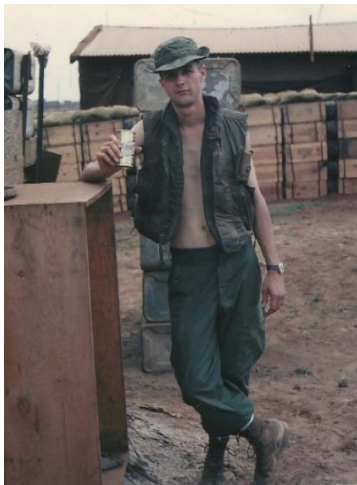


VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

Feature Article; How Post 9401 got to now.

Dave Crofoot

By Carl Piacitelli



Dave Crofoot; 1968

“Never fail to honor your people. When a true leader’s work is done and his aims fulfilled, they should say and believe, ‘We did this ourselves’.” – George S. Patton

Dave Crofoot was drafted when he was 20 and went to Vietnam at 21 with the 2nd Battalion, 94th Artillery. After leaving the Army, like many Vietnam Vets, he had a hard time adjusting to civilian life. Determined to succeed, he eventually found his way into the retail business, retiring from Sears. Dave moved to Lake Havasu in 1989 becoming a Post Commander, serving from 1995-1996. Back in his day, during the Friday night dinners, Dave was known as “D.J. Dave, 9401 on your dial that’s KVFW!”

Dave shared with us many memories of better and worse times here at VFW Post 9401. Unfortunately, not all of them can fit in the confines of this article. Two memories stood out. One being about our Post’s namesake,

Victor Meliza and the other being Bud Anderson, the last Charter Member of our Post to pass away.

His memories of Vic and Bud were of good and generous men. Vic was known to pay for the Post’s needs out of his own pocket.

Dave also spoke of the hard work that went into building the patio, its original design and use and of the many changes since then.

Even when he spoke of a Canteen Manager that ran off with all the Post funds, Dave’s focus was on how the membership pulled together to keep the Post going and credited the Ladies Auxiliary at the time for generous donations. The membership is what makes this Post what it is.

His closing comments during the interview were that “This Post has been a really good Post. It has been not only #1 in the District, but #1 in the State.”

The example set by Dave Crofoot and members like him are what inspire me to do my best for Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 9401. Thank you for your service Dave!



Dave Crofoot; 2016

Victor H. Meliza
“All American”
VFW Post 9401
266 London Bridge Road
Lake Havasu City, AZ 86403
(928) 855-5374

VFW



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS



Post Officers

Commander - Steve Knock
Sr Vice Commander - Doug Meyers
Jr Vice Commander - Ray Peckens
Quartermaster - Carl Piacitelli
Adjutant - Alfredo Rubalcava
Judge Advocate - Fred Mohun
Surgeon - Mike Goll
Chaplain - Joe Thayer

Trustees

1st Year - Fred Mohun
2nd Year - Omer Either
3rd Year - Ray Clodi, Sr.

House Committee

1st Year - Mike Goll
2nd Year - Ron Lomsdal
3rd Year - Alfredo Rubalcava

**Meeting 1st Thursday of Every Month @
6:00 PM**



Auxiliary Officers

President - Jim Mack
Sr Vice President - John Maze
Jr Vice President - Olga Knock
Secretary - Barb Bender
Treasurer - Dallas Emery
Conductress - Marry Gugert
Chaplain - Joani Goll
Guard - Sandi Montgomery
Historian - Sandi Montgomery
Trustee - Lynda Rogers

**Meeting 2nd Thursday of Every Month @
6:00 PM**

Victor H. Meliza
"All American"
VFW Post 9401
266 London Bridge Road
Lake Havasu City, AZ 86403
(928) 855-5374



Canteen & Kitchen

Canteen Manager – Lynda Rogers

Kitchen Manager – Mary Powell

Concerning our ALL VOLUNTEER STAFF

Regarding our bartenders

These women have attended the Arizona State Liquor Laws Class and are knowledgeable of our Arizona State Laws. They all have licenses issued by the State. They have also been taught the rules and regulations of our VFW Post and VFW National policies. They have also attended Mohave County Food Handlers Class and have these certifications. These ladies are trained and experienced.

Please remember;
THEY ARE ALL VOLUNTEERS!

Regarding our kitchen staff

These men and women have all been taught the rules and regulations of our VFW Post and VFW National policies. They have also attended Mohave County Food Handlers Class and have these certifications. These ladies and gentlemen are trained and experienced.

Please remember;
THEY ARE ALL VOLUNTEERS

Planning a party and not enough room at home? Contact your Canteen Manager for booking information.

Need food for that Party? Contact your Kitchen Manager for more information.

Victor H. Meliza
“All American”
VFW Post 9401
266 London Bridge Road
Lake Havasu City, AZ 86403
(928) 855-5374



From the Commander: Stephen D Knock

I want to start by welcoming back our winter visitors. It is a pleasure to have you all back here at VFW Post 9401. Reuniting with friends after 6 months is a joyous occasion and we are happy to have you back in your home away from home.

A special thanks to the activities committee who have been hard at work planning events for our members and guests. Your dedication to the post is greatly appreciated by all. The "Cheeseburger in Paradise" and "Oktoberfest" were great events that promoted camaraderie between members and a good time for all. On behalf of the post I thank you for all you have done and the hard work every member of the activities committee is putting towards upcoming events.

November is the start of a very busy schedule for the post over the next couple of months. This month entails Stan Wilkinson's Memorial, Veterans Day Parade and Ceremony, Flag Retirement Ceremony, Thanksgiving, and putting together holiday baskets for needy families to enjoy for their Thanksgiving meals. All those who wish to donate turkeys, assemble baskets, or participate in some of these activities please see myself or a post officer so we can inform you as to where help is needed.

I want to take a moment to recognize individuals who worked very hard and deliberated to write the proposed By-Law changes: Joan McDermott, Owen Johnston, Fred Mohun, Doug Meyers, Ray Peckens, Carl Piacitelli, Mike Goll, Ron Lomsdal, and Ray Clodi Sr. Drawing on everyone's knowledge and expertise we as a committee were able to come up with an extensive set of By-Laws to represent the recent changes of VFW National By-Laws and will be able to carry this post well into the future in these changing times. These new By-Laws were handed out to all Comrades in attendance of October's meeting, have been copied and sitting in the canteen for review, on the Comrade bulletin board, and were placed on www.vfw9401.org website for all Comrades to review. This is a reminder that the vote to accept these By-Laws will be voted on at the November 3rd Comrade meeting.

Lastly, with the holiday season fast approaching, this is the time of year when people attend Christmas parties and such, we want to remind everyone to please drink responsibly. Getting lost in the holiday shuffle happens frequently around the country and this is the time of year that drinking and driving happens more frequently than any other time of the year. We want all members to have a safe holiday season and return to us after the New Year. Your friendship and camaraderie is important us. On behalf of VFW Post 9401, Olga and I would like to wish you all a Happy Thanksgiving, a very Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year.

Yours in Comradeship,
Stephen D. Knock
VFW Post 9401 Commander

**Victor H. Meliza
"All American"
VFW Post 9401
266 London Bridge Road
Lake Havasu City, AZ 86403
(928) 855-5374**



From the Sr. Vice Commander: Doug Meyers

Did you know that Arizona is close to achieving 100% membership for the 50th consecutive year? Our Post is currently at 82.18% on our membership, keep up the good work! Please remember if you are an annual member, you can renew your membership at any time. When your Annual dues are first processed at the National Headquarters, your membership becomes valid for one year from that date. If you renew before your expiration date, then the expiration date is extended by one year. If you allow your dues to lapse, then your new expiration date will be one year from when your dues is processed.

Each member is the Posts best recruiter! If you know of any eligible members, bring them in and let's help our state achieve the goal of 50 consecutive years of 100% membership. If you know someone having financial hardships, we can help on a case by case basis and not just with dues.

For any membership questions, please contact myself or Quartermaster Carl Piacitelli at the Post.

Doug Meyers
VFW Post 9401 Sr. Vice Commander

Quartermaster's Corner: Carl Piacitelli

A special thanks to our Auxiliary for the generous donation of \$1000.00 this summer to help pay the Post expenses of running the bar and kitchen and for the more recent donations of much-needed equipment to the Post kitchen which will go a long way to help make Mary's job a little easier. All of this combined with what the Event Committee has raised over the past couple of months managed to pull the Post through a harsh summer. The Post is very grateful to the members who Mary mentions in her section for your donations. Thank you all! We are working on an operating budget which should bring our expenditures in line with our net income and allow us to better fulfill our mission of helping Veterans.

I want to thank our local resident members for your continued support over the summer months! Please join me in welcoming home to our dear Winter Visitors! We have several events coming up in the next couple of months for all our members and their families to enjoy. I hope to see you there! Thanks to all our membership for your continued support!

Comrades; don't forget that we have begun the Life Legacy Raffle. For those who have purchased a Life Legacy Raffle ticket, the drawing will be held on Thursday, Nov 3rd at the 6:00 PM General Membership meeting. You do NOT have to be present to win.

Carl Piacitelli
VFW Post 9401 Quartermaster

**Victor H. Meliza
"All American"
VFW Post 9401
266 London Bridge Road
Lake Havasu City, AZ 86403
(928) 855-5374**



From your Canteen Manager: Lynda Rogers

Welcome back to our Winter Visitors. It's so nice to see you all returning and coming in to say hello. We've had a few changes and hopefully they will make your time at the Post more enjoyable. We have the reputation of being a very friendly Post and want to make you feel welcome at all times.

Our POW/MIA ceremony was very moving and attended by quite a few of our members. This ceremony we have each year is not very long, but it is very meaningful. Thank you to those who participated.

Would like to thank Ed Mason for sharing his 99th birthday party with us. As always, it was a very fun and enjoyable evening for everyone. Good food and entertainment for all.

Our newly formed Activities Committee has been coming up with some great ideas and we've tried a few new events that turned out really well. They aren't just for our entertainment – they're meant for socializing and enjoying each others company as well as raising some money for our Post. Cheeseburgers in Paradise and Oktoberfest were both quite successful. Thank you to the many who helped with these events. Our Activities Committee members and volunteers worked very hard and it appears their hard work paid off.

Upcoming events include:

Monday, 10/31/16 Halloween Party 5PM (potluck) with costume contest at 7PM
Tuesday, 11/1/16 Beacon of Hope Hospice blood drive 10AM-2PM
Friday, 11/11/16 Veteran's Day Parade with Ceremony at Wheeler Park afterwards
Thursday, 11/24/16 Thanksgiving Day dinner – time tba
Sunday, 11/27/16 Post VOD/Pat Pen awards breakfast 12N
Saturday, 12/10/16 District VOD/Pat Pen awards/luncheon 2PM
Saturday, 12/17/16 Post Christmas Party – details @ Post
Sunday, 12/25/16 Christmas Day – open til 6PM
Saturday, 12/31/16 New Year's Eve Gala. Dinner and music by Gary Peaslee

Check at Post for additions and changes. Looking forward to seeing you there.

We (bartenders and myself) would like to thank Comrade Al Hall (affectionately known as "bar husband") for all his help at the bar. He never hesitates to do whatever is asked of him and willingly volunteers to help everyone in any way he can and is appreciated.

Lynda Rodgers,
Canteen Manager

**Victor H. Meliza
"All American"
VFW Post 9401
266 London Bridge Road
Lake Havasu City, AZ 86403
(928) 855-5374**



The Crock Pot: by your Kitchen Manager, Mary Powell

A big HELLO to everyone!

A big hello to our Winter Visitors! Welcome home. Things have been busy in the Kitchen and are getting busier. The months of November, December and January will be filled with special events, but remember we will be running our regularly scheduled meals as well!

I want to thank Carol and Donna for their loyalty and dedication in helping daily in the kitchen. I couldn't do it without these two hard working Volunteers! A big thank to the Auxiliary for the donation of two toasters and double waffle iron and a new coffee pot! I also want to thank some very special members who made much needed donations to the kitchen. Donna and Henry donated two waffle irons, Yogi a vacuum cleaner, Steve and Linda donated a bread warmer and some pans.

Don't forget that all our wait staff and bussers are volunteers who help when they can. I hope you appreciate them as much as I do and please thank them for their hard work when you come in and visit us for a meal.

Mary Powell
Kitchen Manager

**HELP WANTED:
From the House Committee**

We are looking for an assistant cook. You would assist Mary Powell in the kitchen 4 days a week to include Friday night dinners and Sunday morning breakfasts.

Contact Mary at the Post for details.

**Victor H. Meliza
"All American"
VFW Post 9401
266 London Bridge Road
Lake Havasu City, AZ 86403
(928) 855-5374**



From your Auxiliary President; Jim Mack

As the Holiday season approaches there is a lot going on at the post. So if you're looking for something to do we'll help you out

My thanks to Mary Gugert, and Sandi Montgomery for stepping up and filling the open positions on the auxiliary.

Keep in mind we always need people to do 50/50 just signup in the office.

Don't forget Nov. is a busy month. Veterans Day, Nov. 11 and we will be doing baskets for the needy contact Olga Knock or Barb Bender if you can help. If you can't help in Nov. we will need help in Dec.

PAR be sure and get your Program reports in on or before monthly meetings.

Don't forget your best Chili for Jan. 14th

Service not self.

Jim Mack
Auxiliary President

**Victor H. Meliza
"All American"
VFW Post 9401
266 London Bridge Road
Lake Havasu City, AZ 86403
(928) 855-5374**



From your Events Committee Chairman; Ron Lomsdal

Thank you to all members of the events committee and the volunteers for all the hard work you've done.

Events for Nov. and Dec.

November 1 Tuesday blood drive from 10-2

November 5th Saturday Stan Wilkinson Celebration of life starting after memorial service approximately 1300 at post

November 11 Friday Veterans day parade and ceremony. Lunch at post along with auction.

November 24 Thursday Thanksgiving

December 7 Saturday Pearl harbor day MIA/POW ceremony 1600 hrs.

December 17 Saturday Post Christmas party starting at 1700

December 31 Saturday Snowflake Ball/New Year's Eve celebration. Gary Peasley booked for that night.

Ron Lomsdal
Event Committee Chairman

Victor H. Meliza
"All American"
VFW Post 9401
266 London Bridge Road
Lake Havasu City, AZ 86403
(928) 855-5374



Community Services and Events, ADDs and Extras

To clear up any questions concerning tax exempt status on personal property for Disabled Veterans, the Lake Havasu Tax Assessor will attend the January Meeting. More information to come, keep your eyes open at the Post.

Sr. Vice Doug Meyers

"POT O' GOLD"

Member Drawing

Three (3) winners will be drawn and accompany the Commander-in-Chief on an all-expense paid trip to Ireland (Fall 2017) along with their spouse or guest.

For any new/reinstated member recruited between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017:

- You will receive one (1) chance for every five (5) new/reinstated members recruited
- You will receive ten (10) chances for every increment of 25 new/reinstated members recruited

Attention Post and District Commander:

- You will receive ten (10) chances in recognition of 85%+ post and district retention

Drawing will take place July 1, 2017

All awards are non-transferable

Robert A Crider, Director

VFW National Membership

**Victor H. Meliza
"All American"
VFW Post 9401
266 London Bridge Road
Lake Havasu City, AZ 86403
(928) 855-5374**



To honor our Mohave County veterans, JacksonWhite is offering the following complimentary presentation:

VA for Seniors

Who: ALL are WELCOME

What: This presentation provides information about the benefits available through the VA, including the Wartime Pension and Aid & Attendance Benefit, and is available for veterans and their families, as well as professionals.

When/Where: Thursday, November 10th at 10:00 am at KRMC Hospice Home in Kingman
Thursday, November 10th at 1:00 pm at Joshua Springs in Bullhead City
Tuesday, November 15th at 1:00 pm at Lake View Terrace in Lake Havasu City

Please register online at www.arizonaseniorklaw.com/resources or by phone at (928)727-0689. And, please feel free to distribute the attached flyers to friends, neighbors, residents, patients, clients, and co-workers, who might benefit from these presentations....thank you!

We would like to extend a special thanks to our hosts: KRMC Home Health & Hospice, Joshua Springs Senior Living, and Lake View Terrace Memory Care Residence. We appreciate them partnering with us to bring this valuable information to the residents of Mohave County!

Regards,

Melissa K. Henak, Elder Care Advisor
JacksonWhite Attorneys at Law
40 N. Center Street, Suite 200, Mesa, AZ 85201
www.arizonaseniorklaw.com
(928)727-0689 Direct
(480)464-1111 Main
(800)243-1160 Toll Free

Victor H. Meliza
"All American"
VFW Post 9401
266 London Bridge Road
Lake Havasu City, AZ 86403
(928) 855-5374



Letter from the Production Editor

Help Wanted: Views

By Carl Piacitelli

Hello everyone, as you can see I've redesigned the cover of The Views using a logo from a 1978 copy of The Views. We hope you like it.

For future issues, we are looking at publishing more historical articles celebrating the accomplishments of not only our Past Commanders, but of our Comrade and Auxiliary membership as well. If you have memories to share, we would LOVE to hear from you!

Finding the time to put this together and get it to our membership has been a slow process and I just got some help with building the email database for the contact list. Everything you see has been recreated as the previous editor took everything with her. Your continued patience is appreciated; any assistance would be welcome.

If you have an interest in helping get this rag in the hands of our membership, the number one thing you can do is to update your contact information with The Views Team. The easiest way to do this is to send an email to theviews9401@gmail.com with the subject ADD ME TO CONTACT LIST and we will add you.

Starting with the New Year, we will be publishing a quarterly newsletter and looking at the possibility of a smaller scale newsletter which will essentially be a monthly event calendar. We will need some help with this! There is a LOT going on at the Post. Not everyone has the capability of viewing the website and until we put an accurate email contact list together, getting the information to our membership is next to impossible without your help. I ask all members reading this to reach out to your friends and comrades to get the word out and help us get in contact with them.

Everyone who is helping with the Views is doing so on a volunteer basis and on their own time in addition to various other duties at the Post. As mentioned above, we are also looking for feature writers. If you would like to submit regular articles that inform our membership, or if you have a request for information to be covered in the newsletter, please send it in an email to theviews9401@gmail.com

Kind regards,
Carl Piacitelli

**Victor H. Meliza
"All American"
VFW Post 9401
266 London Bridge Road
Lake Havasu City, AZ 86403
(928) 855-5374**