



VFW POST 9401 & AUXILIARY VIEWS



Sept - Oct 2016

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES™

Victor H. Meliza, VFW Post 9401
266 London Bridge Road
Lake Havasu City, AZ 86403



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

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**In Memoriam
Stan Wilkinson**



by Stephen D. Knock

This month we lost a brother, a Comrade, and a friend in Stan Wilkinson. Many people walk through the doors here at VFW Post 9401, but few leave a legacy like Stan has left behind. Involved in every level through Post, District, and Department, Stan's love for this organization was second to none. I have heard much talk from Stan's friends and acquaintances about their memories of Stan and it is through these recollections that the wide range and depth of Stan's legacy become evident. Whether the stories were about a positive memory or others not so pleasant I noticed--EVERYONE has a Stan story. Stan touched many lives throughout this organization and his dedication to the VFW has influenced many that will forever be grateful for the opportunity to have met and known him.

Though we will never see Stan walk through the doors here at 9401 ever again, his legacy lives on inside every member. Stan, we will forever be grateful for everything that you put into the VFW both in action and in teachings. You may be gone from our sight, but you live on in every member's memory and will never be forgotten. Thank you Stan from all of us here at VFW Victor H. Meliza Post 9401 for the special way you have influenced us all. Rest in Peace our fellow Comrade.

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**Stan Wilkinson's Military
Honors & Celebration of Life**

Hilde Wilkinson has chosen a date and time to pay respects to her husband and our departed comrade, Stan Wilkinson:

MILITARY HONORS

London Bridge Beach Park
Lake Havasu City, AZ
Saturday, November 5, 2016
1200 to 1230

To Follow:

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

VFW Post 9401
266 London Bridge Road
Lake Havasu City, AZ
1300 to 1430
*Lunch will be provided

*Hilde has said Stan very clearly instructed her that he wanted the Celebration of Life to be truly a time to do just that: Celebrate his long and accomplished life as well as to celebrate the comradeship we continue to share with each other.

Please share this information with your comrades and Auxiliary members who may want to join Hilde and those of us at Stan's post home as we remember him.

Joan McDermott
District 8 Commander

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From The Commander

I want to start by saying thank you to everyone who contributed to support the Lake Havasu City Police campaign. The monies donated will be given in honor of all those fallen officers nationwide to support our local Citizens Police Academy. As of the time of this newsletter the post has gathered over \$800 for the Police Academy. Well done.

I also want to thank the Auxiliary and those who helped to gather school supplies, backpack, and contributed money towards these items. Our Auxiliary in their efforts was able to put together 11 backpacks worth of school supplies for needy families at Havasupai Elementary for this school year.

These two campaigns that we as a post took on could not have happened without everyone's support. Giving back to our community in these small ways is part of the overall VFW mission nationwide. Together through our efforts there is nothing we as Post 9401 cannot do when we work as a team.

With the end of summer starting to draw down (though the heat is not an indication of summer ending) it's time to start preparing for our winter visitors. In the coming months there will be Oktober Fest, chili cook off, Halloween, and many other functions for everyone to get involved. We also have Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets coming up so when the time comes anyone who wishes to help, your time would be greatly appreciated.

As I bring this entry for The Views to an end, I would like to end with this thought: People often come up to myself or some of the officers, both Comrade and Auxiliary, and ask what are the new things taking place in the post? I highly encourage ALL to start attending your respective Comrade or Auxiliary meetings. Comrade meetings are the first Thursday of every month, and the Auxiliary meeting the second Thursday of each month, both starting at 6 pm. These are the meetings that all decisions regarding the post and the respective entities make decisions as to what is going to take place over the next couple of months. We value everyone's opinion but inside the canteen is not the place where decisions are made for the post. I was always taught that "If you care enough to think about something, you should care enough to voice your thoughts in the proper forum." The meetings are the proper forum; we just need your attendance for input.

Sincerely,

STEPHEN D. KNOCK
VFW Post 9401 Commander

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Quartermaster's Corner

Did you know that your Quartermaster works behind a “glass door?” That simply means that the Post’s financial status is available for all to see, posted in the Canteen proper next to the dart machine along with the minutes to the Comrade and House Committee meetings. At any time, you can ask your Quartermaster how our post is doing financially and where our money is going.

If we had a catch phrase for the month, it’d be “nobody likes change.” My philosophy has always been that change is simply a part of living which surrounds us each and every moment of the day. You cannot stop today from becoming yesterday nor tomorrow from becoming today. However, change for the sake of change is unwise and I have no desire in going down that road. “If it ain’t broke, don’t fix it.” All that being said; we are going broke.

Even after some necessary and difficult decisions made by the House Committee, this has been the worst summer on record for the past decade. Our expenditures (electricity, cable, water, trash, etc.) are the culprits. Although the staff / payroll changes are beginning to show a positive effect, the bar and kitchen cannot make enough to support the post’s expenditures without bringing in our membership ALL year long.

To combat this, we’ve begun a Happy Hour in an attempt to attract our local members as well as our soon to return winter visitors. Unfortunately, we have been forced to cover the rising cost of food and beverages by increasing our prices and changing a few menu items.

Lastly, the place to discuss post business is not at the bar or in the Canteen. That only creates a negative atmosphere. Instead, please come to the Comrade meeting which is held the first Thursday of every month. You can also fill out a suggestion form and put it in the House Committee box near the bar. No one will hear if you do not speak.

In an attempt to close on a positive note, I would like to thank the members of the Event Committee, our volunteers and all of those who gave so generously during the Luau. Not only was it a fun event, it brought in \$3384.75. Keep up the great work!

“I like to see a man proud of the place in which he lives. I like to see a man live so that his place will be proud of him.” - Abraham Lincoln

Kind Regards,

Carl Piacitelli
VFW Post 9401 Quartermaster

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From Your Canteen Manager

Well, summer has been a real blast (literally). Boy, it's been hot these past few months. Lucky for us, we have our COOL VFW Post to hang out with our friends. It's really nice to see so many of you supporting our Post. Want to thank everyone who has been helping us with our different projects.

Our new officers are all installed and have taken over their new responsibilities. I see them at the Post doing everything they can to make sure everything is running smoothly. We've had a few changes during this transition and appreciate everyone's cooperation.

The Luau (Saturday, August 27th) was a lot of fun. It was great seeing all of you there. There were several fun games (does "dunk tank" ring a bell?) and we had some really great food. Tickets sales were a great success and we sold out before the event!

The WII Bowling will start again on Sundays at 5PM. Let Joani know if you would like to join them.

Also, Ed Mason's birthday party will be September 17th and everyone is invited to attend. More information is in this newsletter.

And, don't forget our annual POW/MIA Ceremony. It will be held Friday, 9/16/16 at 4PM.

Check at Post for any additions and/or changes to upcoming functions.

See you at the Post. And remember, all of your bartenders are volunteers.

God Bless our Troops and God Bless America.

Lynda Rodgers,
Canteen Manager

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The Crock-Pot!

A big HELLO to everyone!

My name is Mary Powell and I have recently been promoted to Kitchen Manager for VFW Post 9401. As most of you know, I have worked in the kitchen for the past 4 ½ years. So, don't be afraid to poke your head in and say hello!

Most of all, I want to thank all the volunteers who helped me with the full on detail cleaning of the kitchen and walk-in. You all did a fabulous job! I couldn't have done it without you. Thank you so very much! I also want to thank all the volunteers who have been helping in the kitchen every week. You all are awesome! A special thank you to Donna, who has gone above and beyond for staying after and helping me!

Mary Powell
Kitchen Manager

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From the Auxiliary President

Hot summer goes on in Havasu; several people have gone to cooler areas for a couple of weeks. We can't get away until late Sept. this year.

Upcoming activities:

- Next Auxiliary Meeting Sept. 8 6pm
- 9/11 Memorial
- Sept .24th Auxiliary Training 10am @ VFW Kingman Post #10386
- District 8 VFW Riders
- Run to the cross Oct. 5th

Keep in mind all Auxiliary members if you're able to help with activities such as 50/50, or other fund raising it is truly appreciated.

As we grow as one Auxiliary, let us honor the traditions of the Ladies. As one we grow new traditions will develop.

Service not self.

Thanks,
Jim Mack
Auxiliary President

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From the Membership

Birthday Party

Submitted by Ed mason

Friends, I have another birthday (my 99th) coming up in September. It will be held at the VFW on September 17 during the hours of 430pm to 10pm. For your place of mind and mine free ride to the party is provided by day and night shuttle. All you have to do is call this number 846-1307. The shuttle will be standing by throughout the party to take back to your quarters. Got it?

So let's party!

Did you know?

Submitted by Owen Johnston

BUDDY POPPY

The VFW conducted its first poppy distribution before Memorial Day in 1922, becoming the first veterans' organization to organize a nationwide distribution. The poppy soon was adopted as the official memorial flower of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

During the 1923 encampment the VFW decided that VFW "Buddy"® Poppies would be assembled by disabled and needy veterans who would be paid for their work to provide them with financial assistance. The next year, disabled veterans at the Buddy Poppy factory in Pittsburgh assembled VFW Buddy Poppies. The designation "Buddy Poppy" was adopted at that time.

In February 1924, the VFW registered the name Buddy Poppy with the U.S. Patent Office. A certificate was issued on May 20, 1924, granting the VFW all trademark rights in the name of Buddy under the classification of artificial flowers. The VFW has made that trademark a guarantee that all poppies bearing that name and the VFW label are genuine products of the work of disabled and needy veterans. No other organization, firm or individual can legally use the name Buddy Poppy.

Today, VFW Buddy Poppies are still assembled by disabled and needy veterans in VA Hospitals.

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The VFW Buddy Poppy program provides compensation to the veterans who assemble the poppies, provides financial assistance in maintaining state and national veterans' rehabilitation and service programs and partially supports the VFW National Home for Children.

Military / Veteran Services

The VFW holds the resilience and dedication of today's military family in the highest esteem. These families believe in something larger than themselves, and their selflessness is inspiring. We're doing even more to ensure not a single service member, veteran, or their families fall through the cracks. Whether you or your family need the opportunity to call home more often, or a deployment has caused financial strain, our organization and others can help.

Educational Programs

AWARDS FOR VOD, PP, SCOUT, TEACHER

Working alongside America's youth and instilling a sense of patriotism has always been — and will always be — a VFW priority.

Community Service Programs

PUBLIC SERVANT AWARD

The VFW knows how important community service is to America, with volunteerism benefiting education, the environment, health sciences and civic projects.

BUDDY POPPY

Our Buddy Poppy Program compensates the veterans who assemble the poppies and provides financial assistance in maintaining state and national veterans' rehabilitation and service programs. There is an Annual Buddy Poppy Display contest where art is made out of the Poppies. Get together with your Post to submit a Display.

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

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VFW



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

The VFW works closely with other national organizations, such as:

- Boy Scouts of America,
- Citizen Corps,
- March of Dimes,
- America's Promise-The Alliance for Youth,
- and many others.

USO provides VFW members with additional opportunities to volunteer in their communities and give back to our troops and their families.

Each year VFW and Auxiliary members donate more than 11 million volunteer hours and \$50 million to community service projects. Contact your Post to get volunteer opportunities information.



These are the 2015 Arizona Submissions for Buddy Poppy Display Contest.
Displays with a blue ribbon will compete at National Level.

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“Victor H. Meliza”

VFW Post 9401

Kitchen Menu

Friday Dinner
Tuesday—Thursday Lunches*
Sunday Breakfast

Tuesday Lunches served only from September 1st thru
May 31st

Gratuities not included in pricing.
All our servers are Volunteers!

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FRIDAY DINNER MENU
Served 4:30pm - 7:30pm

"All our beef is Angus"

Every Friday

Baked Fish	\$10.00
Rib Eye Steak 10oz	\$13.50
4 Piece Deep Fried Shrimp	\$10.00
Beer Battered Cod	\$10.00
For any Combo Add	\$3.00
Ribs Only	\$6.00

1st and 3rd Friday

Prime Rib 10oz (1st & 3rd Fri.)	\$17.00
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2nd Friday

Baby Back Ribs (2nd Fri.)	\$10.00
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4th Friday

Baked Pork Chops (4th Fri.)	\$9.00
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All Diners Include:
Salad. Potatoes, Vegetable, Roll
To Go Box add \$0.25

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LUNCH MENU
Served Tuesday thru Thursday
11:30-1:30pm

Tuesday Lunches served only from September 1st thru May 31st

Tuesday (Sept—April)

Cheese Burger	\$6.50	Bacon Burger	\$6.50
Chili Size Burger	\$7.00	Pork Tenderloin	\$7.00
Ortega Burger	\$6.50	Patty Melt	\$6.50
Reuben	\$6.50		

Wednesday

Open Faced Prime Rib	\$7.25	Philly Cheese	\$6.75
French Dip	\$6.50		

Thursday

Tacos	\$1.50	Taco Salad	\$6.00
Shrimp Plate	\$6.50	Fish Tacos	\$1.75
Chips/Salsa	\$3.00		

All Lunches

Oriental Chicken Salad	\$6.75	Soup/Chili Bowl	\$3.50
Soup/Chili Cup	\$2.50	Onion Rings	\$2.50
French Fries	\$2.00		

All lunches served with your choice of French Fries, Cottage Cheese, Onion Rings, Cup of Soup or Chili (Not available on Thursdays)

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SUNDAY BREAKFAST MENU
Served 8:00am — 11:30am

Entrees

Steak & Eggs		\$9.25
served w/ potatoes & toast		
2 eggs, potatoes, toast		\$3.25
bacon, sausage or ham	ADD	\$2.00
Chicken Fried Steak w/ eggs		\$6.50
served w/ potatoes & toast		
Diced Ham and Scrambled Eggs—Veggie Style		\$5.75
served w/ potatoes & toast		
Diced Ham and Scrambled Eggs—Denver Style		\$5.50
served w/ potatoes & toast		
Biscuits & Gravy	Full Order	\$3.25
	Half Order	\$2.25
Eggs Benedict	Full Order	\$7.50
served w/ potatoes	Half Order	\$4.00
Belgium Waffle	Plain	\$3.50
	Works	\$4.50

Beverages

Coffee	\$1.00	Tea	\$1.00
Milk	\$2.00	Juice	\$2.00

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HAPPY HOUR

4 PM - 6 PM

Saturday - Thursday

9 AM - 11 AM

Monday & Thursday

Well Drinks

\$2.00

Beer

Bottle/Can

\$2.00

1/2 Pitcher

\$2.50

Wine

Glass

\$2.00

Half Carafe

\$4.00

All other drinks are regular prices!

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