



## **The American Legion Oro Valley Post 132**

**History of The American Legion** The American Legion is a nonpartisan, charitable Veterans' Service Organization chartered by the U.S. Congress in 1919. Its roots go back to Paris, France where members of the American Expeditionary Force convened the first caucus of the new American Legion. The American Legion, the nation's largest Veterans Service Organization continues to fulfil its commitment of advocacy for and service to veterans and service members and their families, the promotion of traditional American values, and support of programs which enhance the lives and safety of the youth of our nation.

**Mission** The American Legion was founded on four pillars of strength. 1) Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation, 2) A Strong National Security, 3) Americanism and 4) Children & Youth. Without a facility of our own, we are able to focus our energies and resources on our award-winning programs.

**Oro Valley Post 132 Recognition (since our establishment in 2009)** In **2012**, the Post and the Auxiliary Unit were recognized as the "Outstanding Community Partners of the year" by the Arizona National Guard. In **2013**, the Post and Auxiliary Unit received the U.S. National Guard Washington Bureau's "Outstanding Community Partner of the Year" award. It is the only time an organization from Arizona has received the prestigious national award. For the period of **2014 - 2021** the Post was honored by the Tucson Veterans Serving Veterans Alliance as the "GO TO" Veterans Service Organization" for its "Exemplary and Steadfast Care and Assistance of Veterans in Need".

### **List of Post 132 sponsored and supported programs:**

#### **1. Veteran, Guard and Reserve Family Assistance)**

- Emergency Assistance. This includes grocery and gas gift cards, school supplies for their children, vehicle and home repair, help with utility bills, transportation to the VA medical center, care and assistance for special needs family members, and preparation of meals for needy families on special holidays. If there is a need, we are there to help.
- Guard and Reserve members, our citizen soldiers and their families, receive special care and assistance during frequent periods of deployment.
- Primary community partner of the bi-annual Tucson Stand Down event. Stand Down provides homeless and other less fortunate veterans and their families with access to services such as health care, employment opportunities, housing, legal services, emergency assistance, clothing, care for their pets and more. Post 132 provides financial support for meals, clothing and hygiene items during the events and Post and Auxiliary 132 members fill the majority of the 70 plus volunteer positions needed for a successful event.
- Heroes to Hometowns (Thanksgiving Turkeys to Troops and Backpacks for Military Kids)
- American Legion Legacy Scholarship Fund (provides college scholarship money to children of post 9/11 veterans who have died while on active duty.
- Comfort and entertainment items to patients at the Tucson VA medical center
- Comfort and entertainment items to residents of State Veterans Home
- Prepare meals onsite for guests and staff at the Tucson Fisher House. A place of lodging for family members of veterans receiving care at the Tucson VA.

#### **2. Education and Community Safety**

- OVPD Explorer program (provides law enforcement career orientation experiences, leadership opportunities, and community service activities)

-- The 100 Club of AZ (provides financial assistance to families of first responders who are seriously injured or killed in the line of duty).

### **3.Americanism and Youth**

- Flags for Eagle Scouts (present American flags flown over nation's capital)
- Boys and Girls State (participatory program in which students take an active role in the simulated operation of local, county and state government)
- Oratorical High School Scholarship Contest (U.S. Constitution knowledge-based)
- American Legion Baseball Team (team comprised of players from local high schools)
- Ironwood Ridge High School Veteran Heritage Project (students record veterans' service stories in a book and provide transcripts to the National Archives)

### **4.Community Outreach**

- Wreaths Across America (Remembrance Wreaths placed at Veterans' interment sites)
- Collection of unserviceable American flags. More than 3500 flags collected annually.
- Honor Flight (sponsor disabled veterans on a trip to DC to see War Memorials)
- Missing in America Project (a Veterans Cremains Recovery Program). To locate, identify and inter, with full military honors, the unclaimed remains of these forgotten veterans)
- The Post maintains two Color Guard teams and two Honor Guard teams that annually perform at more than 30 Veteran's funerals, and memorial services, school assemblies, community locations on patriotic holidays, and Veterans and Military events. The Post's Honor Guard is the only active Veterans' HG in the greater Tucson area.

To join or transfer to Oro Valley Post 132, contact Steve Didio, 520-219-9997 or [stevedidio@comcast.net](mailto:stevedidio@comcast.net)  
It is a quick and easy process.

Our monthly meetings are at the Vistoso Memorial Chapel in Oro Valley at 2285 E. Rancho Vistoso Blvd. at 6:30 PM on the third Thursday, September through June.

**Donations** to the American Legion Oro Valley Post 132 are tax deductible as charitable contributions to the full extent of the law. **One hundred percent** of all donations go toward supporting the Post 's nationally acclaimed programs. E.I.N. #26-4228431

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