



# American Legion Post 107 Newsletter

*“The Best in the West”*

September – October 2008

Vol. 8, No. 5

## *“High Flight”*

-- John Gillespie Magee, Jr.

*Oh! I have slipped the surly bonds of Earth  
And danced the skies on laughter-silvered wings:  
Sunward I've climbed, and joined the tumbling mirth  
Of sun-split clouds, – and done a hundred things  
You have not dreamed of – wheeled and soared and swung  
High in the sunlit silence. Hov'ring there,  
I've chased the shouting wind along, and flung  
My eager craft through footless halls of air...*

*Up, up the long delirious burning blue  
I've topped the wind-swept heights with easy grace  
Where never lark, or ever eagle flew –  
And, while with silent, lifting mind I've trod  
The high untrespassed sanctity of space,  
Put out my hand, and touched the face of God.*



John Gillespie Magee, Jr., an aviator with the Royal Canadian Air Force, wrote to his parents, “I am enclosing a verse I wrote the other day. It started at 30,000 feet, and was finished soon after I landed.”

A plaque, with the poem sand-blasted into it, was laid on the memorial in downtown Phoenix to remember the four journalists who were killed in a helicopter crash last year.

## *Delores Schepp Honored at National Convention*



On Saturday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2008, Delores Schepp was awarded the “20,000-Hour Volunteer Service Award” at the National Auxiliary Convention in Phoenix. Delores is the first Auxiliary member in Arizona to receive this prestigious National award, which is the highest achievement awarded for Veterans’ Affairs Volunteer Service.

During the National Auxiliary VA&R Committee meeting, Chairman Rita Navarrete read the official citation letter and Delores received her award from Laura Mellon, a distinguished guest speaker from the Veterans’ Administration.

Delores has been an Auxiliary member for 28 years, and is a Past President of Unit 107. The entire Post 107 family congratulates Delores on this incredible achievement and for her immeasurable service to veterans at the Carl T. Hayden Veterans Nursing Home.



**Commander**

Summer is over, kids are back in school, and yes, the sound of footballs games are in the air. I love college football!

Speaking of fall activities, the Department Fall Conference will be held during the first week of October in Tucson. The location is the same Holiday Inn where the Department Convention convened. It's always a good idea to be pre-registered and book your hotel room early. If Legion members require additional information, please contact our adjutant or our assistant adjutant (a.k.a. club manager).

I was informed by the City of Phoenix that the start of the Cave Creek Road Project is at least 60-90 days away. My guess is that the start date will go past that timeframe. The financial process with the City, the title company, Chase Bank and the Post has ended. We were to receive \$151,000 from the City for the easement activity to our property. Unfortunately, Chase Bank chose to take that amount and apply most of it to our first mortgage. That mortgage has now been paid off and we should receive a refund of approximately \$4,600. For better or worse, the bank had the legal right to exercise that option.

I am sure that everyone has noticed the ongoing improvements to the interior of our Post. The place is getting spruced up! Thank you, Legion Riders!

Our second vice commander and I attended the organizational meeting for District 12. I will serve again as District Service Officer, and Brad Schroder will be our Executive Committee Representative for our District.

Yes, the rumor is true. Arizona Lottery ticket machines will be installed at the Post. Meetings were held and approval was obtained. You will be able to purchase scratch, Pick and Powerball tickets while you are at the Post.

There is absolutely no cost to the Post, and we receive a profit from every sale. That's a win-win situation! The timeframe on this venture is 60-90 days, at the most. Thanks to Bill Yetz for taking the lead on this project.

Always respect the rules of our Post. Show the same respect to our members, their guests and our employees that you would want to be shown. This also applies to our valued community service workers!

I wanted to end with this thought: Think back on the times when you were asked to volunteer. Probably, your answer was, "I just cannot find the time." After you've read about Delores Schepp and what volunteering is really all about, your answer might change!

Remember: "Truth never hurts the teller."  
-- Robert Browning

For God and Country,  
Bob Lippert



**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander**

Greetings to all Post 107 Family Members!

The dog days of summer are almost behind us now, and the last couple of months have been rather hectic, despite the heat. July found us co-hosting a wonderful fundraiser to benefit ChildHelp. August found us preparing for visits by two of the Departments coming to town for National Convention -- Alabama and Connecticut chose Post 107 to have events while in town. A HUGE thank you to all those who pitched in to help with everything that needed to be done. The Legion Riders made sure that the lobby and game room/library were at their best, I had lots of help in the kitchen preparing the food, the Auxiliary was on hand to help decorate the hall and serve, and our volunteer drivers made sure that all of our guests were shuttled from their hotel safely and efficiently. There are too many names to list

them all. But the biggest “thank you” goes to everyone at the Post for making them all feel welcome. I talked with many of them while they here, and heard that the hotel had done nothing “above and beyond” to make them feel welcome, but when they walked in the door to our Post, they felt like they were at home! “The Best in The West” certainly did what we do best. I was told that their evenings here will be talked about for a long time to come!

Now that the Convention has come and gone doesn't mean that we can start piling all kinds of stuff back in the game room area. The Riders put a lot of time cleaning that area and making it presentable again. Please refrain from bringing things in from home, thinking that the Post can use them. We are not Goodwill, nor are we the city dump, for items that you no longer need/want. Please check with the Commander, Tom Miller, Bee Murphy or myself before bringing any items in. If we know of someone who has expressed the need for the item/items you have, we will put you in touch with them. If items just appear without our knowledge, they will be disposed of as soon as possible. I will be putting together kind of a “classified ad” book where people can list items they want to get rid of, as well as people who are looking for items. Everyone will be welcome to check the book any time, to see if there is anything listed that they can use. While I'm on the subject of keeping the Post tidy, if you happen to notice something that needs attention, consider taking a moment to take care of the matter yourself. In the time it takes for you to find someone to tell about it, you most likely could have resolved the issue (except for major plumbing, electrical or structural issues). It is YOUR Post as well! Getting involved by helping the operation won't hurt (I swear), and it would certainly be appreciated. I thank you for your support.

Our 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Luau will be held on Sat., Sept. 6<sup>th</sup>. We'll be roasting a whole pig again, as well as smoking a bunch of pork shoulders. We will even have live steel drum music to provide the tropical atmosphere!

On Oct. 4<sup>th</sup>, Post 107 will be the beginning and ending point for a Poker Run that the ALRs are organizing to benefit the Breast Cancer 3-Day event. We'll have a breakfast buffet ready for all – don't want their stomachs growling louder than their bikes! On the 18<sup>th</sup>, we're planning our Oktoberfest with all the traditional food, and music by a band called the “Restless Natives.” They come highly recommended by Crazy “Jukebox” George and “Makeshift,” and it's likely that they'll be our New Year's Eve entertainment as well. Come check them out!

For God, Country and the American Legion,  
Brad Schroder

### **American Legion Riders (ALR) News**

The Riders recently received a large donation of chicken and corn. We are working on planning a Chicken Dinner Night. Funds from this event will be used for Legion programs and charities.

We are also working with riders from Post 105 to sponsor a run for Breast Cancer. Post 107 will be the first and last stops for this run, which will be on Sat., Oct. 4<sup>th</sup>. Be sure to join us! Money raised will benefit the Susan. G. Komen Foundation.

Along with American Legion Post 107, the Post 107 ALRs donated \$250 to the Legacy Fund. On Sept. 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>, many of us will participate in the Overgaard Freedom Gathering.

We are working with the Legion to continue the remodeling process. Riders with twenty hours of service to the Legion have had their picture posted on the ALRs' wall.

Join us on Thursday nights from 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. for \$5 chicken wings, chicken fried steak and fun!!!

For God and Country,  
“Van” (Henry Vanevera), ALR President



**Auxiliary President**

September marks the beginning of a new Auxiliary year, so please mark your calendar to attend our first monthly meeting of 2008-2009, Tuesday, September 9<sup>th</sup>! The Executive Board meets at 7:00 p.m. and the General Membership meeting starts promptly at 7:30 p.m. Our meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month at Post 107.

While the Auxiliary “went dark” during July and August, many of our ladies were very involved with the planning, preparation, decoration and hosting of one of the biggest events at Post 107 in my recent memory, the big fundraiser on July 26<sup>th</sup> “For The Love of A Child.” Thanks to all of our ladies who made desserts; assisted in cooking and serving; transported the hall back into the 50s and 60s with fantastic decorating ideas; set up the auction area and helped show and sell hundreds of items on hand. In the midst of that busy Saturday morning, someone told me that she had never seen so many volunteers work together so well – and what a fantastic result: nearly \$6000 was raised for the purchase of new activity clothing and shoes for abused children in the care of ChildHelp. AZ Past President Ginger Cox has already answered the immediate needs of ChildHelp by delivering an array of shoes and clothing for kids of all ages and sizes. Thanks to all, too, who attended this Post 107 and 117 Family Event and helped to make it a huge success!

Talk about volunteerism! The next time you buy a Friday night fish fry dinner from Delores Schepp, you should be aware that Delores is the first Auxiliary member in the state of Arizona to have surpassed 20,000 volunteer hours with the Veterans Administration. (That amounts to ten years of full-time work!) Please join me in congratulating Delores for this remarkable achievement and for her recognition at the VA&R award ceremony at our National Convention in Phoenix on August 23<sup>rd</sup>!

Let’s all have a productive and rewarding year ahead!

For God and Country,  
Laura Miller

**Lending Library**

Well, fellow readers, I’m back, and what’s more important, our lending library is back!

A very big “THANK YOU” to the Legion Riders for doing all the hard work cleaning up our Post 107 “rat’s nest.” A special “thank you” to Bill Savage and “Van” Vanevera. Our books are now in a well-lit area on permanent shelves. I have decided to alphabetize the books by title rather than categorize them. Perhaps it will broaden your reading horizons and make the job of organizing a little easier.

For those of you who have hung onto your VHS players, we also have a growing collection of VHS tapes available. During the summer, given the rather poor and limited choice of television programs, a good old classic movie or travel tape may prove much more entertaining!

Until next time, and remember it’s YOUR library! Book Appetite!  
Cindy Campbell-Sullivan



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### **Bashas' Donates!**

Bashas' has for many years returned 1 percent of the money you spend to a charity if you register your name and a number. Last year they returned more than \$500 to be used for Veterans charities donations to the Carl T. Hayden VA Hospital, the Arizona Veterans Home and for three homeless veterans facilities. Please register the number 24582 at your nearest Bashas'.

### **Diamondbacks & Project "We Remember"**

Project "We Remember" has partnered with the Arizona Diamondbacks to host a special event at Chase Field. The Diamondbacks are offering reduced price seating (\$18, \$25, \$37) for Project "We Remember" guests and their families to the final regular season game of the year. The game will be on Sunday, Sept. 28<sup>th</sup>, 1:10 p.m. vs. the Colorado Rockies. Partial proceeds from the sale of these discounted tickets will be donated back to Project "We Remember." To order tickets go to [www.dbacks.com/group](http://www.dbacks.com/group), Sign-In ID: **project**. Password: **remember**.

This is a fantastic opportunity for a group gathering or family event! You and your friends can enjoy a great day of baseball while supporting our programs and helping AZ Military Families and Veterans. We'd like to take this opportunity to thank you once again for all the support you have given us throughout this past year. We'd love to see you at Chase Field! However, if you are unable to attend, please consider donating money to purchase a ticket for our troops. For more information, contact Georgina Biehl at 954-914-6724 or [gbiehl@projectweremember.org](mailto:gbiehl@projectweremember.org).



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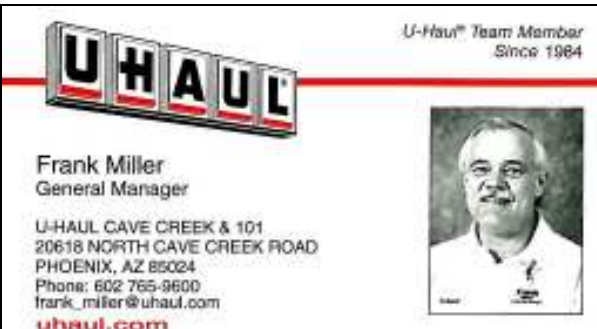
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## **In My Day**

*(Commentary by Julia Jones)*

Boy, there's nothing like having company, is there? All the planning, the cleaning-up before they come, the putting-things-away so there'll be room for the things they bring with them, the special food to make ahead of time so you'll have time to visit when they're here, making sure everything is running right because it would be awful if the hot water stopped being hot when someone needed it, wouldn't it, and then, for goodness sakes, you sure don't want to run out of bread or anything like that, so you need to make another list...

Well, it's all pretty exciting, anticipating a visit.

I remember when we were really young, our folks came to visit from Louisiana, and it was like they were from another planet, not just the next state from Arkansas, but back then, when the roads were just one lane in each direction, it was a long trip. No fast food stops, you know, and none of us could have afforded to stay at motels, if there were such things, and gas stations were, well, they fit right in with the times. The attendant measured the gas by watching the level in the clear jug on the top of the pump. And restrooms, if they had any, were, well, primitive.

And so, I guess, were the accommodations we had arranged for the folks when they hit our house – lots of comforts and quilts and pillows on the floor for all the kids, and shared beds for grown-ups, and squeezed-in places at the dining table for some and places at a card table for the children. There wasn't an inch of unused space in that whole two-story house the whole time they were there. It was great and noisy and fun, but we sure were glad to see them go.

There's nothing much to compare to how it is when my son and his wonderful wife come to visit us here now, from Arkansas. There's a spare room and a bed, so there's privacy for them when they've had enough us, and there's enough room at the table, so no one has to eat at another table. We've even got two porches,

so if someone needs to get away and cool off, there's space for that too.

Trouble is, though, we just get one morning newspaper, which is enough for two people to share, but a real pain in the neck to divide among four people. And two people who've been together for awhile get used to working out their television differences, but four people, well, maybe they're better off playing mah-johng or bridge.

And when shall we have breakfast? Well, now that we're both retired, we've gotten used to getting up when we wake up, which varies. Sometimes it depends on when the dogs turn over. But people who are still in the habit of getting up and going to work, well, they get up at a certain time and it's hard to break that habit, even if they're not at home. Sometimes, they'll try to get up quietly and dress quietly and gather in the paper quietly and even quietly make coffee and the very business of doing all this quietly out on the porch is enough to wake up a sleeping statue.

I'd be the last one to say anything that would keep my son from coming back to visit, and if this ever gets out, I'll be after the culprit with a knife, so just be forewarned, but the thing is, having guests just changes your life. You don't keep the same hours, you don't eat the same food, you don't listen to the same music – I mean, how long has it been since you last heard "Sweet Home Alabama"? But you do these things because folks are here and you want to make them feel comfortable and see them smile.

I'm glad they smiled; I'm glad they were here. I'm always glad to have company over; it does your heart good to see people having fun.

But isn't it nice to let your hair down and wear your comfortable clothes and eat your everyday food again?

I'll bet they're saying the same thing, back home. It's great when things work out that way. That's what vacations and holidays are for.

**September Birthdays**

Dick Kuhl – 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Mark Holden – 4<sup>th</sup>  
Chet Ellis – 7<sup>th</sup>  
Bill Yetz – 7<sup>th</sup>  
Kim Savage – 8<sup>th</sup>  
Lynn Heron – 9<sup>th</sup>  
Wally Cichon – 20<sup>th</sup>  
Donald Vitale – 24<sup>th</sup>

**October Birthdays**

Joan Anderson – 2<sup>nd</sup>  
“Alabama” Steve Porter – 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Doug Adams – 4<sup>th</sup>  
Cindy Bieganek-Pendergrass – 6<sup>th</sup>  
Wes Bentley – 9<sup>th</sup>  
Samantha Fuetterer – 14<sup>th</sup>  
Janette Schmid – 15<sup>th</sup>  
Susie Landis – 17<sup>th</sup>  
Paul Wooster – 19<sup>th</sup>  
Joe Stokes – 20<sup>th</sup>  
Theresa Brown – 21<sup>st</sup>  
Teri Gilbert – 25<sup>th</sup>  
Jody Kurosky – 29<sup>th</sup>  
Betty Welborn – 29<sup>th</sup>

**November Birthdays**

Ed Arnot – 4<sup>th</sup>  
Art Patzer – 5<sup>th</sup>  
Henry “Van” Vanevera – 5<sup>th</sup>  
Scott Reeves – 7<sup>th</sup>  
Bob Lippert – 10<sup>th</sup>  
Delores Schepp – 10<sup>th</sup>  
Laura Miller – 11<sup>th</sup>  
Ed Drab – 11<sup>th</sup>  
Laura Kuhl – 12<sup>th</sup>  
Wendy Becker – 25<sup>th</sup>


*If you'd like to see your birthday in the newsletter,  
give us a call at the Post at 602-971-9982!  
We don't know if you don't tell us!*



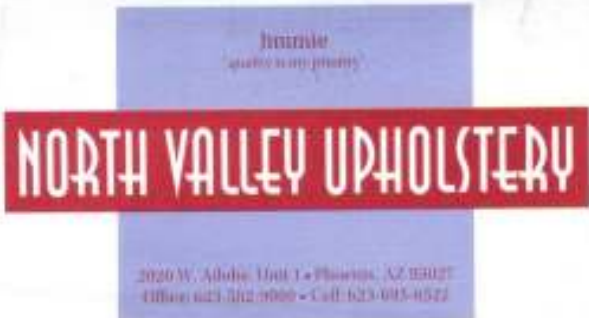
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