

Squadron 97 Dispatch

"For Our Veterans, For Our Country"

Becoming a Son of the American Legion Officer

Are you ready to take on a leadership role and serve our community? The **Sons of the American Legion** is looking for dedicated members to step up as officers for the upcoming term. Nominations will be held during our **April Membership Meeting**, and we encourage all eligible members to consider running for a position.

Serving as an officer is a great opportunity to contribute to the success of our squadron, support veterans and their families, and uphold the values of the American Legion Family. Whether you have experience in leadership or are looking to get more involved, your participation makes a difference.

Join us at the April meeting, make your voice heard, and help shape the future of our squadron. If you have any questions about officer responsibilities or the nomination process, please reach out.



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D4 approves SAL district rep P.1

Irish-American Soldiers P.2

Property Clean-Up P.3

District 4 Approves SAL District Representative

At the most recent District 4 meeting, members voted and approved the creation of an SAL District Representative position. This role will be vital in connecting local squadrons, facilitating communication between members and leadership, and ensuring that SAL initiatives are effectively carried out across the District.

 If you are interested, please contact the Squadron Commander for more information.

This is a great opportunity to take on a leadership role, represent your fellow members, and contribute to the continued success of the Sons of the American Legion. Let's keep building a stronger SAL together!

Get Involved!

Are you passionate about serving the Sons of the American Legion at a leadership level? Do you want to help shape the future of SAL in District 4? If so, consider stepping up for the role of SAL District Representative!



Sons of the American Legion Drone Program

Our **Sons of the American Legion Drone Program** is officially up and running! Last month, we had **six youth** participate in training, and we're excited to see this program take off. This is a great opportunity for young participants to learn about drone operation, safety, and technology while having fun.

Meetings are held on the first Saturday of each month at 11:00 AM, so if you or someone you know is interested in joining, we welcome you to come check it out! Whether you're a beginner or have experience, there's something for everyone to learn.

We're proud to offer this unique program and look forward to its continued success. If you have any questions or would like more information, reach out to a squadron officer.

Come fly with us!



As we celebrate **St. Patrick's Day** this March, it's a great time to reflect on the **profound impact Irish-Americans have had on the U.S. military** throughout history. From the Revolutionary War to modern conflicts, Irish immigrants and their descendants have played a crucial role in defending American freedom.

Revolutionary Beginnings

Many Irish immigrants fought in the **American Revolution**, often motivated by their own experiences under British rule. One of the most notable was **Commodore John Barry**, an Irish-born officer who is considered the **"Father of the U.S. Navy."** His leadership and naval tactics were instrumental in securing American independence.

The Legacy of Irish-American Soldiers in American History

The Irish Brigade in the Civil War

During the **Civil War**, Irish-Americans were some of the most dedicated soldiers, with many serving in the famous **Irish Brigade**. These regiments, often identified by their green flags with golden harps, fought bravely in major battles like Antietam and Gettysburg. Their battle cry, **"Faugh A Ballagh" (Clear the Way)**, became legendary.

World War I & II: Defending Freedom

In **World War I**, many Irish-Americans fought courageously despite political tensions between Ireland and Britain. By **World War II**, Irish-Americans were deeply embedded in the U.S. military, serving as generals, infantrymen, and pilots. **Audie Murphy**, one of the most decorated soldiers of WWII, had strong Irish roots.

Irish-American Heroes in Modern Times

The Irish-American military tradition continues today, with many servicemen and women tracing their lineage back to Irish immigrants. Their dedication to service, resilience, and patriotism remain a proud part of our nation's history.

Final Thoughts

This St. Patrick's Day, as we enjoy the celebrations, let's also remember the **bravery, sacrifice, and contributions of Irish-American soldiers** who helped shape and protect our great nation.

"Erin go Bragh" – Ireland Forever!

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Serving Those Who Served: Property Cleanup for a Fellow Veteran & Future Veterans Center

On **March 8, 2024**, members of **Sons of the American Legion Squadron 97**, alongside volunteers from the American Legion family, will be rolling up their sleeves to **clean up the property at 1379 W Ocotillo Rd, San Tan Valley, AZ**. This effort is not just about tidying up a piece of land—it's about **helping a fellow veteran, supporting our post, and laying the groundwork for the future Veterans Center**.

A Mission of Service

This property belongs to a **dedicated veteran and American Legion member** who has given so much to our country and community. Now, it's our turn to give back. The cleanup will help restore and prepare the site, making it safer and more accessible while also **honoring the spirit of service that binds us together**

Building for the Future

More than just a one-time project, this cleanup is a **first step in developing a future Veterans Center**, a place that will serve as a **hub of support, camaraderie, and resources for local veterans**. By working together now, we are paving the way for a facility that will provide assistance, programs, and fellowship for those who have served.




How You Can Help

We need all hands-on deck! Volunteers can assist with:

- ✓ Removing debris and clearing brush
- ✓ Hauling away unwanted materials
- ✓ Landscaping and general property maintenance
- ✓ Providing supplies, tools, or refreshments

Whether you can lend a hand, donate supplies, or just stop by to show support, every effort makes a difference.

Join Us!

-  **Date:** Friday, March 8, 2024
-  **Location:** 1379 W Ocotillo Rd, San Tan Valley, AZ
-  **Time:** TBD – Contact Squadron 97 for details

This is what The Sons of the American Legion is all about—helping veterans, strengthening our community, and building for the future. Let's come together and make a lasting impact!

For more information or to sign up to help, contact Squadron 97 leadership or visit the post.

Marching Forward with the Sons of the American Legion

As we step into **March**, our squadron continues to build momentum, and we have a lot to be proud of! We are making great progress toward our **membership goal**, our **drone program** is off to a strong start, and our **50/50 raffle during bingo** is proving to be a successful fundraiser. These efforts show that even though we are a small squadron, we are making a big impact!

Let's keep up the hard work as we push toward the **end of the membership year**. If you haven't renewed your dues yet, now is the time. Also, remember to **track your volunteer hours** for our annual report in May.

Together, we are building something great—let's keep marching forward! **For God and Country!**





Squadron Meeting

Next Meeting:

Date: March 1, 2025

Time: 10:00 AM

Location: San Tan Valley
Veterans Center

Upcoming Events

March 1- SAL Meeting 10-11 am

March 1- Drone Program 11-12 am

March 3-Blood Drive 2 pm – 5:30 pm

March 5- Aux Coffee w/ Vets 9-11 am

March 5-Aux Meeting 11 am

March 8-Property Clean Up Project

March 8- Honor Guard Practice 10-11 am

March 10-Post Social Hour 6-7pm

March 10-Post Meeting 7-8 pm

March 16-SAL 97 50/50 Raffle @ Bingo 11 am - 2 pm

March 17-Riders Meeting 6-7 pm

March 29-8th Annual Fishing Derby 8 am - 1 pm

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Squadron Commander's Corner

I'm proud to say that we are making great strides in getting our squadron up and running! We are getting closer to our goal of **10 members**, and with the dedication and enthusiasm we've seen, I have no doubt we'll reach—and even exceed—it.

Our **50/50 raffle during bingo** has been a huge success, consistently bringing in nearly **\$100 per raffle**. This is a great way to support our squadron's programs while engaging with our post and community. Thank you to everyone who has helped make it happen! I'm also excited to report that our **drone program** is officially off the ground! Last month, **six youth** participated in training, showing that even though we are a small squadron, we are making a mighty impact. Programs like this are what set us apart and show the strength of our commitment to serving and mentoring the next generation.

Let's keep up the momentum and continue working toward making this squadron one of the best in the state! Remember, every effort counts, so please **track your volunteer hours** as we prepare for our **end-of-year report in May**.

Thank you all for your dedication—let's keep moving forward!

For God and Country,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John A. Meyer".

John "Radar" Meyer
Squadron 97 Commander

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