

Squadron 97 Dispatch

"For Our Veterans, For Our Country"

Welcome to Squadron 97: A New Chapter in Service

We are proud to announce the formation of Sons of the American Legion Squadron 97, a new and vibrant addition to our community. This squadron is dedicated to honoring the legacy of our nation's veterans, upholding the values of patriotism, service, and Americanism. As members of the Sons of the American Legion, we are the sons, grandsons, and great-grandsons of those who have served in the U.S. military, and we are committed to carrying forward their spirit of sacrifice and dedication.

The mission of Squadron 97 is simple yet profound: to support veterans and their families, promote the values of Americanism, and make a positive impact in our local community. Through service projects, fundraisers, and community outreach, we aim to create a lasting difference in the lives of those who have served our country and continue to uphold the freedoms we enjoy today.

The Sons of the American Legion is built on a foundation of respect, camaraderie, and pride in our nation. We stand together to honor the service of our forebears, while also fostering a sense of responsibility to future generations. Whether it's supporting local veterans' organizations, participating in national observances like Memorial Day and Veterans Day, or helping veterans in need, Squadron 97 will be at the forefront of these important efforts.

As we begin this new chapter, we invite all members of our community who are eligible to join and be part of something greater. Together, we will ensure that the legacy of service and sacrifice remains strong for generations to come. We look forward to working alongside fellow veterans and our local community to make Squadron 97 a force for good in honoring those who have given so much for our country.

Join us in our mission and help us continue the proud tradition of the Sons of the American Legion. Together, we can achieve great things!



Americanism in Action: Squadron 97's Role in Promoting Patriotism

February is designated as Americanism Month, a time to reflect on and celebrate the values that make our country great. As a newly established Sons of the American Legion Squadron 97, we are committed to promoting Americanism in our community and honoring the principles of patriotism, freedom, and civic responsibility.

Throughout Americanism Month, Squadron 97 will engage in several activities aimed at fostering a deeper appreciation for our nation's history and values. We will be organizing **flag ceremonies** to honor the symbols of our country and remind everyone of the sacrifices made to protect our freedoms. These ceremonies will be open to the public, encouraging all to join in paying tribute to the United States and its heroes.

In addition to flag ceremonies, we will be actively participating in **civic engagement** efforts. Squadron 97 members will engage with local schools, community centers, and veterans' organizations to promote the importance of understanding American history, the Constitution, and the responsibility we all share in protecting our nation's ideals. Through these interactions, we aim to inspire the next generation to become active, informed citizens who uphold the values of democracy.

Post 97 holds **Honor Guard practice every 2nd Saturday of the month from 10 AM to 11 AM**, and Squadron 97 members are always welcome to join. If you're interested in becoming part of the Post Honor Guard, please contact Detachment Commander "Radar" to assist with ordering your uniform. This is a great opportunity for members to take part in ceremonial duties and further embody the spirit of Americanism.

Looking ahead, we are excited to participate in **local celebrations** of national holidays, such as **Memorial Day**, where we will honor and remember the men and women who have given their lives in service to our country. These events are an important reminder of the sacrifices made by veterans, and our squadron will ensure their legacy is celebrated with pride and respect.

Americanism Month is a time for all of us to reflect on what it means to be an American. Squadron 97 is dedicated to promoting these ideals through meaningful activities and community involvement. We invite everyone to join us in this mission and take part in upcoming events that highlight the importance of patriotism, service, and unity. Together, we can strengthen our commitment to Americanism and inspire future generations to carry the torch of freedom forward.

Youth Drone Program

February 1st

The Youth Drone Program is open to all local youth (9 - 17 years old), and no prior experience is necessary.

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Four Chaplains Day

February 3rd

A day dedicated to honoring the bravery and sacrifice of four U.S. Army chaplains who gave their lives to save others during World War II.

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Fishing Derby

March 29th

Families are invited to come together for this event, supporting the young anglers and enjoying a day filled with outdoor fun, friendly competition, and community spirit.

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SAL Youth Drone Program: Exploring the Skies with Technology

The Sons of the American Legion Squadron 97 is proud to host the **Youth Drone Program** on the **1st Saturday of each month at 11:00 AM**. This exciting program is designed to introduce young people to the rapidly growing field of drone technology. Whether they're interested in flying, learning about the mechanics behind drones, or exploring the future possibilities of this technology, this program offers something for everyone.

Each session provides hands-on experience with drones, where participants will learn the basics of flight, safety procedures, and how drones are used in various industries. Our knowledgeable instructors ensure a fun, educational environment while emphasizing the importance of responsibility and teamwork.

The Youth Drone Program is open to all local youth (9 - 17 years old), and no prior experience is necessary. This is a great opportunity to spark interest in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) while enjoying a fun and interactive activity.

For more information about the Youth Drone Program check out our website at <https://stvlegion.com/sal-youth-drone-program>.



Next Drone Session:
Date: Feb 1, 2025
Time: 11:00 AM
Location: San Tan Valley Veterans Center

We look forward to seeing you there!



The drone program is open to all youth, 9 - 17 years of age (both girls and boys), and you do not need to be a member of the American Legion to participate.



SAL Squadron 97 Monthly Meeting

The Sons of the American Legion Squadron 97 holds its monthly meeting on the **1st Saturday of each month at 10:00 AM**. These meetings are a great opportunity for members to stay updated on upcoming events, discuss important matters, and get involved in the squadron's activities. Whether you're a longtime member or new to the squadron, your participation and input are always welcome.

We encourage all members to attend and be an active part of shaping the future of Squadron 97. Your involvement is key to the success of our mission to support veterans and serve our community. Join us and help make a difference!

Next Meeting:
Date: Feb 1, 2025
Time: 10:00 AM
Location: San Tan Valley Veterans Center

February Events

- February 1- SAL Meeting 10-11 am
- February 1- Drone Program 11-12 am
- February 2-Post 97 15th Anniv (All Day)
- February 3-Four Chaplains Day (All Da)
- February 5- Aux Coffee w/ Vets 9-11 am
- February 5-Aux Meeting 11am
- February 8- Honor Guard Practice 10-11 am
- February 10-Post Social Hour 6-7pm
- February 10-Post Meeting 7-8pm
- February 17-Riders Meeting 6-7pm



Honoring Four Chaplains Day



Father John P. Washington, Rabbi Alexander D. Goode, Rev. George L. Fox, and Rev. Clark V. Poling

On **February 3rd**, we observe **Four Chaplains Day**, a day dedicated to honoring the bravery and sacrifice of four U.S. Army chaplains who gave their lives to save others during World War II. These men—**Father John P. Washington, Rabbi Alexander D. Goode, Rev. George L. Fox, and Rev. Clark V. Poling**—were aboard the U.S. Army transport ship *Dorchester*, which was struck by a German torpedo in 1943. As the ship began to sink, the chaplains calmly helped evacuate soldiers, offering comfort and guidance.

They then gave up their own life vests to others, ensuring that as many men as possible could survive.

Their heroic actions, regardless of faith or denomination, are a shining example of selflessness and the true meaning of service to others. On this day, we honor their legacy by reflecting on their sacrifice and commitment to humanity.

Squadron 97 encourages all members to take a moment to remember the Four Chaplains and the countless others who have shown extraordinary courage in the face of danger. Let us carry forward their message of compassion, unity, and dedication to the well-being of others.

Squadron 97 50/50 Raffle at San Tan Valley Veterans Center Bingo

Squadron 97 is excited to announce that we have the opportunity to run a **50/50 raffle** on the **3rd Sunday of each month** during the San Tan Valley Veterans Center Bingo. The funds raised through this raffle will go directly to support our veterans' causes and youth programs, making a meaningful impact in our community.

We are looking for volunteers to help with the raffle, and your support is greatly appreciated. If you are interested in volunteering, please notify Detachment Commander "Radar" to get involved and assist with this event.

Join us in making a difference and supporting those who have served our country!



Welcome New Members to Squadron 97

We are excited to extend a warm welcome to our newest members of Squadron 97:

Jon K.

Brain M.

Glen S.

Cohen N.

Cashton N.



8th Annual Youth Fishing Derby



March 29, 2025, this free event will be open to the first 100 registrants in three age categories: 8 and under, 9-13, and 13 to 17. Medals will be awarded to boys or girls who catch the largest fish (based on weight) before being returned to the water. Each registrant will receive a free hot dog, chips, and drinks. Adults can purchase food & drinks from All Cooped Up in Az.

The Joe Foss American Legion Post 97 continues to stand as a pillar in the community, dedicated to serving veterans, their families, and fostering youth development through various programs and events. The Annual Youth Fishing Derby is just one of the many ways the Post promotes patriotism, community engagement, and honors the sacrifices of those who have served the country.

Families are invited to come together for this event, supporting the young anglers and enjoying a day filled with outdoor fun, friendly competition, and community spirit.

Kids are encouraged to bring their own fishing poles, but the group will have some poles on hand for use. Bait will be extremely limited, so each contestant is also encouraged to bring his/her own bait (treble hooks are not allowed on lures).

The Joe Foss American Legion Post 97 was founded in June 2009, our mission is to serve local veterans with support services and the region's youth with activities like fishing.

Co-sponsors of the event include Johnson Ranch, San Tan Valley Veterans Center & American Legion 97.

Sponsorships are available (and welcomed!), and volunteers are needed on March 29th in areas including registration check-in, set-up and tear-down, fishing gear distribution, and sharing "fishing wisdom" with the young anglers. Contact the Squadron Commander "Radar" to volunteer or for information on sponsorship opportunities.

Reeling in memories, casting for the future—at the American Legion Kids Fishing Derby, we honor the spirit of community, fun, and the next generation of anglers.



From the Squadron Commander's Desk



Squadron 97 Commander John "Radar" Meyer

It is with great pride and enthusiasm that I welcome you to the newly established **Sons of the American Legion Squadron 97!** This squadron is built on the strength of our shared commitment to honoring the sacrifices of our veterans and carrying forward the values of patriotism, service, and community.

As your Squadron Commander, I want to share our vision for 2025. Our goal is to grow Squadron 97 to **15 active members**, and with **4 members already on board and 4 more pending**, we're off to a solid start! But we need your help to reach this milestone. Your involvement is crucial to the success of our squadron, and every new member brings us one step closer to achieving our goals.

In 2025, we aim to make a lasting impact in our community through volunteer work, veterans' outreach, youth programs, and other activities that honor the legacy of those who served. We'll be focusing on supporting our local veterans, organizing events like the **50/50 raffle** at the San Tan Valley Veterans Center Bingo, and continuing to strengthen our squadron's presence through initiatives like the **Youth Drone Program, Kids Fishing Derby** and other community-centered events.

As a squadron, we need active participation from every member. Whether it's attending meetings, volunteering for events, or simply sharing ideas, your voice and your presence make a difference. Together, we can accomplish great things and create a lasting legacy of service and support for our veterans and their families. We are looking for volunteers to help with the raffle, and your support is greatly appreciated. If you are interested in volunteering, please notify Detachment Commander "Radar" to get involved and assist with this event.

I encourage each of you to bring in new members, attend our monthly meetings, and get involved in any way you can. Let's work together to ensure that Squadron 97 thrives and that we honor our veterans in everything we do.

Thank you for your dedication, and I look forward to seeing all the amazing things we will accomplish together in 2025.

In Service and Brotherhood,

Squadron Commander Radar

Upcoming March 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- 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

**SONS OF THE
AMERICAN
LEGION**

SAL 97 Website:

<https://stvlegion.com/sal-squadron>

Email:

squadron97sal@gmail.com

Detachment of Az

<https://azsal.org/>

SAL National Website

<https://www.legion.org/about/American-Legion-Family/Sons-of-the-American-Legion>