



AHWATUKEE AMERICAN LEGION POST 64  
5001 E. CHEYENNE DR.  
PHOENIX, AZ 85044

**THE AHWATUKEE POST 64 COLOR GUARD 2019-2020 REPORT**  
MEMBERSHIP on May 23, 2020: 206 (just one more to Goal)

The Ahwatukee Post 64 Color Guard is sixteen (16) members strong. The Color Guard Commander is David VonTersch, and the Assistant Color Guard Commander is William 'Roddy' Charlton. Both men are Vietnam era Navy veterans. Post 64 members serving with the Color Guard are: John Boyer; Tae "Dan" Chong; Kenneth Dembiec; William 'Rod' Green; Ed Mangan; Peter Meier; Roger Munchbach; Doug Patterson; Rebecca Schmidt; Robert Smithson; Brenda Smull; and James Woods. Also sharing their talents with the Post 64 Color Guard are American Legion Auxiliary member Alice Maynard and Community Volunteer Deborah Dembiec.

The Color Guard uniform consists of an American Legion uniform cap, white short-sleeved uniform shirt (with American Legion emblems, Color Guard patch, and American flag patch), navy blue trousers with gold stripe, white belt, white gloves, and black shoes, with optional name tag and military service ribbons. Gold shoulder cords and ascots are used for all events except funerals and memorial services, at which time black shoulder cords and ascots are used. Each member is responsible for the cost and upkeep of their own uniform. The Color Guard uniform costs approximately \$150.00 per person. (See attached photos). In a show of support, many of the members attending meetings and functions wear parts of the Color Guard uniform even though they can no longer march or do other "physical" acts of patriotism as formal members of the Color Guard.

Post 64 does not have a separate Honor Guard for funerals and memorial services. The members of the Color Guard change shoulder cords and ascots to black for Honor duties. This year, they performed Honor duties four (4) times. The Honors presented were modified versions of those included in the American Legion *Manual of Ceremonies*. An electronic bugle is used to play *Taps*. They do not use a firing squad. The Post 64 team provides Honors for any veteran without asking for donations or payment; the veteran does not have to be a member of Post 64 or the American Legion. The members provide and pay for their own transportation. A very important addition to the Honor Guard is Post 64 Chaplain Rebecca Schmidt. Due to restrictions from the coronavirus, the Post was unable to hold a meeting during the month of May, and thus was unable to hold a Memorial Service, as planned, for those members transferring to Post Everlasting during 2019-2020. Instead a small tribute was written to those veterans and sent by email as well as posted on the homepage of the Post 64 website. *The Ahwatukee Foothills News* ran an article with short bios on these members over Memorial Day weekend and included a prayer from Chaplain Rebecca Schmidt.

The Color Guard presented and posted Colors at nine (9) functions hosted by Post 64. This included:

--Seven (7) monthly Post 64 meetings.

--A Flag Retirement/Disposal Ceremony on Flag Day 2019 which was attended by 50 people. As her "Gold Award" project a local Girl Scout consulted with the Post and raised the funds to purchase and decorate a drop box to be permanently mounted at the Ahwatukee Rec Center for the collection of unserviceable flags from the community.

--At Winterfest the Color Guard presented and posted Colors, then performed the POW/MIA Table Ceremony and an Armed Forces Salute utilizing the military service flags.

Several planned Post functions had to be canceled due to the coronavirus pandemic.

The Color Guard took part in ten (10) different events in the Ahwatukee and greater Phoenix areas as follows:

--They presented and posted Colors for the Ahwatukee Recreation Center Independence Day Celebration. Ahwatukee Post 64 is officially considered "Homeless", however, the Ahwatukee Recreation Center and Retirement Community (ARC) has become their patron and adoptive home. One of the things which ARC provides is a storage room for all of the Color Guard equipment. In gratitude, the Post purchased a new flag pole and flags that were installed in the entrance to their newly renovated parking lot. The Post also supplies US flags to the Recreation Center Gift Shop for purchase by customers.

--On September 11, 2019, the Color Guard raised the flag on the pole in front of the new auditorium at Kyrene Traditional Academy during the dedication of the building. 780 students and staff were in attendance.

--The Color Guard was part of a Veterans Day program at Sunrise Assisted Living where they presented Colors and then honored the branches of the armed services in a musical salute including the service banners. Resident veterans were recognized during the program.

--Colors were presented and posted for a "Meet the Mayor" symposium with Phoenix Mayor Kate Gallego held in Ahwatukee.

--Colors were presented and posted for the Ahwatukee Chamber of Commerce 25th Anniversary Celebration.

--Colors were presented at the "Ahwatukee Eats" Food Truck Festival.

--The Post 64 Banner was taken to two "Massing of the Flags" events, one hosted by the Military Order of the World Wars, and the second hosted by the JROTC cadets of Marcos de Niza High School.

--Members of the Post 64 Color Guard joined the Color Guard of Post 124 in Guadalupe for the dedication of the new Frank Elementary School building on August 1, 2019, and also for the Guadalupe

Veterans Day parade on November 9, 2019. Guadalupe and Ahwatukee are adjacent communities, connected by a small bridge over Interstate 10.

The coronavirus caused the cancellation of the annual Ahwatukee Easter Parade, in which the Post 64 Color Guard has had a lead position since 1995. They also had to accept a cancellation of the Memorial Day program at the National Memorial Cemetery of Arizona, in which they have been part of the Parade of Colors and Wreath Presentation since 2009. Going virtual once again, a link to the Veterans' Legacy Memorial through the VA National Cemetery Administration was placed on the Post's website. Through this link, information on any veteran buried in a National Cemetery can be accessed and a Tribute can be written to that veteran. The *Ahwatukee Foothills News* wrote a tribute to Memorial Day and explained that services with large groups of people were not being conducted at the National Cemeteries. That article prominently featured the Post 64 Color/Honor Guard.

In summary, from June 1, 2019, to June 1, 2020, the Post 64 Color Guard members volunteered 1105 hours, and drove 3495 miles, at an estimated cost of \$560.00.

To quote the National organization, "The uniform groups of the American Legion are 'display cases' so to speak. Every Post can participate in uniform group activities if it so chooses." The Post 64 Color Guard continues to function in the Post's leadership role in public relations, flag education, youth activities, and patriotic displays.

Respectfully submitted,

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David VonTersch  
Post 64 Color Guard Commander

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Roger Munchbach  
Post 64 Adjutant

**MEMBERS OF THE POST 64 COLOR GUARD**



POST 64 COLOR GUARD COMMANDER  
DAVID VONTERSCH  
US Navy, Vietnam  
Legionnaire 8 years



ASSISTANT COLOR GUARD COMMANDER  
WILLIAM 'RODDY' CHARLTON  
US Navy, Vietnam  
Legionnaire 5 years



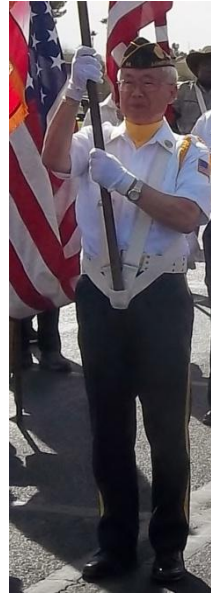
ROBERT SMITHSON, JR.  
US Navy, Korea  
Legionnaire 43 years



WILLIAM 'ROD' GREEN  
US Air Force, Persian Gulf  
Legionnaire 20 years



PETER MEIER  
US Army, Vietnam  
Legionnaire 17 years



TAE 'DAN' CHONG  
US Army, Vietnam  
Legionnaire 18 years



BRENDA SMULL  
US Army, Persian Gulf  
Legionnaire 3 years



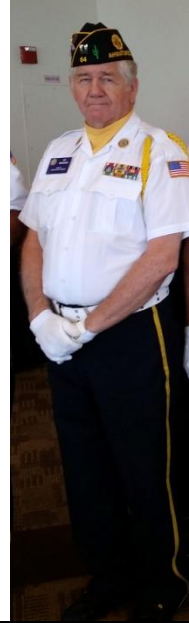
JAMES WOODS  
US Army, Vietnam  
Legionnaire 10 years



JOHN BOYER  
US Army, Vietnam  
Legionnaire 8 years



ROGER MUNCHBACH  
US Navy, Vietnam  
Legionnaire 29 years



EDMUND MANGAN  
US Air Force, Vietnam  
Legionnaire 16 years



DOUG PATTERSON  
US Marine Corps, Vietnam  
Legionnaire 3 years



KENNETH DEMBIEC  
US Air Force, Vietnam  
Legionnaire 10 years



REBECCA SCHMIDT  
US Air Force, Vietnam  
Legionnaire 4 years  
CHAPLAIN



DEBORAH DEMBIEC  
Community  
Volunteer



ALICE MAYNARD  
American Legion  
Auxiliary 4 years