



VFW POST 40

**JULY/AUG 2026
NEWSLETTER**

PAT TILLMAN MEMORIAL VFW POST 40
Service ★ Community ★ Leadership

A Living Legacy

Maj Fannie McClendon

We were honored to spend time with Maj. Fannie McClendon, a proud member of the legendary 688th Central Postal Directory Battalion, the only all-Black, all-Female unit to serve overseas in WWII. Her strength, service, and story continue to inspire generations.

Thank you, Major. Your legacy lives on!



1945

81 YEARS LATER

2026

An afternoon we'll never forget: Post 40 had the honor of spending time with Maj. McClendon. Her stories, wisdom, and grace reminded us why preserving our veterans' legacy matters. Maj McClendon is now a part of our Buddy Check Family.





LEADING THE WAY

*Post 40 Makes Its Mark At the
2026 Department Convention*



HONORED.
RECOGNIZED.
LEADING.

Post 40 continued its tradition of excellence at the 2026 Department Convention, earning recognition while members stepped into new leadership roles at the Post, District and Department levels.

CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS

- **Post 40 Recognition**
 - Received All-State Team Captain Award. Thank you to every member who helped make this possible!!!
- **Brit "Deuce" Brandt**
 - Deuce Brandt elected as Department Commander. Congrats Deuce!!!
- **Janice Owens**
 - Appointed as Department Sergeant-At-Arms. Congrats on this well-deserved honor.
- **John Garrison**
 - Appointed as Department Pro-Teams Chairman leading the way for our service programs.
- **Allison Helm**
 - Participated in her first CofA as our new District 3 Commander

Bucky Turns 101 Years Old

Local WWII hero "Bucky" turned 101 years old and our friends down at Mission BBQ, located in Goodyear, threw the centurion a birthday party. Unfortunately Bucky was under the weather that day and couldn't make it, but that didn't stop the community from celebrating him anyway! Happy Birthday Bucky!





COMMUNITY IN ACTION

Together We Make a Difference



40 for 40 DIAPER DRIVE

What started out as the Commander's request to get just 4 boxes of diapers to donate the diaper drive for military families, turned into the post collecting 40+ packages in just one week. The 40 for 40 diaper drive will continue on through September. Everything collected at this point will go towards the next drive.



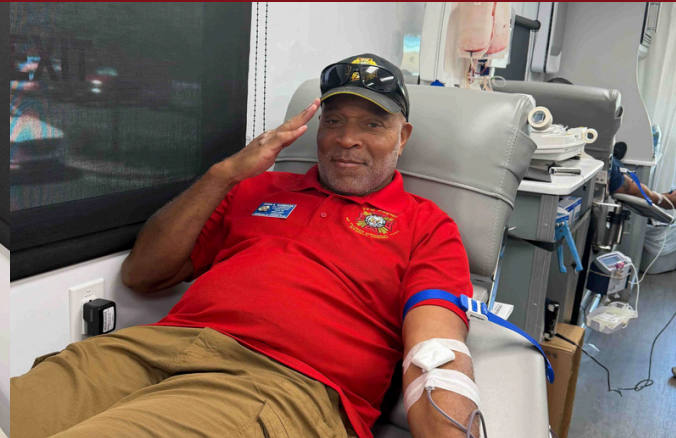
Post 40 Donated \$1,500

to the Verrado High School Girls Flag Football team to help send them to camp July 23-26. The Camp, located in Williams, AZ, focused on team bonding, future goals, football IQ, culture and of course lots of practice in preparation for the upcoming season.

13 HEROES. *Countless Lives Touched.*

Thirteen generous donors rolled up their sleeves at Floyd's Ace Hardware, helping strengthen the blood supply our hospitals rely on every day.

THANK YOU TO EVERY DONOR AND
VOLUNTEER WHO MADE A DIFFERENCE.
Your kindness saves lives.





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YOUR VOICE MATTERS.

Protect Earned Benefits for Current and Future Veterans.

The VFW is asking every member to take action.

From the Desk of the Commander

Comrades and fellow veterans,

The benefits we have earned through our service are more than just a check—they are a promise made to us and our families. That promise must be kept, not just for us, but for every veteran who will raise their hand to serve in the future.

Right now, important decisions are being made in Washington that could reduce or take away service-connected disability benefits. We cannot be silent while our earned benefits are put at risk. The VFW is calling on every member to take action.

It only takes one minute. By sending a pre-written message to your U.S. Senators and Representative, you will stand with veterans across the country to protect our benefits and preserve the promise of America.

Our voices are strongest when we speak together. Let's show Congress that veterans are watching, and we will not stop fighting for what we have earned.

Thank you for your service, your continued support of Post 40, and for always putting Service Before Self.

In comradeship,

John A. Garrison

John A. Garrison

Commander

Pat Tillman Memorial VFW Post 40



TAKE ACTION IN ONE MINUTE.

Click the link below. A pre-written message will be sent directly to your U.S. Senators and Representative. Every voice matters.



<https://www.votervoice.net/mobile/VFW/Campaigns/138781/Respond>

Representing Post 40 on the National Stage



Cmdr John Garrison Salutes the VFW National Commander in Chief



Arizona All State Commanders with Team Captain, Cmdr John Garrison--Post 40 Proud!

POST 40 WAS PROUDLY REPRESENTED

At the 127th VFW National Convention in Columbus, Ohio, Commander John A. Garrison proudly served as Arizona's All-American Team Captain alongside fellow All-American Commanders from across the nation.

Service Before Self.