



The American Legion Auxiliary

Oro Valley Unit 132, Inc.

Department of Arizona

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

March 10, 2017

History - The American Legion Oro Valley Post 132 hosted the meeting to organize the American Legion Auxiliary Oro Valley Unit 132 on December 17, 2009 with 12 members. The Unit was chartered by The American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Arizona, on May 20, 2010 and has continued to grow to its present size of 72 members. The Unit serves communities of the northwest including Oro Valley, Marana, SaddleBrooke, north Tucson and all points in between.

Mission - In General, guidance for the Unit is provided by the preamble to our Constitution, which states that we will “participate in and contribute to the accomplishment of the aims and purposes of the American Legion”. To that end we support the four pillars of the American Legion:

1. Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation
2. National Security
3. Americanism
4. Children and Youth.

But beyond this, the Unit has adapted to the needs of its community and has become a local force, recognized nationally, for its support of Reserves and Arizona National Guard members and their families. Additionally, Oro Valley Unit 132 has become a significant resource for local and state agencies seeking emergency aid for veterans in need in the greater Tucson area. The Unit emphasizes programs dedicated to serving our veterans, active duty military, their families and our greater community. As a Unit without our own facility, we are not encumbered by a “business” that absorbs the energy of the organization. We are able to focus on outreach programs having an emphasis on hands-on efforts.

Some Specific Unit Projects and Awards:

- Adoption of members of the 1st/285th and of the 2nd/285th Arizona Army National Guard Battalions. We have provided care and assistance to these citizen soldiers and their families including during the periods of deployment of the two Battalions to Iraqi and Afghanistan. In 2012, the Arizona National Guard recognized The Post and its Auxiliary Unit as the “Outstanding Community Partners of the year”. The recipient of this prestigious award is selected from among the hundreds of Arizona National Guard civilian community partners from across the state. In 2013, The Post and Unit received the U.S. National Guard’s Family Program Community Purple Award – a national award

**American Legion Auxiliary Oro Valley Unit 132 Inc., Department of Arizona,
PO Box 69246 Oro Valley, AZ 85737**

<http://www.ovunit132.info> ovunit132@gmail.com

A 501 (c) 19 nonprofit patriotic organization, Federal Tax ID# 27-2088345

All gifts are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.

presented to a community group or organization that works with Army and/or Air Guard activities. It was the first time an Arizona organization had been so honored. Again, during the 30th anniversary celebration of the Western Army National Guard Aviation Training Site Battalion on September 17, 2016, the Auxiliary and Post were recognized for their exemplary support.

- Programs aimed at educating students in local schools on patriotic and educational themes. We sponsor a delegate to Arizona Girls State in which high school juniors spend a week in a participatory program in which students become part of the operation of local, county and state government. Girls State is the American Legion Auxiliary's flagship program. We also support the Veterans Heritage Project, a national program with a local chapter at Ironwood Ridge High School. These young students interview our veterans, author their stories, and archive them at the Library of Congress.
- We have a broad program of support for Veterans in need. This includes the Unit's support of the twice-annual Stand Down event for homeless veterans in the greater Tucson area. The purpose of Stand Down is to provide a safe environment for the veterans where they have access to critical services such as medical and mental health care, employment opportunities, alcohol and drug abuse counseling, housing, legal services, emergency assistance, clothing, care for their pets, haircuts, showers, etc. Unit 132 orchestrates the used clothing store at this event with the help of other local Units, churches, and organizations. The Unit also serves on the executive board of Tucson Veterans Serving Veterans, the planning committee for the Stand Down event. The Unit and Post are known locally as the "go-to" organizations for emergency assistance to veterans which include grocery money, gas cards, vehicle and home repair and help with their utility bills. In January of 2016 the Post and Unit received the Tucson Veterans Serving Veterans Chairman's Award for "Exemplary" support of veterans in need.
- The Unit actively supports many of the programs of Southern Arizona Veteran Administration Healthcare System (SAVAHCS). In addition, we support the Tucson State Veterans Home located on the SAVAHCS campus). Our involvement may range from assisting at patient parties, to decorating Christmas trees, to delivering Christmas and Valentine cards, to donating gently used and new clothing. It is about "service, not self".
- Other key projects include our annual American Legion Auxiliary Poppy campaign to raise funds to assist our veterans while educating and reminding the public of the sacrifices made by our military. We also support Honor Flight, the program to send our WWII veterans to Washington D.C. to visit their memorial; Therapeutic Riding of Tucson, the program for veterans with traumatic brain injury; Missing In America Project, a program to identify the unclaimed cremains of veterans and provide military burial with honors.

Our monthly meetings are held at the Vistoso Memorial Chapel 2285 E Rancho Vistoso Blvd., Oro Valley, at 6:30 PM on the third Thursday, September through May. To learn more about our organization, please visit our website.

Contact: Onita Davis, Unit Secretary/Treasurer, 520-229-1064, ovunit132@gmail.com. Website: <http://www.ovunit132.info>.

**American Legion Auxiliary Oro Valley Unit 132 Inc., Department of Arizona,
PO Box 69246 Oro Valley, AZ 85737
<http://www.ovunit132.info> ovunit132@gmail.com
A 501 (c) 19 nonprofit patriotic organization, Federal Tax ID# 27-2088345
All gifts are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.**