





**THE AMERICAN LEGION  
DEPARTMENT OF ARIZONA  
EUGENE C. YOUNT, POST 145**



**17 DECEMBER 2025**

**ARROWHEAD VALLEY APARTMENTS  
20025 N 81ST AVE  
PEORIA, AZ 85382**

**POST 145 WEBSITE: [WWW.EUGENECYOUNTPOST145.ORG](http://WWW.EUGENECYOUNTPOST145.ORG)**





# Opening Prayer





**A POW/MIA EMPTY CHAIR IS PLACED AT ALL OFFICIAL MEETINGS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION AS A PHYSICAL SYMBOL OF MANY AMERICAN POW/MIAS STILL UNACCOUNTED FOR FROM ALL WARS AND CONFLICTS INVOLVING THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. THIS IS A REMINDER FOR ALL OF US TO SPARE NO EFFORT TO SECURE THE RELEASE OF ANY AMERICAN PRISONERS FROM CAPTIVITY, THE REPATRIATION OF THE REMAINS OF THOSE WHO DIED BRAVELY IN DEFENSE OF LIBERTY, AND A FULL ACCOUNTING OF THOSE MISSING.**

**LET US REDEDICATE OURSELVES TO THIS VITAL ENDEAVOR!**





# Preamble to the Constitution

For God and Country, we associate ourselves together for the following purposes:



**To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America;**

**to maintain law and order;**

**to foster and perpetuate a 100-percent Americanism;**



**to preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in all wars;**

**to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation;**

**to combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses;**



**to make right the master of might;**

**to promote peace and goodwill on earth;**

**to safeguard and transmit to posterity the  
principles of justice, freedom and democracy;**



**\*\* (Auxiliary only) \*\***

**to participate in and contribute to the accomplishment of the aims and purposes of The American Legion;**

**to consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.**



# Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Sergeant John Gardner



## *Meritorious Service*

*American Legion programs and activities dedicated to God and Country.*

*The Eugene C. Yonast, Post 145,  
The American Legion*

*Takes pleasure in presenting the  
Law Enforcement of the Year Award to:*

## *Sergeant John Gardner*

*Sergeant John Gardner exemplifies the highest standards of leadership, service, and professionalism in law enforcement. Throughout his career, he has consistently demonstrated an unwavering commitment to his officers, his department, and the community he serves. He mentors his officers through deliberate developmental opportunities to encourage analytical thinking, collaboration, and public-speaking skills. Sergeant Gardner embodies the qualities that define excellence in law enforcement: courage, compassion, integrity, and commitment to service. He is a leader who not only achieves results but also builds trust, fosters teamwork, and inspires those around him to reach their highest potential. His balanced excellence across leadership, tactical operations, and administrative duties, combined with his outstanding service record and selection for critical departmental leadership roles, make him a truly deserving recipient of the 2025 American Legion "Law Enforcement Officer of the Year".*

*Given this day 17 December 2025*

*Paul G. Johnson  
Commander, Post 145, The American Legion*



# Firefighter of the Year Captain Asa Paguia



[Click link for bodycam video from the scene.](https://www.police1.com/body-camera/video-ariz-officer-heading-to-work-off-duty-firefighter-rescue-woman-from-burning-truck)

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## *Meritorious Service*

*The American Legion programs and activities dedicated to God and Country.*

*The Eugene C. Wood, Post 145,  
The American Legion*

*Takes pleasure in presenting the  
Firefighter of the Year Award to:*

## *Fire Captain Asa Paguia*

*For exceptionally meritorious service as a Fire Captain for the Peoria Fire Department. Captain Paguia displayed exceptional courage and dedication to rescue a trapped woman inside a burning vehicle. Using his skill and expertise he entered the area not utilizing his SCBA gear and with the assistance of an off duty Chandler Police officer safely extracted a woman from this highly dangerous situation. His firefighting training coupled with his training while serving in the United States Marine Corps saved her life. His heroic actions also earned his nomination for the National Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor. His proven skills as a leader and skills as a firefighter bring great credit upon himself, the Peoria Fire Department and the Community.*

*Given this day 17 December 2025*

*Paul G. Johnson  
Commander, Post 145, The American Legion*







**SEE YOU NEXT YEAR!**



**Safe travels this Holiday Season!!**