

The American Legion Post 41

Timeline Summary



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- 1945 November 05
 - Application for Post of The American Legion received by The American Legion National Headquarters Indianapolis, Indiana
- 1945 November 14
 - National Adjutant Donald G. Glascoff requested reassignment of Post 55 to Post 41. Number 41 was the Captain John Henry Allen Post of Fort Huachuca and was canceled in 1941.
- 1945 November 23
 - Organizational Meeting hosted by and at The American Legion Post 1. Election of temporary officers; Commander, Carlos Ontiveros; First Vice Commander, Pete Martinez; Adjutant and Finance Officer, Abe Norriega. All sworn in and first meeting was held.
- 1946
 - League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) Council 110 approached The American Legion Post 41 Commander Ray Martinez and invited them to join them in the effort to change the over 20-year-old policy of “No Mexican’s Allowed”.*1
 - May 21, 1946 Tempe Chamber of Commerce meeting agreed to drop the “No Mexicans Allowed” sign.
- 1946
 - Commander Ray Martinez additionally, in a City of Phoenix Council meeting, refused to accept the segregation of Hispanics in the proposed 124 housing unit at 16th Street and Henshaw (Buckeye) Road, the site of an old dump. Opposed to integration was led by Eddie Poole, head of the Garfield Property Owners Protective Association.
 - July 6, 1946, Mayor Ray Busey and the City council voted to integrate the housing (Mexican and Anglo only), providing 24 of the units to Mexican Americans.
- 1947 April 02
 - Lease No. 1631 approved by the City of Phoenix for the sum of one dollar a year for fifty years. Signed by Commander Ray Martinez, renew April 2, 1997. Includes from Plat of Block 12 – Montgomery Addition, Lots 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9 and the west 80 feet of Lots 10, 11, and 12. (Does not include land that the Duppa/Montgomery Adobe building, remainder of Lots 10, 11 and 12.
- 1947 July 26
 - Members began to break ground and volunteered their labor during their spare time after work.
- 1948 January 15
 - The American Legion Women’s Auxiliary Unit 41 applied for its charter. It was approved and presented on April 1, 1948.
- 1948 January 30
 - Rebecca Valenzuela called the first meeting of The American Legion Unit 41.
- 1948 March 14
 - The American Legion Thunderbird Post 41 held a dedication ceremony opening the doors of the newly built post home.
- 1948 March 29
 - Received a Certificate of Incorporation from the State of Arizona Corporation Commission, Docket 172 Page 454, filed by Commander Ray Martinez and his administration.

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- 1948
 - Post 41 Commander Martinez successfully confronted the Stewart Construction Company on behalf of Post member Donald Gaylien. The company denied Gaylien's and other Hispanic's loan applications. By the 1950's the area was integrated.
- 1949 December
 - The American Auxiliary Unit 41 opened the community well-baby clinic at The American Legion Post 41. Helping over one hundred babies.
- 1950 - 1951
 - Ray Martinez, Post 41 Past Commander elected to be The American Legion Department of Arizona first Hispanic State Commander.
- 1953 January 09
 - Lease No. 2612 approved by City of Phoenix for the sum of one dollar (\$1.00) per year for forty-two years (1994) includes East 124 feet of Lots 13, 14, 15; Lot 16 and south 20 feet of Lot 17; all in Block 12. (Parking lot and South of Adobe Building. As of 16 December 1952, to 2 April 1997. Signed by Commander Manuel Yanez.
- 1954 February 15
 - Sub-Lease of 1631, designation of lease changed to No. 1382, includes fifty (50) foot of the south ten (10) feet of Lot 9, signed by Commander Raymond Stokes.
- 1954 February 15
 - Sub-Lease of 2612, designation of lease changed to No. 1382, effectively combining Lease 1631 and Lease 2612; building and parking area. Signed by Raymond Stokes.
- 1956 April 03
 - Lease No. 2612 extension of Section 8 completion of building hall to include kitchen to be completed by February 27, 1956, to February 27, 1961 (five (5) year extension, total of ten (10) years). Signed by Commander Frank "Pipa" Fuentes.
- 1963 September 15
 - First Annual Americanism Queen Coronation was held under the administration of Commander Florencio Othon
- 1965
 - Revision of the Constitution and By-Laws of Thunderbird Post No. 41 were published
- 1966 February 28
 - Post 41 received Charter for Troop 119 in the Boy Scouts of America.
- 1968 - 1969
 - Tony F. Soza, Post 41 Past Commander elected to be The American Legion Department of Arizona second Hispanic State Commander.
- 1971 February 09
 - Tony F. Soza name is added to Post 41, after his passing on August 26, 1970, at the age of fifty-one (51) of a heart attack. Charter name change submitted by Commander Gilbert Jacques.

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- 1981
 - Scholarship funds established to be presented to students graduating from Grammar School entering High School, intended to assist with school supplies. Dedicated funds were included in Frank “Pipa” Fuentes’s Last Will and Testament dated March 23, 1981. Students are submitted by five community schools. Five scholarships are awarded each year.
- 1988 - 1989
 - Florencio “Lencho” Othon, Post 41 Past Commander elected to be The American Legion Department of Arizona State Commander and third Post 41 member to be elected.
- 1988 September 29
 - The American Legion Department of Arizona Commander endorses the activities of the Braun-Scared Heart Center, providing a leadership role in establishing a veterans’ museum.
- 1988 December 02
 - City of Phoenix Contract 46221 in the amount of Fifty Thousand dollars (\$50,000.00) awarded to Post 41 a Community Development Entitlement Grant for a period of twenty (20) years. Signed by Tony Valenzuela, Statutory Agent. (Fuentes Hall and kitchen)
- 1991 - 1992
 - Marco A. “Tony” Valenzuela Post 41 Past Commander elected to be The American Legion Department of Arizona State Commander and forth Post 41 member to be elected.
- 1991 August 30
 - Post 41 host events for the 73rd National American Legion Convention, Commander David Coronado.
- 1992 February 19
 - The American Legion Post 41 filed with the Arizona Corporation Commission the Articles of Incorporation. The articles were approved and filed on February 21, 1992.
- 1992 August 27
 - Lease No. 1631 Extension approved by City of Phoenix from April 3, 1997; through March 31, 2012, signed Commander John Aldecoa. (Original Lease 1947 April 2).
- 1995 October 13 – 15
 - The American Legion Post 41 home celebrated its 50th Anniversary.
- 1995 October 31
 - The Honorable Ed Pastor entered within Congressional Record, E2075, a statement honoring The American Legion Tony F. Soza Post 41 accomplishments.
- 2001
 - Five American Legion Post 41 members inducted into the Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame Society.
 - Nick “Nicky” Bacon, U.S. Army, Viet Nam Veteran, Congressional Medal of Honor recipient
 - Father Albert Braun, U.S. Army, Purple Heart and two Silver Star recipient
 - Barry Goldwater, U.S. Senator and Major General in the Air Force Reserves
 - Ray Martinez, WW II U.S. Navy veteran, The American Legion Department of AZ and Post 41 Past Commander.
 - Jay Vargas, U.S.M.C Viet Nam Veteran, Congressional Medal of Honor recipient.

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- 2001 – 2002
 - Member George Chavez donated two additional amounts to be dedicated for Scholarships that were established by Frank “Pipa” Fuentes.
- 2002 Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame Society induction.
 - Marco A. “Tony” Valenzuela, Korean Veteran, U.S. Air Force, The American Legion Department of AZ and Post 41 Past Commander. Bringing six total Post 41 members inducted.
- 2003 April 03
 - Ray Martinez name added to Post 41 charter, now reading Tony F. Soza – Ray Martinez. Name changed initiated by Commander Tony Yanez. Ray Martinez passed away on December 5, 2002, at the age of eighty-five.
- 2004 Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame Society induction.
 - Florencio “Lencho” Othon, U.S. Army WW II veteran, The American Legion Department of AZ and Post 41 Past Commander. Brining seven total Post 41 members inducted.
- 2005
 - The American Legion Post American Legion Riders Charter 41 establish
- 2006 June 01
 - Revision of the Constitution and By-Laws of Tony F. Soza / Ray Martinez Thunderbird Post American Legion Post No. 41 published
- 2006 – 2008
 - City of Phoenix Historic Preservation Commission and Office published the Progress Report for Fiscal years 2006 – 2008, which highlights The American Legion Post 41 as one of ten (10) Hispanic Historic Property’s.
- 2007
 - DVD “LOS VETERANOS of World War II: A Mission for Social Change in Central Arizona.” Was produced and copy righted by Dr. Pete R. Dimas, member of Post 41 and retired professor of History at Phoenix College. Consist of interviews with members and leaders of The American Legion Thunderbird Post 41.
- 2008 August
 - Post 41 hosted the Blind Veterans Organization (BVA) holding their 63rd National Convention in Phoenix for a southwestern fiesta at the Post home.
- 2008, November 14
 - Latino Perspective holds an inaugural Honoring Latinos Who Serve Awards to The American Legion Post 41, Commander Robert Hernandez and Dr. Pete Dimas (Post 41 member) for his DVD documentary titled “Los Veteranos of World War II: A Mission for Social Change in Central Arizona”. Latino Perspective and the Raul H. Castro Institute released a co-published book authored by Charles Sanderson titled; “The Faces of Post 41”.
- 2008 December
 - Latino Perspective publishes Magazine covering event of November 14, 2008
- 2009 Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame Society induction;
 - Peter Martinez, U.S. Air Force Korean/Viet Nam Veteran, Member of many civic, fraternal, and patriotic organizations. Brining eight total Post 41 members inducted.

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- 2009
 - Latino Perspective Magazine Honors The American Legion Unit 41 with the release of the book titled, “Nurturing Tradition Fostering Change, authored by Charles Sanderson and the release of DVD titled, “Arizona Latina Trailblazers”
- 2009 March 27
 - Post 41 received release of lien associated with the CDBG No. 46221 issued on December 8, 1988.
- 2009 April
 - Phoenix Revitalization Corporation published booklet titled “Central City South at a Glance”. Pages 10 and 60 identify American Legion Tony Soza Post 41 as Historic Property 5.
- 2010 April 23 – 25
 - First annual American Legion Post 41 Campout at Canyon Lake Marina and Campground, Tortilla Flat, AZ. Organized by Commander Robert Hernandez
- 2010 November 11
 - American Legion Post 41 Honor Guard awarded third (3rd) place VSO Float, in the VA Veterans Day Parade
- 2011 June
 - Post 41 Sponsored six (6) students for Boys State.
- 2011 December 16
 - Post 41 hosted Secretary of Labor Hilda Solis visit and round-table discussion with veterans and elected officials.
- 2012
 - Post 41 recognized within the Diamondbacks Major League Baseball Annual Report, page 28
- 2012 January 25
 - Meeting with City of Phoenix to discuss renewal of Lease No. 1631 (1382) informed that the fifty-year term lease at one dollar per year as stated in the original lease, can no longer be offered. Only five (5) year terms with five (5) renewal options are available. The cost, determined on the market value of the property would equate to \$5, 100.00 lease payment per month. This cost would be worked down by showing an annual plan that would reflect a tangible worth directly related to the City of Phoenix. Renewal deadline is March 31, 2012.
- 2012 February 10
 - La Voz published document titled “100 Years of Mexican-American Influence”, includes numerous mentions of The American Legion Post 41.
- 2012 Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame Society induction.
 - Lionel Sanchez, U.S.M.C. Viet Name Veteran, Active member of and Past President of the Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 432. Brings Post 41 members inducted to nine.
- 2012 February 02
 - The American Legion Post 41 property was placed on the Phoenix Historic Property Register.
- 2012 February 10
 - La Voz, A Gannett Company, published the “100 Years of Mexican-American Influence” The American Legion Post 41 as one of the most influential civic organizations for the Mexican American community and veterans in Arizona.

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- 2012 April 04
 - New Commercial Lease No. 133134 (Combines Lease No.'s 1631 and 2612) with the City of Phoenix renewed through March 31, 2017, with three five year options for renewal (March 31, 2032), signed by Commander Alfonso Aranda.
- 2012 September 16
 - Post 41 requested to present colors at Diamondbacks game against San Francisco Giants at Chase Stadium.
- 2012 October 25
 - Post 41 Honor Guard sponsored and supported the Cementerio Lindo rededication the historical cemetery. Post recognized in the Central City South Community Magazine
- 2012 November
 - The Pioneers' Cemetery Association of Phoenix, Arizona recognizes The American Legion Post 41 as a partner in preservation within the Research, Inventory, Preserve Report.
- 2012 November
 - Post 41 partnership with the Pioneers' Cemetery Association recognized within the association's R.I.P. Report, Volume 1, issue 2
- 2012 December 15
 - Post 41 supports the Phoenix VA Medical Center by donating the staging of a decorated Christmas tree within the facility
- 2012 December 31
 - Post reinstated original Post 41 Scout Troop and Pack 119.
- 2013 January 08
 - Post 41 host "Hiring Our Hero's" Job Fair supporting the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation.
- 2013 Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame Society induction.
 - Rita Brock-Perini, Officer in the U.S. Air Force Nurse's Corps. Member of various civic and political veterans' organizations. Brings a total of ten Post 41 members inducted.
- 2014 Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame Society induction, bringing the grand total of twelve Post 41 members;
 - Two more Post 41 members inducted.
 - John Juan Aldecoa, U.S. Air Force veteran, served as The American Legion Department of Arizona Adjutant for fifth teen years and Past Commander of Post 41.
 - Manuel Mendoza U.S. Army WW II veteran and 24th Arizonan Congressional Medal of Honor recipient.
- 2015 November 10
 - Post Historian Robert Hernandez requested and presented the history of Hispanic veterans and the role of Post 41 in the community at an eighth grade assembly at Kuban Elementary School in South Phoenix.
- 2015 November 11
 - Post Historian Robert Hernandez participated at the "Gathering of Legends" which was held at the Commemorative Air Force Airbase in Mesa AZ. Put up a Post 41 history display.

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- 2016 - 2017
 - Charles “Danny” Bugh Post 41 Past Commander elected to be The American Legion Department of Arizona State Commander and fifth Post 41 member to be hold position.
- 2016 November 12
 - Post 41 Host first annual Arizona Jr. ROTC High School Competition which consisted of Armed and Unarmed Exhibition Drill Team, plus Physical Fitness and Civic Academic Test
- 2017 March
 - Post 41 Historian Robert Hernandez is offered position on The Braun-Sacred Heart Center Board to be the Post 41 representative replacing Tony Torres from the Post. Post 41 has been a member on this board since its organization has been established with the concurrence of the Department of Arizona American Legion.
- 2017 April 01
 - First Amendment to City of Phoenix Lease No. 133134 to extend the first term for five (5) years beginning this date through March 31, 2022, signed by Commander Louie Garcia.
- 2018 January 02
 - Revision of Constitution and By-Laws Tony F. Soza / Ray Martinez Thunderbird Post American Legion Post No. 41 published
- 2018 March 22
 - Post 41 historian Robert Hernandez participated in the AARP Latino Community radio program.
- 2018 November 09
 - KJZZ 91.5 published article titled “Phoenix’s American Legion Post 41: Bonded by Barrio and Service” by Mariana Dale
- 2019 – 2020
 - John Aldecoa Past Post Commander named as Honorary Past Department Commander. Sixth from Post 41, first honorary. Served as Department of Arizona Adjutant for fifteen and a half years.
 - Angel Juarez Post 41 Past Chaplin selected to be the Department of Arizona Adjutant.