

## **American Legion Post 66**

I am sitting at the lounge of American Legion Post 66, Green Valley, AZ, sipping a cool beer, looking at mountains and listening to stories. At the table next to me, I've overheard North Dakota several times and even heard Johnny Holms name mentioned. I've met some interesting Veterans here and the following is an example of who is here.

First, while at Ace Hardware with my brother-in-law, I struck up a conversation with a retired Navy Admiral who entered the military in 1959 and spent 43 years in the Navy. Since he appeared to be somewhat hard core, I asked if he was in the Navy when women were first allowed on board ship. He told me he was commanding an aircraft carrier at the time and since "women wanted to be like men, I made all my sailors cut their hair no longer than three inches". He is still not pleased with women on board ship.

While wandering around the neighborhood, I saw a motorcycle with 'Patriot Guard Leader' on the front. We chatted rider and I learned that he rode over 25,000 miles per year on his bike leading Guard riders in Arizona, Washington and makes the ride to D.C. a couple times per year.

Post 66 Adjutant gave us interesting information about his Post and their activities, including a scholarship fund raising golf tournament, providing high school class presentations as our VVA does in Moorhead and Fargo and providing community assistance for homeless Veterans. He retired from the Bronx police force and moved the Arizona. He told us that many Veterans including several retired military folks live in Green Valley and that the post has over 2300 members and is very active.

This morning at breakfast, I chatted with a local couple and learned that he was in the USAF from 1964 to 1968, the same years I was in the Air Force. He was a cargo loadmaster and spent one year Thailand and Vietnam.

Vacation is great, although we've not done any typical tourist stuff. The Titan Missile Museum is near here and I plan on going there tomorrow. Technology works well from here, wifi is free at the Legion. This morning, I even chaired the Housing and Rehabilitation Authority from here via Skype. Minnesota rules require that all members must be able to see and hear all other members in order to count members for quorum. We needed me in attendance, since we had a couple commission members missing. Technology is wonderful.