

## **Veterans of Foreign Wars District 10 Department of Arizona**



**For Immediate Release**

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### **Casa Grande resident, Hugues Byrne selected to be Cold War Grand Marshal for the Phoenix Veterans Day Parade!**

**Casa Grande, AZ—September 4<sup>th</sup>**, VFW District 10, Department of Arizona has a rich history in Pinal County, but over the last year their members have really made an impact, and this has been seen not just locally but they have even made an impact across the State.

Hugues Byrne has been a presence in the Arizona veteran community since his retirement from the Federal Civil Service and his distinguished Military Career (both USMC and AZANG).

He started with working with the VFW Post 1677 in 2019 and took a failing post (there were about three months from closing) and brought it back to life. VFW Post 1677 is now very involved in the Casa Grande Community and is a thriving VFW Post. Hugues was a VFW post All State Commander four times, with one of those times being the All-State Commander Captain (Top Post Commander in the State). He was also VFW Post Quartermaster All-State and All American responsible for all financial data membership enrollment, inventory of all equipment in post.

He was VFW Post 1677 Commander during COVID and initiated the Beat Covid program. Through this program he assisted his community by collecting over \$31,000 and delivering over 6,000 care packages to the members of the community that needed real help during this time. Through this program he volunteered over 600 hours and managed over 15 volunteers to ensure that his community received the help they desperately needed.

Hugues served as the VFW District 10 Commander (a district that had eight posts) from June 2021 to May 2022 and his job was to Mentor, assist, and solve issues with post commanders

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within his district. He was awarded the All-State and All-American Commander for his exemplary work as District Commander.

He currently serves as the Department of Arizona VFW Surgeon where he serves as chairman of the Health Committee and, with the assistance of such others as may be appointed by the Department Commander promotes and puts into effect health programs for the benefit of all the Posts in the State of Arizona and our communities. He also interfaces with veterans' administration, Department of Veteran's Service and other organizations to gather current health care information for all veterans. He also represents the Department of Arizona VFW at events and seminars.

Hugues is a Life member VFW Military Order of the Cootie organization and works to support our VA homes and hospitals and veterans that are hospitalized. He has served in a variety of billet in this organization over the years.

In addition to all his other awards he has earned in the VFW, in June 2023 he was awarded the Gil La Montoya award. This award is presented by Department of Arizona to only one comrade once a year and it can be only awarded once in lifetime for efforts that go above and beyond call of duty.

He is also the VFW National Convention Memorial Services Chairperson. This ceremony is held at the VFW National Convention and is a memorial service event honoring our deceased veterans their family members and honoring our gold star families.

Along with his service in the VFW he is also a Life member of American Legion Post 133 in Casa Grande and has been on the Casa Grande Veterans Day Parade committee from 2019-2022. The Veterans Day Parade Committee not only coordinates parade for veterans' day but also raises the funds to ensure that the City of Casa Grande Honors those that have served our Country.

Hugues is also Member of VFW Picacho Peak Riders. He has performed over 15 escort rides and fundraisers over the last two year which support the veterans in our community.

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Hugues is also Life member of Marine Corp League Detachment 901. He has served as Commandant, Sr vice Commandant, and is currently serving as Jr Vice Commandant. These are the officers of detachment responsible of the running of the organization.

He has also been selected to become a member of the Military Order of the Devil Dogs (MODD). This is the Fun and Order Society of the Marine Corps League that raises money to support our local Children's Hospitals and raises funds for special projects within the State.

Hugues was selected as the Marine Corps League 901 Detachments Marine of the Year for 2022 Selected by the detachment for above and beyond service.

He has also completed more than 20 Missing in American projects as an escort rider. This project ensures that our deceased veterans that have no family get a proper burial and honorable sendoff from this world.

Hugues has also volunteered over 350 hours for Toys for Tots program in Pinal County from 2019 to 2022 and delivered over 7,500 toys to local Families in Pinal County during this time and is scheduled to work the 2023 campaign again.

VFW District 10 Department of Arizona strives to do good things for deserving people - our veterans, their families, and our community. From local grassroots ideas to national influence, we work every day to make a difference. It's our strength as an organization. And, with each individual membership, we only grow stronger.

For more information, visit the official website at: : [\*\*www.vfwazdist10.org\*\*](http://www.vfwazdist10.org).

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