

# Fish Fry's steady popularity continues

## Peoria American Legion post draws from around West Valley

By Marge Christianson  
SPECIAL TO INDEPENDENT  
NEWSMEDIA

Caught somewhere between old fashioned and cleverly kitschy, the Friday Night Fish Fry at the American Legion Post in Peoria, 9847 W. Desert Cove Ave., is on the comeback.

Every Friday, from 4:30 to 7 p.m., the Thursday/Saturday Bingo Hall is no-so-cleverly turned into a dining hall where hundreds of local veterans, their families and the general public are invited to

### IF YOU GO

**What:** Friday Night Fish Fry  
**When:** 4:30-7 p.m., every Friday  
**Where:** American Legion Post, 9847 W. Desert Cove Ave., Peoria  
**More Info:** Visit [azpost62.com](http://azpost62.com) or email [alaunit62az@gmail.com](mailto:alaunit62az@gmail.com)

enjoy a meal together.

The long standing tradition is managed and served entirely by volunteers.

"Our dedicated group of volunteers makes this event successful week after week. We just added a third generation Auxiliary member to a family that together already has over 25 years of supporting the Post" said Peoria resident, vice commander and Marine Corps veteran John Murnan.

These regular events are part of what keep American



Three generations of one family enjoy the regular Friday Night Fish Fry at the American Legion Post in Peoria: Linda Cartwright, her daughter Cindy, son-in-law Pablo Martinez and newborn Ember from Glendale. [Submitted photo]

Legion Posts like the one in Peoria thriving.

"American Legion Posts are a vital part of caring for

veterans and their families — but they need community support to be successful," Sun City resident, Post

62 Commander and Navy Veteran Jim McCrady notes. "When neighbors share a

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meal here, they are helping us serve veterans in need."

Visitors, snowbirds and members walk in and place their individual orders with the cashier and proceed to find seating on their own. Among them are veterans as far back as WWII. Groups of a dozen or more arrive early to find their places at long banquet-style tables. Here they share a cocktail, a meal, their stories and friendship.

But hold on to the receipt you got when you arrived. When diners are ready to eat, they are encouraged to wave their receipt in the air so a volunteer can take

their order to the kitchen. Among the fish/seafood selections is baked or fried cod, fried shrimp or catfish. But for those who prefer something else, there are also chicken strips, flat iron, sirloin or ribeye steaks or a house special that varies each week. All the meals come with a choice of coleslaw or apple sauce and choice of baked potato or fries and except for steaks, are \$10 and under.

Guests with a sweet tooth will make sure to touch base with the Auxiliary "Pie Lady" as soon as they arrive.

A snowbird herself, she brings homegrown Minnesota rhubarb, raspberries, strawberries and homemade

apple pie filling with her to Arizona every fall. If you get there early, you might get one of her homemade desserts that often include pies like traditional apple (with or without homemade caramel), strawberry-rhubarb or lemon merengue. The modest one dollar price tag for each serving of dessert goes to the Auxiliary's charitable programs. When questioned why the desserts were sold for only \$1, the pie lady replied, "One gentleman told me that my apple pie reminded him of the pie his grandma made for him 80 years ago. At the American Legion, it's not always about the money."

The John J Morris Amer-

ican Legion Post is located a few blocks north of Peoria Avenue on 99th Avenue. In addition to the Friday Fish Fry, the public is invited to Bingo on Thursday and Saturdays.

For more information about the American Legion and its services, visit [azpost62.com](http://azpost62.com) or contact them at [alaunit62az@gmail.com](mailto:alaunit62az@gmail.com).

**Marge Christianson is the Public Relations Volunteer for American Legion Auxiliary John J Morris Unit 62.**



Sun City residents originally from Minnesota gather together at a recent Friday Night Fish Fry in Peoria. [Submitted photo]



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