



December 2022

Volume 2 Issue 5



Fellow Patriots,

Welcome to the Department of Arizona.

Thank you for your service to the Nation and to the MOPH. To be a successful organization we need to work as a team. In 2023 you do not have to do it alone.

Lean on other chapters for ideas and share best practices. Offer up your ideas and network with the other chapters.

Our number one priority as a department is to get our members involved. Once we get our members engaged new members will join, so let's give them reason to want to join our beloved order. Reach out to one other Patriot within our chapters and encourage them to attend a chapter meeting. Getting involved is how we sustain and grow our order and ensure it stands the test of time and that we can pass it along to the next generation of service-members. Let us make 2023 a year of growth by working together and reaching out to the community.

I won't ask you to do anything I'm not willing to do myself! I will do my best to be at as many events that I know about and fit my work schedule. Join me in showing why the MOPH is the premier veterans' organization in Arizona.

Yours in Patriotism,  
Keith Gray  
Commander

### Leupp Community is Purple Heart Community

Department of Arizona Commander Keith Gray  
officially designated Leupp, Arizona of the Navajo

### Department Officers

Cdr Keith Gray – [commandermophaz@gmail.com](mailto:commandermophaz@gmail.com)

Sr. Vice Cdr Chuck Byers – [seagb@cox.net](mailto:seagb@cox.net)

Jr. Vice Cdr John Moore –

[mophchapter442@comcast.net](mailto:mophchapter442@comcast.net)

Adjutant Larry Leighton – [adjutant.mophaz@gmail.com](mailto:adjutant.mophaz@gmail.com)

Finance Officer – Ron Capek – [ronlucap@gmail.com](mailto:ronlucap@gmail.com)

Sgt-at-Arms – Jimi Sallmen – [jimisallmen@gmail.com](mailto:jimisallmen@gmail.com)

Inspector – Sylvestre Primous – [slysax85@gmail.com](mailto:slysax85@gmail.com)

Legislative Liaison – Jim Muhr – [jrmuhr@yahoo.com](mailto:jrmuhr@yahoo.com)

### Donate to AZMOPH

**Donate Online:** [Donations Appreciated](#)

### Update Your Contact Information

Keep your snail mail address, phone & email address up to date. You can do this yourself at the MOPH National website at <https://national-moph.ucr.appspot.com/#>. You just need your membership number to log-in. You can also email us at [adjutant.mophaz@gmail.com](mailto:adjutant.mophaz@gmail.com) and we can update your snail mail, phone & email address for you.

### Find Us Online

**Website:** <http://mophaz.org/>

**Facebook:** [Department Facebook Page](#)

### Calendar

- **January 1** New Years' Day
- **January 16** MLK Day
- **February 3** Four Chaplains' Day
- **February 23** Iwo Jima Flag Raising
- **March 25** Welcome Home Veterans

### Monthly Commander's Call

Cdr's Call is every month on the Fourth Thursday. In the absence of the chapter commander someone from the chapter command group must attend. Open to all members. **Time: 06:30 PM Arizona Time.**

Jan 26, 2023 06:30 PM (Executive Committee)

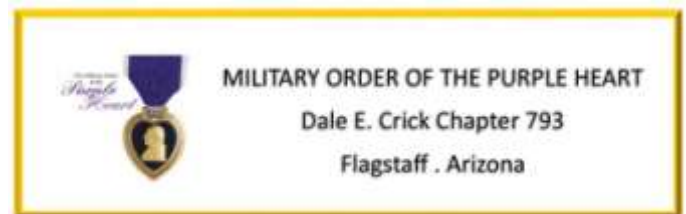
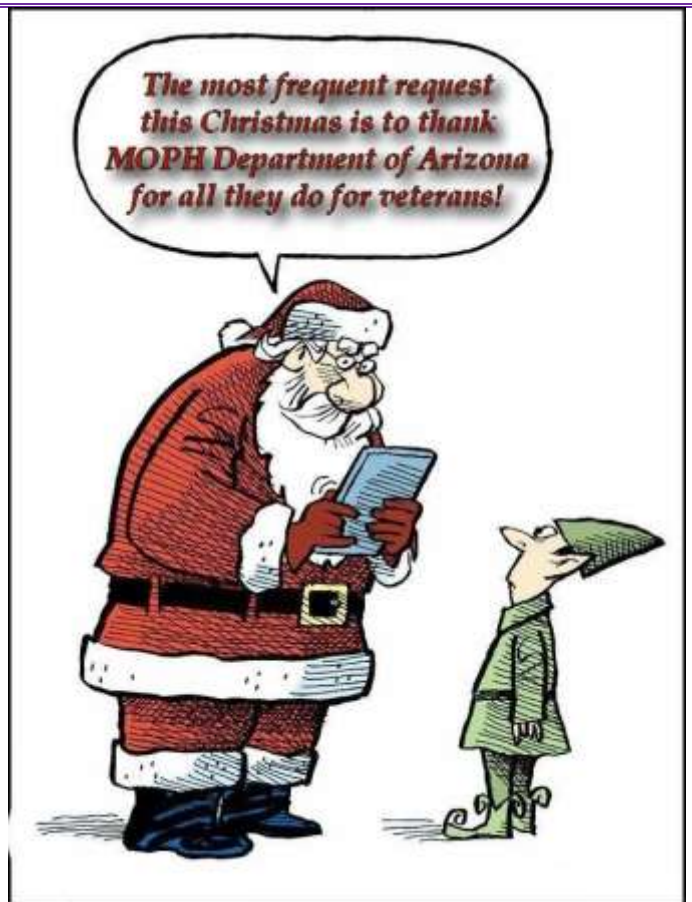
Feb 23, 2023 06:30 PM

Mar 23, 2023 06:30 PM

Zoom Meeting ID: 842 2842 9701; Passcode: 879117

Dial in: 669 900 6833

Nation as a Purple Heart Community during a ceremony held at Leupp Elementary School Dec. 15. Chapter 793 Cdr, Roger Ely, presented Leroy Cody, a member of the Navajo Nation the Purple Heart Medal for wounds received 56 years ago in the Vietnam War. Leupp is also home to three other Diné Purple Heart recipients, including Harry Kee Yazzie, Burt Barton, and Larry Ben. The Purple Heart Community designation shows that the Navajo Nation recognizes the contributions of veterans who gave their lives or were wounded in combat defending the country.



**Commander** Rodger Ely [juggy64@aol.com](mailto:juggy64@aol.com)

**Sr. Vice Cdr** Daniel Reich

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**Jr. Vice Cdr** Elmer Sangster

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**Adjutant** William Weldon

[baseballbillpaul@npgcable.com](mailto:baseballbillpaul@npgcable.com)

**Facebook:** [Chapter 793 Facebook](#)

**Next Meeting** – January 25<sup>th</sup>

**Meeting time:** 12:30PM

**Meeting location:** VFW Post 1709

409 W Santa Fe Ave, Flagstaff, AZ 86001

**Meeting date:** Bi-monthly on 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday.

Citizens Cemetery in Flagstaff participated in Wreaths Across America for the first time. 432 Wreaths were placed on veterans' graves on December 17<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to the Flagstaff Community.





Fellow Patriots:

Best wishes for the New year. During this past month Chapter 442 donated \$2,000 to assist veterans in need at Pima College. \$13,023.00 in proceeds from the Charlie Skuhr Memorial Golf Tournament was donated to the Hematology/Oncology program at the Tucson VA Hospital in a ceremony on December 16<sup>th</sup>. Chapter members placed wreaths at several cemeteries for Wreaths Across America on December 17<sup>th</sup>. Chapter members visited residents in the Arizona State Veterans' Home Tucson on Christmas Eve and provide each one with a Christmas Gift Bag.

Yours in Patriotism,  
Mike Dyer  
Commander

- **January 16** – Chapter Meeting

**Commander** Mike Dyer

- [mrdyer@comcast.net](mailto:mrdyer@comcast.net)

**Sr. Vice-Cdr** Richard Perkins

- [rperkins823@gmail.com](mailto:rperkins823@gmail.com)

**Jr. Vice-Cdr** John Grand

- [jgrand5@cox.net](mailto:jgrand5@cox.net)

**Adjutant** John Moore

- [mophchapter442@comcast.net](mailto:mophchapter442@comcast.net)

**Website:**

- <https://moph Tucson.webs.com/>

**Facebook:**

- [Chapter 442 Facebook](#)

**Donate online:**

- [Donations Appreciated](#)

**Meeting date:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday (no meetings June, July or August) at 5:00 PM

**Meeting location:** Bridge Church at 8150 N Sandy Desert Trail, Tucson, AZ 85741. This is just off of I10 & Cortaro Farms Rd. Go east on Cortaro Farms Rd to N. Sandy Desert Trail.

Chapter 793's leadership team worked with the Leupp Chapter, Western Navajo Agency, Navajo Nation to become the 3rd Native American Purple Heart Community in Arizona. Members of the Leupp Chapter served as Code Talkers during WWII. The ceremony was held at the Leupp Elementary School. Thank you to chapter 793 and to the Leupp Chapter, Navajo Nation.



Leroy Cody received his Purple Heart at the ceremony.



A Feed Our Heroes event will be held on December 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> at the American Legion Post 204. See below:

Patriot Bob Asbell & Patriot Danny Lemon were honored with a Quilt of Valor from the Northwest Tucson Quilts of Valor group. Nationwide the Quilts of Valor organization has presented over 300,000 quilts to veterans who have served in combat. All quilts are different but have a red, white, & blue theme. Congratulations!



Patriots from the chapter placed Wreaths on Veterans graves for Wreaths Across America on December 17<sup>th</sup>. Patriot Moore, Patriot Zimmerman & Commander Dyer were at Evergreen Cemetery. Patriot Grand was at South Lawn Cemetery and Patriot Gilbert was at Marana Veterans Memorial Cemetery. Commander Dyer gave the invocation at Evergreen.



**CHANGED BY NATURE OUTDOORS  
PRESENTS:  
FEED OUR  
HEROES  
★ ★ ★ APPRECIATION ★ ★ ★  
EVENT**

**AMERICAN LEGION 204 W BIRCH AVE  
FLAGSTAFF, AZ 86001**

**12/30 & 12/31**

All of us at Changed By Nature Outdoors would like to thank and honor our Heroes on these two days. Please join us any time between 11 and 5 both days for great company and fantastic food while supplies last. This is a free event showing our appreciation and honor for our Heroes. Please visit our Facebook page to sign-up or text Justin (928) 550-1111.

**WWW.CHANGEDBYNATUREOUTDOORS.**

**Michael E. Mahoney Chapter 691 – Surprise, AZ**



Chapter 691 Patriots,

It was great seeing you at the chapter's social night at Dylan's and our fundraiser will be at Sam's Club. It keeps me motivated to see the involvement from our brother patriots. With the holiday season upon us I encourage you to stay engaged as possible or at least check up on a couple patriots, we haven't heard from a while. Keep your spirits, high and only focus on what you can control don't stress about what you can't. Enjoy the evening get together with your close family and friends. We supported a lot of good organizations with our charitable donations so just be ready to hit the fundraising hard when we come back in the new year.

Yours in Patriotism,  
Keith Gray  
Commander

Cdr Keith Gray

- [commandermophaz@gmail.com](mailto:commandermophaz@gmail.com)

Sr. Vice Cdr James Starkman

- [karen4357@att.net](mailto:karen4357@att.net)

Jr. Vice Cdr Harold Thomas

- [haroldrobthomas18@gmail.com](mailto:haroldrobthomas18@gmail.com)

Adjutant Keith Gray

- [commandermophaz@gmail.com](mailto:commandermophaz@gmail.com)

**Meeting date:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday

**Meeting time:** 9:00 AM

**Meeting location:** Sands Chevrolet Surprise Conference Room (16991 W Waddell Rd, Surprise, AZ 85388) Enter





Ft Lowell Chapter 442 made our Christmas Eve visit to the AZ State Veterans' Home. Each of the 90 residents & 70 staff members were given a Christmas gift bag. Patriots Dave Bertagnoli, John Grand, John R. Moore, , Roger Gilbert, Jim Zimmerman & Joey Zimmerman visited with residents. Thank you to the ladies of the Bridge Church for providing the gift bags.



parking lot from N Cotton Lane.

Website: <http://691.mophaz.org/>

**Note:** Meetings will also be via video conference using Zoom. Enter the meeting ID (842 2842 9701) and the password (879117). To join by phone, call 719 359 4580 and enter the id and the password.

Commander Keith Gray participated in the Leupp Purple Heart Community Ceremony in Leupp, AZ on Dec 15<sup>th</sup>.



### John Suardini Chapter 790 – Scottsdale, AZ



**Commander** Ian Parkinson -

[790commander@gmail.com](mailto:790commander@gmail.com)

**Sr. Vice Cdr** Sylvestre Primous

- [slysax85@gmail.com](mailto:slysax85@gmail.com)

**Jr. Vice Cdr** Stephan Bobby

- [veteranairborne@yahoo.com](mailto:veteranairborne@yahoo.com)

**Adjutant** Woody Glaudel

- [woodyglaudel@cox.net](mailto:woodyglaudel@cox.net)

Upcoming Meetings:

- December - 5th, 2022
- January - No Meeting
- February 6th, 2023

Each meeting is on a Monday at 6:00 PM located at American Legion Post 44, 7145 E 2nd St, Scottsdale, AZ 85251. (Commander, Sr. Vice Commander, Jr. Vice Commander, or Adjutant) **are REQUIRED to attend.**

All members are invited to participate.

**Meeting time:** 6:00PM; Dinner: 6:00PM (optional)

**Meeting location:** American Legion Post 44

7145 E 2<sup>nd</sup> St, Scottsdale, AZ 8525

**Chapter Officers: If you cannot make it,, please**

**CALL the Commander ((210 663 6072) to let him know.** If you have topics for the agenda, please let the



commander know.

- Dec 5, 2022, 06:00 PM social meeting
- Feb 6, 2023, 06:00 PM regular meeting
- Mar 6, 2023, 06:00 PM social meeting
- Apr 3, 2023, 6:00 PM zoom meeting
- May 1, 2023, 6:00 PM regular meeting
- Jun 5, 2023, 6:00 PM social meeting
- Jul 3, 2023, 6:00 PM zoom meeting
- Aug 7, 2023, 6:00 PM regular meeting

No meetings in September.

#### **Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://zoom.us/j/6983434344?pwd=eXBJK2lqYlJOYWdJNm1UNHZ4YnVQdz09>

**Meeting ID:** 698 343 4344

**Passcode:** 738329

On December 15<sup>th</sup> chapter 790 held its annual steak fry at Elks Lodge for residents of the State Veterans' Home. Cdr Parkinson and chapter members served the meals to the residents in attendance.





## Chapter 2560 – Apache Junction, AZ



**Commander** Michael Overmeyer  
[moverme48@gmail.com](mailto:moverme48@gmail.com)  
**Sr. Vice Cdr** Phil Yin  
[philyin@msn.com](mailto:philyin@msn.com)  
**Jr. Vice Cdr** Chuck Byers  
[seagb@cox.net](mailto:seagb@cox.net)

**Adjutant** James King  
[kings6@live.com](mailto:kings6@live.com)

**Meeting date:** 2nd Saturday of the month

**Meeting time:** 10:00 AM

**Meeting location:** Mesa Beckhorn Elk Lodge #2656 at 6718 E Avalon St, Mesa, AZ 85205

## Chapter 472 – Mesa, AZ



**Cdr** James Pomush  
[landjpomush@gmail.com](mailto:landjpomush@gmail.com)  
**Jr. Vice Cdr** Ramiero Del Rio - (602) 818-0796  
**Adjutant** James Pomish  
[landjpomush@gmail.com](mailto:landjpomush@gmail.com)

**Meeting date:** Last Thursday of the month (No meetings: Jun Jul & Aug)

**Meeting time:** 10:00AM

**Meeting location:** American Legion Post 26 505 W 2nd Avenue, Mesa, AZ 85210-1202

## VA Camp Lejeune Information

VA has established a presumptive service connection for Veterans, Reservists, and National Guard members exposed to contaminants in the water supply at Camp Lejeune from August 1, 1953 through December 31, 1987 who later developed one of the following eight diseases:

Adult leukemia; Aplastic anemia and other myelodysplastic syndromes; Bladder cancer; Kidney cancer; Liver cancer; Multiple myeloma; Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma; & Parkinson's disease. Go to the [VA Website](#) for more information.

## AVHOFS Scholarships

AVHOFS scholarships available. Applicants must be

## Some Gave All – All Gave Some!

Order a 4" x 8" Purple Heart Brick to be placed at Wesley Bolin Plaza at the State Capitol to commemorate being a Purple Heart recipient or order one to commemorate a family member or friend who received the Award. The cost of the brick, engraving, and placement costs are: \$35 Purple Heart recipients and \$40 for other veterans. Checks, along with a copy of your order form, should be made out to MOPH AZ & sent to:

Patriot Stephan Bobby

MOPH AZ PH Brick Coordinator

4543 E. County Down Dr.

Chandler, AZ 85249-7339

or

Download the Order Form:

[PH COMMEMORATIVE BRICK ORDER FORM](#)



## Chapter 1598 – Sun Lakes, AZ



**Commander** Dominic Digiovanni

[kmj1958@gmail.com](mailto:kmj1958@gmail.com)

**Sr. Vice Cdr** Joseph Delligatti

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**Adjutant** Joseph Delligatti

[kmj1958@gmail.com](mailto:kmj1958@gmail.com)

**Meeting date:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of each month (No meetings: Jun Jul Aug & Sep)

**Meeting time:** 9:30AM

**Meeting location:** Sun Lakes Country Club 25601 South Sun Lakes Blvd, Chandler AZ 85248

an honorably discharged Veteran, active duty, Reserve or National Guard who is attending an institution of high learning within the State of Arizona. The scholarships are available for programs leading to a Baccalaureate or Post-Graduate degrees. Deadline is Feb 28th. For more information go to url:

<https://avhof.org/the-arizona-veterans-hall-of-fame-society-scholarship/>

or see flyer below.



## Veterans!

### Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame Society (AVHOFs) Scholarship Program

The AVHOFs Scholarship program recognizes Arizona veterans who are permanent residents attending institutions of higher learning in the State of Arizona. We acknowledge Patriotism, Youth and Education while serving Arizona veterans.\*

**Scholarships offered range from \$2000 to \$5000**

Applicants must:

1. Be honorably discharged veterans, active duty, or service members in good standing with a Reserve or National Guard component.
2. Be attending an institution of higher learning within the State of Arizona that is eligible to receive GI Bill funds through the Department of Veterans Affairs.
3. Submit a completed application via email or mail per the Application Guidelines on the [The Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame Scholarship website](https://avhof.org/the-arizona-veterans-hall-of-fame-society-scholarship/).

### The PACT ACT

VA information on the newly passed PACT Act can be found on the VA website link below:

<https://www.va.gov/resources/the-pact-act-and-your-va-benefits/>

### Department Fundraising

**Support The Purple Heart Combat Wounded Veterans of Arizona by shopping at SMILE.AMAZON.**  
(<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/82-1286505>).

### The Purple Heart Magazine

The **November/December issue of the Purple Heart Magazine** is available online at url:

<https://mydigitalpublication.com/publication/?i=768964>

### Signed by the Governor

#### **HB 2062 Vehicle license tax exemption for PH veterans:**



A. Notwithstanding section sections 28-2003 and 28-5801, the registering officer shall not collect a vehicle license tax or registration fee from a veteran for a personally owned vehicle or a veteran and another party owning a vehicle. The **exemption allowed by this subsection applies only to one vehicle** and only if all of the following apply:

1. the veteran is a bona fide **PURPLE heart medal recipient**.
2. The **veteran was honorably discharged** from the United States military.
3. On initial registration of the vehicle, the veteran submits satisfactory proof to the department that the person is a veteran and a bona fide purple heart medal recipient and was honorably discharged as required by paragraph 2 of this subsection.

\$25 initial application fee/ \$5 annual renewal. Applicant must be a veteran and a Purple Heart recipient and provide a copy of a DD214 or 215, WDAGO forms 53-55 or 53-98, NAVPERS 553 or NAVMC 78, or provide an original letter from the Arizona Department of Veterans' Services (ADVS) verifying eligibility. The initial application fee goes to the Department of Veterans' Services.. May be personalized for an additional \$25 initial application fee/ \$25 annual renewal fee.

### American Dream Ambassador Program

**American Dream Ambassador Program** gives registered homeowners access to deep discounts to products and services needed to renovate or remodel their home, they can even help renovate or purchase a home. Become an American Dream Ambassador TODAY !

Registration is a one-time fee of \$50! After payment a \$25 tax-deductable donation will be made to the Department of Arizona, MOPH of the USA, Inc in your name. Get all the details and buy your subscription on our website at [American Dream Program](https://www.american-dream-program.com).



## Newsletter

Please send information and photos that you would like included in the newsletter to [mophchapter442@comcast.net](mailto:mophchapter442@comcast.net). We would like to get the newsletter out the last day of the month. Get me news information & photos by the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month.

Respectfully,  
John R. Moore,  
Jr. Vice-Commander

## From the Archives

Arizona Republic  
23 Nov 1958, Sun - Page 182



## Great New Partnership for the MOPH

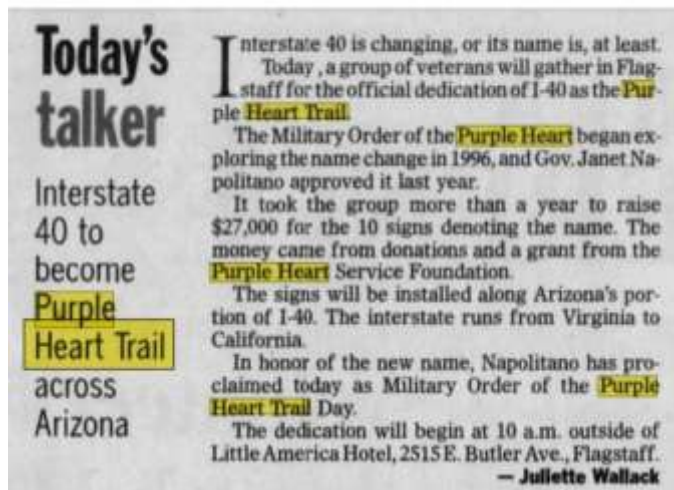


National has announced a partnership between Vapor Elemental Wear, The MOPH Fund, and the Military Order of the Purple Heart! 30% of sales of the MOPH Fund branded items go directly to the MOPH Fund, which is used to directly fund programs in the Military Order of the Purple Heart, such as suicide awareness, homeless veterans assistance, job training, and scholarships. You can help improve the lives of combat-wounded veterans and their families by purchasing your gear today! Purple Heart recipients can use the code VETS10% to receive a discount of 10% sitewide! Go to url:

<https://vaporapparel.com/collections/purple-heart-partnership>

## From the Archives

Arizona Republic  
07 Aug 2004, Sat - Page 4



\*\*\*Save The Date\*\*\*



# 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Welcome Home! Vietnam Veterans Day

Everyone  
is Welcome  
to Attend !!

Saturday, March 25, 2023

10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Mountain View Cemetery and Funeral Home

7900 E. Main Street

Mesa, AZ 85207



## What is Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day?

More than 8 million U.S. Troops served in Vietnam. The last combat troops were withdrawn from Vietnam and the end of March 1973. These veterans came home to a country divided on their feelings about the war. Many who returned did not receive recognition for their service.

## Schedule of Events:

**10:00 am - 11:30 am** - We are honored to have Major General Peter Alyward and his staff from Washington, DC, several guest speakers, Veterans Heritage Project Students, Presentation of Colors by the Navy JROTC Color Guard, 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Students from Patterson Elementary School, Native American Blessing, Veterans Pinning Ceremony performed by the Dept. of Defense USA Vietnam War Commemoration, Bagpipes, USA Army Field Band (Six-String Soldiers), and White Dove Release.

**12:00 pm - 4:00 pm** - Enjoy fun and entertainment for the whole family:

Informational booths for Veterans - Free haircuts for Veterans - Military Equipment  
Wreaths Across America Educational Trailer - Bands - Food Trucks  
and much, much more!

A Very Special "Thank You" goes out to the following sponsors:



VFW Post 7968 and Auxiliary  
VFW Post 9599 and Auxiliary



Questions? Please contact Nancy Fassbender at (520) 280-4715