



March 2023

Volume 3 Issue 3



Fellow Patriots,

Welcome to the Department of Arizona.

We are wrapping up another year with your current leadership team; please remember to thank your current leadership team. Without the

commitment from this team we would not be able to function as an order. I would like to thank all Department officers; elected and appointed without all you do, I would be lost and not have a clue to what I was doing. I would request each of you to thank your significant other and family as they support all of us in this journey. I would especially like to thank Patriot Leighton as the Department Adjutant for keeping me in line, this has been a huge learning curve for me and without your guidance nothing would have been accomplished. Lastly, I would like to thank Patriot Moore our editor of the newsletter, you took a vision that I had and turned it into a work of art. Thank you!

I would implore anyone who has not held an elected position, chapter or department to do so; it is a humbling experience in my opinion. I have learned a lot about the order and strengthened relationships with fellow Patriots. I look forward to seeing you at the Department Convention on April 15, 2023. If you have not attended one, and have the ability to, I encourage you to attend and let your opinions be known. You have already done the hard part by being awarded the meritorious Purple Heart, and then joined our beloved order, please reengage with your chapter and the department and help us move forward and set the standard, here in Arizona, for what a department can and should be within the Military Order of the Purple Heart.

It has been a honor serving as the Department Commander this past year. We shall see if the cards hold a 2nd year. See you at the convention!

Yours in Patriotism,
Keith Gray
Commander

Department Officers

Cdr Keith Gray commandermophaz@gmail.com
Sr. Vice Cdr Chuck Byers seagb@cox.net
Jr. Vice Cdr John Moore mophchapter442@comcast.net
Adjutant Larry Leighton adjutant.mophaz@gmail.com
Finance Officer – Ron Capek ronlucap@gmail.com
Sgt-at-Arms – Jimi Sallmen jimisallmen@gmail.com
Inspector – Vacant
Legislative Liaison – Jim Muhr jrmuhr@yahoo.com

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.uc.r.appspot.com/#>. You just need your membership number to log-in. You can also email us at 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

- **March 29/Apr 2** - Traveling Wall Camp Verde
- **April 15** - Department Convention
- **April 15** – Chapter Americanism Reports due
- **April 15** – Chapter Welfare Reports due
- **April 28** – Maricopa Stand-Down
- **April 30** – Chapter Election Reports due
- **May 20** – Armed Forces Day
- **May 29** – Memorial Day
- **May 31** – Chapter Finance Reports due

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.**

May 25, 2023 06:30 PM

Zoom Meeting ID: 842 2842 9701; Passcode: 879117
Dial in: 669 900 6833

The Purple Heart Magazine

The **March/April** issue of the National MOPH's **Purple Heart Magazine** is available online at this [link](#).

Department Convention & Elections

The Department Convention and Department elections will be held on **April 15th** at the Elks Mesa Buckhorn Lodge. Hours are 9:00am to 4:00pm. A light breakfast and lunch are available. Elks Mesa Buckhorn Lodge, 6718 E. Avalon St., Mesa, AZ 85205 Zoom will also be available. If you would like to serve as an officer let us know. If you would like to nominate someone for officer positions also let us know.
adjutant.mophaz@gmail.com

National Convention



This will be the 90th Annual Military Order of the Purple Heart National Convention that will be held in Baton Rouge, LA! This year's theme is **Healing the Heart**. The National Convention will be held from August 14 to August 18 2023 at the Crowne Plaza located at 4728 Constitution Ave, Baton Rouge, LA. To get the group rate for the hotel, please go to www.crownebaton.com. Convention tickets can be purchased for \$160 by logging into your MOPH account and then selecting the [National Convention Registration](#) page. Last day for group rate is July 16.

Thank you to our Vietnam Veterans for your service and sacrifice for our Nation.



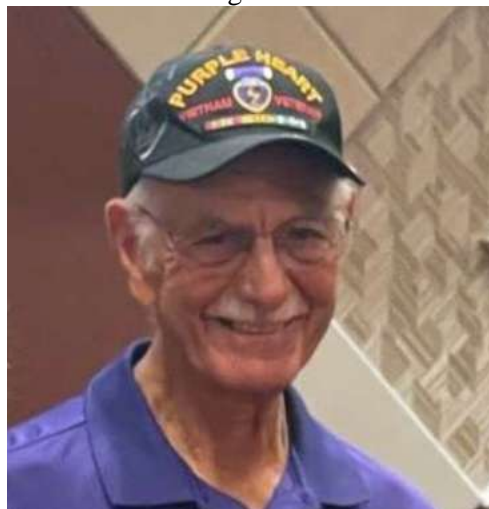
National Purple Heart Hall of Honor

Add your story to the National Purple Heart Hall of Honor. Enroll at url:

<https://www.thepurpleheart.com/enrollment/>

Department Patriot of the Year

Congratulations to Patriot John Grand of Fort Lowell Chapter 442 the Department of Arizona Patriot of the Year. His award will be presented at the Department Convention on April 15th. Also he has been nominated as our candidate for the Region VI Patriot of the Year.



Purple Heart License Plates

HB 2062 Vehicle license tax exemption for PH veterans:

On registration of a vehicle, if the veteran submits satisfactory proof to ADOT that the person is a veteran and a bona fide purple heart medal recipient and was honorably discharged vehicle registration tax fee is waived. Can only be used on one vehicle. Specialty plate and personalization fees still apply.



Thoughts & Prayers

Sr. Vice-Cdr Chuck Byers was home from the hospital recovering from his heart ablation surgery. Unfortunately, he is back in the hospital again, this time with a bowel blockage. We do not have any more details at this time. We wanted to let you know and ask that you keep Chuck and his family in your thoughts and prayers.

Chapter 2560 – Apache Junction, AZ



Cdr Michael Overmeyer

moverme48@gmail.com

Sr. Vice Cdr - vacant

Jr. Vice Cdr Chuck Byers

seagb@cox.net

Adjutant James King

kingjs6@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

It is with great sadness we report the passing of Patriot Phil Yin who will be missed by many Arizona Veterans. Below is a note from his wife, Debbie. Please keep Debbie in your thoughts and prayers.

"You and your organizations have been so important to us and we have been so grateful for your work & support to us and to the veteran community. Phil passed away in his sleep on March 25th at the age of 82, in our home, with me by his side. He was under Hospice of the Valley care so it was peaceful from beginning to end and he "did it his way". Please feel free to share with anyone that you feel would like to know this. Phil already discussed with me that he would like a Celebration of Life, so I will be working on this in the coming weeks."

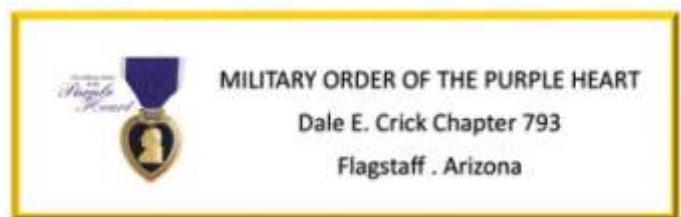
Cards may be sent to 14219 N Desert Flower Dr, Fountain Hills, AZ 85268.

Thank you Phil for your service to our Nation, to our veterans and to the Order.



Department Presents PH Medal

On March 18th at American Legion Post 41 in Phoenix along with the Ira Hayes Marine Corps League we presented the Purple Heart Medal to Joseph Robert Garcia who was wounded in RVN April 1969, he received his Purple Heart in the mail and never had a formal Ceremony. Attending were AZ Dept Commander Keith Gray, Past Department Commander Billy Weldon and AZ Senior Vice-Commander Chuck Byers along with Active Duty Gunny Alfredo Estrella who presented the Medal after 54 years.



Commander Rodger Ely - juggy64@aol.com

Sr. Vice Cdr Daniel Reich - daniel_r_reich@msn.com

Jr. Vice Cdr Elmer Sangster -

sangster333@hotmail.com

Adjutant William Weldon -

baseballbillpaul@npgcable.com

Facebook: [Chapter 793 Facebook](#)

Next Meeting – March 22

Meeting time: 12:30PM

Meeting location: VFW Post 1709

409 W Santa Fe Ave, Flagstaff, AZ 86001

Meeting date: Bi-monthly on 4th Wednesday.

Members of Chapter 793 staffed a booth at Camp Verde on March 29th. The wall will be on display at the community center in downtown Camp Verde through April 1st. For more information go to url:

<https://azstateparks.com/fort-verde/events/welcome-home-vietnam-veterans>

Chapter 2560 along with Chapter 472 hosted a MOPH booth at the 50th Anniversary Vietnam Veterans Welcome Home celebration in Mesa, AZ on March 25th.



Fellow Patriots:

This month Patriots John Grand, Jim Zimmerman, and Danny Lemon participated in the Tucson Stand-Down. We have scheduled JROTC/ROTC Award presentations with the 13 JROTC/ROTC programs we support in southern Arizona. In addition to the MOPH Leadership Medal & Certificate the chapter provides the cadet with a \$200.00 Leadership stipend.

We held chapter elections in March. The current slate of officers was elected for another one year term.

Yours in Patriotism,
Mike Dyer
Commander

Commander Mike Dyer - mrdyer@comcast.net
Sr. Vice-Cdr Richard Perkins rperkins823@gmail.com
Jr. Vice-Cdr John Grand - jgrand5@cox.net
Adjutant John Moore - mophchapter442@comcast.net
Website: <https://mophchapter442.com>
Facebook: [Chapter 442 Facebook](#)
Donate online: [Donations Appreciated](#)
Meeting date: 3rd Monday (no meetings June, July or August)
Time: 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.

Cdr Dyer presented Patriot John Grand a Patriot of the Year plaque as the Chapter 442 Patriot of the Year at the March meeting.

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March 29th - April 2nd

Wednesday, March 29

- ★ 8:00 am - Posting of Colors
- ★ 1:00 pm - Pinning Ceremony

Friday, March 31

- ★ 10:00: Native American Veterans Recognition Day

Saturday, April 1

- ★ 1:00 - Welcome Home Ceremony

Patriot George Shoemaker passed away on 22 Dec, 2022. His memorial service was on Mar 17th at the National Memorial Cemetery Phoenix. Thank you George for your service to our Nation, to our veterans and to the Order. See [Obituary](#).





Patriot Mike Riley & Mike Proctor, guest, were honored with a Quilt of Valor from the Northwest Tucson Quilts of Valor group at our chapter meeting. 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!



Patriot John Grand & Patriot Dave Bertagnoli presented Cadet Caleb Stoker the Military Order of the Purple Heart Leadership Award and Medal at Sahuarita High School's Awards Ceremony. Congratulations Cadet Stoker.



John Suardini Chapter 790 – Scottsdale, AZ



Commander Ian Parkinson - 790commander@gmail.com
Sr. Vice Cdr Sylvestre Primous - slysax85@gmail.com
Jr. Vice Cdr Stephan Bobby - veteranairborne@yahoo.com
Adjutant Woody Glaudel - woodyglaudel@cox.net

Our Chapter, like many others, has been facing the challenge of member participation. Unfortunately, to the degree in which monthly meetings are regularly unable to reach a quorum we have taken the first steps towards closing our beloved Chapter. At this time, our Adjutant, Woody Glaudel (former Chapter 790 and AZ Department Commander) has sent out letters to our members with a questionnaire in order to determine if it shall close or remain in operation. Until we receive the necessary feedback, we do not know the Chapter's future.

Ian Parkinson, Commander

Upcoming Meetings:

- 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.

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 2nd 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.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/6983434344?pwd=eXBJK2lqYlJOYWdJbM1UNHZ4YnVQdz09>

Meeting ID: 698 343 4344

Passcode: 738329

Facebook: [Chapter 790 Facebook](#)

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

The Arizona Veterans' Memorial Cemetery Foundation, Inc is holding a charity golf tournament benefiting the State Veterans' Memorial Cemetery in Marana. Help raise funds to support our local veterans' cemetery. See flyer at the bottom of the page.



Michael E. Mahoney Chapter 691 – Surprise, AZ



Chapter 691 Patriots,

We are wrapping up another year with your current leadership team; please remember to thank your leadership team. Without the commitment from this team we would not be able to function as an

order. I want to thank all of the Chapter officers, Sr. Vice, Jr. Vice, Finance officer, Sgt-at-Arms, Chaplain, adjutant and trustees. Without your commitment to the chapter this would just be a coffee club.

Patriot Larry Leighton is the incoming commander for chapter 691 he will be using the chapter cdr's email address at commander691moph@gmail.com.

Yours in Patriotism,
Keith Gray
Commander

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 Order Form: [PH BRICK ORDER FORM](#)



Chapter 472 –Mesa, AZ



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

Chapter 472 along with Chapter 2560 hosted a MOPH booth at the 50th Anniversary Vietnam Veterans Welcome Home celebration in Mesa, AZ on March 25th.

Cdr Jim Pomush at the MOPH Booth at Mt. View Cemetery and Funeral home.

photo next page

Cdr Keith Gray - commandermophaz@gmail.com
Sr. Vice Cdr James Starkman - karen4357@att.net
Jr. Vice Cdr Harold Thomas
- haroldrobthomas18@gmail.com
Adjutant Keith Gray - commandermophaz@gmail.com

Meeting date: 2nd Saturday

Meeting time: 9:00 AM

Meeting location: Sands Chevrolet Surprise
Conference Room (16991 W Waddell Rd, Surprise, AZ
85388) Enter parking lot from N Cotton Lane.

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

Facebook: [Chapter 691 Facebook](#)

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.

Chapter 691 held a fundraising event at the Sun City West Arts and Crafts Festival on March 10th. Patriots Ron Capek, Jim Starkman, and Larry Leighton raised \$1,680 selling 50/50 raffle tickets (\$840 to the winner). \$144 was received in donations from folks who wanted to give without buying tickets and we sold 13 Purple Heart Supporter Challenge Coins for \$130. Two Purple Heart Recipients signed up to join the Chapter. Lots of great stories were heard and told. Great results for six hours!



The local Estrella Chapter of the Daughters of American Revolution hosted this group of Vietnam Veterans at their monthly meeting to recognize National Vietnam War Veterans Day. Some had previously been pinned, but all were recognized with a pin and certificate. Patriots Ron Capek, Eldon Meade, Jim Starkman, and Larry Leighton were present from Chapter 691.

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MOPH Chapter 472 members: Jason Duren Lorenzo Longoriam Jim Pomish and Matthews Beatty staffed the booth.



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. Purple Heart recipients can use the code VETS10% to receive a discount of 10%! Go to url: <https://vaporapparel.com/collections/purple-heart-partnership>

Free National Park Passes

More information is available at the National Parks Service [website](#).



Windows 11 Pro for \$16

Windows 11 Pro for \$16 through a special offer to PH members. Contact Adjutant Larry Leighton at adjutant.mophaz@gmail.com

Hotel Benefits for PH Members

PH members can receive wholesale hotel rates through the National MOPH website. Go to the [Benefits Page](#) for more information.

WHOLESALE HOTEL RATES
Private Hotel Booking Rates Never Offered to the Public:
600,000 Hotels Worldwide
Every Brand and Independent Hotel
No Blackout Dates Ever
Up to 50% Lower Price Over Expedia, Priceline, Hotels.com
Forget TV Advertising Retail Sites, This is Wholesale!!!
\$5 Rated Booking Software
Multi Language and Currency Options
Internet and Mobile Booking
95% of Searches Cheaper than Expedia, Priceline, Hotels.com
Always Check Wholesale Hotel Rates Before You Book Anywhere
Go to: <https://purpleheart.wholesalehotelrates.com/PvR/register>
It Takes 3 Minute to Register for a Lifetime of Hotel Savings

Your Membership
Courtesy of
Purple Heart

Support US House Bill HR333

Permits retired members of the military who have a service-connected disability rated less than 50 percent to receive concurrent payment of both retired pay and veterans' disability compensation, to extend eligibility for concurrent receipt to chapter 61 disability retirees with less than 20 years of service, & for other purposes. Bill modifies provisions related to military retired pay. Authorizes veterans with a service-connected disability of less than 50% to concurrently receive both retired pay and disability compensation. The bill also makes



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

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. Registration is a one-time fee of \$50! After payment a \$25 tax-deductible 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](#).

State Wide StandDown Schedule

Maricopa County StandDown

Arizona State Fairgrounds

Phoenix, AZ

Friday, April 28, 2023, 7am - 4pm

Provider Sign Up [Form](#) - All service providers must sign up in advance!

Kingman StandDown

Mohave County Fairgrounds

2600 Fairgrounds Blvd

Kingman, AZ 86401

Friday, May 5, 2023 10am - 2pm



qualified disability retirees with less than 20 years of retirement-creditable service eligible for concurrent receipt, subject to specified reductions in retired pay.

AZ Veterans Hall of Fame Luncheon

The Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame Society will hold their 16th Annual Patriotic Awards Luncheon on Friday, April 18th from 11am to 2 pm at the DoubleTree Resort by Hilton Hotel Paradise Valley - Scottsdale 5401 N. Scottsdale Rd., Scottsdale, Arizona Scottsdale, AZ. The first annual Robert J Puskar Veteran Scholarship, which is funded by the Department of Arizona, will be presented during the luncheon.

If you are or would like to attend and be seated at the Department's table, please contact Patriot Ron Capek (602-387-0356) as soon as possible.

AZ Coalition for Military Families

The AZ Coalition for Military Families will hold its 13th annual symposium on April 19 & 20.

**Desert Willow Conference Center
4340 E. Cotton Center Boulevard
Phoenix, Arizona 85040**

Go to <https://arizonacoalition.org/symposium/>



Arizona Department of Veterans' Services



Dana Allmond, LTC Army Ret, is the new Director of the Arizona Department Veterans' Services. Dana earned a bachelor's degree from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point in 1994, a graduate degree from the Long Island

University Charles William Post Campus in 2002, and a graduate degree from W. P. Carey School of Business, Arizona State University in 2019. You can view her welcome message [here](#).



2023

MARICOPA COUNTY STANDDOWN

FRIDAY, APRIL 28, 2023
7:00 AM - 4:00 PM

ARIZONA STATE FAIR GROUNDS
1826 W. McDowell Road
Phoenix, AZ 85007

ARIZONASTANDDOWN.ORG



Private School Tax Credit

Patriot Joe Kobes' (Chapter 790) son Hudson was just recently accepted to Brophy College Preparatory High School in Phoenix. If you are so inclined to support this program and could use another tax break on your AZ taxes, you can contribute on Hudson's website for the tax donations: <https://action.ibescholarships.org/SIXD8Q>.

If you know of any other student with a relationship to the Arizona Military Order of the Purple Heart, We will gladly distribute the same information for them. For any private school Arizonans can allocate a tax credit to a student at a private school, and it will cost them nothing. It's a terrific program in Arizona. This is the IRS tax code covering it. <https://azdor.gov/tax-credits/credits-contributions-certified-school-tuition-organizations>.

Purple Heart Combat Wounded Veterans of AZ

The Purple Heart Combat Wounded Veterans of Arizona is our Department 501c3 entity. If for tax purposes you or a donor is required to donate to a 501c3 use our online portal to make your donation. Funds designated for a chapter will go in their entirety to the chapter. Use the

"Add/Write NOTE" field to specify the purpose of your donation. Thank-you in advance for supporting Veterans!



Donate Online: [Donations Appreciated](#)

From the Archives

Arizona Daily Star
03 Mar 1932, Thu - Page 2

OLD DECORATION TO BE REVIVED

Washington's Memory Is Honored By Award of **Purple Heart**

Echoes of the nation's historic past are marked by a revival of the **"Purple Heart,"** a military service honor award sponsored originally by Gen. George Washington. Following is a record of the event, released Wednesday by Capt. James Wheelin, unit instructor, 409th infantry:

"The war department on Feb. 22, 1932, in General Orders No. 3, publishes the following: **Purple Heart**—By order of the President of the United States, the **Purple Heart**, established by Gen. George Washington at Newburgh, August 7, 1782, during the war of the revolution, is hereby revived out of the respect to his memory and military achievements.

Newsletter Information

Please send information & photos that you would like included in the newsletter to mophchapter442@comcast.net. We would like to get the newsletter out the last day of the month. Get me news information & photos by the 15th of each month.

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

Pearl Harbor Survivor Dies

Jack Holder, a Pearl Harbor survivor who went on to become a decorated World War II flyer who flew over 100 missions in the Pacific and European theaters, has died in Chandler, Arizona. He was 101.

