



June 2023

Volume 3 Issue 6

Commander's Corner



Fellow Patriots,
Most of our chapters go dark for July, & August. We will still hold our monthly Department Commanders Call. The department and chapters will continue to assist Patriots & veterans in

need as usual. If you need anything reach out to one of our department or chapter officers by email or phone.

During the summer think about what we can do to improve the Order. All suggestions, remarks, comments & concerns can be sent to Chapter or Department leadership and will be evaluated at the monthly Commander's calls. Help us to improve the service provided by our Department and Chapters.

The Cdr's Call is every month on the Fourth Thursday. A member of the chapter command group must attend. Open to all members. **Time: 06:30 PM Arizona Time.**

July 27, 2023, 06:30 PM
Zoom Meeting ID: 842 2842 9701; Passcode: 879117 Dial in: 669 900 6833.

Yours in Patriotism,
Keith Gray
Commander

Junior Vice-Commander



June 14th was Flag Day. Thank you to our members who displayed the National Flag on Flag Day. And a special thank you to our many members who display the National Flag 24/7. Your

patriotism is appreciated.

June 14th was also the Army's 248th Birthday. I would like to thank each of our 597

Department Officers 2023/2024

Cdr: Keith Gray commandermophaz@gmail.com
Sr. Vice Cdr: Rodger Ely juggy64@aol.com
Jr. Vice Cdr: John Moore
mophchapter442@comcast.net
Adjutant: Larry Leighton
adjutant.mophaz@gmail.com
Finance Officer: Ron Capek ronluccap@gmail.com
Sgt-at-Arms: Jimi Sallmen jimisallmen@gmail.com
Inspector: **vacant position**
Judge Advocate: **vacant position**
Americanism Officer: **vacant position**
Chaplain: John L. Bhelm jblehmsr@gmail.com
Legislative Liaison: Jim Muhr jrmuhr@yahoo.com

Find Us Online

Website: <http://mophaz.org/>
Facebook: [Department Facebook Page](#)
National MOPH Website: <https://national-moph.uc.r.appspot.com/#>

Calendar

- **July 4** – Independence Day.
- **July 27** – Korean War Armistice Day
- **August 4** – Coast Guard Birthday
- **August 7** – Purple Heart Day.

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.

Patriots that served in the United States Army.
Thank you!

July 4th is Independence Day. Happy 4th of July everyone! Let us celebrate this great country, the blessing of freedom, and the privileges that come with it. On this symbolic day, we celebrate our freedom, and salute each of you who has made our Freedom possible and has helped to keep our Nation safe. Happy 4th of July to all our members.

July 27th is Korea War Armistice Day. A special thanks goes out to our 55 members that served in the “Forgotten War”. Thank you, Korean War Veterans!

John R. Moore
Jr. Vice-Commander

National Convention



As you all know the National Convention is fast approaching, please provide anything you would like brought up with either to National Leadership, or the Supreme Body to your Chapter leadership or at a Commander’s call, the focus of the July’s Commanders Call will be on ensuring Arizona’s representatives at the convention are provided the information from the members to take with them. The August Commander’s call will focus on what was learned at the 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 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

Memorial Day

Former Region VI & Dept of AZ Cdr **Ed McGlynn**, AZ Governor **Katie Hobbs**, & Region VI Commander **Charles Anderson** attended the Memorial Day Ceremony at the National Memorial Cemetery of Arizona.



Department Adjutant



Beat the USPS Price Increase (coming July)

Get your stamps at up to 55% off here: <https://huitengkejis.com/>. Quick turnaround; lots of different stamp patterns but no Purple Heart stamps.

Help Wanted!

Looking for an additional outlet for your creative spirit? Want to try something new? Already an experienced grant writer? The Department needs Members, Associate Members, and/or Supporters to help raise funds for our many programs by researching and writing grants. Tools are available to help find potential granters and to write good proposals. If you might be interested, please contact Department Adjutant Larry Leighton at adjutant.mophaz@gmail.com or 602-759-0878.

Department Americanism Officer Needed

The purpose of the Americanism Program is to work with schools and other organizations to help promote U.S. history and the quest for freedom. It is administered by the National Americanism Officer. Patriot Bob Metzger, Chapter 691, resigned as our Department Americanism Officer this week after establishing and running our department program for

logging into your MOPH account and then selecting the [National Convention Registration](#) page. Last day for group rate is July 16.

Department Purple Heart Brick Program



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

Fort Lowell Chapter 442 – Tucson, AZ



Fellow Patriots:

The chapter will be dark for July & August. The board of officers will be available by email and will act on requests that come up. Last month we participated in Memorial Day activities at South Lawn Cemetery and the Arizona State Veterans' Memorial Cemetery Marana. With the Federal COVID mandate expired the chapter is again hosting bingo for the patients at the Tucson VA Hospital. Bingo was held for the first time on

several years. Bob made our program one of the best in the entire Order. We need someone to step up and take Bob's place in this Appointed Department Officer position. To find out more about what the position entails and what Bob has been doing, you can also contact Bob at bobmet@cox.net or 602-228-6520. If interested in filling this important and fulfilling position, please contact Department Commander Keith Gray at commandermophaz@gmail.com or 623-285-5141.

Life Member Verification

Every year, using the national roster as of June 30th, the Department and Chapter Commanders, helped by their adjutants and membership are responsible for **verifying the accuracy** of each individual person's membership profile. We need to make sure critical data, such as indicated below are correct and complete. You can help the Adjutants. **First making sure your personal profile is up to date** (phone number, mailing address, email address) and correct (birth date, gender, type of membership) and second, contact your adjutant and volunteer to help call those members with no email address or mailing addresses that we know are incorrect. Life Member Verification is important for several reasons.

The most common and widely known reason is it forms the basis for the Membership Rebate paid to the chapters and department. It is based on the number of members certified by the Adjutants.

When hard copies of the Purple Heart Magazine can be again produced and mailed, we don't want to waste money having to pay for undeliverable mail.

Getting digital news from all levels, National, Department, and Chapter relies on accurate email addresses.

The delegate count at Department and National conventions is based on the verified membership count.

Larry Leighton
Department Adjutant

[The Purple Heart Magazine](#)

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

June 24th. During the month we provide \$250 food assistance for homeless veterans housed at the Esperanza En Escalante project. We provided \$400 for diapers for the Air Force Sergeants' Association's "Bundles for Babies" project at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base. Our next meeting will be in September.

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://mophtucson.webs.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 I10 & Cortaro Farms Rd. Go east on Cortaro Farms Rd to N. Sandy Desert Trail.

Chapter 442 hosts bingo at 1400 hrs. the last Saturday of each month in Bldg. 60, VA Hospital, 3601 S. 6th Ave, Tucson, AZ 85723. Jean (pictured on left) who served as Navy Corpsman will turn 105 in July is getting assistance during bingo in June.



AZDVS



Arizona State Veteran Home-Yuma's held its Grand Opening Celebration on June 24th in Yuma. Tours of the facility were available after the opening ceremony. ASVH-Yuma is located at 6051 E 34th Street in Yuma near E 32nd Street and S Ave 6 E. This is the fourth Veterans Home in the state. The mission of the Arizona State Veteran Homes is to provide professional skilled nursing and rehabilitative care for the geriatric and chronically ill veteran and dependent/surviving spouses.

Michael E. Mahoney Chapter 691 – Surprise, AZ



Chapter 691 Patriots,

We celebrated the Army's Birthday and the US Flag Day on June 14th at our first "dark month social gathering" at Oregano's in Surprise. While the number of attendees was small, all who did attend had a great time.

July 16th, we'll be joining other organizations and volunteers in a Day of Service for the St Mary's Foodbank in Surprise. We'll be sorting and storing food and preparing food boxes for distribution. We hope to expand these Days of Service to other communities within the State where our members are located.

On the National Korean War Veterans Armistice Day, July 27th, we'll be remembering our Korean War Veterans and their sacrifices. We encourage all members to put this date on their calendars and set aside a time to remember on the 70th Anniversary of the Armistice signing.

The Southern Arizona VA Healthcare System is pleased to announce the 12th annual Homeless Summit on July 12, 2023, from 0900-1230. See the flyer for details.

Southern Arizona VA Health Care System (SAVAHCS)

12th Annual Homeless Summit

July 12, 2023

9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Join Via Zoom:

<https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1619312844?pwd=emg2UC9HRGk3eG9pQVlzWjBYTGViZ09>

Save the Date!

The City of South Tucson will have a Fourth of July Celebration hosted by several veterans' organizations. The celebration will begin at 4:00 PM and will end at 10:00 PM. Help raise funds to purchase flags for Honoring and Remembering Gold Star Families. Enjoy A-Mountain's fireworks display. Food trucks and vendors will be there along with a beer tent.



American Patriot Memorial Honor and Remember Women Warriors Presents

4TH OF JULY CELEBRATION

FOOD TRUCKS, VENDORS, RAFFLES, MUSIC & FIREWORKS SHOW

4TH JULY 2023
4:00PM-10:00PM

All Mc's Welcome
1801 S 6TH AVE
CITY OF SOUTH TUCSON, ARIZONA
85713

Don't forget to bring beach chairs or blankets to enjoy the fireworks show!

Sponsored By
CENTERLINE WRAPS & MODERN LIFT RENTALS 1-800-999-3883

www.americanpatriotmemorial.org
www.womenwarriorstucson.com

An American Veteran Enterprise Production

Yours in Patriotism,
Larry Leighton
Commander

Cdr: Larry Leighton

commander691moph@gmail.com

Sr. Vice-Cdr: James Starkman

karen4357@att.net

Jr. Vice-Cdr: Kenneth Burns

ameriken81@gmail.com

Adjutant: Larry Leighton

commander691moph@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 Zoom. Enter the meeting ID (842 2842 9701) and the password (879117). By phone, call 719 359 4580 and enter the id/password.

Surprise City Council Recognizes Chapter 691

At our Chapter meeting, members were briefed by Allison Wisniewski on the Surprise Veterans, Disability, and Human Services Commission's organization, mission, and functions. She is the Veterans Resource Coordinator who works in the City of Surprise, Surprise Resource Center. Allison relayed the plight of a disabled Veteran, David, she was attempting to help. He has had a water main leak between the meter and his house. Allison found a Veteran friendly Plumbing Company who offered a 20% discount for Veterans, but the nearly \$3,300 price was still something David could not pay for. Chapter 691 members immediately voted to provide \$1,000 toward the bill. Chapter Commander Leighton, past President of Corte Bella Vets, contacted them to see if they would also help with this bill. The leak was repaired! At their meeting on Tuesday, June 20th, the Surprise City Council recognized Chapter 691 and the Corte Bella Vets for their quick responses to help one of the cities disabled Veterans. Receiving Certificates of Recognition (l-r) are Allison Wisniewski, Chapter 691 Commander Larry Leighton, Chapter 691

Trustee and Department Commander Keith Gray, and Corte Bella Vets Director of Charities, Melanie Ruiz.

photo next page

Chapter 2560 – Apache Junction, AZ



Cdr: Michael Overmeyer
moverme48@gmail.com
Sr. Vice Cdr: Chuck Byers
seagb@cox.net
Jr. Vice Cd: James King
kingjs6@live.com

Adjutant: Michael Overmeyer
moverme48@gmail.com

Meeting date: 2nd Saturday of the month.
Meeting time: 10:00 AM
Meeting location: Mesa Buckhorn Elk Lodge
#2656 at 6718 E Avalon St, Mesa, AZ 85205

Chapter 472 –Mesa, AZ



Cdr: James Pomush
landjpomush@gmail.com
Sr. Vice-Cdr: Ramiero Del Rio (602) 818-0796
Jr. Vice-Cdr: Matthew Beatty

matthewcbeatty@yahoo.com

Adjutant: Jason Duren
jason@cidercorpsaz.com

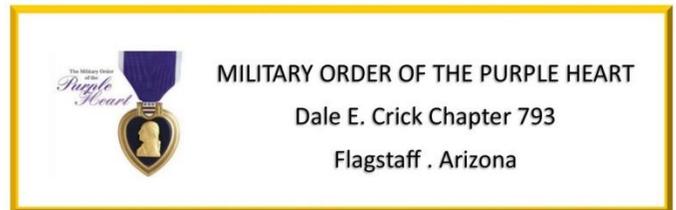
Meeting date: Last Thursday of the month (No meetings: Jun Jul & Aug)
Meeting time: 10:00AM
Meeting location: American Legion Post 26
505 W 2nd Avenue, Mesa, AZ 85210-1202

Bills in Congress

H.R. 3651—the Love Lives on Act. The Love Lives on Act in the Senate now has a companion bill in the House of Representatives. This legislation would eliminate the remarriage age for survivors in receipt of Dependency Indemnity Compensation (DIC). For decades, surviving spouses were not able to maintain their DIC if they remarried prior to the age of 55. The payment of DIC benefits provides surviving spouses with the means to maintain some semblance of economic



Dale E. Crick Chapter 793 – Flagstaff, AZ



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 – May 24
Meeting time: 12:30PM
Meeting location: VFW Post 1709
409 W Santa Fe Ave, Flagstaff, AZ 86001
Meeting date: Bi-monthly on 4th Wednesday.

MOPH 793 Proudly Supports Initiatives of the Northern Arizona Veterans Stand downs (NAZVSD) which included a new stand down at Twin Arrows Navajo Resort Dine' Conference Center in Twin Arrows, AZ on Thursday, June 29th, 2023. Stand-Downs provide veterans with essential information about services available to them within the Community including VA Enrollment & Services, Mental Health, Dental Hygiene, Veterans Court, Legal Services, Haircuts, Health Insurance, Medicare, Employment Opportunities & Job Fair, Surplus Distribution, Hot Food and much more...

stability for themselves and their families. Please contact your Representative to co-sponsor and support H.R. 3651.

S. 1590 and H.R. 3790 - the Justice for ALS Veterans Act, would provide increased DIC payments to surviving spouses of veterans who die from ALS regardless of how long they had been rated as totally disabled prior to death. Current law allows an additional DIC monthly payment of \$331.84 to survivors in the case of a veteran, who at the time of death was in receipt of or was entitled to receive compensation for a service-connected disability that was rated totally disabling for a continuous period of at least eight years immediately preceding death. This extra compensation installment is commonly referred to as the DIC “kicker.” This bill would provide the survivors of veterans who die of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) the DIC (Dependency and Indemnity Compensation) “kicker” amount without meeting the required eight-year total disability rating time period. Urge your senator and representative to support this bill.

S. 1515, the Retired Pay Restoration Act would end the unfair policy of requiring certain qualified military retirees to forfeit some of their retired pay to receive equal amounts of disability compensation from the VA. This would allow certain qualified retirees, not covered under the Major Richard Star Act, entitlement to military retired pay and Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) disability compensation, beginning on January 1, 2024. This bill would also end the existing concurrent receipt phase-in period. Urge your senator to support S. 1515.

H.R. 41, the VA Same-Day Scheduling Act would require the VA Secretary to ensure when a veteran contacts the Department by telephone to schedule an appointment for care or services at any VA facility, the scheduling for the appointment occurs during that telephone call (regardless of the prospective date of the appointment being scheduled). This bill would improve current scheduling procedures and require real-time scheduling practices that ensure more timely access to VA health care services. Contact your Representative and urge him or her to co-sponsor and support H.R. 41, the VA Same-Day Scheduling Act.

You Are Always Welcome to Join Us!

Roger Ely
Commander

VA Co-Pay Exemptions for Native Americans



Beginning April 4, 2023, eligible American Indian and Alaska Native Veterans no longer must pay a copay for VA health care services and urgent care. And we'll review copays we received for covered services on or after January 5, 2022. Go to [VA Resources & Support](#) website.

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.

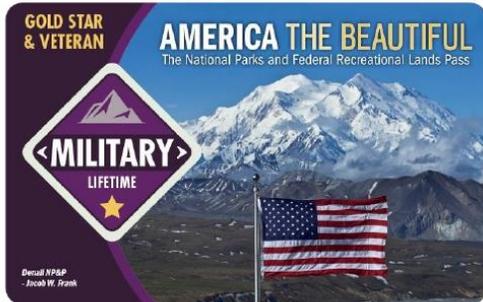
Purple Heart Combat Wounded Veterans of AZ



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**

Free National Park Passes

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



New life time pass available for Military Veterans



Membership Data

The Department's Membership Data provided by the department adjutant.

On the Department roster as of June 19th, we have 1027 Members and Associate Members in our five active chapters and department members at large (DML).

0442-AZ-6	227
0472-AZ-6	220
0691-AZ-6	270
0793-AZ-6	90
2560-AZ-6	74
DML-AZ-6	145

We were wounded in these wars and conflicts.

AF	61	Afghanistan 2001 - current
DS	4	Desert Shield/Storm 1990-1991
IF	119	Iraqi Freedom
IP	1	Iraqi Freedom Provisional (Annual Member)
KR	55	Korean War 06/25/1950 - 07/27/1953
KT	4	Khobar Towers
LA	1	Latin America
OT	3	Other
USS Liberty 1	1967	
PM	2	Panama 1989
VN	664	Vietnam 11/01/1955 - 04/30/1975
W2	36	World War II 06/25/1950 - 07/27/1953

The Purple Heart Hall of Honor



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

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

Purple Heart Scholarship



Information is available on the Purple Heart Scholarship Program. Applications are due in July. Information and application are at this [link](#).

Membership Data

The Department's Membership Data provided by the department adjutant.

We served in all five Services.

AF	36
AR	597
CG	3
MC	263
NV	55

Our oldest member with a DOB on the roster was born May 24, 1916. Our youngest was born in 2004 and has a birthday coming up on July 27th. And then some of us seem not to have been born!

1910's	3
1920's	52
1930's	83
1940's	592
1950's	57
1960's	35
1970's	75
1980's	94
1990's	21
2000's	5
DOB Unk	9

While most of us claim Arizona as our profile home of record, we have members whose home of record is in one of 36 other states. If you are not living in AZ at least part-time, you would most likely be better served by a local chapter close to your home. If you need assistance finding that chapter, you can use the “Find a Chapter” function on the National website (purpleheart.org) or contact your Adjutant or Commander for assistance.

AE	3	NC	8
AK	2	ND	1
AP	1	NJ	1
AR	3	NM	2
AZ	6	NV	5
AZ	2	NY	2
AZ	893	OH	3
CA	16	OK	3
CO	8	OR	8
FL	7	PA	2
GA	5	PR	1
IA	2	RI	1
IL	2	SC	2
IN	1	SD	1
MD	1	TN	2
ME	2	TX	9
MI	4	UT	3
MN	3	VA	1
MO	2	WA	6
MT	1	WI	1



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 on the last day of the month. Get me news information & photos by the 15th of each month.

John R. Moore
Jr. Vice-Commander

According to the roster, we have seven (7) female members and 47 female associate members and two (2) male members or associate members whose membership status is unknown.

	F	M
Associate Life Member	47	26
Life Member	7	941
Temporary Member		3
Status unknown		2

299 Members and/or associate members **do not have an email address** in their profile.

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 or contact your chapter and we can update your snail mail, phone & email address for you.

The MOPH FUND

The MOPH Fund Inc. is the official fundraising arm of the Military Order of the Purple Heart. We bring patriotic donors together with **combat-wounded veterans** who spilled their **blood** in the name of our nation's **freedom** to promote their recovery.



[Donate Now!](#)

The PACT ACT

There's no deadline to apply for PACT Act benefits. But if you file your PACT Act claim or quickly submit your intent to file by **August 9, 2023**, you may receive benefits backdated to August 10, 2022. So don't wait, apply today. Information on the **PACT Act** can be found on the VA website link below. <https://www.va.gov/resources/the-pact-act-and-your-va-benefits/>

From the Archives

Arizona Republic
30 May 2003, Fri · Page 25

U.S. stamp honors the Purple Heart

By Kelly Eitenborough
The Arizona Republic

It's a funny story, actually, begins Dominic Di Giovanni on why he has a Purple Heart medal.

He was 18 and in the Army and one of the first servicemen in Korea. His commander told him to start driving until he was shot at, then note the mileage and return to camp.

On July 4, 1950, a bullet came through the windshield, 7 1/2 miles out, and went through his arm that was draped over the back of the seat.

"Had I had both hands on the steering wheel, like I should have, I would have been OK," said Di Giovanni, a Sun Lakes resident and retired clinical psychologist.

A few butterfly bandages — no one was available to suture the wound — and Di Giovanni was back in the fray. Since World War I, about 1.5 million U.S. military men and women have been wounded or killed in combat and received a Purple Heart. About one-third of the Purple Heart recipients are still living.

Today, the medal will be commemorated with the release of the Purple Heart postage stamp, thanks to the efforts of Di Giovanni and other members of the Military Order of the Purple Heart who have spent years lobbying the U.S.

See STAMP Page B3

"When you answer your country's call and fight its armed enemies and receive the Purple Heart, that is the highest form of citizenship."

— Thomas N. Suddarth, a member of the Phoenix chapter of the Military Order of the Purple Heart



Christine Kirby/The Arizona Republic
The U.S. Postal Service will release the new Purple Heart stamp (upper left) today. Norman Emery places a Purple Heart wreath at the National Memorial Cemetery of Arizona on Memorial Day.

From the Archives

Next of kin receive Purple Heart for first Arizonan killed in the Vietnam War.

Arizona Daily Sun
07 Aug 1964, Fri · Page 1



HIS SON'S PURPLE HEART—Eyes lowered, William A. Montgomery of the Tolani Trading Post north of Leupp stands stiffly at attention as the Purple Heart, awarded posthumously to his son, is pinned on his coat by Maj. Joseph E. Clark of the Navajo Army Depot here. Mrs. Montgomery watches sadly. Army Specialist-1 William J. (John) Montgomery, 20, was killed in a flaming plane crash in Viet Nam last May 20, the first Arizonan killed in the fighting in that strife-torn land. (SUNfoto)