



May 2024

Volume 7 Issue 2

Department Commander

Patriots,



Year 2024/2025 is off to a great start. It is an honor to be elected for a third year as the Department Commander, I want to thank all of you for your support. We had a great convention in Williams, AZ. I want to thank **Commander Ely and the Patriots of Chapter 793** for hosting our convention. Those who made it to the convention thank you for attending. Good times and memories were had by all. Everyone that could not make it in person I wanted to take a minute and let you know my goals that with your help I'm sure we can accomplish this year. **Program Development** will be one of my main priorities because it will give us something with which we can reengage members and recruit new members. **Suicide Awareness** is the first program I wanted to develop. We will form a department Suicide Prevention Committee. Each chapter is to appoint a member to the committee. A **Scholarship Program** is next on my list, we can never invest enough in our youth. **Disaster Relief** and **Veteran Homelessness** will also be important programs. To make these programs run we need to develop a good **Fundraising Plan**. To round out the goals **I would like to highlight Purple Heart Day** better. I hope to accomplish these with a grassroots approach by not just asking for donations from the community but also supporting local events where possible and forming lasting relationships. I look forward to seeing you at an event this year.

The Department of Arizona elected officers at our May convention. **Congratulations to all the newly elected officers**. I look forward to working with you during the coming year.

To all outgoing officers, I want to applaud you for all your hard work and dedication to your respective offices. Your efforts have made the department shine and set a standard for every other department to try and achieve.

I had the honor to present the Department Patriot of the Year award to **Patriot Jim Starkman** of Chapter 691. Thank you, Jim, for all you do for the Order and for veterans.

Patriot Ron Capek, our Finance Officer, stepped down from his position. Ron was presented with a Distinguished Service Award. We deeply appreciated Ron's 18 years of service as a department officer.

Patriot John Moore, our Facebook guru, newsletter editor, and webmaster, was presented with a special service award for his support of the department in these areas.

The **Commander's Call** is every month on the Fourth Wednesday. A member of the chapter command group must attend. Open to all members. Please bring your suggestions so we can make the best possible decisions for the department.

Time: 06:30 PM Arizona Time, June 26, 2024

Zoom Meeting ID: 842 2842 9701

Passcode: 879117 or Dial in: 669 900 6833.

Yours in Patriotism,
Keith Gray
Commander

Department Adjutant

The Convention is behind us for another year. We elected a good team to guide us through the upcoming year BUT have other positions that need to be filled. A couple of things to keep in mind about officer positions. First, all require an honest desire to do the job, but none are full-time. Second, if elected or appointed to one of the vacancies, you don't have to do it alone – someone has already filled the position before you and all of us are ready to help make you successful.



These are our newly elected officers and appointed officers for 2024-2025.

- Commander: Keith Gray (691)
- Sr Vice Commander: Jimi Sallman (691)
- Jr Vice Commander: John Moore (442)
- Finance Officer: Jim Starkman (691)
- Adjutant: Larry Leighton (691)
- Chaplain: John Blehm (691)
- Judge Advocate: Vacant
- Inspector: Vacant
- Sergeant-At-Arms: Vacant
- Finance Committee 1: Vacant
- Finance Committee 2: Vacant
- Finance Committee 3: Vacant
- Americanism Officer: Vacant

If you might be interested in holding one of the vacant positions, let your Chapter Commander or I know.

Note: Department Members At Large are eligible to hold any of the officer positions. Associate Members are eligible to hold appointed officer positions and to serve on committees.

Suicide Awareness and Prevention:

Commander Gray has directed the Department create a viable program, something other than simply making speeches and wringing our hands about Veteran suicide statistics. The common number of “22 a day” is really about 41 a day if all Veteran deaths were completely and honestly reported. Commander Gray appointed **Chaplain Blehm** to chair the **Department’s Suicide Awareness and Prevention Committee**. He also directed each chapter commander to appoint one member to that committee before the June DEC. If you might be interested in helping to determine the direction and goals of the Suicide Awareness and Prevention Committee, let your Chapter Commander or I know (adjutant.mophaz@gmail.com pr 623-776-5443).

Remember to keep your personal profile up to date with any changes to your mailing address, email address, or phone number. Any Chapter or Department Officer can give you a hand with an update if you should need help.

I hope all of you take time to remember **National Purple Heart Remembrance Day** on **August 7th**. If you cannot attend a celebration or ceremony, on August 7th, send an email to your family and friends reminding them of your service and sacrifice and ask them to remember OUR special day. The Department will lay several Purple Heart Bricks at the Monument at Wesley Bolin Plaza at 10 AM on Wednesday, August 7th. All are invited to attend this short event. (<http://mophaz.org/about/bricks/>)

If you are traveling for fun, business, or just going back to your “other home,” be SAFE.

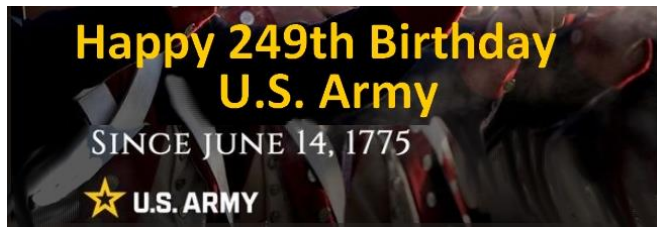
Larry Leighton
Adjutant

Department Junior Vice-Commander

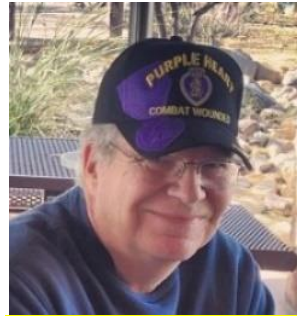
June 14th is the Army’s 249th Birthday. The Military Order of the Purple Heart Department of Arizona wishes the United States

June 14th is also Flag Day. Thank you to our members who display the National Flag 24/7. Displaying the flag shows our membership’s pride

Army a happy birthday. Thank you to all who have served in the Army. Thank you to each of our 600 members who served in the Army.



A new order of challenge coins has been received. Coins are available from the Department or from the Chapters. They cost \$20 and \$10 is the net for each coin the department or the chapters sell.



in the flag of our country. Many sacrificed their lives for its honor. Your patriotism is appreciated by the department.

On August 8th to honor Purple Heart recipients the

Diamondbacks are providing free admission to the game against the Phillies for PH recipients. More info to follow by email. Your guests will have to pay but will receive a MOPH discount. **MOPH members also get a discount on all home games** this year if you use this link to purchase tickets: <https://fevo-enterprise.com/group/mophaz24>

John R. Moore
Jr. Vice-Commander

Department Information

Department Patriot of the Year: Jim Starkman



Commander Gray congratulates Patriot Starkman

Department Officers 2024/2025

Cdr: Keith Gray commandermophaz@gmail.com
Sr. Vice Cdr: Jimi Sallmen juggy64@aol.com
Jr. Vice Cdr: John Moore
mophchapter442@comcast.net
Adjutant: Larry Leighton
adjutant.mophaz@gmail.com
Finance Officer: Jim Starkman karen4357@att.net
Sgt-at-Arms: **vacant position**
Inspector: **vacant position**
Judge Advocate: **vacant position.**
Americanism Officer: **vacant position**
Chaplain: John L. Bhelm jblehmsr@gmail.com
Legislative Liaison: Jim Muhr **vacant position**

Calendar

- May 30/3 June – Moving Wall at Twin Arrows Casino.
- June 1 – Vietnam War Remembrance Ceremony at Twin Arrows Casino.
- June 1 – Drop Zone in Mesa
- June 14 – Army Birthday.
- June 14 – Flag Day.
- June 19 – Juneteenth.
- June 27 – Twin Arrows Stand-Down

Find Us Online

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

Distinguished Service Awardee: Ron Capek



Ron Capek accepts award from Commander Gray

Special Recognition Awardee: John Moore



Patriot Moore receives Service Award

Department Special Election

We need your help to fill vacant officer positions. Elections are being held for the **Officer positions that are currently vacant.**

- The current vacancies are **Judge Advocate, Inspector, Sergeant-At-Arms** (one candidate has been nominated as of today), **and three Finance Committee members.**
- Members have until **Jun 11th to nominate** or self-nominate.
- On Jun 12th, a list of nominees will be sent to the DEC voting members, so they have time to consider all nominees before the vote on June 26th at the monthly DEC meeting/Commander's Call.

Newly Elected Department Officers



Left to right are Jr. Vice-Cdr John Moore, Finance Officer Jim Starkman, Chaplain John Blehm, Commander Keith Gray, & Sr. Vice-Cdr Jimi Sallmen.

Update Your Contact Information

Keep your snail mail address, phone & email address up to date. Go to the MOPH National website at <https://national-moph.uc.r.appspot.com/#>. You 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.

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](#)

DEPARTMENT CONVENTION PHOTOS



Train ride to the Grand Canyon



breakfast



Jim Starkman tells war story



supper



Opening Prayer



The Moore's boarding the train



Keith and Mrs. Gray



Chaplain Bhelm discusses Suicide Prevention



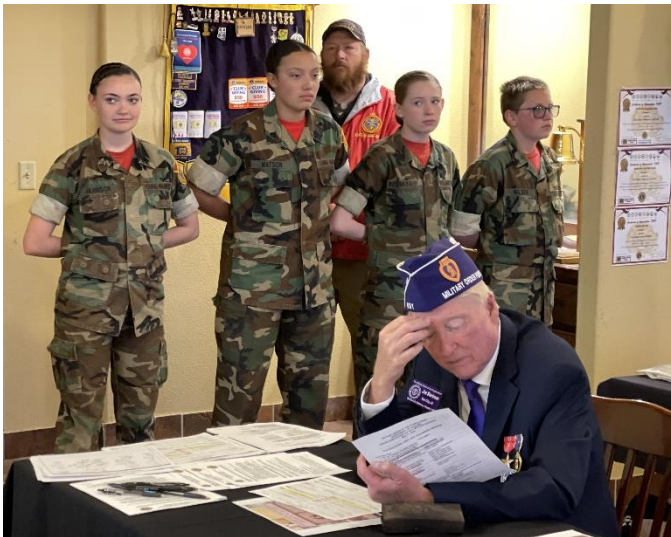
The train was robbed



Missing Man Table



The Capek's board the train.



Junior Marines who helped with Pledge of Allegiance



Marshal looking for train robbers



Becky Moore found Elvis pumping gas in Williams



Ron Capek receives special gift from Cdr Gray



FORT LOWELL CHAPTER 442 – TUCSON, AZ

Fellow Patriots,



Welcome to Chapter 442. Chapter 442 hosts bingo each month for patients at the Tucson VA Hospital. The next Bingo session will be held on June 29th. Join us in hosting Bingo.

In May, we provided \$250 of food for homeless veterans housed at the Esperanza En Escalante Project.

MOPH Leadership Awards were presented in April & May to the 13 JROTC/ROTC programs at area high schools and the University of Arizona.

The chapter helped place flags on the grave markers of the 4,400 burials in the Marana Veterans Memorial Cemetery on May 24th.

The chapter participated in several Memorial Day ceremonies on May 27th.

The chapter donated \$500 to the Thornydale Rd. Golden Corral for their Camp Corral raffle which funds sending 6 deserving children of veterans to camp.

The chapter donated \$500 for the National Vietnam War Day Memorial at Kino Veterans Memorial Park. The names of Pima county's 107 Vietnam fallen will be on the memorial.

Yours in Patriotism,
Mike Dyer
Commander

Commander Mike Dyer – mrdyer@comcast.net

Sr. Vice-Cdr Richard Perkins

rperkins823@gmail.com

Jr. Vice-Cdr: Cody Phipps–

cody.phipps@outlook.com

Chaplain: Danny Lemon - ddlemon@outlook.com

Adjutant: John Moore –

mophchapter442@comcast.net

Website: <https://442.mophaz.org/>

Facebook: [Chapter 442 Facebook](#)

Donate online: [Donations Appreciated](#)

Meeting date: 3rd Monday (no meetings February, 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.

Patriot Dave Bertagnoli, chapter 442, presented the Military Order of the Purple Heart Leadership award to **Cadet MIDN 4/C Derek Luther** at the University of Arizona Navy ROTC awards ceremony.



Patriot Bertagnoli & Cadet Luther

Patriot Jim Zimmerman, chapter 442, presented the Military Order of the Purple Heart Leadership

Congressman Juan Ciscomani (AZ District 6) attended the chapter meeting. Congressman Ciscomani discussed veteran issue policy in congress and listened to concerns from our members with issues at the VA. The congressman had his staff get the particulars on the various issues and will investigate them for us. The major concerns from the members were funding cuts in Community Care, PAC Act implementation, & Purple Heart award processing time for those with TBI injuries.



Commander Dyer and Congressman Ciscomani



Our members listen to Congressman Ciscomani

award to **Cadet CPT Julian Mejia** at the Rio Rico High School (Rio Rico, AZ) JROTC awards ceremony on May 3rd. Congratulations Julian!



Patriot John Moore, Patriot John Grand, & Patriot Roger Gilbert joined Veterans' groups and the community on Friday, May 24th, to place flags for Memorial Day on the 4,800 veterans' graves at the Arizona State Veterans' Memorial Cemetery in Marana, AZ. Congressman Juan Ciscomani and his family came out to help.



John Moore, Juan Ciscomani, John Grand, & Roger Gilbert



Chapter Members with the Congressman

Patriot Jim Zimmerman presents a check for \$500 from Chapter 442 to **Butch Morgan** of VVA106 for the construction of a National Vietnam War Day Memorial at Kino Veterans Memorial Park, Tucson. The memorial will list the names of the 107 Pima county Vietnam War fallen. VVA 106 is coordinating the fund raising to build the memorial.



Patriot Zimmerman & Butch Morgan

Ft. Lowell Chapter 442 participated in the **Memorial Day Ceremony at South Lawn Cemetery** this morning. The turnout from the community and veterans' organizations was excellent. **Patriot John Moore** and **Patriot John Grand** represented the chapter and dedicated a wreath in honor of the fallen.

photo on next page



With Congressman Ciscomani's family

Patriot Dave Bertagnoli, chapter 442, presented the Military Order of the Purple Heart Leadership award to **Cadet Anthony Randazzo** at the Buena High School (Sierra Vista, AZ) JROTC awards ceremony this afternoon.



Cadet Randazzo & Patriot Bertagnoli

Patriot John R. Moore presented Tim Peeler, manager Thornydale Golden Corral, a donation of \$500.00 from Chapter 442 for their Camp Corral raffle. The raffle raises enough money to send 6 deserving kids of veterans & service personnel to Camp.

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Patriot John Moore and **Marsha Mayer** in photo below are with the Chapter 442 wreath. Marsha is the mother of deceased chapter member, **Enrique Mayer**, who received a Purple Heart and served two tours in Iraq. Ricky took his own life 6 years ago and is buried in South Lawn.



Patriot Moore & Marsha Mayer

The Tucson VA Hospital will hold a Homeless Summit on July 9th. It will be held in building 4 and by Zoom. See flyer below for more information. RSVP not required at this time. Topics of discussion and more information is to follow.



13th Annual Southern Arizona VA Health Care System (SAVAHCS)
SAVAHCS Homeless Summit

Save the Date

July 9, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Building 4, Conference Rooms A/B
 Southern Arizona VA Health Care System (SAVAHCS)
 3601 S. 6th Ave, Tucson, Az 85723



Webinar Access Code: 2830 058 8401 | Webinar Password: Homeless2024!



Knowledge is power, let's work together as a team to end homelessness.



DALE E. CRICK CHAPTER 793 – FLAGSTAFF, AZ

Fellow Patriots,



Welcome to Chapter 793. Chapter 793 participates in patriotic and welfare activities throughout Northern Arizona. Chapter 793 supports the Northern Arizona Stand Downs in several Northern Arizona communities.

The chapter hosted the Department of Arizona MOPH convention on May 11th in Williams, AZ. It was an excellent convention. A wonderful time was had by all in attendance. Sunday after the convention attendees took the Grand Canyon Railway for a visit to the Grand Canyon.

The High-Country Stand-Down was held on May 15th at the Flagstaff Armory. You are always welcome to join us!

Roger Ely
 Commander

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 – Contact Chapter

Meeting time: 12:30PM

Meeting location: VFW Post 1709
 409 W Santa Fe Ave, Flagstaff, AZ 86001

Meeting date: Bi-monthly on 4th Wednesday.

Patriot Billy Weldon presents 101-year-old WWII veteran with several gifts from Chapter 793.
Walter Omsted was a B17 crewman during WWII

The Moving Wall will be at **Twin Arrows Navajo Casino Resort** May 30th to June 3rd.

Included on June 1st is a Vietnam War Remembrance Ceremony.



and is a Purple Heart Recipient. The convention voted to pay for Walter's membership in the "Order."



Walter receiving gifts from Chapter 793

Walter Omsted talks about his WWII experiences at the Department Convention. Walter is 101 years old and served as a crewman on a B17 during the war. We were honored to have Walter as a guest of Chapter 793.



Let's not forget to check on **our buddies, friends, and family**. A simple 'How are you?' can make all the difference. Let's spread warmth and care and remind people, they are not alone!

Patriot Roger Ely & Patriot Billy Weldon present a special recognition award to former Williams, AZ mayor & town marshal, **John W. Moore**, for the Rodeo Restaurant hosting the meals for the convention. Mr. Moore was also presented with a Purple Heart flag to display in the restaurant.



Rodeo Restaurant owner John W. Moore is recognized for hosting the reunion.

The Twin Arrows Stand-Down will be held on **27 June** at the **Twin Arrows Navajo Resort in Flagstaff, AZ**. Times are 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM. A variety of services are available to veterans including VA enrollment. [Click here for more info.](#)



Original Badge of Merit

Every 1st Tuesday of the month, 10:00am to 3:00pm the Flagstaff Veterans CBOC will have a VA representative to help with various VA issues and help file disability claims.



MICHAEL E. MAHONEY CHAPTER 691 – SURPRISE, AZ



Our June 8th meeting will be an important one and I hope you all can join us by zoom (<http://691.mophaz.org/#meetings>) or in person. We left several items of unfinished and new business on the table at our May 18th meeting and need your input to finish these up before we go dark in July and August.

As we head into the “warmer months,” remember to always be safe whether you are just relaxing or still working. There are lots of folks out there who are not as diligent as you are!

We are looking forward to all the holidays this summer and hope to see lots of you around the community even though we are not having formal meetings.

Don't forget the Arizona Diamondbacks are providing **free tickets for ALL Purple Heart recipients at the home game on Wednesday, August 8th in honor of Purple Heart Day** (no game on August 7th). They also have discounted tickets for recipients, guests, and friends on their other home games. If you want tickets for the game, give me a call at 623-776-5443.

Remember, if you have not talked to another Vet from your past lately, pick up the phone and make his or her day! If you just want to talk to someone, you can always call me – I am a good listener (623-776-5443).

Yours in Patriotism
Larry Leighton
Commander

Cdr: Larry Leighton
commander691moph@gmail.com
Sr. Vice-Cdr: James Starkman
karen4357@att.net
Jr. Vice-Cdr: John Ballenger Jr.
ejballenjer22@msm.com
Chaplain: John Blehm (623-628-6330)

Patriot Keith Gray presented the Military Order of the Purple Heart Leadership Award at Deer Valley High School AFJROTC Awards night on 4/30/24.

photo on next page

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.

Patriot Keith Gray presented the Military Order of the Purple Heart Leadership Award at Cactus High School AFJROTC



Senior Vice-Commander Jim Starkman helped put out over 2500 flags on Veteran graves at the Sunland Memorial Cemetery.



Commander Leighton was the keynote speaker for the Northwest Valley Veterans Association's Memorial Day Ceremony.



"Standing Guard" Photo submitted by **Patriot Bob Metzger**.



TRI-CITIES CHAPTER 472 – MESA, AZ



Cdr: Jason Duren jason@cidercorpsaz.com

Sr. Vice-Cdr: Ramiero Del Rio (602) 818-0796

Finance: James Pomush landjpomush@gmail.com

Adjutant: Stephan Bobby veteranairborne@yahoo.com

Chaplain: Ignacio Rivera

480-926-2278

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

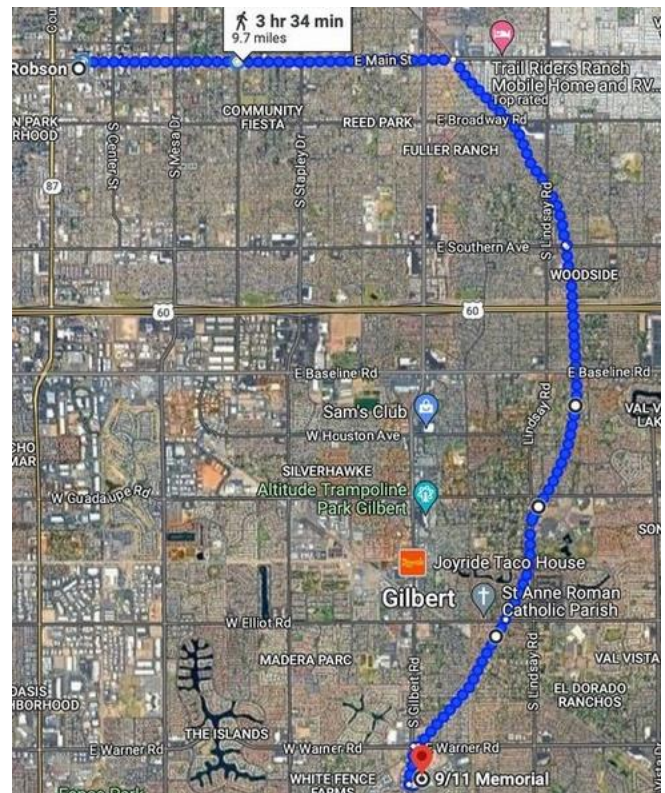
Meeting time: 10:00AM

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

Tri-Cities Chapter 472 presented Military Order of the Purple Heart Leadership awards to deserving JROTC cadets in 30 high schools in our area. **Patriot Jim Pomush** presents the award to **Cadet Vincent Lujan** of **Hamilton High School** in Chandler, AZ.



Commander Duran participated in a Memorial Day Ruck Walk to honor the fallen. The walk was just under 10 miles. The walk started at the 9/11 memorial at the Gilbert Civic Center and ruck to the Cider Corps downtown Mesa location.



Patriot Stephan Bobby, Chapter 472 oversees the **Purple Heart Memorial Brick Program** for the Department. Order a 4"x8" Purple Heart Brick to be Placed at Wesley Bolin Plaza at the state capitol to commemorate being a Purple Heart recipient or to order one to commemorate a family member or friend who received the Award. The **cost of the**

Join the Million Veteran Program is on a mission to redefine the future of healthcare, and we need YOU to be a part of this monumental journey. MVP is assembling a community of over 1,000,000 Veterans to uncover how genes, lifestyles, military experiences, and exposures impact our health and wellness. Help revolutionize medicine and enhance the lives of Veterans worldwide. Join here:

<https://www.mvp.va.gov/pwa/>



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 ORDER FORM](#)



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: Sandra King kingjs6@live.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

Patriot Francisco J Gaan, US Army, Sergeant First Class, Vietnam (two tours, two purple hearts) has passed away. He was laid to rest at the National Memorial Cemetery of Arizona on May 31, 2024.



A Final Salute from members of the Military Order of the Purple Heart was rendered after services on May 30th.

Patriot Gaan joined the Order in 2008 and was a member of **Chapter 0010-NJ-1** but attended



On May 27th Chapter 2560 honored the fallen and veterans buried or interred at Mountain View Cemetery in Mesa, AZ. The chapter helped place flags on the graves and participated in the ceremony. Participation by the community and veterans' organizations was excellent.

meetings with and was friend of Chapter 2560. **Patriot Chuck Byers** served with Francisco in Vietnam. You can hear Francisco's story, in his own words, at the Library of Congress Video Collections by clicking this link <https://www.loc.gov/item/afc2001001.113543/>



Nancy Fassbender



Congressman Andy Bigg's Drop Zone will take place on June 1st at the American Leadership Academy in Mesa from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. A variety of services will be available to veterans.

DROP ZONE

THE ONE-STOP RESOURCE FAIR
FOR VETERANS' SERVICES AND SENIOR BENEFITS









WHERE:
American Leadership Academy
Applied Technologies Campus
7729 E. Pecos Road
Mesa, AZ 85212

WHEN:
Saturday, June 1, 2024
10:00 AM-2:00 PM

ON-SITE ACCESS TO THE FOLLOWING:

- Haircuts
- Health Screenings
- Congressional Casework Services
- VA Representatives
- VA Health Services Representatives
- Veterans Service Organizations
- Taxpayer Advocate Service
- Senior Service Organizations
- Community Support Groups
- AND MORE!

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL:
480-699-8239

POTPOURRI

The Purple Heart Magazine



The current issue of the Purple Heart Magazine is available [online](#). Enjoy!

Whitehouse VA Hotline/My VA

The Whitehouse VA Hotline and MyVA411 have merged. **1-800-MyVA411 (698-2411)** is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year to serve veterans, their families, caregivers, and survivors.

Camp Corral

MOPH supports Camp Corral. Camp Corral has announced the 2024 Summer Camp dates. **The Arizona camp is 9 to 14 June at The Triangle Y Camp in Oracle, AZ.** Help send the child of a veteran or military member who needs camp.

Applications to attend camp opened on January 17th. Go to www.campcorral.org for more info.

NATIONAL CONVENTION

The Purple Heart Fund

The MOPH Fund, Inc., (“the Fund”) a



501.c.3 non-profit public charity, is separate and not subordinate to the Military Order of the Purple Heart. The Fund Inc. is the official fundraising arm of the Military Order of the Purple Heart (the Order). Our sole purpose is to raise funds for programs executed by the Military Order of the Purple Heart.

We in the Fund hope the Order’s members and associate members will embrace the Fund’s programs to raise funds for CHAPTER and National Headquarters programs.



To learn about the specific Fund’s fundraising projects currently available, simply click on the logo above or scan the QR Code.

If you have any questions about the Fund or the Fund’s fundraising projects, please contact me.

Larry Leighton

Treasurer, MOPH Fund, Inc.

treasurer@mophfund.org

844-MOPHFUND (667-4386)

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 License Plates

HB 2062 Vehicle license tax exemption for PH veterans: **Many of our members are still not aware**



The **National Convention** will be held in **Orlando, FL** this year from **July 15-18th**. Hotel information is available on the [National website](#) or the Department of [Florida website](#).

Free Tuition for Veteran's Spouses



Spouses of honorably discharged veterans enrolled at an Arizona public university or participating community college are eligible to receive free tuition on a first-come, first-served basis. Learn more at the [AZ Board of Regents](#).

Bills in Congress

H.R. 7643 - the Veterans Congressional Work Study Act of 2024 would expand the VA's Work Study program to provide more employment opportunities to service-disabled veterans enrolled in VA educational programs. Currently, VA work-

of this benefit. 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 Scholarships



Applications for the scholarship program are due every July. Information is available on the Purple Heart Scholarship Program at this [link](#).

Bills in Congress

H.R. 7703, the Fair Access to Co-ops for Veterans Act: This bill would allow veterans the ability to use their VA home loan certificates to help purchase cooperative housing units. Co-op housing units are generally considered as more affordable housing in major cities. This legislation would provide service-disabled veterans more options to obtain affordable housing for themselves and their families. Affordable housing options are one of the top priorities for service-disabled veterans, especially those transitioning from active duty.

Contact your Representative and urge them to co-sponsor and support H.R. 7703.

The Contract Our Veterans Act (H.R. 7401) would expand contracting options for Department of Veterans Affairs Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Businesses (SDVOSBs) by bringing this concept to the Department of Defense (DoD) contracting program for procurement, mutually benefiting veteran business owners and the government. This would create new SDVOSBs,

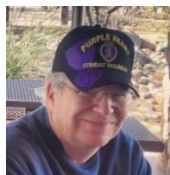
study veterans can only work at VA facilities, educational facilities, state agencies or other specified non-VA facilities while enrolled in VA education programs. The work performed by work-study veterans must be entirely related to the VA and veterans. H.R. 7643 would expand the approved list of work study options to include work in the offices of a committee of the Senate & House of Representatives, the Congressional Research Service, the Government Accountability Office or the Congressional Budget Office. Expanding the VA work-study program will give service-disabled veterans more employment options while meeting their educational goals.

We ask that you contact your Representative and urge them to co-sponsor and support H.R. 7643.

The Hire Veterans Act (S. 3636/H.R. 7490) would establish a five-year pilot program to direct federal land management agencies to conditionally appoint a veteran who has demonstrated the necessary skills & abilities for specific vacant positions at federal land management agencies. One of the many concerns transitioning service members and service-disabled veterans have is obtaining meaningful and substantial employment. Veterans deserve workforce training and good-paying careers when they return to civilian life. For veterans with service-related injuries, wounds and illnesses, the journey from injury to recovery is not complete until a veteran is able to find meaning in his or her life.

Contact your Senators and Representative and urge them to co-sponsor and support the Hire Veterans Act.

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 news information & photos to us by the 25th of each month.**

John R. Moore
Jr. Vice-Commander

generate new veteran jobs, strengthen the DoD's supply chain by engaging more committed veteran vendors and drive down prices at the Department through increased competition.

We ask that you contact your Representatives and urge them to co-sponsor and support H.R. 7401.

H.R. 6225, the Expanding Home Loans for Guard and Reservists Act is legislation that would amend the term “veteran” to include individuals who performed active duty for training for a period of 30 consecutive days and corrects the gaps identified in current law that make it more difficult for certain National Guard service members participating in active duty training to receive full credit for their time served and subsequent access to the VA home loan benefit. The Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2020 expanded the VA Home Loan program eligibility to National Guard service members who perform “full-time National Guard duty” for at least 90 days, of which 30 are consecutive. Since then, gaps have been identified that make it more difficult for certain National Guard service members participating in active-duty training to receive full credit for their time served and subsequent access to the VA home loan benefit.

Please contact your Representative and urge them to co-sponsor and support H.R. 6225.

The Maternal Health for Veterans Act (H.R. 3303): H.R. 3303 aims to strengthen VA oversight & improve the maternal health outcomes of veterans, with a focus on veterans with elevated rates of maternal mortality, severe maternal morbidity, maternal health disparities, or other adverse perinatal or childbirth outcomes. This would help improve services and maternal health outcomes for the fastest-growing cohort of veterans using VA health care—women veterans. There are 650,000 women veterans using VA medical care with half of them being childbearing age. Since 2014, VA has seen an 80% increase in maternity care services.

Contact your representatives and urge them to co-sponsor and support H.R. 3303, the Maternal Health for Veterans Act.