



July 2025

Volume 5 Issue 11

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER Patriot Cody Phipps

Dear Patriots,

Hopefully everyone is enjoying a relaxing summer with family and staying hydrated.



Purple Heart Day is August 7th. Please wear MOPH gear as we come together to honor the service of Combat Wounded Veterans. Please share any photographs you might capture during these ceremonies and celebrations with department leadership so we can get them into the national magazine, the department newsletter and on our social media.

The Department of Arizona has elected to donate \$1,000 in disaster relief funds to Veterans in Kerrville, Texas following the devastating 4th of July flooding in that area. MOPH Chapter 442 Tucson is also donating \$1000 to be used for disaster relief in the hill county. These funds will be sent to VFW Post 1480 in Kerrville to help Veterans in the area recover. Thank you to all the patriots who kindly wanted to support our fellow Veterans that live in Texas.

Save the Date! Tucson Chapter 442 will host the 2026 Department of Arizona Convention May 2, 2026. More info to follow.

July 29th was the birthday of the Chaplain Corps. Since 1775 military chaplains have a long history of providing spiritual and moral support to our servicemen and their families. From Valley Forge to Gettysburg, Verdun, Normandy, Coral Sea, Iwo Jima, Inchon, Hue, Fallujah, & Kandihar chaplains have been on the front lines providing counsel and moral support. **I would like to thank our members who have volunteered to serve as our MOPH chaplains in our Department and Chapters.** I appreciated you.

To all Patriots, thank you for your service and your continued service and support to our fellow Veterans.

Yours in Patriotism,
Cody Phipps
Department of Arizona Commander

DEPARTMENT SR. VICE-COMMANDER Patriot Michael Smaydy

Greetings Patriots,

I just returned home from representing Arizona at the National Convention in Reno, Nevada. To say it was interesting and exciting would be an understatement. Some of the highlights were:

- **The American Life Insurance Policy at no cost**



CONVENTION PHOTOS



to the Patriot has been renewed.

- National wants to clean up all the membership rosters to make sure all members are still alive. Check your rosters by contacting your members to confirm they are still alive and have current information on file.
- National would like to encourage all Departments and Chapters to create a Violas program Purple Heart

Day is August 7th this year and it is a 3-day event. It's a good time to provide violas to your community.

- One important By-Law change will take effect in the fiscal year 2026-2027. Life Member payment percentages will change to 20% National, 40% Department, and 40% to chapter.
- The 990's non-profit status was a heated discussion with National stating that Non-Profit Status will be restored by the end of this year.
- We have a new **National Commander, Tracey Brown, Sr. Vice Commander Francesca Lowe, and Jr. Vice Commander Jo Keller.**

This is the first time the MOPH has a female National Commander and may be the first time that a National Organization has 3 top line female officers. Congratulations.

- Also, our own **Patriot Keith Gray** was appointed National Adjutant.
- Next year's **National Convention will be held in North Carolina.** Details are still pending.

Hope all are enjoying a safe and healthy summer! Stay cool, drink plenty of water, and stay safe.

In comradeship,
Michael J. Smaydy
Dept. Sr. Vice Commander

Mike & new National Sr. Vice Commander Francesca Lowe



Mike & the new National Commander Tracey Brown



Convention attendees



DEPARTMENT JR. VICE-COMMANDER Patriot John Moore

PURPLE HEART DAY: As a Purple Heart recipient you are unique. The award is also unique. **Less than one tenth of one percent of our citizens are living Purple Heart recipients.** The Purple Heart is unique as it is an egalitarian award, since everyone in uniform who sheds blood while defending the nation receives the Purple Heart regardless of position, rank, status, or popularity.

DEPARTMENT CALENDAR:

- July 27 > Korean War Remembrance Day
- July 29 > Chaplain Corps Birthday



Those of us who have been decorated with Purple Hearts gave some. The fallen who received the Purple Heart gave all. You are a living testament to their sacrifice. Wear the Purple Heart with pride. Thank you for your service to the Nation and to the Order. **Wear your Purple Heart gear on Purple Heart Day!**

NEW MOPH NATIONAL COMMANDER:



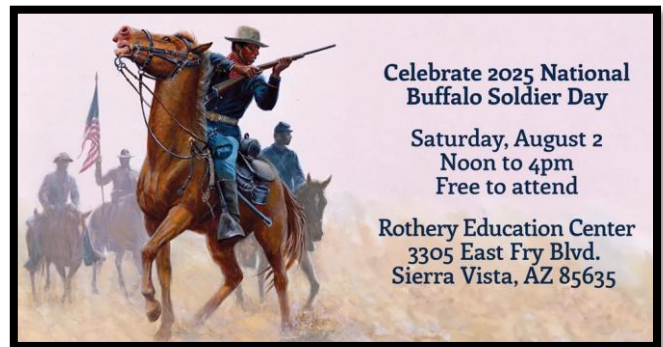
Congratulations to the new MOPH National Commander, Tracey Brown. Tracey is a retired Army Master Sgt. She grew up in the small town of Farmville, North Carolina and joined the National Guard as a junior in high school. Tracey enlisted in the regular Army and served for 22 years. She earned a Purple Heart after being injured in a suicide bomb

attack during a deployment to Afghanistan. Tracey was the previous national senior vice commander where she advocated for Purple Heart recipients, making sure they can access the resources they needed and assisted veterans in any way that she could. We look forward to working with Tracey.

Yours in Patriotism
John R. Moore
Jr. Vice-Cdr

- Aug 2 > Buffalo Soldier Days – Sierra Vista
- Aug 4 > Coast Guard Birthday
- Aug 7 > Purple Heart Day
- August 14 > Navajo Code Talker Days – Window Rock
- Aug 16 > White Mts. Stand Down – Show Low

BUFFALO SOLDIER DAY: Buffalo Soldier day is on July 28th but will be celebrated August 2nd. The day celebrates the bravery, legacy, & service of the Buffalo Soldiers in the U.S. Army. **Buffalo Soldiers played a prominent role in the history of Arizona.** Buffalo Soldiers were stationed at Fort Verde, Fort Grant, Camp Navajo, Camp Little, Fort Huachuca, and in Arivaca, AZ. Four Regiments of Buffalo Soldiers were stationed at Ft. Huachuca at various times. More information is in the Chapter 442 section of the Newsletter.



DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT Patriot Larry Leighton

GENERAL: What do you have planned for National **Purple Heart Day?** **I hope you are planning to wear purple as you celebrate August 7th** with friends and family. Send me a picture of you in your Purple Heart gear (hat, shirt, pants, shorts, socks, etc) and note about how you are celebrating. Who knows, you may win a prize. 😊



Start planning now to attend the **2026 Department Convention in Tucson next year on May 2nd**. We are looking to arrange some bus transportation from the Phoenix area. Stay on the lookout for more information.

MEMBERSHIP. The leadership recently voted to add another incentive for joining the Order. Each Chapter has to develop their own criteria for evaluating a **new**

UNIFORMED SERVICES IN ACTION 2026

CALENDAR: Please consider buying one of **OUR Uniformed Services In Action 2026 Calendars** for yourself and maybe some for your friends and family. **The net proceeds will fund our disaster relief, suicide awareness and prevention, and preventing/reducing Veteran homelessness.**



Use [the link](#) or scan the QRC to order to get yours and extra for gifts for your friends and family.

BUDDY CHECKS: During these hotter months, most chapters will be “Dark” until September. Keep the communications open. Contact your fellow Veterans and say hi. We don’t want anyone to feel isolated or alone. Call a Veteran today!

member's "integration". If the Chapter determines the new member is involved and participating in chapter activities, the Department & the Chapter will refund the membership dues. While we don't want anyone to think we are offering free membership or paying recipients to join the Order, we are offering an incentive to to be more than just a name on the roster. More to follow.

Remember to drink plenty of water. If you are feeling thirsty, you are probably already dehydrated!
Be SAFE! Be as HEALTHY as you can! Have FUN.



Yours in Patriotism
Larry Leighton
Adjutant

DEPARTMENT WEBMASTER Patriot Cheryl Packham

Department Website & Email System Update: There has been significant progress on our digital communications this month. Here's a quick summary of what's been completed and what's coming next:



Department Website Is Now Live: The newly rebuilt **Department of Arizona website** is officially live at www.mophaz.org. Built with a mobile-first design, it's optimized for use on phones and tablets while remaining fully functional on desktop. Key features include:

- **Search Function** (magnifying glass icon) to find pages by keyword
- **Events Calendar** with updates from newsletters and chapter submissions
- **Blog Section** for programs, news, and recognition stories
- **Embedded Facebook Feed** with live updates
- **Security Enhancements** with regular backups and no ads

Please explore the site and send feedback or content updates to:
webmaster@mophaz.org

Chapter Websites: **Chapters 442, 691, and 2560** have functional chapter websites on the new platform. If your chapter hasn't yet set one up, I encourage you to reach out. These sites are **free** to your chapter and offer:

- Consistent branding
- Better visibility online
- Easy updates
- Full control without technical stress

View examples here:

442.mophaz.org

691.mophaz.org

2560.mophaz.org

Department Email System Development

We're currently rolling out a **department-wide email system** and have started working with the adjutant, Patriot Larry Leighton, and Jr. Vice-Commander, Patriot John Moore, to test and refine it for full implementation.

Starting in **September**, each chapter will be asked to:

- **Identify who needs an organizational email address**

These will be formatted as firstname.lastname@ch####.mophaz.org. Each user will log in once and can send/receive messages from the appropriate chapter/role inboxes as needed.

- **Confirm what roles should have dedicated emails**
Positions like Commander, Adjutant, and Finance can have **shared inboxes** that allow multiple users access, ensuring continuity and consistency when leadership changes.
- **Decide whether to adopt or opt out of the full system**
If your chapter prefers not to use organizational emails, I can still create a **distribution list** to streamline communication from the department to chapter leadership. However, distribution lists cannot send replies or operate as official chapter emails.

Why Use the New Email System?

- Reduces spam
- Enhance data security
- Prevents impersonation of personal emails
- Simplifies transitions between leadership roles

Reminders & Availability:

- **All requests and content updates** must be submitted via email to webmaster@mophaz.org.
- Please allow a **minimum 2 business-day turnaround** for all changes, updates, or support.

Scheduled Out-of-Office: I will be offline from **July 23 through August 10** with the exception of uploading the Department newsletter. Please plan accordingly if you anticipate needing website or email support during that time. I will respond to all requests in the week of August 11th.

If you have questions, want help setting up your chapter's website or email accounts, or need assistance navigating the new system, don't hesitate to email me and I will get back to you as soon as possible.

In service,

Cheryl Packham

Webmaster, Department of Arizona

Military Order of the Purple Heart

webmaster@mophaz.org

DEPARTMENT OFFICERS

ELECTED OFFICERS: These are the Department Officers for the 2025-2026 fiscal year.

- Commander - **Cody Phipps** (442; 817.239.2073; commanderazmoph@gmail.com)
- Senior Vice Commander - **Mike Smaydy** (691; 928.445.3792; michaeljsm@hotmail.com)
- Junior Vice Commander – **John Moore** (442; 520.744.9768; mophchapter442@comcast.net)
- Finance Officer – **Jim Starkman** (691; 708.638.2321; karen4357@att.net)
- Inspector – **Stephan Bobby** (472; 480.266.9268; veteranairborne@yahoo.com).
Sergeant At Arms – **John Ballenger** (691; 602.245.0437; cjballenger22@msn.com)

APPOINTED OFFICERS:

- Adjutant - **Larry Leighton** (691; 623.776.5443; adjutant.mophaz@gmail.com)
- Americanism Officer - **Will Hunker** (691; 910.644.7742; william.hunker@icloud.com)

VACANT POSITIONS: If you would like to fill one of these positions let us know.

- Chaplain - appointed
- Judge Advocate - elected
- Legislative Officer - appointed

FORT LOWELL CHAPTER 442 – TUCSON, AZ Commander Cody Phipps

Patriots of Chapter 442,

Our chapter has been dark for most of the summer. The chapter is still here for you. Contact one of our officers if you need anything. Stay cool, drink plenty of water, and be safe.



Our **July luncheon** was held at Rusty's Restaurant on Tucson's west side. We had a nice turnout including the **commander of Chapter 400 from Orlando, FL**. The next luncheon is planned for **August 20th at 12:00** noon. The location will be in Marana, AZ and be announced by email and on our Facebook page. I hope to see everybody there and appreciate your support!

In July we supported feeding the Homeless Veterans housed at Esperanza in Tucson with a \$500 food stipend. We are also planning a BBQ for Esperanza residents towards the end of Summer. More to follow on that by email.

We hosted Bingo for the residents at the Arizona Veterans Home on July 26th. The residents and volunteers have a great time each month and we are grateful for the opportunity to serve. Thank you to our officers and volunteers that make it happen.

We provided \$1,000 in disaster relief funds to support veterans in the Kerrville area affected by the tragic flood. The funds were donated to VFW Post 1480 in Kerrville to help veterans in need because of the flood.

Our website has been redesigned and has a new web address at 442.mophaz.org. Make sure you bookmark it since it is different from the old address.

Stay cool, enjoy the sunshine and I look forward to seeing everybody soon.

Yours in Patriotism,
Cody Phipps
Commander

Commander Cody Phipps – cody.phipps@outlook.com
Sr. Vice-Cdr Dave Bertagnoli - dbertagnoli@Q.com
Jr. Vice-Cdr: Mike Dyer - mrdyer@comcast.net
Chaplain: Danny Lemon - ddlemon@outlook.com
Adjutant: John Moore – mophchapter442@comcast.net
Website: <https://442.mophaz.org/>
Facebook: [Chapter 442 Facebook Page](#)
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.

BINGO AT THE VA HOSPITAL: We hosted bingo for the patients at the Tucson VA Hospital on Jun 28th. And on July 30th. Thank you to **Patriot Cody Phipps, Patriot Danny Lemon,**



Patriot Dave Bertagnoli and volunteers **Yolanda Lemon, Cherie Stallman and Sam Phipps**. A beautiful handmade quilt was the grand prize each month.

MONTHLY PURPLE HEART LUNCHEON: Our next luncheon is on August 20th at noon. Location is to be announced but probably will be in Marana, AZ. All members are invited to attend and enjoy fellowship with other combat wounded veterans.

WORLD WAR II VETERAN STILL REPORTS

FOR DUTY: Fort Lowell Chapter 442's Purple Heart member emeritus, **101 yr old Walter Ram**, was recently on channel 13 news. Walter works as a docent 3 days a week at the Pima Air & Space Museum's B17 Memorial and exhibit. Walter served on a B17 crew during the war and his plane was shot down. He spent almost 2 years as a POW in Stalag 17. You can view the interview at this [link](#).



Walter briefing museum visitors



PURPLE HEART LUNCHEON: Ft. Lowell Chapter 442 Tucson, AZ held our monthly Purple Heart luncheon July 23rd at Rusty's Restaurant. **Patriot David Mercado,** Commander of the General Bob Betts Memorial Chapter

400 Orlando Florida, joined us. He was in Tucson visiting his aunt & happened to see our Facebook post about our luncheon. It was enjoyable for our membership to visit with a Patriot from another chapter and exchange ideas. **Department of Arizona & Chapter 442 Commander Phipps** presented **Patriot Mercado** a Department of Arizona challenge coin. All had a great time and thanked David for visiting us.

Seated at the table from left around to the right are Patriot David Mercado, Patriot Jim Zimmerman, Patriot John Moore, Patriot Mike Dyer, Patriot Dave Bertagnoli, Patriot John Grand, Sam Phipps, & Patriot Cody Phipps



BUFFALO SOLDIER DAYS: Come and celebrate the legacy of the Buffalo Soldiers! The 2025 Tribute event, hosted by the **Southwest Association of Buffalo Soldiers (SWABS)** honors the legacy of the Buffalo Soldier Stamp with the theme: "The Buffalo Soldier Beyond the Call." This memorable event features keynote speaker



Colonel Richard “Dick” Toliver, USAF (Retired), a distinguished Air Force Veteran and author, as well as a presentation by National Buffalo Soldier Historian Dr. John P. Langellier, and the presentation of the SWABS Buffalo Soldier Legacy Award. With live entertainment by Freddie J with jazz, old-school R&B, and great food. **Camp Naco** is proud to sponsor this free event for the community. Thanks as well to our co-sponsors, the Sierra Vista African American Community Coalition and the Legacy Foundation of Southeast Arizona.



LEARN ABOUT OUR CHAPTER: Our video presentation explains our mission, who we are and what we do. View our video slideshow at [this link](#).

TRI-CITIES CHAPTER 472 – MESA, AZ Commander Ignacio Rivera



Cdr: Ignacio Rivera (480) 381-6618
Sr. Vice-Cdr: Ramiero Del Rio (602) 818-0796
Finance: James Pomush landjpomush@gmail.com
Adjutant: Stephan Bobby veteranairborne@yahoo.com
Chaplain: vacant

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

Yours in Patriotism
Ignacio Rivera
Commander Chapter 472

PURPLE HEART BRICK PROGRAM: Patriot **Stephan Bobby**, Chapter 472 oversees the **Purple Heart Memorial Brick Program** for the Department. The bricks are installed at the **Purple Heart Memorial at Wesley Bolin Plaza** at the state capital. Order a 4”x8” Purple Heart Brick to commemorate being a Purple

MESA VET CENTER:
Mesa Vet Center is located at 1303 South Longmore, Suite 5, Mesa, AZ 85202. The hours are 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM. Phone # is 480-610-6727.

Mesa Veterans' Center

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 ORDER FORM](#)



MICHAEL E. MAHONEY CHAPTER 691 – SURPRISE, AZ
Commander Larry Leighton

Aren't you glad we are having "cooler" weather? 😊



Just remember, it's a dry heat and a lot better than some of the catastrophic events happening around the world.

Although we're not having a meeting in August, we can still get together with other members and Veterans from around the State. If you are sitting around the picnic table or doing something else fun and exciting, pick up the phone and call a Veteran and let them know you were thinking about them. You never know, you just may start a "new" trend or a massive "chain reaction".

By the time we come back in September, the end of the 2025 will start come faster and faster. We'll have several fundraising events and Veteran Standup events to support, not to mention the holidays!

If you are reading this but haven't been joining our Chapter meetings for one reason or another, let me know if there is anything we need to do that will get you to come in person or to join the Zoom call.

If you have made any changes to your personal profile (home address, phone number, or email) and need help updating your National profile, give me a call or send me an email and we fix it together (623-776-5443 or email me at commander691moph@gmail.com).

Be SAFE! Be as HEALTHY as you can! Have FUN! Call a Veteran today!

Yours in Patriotism
Larry Leighton
Commander

Cdr: Larry Leighton -commander691moph@gmail.com

Sr. Vice-Cdr: James Starkman -

karen4357@att.net

Jr. Vice-Cdr: Sal Salinas-

salsalido@gmail.com

Chaplain: Jimi Sallmen -

jimisallmen@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.

SAFETY: Be SAFE! Be as HEALTHY as you can!

Have FUN! Call a Veteran today! 😊

NEW CHAPTER WEBSITE: We have a redesigned website at

691.mophaz.org.

Make sure you bookmark the web address since it is different than the old address.



PRESCOTT 4TH OF JULY PARADE:



Chapter member and department Sr. Vice-Commander **Mike Smyady's** Granddaughter Emma, was a flag bearer at the 2025 Prescott Rodeo and Prescott 4th of July parade.

PURPLE HEART DAY: Please wear your Purple Heart hat and shirt when you go out. Let folks know you are a member.



DALE E. CRICK CHAPTER 793 – FLAGSTAFF, AZ

Commander Rodger Ely

Fellow Patriots,



Welcome to Chapter 793. Our chapter participates in patriotic and welfare activities throughout Northern Arizona. Chapter 793 supports Northern Arizona Stand Downs in several Northern Arizona communities. Several Northern Arizona communities became Purple Heart entities this past year. Thank you, Page Arizona, Tuba City Arizona, and Nazlini Arizona (Navajo Nation). Chapter 793 participated in the Munds Park, AZ 4th of July parade. Join us at Williams Memorial Park on Purple Heart day at 11:00am for a ceremony honoring Purple Heart recipients.

You are always welcome to join us at our meetings or any of our activities!

Commander
Rodger Ely

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
Chaplain: Rupert Osequeda - rupert@swiftaz.net
Facebook: [Chapter 793 Facebook](#)
Next Meeting – contact the chapter
Meeting time: 11:30 AM
Meeting location: VFW Post 1709
 409 W Santa Fe Ave, Flagstaff, AZ 86001
Meeting date: Bi-monthly on 4th Wednesday.

PURPLE HEART DAY: August 7th is the Purple Heart Day Observance at Williams Monument Park in Williams, AZ at 11:00am.



PURPLE HEART DAY

A "Purple heart Day" Commemoration Ceremony will be held on Thursday August, 7 2025, at 11:00 AM at Williams Monument Park.

All are invited to join members of The American Legion, VFW, Military Order of the Purple Heart, Marine Corps League, Vietnam Veterans of America and Disabled American Veterans who attend.

Every County in Arizona is officially a "Purple Heart County" and Arizona is officially a "Purple Heart State", and The City of Williams became a Purple Heart City on August 7th 2018.

The purpose of this ceremony is to recognize the recipients of the Purple Heart medal, both in memory and those who are still with us.

On August 7, 1782 at his headquarters in Newburgh, NY. General George Washington, The Commander in Chief of the Continental Army, ordered the creation of a Badge of Military Merit. The badge consisted of a heart shaped piece of cloth, with the word MERIT embroidered in silver across the front. It was awarded to soldiers who showed "not only instances of unusual gallantry in battle, but also extraordinary fidelity and services in any way". The Purple Heart is the oldest active military decoration still awarded in the United States, recognizing those wounded or killed in combat.

Thanks to Army Gen. Douglas MacArthur, the Purple Heart officially received its modern-day look and name. A few years later in 1942, President Roosevelt and the War Department further defined the qualifications for receiving a Purple Heart, designating it for those who were wounded or killed in action, and to be presented both active and posthumously.

MUNDS PARK 4TH OF JULY PARADE: The Dale E. Crick Chapter 793 participated in the Munds Park 4th of July Parade in Munds Park; AZ. Thank you to the patriots that took part in the parade.



NAVAJO CODE TALKERS DAY: August 14th is Navajo Code Talkers Day in Window Rock, AZ. Parade at 8:00am followed by ceremony at the conclusion of the parade. A variety of services will be offered to veterans. See the flyer below:

NAVAJO CODE TALKERS DAY

Gourd Dance | Code Talker Recognition | Stand Down

TALKERS DAY

Thursday

AUGUST 14TH, 2025

Connecting Homeless & At-Risk

Veterans and their Families with Essential Community Services

- Wounded Warrior Project
- Arizona Work –
 - Dept Economic Security
- Honor Health
- Carry Me – Productions
- Brain Injury Alliance AZ

- Arizona Complete Health
- U.S Department of Veteran Affairs
- The Voice of Arizona's Veterans
- Banner University Health Plans
- Blue Cross Blue Shield AZ
- Solari | Crisis & Human Service

- U.S Vets Phoenix
- Military Onesource
- Mercy Care
- ASU – Thunderbird
- Soldier's Best Friend
- Hospice of the Valley








Extended Information contact the Navajo Nation Veteran Administration
 928.871.7307 | nvaford@navajo-nsn.gov
 Not Responsible for any theft, injuries or accidents

FLAGSTAFF VETERANS VBOC: Flagstaff Veterans VBOC is held every **first Tuesday of the month, 10:00am to 3:00pm.** The VBOC will have a VA representative to help with various VA issues & claims.



Bringing VA Benefits to you

Veteran Benefits Services

Speak with a VA representative, get answers to VA disability compensation/pension claim and benefit questions, and file your disability claim.

Location: Flagstaff Veterans CBOC
 1300 West University Ave. Ste 200
 Flagstaff, AZ 86001

When: Every 1st Tuesday of the month,
 1000am – 300pm
 Beginning: March 5th, 2024

Flagstaff VA Clinic

1300 West University Avenue, Suite 200
 Flagstaff, AZ 86001-7228

[Get directions on Google Maps](#)

Main phone: [928-226-1056](tel:928-226-1056)

VA health connect: [877-252-4866](tel:877-252-4866)

Mental health phone: [928-445-4860](tel:928-445-4860), ext. 7500



FACEBOOK: Facebook is the best place to find information on the chapter and stay current with our activities.

VALOR 22: Valor 22 will be conducting a 22K Ruck at the AZ State Veterans Home on Sep 13th. Scan QR code below for details.



Bob Stump Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center

500 Highway 89 North
Prescott, AZ 86313-5001

[Get directions on Google Maps](#)

Main phone: [928-445-4860](tel:928-445-4860)

VA health connect: [877-252-4866](tel:877-252-4866)

Mental health care: [928-445-4860](tel:928-445-4860), ext. 7500

CHAPTER 2560 – APACHE JUNCTION, AZ
Commander Mike Overmeyer



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

Chaplain: Frank Sonntag Jr. sfcfrank2003@yahoo.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

NEW CHAPTER WEBSITE: We have a new website at 2560.mophaz.org. Make sure you bookmark the address in your web browser.



CHAPTER 2560 WEARS RED ON FRIDAYS:
Patriots including about a dozen Purple Heart recipients meet for Wear Red at Friday's breakfast.

Join us EVERY Friday for Breakfast at 7:30am to 8:15am.
Cost for breakfast is \$12.00 Meeting starts at 8:15am.

Place: American Legion Post #27
1018 S. Meridian Rd
Apache Junction, AZ 85120

We wear RED on Fridays to Remember Everyone Deployed
Everyone is invited. Veterans, Spouses, Patriots and Guests
No Membership required...

YouTube.com: EastValleyR.E.D.FridayPatriots



WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA: Just a quick reminder that our **Christmas In July Online Auction** has only 4 more days before it ends! (Ends July 31st at 6pm AZ time!)

There are still some great items to bid on. If you are a golfer, there is a fantastic package for four golfers! Also, there are two different packages for a wine tasting party! Many items have more than one offer, so scroll through the three pages and find something you might like to have or use! Note, it also makes great Christmas gifts for those you don't know what to purchase!

Please go to the website: <https://go.dojiggy.io/wreaths> It is easy to bid on an item. If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at 520-280-4715.

Also, I am still looking for any children between the ages of 7-11 who would like to help me in the ceremony. I love to include our children in the ceremony to teach them why we do this. Contact me at nfass@hotmail.com.

Thank you very much for supporting Wreaths Across America.

MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART

CHAPTER 2560

CHRISTMAS IN JULY

Online Auction!!!



MOPH is having a "Christmas in July" online auction to raise monies for Wreaths Across America Remembrance Day.

One fun way, is to do an Online Auction! Please go to this website and look thru the items which are up for Auction. You can bid as many times you wish.

This auction will start on July 1, 2025 and will end at 6pm on July 31, 2025.

<https://go.dojiggy.io/wreaths>

Remember, if you have a loved one in another cemetery, and Wreaths Across America participates in that cemetery, we can assist you in having that wreath placed on WAA Remembrance Day, December 13, 2025.

Please contact Nancy Fassbender if you have any questions at 520-280-4715.

MOPH RELATED INFORMATION

PURPLE HEART HALL OF HONOR: Add your story to the Purple Heart Roll of Honor to help inspire future generations of citizens. Enroll at this [link](#).



BADGE OF MILITARY MERIT SOCIETY: The purpose of the Badge of Military Merit Society is to preserve and perpetuate the history and legacy of the Purple Heart



Medal, to support and honor its individual recipients, and to support the organization known as the Military

PURPLE HEART GEAR: The Purple Heart Store is a

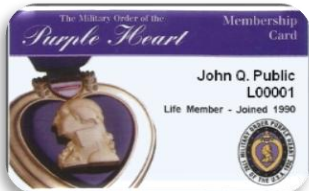


company devoted to Honoring Purple Heart Recipients and

their family members. It has served PH recipients for over 20 years and is a veteran owned business. Visit the [store](#) for hats, shirts, ties, etc.

MEMBERSHIP CARDS: Replacement membership

cards are available on the National Website you can login to your account and print a paper one or you can order plastic one at



<https://www.purpleheart.org/store>

PURPLE HEART COMBAT WOUNDED VETERANS OF ARIZONA: 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 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](#)

HELP YOUR CHAPTER: Visit the [MOPH Fund website](#) (<https://mophfund.org/>) on the Partners and Ambassador pages. Anything you buy from those pages generate funds directly back to your Chapter and to the National Headquarters for our programs.



ARIZONA STANDDOWN ALLIANCE: The Arizona Veterans StandDown Alliance (AVSA) holds resource fairs in 13 Arizona's counties. These events allow veterans and their families who are experiencing housing instability and homelessness to get and stay connected to housing and supportive services.

[White Mountain StandDown](#)

Saturday, August 16, 2025

Show Low Elks Lodge (805 E. Whipple Street, Show Low, AZ 85901)

Yavapai County StandDown

Friday, September 26, 2025

Order of the Purple Heart of the USA, Inc. (MOPH) through the MOPH's MOPH Fund. Donate to support MOPH at this [link](#).

UPDATE YOUR MOPH CONTACT INFO: Keep your snail mail address, phone & email address up to date. Go to the [MOPH National website](#). You need your membership number to log in. You can then update your contact information. You can also email us at adjutant.mophaz@gmail.com and we can update your snail mail, phone & email address for you.

HELP YOUR CHAPTER: Visit the [MOPH Fund website](#) (<https://mophfund.org/>) on the Partners and Ambassador pages. Anything you buy from those pages generate funds directly back to your Chapter and to the National Headquarters for our programs.



PURPLE HEART CAP: Like most veteran organizations, the Military Order of the Purple Heart has



its own distinctive purple military style cap. Chapter caps are purple with white piping and white lettering, with a George Washington emblem sewn on it.

The chapter number and the words “Life Member” may be added with white letters as appropriate. Order for \$29.95 at [Keystone Uniform Cap](#).

PURPLE HEART LICENSES PLATES: Vehicle license tax exemption is available 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 **the registration tax fee is waived**. Can only be used on one vehicle. Specialty plate and personalization fees still apply.



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

ARIZONA VETERANS' HALL OF FAME GRANT PROGRAM: The Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame Society was established in 2007 with a mission that

U.S.VETS Prescott (1040 Whipple Street, Prescott, AZ 86305)

Cochise County StandDown

Friday, October 17, 2025

Ethel Berger Center (2950 E. Tacoma Street, Sierra Vista, AZ 85635)

Navajo County StandDown

Friday, October 24, 2025

Navajo County Fairgrounds (404 E. Hopi Drive, Holbrook, AZ 86026)

WHITE MT STAND DOWN: See flyer below for information.

VETERANS! **BARNEY H. KENGLA MEMORIAL WHITE MOUNTAIN**

Saturday, August 16, 2025

10AM to 2PM

Show Low Elks Lodge No 2090
805 E. Whipple
Show Low, AZ 85902

Proof of military service required

STAND DOWN

This event is open to all Veterans in the Arizona White Mountains area who are in need of the following resources:

- Free Hot Meal
- Health Services
- Job Services
- Veterans Benefits
- Security Security
- Veterans Court
- Hair Cuts
- Other Services

For more information, please contact:
(928) 369.8455
fishersforveterans@gmail.com

Sponsored By:

AVSA, Arizona coalition for military families, VA, DONF, NATION'S FINEST, NORTH COUNTY HealthCare, beconnected

includes undertaking charitable and other projects and working with veteran organizations to support Arizona veterans, military service-members, and their families. The AZHOF Society does this in several ways and is proud to announce the establishment of the Society's new "Our Success is Your Success Support Program" effective July 1, 2025. See the flyer for details.

ARIZONA VETERANS HALL OF FAME SOCIETY
OUR SUCCESS IS YOUR SUCCESS SUPPORT PROGRAM

- Effective July 1, 2025, the "Our Success is Your Success" program is established by the Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame Society.
- In keeping with the Society's mission, this program will provide support to selected organizations who provide services, programs, or assistance to Arizona veterans, military servicemembers, as well as their families and survivors.
- Applications will not be accepted from individuals seeking assistance. Instead, the Society will award funds to Veteran Service Organizations and other established organizations to support their veteran/military focused programs or projects that the Society deems appropriate for funding.
- Funds will be awarded by the Society based on demonstrated need and will be subject to the Society's established annual funding cap. It is expected that multiple applications will be funded during each cycle with the maximum of \$10,000 awarded to any request.

The Society will conduct two application cycles annually:
Fall: 1 Jul - 30 Sep
Spring: 1 Apr - 30 Jun

For more information and to apply: <https://avhof.org/our-success-is-your-success-funding-program/>

HONOR FLIGHT: Book your trip to Washington D.C. with Honor Flight. See the flyer for details:

HONOR FLIGHT ARIZONA
FLYING VETERANS AT NO COST TO THEIR MEMORIALS IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

WORLD WAR II VETERANS
KOREAN WAR VETERANS
VIETNAM WAR VETERANS
WE WANT YOU!

FOR MORE INFORMATION
PLEASE VISIT
WWW.HONORFLIGHTAZ.ORG
OR PHONE
928-377-1020

Honor Flight Arizona is a 501c3 Non-Profit Organization

OTHER INFORMATION

STATE LEGISLATION: These three bills are still awaiting action from the Rules Committee in both houses:

- HB2672: Property Tax Exemption for Disabled Veterans – Under review by the Senate Rules Committee, chaired by Senator Farnsworth.
- SB1155: Pay Equity for USPHS/NOAA – Under review by the House Rules Committee chaired by Rep. Hendrix.
- SB1704: VDF Monies for State Veterans Homes – Under review by the House Rules Committee, chaired by Rep. Hendrix

FREE LIFETIME PASS TO NATIONAL PARKS:

Individuals who served in the U.S. Armed Forces,

including the National Guard and Reserves, and can present one of the following valid non-expired forms of identification when entering or

All Veterans are eligible for
A FREE LIFETIME PASS TO U.S. NATIONAL PARKS

Hiking • Biking • Fishing • Camping • and more

To obtain a pass visit nps.gov or use the National Park Service app

using federal lands:

- 1) Department of Defense Identification Card or Next Generation USID replacement).

Contact Committee Chairs and Members Today if you support these bills. For HB2672 Senator Farnsworth at DFARNSWORTH@AZLEG.GOV
For SB1155 and SB1704 Rep. Hendrix at LHENDRIX@AZLEG.GOV

VA VETERANS' ASSISTANCE PROGRAM: The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has announced plans to extend eligibility for its **Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers (PCAFC)** to include more so-called "legacy" Veterans and their caregivers, a move expected to benefit thousands who served before 2001. More information is at this [link](#).

VA TRAVEL VOUCHER FORM: As a reminder, the old beneficiary travel voucher claim form has officially expired. The new forms are now out for use. The forms can also be found online at <https://www.va.gov/find-forms/about-form-10-3542/>.

VA COMMUNITY CARE: VA Community Care Just Got Easier. The Department of Veterans Affairs has changed its process for veterans to get medical care from non-VA providers, removing a requirement that a referral to community care be reviewed by another VA doctor. The VA announced that it is enacting a provision of the Senator Elizabeth Dole 21st Century Veterans Healthcare and Benefits Improvement Act that will help ease veterans' access to medical services from private providers. The law, signed in December by then-President Joe Biden, prohibits VA administrators from overriding a VA doctor's referral for a patient to get outside care. More info is at this [link](#).

MY HEALTHEVET & VA.GOV TRANSITION: The VA's patient portal, **My HealtheVet**, is moving to **VA.gov**. With the new My HealtheVet on VA.gov portal, Veterans will have a more secure, single online location to manage their health care and other VA benefits and services.

As of January 31, 2025, Veterans are no longer able to sign in using My HealtheVet user ID and password. The two-remaining **sign-in options will be Login.gov**, which offers streamlined set up and integration with other federal services like TSA Precheck and FEMA, **and ID.me**, which provides additional verification methods, including video calls, and can be used for military discounts.

KB HOMES & HOMES FOR WOUNDED HEROES: KB Homes & Homes for Wounded Heroes is looking for an OEF/OIF Veteran to give a home to. Must be 100% disabled, Purple Heart recipient, wounded in theater, and lost a limb or sustained

- 2) Veteran Health Identification Card (VHIC)
 - 3) Veteran ID Card
 - 4) Veterans' designation on a state-issued U.S. driver's license or identification card-
- More information is at the [Park Service Link](#).

2025 VETERANS DAY POSTER: The VA has announced the official poster for Veterans Day 2025.



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE: Military retirees are required to update their Uniformed Services Identification (USID) cards to the new Next Generation USID card by December 31, 2025.



The **paper-based USID cards with indefinite expiration dates will no longer be accepted** after this date.

It's important for military retirees, dependents, & surviving spouses to know these old forms of ID will not be valid to access a military installation, and you will need issuance of the NextGen ID card.

There are several ways to make an appointment to get a new ID card. (1). You can visit the RAPIDS ID Card Office Locator website to find the closest office and either call them to make an appointment or (2). schedule your own appointment using the website. <https://idco.dmdc.osd.mil/idco/>

CLELAND-DOLE MENTAL HEALTH COPAY EXEMPTION: Good news for Veterans who owe copays for outpatient mental health and substance use disorder visits. **VA is canceling and refunding the first three mental health and**

blindness. And be willing to relocate to Tampa, San Antonio, or Denver. See flyer for details.

Help us find the next veteran recipient of a new home.

And let's support America's heroes.



Since 2019, KB Home has partnered with Jared Allen's Homes for Wounded Warriors (JAH4WW), a nonprofit organization dedicated to raising money to build fully accessible homes for America's combat-injured Veterans.



KB Home has built mortgage-free, accessible homes for veterans in our San Antonio, Tampa and Denver divisions. We are honored and humbled to support those who have given so much for our country and its citizens. We would like to continue this important mission and are actively seeking your help in identifying our next recipient.

If you know a veteran who meets the qualifications and whose family would like to live in a market where we currently build, please encourage them to apply at: homesforwoundedwarriors.com/veteran-application

Applicant must meet these qualifications:

- Injuries sustained in combat with the U.S. military while serving in Iraq or Afghanistan during Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) or Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF)
- Declared 100% disabled by the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) or Veterans Affairs
- Purple Heart recipient
- Wounds resulting in the loss of a major limb, blindness or paralysis



kbhome.com | homesforwoundedwarriors.com

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substance use disorder copays in each calendar year between June 27, 2023, and December 29, 2027. Click [HERE](#) to learn more.

MYVA HOTLINE: The MYVA is at [1-800-MyVA411](tel:1-800-MyVA411) (698-2411) and is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year to serve veterans, their families, caregivers, and survivors.

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 for us by the 25th of each month.

Yours in Patriotism,
John R. Moore
Jr. Vice-Commander

