



August 2025

Volume 5 Issue 12

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER
Patriot Cody Phipps

Dear Patriots,



It's finally starting to cool down, and soon our chapters and department will be getting back to full speed after the "dark" summer months. With the fall holidays approaching, we have several opportunities to support veterans and their families. I encourage everyone to get involved in upcoming events and outreach efforts—our presence makes a real difference for Veterans in Arizona.

On August 7th, we celebrated Purple Heart Day, and I had the honor of recognizing Tucson-area Heroes from WWII, Korea, and Vietnam for their incredible sacrifices. I heard amazing stories of courage and resilience. One Hero returned an enemy grenade, saving his squad while losing his eyesight and hearing. Their stories—and the smiles on their faces and their families' faces as we honored them—made it a truly special day.

Each of us has a story behind our medal. A story of pride and courage. Sacrifice and Merit. Those of us who were wounded and those who were killed in action. This is what connects us all as Purple Heart Patriots.

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

I look forward to seeing everyone at our next Department Executive Meeting on Zoom on September 24th. A member of the chapter command group must attend. The Zoom call is **open** to all members. Time: 06:30 PM Arizona Time, September 24, 2025. Zoom Meeting ID: 842 2842 9701 & Passcode: 879117 or Dial in: 669 900 6833.

Thank you for your service and dedication to the Order and to our Veterans.

Yours in Patriotism,
Cody Phipps
Department of Arizona Commander

DEPARTMENT SR. VICE-COMMANDER
Patriot Michael Smaydy

Greetings Patriots, Hello Patriots.

Hope everybody enjoyed their summer. It's time for the chapters that were dark during the summer to start up again, and for the Department, and its chapters, to start working on their programs for the new year.

I know everyone realizes that we need new membership if we are going to continue to survive and that I am preaching to the choir. But that is what Department Senior Vice Commanders do. For every new active member that we can recruit it eases the burden of the existing active members. One way I



have found out that is good for recruiting is to wear Purple Heart items and especially Military Order of the Purple Heart clothing items. Whether it's a shirt, hat, or jacket, Purple Heart recipients recognize the Logo. It does work. For example, this past spring Chapter 691 had an outing at Lake Pleasant and while on the boat I was approached by a Purple Heart recipient who noticed all the clothing and hats. After talking to him for a bit I referred him to a Chapter 793 officer who proceeded to give the gentleman more detailed information and how to sign up.

If we are visible in our communities, we will be able to recruit new members. If possible, try and keep a CURRENT application on your person, and one in your vehicle, because you never know when you will meet up with a potential member. Another way is if you see someone wearing a Purple Heart hat, approach them, thank them for their service, and ask them if they are a member of the MOPH. Tell them about some of the programs we have and offer them an application. Inform them that they can join online.

Your Department is finalizing a new incentive program for new active members. If the new member is active, for a yet to be determined time, then that Chapter can petition the Department for a membership fee rebate of \$100.00. If the chapter matches that then the new member will be refunded a \$200.00 amount which was their membership fee, essentially giving them free membership for being active. Once again this is still in the final stages of being implemented.

Till next time be safe.

Your Department Sr. Vice Commander

Mike

928-445-3792

michaeljism@hotmail.com

DEPARTMENT JR. VICE-COMMANDER Patriot John Moore

SEPTEMBER 11TH IS PATRIOT DAY: This day is dedicated to all those who love their country. Take



time to remind ourselves of the dreadful incident of 9/11 and remember those who lost their lives to the needless terror. A special thanks goes to our **201 members who received Purple Hearts** when answering the call after

9/11 and served during the Global War on Terror. Thank you for your courage and sacrifice!

SEPTEMBER 19TH IS POW/MIA DAY: We will always remember and honor our Nation's prisoners



of war and those still missing in action and keep the promise as a Nation to bring all our heroes home. A special thank you to our members who sacrificed by spending time as a POW.
Patriot Walter Ram,

SEPTEMBER 18TH IS THE AIR FORCE BIRTHDAY: Happy birthday to the Air Force. For 76 years Airmen have been there to provide



America with the airpower it needs to defend the nation and to deter or to defeat our adversaries. Thank you to our **37 members who received Purple Hearts** while serving in the Air Force.

DEPARTMENT CALENDAR:

- Sep 1 > Labor Day
- Sep 2 > V-J Day
- Sep 5 > Williams StandDown
- Sep 5 > Stafford StandDown
- Sep 11 > Patriot Day
- Sep 13 > Chapter 691 Meeting
- Sep 15 > Chapter 442 Meeting
- Sep 17 > Constitution Day
- Sep 18 > Air Force Birthday
- Sep 19 > POW/MIA Day
- Sep 24 > Executive Committee Meeting

chapter 442, spent 18 months as a POW in Stalag 17b. You can read his story [here](#).



- Sep 26 > Yavapai/Prescott StandDown
- Sep 28 > Gold Star Family Day
- Oct 1 > LMV Report Due

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

DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT Patriot Larry Leighton

I am glad the “light” has come back on and our Chapters are coming out of “the Dark”. 😊



The command team has started working on a series of “policy statements” to replace our outdated Department Bylaws while at the same time making it much easier for all of our

members and officers put their fingers on National and Department requirements.

As I was editing the next issue of the Purple Heart Magazine, I realized I had been missing a day that has significant impact on the entire population and particularly the military. It’s been a long time since I was in school and I don’t remember being taught much about it then. 😞 Constitution Day recognized on September 17th is the one I’ve missed but I included it in this issue of the PHM. Here’s just a portion of that article but I encourage everyone to read up on this important day in our history.

“A Call to Reflection

On Constitution Day, let us remember the timeless values enshrined in that document: freedom, justice, and unity. Let us honor those who risked — and still risk—everything to uphold them. And let us take pride, as Purple Heart recipients and patriotic Americans, in knowing that our sacrifices have preserved the very foundation of the republic. September 17th is not just another date on the calendar—it is the heartbeat of our democracy. And for those of us who have shed blood in its defense, it is deeply personal.”



BADGE OF MILITARY MERIT SOCIETY: In case you missed it, the Badge of Military Merit Society (BMMS) was created to help preserve the legacy of the Purple Heart Medal and the Military Order of the Purple Heart. WE have over 55k members and associate members on the National roster as of June 30th. **If only 25k members would sign up to donate just \$5 each month, together we would raise over \$1.5 million for the Order’s programs each year!** Join at this [link](#).

LIFE MEMBERSHIP VERIFICATION: I, and the Chapter Adjutants, have to make sure our Life Member Verification Reports are **ACCURATE and submitted to National before October 1st**. You can do your part by keeping your personal profile up to date. If you need help to verify your profile is up to date, any Chapter or Department officer can help.

National Suicide Prevention Month: Suicide prevention begins with connection. Small acts—listening without judgment, offering to meet for coffee, or simply making a phone call—can change the course of someone’s day, or even their life. National Suicide Prevention Month is more than awareness—it is a call to action. As Purple Heart recipients, we embody courage in the face of adversity. That same courage must be brought to bear in breaking the silence around mental health and suicide.

Let us **honor our fallen by fighting for the living**. Let us prove, once again, that we are stronger together than alone.

If you or someone you know is in crisis, call the **Veterans Crisis Line: 988, press 1**. Help is always available. Hope is always possible.

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

Yours in Patriotism
Larry Leighton
Adjutant

DEPARTMENT WEBMASTER
Patriot Cheryl Packham

WEBMASTER'S CORNER – STAY ALERT FOR EMAIL SCAMS:

As your Department Webmaster, I want to remind everyone to stay vigilant when it comes to suspicious emails, especially those that appear to come from fellow officers or trusted contacts.



Scam emails are on the rise, and many now use email spoofing—a tactic where a scammer sends an email that looks like it's from someone you know. These messages often request gift cards, wire transfers, personal information, or include links that lead to malicious websites. Don't take the bait.

Here are a few quick tips to protect yourself and your chapter:

- Double-check the sender's address. Just because it says it's from "John Doe" doesn't mean it is. **Hover your mouse over the sender's name to see the actual email address.**
- Never send gift cards or passwords by email. No legitimate MOPH officer will ever request gift cards, sensitive information, or money via email without prior direct conversation.
- Watch for urgency or odd language. Messages that say, "Are you available right now?" or "I need a quick favor but can't talk" are classic signs of a scam.
- Don't click unverified links or attachments. If something feels off, verify the sender before clicking any links or opening files, especially if the email is unexpected or vague.
- Report suspicious messages. Forward questionable emails to: webmaster@mophaz.org so, I can help investigate and alert others if needed.

To improve communication and reduce these threats, we're rolling out a department-wide email system in September. New email addresses (like **firstname.lastname@ch####.mophaz.org**) will help confirm legitimacy and provide secure, role-based access to official chapter communications.

If your chapter hasn't set up your email or website, I'm happy to help. Just reach out to webmaster@mophaz.org and I'll get you started.

Stay alert. Stay safe. Stay scam smart.

In service,
Cheryl Packham
Webmaster, Department of Arizona
Military Order of the Purple Heart
<https://www.mophaz.org>

DEPARTMENT OFFICERS

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

- Commander - **Cody Phipps** 817.239.2073;
commanderazmoph@gmail.com
- Senior Vice Commander - **Mike Smaydy**
928.445.3792; michaeljsm@hotmail.com
- Junior Vice Commander – **John Moore**
520.744.9768; mophchapter442@comcast.net
- Finance Officer – **Jim Starkman** 708.638.2321;
karen4357@att.net
- Inspector – **Stephan Bobby** 480.266.9268;
veteranairborne@yahoo.com

APPOINTED OFFICERS:

- Adjutant - **Larry Leighton** 623.776.5443;
adjutant.mophaz@gmail.com
- Americanism Officer - **Will Hunker**
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

Sergeant At Arms – **John Ballenger**
602.245.0437; cjballenger22@msn.com



FORT LOWELL CHAPTER 442 – TUCSON, AZ
Commander Cody Phipps

Patriots of Chapter 442,

The hot summer has not slowed us down helping Tucson area Veterans and their families. We honored the Purple Heart recipients residing at the State Veterans home on Purple Heart Day and made a \$500 donation to the Veterans Home for the welfare of the patients. We also continued to hold our monthly lunch meetups throughout the summer, and they are continuing to grow. Thank you to those who continue to show up each month!



The end of the year is not far off, and we have several opportunities to accomplish our mission. We will be donating to support Veteran families at Thanksgiving and distributing gift bags to the residents of the Veterans Home at Christmas. Veteran's day is also coming fast. We continue to support homeless Veterans in Tucson year-round by donating to the transitional housing program for food. Finally, we are making plans for the 2026 Department Convention on May 2nd. Save the date, hope to see everyone there!

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.

PURPLE HEART DAY: On Purple Heart Day Ft. Lowell Chapter 442 visited the **Arizona State Veterans Home Tucson** to honor Purple Heart

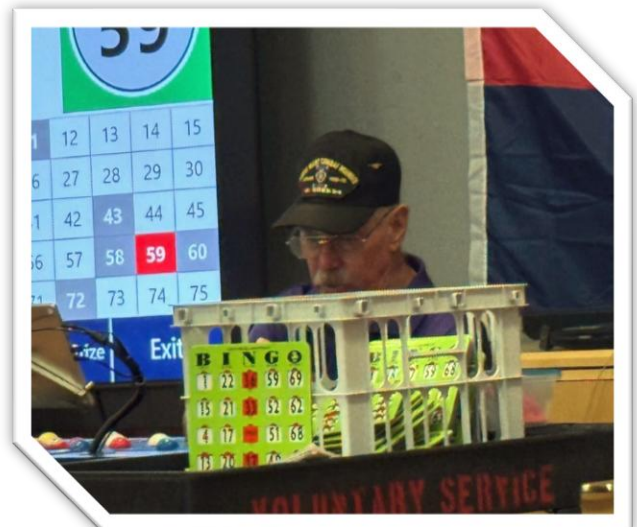
MONTHLY PURPLE HEART LUNCHEON: Our monthly PH Luncheon was held on August 20 at the Old Father Inn in northwest Tucson. Our next monthly luncheon will be on September 17th. We will announce the location by email and on FaceBook. Come join us for the comradeship. **You are allowed to tell war stories.**

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

BINGO AT THE TUCSON VA Hospital: Ft Lowell Chapter 442 Tucson hosted bingo on August 16th for patients at the Tucson VA Hospital. Thank you to **Patriot Cody Phipps**, **Patriot Dave Bertagnoli**, and volunteer **Sam Phipps**. A beautiful handmade quilt was the grand prize.

photos on next page

recipients residing in the home. The home has 12 residents with Purple Hearts. 2 served in WWII, 3 in Korea, & 7 in Vietnam. We presented each with a Certificate of Appreciation, a PH challenge coin, a replica Badge of Military Merit, a Purple Heart tumbler, and a Purple Heart hat. Chapter 442 also donated \$500 to the Veterans Home for welfare of the residents. Thank you to **Patriot Phipps, Patriot Moore, Patriot Grand, Patriot Dyer, Patriot Bertagnoli, & Patriot Benedict** who attended to help honor the Purple Heart residents of the home.



ARIZONA STATE VETERANS HOME-TUCSON: The Arizona State Veteran Home-Tucson (ASVH-Tucson) has been recognized as one of the best nursing homes in the country by Newsweek magazine. See ASVH-Tucson for the [America's Best Nursing Homes 2025](#). The nursing homes on the list were assessed and ranked for performance



WWII Vet Elmer Scullawl & Patriot Moore

data, recommendations of medical professionals, accreditations and resident satisfaction. ASVH-Tucson is a 120-bed skilled nursing facility, co-located near the Southern Arizona VA Health Care System, which offers eligible Veterans and their spouses a wide array of amenities.



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

Commander: Ignacio Rivera (480) 381-6618
Sr. Vice-Commander: Ramiero Del Rio (602) 818-0796
Finance: James Pomush landipomush@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 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:

PURPLE HEART DAY: Comments by **Patriot Jason Duren** about Purple Heart Day. Today is Purple Heart Day, a day that will always hit



different for me. Years ago, in Afghanistan, my life changed in a moment. I was wounded in combat. The Purple Heart I received isn't just a medal, it's a piece of my story. It's a reminder of pain, of healing, and of the brothers who didn't make it home. After I came back, I needed a new mission.

Patriot Stephan Bobby
MOPH AZ PH Brick Coordinator
4543 E. County Down Dr.
Chandler, AZ 85249-7339

or Download Order Form: [PH ORDER FORM](#)



My brother and I built **Cider Corps here in Mesa** as a way to keep serving. Not on the battlefield, but in our community. Every pour is a toast to service, sacrifice, and connection. To my fellow veterans, you're not forgotten. To our community thank you for standing with us. And to those we've lost you're always with us.

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



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

Our September 13th regular Chapter meeting (second Saturday of the month) is at the regular time (9 AM) and at the regular place (Sands Chevrolet at 16991 W Waddell Rd, Surprise, AZ 85388).



If you cannot come in person, maybe **you can join us virtually via Zoom**. Go to the [Zoom Meeting Link](#) and use Meeting ID: 815 5957 0914; Passcode: 328403; or by calling 2532050468).

PS. Bring your rain gear to the meeting. The weather forecasters keep saying “rain is coming”. 😊

As Uncle Sam says, **I need you!** I value your input about how the Chapter is doing (good or bad) and what we can make it stronger and more viable for our comrades and other Veterans in Arizona. Please give a call or send me an email and we fix it together (623-776-5443 or email me at commander691moph@gmail.com).

We want to do some fun things also, something other than simply meeting for an hour or so around the “podium”. Bring or send your ideas for any kind of social event (breakfast, lunch, “roller skating in a buffalo herd”) or an idea for someone or some organization to come and speak to us.

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

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.

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 (328403). By phone, call 719 359 4580 and enter the id/password.



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). We participated at the Williams Memorial Park on Purple Heart day at 11:00am for a ceremony honoring Purple Heart recipients. Chapter 793 participated in the Flagstaff Summertime Tardeada on August 9th and the Munds Park, AZ Veterans celebration on August 23rd.

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

FACEBOOK: Facebook is the best place to find information on the chapter and stay current with our activities. Our Facebook page is at [Chapter 793 Facebook](#).

FLAGSTAFF SUMMERTIME TARDEADA: The Chapter 793 Purple Heart Truck & Patriot Billy Weldon were at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church's Summertime Tardeada in Flagstaff on August 9th.

Meeting date: Bi-monthly on 4th Wednesday.

A purple and white Ford truck, likely a 1970s model, is parked on a paved surface. The front of the truck features a white stripe with the word "HEART" in black letters. The side of the truck has a circular logo with the text "COURTNEY'S HEART" and "COURTESY OF THE HEART FOUNDATION". A rainbow flag is mounted on the back of the truck. The truck is parked in front of a wooden building with a sign that says "PAUL". The background shows a fair or festival setting with trees and a blue sky.



POW-MIA
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
U.S. ARMY CENTER OF MASS

The Purple Heart is a decoration awarded to United States military personnel for being wounded or killed in any action against an enemy of the United States or as a result of an act of any kind and enemy or opposing armed forces. The first was awarded on February 2nd,

POW-MIA
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
U.S. ARMY CENTER OF MASS

The men and women listed on this truck were all victims of Hoagstaff who were killed during military service to their country



Friday - September 5th 2025

9 AM to 2 PM

Williams Recreation Center

300 W. Railroad Avenue

Williams, Arizona

6TH ANNUAL

MAI THEW J. BROEHM MEMORIAL

WILLIAMS STAND DOWN



RECOGNITION CEREMONY 11 AM

www.facebook.com/MatthewJ.Broehm-Stand-Down

VA Services • Hygiene Kits • Clothing & Surplus
Community Services • Employment Services • Job Search Information
Dental, Vision & Medical Assistance • Haircuts • Pet Food & Pet Care
Veterans' Court Information • Notary • Housing Support Services
Disability, Improved Pension & Survivors Benefits
Veterans Court Information • Women Veterans Reception



AVSA
American Veterans Service Association



DANF
Department of Army National Family



National Military Family Association



beconnected
Department of Defense



COCONINO
Health & Human Services



NAHLI
National Health Leadership Initiative



VETERANS AFFAIRS



WAVES
WOMEN ADVANCING VETERANS EMPLOYMENT SERVICES



Synovis for Veterans



Northstar CONNECTIONS



Habitat for Humanity



Kaiser Permanente



GRAND CANYON UNIVERSITY



NORTH COUNTY COMMUNITY CENTER



US ARMY



US NAVY



US MARINE CORPS



US AIR FORCE



Catholic Charities
of the Diocese of Phoenix



JCC
Jewish Community Center



ADOT
Arizona Department of Transportation



BUREAU OF PRISONS

9:00 AM - 2:00 PM • Friday September 5th, 2025 • Williams Recreation Center • 300 W. Railroad Avenue Williams, AZ

PURPLE HEART DAY: Chapter 793 **Commander Rodger Ely** honored combat wounded veterans in a ceremony on Purple Heart Day on August 7th at Memorial Park in Williams, AZ.

Mental health phone: 928-445-4860, ext. 7500



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.



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

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



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

Yours in Patriotism
Mike Overmeyer
Commander Chapter 2560

CHAPTER 2560 ASSISTS VETERAN IN NEED WITH EMERGENCY INTERVENTION: In August the chapter provided emergency housing for a 3 tour Global War on Terror veteran. The veteran, his wife, and 2 under the age of 7 children were living in his F-150 truck in the record August heat.

Patriot Chuck Byers vetted the veteran and the chapter's officers approved \$569 and placed the family in a motel for a week. Visibly moved, the veteran pledged to follow instructions and cooperate fully with all coordinated efforts. He expressed deep gratitude, noting that his family wished to send a photo to the Military Order of the Purple Heart as a gesture of eternal thanks. For the first time in weeks, the family looked toward



tomorrow with hope—not from the cab of a truck, but from safe shelter—confident that through honor, duty, and collective perseverance, they could achieve a lasting exit from homelessness. AZDVS, the MACV Foundation and other agencies are actively working to help this veteran in need.

NEW CHAPTER 2560 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 the 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: We are getting ready for Wreaths Across America for this coming December. We are still looking for any children between the ages of 7-11 who would like to help 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.

Sponsor a Wreath Today!

WREATHS across AMERICA
National Remembrance Day
Community is Invited!

Saturday, December 13, 2025 at 10:00am

Please scan the QR Code below to sponsor or to Volunteer—you can also visit:
www.wreathsasscrossamerica.org/AZ0190P

Mariposa Gardens Memorial and/or Mountain View Cemeteries
400 S Power Rd 7900 E Main St
Mesa, AZ 85206 Mesa, AZ 85207

THANKS TO OUR 2025 SPONSORS

Wreaths Across America gives back \$5.00 On every wreath sold to support local Veterans in our community!

Did you know? Worcester Wreath Co. makes 90,000 wreaths per day for 52 days to supply WAA!

Make checks payable to "Wreaths Across America" and mail to
4657 S. Desert Dawn Dr.
Gold Canyon, AZ 85118

Please help the Military Order of the Purple Heart honor our local heroes

Direct questions to Nancy Fassbender (520)280-4715 or nfass@hotmail.com

MOPH

BUDDYCHECK

CONNECT WITH 10 VETERAN BUDDIES

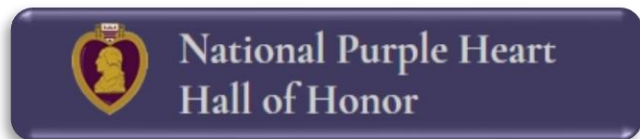
RELATED MOPH & VETERAN INFORMATION

SAFFORD - GILA VALLEY STANDDOWN: Gila Valley Veterans Resource Fair is **September 5th** in Safford, AZ. See Flyer below for details.



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

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](#).



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.



VETERANS ENJOY OUR ARIZONA STATE PARKS: Did you know Arizona State Parks offers a special discount program just for veterans and active-duty military? It's their way of saying "Thank



you" for your service—and it's a great reason to get outside and enjoy

everything our state has to offer. **If you're a 100% service-connected disabled veteran, you can get an annual pass for FREE.** That means unlimited day-use entry to all 30 state parks for you and up to three adults in the same vehicle. **If you're an Arizona resident veteran with any service-connected disability, you qualify for 50% off the annual pass.** And if you're **active-duty military**, you get **free day-use admission** any time!

What's Included?

The pass covers **day-use access**—so you can hike, picnic, and explore places like **Lost Dutchman, Dead Horse Ranch, Kartchner Caverns**, and so many more. (Camping and special tours aren't included, but the parks offer great deals on those too.)

How to Get Your Pass

It's easy:

1. **Fill out an application online or at any state park.** [Go to the AZ State Parks Website.](#)
2. Show proof of Arizona residency and your VA disability rating (or your military ID if you're active duty).
3. Submit it and start planning your next adventure!

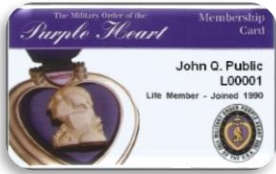
Why Not Take Advantage?

We all know how good it feels to get outside. Fresh air, sunshine, and Arizona's incredible views—it's the perfect way to relax, recharge, and make memories with family and friends.

So, if you haven't checked out Arizona's state parks lately, now's the time. **You earned this benefit—go enjoy it!**

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

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](#)

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.

[Williams StandDown](#)

Friday, September 5, 2025

Williams Recreation Center (300 W. Railroad Avenue, Williams, AZ 86046)

[Safford StandDown](#)

Friday, September 5, 2025

Graham County Fairgrounds (527 E. Armory Road, Buildings 3 & 4, Safford, AZ 85546)

Yavapai County StandDown

Friday, September 26, 2025

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)

referral for a patient to get outside care. More info is at this [link](#).

UNITED ARIZONA VETERANS: This organization offers scholarships to Arizona veterans. See flyer below. Go to this [link](#) for more information or to apply.

2026 [Unified Arizona Veterans \(UAV\)](#) Scholarship Application Form (DEADLINE: February 15th, 2026)

Offering U.S. Military Veterans, and their family, higher learning scholarships.

Annually, Unified Arizona Veterans (UAV) offers [scholarships](#) for up to \$5,000 to **THREE** individual Arizona residents, who are **either** an:

- **Honorably discharged U.S. Military Veteran.** (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard, Space Force, Arizona National Guard/ Reserve.) **OR,**
- **Who are determined by the VA to have a 100% service-connected disability rating.** **OR,**
- **Immediate family member** (example: un-remarried spouse, dependent child, grandchild, etc.) **of either an honorably discharged U.S. Military Veteran, or Killed in Action (KIA) or in an Act of Terror (AOT) military sponsor.** (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard, Space Force, Arizona National Guard/Reserve military sponsor.)

ARIZONA VETERANS' HALL OF FAME:

Registration for the Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony is now open. However, the list of Selectees has not yet been finalized, and the names have not been released. If you plan to sit with an individual who may be on the Selectee List, please wait until UAV is able to release the names of the Inductees. After the Inductees have been notified, the registration portal will be updated with the list of Inductee names. UAV will be conducting the registration for the AVHOF Induction Ceremony on the Zeffy non-profit only event registration and management platform. When you register for the AVHOF Induction Ceremony, please consider making a contribution to Zeffy, in appreciation for their providing this platform at no charge to non-profits.

REGISTER HERE FOR THE 2025 AVHOF INDUCTION CEREMONY

(2025 Induction Ceremony Registration DOES NOT include a room at Talking Stick Resort)

<https://www.zeffy.com/.../2025-arizona-veterans-hall-of-...>

REGISTER FOR UAV BLOCK ROOMS AT TALKING STICK RESORT

<https://book.rquest.com/.../2025-10-24/2025-10-25/1318/1>

Pinal County StandDown

Saturday, October 11, 2025

Pinal County Veterans Transition Center (5497 W. McCartney Road, Coolidge, AZ 85194)

Cochise County StandDown

Friday, October 17, 2025

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

Lake Havasu City StandDown

Saturday, October 18, 2025

Aquatic Center – Relics & Rods Hall (100 Park Avenue, Lake Havasu City, AZ 86403)

Navaio County StandDown

Friday, October 24, 2025

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

Yuma StandDown

Friday, October 31, 2025

Venue: TBD

2026 Maricopa County StandDown

Tentative: Thursday & Friday, March 12-13, 2026

Arizona State Fairgrounds (1826 W. McDowell Road, Phoenix, AZ 85007)

PURPLE HEART VEHICLE REGISTRATION

FEES: 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 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

See flyer below for more details:



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



DAIL 211: With over 8500 local and statewide resources, The AZ 211 help line is ready to help when you need it most. With the help of its operators, individuals and families can access a wide range of services and programs locally and statewide.

Some of the critical services offered include supplemental food and nutrition programs,



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.

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/>

DEPARTMENT WEBSITE: is at this [Link](#).

NATIONAL MOPH WEBSITE: is at this [Link](#).



shelter and housing options, utilities assistance, employment and education opportunities, emergency information and disaster relief, and services for veterans. Additionally, the helpline provides crucial information on health care, vaccination, health epidemic updates, addiction prevention and rehabilitation programs, re-entry help for ex-offenders, support groups for individuals with mental illnesses or special needs, and a confidential path out of domestic violence situations. Call 211 or visit the [211 Website](#).

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.

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