



September 2025

Volume 6 Issue 1

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER
Patriot Cody Phipps

Dear Patriots,



Cody Phipps

I hope this message finds each of you well and proud of your continued service to our Veteran community. I'd like to take this opportunity to update everyone on the department activities and upcoming events.

First, let's pause to remember and honor the 2,977 American lives lost in the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001. The United States of America was attacked on American soil for the first time since Pearl Harbor. We pay tribute to the courage of first responders, service members, and ordinary citizens who answered the call on that tragic day. We also stand in gratitude for the men and women who stepped forward to serve in the Global War on Terrorism in the years that followed. To our post-9/11 Purple Heart recipients and all who bore the burden of those conflicts, we offer our deepest respect and appreciation. Your sacrifice has strengthened our nation and safeguarded the freedoms we cherish.

The department command team has been busy reviewing and drafting updates to our department bylaws. Our goal is to make our bylaws easier to follow and clearer for our membership to understand. More information will be available as we begin voting to approve bylaws in the coming DEC meetings.

We remain engaged with state and local leaders to protect and strengthen benefits for Arizona veterans. Recently, our department has monitored proposals concerning predatory lending practices aimed at veterans and service members. Staying informed and involved helps us ensure that the voices of Purple Heart recipients are heard and respected.

Our chapters continue to support programs that honor sacrifice and serve veterans in need. From assisting at VA facilities to participating in community events, every hour you contribute matters. If your chapter is running an initiative, you'd like to highlight statewide, please share it with our department staff so we can amplify your work.

I'm proud of what we've accomplished and confident in where we're headed. Thank you for your continued dedication to our mission: fostering patriotism, honoring sacrifice, and supporting one another as combat-wounded veterans. Your involvement keeps our department strong and ensures that the Purple Heart legacy lives on for future generations.

I look forward to seeing everyone at our next Department Executive Committee Meeting by Zoom on October 22nd. A member of the chapter command group must attend. The Zoom call is **open to all members**. Time: 06:30 PM Arizona Time, October 22, 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

Hello Patriots.

The month of September has passed and hopefully every chapter remembered POW/MIA day and that September was Suicide Prevention Month.



Michael Smaydy

Also, I hope every chapter got their Life Membership update completed and sent to National by October 1st. If they are not sent in you will not receive a Rebate for them.

I don't know how many of you know this, but I recently went to register a vehicle and found out that the fees were waved because I was a Purple Heart recipient. You must go in person and show proof of the award (DD-214). I saved some money. More information is further down in the newsletter.



[Dixxon Flannel Company](#) has partnered up with the MOPH. They have a special Purple Merit Flannel Shirt in honor of the MOPH and for every one of these shirts sold the National Office will

receive a partial amount of the sale. I have purchased one and it is a quality flannel shirt.



If a Chapter is having an event, whether social or in the community, Please, let the department know. We might be interested in attending or if you would like a department officer to attend also let us know.

Finally, Your Department still has some positions to fill. Namely **Judge Advocate, Chaplain, and Legislative Officer**. None of these positions are time-consuming. Also, if you are interested in being on a committee, we could surely use the help. The more people we have participating, the easier it is for everyone.

Until next time, I hope to see you out and about and wear Purple Heart clothing.

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.

Till next time be safe.

Your Department Sr. Vice Commander

Mike

928-445-3792

michaelism@hotmail.com

DEPARTMENT JR. VICE-COMMANDER
Patriot John Moore

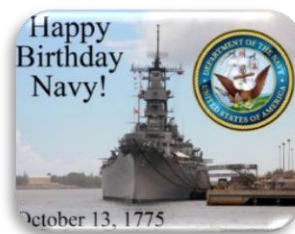


John Moore

DEPARTMENT BYLAWS: The Department Executive Committee (DEC) voted to rescind the Department Bylaws at its September meeting. The existing bylaws were very outdated. They were first published in 1989 and have been amended 7 times, and the last major revision was eight years ago in 2017. The commander has appointed a 4-member by-laws committee to work on revising the by-laws. The new format will consist of a series of Department Policy Letters. We are governed by the National Bylaws and we will not be duplicating what is already published by National but will focus on specific areas to guide our

department and chapter operations. The DEC will review and approve the new Policy Letters. Our goal is to have them ready and present them at our May Convention.

NAVY BIRTHDAY: October 13th is the U. S. Navy Birthday. For 248 years Sailors have been there to provide America with the sea power it needs to defend the nation and to deter or to defeat our adversaries. Thank you to our 60 members who received Purple Hearts while serving in the Navy. Anchors Aweigh!



FREE HUNTING AND FISHING TRIP FOR PURPLE HEART RECIPIENTS: Outdoor Adventures for Wounded Veterans, a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, hosts two free major annual trips for Purple Heart recipients. The two annual events are a fully guided and outfitted Arizona Javelina hunt (Spring general rifle season) and a summer deep-sea fishing trip to San Carlos, Mexico. These adventures are provided free of charge to our nation's "Purple Hearts Recipients."



This year's hunting trip will be in AZ hunting unit 36A, in the vicinity of Arivaca, south of Tucson. You must have an AZ Hunting license and will need to apply for a tag for the hunt.

If you are planning to join us this year as a hunter, please make your applications for: **First Choice - Hunt #5028 (36A, 20-26 Feb) or Second Choice - Hunt #5029 (36B, 20-26 Feb)** We will use a second choice this year because there are more tags for 36B, and it's possible you might miss 36A and draw 36B, and 36B will be accessible from our camp. We will rendezvous in camp on 19 Feb, and hunt 20-22 Feb (Fri, Sat, Sun). The full camp, and all food, drink, and guide service is provided free of charge. We can rally in Tucson and caravan down to camp. **07 October 2025 is the deadline to apply!**

If you want to be on this hunt, give Rex Carpenter a call or text first before you do your application, and feel free to reach out with any questions! Contact Rex Carpenter at 520-661-4640 or teerex1@flash.net

The fishing trip is similarly all expenses paid, and the participants will be driven down to San Carlos from a rendezvous in Tucson. You will need a passport to enter Mexico. Planned dates are 18-21 Jun 2026, and at present they have at least four more places remaining for the fishing trip. All boats and fishing equipment are provided - the participants only need their clothing and passports.

DEPARTMENT CALENDAR: Event details are further down in the newsletter.

- Oct 1 > LMV Report Due
- Oct 3 > Twin Arrows Standdown
- Oct 10 > White Cone AZ PH Community
- Oct 11 > Pinal County Standdown
- Oct 11 > Glendale Stand-Up for Veterans
- Oct 13 > Navy Birthday
- Oct 13 > Columbus Day
- Oct 17 > Cochise County Standown
- Oct 18 > Flu Shots at Tucson VA
- Oct 18 > Lake Havasu City Standdown
- Oct 24 > AVHFS Ceremony & Luncheon
- Oct 24 > Navajo County Standdown
- Oct 26 > National Day of the Deployed
- Oct 31 > Yuma Standdown
- Oct 31 > Halloween
- Nov 1 > Thunderfest Car Show Casa Grande



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

DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT
Patriot Larry Leighton

We need to stay in contact with each other, sometimes for our own peace of mind and sometimes for another Veteran's peace of mind. Our Region VI Commander has coined a new term, at least new to me, "Warrior Wednesday". Instead of simply saying we are going to call a "buddy" or "another Veteran", he suggests we take the concept one step farther and actually schedule some time each Wednesday to make those calls. It does not have to take all day but if you are like me, if I have a definitive time to do something, I am more likely to actually get it done. If you want to make some calls and would like to reach out to someone outside your personal space, give me a call and I can provide you with some names and contact information for Patriots in our Department that do not belong to Chapters (Department at Large Members). You never know how well one of these "cold calls" can turn out.



Larry Leighton



By the time you read this, the Life Member Verification Reports will all have been submitted and we should expect some rebate before the end of the year – depending on how well our National Investment Fund has done this year.

Remember our 2026 Department Convention will be held in Tucson on May 2nd next year. While it might not be the highest thing on your bucket list, you could be surprised at the fun you can have over a short weekend with a bunch of fellow Patriots. Mark your calendars and seriously consider joining us!

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

Yours in Patriotism
Larry Leighton
Adjutant

AMERICANISM OFFICER Patriot William Hunker

Fellow Patriots,

I am William Hunker & I am honored to step into the role of Department Americanism Officer and ROTC/JROTC Coordinator.

As a 12-year U.S. Army veteran whose career included time as an Airborne Infantryman, Special Forces, and—my personal favorite—Psychological Operations specialist, I bring a deep passion for service, mentorship, and outreach. Since leaving Fort Bragg and settling in Phoenix, Arizona, I've spent the past decade continuing to serve in new ways. I've been privileged to speak regularly at local high schools for the last three years and look forward to expanding MOPH's presence through youth engagement, ROTC/JROTC partnerships, and the promotion of positive Americanism values statewide. I see this role as a powerful opportunity to help carry MOPH forward and ensure it continues to serve, uplift, and represent our fellow wounded veterans.



Will Hunker

Interview with Airman First Class Alexander Hunker: How JROTC Shaped My Path to the U.S. Air Force:

Q1. Looking back, what part of your JROTC experience had the biggest impact on your personal growth?

"The biggest impact JROTC had on my personal growth was motivating me to become a better citizen. I had many opportunities to help my community and learn how to step up when needed."

Q2. Were there moments in JROTC where you realized you were capable of more than you thought? Can you share one? *"There were a good number of times I learned I was more capable than I thought. Getting to school earlier than my peers who weren't in JROTC was something I didn't want to do at first, but it quickly became a habit. I realized how much more I could accomplish in a day by pushing myself beyond my comfort zone."*

Q3. How did your time in JROTC influence your decision to join the Air Force specifically? *"My time as a JROTC cadet allowed me to become the confident and disciplined person I desired. I wanted to continue on a path of greater purpose and excellence, and this influenced me to join the Air Force."*

Q4. Were there any mentors or lessons from JROTC that shaped your decision to enlist? *"My JROTC Colonel was a major inspiration and the best mentor during my time in the program. He took the time to make sure we were the best versions of ourselves and equipped us with the necessary tools and skills to succeed."*

Q5. As you begin your Air Force journey, what skills or values from JROTC do you expect will serve you best? *"As I begin my Air Force journey, the skills that I believe will serve me best are discipline, accountability, and teamwork. These skills help to make a well-rounded Airman and person. We currently utilize them on a daily basis, and I know they will carry me far in my career and in life."*

Yours in Patriotism
Will Hunker
Americanism Officer



*Lackland AFB, US Air Force Graduate Photo
July 24th, 2025, Airman First Class Alexander
Hunker*



*JROTC Formation Photo 2014, 1ST Lieutenant
Guidon Bearer Alexander Hunker*

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

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

- Finance Officer – **Jim Starkman** 708.638.2321; karen4357@att.net
- Inspector – **Stephan Bobby** 480.266.9268; veteranairborne@yahoo.com
Sergeant At Arms – **John Ballenger** 602.245.0437; cjballenger22@msn.com

- Judge Advocate - elected
- Legislative Officer - appointed



FORT LOWELL CHAPTER 442 – TUCSON, AZ

Commander Cody Phipps

Patriots of Chapter 442,



Cody Phipps

I'm proud to share updates from our Tucson Chapter as we continue our mission of honoring the sacrifice of Purple Heart recipients and supporting veterans across Southern Arizona.

We have continued our dedicated support to the Veterans at the Arizona State Veterans home with our monthly bingo events. We have also completed grant applications to seek funds for our chapter to be able to continue supporting Veterans. We have also continued to provide support to feed transitioning Veterans in the Tucson area.

I would ask you all to be involved and engaged with the chapter. Our last chapter meeting we were barely able to make a quorum. Our monthly lunch was cancelled due to no interest. None of us can accomplish our mission on our own. Your participation and ideas are vital to the chapter's success.

Several events are coming up that our chapter will be participating in:

11/7 Flags placed on graves at Marana cemetery, 11/8 Charlie Skuhr Golf Tournament (we have a slot for a golfer if anyone is interested in playing), & 11/11 the Tucson Veterans Day Parade.

We have also been offered opportunities for a javelina hunt and a deep-sea fishing trip for Purple Heart Veterans. If anyone is interested in these adventures, please contact me or the adjutant so we can get you connected.

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

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 hosted bingo this month for the patients at the Tucson VA Hospital. Thank you **Patriot Cody Phipps, Patriot Danny Lemon, Patriot Dave Bertagnoli, & Sam Phipps** who called bingo and assisted the patients. The



Grand Prize was a beautiful quilt made by the ladies at Canyon Del Oro Bible Church.

Desert Trail, Tucson, AZ 85741. This is just off I10 & Cortaro Farms Rd. Go east on Cortaro Farms Rd to N. Sandy Desert Trail.

FLU SHOTS: Drive Thru Flu shots will be given at the Tucson VA Hospital on **October 18** from

7:00am to 1:00 PM at the Driveway between Building 80 & 81. Walk-ins can get shots at the Immunization Clinic, Building

80 south, Monday through Friday 7:30am through 3:00pm.

MONTHLY PURPLE HEART LUNCHEON: Our next Purple Heart Luncheon is on October 17th at 12:30. We plan to meet at the Trident Bar and Grill at 2912 W Ina Rd, Tucson, AZ 85741. We hope to see you there. If we change locations we will email the new location and post it on Facebook.



Patriot Lemon, Grand Prize Winner, & Patriot Bertagnoli



Patriot Bertagnoli Calls Bingo



Department Commander Phipps Assists a Patient

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

Fellow Patriots,



Ignacio Rivera

Welcome to Chapter 472. Our meetings are on the last Thursday of the month at 10:00 AM at the American Legion Post 26. Come and join us!

Commander: Ignacio Rivera (480) 381-6618

Sr. Vice-Commander: 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 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](#)



SUICIDE PREVENTION MONTH: September is Suicide Prevention Month and Mental Health struggles aren't always directly connected to physical wounds, but for some of us, they amplify the mental pain until it feels unbearable. These invisible wounds are complicated. Patriot Jason Duren has comments on managing PTSD/Mental Health issues. "To manage mine, I go through 57 Botox injections and 12cc of nerve blocks every 6 weeks. On top of that, I'm on TRT, peptides, and other natural therapies—most out of pocket—just to keep my mind and body balanced. I refuse to be numbed by heavy drugs just to make it through the day."

I share this because I want you to know there are options beyond opioids or other drugs. There are paths to healing that can help heal your mind, body and spirit. Most people won't see your pain or know your fight unless you share your experiences and how you found help or lack thereof. Ask questions. Advocate for yourself. Learn from nonprofits and organizations built to help. Most of all—remember you are loved.

Patriot Jason Duren
Former Chapter Commander

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

Fellow Patriots,

We had a good meeting on Sep 13th with lots of discussion on our Suicide Awareness and Prevention Program. We encouraged each and every member to become more aware and involved in the reading/learning material available from [National Community Health Partners](#). These lessons are not intended to make you a counselor but simply to make us more aware about how we can help if ever we are called upon to do so.



Larry Leighton

We discussed a lot about our fundraising goals and objectives. The members in attendance want to be able to provide more direct support to needy Veterans instead of only providing funds to other organizations doing the same things.

The **Glendale StandUp for Veterans** (like a standdown but a better sounding name) is going to be from **7 am – 1 pm on October 11th at** Arizona Christian University 1 W. Firestorm Way, Glendale, AZ 85306. We need some volunteers to be on hand to let Veterans know we exist and could help if needed.

Since this is the same date as our normal monthly meeting, **we decided to have a pizza party at Raffaeles Pizza in Glendale (5800 W Peoria Ave, Glendale, AZ 85302) on Saturday, Oct 4th from 2-5 PM instead of an October meeting.** If you are anywhere close, please join us for some pizza. 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,



Rodger Ely

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). Last month, we helped clean up a section of Interstate 40, the Purple Heart Trail. We recently celebrated the 103rd birthday for WWII Veteran Patriot Walter Olmsted Jr.

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 Oseveda - 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 TRAIL: Chapter 793 members & friends cleaned up a section of Interstate 40 near Flagstaff, AZ.



Patriot Billy Weldon front center

VALOR 22: Chapter 793 participated in the **Valor 22** 1K Walk, 5K Run, 22K Ruck in Flagstaff on September 13th. The mission of Valor 22 is to raise Suicide Prevention & PTSD/TBI awareness.

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](#).



WALTER OLMSTED JR. CELEBRATES 103RD BIRTHDAY: Chapter 793 held a birthday celebration for WWII Veteran Walter Olmsted Jr.



Walter & Chapter 793 members



Walter & Commander Ely



Billy Weldon



Finish Line



Billy Weldon



Army ROTC



Patriot Weldon presents gifts to Walter

WHITE CONE, AZ TO BE A PURPLE HEART COMMUNITY: On October 10th the White Cone Chapter of the Navajo Nation will be designated a Purple Heart Community. Join us at 10:00 AM at White Cone, AZ.



*Military Order of the Purple Heart . Department Of Arizona
Dale E. Crick Chapter 793
Will Honor White Cone Chapter . Navajo Nation
~ A Purple Heart Community ~*

Friday . October 10th, 2025 . 10:00 Am DST
White Cone Chapter . Navajo Nation
28 N. HWY 77 PMB 5120
White Cone . Arizona

TWIN ARROWS STANDDOWN: The Twin Arrows Standdown is on Oct 3rd at the Dine' Event Center. See the flyer below for details.

TWIN ARROWS

VETERANS STAND DOWN

IN MEMORY OF GEORGE WILLIE SR. USMC
NAVAJO CODE TALKER . WWII

FRIDAY . OCTOBER 3RD. 2025
9:00 Am to 4:00 Pm . Arizona Time
Dine' Event Center
TWIN ARROWS NAVAJO CASINO RESORT

OPENING CEREMONY . 9:00 AM

RECOGNITION CEREMONY . 11:00 AM

WOMEN VETERANS RECEPTION . 12 NOON

EVENT INFORMATION: nazveteranstanddowns@aol.com 928.286.7446

www.facebook.com/GeorgeWillieSr.Memorial-Veterans-Stand-Down

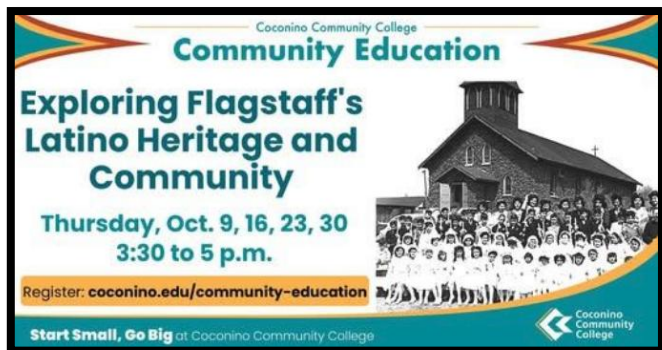


AZ State Veterans Home Flagstaff

WESTERN NAVAJO FAIR & PARADE: Chapter 793 and the Purple Heart Truck will participate in the Western Navajo Fair at Tuba City. **Sgt Elmer Sangster, Vietnam Veteran** will be the parade's grand marshal. Come and join us at 9:00 AM.



COCONINO COMMUNITY COLLEGE: Explore Flagstaff's Latino Heritage on Oct 9, 16, 23, & 30. Learn more or register at [Coconino Community College](https://coconino.edu/community-college).



WILLIAMS AZ PATRIOT DAY PROCLAMATION:

Williams, AZ has issued a proclamation for the town's sixth annual Standdown and Patriot Day Parade.



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

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



Michael 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

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 **Wear Red at Friday's breakfast**. Please join us for the upcoming October through



December assemblies. Numerous guest speakers have been scheduled for the remainder of the year that we're confident you do not want to miss.

A buffet breakfast is served beginning at 7:30 AM (\$12pp + gratuity), and the program starts promptly at 8:15 AM. See you next Friday!! Bring a friend.

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.wreathscrossamerica.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

Arizona, America First, Guild mortgage, WM, Walmart, Bashas', Texas, AZ Hugh O'Connor Memorial Pipe Band, For Our Fallen Heroes, Post 9399 Auxiliary.

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

**RELATED MOPH & VETERAN
INFORMATION**

U.S. VETERANS THUNDERFEST CAR SHOW

2025: the U.S. Veteran's Thunderfest Car Show



held on November 1st in Casa Grande, Arizona, includes a car show, cash prizes for winners, live music, and is

open to the public for free admission. Car Show is open from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM. If you are entering a car in the Car Show you can register online at [Thunderfest](#). Show address is The CrossRoads Church of Casa Grande at 2024 E Florence Blvd. Casa Grande, AZ 85122.

ROCKIN' 4 HEROES CONCERT: The 5th Annual Rockin' 4 Heroes Concert will be held in Oro Valley, AZ on November 9th. Admission is free.



Gates Open 1:00 pm James Kreigh Park 23 W Calle Concordia, Oro Valley, AZ. Join for a rockin' celebration to honor our 4 Hero groups: First Responders, Active Military, Veterans and

Gold Star Families. Many opportunities exist to support the event through the purchase of raffle tickets, merchandise and beer and wine. Support our local businesses by enjoying the wide variety of food options available from over a dozen participating Food Trucks, beer and wine vendors. **Dance...eat...drink...mingle...and show your appreciation to our Heroes!**

BILLS IN CONGRESS:

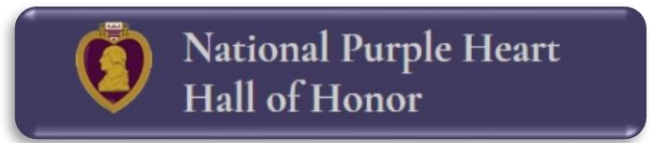
- **H.R.4594 - Military Learning for Credit Act of 2025** is a new bill aimed at benefiting Arizona's veterans is making strides in Washington, D.C. The Military Learning for Credit Act of 2025 seeks to help veterans **transfer their military training into college credits** and use and use funds set aside for veterans' assistance to cover entrance exam fees. The bill is currently under review by the House Committee on Veterans Affairs. More information is at this [link](#).
- **H.R. 982, the Warriors to Workforce Act** would increase the amount of educational assistance paid by the VA during the first year of a full-time apprenticeship or other on-the-job training program to 90% of the

PURPLE HEART MAGAZINE:



The September/October edition of the National Purple Heart Magazine is available. The Department of AZ articles are on pages 105, 106, & 107. Go to the [Purple Heart Magazine](#). Enjoy!

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](#).



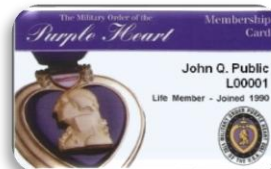
PURPLE HEART GEAR: The Purple Heart Store is a company devoted to Honoring Purple Heart Recipients and their family members. It has served



PH recipients for over 20 years and is a veteran owned business. Visit the [store](#) for hats, shirts,

ties, etc.

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](#)



MHA. Getting veterans back into the civilian workforce after they separate from service is instrumental in ensuring they can be successful and productive members of society. Please contact your Representative and Senators and urge them to co-sponsor and support H.R. 982, the Warriors to Workforce Act.

REDUCING SUICIDE RISK FOR RURAL

VETERANS: Rural areas tend to have higher suicide risk factors, like greater access to lethal means, higher economic distress, lower quality of health care and remoteness that can lead to feelings of isolation. None of these things mean a suicide crisis will happen. But because **nearly five million rural Veterans are at higher risk**, VA is working to make access to care easier. And we're raising awareness about lethal means safety to make sure rural Veterans know how to create secure home environments. More information is available at the [VA Website](#).

LAYERED PROTECTION FOR MOMENTS OF

SUICIDE CRISIS: Lock boxes and gun locks can save Veterans' lives when a crisis escalates to thoughts of suicide. Learn more about [securely storing firearms](#) and compare the benefits between gun cables, gun locks and combination gun safes. If you are a Veteran or have a Veteran in your life and would like to discuss your concerns about the lethal means available to them, contact your local VA medical center's Suicide Prevention Program Coordinator or call the [Veterans Crisis Line](#) 24/7 by dialing 988 and then pressing 1.

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.

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

GULF WAR ILLNESS STUDY: Gulf War Veterans needed for Gulf War illness study. See flyer below or scan QR code for more info.

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.



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!**



UC San Diego
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
GOLOMB RESEARCH GROUP

COENZYME Q10 FOR GULF WAR ILLNESS: A REPLICATION STUDY

SEEKING GULF WAR VETERANS (DEPLOYED 1990-1991)

Study goal: To see if the supplement Coenzyme Q-10 can benefit symptoms, function, and quality of life in veterans with Gulf War illness.

Eligibility Criteria:

- Gulf War Veteran (deployed to the Middle East 1990-1991)
- Experiencing symptoms such as fatigue, muscle issues, cognitive/mood problems, gastrointestinal problems
- Can be from anywhere in the country
- Internet access (for study visits via Zoom)

Study Participation Includes:

- 6 virtual study visits over 9 months
- Taking study-provided treatment over 7 months
- Blood draws at your local Quest diagnostics location
- Online health questionnaires

www.facebook.com/UCSDGolombResearch
www.golombresearchgroup.org
619-736-7114
@golombresearch
q10study@health.ucsd.edu

Want more info? Scan me!

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.

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)

Navajo County StandDown

Friday, October 24, 2025
Navajo County Fairgrounds (404 E. Hopi Drive, Holbrook, AZ 86026)

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](#).

ARIZONA VETERANS' HALL OF FAME:

Registration for the Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony is now open. REGISTER 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 THE BLOCK ROOMS AT TALKING STICK RESORT

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

Save The Date

ARIZONA VETERANS HALL OF FAME INDUCTION CEREMONY

OCTOBER 24, 2025
11:30 AM - 2:30 PM
Talking Stick Resort Conference Center

Want more info? Scan me!

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)

PINAL COUNTY STANDDOWN OCT 11th:



PINAL COUNTY'S 2025
13TH ANNUAL
**VETERAN STAND
DOWN &
RESOURCE FAIR**

Remember and Honor

For more information:
Contact HOHP at:
HOHP4HEROES@gmail.com
520-338-2568

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11TH

HOHP Veteran Transition Center
5497 West McCartney Rd., Coolidge, AZ
9:00AM TO 1:00PM
Registration opens at 8am

RESOURCES OFFERED:

- VA BENEFITS ASSISTANCE
- MVD SERVICES: ID & DRIVER LICENSES
- HOUSING & CLOTHING ASSISTANCE
- PINAL COUNTY VETERAN COURT
- SUBSTANCE ABUSE ASSISTANCE
- PET CARE & YOUTH ACTIVITIES
- HAIR CUTS & SHOWERS
- SPECIAL WOMEN VETERAN SERVICES
- EMPLOYMENT/TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES
- AND MUCH MORE!

OPENING CEREMONY FOR VETERANS AT 9AM

ADOT, DAV, AVSA, and other partner logos are displayed at the bottom.

COCHISE COUNTY STANDDOWN OCT 17th



**COCHISE COUNTY
VETERAN STAND DOWN**

Hosted by Cochise Serving Veterans

*** Ethel Berger Center ***
*** 2950 E Tacoma St. Sierra Vista, AZ ***
*** October 17th, 2025 * 0900-1400 ***
*** OPENING CEREMONY 9am ***

Breakfast and Lunch provided

- Veteran Benefits**
- Mental Health**
- Employment**
- Housing**
- Legal**
- Vision/Dental**
- Personal Care Supplies**
- Pet Services**
- Kid Activities/Goodies**
- Clothing**
- Haircuts**
- Food Bank**

Transportation Available
RSVP to
csvcchair@gmail.com
by 4 October

ARIZONA VETERANS STANDDOWN ALLIANCE
AVSA
Arizona coalition for military families

DIAL 211: With over 8500 local and statewide resources, The AZ 211 help line is ready to help when you need it most. 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, shelter and housing options, utilities assistance, employment and education opportunities, emergency information and disaster relief, and services for veterans. Call 211 or visit the [211 Website](#).

LAKE HAVASU CITY STANDDOWN OCT 18th:



**LAKE HAVASU CITY
STAND DOWN**

OCTOBER 18TH, 2025
10:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.

AQUATIC CENTER - RELICS AND RODS HALL
100 PARK AVE, LHC

LOCAL VETERAN RESOURCE ORGANIZATIONS WILL ASSIST WITH:

- HOUSING ASSISTANCE
- EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES
- RESUME GUIDANCE
- VA BENEFITS APPLICATIONS
- HEALTH CARE SCREENINGS
- VACCINATIONS
- FOOD NEEDS
- WOUND CARE
- LEGAL ASSISTANCE
- SUICIDE AWARENESS & PREVENTION
- HAIRCUTS
- STROKE SUPPORT
- CHRONIC PAIN
- COPD SUPPORT
- CLOTHES CLOSET WITH DLA MILITARY SURPLUS
- FREE COFFEE & DONUTS

LUNCH PROVIDED BY LHC ELKS LODGE #2399
For more information: 928-732-0444
Havasutransportation available: 928-230-0392

NAVAJO COUNTY STANDDOWN OCT 24th:



NAVAJO COUNTY STAND DOWN
SUPPORTING OUR VETERANS

Friday October 24, 2025 (10AM to 2PM)
LOCATION: 404 East Hopi Drive Holbrook, AZ

**WeSalute
VETERANS**

BRING A COPY OF YOUR DD-214 TO EXPEDITE REGISTRATION

The following services will be available to veterans:

- Service Providers
- Food Service
- North County Health Services
- Veterans Court
- Veterans Benefits VA Services
- Community Services
- Employment Services
- Housing Support Services
- Disability, Improved Pension & Survivor Benefits

Sponsored By:

VETERANS COURT Navajo County Superior Court: Individuals may appear without fear of being arrested if they have any outstanding warrant. If a veteran has a warrant out of a participating court they can come and ask that it be canceled. Bring your court paperwork to the Holbrook Stand Down. Attorneys will be available to answer questions. Contact 928.369.8455.

FOR GENERAL INFORMATION:
928.369.8455 | fishersforveterans@gmail.com
VETERANS STRONG

**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