



December 2025

Volume 6 Issue 4



DEPARTMENT COMMANDER
Patriot Cody Phipps



Dear Patriots,



Happy Holidays, Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year. I hope this season finds you enjoying meaningful time with your family and loved ones.

Thank you to everyone who took time this holiday season to honor our fallen heroes through Wreaths Across America at cemeteries across Arizona. Your dedication ensures their service and sacrifice are never forgotten. Also, I'd like to thank the Patriots of our department who represented the Military Order of the Purple Heart at various holiday events held for veterans. Your participation brought holiday cheer to veterans in need.

Cody Phipps

I look forward to continuing to serve Arizona's Veterans and their families alongside you in 2026.

Save the Date – Saturday May 2nd is the Department Convention in Tucson. More details to follow as we get closer to the convention.

I look forward to seeing everyone at our next Department Executive Committee Meeting by Zoom on January 28th. A member of the chapter command group must attend. The Zoom call is **open to all members**. Time: 06:30 PM Arizona Time. 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

Greeting Patriots,



Mike Smaydy

Hope you had a happy, joyous, and safe holiday season. The new year is upon us and it's time to get going with the programs again. There are only four months left until the Department Convention (May 2nd, 2026), to complete programs and projects and get your reports into Department so we know what's been completed and what needs to be done yet. There is still enough time to start and complete one of our programs if you haven't already done so. When you have a community event in your area post it on the [Department Facebook page](#). It has the potential to be a great recruiting tool for getting new members. They see you active in the

community and they are impressed.

To our members that are not active in their chapters, I would encourage you to attend at least one meeting to see what your chapter is involved in.

You might find something that is of interest to you that you might like to become active in. To our chapters, when you get a new member to attend, greet them warmly and let them get used to what is going on before you start piling on a lot of jobs and titles.

Finally, to all our members, the Department could use participation in one of their elected and/or appointed offices. Also, Department would like to see some fresh faces participate on committees. None of the positions on committees are difficult or require much if any travel. Most of it is done on ZOOM or conference calls. It would be nice if we could have one member from each chapter on all committees so that everyone in the Department has participation next year.

Best wishes for the upcoming year.

Michael J. Smaydy
Department Sr. Vice Commander
928-445-3792
michaeljsm@hotmail.com

DEPARTMENT JR. VICE-COMMANDER Patriot John Moore

OPERATION DESERT STORM: Operation Desert Storm: Desert Storm began on 17 January 1991.



John Moore

The two phases of Operation Desert Storm were a coalition air operation and a ground offensive. 147 U.S. personnel and 47 British troops were killed in action. Approximately 1,000 coalition troops were wounded. Over 650,000 U.S. service members participated in the broader Gulf War period (Desert Shield and Desert Storm). 700,000 total personnel were involved, including approximately 470,000 active-duty troops and significant

reserve/National Guard troops, making it a massive deployment to liberate Kuwait from Iraq. **Thank you to our seven members who were awarded Purple Hearts during the Persian Gulf War.**



BATTLE OF THE BULGE: The Battle of the Bulge, also known as the Ardennes Offensive, was the



last major German offensive campaign on the Western Front during the Second World War, taking place from 16 December 1944 to 25 January 1945. The surprise attack through the Ardennes Forest aimed to split Allied forces and capture Antwerp, Belgium. Despite initial success and creating a "bulge" in the Allied lines, American resistance at Bastogne, German resource shortages and favorable weather eventually halted the advance, leading to a decisive Allied victory,

depleting Germany's last reserves, and hastening the end of WWII in Europe. **Thank you to our eighteen members who were awarded Purple Hearts during WWII.**

PURPLE HEART CHAPTER CAP: Like other veteran organizations the Military Order of the Purple Heart has its own uniform cap. This distinctive purple military style cap is the basic item of the Military Order of the Purple Heart uniform. 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. Department and chapter officers should have the Order's official headgear. It would be nice to have if planning on attending the Department Convention in May. Order for \$29.95 at [Keystone Uniform Cap](#).



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

- Jan 1 > New Years Day
- Jan 10 > Chapter 691 Meeting
- Jan 17 > Desert Storm Begins 1991
- Jan 19 > Chapter 442 Meeting
- Jan 19 > Martin Luther King Birthday
- Jan 21 > Chapter 442 Luncheon
- Jan 23 > Yuma Resource Fair
- Jan 25 > Battle of the Bulge Victory Day
- Jan 31 > Panama Campaign Ends 1990
- Feb 1 > Four Chaplains Ceremony Tucson
- Feb 3 > Four Chaplains Day National
- Mar 1 > Patriot of Year Nominations Due

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

DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT Patriot Larry Leighton



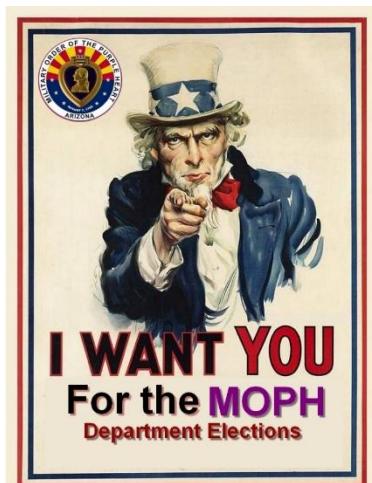
Larry Leighton

It seems the older I get, the faster the year goes by! I hope you and yours are looking forward to another exciting and challenging New Year. I won't ask everyone to make a Resolution concerning the Order but I would ask that each of us take a couple of moments to reflect on the Objects of the Order (Patriotism, Fraternity, Historical, and Educational) and ask yourself "Am I doing all I can to make my Chapter, Department, and the Order better than it is today?"

Many of our members have never checked or updated their personal information in the National database. As we have all experienced at one point or another,

"garbage in – garbage out". Let's all make a point to personally, or with the help of a friend, log in to the [National Website](#) and make sure our information is still correct. If you need help logging in or making changes to your profile, all Chapter and Department Officers can help – just ask!

Chapter **Elections are to be held in Mar or Apr** and the Department Elections will be held in May. If you would like to serve as an officer but don't know what is included or required, ask those currently in office or



those who have held offices. All of us are ready to help. Remember while these elections are to select the leaders for the next year, not everyone has to be an officer to make the Organization better or more efficient. I invite and encourage all to participate in Chapter and Department meetings. I believe if we took just a few minutes to think about it, we all could offer suggestions to make our Organization more effective, reach more potential members, and just improve operations in general. Good ideas can get even better if they are shared with others.



Remember the Department Convention will be held in Tucson on May 2nd.
Hope to see you there in person or on the Zoom conference call.

I am looking forward to another great year with my Brothers and Sisters of the Military Order of the Purple Heart!

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

Christmas, at its core, is a season of reflection, service, and gratitude. Values that align closely with the principles of Americanism and the legacy of the Military Order of the Purple Heart. During this time of year, we pause to remember not only the birth of Christ and the spirit of giving, but also the sacrifices made by generations of Americans who ensured that our freedoms would endure. For Purple Heart recipients, the season carries added meaning, reminding us that service to others often comes at a personal cost, and that sacrifice is a cornerstone of our nation's strength. **As we move from Christmas into the New Year**, Americanism calls on us to recommit ourselves to the ideals that define our Republic—duty, citizenship, respect, and responsibility. The New Year represents renewal: an opportunity to strengthen our communities, mentor the next generation, and ensure *that patriotism remains a living value rather than a ceremonial one*. Whether through outreach to youth programs, support for JROTC and ROTC cadets, or simple acts of leadership within our communities, each member has a role in shaping the future of American civic pride. This season also reminds us that Americanism is not limited to flags, ceremonies, or holidays. It is demonstrated daily through service, compassion, and unity. At a time when our nation often feels divided, the example set by Purple Heart recipients stands as a powerful reminder that shared sacrifice transcends politics, backgrounds, and beliefs. Our actions, especially during this season of goodwill, speak louder than words and reinforce the values we fought to defend.

As we welcome the New Year, let us carry the spirit of Christmas forward while honoring the past, serving the present, and investing in the future. Through continued commitment to Americanism, mentorship, and community engagement, the Military Order of the Purple Heart will remain a steady voice for patriotism, service, and national unity in the year ahead.



William Hunker

Yours in Patriotism
William Hunker
Americanism Officer

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



FORT LOWELL CHAPTER 442 – TUCSON, AZ Commander Cody Phipps

Patriots of Chapter 442,



Cody Phipps

Thank you all for your incredible efforts in making the holidays special for our Tucson Veterans. From delivering gift bags at the Veterans' Home to the countless hours of coordination and labor that go into this effort each year, your commitment truly makes a difference.

A special thank you to The Bridge Church – Knitting Ladies and God's Girls for hand-making scarves and hats throughout the year, collecting donations, and assembling the gifts. Your generosity and dedication embody the spirit of service.

Join us for our chapter meeting on January 19th and at our monthly Purple Heart Luncheon on January 21st. On February 1st we will participate in the annual Four Chaplains Ceremony at Kino Veterans Memorial Park.

Happy Holidays, Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year!

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 –
mrddyer@comcast.net

PATRIOT OF THE YEAR: Congratulations to **Patriot Roger Gilbert** who is the Fort Lowell Chapter 442 "Patriot of the Year". Commander Phipps presents the **Johnny Thompson Patriot of**

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.

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

MONTHLY PURPLE HEART LUNCHEON: We did not hold a Purple Heart Luncheon in December. However we did have an impromptu lunch during our Christmas Eve visit to the State Veterans Home. Our next luncheon will be on January 21st at 12:00 noon at the Old Father Inn on Ina Rd in Tucson, AZ.



Patriot Franke, Tony Day, Patriot Grand, Patriot Bertagnoli, Patriot Phipps, Sam Phipps, & Patriot Moore at Jalisco Restaurante

CHRISTMAS VISIT TO THE STATE VETERANS' HOME TUCSON: The Patriots from FT Lowell Chapter 442 visited the Arizona State Veterans Home Tucson to spread holiday cheer to the residents. We delivered 200 gift bags for the residents and the staff of the home. We visited with all the residents living there and gave them a Christmas gift. Thank you to Patriots **Bob Franke, John R. Moore, Dave Bertagnoli, Jake Zimmerman, Cody Phipps, John Grand, &**

the Year Award to Patriot Gilbert. Roger has also been nominated to compete for the Department Patriot of the Year. Roger is a reliable and consistent advocate for veterans in financial need for rents, utility bills, & auto repairs. We appreciate the numerous hours of work Roger has devoted to supporting our chapter's Purple Heart activities. The chapter is grateful for the service Roger has provided to the chapter and to our Nation's veterans.



Cdr Phipps presents award to Patriot Gilbert

CHAPTER ELECTIONS: Elections will be held at the March meeting. Nominations are now open. Contact the adjutant if you want to run for an office or nominate someone. Let us know if you would like to serve in an appointed position.

DEPARTMENT CONVENTION: Fort Lowell Chapter 442 is the host for the 2026 Department Convention. The date is tentatively set for **Saturday May 2nd**. Since the next convention is in Southern Arizona, we need to get a feel for how many of our chapter members would attend to make sure we get a venue with a conference facility large enough to accommodate us. We know it is a ways off but if you think you will attend let us know. Thanks!

CHRISTMAS GIFT BAGS: Thank you to the ladies' groups at the Bridge Church. On Friday evening Dec 12th they assembled 120 Christmas gift bags for the residents of the AZ State Veterans Home Tucson. Chapter members **Mike Dyer, Danny Lemon, John Grand, Dave Bertagnoli, John Moore, & Roger Gilbert** help transport gift bags to storage until

Danny Lemon who delivered the gifts and visited with the residents. Thank you to **Friends of the Chapter**, **Joey Zimmerman, Sam Phipps & Tony Day** who also helped. And a huge thank you to the ladies groups at the Bridge Church who assembled the gift bags for us.



Patriot Phipps, Sam Phipps, Patriot Moore, Patriot Lemon, Patriot Franke, Tony Day, Patriot Bertagnoli, Patriot Zimmerman, Sam Nunez, & Patriot Grand



Cdr Phipps visits with a resident



Patriot Phipps, Patriot Zimmerman, & Patriot Bertagnoli deliver gift bags

Christmas Eve. As a bonus while we were waiting, we got to sample the wonderful Christmas cookies the ladies had made. At our December chapter meeting the ladies' groups were presented with a Chapter Certificate of Appreciation and a Department MOPH calendar.



Bridge Church Ladies Group



Sampling Cookies at Bridge Church



Patriot Bertagnoli & Patriot Lemon move gift bags to storage



Joey Zimmerman visits with resident



Patriot Lemon delivers gift bags



Patriot Franke visits residents

BINGO AT THE TUCSON VA Hospital: Ft. Lowell Chapter 442 hosted bingo for the patients at the Tucson VA Hospital December 27th. Thank you to **Patriot Dave Bertagnoli, Patriot Danny**

QUILTS OF VALOR: Quilts of Valor were presented at the December chapter meeting to **Patriot Jack Van** of Eloy, AZ and veteran **Mike Hale** of Green Valley, AZ. Jack received his Purple Heart serving in Vietnam with the Air Force. Mike received his Purple Heart serving in Vietnam with the 101st Airborne Division. Congratulations! Thank you to **Bernadette Polley** from Northwest Tucson Quilts of Valor for making the presentation.



Patriot Van receives Quilt for Valor



Mike Hale

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA: Ft. Lowell Chapter 442 participated in Wreaths Across America on December 13th at **Evergreen Cemetery, South Lawn Cemetery, & Marana Veterans Memorial Cemetery**. Thank you, **Patriot John Moore, Patriot Jim Zimmerman, Patriot Mike Dyer, Patriot Bob Franke, Patriot John Grand, Patriot Roger Gilbert, Patriot**

Lemon, who conducted Bingo and volunteers **Yolanda Lemon, & Cherie Stallman** who helped the patients. The grand prize was a beautiful handmade quilt from the ladies at Canyon Del Oro Bible Church.



Patriot Bertagnoli called bingo.



Cherie Stallman presents the grand prize.



Patriot Lemon and Yolanda Lemon display the grand prize.

Cody Phipps, Patriot Danny Lemon, & Sam Phipps for placing wreaths at these cemeteries. Thank you to the community, and other Veterans groups, that helped place the wreaths.



Patriot Dyer gives benediction at Evergreen Cemetery



Placing wreaths at AZ Veterans Memorial Cemetery Marana



Placing wreaths at Evergreen Cemetery



Patriot Phipps and son, Sam, place wreaths

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

Fellow Patriots,



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

Ignacio Rivera

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

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



Memorial Bricks at Wesley Bolin Plaza



Purple Heart Monument at Wesley Bolin Plaza

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.



CIDER CORPS: Cider Corps is a veteran owned business in Mesa owned by **Patriot Jason Duren**. The Cider Corps family hopes you have a great holiday with family and friends! And as you gather, take a minute to remember/honor the sacrifice of the



many service members and their families that won't be together this holiday season.

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

Fellow Patriots,



Larry Leighton

I hope everyone enjoyed the above average temperatures in December. I think we could all be pretty happy if the 70's and 80's stayed with us all year round!

Please be careful as we close out the Holiday Season. No one wants to start out a New Year with an accident of any kind.

As we look forward to another year full of surprises and challenges, let's all renew our efforts to help take care of Veterans and families less fortunate than ourselves.

January is a good time to give some thought as to how you can get more involved with and help improve Chapter operations.

SAVE THE DATE: We will celebrate George Washington's Birthday on FEBRUARY 20th at the Bella Vista Restaurant with a plated dinner and dancing again this year. Dinner selections and reservation information will be sent out early January. Hope to see you there with your friends and family!

Our next meeting is **Saturday, January 10th at 0900** in the Sands Chevrolet training room. You can find directions on our website at <https://691.mophaz.org/news-events>. If you cannot come in person, maybe you can join us virtually via Zoom (<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81559570914?pwd=U29JaDlEMURObTdlWUySUFtOVRRQ09>; Meeting ID: 815 5957 0914; Passcode: 328403; or by calling 2532050468).

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 -

Meeting date: 2nd Saturday
Meeting time: 9:00 AM

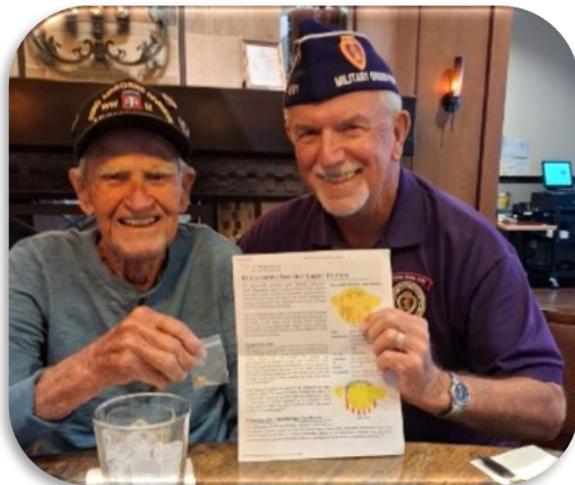
karen4357@att.net

Jr. Vice-Cdr: Sal Salinas-
salsalido@gmail.com

Chaplain: Jimi Sallmen –
jimisallmen@gmail.com

Adjutant: Larry Leighton -
commander691moph@gmail.com

RUPTURED DUCK AWARD: John Ballenger took time to recognize George Cross, one of his neighbors, and present him with a Ruptured Duck Lapel Pin. George entered the Army at 16 and served with the 82nd Airborne Division in the Normandy Invasion. George is 101 and going strong. The "Ruptured Duck" is the popular name for the Honorable Service Lapel Button, a U.S. military award given to service members honorably discharged between 1925 and 1946, especially during WWII, to identify them as veterans and prove they weren't AWOL when wearing civilian clothes. This distinctive pin, featuring an eagle within a ring of stripes, was worn on civilian attire and became a symbol of pride, though its official name is Honorable Service Lapel Button.



George Cross & Patriot Ballenger



Meeting location: Sands Chevrolet Surprise Conference Room (16991 W Waddell Rd, Surprise, AZ 85388) Enter parking lot from N Cotton Lane.

Note: Meetings will also be via Zoom. Enter the meeting ID (ID: 815 5957 0914) and the password (328403). By phone, call 253-205-0468 and enter the id/password.

Website: <http://691.mophaz.org/>

Facebook: [Chapter 691 Facebook](#)

ANGEL TREES FOR VETERANS: We had another great year collecting, wrapping, boxing and delivering over 2,200 Christmas gifts to our Veterans in the Southwest Valley, Gifts were delivered to Veterans First, U.S. VETS, VA Phoenix Hospital and Community Living Center, M.A.N.A, Prescott VA Hospital, and the State of Arizona Veterans Home. Many thanks to the **Corte Bella Vets, Chapter 691 Military Order Of the Purple Heart, American Legion Post 94** and all of our more than generous residents of Corte Bella and the Sun Cities. We cannot forget about all of our Elf volunteers and our head Elf, **Patriot James Starkman**. This project is truly a Labor of Love .



Patriot Starkman center back and Angel Tree volunteers



Packing & sorting gifts

WARRIOR WEDNESDAY

Is your buddy thriving or surviving?



Give your buddy a call today!



Patriot Starkman delivers gifts.

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, Nazlini Arizona, & White Cone, Arizona (Navajo Nation). This month, we participated in Wreaths Across America at several cemeteries in Northern Arizona.

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

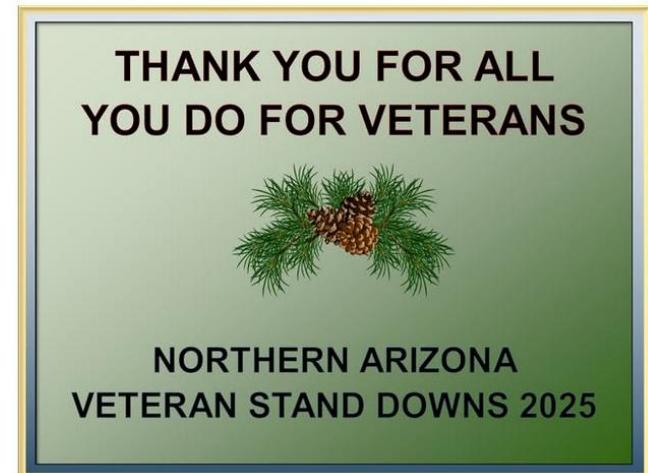
Meeting time: 11:30 AM

Meeting location: VFW Post 1709

409 W Santa Fe Ave, Flagstaff, AZ 86001

Meeting date: Bi-monthly on 4th Wednesday.

NORTHERN ARIZONA STANDDOWN:



OPERATION FREEDOM MARCH: ATTN: ALL military veterans, service members, families, and supporters! YOU are invited to participate in the first Arizona Trail *Operation Freedom March* campaign. This year-long initiative commences on July 4, 2025, and concludes on Independence Day, July 4, 2026, in celebration of America's 250th Anniversary. *Operation Freedom March* challenges participants to hike, ride, or 'hoof' sections of the Arizona National Scenic Trail until ALL 800 MILES have collectively been covered by our community. Visit the [Arizona National Scenic Trail](#) website for more details.



FLAGSTAFF VA CLINIC:
1300 West University Ave, Suite 200
Flagstaff, AZ 86001
Phone: 928-226-1056
Mental Health Phone: 928-445-4860, ext 7500
Website: [Flagstaff VA Clinic](#)

BOB STUMP VA MEDICAL CENTER:
500 Hwy 89 North
Prescott, AZ 86313
Phone: 928-445-4806
Mental Health Phone: 928-445-4860, ext 7500
Website: [Bob Stump VA Medical Center](#)



PURPLE HEART TRAIL: The Purple Heart Trail in Arizona is designated as Interstate 40 (I-40), honoring combat-wounded veterans, as part of a national system of roads recognizing Purple

COINS ON MILITARY GRAVE MARKERS:

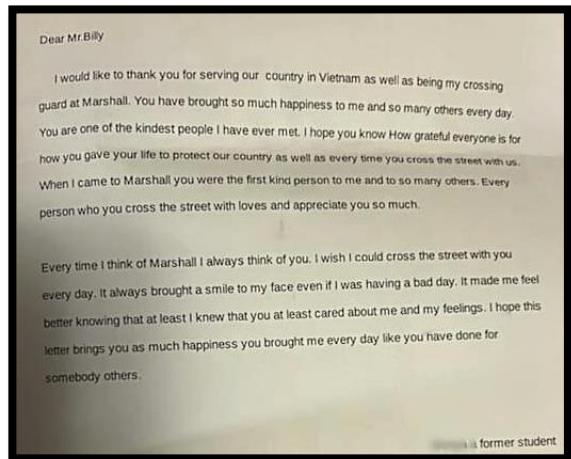


FACEBOOK: Facebook is the best place to find information on the chapter and stay current with our activities. Our Facebook page is at [Chapter 793 Facebook](#).

NORTHERN ARIZONA STANDDOWNS:

- Page StandDown**
Thursday & Friday, April 23-24, 2026
Page Elks Lodge 2498
- High Country StandDown**
Friday, May 15, 2026
ASVH-FLG Flagstaff, AZ
- Williams StandDown**
Friday, September 11, 2026
Williams Recreation Center, Williams, AZ.
- Twin Arrows StandDown**
Friday, October 2, 2026
Twin Arrows Navajo Resort, Flagstaff

STUDENT LETTERS THANK PATRIOT WELDON:



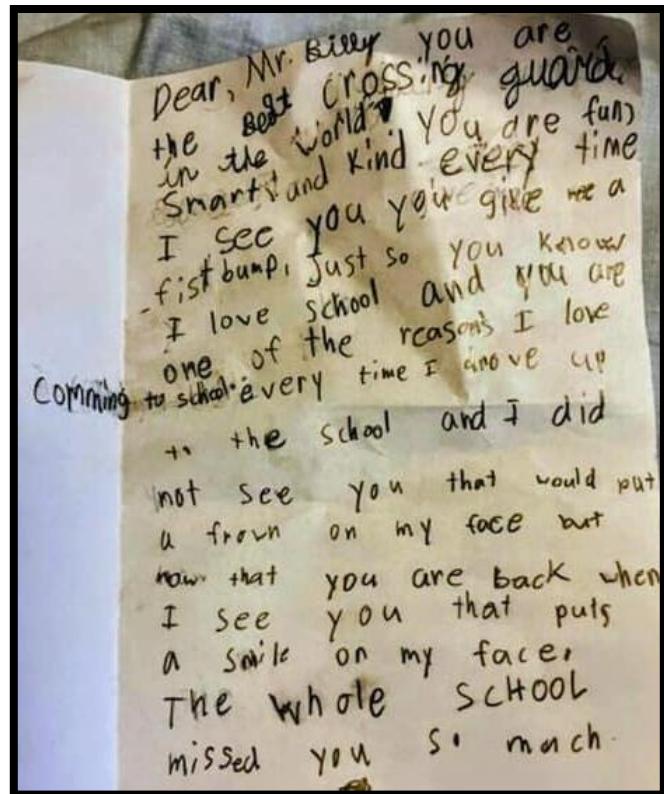
Heart recipients. Arizona is a [Purple Heart State](#), with the trail extending across northern Arizona from the New Mexico border to the California Border. Learn about the [Purple Heart Trail](#) in Arizona.



Purple Heart Trail Arizona



Purple Heart Trail near Flagstaff



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:

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA: Chapter 2560 assisted in placing wreaths on the veterans' graves at Mountain View Funeral Home and Cemetery in Mesa, AZ. Facebook users can view the video of the ceremony at this [link](#).

Patriots, including about a dozen Purple Heart recipients meet for **Wear Red at Friday's breakfast**. It



should come as no surprise that we had seventy-eight patriots in attendance on December 26th, which is a fabulous turnout considering that this is the day immediately following Christmas. Many of our members

are out of state visiting family and friends and sharing in the Christmas spirit. But I would be willing to wager that those who were not in attendance donned their RED shirts on Friday, even in their absence. Please be advised that our **RED Friday** group will assemble on **Friday, January 2nd**, the day following New Year. We look forward to your presence as we send a shout out to America's deployed service members. A buffet breakfast is served beginning at 7:30 AM (\$12 pp + gratuity), and the program starts promptly at 8:15 AM.

See you Friday!! Bring a friend. American Legion Post 27, 1018 S. Meridian Rd., Apache Junction, AZ.

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



Patriot Chuck Byers



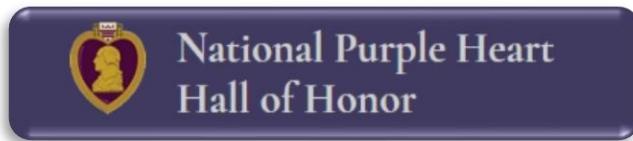
Cdr Overmeyer



Placing wreaths

RELATED MOPH & VETERAN 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](#).

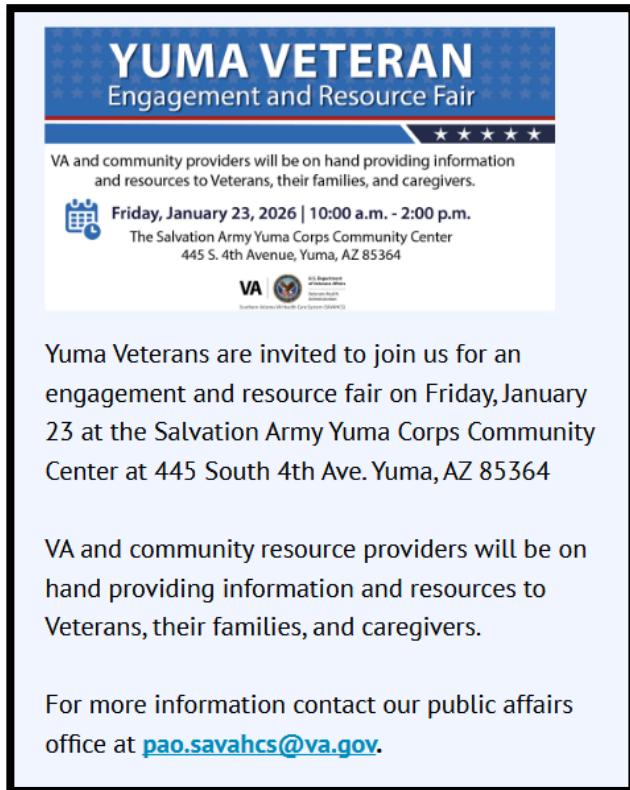


PURPLE HEART MAGAZINE: The



January/February edition of the National Purple Heart Magazine is available. The Department of AZ articles are on pages 75, 76, & 77. Go to the [Purple Heart Magazine](#). Enjoy!

YUMA VETERANS RESOURCE FAIR: The VA will hold a resource fair in Yuma on January 23rd. See flyer below for details.



YUMA VETERAN
Engagement and Resource Fair

VA and community providers will be on hand providing information and resources to Veterans, their families, and caregivers.

Friday, January 23, 2026 | 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
The Salvation Army Yuma Corps Community Center
445 S. 4th Avenue, Yuma, AZ 85364

VA and community resource providers will be on hand providing information and resources to Veterans, their families, and caregivers.

For more information contact our public affairs office at pao.savahcs@va.gov.

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.

1. **[Maricopa County StandDown](#)**
Thursday & Friday, March 12-13, 2026
AZ State Fairgrounds
2. **[Verde Valley StandDown](#)**
Wednesday, March 25, 2026
Cliff Castle Conference Center
3. **[Page StandDown](#)**
Thursday & Friday, April 23-24, 2026
Page Elks Lodge 2498
4. **[High Country StandDown](#)**
Friday, May 15, 2026
ASVH-FLG
5. **[Williams StandDown](#)**
Friday, September 11, 2026
Williams Recreation Center
6. **[Twin Arrows StandDown](#)**
Friday, October 2, 2026
Twin Arrows Navajo Resort

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:



order plastic one at

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

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.

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](#).

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.

NEW DOD ID CARDS FOR MILITARY RETIREES

& Dependents: The Department of Defense (DoD) has announced that individuals will need to replace their older, laminated paper ID cards with new, more secure Next Generation

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](#)

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

Applications are due Feb 15th.

SUICIDE PREVENTION RESOURCES:

Five essential suicide prevention resources

An excellent resource from the VA that chapters can utilize for suicide prevention. Go to this [link](#).



FLU SHOTS: You can get your flu shot during a scheduled appointment in Primary Care, specialty clinics, & at Community Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOCs). Walk in shots are available at Immunization Clinics. Check with your local VA.

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. For the January issue get news information & photos to us by the 28th of the month. Thanks!

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

Uniformed Services Identification (USID) cards.

Detailed information related to the USID cards visit www.cac.mil/.



MILLION VETERAN PROGRAM is on a mission to redefine the future of healthcare, and we



need YOU to be a part of this monumental journey. MVP is

assembling a community of over 1,000,000 Veterans to uncover how genes, lifestyles, military experiences, and exposures impact our health and wellness. Help revolutionize medicine and enhance the lives of Veterans worldwide. Join here:

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

PURPLE HEART SCHOLARSHIPS:

Applications for the scholarship program are due



every July. 2025 recipients have been announced. Program information is

available on the Purple Heart Scholarship Program at this [link](#).

