



January 2026

Volume 6 Issue 5

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER
Patriot Cody Phipps

Dear Patriots,



Cody Phipps

The department formally rescinded its Constitution and Bylaws dated May 30, 2020, along with all previous editions, which were outdated. This action, approved by the Department Executive Committee last year, ensures that the Department of Arizona and its chapters are governed by the National Constitution, Bylaws, and the National Procedures Manual of the Military Order of the Purple Heart. In its place the Department Executive Committee will implement a series of policy letters to govern department and chapter operation. We established a 4-member policy committee who will author the policy letters. At our January Department Executive Committee meeting the Department

Executive Committee reviewed and approved the 1st five of these policies. Policy 2025-001 covers policy philosophy. Policy 2025-002 covers how to approve, amend, or rescind policies. Policy 2025-003 covers chapter operations. Policy 2025-004 covers financial operations. Policy 2025-005 covers welfare and disaster assistance. These policies will be presented at the Department Convention and posted to the department website. Copies of the policies can be requested from the command team or the department adjutant.

Thank you to the members of the policy committee for devoting your time to this effort. Also, I'd like to thank the Patriots of our department who will represent the Military Order of the Purple Heart at the various Four Chaplain ceremonies being held in February. Your participation in this and other veterans' events is appreciated.

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 February 25th. 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,



Well, another month has quickly passed. It's getting time to finish up all your projects, programs, and reports for this year. Were you able to increase your membership this year? There is still time to recruit new members and hopefully they will become active. Chapters, I realize it's tough to get new active membership, but when you do, gradually get them involved so they are not pushed away.

Your candidate for Patriot of the Year needs to be submitted to Department by the end of February.

Nominations and elections are coming up for chapters. Consider taking an elected or appointed office in your Chapter and/or the Department. It would be nice to see new faces in Chapters and Department take on some of the positions that need to be filled. Chapter and Department meetings are open to all members to attend. The Department elections will take place at the convention in Tucson on May 2nd. Think about who you would like to see elected or appointed as your Department Officers for the upcoming year. Once again it would be nice to see all the positions filled.

Are you wearing your Purple Heart apparel when you are out in public. It's one of the best recruiting tools we have for the organization. Also, most local newspapers have free announcements of community events. If you are having an event, see if the paper will announce it. Exposure of the Military Order of the Purple Heart is what we need to let the public know we exist. When you meet someone, if you don't have an application on hand, refer them to the MOPH website to fill out one.



Stay well!

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

DEPARTMENT JR. VICE-COMMANDER
Patriot John Moore



John Moore

IWO JIMA FLAG RAISING: The Iwo Jima Flag Raising in Sacaton is an annual commemoration held in the Gila River Indian Community (GRIC), a Purple Heart Community, in Arizona. It honors Pima Indian and U.S. Marine Ira H. Hayes, one of the six men who raised the American flag on Mt. Suribachi during the 1945 Battle of Iwo Jima, and other local veterans. The event takes place at the **Mathew B. Juan – Ira H. Hayes Veterans Memorial Park in Sacaton, Arizona.** The



Marine PFC Ira Hayes, Pima, Gila River Reservation pictured far left in photo, 1945.

commemoration features a parade, wreath-laying ceremonies, traditional songs, and speeches honoring Native American veterans. **It celebrates the legacy of Ira Hayes,** a local hero from the Gila River Indian Community, and marks the anniversary of the iconic Feb. 23, 1945, flag raising. The celebration brings together veterans and families to honor the sacrifice of those who fought in World War II. See flyers further down in the newsletter for details.

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 at other locations in the newsletter.

- Feb 1 > Four Chaplains Day Chandler, AZ
- Feb 1 > Four Chaplains Day Tucson, AZ
- Feb 3 > Four Chaplains Day Williams, AZ
- Feb 14 > Valentine’s Day
- Feb 16 > Chapter 442 Meeting
- Feb 16 > President’s Day
- Feb 18 > Chapter 442 General Washington Birthday Luncheon
- Feb 19 > Coast Guard Reserve Birthday
- Feb 20 > Parker Standdown Parker, AZ
- Feb 20 > Chapter 691 Washington Birthday Social at Bella Vista Restaurant
- Feb 21 > Iwo Jima Flag Raising Sacaton, AZ
- Feb 22 > George Washinton’s Birthday
- Feb 25 > Executive Committee Meeting
- Mar 1 > Patriot of Year Nominations due

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

DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT
Patriot Larry Leighton



Larry Leighton

What do you think George Washington would say if he were here to celebrate his birthday with us? Give that some thought as you plan for your day on Feb 22nd.

The National Headquarters has been told by the IRS the Military Order of the Purple Heart of the USS he reclaimed its tax-exempt (501.c.19) status. So if any of you have not been actively trying to raise funds because the gray ares National was in, you can definitely get back to fundraising. In fact, if you'd like to help the Department submit grant proposals, give me a call (623-776-5443).

The Department 2026 Calendar fundraiser has not gone as well as I anticipated but the good news is we have paid all expenses and at this point, we have a small profit (only 10% of what we expected). **Calendars are still available for only \$25/copy, a 50% discount off the original price.** If you have not already bought one for yourself, family, and friends, please use this [link](#) or scan the QR code. **Remember the funds we raise go to support Veterans and families.**



Remember Chapter elections will be held in March and April and the Department elections are in May. Help implement your ideas for improving Chapter and Department operations by becoming one of the organization offers.

Last month, I asked each of you to verify your personal data on the National website. If you have not done so already and need some assistance, your Chapter and Department officers, including me, are ready to help. One example of incorrect information is one **member was born in 1945, joined the order in 1991 BUT served in World War II as a Marine.** Many of our members do not have an email address or their addresses are invalid. While a vaild email address is NOT required, it sure facilitates communications.

Four Chaplains Day is celebrated on February 3rd every year in recognition of four Army chaplains who acted in the spirit of heroic sacrifice and humanitarianism onboard a sinking ship. In recognition of their valor and guided by non-discrimination against anyone based on their religion, the Four Chaplains Memorial Foundation was set up as a way of promoting interfaith unity and a spirit of service among individuals. In 1998, a senate resolution was passed to recognize the 55th anniversary of the incident making Four Chaplains Day official.



Buddy Checks. I know we are all doing them on a regular basis but have you considered contacting a fellow recipient that you have never met? If you want a new experience and need a name or two to call, let your Chapter Commander or myself know and we can give you a few names to call. Warrior Wednesdays and Red Shirt (Remember Everyone Deployed) Fridays are good days to make those calls.

National Purple Heart Day (August 7th) will be here before you can blink. While most of our chapters are "dark" in August, it does not mean we should not do something to remember OUR day. If you are not sure what you can do, individually or as a group, Google "what can you do to celebrate national purple heart day" for some suggestions. If you are looking for a good place to make a donation, check

out our own 501.c.3, the Purple Heart Combat-Wounded Veterans of Arizona ([PHCWVOA](#)). All funds raised help Veterans, Veteran families, and **communities right here in Arizona**.

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

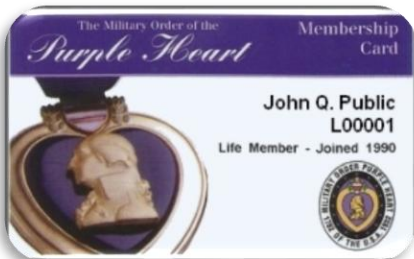
Yours in Patriotism
Larry Leighton
Adjutant

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

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 this [link](#).

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

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.

FORT LOWELL CHAPTER 442 – TUCSON, AZ
Commander Cody Phipps

Patriots of Chapter 442,



Cody Phipps

Thank you all for your efforts in making the chapter an excellent resource for our Tucson Veterans. From providing rental assistance, car repair assistance, utility assistance, and help for homeless veterans, your commitment truly makes a difference. Your generosity and dedication embody the spirit of service.

A special thank you to Canyon Del Oro Bible Church's Quilting Ladies for hand-making the quilts we use as the grand prize at our monthly bingo session at the VA Hospital. Volunteers are welcome to come out and assist as we host bingo for the patients. The next bingo session at the VA Hospital is on Feb 28th. If you can help meet us at bldg. 60 at 2:00 PM.

On February 1st we will participate in the annual Four Chaplains Ceremony at Kino Veterans Memorial Park.

Join us for our chapter meeting on February 16th and at our monthly Purple Heart Luncheon on February 18th.

At the Purple Heart Luncheon on February 18th, we will celebrate General Washington's birthday. **Join us at Tio Ben's** at 3682 West Orange Grove Road #146, Tucson, AZ

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)

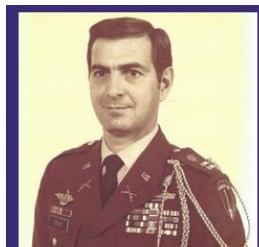
Time: 5:00 PM

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.

CHARLIE SKUHR MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

DONATION PRESENTATION: The Fort Lowell Chapter 442 and Tournament host Mrs. Susan-Lea Skuhr presented a check for a \$15,000 donation to the SAVAHCS Hematology Oncology Department.

STORIES OF VALOR: Stories of Valor is an ongoing



Along with his Purple Heart with Oak Leaf Cluster, CPT Grand was awarded a Silver Star, two Bronze Stars for Valor, a Bronze Star for Meritorious Service, and the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with palm.

biographical program featuring written, audio and video tributes of America's Purple Heart recipients curated by the **National Purple Heart Honor Mission**. This month they are highlighting **two-time Purple Heart recipient U.S. Army CPT John Grand**.

Patriot John Grand is a member of Ft. Lowell Chapter 442. Read John's story at the [Purple Heart Honor Mission](#).

JANUARY CHAPTER MEETING: Fort Lowell Chapter 442 held its monthly chapter meeting on January 19th. The **Tucson Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution** spoke at our meeting.

Regent Linda Magellan & 1st Vice Regent Dawn Graffam thanked us for the loan of Big George (8 ft tall model of a Purple Heart Medal) for their annual meeting and to brief us on what they do as an organization. They also talked on the

This gift, given in memory of Charles H. Skuhr Jr., will fund comfort and welfare items to Veterans receiving treatment, offering support when it is needed most.



VA Hospital Staff accepts the Donation



Mrs. Susan-Lea Skuhr presents \$15,000 Check

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.

MONTHLY PURPLE HEART LUNCHEON: Fort Lowell Chapter 442 held its monthly Purple Heart luncheon on January 21st at the Old Father Inn. At the lunch **Cdr Phipps** presented our **Patriot Emeritus, Walter Ram**, with a certificate of appreciation and a handcrafted Purple Heart bowl for **Walter's 102nd birthday**. **Patriot Cody Phipps, Patriot Ram, Patriot John R. Moore, Patriot Jake Zimmerman, Patriot Dave Bertagnoli, Patriot John Grand, Veteran Keith Goudy, & guest Sam Phipps** were in attendance. Walter was a crewman on a B-17 in WW2, was shot down twice, and was a POW in Stalag 17. All had a great time. No one could top Walter's war stories.

procedures for women to become members. **Regent Magellan** presented **Patriot Phipps** with a Red Rose and small American Flag. **Patriot Phipps** presented MOPH certificates of appreciation to the ladies along with a MOPH challenge coin.



Regent Linda Magellan, Commander Phipps, & 1st Vice Regent Dawn Graffam

IN MEMORY OF PATRIOT LARRY TRUSH: Patriot

Orestes "Larry"

Trush, member of the chapter since 2016 passed away on January 16th. R.I.P. He was a caring veteran and worked with Team Red, White, & Blue in



support of veterans. Larry's service will be at 2:00 PM on Feb 9th at East Lawn Mortuary.

BINGO AT THE TUCSON VA Hospital: Ft. Lowell Chapter 442 hosted bingo for the patients at the Tucson VA Hospital on January 31st. Thank you to **Patriot Dave Bertagnoli, Patriot Cody Phipps, & Patriot Danny Lemon**, who conducted bingo and to volunteers **Yolanda Lemon, Susan-Lea Campbell Skuhr, Sam Phipps, & Cherie Stallman** who helped the patients. The grand prize was a beautiful handmade quilt from the ladies at Canyon Del Oro Bible Church.



Patriot Ram & Patriot Phipps



Patriot Ram and Patriot Bertagnoli share the book each has written.

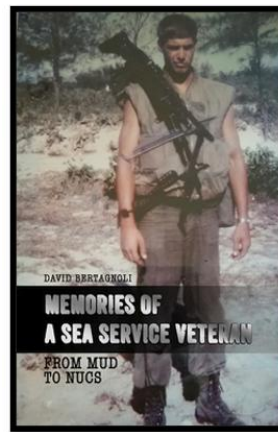


Patriot Zimmerman, Sam Phipps, Vietnam Veteran Keith Goudy, Patriot Moore, Patriot Phipps, Patriot Bertagnoli, Patriot Grand, Patriot Ram's granddaughter-in-law, & Patriot Ram seated



Patriot Lemon, Yolanda Lemon, Patriot Phipps, & Susan-Lea Skuhr

Memories of a Sea Service Veteran - From Mud to Nucs: Patriot Dave Bertagnoli of



Chapter 442 has authored a book about his service career. Experience twenty years of military adventures and misadventures spanning Vietnam, the Cold War, and Desert Storm. Follow a journey from infantry to tracking Soviet submarines, and ultimately, to nuclear

command and control. About the Author -**Dave Bertagnoli**, an Army brat who served two years in the USMC and eighteen years in the USN (including three years with the USAF), is active in Kiwanis in Tucson, AZ and the Ft. Lowell Chapter 442 Military Order of the Purple Heart.

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Available at [Dorrance Publishing](https://www.dorrancepublishing.com)

81ST IWO JIMA FLAG RAISING CEREMONY: The Ira Hayes American Legion Post in Sacaton, AZ will host a parade and ceremony to remember the flag raising and Ira Hayes beginning at 8:30 am at Veterans Memorial Park in Sacaton. This is a great event to come out and support. For additional information please contact Post 84 at:



Hand turned bowl with inlaid Purple Heart coin was given to Patriot Ram for his 102nd birthday



Patriot Ram's Certificate of Appreciation

FOUR CHAPLAINS' CEREMONY: The Four Chaplains Ceremony is at 1:00 PM on Sunday 1 Feb at Kino Memorial Park. Fort Lowell Chapter 442 will place a wreath, talk about the significance of the Purple Heart and read the biography of one of the Four Chaplains. Photos will be in next month's issue.



Tel: (520)562-8484 or via e-mail at ihpost84@gilanet.net



NEW CHAPEL DEDICATED AT THE TUCSON VA HOSPITAL: The Tucson VA Hospital proudly

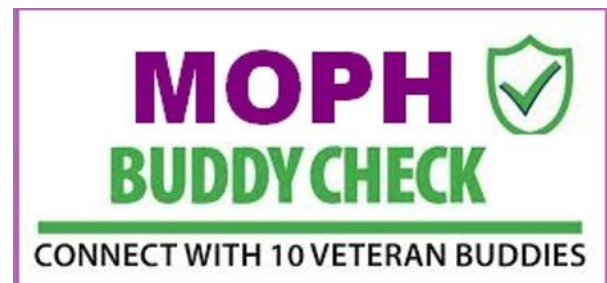


celebrated the grand opening and ribbon cutting of its new dedicated chapel in January.

It is a peaceful place for Veterans to find prayer, reflection, connection, and spiritual support.

Weekly Services will be provided as follows:

- Ecumenical Service: Sundays at 9:00 AM
- Roman Catholic Service: Sundays at 3:00 PM



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 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"x 8" 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](#)

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 2026 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 with us this year.



Memorial Bricks at Wesley Bolin Plaza



Purple Heart Monument at Wesley Bolin Plaza



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

Fellow Patriots,



Larry Leighton

2026 is off to another sprint! I cannot believe that by the time you get the newsletter, the year will be one-twelfth gone. 🙄 At least all my Holiday decorations have been packed away for another year.

The January meeting was well attended although we had far too many empty chairs and only a couple members on the Zoom video call. I wish I had a better idea about increasing member attendance at meetings and events. If you have an idea about this challenge or anything else, please give me a call (623-776-5443) or send me an email at <mailto:commander691moph@gmail.com>

Remember **we are not having a formal meeting in February** but have instead opted to celebrate George Washington's Birthday on **Friday, FEBRUARY 20th, at the Bella Vista Restaurant** (1630 – 1930; 4:30 PM to 7:30 PM; casual dress). The flier has been sent previously and you can register and order on our Zeffy platform (<https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/691s-2026-gw-dinner>). The price per plate is only \$25 so send in your reservation or do it on Zeffy. **The optional donation to Zeffy is just that – optional. Any Purple Heart Member, regardless Chapter, who is going to be in the vicinity is invited to join us.**

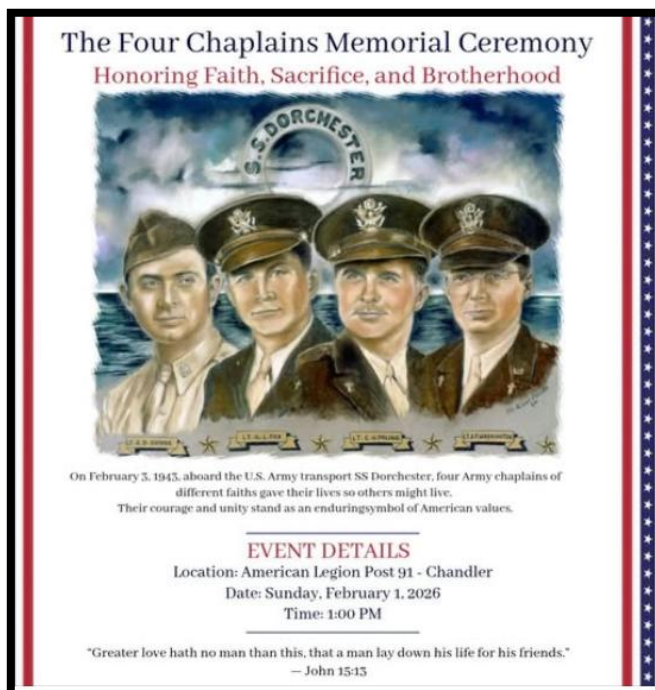
Our next regular meeting is Saturday, March 14th. This is an important meeting as we will elect the new slate of officers for the 2026-2027 fiscal year. We would love to have some new volunteers to help guide our Chapter. Remember all the positions are voluntary and those who have held the positions in the past are ready to help the new ones. Remember the meeting starts at 0900 in the Sands Chevrolet training room. You can find directions on our [website](#). If you cannot come in person, maybe you can join us virtually via [Zoom](#). (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 -
karen4357@att.net
Jr. Vice-Cdr: Sal Salinas-
salsalido@gmail.com
Chaplain: Jimi Sallmen –
jimisallmen@gmail.com
Adjutant: Larry Leighton -
commander691moph@gmail.com

FOUR CHAPLAINS' CEREMONY: The Four Chaplains Ceremony in **Chandler** is at 1:00 PM on Sunday 1 Feb at Legion Post 91.



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.
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](#)



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). In December, 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.

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.

LANCE DAVISON MEMORIAL HIGH COUNTY

STANDDOWN: Chapter 793 supports the Lance Davison Memorial High-Country Stand Down, which was recognized as the 2025 Organization of the Year on January 14th. In the photos below supporters stand with founders John Davison, center left, and Charlotte Davison, center right, during the annual Citizens and Organization of the Year luncheon at Little America Hotel. Patriot Billy Weldon and other chapter 793 members attended the ceremony and luncheon.



Chapter 793 members with the Davison Family



81ST IWO JIMA FLAG RAISING CEREMONY: The Ira Hayes American Legion Post in Sacaton, AZ will host a parade and ceremony to remember the flag raising and Ira Hayes beginning at 8:30 am at Veterans Memorial Park in Sacaton. For additional information please contact Post 84 at: Tel: **(520)562-8484** or via e-mail at ihpost84@gilanet.net



NORTHERN ARIZONA STANDDOWNS:

1. **Page StandDown**
Thursday & Friday, April 23-24, 2026
Page Elks Lodge 2498



FOUR CHAPLAINS' CEREMONY: The Four Chaplains Ceremony in **Williams, AZ** is on Tuesday, 3 Feb at 2:00 PM at Legion Post 13. Join us to honor and remember the Four Chaplains. See flyer below.

FOUR CHAPLAINS DAY SERVICE FEBRUARY 3, 2026 CORDOVA POST 13 425 W GRANT AVE WILLIAMS, ARIZONA



Join us as we remember and honor the Courage and sacrifice by the Four Chaplains as the USAT Dorchester was sinking after being torpedoed by a German U Boat on the evening of February 3rd 1943. Their Memory is honored every year as we show our respect.

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 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

2. **High Country StandDown**
Friday, May 15, 2026
ASVH-FLG Flagstaff, AZ
3. **Williams StandDown**
Friday, September 11, 2026
Williams Recreation Center, Williams, AZ.
4. **Twin Arrows StandDown**
Friday, October 2, 2026
Twin Arrows Navajo Resort, Flagstaff

Prescott, AZ 86313
Phone: 928-445-4806
Mental Health Phone: 928-445-4860, ext 7500
Website: [Bob Stump VA Medical Center](#)



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.**



We wish you could have joined us to share the camaraderie of the 110 Patriots attending our 346th consecutive Friday

CONGRESSMAN STANTON: Congressman Greg Stanton joined Army Vietnam Veterans, **Patriot Chuck Byers** and **Veteran Terry Araman**, who



recounting their respective military service during Representative Greg Stanton's Share Your Story session in Mesa. Chuck

and Terry were both combat medics with the 9th Infantry Division ("Old Reliables") in Vietnam and continue to serve our Veterans in Arizona. Both Chuck and Terry were presented with the Vietnam Service Medal lapel pin.

assembly on January 16th. We look forward to your presence on Fridays 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 on 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



19TH ANNUAL PATRIOTIC AWARDS LUNCHEON:

Tickets are now on sale go to [this link](#) to purchase tickets or get more information.



RELATED MOPH & VETERAN INFORMATION

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. [Parker Standdown](#)
Friday, February 20, 2026
VFW Post 7061
2. [Bullhead City StandDown](#)
Friday, March 6, 2026
Optimum Community Center
3. [Tucson StandDown](#)
Tuesday, March 10, 2026
GEM Center
4. [Maricopa County StandDown](#)
Thursday & Friday, March 12-13, 2026
AZ State Fairgrounds

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!



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.

5. **Safford StandDown**
Friday, March 20, 2026
Graham County Fairgrounds
6. **Verde Valley StandDown**
Wednesday, March 25, 2026
Cliff Castle Conference Center
7. **Page StandDown**
Thursday & Friday, April 23-24, 2026
Page Elks Lodge 2498
8. **Kingman StandDown**
Friday May 8, 2026
Kathryn Heidenreich Adult Center
9. **High Country StandDown**
Friday, May 15, 2026
ASVH-FLG
10. **Williams StandDown**
Friday, September 11, 2026
Williams Recreation Center
11. **Twin Arrows StandDown**
Friday, October 2, 2026
Twin Arrows Navajo Resort

PURPLE HEART COMBAT WOUNDED VETERANS OF ARIZONA:

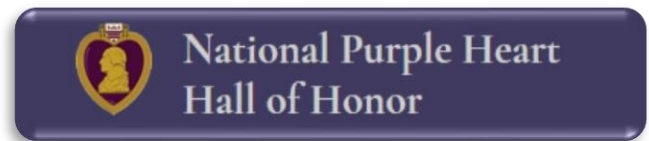


The Purple Heart Combat Wounded Veterans of Arizona is our department 501c3 entity. If for tax purposes, you or a donor is required to donate to 501c3 use our online portal to make your donation. Funds designated for a chapter will go in their entirety to the chapter. **Use the "Add/Write NOTE" field to specify the purpose of your donation.** Thank you in advance for supporting Veterans! **Donate Online:** [Donations Appreciated](#)

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. **Applications are due Feb 15th.**

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](#).



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](#).

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 will open on Feb. 1st and close on May 1st. Program information is available at the Purple Heart Scholarship Program at this [link](#). Application will be available on Feb 1st.



TUCSON STANDDOWN: See flyer below.

PARKER STANDDOWN: Feb 20th - see flyer for details.

THE JERRY AMBROSE VETERANS COUNCIL
OF MOHAVE COUNTY, INC.
and
REGIONAL CENTER FOR BORDER HEALTH, INC.
present the

**VETERAN
STAND DOWN**



VFW Post 7061, 516 S. Hopi Avenue, Parker, AZ
Friday, February 20, 2026 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Get help with housing, employment & benefit issues!
Free Food!

Call (928) 323-4401 for More Information.

BULLHEAD CITY STANDDOWN: See flyer for details.



**Veteran Resource
Fair**
Bullhead City
Optimum Community
Center
2380 Optimum Way
Bullhead City, AZ
Friday, March 6th 2026
10AM- 2PM

Vendors can sign up for one or both events by
following the QR Code:



Multple agencies available:
Contact events@javc.org





**2026 Tucson
Veteran StandDown**

March 10, 2026 | 9:00am - 2:00pm

GEM Center
222 South Freeway, 3234 Tucson, AZ 85745
(Located by Red Lion Inn and Suites Tucson Downtown)

Open to all veterans and their families in
need of the following complimentary
support and resources:

- Haircuts
- Clothing/Hygiene Items
- Mental Health & Religious Counseling
- Benefits Applications
- Housing Assistance
- Pima County Veterans' Court
- Substance Abuse Counseling
- Pet Care/Vaccinations
- VA Services
- Treatment Referrals
- and so much more!

VETERANS
Bring your DD
Form 214, ID cards,
Social Security
cards, court
paperwork, and
any disability
claim information.

NO ALCOHOL
NO DRUGS
NO WEAPONS


AVSA
ARIZONA VETERANS STANDDOWN ALLIANCE
A PROGRAM OF THE ARIZONA HOUSING COALITION

Questions? Contact Jessica Grover at tucsonveterans.jessica@gmail.com.

VERDE VALLEY STANDDOWN: See flyer for details.

Wednesday . March 25th, 2026
9 Am to 2 Pm MST
Cliff Castle Conference Center
Camp Verde . Arizona

5TH ANNUAL VERDE VALLEY STAND DOWN
Dedicated To Verde Valley Veterans
In Memory Of James David Warfield USMC



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 February issue get news information & photos to us by the 26th of the month. Thanks!

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

Arizona Veterans Honor Tour

Honoring Service and Community Impact

The Arizona Veterans Honor Tour, supported by a non-profit organization, is organizing a special event to honor Veterans who have served honorably and continue to make a meaningful difference in their communities. This initiative seeks to recognize not only their military service but also their ongoing commitment to supporting others.

Eligible Veterans are encouraged to apply for a five-day trip to Branson, Missouri, where they will be celebrated for their continued contributions. Branson is widely recognized for its deep appreciation of Veterans, featuring tributes at numerous venues throughout the city. The event will take place from November 15–19, 2026, coinciding with the start of Branson's Christmas shows and Veterans week, making it a particularly special time.

The primary goal of this program is to acknowledge Veterans not only for their past service but also for the ongoing support and camaraderie they provide within their communities. Many Veterans volunteer quietly, motivated by a genuine desire to help others and to remind fellow Veterans that they are not alone. These efforts contribute to building a supportive network and help reduce the suicide rate among Veterans.

Unlike traditional honors such as plaques, selected Veterans will receive a five-day trip to Branson, Missouri, where they will be honored and thanked in meaningful ways. In Branson, every theater includes a tribute segment, and the recognition extends throughout the town—from restaurants to the College of the Ozarks. Veterans will have opportunities to share their experiences and discuss the value of freedom with local students.

Honoring these Veterans involves more than symbolic gestures; it means providing opportunities for them to connect, reflect, and be celebrated by the community. Through this event, Veterans will enjoy memorable experiences and form deeper bonds with others who share their journey. The initiative aims to create lasting memories and highlight the importance of their ongoing service in civilian life.

The Arizona Veterans Honor Tour is seeking nominations for Veterans who demonstrate dedication and selflessness in their communities. If you know a Veteran who meets these qualifications, please consider encouraging them to apply. Applicants are required to submit two separate letters of recommendation outlining their community involvement and activities.

The chosen Veterans are welcome to bring a guest over the age of 21; however, the guest's expenses must be covered by the applicant. (\$1300 double occupancy). The trip package includes airfare from Mesa, Arizona, bus transportation, hotel accommodations, meals, and entertainment.

Arizona Veterans Honor Tour is raising funds for the trip through sponsorships, grants, fundraising efforts, and support from various military organizations. Each Veteran cost is approximately \$1,300 (double occupancy), which covers all major expenses. Contributions are requested by March 31st to meet deposit requirements. Only 15 Veterans will be selected for this special honor.

For Nominations, Donations or Sponsorships, please send to:

Arizona Veterans Honor Tour
4657 S Desert Dawn Dr
Gold Canyon, AZ 85118
veteranseventsaz@gmail.com

Submitted by Nancy Fassbender, Director