



October 2025

Volume 6 Issue 2

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER
Patriot Cody Phipps

Dear Patriots,



Cody Phipps

At the Department Convention last year the membership voted to provide \$1,000 to assist transitioning Veterans in Tucson at [Esperanza - A fresh start for homeless Veterans](#). We delivered those funds this past month and I, along with Junior Vice Commander John Moore volunteered at their facility sorting donations and moving furniture.

We are moving into the holiday portion of the year where we come together and celebrate. For some Active Duty and Veterans, this time of year adds additional financial stress and family pressure. There are initiatives around Arizona to provide relief. Please explore the needs and resources in your communities and let us get assistance to Veterans and their families.

I'm sharing a resource we discovered recently that will help us all with our mission. **Advisers Give Back** is a group of financial advisers and planners who offer their services for free to help people understand and improve their financial position. The presenter who visited us in Tucson was a former Army officer and offered their services as a way to prevent **Veteran Suicide due to Financial Stressors**. He will also do a presentation for us at the Department Convention on Financial Stress and Soldier Suicide. <https://advisersgiveback.org/> is the website where you can learn more about the organization and what is available. Please use this as a tool when you encounter a financially struggling Veteran.



Cdr Phipps presents check to Esperanza

Veteran's Day is Tuesday Nov. 11. **Thank you all for your service and sacrifice**. Please share photos and details with the department and the editors for the Purple Heart Newsletter and Magazine.

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 November 19th. A member of the chapter command group must attend. The Zoom call is **open to all members**. Time: 06:30 PM Arizona Time, November 19, 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,

Well November is already here, where did the time go, and we have two holidays coming up. Veterans Day is a perfect chance to be visible and **show our Purple Heart pride by wearing Purple Heart apparel**. If you attend a parade that day or any other function. Be Proud to wear it. Thanksgiving Day and weekend are also coming up. This is a good opportunity to help a veteran and their family. Chapters should identify a needy veteran and his family or even two and help with providing them with a turkey and the ingredients to have a nice Thanksgiving dinner. You will feel good doing it.



Michael Smaydy

I would like to say that I am grateful for all the men and women serving today in the armed forces defending our freedom. I am also grateful for the Police and Fireman that protect us and our property.

We still need someone to step forward and assume the duties of Judge Advocate, Chaplain, and Legislative Officer. While this is new, for me, the electronic era, most of the duties can be done at home by video conference. Please consider taking one of these positions.

On another note, the Department Calendar has gone to press. As of today, sales have not been particularly good, and we are currently in the Red. This is the major fundraiser for the Department that helps finance our Relief Fund and other MOPH programs. We are asking Chapters and members to PLEASE consider purchasing one or more calendars. The Department Adjutant sent out an email offering a number of Specials on the calendar during Veterans Day where you have a chance to save some money.

I would like to wish all my fellow Patriots and their families a happy and safe Thanksgiving.



Mike Smaydy & daughters in PH Gear

Your Department Sr. Vice Commander
Mike Smaydy
928-445-3792
michaeljsm@hotmail.com

DEPARTMENT JR. VICE-COMMANDER
Patriot John Moore



John Moore

THE MARINE CORPS BIRTHDAY is November 10th. Thank you to our **281 members who were awarded Purple Hearts** while serving in the Marine Corps. For 250 years Marines have been there to defend the nation and to deter or to defeat our adversaries. Semper Fi!



VETERANS DAY: Thank you to our **995 members who were awarded Purple Hearts** while serving our Nation during its times of need. Originally named Armistice Day, it marked the anniversary of the end of World War I. Hostilities were formally ended at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918 when the Armistice with

Germany went into effect. In 1954 Armistice Day was renamed Veterans Day. Take time this Veterans Day to honor all who served by attending a Veterans Day event with your chapter or in your community. Thank you, Patriots for your service!



WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA: Wreaths Across America will be held on December 13th this year. Our Chapters and the Department participate in and supports Wreaths Across America at a number of cemeteries in the state. Check with your chapter or find a local cemetery to help place wreaths on veterans' graves. You can find participating cemeteries at the [Wreaths Across America website](https://www.wreathsalong.com/).

POLICY LETTERS COMMITTEE: The commander has appointed a 4-member committee to write the new department policy letters that will replace the outdated Bylaws. The Department Executive Committee (DEC) voted to rescind the department bylaws at its September meeting. The new format will consist of a series of Department Policy Letters. The DEC is reviewing the first two policy letters and considering approving those two at the November DEC meeting. Our goal is to have them ready and present them at our May Convention.

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

- Nov 1 > Thunderfest Car Show Casa Grande
- Nov 5 > Bylaws Meeting (Zoom)
- Nov 6 > Yuma Standdown, Yuma AZ
- Nov 6 > Pima Community College Veterans Day Ceremony Tucson
- Nov 8 > Chapter 691 Meeting
- Nov 8 > Charlie Skuhr PH Memorial Golf Tournament Tucson
- Nov 9 > Rockin for Heroes – Oro Valley, AZ
- Nov 10 > Marine Corps Birthday
- Nov 11 > Veterans Day
- Nov 11 > Veterans Pinning Ceremony Breakfast at NPHX Church Phoenix
- Nov 15 > Vetsgiving at Phoenix VA
- Nov 17 > Chapter 442 Meeting
- Nov 19 > DEC Meeting (Zoom)
- Nov 22 > Chapter 442 PH Luncheon
- Nov 27 > Thanksgiving Day

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

DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT Patriot Larry Leighton



Larry Leighton

November is Military Family Appreciation Month - a time set aside to recognize you, the military family. Military families know what it means to serve. Be sure to take time out of your busy schedules to celebrate with your family.

Happy 250th Birthday Marines! The Services would not be complete without you, even though you are only the second oldest Armed Service. 😊

We also celebrate ALL veterans on Veterans Day. Check your area papers to find celebrations you can attend with your family. Wear your Veteran (Purple Heart) regalia – not only on this day but everyday and look for others wearing theirs. Take the time to introduce yourself and thank them for their service.

Most everyone celebrates Thanksgiving with a family gathering at some level. Others may not have family in the area or be as fortunate as we are. If you can, consider donating to one of the area food

banks so others can share in our bounty. If you need a little help, let us know. You can always reach me at 623-776-5443.

In this upcoming issue of the **Purple Heart Magazine**, you are “challenged” to take the Pledge “**Talk to 10, be a buddy**”. This is in concert with our own “**Warrior Wednesday Buddy Checks**” (not just for Chapter members but for any Veteran you know). A simple, genuine conversation can go a long way, in-person or virtually. Start making connections by asking how your buddies are doing, if they need anything, or inviting them to an event or activity in your community. Keeping up with social ties can be as simple as calling on the phone, emailing, texting or being available for a visit. Everyone can participate by checking in and providing a listening ear to the Veterans in their life.

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

Kay and I wish you and yours a Happy Thanksgiving!

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**

Americanism in Today’s Political Climate



Will Hunker

Fellow Patriots,

In today’s divided political climate, the spirit of Americanism remains a steady light—reminding us that unity and shared values are stronger than partisanship. True Americanism is not about political sides but about the love of country, respect for our Constitution, and gratitude for those who have sacrificed to preserve our freedoms. As members of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, we carry that responsibility forward—not through rhetoric, but through example. We honor our service by encouraging civility, civic engagement, and respect for differing opinions, showing that patriotism thrives when we stand together for the common good. As October ends, let us also embrace the lighthearted spirit of Halloween, a time for community, creativity, and shared joy. Whether it is a neighborhood

gathering, a costume parade, or handing out treats, these small traditions remind us of the connections that hold our nation and our communities together. May this Halloween be a moment to celebrate the freedoms we protect, the unity we strive for, and the resilience that defines us as Americans. Stay safe, enjoy the season, and continue to inspire others through your example of service and American pride.

Yours in Patriotism
Will Hunker
Americanism Officer

DEPARTMENT OFFICERS

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

APPOINTED OFFICERS:

- Adjutant - **Larry Leighton** 623.776.5443;
adjutant.mophaz@gmail.com

- Commander - **Cody Phipps** 817.239.2073; commanderazmoph@gmail.com
- Senior Vice Commander - **Mike Smaydy** 928.445.3792; michaelism@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

- 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

I am 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.

I want to thank all those who attended our meeting in October, we had a great showing for our guest speaker. Jack Schannep has agreed to speak at our department convention in May about Veteran Suicide and Financial Stress.

We also had a large group at the monthly luncheon, thank you for coming.

As we move into these busier months with ceremonies and holidays, we encourage and appreciate your participation. It takes all of us, and our unique talents, ideas, and connections, to execute our mission.

We have continued our dedicated support to the Veterans at the Arizona State Veterans home with our monthly bingo events. We have also continued to provide support to feed Veterans transitioning from homelessness in the Tucson area.

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

11/8 Charlie Skuhr Golf PH Tournament (**we have a paid slot for a golfer** if anyone is interested in playing), 11/10 Flags placed on graves at Marana cemetery, & 11/11 the Tucson Veterans Day Parade.

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](#)

PREPARATION FOR VETERANS DAY:

Join MOPH Chapter 442 and the community on



Marana Veterans Cemetery

Monday, Nov 10th, at 8:00 AM to place flags for Veterans Day on the 5,800 grave-markers at the **Arizona State Veterans Memorial Cemetery** in Marana, AZ.

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.

MONTHLY PURPLE HEART LUNCHEON:

Our next Purple Heart Luncheon is on November 22nd at 12:00 noon. We plan to meet at Noble Hops at 1335 W Lambert Ln, Oro Valley, AZ 85737. We hope to see you there. We forgot to take a photo at our last luncheon, oops.



Noble Hops, Oro Valley AZ

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 way off but if you think you will attend let us know. Thanks!

ESPERANZA: Ft Lowell Chapter members **Patriot Cody Phipps and Patriot John Moore** worked at [Esperanza - A fresh start for homeless](#)



Patriot Phipps

[Veterans](#) yesterday to help organize furniture and cleanup a storage building in preparation for opening a home for homeless veterans.

Patriot Phipps also presented Esperanza with a check for \$1,000 from the Department of Arizona that was approved at the

BINGO AT THE TUCSON VA Hospital: Ft



Lowell Chapter 442 hosted bingo this month on October 25th for the patients at the Tucson VA Hospital. Thank you **Patriot Dave Bertagnoli** who called bingo and **Cheri Stallman** who assisted the

patients. The Grand Prize was a beautiful quilt made won by an ex-army nurse.



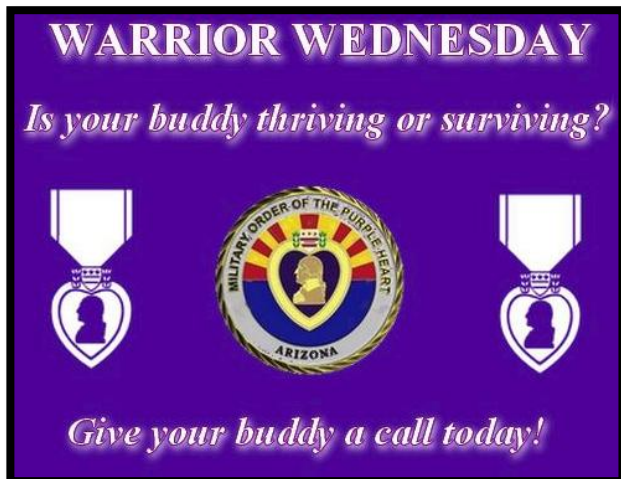
Grand Prize Winner



Grand Prize Quilt

PIMA COLLEGE: Pima College will hold a **Veterans Day Celebration and Resource Fair!** It will be located at Pima's Aviation Technology Center on November 6th from 11am to 2pm at Hanger 2, 7211 S. Park Ave. There will be a free

May Department Convention. Thank you to the Department of Arizona.




lunch for veterans, please RSVP through the QR code on the flyer.

Join us for the 12th Annual
PIMA COMMUNITY COLLEGE
MILITARY AND VETERAN SERVICES
VETERANS DAY CELEBRATION
and Resource Fair
Honoring the Veterans in Our Community


NOVEMBER 6, 2025
11 A.M. - 2 P.M.
Aviation Technology Center
Hangar 2
7211 S. Park Ave.





PROGRAM INCLUDES:


- Speakers
- Quilts of Valor Ceremony
- Recognition of local organizations that support veterans
- Activities/Entertainment
- FREE lunch provided to veterans
- \$15 lunch for the general public

 PimaCommunityCollege

FREE admission for everyone. The public is invited to join us in celebrating the service of all U.S. military veterans.

RSVP

tinyurl.com/bdcaveb9

520.206.4500 | pima.edu |    

 PimaCommunityCollege

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

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

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](#)



REFLECTIONS: 13 years ago, was just a young man with a group of brothers moving through the battlespace, convinced we were saving the world. I do not even remember this picture—but the shaka has stayed with me ever since.



What I do remember is why we were there: God. Family. Country.

I miss and love every one of you who stood in that space and time. You are on my mind often.

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,

In another effort of trying to include more fun and camaraderie into our Chapter, we cancelled our regular October meeting in favor of a Pizza Party organized by Keith and Kristi Gray. Those few that attended had a great time.



Our November 8th regular Chapter meeting (second Saturday of the month) is at the regular time (9 AM) and at the regular place (Sands Chevrolet at 16991 W Waddell Rd, Surprise, AZ 85388). PDC Chuck Byers, will be our guest speaker. He will talk about the VA Caregivers program and other latest updates with the VA Benefits. I encourage everyone to attend. If you cannot come in person, maybe you can join us virtually via Zoom.

Use this link for the [Zoom meeting](#). (Meeting ID: 815 5957 0914; Passcode: 328403; or by calling 2532050468).

The Chapter bought two ten-person tables for the Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony on October 24th. Eight members and their spouses signed up to attend but after signing up, three couples could not attend so we donated those places to the Society. It was a sold out event and everyone had a great time. After the ceremony the group went to Cooper's Hawk for dinner.



(L-R) Jim Starkman, Sal Salinas, Nan Salinas, Marie Johnson, Karen Starkman, Kay Leighton, Frank Johnson, Ron Capek Cindy Capek, Keith Gray, Kristy Gray, Larry Leighton.

Kay and I wish all of you and yours a very Happy Thanksgiving. We look forward to seeing you at the meeting.

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, Nazlini Arizona, & White Cone, Arizona (Navajo Nation). This month, we participated in the Western Navajo Parade and Fair.

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.

WESTERN NAVAJO FAIR & PARADE:
Chapter 793 and the Purple Heart Truck

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](#).

TWIN ARROWS STANDDOWN: The Twin Arrows Standdown was held on Oct 3rd at the Dine' Event Center. Photos and news article are available at the [Navajo-Hopi Observer](#) website.

WHITE CONE, AZ BECAME A PURPLE HEART COMMUNITY: On October 29th, the White Cone Chapter of the Navajo Nation was designated a Purple Heart Community. Photos will be posted next month.

participated in the Western Navajo Fair at Tuba City. Purple Heart recipient & Vietnam Veteran, Sgt Elmer Sangster, was the parade's grand marshal.



Patriot Sangster & Patriot Ely



MORE WESTERN NAVAJO PARADE PHOTOS:



Grand Marshal Sangster



Purple Heart Truck

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](http://www.flagstaffvaclinic.org)





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.

SSG POULSEN UPDATE: A few months back Chapter 2560 assist a veteran who was homeless living with his family including small children in his pickup truck. The veteran is doing well now and has been in stable housing for 7 weeks.

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 at 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.

MACV.ORG MISSION ACCOMPLISHED

MACV FOUNDATION

HE SERVED HIS COUNTRY THEN CANCER and the brutal streets of Phoenix CAME FOR HIS FAMILY

Sergeant Andrew Poulsen (U.S. Army, Ret.)—he'd been on three Afghanistan tours rising from artilleryman to PSYOPS Sergeant, fluent in 7 languages carrying the weight of a combat acquired disability rating. He had faced enemy fire, stage three cancer, and now forced to live in his truck bed with a Phoenix heat index of 110 degrees. But his toughest battle? Watching his wife and young children suffer alongside him, unable to cover shelter with his disability pay. When he called for help? It would be ten weeks before a family shelter could accommodate them. They wouldn't make it.

THEN THE MACV FOUNDATION STEPPED IN
 We don't stop at the crisis. We stay with the veteran until the situation is resolved—because no veteran should ever be left behind.

THE MACV WAY
 MACV Foundation responded immediately. Partnering with Commissioner Chuck Byers of the Arizona Department of Veterans Services and the Military Order of the Purple Heart in Apache Junction, the foundation secured emergency hotel accommodations to get the family out of the heat.

Over the next several weeks, MACV case-managed the situation directly helping the family navigate services, advocate for support, and meet every challenge halfway with effort and resolve.

Within 7 weeks, the Poulsen family moved into a safe, two-story home provided by the Supportive Services for Veteran Families program.

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

THANKS TO OUR 2025 SPONSORS

Arizona Department of Veterans Services
 AMERICA FIRST Credit Union
 Guild mortgage
 W.M. (Walmart Mortgage)
 AZ Hugh O'Connor Memorial Pipe Band
 Bashas' TEXAS
 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 \$2 days to supply WAA!

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

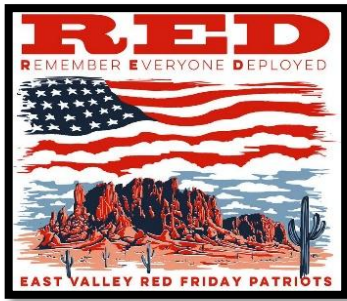
Please help the Military Order of the Purple Heart, honor our local heroes

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

PATRIOT CHUCK BYERS HONORED: At the tenth annual Patriot Ball hosted by the Southwest Veterans Chamber of Commerce Patriot Chuck Byers

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 are 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.

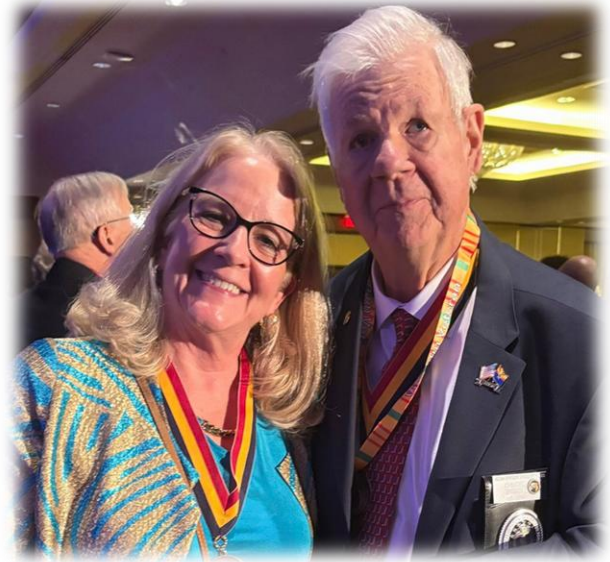
Join us EVERY Friday for Breakfast at 7:30am to 8:15am.
Cost for breakfast is \$12.00 Meeting starts at 8:15am.

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

was one of about 140 Vietnam veterans welcomed home and honored at the Patriot Ball.



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.

VETSGIVING AT THE PHOENIX VA: Join the 4th annual VetsGiving celebration on **Saturday Nov. 15, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.** at Carl T. Hayden VA Medical Center, 7th Street VA Medical Center

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](#).



National Purple Heart
Hall of Honor

entrance! Enjoy food, games, music, giveaways, and more as we celebrate your service ahead of Veterans Day. Families are welcome!



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, 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!**



VETERANS PINNING CEREMONY AND BREAKFAST: Join us on November 11 for a special Veterans Day tribute honoring our Vietnam Veterans. This event marks the final 50th Commemoration Pinning Ceremony, recognizing and thanking these heroes for their service and sacrifice. Veterans, service members, and the community are invited to attend this special

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](https://www.purpleheart.org/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](#)



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.



VA FIELD GUIDE FOR SHUTDOWN: Considering the current government shutdown, please see below for the veterans guide to help you navigate through it.

ceremony recognizing all our service members. Vietnam Veterans will be pinned at the ceremony, even if you have already received a pin previously! Register for the event here: <https://bit.ly/46vS6aj>



VA HOME-BASED PRIMARY CARE: Home-Based Primary Care (HBPC) teams now have a faster and more secure way to support Veterans in remote areas, even those without internet access, thanks to the recent implementation of the Oracle Health Community Care app, formerly known as Mobile Care. The app allows HBPC staff to view critical patient information, including documentation, orders, medications, labs, and histories, in an offline, read-only capacity, enabling providers to deliver consistent, high-quality care in rural or low-connectivity areas. The app also has additional features, such as essential risk assessments and offline free-text documents. More information is available at the [VA Website](#).

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](#).

DOD GUIDANCE ON PRESENTATION OF PURPLE HEART & VALOR AWARDS: The



AZ DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS SERVICES: The Large Grant cycle is now open! The VDF-Large Grant application closes on November 14, 2025, at 5PM. The VDF-Large Grant is valid for any proposals \$5,000-\$150,000.



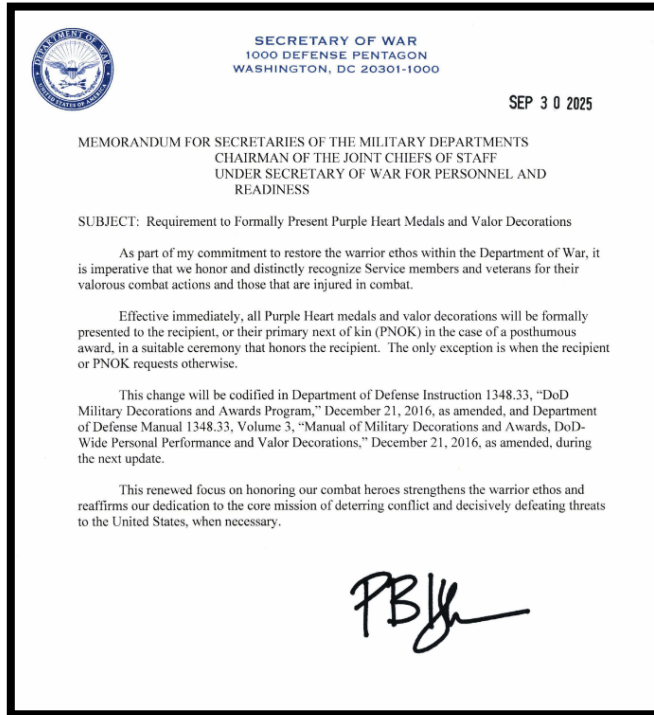
The VDF funds programs that benefit Veterans and their families throughout Arizona. The Grantee should have a primary mission of providing benefits to Arizona's Veterans and is compatible with ADVS' objectives determined by the Director, or designee.

All VDF-Large Grant proposals must be submitted through eCivis, a cloud-based grants management program. To submit a grant application, click [here](#).

For information or questions regarding grants of \$5,000 or more, please contact the VDF Program Manager at 602-234-8429 or via email at rdavis@azdvs.gov. DO NOT use this email address to submit grant proposals.

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

Purple Heart and Valor Awards must now be formally presented in the military. Some of you may have gotten your Purple Heart in the mail or it just showed up on your personnel records. *(hopefully, that was not the case for you when you were in the service.)*



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. **Yuma StandDown:** This FREE event allows veterans and their families in the Yuma area who are experiencing housing instability and homelessness to receive and stay connected to complimentary support services. **Thursday, November 6, 2025 9:00am-12:00pm** at the MLK Jr. Center (300 S. 13th Avenue, Yuma)
2. **2026 Maricopa County StandDown Tentative:** Thursday & Friday, March 12-13, 2026
Arizona State Fairgrounds (1826 W. McDowell Road, Phoenix, AZ 85007)

cards with new, more secure Next Generation Uniformed Services Identification (USID) cards. Detailed information related to the USID cards visit www.cac.mil/.



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](#).

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 November issue get news information & photos to us by the 27th of the month. Thanks!



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

The 2025 National Veterans Day poster from the Veterans Administration.

