



January 2025/December 2024

Volume 5 Issue 5

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER
Patriot Keith Gray

Arizona Patriots,

Our new year is off to a busy start. First, I want to thank each of you for your support in our mission and our activities. Without you we would not be able to accomplish all that we did this past year.



This spring we will present JROTC/ROTC awards in over 70 high schools around the state. We will support stand-downs in Northern, Central, and Southern Arizona. February 22nd is the 80th Anniversary of the Iwo Jima Flag Raising in Sacaton, AZ. I encourage as many of you who can to attend the parade and ceremony.

Again, this past year we helped fund the 2nd annual Robert J. Puskar Veterans' Scholarship, awarded last April to Sierra Mattos. Our members participated in Memorial Day and Veterans Day activities throughout the state. We participated in and supported the Missing in America Project, Wreaths Across America and many other patriotic activities. So again, thank you for all you did for the Order.

Chapter and Department elections will be held in March, April, and May. I encourage you to consider holding an elected office. You will find it a rewarding experience and you will help keep the Order viable going forward.

The **Commander's Call/DEC is quarterly on the Fourth Wednesday**. A member of the chapter command group must attend. It is open to all members. Please bring your suggestions so we can make the best possible decisions for the department. The next Commander's Call/DEC meeting is in March.

Time: 06:30 PM Arizona Time, March 26th, 2024

Zoom Meeting ID: 842 2842 9701

Passcode: 879117 or Dial in: 669 900 6833.

Yours in Patriotism,
Keith Gray
Commander

DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT
Patriot Larry Leighton



I hope the New Year has been good to you so far. I know it has really gone by fast, at least for Kay and me.

The Department is looking for members who might be interested in being Directors and/or grant

writers for our 501.c.3 organization, the Purple Heart Combat Wounded Veterans of Arizona. We have **access to** lots of grant opportunities through an application called Grant Station but as with everything we do, great ideas need people to make them work. If you have any grant writing experience, we'd like to hear from you. Contact me at 623-776-5443 or adjutant.mophaz@gmail.com.

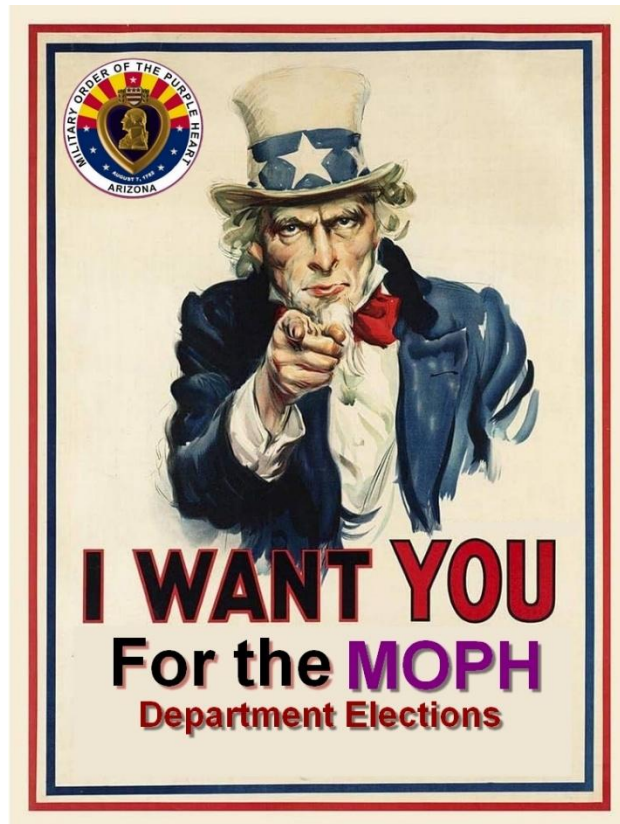
SAVE THE DATE! Our 2025 Department Convention will be held on **Saturday, May 17th**. It will be held in the west Phoenix valley area and hosted by Chapter 691. Like last year's convention in Flagstaff, there will be opportunities join your comrades on Friday night and activities available for spouses and significant others on Saturday. As soon as we lock in the location, we'll send out an email to all inviting all to make reservations to attend.

As **Commander Gray** has stated on several occasions including past newsletters, we are always looking for ways to expand and improve Department impact and operations. I encourage all of you to share your thoughts and ideas with us.

Remember to keep our Deployed Service Members and those less fortunate than yourself in your thoughts and prayers.



Department Elections: We will elect the officers who will lead our Department for the 2025-2026 fiscal year during the Convention. As a reminder, **every Patriot in the Department** can hold any elected or appointed office and every Associate Member can hold any appointed office except Department Adjutant. I encourage all of you reading this to consider volunteering for one of the Department officer positions. Remember too, the positions are all filled by volunteers, are not full-time positions, and those who have held them in the past stand ready to assist as needed.



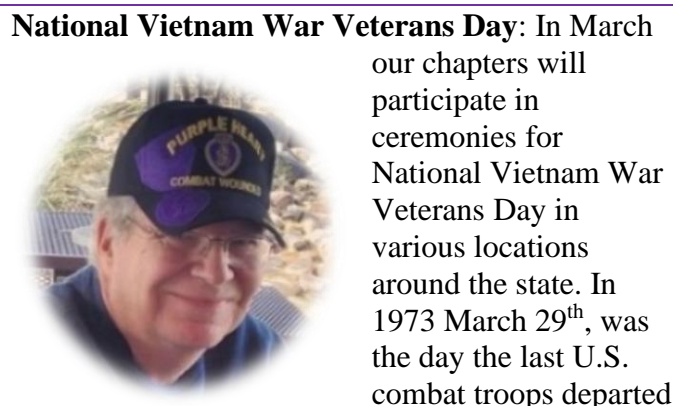
Calendar:

- Feb 3 – Four Chaplain's Day
- Feb 4 – USO Birthday
- Feb 14 – Valentine's Day
- Feb 17 – Washington's Birthday
- Feb 22 – Iwo Jima Flag Raising Day

Have a great February and remember who chopped down the cherry tree!

Larry Leighton
Adjutant

DEPARTMENT JR. VICE-COMMANDER
Patriot John Moore



National Vietnam War Veterans Day: In March our chapters will participate in ceremonies for National Vietnam War Veterans Day in various locations around the state. In 1973 March 29th, was the day the last U.S. combat troops departed Vietnam. This now is a day each year when we honor the 2.7 million Americans who served in Vietnam during the Vietnam War, honor the 58,000+ soldiers, sailors, marines, and airmen who made the ultimate sacrifice and thank those who never received the recognition they deserved for their service during the war. Thank you to each of our 664 Patriot members who received Purple Hearts while serving in the Vietnam War.



Wreaths Across America on Dec 14th: Our Chapters and the Department participated in and supported Wreaths Across America at several cemeteries in the state. Many cemeteries do not get enough wreaths to place one on every veteran's grave. Check with your chapter or find a local cemetery to donate a wreath for a veterans' grave. You can find participating cemeteries at the [Wreaths Across America website](#).

Challenge coins: Challenge Coins have been received and are available from the Department or from the Chapters. The chapters will set the price that they sell the coins for. Buy one and help support the Order.



John R. Moore
Jr. Vice-Commander

DEPARTMENT INFORMATION

Purple Heart Cap: Like most 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

Department Officers 2024/2025:

Cdr: Keith Gray commandermophaz@gmail.com
Sr. Vice Cdr: Jimi Sallmen
jimisallmen@gmail.com
Jr. Vice Cdr: John Moore
mophchapter442@comcast.net
Adjutant: Larry Leighton
adjutant.mophaz@gmail.com
Finance Officer: Jim Starkman karen4357@att.net
Sgt-at-Arms: Cody Phipps
cody.phipps@outlook.com
Inspector: **vacant position**
Judge Advocate: **vacant position**
Americanism Officer: **vacant position**

letters as appropriate. Order for \$29.95 at [Keystone Uniform Cap](#).

Help your Chapter! Visit the MOPH Fund website (<https://mophfund.org/>) on the Partners and Ambassador pages. Anything you buy from those pages generate funds directly back to your Chapter and to the National Headquarters for our programs.

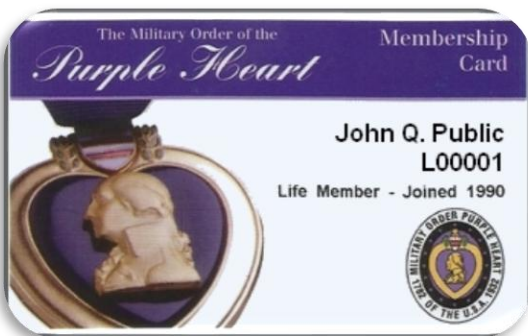


Purple Heart Combat Wounded Veterans of AZ: The Purple Heart Combat Wounded Veterans of Arizona is our department 501c3 entity. If for tax purposes, you or a donor is required to donate to a 501c3 use our online portal to make your donation. Funds designated for a chapter will go in their entirety to 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](#)



Update Your Contact Information: Keep your snail mail address, phone & email address up to date. Go to the [MOPH National website](#). You need your membership number to log-in. You can then update your contact information. You can also email us at adjutant.mophaz@gmail.com and we can update your snail mail, phone & email address for you.

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>



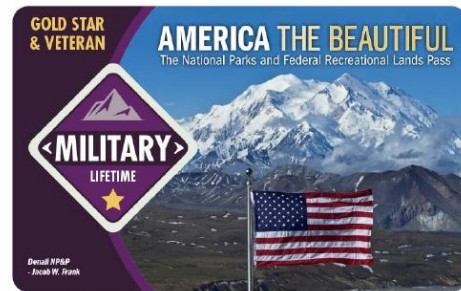
Chaplain: John L. Bhelm jblehmsr@gmail.com
Legislative Liaison: **vacant position**

We need your help to fill vacant officer positions. The current vacancies are **Judge Advocate, Inspector, Americanism, and three Finance Committee members**. Members can self-nominate or nominate another member. When we have nominees, the DEC will schedule a special election for the position. **Help the Order by serving. Most meetings are held on Zoom.**

HB 2062 Vehicle license tax exemption for PH veterans: Many of our members are still not aware of this benefit. 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 vehicle registration tax fee is waived. Can only be used on one vehicle. Specialty plate and personalization fees still apply.



Free National Park Passes: More information is available at the National Parks Service [website](#).



New life time pass available for Military Veterans

Buddy Checks! Buddy Checks are important so, **let's not forget to check on our buddies, friends and family.** A simple 'How are you?' can make all the difference. Let's spread warmth and care and remind people, they are not alone!



Upcoming Events and Activities

- **28Jan- 01 Mar** **Sun Records Live** Herberger Theater Center, 222 E Monroe St | Phoenix: our era guys, great date night event
- **08 Feb** : 0900-1130 : RSVP - **5th Annual Operation Rose Garden**, AZ-1 Roadrunners Chapter, Women Marines Association event, az1@womenmarines.org.
- **12 Feb-09 Apr**: ASU's **Veterans Imagination Project**, The Studios at Mesa City Center E First St Mesa – Wednesdays <https://csi.asu.edu/projects/veterans/apply-2022/>
- **21-23 Feb**: **St. Francis: Journey of a Resilient Warrior Retreat**, Franciscan Renewal Center, 5802 E. Lincoln Blvd., Scottsdale info : Dean Pedrotti, Casa Veterans Ministry/Navy Vet <https://www.franciscanpilgrimages.com/veterans-of-the-military/> speakers : Fr. Conrad, Catholic Franciscan friar/ 22+ years Nav/Marine Corps chaplain in Operation Phantom Fury. Greg Masiello, PhD, retired psychologist, Albany Veterans Center in New York/ 23 years New York Army National Guard.
- **08 Mar**: 1000-1400: **Second Annual Veteran Recreation and Resource Fair** hosted by ASU at Phoenix College, Sophomore Square, 1202 W. Thomas Rd., Phoenix,
- **08 Mar**: 1730: RSVP: **Imprints of Honor** (VHP) fundraiser, Chateau Luxe, 1175 E Lone Cactus Dr, Phoenix, gala.imprintsofhonor.org, speaker is Pat Little-Upah
- **08 Mar**: 1900: **2nd Annual Mariachi & Folklórico Festival**, Herberger Theater Center! Theater | 222 E Monroe St | Phoenix,

FORT LOWELL CHAPTER 442 – TUCSON, AZ Commander Mike Dyer

Fellow Patriots, welcome to Chapter 442.



During December and January, the chapter hosted bingo for the patients at the Tucson VA Hospital. The next Bingo session will be held on February 22nd. Come join us in hosting Bingo.

During both months we provided \$250 worth of food for homeless veterans housed at the Esperanza En Escalante project.

The chapter visited the AZ State Veterans Home on Christmas Eve and provided 120 residents & 75 staff with Christmas Gift Bags.

On January 8th we presented \$15,435 for the HEM/ONC wing to the Tucson VA Hospital that was raised by the Charlie Skuhr Memorial Golf Tournament.

We are in the process of nominating officers for the chapter elections that will be held in March. I encourage all members to consider running for one of our officer positions.

Yours in Patriotism,
Mike Dyer
Commander

Commander Mike Dyer – mrdyer@comcast.net
Sr. Vice-Cdr Richard Perkins - rperkins823@gmail.com
Jr. Vice-Cdr: Cody Phipps - cody.phipps@outlook.com
Chaplain: Danny Lemon - ddlemon@outlook.com
Adjutant: John Moore – mophchapter442@comcast.net

Chapter Elections: We need your help to fill officer positions. The Chapter will elect officers at the March meeting. The positions are **Commander**, **Sr. Vice Commander**, **Jr. Vice Commander**, **Finance Officer**, **Sgt-at-Arms**, and **two Trustees**. Members can self-nominate or nominate another member. Nominations will be closed at the March meeting and the election will be held. Help the

Website: <https://442.mophaz.org/>

Facebook: [Chapter 442 Facebook Page](#)

Donate online: [Donations Appreciated](#)

Meeting date: 3rd Monday (no meetings February, 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.

Fort Lowell Chapter 442 hosted bingo for the patients at the Tucson VA hospital on December 28th & January 21st. Patriot Dave Bertagnoli & Patriot Danny Lemon conducted bingo. Their wives, Cherie & Yolanda, assisted the patients. The grand prize was a beautiful quilt donated by the ladies from Canyon Del Oro Bible church. Thank you, Dave, Danny, Cherie, and Yolanda.



chapter by considering holding a chapter office. Thank you!

Ft Lowell Chapter 442 made our annual Christmas Eve visit to the AZ State Veterans' Home. Each of the 120 residents and 70 staff members were provided with a Christmas gift bag. Patriots Dave Bertagnoli, John Grand, John Moore, Jim Zimmerman & Joey Zimmerman, Frances Johnson, Cody Phipps & Sam Phipps, and Danny Lemon passed out the gifts and visited with residents. Residents served in WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Persian Gulf, & the Global War on Terror. The oldest is 100 years old and the youngest is 31. Thank you to the ladies of Bridge Church for assembling and providing gift bags.





**More photos from Christmas Eve
at the State Veterans' Home**





Chapter 442 participated in Wreaths Across America ceremonies at Evergreen, South Lawn, & Marana Veterans' Memorial Cemeteries on December 14th. **Patriot Gilbert** represented the Order at Marana Veterans' Memorial Cemetery. **Patriot Grand** was at Funeraria del Angel South Lawn Cemetery. **Patriot Dyer & Patriot Johnson** were at Evergreen Cemetery. **Patriot Dyer** gave the innovation and benediction at Evergreen.

Patriot Grand



Thank you to the ladies of the Bridge Church for assembling the bags for the 120 residents & 75 staff of the veterans' home.



Veterans' Day Ceremony at the AZ State Veterans' Home Tucson. We just received these photos recently. **Patriot John Grand** was a guest speaker at the Veterans Day Ceremony and lunch at the Tucson Veterans Home. Thank you, John!



Learn about the chapter: Our video presentation explains our mission, who we are and what we do. View the video at [this link](#). Enjoy!

Patriot Dyer



TUCSON VETERAN

Stand Down and Career Fair



Ramada Inn 777 W. Cushing St. ★★★★★

Veteran Stand Down March 5

from 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

and Career Fair March 6

from 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

** Please bring extra copies of your resume; business casual attire for the career fair*

Open to ALL Veterans, National Guard and Reservists in the local area in need of the following resources:

- Clothing/hygiene items
- Substance abuse counseling
- Disability claims
- Haircuts
- Treatment referrals
- Benefits applications
- Housing options
- Legal matters
- Pet care
- Veterans Court
- Employment assistance and job training
- Service Organizations
- Mental Health and Religious counseling

Lunch will be served

For event information contact
623-687-5552 or tucsonvetsservingvets@gmail.com

NO ALCOHOL • NO DRUGS • NO WEAPONS



TRI-CITIES CHAPTER 472 – MESA, AZ Commander Jason Duren



Cdr: Jason Duren jason@cidercorpsaz.com

Sr. Vice-Cdr: Ramiero Del Rio (602) 818-0796

Finance: James Pomush landjpomush@gmail.com

Adjutant: Stephan Bobby veteranairborne@yahoo.com

Chaplain: Ignacio Rivera - 480-926-2278

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

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.



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](#)

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

January went by fast, too fast. If you are like me, too many things were added to an already long “to do” list and not nearly enough were taken off. 😞

Joe Brent, an aerial forward observer in Viet Nam will be our guest speaker at our February 8th meeting.



February 14th is “Sweetheart Day”, better known as Valentine’s Day. Don’t wait for Cupid to shoot you with his “love arrow”, do something extra nice for your sweetheart on this special day!



Senior Vice Commander Jim Starkman has lined up a couple of fundraising events for Feb and Mar and needs volunteers to signup to help. Jim will have signup sheets at the Feb meeting, but if you cannot make to the meeting, contact Jim (708-638-2321 or karen4357@att.net) and let him know you are ready to help.

On Feb 14-16 we’ll have a booth at the Wickenburg Gold Rush Days. This year we’ll have a heater in our tent so even if the temperature is as cold as it was last week and last year, we’ll have a place to stay warm. Last year we raised over \$2500 and we hope to do even better this year.

Saturday, February 22nd, we will have our annual George Washington Birthday celebration. This year we are having an early dinner with music and dancing (if you care to participate) and no speaker instead of a lunch.

It will be at the Corte Bella Restaurant from 4:30 – 7 pm so everyone will be able to get home well before it gets “too dark out”. We will have raffle prizes and silent auction items. Deadline for reservations is February 8th. If you have not already made your reservation, you can do so online at <https://www.zeffy.com/ticketing/691s-2025-gw-dinner>. Family and friends are invited to help celebrate.

March 14th, we’ll support the Sun Dome Plaza Arts and Crafts show in Sun City West from 8-2 and need some help here as well. We have also raised over \$2,000 each time we go to this event. They hold it in March and November.

Remember, if you haven’t talked to another Vet from your past, or even the present, lately, pick up the phone and make his or her day! As the American Legion says, “Be the One,” make the call don’t just wait for someone to call you. If you just want to talk to someone, you can always call me – I’m a good listener (623-776-5443).

I hope to see you at the Chapter meeting. You can always get the latest meeting information and video connection on our website at <http://691.mophaz.org/>.

Yours in Patriotism
Larry Leighton
Commander

Cdr: Larry Leighton -
commander691moph@gmail.com

Sr. Vice-Cdr: James Starkman -
karen4357@att.net

Jr. Vice-Cdr: John Ballenger Jr. -
ejballenjer22@msm.com

Chaplain: John Blehm (623-628-6330)

Adjutant: Larry Leighton -
commander691moph@gmail.com

Presents for Phoenix VA Living Center:

For the past nine years, **Jim and Karen Starkman** (Chapter 691 member and associate) have been



heading a project to collect presents for Veterans in VA homes and transitional housing organizations. A few years prior, the project was started by the Sun City West Sun Dome Plaza Merchants setting up two Christmas Angel Trees for Veterans. The Corte Bella Vets were asked to take over the

project when their contacts could not keep up. Jim and Karen immediately took charge and have grown the project from two trees to seven! Presents and gift cards have been donated from the Sun City West residents visiting the plaza. Jim has also expanded the volunteer force as needed to collect, package as needed and distribute the gifts to five different locations.

This year, through the auspices of Veterans Affinity, another non-profit, Jim added the Phoenix VA Living Center which is a 100-bed facility with 75 Veterans currently in residence. He also enlisted the help of the Blue Star Moms which made hand-



made Christmas cards to accompany the gifts to the Veterans in the Center.

This year alone, Jim and Karen, with the help of other volunteers like **John and Carol Ballenger** (Chapter 691), were able to deliver gifts totaling over \$75,000.

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 (879117). By phone, call 719 359 4580 and enter the id/password.

More Photos of VA Living Center Visit



Glendale for the Veterans Community Project:

On February 1st **Patriot James Starkman** and **Karen Starkman** attended the groundbreaking ceremony in Glendale for the **Veterans Community**

These are just a few pictures of the Phoenix VA Living Center residents and staff.

Glendale for the Veterans Community Project More Photos:

Senator Gallego



Debbie Lesko



Project. This project will include 50 separate cottages and services for our homeless Veterans. In attendance were many local, state and federal politicians along with wonderful representatives from many private and Veteran organizations throughout the State of Arizona.

Governor Hobbs



DALE E. CRICK CHAPTER 793 – FLAGSTAFF, AZ
Commander Rodger Ely

Fellow Patriots,



Welcome to Chapter 793. Our chapter participates in patriotic and welfare activities throughout Northern Arizona. Chapter 793 supports Northern Arizona Stand Downs in several Northern Arizona communities. Our chapter is honored to be able to participate in patriotic events and support veterans' needs 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

Facebook: [Chapter 793 Facebook](#)

Next Meeting – February 5th

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.

The Safest Santa in Town:

Wearing a full Santa suit under his safety vest, **Marshall Magnet elementary school crossing guard Billy Weldon, chapter 793 member**, watches students walk to school in the rain Friday morning. Students across Flagstaff spent their last day in school, the Friday before the Christmas break.



A friend of the Chapter Ric Lindstrom passed away on December 18th, 2024. Ric was instrumental in restoring the F350 Purple Heart

Tuba City is now a Purple Heart Community.

Thank You Tuba City Officials and Staff for proclaiming Tuba City a Purple Heart Community. Chapter 793 MOPH DEPT. OF AZ proudly recognizes your community.



Chapter 793 participated in Wreaths Across America at Camp Navajo Veterans Cemetery on December 14th.



80th Anniversary Iwo Jima Flag Raising:

February 22nd is the ceremony and parade to honor the Iwo Jima Flag Raising & Ira Hayes in Sacaton,



Truck for the chapter. Ric's son Eric was killed in Afghanistan and is honored in a remembrance panel on the Purple Heart Truck. He owned and operated Ric's Auto Repair for over 30 years. You can

view Ric's obituary at the [Norvel Owens Mortuary website](#).



Flagstaff Veterans VBOC: Every 1st Tuesday of the month, 10:00am to 3:00pm the Flagstaff Veterans CBOC will have a VA representative to help with various VA issues and help file disability claims.



AZ. The parade begins at 8:30 AM with ceremonies to follow at the Ira H. Hayes Veterans Memorial Park in Sacaton. Come join us to help celebrate this event.





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

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

VFW Veterans Resource Fair: Patriot Chuck Byers and Honorary Member Nancy Fassbender participated in the January Veterans Resource Fair.



Our Wreaths Across America Remembrance Day was held at 9:30am on Saturday, December

14, 2024, at the Mountain View Cemetery. This is our 4th year of having it at the Mountain View Cemetery. Many of you came out and enjoyed our ceremony and taught your children the cost of freedom.

. Our speaker was Arizona Adjutant General Kerry Muehlenbeck. She oversees the Dept of Emergency & Military affairs.



Wreaths Across America Order Form for Chapter 2560. We are reaching out to any sponsors who would like to purchase a wreath for \$17 to be placed on an interred Veteran's grave. For every wreath sold, WAA will give \$5 back to the local veteran community!

To volunteer for next year or to order wreaths, please contact Nancy Fassbender at 520-280-4715.

Thank you for supporting our mission to REMEMBER, HONOR, and TEACH!

POTPOURRI

The Purple Heart Magazine: The current issue of the Purple Heart Magazine is available [online](#) or click on the image. Enjoy!



Submit articles to Publications@PurpleHeart.org

MyVA Hotline: The Whitehouse VA Hotline and MyVA411 have merged. **1-800-MyVA411 (698-2411)** is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year to serve veterans, their families, caregivers, and survivors.

Arizona Stand-Down Alliance 2025 Events:

Tucson Stand-Down

Wednesday & Thursday, March 5-6, 2025

Ramada Inn (777 W Cushing Street, Tucson, AZ 85745) See Flyer at this [link](#).

Bullhead City Stand-Down

Friday, March 7, 2025

Bullhead Area Chamber of Commerce (1251 Highway 95, Bullhead City, AZ 86429)

Maricopa County Stand-Down

Thursday & Friday, March 13-14, 2025

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

Note: See below for volunteer and service provider registration information.

Parker StandDown

Friday, March 14, 2025 / 9:30am – 1:30pm

VFW Post 7061 (516 S Hopi Avenue, Parker, AZ 85344). See Flyer at this [link](#).

Verde Valley Stand-Down

Thursday, March 20, 2025 / 9:00am – 2:00pm

Location TBD. For info contact John Davis at 928-286-7446 or at NAZVeteranStandDowns@aol.com

The Purple Heart Hall of Honor: Add your story to the National Purple Heart Hall of Honor. Enroll at this [link](#) or click on the image.



Purple Heart Scholarships: Applications for the scholarship program are due every July. Information is available on the Purple Heart Scholarship Program at this [link](#).



ADVS Grant Program is open: Small grants are available for up to \$4,999.99 and large grants from \$5,000 to \$75,000. Information on eligibility for organizations and applications are available on the [ADVS website](#).

Have Unforeseen Circumstances Caused Financial Hardships? ADVS Military and Family Relief Fund (MFRF) provides financial assistance to active-duty service members, Veterans and their families for unforeseen financial hardships caused by the service member's military service. MFRF is designed to bridge the gap for basic living expenses caused by unforeseen circumstances. Basic living expenses include, but are not limited to rental assistance, vehicle payments, utility assistance, etc. The lifetime limit for the MFRF program is set at \$20,000. Applicants can also request one-time emergency assistance for a maximum of \$3,000. MFRF is open to both pre and post 9/11 service members.



The 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/>



Free Tuition for Veteran's Spouses: Spouses of honorably discharged veterans enrolled at an Arizona public university or participating community college are eligible to receive free tuition on a first-come, first-served basis. Learn more at the [AZ Board of Regents](#).

An advertisement for free tuition for veteran spouses. It features a photo of a smiling couple, with the woman in a military uniform. The text "FREE TUITION" is in large white letters on a black background. Below it, it says "Spouses of Veterans in Arizona Can Receive Free Tuition". At the bottom, there are logos for the "arizona coalition for military families" and the "ARIZONA BOARD OF REGENTS ASU • NAU • UA".

FREE TUITION

Spouses of Veterans in Arizona Can Receive Free Tuition

arizona coalition for military families

ARIZONA BOARD OF REGENTS
ASU • NAU • UA

For a full list of eligibility requirements and to apply online, visit this website: <https://dvs.az.gov/.../financ.../military-family-relief-fund>.

Arizona Department of Veterans' Services digital business card can be found at the link below. It contains links to 53 different resources designed to help Veterans. The one Dana pushed the most at a recent meeting is the Customer Contact Tracker. When that link is used, Dana and her assistant will receive the email directly. She strongly recommends using the resources of her office whenever you have questions or need help, even with the VA. [Link to Dana's Digital Business Card](#).

Dana Allmond (LTC, Army Ret)
Governor's Cabinet Member
Cabinet Executive Officer for ADVS



Newsletter Information: Please send information & photos that you would like included in the newsletter to mophchapter442@comcast.net. We would like to get the newsletter out on the last day of the month. **Get news information & photos to us by the 25th of each month.**



John R. Moore
Jr. Vice-Commander

