



March 2025

Volume 5 Issue 7

**DEPARTMENT COMMANDER**  
**Patriot Keith Gray**

Arizona Patriots,

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 do for veterans.



Chapter elections are currently taking place across Arizona. I want to thank all the officers who chose to stay and continue their leadership roles. Don't forget to mentor those interested in your position so we will have more candidates to hold chapter leadership positions in the future.

To all who chose to step back and allow someone else to take on a leadership role, thank you for your hard work and dedication over the year. It was a pleasure working with you.

I'd like to congratulate all newly elected officers for stepping into leadership roles. I can't wait to see what great things the Order can accomplish with this group of leaders on the Department Executive Committee.

Lastly, Chapter Commanders please provide your written reports so I can get the Department report compiled.

Please remember to get your election reports filed and continue working on life member verification so that report is filed on time. Our Department Convention is fast approaching, and I look forward to the good times that will be had. I hope to see you there!

The **Military Order of the Purple Heart National Convention is July 14<sup>th</sup> through July 18<sup>th</sup>** in Sparks, Nevada this year. This is reasonably close by and a good opportunity for members to attend the National Convention. Registration is open and more information is further down in the newsletter.

Yours in Patriotism,  
Keith Gray  
Commander

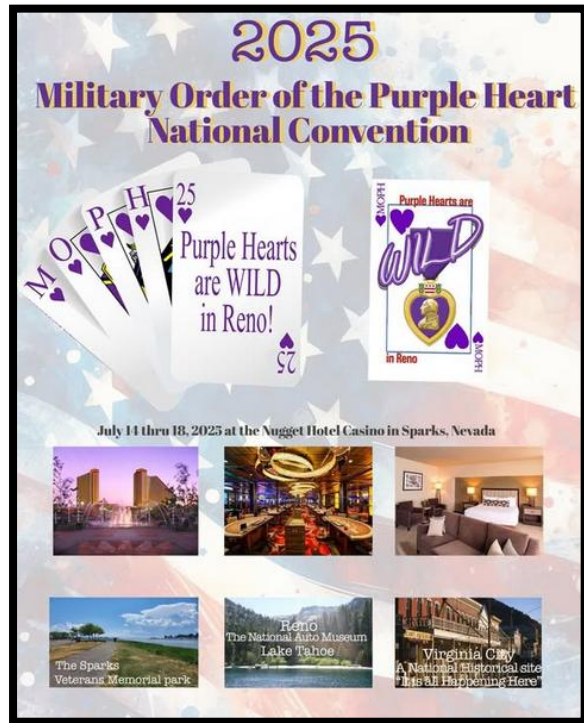
**DEPARTMENT JR. VICE-COMMANDER**  
**Patriot John Moore**



**National Convention:** The National Convention will be held in Sparks, NV July 14<sup>th</sup> through July 18<sup>th</sup>. **Nugget Hotel Casino** | 1100 Nugget Avenue, Sparks, NV 89431 is the host hotel.

**Registration:** The registration link for the National Convention is now live on the [National MOPH website](https://www.purpleheart.org)! To register, members **must** log in to their www.purpleheart.org accounts on the Purple Heart website. You **\*\*must log in\*\*** before attempting to register.

**Hotel Rates:** Sunday-Thursday: \$132.37 per night (includes resort fee & tax). Friday & Saturday: \$164.82 per night (includes resort fee & tax) **Use Group Code: GMOPH2** & call 775-356-3272



**VIETNAM MEMORY ON NATIONAL VIETNAM VETERANS DAY:** This memory is from **Patriot Sal Salinas**. On April 13, 1966, **3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon of India Co. 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, 3<sup>rd</sup> Marines**, headed south off Hill 55 on a major operation. We crossed the river below Hill 55, for what turned out to be the last time. **Lance Corporal Joe Pacheco** was singing the Nancy Sinatra hit song “THESE BOOTS ARE MADE FOR WALKING” as we moved down the hill. By sundown, he would be Killed In Action as would **Private First Class Alexander McGrothlin** and shortly thereafter, the entire 2<sup>nd</sup> squad, me included, would be wounded and **Sergeants Robert Vaden** along with **Molimau Tela** would also be killed. Navy Corpsman Tom Harris came to my aid and performed a tracheotomy with a ballpoint pen, that saved my life! My brother Marine, Charlie Fink carried me to the medivac helo that was called in. All the time we were taking fire. One hour before dark was when all this occurred. I was flown to the aid station in DaNang where I received medical attention. I was then flown back to the United States where I recovered from my wounds at Brooke General Hospital in San Antonio, TX.

As we few, recall this day, raise a glass to all the brave Marines and Corpsman who proudly served an ungrateful nation. SEMPER FI!



*Survivors India Company 3<sup>rd</sup> Bn 3<sup>rd</sup> Marines*

## DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT Patriot Larry Leighton

**SAVE THE DATE:** Our 2025 Department Convention planning is nearly complete. The **Convention business meeting will be held at the Holiay Inn Glendale, AZ (6151 N 99th Ave, Glendale, AZ 85305) on**



**DEPARTMENT ELECTIONS:** 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. **You can live ANYWHERE in Arizona and you do not have to**

**Saturday, May 17<sup>th</sup> from 0900 until complete (probably around 1500.**

The rooms are \$124.77 including tax and resort fee. Use this [link](#) to make your reservations at this MOPH discounted rate!

The Department will per diem (\$0.30 per mile round trip from home to convention site plus one night's hotel bill) to any member or associate member traveling more than 50 miles one way to attend the convention.

There will be a no host dinner at the *Holiday Inn's Crooked Pint* on Friday evening, May 16<sup>th</sup>, for those interested in a little early comraderie. There is a Top Golf facility within walking distance and the Tanger Outlets, Westgate Entertainment District, Cracker Barrel and Bass Pro Shop are less than two miles away.

**I hope you can join us for the weekend! There will be more details forthcoming – watch your emails!**

Convention business includes the standard fare including 1) discussions about expanding and improving our Department impact and operations, 2) Chapter Commander Reports, 3) the Patriot of the Year presentation, 4) budget approval, and of course the big one – 5) Officer Elections.

As a reminder, **every Patriot in the Department** can hold any elected or appointed office and Our 2025 Department Convention planning is nearly complete. **The Convention business meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn Glendale, AZ (6151 N 99th Ave, Glendale, AZ 85305) on Saturday, May 17<sup>th</sup> from 0900 until complete (probably around 1500.**

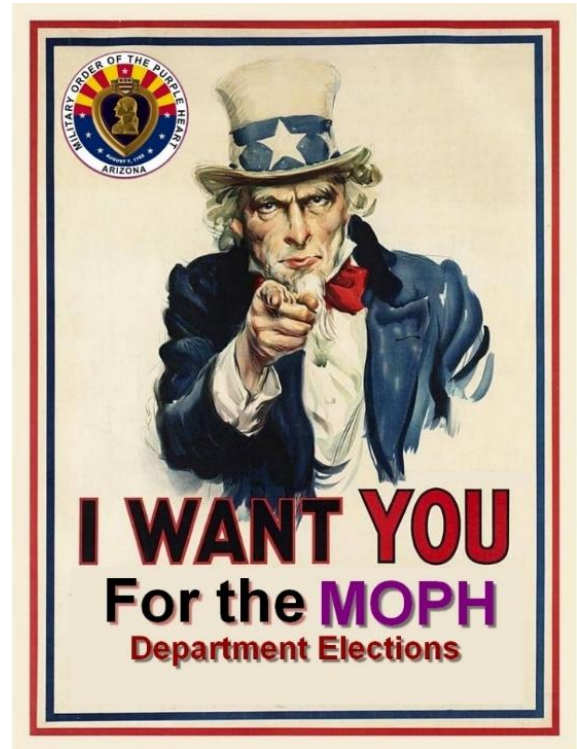
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**I hope you can join us for the weekend! There will be more details forthcoming – watch your emails!**

**live here full-time.** What you do need is a desire to help our Department help Veterans and Families.



### **UNIFORMED SERVICES IN ACTION 2026 CALENDAR: Uniformed Services In Action 2026 Calendar**

The Department's *Uniformed Services In Action 2026 Calendar* **is onsale now (early bird discount until June 1<sup>st</sup>)!** Use the link or scan the QRC on the flier in this newsletter to get yours. For only \$50, you get a great looking calendar AND 55 opportunities to win one and maybe more Scheels \$300 Gift Cards.

Help make this year's fundraiser a success by 1) buying at least one calendar for yourself and one for gift, 2) spread the invitation to your family and friends, and 3) share the Sponsor Request Letter with the businesses you frequent (and even those you don't). **Don't be afraid to ask – you never know they might say YES.**

### **LAKE PLEASANT BOAT CRUISE, MAY 3<sup>rd</sup>:**



The **Michael E Mahoney Chapter 691** has made arrangements for a **FREE 90 minute narrated cruise of Lake Pleasant for**

**EVERYONE in the Department. Reservations**



Convention business includes the standard fare including 1) discussions about expanding and improving our Department impact and operations, 2) Chapter Commander Reports, 3) the Patriot of the Year presentation, 4) budget approval, and of course the big one – 5) Officer Elections.



**are required by April 13th.** See Chapter 691's **Commander Leighton's** article for more details.

I hope to see many of you at the Department Convention on May 17<sup>th</sup> whether it be in person or on zoom.

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

Larry Leighton  
Adjutant

## DEPARTMENT INFORMATION

### CALENDAR:

- Apr 5 > Nighthawk Memorial Tucson
- Apr 9 > Prisoner of War Recognition Day
- Apr 11 > National Submarine Day
- Apr 11 > Dolan Springs Resource Fair
- Apr 13 > Palm Sunday
- Apr 14 > Air Force Reserve Birthday
- Apr 18 > Good Friday
- Apr 19 > Veterans Car Show Glendale
- Apr 19 > Steps for Vets Phoenix
- Apr 20 > Easter
- Apr 23 > Army Reserve Birthday
- Apr 23/24 > Page StandDown
- May 2 > Kingman StandDown
- May 3 > Lake Pleasant Boat Cruise
- May 15 > High Country StandDown
- May 17 > Department Convention Glendale

### 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](#)

### DEPARTMENT OFFICERS 2024/2025:

**Cdr: Keith Gray**

[commandermophaz@gmail.com](mailto:commandermophaz@gmail.com)

**Sr. Vice Cdr: Jimi Sallmen**

[jimisallmen@gmail.com](mailto:jimisallmen@gmail.com)

**Jr. Vice Cdr: John Moore**

[mophchapter442@comcast.net](mailto:mophchapter442@comcast.net)

**Adjutant: Larry Leighton**

[adjutant.mophaz@gmail.com](mailto:adjutant.mophaz@gmail.com)

**Finance Officer: Jim Starkman**

[karen4357@att.net](mailto:karen4357@att.net)

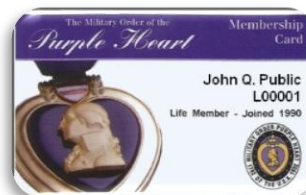
**Sgt-at-Arms: Cody Phipps**

[cody.phipps@outlook.com](mailto:cody.phipps@outlook.com)

Chaplain: John L. Bhelm [jblehmsr@gmail.com](mailto:jblehmsr@gmail.com)

**UPDATE YOUR CONTACT INFO:** 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](mailto:adjutant.mophaz@gmail.com) and we can update your snail mail, phone & email address for you.

**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>

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

### FORT LOWELL CHAPTER 442 – TUCSON, AZ Commander Cody Phipps

Fellow Patriots, welcome to Chapter 442.



During March, the chapter hosted bingo for the patients at the Tucson VA Hospital. The next Bingo session will be held on April 26<sup>th</sup>. Come join us in hosting Bingo.

The annual Tucson Stand-Down was held on March 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup>.

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

On March 29<sup>th</sup> we participated in Tucson's 2<sup>nd</sup> annual National Vietnam Veterans Day Ceremony at Kino Veteran's Memorial Park.

Chapter Elections were held at the March meeting.

In April we will be presenting MOPH Leadership Awards to the 13 JROTC/ROTC programs we support in southern Arizona.

Yours in Patriotism,  
Cody Phipps  
Commander

**Commander Cody Phipps** – [cody.phipps@outlook.com](mailto:cody.phipps@outlook.com)  
**Sr. Vice-Cdr** Dave Bertagnoli -  
**Jr. Vice-Cdr:** Mike Dyer - [mrdyer@comcast.net](mailto:mrdyer@comcast.net)  
**Chaplain:** Danny Lemon - [ddlemon@outlook.com](mailto:ddlemon@outlook.com)  
**Adjutant:** John Moore – [mophchapter442@comcast.net](mailto:mophchapter442@comcast.net)  
**Website:** <https://442.mophaz.org/>  
**Facebook:** [Chapter 442 Facebook Page](#)  
**Donate online:** [Donations Appreciated](#)

**Meeting date:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday (no meetings June, July, or August)  
**Time:** 5:00 PM  
**Meeting location:** Bridge Church at 8150 N Sandy

**CHAPTER ELECTIONS:** Elections were held at our March 17<sup>th</sup> meeting. The new chapter officers are **Cody Phipps** > Commander; **Dave Bertagnoli** > Sr. Vice-Commander; **Mike Dyer** > Jr. Vice Commander; **Jim Zimmerman** > Finance Officer; **John Grand** as Trustee & **Roger Gilbert** > Sgt-at-Arms. The new commander appointed **John Moore** > Adjutant; Danny Lemon > Chaplain; & John Grand > Veteran Empowerment Officer. One Trustee position is vacant.

**MONTHLY PURPLE HEART LUNCHEON:** Chapter 442 holds a monthly luncheon on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month. Our next luncheon is on April 23d at noon at the Old Father Inn on Ina Rd.



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

### NATIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR HIGHWAY:

LTC Dick Tobiason, USA Ret, and Dept of Oregon MOPH member briefed the chapter on the National Medal of Honor Highway that was signed in to law on Dec 17th. He is the creator of the concept of establishing the highway. U.S. Hwy 20 is the longest U.S. highway at 3,365 miles from the Oregon coast to the Massachusetts coast and will honor the 3,526 recipients of the Medal of Honor of Honor. MOPH led the way for the creation of the highway in 5 of the 12 states. Commander Mike Dyer and Department Jr. Vice-Commander John Moore were presented with the National Medal of Honor Highway Challenge Coins.



All members are invited to attend and enjoy fellowship with other combat wounded veterans. At March's luncheon a customer in the restaurant paid for all of our lunches. Thank you Gloria!



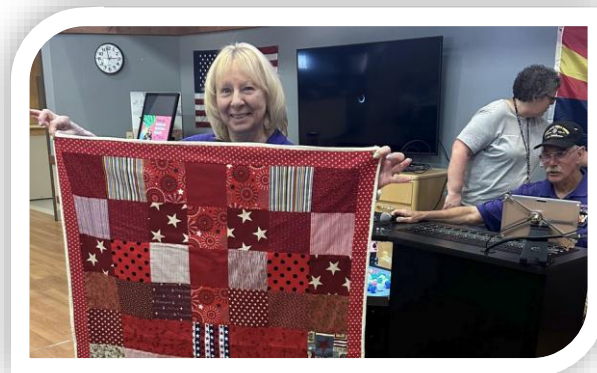
**BINGO AT THE VA HOSPITAL:** Fort Lowell Chapter 442 hosted bingo for the patients at the Tucson VA hospital on March 29th. **Patriot Dave Bertagnoli & Patriot Danny Lemon** conducted bingo. Dave's wife Cherie & volunteer Susan-Lea Skuhr assisted the patients. The grand prize was a beautiful quilt donated by the ladies from Canyon Del Oro Bible church. Thank you, Dave, Danny, Cherie, and Susan-Lea.





**NATIONAL VIETNAM VETERANS DAY:** Ft. Lowell Chapter 442 participated in the 2nd annual Tucson National Vietnam Veterans Day Ceremony today 29 March at the Kino Veterans Memorial Park on Ajo Way. **Patriot John Moore, Patriot Cody Phipps, Patriot Dave Bertagnoli, & Patriot John Grand** placed a wreath to honor the 107 Vietnam War fallen from Pima County, AZ and to honor all those who served in Vietnam.

**Department Commander Keith Gray** was in attendance. **Patriot Jim Zimmerman** read a portion of the names of the 107 Pima County Vietnam War fallen. A plaque listing the 107 names is installed at Kino Veterans Memorial Park.



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



## TRI-CITIES CHAPTER 472 – MESA, AZ

### Commander Jason Duren



Cdr: Jason Duren [jason@cidercorpsaz.com](mailto:jason@cidercorpsaz.com)  
 Sr. Vice-Cdr: Ramiero Del Rio (602) 818-0796  
 Finance: James Pomush [landjpomush@gmail.com](mailto:landjpomush@gmail.com)  
 Adjutant: Stephan Bobby [veteranairborne@yahoo.com](mailto: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

**CIDER CORPS:** Cider Corps is a **Veteran owned** & family operated craft cider company located in



Mesa, AZ Many of you know what Cider Corps is and means to me. It's a place built out of brokenness and pain. It proves that you can overcome obstacles in your life. Cider Corps is a place of healing and

community. It's not perfect and we've made our share of mistakes, but we continue to strive to be the best and represent a community who finds healing and love through adversity and inclusiveness. Jason Duren

**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.



**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



I cannot believe March has come and is almost gone! The Chapter had another good fundraising campaign at the Sun Dome Plaza Merchants Arts and Crafts show on the 14<sup>th</sup>. Led by Jim Starkman



and supported by John Ballenger, Ron and Cindy Capek, we brought in \$1,387 and thanks to our 50/50 raffle ticket winner who gave all of her winnings back to us, every bit of that money will go to support our Purple Heart programs.

We also signed up a new member during breakfast before the show started. Steve Alexander is a screenwriter, actor, and producer who received his Purple Heart in Iraq in 2004. He will be our guest speaker at the June meeting.

The Chapter provided \$1,000 in disaster relief funds for hotel costs and home repairs incurred by a Navy Veteran and her husband after a home fire. Even with the funds provided by the Department, it did not cover everything but it did help.

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](mailto:commander691moph@gmail.com)  
Sr. Vice-Cdr: James Starkman -  
[karen4357@att.net](mailto:karen4357@att.net)  
Jr. Vice-Cdr: Sal Salinas-  
[salsalido@gmail.com](mailto:salsalido@gmail.com)  
Chaplain: Jimi Sallmen –  
[jimisallmen@gmail.com](mailto:jimisallmen@gmail.com)  
Adjutant: Larry Leighton -  
[commander691moph@gmail.com](mailto:commander691moph@gmail.com)

**PATRIOT OF THE YEAR:** John Ballenger was selected as the Chapter's Patriot of the Year. He will receive his POTY plaque at our April meeting. Congratulations John. John is on the left in the photo.



**Meeting date:** 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

**CHAPTER ELECTIONS:** During our March 8<sup>th</sup> meeting, we elected officers: **Commander Larry Leighton, Senior Vice Commander Jim Starkman, Junior Vice Commander Sal Salinas, and Finance Officer Ron Capek.** Appointed officers are **Sergeant at Arms John Ballenger, Trustee Keith Gray, Chaplain Jimi Sallmen, and Adjutant Larry Leighton.**



**VETERANS CAR SHOW:** On April 19<sup>th</sup> from 8 AM to 1 PM, we will have a recruiting and information booth at the **Veterans Car Show at the American Furniture Warehouse at 5801 N 99<sup>th</sup> Ave, Glendale, AZ 85305**. It is expected to be a great show with lots of cars and visitors. We'll be handing out promotional fliers about the Order, the MOPH Fund, and some of our partner organizations. **If you can spend an hour or so to help out, give me a call at 623-776-5443.**



**DEPARTMENT CONVENTION: May 17<sup>th</sup> is the Department Convention.** It is going to be held at the **Holiday Inn in Glendale**. The Chapter is hosting the event so hopefully many of you can come and participate. Please see the Department Adjutant's article elsewhere in this newsletter for additional information.

*(L to R) Larry Leighton, Sal Salinas, John Ballenger, Ron Capek, Jim Starkman, & Jimi Sallmen*

### **SUN DOME PLAZA MERCHANTS ARTS & CRAFTS SHOW:**



The show was held on the 14<sup>th</sup> and was led by Jim Starkman and supported by John Ballenger, Ron and Cindy Capek, we brought in \$1,387 and thanks to our 50/50 raffle ticket winner who gave all of her winnings back to us, every bit of that money will go to support our Purple Heart programs.

### **LAKE PLEASANT BOAT CRUISE: Lake Pleasant House Boat Cruise – May 3rd!**

Instead of having a regular meeting in May, we are going on a boat ride! We've made arrangements for a 90 minute narrated cruise of Lake Pleasant.



The cruise is for all Department Members, Associate Members, and

Family Members who can make it. The cruise starts at 2 PM and ends approximately 90 minutes later.

For those who want to meet for a no-host dinner following the cruise, we are going to meet at Dillons in the Lake Pleasant Harbor (40202 N 87<sup>th</sup> Ave, Peoria, AZ 85383).

To make this work for everyone, reservations are **REQUIRED**. Use this [link](#) or scan the QRC to read more about the cruise and details that will help you enjoy your afternoon and evening.



We need your reservation by April 13<sup>th</sup>. Entry and parking is free with a valid military id. Cost is \$9 for entry and \$2 for parking without it.

**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. National Vietnam Veterans Day Ceremonies were held in Williams, AZ and in Flagstaff, AZ on March 29<sup>th</sup>. The Verde Valley Stand-Down was held on March 26<sup>th</sup>. The High Country StandDown is on April 15<sup>th</sup> in Flagstaff at 2100 N. Gemini Rd.

You are always welcome to join us at our meetings or any of our activities!

Commander  
Rodger Ely

**Commander:** Rodger Ely - [juggy64@aol.com](mailto:juggy64@aol.com)

**Sr. Vice-Cdr:** Daniel Reich -  
[daniel\\_r\\_reich@msn.com](mailto:daniel_r_reich@msn.com)

**Jr. Vice-Cdr:** Elmer Sangster -  
[sangster333@hotmail.com](mailto:sangster333@hotmail.com)

**Adjutant:** William Weldon -  
[baseballbillpaul@npgcable.com](mailto: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 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday.

### DONLAN SPRINGS RESOURCE FAIR:



**When:**

**Fri. Apr 11, 2025, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. MT**

**Where:**

**VFW Post 9833  
15943 N Pierce Ferry Road  
Dolan Springs, AZ**

### VA LOCATIONS:

#### **Bob Stump Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center**

500 Highway 89 North  
Prescott, AZ 86313-5001

[Get directions on Google Maps](#)

**Main phone:** [928-445-4860](tel:928-445-4860)

**VA health connect:** [877-252-4866](tel:877-252-4866)

**Mental health care:** [928-445-4860](tel:928-445-4860), ext. 7500

#### **Flagstaff VA Clinic**

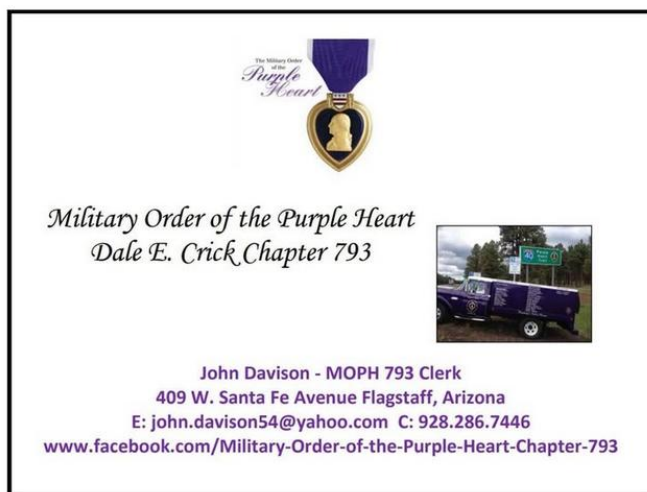
1300 West University Avenue, Suite 200  
Flagstaff, AZ 86001-7228

[Get directions on Google Maps](#)

**Main phone:** [928-226-1056](tel:928-226-1056)

**VA health connect:** [877-252-4866](tel:877-252-4866)

**Mental health phone:** [928-445-4860](tel:928-445-4860), ext. 7500



**FLAGSTAFF VETERANS VBOC:** Flagstaff Veterans VBOC is held every **first 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.



## CHAPTER 2560 – APACHE JUNCTION, AZ Commander Mike Overmeyer



**Cdr:** Michael Overmeyer > [moverme48@gmail.com](mailto:moverme48@gmail.com)

**Sr. Vice Cdr:** Chuck Byers > [seagb@cox.net](mailto:seagb@cox.net)

**Jr. Vice Cd:** James King > [kingjs6@live.com](mailto:kingjs6@live.com)

**Adjutant:** Sandra King [kingjs6@live.com](mailto:kingjs6@live.com)

**Meeting date:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month.

**Meeting time:** 10:00 AM

**Meeting location:** Mesa Buckhorn Elk Lodge #2656 at 6718 E Avalon St, Mesa, AZ 85205

**Patriot Chuck Byers** was busy this month as he is every month. Chuck and his wife spoke to Tempe TAL Post 2 about advocating for yourself. He attended the Arizona Veterans Caucus & the Maricopa Stand-Down. Thank you for advocating for veterans.



**WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA:** Chapter 2560 supports Wreaths Across America annually. 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 December 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!

**MYVA HOTLINE:** The MYVA is at **1-800-MyVA411 (698-2411)** and is available 24 hours a





Submit articles to [Publications@PurpleHeart.org](mailto:Publications@PurpleHeart.org)

### PURPLE HEART SCHOLARSHIPS:

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



### BILLS IN CONGRESS:

**H.R. 2081 > The "Donut Dollies Congressional Gold Medal Act."** The bill, H.R. 2081, is titled, *To award a Congressional Gold Medal to members of the Red Cross Supplemental Recreational Activities Overseas (SRAO) program, also known as the 'Donut Dollies,' who served honorably during the Vietnam conflict.*

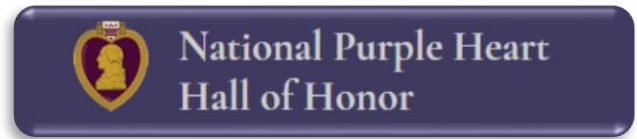
"These Red Cross volunteers were selfless, brave, and resilient. Every Vietnam veteran I know



respects and admires them for the guts they showed as they braved incoming mortars, snipers, and ground-to-air fire to visit the firebases," said McManus. "They were a lifeline. They brought a touch of home to the frontlines and offered compassion and comfort when service members needed it most." 1,120 women volunteered to serve with the Red Cross during the Vietnam War, and 627 of those women worked as Donut Dollies. They provided critical morale boosts to soldiers. Dollies traveled by jeep, truck, and helicopter to forward operating positions, logging over 2,000,000 miles visiting combat troops at remote fire bases. Their job was to bring smiles, songs, games, and a touch of home to the

day, 365 days a year to serve veterans, their families, caregivers, and survivors.

**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.



### VA RESOURCE NAVIGATOR:

<https://www.prevention.va.gov/PCL/PCL-VA-Navigator.asp>

#### VA Resource Navigator

Scan QR codes, visit popular links to trusted VA websites, or call the MyVA411 hotline at (800) 698-2411 to learn more about VA resources.

VA.gov is the gateway to access and manage your VA benefits and health care.  
[www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov)

The VA Welcome Kit provides an overview of benefits and services.  
[www.va.gov/welcome-kit/](http://www.va.gov/welcome-kit/)

With the official VA: Health & Benefits app, you can manage your VA health care, benefits, and payments from your mobile phone or tablet.  
[www.mobile.va.gov/app/va-health-and-benefits](http://www.mobile.va.gov/app/va-health-and-benefits)

My HealtheVet is a free online tool to manage your health care. Refill and track prescriptions, access your medical records, and communicate with your health care team.  
[www.myhealth.va.gov](http://www.myhealth.va.gov)

#### How to scan a QR code with your smartphone camera

- 1 Open your smartphone's camera app or QR code scanning app.
- 2 Hold your device so that the single QR code appears on your smartphone's screen.
- 3 Once the QR code is centered on your smartphone's screen, your device will recognize the QR code and show a notification.
- 4 Tap the notification to open the link associated with the QR code.
- 5 Still having trouble? See additional tips on page five.

### UPCOMING EVENTS/ACTIVITIES OF INTEREST:

**Apr 13:** Deadline for reservations for **FREE Lake Pleasant cruise on May 3<sup>rd</sup>**. Flier attached. [Make reservations here](#) or scan QR Code. Open to all Department members, associate members, and family members.



**Apr 19<sup>th</sup>:** **Veterans Car Show** from 8 am – 1 pm at American Furniture Warehouse (5801 N 99<sup>th</sup> Ave, Glendale, AZ 85305); Chapter fundraiser and membership drive; come out to support the effort.

**May 3<sup>rd</sup>:** Chapter 691 sponsored **FREE 90-minute Lake Pleasant Narrated Cruise** starting at 2 PM followed by no-host dinner at Dillon's Bayou. [Reservations REQUIRED](#) or scan QR Code . See

men who were in the bush and the wounded in evacuation hospitals. This all-volunteer cohort of women embraced the perilous and demanding work. As one Donut Dolly put it, “Our job was to smile and be bubbly for an entire year— no matter what the situation.”

The bill, which appeared in earlier versions in both the 117th and 118th Congresses, was re-introduced on March 11, 2025. “It is well past time for this law to be passed and these women to finally be recognized for their service.”

## HONOR FLIGHT:



## ARIZONA STANDDOWN ALLIANCE:

### Page StandDown

Wednesday & Thursday, April 23-24, 2025

Page Elks Lodge 2498 (806 Aqua Avenue, Page, AZ 86040)

### Kingman StandDown

Friday, May 2, 2025

Kingman Area Chamber of Commerce (309 E. Beale Street, Kingman, AZ 86401)

### High Country StandDown

Thursday, May 15, 2025

ASVH-FLG (2100 N. Gemini Road, Flagstaff, AZ 86004)



**NIGHTHAWK MEMORIAL SERVICE:** The annual Nighthawk Memorial Ceremony at the Marana Regional Airport will be held on Apr 5<sup>th</sup>. The memorial service honors the 19 U.S. Marines

the flier for details. Open to all Department members, associate members, and family members.



**May 17<sup>th</sup>:** **Department Convention at Holiday Inn – Glendale** ([6151 N 99th Avenue Glendale, AZ 85305](#)). [Rooms](#) are \$124.77 inclusive; No-host meal on Friday evening; Free breakfast and lunch on Saturday; Per diem if traveling more than 50 miles from home address. [Zoom Link](#); Meeting ID: 833 6205 9620; Passcode: 150527; Dial in: 253 205 0468. See attached flier.

**Jun 1<sup>st</sup>:** **Early bird discount ENDS for the Department Fundraiser.** Order your **2026 calendar** for yourself and a gift for someone (delivery first week of Nov); **\$50 gets 55 chances to win** one or more \$300 gift cards; **Only 1000 are available.** Spread the word and look for sponsors! Flier attached. [Order now](#) or scan the QR Code.



**U.S. VETS PHOENIX:** Join them at the **9th annual Steps for Vets – Run, Walk, Roll 5K** on **Saturday, April 19, 2025, at Phoenix Raceway.** Register at <https://honor.usvets.org/event/steps-for-vets-phoenix/e623075>

All proceeds fund the programs and services provided to homeless and at-risk veterans and their families served by U.S. VETS Phoenix!



**FREE TUITION FOR VETERAN SPOUSES:** Spouses of honorably discharged veterans enrolled



who lost their lives in an Osprey crash 25 years ago. The memorial service is scheduled to begin at 10:00 a.m. followed by a candlelight service later that day at 8:00 p.m.

**25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**  
*Next Time You Hear Thunder In The Sky  
Know It's 19 Marines Yelling  
SEMPER PAR*



*Please Come Out and Show Your Support!*

**Honoring The 19 Marines**

Lost on April 8, 2000

**Memorial Service • 10:00 a.m.**

**Candlelight Service • 8:00 p.m.**

**April 5, 2025**



Marana Regional Airport Nighthawk-72 Memorial Park

Contact Terry Byron 520-982-0023 or Mike Flynn 520-345-1392  
www.Nighthawk-72mcl.org • Facebook.com/MCL1344



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](#).

**FREE  
TUITION**

Spouses of  
Veterans in  
Arizona Can  
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Tuition



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**Newsletter Information:** Please send information & photos that you would like included in the newsletter to [mophchapter442@comcast.net](mailto: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 25<sup>th</sup> of each month.

John R. Moore  
Jr. Vice-Commander

