



Summer 2022

Volume 2 Issue 1

### Commander's Corner

Fellow Patriots:

I am honored that you have elected me to the position of Department Commander, I have some big shoes to fill! I have lots of ideas that I think will benefit our chapters, the department, and the Order as a whole. However, I cannot do it alone and will rely on all of you to pitch-in where you can. I want to challenge you to be more active within your chapter and department functions.



My biggest goal that I will need help with is making the Department of Arizona a standard to be achieved within the order. I hope to accomplish this by; making our presence as an Order, Department, and chapters more well known as a positive pillar within our communities throughout the state, encouraging participation in chapter and department functions, establishing an awards program to recognize community members, partners, and workers for all of their hard work and the impact it has on our members within the chapters and department, and lastly inform our members with a department newsletter that will be forwarded to national to be included in The Purple Heartbeat as The Arizona Artery.

As we move into the 2nd half of the year let us all work to make the department better for all our members. As patriots we need to be prepared to continue to support the welfare of our fellow combat wounded veterans, our communities, and our Nation. There may be additional needs in the veteran community due to the state of the economy. The need for our leadership and awareness of our goals will be of utmost importance during the rest of the year. Promoting Americanism, recruiting new members and being visible to the public at various patriotic and community events will assist in promoting our goals. Thank you for all that each of you do for our veterans.

Yours in Patriotism,  
Keith Gray  
Commander

### Monthly Commander's Call

Cdr's Call is every month on the Fourth

### Find Us Online

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

Facebook: [Department Facebook Page](#)

### Contact US

Cdr Keith Gray - [commandermophaz@gmail.com](mailto:commandermophaz@gmail.com)

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

Jr. Vice Cdr John Moore - [mophchapter442@comcast.net](mailto:mophchapter442@comcast.net)

Adjutant Larry Leighton - [adjutant.mophaz@gmail.com](mailto:adjutant.mophaz@gmail.com)

### Donate

Donate Online: [Donations Appreciated](#)

### Department Elections

Congratulations to the officers for 2022/23

Commander – Keith Gray

Sr Vice-Cdr – Chuck Byers

Jr. Vice-Cdr – John Moore

Finance Officer – Ron Capek

Sgt-at-Arms – Jimi Sallman

Inspector – Sylvestre Primous

Adjutant – Larry Leighton

Legislative Liaison – Jim Muhr



### Purple Heart Day Message



On Purple Heart Day we honor all the men and women who have given lives or shed their blood for our Nation. They deserve the highest honor and Purple Heart Day remembers and recognizes their sacrifice. We are blessed to have such brave men and

Thursday, until Mar 23, 2023. In the absence of the chapter commander someone from the chapter command group must attend. Open to all members. **Time: 06:30 PM Arizona**

Aug 25, 2022 06:30 PM

Sep 22, 2022 06:30 PM

Oct 27, 2022 06:30 PM

Nov 24, 2022 06:30 PM (subject to change)

Dec 22, 2022 06:30 PM

Jan 26, 2023 06:30 PM

Feb 23, 2023 06:30 PM

Mar 23, 2023 06:30 PM

Zoom Meeting ID: 842 2842 9701; Passcode: 879117 Dial in: 669 900 6833

### **Gila River Indian Community Purple Heart Community Ceremony**

On August 26<sup>th</sup> the Gila River Indian Community became the 2nd Indian Community in Arizona to become a Purple Heart Community. Ceremony was held at the tribal community in Sacaton. Commander Gray will accept the Purple Heart proclamation from the community. Photos will be in the next newsletter.

### **Department and Region Patriot of the Year**

Patriot Jim Zimmerman was presented the Region VI Patriot of the Year award at the Department Convention in May. Department Commander John Moore presented the award on behalf of Region VI Commander Charles Anderson. Jim also was presented the Department Patriot of the Year award at the convention. Congratulations Patriot Zimmerman and good luck at National!



women who don't think even once to sacrifice or to even die for their country. Thank you to each of our Purple Heart recipients who have made this sacrifice.

Jr. Vice Cdr Moore

### **Update Your Contact Information**

Keep your snail mail address, phone & email address up to date. You can do this yourself at the MOPH National website at <https://national-moph.uc.r.appspot.com/#>. You just need your membership number to log-in. 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.

Jr. Vice-Commander John Moore represented the department and delivered remarks for MOPH to the Department of Arizona American Legion state convention in Oro Valley, AZ. Patriot Moore welcomed the Legionnaires to Oro Valley & thanked them for their good works for veterans.

### **Department Calendar**

- **August 14/19:** National Convention > South Dakota.
- **August 26:** Gila River Purple Heart Community Ceremony > 1:00 pm Sacaton, AZ.
- **August 26/28:** The Wall That Heals> Payson, AZ.
- **September 5:** Labor Day
- **September 11:** 9/11 Remembrance Day
- **September 12** Arizona Military Academy OCS Graduation > Papago Military Reservation
- **September 16:** POW/MIA Day
- **November 10** Marine Corps Birthday
- **November 11:** Veterans Day
- **November 24** Thanksgiving
- **December 7** Pearl Harbor Day
- **December 13** National Guard Birthday
- **December 17** Wreaths Across America
- **December 25** Christmas Day

### **Life Member Verification Reports**

*"The departments and chapters will be rebated annually for all eligible Life members on record as of June 30, and who **have been verified by October 1**. A chapter's Life Membership Verification Report may be made by either the Chapter or Department Adjutant. Adjutants, if you need help downloading your June 30, 2022 rosters, let us know. Download the LMVR at this link: <https://Life Membership Verification Report/national-moph.uc.r.appspot.com/MOPHForms>*



## John Suardini Chapter 790 – Scottsdale, AZ



Members of the Scottsdale Chapter, 790, lead the Arcadia 4th of July parade with a MOPH banner. Past Department Commander Woody Gluadel opened the parade with a prayer. It was a spectacle of cheer; families lined the streets, clapping and waving American flags. The local Boy Scout troops, fire department, and many others participated as well. We all had great fun, and hope to see more MOPH members join us in our activities in the the coming years.

Ian Parkinson  
Commander, 790

**Commander Ian Parkinson -**

[790commander@gmail.com](mailto:790commander@gmail.com)

**Sr. Vice Cdr Sylvestre Primous –**

[slysax85@gmail.com](mailto:slysax85@gmail.com)

**Jr. Vice Cdr Stephan Bobby –**

[veteranairborne@yahoo.com](mailto:veteranairborne@yahoo.com)

**Adjutant Woody Gluadel -** [woodygluadel@cox.net](mailto:woodygluadel@cox.net)

**Meeting date:** 1st Monday of the month (No Meetings in September)

**Meeting time:** 6:00PM; Dinner: 6:00PM (optional)

**Meeting location:** American Legion Post 44  
7145 E 2nd St, Scottsdale, AZ 8525

Commander Parkinson and chapter member at the Arcadia 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade.



## The Wall That Heals



The Wall That Heals is coming to Rumsey Park in Payson, AZ on August 26 through August 28. Local Veteran's groups are hosting the event. Schedule and event info is at this ink:

<https://www.thewallthathealspayson.com/event-info>

## Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community

The Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community became the 1st Indian Community in Arizona to become a Purple Heart Community. Ceremony was held at the USS Arizona Memorial Gardens at Salt River. Patriot Byers and President Harvier unveiled the Purple Heart Community signs that will be placed around the community. Commander Moore presented the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community and each tribal council member with a Military Order of the Purple Heart Certificate of Appreciation, a Purple Heart Challenge Coin and a replicate Badge of Military Merit.



On August 7th, Purple Heart Day, Chapter 790 held a ceremony at Wesley Bolin Plaza at the state capitol. The chapter dedicated and installed newly engraved PH Memorial Bricks in the plaza. MOPH appreciates the attendance from the public.



## Fort Lowell Chapter 442 – Tucson, AZ



Fellow Patriots:

Summer is almost over and this fall and winter we have a number of activities to support. Ft. Lowell Chapter 442 supports Veterans and their family needs. We also support other VSO(s), Women Warriors, and Pima Community College with funds raised by the chapter. We have provided rent assistance, utility assistance, and auto repair assistance to a number of veterans in need. We have not held the Purple Heart Classic for several years due to COVID restrictions.. The Classic's future is uncertain at this time. We will keep you posted on its status. In partnership with the chapter the Bridge Christian Church's Knitting Group is making over 100 gift bags for veterans residing in the Arizona State Veterans Home Tucson for Christmas this year. Chapter 442 and the church Ladies will distribute the bags on Christmas Eve if permitted. Thanks again for your support.

**Yours in Patriotism,**  
Mike Dyer  
Commander

- **September 12** Arizona Military Academy OCS Graduation > Papago Military Reservation
- **September 17** VVA106 2022 Car Show > Chuy's Restaurant 22<sup>nd</sup> & Kolb, Tucson
- **October 8:** NAM to SAND JAM > 10:00AM Reid Park, Tucson,
- **November 11** Tucson Veterans Day Parade > downtown Tucson.
- **December 23** Christmas Visit to State Veterans Home Tucson on the VA Hospital grounds.

Commander Mike Dyer - [mrdyer@comcast.net](mailto:mrdyer@comcast.net)

Sr. Vice-Cdr Richard Perkins - [rperkins823@gmail.com](mailto:rperkins823@gmail.com)

Jr. Vice-Cdr John Grand - [jgrand5@cox.net](mailto:jgrand5@cox.net)

Adjutant John Moore - [mophchapter442@comcast.net](mailto:mophchapter442@comcast.net)

Website: <https://mophchapter442.webs.com/>

Facebook: [Chapter 442 Facebook](#)

Donate online: [Donations Appreciated](#)





Patriot Stephan Bobby presents JROTC Award at Thunderbird High School. A very excited audience showed great pride for every award given out.

### Some Gave All - All Gave Some!

Order a 4" x 8" Purple Heart Brick to be placed at Wesley Bolin Plaza at the State Capitol to commemorate being a Purple Heart recipient or order one to commemorate a family member or friend who received the Award. Each can hold up to three (3) lines of 15 characters on each line. The cost of the brick, engraving, and placement costs are : \$50 for one (1) line, \$65 for two (2) lines, and \$80 for three (3) lines.

Checks, along with a copy of your order form, should be made out to MOPH AZ and sent to this address:

Patriot Stephan Bobby  
MOPH AZ PH Brick Coordinator  
4543 E. County Down Dr.  
Chandler, AZ 85249-7339  
or

Download the Order Form:

[PH COMMEMORATIVE BRICK ORDER FORM](#)

**Meeting date:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday (no meetings June, July, August)

**Meeting time:** 5:00 PM

**Meeting location:** Bridge Church at 8150 N Sandy Desert Trail, Tucson, AZ 85741. This is just off of I10 & Cortaro Farms Rd. Go east on Cortaro Farms Rd to N. Sandy Desert Trail.

Sr. Vice-Commander, Richard Perkins received a Quilt of Valor from the Northwest Tucson Quilts of Valor group at our chapter meeting. Nationwide Quilts of Valor has presented over 300,000 quilts to veterans who have served in combat. All quilts are different but have a red, white, & blue theme. Congratulations, Richard.



Fort Lowell Chapter 442 assisted in placing flags for Memorial Day on the 3,600 graves in the Arizona State Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Marana Arizona. Patriot John Moore, Patriot John Grand, Patriot Jim Zimmerman & Patriot Johnny Thompson helped in placing the flags.



## Dale E. Crick Chapter 793 – Flagstaff, AZ



**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](#)

**Meeting date:** Bi-monthly on 4th Wednesday.

**Meeting time:** 12:30PM

**Meeting location:** VFW Post 1709

409 W Santa Fe Ave, Flagstaff, AZ 86001

The Military Order of the Purple Heart Chapter 793 participated in the Memorial Day Ceremony at the AZ Memorial Veterans Cemetery at Camp Navajo. The Patriot Ely presented the Arizona Department of Veterans Service and its Director Wanda Wright with a Special Recognition Award. The award is in recognition of exemplary community service, supporting the High Country Stand-Down and the our Veterans in northern Arizona.



Chapter 442 placed a wreath honoring the fallen at the Memorial Day ceremony at South Lawn Cemetery. Patriot John Moore and Patriot Jim Zimmerman dedicated the wreath to the fallen from our nation's wars. *(Photo on next page)*



Dave Bertagnoli, LtCdr (Ret), from Chapter 442 presents the MOPH Leadership Award to Cadet Kyla Gross of Tombstone High School, Tombstone, AZ. Chapter 442 supports 10 high school JROTC programs and 3 university ROTC programs in Southern Arizona. In addition to the leadership award Chapter 442 provides a \$200.00 stipend to the JROTC students receiving the award.



At the request of his family the chapter provided Purple Heart Recipient & Korean War veteran Jose M. Ornelia a Purple Heart Appreciation Certificate. Jose was in hospice at the Arizona State Veterans Home Tucson. Jose passed away 2 hours after receiving the certificate. *(note: no photo)*





MOPH Chapter 793 Recognizes Pete Yanka,  
NAU Director Of Veteran & Military Services...  
Thank You Pete For All You Do !!!



Chapter Cdr  
Rodger Ely  
participated in  
three 4<sup>th</sup> of July  
Parades  
representing the  
chapter and  
MOPH

## Michael E. Mahoney Chapter 691 – Surprise, AZ

Fellow Patriots:

It's that time again and after being dark for the beginning months of having the privilege at leading our chapter I want to hit the ground running. Please bring ideas on fundraising,

improvements,

recruitment, and any other ideas you feel will help out our chapter. I look forward to reconnecting with you and finding out where your summer travels have taken you!

Before going dark we observed one of the most important days of the year, remembering those that paid the ultimate price for our beloved country. Memorial Day gives us an opportunity to pause and remember our fallen brothers and sisters in arms. I had the honor of representing our chapter at the North West Valley Veterans Association (NWWVA), Memorial Day ceremony. To all of you who joined, Thank you! I hope to see you and more at upcoming functions planned and unknown.

Please keep in mind to reach out to chapter leadership if you need anything.

Yours in Patriotism,  
Keith Gray  
Commander

Cdr Keith Gray - [commandermophaz@gmail.com](mailto:commandermophaz@gmail.com)

Sr. Vice Cdr James Starkman - [karen4357@att.net](mailto:karen4357@att.net)

Jr. Vice Cdr Harold Thomas -

[haroldrobthomas18@gmail.com](mailto:haroldrobthomas18@gmail.com)

Adjutant Keith Gray - [commandermophaz@gmail.com](mailto:commandermophaz@gmail.com)

**Meeting date:** 2nd Saturday

**Meeting time:** 9:00 AM

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

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

Note: Meetings will also be carried via video conference, use the button to join the meeting by video conference with a computer device. To join with any type phone, call 253-215-8782 and, when prompted, enter the meeting id (815 5957 0914) and





Chapter 793 and its Purple Heart Truck participated in the Parks, AZ 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade.



then when prompted, the password (328403).



Chapter 691 presents service award to Ms. John. She received her award from Past Chapter 0691 Commander Elmer Short. "We again thank you and your organization for continued support for the cadets." V/r, Edward Lawson, CWO3, USN(Ret), NJROTC Senior Naval Science

Instructor (SNSI), Moon Valley High School

Chapter 691 participated in Memorial Day Ceremonies to honor our Nation's fallen. Thank you to chapter members and the public who attended the ceremony.





## Chapter 2560 – Apache Junction, AZ



Commander Michael Overmeyer -

[moverme48@gmail.com](mailto:moverme48@gmail.com)

Sr. Vice Cdr Phil Yin - [philyin@msn.com](mailto:philyin@msn.com)

Jr. Vice Cdr Chuck Byers - [seagb@cox.net](mailto:seagb@cox.net)

Adjutant James King - [kingjs6@live.com](mailto:kingjs6@live.com)

**Meeting date:** 2nd Saturday of the month

**Meeting time:** 10:00 AM

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

**Website:** <http://2560.mophaz.org>

### PURPLE HEART DAY OF HONOR & REMEMBRANCE

MOPH Chapter 2560 hosted a NATIONAL PURPLE HEART DAY OF HONOR & REMEMBRANCE in Fountain Hills, AZ. Co-hosted by the Marine Corps League.



## Chapter 472 – Mesa, AZ



Cdr James Pomush - [landjpomush@gmail.com](mailto:landjpomush@gmail.com)

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

Adjutant James Pomish - [landjpomush@gmail.com](mailto:landjpomush@gmail.com)

**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

**Website:** <http://472.mophaz.org>

Commander Jim Pomush, Jr Vice Commander Ron Del Rio and Financial Officer Ignacio "Nacho" Rivera



### Department Fundraising

**Support The Purple Heart Combat Wounded Veterans of Arizona by shopping at SMILE.AMAZON.**  
(<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/82-1286505>).

### American Dream Ambassador Program



**American Dream Ambassador Program** gives registered homeowners access

to deep discounts to products and services needed to renovate or remodel their home, they can even help renovate or purchase a home. Become an American Dream Ambassador TODAY!

Registration is a one-time fee of \$50! After payment a \$25 tax-deductible donation will be made to the Department of Arizona, MOPH of the USA, Inc in your name. Get all the details and buy your subscription on our website [American Dream Program](#)

fundraising on behalf of Chapter 472 of the Military Order of the Purple Heart recently at the Mesa Market Place Swap Meet.



### Chapter 1598 – Sun Lakes, AZ



**Commander** Dominic Digiovanni -

[kmjld1958@gmail.com](mailto:kmjld1958@gmail.com)

**Sr. Vice Cdr** Joseph Delligatti -

[joethebullet@msn.com](mailto:joethebullet@msn.com)

**Adjutant** Joseph Delligatti – [kmjld1958@gmail.com](mailto:kmjld1958@gmail.com)



## Purple Heart Parking Signs



PH parking signs to give to businesses are available for the cost of shipping. Ordering information is available at

<https://www.wwfs.org/combattwoundedparkingsigns/>

*Note: currently out of stock so check website periodically.*

## Purple Heart Plate

\$25 initial application fee/ \$5 annual renewal.

Applicant must be a veteran and a Purple Heart recipient and provide a copy of a DD214 or 215, WDAGO forms 53-55 or 53-98, NAVPERS 553 or NAVMC 78, or provide an original letter from the Arizona Department of Veterans' Services (ADVS) verifying eligibility. The initial application fee goes to the Department of Veterans' Services.. May be personalized for an additional \$25 initial application fee/ \$25 annual renewal fee. Also available with a disability symbol and as a small plate for motorcycles/golf carts. Not available online at DMV.



## The PACT ACT

VA information on the newly passed PACT Act can be found on the VA website link below:

<https://www.va.gov/resources/the-pact-act-and-your-va-benefits/>



**Meeting date:** 2nd Friday of each month (No meetings: Jun Jul Aug & Sep)

**Meeting time:** 9:30AM

**Meeting location:** Sun Lakes Country Club  
25601 South Sun Lakes Blvd, Chandler AZ 85248

**Website:** <http://1958.mophaz.org>

## Signed by the Governor



**H.B. 2701** reduces fees for hunting and fishing licenses issued by the Arizona Game and Fish Department for veterans. Under the new law, veterans with a service connected disability will

receive a 25 percent reduction on their hunting and fishing licenses and **Purple Heart recipients will have a 50 percent reduction.**

**H.B. 2741** waived state business licensing fees for military spouses and honorably discharged veterans. The move adds to the current rule that agencies must waive any initial business licensing fee for an applicant whose income does not exceed 200 percent of the federal poverty guidelines.

## Editors Notes

Please send information and information to [mophchapter442@comcast.net](mailto:mophchapter442@comcast.net) that you would like included in the newsletter. Please also include what chapter you are from so it can be placed in respective section.

Moving forward we would like to get the newsletter out the last day of the month. Get me news information & photos by the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month.

Respectfully,  
John R. Moore.  
Jr. Vice-Commander