



November 2022

Volume 2 Issue 4

Commander's Corner



Fellow Patriots of Arizona,

Welcome to the Department of Arizona.

Thank you for your service to the Nation and to the MOPH. To be a successful organization we need to work as a team. In discussing what you will do

as a Chapter, remember to lean on other chapters for help, you don't have to do it alone. The only bad idea is the one you keep to yourself, offer up your ideas and network with the other chapters. I want us as a department to be as successful as possible and it starts at the lowest level. My number one priority as Commander is to help chapter leadership get their members involved. Once we get our members engaged new members will join, so let's give them reason to want to join our beloved order. Each of us should reach out to one other Patriot within our chapters and encourage them to attend a chapter meeting. Getting involved is how we sustain and grow our order and ensure it stands the test of time and that we can pass it along to the next generation of service-members that will share the same common bond that we all do.

I won't ask you to do anything I'm not willing to do myself! I will do my best to be at as many events that I know about and fit my work schedule. Join me in showing why the MOPH is the premier veterans' organization in Arizona.

Yours in Patriotism,
Keith Gray
Commander

Arizona Cardinals Honor PH Recipients

On November 6th at the Arizona Cardinals football game Patriots Dave Rosales, Jason Duren, Keith Gray, Larry Leighton, Stephen Bobby, Rodger Ely, Edward McGlynn, Jim Vitale, Ron West, Chuck Byers, Billy Weldon, Mike Overmeyer, Phil Yin, Jim Pomush, Ron Capek, Walt Ellis &

Department Officers

Cdr Keith Gray – commandermophaz@gmail.com

Sr. Vice Cdr Chuck Byers – seagb@cox.net

Jr. Vice Cdr John Moore –

mophchapter442@comcast.net

Adjutant Larry Leighton – adjutant.mophaz@gmail.com

Finance Officer – Ron Capek – ronlucap@gmail.com

Sgt-at-Arms – Jimi Sallmen – jimisallmen@gmail.com

Inspector – Sylvestre Primous – slysax85@gmail.com

Legislative Liaison – Jim Muhr – jrmuhr@yahoo.com

Donate to AZMOPH

Donate Online: [Donations Appreciated](#)

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 and we can update your snail mail, phone & email address for you.

Find Us Online

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

Facebook: [Department Facebook Page](#)

Calendar

- **December 7** Pearl Harbor Day
- **December 13** National Guard Birthday
- **December 17** Wreaths Across America
- **December 25** Christmas Day
- **December 31** New Years' Eve
- **January 1** New Years' Day
- **January 16** MLK Day
- **February 3** Four Chaplains' Day
- **February 23** Iwo Jima Flag Raising
- **March 25** Welcome Home Veterans

Monthly Commander's Call

Cdr's Call is every month on the Fourth Thursday. In the absence of the chapter commander someone from the chapter command group must attend. Open to all members. **Time: 06:30 PM Arizona Time.**

Jan 26, 2023 06:30 PM (Executive Committee)

Donald Ash were on the field at half-time to receive the honor and represent our nation's PH recipients. Thanks you to the Cardinals' organization for the Purple Heart Tribute. Video from half-time can be viewed at <https://youtu.be/J8hNJ3hC7iw>



Purple Heart Riders



The department is exploring ideas to work more closely with the Purple Heart Riders. The Purple Heart Riders is a motorcycle association (not a club). Members must be Purple Heart recipients. Members have earned Purple Hearts in the Vietnam, Afghanistan and Iraq wars. The mission is to serve other veterans and our communities and to promote patriotism through camaraderie and fellowship. If you have ideas on how to partner with the Purple Heart Riders contact Commander Gray. The Purple Heart Riders is a non profit 501(c)(3).

“We ride for those who can’t”

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

National Commander's Thanksgiving Message



As National Commander of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, I want to wish all of you a very Happy Thanksgiving. It is good to look back and reflect on the many blessings that we have in America and to give thanks for these blessings. We can be thankful for our military veterans, who have served and sacrificed so much for our country. We can be thankful for the men and women who are serving in our armed forces today and for their families, who also make tremendous sacrifices. We can be thankful for the freedoms that we enjoy and for the opportunities that we have in this great country. We can be thankful for the blessing of peace and for the fact that we live in a country that is a force for good in the world. And we can be thankful for the Military Order of the Purple Heart and for the opportunity to serve our fellow veterans. I am inspired by the compassion and generosity shown by our Chapters and Departments throughout the year, and I am humbled by their example. I hope that this Thanksgiving will be a time for all of us to reflect on the blessings we have received and to recommit ourselves to helping those who are less fortunate. I hope that you and your families have a happy and safe Thanksgiving Day.

Yours in Patriotism,
Christopher Vedvick
National Commander

Fort Lowell Chapter 442 – Tucson, AZ



Fellow Patriots:

This month we have a new member to the Chapter. Patriot Darnell Harrison transferred from Atlanta. Welcome Darnell! During this past month Chapter 442

has donated \$2,400 to assist veterans in need at Pima College. We helped sponsor the Charlie Skuhr Memorial Golf Tournament that raised \$13,023.00 for the Hematology/Oncology program at the Tucson VA Hospital. In December the chapter will provide \$600 to Wreaths Across America and will place wreaths at the local cemeteries we support. Chapter members will visit veterans in the Arizona State Veterans' Home Tucson on Christmas Eve and provide each one with a Christmas Gift Bag.

Yours in Patriotism,
Mike Dyer
Commander

- **December 17** – Wreaths Across America
- **December 19** – Chapter Meeting
- **December 23** - Christmas Visit to residents of State Veterans Home Tucson on the VA Hospital grounds.

Commander Mike Dyer

- mrduer@comcast.net

Sr. Vice-Cdr Richard Perkins

- rperkins823@gmail.com

Jr. Vice-Cdr John Grand

- jgrand5@cox.net

Adjutant John Moore

- mophchapter442@comcast.net

Website:

- <https://moph Tucson.webs.com/>

Facebook:

- [Chapter 442 Facebook](#)

Donate online:

- [Donations Appreciated](#)

Meeting date: 3rd Monday (no meetings June, July or August) at 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

Wreaths Across America



★ **December 17, 2022** ★

National Wreaths Across America Day

Chapters & Patriots will help place wreaths or sponsor wreaths for the Wreaths Across America Program at various cemeteries across the state. Find participating cemeteries in your area at the [Wreaths Across America website](#).

Dale E. Crick Chapter 793 – Flagstaff, AZ



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](#)

Meeting date: Bi-monthly on 4th Wednesday.

Meeting time: 12:30PM

Meeting location: VFW Post 1709
409 W Santa Fe Ave, Flagstaff, AZ 86001

Patriots Rodger Ely & Billy Weldon were among the Purple Heart recipients honored during half-time at the Arizona Cardinals football game on November 6th.



N. Sandy Desert Trail.

Patriots, Johnny Thompson, Cody Phipps, Darnell Harrison & guest Ibrahim Karroum were honored with a Quilt of Valor from the Northwest Tucson Quilts of Valor group. Nationwide the Quilts of Valor organization 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!



Patriots, Dave Bertagnoli, John Grand, & Jim Zimmerman participated in the Tucson Veterans' Day Parade. Jim Zimmerman drove his classic Pontiac GTO in the parade.



Bernita Gallego Barfield who was a Red Cross Field Service Worker (Donut Dolly) during the Vietnam War was presented with a Department of Arizona MOPH Certificate of Appreciation for her service in Vietnam. She is also the National Red Cross Legacy Award recipient this year. Jr. Vice-Commander John Grand made the MOPH presentation. Patriots Jim Zimmerman, John Moore, & John Grand are in the photo with Bernita.



Northern Arizona University (NAU) honored Purple Heart Veterans at half-time during Military Appreciation Day at the NAU Sky Dome on November 6th. NAU is a Purple Heart University.



Michael E. Mahoney Chapter 691 – Surprise, AZ

Chapter 691 Patriots,

It was great seeing you at the chapter's social night at Dylan's and our fundraiser will be at Sam's Club. It keeps me motivated to see the involvement from our brother patriots. With the holiday season upon us I encourage you to stay engaged as possible or at least check up on a couple patriots, we haven't



Patriot John Moore & Patriot Dave Bertagnoli spoke to Mrs. Gingrich's 5th Grade class at Innovation Academy, Oro Valley, AZ about Veterans' Day, the Purple Heart & Vietnam service. The class was well behaved and had good questions.



Patriot Dave Bertagnoli cut the USMC Birthday Cake at the Veterans' Day celebration at Pima College on November 10th. Pima College is a Purple Heart College.



heard from a while. Keep your spirits, high and only focus on what you can control don't stress about what you can't. Enjoy the evening get together with your close family and friends. We supported a lot of good organizations with our charitable donations so just be ready to hit the fundraising hard when we come back in the new year.

Yours in Patriotism,
Keith Gray
Commander

Cdr Keith Gray

- commandermophaz@gmail.com

Sr. Vice Cdr James Starkman

- karen4357@att.net

Jr. Vice Cdr Harold Thomas

- haroldrobthomas18@gmail.com

Adjutant Keith Gray

- 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) Enter parking lot from N Cotton Lane.

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

Note: Meetings will also be via video conference using Zoom. Enter the meeting ID (842 2842 9701) and the password (879117). To join by phone, call 719 359 4580 and enter the id and the password.

Patriots Keith Gray, Larry Leighton, Ed McGlynn & Ron Capek were among the Purple Heart recipients honored during half-time at the Arizona Cardinals football game on November 6th.



(more photos on next page)

Chapter 442 members were among the community volunteers placing flags on each of the 3,816 graves at the Arizona Veterans Memorial Cemetery Marana, AZ for Veterans' Day. Pictured are Patriot Johnny Thompson and Associate Member Gay Thompson.



Chapter 2560 – Apache Junction, AZ



Commander Michael Overmeyer
moverme48@gmail.com
Sr. Vice Cdr Phil Yin
philyin@msn.com
Jr. Vice Cdr Chuck Byers
seagb@cox.net
Adjutant James King
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

On Veterans' Day a ceremony in Fountain Hills was held for the installation of a Military Order of the Purple Heart sign at Fountain Hills Boulevard and Shea Boulevard. Mayor Ginny Dickey and former mayor Linda Kavanagh gave an overview of the project's history. Sr. Vice Commander of Chapter 2560 Phil Yin & the chapter were thanked for their commitment to honoring those injured while serving in the Armed Forces.

(photos next page)



John Suardini Chapter 790 – Scottsdale, AZ



Commander Ian Parkinson -
790commander@gmail.com
Sr. Vice Cdr Sylvestre Primous
 - slysax85@gmail.com
Jr. Vice Cdr Stephan Bobby
 - veteranairborne@yahoo.com
Adjutant Woody Glaudel
 - woodyglaudel@cox.net

Upcoming Meetings:

- December - 5th, 2022
- January - No Meeting
- February 6th, 2023

Each meeting is on a Monday at 6:00 PM located at American Legion Post 44, 7145 E 2nd St, Scottsdale, AZ 85251. (Commander, Sr. Vice Commander, Jr. Vice Commander, or Adjutant) **are REQUIRED to attend**. All members are invited to



Patriots Chuck Byers, Mike Overmeyer, Phil Yin, & Jim Vitale were among the Purple Heart recipients honored during half-time at the Arizona Cardinals football game on November 6th

(photos next page)

participate.

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

Meeting location: American Legion Post 44

7145 E 2nd St, Scottsdale, AZ 8525

Chapter Officers: If you cannot make it,, please

CALL the Commander ((210 663 6072) to let

him know. If you have topics for the agenda,

please let the commander know.

- Dec 5, 2022, 06:00 PM social meeting
- Feb 6, 2023, 06:00 PM regular meeting
- Mar 6, 2023, 06:00 PM social meeting
- Apr 3, 2023, 6:00 PM zoom meeting
- May 1, 2023, 6:00 PM regular meeting
- Jun 5, 2023, 6:00 PM social meeting
- Jul 3, 2023, 6:00 PM zoom meeting
- Aug 7, 2023, 6:00 PM regular meeting

No meetings in September.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/6983434344?pwd=eXBJK2lqYlJOZWdjMm1UNHZ4YnVQdz09>

Meeting ID: 698 343 4344

Passcode: 738329

Patriots Stephan Bobby was among the Purple Heart recipients honored during half-time at the Arizona Cardinals football game on November 6th.



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. 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.



Chapter 472 – Mesa, AZ



Cdr James Pomush
landjpomush@gmail.com
 Jr. Vice Cdr Ramiero Del Rio -
 (602) 818-0796
 Adjutant James Pomish
landjpomush@gmail.com

Meeting date: Last Thursday of the month (No meetings: Jun Jul & Aug)

Meeting time: 10:00AM

Chandler, AZ 85249-7339

or

Download the Order Form:

[PH COMMEMORATIVE BRICK ORDER FORM](#)



Chapter 1598 – Sun Lakes, AZ



Commander Dominic Digiovanni
kmj1958@gmail.com
 Sr. Vice Cdr Joseph Delligatti
joethebullet@msn.com
 Adjutant Joseph Delligatti
kmj1958@gmail.com

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

VA Camp Lejeune Information

VA has established a presumptive service connection for Veterans, Reservists, and National Guard members exposed to contaminants in the water supply at Camp Lejeune from August 1, 1953 through December 31, 1987 who later developed one of the following eight diseases:

Meeting location: American Legion Post 26
505 W 2nd Avenue, Mesa, AZ 85210-1202

Chapter 472 and Commander Pomush participated in the East Valley Veterans' Day Parade in Mesa, AZ.



Patriots Jim Pomush & Jason Duren were among the Purple Heart recipients honored during half-time at the Arizona Cardinals football game on November 6th.



(photos on next page)

Adult leukemia; Aplastic anemia and other myelodysplastic syndromes; Bladder cancer; Kidney cancer; Liver cancer; Multiple myeloma; Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma; & Parkinson's disease. Go to the [VA Website](#) for more information.

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/>

Signed by the Governor

HB 2062 Vehicle license tax exemption veterans:



A. Notwithstanding section sections 28-2003 and 28-5801, the registering officer shall not collect a vehicle license tax or registration fee from a veteran for a personally owned vehicle or a veteran and another party owning a vehicle. The **exemption allowed by this subsection applies only to one vehicle** and only if all of the following apply:

1. the veteran is a bona fide **PURPLE heart medal recipient**.
2. The **veteran was honorably discharged** from the United States military.
3. On initial registration of the vehicle, the veteran submits satisfactory proof to the department that the person is a veteran and a bona fide purple heart medal recipient and was honorably discharged as required by paragraph 2 of this subsection.

\$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.



Patriot Duren with 101 year old PH recipient before the game.



MOPH Chapter 472 oldest active member, Jim Pomush and youngest active member, Jason Duren on Veterans Day! Both U.S. Marines, our Nation's elite warriors, who both survived combat wounds!



AVHOFS Scholarships

AVHOFS scholarships available. Applicants must be an honorably discharged Veteran, active duty, Reserve or National Guard who is attending an institution of high learning within the State of Arizona. The scholarships are available for

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-deductable 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 at American Dream Program.

The Purple Heart Magazine

The **November/December issue of the Purple Heart Magazine** is available online at url: <https://mydigitalpublication.com/publication/?i=768964>

Great New Partnership for the MOPH



National has announced a partnership between Vapor Elemental Wear, The MOPH Fund, and the Military Order of the Purple Heart! 30% of sales of the MOPH Fund branded items go directly to the MOPH Fund, which is used to

directly fund programs in the Military Order of the Purple Heart, such as suicide awareness, homeless veterans assistance, job training, and scholarships. You can help improve the lives of combat-wounded veterans and their families by purchasing your gear today! Purple Heart recipients can use the code VETS10% to receive a discount of 10% sitewide!

programs leading to a Baccalaureate or Post-Graduate degrees. Deadline is Feb 28th. For more information go to url: <https://avhof.org/the-arizona-veterans-hall-of-fame-society-scholarship/> or see flyer below.



Veterans!

Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame Society (AVHOFS) Scholarship Program

The AVHOFS Scholarship program recognizes Arizona veterans who are permanent residents attending institutions of higher learning in the State of Arizona. We acknowledge Patriotism, Youth and Education while serving Arizona veterans."

Scholarships offered range from \$2000 to \$5000

Applicants must:

1. Be honorably discharged veterans, active duty, or service members in good standing with a Reserve or National Guard component.
2. Be attending an institution of higher learning within the State of Arizona that is eligible to receive GI Bill funds through the Department of Veterans Affairs.
3. Submit a completed application via email or mail per the Application Guidelines on the [The Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame Scholarship website](https://avhof.org/the-arizona-veterans-hall-of-fame-society-scholarship/).

From the Archives

Phoenix, Arizona was selected out of 25 competing cities as the site of the 1951 MOPH National Convention.

Arizona Republic
29 Aug 1950, Tue - Page 1

Purple Heart Veterans Pick Phoenix For Meet

By RALPH MARONEY

MORE THAN 2,000 Purple Heart war veterans will convene in Phoenix next August.

It will be the 1951 convention of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, oldest U. S. military organization.

Phoenix was selected from among 25 competing cities at closing sessions of the 1950 convention in Worcester, Mass.

Scheduled to be held five days in August, the convention will be the first national convention of any military service organization ever held in Phoenix.

It also will be the first national convention ever held here in August.

John J. Egan, director of the Phoenix Chamber of Commerce Tourist and Convention Bureau, said a convention of this size would mean \$250,000 worth of business to the community.

Delegates from Phoenix who obtained the 1951 convention are Harold Willoughby, James T. Duane, and Tom Donahoe. Joseph

M. Klein is state commander. The order was established for wounded soldiers by George Washington.

Hundreds of Arizona Highway magazines and other state literature were distributed at the Massachusetts city and delegates also were deluged with telegrams from Arizona officials, businessmen, and hotels and tourist courts.



Go to url:

<https://vaporapparel.com/collections/purple-heart-partnership>

Newsletter

Please send information and photos that you would like included in the newsletter to mophchapter442@comcast.net. We would like to get the newsletter out the last day of the month. Get me news information & photos by the 15th of each month.

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

From the Archives

A long time ago in a land far, far away a great Thanksgiving Day meal was served. It came by helicopter to a defensive position in the Ho Bo Woods.

