



September 2022

Volume 2 Issue 2

### Commander's Corner



Fellow Patriots of Arizona,

It is that time of year when mother nature turns the heat down from incinerate, to bearable. With the change in weather our fellow patriots that made a tactical retreat to cooler locations will be rejoining

our ranks. Welcome all back with open arms.

As you return to your chapters and begin 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 use your wisdom to select the one that represents your chapter and let's make those events something for the record books. I want us as a department to be as successful as possible and it starts at the lowest level. My number one priority as Department Commander is to help chapter leadership get their members involved. I believe once we get our members engaged new members will join, so let's give them reason to want to join our beloved order.

Brotherhood was missing after we exited service, joining the order is how I filled that void. I challenge you to reach out to one other Patriot within your chapters and encourage them to join you for a chapter meeting. Getting involved at the lowest level is how we protect 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 can with my work schedule. Join me in showing why the MOPH is the best VSO.

Yours in Patriotism,  
Keith Gray  
Commander

### Department Officers

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)  
Finance Officer – Ron Capek - [ronluccap@gmail.com](mailto:ronluccap@gmail.com)  
Sgt-at-Arms – Jimi Sallman - [jimisallmen@gmail.com](mailto:jimisallmen@gmail.com)  
Inspector – Sylvestre Primous - [slysax85@gmail.com](mailto:slysax85@gmail.com)  
Legislative Liaison – Jim Muhr - [jrmuhr@yahoo.com](mailto:jrmuhr@yahoo.com)

### Find Us Online

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

Facebook: [Department Facebook Page](#)

### Donate

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

### Feedback PH License Plate Law

Thanks to our **Legislative Officer, Jim Muhr**, who worked for 3 years to help get the new law passed. Explanation of the law is further down in the newsletter.

**From David:** Thank you for sending this out. Picked our new car up yesterday and saved \$860. Thanks again for keeping us informed.

**From Bob:** Thanks for the info. Just registered my SUV cost \$54.45 instead of \$808.11. Went to Motor Vehicle with copy of DD-214 in and out the door in 30 minutes.

**From Mike:** It was really easy getting this done. I took my DD 214.... They let me pick what vehicle. I could have used my wife's newer car if I chose.

### Department Calendar

- **October 7/9 Healing Memories Workshop**

### Monthly Commander's Call

Cdr's Call is every month on the Fourth 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**

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 on the 80th anniversary of Ira Hayes enlistment in the Marine Corps was declared a "Purple Heart Community" by a proclamation signed by Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis & Lt. Gov. Monica Antone. The proclamation was read and the Community was designated as a Purple Heart Community by the Military Order of the Purple Heart – Department of Arizona. 64 members of the Gila River Indian Community have been awarded the Purple Heart. Commander Gray presented a certificate & PH Challenge Coin to Governor Lewis, to members of the community leadership and to 4 Purple Heart Recipients.

MOPH Leadership and Gov. Lewis



Cdr Gray Congratulates PH Recipients.

*(photos on next page)*

- **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

### Comments from the New National Cdr.

It was an absolute honor this year to be elected as



the National Commander of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, USA. As you all know, helping veterans is an absolute passion of mine, and I am in a position to ensure the focus of this organization is directed toward providing assistance to combat-wounded veterans and their families. This has been a

year wrought with adversity for my family and me. The loss of my amazing wife Tiffany and having my stroke a couple weeks after her funeral really put things into perspective for me. I will not allow myself to wallow in pity while people need my help. After getting the blessing from my children, I am ready to lean forward and ensure that no combat-wounded veteran has to go through the same hardships I had when I was wounded. I would not be here without the support of my family and friends. They are too numerous to list, but you all know how much I truly appreciate all of your support.

Now let's get to work.

Christopher Vedvick  
National Commander

### National Convention

The new National Officers are:

Commander Christopher Vedvick  
Senior Vice Commander Carder Ferguson  
Junior Vice Commander Robert Olivarez  
Finance Officer Timothy Felix  
Inspector Edward McGlynn  
Judge Advocate Walter Kroptavich  
Sergeant at Arms Gary Witt  
Region VI Commander Charles Anderson





## Photos from the National Convention

Cdr Gray served on the Credentials Committee.



Opening Ceremony.



Gov. Lewis and Community PH Recipients.



## Fort Lowell Chapter 442 – Tucson, AZ

Fellow Patriots:

Fall is here and we are back on our regular meeting schedule. On Purple Heart Day we visited the Arizona State Veterans Home Tucson and honored



Patriot Chuck Byers & Patriot Jim Zimmerman received National Commander's Distinguished Service Awards & Badges of Merit from the National Commander.

*(photos on next page)*

the Purple Heart recipients residing in the home. We participated in the Gila River Indian Community Purple Heart Community Ceremony. We provided the keynote speaker at the Arizona Military Academy's Army National Guard OCS graduation. We continue to support Veterans needs and funded auto repairs for a female veteran. We partner with Pima Community College to assist student veterans in need. Thanks again for your support.

Yours in Patriotism,  
Mike Dyer  
Commander

- **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 - [mrduer@comcast.net](mailto:mrduer@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://moph Tucson.webs.com/>

Facebook: [Chapter 442 Facebook](#)

Donate online: [Donations Appreciated](#)

**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.

On Purple Heart Day chapter 442 honored the Purple Heart recipients residing in the AZ State Veterans Home Tucson. The PH recipients are Richard Ross, Army; John Jauch, Army; George Sievers, Army; Joseph Szmanski, Army; & Joseph Weatherwax, Navy. All received a certificate, a PH hat, a PH cup, & a Challenge Coin. Sam Nanez, the home's director accepted a check from the chapter for \$500 to be used for patient welfare and a certificate of appreciation



Mount Rushmore.



National Cdr Honors 107 Yr Old MOPH Member.



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



Chapter 691 Patriots,

Welcome back from our summer hiatus! I hope you all took advantage of some cooler weather to recharge. Let's hit the ground running, bring your ideas on where you would like to see our



was given to the staff of the home.



Patriot Jim Zimmerman was a nominee for National Patriot of the Year. He received a National Commander's Distinguished Service Award & Badge of Merit from the National Commander at the National Convention.

*(photos on next page)*

chapter go. We've made it through some tough times, and we don't know what the future holds. Let's use the time that we come together to better the chapter and give us a goal to work towards. I am hoping we can start doing more as a chapter, and getting more involvement from our members. I know change can be difficult; the one major unspoken take away from the national convention was that change is needed to continue and survive. I know we can overcome this hurdle placed in front of us if we come together and outline a clear plan to do so. If all chapters take this approach there is no reason why we can come back stronger than ever. Please reach out if there is anything you need and we will do everything we can to make it happen.

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) 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 then when prompted, the password (328403).

Patriot Jimi Sallman attended the National Convention in Rapid City, SD.





Patriot John Moore, Patriot John Grand & Patriot Jim Zimmerman attended the Gila River Indian Community PH ceremony. Patriot Jim Zimmerman thanks PH recipients from the Gila River Indian Community.



Jr. Vice Commander John Grand was the keynote speaker at the Arizona Military Academy's OCS graduation on Patriot's Day, September 11<sup>th</sup>. Here are the 11 new 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenants who graduated. Each graduate was presented with a

Patriot Sallman, What did you do?



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

Chapter 793 held its annual Benefit Golf Tournament in August. It was a great event. Thank you to everyone who made it possible and who participated in the event.

(photo on next page)



## PH challenge coin and Badge of Merit.



Chapter 793 supported the Northern Arizona Stand-down on September 9<sup>th</sup>. This was the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Stand-Down held in Williams, AZ.



## John Suardini Chapter 790 – Scottsdale, AZ



For Chapter 790, the only month of the year that we “go dark,” is September, and we will resume our regular meeting schedule in October. The next meeting will be held on

October 3<sup>rd</sup> over Zoom, and all are welcome to attend (for details, please contact Commander Parkinson at 790commander@gmail.com).

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)

## 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

Patriot Chuck Byers attended the National

**Adjutant** Woody Glaudel - [woodyglaudel@cox.net](mailto:woodyglaudel@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

Chapter 790 would like to take this opportunity to recognize our **Member of the Month, Patriot Stephan Bobby**. In conjunction with his role as chapter Junior Vice Commander (*former Commander 2019-2022 & former Department Sr. Vice Cdr 2021/2022*), he has taken it upon himself to command all efforts regarding the Purple Heart bricks at Wesley Bolin Plaza. Stephan has solely managed the operations for the bricks and ensured their timely production for the past several years. For the Purple Heart Day Brick Laying Ceremony this past August, he and his family wrangled and transported Big George, along with sharing endearing words. Stephan also takes the regular initiative in making the trek out to Wesley Bolin Plaza to clear the bricks and monument of debris. Stephan is consistently swift in his offers for assistance, persistent with his warm cheer, and an ever-shining example of what it means to embody the ethos of our Order.



Patriot Bobby coordinates and supervises the placing of memorial bricks around the PH Monument at the state capitol building.

*(photo on next page)*

Convention where he received a National Commander's Distinguished Service Award & Badge of Merit from the National Commander for his service as National Legislative Officer.



Cdr Mike Overmeyer represented the chapter at the Gila River Indian Community PH Ceremony on August 26 in Sacaton. Cdr Overmeyer presented Gov. Lewis and the Gila River Indian Community with a PH flag.



### Chapter 472 – Mesa, AZ



Cdr James Pomush - [landjpomush@gmail.com](mailto:landjpomush@gmail.com)  
Jr. Vice Cdr Ramiero Del Rio - (602) 818-0796





### 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](#)

### 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

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

### 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)

**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

### 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



buy your subscription on our website at [American Dream Program](#).

### Purple Heart Coins U.S. Mint



The 2022 National Purple Heart Hall of Honor Commemorative Coin Program commemorates U.S. service members who have been wounded or killed by enemy action.

Public law directs the U.S.

Mint to produce \$5 gold coins, \$1 silver coins, and half dollar clad coins as part of the program. Coins come in several designs. Up to \$35 of the cost is donated to the Purple Heart Hall of Honor. Coins can be ordered at the [U.S. Mint's website](#).

### Purple Heart Parking Signs

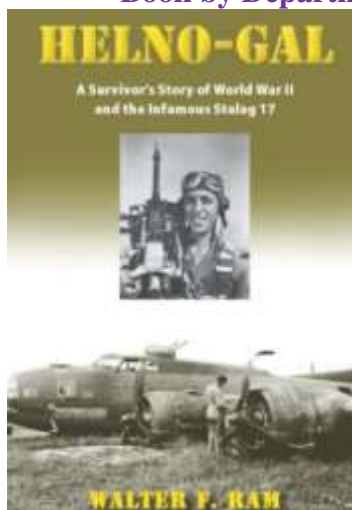


PH parking signs to give to businesses are available for the cost of shipping. Ordering information is available at

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

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

### Book by Department Member



Department member Walter Ram's book has been published. On the morning of June 13, 1943, a B-17 "Flying Fortress" known as the HELNO-GAL went a raid sent to destroy submarine pens on Germany's Baltic coast. Ambushed by German fighters, HELNO-GAL was

shot down and four of the crew were captured after parachuting inside Germany. This is the incredible story of Walter Ram one of the four who were captured. Walter spent the rest of the

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.



**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.

### 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/>

### Healing Memories Workshop for Veterans

Announcing an in-person Healing of Memories Workshop for All Veterans. It will be held at the Franciscan Renewal Center in Scottsdale, AZ on October 7-9, 2022. The workshop will provide the participants with a safe experiential and interactive way to address anger, loss, grief and guilt. The workshop is free of charge to any service member or veteran, including all meals and two nights lodging. It begins with dinner at 6pm on Friday, October 7 and ends at 1pm on Sunday, October 9.

Veterans who have attended this workshop say that it was a major step in their healing from their psychological and spiritual wounds. Transportation will be provided to those who need it. Any service member or veteran who is



war as a POW in the infamous Nazi prison camp, Stalag 17, where he suffered cold, hunger, and the constant threat of being shot by guards. This is also the story of Walter's recovery from the anguish of his POW memories, and how he finally revealed them to therapists and his family 35 years after the war ended. Available on [Amazon](#).



interested in the workshop may find out more information or register free for the workshop by contacting Mike Wold, US Navy Veteran and workshop coordinator, at 651-687-9767.

### Editors Notes

Please send information and 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 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