



November 2023

Volume 3 Issue 11

### Commander's Corner



Fellow Patriots,

We had a busy month in with Veterans Day activities throughout the state. Thank you to all our members who dedicated the time and effort for Veterans Day.

We need your help.

We need an Americanism Officer. This needs to be staffed soon to coordinate the ROTC/JROTC leadership programs in the spring. The Department Sgt-at-Arms resigned due to health issues. This position has duties at the quarterly department executive committee meetings and the department convention. If interested in either let us know.

Please think about what we can do to improve the Order. All suggestions, remarks, comments & concerns can be sent to the Chapters or Department leadership.

The Commander's Call is every month on the Fourth Wednesday. The December meeting is cancelled. A member of the chapter command group must attend. Open to all members.

**Time: 06:30 PM Arizona Time, January 24, 2024**

Zoom Meeting ID: 842 2842 9701

Passcode: 879117 Dial in: 669 900 6833.

Yours in Patriotism,  
Keith Gray  
Commander

### Junior Vice-Commander



**December 7<sup>th</sup>, Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day:** This is the 82nd anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor. 3,500 Americans were casualties and the United States entered WWII. The attack created a

### Department Officers 2023/2024

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

Sr. Vice Cdr: Rodger Ely [juggy64@aol.com](mailto:juggy64@aol.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: Ron Capek [ronlucap@gmail.com](mailto:ronlucap@gmail.com)

Sgt-at-Arms: Jimi Sallmen **vacant position**

Inspector: **vacant position**

Judge Advocate: **vacant position**

Americanism Officer: **vacant position**

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

Legislative Liaison: Jim Muhr [jrmuhr@yahoo.com](mailto:jrmuhr@yahoo.com)

### Find Us Online

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

**Facebook:** [Department Facebook Page](#)

**National MOPH Website:** <https://national-moph.uc.r.appspot.com/#>

### Calendar

- Dec 7 – Pearl Harbor Day
- Dec 16 – Wreaths Across America
- Dec 25 – Christmas
- Dec 31 – New Year's Eve

### Department Adjutant



I hope everyone had a safe and enjoyable Thanksgiving Holiday season and are looking forward to the December-January Holidays. With 4200 different [religions](#) in the world, there are some that celebrate Christmas, and others who have their own wintertime celebrations. I think the Nov-Dec issue of the

tremendous show of grit and determination by our Nation. Our people united to do what was needed to defend liberty and America's "Greatest Generation" was born. We no longer have a member who served at Pearl Harbor and most of that generation is now gone but we are eternally grateful to them for their courage, perseverance, and sacrifice. Thank you to the "Greatest Generation". Take some time on December 7<sup>th</sup> to remember those who died at Pearl Harbor and those who fought to prevail in WWII.

**Wreaths Across America Dec 17<sup>th</sup>:** Our Chapters and Departments participate in and supports Wreaths Across America at several cemeteries throughout the state. Check with your chapter or find a local cemetery to help place wreaths on veterans' graves. You can find participating cemeteries at the [Wreaths Across America website](#).



**Happy Holidays** to all our Patriots, your families, and your loved ones. Be safe if travelling and we wish you peace, health, and prosperity in the New Year. Thank all of you for your hard work on behalf of the Order. We are honored to have members as dedicated as you are in supporting our mission.

John R. Moore  
Jr. Vice-Commander

[Purple Heart Magazine](#) helped to bring our different religions and ways of celebrating to everyone's attention. Regardless of your individual beliefs, please enjoy your celebrations with family and friends.

**The Department Challenge Coin fundraiser** has netted \$322 so far from sales to Chapters and when they are all sold, we'll have an additional \$1,100 in the Department account to help Veterans and Veteran Families in Arizona. The Chapters net \$10 for each coin they sell. I encourage all of us to buy at least one coin for ourselves and one more to give to some deserving person we know.

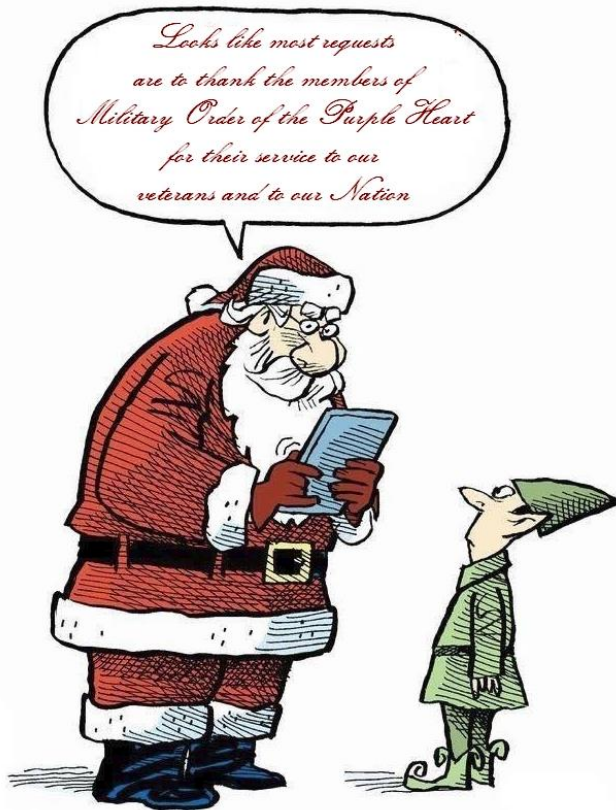


**Double the Donation Incentive:** If you haven't taken the time to read about the American Dreams Program Ambassador Program, I invite you to check out the last issue of the Purple Heart Magazine and visit the MOPH Fund website (<https://mophfund.org/ambassador>) to learn about the program. If you decide to become an Ambassador or give one to a friend or family member, the Department will double the donation so instead of \$25, a \$50 donation in your name will be made to the Chapter. Anyone, not just members of the Order, can become an Ambassador. Remember registration is a one-time cost and is good for as long as the homeowner owns the registered home.

**The next issue of The Purple Heart Magazine** will be published the first week of January 2024. Submit pictures and articles/stories of your Thanksgiving, Veterans Day, or any other remembrance, to [publications@purpleheart.org](mailto:publications@purpleheart.org) by December 15 to make sure they get included. View the [November/December](#) issue.

Larry Leighton,  
Department Adjutant





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



I don't have a clue as to where this year has gone. When you read this article, we'll only have a week before our last meeting of 2023 and less than 45 days until our first meeting of 2024!

As we look to the New Year, we must



remember to be thankful for what we have; to enjoy life to its fullest; and that no matter how bad we may feel at any given point, there are others who are worse off than we are. We all know

### Update Your Contact Information

Keep your snail mail address, phone & email address up to date. Go to the MOPH National website at <https://national-moph.uc.r.appspot.com/#>. You 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.

### The Purple Heart Hall of Honor



Add your story to the National Purple Heart Hall of Honor. Enroll at the url below:

<https://www.thepurpleheart.com/enrollment/>

### Fort Lowell Chapter 442 – Tucson, AZ



Fellow Patriots:

The chapter is again hosting bingo for the patients at the Tucson VA Hospital. The next Bingo session will be held on December 30<sup>th</sup>. Come join us in hosting Bingo.



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

The chapter donated \$2,400 to assist student veterans in need at Pima Community College during the holiday season.

We partnered with the Charlie Skuhr Memorial Golf Tournament on November 11. The tournament raised \$10,000.00 for the Tucson VA Hospital.

time is precious so we must do what we can to always look for the good in others.

Remember to notify Chaplain John Blehm (623-628-6330) if you are or anyone you know might be in distress due to personal or family issues.

I believe renewing our obligation to the Order and our fellow Brothers and Sisters is always appropriate but even more so at this time of year.

*"I, \_\_\_\_\_, do solemnly promise and declare that I will comply with all the laws, rules, and regulations of the Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A. I will never commit or permit any injustice or wrong to any Patriot of this Order or his family if it is in my power to prevent it. I will endeavor, always to aid any member of the Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A. his widow and orphans as much as is in my power to do so. I also promise to uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America and the Flag of our Country. All this I do solemnly promise upon the honor of a true Patriot and a loyal citizen of our great Republic."*

To all my Brothers and Sisters and their loved ones, I wish you a SAFE and HAPPY Holiday Season!

Yours in Patriotism,  
Larry Leighton Commander

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[commander691moph@gmail.com](mailto:commander691moph@gmail.com)

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

Jr. Vice-Cdr: Kenneth Burns  
[ameriken81@gmail.com](mailto:ameriken81@gmail.com)

Chaplain: John Blehm (623-628-6330)

Adjutant: Larry Leighton  
[commander691moph@gmail.com](mailto:commander691moph@gmail.com)

**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](#)

We presented one ROTC Leadership Award at the University of Arizona on November 28<sup>th</sup>.

In December we will visit the Arizona State Veterans Home Tucson on Christmas eve to visit residents and provide them with a gift bag.

Our next meeting will be on December 18<sup>th</sup>. Three Quilts of Valor will be presented at the December meeting.

Yours in Patriotism,  
Mike Dyer  
Commander

**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)

**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](#)

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



The chapter website is back online at a new web address. Visit <https://442.mophaz.org/> to view the new website. It looks nice and is easy to navigate. This QR code will take your phone or tablet to the new chapter website. Scan it with a phone/tablet's camera and then bookmark the website.

**Chapter Commander Mike Dyer** represented MOPH at the Pima Community College Veterans Day and Marine Corps Birthday celebration on November 10th. Pictured with Mike are the veterans outreach staff **Alissa McKaig** and **Rafael Rojas**. Pima College is a Purple Heart College.



**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.

It is with great sadness I report the passing



**Patriot Charles Kratzenberg** (1940 - 2023), Chapter 0691-AZ-6, US Army, Vietnam veteran. Patriot Kratzenberg joined the Order in 1984. Charles passed away on 15 Oct and he will be missed. Letters or cards of condolence may be sent

to 9718 W. Country Club Dr, Sun City, AZ 85373-1730. Please keep Charles' family in your thoughts and prayer. Funeral and memorial services will be private. View Patriot Kratzenberg's biography at <https://infantryocs1-66.com/3rd-platoon/charles-j-kratzenberg/>

**Patriot Eldon Meade, Chapter 0691-AZ-6**, led a group of vehicles from the **1st Lt. Frank Luke Jr. Memorial Museum** during the Phoenix Veterans Day Parade. He is standing by a "duck" owned by Hans Lauridsens.



**DUKW** (GMC type nomenclature, colloquially known as **Duck**), 2.5-ton six-wheel amphibious



**Chapter Commander Dyer** watches as the Marine Corps Birthday Cake is being cut by the oldest and youngest Marine in attendance.



**Patriot John Moore and Patriot Dave Bertagnoli** attended the Veterans Day Program at Innovation Academy Elementary in Oro Valley. We had a great experience. Parents and staff provided the veterans in attendance with a great breakfast. Slideshow in cafeteria with the veteran's photos. Then we talked to **Liz Gingrich's** 5th grade class. Liz's father received a Purple Heart during WWII. Great students, well behaved, and receptive.

truck used in World War II by the U.S. Army and Marine Corps. Its primary purpose was to ferry ammunition, supplies, and equipment from supply ships in transport areas offshore to supply dumps and fighting units at the beach.

DUKW is a manufacturer's code based on D indicating the model year, 1942; U referring to the body style, utility (amphibious); K for all-wheel drive; and W for dual rear axles. Called a "duck," the vehicle was shaped like a boat. It had a hollow airtight body for buoyancy and used a single propeller for forward momentum. It was designed according to Army criteria and was based on the Army's 2.5-ton truck. The vehicle was capable of carrying 25 soldiers and their equipment, an artillery piece, or 5,000 pounds (2,300 kg) of general cargo. At sea, the vehicle could maintain a speed of 5 knots (about 6 statute miles, or 9 km per hour), and on land it could go 50 miles (80 km) per hour.

The United States produced 20,000 DUKWs during World War II. Through lend-lease the British were provided with 2,000 of the trucks. The vehicle was first used in Operation Husky, the invasion of Sicily in 1943. In the Normandy Invasion of 1944, DUKWs were used by the infantry, engineers, rangers, artillery, and service support units. By ferrying weapons, troops, ammunition, and supplies to the beaches, they played a vital role in the overall success of the landing, though several vehicles sank, and many lives were lost because of the high seas and the overloading of vehicles. DUKWs were also successfully employed in the Pacific by both the Marine Corps and the Army. Many of the vehicles were later sold as war surplus and used by tourism companies in waterfront cities.

**The 30<sup>th</sup> Annual East Valley Massing of the Colors** will be held on Dec 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 A.M. at **Marcos de Niza high School**. The event is hosted by the **Military Order of the World Wars and Tempe Union High School JROTC**.

*See flyer below for details.*

**Photo of Patriot Moore, Ms. Gingrich, & Patriot Bertagnoli.**



**Pastor Lamar Lovett and Patriot John Moore** presented certificates of appreciation for military service to the thirteen members of Redeemed Life Bible Church who are veterans at the church's Veterans Day service on November 12th.





## Military Order of the World Wars (MOWW) & Tempe Union High School JROTC East Valley Massing of the Colors



**Event:** 30<sup>th</sup> Annual East Valley Massing of the Colors

**Date:** Thursday, 7 December 2023

**Time:** 7:30 A.M. Please be present by 7:15 A.M. Flag ceremony participants please be present by 7 A.M. The ceremony is approximately 45 minutes long.

**Location:** Marcos de Niza High School, Main Gym, 6000 South Lakeshore Drive, Tempe, AZ 85283

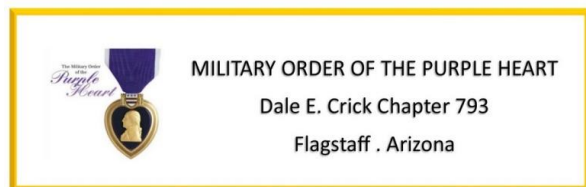
**Point of Contact:** COL (Ret) Jeanne Blaes, Acting Commander, Phoenix Chapter MOWW, blaesj@gmail.com, 602-377-8764. Flag ceremony participants please RSVP to POC NLT 5 Dec 2023.

**Parking:** Student Parking lot, corner of Guadalupe Road & Lakeshore Drive (see map)



*What is The Massing of the Colors? It is a patriotic ceremony held to rededicate our faith in the United States & demonstrates our support to our National Colors & the Servicemen/women those Colors represent.*

## 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](#)

**Next Meeting –** Contact Chapter

**Meeting time:** 12:30PM

**Meeting location:** VFW Post 1709

409 W Santa Fe Ave, Flagstaff, AZ 86001

**Meeting date:** Bi-monthly on 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday.

MOPH 793 participates in patriotic and welfare activities throughout Northern Arizona. The chapter proudly Supports Initiatives of the



The chapter had a unit in the Tucson Veterans Day Parade on November 10<sup>th</sup>. **Patriot John Moore, Patriot Dave Bertagnoli, Patriot John Grand, Patriot Jim Zimmerman** drove vehicles in the parade. **Patriot Cody Phipps** took photos. Great parade with wonderful community turnout.



Chapter 442 attend a Veterans Day celebration on Nov 11th at **Hoppy Vine (craft beer and food) in Oro Valley, AZ**. **Patriot Cody Phipps, Patriot John Grand** and **Patriot John Moore** presented the owner, **Martel Martinez**, a Purple Heart Certificate of Appreciation in honor of her father, Bob Maldonado, who was a 3-time recipient of the Purple Heart. Her business will be working with us on ways to support MOPH. If in Oro Valley this is a



Northern Arizona Veterans Stand downs  
(NAZVSD).

You Are Always Welcome to Join Us!

Roger Ely  
Commander

On Veterans Day Chapter 793 dedicated a monument to Purple Heart recipients. Commander **Roger Ely**, former chapter, department & region commander **Billy Weldon**, & Department Commander **Keith Gray** attended the dedication.



veteran friendly business and the only craft beer restaurant in Oro Valley.



### Chapter 472 –Mesa, AZ



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

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

Adjutant: Jason Duren [jason@cidercorpsaz.com](mailto:jason@cidercorpsaz.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



Cheers to [Cider Corps](#) on staying the course for SIX amazing years in **Downtown Mesa, Arizona**! We have so enjoyed watching owner ~ Cider Maker ~ wounded warrior, **Patriot Jason Duren** and owner **Josh Duren** grow their business and follow their motto: "Honor

Great Sacrifice, Drink Great Cider"! May you continue to go from success to success!

**Commander Pomush** cuts the Marine Corps Birthday Cake at Cider Corps on Veterans Day.



## Chapter 2560 – Apache Junction, AZ



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

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

**Meeting time:** 10:00 AM

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

**Wreaths Across America:** On December 16<sup>th</sup>, we will be having a ceremony at the Mountain



View Cemetery 7900 E. Main Street, Mesa, AZ 85207.

This will be our 3rd year of honoring Veteran's graves in the East Valley! We have a special program which will start exactly at 9:30am sharp! The AJHS JROTC will be presenting the colors, Rev

Phil Erickson with the VFW Post 7968, Debbie Kent will be singing our National Anthem, Special music by the Mesa Fire and Medical Dept Pipes & Drums; and we have a fantastic dual trumpeter, Ailish Murphy and Rodrigo Moreno students of the AJ High School Marching Band will perform. Our Keynote speaker will be Command Sergeant Major Rick Kreiberg (ret) and founder of the Veterans Affinity. Mrs. Hickman 6<sup>th</sup> graders from Patterson Elementary School will assist in honoring the branches of services. Then at 10:00am we will start laying wreaths at each Veteran's grave. A Special Thank you to all who for the third year in a row have stepped up to help sponsor a wreath. Our major sponsors are American First, Crescent Crown, Guild Mortgage, Pima/Maricopa Indian Community, **Military Order of the Purple Heart Chapter 2560**, Mountain View Cemetery and Texas RoadHouse. If you would like to come out to help on Friday to remove the wreaths from the boxes or on Saturday to attend



## The Purple Heart Fund



*Sacrifice is our badge of honor. Service is our way of life.*

**The MOPH Fund, Inc., ("the Fund")** a 501.c.3 non-profit public charity, is separate and not subordinate to the Military Order of the Purple Heart. The Fund Inc. is the official fundraising arm of the Military Order of the Purple Heart (the Order). Our sole purpose is to raise funds for programs executed by the Military Order of the Purple Heart.



We in the Fund hope the Order's members and associate members will embrace the Fund's

the ceremony as well as help decorate a veteran's grave, please call Nancy Fassbender at 520-280-4715. Please bring a lawn chair for the ceremony and gloves to handle the live Wreaths.

**We are still short of some wreaths.** If anyone would like to help sponsor a wreath for \$17 each, please go to [www.wreathscrossamerica.org/AZ0190P](http://www.wreathscrossamerica.org/AZ0190P) or contact Military Order of the Purple Heart #2560, VFW 7968 or 9399; Daughters of the American Revolution or Army Aviation Heritage Foundation. Our mission is to cover all the Veterans who are interred at Mountain View Cemetery. Any questions, please call Nancy at 520-280-4715.



## WREATHS *across* AMERICA

National Remembrance Day  
Community is Invited!

**Saturday, December 16, 2023 at 9:30am**  
**Mountain View Funeral Home & Cemetery**  
7900 E. Main St., Mesa, AZ 85207

Please scan the QR Code below to sponsor or to volunteer—you can also visit:  
[www.wreathscrossamerica.org/AZ0190P](http://www.wreathscrossamerica.org/AZ0190P)

**THANKS TO OUR 2023 Sponsors**





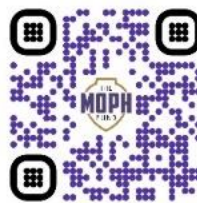
Wreaths Across America gives back \$5.00 or every wreath sold to support local Veterans in our community!

Make checks payable to "Wreaths Across America" and mail to  
4657 S. Desert Dawn Dr.,  
Gold Canyon, AZ 85118

**Did you know?**  
Worcester Wreath Co. makes 90,000 wreaths per day for 52 days to supply WAA!



programs to raise funds for CHAPTER and National Headquarters programs.



To learn about the specific Fund's fundraising projects currently available, simply click on the logo above or scan the QR Code.



If you have any questions about the Fund or the Fund's fundraising projects, please contact me.

Larry Leighton  
Treasurer, MOPH Fund, Inc.

[treasurer@mophfund.org](mailto:treasurer@mophfund.org)  
844-MOPHFUND (667-4386)

### Purple Heart License Plates

**HB 2062 Vehicle license tax exemption for PH veterans:** Many of our members are still not aware of this benefit.



On registration of a vehicle, if the veteran submits satisfactory proof to ADOT that the person is a veteran and a bona fide Purple Heart medal recipient and was honorably discharged vehicle registration tax fee is waived. Can only be used on one vehicle. Specialty plate and personalization fees still apply.

### Private School Tax Credit

**Patriot Joe Kobes'** son Hudson is a sophomore at Brophy College Preparatory High School in Phoenix. If you are so inclined to support this program and could use another tax break on your AZ taxes, you can contribute on Hudson's website for the tax donations:  
<https://action.ibescholarships.org/SIXD8Q>.

If you know of any other student with a relationship to the **Arizona Military Order of the Purple Heart**, We will gladly distribute the same information for them. For any private school Arizonans can allocate a tax credit to a student at a private school, and it will cost them nothing. It's a terrific program in Arizona. This is the IRS tax code covering it. <https://azdor.gov/tax->



## Department Purple Heart Brick Program

Order a 4"x8" Purple Heart Brick to be Placed at Wesley Bolin Plaza at the state capitol to commemorate being a Purple Heart recipient or to 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 BRICK ORDER FORM](#)

## Purple Heart Combat Wounded Veterans of AZ

The Purple Heart Combat Wounded Veterans of Arizona is our department 501c3 entity. If for tax purposes, you or a donor is required to donate to a 501c3 use our online portal to make your donation.



Funds designated for a chapter will go in their entirety to the chapter. Use the "Add/Write NOTE" field to specify the purpose of your donation. Thank you in advance for supporting Veterans! **Donate**

Online: [Donations Appreciated](#)



[credits/credits-contributions-certified-school-tuition-organizations](#)

## Whitehouse VA Hotline

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

## Purple Heart Scholarships



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

## Pet of the Month

The Pet of the Month is Sir Nicholas Leighton. Nicholas is an 11-year-old Pekingese. He is owned by **Patriot Larry Leighton**, our Department Adjutant. Send your pet's photo to us and we will select one as the pet of the month.



*let's get the party started*

## The Million Veteran Program

Join the Million Veteran Program is on a mission to redefine the future of healthcare, and we need YOU to be a part of this monumental journey. MVP is assembling a community of over 1,000,000 Veterans to uncover how genes, lifestyles, military experiences, and exposures impact our health and wellness. Help revolutionize medicine and enhance the lives of Veterans worldwide. Join here:

<https://www.mvp.va.gov/pwa/>

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## Arizona Veterans Survey

**2023 Arizona Veteran Survey** gives Arizona's military and veteran community a voice.

### **WHO CAN PARTICIPATE**

The survey is open to all:

*Service Members*

*Veterans*

*Family Members*

*Providers*

*Community Supporters*

*Participants must be ages 18 and older*

### **TIME**

The survey is open from September 30, 2023 – February 29, 2024. The survey will likely take you 20 minutes. Once you start, you must complete the survey in one sitting. It is very important to finish the survey if you can.

**IMPORTANT:** Only use the Next and Prev buttons at the bottom of the page to move through the survey, not the forward and back arrows in your browser. There are only a few required questions throughout the survey, all other questions are optional, and your responses are anonymous. If you have questions, please contact the survey team at:

[survey@arizonacoalition.org](mailto:survey@arizonacoalition.org)

### **CONNECT TO SUPPORT**

It is possible that some of the questions may be triggers for some people. If you need support at any time, you can call the National Veterans Crisis Line at 988 (Option 1) or if you need connection to resources, contact Arizona's Be Connected Support Line at 1-866-4AZ-VETS (429-8387).

The Arizona Veteran Survey is a project of Arizona State University College of Health Solutions and Arizona Coalition for Military



Nicholas and Larry

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## Vehicle of the Month

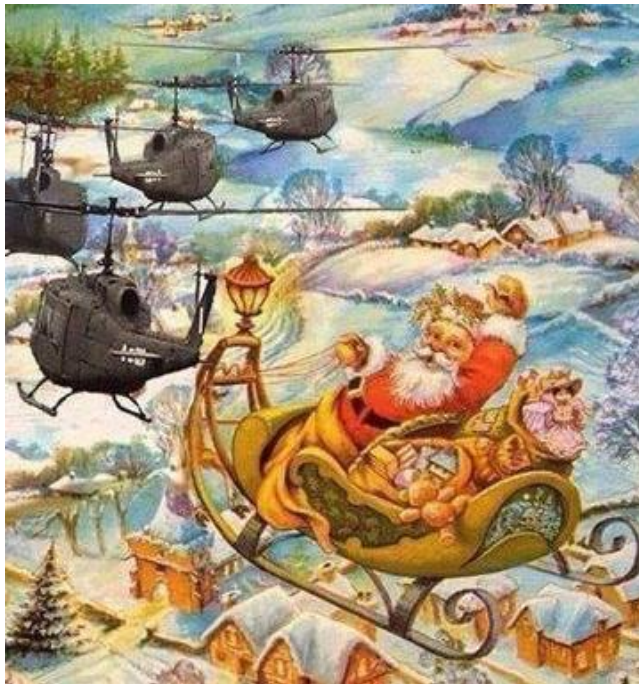
Send photos to us and we will select one as the vehicle of the month. This is **Patriot Dave Bertagnoli's** wife's 2010 Lexus IS retractable hardtop convertible. The car is nicknamed Ruby. David's wife **Cherie Stallman** is pictured with the car.





Families, on behalf of our public and private sector partners. For full details on the purpose of the survey, how the information will be used, and to take the survey please visit:

[www.ConnectVeterans.org/survey](http://www.ConnectVeterans.org/survey)



### Operations Order: 12-23-23

#### Subject: Christmas

1. An official visit by General Santa (NMI) Claus is expected at this headquarters on 25 December 2023. The following instructions will be in effect and govern the activities of all personnel during the visit.

a. Not a creature will stir without official permission. This will include indigenous mice. Special stirring permits for necessary administrative actions will be obtained through normal channels. Mice stirring permits will be obtained through the Office of the Surgeon General, Veterinary Services.

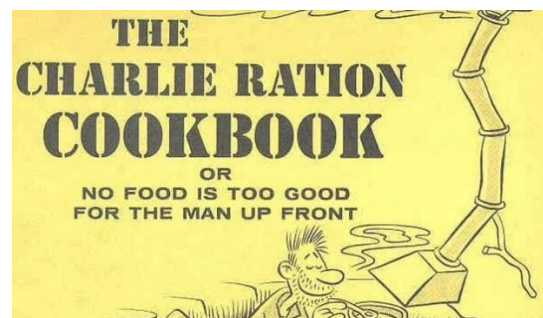
b. Personnel will settle their brains for a long winter nap prior to 2200 hours, 24 December 2023. Uniform for the nap will be Pajamas, cotton, light, drowsing, with kerchief, general purpose, camouflage; and Cap, camouflage w/ear flaps. Equipment will be drawn from CIF prior to 1900 hours, 24 December 2023.

c. Personnel will utilize standard field ration sugar plums for visions to dance through their



### Recipe of the Month

This month's recipe is a "blast from the past". This is a recipe from the **Charlie Ration Cookbook**. If you can get your hands on some C Rations, try Foxhole Dinner for two.



#### FOX HOLE DINNER FOR TWO (Turkey and Chicken Poulette)

Two spoons butter or oil or fat  
Two spoons flour  
\*One can chicken and noodles  
\*One can turkey loaf, cut up into pieces  
Three dashes TABASCO pepper sauce  
\*Salt and pepper to taste  
\*One can cheese spread  
\*12 spoons milk  
\*Crackers from one C-Ration can, crumbled

No one likes to dine alone, and this recipe is ideal to combine a variety of C-Ration Units.

Melt butter or oil or fat, add flour and stir until smooth, Add milk and continue to cook until sauce begins to thicken. Add cheese spread and cook until cheese melts and sauce is even. Empty cans of turkey loaf and chicken noodles into the cheese sauce. Season with Tabasco, salt and pepper to taste and continue cooking. Cover poulette with crumbled crackers and serve piping hot.  
\* This is from your Basic C-Ration

heads. Artificially sweetened plums are authorized for those in their unit weight control program. Specifications for this item will be provided by the servicing dining facility.

d. Stockings, wool, cushion sole, will be hung by the chimney with care. Necessary safety precautions will be taken to avoid fire hazards caused by carelessly hung stockings. Unit Safety Officers will submit stocking hanging plans to this headquarters prior to 0800 hours, 23 December 2023, ATTN: G4, for approval.

e. At the first sign of clatter from the lawn, all troops will spring from their beds to evaluate noise and cause. Immediate action will be taken to tear open the shutters and throw open the window sashes. G4 Plan (Saint Nick), Reference LO No. 3, paragraph 6c, this headquarters, 2 February 2009, will be in effect to facilitate shutter tearing and sash throwing. Division chiefs will familiarize all personnel with procedures and are responsible for ensuring that no shutters are torn open, or window sashes thrown open prior to start of official clatter.

f. Prior to 2400 hrs., 24 December 2023, all personnel will be assigned "Wondering Eye" stations. After shutters are thrown open and sashes are torn, these stations will be manned.

g. The G4 will assign one each Sleigh, miniature, M-66, and eight deer, rein, tiny, for use of General Claus' driver who, IAW current directives and other applicable regulations, must have a valid SF 56 properly annotated by Driver Testing; be authorized rooftop parking and be able to shout "On Dasher, on Dancer, on Prancer and Vixen, up Comet, up Cupid, on Donner and Blitzen".

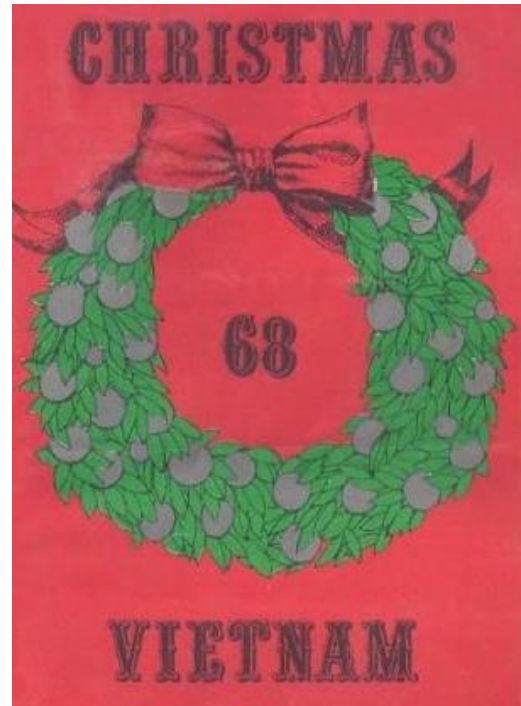
2. General Claus will enter quarters through standard chimneys. All units without chimneys will draw Chimney Simulator, M-6, for use during ceremonies. Chimney simulators will be requested on Engineer Job Order Request Form submitted to the Furniture Warehouse prior to 23 December 2023, and issued on DA Form 3161, Request for Issue or Turn-in.

3. Personnel will be rehearsed on shouting "Merry Christmas to all and to all a good night." This shout will be given at the end of General Claus' visit. Uniformity of shouting is the responsibility of division chiefs.

CHRISTOPHER K. KRINGLE  
Colonel, USA  
OIC, Special Services

## From a Christmas Past

The Army's Christmas meal menu for 1968 in Vietnam if you were fortunate to be in a place where it was served or if they were able to get it out to you.



Christmas Day Dinner		
1968		
Shrimp Cocktail		
Crockers		
Roast Turkey	Turkey Gravy	
Cornbread Dressing	Cranberry Sauce	
Mashed Potatoes		
Glazed Sweet Potatoes		
Buttered Mixed Vegetables or Buttered Peas		
Assorted Crisp Relishes	Hot Rolls with Butter	
Fruit Cake		
Mince-meat Pie APPLE PIE		
Pumpkin Pie with Whipped Topping		
Assorted Nuts	Assorted Candy	
Assorted Fresh Fruits		
Ice Tea with Lemon	ORANGES	Milk
BEER	APPLES	CORNS
	GRAPES	COFFEE
	BANANAS	

menu courtesy *Patriot John Moore*



## Buddy Check!

Amidst the holiday hustle, let's not forget to check on our buddies, friends and family. This season, more than ever, a simple 'How are you?' can make all the difference. Let's spread warmth and care and remind people, they are not alone!



## 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 15<sup>th</sup> of each month.

John R. Moore  
Jr. Vice-Commander



meal photo courtesy Patriot Henry Erber

## Camp Corral

MOPH supports Camp Corral. Camp Corral has announced the 2024 Summer Camp dates. The Arizona camp is 9 to 14 June at The Triangle Y Camp in Oracle, AZ. Chapter 442 MOPH helps support the local Camp Corral. Help send the child of a veteran or military member who is in need of camp.

Applications to attend camp open on January 17th. Go to [www.campcorral.org](http://www.campcorral.org) for more info.

**2024 Summer Camp DATES & LOCATIONS**

Find out how we're more than a camp.

Applications for 2024 Summer Camp open **January 17, 2024!** Keep this card as a handy reminder OR pass it along to a military-connected family who would benefit from Camp Corral's programs.

APPLICATION DATE  
**January 17, 2024**

**\*CAMP CORRAL\***

Strengthening America's military families one child at a time...

Find more information at  
**[www.campcorral.org](http://www.campcorral.org)**

Combined Federal Campaign #84788