



December 2023

Volume 3 Issue 12

### Commander's Corner



Fellow Patriots,  
We had a busy year. First, I want to thank each of you for your support in our mission and our activities. Without you we would not be able to accomplish all that we did this past

year.

In the past year we welcomed the Leupp Community of the Navajo Nation as a Purple Heart Community. We had members present JROTC/ROTC awards in over 70 high schools around the state. We supported stand-downs in Northern, Central, and Southern Arizona. Members who attended our convention in April were trained in suicide prevention. Chapter 793 was the Chapter of the Year. Patriot John Grand of chapter 442 was Patriot of the Year. John was also the Arizona representative on the Purple Heart Honor Mission. We helped fund the 1<sup>st</sup> Robert J. Puskar Veterans' Scholarship awarded in May. We provided funding for the Casitas for the Homeless project in Phoenix. The commander and senior vice-commander attended the national convention. Our members participated in Memorial Day and Veterans Day activities throughout the state. We supported the Missing in America Project and Wreaths Across America. So again, thank you for all you do.

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

### 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 [ronluccap@gmail.com](mailto:ronluccap@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

- Jan 1 – New Years Day
- Jan 15– Martin Luther King Day
- Jan 24 – Department Commander's Call

### Department Adjutant



**Happy, Safe, and Healthy New Year!** As we look back on 2023, I hope you remember is the same way I do – “we had more good days than bad days” and look forward to doing evedrything in your power to make 2024 an even better year for your family, your friends, and even more importantly, for yourself. I recently became acquainted with the **Veterans Affinity**

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## Junior Vice-Commander



As Department Jr Vice-Commander, I had the honor to present **Patriot Walter Ram** with a Department Certificate of Appreciation in recognition of his 100th Birthday. Walter was a B17 crewman who was shot

down twice and was a prisoner of war in Stalag 17b for two years. Walter's certificate reads, *"Please accept our warmest regards on your 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. As a Purple Heart recipient you are part of an extraordinary generation that guided America through the crisis of World War Two. Our entire nation can be proud of your sacrifice as a Prisoner of War & when you were wounded while serving in the European Theater. You and your family can reflect with pride on the memories you have made and the lives you have touched."*



**Thank you to all our Patriots**, their families, and our community members who participated in **Wreaths Across America** by either purchasing wreaths or helping to place wreaths on veteran's gravesites at various cemeteries around the state. Thank all of you for your participation 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

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organization (<https://veteransaffinity.org/>). They, like us, are a non-profit organization. Their mission is to assist senior Veterans get the CARE they need and the BENEFITS they have earned. **Every third Friday of the month, Veterans Affinity meet at the Arizona State Veterans Home – Phoenix (4141 S Herrera Wy, Phoenix, AZ 85012)** to serve coffee, donuts, and camaraderie with the Veterans living there who can join us. Some of us already make similar visits to Veterans around the State but if you are looking for another opportunity, join us for an hour or so at 0945 one of those third Fridays.

**Double the Donation Incentive:** We have all been bombarded with advertisements these last couple of weeks to "make a difference." In my opinion, every one of them represents great causes and they all need help. Our Order needs help also, even though we don't have fancy advertising campaigns or nationally known spokespersons. Our National programs are mostly accomplished at the grass roots level – individual members and Chapters.

The American Dreams Program (<https://mophfund.org/ambassador>) is currently the Order's primary nationwide fundraising program. Homeowners can become Ambassadors at the \$100 level getting access deep discounts at national companies specializing in products to refresh or remodel homes. In many, but not all cases, the discounts are even more than we get as Veterans. Ambassador registrations can be gifted to ANY homeowner and ANY homeowner can become an Ambassador. Out of each registration, \$50 will be donated to our National programs and \$25 will be donated to the Chapter designated during registration. This program **could generate \$1,500 for each Chapter** if they recruit only five (5) new Ambassadors each month for one year. Remember, ANY homeowner can become an Ambassador.

**Throughout January, the Department will double the donations to our Chapters.**

**Purple Heart Magazine:** The next issue of The Purple Heart Magazine will be published the first week of March. Submit pictures and articles/stories to [publications@purpleheart.org](mailto:publications@purpleheart.org) by February 15 to make sure they get included. If you have a business or hobby that generates things to sell and would like to advertise in the Magazine, see the Jan-Feb issue for details about FREE advertising in **The Patriot Marketplace.**

**Patriot Nick Gervase Funeral Service:** Services were held at the National Memorial Cemetery of Arizona on December 22<sup>nd</sup>. Several members of the



### 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.

### Department Challenge Coins

Coins are available from the Chapters. The Chapters net \$10 for each coin they sell. Get one while supplies last.



### Fort Lowell Chapter 442 – Tucson, AZ



Fellow Patriots:

The chapter hosts bingo each month for the patients at the Tucson VA Hospital. The next Bingo session will be held on January 27<sup>th</sup>. Come join us in hosting Bingo. In December, we provided \$250 of food for homeless veterans housed at the Esperanza En Escalante Project.



The chapter purchased wreaths to be placed at four cemeteries in Tucson and Marana. Chapter members helped place wreaths on December 16<sup>th</sup> on Wreaths Across America Day.

Department and the Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame Society attended along with family and friends. Patriot Ron Capek, along with Society

*President Pat Upah presented Nick's wife and daughter with a framed Arizona Flag from the Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame Society.*



Larry Leighton,  
Department Adjutant

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



I hope everyone is still enjoying their holiday season and looking forward to a SAFE, Happy, and Healthful New Year! While you are “running” through this year, don’t forget to take time out for your family and yourself. Remember, “burning the candle at both ends” cuts the life of the candle in half!



attend.

**Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day, December 7<sup>th</sup>:** This year the Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day committee moved the ceremony to Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup> at the Bolin Plaza Amphitheater (vicinity of the Arizona memorial) hoping more attendees would be able to

We visited the Arizona State Veterans Home Tucson on Christmas eve to visit residents and staff and provide them with a gift bag each.

We provided \$400 in assistance to help a student veteran at Pima College with enrollment expenses for the next term. Pima College is a Purple Heart College.

Our next meeting will be on January 15th. Three Quilts of Valor will be presented at the January meeting.

**Patriot Dave Bertagnoli** has had some health issues and is in the Tucson VA hospital. Please keep him in your thoughts and prayers.

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/> 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.

The VA requested that we cancel bingo this month at the VA Hospital. So, no Bingo in

*Commander Leighton presented the Chapter Wreath and Patriot Ian Parkinson, Chapter 0472-AZ-6, was the guest speaker.*



**Veterans Affinity** founder, CSM (Retired) Rick Kreiberg will be our guest speaker at our **January 13<sup>th</sup> meeting**. I hope you can attend and learn more about this great non-profit organization that focuses on older veterans and the help and care they need.

**Wickenburg Gold Rush Days (Feb 8-10):** We will have a fundraising display and event during the Gold Rush Days. If you can help, even for a few hours, contact Senior Vice Commander Jim Starkman (email: [jimstark49@gmail.com](mailto:jimstark49@gmail.com) or 708-638-2321)

**Jerry "Geronimo"**

**Martin**, great, great, grandson of the Apache Warrior Geronimo, will be our guest speaker at the Chapter's Annual George Washington Birthday Luncheon will be Saturday, February 17, 2024, at the



Palmbrook Country Club (9350 W. Greenway Road, Sun City, AZ 85351) from 11:00 am---2:00 pm (Lunch Served about 11:40). **EVERYONE, not just Chapter 691**, is invited and encouraged to attend and bring guests. Email or call **Patriot Bob Metzger** (Email: [bobmet@cox.net](mailto:bobmet@cox.net); Phone: 602-228-6520) with your reservation before Feb 1<sup>st</sup> so we have a good headcount for food. The George Washington Luncheon is open to all **with a reservation**. Reservation form is below:



December. They have a lot of activities for patients around the holidays. Next time we host bingo will be on January 27th.

Chapter 442 made our annual Christmas visit to the **Arizona State Veterans Home Tucson**. We provided 300 Christmas gift bags to the home for the residents and the staff. Thank you to the ladies of the Bridge Christian Church who assembled the gift bags. Thank you to **Patriot John Moore, Patriot John Grand, Patriot Bob Franke, Patriot Jim Zimmerman, Joey Zimmerman, Patriot Danny Lemon, Patriot Fred Lohman, Patriot Cody Phipps, and Sam Phipps** who helped transport and present the gift bags to the residents.

*Residents were thrilled with the visit.*



*Patriot Cody Phipps and son Sam give gift bag to WWII veteran.*



**ANNUAL GEORGE WASHINGTON LUNCHEON**

Saturday, February 17, 2024  
Palmbrook Country Club  
9350 W. Greenway Road  
Sun City, AZ 85351  
11:00 am—2:00 pm (Lunch Served about 11:40)

**Menu**  
Your choice of Pot Roast or Chicken Piccata, with Mashed Potatoes, Tossed Salad, Mixed Vegetables and Rainbow Sherbet w/Cookie Dessert

**Meal Cost \$20.00 each person (Cash Bar)**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Lunch Choice</u>
_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Pot Roast <input type="checkbox"/> Chicken
_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Pot Roast <input type="checkbox"/> Chicken
_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Pot Roast <input type="checkbox"/> Chicken
_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Pot Roast <input type="checkbox"/> Chicken
_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Pot Roast <input type="checkbox"/> Chicken
_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Pot Roast <input type="checkbox"/> Chicken

(If your party has more names to add, please place on back of page and be sure to indicate choice. Guests are welcome)

Mail completed page with check **make out to MOPH Chapter 691**  
Mail check to:  
Bob Metzger  
10015 W. Sandstone Dr.  
Sun City, AZ 85351-1952  
Email: bobmetz@cox.net  
Phone: 602-228-6520

**OR**

Bring completed page with check to any meeting and give to Bob, or send email or text with your name, guest name(s) and meal choice. You can pay at door the day of the luncheon.

This reservation **must** be in Patriot Metzger's hands **no later than Thursday, Feb. 1st, 2024** so coordination of members attending can be made with Palmbrook. Your cooperation is appreciated!! **(Don't forget to bring raffle items and/or silent auction items! You can purchase raffle tickets at the door for \$1.00 each, 6 for \$5 or 25 for \$20).**

Guest Speaker: Jerry "Geronimo" Martin, Great, Great Grandson of Apache Warrior Geronimo, Combat Decorated Vietnam Veteran who served with the 9<sup>th</sup> Marines (1/9), Contributing Author, and Indigenous Historical Public Speaker. Jerry will share actual stories that were passed on from his family about his legendary ancestor.

**Volunteers are still needed to make “Find A Buddy,” or “Buddy Checks”** as some call it, calls. Members move, change email, or phone numbers and in the process, forget to update their profiles. If you'd like to help increase camaraderie amongst our members, let me know (623-776-5443) and we can talk about how we can work together on this project.

Cdr: Larry Leighton  
[commander691moph@gmail.com](mailto:commander691moph@gmail.com)  
Sr. Vice-Cdr: James Starkman  
[karen4357@att.net](mailto:karen4357@att.net)  
Jr. Vice-Cdr: 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](#)

*300 gift bags were taken to the home.*



*Patriot Jim Zimmerman visits with female veteran at the home. The visit gave her a big smile.*



Fort Lowell Chapter 442 members helped place wreaths at local cemeteries for **Wreaths Across America** on December 16th. **Commander Mike Dyer, Rosie Dyer, Patriot John Moore, Patriot Jim Zimmerman & Joey Zimmerman** were at Evergreen Cemetery helping to place 2,800 wreaths. **Patriot Roy Woolard & Patriot Bob Franke** were at Marana Memorial Veterans Cemetery. Community turnout was excellent at both cemeteries.

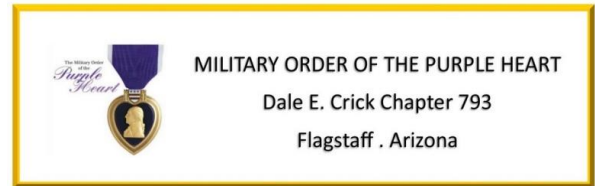
*Marana Veterans Memorial Cemetery*



**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.

Yours in Patriotism,  
Larry Leighton Commander

### 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 Northern Arizona Veterans Stand downs (NAZVSD).

You Are Always Welcome to Join Us!

Roger Ely  
Commander

Chapter members **Patriot Roger Ely** and **Patriot Billy Weldon** were presented with a Quilt of Valor along with veteran **John Davison** at the Sedona Area Veteran & Community Outreach awards meeting. We presented a Purple Heart City plaque, welcome signs and Purple Heart recipient parking signs to the community.



*Commander Mike Dyer gives Benediction at Evergreen Cemetery.*



*Department Jr Vice-commander John Moore places a wreath at Evergreen Cemetery*



*Patriot Jim Zimmerman & Joey Zimmerman placed wreaths at Evergreen Cemetery*



### 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



**Patriot Jason Duren, Patriot Jim Pomus** and veteran friendly business [Cider Corps](http://CiderCorps.com) supported the Mesa Hohokam's fundraiser at Longbow Golf Course on December 8<sup>th</sup>. The Mesa Hohokam Foundation



*Patriot Dave Bertagnoli is recovering from some health issues at the Tucson VA hospital. Dave and his wife wish all a Happy New Year.*



### **A Thank You Letter from a Grateful Veteran**

To the Order of the Purple Heart.

I am writing this letter in response to the kindness of your help with the payment of my debt to Pima Community College. There are no words to tell your organization how much this means to me. I have tried my hardest to try to move forward with the payment. It has been severely hard for me to try to make the payment while taking care of my mother, who is suffering from Multiple Sclerosis, at the age of 63. During this time, I have been working on my own internal issues that I did not know existed. Since 2013 I have been seeking help from the SAVAHCS hospital to address those issues. I have been able to work through those issues, and I am now able to pay it forward in an employment ability to help show my gratitude in showing other people, veterans, homeless, and under-employed persons seek shelter, work skills, and help to facilitate resources to get items to let them get the help on gaining showers, food items, medical attention, knowledge on resources on how to gain shelters, as well as legal counsel. I can

provides support to a variety of youth sports activities throughout the greater East Valley. Because of the effort of the Mesa Hohokam members, the foundation has donated over 5 million dollars to many East Valley youth sports organizations.

*Patriot Pomush, Patriot Duran, & Cider Corps Employees*



*Patriot Jason Duran*



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**Veterans  
Crisis Line**  
DIAL 988 then **PRESS 1**

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never thank you enough for how you have saved my knowledge and ability in my school endeavor, thank you from the bottom of my heart. This will allow me to provide support and stability for my family for decades to come.

David C.

### 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 has found a sponsor to match any contribution for the 2024 Remembrance Day. **This offer is only good through January 16, 2023!** Nancy Fassbender and Chapter 2560-AZ-6 will honor the Veterans interned at Mountain View Cemetery in Mesa, AZ during **Wreaths Across America Day 2024**. If you want to support Chapter 2560-AZ-6, please make your checks payable to Wreaths Across America; and send to %Nancy Fassbender 4657 S Desert Dawn Dr. Gold Canyon, AZ 85118, or you can directly sponsor wreaths online:  
[www.wreathsassamerica.org/az0190P](http://www.wreathsassamerica.org/az0190P).

### Iwo Jima Flag Raising Sacaton



### The Purple Heart Hall of Honor



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

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

### The Purple Heart Fund

**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.



*Patriot Mike Overmeyer & student helper place wreath.*



*Judy Overmeyer and chapter banner at Mountain View Cemetery in Mesa, AZ*



**Wreaths Across America: Exciting News:** Wreaths Across America has found a sponsor to match our sales for the 2024 Wreaths Across America Remembrance Day! If you know of any sponsors who would like to donate for next December, now is the time to let them know if they sponsor early, **(December 16, 2023 thru January 16, 2024)** ... **Their sponsorship will double!** That will help us a lot to get our 2,015+ interred Veterans! It was tough going this year. Here is their announcement: **Starting on National Wreaths Across America Day, Saturday, Dec. 16, 2023, and running through Tuesday, Jan. 16, 2024** - all wreaths sponsored through a *registered* WAA Sponsorship Group will be matched by HQ for placement on next

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

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### 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.



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### 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



year's National Wreaths Across America Day - Saturday, Dec. 14, 2024!

### IMPORTANT NOTES:

- This is only for veterans' wreaths sponsored through a registered WAA Sponsorship Group - so if you are a 3-for-2 group, you will only get the paid wreaths matched, not the third free wreath. For \$5 back groups, you will not get the \$5 back on the free matched wreath. And of course, regular no plan group sponsorships will be matched as well!
- The match will only be honored on checks dated and mail postmarked during the 12/16/23-1/16/24 timeframe. If checks are submitted outside this timeframe, the wreaths will not be matched.

This is Fantastic News!!! If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me. **Nancy Fassbender**, Veteran & Board Member 2020 Inductee of Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame; Wreaths Across America Location Coordinator; **Honorary Member of the Military Order of the Purple Heart Chapter 2560**. Honorary Member of the American ex-POWs East Valley Chapter 2022; AJ Chamber of Commerce Community Cup Recipient 2023; Daughters of the American Revolution Community State Service Award. Phone: 520-280-4715



nothing. It's a terrific program in Arizona. This is the IRS tax code covering it. <https://azdor.gov/tax-credits/credits-contributions-certified-school-tuition-organizations>

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### 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.

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### Purple Heart Scholarships



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

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### Vehicle of the Month

Send photos of your classic car, hot rod, rat rod, motorcycle to us and we will select one as the vehicle of the month. This is **Patriot Johnny Thompson's 1950 Bentley MK VI Prototype**. It has been an award winner in its class in several classic car shows.



## 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](#)



## 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:

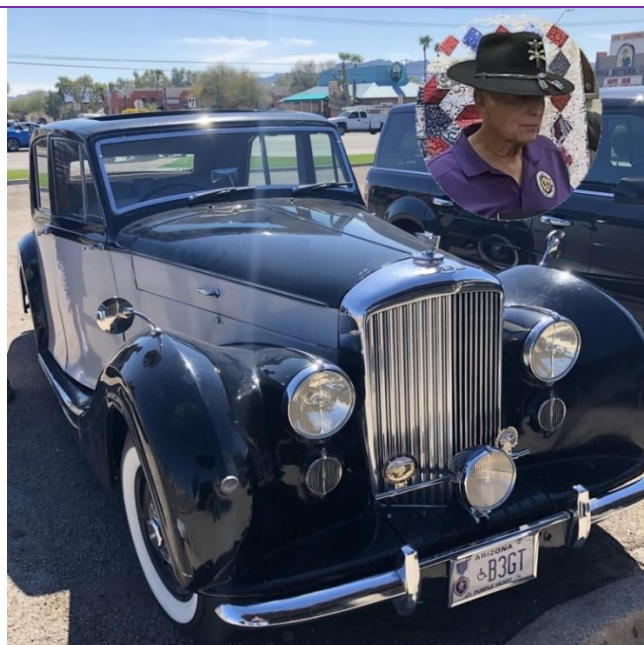
<https://www.mvp.va.gov/pwa/>

## 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:



## Recipe of the Month



**Smoked Turkey by Department Commander Keith Gray** (reprinted from the November 2020 Newsletter.

### **Ingredients**

- Turkey (15lbs or less)

- Spices to taste
- Smoker (electric, charcoal, gas, pellet)
- Wood Chips (prefer apple, cherry or hickory for turkey)
- Meat thermometer.

### Directions

1. Preheat smoker to 225 (F)
2. Prepare turkey how you normally would for roasting.
3. Place in smoker once prepared and seasoned to taste.
4. Smoke for 27 min per pound or until internal temperature of 165 or greater

Note:

I use a sweet glaze which makes the skin darken.

1/8 cup molasses

1/8 cup brown sugar

1/4 cup honey

I also make cuts in skin and place slices of butter under the skin to help keep it moist during smoking



*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 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)



### **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

process and it allows for some of the glaze to get directly on the meat.

Enjoy!

### **Pet of the Month**

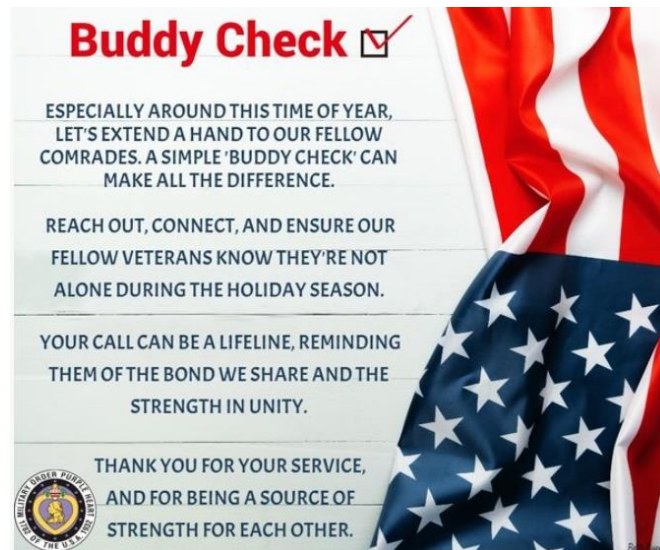
The Pet of the Month is **Frida**. Frida is an Australian Sheep Dog and Border Collie mix. She will be 12 on Valentines Day. She is owned by **Patriot Frank Giroux**, former Department Americanism Officer, and member of chapter 442. Frida is a service dog and accompanies Frank everywhere. She will lay patiently on the floor during an entire chapter or department meeting. Send your pet's photo to us and we will select one as the pet of the month.



### **Bills in Congress**

S.1975, the Discharge Review Board Accountability Act of 2023 would require a study

all the difference. Let's spread warmth and care and remind people, they are not alone!




**Buddy Check** ☒

ESPECIALLY AROUND THIS TIME OF YEAR, LET'S EXTEND A HAND TO OUR FELLOW COMRADES. A SIMPLE 'BUDDY CHECK' CAN MAKE ALL THE DIFFERENCE.

REACH OUT, CONNECT, AND ENSURE OUR FELLOW VETERANS KNOW THEY'RE NOT ALONE DURING THE HOLIDAY SEASON.

YOUR CALL CAN BE A LIFELINE, REMINDING THEM OF THE BOND WE SHARE AND THE STRENGTH IN UNITY.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE, AND FOR BEING A SOURCE OF STRENGTH FOR EACH OTHER.



## 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



on the compliance of military discharge review boards to follow statutory requirements related to the liberal consideration standards in the review of discharge status and requests for correction of military records based on mental health conditions to include post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), sexual assault or sexual harassment. This legislation calls for a more liberal review of other than honorable (OTH) military discharges for the purpose of eligibility for Department of Veterans Affairs benefits and services in cases where veterans may have been suffering with PTSD, traumatic brain injury, or experienced military sexual trauma or harassment. Urge your senator to support this legislation.

## 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](#)

## 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