



March 2024

Volume 5 Issue 2

### Commander's Corner



Fellow Patriots,

Time is flying, another business year is in the books for the departments. We have accomplished a lot this year and there is still more to be done. In the

coming months the chapters and departments will hold elections. I encourage all of you to participate and volunteer for one of the Officer positions available. We need to continue to adapt as an organization and the way to do that is by tapping into our most important asset, the members within order, who can provide the great ideas that keep the order evolving. I know there has been some controversy in the past involving the order, but I ask that you put that in the rearview and show some of that resiliency that we have and so heavily relied upon while actively serving. To all outgoing officers, I want to applaud you for all your hard work and dedication to your respective chapters. Your efforts make the department shine and set a standard for every other department to try and achieve.

I hope many of you take the opportunity to come to the Department Convention in Williams AZ. We have some good business to get through that will set up the department for a great 2024-2025 year. Please bring your ideas so we can make the best possible decisions for the department. The Commander's Call is every month on the Fourth Wednesday. A member of the chapter command group must attend. Open to all members.

**Time: 06:30 PM Arizona Time, Apr 25, 2024**

Zoom Meeting ID: 842 2842 9701

Passcode: 879117 or 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 [ronlucap@gmail.com](mailto:ronlucap@gmail.com)  
 Sgt-at-Arms: **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

- Apr 15 – Income Tax Day
- Apr 17/18 – Coalition for Military Families
- Apr 19 – Tsgt Seifreid, MIA, burial in Marana Veterans Memorial Cemetery
- April 25 – Department Commander's Call
- Apr 30. – Election Reports are due.

### 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.

## Junior Vice-Commander



**National Vietnam War Veterans Day March 29:** In 1973 March 29<sup>th</sup>, was the day the last U.S. combat troops departed Vietnam. This now is the day when we honor the 2.7 million Americans who served in Vietnam

during the Vietnam War. Thank you to each of our **664 Patriot Members** who received Purple Hearts while serving in the Vietnam War. We thank you and thank all who served who never received the recognition they deserved for their service during the war.



## **AZ Diamondback & MOPH Partnership:**



On August 8<sup>th</sup> to honor Purple Heart recipients the **Diamondbacks are providing free admission** to the game against the Phillies for PH recipients. More info to follow. Your guests will have to pay but will receive a MOPH discount if you use this link to purchase tickets: <https://fevo-enterprise.com/group/mophaz24> **PH recipients also get a discount on all home games** this year using the special ticket link: <https://fevo-enterprise.com/group/mophaz24>

John R. Moore  
Jr. Vice-Commander

## National Convention



The **National Convention** will be held in **Orlando, FL** this year from **July 15-18<sup>th</sup>**. Hotel information is available on the National website and you don't even have to log in first (<https://www.purpleheart.org/NationalConvention>).

Hotel room is (\$139 per night plus tax). Click [HERE](#) for information on scooter rentals. The prices range from \$35/day to \$60/day (2-day minimum).

[National Convention Registration on the Department of Florida Website](#)

## Department Adjutant



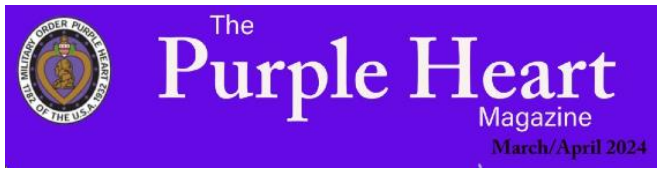
Chapter 0793-AZ-6 is hosting our 2024-2025 Annual Department Convention at the Ramada by Wyndham at Williams, AZ on Saturday, May 11th. The hotel rate has been negotiated down to \$119/night plus taxes and that rate will be honored Friday (5/10) and Saturday (5/11) nights.

The Department will pay the hotel bill for one (1) night and pay \$0.30/mile (round-trip from your home) for anyone traveling more than 25 miles away (one-way).

For those attending and wanting to mingle, there will be a no-host dinner available on both

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## The Purple Heart Magazine



The March/April 2024 issue of the Purple Heart Magazine is available [online](#). Enjoy!

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### Visit Williams. Arizona



The Department Convention will be held in Williams, AZ on May 11th. Plan a weekend and enjoy attractions in Williams or visit the Grand Canyon on the Grand Canyon Railway. See what Williams has to offer at the [Williams Visitor Center](#).

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### 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 April 27<sup>th</sup>. Join us in hosting Bingo.

Friday and Saturday evenings. The Grand Canyon Train leaves at 09:30 AM and returns at 17:45. General admission tickets are \$89.98 but depending on how many of us might want to take the day trip on Sunday (5/12), Sr. Vice Commander Ely may be able to negotiate a special rate for us and have everyone in the same car. Bearizona Wildlife Park (drive-thru only; open 9AM - 4PM daily) is also available and free tickets can be arranged for those requesting them.

To make the final arrangements, including discounts, we need you to let us know if you are going to attend. Please use the link or the QRCode to let us know **as soon as possible but not later than April 19<sup>th</sup>**.



<https://forms.gle/AysmvsrKgmCxnFLz9>

Department elections will be held during the Convention. Your help is needed to ensure the Department remains a viable organization and to strengthen and grow our programs supporting Veterans and Families. Remember all of our positions are filled with VOLUNTEERS and none are fulltime positions. You can make a difference – if you get involved.

I look forward to seeing you in Flagstaff but if you cannot make it there physically, our Zoom call will be available.

Larry Leighton,  
Department Adjutant

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



I hope everyone enjoyed the Easter Holiday period with family and friends! In addition to Chapter Elections at our meeting on April 13<sup>th</sup>, **Lauren Erickson, Blue Star Moms**, will be our guest

speaker. She'll give a short introduction about



In March, we provided \$250 of food for homeless veterans housed at the Esperanza En Escalante Project.

The chapter provided \$400 in assistance to a veteran who is a student at Pima College so he could repair his vehicle so he

could get to work and class. Pima College is a Purple Heart College. The chapter partners with the college to help veterans who are students be successful while in college.

MOPH Leadership Awards will be presented in April and May to the 13 area high schools and to the University of Arizona. If you would like to present one of the Leadership Awards let us know.

The chapter participated in Tucson's National Vietnam Veterans Day Ceremony on March 29<sup>th</sup>. The chapter placed a wreath honoring the 107 Vietnam War fallen from the Tucson area.

Chapter members paid their last respects to departed Patriot Johnny Thompson at his funeral on March 22<sup>nd</sup>.

The chapter elected officers at the March chapter 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 February, 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.

herself and how the Gold Star Moms help those serving, including those of us still serving since hanging up the uniform.



If you haven't talked to another Vet from your past lately, pick up the phone and make his or her day! If you just want to talk to someone, you can always call me – I'm a good listener (623-776-5443).

Stay safe and I hope to see you at the meeting on April 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Senior Vice Commander Starkman** has organized another fundraising event at Cave Creek during their **Annual Bike Week on Friday and Saturday (April 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>)**. Depending on traffic and success, we may stay on Sunday also (April 7<sup>th</sup>). You should receive a separate email asking for volunteers to help but if you don't see it and could help some amount of time on any of those dates, give Jim a call (708-638-2321).

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](#)

**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

**Patriot Mike Dyer** (on the right in the photo) is the **Patriot of the Year for Chapter 442**. **Jr. Vice-Commander John Grand** presents the Patriot of the Year award to Mike. Mike is the chapter's candidate for Department Patriot of the Year.



The 1<sup>st</sup> annual Tucson National Vietnam Veterans Day Ceremony was held on 29 March at the Kino Veterans Memorial Park on Ajo Way. **Patriot John Moore, Patriot Cody Phipps, & Patriot John Grand** placed a wreath to honor those who served in Vietnam. **Patriot Jim Zimmerman** read a portion of the names of the 105 Tucson Vietnam War fallen. A bronze plaque listing the 107 names was installed at Kino veterans Memorial Park.

*Patriot Jim Zimmerman reads names of Tucson's Vietnam Fallen*



*Plaque with the names of the 107 Tucson Fallen dedicated on March 29<sup>th</sup>.*

## 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  
[kingsj6@live.com](mailto:kingsj6@live.com)

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



**Meeting date:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month.  
**Meeting time:** 10:00 AM  
**Meeting location:** Mesa Buckhorn Elk Lodge #2656 at 6718 E Avalon St, Mesa, AZ 85205

We welcome all Purple Hearts Veterans and their spouses!

Chapter 2560 has a very successful Wreaths Across America program. A wreath is \$17 so if anyone is interested, please either go online at [www.wreathscrossamerica.org/az0190p](http://www.wreathscrossamerica.org/az0190p) or send in a check payable to Wreaths Across Amerca to **Nancy Fassbender** 4657 S Desert Dawn Dr Gold Canyon, AZ 85118

**Cdr Mike Overmeyer** & honorary member **Nancy Fassbender** were participants in the National Vietnam War Veterans Day at The Wall in Washington D.C. Each dedicated a wreath during the ceremony. Mike & Nancy were paired with junior enlisted service personnel as their escort who assisted in the wreath laying. After the ceremony they climbed into the old town trolley & were given a tour of the city. Video of the ceremony is at this [link](#).

*Arizona contingent at the Wall*

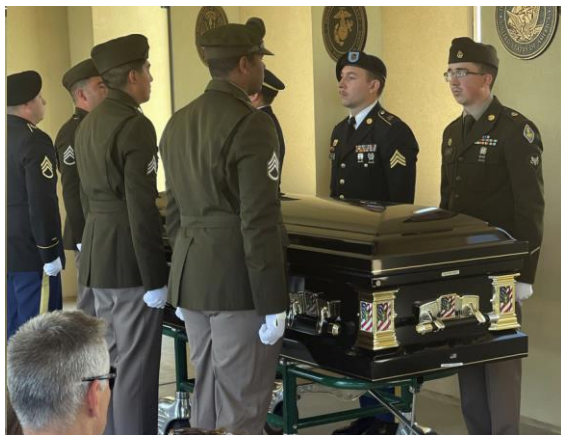


- JAMES ATLEE WHEELER • VICTOR BRUCE KELLEY • JOHN PATRICK BURNS
- LAWRENCE WILLIAM JORDAN • MAX DUANE LUKENBACH • BOB CLARENCE HUNT, JR.
- CLYDE L NORVELLE, JR. • JAMES RILEY HOWELL • DAVID WILLIAM JOHNSTON
- WARREN ORISON KNEPPER JR • ESTEBAN MORALES ALVAREZ
- GUILLERMO TRUJIL BONILLAS • OSCAR CHARLIE BELL, JR. • BILLY LANE LAUFFER
- FRED MELVIN PENNINGTON • JOE CALDWELL • JAMES RUSSELL CRONIN
- MANUEL BURROLA VALLE • RONALD BRUCE SCHRADER
- FRANCISCO ANDREW MONTANO • CALVIN ALAN PARKS • HARRY K. DAVIS
- CHARLES CALEB MONROE • PAUL M RODRIGUEZ JR • JOHN ONA HAYNES
- JOSEPH KOSIK III • ROBERT LAURENCE WILSON • CLAIRE RONALD ALAN BOIS
- FILBERTO AGUIRRE JR • WALTER LEE ARMSTRONG • JOHN ADRIAN DELOZIER
- ALEX JAMES HERNANDEZ • JOE STELO RODRIGUEZ • EDWARD MARTIN LENTZ
- STEPHEN WORTH HATHAWAY • JERRY L. GREEN • LAWRENCE ARTHUR FULTS JR
- MORTIMER LELANE O'CONNOR • PHILIP LORNE KONIGSFELD • WILLIAM J WHITEHEAD
- JESUS ESTRADA BAUTISTA • CRAIG COLLINS WALTERS • SAMUEL EMMERSON ROUSH
- JOE CARRILLO JR • PATRICK LEROY MANSFIELD • JAMES MUIR • ROSALIO VALENCIA
- JUAN ANGEL ELIAS • CLIFFORD B MARTIN JR • ANTHONY BARTOW BROWN
- GARY BERNARD GRISBY • JOHN DAVIES COX JR • THOMAS ALPHONSE WOOLRIDGE
- GEORGE ALBERT TODD • JACOB ROMO TRUJILLO • ROBERT WILLIAMS JR
- ARTHUR WILLIAM MEYER • JESUS OCHOA • JOSE MANUEL QUESNEY
- GREGORY WILLIAM STEWART • JOSE RICARDO L ALVAREZ • MIKE ANTHONY SOLANO
- THERON WALLACE COBB • CHARLES EDWARD ROBINETTE
- GERARDO HOLQUIN GONZALES • PAUL FRANCIS TERSTEEGE • WILLIAM ROY LAWSON
- RANDALL JACK SANDOVAL • RICHARD LEWIS THOMPSON JR • BILL GREGORY LEE
- MICHAEL ANDREW MILLER • KENNETH G BLACKWELL • RALPH RICHARD OCHOA
- CLINTON WILLIAM SHAVER JR • SAMUEL MARLAR WHITE JR • ADOLPHUS CHRISTOPHER
- JOHN WILLIAM WILSON • JOE YBARRA POLANCO JR • DENNIS FRENCH
- LEONARD OLGUIN CAMAMANO • MICHAEL GALLEGO • JOHNNIE MITCHELL WAHL
- ERICK OWEN OLSON • ROBERT THOMAS SUDDUTH • ROBERT LEWIS HAWKINS
- ELMER REID PERRY • MICHAEL PAULSEN • WILLIAM A SHARPE JR • JOHN L PENA
- CHARLES ALLEN DAVIDSON • WILLARD DONALD O'BRIEN • GARY JOHN ANDERSON
- JOHN FREDERICK HOLLISTER • VERNON KENNETH SMOLIK JR
- WILLIAM ANTHONY PAHISSA • JAMES AARON F ROBERTS JR • MICHAEL ROYCE BORG
- WILLIAM HENRY CLIFFORD • HUGH JOHN SHEVLIN • RONALD LESTER BABCOCK
- PAUL ORBEN APPLIGATE • STEVE BROWICH • DAVID LEWIS YOAKUM
- CHARLES FREDERICK FENTER • LEROY JASON CORNWELL III
- WILLIAM CHARLES DUNLAP • MANUAL ALARCON JR

*Patriots from Chapter 442 at National Vietnam War Veterans Day.*



Chapter members paid their last respects to **Patriot Johnny Thompson** at his burial on March 22<sup>nd</sup> at the AZ State Memorial Veterans Cemetery, Marana. The funeral detail from Ft. Huachuca did an excellent job! Rest in Peace, Johnny!



*Nancy with her Army escort*



*Cdr Overmeyer with his Air Force escort*



Johnny's widow and **Associate Chapter Member Gay Thompson** receives the flag from Johnny's funeral.



The Tucson Veteran Stand-Down was held on March 13 and 14.

### 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

On National Vietnam Veterans Day, fellow Marine **Patriot Jason Duren** honored **Commander Jim Pomush**. They have a 40-year age difference but have the brotherhood of fellow Marines & Purple Heart recipients. Jason's business, [Cider Corps](http://Cider Corps), gives Veterans a place to meet and encourages camaraderie!



*Procession down to the Wall.*



*Placing a wreath*



## Vietnam Veterans Day



Jim, thank you for your many sacrifices and dedicated service to our country and community. Your sacrifices are not forgotten. Welcome home, brother



## 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](#)

## Department Challenge Coins

Coins are available from the Chapters. They cost \$20 and the Chapters net \$10 for each coin they sell. Chapters have very few left in stock. The department is ordering another 200 coins.

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



MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART

Dale E. Crick Chapter 793

Flagstaff . Arizona

**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. Chapter 793 supports the Northern Arizona Stand Downs in several Northern Arizona communities. You are always welcome to join us!

Rodger Ely  
Commander

The Moving Wall will be at Twin Arrows Navajo Casino Resort May 30<sup>th</sup> to June 3<sup>rd</sup>.



**TWIN ARROWS**  
NAVAJO CASINO RESORT

MAY 30TH, 2024 - JUNE 3RD, 2024

REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY

SATURDAY . JUNE 1ST, 2024 . 11:00 AM . ARIZONA TIME







### 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/>

### Whitehouse VA Hotline/My VA

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.

### 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/>

### AZ Veterans Stand-Down Alliance

Patriot Billy Weldon attended the National Vietnam Veterans Day luncheon in Flagstaff.



Students in 5<sup>th</sup> Grade at Marshall Elementary School have written a biography about **Patriot Billy Weldon**, former Department and Region VI Commander. Billy is the school crossing guard.

*Katie Krause's 5th grade class at Marshall Elementary School with veteran Billy Weldon*



*Book written by 5<sup>th</sup> grade class about Billy Weldon*



ARIZONA VETERANS STANDDOWN ALLIANCE



- [Kingman Stand-Down](#)  
Friday, May 3, 10am - 2pm  
[Mohave County Fairgrounds](#)  
2600 Fairgrounds Blvd Kingman, AZ 86401
- [High Country Stand-Down](#)  
Wednesday, May 15, 9am - 1pm  
[Flagstaff Armory](#) 320 N Thorpe Rd  
Flagstaff, AZ 86001

[AZ Coalition for Military Families](#)

Registration is now open for the 14th Annual Statewide Symposium in Support of Service Members, Veterans & Their Families. Join us on April 17 & 18 at the Desert Willow Conference Center in Phoenix. All are welcome. Scholarships are available. Learn more & register at <http://arizonacoalition.org/Symposium/>

[Camp Corral](#)

*Veteran Billy Weldon & teacher Katie Krause hold books written about veterans by Krause's 5th grade.*



Every 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month, 10:00am to 3:00pm the Flagstaff Veterans CBOC will have a VA representative to get answers to various VA issues and help file disability claims. See graphic below for details:

[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.

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

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.** Help send the child of a veteran or military member who needs camp.

**Applications to attend camp opened 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 #54738.

The poster features a photograph of children jumping into a lake and a map of the United States with red dots indicating camp locations across various states.

### Buddy Checks!

Let's not forget to check on our buddies, friends, and family. A simple 'How are you?' can make all the difference. Let's spread warmth and care and remind people, they are not alone!



### Purple Heart Combat Wounded Veterans of AZ

The Purple Heart Combat Wounded Veterans of Arizona is our department 501c3 entity. If for

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-credits/credits-contributions-certified-school-tuition-organizations>

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](#)

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### Ride of the Month

This is a blast from the past. This was **Patriot John Moore's** long time daily driver for over 20 years. Nothing fancy, it is a 1964 Impala Sport Sedan (no post) with a 283 small block and power glide transmission. Had an Edelbrock intake manifold and carburetor. When his girls were in jr. high school and he would drive them to school they would tell him, “Dad don’t take the green car.” They changed their mind when the boys would tell them, “your dad has a cool car.” John sold the car a few years back.



### 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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### Bills in Congress

**H.R. 5890, the Review Every Veterans Claim Act:** This act would limit the VA’s authority to deny a veteran’s claim solely based on the veteran’s failure to appear for a medical examination associated with the claim. Currently, the law states that “the Secretary shall treat an examination or opinion as being necessary to make a decision on a claim. This requirement usually results in the Veterans Benefits Administration denying a veteran’s claim if they did not attend the requested examination, even if the rest of the evidence of record contains service medical records, private medical records and lay statements from the veteran. H.R. 5890 would add a new paragraph to the law, which states the Secretary may not deny such claim on the sole basis that the veteran failed to appear for the requested medical examination.

Urge your representative to support H.R. 5890

**S. 3560, the Combat Veterans Pre-Enrollment Act of 2024:** This bill would authorize pre-enrollment of certain combat service members of the Armed Forces in the system of patient enrollment of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) health care system during the 180-day period before their separation from service, giving them access to care from the first day of separation. Currently, transitioning service members must wait until they have left service and received their official separation paperwork to apply for VA health care. That process can take several months, creating a period of time where veterans do not have access to the health care benefits, they have earned. This period is of particular concern for combat veterans who might struggle with injuries or illnesses that are seen and unseen and may or may not have been

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### Pet of the Month

This is Hershey (Hersh). She is **Patriot Henry Erber's** registered service dog. She is a 6-year-old Chocolate Labrador. Hersh looks after Henry's PTSD. She will wake Henry up if he has bad dreams at night. She never gets out of Henry's sight. She loves everyone but GRANDKIDS ARE HER FAVORITE. Henry is one of our snowbird members who lives in Michigan.



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### Recipe of the Month

Another blast from the past from the C Ration Cookbook. During the Vietnam war Brig. Gen. Walter S. McIlhenny son of the president of McIlhenny Company from his experiences with C-Rations during WWII came up with the idea to send soldiers copies of the Charley Ration Cookbook filled with recipes for spicing up C-rations with McIlhenny Tabasco Pepper Sauce.

#### **Pecan Cake w/Peanut Butter Sauce:**

One can of Pecan Cake Roll.  
4 spoons of butter, oil, or fat.  
1 can of peanut butter.  
2 spoons of butter, oil, or fat.

diagnosed during their service. This legislation would give our war-fighters immediate access to VA health care. Studies show the transition period can be a high-risk period for suicide. Giving combat veterans access to much-needed mental health care can help mitigate the risk.

Please contact your Senators to request their co-sponsorship of S. 3560.

**SB 280 & H.R. 7434: The Better Examiner Standards and Transparency for Veterans Act, or the BEST for Vets Act,** would ensure that only licensed health care professionals furnish disability examinations under the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Medical Disability Examination Office. The BEST for Vets Act states that, "no examination as part of this program will be conducted by any health care professional other than a physician, physician assistant, nurse practitioner, audiologist, or psychologist that has a current unrestricted license to practice that health care profession." VA compensation and pension exams are vital to the disability claims process in determining the existence of current conditions and whether or not a veteran's illness or injury is related to their military service. In many cases, these exams are the linchpin to establish or deny a claimed benefit making it incredibly important that the appropriate licensed health care professional conduct these exams.

Please urge your Senators and Representative to co-sponsor the BEST for Vets Act.

**S. 2256 and H.R. 6524: The Federal Cybersecurity Workforce Expansion Act** would strengthen the nation's cyber defenses and cybersecurity workforce by creating two new training programs within the federal government. One of the training programs would specifically recruit veterans and those separating from active duty for these in-demand jobs.

Urge your senator and representative to support S. 2256 & H.R. 6524.



Slice the Pecan Roll, fry slices in the 4 spoons of butter, oil, or fat. When crisp set aside. Cover each slice with the following sauce: Melt the butter, oil, or fat. Add the peanut butter and melt until smooth & thick. Pour over Pecan Roll slices and serve with coffee.



### 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 25<sup>th</sup> of each month.**

John R. Moore  
Jr. Vice-Commander

### Donate Your Vehicle to Help a Veteran

**Donate any of  
your used vehicles!**

i.e cars, motorcycles, boats, ATV's, dirt bikes, etc



**Your Generosity Heals!**

By donating a used vehicle, you are helping a veteran get the treatment they so desperately need for their TBI and PTSD.



Healing Arizona Veterans  
Email: [healingazvets@gmail.com](mailto:healingazvets@gmail.com)  
Phone: 520-222-6036  
<https://healingarizonaveterans.org>

