



# The Sentinel

## Arizona's First Chapter



The Arizona Chapter

6393 W. Dublin Lane

Chandler, Arizona

85226

MAY 2009

CHARTERED 1956 - 52½ YEARS OF SERVICE TO COUNTRY

EDITOR: JIM CULLISON



## President's Perspective

by Ron Perkins

Wow! In the last edition of the Sentinel, I mentioned that triple digit temperatures were just around the corner but didn't expect the first day to be in mid-April. It could be a long hot summer. Thank goodness for air conditioning.

Now, back to business for the chapter. Once again we had an excellent turnout (60) for our April luncheon with our guest speaker, Congressman Harry Mitchell. He gave a brief description of the slow methodical workings on Capitol Hill and discussed the very important veterans' issues concerning active duty and retired personnel. He expressed deep concern for wounded veterans to receive first class treatment from the time they return home and for the remainder of their lives. Congressman Mitchell also talked about the "GI Bill for the 21<sup>st</sup>

Century" which he co-sponsored with Senator Jim Webb of Virginia. He was especially proud of the provision to allow veterans eligible for the GI Bill to pass their eligibility on to their spouse or child if they did not use it themselves. The question and answer session went very well with Congressman Mitchell taking a few questions for follow-up. We were also pleased to have members from the Superstition Chapter in attendance.

**There are four** major events taking place in May:

- 1.The scholarship fundraiser golf tournament May 1.
- 2.The continuing of presentations of the MOAA JROTC Medals to the 17 high schools in our area. Presentations should be complete by mid-May.

3.Our next general membership luncheon on the 16<sup>th</sup> with the presentation of \$1,000 JROTC scholarships to four outstanding cadets. The chapter scholarship committee headed-up by Ron Worthington received 14 applications for the four scholarships authorized by the board. The committee was able to pick the four most outstanding applicants, who with their parents and JROTC instructors will be our luncheon guests and will be awarded their scholarships. We have asked each recipient to make a short presentation.

4.The fourth event will be our chapter's color guard participating in the Memorial Day ceremonies on May 25 at the National Cemetery in north Phoenix.

I would be remiss if I didn't put in a plug for the July 12 outing to the Arizona Broadway Theater to see "Bye Bye Birdie." It is a great way to spend the afternoon

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### Arizona Chapter Calendar

- May 7**
- . BOD, AZ Veteran's Home, 1100 hours
- May 16**
- . Luncheon Meeting, McCormick Ranch Golf Club, 1100 hours
- May 25**
- . Chapter Color Guard, Memorial Day Service, National Cemetery.
- July 12**
- . Arizona Broadway Theatre outing for Bye Bye Birdie
- June-August**
- . Summer Break, no meetings
- September 3**
- . BOD meeting
- September 19**
- . Luncheon Meeting

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## **President's Perspective.....continued**

with friends, enjoy a nice lunch and see a great Broadway show. Many chapter members have enjoyed going to the theater since we began this outing two years ago. Please see the write-up in this edition for details.

**I am still beating** the bush for someone to take my place as secretary. It is not a difficult job and I think you would enjoy contributing to our outstanding chapter. If interested please give me a call at 480-961-8632 or send me an e-mail at rbperkins@cox.net.

I'll miss the May luncheon because I will be attending the Arizona Council of Chapters meeting in Yuma. This will be the last edition of the Sentinel until next September. I hope to see you at the September general meeting luncheon on the 19<sup>th</sup>. I wish everyone a fun and safe summer.

*Ron Perkins*



**Congressman Mitchell's address** at the April luncheon featured the following highlights:

- The goal is for a 2-year VA budget for better long range planning.
- Creating electronic records will make distribution of benefits more efficient.
- The backlog of veterans waiting for benefits needs to be slashed.
- Tricare fee increases needs to be prevented. "Those fees have already been paid by the veteran's service," he said.
- The important role of spouses in service to country should be recognized.

## **Wanted:**

### **Luncheon Program Ideas**

Your Chapter leaders would like the luncheon programs to continue to be interesting and timely, light-hearted and fun. We have enjoyed a great year thus far, and we'd like this trend to continue. However, your Programs volunteer needs a little help. Please send your thoughts and recommendations for 2009-2010 chapter program planning to Chuck Schluter at charles.schluter@us.army.mil, or call him at 480-563-8480. Thanks in advance. Your assistance is sincerely appreciated.

## **May Luncheon**

### **JROTC Cadets to be Honored**

*By Ron Worthington*

The Arizona Chapter awards scholarships each year to several graduating cadets from applicants from 17 competing high schools. With these scholarships we hope to further the education of students who have maintained a position in the upper half of his or her class and who demonstrate qualities of leadership, good moral character and concern for fellow men and women through service to others.

This year, the Scholarship Committee received 14 applications. After careful review, the committee presented four names to the Board of Directors at the April board meeting. These four individuals were unanimously approved for \$1,000 scholarships each.

This year's recipients are:

**Stephanie Butkowski** of Cactus High School Air Force JROTC.

**Andrew Carlson** of Cortez High School Navy JROTC.

**Kenneth Liles** of Deer Valley High School Air Force JROTC.

**Dustyn Ruble** of Alhambra High School Army JROTC.

These cadets and their parents and Senior Military Instructors will be honored at the May 16 luncheon meeting, when the cadets will be presented their scholarship checks.

**Guard and Reserve Forces**

**Serving Faithfully in Time of Need**

*By Chuck Schluter*

Our National Guard and Reserve Forces are a smaller segment of the Armed Forces, so I thought I'd share a few statistics provided by Butch Wise, CW2 ARNG (Ret), Executive Director of the Arizona Employee Support of the Guard and Reserve and a member of our Chapter.

The total number of National Guard and Reserve forces currently on active duty includes 128,536 men and women, both mobilized units and individual augmentees.

Broken down by service, the Army National Guard and Reserve currently deploy 99,239 soldiers, the Navy Reserve 6,653 sailors, Air Guard and Air Force Reserve 14,496 airmen, the Marine Corps Reserve 7,470 marines, and the Coast Guard Reserve 678 more sailors.

Personnel currently deployed from Arizona forces include 1,017 Army National Guard and

Reserve soldiers, 10 marines from the USMC Reserve, 85 sailors from the Navy Reserve and 213 airmen representing Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve units.

Since 9/11, the number deployed from Arizona are 3,526 Army National Guard, 1,873 Army Reserve, 874 Air National Guard, 921 Air Force Reserve, 703 Marine Corps Reserve, 166 Navy Reserve and 5 Coast Guard Reserve, a total of 8,068 soldiers, sailors, marines and airmen.

The figures do not include National Guard members who have been called to duty within their states to combat forest fires, floods, tornadoes and other natural disasters. They are always on call at a moment's notice, and in these unprecedented times the legacy of the Minuteman is as strong today as it ever was.

God bless them all. And as we approach this month's Military Spouse Appreciation Day, Armed Forces Day and Memorial Day, keep them, their families and survivors at the forefront of our minds.

**Don't Miss the Fun at the Theatre**

**Plan now for an enjoyable afternoon out of the July heat**

The Chapter has a number of tickets reserved at The Arizona Broadway Theatre in Peoria Sunday, July 12, at 12 Noon for the energetic Broadway musical

***“Bye Bye Birdie”***

\$55 per ticket includes:

Brunch, iced tea, coffee, water, gratuity.  
Other drinks and dessert are not included.

Use the form below to send checks and reservations now so you don't miss out!

**Reservations for the Arizona Broadway Theatre**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of tickets @ \$55 each: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Send this form and check made out to **AZ Chapter MOAA** no later than June 25 to:

Fran Tassin  
4333 W. Echo Lane  
Glendale, AZ 85302  
Phone 623-931-1546

## Meeting Highlights

*by Ron Perkins, President/Secretary*

### Board of Directors, April 2, 2009

**Present:** Gregg Maxon, Bill Roscher, John Ady, Rob Welch, Ron Drew, Pat Dale, Chuck Schluter, Terry Tassin, Dan Conway, Ron Worthington, Jim Cullison

**Personal Affairs:** John Ady and Dan Conway will present the Personal Affairs Workshop April 25 in Scottsdale. A representative from the Attorney General's Office will discuss Living Wills.

**Programs:** Chuck Schluter encouraged members to seek suitable guest speakers for the second half of the year and 2010. October meeting will be a Chapter picnic to host the ESGR Award presentations as we did for 2008.

**Share-a-Ride:** Ron Drew indicated requests are being received for transport to/from luncheon meetings.

**Secretary:** A volunteer to fill the secretary position is still being sought. Interested individuals please contact Ron Perkins 480-961-8632.

**AZ National Guard Emergency Relief Fund:** Treasurer will send a \$500 check as the Chapter donation to the fund. This donation was approved by the board in December, however, with the passing of Treasurer Bill Johnson and the resulting adjustments needed to the chapter checking account, this donation was delayed until now.

**Veterans Hall of Fame:** Gregg Maxon presented the nomination packet for Joan Sisco. The packets for BG Carl Schneider and Joan will be delivered to the AVHOF committee. A packet for Patrick Chorpenning is being prepared.

**JROTC Scholarships:** The Scholarship Committee presented names of 4 cadets from 14 applications, and the board approved the selections. The cadets will receive the Chapter's \$1,000 scholarships at the May 16 luncheon.

**Sentinel Advertisements/Member Discounts:** John Ady will explore the availability of local business discounts for MOAA members and potential advertisers for The Sentinel.

**Memorial Day Color Guard:** Rob Welch will serve as Color Guard Commander for the Memorial Day service at the National Cemetery.

**Spring Golf Tournament:** Pat Dale stated that the May 1 golf tournament is on track with hopes to raise enough money for one JROTC scholarship.

**AZ Council of Chapters Meeting May 16:** President Ron Perkins and Gary Fredricks will represent the Chapter.

### General Luncheon Meeting, April 18, 2009

**Present:** 60 members and guests.

**Treasurer:** Bill Roscher reported the General Fund had \$11,413.73 and the Scholarship Fund \$12,449.09 for a combined \$23,862.82

**Legislative:** Gary Fredricks will attend MOAA's "Storming the Hill" event April 22.

**JROTC Scholarship:** The board approved \$1,000 scholarships to four JROTC cadets, to be presented at the May 16 luncheon.

**July 12 Outing to the Arizona Broadway Theatre:** Ron Perkins reminded everyone to get tickets early because of the limited number available. More information can be found in the Sentinel.

**Personal Affairs:** Dan Conway reported on the Personal Affairs workshop to take place April 25 in Scottsdale.

**Chapter Golf Tournament May 1:** Ron Perkins reminded everyone about the JROTC scholarship fundraiser golf tournament at Painted Mountain Golf Club with many prizes.

**Guest Speaker:** 5<sup>th</sup> District Congressman Harry Mitchell gave an outstanding presentation on the inner workings of government at the highest level. He covered many issues relating to veterans.

**50/50 raffle:** \$80 paid to winners and \$85 into the Scholarship account.

## **Coming Attractions** *By Chuck Schluter*

**May 16:** Four outstanding JROTC cadets from area high schools will receive \$1,000 scholarships in a special presentation at our luncheon.

**July 12:** Bye Bye Birdie at Arizona Broadway Theatre.

**September 19:** Luncheon meeting following chapter summer break.

### **Remember and Observe:**

**May 8,** Military Spouse Appreciation Day.

**May 16,** Armed Forces Day

**May 25,** Memorial Day

### May Luncheon Meeting

**WHEN:** May 16, 2009  
11:00 a.m. Social  
Hour  
12:00 Lunch

**WHERE:** McCormick Ranch  
Golf Club  
7505 McCormick  
Parkway,  
Scottsdale

**COST:** \$19.00 Per Person

**DRESS:** Casual

**MENU:** Chef's Choice

**PROGRAM:** Presentation of \$1,000 scholarships to each of 4 JROTC recipients.

Reservations must be received by 4 p.m. on the Thursday prior to the luncheon. Cancellations need to be received by the same Thursday in order to receive your money back. Send your check to Bill Roscher using the Meal/Meeting reservation form on page 7.



## Legislative Update

by Gary Fredricks, Legislative Chair

### Storming the Hill

We just returned from Washington D.C. and the MOAA Annual Council President's Seminar and "Storming the Hill" session which were combined with the spring MOAA Board of Directors meeting. It was a really long week, but at the same time very enjoyable and productive. For the "Storming the Hill" day I was teamed with Vern Paul, our Arizona MOAA Council President from Tucson, and Mrs. Lisa Field, from the MOAA "Currently Serving Spouses Committee." Lisa, the wife of a currently serving Air Force Major General with roots in Arizona, was a very welcome and productive team member. If anyone has any doubts as to the contributions that spouses can and do make to MOAA, you need to revise your thinking.

Given that the President's FY2010 defense budget is still pending, we were not able to speak directly to any specific issues it may contain. Instead, we discussed our concerns in general, focusing on three areas and seeking co-sponsorship of bills in work that would help in each.

**The areas were** (1) opposing disproportionate TRICARE and pharmacy fee increases such as were contained in the last two annual budget requests, (2) seeking to eliminate the remaining unfair compensation penalties imposed on thousands of disabled retirees and military survivors and (3) helping our currently serving military to ease deployment burdens by sustaining the proposed and much-needed military manpower increases and continuing our effort to eliminate the pay gap by upgrading the military pay raise to 3.4% from the current projection of 2.9%.

**Given the geography** of Capitol Hill and the busy schedules of our Senators and Representatives, it is very difficult to get them all scheduled in the one day available in our schedule. We were able to visit with either the principal or their key staffer in 9 out of 10 and left a detailed information package in the office of the one we couldn't work into our schedule, Senator Kyl. We had by far our best visit with Rep.

Giffords, District 8. She is a staunch supporter and is already a co-sponsor of all bills on our discussion list as she was last year. On the other end of the spectrum is Rep. Jeff Flake, District 6.

Rep. Harry Mitchell, from our own District 5, had a schedule conflict that prevented him from joining us, but we had a good discussion with his key staffer Paul Swanson. Mr. Swanson was well aware that his boss was the speaker at our last chapter general membership meeting and luncheon. Representative Mitchell's position on the House Veteran's Affairs Committee makes him doubly important to our MOAA interests. During our discussions, Mr. Swanson reported that Representative Mitchell was supportive of our position on all the concerns we addressed with him and had recently co-sponsored H.R. 775, which continues our quest to fix the SBP/DIC offset issue.

**Our chapter's area** actually stretches into several congressional districts. For District 3 Rep. John Shadegg, we met with his staffer Katie Thomas. She reported that Representative Shadegg had recently co-sponsored a new bill, H.R. 1864, which supports the active duty pay raise issue. For Rep. Trent Franks, District 2, we met with his staffer, Rebeccah Heinrichs. Representative Franks is well known to MOAA for his leadership in protecting the defense budget, and our discussions with his staffer confirmed his intent to continue to do so. For Rep. Ed Pastor, District 4, we met with Eve Young, who is by far the most experienced staffer that we met with. Representative Pastor is already a co-sponsor

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#### Donations

##### General Fund

Edward Waldmann \$25

Trula Halpern \$15

Ron Gawlitta \$10

Paul Fein \$5

##### Scholarship Fund

TriWest Healthcare \$1,000

Jack Taylor \$150

Edward Waldmann \$25

Susan Henstein \$25



## Personal Affairs Workshop

Will Bessett from the Arizona Attorney General's Office, Dan Conway and John Ady (left to right in photo at left) shared their expertise in personal affairs planning for 26 members and spouses attending the Chapter workshop in April.

Will provided information on living wills and power of attorney, John drew on his military and civilian human resources experience, and Dan utilized his background as longtime Chapter Personal Affairs Officer. A variety of related MOAA publications were handed out.

## Legislative Update

Continued from Previous Page

of H. R. 775, the SBP/DIC issue, and H.R. 816, the TRICARE/pharmacy rates issue. He is still at issue with continuing the effort to fix some, but not all, of the final concurrent receipt inequities.

**A highlight** of this annual MOAA event is an awards night to honor those who have most contributed to supporting the military and veteran's community. Receiving the MOAA Marix Award for Congressional Leadership were Senator Jim Webb (VA), Representative John McHugh (NY) and Representative Susan Davis (CA). Receiving MOAA's Distinguished Service Award were Toby Keith, Union Pacific Railroad and Tom Day of Bugles Across America. As you would expect, Toby Keith, who received his award for extensive support of our deployed troops through the USO, was a very popular recipient.

**This month marks** the beginning of our chapter summer recess. Much has yet to be done legislatively at both the federal and state levels. Our MOAA staff in Washington D.C. will continue to work our issues at the national level and we will do the same at the state level. For those of you that the chapter has e-mail addresses, we will try to keep you informed of emerging issues through that medium. For all, I urge you to watch the MOAA magazine and tear out and mail in any legislative action post cards that it asks you for. Have a good summer.



**Personal Affairs**  
by Dan Conway, Personal Affairs Officer

## Life Care Planning Packet

One of the State services which we should all take advantage of is the Life Care Planning Packet provided by the Arizona Attorney General's Office.

The packet consists of these documents:

- Durable Health Care Power of Attorney
- Durable Mental Health Care Power of Attorney
- Living Will
- Letter to my Agent
- Pre-Hospital Medical Directive (Do Not Resuscitate)

It also includes detailed instructions for preparation and use of these documents.

**In summary**, the documents provide for you to designate a representative (Agent) to make health care and mental health care decisions for you if you are unable to make such decisions for yourself. They allow you, while you are still able to make such end of life care decisions, to specify comfort care only; to specify limitations on medical treatments you want; if pregnant, to protect the embryo/fetus; specify treatment until medical condition is known; to prolong your life to the greatest extent possible, or to add your own instructions.

The packet is available online at [www.azag.gov](http://www.azag.gov) under the heading "Life Care Planning".

Please consider me as a resource in your personal affairs concerns. I can be reached at 480-368-1427.

**Welcome to the Auxiliary**

*By Sheila George*

The Auxiliary welcomes its newest member, Jean Hillding. Jean's husband, Ed, started his military career in the Army National Guard and finished in the Air Force, flying the F-4. Jean hails from Lincoln, Nebraska, and was a K-12 teacher. She has lived in Phoenix for 51 years. Imagine the changes she's seen! Welcome, Jean. We're glad to have you in the group.

**MOAA Golfers Give Big Boost to Chapter Scholarship Fund**



Butch Wise chips onto the green as one of 74 golfers taking part in the Chapter's Spring Golf Tournament May 1. The final accounting was still being done as the Sentinel went to press, but Tournament Director Pat Dale said it appears the event will raise about \$1,100 for the Chapter Scholarship Fund. Participants enjoyed lunch and award presentations following the golf rounds at Painted Mountain Course in Mesa.

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**CHAPTER FINANCIAL PARTICIPATION**

If you would like to make a donation to one or more of the AZ Chapter Funds, include your check identified as the appropriate fund and mail to: **Bill Roscher, 4337 E. Sands Dr., Phoenix, AZ 85050.**

**General Fund: \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

**Scholarship Fund: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ [now a 501(c)(3) charitable fund]**

Name of Donor : \_\_\_\_\_ Identify me as a donor in the next newsletter. YES \_\_\_ NO \_\_\_

**MEAL / MEETING RESERVATION FORM**

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ meals for (Name) \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (**\$19.00** per person) for **16 May 2009**

Make check payable to: **AZ Chapter MOAA** **No Later Than: 14 May 2009**

Send to: **Bill Roscher, 4337 E. Sands Dr., Phoenix, AZ 85050** Phone: 480-948-3609 E-mail: [wroscher@cox.net](mailto:wroscher@cox.net)

**TAPS**

We regret to inform you of the passing of one of our members:

**Col. Michael C. Hedrick, USAF (Ret)**  
February 28, 1941—April 26, 2009

*Our heartfelt condolences are extended to the family.*



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**Access Arizona Chapter's Internet Web Site at: <http://www.azchaptermoaa.org>**

**Arizona Chapter**  
**Military Officers Association of America**  
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Scottsdale, AZ 85254



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