



# The Sentinel



Arizona's First Chapter

THE ARIZONA CHAPTER, P.O. Box 7644, Cave Creek, AZ 85327

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CHARTERED IN 1956 - OVER 40 YEARS OF SERVICE TO COUNTRY

OCTOBER 2002

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It was a pleasure to see 69 people at the last luncheon meeting. According to my information that is a record. Lets go ahead and keep setting records at all our luncheons and dinners.



This increased attendance highlighted an issue that we have to be sensitive to as a Chapter. As our membership numbers increase, it is becoming more difficult to increase our meal count provided to the meeting site after we have called in the number of meals required on our "Not Later Than (NLT)" date. Calling in an increase of 10 meals when the original number is 60 is a lot harder than an increase of five over 45. So, we ask that you please make reservations by our NLT date or we may end up short of meals for those that call in late. "McDonald's" probably wouldn't mind, but we want all attendees to get a meal and we want to treat the restaurant fairly for the benefits they are providing us.

The Personal Affairs packages have been made up and the Chapter Chaplain, Bob Rutherford, and I have them. If needed, please call one of us to get together with you. In putting the packages together Bob and I found a very useful checklist that you can fill out each year. This was furnished by the Air Force in their *AFTERBURNER* newsletter that each Air Force retiree receives. A copy of the updated checklist is included as an insert in this newsletter. Make a copy of this form and fill one out each year. An executor or spouse will breathe a sigh of relief if this is filled out and available when needed.

I found out something I did not know when I was welcoming an Auxiliary Member into the Chapter. She was denied membership into USAA because her late husband had not joined USAA while he was on active duty. Investigating eligibility requirements I found that only individuals classified as active with one of the seven services, Guard or Reserve are eligible. Once a person has separated or retired

it is too late. I have written one letter to USAA and received a response that the rule stands, however, I will write another letter to stress my point. If you feel this is unfair and the rules should be changed, please write to Karen Presley (Senior Vice President, Marketing at USAA) and air your views. Numbers count!

It was announced at the September luncheon meeting that Raymond Deane has asked to be released from his position as 1st VP and chairman of the membership and scholarship committees effective 1 January 2003. The Board of Directors has honored this request and we have issued a plea for volunteers. If you would be willing to serve as the 1st VP or serve on the membership or scholarship committees, please call me at (480) 595-8693. We are expanding the committees to include additional members so the workload may spread among many. Your area of interest may be membership and that can be further broken down into chairman, nametags, and TAPS. To remain a vibrant organization we must have people in these positions.

### PLEASE SEARCH THIS ISSUE OVER IN YOUR HEART AND GIVE ME A CALL!

Tom Houser is building a multi-page Chapter Web Site that will be accessed by going through [www.troa.org](http://www.troa.org) or called up directly by putting the address in your "bookmark favorites". Of course you have to have a computer and be on-line to access the site. It is hoped that this will not only provide a valuable resource for our members, but also attract the attention of TROA members moving to the Valley who may be looking for a Chapter to join.

I want to stress that as soon as you get *The Sentinel*, please send in the reservation form for the Chapter dinner to be held the night of 25 October. CAPT Bud Schneeweis, USCG (Ret), Deputy Director, Benefits Information Dept., TROA will be our speaker. This is one you don't want to miss. TROA National will send out invitations to Valley TROA members so we may reach the maximum that the room can hold quickly. Overrun goes into the second room - if we can get it - then we have

## Arizona Chapter Calendar

- Oct 4**  
Board of Directors Meeting
- Oct 13**  
Founding of U.S. Navy—1775
- Oct 14**  
Columbus Day Observed
- Oct 25**  
Dinner Meeting
- Oct 27**  
Daylight Saving Time Ends
- Oct 31**  
Halloween

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**SUPPORT OUR TROOPS — REMEMBER OUR FALLEN COMRADES — FLY YOUR FLAG**

to start turning people away. Hope to see you at our October dinner.

Ronald R. Green  
LtCol USAF (Ret)  
President, Arizona Chapter of TROA

### Membership

The Chapter now has 157 regular and 47 auxiliary members. If you have an \*02 behind your name on the newsletter mailing label, an Early Bird insert with a quick and easy renewal slip is included in this issue. An \*03 or greater on your label means you are paid up through that year.

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### New Members

Welcome to all new Chapter members since last newsletter.

- ★ Maureen K. Arnold
- ★ CDR Catherine C. Bastress USPHS (Ret)
- ★ COL William P. Belt USA (Ret) and wife Virginia
- ★ LtCol Jeffrey A. Brelsford USAF (Ret)
- ★ Wanda B. Dietz
- ★ CDR James S. Draper USN (Ret) and wife Judy
- ★ CWO3 Paul F. Fein USN (Ret) and wife Judy
- ★ CAPT William C. Jenkins USN (Ret) and wife Sue
- ★ COL Richard S. Kulczycki USMCR (Ret) and wife Susan
- ★ Annette Neugebauer
- ★ COL Wallace W. Noll USA (Ret) and wife Julia
- ★ Joanne E. Randall
- ★ LtCol Francis M. Rast USAF (Ret) and wife Elizabeth
- ★ Col Fred J. Riemer USAF (Ret) and wife Jean
- ★ Col John K. Sloan USAF (Ret) and wife Donna
- ★ Col Michael Voss USAF (Ret) and wife Vicki
- ★ Major Raymond W. Weeth USAF (Ret) and wife Courtney

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### Scholarship Fund

One person's generous gift will help strengthen America's future through supporting the education of our youth. Since the last newsletter a generous Scholarship Fund donation has been received from Captain Irene Doto USPHS (Ret). Our thanks are offered to contributors on behalf of all future beneficiaries of the Scholarship Fund.

### Retiree Casualty Assistance Checklist

It always helps to be prepared. In this newsletter is a two-page checklist of important information members should keep in a safe place for the use of their survivors. It is recommended your spouse or next of kin have a copy of this document or know where it is located.

### E-Mail Newsletters

If you would prefer to receive an electronic copy of *The Sentinel* newsletter please let the editor know. You may also access the newsletter through our National TROA web site or, by clicking on the Chapter's new local web site at: <http://home.earthlink.net/~thousersprint0/TROA/>.

### Chaplain's Corner

"Almighty God who has guided us amid our difficulties of the past, we ask thy help in the difficulties of the present when our world is beset with hardships, turmoil and unrest. Give us confidence and faith in our leaders; guide them and help them as they strive for unity in our country and for a peace among nations. This we ask in Christ's name, Amen" *Robert Rutherford, Chaplain*

### Mailing Addresses

Just a reminder to please keep the membership chairman and the newsletter editor updated on your current mailing address, e-mail address, and telephone number.

### Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame

The Arizona Chapter of TROA is pleased to announce that two of our members will soon be inducted into the Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame.

Arizona is the second state in the nation to recognize Veterans in this way, and established a "Hall of Fame" in 2001. Among the inaugural inductees were Chapter members Senator Barry Goldwater and LTC William Thompson USAF (Ret) both deceased. Additionally, all 26 Medal of Honor recipients with Arizona ties were inducted.

This year 20 more distinguished veterans will join the Class of 2002. The Arizona Chapter again is pleased and extremely honored to have two of our members recognized in such a prestigious and honored way. LCDR Terry Tassin USN (Ret) and LTC William Toy USA (Ret) have been selected for induction. Both men enjoyed distinguished military careers and then continued to serve their state and nation by supporting both the community and military organizations in multiple capacities.

This year's induction ceremony will be held at the Shrine Auditorium, 552 N. 40th Street, Phoenix, on Thursday, November 7th, beginning at 11:45 AM. Other inductee's will include Congressman (R) Bob Stump and Arizona State Senator (R) Tom Smith. At this time Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary Anthony Principi has indicated he will be present to join Arizona State and local officials in honoring the 2002 class of inductees into the Hall of Fame. Please join me for a wonderful, patriotic, and enjoyable lunch as we honor and join our Chapter inductees on this special occasion. For more information call Donna Adams at 602-265-0591 or toll free at 1-800-877-527-0764. *Col Chuck Schluter USA (Ret), Nominating Committee Representative*

### TROA Members Approve Name Change

Almost 90 percent of TROA members who cast ballots voted to change the association's name to Military Officers Association of America (MOAA). The voting closed Monday, September 16. The membership vote was the largest recorded in recent organization history, with 114,000 casting a vote either by mail or e-mail.

TROA believes the new name better reflects the total membership composition and what the association does (continued on Page 7)

## URGENT

### Early Bird Membership Drive and Big Prize Raffle

It's time for the Early Bird Membership Drive and Raffle!! Here's how it works:

The raffle tickets go for \$10.00 each. But, if you renew your membership in the Arizona Chapter of TROA, - \$20.00 for Members and \$10.00 for Auxiliaries - before the annual Christmas Dinner (19 December 2002, at the Best Western Park Hotel), for an additional \$20.00 you will receive 3 raffle tickets - a \$30.00 value. If you want additional raffle tickets for yourself or a friend, they are \$10.00 each.

#### To recap:

Members send \$40.00 for 1-year membership and 3 raffle tickets.  
 Auxiliaries send \$30.00 for 1-year membership and 3 raffle tickets.  
 You get a raffle ticket just for renewing your membership early.  
 Additional tickets are \$10.00 each.

<<You do not need to be in attendance to win, but it sure would be nice if you were.>>

Half of the raffle ticket sales will be returned to the membership in the form of cash prizes as follows:

<u>Assume:</u>	80 Members	@ \$20.00 each =	\$1600
	15 Auxiliaries	@ \$20.00 each =	\$300
	50 Others	@ \$10.00 each =	<u>\$500</u>
		Total	\$2400

50% payout = (estimated) \$1200 as follows:

**1<sup>st</sup> prize of \$500, 2<sup>nd</sup> prize of \$250 and 6 prizes of \$75 each.**

*The amount of payout depends on the amount taken in.*

**The raffle will be conducted at the annual Christmas dinner, 19 December 2002. We must receive your check before the dinner!**

\*To make all of this happen, turn this page over and fill out the appropriate blanks.

## Early Bird Membership Drive and Big Prize Raffle

▶ Sign me up for membership for 2003 and include me in the raffle \$\_\_\_\_\_ [Dues are \$20.00 for Full Member and \$10.00 Auxiliary, so \$40.00 or \$30.00 respectively]

▶ Only sign me up for 2003 membership \$\_\_\_\_\_ [Dues are \$20.00 for Full Member and \$10.00 Auxiliary, so \$20.00 and \$10.00 respectively]

▶ I am a multi-year member and paid up thru or past, 2003, but want to participate in the raffle (\$20.00) \$\_\_\_\_\_

▶ I want to purchase \_\_\_\_\_ extra tickets at \$10.00 each \$\_\_\_\_\_

**Total remitted** \$\_\_\_\_\_

▶ I am already a multi-year member past year 2002 and do not want to participate in the raffle \_\_\_\_\_.

***Please fill out the following*** and return as we are trying to expand our database to allow printing Anniversaries and Birthdays in *The Sentinel* along with other items of general interest.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Birth date \_\_\_\_\_  
(mm/dd only)

Spouse Name \_\_\_\_\_ Birth date \_\_\_\_\_  
(mm/dd only)

Anniversary Date \_\_\_\_\_

Hobbies \_\_\_\_\_

Passions \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Put your check in the mail right now, made out to "AZ Chapter TROA", annotated to show "For 2003 Dues and Raffle", and ship the whole thing off to Bill Johnson, 13410 N. 12<sup>th</sup> Place, Phoenix, AZ 85022-4944. Profit (the other half) will go for Chapter administration and the Scholarship fund.**

**Well... What are you waiting for??**

# Retiree Casualty Assistance Checklist

(For later use by next of kin)

As of date: \_\_\_\_\_

Retiree Name	SSAN	Service Nr	
Military Grade	Retirement Date	Branch of Service	Years of Service
Address	City	State	ZIP
Date of Birth (DOB)	Place of Birth		
Date of Marriage	Place of Marriage		
<i>Father's Name</i>	<i>DOB</i>	<i>Place of Birth</i>	
<i>Mother's Maiden Name</i>	<i>DOB</i>	<i>Place of Birth</i>	

## Documents needed to claim death benefits

### Location of these documents

- ▶ Copies of report(s) of separation from active duty (DD Form 214, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_
- ▶ Copies of retirement orders \_\_\_\_\_
- ▶ Copies of birth and death certificates \_\_\_\_\_
- ▶ Beneficiary's birth certificate(s) and marriage and/or divorce data \_\_\_\_\_
- ▶ Social Security data (See Part III) \_\_\_\_\_
- ▶ VA Insurance (See Part I) \_\_\_\_\_

#### Plus – You should always have the following documents on hand:

- ▶ Updated Will and Letter of Instructions \_\_\_\_\_
- ▶ Names of banks, credit unions, etc. (account numbers) \_\_\_\_\_
- ▶ Updated list of assets and liabilities \_\_\_\_\_
- ▶ Insurance policies, numbers, instructions, payments, etc. \_\_\_\_\_
- ▶ Adoption or naturalization papers (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

#### Part I – Veterans Affairs Data (if applicable)

VA Compensation	Disability Claim Nr.	Remarks
VA Insurance policy	File Nr.	
Type	Amount	Location of policies
Any known paid up additional VA insurance \$		As of Date
Veteran's claim number(s) (other)		Patient's data card Nr.

Other Remarks \_\_\_\_\_

#### Part II – Retirement Pay Data (see Retiree Account Statements)

Retired gross/net pay and allotment data:

Gross Pay \$	Net Pay \$	Taxable Income \$	
Deduction \$	For	Deduction \$	For
Deduction \$	For	Deduction \$	For
Deduction \$	For	Deduction \$	For

## Retiree Casualty Assistance Checklist (continued)

(For later use by next of kin)

As of date: \_\_\_\_\_

### Survivor Coverage Information

Survivor Benefit Plan 55% annuity \$ \_\_\_\_\_ 35% annuity \$ \_\_\_\_\_ SBP Base Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Supplemental SBP (if any) \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Effective \_\_\_\_\_

RSFPP Annuity \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Note: See "Retiree Account Statement" for explanation of Social Security Offset/2-tier formula.

### Part III – Social Security (when applicable)

*Social Security Claim Nr.* \_\_\_\_\_ *Month filed* \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Benefit(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Beginning month of entitlement \_\_\_\_\_

Amount monthly \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Bank and account number (direct deposit) \_\_\_\_\_

### Part IV – Miscellaneous (things to know and plan for upon death of a retiree)

- ▶ Disposition instructions for the body (Burial, Cremation, Memorial Service, etc.)
- ▶ Info required for Death Certificate (Date/Place of Birth, Father's Name, Mother's Maiden Name, etc.)
- ▶ Info required for Obituary Notice (Names, Relation & Locations of relatives, etc.)
- ▶ Survivors will need a new ID card (military, medical, commissary, base exchange, etc.)
- ▶ Necessary changes in your DEERS data will have to be made
- ▶ It may take several months to clear estates (you may need at least 8 copies of death certificate)
- ▶ Contents of safety deposit box should be known (make sure the box number, its location and location of key are known)
- ▶ Direct deposit of Social Security benefits & military retirement payments (entitlements) must be immediately changed
- ▶ Named beneficiaries on insurance policies become very important (keep current)
- ▶ There may be some entitlement to burial benefits (headstone, payment, etc.). Check with the VA.
- ▶ Check VA for Presidential Memorial Certificate
- ▶ An American flag can be obtained (check VA and Post Office)
- ▶ The survivor should update appropriate Will.
- ▶ Extra credit cards should be destroyed or cancelled
- ▶ Appropriate changes should be made to all joint ownerships
- ▶ Contact insurance companies as necessary
- ▶ Be prepared to turn in Retirees ID Card (where and when required)

**NOTE: Make every effort to retain original documents. Provide certified copies whenever possible.**

### Fill-in and keep handy the following office phone numbers (Update periodically)

<u>Office/Organization</u>	<u>Phone Number</u>	
▶ <i>Casualty Assistance</i>	_____	
▶ <i>Retiree Activities</i>	_____	<b>Add</b>
▶ Hospital (Military)	_____	<b>applicable</b>
▶ Legal Office (Military)	_____	<b>phone</b>
▶ VA Hotline	_____	<b>numbers</b>
▶ Social Security	_____	<b>of the</b>
▶ ID Card/DEERS Renewal	_____	<b>support</b>
▶ Family Support Center	_____	<b>bases.</b>
▶ Finance (Retired Pay)	_____	
▶ Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP)	_____	

**Note: Spouse/Next of Kin should have a copy of this document or know where to locate it.**

for all of our members. The association always has pursued legislative and policy actions on a variety of active duty, Reserve, and National Guard issues in addition to its heavy and effective emphasis on lobbying for military retiree programs.

"The recommendation to change our name was a huge decision," according to VADM Norb Ryan, Jr., USN (Ret), TROA's president. "However, we believe the change is in our members' best interests for future organizational strength as we lobby for our members and a strong national defense."

"TROA has long been known for its integrity and effectiveness in helping service men and women who serve and have served our nation," VADM Ryan said. "Nothing about that will change, nor will our emphasis on military retiree issues. We will still be the same people who work hard for all of our members every day."

TROA will begin the transition to the new name on January 1, but will use "formerly TROA" in the logo until October 1, 2003. The **Arizona Chapter TROA** will decide at the next Board of Directors meeting the effective date of the Chapter's modified name. *Editor*

Size	Annual	Quarterly	Impact Ad
Single Card	\$80	\$25	\$15
Double Card	\$160	\$50	\$30
Quadruple Card	\$320	\$100	\$60

### October Luncheon Meeting

WHEN: 25 October 2002  
6:30PM Social Hour — 7:00PM Dinner  
WHERE: Best Western Executive Park Hotel  
1100 N. Central Avenue  
Phoenix, Arizona  
COST: \$17.00 Per Person  
MENU: Italian Salad  
Chicken Parmesan  
Bowtie Pasta  
Sautéed Zucchini and Mushrooms  
Garlic Breadsticks  
Spumoni  
Coffee & Iced Tea

PROGRAM: Captain Warren G. (Bud) Schneeweis  
USCG (Ret) Deputy Director, Benefits Information Department, TROA

Please make your reservations early and send your check to Bill Johnson using the Meal/Meeting Reservation Form in this newsletter.

*Jim Seidl, Programs*

### TAPS

If you know of any member or member's spouse who enters the hospital or passes away, please notify one of the Chapter Officers.

### Newsletter Advertising

The Board of Directors approved advertising in the newsletter last spring. If you or a business/organization known to you wishes to place an ad in *The Sentinel* please contact the Editor – Terry Tassin for details. Advertisements will be priced according to size in multiples that approximate standard business card dimensions. Proceeds from advertisements will help defray the costs of preparing the newsletter. Ad costs are:

### Renew Military ID Card At 65th Birthday

The TRICARE Management Activity has issued a recommendation that ID cards be renewed and the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) information be verified on or near the beneficiary's 65th birthday.

Achieving the age of 65 and becoming eligible for Medicare is a significant event that can disrupt TRICARE benefits, based on current legislation and guidance. It is extremely important that a beneficiary's relationship to their sponsor be current and verified in the DEERS in

### CHAPTER FINANCIAL PARTICIPATION

If you would like to make a donation to one or more of the AZ Chapter Funds or renew your chapter membership, include your check identified as the appropriate fund and mail to: Bill Johnson, 13410 N. 12th Place, Phoenix, AZ 85022-4944.

Membership Renewal: \$ 20 Full Member: \_\_\_\_\_ \$10 Auxiliary Member: \_\_\_\_\_  
50th Anniversary Fund: \$ \_\_\_\_\_, General Fund: \$ \_\_\_\_\_, Scholarship Fund: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\* It is OK to identify me as a donor in the next newsletter. YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

Name Full Member: \_\_\_\_\_ Auxiliary Member: \_\_\_\_\_

### MEAL/MEETING RESERVATION FORM

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

Enclosed is my check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (Phone 602-689-5379 (Office)  
Phone 602-942-4549 (Home)

order to determine eligibility for benefits. Additionally, other personal information must be up-to-date to include resident address, mailing address etc. This renewal is also a mechanism for verifying that the beneficiary has purchased Medicare Part B, which is required for TRICARE For Life eligibility. Although Part B information can usually be determined during the data match with the Center for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS), discrepancies between CMS and DEERS systems occasionally occur. Having current Part B information in DEERS enables the Defense Manpower Data Center to identify possible errors in the data match and work specifically with CMS on those issues. Requiring a 65th birthday ID card re-issuance and DEERS re-verification is the best way to ensure that DEERS/DoD have the most current information available on a beneficiary right at the time s/he transitions to a new benefit plan.

Members who have already transitioned to TRICARE For Life need not renew their ID cards until the next expiration date. Retiree's cards never expire, however it is still a good idea to verify the information in DEERS and renew the ID Card if your appearance changes, and update the information in DEERS when there is a change in your life.

### Nautical Trivia

**Salutes:** The hand salute is the military custom you will learn first and use most while in the military. It is centuries old, and probably originated when men in armor raised their helmet visors so they could be identified. Salutes are customarily given with the right hand, but there are exceptions. A Sailor,

<b>The Arizona Chapter TROA - 2002 Officers and Committee Chairmen</b>	
President, LtCol Ron Green, USAF	480-595-8693
1st Vice President, LtCol Raymond Deane, USAF	623-939-8517
2nd Vice President, LT Jim Seidl, USCG	602-841-6026
3rd Vice President, LtCol Chet Baumer, USAF	623-582-8595
Secretary, LCDR Terry Tassin, USN	623-931-1546
Treasurer, Maj Bill Johnson, USAF	602-942-4549
Past President, Col Charles Schluter, USA	480-563-8480
<b>Appointed Directors at Large / Committee Chairmen</b>	
Membership, LtCol Raymond Deane, USAF	623-939-8517
Legislative, CAPT Dan Conway, USCGR	480-368-1427
Programs, LT Jim Seidl, USCG	602-841-6026
Newsletter Editor, LCDR Terry Tassin, USN	623-931-1546
Web Master, Capt Tom Houser, USAF	480-595-2041
TOPS Liaison, LtCol Bernie Conway, USAF	480-994-0440
Chaplin/Pers. Affairs, LTC Bob Rutherford, USA	602-944-4224
Historian/Photographer, LtCol Bill Adams, USAF	480-483-3180
Morale, LtCol Bernie Conway, USAF	480-994-0440
50th Anniversary, LtCol Chet Baumer, USAF	623-582-8595
Scholarships, LtCol Raymond Deane, USAF	623-939-8517
Advertising, Col Charles Schluter, USA	480-563-8480
Electronic Communications, LtCol Raymond Deane	623-939-8517

whose right arm or hand is encumbered may salute left-handed, while people in the Army or Air Force never salute left-handed.

**Bell-Bottom Trousers:** The Sailor's bell-bottom trousers, which came to epitomize '60s and early '70s fashion, are actually a practical item for Sailors living aboard ship. The wide, flared, legs are easy to roll up when swabbing a deck or wading through slightly flooded spaces.

**The Retired Officers Association  
Arizona Chapter  
P.O. Box 7644  
Cave Creek, AZ 85327**



Show Your Colors By Proudly Displaying The Arizona 'Veteran Plate' On Your Vehicle. Show How Veterans Help Veterans.