

The Sentinel

Arizona's First Chapter

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



JUNE 2003

CHARTERED IN 1956 - OVER 47 YEARS OF SERVICE TO COUNTRY

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The Sentinel will be taking a break in July and August with publication beginning again with the September issue. Hope to see you all back safe and sound in September—have a great summer! **Editor**



President's Message

I am sorry I was unable to attend our May meeting. The reunion I attended was great. However, the weather didn't cooperate as it rained everyday of the reunion, so we substituted one show (an Irish dance) in place of the "Amphibious Duck" tour (a tour of the countryside and a short trip on the lake in a modified WW-II Landing Craft) and then fit the "Duck" in between storms. Two other members of our Chapter (Roy Anderson and Pam) overlapped my stay. Small world!

I know that I missed a wonderful opportunity to meet and hear from our five fine scholarship winners. It is a comfort to know that we have outstanding young men and women ready to become the leaders of tomorrow.

I was able to attend the Unified Arizona Veterans meeting on May 3. There were several issues worth mentioning.

First, nominations are now being accepted for the third annual induction ceremony of the Veterans Hall of Fame to be held on November 6, 2003. Unified Arizona Veterans (UAV) sponsors the Hall on behalf of the Office of the Governor and the Arizona Department of Veterans' Services. The Hall is NOT a military hall of fame. It does recognize Arizona veterans who have honorably served their country through military service but, more importantly, it recognizes those who have continued to serve and inspire their fellow man with deeds and accomplishments throughout their lifetimes. If you have the name of someone that you feel should be submitted and is qualified, please call one of the directors. Nominations must be forwarded to the UAV by June 30.

Next, we were briefed by the President of the Buffalo Soldiers Association on their efforts to obtain and restore the O'Club at Fort

Huachuca. This club was built for Black officers when segregation was still prevalent.. It is a historic building slated to be torn down. If the building can be saved, we will have a chance to contribute to its restoration.

HELP: With Dan Conway's concurrence I have decided that the Chapter needs to establish a Legislative Committee to be chaired by Dan. The purpose of the committee is not to have regular meetings, but to have specific members identified that Dan can call on when he needs help - like attending a meeting when he is out of town or to show up at a legislative meeting when he needs numbers present. I can vouch for the fact that numbers of people present do influence how legislative committees vote. This is a very important function. I have volunteered to be a committee member and two additional volunteers would be nice. Depth in numbers is needed. Dan's home telephone number is on the last page of *The Sentinel*.

I wish to offer a "pat on the back" to all that have contributed to the Bob Hope Tribute, the Scholarship fund and the 50th Anniversary fund. You people are great!

Finally, I want to remind you that the dinner meeting for June is on the 4th Thursday (26 June) at Treulich's. Note the place and date change. Make a special note on your calendar. I've marked my calendar in **RED**. This is the last general meeting for this season. Join us again on 20 September when we start off the 2004 season.

God Bless America and God Bless each of you.

Ronald R. Green

LtCol USAF (Ret), President, Arizona Chapter, MOAA

Memorial Day 2003

Many of us started Memorial Day at the National Cemetery on Cave Creek Road. The program is really impressive and includes a quickly moving agenda which includes a fly over of bi-planes of the Escadrille Lafayette'd Arizona, a parade of Color Guards, lots of patriotic music, placement of Memorial Wreaths, and much more. If you have never

Arizona Chapter Calendar

June 12

BOD Meeting

June 14

Flag Day

June 15

Father's Day

June 25

Korean War Began
1950

June 26

Dinner Meeting

September 20
Luncheon Meeting

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

Chapter Support

One person's generous gift will help strengthen America's future through supporting the education of our youth. Since the last newsletter generous donations have been received from the members shown:

*Various members contributed \$150 to the **Bob Hope Fund.**

***Scholarship Fund:** John Sloan \$10; Ben Budzowski \$10; George S. Woodard \$50. Mulligans from golf tournament \$165.

***50th Anniversary Fund:** Pete and Chris Magadan \$40, Chet Baumer \$50, Roger Boston \$10, Bob Rutherford \$20, George S. Woodard \$50.

Our thanks are offered to all contributors on behalf of future beneficiaries of the funds.

Spring Golf Tournament Results

The AZ Chapter MOAA Spring Weekend Golf Tournament was held on Saturday, May 3 at Falcon Dunes Golf Course. Seventeen MOAA members and guests showed up. It was a beautiful day with temperatures in the mid-80's, with just enough wind to keep the bugs off, and to divert our drives for "closest to the pin" honors right into the sand trap. On May 3, 1947, the temperature in the Phoenix area was 109 degrees, so I think we lucked out with the temperature in the 80's. I think we had a few players that may remember that 1947 date. This year we instituted a new Callaway scoring system to try to wrest away some of the prize money from the normal winners. It didn't work! Roy Anderson (best score), Ben Budzowski (closest to the pin), and Cory Stegen (second best score) again took home most of the prizes. We did have some new blood as Frank Byrne plopped one within two feet of the "closest to the pin" hole. He also managed to make the follow-up putt. Making a birdie is newsworthy even for this crowd. Mike Simmons picked up the prize for "longest drive". Chapter President Ron Green did not win "The Hat" this time - he did not play! This year's winner was Past President Chuck Schuler. He now has one oak leaf cluster for his second award of "The Hat"! One Hundred Sixty-Five dollars was collected in the Mulligan fund for the scholarship program. Good effort - Good cause.

See you in the fall for our weekday tournament at Rolling Hills Golf Course. Stay tuned for details and keep practicing!

Bernie Conway, Tournament Director

Web Spin

Embracing the worldwide web technology is vital in getting the message out to and attracting today's active duty personnel. This is a powerful medium with global reach, yet incredibly efficient, as most military members and families have ready access. The only constraint to the functionality and usefulness of this medium is our imagination and action. Great ideas captured in plain text and low-resolution digital photos are all I need. Updating is fast and easy with well-organized content.

Recently, Frank Birtciel, Chapter Historian, provided great input for our 'History' page. See Frank in his favorite P-51

New Member

Welcome to new Chapter members since the last newsletter:

LtCol A. Richard Albrecht USAF (Ret) and wife Karen

Dick was born, raised and educated in Boston Massachusetts. Following high school, he enlisted in the Army Air Corps and graduated as a navigator. Assignments included Eighth Air Force in the UK, seven bombing missions over Germany, radar education in the UK and enlistment in the Army Reserve. Attended Northeastern University, earned a 1949 BS in Chemical Engineering. March 1952 was "invited" by President Truman to attend the Korean War. He was grounded from flying and served 18 months in the States, primarily as a Squadron Adjutant. Dick separated from service but continued active in the Air Force Reserve, primarily with the Civil Air Patrol. Served 11 years as a fire protection engineer with the Factory Insurance Association, Hartford Connecticut and 30 years with the Dow Chemical Company in Midland, Michigan with retirement in 1990. Dick is a Past Commander of the Sun City MOWW, Past President of the Sun City HI-12 and Scottish Rite Clubs, and holds memberships in several Masonic Organizations, including the Shrine. Dick and his wife Karen's life in Sun City began in 1986. They attend the Computer Club and volunteer for the Sun City Library and the Sun City Fire Department. Karen dates back to 1960 and hails from Rockford, Illinois. Her career began as a dietician but ended in the teaching profession with a Masters Degree from Rockford College in Illinois. They have two living sons, one daughter and three grandchildren, who reside in Tampa, Florida.

I hope many of you have the opportunity to meet Dick and Karen at our June dinner meeting.

or photo-journal record of our past meetings.

I'd like to see a greater focus on the TOPS Networking pages. These are particularly germane to our new active duty audience, especially if they are planning retirement transition.

If you have some thoughts, comments, or suggestions on how our web site may be improved, please contact Tom Houser at: thomas.houser@ins.com, or 480-595-2041.

Raffle Winners

The winners in the "50/50" raffle held at the May meeting were: Bill Adams, Mrs. Martin, and Fran Tassin.

Federal Bills of Interest

So far it is "Heap Big Smoke But Not Much Fire".

The following are bills of interest to the military that have been introduced in the current legislative session. So far, the only one that appears to be going forward with funding is S.647. Also, you can see that there is work to be done to get our Arizona Delegation to become cosponsors of more of these bills.

I will continue to follow and report on these bills. We have Appropriations and Authorizations to be concerned about as well as the particular bills. I think that we have learned that with enough support, the money will follow. We have to keep up our support of bills that we are concerned with, especially SPB improvements.

Here are the bills:

S.392 (Harry Reid, D-NV) to permit retired members of the Armed Forces who have a service connected disability to receive both military retired pay and disability compensation. Referred to Senate Committee on Armed Services. 58 Cosponsors including McCain. Also see H.R. 303.

S.451 (Olympia Snowe, R-ME) would increase the minimum Survivor Benefit Plan basic annuity for surviving spouses age 62 and older. Referred to Senate Committee on Armed Services. 27 Cosponsors including McCain. Also see H.R.548. Not included in the Senate version of the FY2004 Defense Authorization Act.

S. 585 (Bill Nelson, D-FL) would eliminate the requirement to reduce Survivor Benefit Plan annuities by any amount of Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) received by survivors of members who died of a service-connected cause. Referred to Senate Committee on Armed Services. Seven Cosponsors.

S. 647 (Edward Kennedy, D-MA) would authorize the services to pay premiums for existing civilian health coverage for Guard and Reserve members activated for more than 30 days in support of contingency operations. Referred to Senate Committee on Armed Services. Eleven Cosponsors. Included in the Senate version of the FY2004 Defense Authorization Act.

S. 683 (Russ Feingold, D-WI) would authorize employment leave for family members of the armed forces on active duty in support of a contingency operation. Referred to Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions. Zero Cosponsors.

S. 704 (Susan Collins, R-ME) would increase the death gratuity for service members killed while on active duty to \$12,000 (currently \$6,000), retroactive to Sept. 11, 2001. Passed Senate April 1, Referred to House Committee on Armed Services. Four Cosponsors including Senator McCain.

S. 706 (John McCain, R-AZ) to provide Survivor Benefit Plan annuities for surviving spouses of Reserves not eligible for retirement who die from a cause incurred or aggravated while on active duty training. Referred to Senate Committee on Armed Services. Three Cosponsors.

S. 712 (John McCain, R-AZ) would provide an SBP annuity to survivors of Reservists who die from a service-connected cause while on inactive duty for training. Passed Senate April 1, Referred to House Committee on Armed Services. Five Cosponsors.

S. 715 (Lindsey Graham, R-SC) would extend unlimited commissary privileges to drilling Guard and Reserve

members and "gray area" retirees, vs. current limitation of 24 visits per year. Referred to Senate Committee on Armed Services. Two Cosponsors including McCain.

S. 718 (John McCain, R-AZ) would authorize up to \$40 in free telephone calls per month for members deployed overseas in direct support of military operations in Afghanistan or Iraq. Passed Senate April 1, Referred to House Committee on Armed Services.

S. 721 (George Allen, R-VA) would eliminate taxability of military pay for all members serving in a combat zone (not all pay is currently exempt for some officers), and would expand the exclusion to include income for the period of transit to the combat zone. Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar. Ten Cosponsors including McCain.

S. 757 (Saxby Chambliss, R-GA) would make mobilized Guardsmen and Reservists in senior command positions eligible for \$50 monthly Command Incentive Pay (eligibility is now limited to active duty commanders). Referred to Senate Committee on Armed Services. Four Cosponsors including McCain.

H.R.303 (Bilakaris, FL) to permit retired members of the Armed Forces who have a service connected disability to receive both military retired pay and disability compensation. Referred to House Committee on Veteran's Affairs and to House Committee on Armed Services. 296 Cosponsors including Flake, Grijalva, Hayworth, Franks, Kolbe, Renzi and Pastor. Also see S.392.

H.R.548 (Miller, FL) would increase the minimum Survivor Benefit Plan basic annuity for surviving spouse age 62 and older. Referred to Senate Committee on Armed Services. 252 Cosponsors including Grijalva, Hayworth, Franks, Renzi and Pastor. Also see S.451.

H.R. 879 (Dave Camp, R-MI) would open Montgomery GI Bill eligibility to active duty members who entered service between 1977 and 1985 and who in many cases were counseled not to enroll in the much less favorable Veterans Educational Assistance Program (VEAP) of that era. Referred to House Committee on Veteran's Affairs and to House Committee on Armed Services. 25 Cosponsors.

H.R. 1111 (Cass Ballenger, R-NC) would limit the duration of retired pay payments to former spouses whose marriage to the service member did not include at least twenty years on active duty. It also would base divisible retired pay on the member's grade and years of service at time of divorce. Referred to House Committee on Armed Services. 19 Cosponsors including Grijalva.

H.R. 1163 (Tim Ryan, D-OH) would provide student loan deferments for Reserve and Guard service members called to active duty. Referred to House Committee on Ways and Means. Seven Cosponsors including Franks.

H.R. 1466 (Michael Capuano, D-MA) would allow Guard and Reserve members a tax credit for health care premiums paid while mobilized. Referred to House Committee on Ways and Means. 25 Cosponsors.

2003 Arizona Chapter \$1000 Scholarship Recipient's

These great looking young people are this year's recipients of the Arizona Chapter's 2003 Scholarships. After each student gave a short report on their future plans, each was presented with a Scholarship Certificate and a \$1000 check to help with their college expenses



L to R and Universities Attending:

Luke Ortega, Saguaro High to Yale University, Robert Poffinbarger, Apollo High to University of Arizona, Liana Moody, Camelback High to United States Merchant Marine Academy, Joe Roe, Cactus High to United States Air Force Academy, and Benjamin Martin, Thunderbird High School to University of Arizona

The five candidates attended the awards luncheon with their parents. Two Senior Instructors also were in attendance. The scholarship presentation ceremony on May 17, 2003, was held at the McCormick Ranch Golf Club, Scottsdale, Arizona. The candidates told about their interesting JROTC experiences and college plans. They expressed great appreciation for the \$1000 scholarships and thanked all veterans for their military service to our country. Gary Fredericks, 1st Vice President, and Richard Horn, Scholarship Committee Chairman, presented the checks and the framed certificates. Everyone enjoyed this impressive program. **Richard Horn, Scholarship Chairman**

H.R. 1323 (Martin Frost, D-TX) would afford academic protections for Guard and Reserve personnel called to active duty. It would preserve academic standing and scholarship eligibility, as well as tuition refunds for student-reservists activated early in a semester. Referred to House Committee on Education and the Workforce. 27 Cosponsors including Grijalva and Hayworth.

H.R. 1328 (Walter Jones, R-NC) would expand eligibility for the Montgomery GI Bill and extend the period of time over which service members make payment deductions. Referred to House Committee on Veterans' Affairs and to House Committee on Armed Services. Three Cosponsors.

H.J.Res. 4 (Randy Cunningham, R-CA) would amend the Constitution to allow Congress to pass legislation

prohibiting physical desecration of the U.S. Flag. Passed by House Committee on the Judiciary on May 21, 2003. 300 Cosponsors including Franks, Hayworth and Renzi.

Daniel Conway, Legislative

CHAMPVA Policy Benefits Surviving Spouse

WASHINGTON (March 12, 2003) - A new law will reinstate health care benefits for some surviving spouses covered by the Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs (CHAMPVA) if they apply by Feb. 4, 2004. "I am pleased that we can now provide health care benefits to some veterans' widows or widowers who remarry and, in doing so, bring them peace of mind. These older CHAMPVA beneficiaries lost their coverage in the past," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Anthony J. Principi. The surviving husband or wife who lost access to CHAMPVA benefits by remarrying before Feb. 4, 2003, can be reinstated into the program if they remarried after becoming age 55 and if they apply for reinstatement by Feb. 4, 2004. Similarly, a surviving spouse who remarried after becoming age 55 and lost access to TRICARE benefits may now be eligible for CHAMPVA coverage. To be eligible for CHAMPVA, people must be family members of veterans who have a permanent and total service-connected disability, who died of a service-connected condition or who were totally disabled from a service-connected condition at the time of death. In general, CHAMPVA covers most health care services and supplies that are medically and psychologically necessary. People who want an application for this benefit or more information can contact the VA's Health Administration Center at 800-733-8387. Surviving spouses who remarry at a younger age and lose their CHAMPVA benefits can have these benefits restored if their later marriage is annulled or ends due to death or divorce. Similarly, widows or widowers of any age who lost benefits under VA's Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) program due to remarriage are eligible for reinstatement of monthly DIC payments if their subsequent marriage ends. This restoration policy has been in effect since 1998, but VA officials are concerned widows or widowers may overlook this benefit if a subsequent marriage ends years later. VA's average payment to surviving spouses is about \$12,000, including adjustments for minor children, survivors who are housebound or who need a home aide, and other factors.

Wearing Military Uniform by Military Retirees

Often military retirees inquire as to when is it appropriate to wear their military uniform. Wearing of the uniform by retirees is authorized by Title 10, U.S. Code Section 772 and governed by a DoD directive and military service regulations.

Generally, military retirees may wear their military uniform at official functions when the dignity of the occasion and good taste dictates. Wearing the uniform is appropriate for memorial services, weddings, funerals, balls, patriotic or military parades, ceremonies in which any active or reserve United States military unit is participating and functions of military associations.

Retirees may wear either the uniform prescribed at the

time of their retirement or of those on active duty, but the two may not be intermixed. Restrictions on retirees wearing the uniform vary with each service. Please refer to the service regulation for guidance. In general, retirees are prohibited from wearing their military uniform in connection with personal enterprises, business activities, or while attending or participating in, a demonstration, assembly or activity for the purpose of furthering personal or partisan views on political, social, economic, or religious issues. In addition, retirees residing in or visiting a foreign country may not wear their military uniform except when attending, by formal invitation, ceremonies or social functions at which wearing of the uniform is required by the terms of the invitation, or by the regulations or customs of the country.

For additional information concerning military uniforms please refer to the official Department of Defense web sites.

Transitional Health Care

Family members of certain service members separating from active duty are eligible for up to 120 days of TRICARE health care benefits. The DoD Worldwide TRICARE Transitional Health Care Demonstration Project is retroactive to Jan. 1 and in effect for two years. It applies to families of:

- Active duty service members involuntarily separated under honorable conditions.
- Reserve component members separated after serving on active duty for more than 30 days in support of contingency operations.
- A service member separated from active duty after involuntary retention on active duty in support of a contingency operation.
- A separated service member who voluntarily remained on active duty for one year or less in support of a contingency operation.

Eligible families may use TRICARE Prime, the least costly option for most people; TRICARE Standard, the fee-for-service option with deductibles and cost shares; or TRICARE Extra, the network option with deductibles and negotiated fees. Eligible families receive 60 days of transitional coverage if sponsors served less than six years on active duty and 120 days if sponsors served six or more. Transitional benefits are not automatic. Sponsors and family members must be enrolled in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System. Active duty sponsors may verify or update DEERS information by contacting or visiting the local facility that issues military identification cards. A facility locator can be found at <http://www.dmdc.osd.mil/rsl>.

[Source: American Forces Press Service Aug. 19, 2002]

MOAA Name Tags

Many members are ordering new nametags sporting the revised MOAA logo. If you would like a new Name Tag, order forms are available at each Chapter meeting. It is requested that you pay for them (\$5) when ordering so if something prevents you from attending the next meeting they can be mailed to you.

Address Info

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.



Trivia

***Honeymoon.** It was the accepted practice in Babylon 4,000 years ago that for a month after the wedding, the bride's father would supply his son-in-law with all the mead he could drink. Mead is a honey beer and because their calendar was lunar based, this period was called the honey month which we know today as the **honeymoon**.

***Mind Your P's & Q's.** There are few of us who at one time or another have not been admonished to "mind our P's and Q's," or in other words, to behave our best. Oddly enough, "mind your P's and Q's" had nautical beginnings as a method of keeping books on the waterfront.

In the days of sail when Sailors were paid a pittance, seamen drank their ale in taverns whose keepers were willing to extend credit until payday. Since many salts were illiterate, keepers kept a tally of pints and quarts consumed by each Sailor on a chalkboard behind the bar. Next to each person's name, a mark was made under "P" for pint or "Q" for quart whenever a seaman ordered another draught.

On payday, each seaman was liable for each mark next to his name, so he was forced to "mind his P's and Q's" or he would get into financial trouble. To ensure an accurate count by unscrupulous keepers, Sailors had to keep their wits and remain somewhat sober. Sobriety usually ensured good behavior, hence the meaning of "**mind your P's and Q's**."

Another version states, in English pubs, ale is ordered by pints and quarts. So in old England, when customers got unruly, the bartender would yell at them to mind their own pints and quarts and settle down. It's where we get the phrase "**mind your P's and Q's**".

Dress Ship. Commissioned ships are "full-dressed" on Washington's Birthday and Independence Day, and "dressed" on other national holidays. When a ship is dressed, the national ensign is flown from the flagstaff and usually from each masthead. When a ship is full-dressed, in addition to the ensigns, a "rainbow" of signal flags is displayed from bow to stern over the mastheads, or as nearly so as the construction of the ships permits. Ships not under way are dressed from 0800 to sunset; ships under way do not dress until they come to anchor during that period.

Marooned. This old punishment for mutineers consisted of placing them on an island with musket, cutlass, and a breaker of water; and leaving them to their fate. It got its name from certain Cimarron Indians who had been transplanted in the West Indies as cheap labor and, deserted by their Spanish masters, had been left to starve to death. The famous Captain Drake discovered them in a pitiable condition and gained the Indian's lasting gratitude by returning them to their far-off home.

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June 15th, 2003

TAPS

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

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June-Final For Summer-Dinner Meeting

WHEN: 26 June 2003
6:30PM Social Period
7:00PM Dinner Meeting

WHERE: Treulich's Restaurant
5020 N. Black Canyon Freeway
(I-17 & Camelback Rd. NW Side)
Phoenix, Arizona

COST: \$16.00 Per Person

MENU: House Salad
Roast Top Sirloin
Oven Brown Potato
Fresh Vegetables
Rolls & Butter
Hot Apple Pie with Sauce
Coffee & Tea

PROGRAM: Mr. Russell H. Helwig,
Topic: "Lead From The Heart"..

Please make your reservations early and send your check to Bill Johnson using the Meal / Meeting Reservation Form. **Jim Seidl Programs**

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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: \$ _____

Scholarship Fund: \$ _____ **General 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 \$ _____ (**\$16.00** per person) for **26 June 2003**

Make check payable to: AZ Chapter MOAA **No Later Than: 18 June 2003**

Send to Bill Johnson, 13410 North 12th Place, Phoenix, AZ 85022-4944. Phone 602-689-5379



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