



The Sentinel



Arizona's First Chapter

The Arizona Chapter, 14435 N. 66th Place, Scottsdale, Arizona 85254

August 2006

CHARTERED IN 1956 - OVER 49 YEARS OF SERVICE TO COUNTRY

EDITOR: John Gerometta

50th Anniversary Countdown—2 Months to Go!!!



President's Message

The Committee continues planning for our 50th Anniversary Celebration. The Scottsdale Plaza Resort continues planning for our 50th Anniversary Celebration. The only thing left is *your* planning for our 50th Anniversary Celebration. It is time to make your reservations so that we know how many table decorations to make, how many programs to print, etc. Therefore, I urge that you send in your payment now. If you aren't ready to send in your payment, a phone call to Chet Baumer at 623 582 8595 as to your plans would be very helpful.

I hope to see you there.

Daniel M. Conway

50th Anniversary Celebration

The Arizona Chapter MOAA announces it's 50th Anniversary Celebration to be held in the beautiful Scottsdale Park Plaza Resort located at 7200 North Scottsdale Road, Scottsdale, AZ. This gala event will get underway October 21, 2006 with no host cocktails at 5:30 P.M. followed by the call to Dinner at 6:30 P.M.

Presentation of Colors by Cortez High School NJROTC Color Guard will be followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and the National Anthem.

After the Invocation, honored guests will be introduced and the Memorial Table will be honored.

Champagne Toasts will be given to the Commander-in-Chief, the seven services and MOAA.

The menu includes an Appetizer of Napoleon of Dilled Shrimp tossed with a Light Dill Cream Sauce and layered between Delicate Puff Pastry. A Salad of Farm Raised Baby Lettuces with Toasted Pecans, Roasted Peppers and Red Onion Vinaigrette. The Entree is Traditional Slow Roasted Prime Rib with Horseradish Cream, Julienne Vegetables and Twice Baked Potatoes. This is topped off with a Dessert of Chambord Creme Brulee Garnished with Seasonal Berries. Beverages are Coffee, Tea, and Water.

(Note: If you have any food allergies please contact Velma Birtciel at 480-945-2824)

The Keynote Speaker is Vice Admiral Norb Ryan Jr., USN (Ret) President, Military Officers Association of America.

Following the Benediction you may dance or listen to the music of the "Rags Allen Trio".

All MOAA members and their guests are invited to attend. Make your reservations early and send check to Mr. William Johnson, 13410 N. 12th Place, Phoenix, AZ 85022-4944 made out to Arizona Chapter 50th Anniversary Fund. Price \$75.00 per person.

Make your reservations early and have a grand time. If you plan to stay overnight at the Park Plaza Resort, call 480-948-5000 for the resort special rate and refer to MOAA 50th. This special reduced rate is good until August 21, 2006.

Dress is semi formal, uniform if you can still get into it or tuxedo or dark suit and don't forget your miniature medals.

Frank Birtciel

Fund Donations

One person's generous gift will help strengthen America's future through supporting the education of our youth. Since the last newsletter the members below have made generous donations to the:

50th Anniversary Fund:
Aino Baudu \$50, Fiesta Ford \$100

General Fund
No donations this month

Scholarship Fund
No donations this month

Arizona Chapter Calendar

Aug 3

- BOD Meeting 1:30, American Legion 107

Sept 7

- BOD Meeting 1:30, American Legion 107

Sept 16

- Luncheon Meeting, McCormick Ranch GC

Sept 29

- Fall Golf Tournament, El Caro GC

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

50th Anniversary Celebration Transportation Planning

Your Board of Directors wants to ensure that Chapter members who need transportation to the 50th Anniversary Celebration receive due consideration. Your attendance is very important to us and we want to ensure you are present when we raise our glasses to salute the occasion, and pay tribute to those who established the fine legacy we have.

Therefore we seek two tidbits of information:

Would you attend the evening celebration if transportation were provided?

Would you provide transportation to another member if necessary?

Remember, we need your feedback. This is important. So if you need a ride, or can provide a ride – we need to know. Please call Marie Schluter at 480 563-8480, or send an email to oldlymer@aol.com. Please provide name (s), address and phone number.

50th Anniversary Dinner Reservations

- Bill Adams—2 tickets
- Aino Baudu-3 tickets
- Chet Baumer—2 tickets
- Frank Birtciel—8 tickets
- Dan Conway—2 tickets
- Gary Fredricks—2 tickets
- Mike Gannon—2 tickets
- John Gerometta—2 tickets
- Doug Gray—2 tickets
- Ron Green—2 tickets
- John Gerometta—2 tickets
- Chuck Schluter—2 tickets
- Jim Seidl—2 tickets
- Terry Tassin-2 tickets
- William Terry—2 tickets
- JoAnn Thompson—I ticket
- Bill Toy—8 tickets
- Rosanne Trujillo—1 ticket
- Ed Waldmann— 1 ticket
- Jeff Young-2 tickets
- Luke Chapter— 2 tickets
- Tucson Chapter-8 tickets

Our goal is 150 tickets—94 to go

New Members

Welcome to five new Chapter members since the last newsletter:

Mrs. E. Carol Beckett
10060 W. Royal Oak Rd. Unit E
Sun city, AZ 85351
623-977-4404
Ellen.beckett@asu.edu

Harold C. Church
LtCol USAFR (RET)
And his wife Eleanor
11814 E Becker Lane
Scottsdale, AZ 85259
480-767-7772

Muryl R. Cole
CDR USNR (RET)
And his wife Christiane
3332 N 61st Place
Scottsdale, AZ 85251
480-946-0810
mrc1922@aol.com

James D. Cullison
LtCol USAF (RET)
And his wife Beth
13819 N 51st Street
Scottsdale, AZ 85254
602-482-3838
cullison30@qwest.net

Roland E Curtis
LTC USA (RET)
And his wife Margaret
3141 E Altadena Ave
Phoenix, AZ 85028
602-992-9284
rolandcurtis@mstar2.net

Raymond J. Czar
CDR USN (RET)
And his wife Catherine
8625 E Edward Ave
Scottsdale, AZ 85250
480-991-3553

David R. Woker
CAPT USN (RET)
And his wife Michelle
3232 E Stanford Drive
Paradise Valley, AZ 85253
602-617-4631
dwoke@amgen.com

Please take the opportunity to meet our new members.

Chapter History (continued)

By Chuck Schluter

Our President for 1994 was commanding a pretty strong crew. George Zernicki had a line on three chaps who would ensure a succession of Chapter officers for several years. Leadership is something that we take for granted in the profession of arms, however a mark of a Leader is not always "motivation", but is often times "inspiration". George ensured that he was succeeded by Bill Adams, who was followed by Chet Baumer, and then by Bill Thompson. Together these men lead the Chapter for four consecutive years. Today, Chet and Bill Adams both attend meetings regularly, and Chet has been on the Board of Directors continually for 7 years.

President Bill Thompson was a strong advocate of a united effort among the various Arizona Veterans Associations. He was instrumental in ensuring that TROA was not only active, but was able ensure that TROA was recognized as a well organized, well resourced and well led veterans association. He is also a Charter member of the Arizona Military Hall of Fame, and was inducted in 2001 along with former Chapter member Barry Goldwater and all of the Congressional of Honor Recipients with ties to Arizona.

I arrived (that's me, writing this) on the doorstep of the Chapter one Christmas Eve (well close anyway) late enough in 1998 to ensure my term of office would literally span two centuries. I was accompanied by Ron Green who kept me straight, and who later held the officer of President for two years in his own right.

It was on our watch that TROA begat MOAA. Let us reiterate that without question MOAA is the United States' largest veteran's organization for active duty, National Guard, Reserve, former, and retired military officers and their surviving spouses. With those ideals in mind Ron and I launched into a "get er done" mode. MOAA "National" has adapted well to the challenges, and without question Ron and I were blessed with an incredible team of workers, especially

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in the areas of Chapter History, Newsletter Editor, Legislative, Webmaster and Chapter Programs. We witnessed the huge successes of Tri-Care For Life (that sure covered the cost of membership Dues in a hurry!), SBP and more. We enjoyed one picnic (well maybe we didn't enjoy it all that much, after all, it only happened once) and several other social activities. The Arizona Chapter really is a social focused group who will answer the call to duty when necessary. You and all of our members truly are "Ready, Willing and Able", and your support of National Legislation and Chapter programs is casehardened proof.

In 2001 the Chapter was compelled to create our Meritorious Service Award because so much seemed to be happening and we wanted to recognize individual contributions while inspiring continued participation. By now we had an Honor Guard with all of the trappings. Our JROTC Program, compliments of Ray Deane, grew from 3 High Schools to 15 High Schools – and he ensured that it was both well funded and well manned. When Ray had asked for "volunteers", he simply stated that it none came forward; he'd start calling people at home – at 2 O'clock in the morning. Folks started to volunteer pretty darn quick from then on. One good idea followed another, and we were off and running with another highlight being the Annual Christmas Party and the perfectly organized Silent Auction ala-Dan Conway.

About that time his light-hearted brother, Bernie Conway, was launching an ongoing series of semi-annual Golf Tournaments as well. They simply focused upon genuine fun and good honest JROTC Scholarship Fundraising. It was a great idea and emphasized two major functions of the Chapter – Social Fun and JROTC! Today the series continues under the tutelage of Pat Dale, and Bernie has moved over to another important role – Morale and Personal Affairs.

The Arizona Chapter is an integral part of MOAA, representing one of 415 Chapters (Arizona also has a

'Council of Chapters' which is one of 36 Councils overall). Our members are extremely important individually and collectively. Remember the earlier reference to "National" – that's them, and they need us. We are the Chapter, and we need you!

In 2002 Ron was smack dab in the middle of his two year term (2001-2003) and plans were continuing for the forthcoming Golden Anniversary. It was a good year, we visited the local Fighter Museum (Let's see..., Gary Fredericks and Ron Green and Bernie Conway and Roy Anderson all flew the Jets, Frank Birtciel and Billie Loos had flown the Lightings, Corsairs and Mustangs, and Jim Seidl flew the ones with the two cloth covered wings...oh no, maybe not...excuse me) Regardless, it is because of them and many others that we later paid special tribute to our members who earned the wings of an Aviator during the Centennial of the History of powered flight. On a different note, sometime later the Chapter again endorsed the Arizona Military Hall of Fame and nominated two more of our members, Terry Tassin and Bill Toy. Another prominent member of our Chapter, AZ Senator Tom Smith was also nominated, and all three were inducted into the Arizona Military Hall of Fame at the same time.

Ladies and Gentlemen, let me assure you that this Chapter has met the test of time. Gary Fredericks followed Ron as the President, and the various Chapter Officers and Directors, and in many cases, active Members, continued to make the difference, continued to contribute and volunteer time, effort, and ideas. Another Chapter member, Dan Conway had risen to assume the Presidency of the Council by that time too. Across the board, good things were happening. The Website, Newsletter and Electronic Newsletter all received national recognition (meaning "that 'National'" okay?). We were on a roll – and it continues today! Our Treasurer (who does not cook the books!) continues to be Bill Johnson, and he has held his position for almost a decade. As we approach the 50th, he has been drawing comparisons to the 40th. We've had two webmasters, Ron Drew and now Tom Houser. Tom elevated our website beyond imagina-

tion, and his only challenge is keeping up with the input from our Historian, Frank Birtciel (and his wife Velma), and of course, our most recent contributing Newsletter Editors, Terry Tassin and John Gerometta

Dan Conway and Gary Fredericks reversed roles, and Dan assumed Chapter President while Gary moved to Council. Gary's tenure as Chapter President however resulted in the Arizona Chapter being awarded the highest level of recognition that MOAA can bestow upon a Chapter – and we now have a 5 Star Banner affixed to our flagstaff. We also nominated two more individuals for the Arizona Military Hall of Fame, and were delighted to congratulate Mike Gannon and Dick Minor on their achievements.

Although we have chartered a pretty active course over the last 49 and half years, we've been pretty active. Our leaders have led, our accomplishments have been many, our friendships have been lasting and the camaraderie is truly enduring. This Chapter is in many respects an extension of our way of life, our values and ethics.

To this day, all things considered, social and economic change has occurred exponentially. However a counter point is that just as young Majors will always continue to be impressed by fast talking slick Warrant Officers, the values and ethics, loyalties and patriotism of our members will remain steadfast and unquestionable. The need for "National" to depend upon the collective strength of Chapter membership is a plain and simple fact. Therefore we should continue to do what needs to be done, and if we share a social commitment while doing it, so much the better. It is obvious that those who traveled the road before us carved out a fine legacy of good work, recreation, dedication and inspiration. CWJO Childress and Major Powell can stand proud, and so can all of the rest of our members who showed us the way.

As you can see from this understated but verbose bit of rambling dialogue, 50 years of great guys, great gals, some fun, a few losses and several

stunning victories can make it all worthwhile. Thanks for the opportunity. However, the next time I ask for your memories and input – just do it. If you don't, I'll really stretch my imagination and start adding "war stories" using names. For now I need to rest my imagination Hmm, I wonder what it would be like to have a nice shiny 50 year old Chevy, hmmm...

This is a healthy Chapter and it is about to achieve a milestone event. We will soon celebrate 50 years of brother and sisterhood. 50 years of dedication to fine and worthy ideals, 50 years of good work, respect and community service. We will celebrate by enjoying a gala evening complete with military remembrances and protocols, a nationally recognized keynote speaker, fine dining, live music and dancing. We will be joined by several VIP guests, visitors from other MOAA Chapters, neighbors, family and friends. It's your Chapter, and a positive legacy is in place to be sustained. Please join us on Saturday

October 21st at the Scottsdale Plaza Resort! - See you there!

This is the last special edition of *The Sentinel* highlighting the 50th Anniversary celebration.

Membership

Currently the AZ Chapter has 181 members including, 43 auxiliary members and 17 new members for 2006.

50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Please reserve _____ meals for (name)_____
Enclosed is my check for\$_____ (\$75.00 each or \$600.00 per table) made out to
Arizona Chapter MOAA

Please list my name _____and/or a memorial for
(name) _____. Enclosed is my check for \$ _____.

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

Arizona Chapter
Military Officers Association of America
14435 N. 66th Place
Scottsdale, AZ 85254



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