



The Sentinel

Arizona's First Chapter



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

NOVEMBER 2006

CHARTERED IN 1956 - 50 YEARS OF SERVICE TO COUNTRY

EDITOR: John Gerometta

Great Time Had By All At 50th Anniversary Celebration!



President's Message By Daniel Conway

The 50th Anniversary Celebration turned out to be a wonderful event including the presentation of the colors by the Cortez NJROTC Color Guard, the Pledge of Allegiance, the beautiful performance of the National Anthem, the Invocation, the Memorial Table ceremony, the Toasts, the dinner, the remarks of Admiral Ryan, and the music. Those of us who attended will long remember the occasion. Thanks again to the 50th Committee and to all those who attended and to those who made donations which all made it a very appropriate memorial to the 50th anniversary of the Chapter.

As I reminded you last year, in November, we celebrate Thanksgiving Day which gives



us a chance to count our blessings, whether good health, family, friends, or whatever else. It also gives us an opportunity to help others who are in the same situation that many of us were in at some time in the past. This year we have a special opportunity to contribute to the ARNG Family Assistance Program.

This is a program set up by the Arizona National Guard to provide emergency assistance to families left behind by those Guard and Reserve members who have been called to active duty. They help the spouse with getting his/her car repaired, getting the water heater replaced, repairing storm damage, and all those things that the Guard or Reservist would have been able to handle if they had been home.

The Arizona Council of Chapters is conducting a fund drive for this cause which I endorse and encourage you to be a part of. I urge that you consider a generous contribution to the fund. Just remember the benefits which those of us who are now retired and those who will someday be retired have recently been awarded in large part to the efforts of MOAA. Tricare for Life results in a savings of over \$150/ month/ person. What a difference that amount could make to a Guard or Reserve family when

problems develop.

While the MOAA effort is being coordinated by the Council, credit will be given to each participant and to each Chapter. Please send your donations to the Arizona Chapter MOAA, 14435 North 66th Place, Scottsdale, AZ 85254. Write out your tax deductible check to "ARNG Family Assistance Program" and write on your check "AZ Chapter". The intent is to present a check to the National Guard on December 10th so make sure that you get your contributions sent in by December 5th to meet the deadline.

Please give this fund your serious consideration.

Meanwhile, we have our Monthly meeting coming up. I hope to see you all there.

Chapter Leadership Opportunities

Every year at this time our chapter officers attempt to recharge and reinvigorate your chapter leadership through annual elections and appointments to committee positions. Unfortunately, we usually wind up relying on the same group of folks who have already stepped forward and are in positions of leadership. You can see the current line up of incumbents on the last page of this Sentinel. We would really like to tap some new blood (members, spouses

Arizona Chapter Calendar

Nov 2

- BOD Meeting 1:30
American Legion 107

Nov 18

- General Luncheon Meeting, McCormick Ranch Golf Club

Dec 7

- BOD Meeting 1:30, American Legion 107

Dec 16

- General Luncheon Meeting, McCormick Ranch Golf Club

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

Leadership Opportunities cont'd fm page 1

and auxiliary members are all included), not only to give a couple of incumbents a bit of rest, but also to have a venue to some new ideas. This applies to brand new members as well as members of long standing.

Elected officers include a president, a 1st vice-president, a 2nd vice-president, a secretary, a treasurer, and five board of directors members. Standing committees include Sentinel editor, web master, legislative, programs and arrangements, JROTC medals, JROTC scholarships, chaplain, historian, photographer, TOPS liaison and personal affairs. We would like to have a public affairs committee among other things, but haven't found a person to lead it.

I have been appointed to lead the nominating committee. I will be contacting some individuals that I know personally, but it is difficult to get to know everyone in our organization. So, if you have any interest in any of the positions listed or if you would be available to help on something else, please let me know. You can reach me at gfredricks@cox.net or (480) 836-8419.

Legislative Update

by Gary Fredricks

Last month we reported that it would be touch and go whether or not the 2007 Defense Authorization Bill reconciliation between House and Senate got finished before the legislators departed for the campaign for midterm elections. MOAA national reports that they did indeed clear the conference report prior to adjourning. As was the case last year, we won some and lost some. All in all I think we have to chalk it up well on the positive side of the ledger. We owe a lot to our national headquarters staff in D.C. and to the Military Coalition for leading the charge and for our many members who sent in their cards and letters and made phone calls to show that grassroots support that is absolutely essential.

Among other things the bill bars the Defense Department from increasing any TRICARE Prime or TRICARE Standard fees, pharmacy co-pays or TRICARE Reserve Select premiums for FY 2007. This was a hard fought and significant victory over a surprise initiative out of DOD. We can expect it to be a battleground again for the FY 2008 budget cycle. The bill dropped a proposal to mandate use of the mail-order pharmacy for all refills of maintenance medications as well as MOAA supported initiatives to eliminate co-pays for most drugs dispensed through the mail-order system. It also authorizes permanent ID cards to permanently disabled dependents of retirees, and it requires a Pentagon report on giving members an option to have their Social Security numbers removed from ID cards.

The bill also increased Army, Army National Guard and Marine Corps end strengths and makes all drilling reserve members eligible for

TRICARE coverage at the lowest current premium. It provides \$400,000 Group Life Insurance (SGLI) free for members assigned to Iraq and Afghanistan and restricts unscrupulous lending practices by imposing a 36-percent annual interest rate cap on loans to service members.

On the negative side MOAA and other advocates were unable to sway the conferees into accepting the 2.7% active duty pay raise proposed by the Senate in lieu of the 2.2% raise proposed by the House. The bill does include some needed "targeting" of increases, but overall sends a pretty poor message to our war fighters. Both the MOAA advocated elimination of the DIC offset to SBP and the advanced cut-in date for 30-year paid up SBP also fell to the side in conference as they did last year. Also dropped were the Senate recommended reduction in Reserve retirement age and a provision to provide additional incentive payments to doctors to take TRICARE patients in areas with physician shortages.

We obviously have more work to do next year and there will always be more requirements than there are resources to fill them. MOAA spends considerable time and effort at year's end to identify and prioritize legislative actions for the following year. This year MOAA has conducted an outreach program to get inputs on interest from its members. There were 7000 surveys sent out to a random MOAA population, and the survey was available at the MOAA website through October 18. I hope that many of you took the opportunity to provide your opinions. We will keep you informed on priorities, issues and actions for next year as they become more settled over the coming weeks.

November Luncheon Meeting Saturday, 18 November - McCormick Ranch Golf Club

Increase in Meeting Luncheon Fee
Due to an increase in cost of serving our meals at McCormick Ranch, the Board of Directors approved an **increase in luncheon costs to \$18 per person.** This change is effective with the November meeting. Please take note of this change when you send your reservations and checks to the Treasurer.

The next Chapter meeting is set for Saturday, **18 November** at McCormick Ranch Golf Club. Bring a friend to our meeting and introduce them to a great group of people. The meeting will start with a social time at 11:00 a.m., with lunch served at 12:00 Noon. The reservation form is located in this newsletter. The deadline for reservations to reach Bill Johnson is **15 November.** Come join us for good food and comradeship.

Newsletter Advertising

If you or a business/organization known to you wishes to place an ad in *The Sentinel* please contact the Editor for details. Advertisements will be priced according to size in multiples that approximate standard business card dimensions. Proceeds from advertisements help defray cost of preparing the newsletter. Advertising costs are:

Size	Annual (10 issues)	Quarterly	Impact Ad
Single Card	\$80	\$25	\$15
Double Card	\$160	\$50	\$30
Quadruple Card	\$320	\$100	\$60

Membership Matters!

What a great celebration the Arizona Chapter had at our 50th anniversary! VADM Ryan gave a wonderful speech on the diversity of membership to move MOAA forward. I've received several e-mails from others who attended the gala event and they all said they wish we had more of these events. That's the opportunity our chapter has to continue to build upon the momentum of our 50th anniversary celebration. VADM Ryan reminded us that MOAA is not just for retired officers, but for all officers who are serving (or have served) in any capacity. As the "greatest generation" population declines, we need a surge of new members to continue the MOAA unity of effort.

Earlier this year we started a membership drive to get the word out to those who are in our area that we are an active chapter who have accomplished many things of benefit thanks to the superb effort of our members. This effort continues, however, I encourage you to reach out and find potential members as well as make the effort for lapsed members to renew their chapter memberships. There are MOAA members – chapter and non chapter alike who are eligible for membership but for whatever reason have not joined. We all know what MOAA has accomplished. Talk to your eligible friends or widows and urge them to join.

If anyone would like me to send a

New Members
There are no new Chapter members since the last newsletter.

Members
Currently the AZ Chapter has 192 members including, 46 auxiliary members and 26 new members for 2006.

membership packet to a potential member, just send me an e-mail with their name and address and I'll put one in the mail to them. We've already signed up over 25 new members this year!!! Keep up the good work.

Dee Norton -
Phone: 480-275-5089
E m a i l :

deenorton@cox.net

Golf Tournament
By Pat Dale

The Fall MOAA/ROTC Scholarship Charity golf tournament was held 29 September and was a great success. Twenty-eight players participated and twenty-eight good prizes plus "skins" winners and 50/50 drawing winners were awarded. The net proceeds went toward JROTC scholarships in the amount of \$400. The Spring tournament will be held in early May and we hope to grow the event even further. Thanks again to all the participants and I hope you will pencil this event in on your calendars for the Spring.

The Gospel According To St. Titleist

May thy ball lie in green pastures and not in still waters.

~Author Unknown

The only time my prayers are never answered is on the golf course.

~Billy Graham

Golf appeals to the idiot and the child in us.

Just how childlike golfers become is proven by their frequent inability to count past five.

~John Updike

Arizona Veteran's Hall of Fame Class of 2006



James C. Seidl



Arthur Park Shaw

It is almost impossible to remember how tragic a place the world is when one is playing golf.
~Robert Lynd

They say golf is like life, but don't believe them. Golf is more complicated than that.
~Gardner Dickinson

If a lot of people gripped a knife and fork the way they do a golf club, they'd starve to death.
~Sam Snead

Golf is a day spent in a round of strenuous idleness.
~William Wordsworth

If you are going to throw a club, it is important to throw it ahead of you, down the fairway, so you don't have to waste energy going back to pick it up.
~Tommy Bolt

If you drink, don't drive. Don't even putt.
~Dean Martin

**PASSING SCHOOL ZONE
TAKE IT SLOW
LET OUR LITTLE
SHAVERS GROW**
Burma Shave

50th Anniversary October, 21 2006 - Wrap-up!!

October 21st marked the 50th Anniversary of the founding of our Chapter. That date is behind us, and a significant milestone in the life of the chapter has been achieved. It was a good 50 years and over the last few months we've reminisced fairly well. We mentioned people, activities, legislative successes, community involvement, scholarships and finances – five decades is a long time, and we remembered well. And we planned for the big day.

So, October 21st arrived with a lot of forethought. The basic considerations of "Who What Where When Why and How" had been in our minds, was scratched on napkins and envelopes, and finally committed to paper (or keyboards) over a very long time. Almost five years of anticipation and consideration was executed very well on October 21st.

Our Committee Chairperson, Chet Baumer conducted a casual campaign which ensured that each facet of "the plan" was addressed by individuals possessing the necessary competencies. From first "location" reconnaissance, to choice of menu, development of correspondence, invitation of guests and a Keynote Speaker, creation of a marketing plan and a project plan, promotional brochure and Press Release – and finally, the publication of the Program and the last minute tweaking of seating charts all came together with military precision! Go figure!

Our Keynote Speaker was none other than Vice Admiral Norb Ryan, President of MOAA. VADM Ryan actually arrived one day early and started Saturday with an early breakfast with Gary Fredericks and Bob Delker from the Arizona Council, and Chuck Schluter, a member of both the National Board and our Chapter. The plan for the day consisted of a kick-off breakfast, a visit to the Arizona National Guard, participation in the AZ MOAA Council of Chapters meeting, and finally, the Celebration of the Arizona Chapter

50th Anniversary.

The foursome did visit the Arizona National Guard headquarters and spent some time with Brigadier General Maxon, the Assistant Adjutant General, Army, and SGT George Murphy, a recently returned veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The visit was extremely worthwhile for MOAA, and VADM Ryan was especially appreciative of the opportunity to learn first hand the needs of the families and the concerns of those currently serving. General Maxon is a long time member of MOAA, and he in turn appreciated the opportunity share his priorities as well.

The Arizona Council of Chapters meeting was well attended and well executed. An abbreviated agenda allowed the Council President, Gary Fredericks to distribute material and receive feedback from each Chapter. Chapters rendered separate reports which allowed VADM Ryan an opportunity to hear about unique issues, and especially, the unique activities our chapters conducted over the past several months. The Admiral's comments to the audience were extremely well received, not because the outlook from any particular vantage point was especially rosy (elections, a war, a tight budget, legislative matters, etc) but mostly because he is a genuine "people person" with a flair for humility that is extreme. Rest assured, the national president is totally dedicated to the MOAA mission, and to each individual member.

The Question and Answer session was informative (naturally) and was underscored by the insight we received, learning about how things unfold behind the scenes back at National Headquarters. You may recall that MOAA recently hosted an event where the President of the United States addressed an audience regarding the topic of Terrorism. How that came about, and how we scrambled to make things "just so" made for an interesting vignette indeed. Admiral Ryan then presented

MOAA's highest award, a Five Star Banner to both the Arizona Chapter and the Luke Chapter in recognition of their continued levels of excellence in 2005. The banners were accepted by the respective Chapter Presidents, Dan Conway and Jerry Wojtas.

The Council meeting concluded with an election of Officers who were duly sworn in as officers by VADM Ryan. Our Council is now in the capable hands of CW4 Bob Delker (President) from the Superstition Mountain Chapter, and Maj Vern Pall (Vice President) of the Tucson Chapter. Col Dick Weidner (Secretary/Treasure) from the Luke Chapter agreed to continue on as well.

As you can see – October 21st was shaping up to be a long, productive day. And thus far, everything was going according to plan!

Chapter members and guests, Admirals and Generals, Active Duty, Retired, Officer Candidates, Guard and Reserve, families and friends, sponsors and more seemed to float into the reception area right on time. The cocktail hour began promptly at 1730 and was a sea of well-suited men, uniforms and tuxedos, and the ladies were simply exquisite (of course!). Special Guests included VADM Ryan and his lovely wife Judy, Medal of Honor Recipient Fred Ferguson was accompanied by his bride Ann, Donna Adams represented the Unified Arizona Veterans, Col Palmatier came from the Arizona National Guard, and in total we were joined by 146 wonderful folks.

The evening agenda was concise, well executed, provided ample recognition of visitors, Chapters, Past Presidents and Hall of Fame inductees, but was noticeably short on speeches. Darn! We did conduct a special ceremony, led by Chapter VP Terry Tassin entitled the "Missing Man" to acknowledge our legacy, and those who could not, and will

50th Wrap-Up.....continued from page 4

never again partake of a military gathering. We also raised our glasses to toast our Commander in Chief, each service branch, the Public Health Service, NOAA and MOAA, and especially, our Ladies. Each toast was rendered by a representative of the respective service, and Terry ensured that our Ladies were honored appropriately.

Our President, Dan Conway kept things moving but never failed to provide words of recognition and credit to those who led the Chapter in the past, or those who made the evening event so worthwhile. He acknowledged the efforts of the committee. In retrospect, Frank and Velma selected the location and the band. They also donated every Table Center piece, and Frank created an extremely impressive and quite popular "Chapter History" display. Good counsel was provided by Jo Ann Thompson, Jim Seidl, Terry Tassin and Chuck Schluter – and all will acknowledge that the generous contributions of our members and sponsors over the last several years made the event possible, and quite special!

The Band, the Rags Allen Trio was marvelous, as was Beverly Poage who sang the Star Spangled Banner. Father Gerry Conway (brother of both Dan and Bernie) ensured we received ample blessings as he conducted a touching Invocation, and later a brief Benediction. Many things seemed to be happening all at once, and the plan for the evening, which took years to plan, was rushing to an end. Dan didn't miss a beat, and during one of his commentary moments, he looked over to table number four where eight members of the Toy family were enjoying their dinner with Bill Toy, our oldest surviving Chapter President (Bill turned 85 two weeks earlier than our 50th). Both Dan, and later, Admiral Ryan acknowledged that it was a continuous series of leaders, such as Bill, who have made the Chapter what it is, and led it to where it was that night.

Chuck introduced Admiral Ryan with emphasis upon the Admirals persona

and desire to engage the MOAA mission at the grass roots level. The Admiral quite obviously does conduct our business comfortably on the road, in the Halls of Congress and even in the Oval Office – however, it is his nature to be a Leader who is in touch with his constituents who are the individual members of MOAA. On this particular evening, every person touched by Judy and the Admiral were made to feel individually quite special. The impact of his presence and persona, and Judy's bright smile and sincere care for individuals combined to represent a true "force multiplier" for us. The impact was truly unimaginable at times. Wow! They made the evening event simply wonderful.

The Admiral's keynote address granted all present a rare look at how closely MOAA embraces the membership at large, and how the mission, to protect the entitlements of our uniformed services, their families and survivors, and our retiree's is foremost in all we do. He asked that the active duty member's present stand and they also received an ovation of applause. Dan was asked to return to the stage and the Admiral then presented the Arizona Chapter with a Certificate acknowledging 50 years of service to MOAA.

The evening was winding down, and the dancers were getting a wee bit antsy but we still had a surprise (two) up our sleeves. Dan called upon Col Palmatier to come forward, and Dan presented the Arizona Guard and Reserve Family Relief Fund with a check for \$1000. (We should have a separate article about that fund some day). He also requested that Admiral Ryan return front and center, and on the behalf of the Arizona Chapter, we presented a check for \$1000 to the MOAA National Scholarship Fund.

The Band initiated the dancing portion of the agenda with a medley of service songs, and as each branch song was played, respective members of the audience stood tall and received appropriate applause – it truly was a spectacular evening.

Dancing continued until we couldn't

dance anymore – but it sure was a wonderful evening, and I wish I could do it again every month!



Bill & Angela Toy



Gail & VADM Ryan



Jim & Toni Seidl

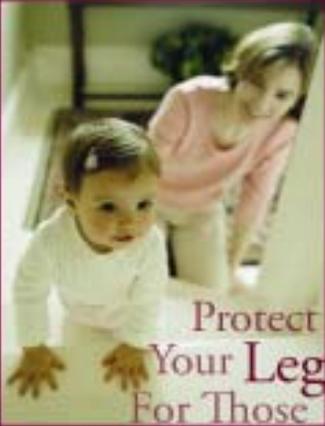


Tim, Velma & Elizabeth

50th Anniversary Montage October 21, 2006



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 Chandler
-
- Thur, Nov 9th, 9-11 AM
 Foothills Golf Club
 2201 E. Clubhouse Dr.
 Ahwatukee
-
- Thur, Nov 9th, 7-9 PM
 Hilton Scottsdale
 6333 N. Scottsdale Rd.
 Scottsdale

November Luncheon Meeting

WHEN: 18 November 2006
 11:00 a.m. Social Period
 12:00 Noon Lunch

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

COST: **\$18.00 - Per Person**

DRESS: Casual

MENU: Chef's Choice

Program: **Presentation of Chapter Meritorious Service Awards** to: Betty Baumer, Chet Baumer, Velma Birtciel, Frank Birtciel, Pat Dale, John Gerometta, Dee Norton, Chuck Schluter, Jim Seidl, Jo Ann Thompson, Ron Worthington..

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

-- Jim Seidl, Programs

Sick Call List

John Gerometta

recovering from surgery.

Get well soon John!

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 Johnson, 13410 North 12th Place, Phoenix, AZ 85022-4944.**

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 \$ _____ (**\$18.00 per person**) for **18 November 2006.**

Make check payable to: AZ Chapter MOAA **No Later Than: 15 November 2006**

Send to: Bill Johnson, 13410 North 12th Place, Phoenix, AZ 85022-4944. Phone 602-690-1012

The Arizona Chapter solicits advertisements for the purpose of defraying the cost of publication of the newsletter. The Chapter has not made any investigation as to the products and services advertised herein and makes no representation or warranties as to the advertisements in the newsletter.

The Arizona Chapter - MOAA - 2006 Board of Directors and Committee Chairmen

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**Arizona Chapter
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