

2001 Events

The year 2000 came and went with the battle over which year is the big millennium still unresolved and the dire predictions of the end of the world and crashes of all the computers coming about failed to materialize. The computer gurus solved the Y2K problems and our social security checks arrived on time and our big blue marble is still rotating.

Our meal at the Ristorante Pronto started off the year 2001 with President Chuck Schluter at the helm for his third year and our guest speaker, our own BG Marilyn Coffinger, speaking on Long Term Care, a subject getting more important to each of us with the passing years.



L-R Joyce Conway, Margo Rutherford and then Dan Conway; President Chuck Schluter exiting pronto in his car (double-entendre intentional)



BG Marilyn Coffinger



President Chuck Schluter at the helm

Raymond Deane and his wife Lee have volunteered to take on the Scholarship and JROTC program and have proposed an ambitious increase that resulted from the smashing success of the Silent Auction. With the demise of the West Valley Chapter, our Chapter will be taking on part of the high schools in that area bringing our responsibility up to 14 high schools.

With the announcement of the opening of the 50th Anniversary Account, Marie Loos made the first generous donation to that account in memory of her husband Billie Loos.

United Services Automobile Association (USAA) has arrived in the Valley. President Chuck Schluter has been in contact with the point man, Col Jack Swonson, USAF Ret. Jack is the Senior VP in charge of operations in Phoenix.

Hope is TOPS can hand-off some resumes that result in jobs.

In April 2001, the Chapter added the Arizona State Flag and the POW/MIA Flags with four new bases and four new staffs with expenses partially offset with member donations.

President Chuck Schluter wanted a color guard formed to participate in the Memorial Day Ceremonies. You can thank Peter and Cris Magadan for hauling these flags, staffs, and bases and setting them up for each meeting.

LtCol Chuck Finch USAF Ret. was our guest speaker at our February dinner meeting and now a new member. Chuck was pilot of Air Force 1. Unfortunately I am unable to find a picture to insert here. Chuck says he got the job because he was damn good and could roll the 747 wheels ever so gently on to the runway every time. I guess one has to be that good to get the job of hauling the President of the United States hither and yon. There is an old AF saying that says a pilot can roll those wheels so that they just kiss the runway now and then, two in a row needs a little luck, three in a row now that usually happens at the bar. Having been an old AF jock with some experience in the little ones and some in the likes of the B-52, I have



President Chuck Schluter and Jack Swonson



Dan Conway speaking at our April 1 meeting

rolled them on now and then and then some with a few extra bounces and I guess that is why I never got to fly the President. Great stories and if you missed this one, you should not have.

The year 2001 was a turning point in health care for veterans with the passing of Tri Care for Life legislation. Our own Dan Conway led the fight for passage and funding of this legislation as did TROA and 30 other organization in the Military Coalition. Dan speaks at our April dinner meeting on what we as individuals have to do prior to implementation on October 1, 2001.

Guest Speakers at the dinner were Col John F. Dwan from TROA National and Arizona Senator Tom Smith both of whom received flag groups from President Chuck Schluter. Great turn out for the meeting and Senator Tom Smith is also a new member of the Chapter.



Guest Speakers Col John F. Dwan from TROA National and Arizona Senator Tom Smith at podium with President Charles Schluter



Dan Conway is also shown with Congressman Jim Kolbe breaking ground for the State Veterans Cemetery in Sierra Vista with first interments scheduled for April 2002.

May 6, 2001 was our third annual Golf Tournament with 10 participants and getting better every year. Roy "Tiger" Anderson defended his championship again and again our President won the hat. Bernie Conway is making plans for a game in the Fall.

Memorial Day at the National Memorial Cemetery of Arizona was impressive as usual with a fast moving agenda including a fly over of Bi-Planes of the Escadrille Lafayette'd, a parade of Color Guards, lots of patriotic music, placement of Memorial Wreaths the legend of the White Doves and much more.

May 30, 2001 was the induction of the Inaugural Class of 2001 into the Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame. Among others, 26 Medal of Honor recipients with Arizona ties along with 24 others were inducted. Elected officials become eligible after they have been out of office for two years. Barry Goldwater and Walter William "Bill" Thompson of the Chapter were inducted.

A very impressive ceremony.



Bi-Planes of the Lafayette d' Escadrille

Remember Chuck Schluter wants a Color Guard, Chuck gets a Color Guard. And it is probably the first Chapter Color Guard in the state of Arizona.

Members were Raymond Deane "Commander" Tom Houser, Al Fueling and Chuck Schluter, decked out with TROA fore & aft Caps, Bola Ties, White Shirts, Blue Blazers, Gray Trousers and Black Shoes a real neat bunch of dudes and one of the few groups who could keep step.



Raymond Deane "Commander" Tom Houser, Al Fueling and Chuck Schluter



Dan Conway presented the TROA Memorial Wreath. Great job Guys!



June 2001 and the Chapter is going great guns. Medals went to 14 third year JROTC students at a like number of high schools and 4 \$500 scholarship were awarded. The driving force behind this program is Raymond Deane shown here presenting a \$500 scholarship to Matthew Rawlings. If there is a spare buck anywhere in the Chapter, Raymond will grab it for the Scholarship Fund. Mighty good work Raymond.



Matthew Rawlings and Erin Shannahan accompanied by their parents and Commander, LTCDR Terry Tassin were guests for the June Dinner. Terry became a member of the Chapter and has become a real workhorse as you will see.

The Board of Directors established a procedure in July to recognize members of the Arizona Chapter who have performed exceptional service to the Chapter and National. Those selected will receive awards at the regular Annual Meeting in November.

President Franklin D. Roosevelt named December 7, 1941 as A Day in Infamy with the attack on Pearl Harbor. The Terrorists destruction of the World Trade Center Twin Towers and the attack on the Pentagon on September 11, 2001 by taking over commercial airline flights and crashing them into the buildings will certainly be remembered in the same way. The bravery of the passengers of another hijacked flight will long be remembered as they prevented the terrorists from their act and losing their lives in the effort. The scenes of the airliners crashing into the towers are etched in our minds forever as is the tumbling down of the towers as they collapsed upon themselves. A new age is upon us and will be here for a long time.

Our President has declared war upon terrorists and those who support, fund or give them safe haven. I hope we don't soon forget.

The Arizona Chapter had its first Fall Golf Tournament November 13, 2001 with 13 participants. As usual "Tiger" Roy Anderson was the Champion again, but we had a change in the "Golfing Fool Hat" winner who was Dan Conway.

Congratulations! Many thanks to Bernie Conway who sets it all up.

The Chapter Annual Meeting was held on November 15, 2001. Chet Baumer read the proposed slate of Officers and with no other nominations from the floor the voting process duly elected the slate.

Dan Conway was elected President of the Arizona Council of Chapters.

The Christmas Party was held December 20, 2001 with the Silent Auction another smashing success thanks to the generosity of the members and some of the merchants who donated items or money. This will enhance the Scholarship and JROTC programs.

My want ad in the Sentinel paid off (It pays to advertise). Roger and Linda Yeager became members in October and volunteered to take over as the Sentinel editor and the office of Secretary.



Pearl Harbor Day, Dan Conway presents the Memorial Wreath at the Wesley Bolin Center.



Raymond Deane announced the initial group of recipients for the Chapter Meritorious Service Awards and they are: Bill Johnson, Jim Seidl, Bill Adams, Bob Rutherford, Bill Toy, Frank Birtciel, Carol Adams, Irene Doto, and Chuck Schluter. Irene was not present and will be presented her medal later.