

2009 Events

January 2009

The Arizona Chapter kicked off the new year with installation of officers and a fascinating presentation by a World War II aviation historian.

Guest speaker Dr. Bill Wolf of Carefree, a retired dentist and World War II aviation historian, shared stories and items from his extensive collection of WW II memorabilia with the 58 members and guests at the luncheon gathering. He has written eight books on air combat in the war and has a ninth scheduled for publication this year. His collection of wartime artifacts and documents is possibly the largest private collection in the world.

Outgoing President Terry Tassin handed over the president's gavel to Ron Perkins and the new officers were sworn in for 2009. Other officers are Ron Worthington, first vice president; Bill Roscher, second vice president and treasurer; John Ady, Ron Drew, Ron Green, Gregg Maxon and Rob Welch, directors. Ron Perkins also continued as secretary.



February 2009

Scottsdale resident Vickie Mullins, author of the *I want you to know me* book series, told the 55 luncheon attendees how important it is to create connections and leave a lasting legacy for family members, and how to do it. She also donated two of her books to the 50/50 raffle, helping to raise \$127 for the raffle.

March 2009

Scottsdale Police Chief Alan Rodbell discussed the past, present and future of his department.

Chief Rodbell explained how he is using technology and a regularly updated strategic plan to keep the streets safe in Scottsdale.

Fifty people enjoyed the lunch and the presentation.

Photo: President Ron Perkins shares a laugh with Scottsdale Police Chief Alan Rodbell.



April 2009

Arizona District 4 Congressman Harry Mitchell drew an audience of 60 when he spoke on veterans issues. Rep. Mitchell, co-sponsor of "The GI Bill for the 21st Century," said he supports efforts to reduce the backlog of VA disability claims and the best care for wounded veterans. The Congressman answered questions at the end of his presentation and stayed afterward to answer further questions. His appearance drew the largest luncheon attendance of the year to date, a total of 60 members and guests.

The chapter is fortunate to have John Tymczyszyn as a member. John serves on Rep. Mitchell's staff and was instrumental in arranging this informative presentation.



Ron Perkins thanks the Congressman for taking time from a busy schedule to address our members and guests.



Paul Fein and John Ady discussed issues with Rep. Mitchell after the meeting.



Rep. Harry Mitchell covered many veterans issues in his presentation.

May 2009

The Chapter continued its tradition of awarding scholarships to outstanding JROTC cadets. Four seniors from Phoenix area high school JROTC programs were designated by Ron Worthington's selection committee and approved by the Board of Directors. The scholarships for \$1,000 each were presented to the cadets at the May luncheon, with 47 members and guests in attendance.

Receiving scholarships were Stephanie Butkowski, Cactus High School Air Force JROTC; Andrew Carlson, Cortez H.S. Navy JROTC; Kenneth Liles, Deer Valley H.S. Air Force JROTC, and Dustyn Ruble, Alhambra H.S. Army JROTC.

Also during May, member volunteers finished up the presentation of JROTC medals to cadets at 17 high schools supported by the Chapter. The winning cadets were selected by their JROTC instructors on the basis of such factors as academic standing, moral character, loyalty and potential for military leadership.



Pictured from left: Col. Alice Demarais of Triwest Healthcare Alliance, scholarship winners Dustyn Ruble, Stephanie Butkowski, Andrew Carlson, Kenneth Liles, and JROTC Awards Chairman Terry Tassin

September 2009

The Chapter resumed luncheon meetings in September with a timely and enlightening program following a summer break. Col. Gregg Davies, commander of the 214th Reconnaissance Group, based at Davis-Monthan AFB in Tucson, described his unit's role in operating MQ-1 Predator unmanned aerial vehicles in the skies over Afghanistan.

While based in Arizona, the 214th launches and "flies" the Predators, which are based in Afghanistan, through a fiber optic and satellite network. The Predators provide real-time reconnaissance and surveillance to troops on the ground and also carry precision weapons to launch on selected targets. Col. Davies described the mission and related several of the actions involving the Predator. His presentation was very informative and drew a number of questions from the 64 members and guests at the meeting.



Col. Gregg Davies

October 2009

For the second year, the Chapter hosted the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) program in presenting commendations to local businesses and government agencies for supporting their employees called to active duty.

The presentation took place at the Chapter's second annual picnic, held at McCormick Stillman Railroad Park in Scottsdale, which attracted 59 members and guests. Famous Dave's Legendary Pit Barbecue catered the event and served a legendary meal.

ESGR Chairman Scott Essex and Executive Director Butch Wise, a Chapter member, coordinated the awards presentation. Chapter member Chuck Schluter, Director of Employer Outreach for the State of Arizona, described the valuable role ESGR plays and the importance of the Guard and Reserve in the overall military mission. Commendations were presented to Wells Fargo Bank, Intel Corporation, the Boeing Company and the Maricopa County Department of Health. Each was nominated by a Guard/Reservist employee who was called to active duty.



Flanked by Scott Essex on right and Ron Perkins on left, Army National Guard Specialist Mario Aguirre and his supervisor John Blanks of Wells Fargo Bank, display the commendation presented to Wells Fargo at the ESGR presentations.



Members and guests enjoyed a catered luncheon and then listened to the citations for employers receiving ESGR honors.

November 2009

During the year, the Chapter honors JROTC students and local employers, but November is the time to recognize our own outstanding members by presenting Meritorious Service Awards at the monthly luncheon.

This year's winners were board member and personal affairs specialist John Ady, personal affairs director Dan Conway, newsletter editor and historian Jim Cullison, golf tournament chairman Pat Dale, Pat's wife and tournament co-chair Patricia, legislative director and national board member Gary Fredricks, program arrangements chairwoman Marie Fredricks, webmaster Tom Houser, treasurer and second vice president Bill Roscher, program chairman and TOPS liaison Chuck Schluter, and first vice president and JROTC medal program chairman Ron Worthington.

The meeting also featured election of 2010 officers: Ron Perkins, president; Gregg Maxon, first vice president; John Ady, second vice president; Beth Cullison, secretary; Bill Roscher, treasurer, and directors Dan Conway, Ron Green, Kathy Upchurch, Rob Welch and Ron Worthington. Installation takes place in January.

December 2009

The Chapter ended the year in a festive mood with the popular Dickens Carolers entertaining the 47 in attendance with seasonal songs during lunch, followed by a lively Chinese auction with surprise gifts provided by the Board of Directors. Gifts large and small brought smiles to faces and fun for everyone. Proceeds from raffle tickets that gave members a chance at a gift went to the scholarship fund.



Meritorious Service Award medals were presented to: standing from left, Chuck Schluter, Dan Conway, Ron Worthington, Tom Houser, Gary Fredricks, Pat Dale and Bill Roscher; seated from left, Jim Cullison, Marie Fredricks, Patricia Dale and John Ady. Chapter President Ron Perkins, standing right, made the presentations.



Chuck Schluter



Dickens Carolers



Terry Tassin appraising a gift.



Marie Schluter's brief possession of a hotly contested gift



Final owner of the Bailey's