



# The Sentinel

## Arizona's First Chapter



The Arizona Chapter

8213 E. Del Camino Dr.

Scottsdale, AZ

85258

SEPTEMBER 2011

CHARTERED 1956 - 55 YEARS OF SERVICE TO COUNTRY

EDITOR: JIM CULLISON

### President's Perspective

by John Ady



#### Back to Business

Greetings to one and all. This summer for the Ady family has flown by, as I am sure it has for you. In between dealing with haboobs, something that was totally foreign to me prior to the evening of July 5, and trying to stay abreast of all the news flowing out of Washington, D.C., regarding the federal deficit and budget, as well as a host of related matters, it's been quite a summer.

#### Five Stars Again

On the bright side of things, your chapter received some excellent news in that once again we have been selected as a Five Star Chapter of Excellence, and I will be traveling to the national conference in San Antonio to receive the award on behalf of all the great members we have scattered throughout the valley.

These awards are hard to come by and are based on a variety of measures. Therefore, it is quite an honor for us to be

selected, and I might add that this award is based on our performance during calendar year 2010 during the time that Ron Perkins was "in the command seat," along with a very capable board of directors and other volunteers.

#### Plan to Meet

As we resume operations for the fall and winter, we have great luncheon meetings scheduled with excellent speakers and programs. I hope you can join us for any or all of them, starting with the September luncheon on the 17th. Details are included elsewhere in this newsletter.

#### Hall of Famers

There's also another announcement that I am

pleased to make. Two of our members, Rance Farrell and Gregg Maxon, were chosen by the United Arizona Veterans to become new members of the Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame, with ceremonies scheduled for Friday, October 28, at the El Zaribah Shrine Auditorium.

Congratulations to both men.

#### You Can Help

In closing, I will remind you that both the "help wanted" and chapter recruiting office are open for business. If you wish to assist your chapter in any way, please contact me. In a like manner, we can always use a few extra good members, so as you meet former or current officers, tell them about all the wonderful benefits of belonging to MOAA and in particular our chapter.

Hope to see you soon.

#### Come to the Aid of Your Chapter

Election of 2012 Chapter officers takes place in November. Some upcoming vacancies need to be filled. A new Auxiliary Chair also is needed. There surely are some members among our 200 plus who can step forward to serve the chapter. Give John Ady a call, 480-596-0780. It's not work, it's service.

#### Arizona Chapter Calendar

**Board of Directors** meets at 1030 hours, Rm. A107, in the Arizona Veterans Home, 3rd Street and Indian School Road. Members are invited to attend.

#### Upcoming meetings:

- . September 1
- . October 6

**Member Meetings/ Luncheons** are normally held on the third Saturday of the month, Social Hour at 1100, Luncheon at 1200, at McCormick Ranch Golf Club, unless noted otherwise.

#### Upcoming meetings:

- . September 17
- . October 15, picnic at McCormick Stillman Railroad Park

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**Happy Birthday, Air Force: September 18, 1947**



### Scholarship Time for JROTC Standouts

The May meeting was highlighted by awarding of our annual \$1,000 scholarships to local JROTC cadets. President John Ady, left, made the presentations to, from left, Jennifer Ellis, Moon Valley HS, Navy; Lyne Ngo, Sandra Day O'Connor HS, Air Force; Jaime Martinez Jr., North HS, Army; Genevia MacFarlane Turnbull, Cortez HS, Navy, and Carolina Mora, Alhambra HS, Army. At right is Edwin "Biff" Bissinger, TriWest Healthcare Alliance Operations Director, who presented the chapter a \$2,000 check for the Scholarship Fund.

### Arizona Republic Recognizes Chapter Members for Accomplishments

Three Arizona Chapter members recently received compliments in Art Sloan's "Veterans' Voice" column in the *Arizona Republic* community sections.

First VP Gregg Maxon, BG ARNG (Ret), was recognized for selection to the Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame and for joining with law partner Shelley Cutts to form a law firm that's specialties include military law and veterans appeals, and for helping to create veterans courts in Phoenix.

COL Gene Rafanelli, USA (Ret), was honored as the paper's Veteran of the Week for his service as president of the Association of the U.S. Army and for working on homeless veteran issues and supporting Gold Star Mothers.

In addition, the column noted CAPT Carol Culbertson, USNR (Ret), as the information contact for an Association of the U.S. Navy reception featuring ADM John C. Harvey Jr., commander of the U.S. Fleet Forces Command, and for the upcoming Navy 236th Birthday Ball.

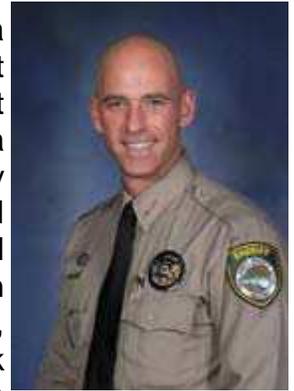
## September Luncheon

### Pinal Sheriff to Address Chapter

Pinal County Sheriff Paul Babeu was elected on a platform to improve service and safety for families in his jurisdiction, including improved training and optimum use of technology to reach that goal.

Sheriff Babeu will be guest speaker at the September luncheon.

In addition to leading a 700-employee department that serves Arizona's fastest growing county, he is a major in the Arizona Army National Guard. He served a tour of duty in Iraq and was deployed 16 months on Operation Jump Start, where he commanded Task Force Yuma, which was responsible for direct support of the Border Patrol in securing the Arizona/Mexico border.



Sheriff Paul Babeu

With that wealth of experience, he promises to be a fascinating speaker, so make your plans.

**Special Note:** Make your reservations this month with Marie Fredricks instead of Bill Roscher. Information can be found on the reservation form on Page 7.

### Personal Affairs Workshop Coming in October

*By Dan Conway*

Mark your calendars for our next Personal Affairs Workshop to be held from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday, October 22. Subjects to be covered are: Helping Your Survivors Now, Financial Planning, and Scams. Several MOAA publications will be provided to each attendee. The workshop will be at the Via Linda Senior Center, 10440 E. Via Linda in Scottsdale.

Since our last workshop, we have lost two attendees; Dick and Nancy Horn. When Dick died, I was able to help Nancy, which was real easy as they had their affairs in order. The same was true when Nancy died, which made her son's duties much less difficult.

Attendance is limited to 25. Please make your reservations with Dan Conway at 480-368-1427 or by e-mail at [arizconway@msn.com](mailto:arizconway@msn.com).

## Get Set for Chapter Fall Golf Tournament

The Arizona Chapter fall golf tournament will tee off on **November 10**. This is a really fun event, and we would like to have as many MOAA members and other guests as possible participate. This is one of a limited number of methods we use to raise money for our Chapter Scholarship Fund, which helps graduating high school Junior ROTC seniors attend college. So come on out and have some fun and help us send these outstanding students to college.

**NEW LOCATION:** The tournament will be held at **Starfire Golf Club**, 11500 N. Hayden Rd., in Scottsdale.

**WHEN:** Thursday, November 10, 2011. Shotgun start at 8:00 a.m., check-in between 6:30 -7:30.

**COST: \$67**, which includes cart fee, green fees, a great hamburger, chips and iced tea for lunch and all prizes, including a \$1,000 Hole-In-One prize. All Mulligan money, half the 50-50 drawing and half of skin game collections go to the Scholarship Fund, as well as donations and hole sponsor fees (see next page).

**FLIGHTS AND PRIZES:** There will be three or four flights depending on turnout. Flights will be evenly spaced and based on raw score, plus a ladies flight. Skill prizes will be awarded on all holes: closest to pin on par 3s, one longest drive, and longest putt made on par 4s and 5s.

**WHO CAN PLAY:** Members, guests and anyone wishing to support of the Valley of the Sun youth.

**DRESS CODE:** Collared shirts are required. Soft spikes on golf shoes. You may wear sneakers.

**WHAT:** Reservations and \$67 fee **must be received by November 2**. Mail fees and the form below to Pat Dale.

**SPECIAL RULES:** The format is a "shamble" as we have done in the past, where all players hit the tee shot, then select the best one, all dropping there. Each player then plays his/her own ball from there, recording his/her own individual score for the hole. **Those wishing to join the group for lunch but not play golf will pay \$12**, with those checks made out to **AZ Chapter MOAA** and mailed to Pat. There are four flights for prizes; use of a Mulligan is not allowed on Longest Putt, Closest to Pin or Longest Drive hole prizes. (i.e., must use first drive for Closest to the Pin or Longest Drive, and first putt for Longest Putt). This is a very friendly, fun tournament. You do not have to be a good golfer to play.

----- CUT HERE AND MAIL WITH CHECK -----

### I WANT TO SUPPORT THE SCHOLARSHIP FUND. HERE IS MY REGISTRATION AND ENTRY FEE FOR THE AZ CHAPTER GOLF TOURNAMENT.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

(Please Print)

I would like to be partnered with: (names) \_\_\_\_\_

\* Mail entry form and fees to:

Pat Dale, 12633 E. Kalil Dr., Scottsdale, AZ 85259

E-mail: [patrickdale1@cox.net](mailto:patrickdale1@cox.net)

Phone: 480-661-5204

\* Make checks out to: **AZ Chapter MOAA**

Check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ included for \_\_\_\_\_ players (\$67 each).

## Chapter Earns Honors from MOAA

May was a big month for awards from MOAA. At the luncheon meeting, Chapter President John Ady presented Communication Award certificates to Terry Tassin and Dan Conway, top right, for first place for our recruiting brochure, and to Jim Cullison, second from top, for newsletter first runner-up. Rob Welch, webmaster, could not attend the meeting and will receive the award for website first place in September.

In addition, Bill Roscher, below right, received a letter of commendation and lapel pin from MOAA for his excellent work in assuming the treasurer's duties following the death of our previous treasurer, and Kathy Upchurch, bottom photo, received a framed certificate for her service as Auxiliary Chair.



**Bring your old cell phones** to a chapter meeting for the Cell Phones for Soldiers program. The phones are exchanged for calling cards for deployed service members to keep in touch with family.

### AZ CHAPTER SCHOLARSHIP FUNRAISER GOLF TOURNAMENT

**I want to support the Scholarship Fund. However, I am not a golfer, so here is my donation toward the Scholarship Fund.**

**For donations of \$25 or more**, your name, rank and service will be posted on a Golf Hole Sponsor Sign for the tournament.

**Here is my information:**

Name, Rank, Service: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone No: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

(Please Print)

Mail Donation Form to:

Pat Dale, 12633 E. Kalil Dr.,  
Scottsdale, AZ 85259  
E-mail: [patrickdale1@cox.net](mailto:patrickdale1@cox.net)  
Phone: 480-661-5204

Make checks out to: **AZ Chapter MOAA**

Enclosed is Check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_



**Personal Affairs**  
*by Dan Conway*  
**Personal Affairs Officer**

### **VA Office of Survivor Assistance**

The following is excerpted from a recent DOD press release.

The Office of Survivor Assistance (OSA) was established in October 2008 by Public Law 110-389, Title II, Section 222, and is the primary advisor to the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) on all matters related to policies, programs, legislative issues and other initiatives affecting Veterans' survivors and dependents of survivors.

OSA monitors VA's delivery of benefits to survivors, makes appropriate referrals to VA offices for survivors seeking benefits and explores innovative ways of reaching survivors who are not receiving VA benefits for which they are eligible. Some of these benefits include, but are not limited to, education assistance, home loan guaranties, health care insurance and Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC).

To fulfill its mission, the Office of Survivors Assistance has been working closely with senior VA leadership to provide up-to-date information on the issues faced by the survivor community. Always at the forefront, OSA gleans much of its information through direct interaction with the survivor themselves.

On many occasions, OSA is called upon for assistance with an individual's claim. While the thrust of OSA operations calls upon it to serve in a policy capacity, OSA staff knows that every VA employee has the responsibility and privilege to provide the excellent customer service that our clients so deserve. On any given day, OSA staff may be found rolling up their sleeves, and working the issues of individual survivors who have contacted OSA directly.

As a rule, OSA sees these service opportunities as mutually beneficial; the survivor obtains the necessary assistance with their particular issue, and OSA benefits by reviewing the trends in requests for assistance, which helps identify possible gaps in programmatic services. Strategy-wise, by working on the micro level,

OSA is better able to advise VA leadership at the macro level.

OSA has also established multiple partnerships with the Department of Defense agencies, Veterans Service Organizations and other non-government organizations to explore ways to ease the transition of survivors into the VA system, and to make a difference in survivors' lives.

OSA maintains a Web site to help survivors navigate through resources that may be available to them, and will continue to monitor policy and legislative issues as well as pursue outreach to survivors to ensure that survivor issues are fully understood and addressed at the appropriate level.

More information can be received by calling 202-461-1077 or visiting our Web site at [www.va.gov/survivors](http://www.va.gov/survivors). Also, OSA can be contacted at [officeofsurvivors@va.gov](mailto:officeofsurvivors@va.gov).

I checked out the web site and found it easy to navigate and full of information. Please consider me as a resource and don't hesitate to call me with your Personal Affairs concerns at 480-368-1427.

**Daniel M. Conway**

### **Welcome Our Newest Members**

**Keith Blodgett, LTC, ARNG (Act)**  
 And Wife Diane, Phoenix

**Ronald W. Gillpatrick, 1 LT, ARNG (Act)**  
 Scottsdale

**Frank M. Hoak III, CAPT, USN (Ret)**  
 Fountain Hills

**Holly Koehmstedt, 1 LT, ARNG (Act)**  
 Phoenix

**Davide M. O'Neill, Capt, USAF (Frm)**  
 And wife Kelsey, Gilbert

**John Simmons, Lt Col, USAF (Ret)**  
 And wife Kelly, Phoenix

**Hoyt Slocum, Lt Col, ANG (Act)**  
 Tempe

**Please meet and greet  
 our new members.**



## Legislative Update

by Gary Fredricks, Legislative Chair

### Summer Recap

As this edition of *The Sentinel* goes to press, our federal legislators are enjoying their normal August holiday and expected back in Washington after Labor Day. I certainly hope that they go back well rested with lots of fresh ideas, but I guess that would be wishful thinking.

It's been a long, hot summer in more ways than one. By this time of year, the Senate and the House are supposed to have passed their respective versions of the various Appropriations Bills and the Defense Authorization Bill. Their respective negotiators should be resolving final differences in their respective bills so that the fiscal year can get started properly on October 1.

Of course, you know that didn't and won't happen. As our chapter went dark in early summer, the federal focus shifted to the deficit and the accompanying legal debt limit that was threatening to be exceeded in early August. In a typical political cliff hanger, at the last minute that issue was finally dealt with if not solved -- as our stock market has amply demonstrated since then. And, as pointed out above, our legislators departed on their month-long August holiday.

### What's Next?

So, where are we now? As MOAA pointed out in recent Legislative Updates, the various debt reduction proposals will put most budgetary issues at risk over the coming months, including the various Appropriations Bills and the Defense Authorization Bill. In accordance with the agreement that got us past the debt limit issue in August, DOD will need to decide in the September to October time frame what specific initiatives it will take to trim \$350 billion from its budget over the next 10 years as their part of the initial trillion dollar deficit reduction effort.

Then, November 23 is the deadline for the bipartisan super committee of 12 legislators from the Senate and House to put forward their

proposal to further reduce the federal deficit by \$1.5 trillion over the next 10 years. The deadline for Congress to then review and vote up or down with no amendments on the proposal is December 23. If the proposal is not approved, an automatic cut of \$1.2 trillion will occur on January 1, with DOD absorbing \$600 billion of it. And, of by the way, most if not all economists are saying that deficit reductions of this magnitude are not nearly enough to fix our deficit issue.

### Tough Times Ahead

With all that going on, the likelihood of having appropriations and authorization bills anywhere near complete by the beginning of the fiscal year on October 1 is close to zero. As MOAA points out, tough times are ahead and we need every member to help remind Congress that programs like military retirement and health care are unique benefits designed to offset the challenges and sacrifice inherent in a military career. We won't escape unscathed, but can certainly try to limit the damage.

### Watch MOAA's Informative Video

As specific issues evolve over the coming months we will be counting on you to help us communicate our interests to our congressional representatives. In the meantime, as our Chapter President, John Ady, pointed out to us in a recent e-mail, there is an excellent 7.5 minute video narrated by MOAA's Legislative Director, Steve Strobidge, available on the MOAA web site. The video deals with some potential military retirement cuts being discussed as a part of the federal deficit issue. I recommend you view it if you haven't already done so. At least it will give you an idea of the magnitude of potential actions.



### TAPS



We regret to inform you of the passing of one of our members:

**Nancy Ann Horn, Auxiliary**  
October 29, 1928—July 15, 2011

*Our heartfelt condolences are extended to the family.*

**September Luncheon Meeting**

**WHEN:** September 17, 2011  
11:00 a.m. Social Hour  
12:00 Lunch

**WHERE:** McCormick Ranch Golf Club  
Scottsdale, Arizona

**COST:** \$20 Per Person

**DRESS:** Business Casual

**MENU** Chef's Choice

**PROGRAM:** Paul Babeu, Pinal County Sheriff.

Reservations must be received by 4 p.m. on Thursday, September 15. Use the reservation form below. Cancellations must be received the same day to receive your money back.

**Donations to Chapter Funds**

**Scholarship Fund**  
\$100, Anonymous

Consider a donation to our funds using the Financial Contributions Form below.

**Noteworthy September Anniversary**

September 2, 1945: Combat ends in the Pacific Theater. Japan's surrender is formally accepted aboard the battleship USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay, ending World War II.

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**CHAPTER FINANCIAL PARTICIPATION**

If you would like to make a donation to one or more of the AZ Chapter Funds, include your check identified with the appropriate fund and mail to: **Bill Roscher, 4337 E. Sands Dr., Phoenix, AZ 85050.**

**General Fund: \$** \_\_\_\_\_

**Scholarship Fund: \$** \_\_\_\_\_ **[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 \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (**\$20.00 per person**) for **September 17, 2011**

Make check payable to: **AZ Chapter MOAA** Received No Later Than: **September 15, 2011**

Send to: **Marie Fredricks, 15403 E. Sunburst Dr, Fountain Hills, AZ 85268, 480-836-8419, email [garymarie@cox.net](mailto:garymarie@cox.net)**

**Time for Meritorious Service Awards**

Do you know a chapter member who has done exceptional service for the chapter over the last year?

Keep that person in mind for a Meritorious Service Award. MSAs will be presented in November to those nominated and approved by the selection committee. Look for nominating information in next month's *Sentinel*.

The Arizona Chapter MOAA - 2011 Board of Directors and Committee Chairs					
<b>PRESIDENT</b>		<b>NEWSLETTER EDITOR</b>		<b>CHAPLAIN</b>	
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		Kathy Upchurch	602-799-0240	COL Ron Perkins, USAF	480-961-8632

Access Arizona Chapter's Internet Web Site at: [www.azchaptermoaa.org](http://www.azchaptermoaa.org)

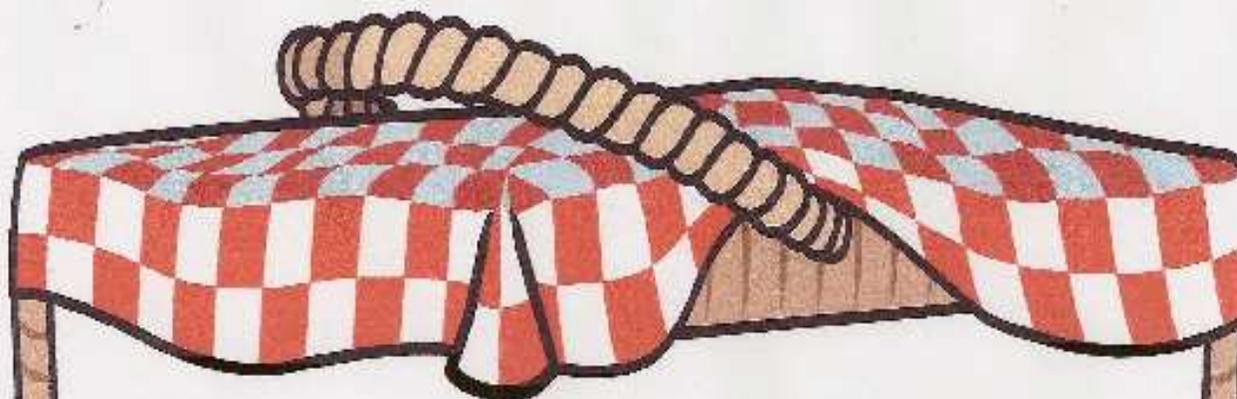
Arizona Chapter  
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 13819 N. 51st Street  
 Scottsdale, AZ 85254



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# MOAA AZ CHAPTER

## ANNUAL PICNIC

OCTOBER 15, 2011

**WHERE: McCORMICK STILLMAN RAILROAD  
PARK... STILLMAN RAMADA**

**HAPPY HOUR: 11:00 AM—LUNCH: 12:00 NOON**

**LUNCH WILL BE CATERED BY:**



**OUR CHAPTER AND ESGR WILL BE HONORING  
COMPANIES FOR THEIR SUPPORT  
OF THE GUARD & RESERVE EMPLOYEES**