



The Sentinel

Arizona's First Chapter



The Arizona Chapter

8213 E. Del Camino Dr.

Scottsdale, AZ

85258

MARCH 2012 CHARTERED 1956 - 55 YEARS OF SERVICE TO COUNTRY EDITOR: JIM CULLISON

President's Perspective

by John Ady



An Arizona Gem

Hi, everyone. We had a great chapter luncheon in February with COL (USA Ret) Joe Abodeely, Director of the Arizona Military Museum, as our featured speaker. This outstanding museum is located on the grounds of the Arizona National Guard Headquarters on East McDowell Road.

I cannot think of a better time to visit the museum as we are in the midst of our Centennial celebration that commenced on Valentine's Day. Stay tuned to our various chapter communication sources, as there may be a possibility that we will hold a chapter event at the museum.

Benefits Battle

In the meantime, I want to address the ongoing political battles going on in Washington, which affect all of our retired members. You probably already are aware that the Department of Defense over the next five years wants to shift \$13 BILLION in costs to

military retirees, meaning our collective pocketbooks are going to take a serious reduction as it comes to health care benefits, which you earned due to the service to your country.

That's Not All

That battle is far from over and is only part of the overall reductions that DoD must face. As an example, the current reductions being planned would reduce the Army and Marine Corps by over 80,000 troops, with the other services also being reduced substantially.

Fortunately for us, the MOAA national staff is working diligently on our behalf to lobby very effectively to lessen these cuts, and hopefully the House and Senate will see that the current proposals simply do not make sense for a number of reasons.

What You Can Do

In the meantime, here's what you can do on an

individual basis to assist to reverse these cuts.

First, please refer to the February 2012 copy of MOAA's magazine, *Military Officer*, where you will find four letters that can be mailed to key members of Congress. It will take about five minutes of your time and four first class stamps to send these letters to these gentlemen.

In addition, you are encouraged to read Gary Fredricks' monthly legislative affairs column in this newsletter and to read the legislative information that is available at MOAA's national website to stay totally informed.

Much Is at Stake

There is a great deal riding on this issue, both for our active duty troops and their families, as well as for all military retirees. Please assist, as this has become a critical issue as we go into the fall elections across the United States.

In closing, I hope to see you at one or more of our three remaining luncheons before our summer break.

Arizona Chapter Calendar

Board of Directors meets at 1030 hours the first Thursday of the month.

Location: National Guard Distance Learning Center, 5636 E. McDowell Rd. Show ID for entry. Members are invited to attend.

Upcoming meetings:

- March 1
- April 5
- May 3

Member Meetings/

Luncheons are 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:

- March 17
- April 21
- May 19

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Members in the Spotlight

Dan Earns Leadership Award

Chapter President John Ady, below, presents a lapel pin from MOAA National to Dan Conway at the February luncheon in recognition of his longtime leadership. Dan also received a letter of commendation from ADM Norb Ryan, MOAA President.

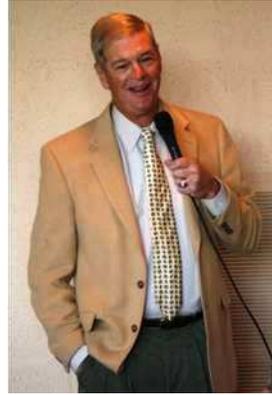


Dan is a former president and board member of the Arizona Chapter and president of the Arizona Council of Chapters. He continues to serve the chapter as Personal Affairs Officer.

In the latter role he has arranged and conducted personal affairs workshops for members, provides one-on-one assistance and writes a monthly column in *The Sentinel*.

Rance Tells West Point Tales

Rance Farrell recalled humorous tales from his days as a cadet at West Point at last month's luncheon. It was his turn at the new monthly feature allowing a member to recount an event from his or her military life.



Among his stories, he explained how underclass cadets had to memorize obscure definitions and rattle them off when asked by an upperclassman. He gave one example, a lengthy, complex definition of leather, which he then articulated without pause, even after all these years.

"How do you go through life without knowing that?" he asked with a grin. "And why do I still remember it?"

Last Call for 2012 Dues! Don't Miss Out

March is the last month to renew your membership in the Arizona Chapter for 2012. If you haven't done so already, take a moment to fill out the form below and send it with your check to our Treasurer, Bill Roscher, no later than March 31. Dues remain the same as last year.

We are looking at ways to increase our chapter's value to you. A special committee has been exploring ways to streamline and improve our member meetings, as well as additional features that will make the chapter more meaningful to members. The committee will report at the Board of Directors meeting this month. Don't miss out on these developments. Send your check today.

----- CUT HERE AND MAIL RENEWAL FORM WITH YOUR CHECK -----

[Arizona Chapter 2012 Membership Renewal Form](#)

Member Full Name: _____

Membership Renewal: **\$20** Regular member _____

Membership Renewal: **\$10** Auxiliary member _____ (surviving spouse)

Any Changes in your address, phone number, e-mail, etc:

Make check payable to: **AZ Chapter MOAA**

Mail renewal application and check to:

**AZ Chapter MOAA
C/O Bill Roscher
4337 E. Sands Drive
Phoenix, AZ 85050**

Arizona's Long Military History Recounted at February Meeting

Members heard the story of Arizonan's military accomplishments from the 16th Century Spanish Conquistadores to the 21st Century war on terrorism at the February luncheon.



Joe Abodeely, COL USA (Ret), director of the Arizona Military Museum, gave accounts with words and pictures of military involvement ranging from the Mexican War to the Civil War battle at Picacho Peak, the Buffalo Soldiers, the

Rough Riders, Navajo Code Talkers and events related to all the major wars over the last 100 years. All of those and more are memorialized in the museum, located at the Papago Military Reservation in Phoenix.

ADVS Officer to Speak in March

Bob Barnes, Deputy Director of the Arizona Department of Veterans Services, will be our March guest speaker.



Previously, he was a veterans advocate in Louisiana and was instrumental in establishing a Guard/Reserve welcome home program.

In Arizona he oversees the Department's Services Division, State Approval Agency, Fiduciary Division and the Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Sierra Vista.

A 20-year Air Force veteran, his duties included flight mechanic with the 89th Military Airlift Squadron, the elite unit that provides safe and reliable transportation for the President on Air Force One, the Vice President, members of Congress and other dignitaries.

Scholarship Fundraiser Wants You

Springtime & Golf Go Together; Tee Up With Us In April

The Chapter's major scholarship fundraiser will hit the links on April 19 at the scenic Starfire Golf Club, 11500 N. Hayden Road, Scottsdale.

No matter what your golf skill, you can have fun and win prizes at this event, and support a worthy endeavor to provide college scholarships to outstanding JROTC cadets from area high schools.

Chapter members, your friends and guests are invited to play. You can support the tournament even if you aren't a player.

Cost: \$69, includes green fees, cart and lunch.

Tee Time: Shotgun start at 8:00 a.m., check-in from 6:30 to 7:30.

Dress: collared shirts, soft spikes on golf shoes, sneakers are allowed.

Skill prizes on every hole, \$1,000 hole-in-one prize, Mulligans can be purchased.

Deadline: Registration & fee must be received by Pat Dale (see below) no later than April 12.

You also can support the event by being a hole sponsor (below) or join for lunch only for \$12.

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

AZ Chapter Golf Tournament Registration

Name: _____

Phone No: _____

E-mail: _____

(Please Print)

I would like to be partnered with: _____

Mail with check made to **AZ Chapter MOAA** to:

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

Check for \$____included for ____players (\$69 each)

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

AZ Chapter Golf Sponsor/Donor Form

For donations of \$25 or more, your name, rank and service will be posted on a golf hole.

Name, Rank, Service: _____

Phone No. _____ E-mail: _____

Mail form & check made to **AZ Chapter MOAA** to:

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

E-mail: patrickdale1@cox.net Phone: 480-661-5204

Check enclosed for: \$_____

Arizona Centennial

Arizona's Flag: Historic, Symbolic

Arizona's state flag actually predates statehood, and like the U.S. flag, each part of its design is symbolic.

The idea for a representative flag arose in 1910 at the national rifle matches in Camp Perry, Ohio. Members of the Arizona Territory team noticed that other teams had flags and decided they should have one. So a flag was designed and flown at the 1911 matches. It is said that Nan Hayden, wife of soon-to-be-Congressman Carl Hayden, sewed the first flag.

That flag was unofficial. It was modified slightly over the years and was adopted by the state legislature as the official state flag in 1917. Governor Thomas Campbell refused to sign the flag bill for reasons he did not reveal, and it became law without his signature.

Symbolic Design and Colors

The blue and gold incorporated in the state flag are the official state colors. The blue in the lower half of the flag is the same shade as the blue in the American flag and represents Liberty. The red in the rays in the top half are the same shade as in the American flag.



There are 13 red and gold rays at the top. They represent not only a western sunset but also the 13 original colonies. Red and gold also were the colors of the flag

carried by the Spanish Conquistadores as they searched for the Seven Cities of Gold in 1540 in what is now Arizona. The copper-colored star at the center of the flag symbolizes Arizona's copper mining heritage.

A 2001 poll by an association dedicated to the study of flags named the Arizona flag as the sixth best for design quality out of 72 various flag designs flown in North America.

Arizona Centennial Trivia

From AAA Arizona High Roads Magazine

What birds show up at Boyce Thompson Arboretum in March? (Answer on page 8)



Online With The Arizona Chapter

by Rob Welch, Webmaster

Check It Out: Revamped Website Holds a Wealth of Useful Information

Over the past 14 months our website, www.azchaptermoaa.org, has been completely revamped. If you haven't visited it, please take the time to look it over. I think you will find it a very useful place to visit each month.

Our website is a great place to keep informed of chapter activities. In case you accidentally deleted or lost an issue, it has the latest and also the past editions of *The Sentinel*, our award winning newsletter, which you are reading right now. Also in our website are copies of the latest and past minutes of our membership and Board of Directors meetings.

The website has our calendar of events for the year, as well as flyers describing upcoming chapter activities and our monthly speakers. It also contains our roster and contact numbers and e-mails of our Directors and Program Chairs.

You will need a password to look at the chapter roster, so please send me an e-mail and I will provide the password to you.

Please visit our website and learn how useful it can be for you, and visit it on a monthly basis, if not more frequently. If you have any suggestions for improvement, please pass them along to me at:

webmaster@azchaptermoaa.org.

Rob

Donations to Chapter Funds

Scholarship Fund

\$100 Anonymous

In Memory of Lori Perkins

\$50 from Gary and Marie Fredricks

In Memory of Lori Perkins

\$20 Anonymous



Personal Affairs
by Dan Conway
Personal Affairs Officer

Assisted Living Concerns

Last week, the *Arizona Republic* gave us another example of a senior citizen with dementia losing her home to an extended care facility. This is a problem recognized by our Attorney General, as discussed in one of the brochures provided at our last Personal Affairs workshop. His words are as follows:

"While most facilities and individuals charged with caring for Arizona's seniors and vulnerable population do their jobs well, statistics show that abuse, neglect and exploitation of the elderly is on the rise. In the past decade it has increased nearly 150%. Moreover, only about 1 in 14 cases are being reported, according to the Area Agency on Aging. According to statistics from *Elder Abuse Daily*, roughly 77% of cases reported to Adult Protective Services involve exploitation or financial abuse against an elderly person."

Exploitation, which is a crime, is defined as follows:

EXPLOITATION: The illegal or improper use of a vulnerable adult or his resources for another's profit or advantage. {A.R.S. § 46-451}.

The following are examples of exploitation which should be reported:

- a. Resident's relative, who is representative payee, fails to pay nursing, boarding, or foster home assessment and personal needs money.
- b. Facility administrator, who is resident's representative payee, purchases furniture and clothing not intended for resident.
- c. Staff member forces resident to give him or her money or personal property {i.e.: T.V., jewelry, or furniture}.
- d. Staff member uses victim's credit card or resident's trust fund for personal use.

How can we protect ourselves from this type of abuse? The first possibility is to never go into an extended care facility. That is like Groucho Marx saying that if he ever learned where he

was going to die, he would never go there. It just might not be our choice.

A better answer is to ensure that a trusted and available family member will be available to make financial decisions for you. The vehicle for this is a Durable Power of Attorney. I won't be able to get into that subject at this time as it can be relatively complicated, with one of the big decisions being exactly when you become incapacitated, and all of your financial decisions are turned over to your attorney-in-fact. If you have dementia and still have your check book, things just won't work.

Do You Have a Story? Share It With Us

As I leave you with this subject, I am looking for guest writers. Maybe you have a personal experience relative to Personal Affairs which might be of value to share. Possibly, you have expertise in a specific area which I have missed. Possibly, you would just like to see yourself in print. Think it over and let me know what you would like to do.

Please consider me as a Personal Affairs resource and don't hesitate to call with your questions and concerns at 480 368-1427.

Daniel M. Conway

Welcome Our Newest Member

Betty Hosmer, Auxiliary
Scottsdale

Please meet and greet our new member.

Military Milestones in March

1802: U.S. Military Academy is established at West Point.

1942: Navy Seabees begin operations in the early days of WW II.

1945: Marines complete the capture of Iwo Jima; ADM Nimitz declares "uncommon valor was a common virtue."

1951: U.N. forces recapture Seoul and reach the 38th Parallel, now known as the DMZ.

1964: U.S. aircraft strike targets in North Vietnam in Operation Rolling Thunder.

1965: Marines land as the first U.S. combat troops in South Vietnam.

1973: Last U.S. combat troops leave Vietnam.



Legislative Update

by Gary Fredricks, Legislative Chair

Some Good News

There was at least one bit of good news legislatively during the month of February. The federal legislature at least temporarily seemed to overcome gridlock and passed a compromise bill extending the federal payroll tax reduction and delaying the mandated cut in payments to Medicare/TRICARE doctors until at least January 1, 2013. Given the significant deficit issues on the table and the fact this is a major election year, getting the “doc fix” legislation through this early is a significant step forward.

President’s Budget Hits Home

The President’s FY2013 Budget Request was released on February 13, as required, and we were able to see where the President’s priorities lay and what details were in the Defense Department authorization language. As MOAA reports, there were no significant surprises although there were significant proposed impacts on military and veteran health care costs, pharmacy co-pays, active duty pay increases and a proposal for a commission on the military retirement system.

The President’s proposal was quickly denounced by some members of Congress as being “Deficit on Arrival” if not “Dead on Arrival.” Indeed some economists have indicated that in the long run the proposed budget does nothing to improve on our deficit issues. However, it does mark the beginning of the fiscal process and contains some onerous proposals. The MOAA staff, along with other members of the Military Coalition, is actively engaged with the media and on Capitol Hill in defending our earned benefits against any undue or disproportional impacts on our military and veteran community.

Now It’s Up To Congress—and Us

The fiscal ball is now in the court of the Senate and House Budget Committees and will probably remain there through April. The January edition of the MOAA magazine contained tear-out post cards addressed to the leaders of these committees. The material in those post cards remains valid. If you have not

already torn out the cards, signed and mailed them in, please do so. Also, look for tear-out cards in the next MOAA magazine addressed to the leaders of the respective Senate and House Armed Services Committees. As the budget committees complete their requirements, the ball next passes to the armed services committees. We need everyone’s help in highlighting our concerns to both of these groups.

Back in Arizona

The Arizona Legislature is now in mid-session. There were a total of 54 bills, resolutions or memorials affecting the military or veteran communities introduced in the Arizona Senate or House this session, 31 in the Senate and 23 in the House. This is about 10 more than on average in previous years. There is a time-limited set of milestones the bills must pass through in order to continue progress toward approval. As *The Sentinel* goes to press, some milestones for some of the bills were not met and 38 remain under active consideration. Most of the bills no longer under consideration were a type of “place holder” or did not affect a significant number of individuals.

All bills currently of wide interest to our veteran community are still active in some state of progress. They include bills to extend the life of the Arizona Department of Veterans Services (ADVS) and a related advisory Commission for 10 more years, provide authorization for a privately funded WWII Memorial, extend the life of the Military Family Relief Fund, provide needed guidance on expenditure of funds from the Veteran’s Donation Fund, authorize the ADVS to collect a higher percentage of fiduciary fees to achieve break even status, better promote Arizona Veteran Friendly Campuses and protect Arizona military facilities from encroachment.

An Interesting Bill

HB2843, introduced by Rep. David Gowan, is a particularly interesting one. The bill, if enacted, would exempt all military retirement pay from state income taxes. The main issue is how to pay for it. Given the state of the Arizona budget, it is not likely that it will become law this year. However, it is encouraging that it was introduced at all, was passed by the House Military Affairs and Public Safety Committee and, at a minimum, gives us an intro for future years’ consideration.

Reminder: The new reservation cutoff for our monthly luncheons is 4:00 p.m. on the Tuesday prior to the meeting, rather than Thursday. We are now ordering our meal ahead of time, instead of going with chef's choice, and the earlier time gives the McCormick Ranch chef enough time to order the ingredients.

March Luncheon Meeting

WHEN: March 17, 2012
 11:00 a.m. Social Hour
 12:00 Lunch

WHERE: McCormick Ranch Golf Club
 Scottsdale, Arizona

COST: \$20 Per Person

DRESS: Casual

MENU Tossed Salad
 Bistro Beef Tenderloin
 Mashed Potatoes
 Mushroom Gravy
 Fresh Vegetable Medley
 Fresh Breads with Creamery Butter
 Chef's Choice of Desert

PROGRAM: Bob Barnes, Deputy Director of the Arizona Department of Veterans Services and former flight mechanic on Air Force One.

Reservations must be received by 4 p.m. on Tuesday, March 13. Use the reservation form below. Cancellations must be received the same day to receive your money back.

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*The DoD Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee may set quantity limits on some medications. Other benefit limitations may apply. For more information, go to www.tricare.osd.mil/pharmacy/mop.cfm.

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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 **March 17, 2012**

Make check payable to: **AZ Chapter MOAA** **Received No Later Than: March 13, 2012**

Send to: **Bill Roscher, 4337 E. Sands Dr., Phoenix, AZ 85050.** wroscher@cox.net







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Trivia Answer: Buzzards.

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FIRST VICE PRESIDENT COL Rob Welch, USA 623-533-3704	ADVERTISING LTC Jim Cullison USAF 602-482-3838	PERSONAL AFFAIRS CAPT Dan Conway USCGR 480-368-1427
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Military Officers Association of America
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