



The Sentinel

Arizona's First Chapter



The Arizona Chapter

42420 N. Anthem Creek Drive

Anthem, AZ 85068

OCTOBER 2013

CHARTERED 1956

57 YEARS OF SERVICE TO COUNTRY

EDITOR: JIM CULLISON

President's Perspective

by Rob Welch



Tribute to Active Military

Wow! If you didn't make it to our September luncheon, you missed a dynamite speaker. BG Mike Burke, USA retired, spoke of the outstanding men and women who serve in today's military.

General Burke tied in their personal efforts to protect the freedoms we enjoy here in the land of the free. He also spoke on the importance of our military in taking the fight against terrorism overseas to their territories, thereby hindering their ability to gain strength to enable them to bring their stated goal to kill "non-believers" to our shores again.

Donations

I'm sure you all read the article in the *Arizona Republic* and the *USA Today* in early September which highlighted the Women's Wing of the Madison Street Veterans Association's MANA House. MANA stands for Marine, Army, Navy, and Air Force.

In brief, sequestration caused the cancellation of

promised grants to help fund this important project. The Women's Wing accommodates 16 female veterans while they learn new skills to assist them to integrate back into the workforce and become productive, taxpaying citizens again.

Your Board of Directors authorized a \$500 donation to help temporarily prop up the MANA House while they search for corporate sponsors to replace the withdrawn promise of federal funding. Other veterans organizations in the state are also assisting.

Legislative Liaisons

We have established two new positions in our chapter, and filled both. John Ady has been appointed as liaison to District 6 Congressman David Schweikert, and Corey Harris is liaison to District 7 Congressman Ed Pastor.

Be Thrifty! Save cash on your dues renewal.

See Page 8

National Recognition

In addition to our three first place communications winners (our newsletter, website, and recruiting brochure), MOAA notified us that our chapter will receive its 10th consecutive Five Star Level of Excellence award.

The award and streamer for our chapter's flag will be presented at the MOAA national meeting in November.

Dan Conway to Retire at Year-End; Personal Affairs Chair Needed

Dan has served MOAA and our chapter faithfully for many years in numerous positions including chapter president and state council president among many others. Our chapter is forever indebted to him for the selfless and untiring sacrifices he has made on our behalf. Thanks, Dan, for your dedicated service. It will be difficult to fill your shoes. But, we need to try.

If you are interested in becoming our new Personal Affairs Chair, please contact 1st Vice President Jim Cullison at editor@azmoaa.org.

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 welcome.

Upcoming meetings:

- October 3
- November 7

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:

- October 19, BBQ at McCormick Stillman Railroad Park
- November 16

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Luncheon Speaker**The Next Greatest Generation**

Today's American service members, all volunteers, still stand up and defend our country and friends despite multiple tours, intense combat and a more complex environment than ever before.



That was the message conveyed by BG Mike Burke, USA (Ret), at the September luncheon. General Burke is director of business development for Boeing's military aircraft.

"Some people wake up, stretch and enjoy freedom," he said. "Some wake up, stretch and defend it."

"America today is in a pitched battle with a brutal enemy whose object is to kill or enslave us. Given the opportunity, they would do another 9/11. So we fight them elsewhere. The military supports American policy in 70% of the countries around the world."

Over 42 million Americans have served in uniform since the Continental Army, with one million killed in action, 1.5 million wounded and 88,000 unaccounted for. In the Middle East, 6,700 have been killed and 52,000 wounded. "Yet still they volunteer," he said.

He predicted that many serving today will run for political office in eight to 10 years. "They'll fix problems, and we will be in good shape," he said. "They are the new greatest generation."



Online With The Arizona Chapter
by Rob Welch, Webmaster

We now have a Quick Response (QR) code for our website.

It looks like this:



Scan it with your smart phone and it will take you directly to our website. It can be used in our stationary, newsletters and e-mails. We also developed one for our new recruiting brochure which Dave Fleming and Lee Lange designed.

Spotlight Speaker**Dave Relates Obscure 9/11 Fact**

When the 9/11 terrorist attacks are recalled, most people don't think of NATO. That's because most don't know NATO became involved after the attacks.

Dave Fleming, Col USAF (Ret), our September Spotlight Speaker, knows. He was stationed at NATO headquarters in Brussels, Belgium, on the day of the attacks.

NATO, the North Atlantic Treaty



Organization, was created after World War II by the U.S. and its European allies, mainly to defend the allies from Soviet attack. Among its provisions is a section called Article 5, which states that an attack on one NATO nation is considered an attack on all.

Dave noted that there was uncertainty as to NATO's role at first on 9/11, but the NATO ambassadors soon invoked Article 5 for the first time ever. The U.S. had been attacked, so in effect all NATO nations had been attacked. NATO had a fleet of Airborne Warning and Control (AWACS) aircraft and crews, which it deployed to the U.S. to supplement the Air Force fleet in flying surveillance around major cities during the tense post 9/11 period.

The irony, Dave pointed out, is that a treaty designed to protect Europe was employed to help protect the U.S.A. and its citizens.

**Top Communicators**

For the second year, Arizona Chapter won three first place awards in MOAA's communications award program. From left with their award certificates are Webmaster Rob Welch, recruiting brochure designers Dan Conway and Terry Tassin, and newsletter editor Jim Cullison.

MOAA AZ Chapter Annual Picnic



Please join your fellow military officers and their spouses at our Annual BBQ Picnic where we will be introducing local area National MOAA members to our chapter.

(The 'Meet and Greet' event is sponsored by USAA, a proud supporter of MOAA)

Highlights

- 11:00 am: "Meet & Greet" Happy Hour
- 12:00 pm: Buffet Lunch catered by Famous Dave's BBQ
- 12:30 pm: Live Music by Dave Karl, Country Music Entertainer

Location: McCormick Stillman Railroad Park — Stillman Ramada
7301 E Indian Bend Road, Scottsdale

Cost: \$22.00/person. Send your Reservation & check NLT October 15 to Bill Roscher at: 4337 E Sands Dr, Phoenix, AZ 85050 (wroscher@cox.net / 480-948-3609)

Event Contact Person: Arlene Day — arlenebday@gmail.com or 480-353-6400

Time: 11:00 AM — 2:00pm

Date: Saturday, Oct 19, 2013

Welcome Our New Members

Jack Beasley, LTC USA (Act)
And his wife Shelley, Scottsdale

Robert Kimberlin, LTC USA (Act)
Scottsdale

James Oberg, CPT USA (Frm)
Phoenix

Evans O'Brien, Capt. USAF (Frm)
And his wife Nicole, Scottsdale

Patrick Ramirez, CPT USA (Act)
And his wife Laura, Chandler

Elisabeth Jimenez, WO1 USA (Act)
Phoenix

Tonya Gonzales, WO1 USA (Act)
Scottsdale

Please meet and greet our new members.

Toys for Tots at Christmas

Again this year we will be collecting new, unwrapped toys from members for delivery to the USMC Reserve Center for their Toys For Tots program at Christmas. All members are encouraged to bring at least one toy for donation to this worthy program. The 9-12 year-old age group is the most difficult to accommodate. Stuffed animals are not desired. Bring your donations to the November or December luncheon.

Donations to Chapter Funds

Scholarship Fund

Al Coots \$50

Lee Lange \$50

George Hadley \$56

Dan Germond \$29

Anonymous \$100

Anonymous \$20

Chapter 50/50 Raffle \$45

General Fund

Lee Lange \$50

Chapter Membership Metrics

By Dave Fleming

As the new Membership Chairman, I've recently learned a lot about "us" and thought I'd share some interesting data points about our chapter. Now remember, "statistics don't lie, only statisticians."

Did you know the average age of our members is 76? Our oldest member is 103). Our youngest is 26.

We had 214 chapter members as of mid-July, with representation from almost every service component. Only the NOAA is not represented in our membership.

Here is a breakdown of our service metrics (not necessarily in order of significance):

| | |
|----|------------------------------|
| 81 | Army (37.8%) |
| 54 | Air Force (25.2%) |
| 39 | Auxiliary (18.2%) |
| 20 | Navy (9.3%) |
| 9 | Marine Corps (4.2%) |
| 8 | Coast Guard (3.7%) |
| 3 | Public Health Service (1.4%) |

Just a few tidbits of information about our Arizona Chapter of MOAA.



Gold Bars for New Lieutenants

Nine newly commissioned 2nd Lieutenants from the Army National Guard Officer Candidate School were presented their gold bars by our chapter and given a year's free membership in MOAA. Four will become Arizona Chapter members (AZ), three will join Luke Chapter, one to Tucson and one to Northern Arizona. Shown front left to right are Jeremiah Engleman (AZ), Tanya Curtis (AZ), Tina Sanchez and Kevin Sartor. At rear are Jeffrey Hifler (AZ), Nick Caporrino, Trevis Mueller, Larry Clark and Taylor Huddleston (AZ).



Legislative Update

by Gary Fredricks
National Legislative Chair

Another month has gone by and it does not appear that we are significantly closer to resolving the issues that we have been reporting on than we were at this time last month. As this report is being written to meet the deadline for our *Sentinel* publication for the month, I am also off to Hershey, Pennsylvania, to participate in our annual MOAA national seminar for chapter leaders (this one for our northeast region). So, I apologize if I miss any last minute updates.

On September 25 the national legislative lineup we have been tracking looked like this:

- **Sept 30**— government funding authority from the continuing resolution that kept the government operating through FY2013 expires.
- **Sept 30**— the FY2013 Defense Authorization Bill authority expires, creating confusion (without a corresponding FY2014 bill) as to what defense programs (health and welfare included) are authorized and to what level of effort they may aspire to in FY2014.
- **Oct 1**— without congressional action on the FY2014 budget the government shuts down.
- **Oct 1**— government health insurance exchanges under The Affordable Care Act are scheduled to start.
- **Mid-October to late October**— the national debt limit is reached, without relief from which the government cannot pay its bills.
- **Dec 31**— relief from the Medicare/TRICARE payment to doctors law expires, resulting in about a 24% cut in those payments.
- **Dec 31** or before the second year of The Budget Control Act of 2011, the sequestration law, a further \$52 billion cut in defense spending for the year is required.

It seems that none of our legislators really want the government to shut down and none really want us to default on our debts. However, there are well established agendas that are using the issues to coerce support for those other agendas. It remains to be seen how this will all play out.

The most reported approach seems to be to draft another continuing resolution to keep the government operating past the September 30 time frame, maybe as much as two to three months. The big hang up in that approach has included an initiative to inhibit the implementation of the Affordable Care Act as a part of the deal.

I would not normally include The Affordable Care Act in my legislative discussion, but I have been asked recently by several retired veterans if the implementation of the Act required them to get additional supplementary health insurance. *The answer is a definite no.* The Act as written has no impact on Medicare or TRICARE. The threat to TRICARE, TRICARE for Life and our pharmacy benefits comes from the effect of the “Sequester” Law on future budgets beginning with FY2014.

The original FY2014 budget request submitted by the President last spring assumed that Congress would by now have found another budget/debt solution to replace the sequester law. That has not happened and prospects appear dim. So, this summer DOD was requested to submit another budget request that reflected the new reality. They did so and MOAA reports there are three options in the DOD response:

- Palatable – (but definitely leaves a bad taste): the president's FY2014 budget submission of \$150 billion in cuts in defense over 10 years). Keep in mind this one contained major TRICARE and pharmacy increases that we objected to as well as a cap on military pay).
- Breaking – (as in breaking readiness): sequestration-level cuts of \$500 billion over 10 years.
- Bending – an “in-between” scenario with cuts of \$250 billion over 10 years.

So, even if we get by the spending issue with a continuing resolution and the debt limit by some other magic, it appears we still face the prospect of absorbing the sequester defense cuts for another year anyway. Those prospects for military retiree health costs are not encouraging. However, I know that MOAA national is working actively on our behalf.

Continued on Next Page



Personal Affairs

by Dan Conway, Personal Affairs Officer

Cremation as a Funeral Option

To supplement my article of last month, I would like to discuss the option of cremation, which now represents over one-third of funerals. This is due to the fact that cremation is simple and is far more economical than a traditional burial. Also, many religious restrictions are being relaxed or eliminated entirely, thus allowing more people to choose cremation. For example, the formal ban on cremation by the Catholic Church was lifted in 1963.

The traditional funeral consists of a viewing or visitation, a funeral service, usually at a church, and then the burial. Cremation can be performed either before or after the visitation and funeral service. For example, if the body is to be buried at Arlington, and the family desires to have a viewing, the cremation can be performed after the funeral service to save significant shipping costs. However, this option does not result in any reduction in funeral expenses.

Viewing vs. Visitation

The viewing, which requires embalming, is the big decision. Without a body, the viewing becomes a visitation. Based both on my own experience and on funeral industry studies, less than half of the attendees at a viewing actually view the body. Many who do view the body do so as a matter of responsibility and would be just as respectful of the deceased by participation in a visitation without the embalmed body. An urn or other container with the ashes and a photo of the deceased would be preferred.

Cremation also allows the visitation and funeral service to be performed at a later date to accommodate travel arrangements for out of state attendees. Another factor is that when a death has taken place away from home, cremation arrangements are much the same.

Any funeral home can arrange for the cremation as part of their funeral arrangements. Also, there are other cremation services such as the Neptune Society and the Cremation Society of Arizona which can be contacted to perform this service.

I recently assisted a widow in having her WW I

husband's ashes placed in a columbarium at the National Cemetery. She had kept his ashes in her home for six years. That seemed like a good idea at the time, but she has since realized that it was time for a permanent placement. She had no idea of what to do and also was not able to locate his discharge papers. I was able to get a copy of his papers, helped her with the arrangements and took her out to the cemetery to leave the ashes. It was of interest that she had to agree to cremation when she died to have her ashes placed in the same compartment with her husband's.

Make Your Wishes Known

As I have written previously, it is important that your survivors know your wishes as to your funeral arrangements. Your will won't do it as it is usually not opened until after the funeral.

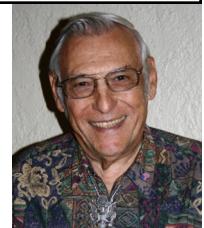
Please consider me as a resource and don't hesitate to call with your Personal Affairs questions and concerns at 480-368-1427.

Daniel M. Conway



Hall of Fame Honorees

Gene Rafanelli, left, and Ron Green will be inducted into the Arizona Veterans



Hall of Fame at an October 25 luncheon. You can make reservations for the luncheon at www.avhof.org. Let Rob Welch know if you plan to attend so he can arrange for chapter members to sit together.

Legislative Update...Continued

For instance, in my last report from our MOAA president, VADM Norb Ryan, he noted that Secretary Hagel and his senior staff and the Joint Staff recently invited MOAA and other veteran organizations to participate in a defense roundtable to discuss military compensation, DOD legislative priorities, legal and ethics issues affecting DOD, as well as providing an update on important personnel and readiness programs. So we have continuing opportunity to raise our issues. Please stay tuned for requests for our support from MOAA national as this dynamic scene plays itself out.

Tax Deduction for Scholarship Donors

Our Fall push for tax deductible donations will go out this month. Take advantage of this opportunity to reduce your state and federal taxes by helping out deserving JROTC cadets who wish to serve as officers in our military.

October Picnic Meeting

WHEN: October 19, 2013
 11:00 a.m., Meet & Greet Social Hour
 12 Noon, Buffet Lunch

WHERE: McCormick Stillman Railroad Park, 7301.E. Indian Bend Rd. Scottsdale

COST: \$22 Per Person

DRESS: Picnic Casual

MENU: Mouth-watering, tender barbecue and fixings catered by Famous Dave's BBQ.

PROGRAM: Live music by Dave Karl, country music entertainer.

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

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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: \$ _____

[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 \$ _____ (**\$22.00 per person**) for **October 19, 2013**

Make check payable to: **AZ Chapter MOAA Received No Later Than October 15, 2013**

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



Arizona Chapter Annual Membership Renewal



Membership Renewal for 2014 Is Due by December 31, 2013

Dues for Regular Members are \$20.00

Dues for Auxiliary Members are \$10.00

Early Bird Special!

**Pay your dues before January 1, 2014
and receive a 10% discount**

--Regular members pay \$18.00--

--Auxiliary members pay \$9.00--

After January 1, dues will be the standard \$20 and \$10

Save time, save money. Send you dues renewal now.

Fill in the form below and send it with a check made out to:

AZ Chapter MOAA

Send to: Bill Roscher, Treasurer
Arizona Chapter MOAA
4337 E. Sands Dr.
Phoenix, AZ 85050

Yes! I want to take advantage of the Early Bird Special

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____

My Name Is: _____



Massing of the Colors

Gilberto Alonso, North High School JROTC cadet, carried the chapter flag at the annual MOWW Massing of the Colors and Remembrance September 8 at Carl Hayden High School. Several chapter members attended the event, which included participation by 36 organizations.

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Arizona Chapter
Military Officers Association of America
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