

# The Sentinel

# **Arizona's First Chapter**



The Arizona Chapter

13819 N. 51st Street

Scottsdale, AZ 85254

MAECH 2014 CHARTERED 1956 57 YEARS OF SERVICE TO COUNTRY EDITOR: JIM CULLISON

# President's Perspective

by Jim Cullison



# **Welcome to Spring**

Our friends back East are seeing March come in like the proverbial lion and hoping it lives up to its reputation by going out like a lamb.

Here in sunny Arizona, we don't have such concerns. For us, March typically comes in like a breath of fresh air, then turns it over to April like a soothing melody.

Our only disturbance is the thought of July coming in like a blast furnace. But that's why we have the cool pines up North as a reprieve. Beats six-foot snow drifts and black ice.

# **A Victory for Will Power**

lf you missed the February luncheon, vou missed a story not only of survival against all odds but of rising above it to inspire others as to how determination and strong will can overcome hopeless seemingly circumstances.

Capt. George Burk,

Last Call for 2014 Dues!!

See last page

USAF (Ret.), was the sole survivor of a military aircraft crash in California in 1970 in which 13 others died. He had severe injuries and was not expected to live. Yet he rose above the adversity and lives a meaningful life today as a motivational speaker. Read about his ordeal and triumph on page 3.

# My Bad

My apologies to the UAV. Last month. erroneously referred to Arizona the Unified Veterans organization, which last year's chapter Rob president Welch chairs. as United Arizona Veterans. That mistake would have flunked me in Journalism 101, as one of the first rules of newswriting is always get the name right. I'll be sure not to get that wrong again.

#### A Night for Patriotism

I attended the Patriotic Gala dinner February 12. The dinner is sponsored by the *Unified Arizona Veterans* and the Arizona Veterans Hall of

Fame Society to honor a legislator. local companies and students that have provided exceptional support and advocacy for veterans. It was a grand event, and a good number of our members were present. Some were principles in the festivities, including Rob Welch, John Sentz for the Hall of Fame Society, and Ron Perkins, who presented one of the awards.

### **A Proud Coastie**

Gilbert The High School Wind Ensemble played national the anthem, as well as the service hymns, where veterans stand when their service's hymn is played. A highlight was playing of the Coast Guard anthem when the one single Coastie in attendance proudly. It was our own member Dan Germond. and the audience gave him a rousing chorus of clapping in cadence as his hymn was played. Way to go, Dan.

### Get the EDGE

John Ady has lined up another fine program for our March 15 luncheon. Pete Palmer, BG USA

#### Continued on page 2

#### Arizona Chapter Calendar

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

Location: National Guard Regional Training Institute, 5636 E. McDowell Rd. Show ID for entry. Members welcome.

#### **Upcoming meetings:**

- March 6
- April 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 15
- April 12

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## March Program

# **How Technology Changes Warfare**

Technology plays an increasingly important role in warfare, and our March luncheon guest will tell us how diverse entities come together to develop that technology.



Pete Palmer, BG USA, (Ret.), is director of the EDGE Innovation Network at General Dynamics in Mesa. The EDGE program brings together government, industry, academia and non-profit organizations to collaborate on rapid development and delivery of new technologies to warfighters and

first responders.

He is a 32-year Army veteran with a wide range of infantry assignments, including heading a simulation-based virtual training environment for commanders and staffs. He is using his experience to keep the EDGE network at the forefront of understanding the technology gaps warfighters face and developing new ways for them to assess and manage information.

# Seeking a Few Good Men Or Women to Present JROTC Awards

The Arizona Chapter is again awarding medals, ribbons and certificates to selected JROTC cadets for outstanding leadership and achievement in the JROTC program. The presentations will take place in the evening, on the dates and times shown at right, at the high school's JROTC award ceremony. It is desired that the presentations be made by members of our chapter as has been done in previous years.

Schools with no presenter shown are available for a member to represent our chapter at the awards ceremonies. This is a great opportunity to get out and see some wonderful young people at their best. Let's support these patriotic young men and women. If you can make a presentation, let Terry Tassin know which school. Contact him at 623-931-1546 or e-mail: terrytassin@cox.net.



# President's Perspective...continued

(Ret), director of the EDGE Innovation Network at General Dynamics in Mesa, will be our guest speaker. What's the EDGE Innovation Network, you ask? Read about it in the column to the left, then make your plans to attend.

## Get Ready To Tee It Up

Our Spring tournament to raise scholarship funds is set for May 1. Shine your clubs, sharpen your spikes and hit the driving range. Then register to play. Need I say more? Full details on page 4.

# **Donations to Scholarship Fund**

Arizona Chapter \$50 In Memory of Toni Seidl

Gary & Marie Fredricks \$50
In Memory of Toni Seidl

Carol Culbertson \$40 Gene Rafanelli \$20

Nancy Burt \$10

Chapter Luncheon Raffle \$88

**Anonymous \$78** 

**Spring Baseball Tickets Auction \$60**Donated by Jeff Young, won by Charlie Bitner



School	Date	Time	<u>Presenter</u>
Alhambra	April 30	6:00	Gene Rafanelli
Apollo	May 20	7:00	Vacant
Cactus	April 25	6:30	Vacant
Camelback	May 5	6:00	Vacant
Carl Hayden	May 8	6:00	Gene Rafanelli
Central	April 9	6:00	Vacant
Cortez	May 1	6:00	Vacant
Deer Valley	May 9.	6:00	Vacant
Glendale	April 30	6:00	Vacant
Greenway	May 8	6:00	Vacant
Moon Valley	April 25	6:00	Vacant
North	April 22	5:45	Vacant
Sandra Day			
O'Connor	May 5	6:30	Vacant
Shadow Mountain	May 6	6:00	Vacant
South Mountain	April 10	6:00	Gene Rafanelli
Sunnyslope	April 17	6:00	Vacant
Thunderbird	May 14	6:00	Vacant

# **February Guest Speaker**

# A Survival Story That Has Become an Inspiration to Others

When George Burk joined 13 others and boarded a military transport in May 1970, it was to be a routine flight to Spokane, Washington, to conduct an operational analysis.

Moments after takeoff the flight went from routine to nightmare when the aircraft experienced rapid decompression and structural failure and crashed in the hills near Napa, California. George was the only survivor.

Capt George Burk, USAF (Ret), retold his story of tragedy and survival as guest speaker at the February luncheon.

Though he survived the crash, he suffered burns over 65% of his body, broken bones and internal injuries. He was not expected to live.

He spent months in intensive care, endured 36 operations, reconstructive surgery and skin grafts accompanied by painful rehabilitation. He had two near death experiences.

The fact that he even lived through the aftermath of the crash was due to a quirk of fate. The rancher who found George shortly after the crash and summoned help was taking a different route than usual for his daily check of his property. It took him by the crash site.

George said he knew he was dying, but "I tried to inspire myself to stay alive." He told himself, "I'm not quitting."

That will to live carried him through the difficult path to recovery.

# **Personal Affairs**

# **Helpful Publications from MOAA**

Our Chapter has grown in membership over the last year, and new members might not be aware of the variety of helpful publications available to them from MOAA.

There are handbooks on such subjects as financial and estate planning, investments, career transition, retirement planning, long term care and military burials. Some are geared toward National Guard members and Reservists.

You can preview them at moaa.org under the Publications tab.

When he was recovered enough to begin the next chapter in life, George, who had been medically retired from the Air Force, learned a lesson: "No one wanted to hire a Vietnam veteran with disabilities."

Instead, he found a calling as a motivational speaker on such subjects as overcoming adversity and quality in life and work. He has given keynote addresses, conducted training seminars and has spoken at West Point and the Naval Academy, as well as a wide variety of other organizations.

"One question that is always asked is 'do you still fly in airplanes.' The answer is yes." he said. One of the messages he gives is this one: "When you're sick, dying is easy. It's the living that's hard."

"Life is nothing but a series of adjustments," he told his audience.



At the conclusion of his talk, George Burk gave a salute to chapter members.

"I believe in God," he said. "I fear no one but God. I was not supposed to live beyond day 14, but last July I turned 73.

"I'm not lucky; I'm blessed," he said.

George has been sharing his inspiring message for 35 years. He is now a Scottsdale resident and also is a fellow member of the Arizona Chapter.

<u>}</u>

# TAPS

We recently learned of the passing of a member's spouse.

#### Toni Said

May 18, 1921-February 2, 2014
Wife of Past Chapter President Jim Seidl
We extend heartfelt condolences to Jim

\*\*\*\*\*

# Spring is in the Air and So Is Golf

The Arizona Chapter Spring Golf Tournament will be held Thursday, May 1, at Rio Verde Country Club. 18731 E. 4 Peaks Blvd., Rio Verde, Arizona.

This is a really fun event, and we would like to have as many MOAA members and friends as possible participate. The tournament is a major activity for raising funds for the chapter's scholarship program, which helps graduating high school JROTC students attend college.

Rio Verde Country Club is nestled in the High Sonoran Desert just east of Scottsdale and north of Fountain Hills. Rio Verde is known for its spectacular mountain views and its outstanding service and amenities, including two Tom Lehman designed traditional style golf courses.

#### Here are the details:

When: Thursday, May 1. Check-in from 6:30 to 7:30 a.m. Shotgun start at 8.

Where: Rio Verde Country Club, 18731 E. 4 Peaks Blvd, Rio Verde, Arizona, phone 480-471-9420.

Cost: \$70, which includes cart fee, green fees, range balls and hamburger buffet luncheon.

**Dress Code:** collared shirts, soft spikes on golf shoes, sneakers are permitted.

What: Registration and green fees must be receive by April 21. Use the form below.

Special Rules: The event will be a single division 20 place prizes for those with established USGA handicaps. Others will play the Peoria System where six played holes are randomly selected beforehand to establish handicaps based on scores on those holes. Skill prizes will be awarded on

all holes — closest to pin on all par 3s and longest putt on all par 4 and 5s. There's also a Send checks, made out to AZ Chapter MOAA, \$1,000 hole-in-one prize.

You're Not a Golfer? You can still support the tournament and scholarship fund by sponsoring a hole or joining the players for lunch and prize awards, which is a rousing event in itself. Use the form below.

for entry fees, hole sponsor or lunch to:

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

Questions? Contact Pat at:

Phone: 480-661-5204, E-mail: golf@azmoaa.org

	Clip and Mail with Check	
Arizona	Chapter MOAA Golf T	ournament
HERE IS N	MY REGISTRATION SLIP AND	ENTRY FEE.
Name:		
Phone No:		
E-mail Address:		
	(Please Print)	
USGA Index I would like to be partnered with [names handicapping]:	and official USGA Index if they have	e one. Others will play the Peoria System of
Check for \$	included for	players (\$70 each).
Enclosed is my ch	t I want to sponsor a hole seck for \$ (\$25 pe	

## Member's Spotlight

# AF Pilot Flies with the Navy

Ron Perkins' brother, a Navy flier, gave him some advice when Ron had a career decision to make.

So naturally, Ron ignored it.

An Air Force pilot, Ron was selected for an exchange program with the Navy, where he would live the Navy life and fly the Navy's A-6 Intruder.

His brother tried to discourage him. Among the warnings, "it's dangerous on the flight deck, and there are no divert fields."

"So I did it," Ron told members as our spotlight speaker in February.

He flew with the Navy, went to sea with them and made 130 carrier landings in the A-6, one third of them at night.

But it was different. Ron was used to flying the Air Force's F-111 a supersonic aircraft. The A-6 is subsonic and very hands-on to fly. And he was accustomed to runways several thousand feet long.

On a carrier the landing area is 500 feet, the takeoff is at 300 feet. On landing, the deck looks about the size of a postage stamp, it's rolling and going away from the pilot. And of course there's no divert field.

"There were nights when I kissed the deck after a landing, " he said.

The trick on landing is to connect the aircraft tail hook with a catch wire. There are four wires, and if they're all missed, there's a mesh barrier. If the aircraft crashes through the barrier, there's still another option — eject.

Ron spent two and a half years with the Navy, "but I was glad to get back to the Air Force," he said.





Online With The Arizona Chapter by Rob Welch, Webmaster

# One Ring Calls to Your Cell Phones

This scam has resurfaced and is making its way across the nation and has reached Arizona. The way it works is that your cell phone rings just once, then shows you've missed a call. **DO NOT CALL BACK** unless you recognize the number. If you do, within three seconds your entire contact list could be stolen. In addition, you may also be charged a fee on your monthly bill, most frequently \$19.95, but it could be more or less.

Keep up to date on scams and visit our website at <a href="www.azmoaa.org/newsroom/security/">www.azmoaa.org/newsroom/security/</a> where you will find this article and additional information about protecting your personal information.

# A Surprise Honor for Ron Perkins

After Ron Perkins' spotlight talk, he got a surprise when he was presented a MOAA Leadership Award by Past President Rob Welch, who nominated him. The award is given to chapter and council members whose exceptional performance merits special recognition.

Ron is a past chapter president, 1st vice president, secretary and membership chairman, is MOAA representative to the Unified Arizona



Rob Welch presents Ron's Leadership Pin.

Veterans, vice president of the Arizona Council of Chapters, vice chairman the of Arizona Veterans Advisory Commission, and is a member of the Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame. He also **JROTC** was а instructor for 7 years.

Ron is a retired Air Force Colonel with more than 3,000 flying hours.



# Legislative Update by Gary Fredricks National Legislative Chair

# **Calm Before the Storm?**

After a flurry of activity late last year and early this year, things have gotten pretty quiet lately in Washington. This could well be the calm before the storm as attention changes from completing long overdue action for FY2014 to beginning congressional action this calendar year to put things in place for FY2015. On the other hand, I'm reminded that this is an election year when politics typically prevails over progress.

#### **MOAA Chimes In**

Last month we reported that Congress had passed a budget that applied not only to this fiscal year, but also to next, negating the requirement to pass a budget during this calendar year. That was good, but it also contained the 1% cut to military retired pay for all those under age 62. Thanks to MOAA's extensive advocacy both directly and through our co-chairmanship of The Military Coalition and the good work of virtually all military/veterans associations, that action has been mitigated substantially, but not completely. MOAA chapters are the recognized heart and soul of legislative advocacy through our unique ability to bring grassroots support to the table. That support was very evident in dealing with this issue. reports that over 295,000 e-mails were sent to Congress on this issue through the MOAA website. While all of these were not chapter members. I'm convinced that most of them were.

#### **More Fixes Remain**

Unfortunately, some work remains on the issue, since the fixes only applied to current retirees and those entering service prior to January 1, 2014. It remains to be seen how the last part will play out. One possibility is through the congressionally mandated Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission. The Commission report, required by the FY2013 Defense Authorization Bill and originally due in May of this year, has now been delayed by Congress until February 2015, conveniently after this year's elections.

The action that normally kicks off the congressional fiscal year committee and floor work in both houses is the issuance of the president's fiscal year budget request which is supposed to be released the middle of February. This is where MOAA gets a better understanding of where the administration priorities lie and where defense is likely to take a hit. Most recently MOAA has indicated the budget request is now expected on or about March 4. As mentioned

above, Congress has already approved a top level budget for this year, so the president's action really should begin to shed some more light on the details of what the administration expects. Given the presence of a fiscal year budget, it also should directly kick off congressional action in both houses on the FY 2015 Defense Authorization and Appropriations Bills.

#### **Priorities for the Year**

Given what we know so far, I expect MOAA's primary legislative initiatives for the year to be centered on protecting our earned benefits and avoiding significant increases in health care and pharmacy costs; protecting the interests of our currently serving by advocating for normal pay increase and guarding against premature budget-driven troop reductions, and dealing with some of the other remaining inequities such as the SBP-DIC offset issue. MOAA has already expressed concern over military compensation and benefit issues that could well be in jeopardy over the coming months. They include:

- Capping pay raises or even freezing pay
- · Making additional end-strength cuts
- Cutting basic housing allowance
- Reducing the commissary benefit savings
- Means-testing TRICARE fees and establishing TRICARE For Life/TRICARE Standard enrollment fees – and more.

#### At the State Level

The annual state legislative agenda passed another important milestone February 21. On that date bills in both houses needed to have been heard in committee in order to remain actively under consideration without extraordinary action.

Of the 48 bills, resolutions and memorials affecting the military or veterans that the Arizona Department of Veterans Services has been tracking, 20 were not heard, leaving 28 still potentially in the pipeline. Of particular interest, HB 2308 and HB 2402, which would have enhanced the state tax military retired pay exclusion, were not heard in committee. Although similar bills have been introduced over the last couple of years, without some significant veteran lobbying this initiative is not likely to succeed given its impact on the state budget.

On the other hand HB 2457, which would authorize the presiding judge of each county superior court to establish a regional veterans court, is still alive and apparently doing well. One of our own chapter members, Gregg Maxon, is a key advocator of this initiative, and the MOAA Arizona Council of Chapters has been active in promoting it as well.

## **Another Reminder**

Marie Fredricks is still filling in for Treasurer Bill Roscher, so continue to send your luncheon reservations and donations to her rather than Bill.

Marie's address is shown on the reservation form below.

## **March Meeting**

**WHEN**: March 15, 2014

11:00 a.m., Meet & Greet Social

Hour; 11:45, Lunch

WHERE: McCormick Ranch Golf Club

Scottsdale

COST: \$22 Per Person

**DRESS:** Business Casual

**MENU:** Tossed salad, bread and butter, chicken piccata over bow tie pasta, seasonal vegetables, carrot cake.

Anyone with dietary restrictions or allergies are asked to contact Arlene Day (arlenebday@gmail.com preferred) one week prior so alternate food selections can be arranged.

**PROGRAM**: Pete Palmer, BG USA (Ret), will tell us how the EDGE Innovation Network at General Dynamics is bringing the best technology to battlefield commanders.

Reservations must be received by 4 p.m. on Tuesday, March 11. Use the reservation form below. Cancellations must be received the same day to receive your money back.

# Your Prescription. Our Mission.



# Taking command of your prescriptions may be the easiest order you ever followed.

Get dinner brought to your door and you'll pay a delivery charge. Same way with groceries. But that scenario changes with the TRICARE Mail Order Pharmacy: You actually save money with Home Delivery on the cost of prescriptions you take regularly.

You'll save on copayment costs by ordering fewer refills throughout the year. For the cost of only one copayment, you receive up to a 90-day supply\* of your medication with free shipping by standard mail.

Get your prescription mail-order form at www.express-scripts.com/ TRICARE or call toll-free **1.866.DOD.TMOP** (1.866.363.8667) and start saving immediately.





\*The DoD Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee may set quantity limits on some medications. Other benefit limitations may apply. For more information, go to <a href="https://www.tricare.osd.mil/pharmacy/fmop.cfm">www.tricare.osd.mil/pharmacy/fmop.cfm</a>.

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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: **Marie Fredricks, 15403 E. Sunburst Dr., Fountain Hills, AZ 85268**.

and mail to: Marie Fredricks, 15403 E. Sundurst Dr., Fountain Hills, AZ 85268.							
General Fund: \$							
Scholarship Fund: \$	[a 501(c)(3) charitable fund]						
Name of Donor :	Identify me as a donor in the next newsletter. YES NO						
MEA	L / MEETING RESERVATION FORM						
Please reserve meals for (Nam	e)						
Enclosed is my check for \$	(\$22.00 per person) for March 15, 2014						

Make check payable to: AZ Chapter MOAA Received No Later Than March 11, 2014

Send to: Marie Fredricks, 15403 E. Sunburst Dr., Fountain Hills, AZ 85268, e-mail garymarie@cox.net

# Happy Birthday, MOAA



MOAA celebrated its 85th birthday February 23. MOAA was founded as the Retired Officers Association in 1929 in Los Angeles with 63 members. Today, the organization has more than 390,000 members.



# The Arizona Chapter MOAA - 2014 Board of Directors and Committee Chairs

PRESIDENT		NEWSLETTER EDITOR		AUXILIARY LIAISON	
Lt Col Jim Cullison, USAF	602-482-3838	Lt Col Jim Cullison USAF	602-482-3838	COL Nancy Burt USA	480-634-6105
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SECRETARY		PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER		ARRANGEMENTS	
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TREASURER		HISTORIAN / PHOTOGRAPHER	3	SCHOLARSHIPS	
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USA, CDR Jim Draper USN, Co	of Lee Lange,	1LT Corey Harris USA	480-776-9526	CDR Jim Draper USN	480-483-7769
USMC, Beth Cullison, spouse		MEMBERSHIP			
		Col Dave Fleming USAF	480-248-6012		

Access Arizona Chapter's Internet Web Site at: azmoaa.org

Arizona Chapter Military Officers Association of America 13819 N. 51st Street Scottsdale, AZ 85254







Website

# **Address Service Requested**



Show Your Colors By Proudly Displaying The Arizona 'Veteran Plate' On Your Vehicle. Show How Veterans Help Veterans.



# **Arizona Chapter**



# **Annual Membership Renewal**

# AS OF TODAY, MARCH 1 ONLY 30 DAYS LEFT

Membership Dues for 2014 are due by March 31, 2014

After that date, we must drop you from our roster

Dues for Regular Members are \$20.00 Dues for Auxiliary Members are \$10.00

Your membership is important to us. Please take the time to renew your membership and be a part of the Arizona Chapter of MOAA.

Make your check made out to AZ Chapter MOAA

Send to: Dave Fleming, Membership Chairman

7550 E Camino Salida Del Sol

Scottsdale, AZ 85266

**ONLY 30 DAYS LEFT**