



June 2026

Volume 6 Issue 9

**DEPARTMENT COMMANDER**  
**Patriot Michael Smaydy**

**Greetings Patriots,**



*Mike Smaydy*

May was a busy month with the Department Convention and Memorial Day Services. It was good to see all the activities that the Chapters participated in on Memorial Day weekend. Past **National Commander Henry "Woody" Glaudel** placed the Department wreath and represented the Department on stage during the **Memorial Day Ceremony at the National Memorial Cemetery Phoenix on Monday, May 25, 2026**. Woody is shown here with his daughter, Kristin. Also, I was fortunate to attend the Lake Pleasant outing for the second time hosted May 24th by Chapter 691. I was told that it was sold out 7 weeks in advance. How is that for member participation?



*Kistin & Patriot Glaudel*

Remember, if Chapters are having a function, notify the Department in advance and we will try to attend the event.

Members, when your Chapter has an event, try to support it by attending even if you are not an active member. Your appearance will be appreciated.

Several of the Chapters will be going "dark" for the summer. Even though there will be no official meetings there are still events during the summer that should be attended to maintain our visibility in our communities.

I am pleased to announce that the Department has a full slate of elected officers and most of the appointed committees are filled and already working as a team. The Department is still looking for a VAVS chairman, a Suicide Awareness chairman and a Homelessness chairman. If anyone is interested in any of these programs, notify the Department. I'm hoping to have the VAVS program started up again for the three VA hospitals in Arizona. Suicide Awareness and Homelessness among our veterans are serious problems that we must address.

Respectfully yours in Patriotism,

Michael J. Smaydy  
Commander  
Department of Arizona  
Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH) of the U.S.A., Inc  
(928)445-3792

DEPARTMENT SR. VICE-COMMANDER & DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT  
Patriot Larry Leighton



Larry Leighton

**Patriots,**

I hope everyone had a great Memorial Day Weekend and spent some quality time with family and friends. I also hope you took time out of your busy schedule for at least one of the multiple ceremonies that Remembered and Honored our Fallen.

**June is Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) Awareness Month.** While still called a disorder by most, disorder should be changed to “Disease”. It would reduce mental health stigma, educate the public on trauma, and highlight effective treatments. **National PTSD**

**Awareness Day is specifically observed on June 27th each year.** I believe all of us have some level of PTS, some higher than others. We all need to be cognizant that there are as many and varied triggers as there are Veterans. If you or a loved one are seeking education, treatment locators, or immediate crisis support, the following resources can help:

- **Educational Materials:** Visit the [U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs National Center for PTSD](#) for outreach ideas, printable materials, and symptom trackers.
- **Support and Advocacy:** Explore the [National Alliance on Mental Illness \(NAMI\)](#) for educational resources, local support groups, and mental health advocacy opportunities.
- **Immediate Help:** If you are a U.S. Veteran, call or text **988 and press 1**, or chat online at the [Veterans Crisis Line](#).

**Women Veterans Recognition Day** is not a separate Veterans Day for women. The day, celebrated yearly on June 12, recognizes, honors and remembers the signing of the Women’s Armed Services Integration Act (pub.L. 80–625, 62 Stat. 356), allowing women the right to permanently serve in the regular armed forces. Women have served in America’s wars and conflicts throughout our history. They played vital roles in the Revolutionary War, serving as soldiers, raising morale and spying on the enemy. It is known that some even disguised themselves as men to be able to serve.



**June 14<sup>th</sup> is Flag Day and also the Army’s Birthday.** Fly your flag proudly!

**Heat Injury Awareness:** Remember **the next few months can, and usually do, get “warm”**. Be aware heat injuries can stike anyone, including you and your family of friends. Heat injuries range from mild heat cramps to life-threatening heatstroke, which occurs when the body's temperature-regulating system fails. Common signs of severe heat illness include altered mental state (confusion), dizziness,

nausea, and hot, red, or dry skin. When someone shows signs of severe overheating, **act immediately: Call 911** and **always treat heatstroke as a critical emergency**. Some things you can do:

- **Move and Cool:** Move the person to a shaded or air-conditioned area. Remove unnecessary, tight clothing.
- **Apply Cold Water:** Use a garden hose, cool shower, or place cold, wet cloths on the head, neck, armpits, and groin.
- **Hydrate:** If the person is conscious and not vomiting, have them sip chilled water or an electrolyte-rich sports drink.
- **Fan:** Fan the person vigorously to help sweat evaporate and lower their temperature.

### Types of Heat Injuries

- **Heat Cramps:** Painful, involuntary muscle spasms, typically affecting the legs or abdomen during intense exertion.
- **Heat Exhaustion:** The body's response to an excessive loss of water and salt, usually from heavy sweating. Symptoms include extreme thirst, fatigue, headache, and nausea.
- **Heatstroke:** The most severe form of heat injury, occurring when the body fails to regulate its temperature, causing it to rise rapidly. It can result in permanent disability or death if untreated.

**BE SAFE!** Be as **HEALTHY** as you can! Have **FUN!**

Looking for something different? Try calling a Veteran you have not met and create a new relationship. Who knows, you may actually make a new friend. If you need someone to call, ask your Chapter Commander or let me know and we'll give you the name and contact information of another Department Patriot.

Yours in Patriotism

Larry Leighton

Adjutant

[adjutant.mophaz@gmail.com](mailto:adjutant.mophaz@gmail.com)

### JR. VICE-COMMANDER

John Moore

Fellow Patriots,

**June 6th is D-Day Remembrance Day:** On that day over 160,000 Allied troops launched the largest amphibious invasion in history. Thank you to the "Greatest Generation" and a special thank you to our 16 Department members who were awarded Purple Hearts serving in WWII. The cost of the Normandy invasion was huge. More than 4,000 Allied service members gave their lives on that day, and thousands were wounded. These were ordinary citizens who were husbands, sons, fathers, and brothers who made the ultimate sacrifice so that people they had never met could be free.



*John Moore*



**JUNE 14 IS FLAG DAY:** Thank you to all who will display the National Flag on this day. Your patriotism is appreciated by the Department of Arizona, Military Order of the Purple Heart. Special thanks to the members of department most of whom display the flag 24 hours a day 7 days a week year-round. Displaying the flag shows your pride and our membership's pride in the flag of our Nation. Many have sacrificed their lives for the flag's honor. Encourage your relatives, friends and neighbors to display the flag on June 14<sup>th</sup>.

★ 14 th JUNE FLAG DAY

**ARMY BIRTHDAY:** June 14th is also the Army's 251st birthday. The Military Order of the Purple Heart Department of Arizona wishes the United States Army a happy birthday. Thank you to all who have served in the Army and thank you to each of our 616 members who received Purple Hearts for wounds received while serving in the Army.

**SUMMER SCHEDULE:** Many chapters are going to be "dark" over the summer months. The Newsletter and [Purple Heart Magazine](#) will still be published. Let us know what you are doing or planning so we can share with fellow Patriots. Pictures and stories are how we can allow the Public to learn about the order and what we do around AZ. If you need assistance or have an idea to share contact your chapter and department officers. They are available throughout the summer.

**NATIONAL CONVENTION:** The 2026 National Convention will be in New Bern NC. The Dates are July 13th -July 17, 2025

To register use this

link: <https://www.purpleheart.org/NationalConvention>

If you would like to donate to the National Convention or know of an organization that is willing to be a sponsor, please use this link:

<https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/sponsor-93rd-annual-national-convention?>



**DEPARTMENT CALENDAR:** We try to keep the [Department Calendar](#) (<https://www.mophaz.org/events>) up to date with events that may be of interest to the members but we might often miss one or get them posted late. If you know of any upcoming events you think might be pertinent, send us the essential details and we'll let the Department know and post them to the calendar.

- June 2 > Native American Day (Arizona)
- June 6 > D Day Remembrance
- June 14 > Flag Day
- June 14 > Army Birthday
- June 19 > National Juneteenth Day
- June 21 > Father's Day
- June 21 > Arizona Day (Arizona)
- June 23 > U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Birthday
- June 24 > Ch 442 Luncheon (Tucson)
- June 27 > National PTSD Awareness Day

Yours in Patriotism  
John R. Moore  
Jr. Vice-Cdr

AMERICANISM OFFICER  
William Hunker

## Department Americanism Report



*William Hunker*

This month has been a powerful reminder that Americanism is not just something we speak about, it is something we live through service, remembrance, mentorship, and community. Across the Department, we had the privilege of standing beside our youth, honoring our veterans, and helping carry forward the values of sacrifice, patriotism, and love of country. One of the most meaningful moments this month was our work with **Grand Canyon Council Scout Troop 531** at the Arizona National Memorial Cemetery. Combat Wounded Veterans had the honor of assisting the Scouts with the planting of flags in

preparation for Memorial Day. See news coverage at this [link](#). This was more than a volunteer event It was a hands-on lesson in remembrance. Each flag placed represented a life of service, a family's sacrifice, and a solemn promise that these heroes will not be forgotten. Watching our Patriots work side by side with these young Scouts showed exactly why Americanism matters. We are not only honoring the past—we are helping teach the next generation how to carry that honor forward.

We were also proud to hold our first successful **Military Order of the Purple Heart Scouting Award ceremony**, recognizing **Ian Chartier**. This was an important milestone for the Department and a strong step in building our relationship with Scouting. The MOPH Scouting Award gives us another meaningful way to recognize young leaders who demonstrate patriotism, service, citizenship, and respect for our nation's veterans. Ian's recognition was not only a proud moment for him and his family, but also a proud moment for our Department as we continue expanding our youth programs and Americanism outreach. Americanism remains one of the Department's most visible and important missions. Every time we stand with Scouts, present an award, place a flag, attend a ceremony, or speak to the next generation, we are preserving patriotism in action. We are showing our communities that the Military Order of the Purple Heart is not only committed to honoring sacrifice, but also to teaching service, citizenship, and remembrance.



*Eagle Scout Ian Chartier presented with the MOPH National Scouting Leadership Award by Department Americanism Officer 'Will' Hunker*

Thank you to every Patriot, volunteer, family member, Scout, and supporter who helped make this month successful. The mission continues to grow, and because of your dedication, we are ensuring that patriotism, service, and remembrance remain alive for generations to come. Thank you for your continued service and dedication to Americanism. "Strong leaders correct behavior. Weak leaders vent emotion and call it leadership."



*Issac Nunéz, Sufian Stecker, Patriot Reed Webber, Department Americanism Officer 'Will' Hunker*

Respectfully,  
REV. SFC (RET) William E. Hunker (Will)  
Department Americanism JROTC/ROTC Officer  
Email: [hunkermoph@icloud.com](mailto:hunkermoph@icloud.com)  
Phone: 623-688-3142

### DEPARTMENT OFFICERS

**ELECTED OFFICERS:** These are the Department Officers for the 2025-2026 fiscal year.

- Commander - **Mike Smaydy** 928.445.3792; [michaelism@hotmail.com](mailto:michaelism@hotmail.com)
- Senior Vice Commander – **Larry Leighton** 623.776.5443; [adjutant.mophaz@gmail.com](mailto:adjutant.mophaz@gmail.com)
- Jr. Vice Commander – John Moore 520.744.9768; [mophchapter442@comcast.net](mailto:mophchapter442@comcast.net)
- Finance Officer – **Jim Starkman** 708.638.2321; [karen4357@att.net](mailto:karen4357@att.net)
- Sergeant At Arms – **John Ballenger** 602.245.0437; [cjballenger22@msn.com](mailto:cjballenger22@msn.com)

- Judge Advocate – Alex Gualdoni [alex.gualdoni84@gmail.com](mailto:alex.gualdoni84@gmail.com)
- Inspector – Stephan Bobby [veteranairborne@yahoo.com](mailto:veteranairborne@yahoo.com)

**APPOINTED OFFICERS:**

- Adjutant - **Larry Leighton** 623.776.5443; [adjutant.mophaz@gmail.com](mailto:adjutant.mophaz@gmail.com)
- Americanism Officer - **Will Hunker** 910.644.7742; [william.hunker@icloud.com](mailto:william.hunker@icloud.com)
- Legislative Officer – Chuck Byers (480) 258-7105; [seagb@cox.net](mailto:seagb@cox.net)
- Chaplain - Nan Salinas (623) 466-6070; [nansalinas46@gmail.com](mailto:nansalinas46@gmail.com)

### FORT LOWELL CHAPTER 442 – TUCSON, AZ Commander Cody Phipps

**Patriots of Chapter 442,**

As we reflect on Memorial Day, Chapter 442 proudly joined our community in honoring the brave men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice for our nation. Members of our chapter presented a wreath at South Lawn Cemetery in remembrance of our fallen heroes, and several of our volunteers also assisted at the Marana Veterans Memorial Cemetery placing flags on graves to ensure each veteran was recognized and honored. Other members attended the Memorial Day ceremony at the Arizona Heroes Memorial in Oro Valley; AZ. Thank you to everyone who gave their time and service to help preserve the meaning of this important day. We remember, we honor, and we will never forget.



*Cody Phipps*

Join us for our chapter meeting on September 21<sup>st</sup> and at our monthly Purple Heart Luncheon on June 24<sup>th</sup>.

Thank you from my heart for your service and for your continued service to our Nation's Veterans.

Yours in Patriotism,  
Cody Phipps  
Commander

**Commander** Cody Phipps – [cody.phipps@outlook.com](mailto:cody.phipps@outlook.com)  
**Sr. Vice-Cdr** Dave Bertagnoli – [dbertagnoli@Q.com](mailto:dbertagnoli@Q.com)  
**Jr. Vice-Cdr:** Mike Dyer – [mrdyer@comcast.net](mailto:mrdyer@comcast.net)  
**Chaplain:** Danny Lemon – [ddlemon@outlook.com](mailto:ddlemon@outlook.com)  
**Adjutant:** John Moore – [mophchapter442@comcast.net](mailto:mophchapter442@comcast.net)  
**Website:** <https://442.mophaz.org/>  
**Facebook:** [Chapter 442 Facebook Page](#)  
**Donate online:** [Donations Appreciated](#)

**Meeting date:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday (no meetings June, July, or August). **Time:** 5:00 PM. **Meeting location:** Bridge Church at 8150 N Sandy Desert Trail, Tucson, AZ 85741. This is just off I10 & Cortaro Farms Rd. Go east on Cortaro Farms Rd to N. Sandy Desert Trail.

**PLACING FLAGS FOR MEMORIAL DAY:** On May 25<sup>th</sup> Chapter 442 members helped place flags on the 6,148 graves at the Arizona State Veterans Memorial Cemetery Marana. Thank you **Patriot Grand, Patriot Dyer, Patriot Gilbert, Commander Phipps, and Friends of the Chapter Tony Day, Sam Phipps, Sue Ritz, & George Sullivan** who placed flags. Thank you to Ian Friedlander, Marana Veterans Club photographer for the photos.



*Tony Day, John Grand, Cody Phipps, Sam Phipps, Roger Gilbert, Mike Dyer, Sue Ritz and George Sullivan.*



**MONTHLY PURPLE HEART LUNCHEON:** Chapter 442 will hold its monthly Purple Heart luncheon on June 24<sup>th</sup> at noon. The Old Father Inn is at 4080 W Ina Rd, Tucson, AZ 85741.

**MEMORIAL DAY:** At the Memorial Day ceremony at Funeraria del Angel South Lawn & South Lawn Cemetery Ft. Lowell Chapter 442 placed a wreath in honor of the fallen. Thank you to **Patriots Cody Phipps, Jake Zimmerman, John R. Moore, and John Grand** who participated in the wreath laying. A live stream video of the ceremony is [here](#). **Patriots Dave Bertagnoli and Danny Lemon** attended the Memorial Day Ceremony at Arizona's Heroes Memorial in Oro Valley, AZ.



*Patriot Moore, Patriot Grand, Patriot Zimmerman, & Cdr Phipps*



**PIMA COLLEGE VETERANS GRADUATION:** Vice-commander, **Mike Dyer**, represented Ft. Lowell Chapter 442 at the Pima Community College Veterans graduation. Pictured with Mike is **Alissa McKaig**, PCC's Veteran Services Director. Chapter 442 partners with Pima College to aid with utilities, rent, etc. to veteran students to help them stay in school. We provided \$2,800 in assistance this past year.



**CHAPTER MEETING:** Thank you, **One Veteran Foundation**, Bradley, **Patriot Brian Kelsey** and **Dave Rafus** for joining our chapter meeting to tell us about your journey connecting **Veterans with service dogs**. Save a pet, save a Vet. Thank you for all you do!



*Cdr Phipps, Dave Rafus & Patriot Kelsey*

**BINGO AT TUCSON VA Hospital:** Ft. Lowell Chapter 442 hosted bingo for the patients at the Tucson VA Hospital on May 30<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to **Patriot Dave Bertagnoli**, **Patriot Cody Phipps**, & **Patriot Danny Lemon**, who conducted bingo and to volunteers **Cherie Stallman**, **Yolanda Lemon** & **Sam Phipps**, who helped the patients. The grand prize was a beautiful handmade quilt from the ladies at Canyon Del Oro Bible Church.



*Arizona Heroes Memorial*

**National Community Health Partners - NCHP:** MOPH Ft Lowell Chapter 442 and National Community Health Partners - NCHP teamed up again to help 2 more Tucson Veterans. We helped

these two veterans catch up on rent and a phone bill.

Our goal as a chapter is to serve Veterans and their families. We focus on homelessness and suicide prevention. Thank you to these veterans for their service to the Nation. Thank you

**Hayley Reyes** for connecting us with Veterans in need. The chapter looks forward to working with **NCHP** to help more Tucson Veterans.



*Veteran receives check for his bill*



*Sam Phipps & Patriot Bertagnoli call Bingo*




*Yolanda Lemon & grand prize winner*

## WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT PTSD


Around **6 out of every 100 people** will experience PTSD at some point in their lives.

PTSD is **not limited to combat veterans**. Car accidents, abuse, sexual assault, medical trauma, and sudden loss can also lead to PTSD.

**Women** are approximately twice as likely to develop PTSD compared to men.



Many people with PTSD also experience **anxiety, depression, sleep disturbances, or substance use** challenges alongside their symptoms.



1veteranfoundation

1veteranfoundation.org



**TRI-CITIES CHAPTER 472 – MESA, AZ**  
**Commander Stephan Bobby**

Fellow Patriots,



*Stephan Bobby*

Welcome to Chapter 472. Our meetings are on the last Thursday of the month at 10:00 AM at the American Legion Post 26. Come and join us!

- Commander: Stephan Bobby > [veteranairborne@yahoo.com](mailto:veteranairborne@yahoo.com)
- Sr. Vice-Commander: Ramiero Del Rio > (602) 818-0796
- Finance: James Pomush > [landjpomush@gmail.com](mailto:landjpomush@gmail.com)
- Adjutant: Stephan Bobby > [veteranairborne@yahoo.com](mailto:veteranairborne@yahoo.com)
- Sgt-At-Arms: Lorenzo Longoria > [Longo1836@gmail.com](mailto:Longo1836@gmail.com)

**Meeting date:** Last Thursday of the month (No meetings: Jun, Jul & Aug)  
**Meeting time:** 10:00 AM  
**Meeting location:** American Legion Post 26  
 505 W 2nd Avenue, Mesa, AZ 85210-1202

Yours in Patriotism  
Stephan Bobby  
Commander Chapter 472

**MEMORIAL DAY:** Patriots representing **Purple Heart Chapter 0472** attended our Nation's Memorial Day Ceremony at the City of Mesa Cemetery.



*Cdr Stephan Bobby; Patriot Ruben Del Rio; Past Cdr Jim Pomush; & Past Cdr Ron Del Rio*



**PURPLE HEART BRICK PROGRAM:** Patriot **Stephan Bobby**, Chapter 472 oversees the Purple Heart Memorial Brick Program for the Department. The bricks are installed at the **Purple Heart Memorial at Wesley Bolin Plaza** at the state capital. **Three newly ordered bricks will be installed at the plaza on Purple Heart Day, August 7<sup>th</sup>.** Order a 4" x 8" Purple Heart Brick to commemorate being a Purple Heart recipient or order one to commemorate a

**PATRIOT IGNACIO "NACHO" RIVERA:** Honoring **Patriot Ignacio Nacho Rivera**, a member of Purple Heart Chapter 0472, **passed away on April 29<sup>th</sup>.** A funeral mass was held May 14th at St Timothy Catholic Church. Nacho served in the US Army in Vietnam and was the proud recipient of a Purple Heart and a Bronze Star! Nacho was a **past chapter commander**, and he always participated in raising funds to help veterans. He will be missed at our chapter activities.



*Patriot Ignacio Rivera*

**CIDER CORPS:** Cider Corps is a veteran own business in Mesa, AZ owned by **Patriot Jason Duren** and his brother. On Memorial Day they hosted their **5th annual Memorial Ruck.** Veterans gathered at Cider Corps to honor the fallen, to celebrate their lives, and to remind each other that even in darkness, nobody was meant to walk alone.



**MESA VET CENTER:** Mesa Vet Center is located at 1303 South Longmore, Suite 5, Mesa, AZ 85202. The hours are 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM. Phone # is 480-610-6727.

family member or friend who received the Award. The cost of the brick, engraving, and placement costs are: **\$35 Purple Heart recipients** and **\$40 for other veterans**.



Checks, along with a copy of your order form, should be made out to MOPH AZ & sent to:

**Patriot Stephan Bobby**  
MOPH AZ PH Brick Coordinator  
4543 E. County Down Dr.  
Chandler, AZ 85249-7339

Download Order Form: [PH ORDER FORM](#)



*Mesa Veterans Center*



**MICHAEL E. MAHONEY CHAPTER 691 – SURPRISE, AZ**  
**Commander William Hunker**

**Patriots, Auxiliary, Families, and Friends,**



*William Hunker*

It has been another busy and meaningful month for our Chapter, filled with service, fellowship, remembrance, and new connections throughout our community. Each event reminded us why the mission of the Military Order of the Purple Heart continues to matter—not only to our members, but to the families, youth, veterans, and communities we serve.

This month, several of our Combat Wounded Veterans had the honor of assisting **Grand Canyon Council Scout Troop 531** with the planting of flags at the **Arizona National Memorial Cemetery**. Standing beside these young

Scouts as they honored our fallen was a powerful reminder that remembrance must be taught, shared, and carried forward. Every flag placed represented a life of service, sacrifice, and love of country. To see our Patriots help guide the next generation in that sacred duty was truly inspiring.

We also enjoyed a wonderful **Lake Pleasant Cruise**, which brought together Patriots, families, friends, and new faces for a day of fellowship and connection. The cruise was made even



*Captain Matt of Lake Pleasant Narrated Cruises & Commander Hunker*

more special by the honor of having a World War II veteran join us. His presence reminded us of the generations of service that came before us and the legacy we are responsible for preserving. During the cruise, we took in the beauty of Arizona, saw beautiful birds, spotted a wild family of donkeys, shared laughter, and built memories together. Events like this strengthen the bonds within our Order and remind us that fellowship is also part of healing, support, and service.

Memorial Day was another deeply meaningful moment this month. At the ceremony in Sun City, we had the honor of meeting the **last surviving member of the Rosie the Riveters**. Her presence was a powerful connection to one of the most important chapters in our nation's history, representing the strength, determination, and sacrifice of those who supported the war effort from the home front. During the Air Force Colonel's speech, a flyover took place, adding a moving and patriotic moment to an already solemn and memorable ceremony.

As Commander, I continue to be proud of the way our Patriots show up. Whether we are standing in a cemetery placing flags, sharing fellowship on the water, honoring veterans from World War II, meeting living symbols of American history, or supporting community ceremonies, we are representing the Purple Heart with dignity and purpose.

These events are more than dates on a calendar. They are proof that our mission is alive. We remember. We serve. We teach. We connect. Most importantly, we continue to ensure that the sacrifices of our nation's wounded, fallen, and serving heroes are never forgotten.

Thank you to every Patriot, family member, volunteer, and supporter who helped make this month so successful. Your presence, your time, and your commitment continue to move this Order forward.

Thank you for your continued service and dedication to Americanism.

Respectfully,

REV. SFC (RET) William E. Hunker (Will)

Commander of Arizona Local Chapter 691 Military Order of the Purple Heart

E-mail: [commander691moph@gmail.com](mailto:commander691moph@gmail.com)

Department Americanism JROTC/ROTC Officer Military Order of the Purple Heart

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"Strong leaders correct behavior. Weak leaders vent emotion and call it leadership."

Cdr: William Hunker - 623-688-3142

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Chaplain: Nan Salinas – (623) 466-6070

[nansalinas46@gmail.com](mailto:nansalinas46@gmail.com)

Americanism Officer: Karen Starkman-

[karen4357@att.net](mailto:karen4357@att.net)

Trustee: Ron Capek - (623) 979-9389

[ronlucap@gmail.com](mailto:ronlucap@gmail.com)

Sgt-at-Arms: John Ballenger - (602) 245-0437

[cjballenger22@msn.com](mailto:cjballenger22@msn.com)

**Meeting date:** 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday

**Meeting time:** 10:00 AM

**Meeting location:** Sands Chevrolet Surprise Conference Room (16991 W Waddell Rd, Surprise, AZ 85388) Enter parking lot from N Cotton Lane.

**Note:** Meetings will also be via [Zoom](#). Enter the meeting ID (ID: 815 5957 0914) and the password (328403). By phone, call 253-205-0468 and enter the id/password.

**Website:** <http://691.mophaz.org/>

**Facebook:** [Chapter 691 Facebook](#)

**MEMORIAL DAY:** Chapter 691 **Commander Hunker** (left and behind the guest speaker) represents 691 on stage at the **Memorial Day**

**National Memorial Cemetery Phoenix:** Sergeant-at-Arms John Bellenger represented the chapter on Memorial Day at the National Memorial Cemetery Phoenix.



*Patriot Bellenger*

**PLACING FLAGS ON GRAVES:** Chapter 691 Commander Will Hunker, with his father Harvey and son Edward assist Boy Scout Troup place flags on Veteran graves Saturday morning, May 23<sup>rd</sup>.



*Edward, William, & Harvey*

**LAKE PLEASANT CRUISE PHOTOS:**

**Ceremonies at Sunland Memorial Garden and Mortuary** in Sun City on Memorial Day. The ceremony is co-sponsored by Sunland, Dignity Memorial, and the Northwest Valley Veterans Association (NWWVA). Chapter 691 is a NWWVA member organization.



**Arizona Sons of the American Revolution (SAR):**

Chapter 691 Sr. Vice Commander Jim Starkman is pictured here with Dave Hiuyck, President of the Saguaro Chapter of the Arizona Sons of the American Revolution (SAR).



**Patriot Starkman** was asked to be their guest speaker over the Memorial Day Weekend. SAR is an active lineage and patriotic organization serving the West Valley, including Glendale, Peoria, and Surprise, AZ. Jim met Dave while presenting the MOPH Leadership Award during one of our JROTC ceremonies. Jim talked about his combat experience during the Vietnam War and how he was awarded his Purple Hearts. He provided a brief history of the Purple Heart, the origin of the medal and the mission of Chapter 691. Jim also talked about the Chapter's Fundraising efforts, and his **SunDome Plaza Angel Tree** for Veterans Program, which he coordinates every year. At the conclusion of his speech, Patriot Starkman was presented with a SAR challenge coin.

**WWII RIVETER:** Last Surviving "Riveter" Florence Carter (Age 102)



*Family of Wild Burros*



*Family of Egrets*



*Figure 1 WWII veteran & Commander Hunker*



*On behalf of all of the Patriots  
of the Department of Arizona  
**Happy Father's Day***



*Commander Hunker & Riveter Florence Carter*

**FREE RETREATS:** VOA Northern Rockies is offering “FREE” Veteran “Moral Injury Retreats. Go to this [link to apply or get more information.](#)

**VETERAN RELATED ITEMS:**

- Fry’s Community Rewards Program [www.frysfood.com/o/store-services/community-rewards/frys](http://www.frysfood.com/o/store-services/community-rewards/frys)
- Million Veteran Program (MVP) [www.mvp.va.gov/pwa](http://www.mvp.va.gov/pwa)
- The Veterans Crisis Line: call 988 and then press 1 or 1-800-273-8255 and Press #1, text #838255, or chat VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat -- VA One Number: 1-800-MyVA411 (800-698-2411)
- Honor Flight Arizona [honorflightaz.org](http://honorflightaz.org) (928-377-1020)
- Veterans Affinity [veteransaffinity.org](http://veteransaffinity.org). Coffee 0900-1300

- > First Tuesday: Goodyear Recreation & Parks Office, 420 S. Estrella Pkwy, Goodyear, AZ 85338
- > First Wednesday: Surprise Funeral Care, 16063 W Bell Rd, Surprise, AZ 85374
- > Second Tuesday: Sunland Memorial, 15826 N Del Webb Blvd, Sun City, AZ 85351
- > Third Tuesday: Phoenix Memorial Park & Mortuary, 200 W. Beardsley Rd, Phoenix, AZ 85027
- > Monthly Veterans Breakfast – Third Sunday, 0900; Richi’s Diner 15609 W Bell Rd #100, Surprise, AZ 85374
- Purple Heart Vehicle Registration Tax Fee waived for one vehicle.
- Those that are 100% have the ability to have their property taxes waived.

**DALE E. CRICK CHAPTER 793 – FLAGSTAFF, AZ**  
**Commander Rodger Ely**

Fellow Patriots,



*Rodger Ely*

Welcome to Chapter 793. Our chapter participates in patriotic and welfare activities throughout Northern Arizona. Chapter 793 supports Northern Arizona Stand Downs in several Northern Arizona communities. Several Northern Arizona communities became Purple Heart entities this past year. Thank you, Page Arizona, Tuba City Arizona, Nazlini Arizona, Ft. Defiance & White Cone, Arizona (Navajo Nation). In March, we participated in the Verde Valley Standdown.

You are always welcome to join us at our meetings or any of our activities!

Commander  
Rodger Ely

**Commander:** Rodger Ely - [juggy64@aol.com](mailto:juggy64@aol.com)

**Sr. Vice-Cdr:** Daniel Reich -  
[daniel\\_r\\_reich@msn.com](mailto:daniel_r_reich@msn.com)

**Jr. Vice-Cdr:** Elmer Sangster -  
[sangster333@hotmail.com](mailto:sangster333@hotmail.com)

**Adjutant:** William Weldon -  
[baseballbillpaul@npgcable.com](mailto:baseballbillpaul@npgcable.com)

**Chaplain:** Rupert Osequeda – [rupert@swiftaz.net](mailto:rupert@swiftaz.net)

**Facebook:** [Chapter 793 Facebook](#)

**Next Meeting** – contact the chapter

**Meeting time:** 11:30 AM

**Meeting location:** VFW Post 1709  
409 W Santa Fe Ave, Flagstaff, AZ 86001

**Meeting date:** Bi-monthly on 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday.

**FLAGSTAFF VA CLINIC:**

1300 West University Ave, Suite 200

Flagstaff, AZ 86001

Phone: 928-226-1056

Mental Health Phone: 928-445-4860, ext 7500

Website: [Flagstaff VA Clinic](#)

**FLAGSTAFF VA BENEFITS SERVICES:** On the flyer below see the hours and dates that VA Benefits Services are available at the Flagstaff VA Clinic at 1300 W. University Ave. Suite 200, Flagstaff, AZ 86001.



**PATRIOT RODGER ELY:** Chapter commander Rodger Ely was featured in an article in the Williams-Grand Canyon News.

Patriot Ely was interviewed about his military service and service in Vietnam where he was twice wounded. Here is a [link](#) to the article. If not, a subscriber requires a fee to view.



**MEMORIAL DAY:** Chapter 793 participated in several Memorial Day ceremonies in Northern Arizona.



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs  
Veterans Health Administration  
Northern Arizona VA Health Care System (NAVAHCS)

# Bringing VA Benefits to You

**Veteran Benefits Services**

Speak with a VA representative, get answers to VA disability compensation or pension claim questions, and receive assistance filing your disability claim.

**LOCATION**  
Flagstaff VA Clinic  
1300 West University Avenue • Suite 200  
Flagstaff, AZ 86001

**WHEN**  
1st Wednesday of every month

**TIME**  
10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

**2026 DATES**

- June 3, 2026
- July 1, 2026
- August 5, 2026
- September 2, 2026
- October 7, 2026
- November 4, 2026
- December 2, 2026

**BOB STUMP VA MEDICAL CENTER:**

500 Hwy 89 North  
Prescott, AZ 86313  
Phone: 928-445-4806  
Mental Health Phone: 928-445-4860, ext 7500  
Website: [Bob Stump VA Medical Center](http://www.va.gov/flagstaff)

**Sacred Mountain Gourd Dance:** A Sacred Mountain Gourd Dance will be held June 7<sup>th</sup> in Flagstaff, AZ. See flyer for details.

## Sacred Mountain Gourd Dance

Saturday June 6th Flagstaff AZ  
Marshal Elementary School  
850 N Bonito St. Flagstaff Az  
"Location Subject to Change"

Lead Singer - Mario Tenequer  
MC - Steve Darden

All Gourd Dancers & Society's Welcome  
Meal Provided for All Singers & Dancers  
Bring Your own Chairs & Shades  
Public Welcome - Free Admission  
Drug and Alcohol Use Not Allowed

Sponsored by Reztoration  
Contact - Bill Gowey  
928-380-0871



Help for Homeless Veterans  
**877-4AID-VET**  
va.gov/homeless | (877) 424-3838



**100<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY RT. 66 CAR SHOW:** The car show will be held in Williams, AZ on June 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup>.

**ROUTE 66 100<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY WILLIAMS HISTORIC ROUTE 66 CAR SHOW JUNE 5<sup>TH</sup> & 6<sup>TH</sup>, 2026**

**OFFICIAL SHOW T-SHIRTS AVAILABLE!**

**Williams StandDown:** Friday, September 11, 2026  
Williams Recreation Center, Williams, AZ.

Friday - September 11th 2026  
9 Am to 2 Pm  
Williams Recreation Center  
300 W. Railroad Avenue  
Williams . Arizona

7TH ANNUAL  
MATTHEW J. BROEHM MEMORIAL  
WILLIAMS STAND DOWN



**Twin Arrows StandDown;** Friday, October 2, 2026  
Twin Arrows Navajo Resort, Flagstaff

**PHYSICAL THERAPY AT NAVAHCS:** Walk ins are available daily from 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM. See the flyer below for more details.

**CHAPTER 2560 – APACHE JUNCTION, AZ**  
**Commander Alex Gualdoni**



*Alex Gualdoni*

- Cdr:** Alex Gualdoni > [alex.gualdoni84@gmail.com](mailto:alex.gualdoni84@gmail.com)
- Sr. Vice Cdr:** Mike Overmeyer > [moverme48@gmail.com](mailto:moverme48@gmail.com)
- Jr. Vice Cdr:** Chuck Byers > [seagb@cox.net](mailto:seagb@cox.net)
- Adjutant:** Sandra King [kings6@live.com](mailto:kings6@live.com)
- Chaplain:** Frank Sonntag Jr. [sfcfrank2003@yahoo.com](mailto:sfcfrank2003@yahoo.com)
- Meeting date:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month.
- Meeting time:** 10:00 AM
- Meeting location:** Mesa Buckhorn Elk Lodge #2656 at 6718 E Avalon St, Mesa, AZ 85205

**Fellow Patriots,** Chapter 2560 gathered in fellowship for a meal at the Texas Roadhouse for our May meeting as we prepared to go dark for the summer. Although we will not gather as Chapter again until **September (9/12 at 10:00 at the Mesa Elks)**, we will still seek out opportunities to help Veterans and our communities when and where we can.

This Memorial Day, members of Chapter 2560 attended the community Memorial Day Ceremony at Mountain View Cemetery in Mesa. There they participated in a wreath laying ceremony, placing a Purple Heart wreath before the replica of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier alongside the Battlefield Crosses. The ceremony featured **Patriot Mike Overmeyer** arriving by Willy’s Jeep as an honored guest. It also included musical performances, readings, placement of wreaths, and speeches by **Chip Wilson**, the mayor of Apache Junction, and **CSM Graydon B. Griffin**, the Command Sergeant Major of the Arizona National Guard. The ceremony culminated with a 21-gun salute, the playing of Taps, and the release of doves.

**Upcoming events:** **Chandler All American Bash, Saturday, July 4, 2026, 7 - 9:30 p.m.** at Dr. A.J. Chandler Park: Stage Plaza, 178 E. Commonwealth Ave., Chandler, AZ 85225. Information is available at the [Chandler website](#).

Yours in Patriotism

Alex Gualdoni  
 Commander Chapter 2560

**MEMORIAL DAY PHOTOS:**



*Replica of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier & the Battlefield Crosses*



*Patriot Mike Overmeyer*

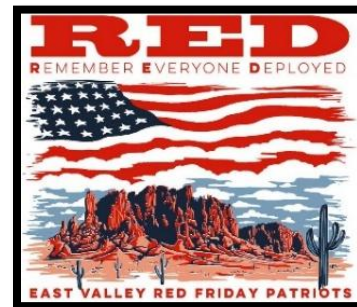


*Patriot Mike Overmeyer*

**I WEAR RED  
REMEMBER EVERYONE DEPLOYED  
ON FRIDAYS**

JUNE is *National*  
**PTSD AWARENESS**  
MONTH

**Wear Red on Fridays:** Patriots, including about a dozen Purple Heart recipients, meet for **Wear Red at Friday's breakfast**. Help send a shout out to America's deployed service members. A buffet breakfast is served beginning at 7:30 AM (\$12 pp + gratuity), and the program starts promptly at 8:15 AM. See you on Fridays!! Bring a friend. American Legion Post 27, 1018 S. Meridian Rd., Apache Junction, AZ.



Join us EVERY Friday for Breakfast at 7:30am to 8:15am.  
Cost for breakfast is \$12.00 Meeting starts at 8:15am.  
Place: American Legion Post #27  
1018 S. Meridian Rd  
Apache Junction, AZ 85120

We wear RED on Fridays to Remember Everyone Deployed  
Everyone is invited. Veterans, Spouses, Patriots and Guests  
No Membership required...  
YouTube.com: EastValleyR.E.D.FridayPatriots

## RELATED MOPH & VETERAN INFORMATION

**PURPLE HEART HALL OF HONOR:** Add your story to the Purple Heart Hall of Honor to help inspire future generations of citizens. **Patriot John Moore views his entry on a kiosk at the Purple Heart Hall of Honor** in Newburgh, NY. Place your story in the PH Hall of honor by enrolling at this [link](#).



**PURPLE HEART VEHICLE REGISTRATION FEES:** Vehicle license tax exemption is available for PH veterans. On registration of a vehicle, if the veteran submits satisfactory proof to ADOT that the person is a veteran and a bona fide Purple Heart medal recipient and has an honorable discharge **the registration tax fee is waived**. Can only be used on one vehicle. Specialty plate and personalization fees still apply.



**ARIZONA HONORS VETERANS TOUR:** This is **Nancy Fassbender's Wreaths Across America** update.

The Wreaths Across America Remembrance Day event is on **December 19, 2026**. I have two cemeteries which we support: **Mariposa Gardens and Mountain View Cemeteries**. Last year, both cemeteries were covered and I was able to also send 2,000 more wreaths up to the Arizona Veterans National Cemetery Phoenix. We set a record for honoring veterans last year.

Wreaths Across America will donate to Arizona Honors Veterans, \$5 for every wreath sponsored so we can use it for veterans in our own



**THE PURPLE HEART MAGAZINE:**



The  
**Purple Heart**  
Magazine

March/April 2021

The current issue of "The Purple Heart Magazine" is available [online](#). Enjoy!

**CHRISTMAS IN JULY:** July 1<sup>st</sup> is **Arizona Honors Veterans 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Christmas In July online auction!** Once again, we have gift cards, show passes and some very interesting items for you to bid on. **It will run until 6 p.m. on July 31<sup>st</sup>!** You can keep bidding on an item if someone out bids you. So, keep an eye on the auction. All monies go to sponsor more wreaths.

Arizona Veterans Honor Tour

**CHRISTMAS IN JULY**

**Online Auction!!!**



AVHT is having a "Christmas in July" online auction to raise monies for Wreaths Across America Remembrance Day.

One fun way, is to do an Online Auction! Please go to this website and look thru the items which are up for Auction. You can bid as many times you wish.

This auction will start on July 1, 2026 and will end at 6pm on July 31, 2026.

<https://go.dojiggy.io/waa>

Remember, if you have a loved one in another cemetery, and Wreaths Across America participates in that cemetery, we can assist you in having that wreath placed on WAA Remembrance Day, December 19, 2026.

Please contact Nancy Fassbender if you have any questions at 520-280-4715.

**VA Trust Report:** Overall trust in the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has reached an all-time high. In the first quarter of fiscal year 2026, **82% of Veterans** who used VA services—including health care, benefits, burials and memorials—reported that they trust VA to fulfill the nation's commitment to them.

**PURPLE HEART GEAR:** The Purple Heart Store is a company devoted to Honoring Purple Heart Recipients and their family members. It has served PH recipients for over 20 years and is a veteran owned business. Visit the [store](#) for hats, shirts, ties, etc.

community. **Wreaths are only \$17 each!** If you want to send us a check, make it out to Wreaths Across America and send it to **Wreaths Across America 4657 S Desert Dawn Gold Canyon, AZ 85118**. If you have any questions, please call me at 520-280-4715. Online use this [website address](#).

**One more update:** Many of you participated in the fundraising survey. Thank you so much! **We made over \$6,000!** Also, at the end of April, we encouraged you to go out to eat at a Red Robin Restaurant... Wow... you all stepped up at the last moment and **we made \$772!** I do have another **Red Robin day on October 29<sup>th</sup>**... so mark your calendars!!!! This time, **all the Red Robin Restaurants in Arizona will be participating!**

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. You have all been fantastic volunteers and I appreciate all the help you have been able to help with. Let's make this another year to break another record of honoring more interred Veterans. "A Soldier never dies until he is forgotten" If you have any questions, please call Nancy at 520-280-4715.

**MYVA HOTLINE:** The MYVA Hotline is at 1-800-MyVA411 (698-2411) and is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year to serve veterans, their families, caregivers, and survivors

**VA HISA Grants: Home Improvements/Structural Alterations grants** is a benefit that provides medically necessary improvements and structural alterations to Veterans/Servicemembers' primary residence for the following purposes: Allowing entrance to or exit from the primary residence; Use of essential lavatory and sanitary facilities (e.g. roll in showers); Allowing accessibility to kitchen or bathroom sinks or counters (e.g. lowering counters/sinks); Improving entrance paths or driveways in immediate area of the home to facilitate access to the home through construction of permanent ramping; and Improving plumbing or electrical systems made necessary due to installation of home medical equipment.

*Sponsor a Wreath Today!*

**WREATHS across AMERICA**

**National Remembrance Day  
Community is Invited!**

**Saturday, December 19, 2026 at 10:00am**  
**Mariposa Gardens Memorial Park and Mountain View Funeral Home & Cemetery**  
 400 S Power—Mesa, AZ 85206      7900 E. Main St., Mesa, AZ 85207

Please scan the QR Code below to sponsor or to volunteer—you can also visit:  
[www.wreathscrossamerica.org/AZ0316P](http://www.wreathscrossamerica.org/AZ0316P)

**THANKS TO OUR 2026 Sponsors**

Wreaths Across America gives back \$5.00 or every wreath sold to support local Veterans in our community!

Did you know?  
 Worcester Wreath Co. makes 90,000 wreaths per day for 52 days to supply WAA!

Make checks payable to "Wreaths Across America" and mail to 4657 S. Desert Dawn Dr., Gold Canyon, AZ 85118

Special Thankyou:  
 RS Laser Arts  
 Ken McNeil

Wreaths Across America will donate \$5 for each wreath sponsored for our Veterans Community!

Direct questions to Nancy Fassbender (520)280-4715

## VA HISA GRANT

★ HOME IMPROVEMENTS & STRUCTURAL ALTERATIONS ★  
 HELPING VETERANS LIVE SAFELY AND INDEPENDENTLY AT HOME

<p><b>WHAT IS THE HISA GRANT?</b></p> <p>The HISA Grant is a VA healthcare benefit that helps pay for medically necessary home modifications so veterans can live safely and functionally in their homes.</p> <p>NOT a home upgrade program. It's a medical necessity program.</p>	<p><b>HOW MUCH CAN YOU GET?</b></p> <p>UP TO <b>\$6,800</b>  <b>LIFETIME MAX</b>      @ Service-connected condition OR      @ Non-service-connected condition with at least 50% SC rating</p> <p>UP TO <b>\$2,000</b>  <b>LIFETIME MAX</b>      @ Non-service-connected condition only</p> <p><b>ONE-TIME USE – LIFETIME CAP</b></p>	<p><b>WHO QUALIFIES?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Enrolled in VA healthcare</li> <li>✓ Have a medical condition</li> <li>✓ VA doctor confirms the modification is medically necessary</li> <li>✓ Service-connected condition OR          Condition treated as if service-connected OR          Non-service-connected condition with at least 50% SC rating</li> </ul>												
<p><b>WHAT DOES IT COVER?</b></p> <p><b>MEDICALLY NECESSARY MODIFICATIONS THAT IMPROVE ACCESS, SAFETY &amp; MOBILITY</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wheelchair ramps (permanent)</li> <li>Widening doorways</li> <li>Roll-in / walk-in showers</li> <li>Grab bars &amp; handrails</li> <li>Lowering sinks &amp; counters</li> <li>Adjusting electrical or plumbing for medical equipment</li> </ul>	<p><b>WHAT DOES NOT COVER?</b></p> <p><b>NOT APPROVED IF IT'S NOT MEDICALLY NECESSARY</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✗ Cosmetic remodels (tile, paint, upgrades)</li> <li>✗ New home construction</li> <li>✗ Decks or patios</li> <li>✗ Hot tubs / spas / luxury items</li> <li>✗ Portable or removable equipment</li> </ul> <p><b>IF IT'S NOT TIED TO A MEDICAL NEED → DENIED</b></p>	<p><b>HOW TO APPLY (STEP-BY-STEP)</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 GET MEDICAL JUSTIFICATION VA doctor writes a prescription explaining your condition, limitations, and why the modification is necessary.</li> <li>2 FILL OUT THE FORM Complete VA Form 10-1033 (HISA Application).</li> <li>3 SUBMIT DOCUMENTS Doctor prescription, itemized contractor estimate, photos of the area, and landlord approval (if renting).</li> <li>4 SUBMIT TO VA MEDICAL CENTER Goes through the Prosthetics &amp; Sensory Aids Service (PSAS).</li> <li>5 WAIT FOR APPROVAL Timeline varies by VA facility. Delays usually happen due to missing or incomplete info.</li> </ol>												
<p>★ <b>THE SECRET TO APPROVAL</b> ★</p> <p>The VA is NOT approving your contractor quote. They are approving your <b>MEDICAL NECESSITY</b>.</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%; border: none;"> <p><b>PROBLEM (DOCTOR)</b> Doctor identifies your condition and functional limitation.</p> </td> <td style="width: 33%; border: none;"> <p><b>SOLUTION (ESTIMATE)</b> Contractor provides detailed solution and cost.</p> </td> <td style="width: 33%; border: none;"> <p><b>MUST MATCH PERFECTLY</b> Both must clearly connect the problem to the solution.</p> </td> </tr> </table>			<p><b>PROBLEM (DOCTOR)</b> Doctor identifies your condition and functional limitation.</p>	<p><b>SOLUTION (ESTIMATE)</b> Contractor provides detailed solution and cost.</p>	<p><b>MUST MATCH PERFECTLY</b> Both must clearly connect the problem to the solution.</p>									
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<p><b>HISA vs OTHER VA HOUSING GRANTS</b></p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th>GRANT</th> <th>AMOUNT</th> <th>PURPOSE</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>HISA</td> <td>\$6,800 max</td> <td>Small, medical modifications</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SHA</td> <td>~\$25,000</td> <td>Specific severe disabilities</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SAH</td> <td>~\$126,000</td> <td>Major home adaptation/build</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>★ HISA = ENTRY-LEVEL, QUICK-ACCESS GRANT ★</p>	GRANT	AMOUNT	PURPOSE	HISA	\$6,800 max	Small, medical modifications	SHA	~\$25,000	Specific severe disabilities	SAH	~\$126,000	Major home adaptation/build	<p><b>REAL EXAMPLES (APPROVED)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Cannot step over bathtub → fall risk → needs roll-in shower</li> <li>✓ Wheelchair-bound → cannot access doorway → needs widening</li> <li>✓ Limited grip strength → needs grab bars for safe transfers</li> </ul>	<p><b>COMMON DENIAL REASONS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✗ No medical justification</li> <li>✗ Request is cosmetic, not medical</li> <li>✗ Vague or incomplete estimate</li> <li>✗ Condition not tied to functional limitation</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: right; border: 1px solid red; padding: 2px;"><b>DENIED</b></p>
GRANT	AMOUNT	PURPOSE												
HISA	\$6,800 max	Small, medical modifications												
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<p><b>THIS IS NOT A HOME UPGRADE BENEFIT... IT'S A MEDICAL SURVIVAL TOOL.</b></p> <p><b>USE IT WISELY. YOU ONLY GET IT ONCE.</b></p>														



**ARIZONA STANDDOWN ALLIANCE:** The Arizona Veterans StandDown Alliance (AVSA) holds resource fairs in 13 Arizona's counties. These events allow veterans and their families who are experiencing housing instability and homelessness to get and stay connected to housing and supportive services.

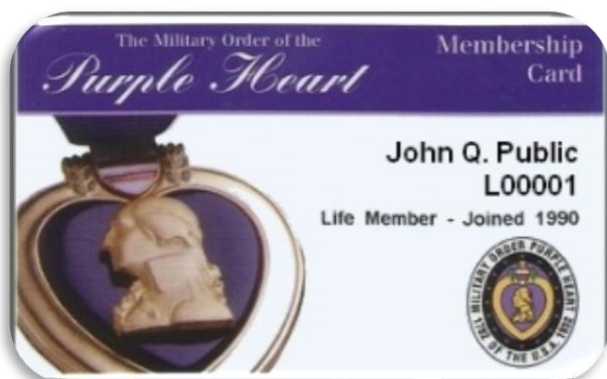
1. [Williams StandDown](#)  
Friday, September 11, 2026  
Williams Recreation Center
2. [Twin Arrows StandDown](#)  
Friday, October 2, 2026  
Twin Arrows Navajo Resort

**Free VA Mental Health Courses Online:** Do you know a Veteran facing common challenges like managing anger, insomnia or substance use? Discover [VeteranTraining.va.gov](#), VA's award-winning online mental health resource designed just for you.

**Knowledge is power:  
Free online mental  
health courses**

This innovative site offers a variety of self-help courses focused on practical issues such as problem-solving, parenting and healthy coping skills. Each course features videos and activities to make learning practical and enjoyable. All resources are free, confidential and available 24/7, so you can access support whenever and wherever you need it. Browse the course list on the [site](#).

**MEMBERSHIP CARDS:** Replacement membership cards are available on the National Website you can login to your account and print a paper one or you can order plastic one at this [link](#).



## **PURPLE HEART COMBAT WOUNDED VETERANS OF ARIZONA:**



The Purple Heart Combat Wounded Veterans of Arizona is our department 501c3 entity. If for tax purposes, you or a donor is required to donate to 501c3 use our online portal to make your donation. Funds designated for a chapter will go in their entirety to the chapter. Use the "Add/Write NOTE" field to specify the purpose of your donation. Thank you in advance for supporting Veterans! Donate Online: [Donations Appreciated](#)

**PURPLE HEART SCHOLARSHIPS:** Applications for the scholarship program closed on May 1<sup>st</sup>. Be ready for next year. Applications usually open in January or February. Program information is available at the Purple Heart Scholarship Program at this [link](#).

**FREE TUITION FOR VETERAN SPOUSES:** Spouses of honorably discharged veterans enrolled at an Arizona public university, or a participating community college are eligible to receive free tuition on a first-come, first-served basis. Learn more at the [AZ Board of Regents](#).



**CDL TRAINING FOR VETERANS:** If you're a Veteran interested in commercial driving, VA is making it

### Master Combat Infantryman Badge:



Last year the Army approved the award of the **Master Combat Infantryman Badge**

for soldiers and veterans who have earned both the EIB and CIB. There is also **Master Medic Badge**.

Soldiers and veterans who have previously earned both the Expert Infantryman Badge (EIB) and Combat Infantryman Badge (CIB) are authorized to wear the new Master Combat Infantryman Badge (MCIB). The MCIB, introduced in early 2025

(retroactive to 1943), combines the two awards, featuring a gold wreath to signify the recipient holds both elite distinctions.

**Eligibility:** Must possess permanent orders for both the CIB and EIB (or ESB/EFMB for other master combat badge versions). **Retroactive requests** for Veterans and Retirees should submit documents to Chief, Awards and Decorations Branch (AHRC-PDP-A), U.S. Army Human Resources Command, 1600 Spearhead Division Avenue, Fort Knox, KY 40122-5408

### RANGER - Your 24/7 Veterans Virtual Assistant:

Ranger is **Veterans' Voice of America's AI veterans advocate** — trained in VA benefits, disability claims, and veteran resources. He's an extension of our **Veterans' Voice of America's VSO team** and is available when our offices are closed, on weekends, and at 03:00 AM when the questions won't wait. Ranger is available at this link: <https://vvoaranger1.netlify.app/>



### NATIONAL VA CONTACTS:

- 1 (800) MyVA411 (1-800-698-2411) for all VA related questions for care, benefits, and services
  - General VA Billing Questions 1 (866) 400-1238
  - National Caregiver support line 1 (855) 260-3274
  - National Memorial Cemetery Phoenix (480) 513-1412
  - Phoenix Regional Office (VBA) 1 (800) 827-1000
  - VA Health Care (877) 222-8387 (VETS)
- VA Billing and collections Consolidated Patient Accounts Center (CPAC) 866-802-6819

easier to use GI Bill benefits for CDL training, helping to shorten the path into one of the country's most in-demand fields. To learn more, visit this [link](#).

**VA MILLION VETERAN PROGRAM:** VA's Million Veteran Program (MVP) proudly recognizes the service and contributions of all Veterans—and the critical role you play in advancing research for all who have served. Join MVP to help ensure that prevention, diagnosis, and treatments are guided by data that reflects the full Veteran community. Learn more or join today at this [link](#).

**COMMUNITY CARE:** VA community care network helps us offer Veterans quality health care outside VA, in their local communities, when needed. Learn about VA Community care network and get answers to common questions about community care by scanning the QR code below.

Are you **eligible** for

## COMMUNITY CARE?

Health care options when and where you need them.



[Find out more today.](#)

### NEWSLETTER INFORMATION:

Please send information & photos that you would like included in the newsletter to [mophchapter442@comcast.net](mailto:mophchapter442@comcast.net). We would like to get the newsletter out on the last day of the month. For the July issue **get news information & photos by the 27<sup>th</sup> of June**. Thanks!

Yours in Patriotism,  
John R. Moore  
Jr. Vice-Commander



# Heat Injury Chart

## Know the Symptoms of Heat-Related Illnesses

### SYMPTOMS

### TREATMENT

#### HEAT CRAMPS

- Heavy sweating
- Painful muscle cramps or spasms



- Stop activity for a few hours.
- Move to a cooler location.
- Drink water, clear juice, or a sports beverage.
- Seek medical attention if cramps do not subside within one hour.

#### HEAT EXHAUSTION

- Heavy sweating
- Weakness
- Fatigue
- Headache
- Dizziness
- Nausea or vomiting
- Fainting
- Irritability
- Thirst
- Decreased urine output



- Move to an air-conditioned environment.
- Lie down.
- Loosen clothing or change into lightweight clothing.
- Sip cool, non-alcoholic beverages.
- Take a cool shower or bath, or apply cool, wet cloths to as much of the body as possible.
- Seek medical attention if symptoms worsen or last longer than one hour, or if the victim has heart problems or high blood pressure.

#### HEAT STROKE

- Very high body temperature
- Altered mental state
- Throbbing headache
- Confusion
- Nausea
- Dizziness
- Hot, dry skin or profuse sweating
- Unconsciousness



- Call 911 immediately and follow the operator's directions—**this is a medical emergency.**
- Reduce the person's body temperature with whatever methods you can: wrap the person in cool cloths, immerse them in a cool bath, or spray them with cool hose water.
- After administering cooling methods, move the person to a cooler place.
- Do NOT give liquids.
- If there is uncontrollable muscle twitching, keep the victim safe, but do not place any objects in his or her mouth.
- If there is vomiting, turn the victim on his or her side to keep the airway open.

Source: CDC, 2012<sup>8</sup>