



# The Sentinel

## Arizona's First Chapter



The Arizona Chapter

6393 W. Dublin Lane

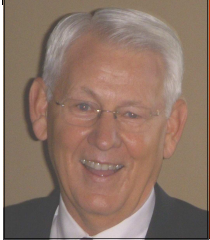
Chandler, Arizona

85226

OCTOBER 2009

CHARTERED 1956 - 53 YEARS OF SERVICE TO COUNTRY

EDITOR: JIM CULLISON



### President's Perspective

by Ron Perkins

It was good to see familiar faces again after the long hot summer break.

We had an excellent luncheon and a terrific guest speaker. Colonel Gregg Davies from the 214<sup>th</sup> Reconnaissance Group, Davis-Monthan AFB, provided us with an outstanding presentation on the MQ-1 Predator. His presentation emphasized the importance of the Predator on the Global War on Terrorism. He shared several stories regarding the use of the Predator in real-life situations that raised everyone's awareness about its capabilities.

The chapter's fall golf tourney was held on September 11 at Painted Mountain Golf Course. Many thanks go to Pat Dale for his outstanding effort of gathering sponsors, prizes, participants and coordinating all the minute details involved in

running a golf tournament. Needless to say, there were numerous prizes and many happy winners. After all the prizes were handed out and we had a chance to review the tournament, one thing was clear: The next tournament will be held in early April in order to beat the heat.

At the September Board meeting, the board approved a \$500 donation to the U.S. Vets Organization that

will be hosting a **Stand Down for Homeless Veterans** in February 2010. The chapter would also like to provide manpower for the event. In addition, chapter members can individually donate to the Stand Down. See the article on page 4 for more information.

In conclusion, I hope you can find time to join us for the October picnic, where we will join the Employer Support for Guard and Reserve (ESGR) in recognizing several local employers. The meal will be catered by Famous Dave's Bar-B-Que...Yum, Yum.

*Ron Perkins*

### Arizona Chapter Calendar

#### October 1

- . BOD, AZ Veterans Home, 1100 Hours

#### October 17

- . 2nd Annual Picnic, ESGR Recognition, McCormick/Stillman RR Park, Scottsdale, 1100 Hours

#### November 5

- . BOD Meeting

#### November 21

- . General Meeting/ Luncheon, Officer Election, MSA Awards, McCormick Ranch Golf Club, Social Hour 1100, Lunch 1200 Hours

#### December 3

- . BOD Meeting

#### December 19

- . Holiday Luncheon

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Colonel Gregg Davies gave a lively presentation on unmanned aircraft operations and stayed after the September luncheon to answer members' questions.

**Anchors Aweigh—Oct. 13, 1775, Birthday of the U.S. Navy**



## Personal Affairs

by Dan Conway, Personal Affairs Officer

As I have previously communicated to you, as your personal affairs representative, I see three principal responsibilities.

**The first** is to keep current on Veteran benefits and to keep our membership informed as well.

**The second** is to encourage our members to keep their military and personal affairs current so that in the event of the death or disability of a member or spouse, our families will know what to do.

**The third** is to provide individual assistance to members and spouses in time of need.

In addition to MOAA and military sources, I have also discovered other information sources of value to our members. One of these sources is the Arizona State Attorney General. We have used the Attorney General Life Planning Packet with forms for Living Wills and Medical Powers of Attorney. There are also many other publications available which could be helpful.

### Class of 2009

#### Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame

Congratulations to Maj. Gen. Carl G. Schneider, USAF (Ret) and Capt. William "Bill" Jenkins USN (deceased), the Arizona Chapter's newest Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame members. They are the 14th and 15th Chapter members selected for the Hall since 2001.

They will become members at the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony, which will take place Friday, October 30, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the El Zaribah Shrine Auditorium, 552 N. 40<sup>th</sup> Street, Phoenix. Doors open at 10:30, and lunch is included with admission.

To register to attend the induction or for more information about the Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame, please visit [www.AVHOF.org](http://www.AVHOF.org) or call Donna Adams at 602-234-8436. There is limited seating, so reserve your seats today.

A listing of several of these publications are as follows:

- Arizona Crime Victim's Rights Laws
- Crime Victim's Guide
- Avoiding Loan Modification & Foreclosure Scams
- Consumer's Guide to Buying a Car
- Elder Abuse, Potential Legal Remedies
- Foreclosure Information Workbook
- Financial Exploitation of the Elderly
- Identity Theft Tip Card
- Identity Theft Repair Kit
- Internet Safety Tip Card
- Protecting Arizona Seniors
- Recognize and Report Phone Fraud
- Top 10 Consumer Scams

To obtain any of these publications or any other from a long list of useful publications, go to <http://www.azag.gov/publications.html>. Just click on the publication and you can read it on screen and/or print it out.

Please consider me as a resource and don't hesitate to call with your questions and concerns. My phone is 480-368-1427.



### Fall Golf Tourney Brings in Bucks

Chuck Schluter, left, and partner Scott Essex watch Chuck's putt head for the cup at the Chapter's fall golf tournament in September. The event raised \$1,300 for the Scholarship Fund, including a \$500 donation from TriWest Healthcare Alliance. Pat Dale, tournament chairman, and Ron Perkins presented many prizes to players at a luncheon afterward.

## October Luncheon

### It's a Picnic

October 17

McCormick/Stillman Railroad Park  
7301 E. Indian Bend Road  
Scottsdale

Southeast Corner of Indian Bend and Scottsdale Road



### Menu

St. Louis Style Ribs, Brisket, Georgia Chopped Pork, Wilber Beans, Coleslaw, Drunkin' Apples, Cornbread Muffins, Kahlua Brownies with Hot Fudge & Whipped Cream, Soft Drinks, Water

**Time: 11:00 Price: \$19 per person**

The food is being catered by Famous Dave's Legendary Pit Bar-B-Que and has to be ordered in advance, so:

**Make your reservations early — no later than Monday, October 12**

[Use the reservation form on Page 7](#)

### Special Program

We will host the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR), who will honor employers for their support of our citizen soldiers, sailors and airmen.

**Our picnic will be in the ASTE Ramada in the Park. Here's how to find it:**

Enter the park by taking the first turn off of Indian Bend just east of Scottsdale Road. Park as close to that entry point as possible, then take the first sidewalk into the park. ASTE Ramada is right on the walkway a short distance from the parking lot

**See you there!**

### VA Center Has the Big Picture

Veterans at the Carl Hayden VA Medical Center in Phoenix are enjoying a new 52-inch wide screen TV with surround sound, thanks to the AZ Chapter. The Chapter purchased the unit for the hospital's Community Living Center. Gathered around the TV are, from left, patients Chris Green and Joe Marsiglia; Chapter President Ron Perkins; Michael Achey, chief of voluntary service; John Ady, chapter board member who coordinated the purchase; Dr. Kris Nordberg, geriatrics and extended care physician, and Mary Platner, the VA volunteer who initiated the request for help.



# Arizona Stand Down for Homeless Veterans 5,6,7 February 2010 Veterans Coliseum at the Arizona State Fairgrounds

Stand Down for Homeless Veterans is a very big undertaking. In 2008 U.S. Vets, Inc., coordinated services for 502 homeless veterans, 3% women. In 2009 they served 743 veterans, 6% women. They are preparing for 1,000 veterans this coming February at the Veterans Coliseum at the Arizona State Fair Grounds. U.S. Vets, Inc., needs contributions. They transport by vans and buses from all areas of the valley to the fairgrounds where they feed, clothe and house the veterans. There is a VA Medical unit with doctors, dentists, psychologists and nurses. Also they give new underclothes, shoes, and used clothing. They provide showers, haircuts and try to urge many veterans into programs and housing. One of the greatest accomplishments is their court system which is able to clear warrants and issue new drivers licenses. The 2009 Stand Down cleared \$139,000 worth of warrants by giving community service. Some of the organizations and government agencies that take part are Phoenix Municipal Courts, Department of Economic Security, Social Security, Department of Motor Vehicles, the Phoenix Health Care System that runs all the VA hospitals, and clinics that provide medical care. In addition many agencies that help the homeless are in attendance. All of these agencies are coordinated by U.S. Vets, Inc., a non-profit organization that operates facilities for homeless veterans.

Any help you can give may be sent to U.S. Vets, Inc., 804 E. Jones Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85040. Please mark your contributions to U.S. Vets, Inc., and put "Stand Down" in the Comment Section on the check and note you are a member of the Arizona Chapter MOAA.



## Meeting Highlights by Beth Cullison, Secretary

### **Board of Directors Meeting, September 3, 2009**

**Present:** John Ady, Dan Conway, Beth Cullison, Jim Cullison, Pat Dale, Gary Fredricks, Marie Fredricks, Ron Green, Gregg Maxon, Ron Perkins, Bill Roscher, Fran Tassin, Terry Tassin, Rob Welch.

#### **Officer/Committee Reports:**

**Membership:** 192 members; 151 regular & 41 auxiliary. Sheila George, auxiliary chair, has asked to be replaced due to a recent illness. Kathy Upchurch will fill in until a permanent replacement is found.

**Legislative:** A letter from the military coalition to Congress, signed by 33 coalition members including MOAA, addresses nine specific areas on 112 outstanding bills. Dan Conway spoke of the need for revised legislation to address widows' benefits. National headquarters has requested liaisons to our representatives in Congress. Gregg Maxon volunteered as a liaison for Rep. Harry Mitchell of District 5 and John Ady volunteered for Senator McCain. A liaison is still needed for Rep. Ed Pastor of District 4.

**Newsletter:** Jim Cullison reported the previous printer raised their prices so he changed printers after getting bids from 10 companies. Printing and postage is our chapter's highest operating expense. Jim will e-mail members currently receiving the mailed version asking if they would be willing to receive via e-mail only to reduce expenses.

**Personal Affairs:** Dan Conway is assisting several widows to obtain survivor benefits.

**Arrangements:** The October picnic is set for McCormick Railroad Park. The Dickens Carolers have been booked for the Christmas luncheon. Forty tickets will be reserved for the 2010 summer outing to the AZ Broadway Theater. There were 26 attendees at the theater this year.

**Programs:** Officer elections will be held at the November meeting along with the MSA presentations.

**Share-a-Ride:** Ron Drew has asked for a replacement due to his frequent travel. Ron Perkins will ask for a volunteer at the next General Meeting to take over arranging transportation and will coordinate in the interim.

**Treasurer:** General Checking, \$8,804.84 including \$1,488 committed to the Golf Tournament; Scholarship, \$9,842.72; Total Accounts, \$18,647.56.

#### **Old Business:**

**5 Star Award:** Our chapter won a 5 Star Excellence Award. Ron Perkins has been invited to the National conference in San Diego this October where the awards will be presented.

**Veterans TV:** John Ady reported several vendors were compared and Ultimate Electronics was selected. A 52" Panasonic HD plasma TV was purchased for \$1,989.96. Ron Perkins sent an article to National.

#### **New Business:**

**Fall Golf Tournament:** Pat Dale anticipates 40 to 50 golfers and expects to exceed May's tournament earnings, particularly with a \$500 donation from TriWest. A motion to authorize funds for Pat to get a banner for display at the tournament passed. Pat recommended the 2010 fall tournament be moved to November due to hot weather.

**2010 Officers Nominating Committee:** Gary Fredricks reviewed the slate of nominees for next year's officers: President, Ron Perkins; 1<sup>st</sup> VP, Gregg Maxon; 2<sup>nd</sup> VP, John Ady; Sec'y, Beth Cullison; Treasurer, Bill Roscher, Directors: Ron Green, Dan Conway, Kathy Upchurch, Rob Welch, & Ron Worthington

**MSA Committee:** Terry Tassin has 12 nominations to date.

**Homeless Veterans and Stand Down:** Preparations are underway to serve 1,000 vets at the next event in February. A motion to donate \$500 from our chapter passed.

**Melding of Military Organizations:** Some military organizations are experiencing dwindling membership and attendance. A cross-organization Thanksgiving dinner is scheduled for the same day as our November luncheon. Terry Tassin will explore inviting MOWW to a future general meeting.

**Projector Purchase:** The Board tabled action on a proposal to purchase a projection system for the chapter.

**AZ Council of Chapters:** Ron Perkins and Gary Fredricks will represent the Chapter at the October 9 meeting.

**MOAA Website:** Jim Cullison will research an article in the AZ Republic regarding a MOAA website that addresses rumors on military and veterans issues. Jim will make a recommendation on the value to members.

**Cookies for Veterans:** Marie Fredricks suggested we have a cookie bake for the Veterans Home.

### **General Meeting/Luncheon, September 19, 2009**

**Present:** 64; 59 members & 5 guests.

**AVHOF:** Arizona Chapter members Carl Schneider, MG USAF (Ret.) and the late Bill Jenkins, Capt. (USN), will be honored at the October 30 induction ceremony.

**Legislative:** Gary and Marie Fredricks attended the annual conference in Pennsylvania. The focus has been on the National Defense Authorization Act and Health Care Reform. There are 112 bills potentially impacting active &/or retired military.

**Golf Tournament:** The Fall Golf Tournament was a great success with special thanks to Pat Dale and his wife Patty for all their hard work. It made over \$1,300 and was our best fund raiser to date. The next tournament will be in April 2010.

**Personal Affairs:** The September issue of *Military Officer Magazine* included an article featuring Dan Conway and John Ady. The article was about chapter personal affairs programs to help members and surviving spouses with benefits and entitlements.

**USAF Anniversary:** Chuck Schluter reminded everyone to celebrate the U.S. Air Force 62<sup>nd</sup> birthday in September.

**Illness:** Velma Birtciel, wife of longtime member Frank Birtciel, is ill. We wish her well and Ron Perkins will keep us updated.

**Guest Speaker:** Col. Gregg Davies, Commander of the 214<sup>th</sup> Reconnaissance Group at Davis-Monthan AFB, gave a fascinating and informative presentation on the use of the MQ-1 Predator. He gave a brief overview of the evolution of unmanned aircraft used in combat missions. The presentation prompted much Q&A.

**50/50 Raffle** earned \$161; four \$20 prizes were awarded.



## Legislative Update

by Gary Fredricks, Legislative Chair

Way back in 2004 the Arizona Veterans' Service Advisory Commission recommended to Governor Napolitano that she convene a Veterans' Task Force to develop a consolidated approach to dealing with veterans' issues in Arizona. She did that, and in January 2006 the Task Force issued its report to the Governor and to the Arizona State Legislature. To date several of the recommendations have been enacted, several are still works in progress and all require continual vigilance from the veteran community to ensure the dreaded budget ax does not fall on them disproportionately.

### Good News for Arizona Veterans

The most expensive initiative enacted was providing \$10 million in state matching funds for a new veterans' home in Tucson to complement the single existing state run home in Phoenix. Today, I am happy to report that on September 22 the Arizona Legislature approved the State share of \$10 million plus startup costs for the Tucson Veterans' Home.

The Federal Veterans Administration had already approved its share of the cost as part of the stimulus package. Now once the official letter of approval from Secretary Shenseki is received, an official announcement will be made. This will be a \$28 million Community Assisted Living Center (as the Veterans' Homes are now being referred to). It will be 120 rooms on the campus of the VA Medical Center-Tucson. It will be the property of the State of Arizona and will be run by the Arizona Department of Veterans Services. Ground breaking is expected to occur in January 2010.

### Keeping an Eye on Defense Bills

On the federal level MOAA National is actively tracking the FY2010 Defense Appropriations Bill (authorizes money), the FY2010 Defense Authorization Bill (authorizes tasks) and the various efforts at health care reform. At last count there were still about 112 bills that affect the active services, the Guard/Reserve, veterans or survivors active in either the House or Senate versions of the Authorizations Bill. Keep your eye out for any MOAA requests to send e-mails in

support of any of these bills. Currently, MOAA is requesting that we send already prepared e-mails (you can do this easily at our website [www.MOAA.org](http://www.MOAA.org) ) in support of funding within the Appropriations Bill for concurrent receipt, survivor benefits, health care, Guard/Reserve retirement and manpower levels. As always, the numbers of e-mails we can generate strongly influence the ability of our MOAA National Government Relations team to get bills enacted in our behalf.

Given the politics and the breadth of the health care reform initiatives, MOAA National cannot take a general position on health care reform due to the way we are chartered. However, MOAA National is actively assessing the various initiatives as to how they may affect the active duty, Guard/Reserve, veterans and their survivors. We will pass along any bulletins and requests for assistance as they arise.

### Funding Issue Affects Medicare, TFL

Regardless of your particular feelings on this sensitive subject, you need to be aware of one old issue involving health care reform that directly affects most of us. Declining participation of providers due to low reimbursements is the most serious health care problem facing Medicare-eligible and military beneficiaries of all ages. There is, and has been for several years, a federal law that requires payments to doctors for Medicare (and by association TRICARE FOR LIFE) to be reduced by a given percentage each year. For the last six years, due to the urging of MOAA and other similar organizations, Congress has implemented a series of one or two-year fixes rather than reforming the flawed statutory formula that is the real cause of the inappropriate payment cuts.

So, we have successfully fended off this issue for several years. However, year-by-year fixes only ignore the statutory formula's annual compounding of cuts for the out-years. As of January 2010, rates will be cut 21% unless Congress passes corrective legislation in the interim. If that happens, good luck finding any doctor who will continue to accept Medicare or TRICARE FOR LIFE. This is definitely one to keep your eye on.

**News Briefs**

**Share-A-Ride:** If you need a ride to a chapter meeting, give Ron Perkins a call, 480-961-8632. He'll arrange a ride. Give him plenty of notice.

**Legislative Liaison:** You could be the chapter's liaison to Rep. Ed Pastor of District 4. Meet periodically when Rep. Pastor is in town. MOAA will provide guidance. Call Ron for more info.

**Retiree Appreciation Day** is set for Nov. 21 at Luke AFB, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Pay, medical and other info, demos, displays and door prizes. Go early so you don't miss our same-day luncheon.

**October Luncheon Meeting**

**WHEN:** October 17, 2009  
11 a.m. picnic

**WHERE:** McCormick/Stillman Railroad Park  
Scottsdale  
(Southeast corner of  
Scottsdale and Indian  
Bend Roads)

**COST:** \$19 Per Person

**DRESS:** Casual

**MENU:** A feast from Famous Dave's  
Legendary Pit Bar-B-Que

**PROGRAM:** Special recognition of employers who support their employees in the Guard & Reserves.

Reservations must be received by 4 p.m. on Monday, October 12. Cancellations need to be received by the same day in order to receive your money back. Use the reservation form below.

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**CHAPTER FINANCIAL PARTICIPATION**

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

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

**Scholarship Fund: \$** \_\_\_\_\_ **[now 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 \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (**\$19.00** per person) for **17 October 2009**

Make check payable to: **AZ Chapter MOAA** Received No Later Than: **12 October 2009**

Send to: **Bill Roscher, 4337 E. Sands Dr., Phoenix, AZ 85050** Phone: 480-948-3609 E-mail: [wroscher@cox.net](mailto:wroscher@cox.net)

**Welcome to New Chapter Member**

**Lt. Col. Vic Bafaro, USAF (Ret.)  
And Wife Paula  
Mesa, Arizona**

**Please meet and welcome our new member.**

**Recent Donations**

**Capt. Jack Taylor Jr., \$50  
CW4 Doug Gray, \$2**



**The Arizona Chapter MOAA - 2009 Board of Directors and Committee Chairs**

<b>PRESIDENT</b> COL Ron Perkins USAF 480-961-8632	<b>NEWSLETTER EDITOR</b> LTC Jim Cullison USAF 602-482-3838	<b>CHAPLAIN</b> LTC Bob Rutherford USA 602-944-4224
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<b>SECRETARY</b> Beth Cullison 602-482-3838	<b>HISTORIAN / PHOTOGRAPHER</b> LTC Jim Cullison USAF 602-482-3838	<b>ARRANGEMENTS</b> Marie Fredricks 480-836-8419
<b>TREASURER</b> COL Bill Roscher USA 480-948-3609	<b>JROTC AWARDS</b> LCDR Terry Tassin USN 623-931-1546	<b>SCHOLARSHIPS</b> COL Ron Worthington USAF 480-945-4015
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	<b>AUXILIARY LIAISON</b> Kathy Upchurch 602-799-0240	<b>SHARE A RIDE</b> COL Ron Perkins, USAF 480-961-8632

**Access Arizona Chapter's Internet Web Site at: <http://www.azchaptermoaa.org>**

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



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