



The Sentinel

Arizona's First Chapter



The Arizona Chapter 6393 W. Dublin Lane Chandler, Arizona 85226

SEPTEMBER 2009 CHARTERED 1956 - 53 YEARS OF SERVICE TO COUNTRY EDITOR: JIM CULLISON



President's Perspective

by Ron Perkins

I hope everyone is enjoying the summer break and staying cool. I look forward to seeing you at our September 19 luncheon. We have an outstanding program planned with guest speaker Col. Gregg Davies, Commander of the 214th Reconnaissance Group, which flies the unmanned MQ-1 Predator over Iraq and Afghanistan via satellite from ground control stations in Tucson.

As for the summer break, the chapter has been very busy, beginning with a color guard for Memorial Day activities at the National Cemetery in Cave Creek. The color guard members were Jim Cullison, Rob Welch, Paul Fein and I. In June, the chapter bought a 50-inch Panasonic plasma TV with Sony Home Theater Surround Sound System, which included a DVD player, for the Veterans Hospital's

Community Living Center (CLC). The system is up and running, and if you happen to visit the VA Hospital, stop by the CLC and check it out. Many thanks go to John Ady for doing most of the product research, pricing and coordinating all the logistical details. In mid-July, several chapter members with friends and family attended the Arizona Broadway Dinner Theater. We all enjoyed a great meal and saw the musical "Bye, Bye Birdie."

We recently received good news from MOAA Headquarters. The chapter once again received a Five Star Level of Excellence Award. This award reflects the exceptional performance of our chapter in promoting both the AZ Chapter and National MOAA goals, and our active involvement in the

community. This makes the fifth consecutive year the chapter has won this distinction. I'm extremely proud of our chapter and the outstanding support received from all those members who made this award possible.

The summer break is almost over and the chapter has several exciting programs and activities planned for the remainder of the year.

The chapter will host its semi-annual golf tournament and JROTC scholarship fundraiser on September 11. Pat Dale always puts together a fun format where just about everyone wins a prize. You should have already received information on this fun event. I hope you will be able to participate. Check out the details and entry form in the following pages.

Next is our September 19 luncheon with guest speaker Col. Gregg Davies. You don't want to miss this one.

In October we'll host a picnic with Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) representatives, who will

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ArizonaChapter Calendar

- September 3**
- BOD, AZ Veterans Home, 1100 hours
- September 11**
- Fall Golf Tournament, Painted Mountain Golf Club, Mesa
- September 19**
- Luncheon Meeting, McCormick Ranch Golf Club, 1100 hours
- October 1**
- BOD, AZ Veterans Home, 1100 Hours
- October 17**
- 2nd Annual Picnic, ESGR Recognition, McCormick/Stillman RR Park, Scottsdale

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PLAY GOLF, SUPPORT SCHOLARSHIPS—SEE PAGE 6

President's Perspective...
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recognize outstanding civilian employers who go above and beyond to support our State Guard and Reserves.

Our November luncheon will consist of the election of chapter officers for 2010 and presentation of the 2009 Chapter Meritorious Service Awards.

Finally in December, we will wrap up the year at our monthly luncheon with the Dickens Carolers for entertainment followed by a very fun-packed Chinese gift auction.

In conclusion, I hope you can find time to join us for the golf or one of the exciting programs scheduled for our monthly luncheons.

Ron Perkins



Honoring Our Fallen Warriors

Arizona Chapter's Color Guard passes the reviewing stand at this year's Memorial Day Massing of the Colors at the National Veterans Cemetery. Color Guard members were Ron Perkins, Jim Cullison, Paul Fein and Rob Welch.



AVHOF Selectees

The Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame 2009 Class includes Arizona Chapter member BG Carl Schneider and former member Lt. Col. Bill Jenkins (deceased). In addition, the chapter nominated Joan Sisco, who also was selected for the AVHOF. The official induction of the 19 new members will take place October 30.

Scholarship Winners ↑

Recipients of this year's \$1,000 JROTC scholarships are, from left: Dustyn Ruble from Alhambra HS, who will attend West Point; Stephanie Butkowski from Cactus HS, who will attend Marquette University and plans to become a military nurse; Andrew Carlson from Cortez HS, who will attend ASU to major in aerospace engineering, and Kenneth Liles from Deer Valley HS, who will attend the UofA and plans to enter the Marines. Also pictured are Col. Alice Demarais of Triwest Healthcare Alliance, which donated one of the scholarships, and Immediate Past President Terry Tassin, who presented the scholarship checks at the May luncheon.



Colonel Gregg Davies CO 214th Reconnaissance Group

19 September Guest Speaker



The 214th Reconnaissance Group, located at Davis Monthan AFB in Tucson, flies the MQ-1 Predator over Iraq and Afghanistan via satellite from ground control stations in Tucson. The MQ-1 Predator is an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV), which the United States Air Force describes as a MALE (medium-altitude, long-endurance) UAV system. It can serve in a reconnaissance role and fire two AGM-114 Hellfire missiles. The MQ-1 Predator is a system, not just an aircraft. The fully operational system consists of four air vehicles (with sensors), a ground control station (GCS), a Predator primary satellite link communication suite, and 55 people.



Arizona MOAA Chapter's
19 September Luncheon
McCormick Ranch Golf Club
Social Hour 11:00 a.m.
Lunch 12 Noon

Please RSVP with the Meal/Meeting Form
on Page 7 in the Sentinel
to Bill Roscher NLT 17 September
Phone: 480-948-3609
E-mail: wroscher@cox.net

Nominate Deserving Chapter Members for Meritorious Service Awards

It is once more time for each of us to consider nominating deserving Chapter members for Meritorious Service Awards (MSA). Please review what each member has contributed to the chapter in the past year and if you think someone is deserving of an MSA, please submit his or her name to MSA Committee Chairman Terry Tassin no later than September 9, 2009.

Our outstanding Chapter members deserve recognition. A good way to do that is to submit a name for a Meritorious Service Award. If you submit a nominee, we will be glad to help draft the citation to accompany the award. Just submit your nomination to Terry Tassin. Remember, you can name a member, spouse or auxiliary member for this award. The committee would like to get the nominee names as soon as possible so we can complete the task by late September for presentation at the November meeting. We need your input ASAP so we can get started!

Contact Terry Tassin at: E-mail: terrytassin@cox.net
Phone: 623-931-1546
U.S. Mail: 4333 W. Echo Lane
Glendale, AZ 85302

Meeting Highlights

by Ron Perkins and Beth Cullison

Board of Directors, May 7, 2009

Present: John Ady, Dan Conway, Terry Tassin, Pat Dale, Ron Green, Ron Perkins, Gary Fredricks and Jim Cullison

Treasurer: General Checking: \$10,349.66; Scholarship: \$13,826.51; Total Accounts \$24,176.17

Membership: 190 with 16 new members added this year.

Legislative: Gary Fredricks gave an update on various state and federal bills. Gary noted that Gregg Maxon was working with other veteran advocates for a Veteran's By Pass Court. He said two new bills were introduced in the U.S. Senate and House which propose establishing Veterans Treatment Courts.

Personal Affairs: Dan Conway reported on the Personal Affairs Workshop held on 25 April. Dan and John Ady received several positive comments on the workshop. Dan sent a thank you letter to Terry Goddard for providing a presenter, Will Bessett, who discussed "Living Wills." John Ady volunteered to be Dan Conway's Personal Affairs Assistant.

AVHOF: Nominations were submitted on Joan Sisco and BG Carl Schneider.

Spring Golf Tournament: Pat Dale reported a great turnout and the chapter made \$1,051.07 for the JROTC Scholarship Fund.

Nominating Committee for 2010 : Gary Fredricks and John Ady volunteered to be on the committee. We still need a couple more and a chairman.

MSA Committee Selection: Terry Tassin volunteered to be Chairman and asked for nominations with written supporting data.

TAPS: \$50 will be donated to the Scholarship Fund in memory of deceased members Lonnie King and Michael Hedrick.

TV for VA Recreation Room: Terry Tassin made a motion to spend up to \$2,000 for a large screen TV for the veterans' recreation room. The motion passed unanimously. John Ady and Pat Dale will seek the best price.

General Luncheon Meeting, May 16, 2009

Immediate Past President Terry Tassin presided in the absence of Ron Perkins, who was attending the Council of Chapters meeting in Yuma.

Present: 47 total; 34 members & 13 guests.

Secretary: Beth Cullison was announced as the new Secretary.

Treasurer: There are no changes since the May Board meeting update.

Guests: The scholarship recipients, family members & instructors, TriWest Healthcare Alliance Representatives Colonel Alice Demarais and her husband Chip, and Pat Dale's guest, Charlie Carlson.

Meritorious Service Award nominations: Terry Tassin announced the committee he chairs is now gathering data to use in selecting recipients for this year's Chapter Meritorious Service Awards.

Nominating Committee for 2010: Gary Fredricks and John Ady are looking for two more volunteers to serve on their committee to nominate candidates for the Chapter's elected offices for 2010. Terry Tassin encouraged everyone to either step up or nominate a qualified individual for a chapter office and to contact Ron Perkins if you are willing to participate on this committee.

Scholarship Presentations: Terry Tassin presented scholarships to **Cadets Stephanie Butkowski** from Cactus High School, **Andrew Carlson** from Cortez High School, **Dustyn Ruble** from Alhambra High School, and **Kenneth Liles** from Deer Valley High School.

Col. Demarais shared how rewarding her military nursing career has been. She spoke about the significance of JROTC and also indicated continued support for our chapter. Terry Tassin presented Col. Demarais with a Certificate of Appreciation for the support TriWest Healthcare Alliance has provided to the Scholarship program with a \$1,000 grant once again this year.

50/50 raffle entered \$53 into the Scholarship Fund and paid \$45 to 5 winners.

Upcoming Programs

By Marie Fredricks

The long hot summer is just about over and we are gearing up for our fall/winter meetings.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the September 19 luncheon with our guest speaker, Col. Gregg Davis.

Definitely mark calendars for our 2nd annual picnic set for October 17. This year it will be at the McCormick/Stillman RR Park, located at Scottsdale Road and Indian Bend. It will be a Barbeque catered by Famous Dave's Legendary Pit Bar-B-Que. It will be a fun day!

Don't miss the December 19 meeting. The Dickens Carolers will serenade you with your favorite Christmas Songs. Following lunch we will hold our popular Chinese Auction.

Sept. Luncheon Meeting

WHEN: Sept. 19, 2009
11 a.m. Social Hour
12:00 Lunch

WHERE: McCormick Ranch
Golf Club
7505 McCormick
Parkway,
Scottsdale

COST: \$19 Per Person

DRESS: Casual

MENU: Chef's Choice

PROGRAM: Col. Gregg Davies,
CO, 214th Recon Group, Davis
Monthan AFB.

Reservations must be received by 4 p.m. on the Thursday prior to the luncheon. Cancellations need to be received by the same Thursday in order to receive your money back. Use the reservation form on page 7.



Legislative Update

by Gary Fredricks, Legislative Chair

As we end our Chapter summer recess, so too do our national legislators as they return from their annual August break. Our thanks go to our Chapter President, Ron Perkins, who has kept you informed over the summer by e-mail on several legislative items that we thought would be of interest to you.

Federal Level Activity

Currently, the House and Senate have approved separate versions of this year's National Defense Authorization Act. As usual, there are significant differences between the two. For example, the House bill but not the Senate bill would phase out the offset for all medical (Chapter 61) retirees, and similarly the Senate bill but not the House bill would eliminate the widows' SBP/DIC offset.

The bills now head to conference committee to hash out the differences between them. Our MOAA Government Relations team has been busy developing its annual package of inputs to the House and Senate Defense Authorization Bill conferees. The team is coordinating that major package with The Military Coalition, a consortium of some 35 national Veteran/Military Service Organizations which MOAA currently co-chairs. Working through The Military Coalition provides an even broader base of support and legislative constituency than MOAA can provide on its own.

End strength, concurrent receipt, early reserve retirement and TRICARE fees are among the top issues we are pushing that have approved bills in either a Senate or House version. Conversations with HASC and SASC staffs indicate that pre-conference negotiations will be underway shortly. Hill leaders hope to finish by the end of September, but that is probably optimistic. Historically, the final bill usually hasn't been finished until October or November. You may recall that last year most bill amendments were stripped from the final version at the last minute in order to quickly get the bill passed. With this in mind, we need to keep our eye out for any requests for grass roots support that may be forthcoming from MOAA as the process plays out.

Meanwhile, Closer to Home

At the state level who would have thought that the end of August approaches without a balanced budget, although state law requires it to have been done in June. Given the budget impasse that has existed for months and the accompanying Senate moratorium on dealing with other bills, we had little hope of achieving any relevant state law changes impacting veterans. However, at the last minute the Senate lifted the moratorium to deal with a limited number of bills – 213 bills submitted and 190 signed. On the veteran side, we did see two significant achievements. Our Military Family Relief Fund bill, expanding assistance eligibility, and the bill allowing the finishing of the Enduring Freedom monument both passed and were signed into law by the Governor.

More importantly, the Arizona Department of Veterans' Services (ADVS) has taken only a modest budget hit so far that allows them to retain our complement of Veteran Benefit Counselors and the \$10 million of state matching funding for the State Veterans' Home in Tucson to be co-located with the VA Medical Center there. That matching funding has been combined with the federal 65% share from the stimulus package to allow the go ahead with the Tucson Home. Blueprints and project approval by the federal VA is complete and the ADVS is moving to the Request for Quote (RFQ) stage. The goal is to achieve groundbreaking for the new facility in January 2010.

Good News for the VA Home

Although not strictly a legislative issue, I would like to report that the State VA Home here in Phoenix is also doing well. The Home recently passed both state and federal inspections with excellent marks. Thanks to the hard work of the staff and the initiative of some excellent new leaders, the Home is back in the good graces of the VA with occupancy approaching 170.

Welcome to New Chapter Member

Col. Addison W. Stone, USAF (Ret)
And Wife Norma
 Scottsdale, Arizona

Please meet and welcome our new member.

Don't Wait! Fall Golf Tournament Is Just Around the Corner

The Arizona Chapter MOAA will hold its Fall Golf Tournament on **September 11**. This is a really fun event, and we would like to have as many MOAA members and other guests as possible participate. It's one of a limited number of methods we use to raise funds for our Chapter Scholarship Fund, which helps graduating high school Junior ROTC seniors attend college. Last spring's tournament netted over \$1,000 for the Scholarship Fund. So come on out and have some fun and help us send these outstanding students to college.

We will have prizes on every hole and bracket winners as well. We have even more corporate and individual sponsors this year, so the prizes will be even better. However, we could still use more hole sponsors at \$50 (or a larger donation) for each hole sponsored. We encourage members to bring guests.

WHEN: Friday, September 11, 2009. Shotgun Start at 7:30 a.m. Please check-in between 6:15 -7:15 a.m. (*nearer to 6:30 is preferred*).

WHERE: Painted Mountain Golf Club, 6210 E. McKellips Road, Mesa, Arizona.

COST: \$52, which includes cart fee, green fees, delicious buffet lunch and a few bucks left over for prizes and the Scholarship Fund. Remember, the proceeds from Mulligan sales (*2 for \$5 and only 2 allowed - unused Mulligans are not refundable*) go directly into the Chapter's Scholarship Fund.

WHO: Anyone wishing to support the youth of Arizona.

DRESS CODE: Shorts or slacks, collared shirts, soft spike shoes; you may wear sneakers.

FORMAT: "Shamble" where only the best drive is selected by each foursome, each player then dropping his/her ball there and playing own ball from that spot. Remaining strokes by each individual follow regular golf rules.

WHAT: Reservations and **\$52.00** fee must be received by **September 5**. Please mail fees and the form below to **Pat Dale**, phone 480-661-5204 if you have questions.

SPECIAL RULES: Handicaps will be determined using the Calloway system. A Mulligan is not allowed on Longest Putt, Closest to Pin or Longest Drive holes, (i.e., must use first drive for Closest to Pin or Longest Drive, and first putt for Longest Putt). Additional rules and prize information will be available at check-in.

This is a very friendly, fun tournament. You do not have to be a good golfer to play and have fun with this group. We do have a couple of "good" golfers, but they just have to put up with the rest of us.

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

AZ CHAPTER MOAA GOLF TOURNAMENT
I WANT TO SUPPORT THE SCHOLARSHIP FUND - COUNT ME IN!
HERE IS MY REGISTRATION SLIP AND ENTRY FEE.

Name: _____

Phone No: _____

E-mail Address: _____

(Please Print)

I would like to be partnered with: [names] _____

* Mail entry slip and fees to: Pat Dale, Tournament Director
12633 E. Kalil Dr.
Scottsdale, AZ 85259

* Make checks out to: **AZ Chapter MOAA**

Check for \$ _____ included for _____ players (\$52 each).



Personal Affairs

by Dan Conway, Personal Affairs Officer

End of Life Planning

We have been talking about End of Life Planning for some time. Now we have the entire nation talking about it. The argument isn't about the merits of End of Life Planning. Rather, it is about who should be doing it: you or the government. I vote for you, and you can be more credible in your support of the personal option if you have done your part.

This is more of a review than new information, but here is a list of what you need:

- A Will
- Durable Financial Power of Attorney

The following documents are available from the Arizona Attorney General at www.azag.gov under the heading "Life Care Planning:

- Durable Health Care Power of Attorney
- Durable Mental Health Care Power of Attorney
- Living Will
- Letter to my agent
- Pre-Hospital Medical Directive (Do Not Resuscitate)

And last but not least: MOAA publication "Help Your Survivors Now". It is better if it is filled out. To get a copy, call MOAA Member Service Center at 1-800-234-6622. Have your MOAA Membership number when you call. The publication is free. The workbook part of the publication can be filled out online at the MOAA web site.

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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 as 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 **19 September 2009**

Make check payable to: **AZ Chapter MOAA** Received No Later Than: **17 September 2009**


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

TAPS

We regret to inform you of the passing of one of our members:

Col. Victor Phillips, USAF (Ret)
December 5, 1927—May 2, 2009

Our heartfelt condolences are extended to the family.



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**Arizona Chapter
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