



# The Sentinel

## Arizona's First Chapter



The Arizona Chapter

42420 N. Anthem Creek Drive

Anthem, AZ 85068

SEPTEMBER 2013

CHARTERED 1956

57 YEARS OF SERVICE TO COUNTRY

EDITOR: JIM CULLISON

### President's Perspective

by Rob Welch



Even though we had a hiatus over the summer, the months of May through July were busy ones for our chapter.

#### Scholarships

In May we presented scholarships totaling \$5,000 to four clearly outstanding Valley JROTC students who will someday follow in our military footsteps. Two of them will be entering the ASU ROTC program, one will attend the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy and one the Air Force Academy. See Page 4 for more about these youths.

#### State Council

Dan Conway represented our chapter at the State Council of Chapters meeting in Yuma. Dan accepted three national communications awards on our behalf, presented by State Council President Allen Rossow.

#### Donations

We presented a \$250 check to LT Corey Harris of the Madison Street Veterans' Association (MSVA). The donation will

be used by the MSVA for operations of the MANA House and Outreach Center for the benefit of homeless veterans.

We presented another \$250 check to the Phoenix Chapter Military Order of World Wars (MOWW). The donation funded attendance by a Valley high school student at the MOWW Youth Leadership Conference in July.

#### Memorial Day

On Memorial Day we participated in the remembrance ceremony held at the National Cemetery. Our Color Guard marched in the parade of colors and Chapter 1<sup>st</sup> VP Jim Cullison and former President Dan Conway, presented our wreath.

#### Baseball

Forty-four members, spouses and guests attended the July 5 game between the Arizona Diamondbacks and Colorado Rockies. Four of our members, Frank Hoak, Ron Green, Dick Minor and Lee

Lange, represented our chapter during pre-game ceremonies honoring our nation's veterans on the field.

Our very own Frank Hoak was selected to throw out the first pitch. Jim Cullison was instrumental in arranging this event and putting together the tribute to our members. Thanks, Jim.

#### Organ Stop Pizza

Twenty-nine of our members and spouses met at the Organ Stop Pizza in Mesa July 27, where we once again enjoyed the great music of the mighty Wurlitzer pipe organ. You missed a great time if you didn't attend. Our thanks go to Arlene Day, who put this together for us.

#### New Committee Chair

We have established a new committee and chair. We have split the legislative liaison into two committees, federal and state.

Gary Fredricks retains the federal function and Corey Harris will be our newly created State Legislative Committee Chair. Best wishes in your new role, Corey.

*Continued on page 2*

#### Arizona Chapter Calendar

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

**Location:** National Guard Distance Learning Center, 5636 E. McDowell Rd. Show ID for entry. Members are welcome.

#### Upcoming meetings:

- September 5
- October 3

#### Member Meetings/ Luncheons

are held on the third Saturday of the month, Social Hour at 1100, Luncheon at 1200, at McCormick Ranch Golf Club.

#### Upcoming meetings:

- September 21
- October 19

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## President's Perspective...continued

### National Recognition

Our chapter was recognized in the August edition of MOAA's *Military Officer* magazine. In the "Chapters In Action" section on page 43, our chapter was recognized for its volunteer efforts at the Arizona StandDown and for its efforts to provide water for homeless veterans in a program spearheaded by Ron Green.

In addition, our chapter was recognized in the August edition of MOAA's *Affiliate* newsletter for raising \$1,287 for our scholarship fund at our recent golf tournament.

Our thanks and appreciation are extended to Public Affairs Officer Mark Day for getting our chapter recognized at the national level.

### Water for Vets

We are collecting donations again this year to purchase water for our homeless veterans. The water will be delivered to the MANA House.

At our May meeting, \$72 was collected and presented to Ron Green, our coordinator for this project. This project is a joint effort funded by our chapter and Ron's church, the Desert Hills Lutheran Church in North Scottsdale.

If you wish to donate or get involved with the project please email Ron at [water@azmoaa.org](mailto:water@azmoaa.org).

Here's another way to help. Fry's food store is mailing coupons for a free case of water. Please consider giving your coupon to help us purchase water. Bring your coupon to one of our meetings and give it to either Ron Green or me. You can also mail it to Ron at 6303 E. Mesquite Rd. Cave Creek, AZ 85331.

### Chaplain Search

We still have a vacancy for a chaplain to serve our chapter. If you know of anyone who might be interested, contact me at [president@azmoaa.org](mailto:president@azmoaa.org).

### TAPS

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

**Judie Rafanelli**

March 16, 1938-June 21, 2013

Wife of Gene Rafanelli

*We extend heartfelt condolences to Gene and his family.*

## September Guest Speaker

### Apache Helicopter Business Director

Learn about the business side of Army Aviation. Mike Burke, BG USA (Ret), business development director for



the Army's AH-64 Apache and AH-6 Little Bird helicopters at Boeing, will discuss his team's role in strategic business planning, budgeting and allocating new business funds for domestic and international customers.

The Army's Apache attack helicopter is produced at the Boeing plant in Mesa.

Before joining Boeing, General Burke directed international business development for Lockheed Martin's Apache weapons systems.

He served in the Army for 33 years and commanded units at nearly every echelon, including aviation brigade commander in Germany and the first Gulf War.

### Nominate a Member or Spouse for an MSA

The Meritorious Service Award Committee will make recommendations for MSAs at the October board meeting. To make a nomination contact Jim Cullison, Chuck Schluter or Joanne Roscher by September 30.

### Memorial Day Tribute

The Arizona Chapter joined in the Memorial Day tribute to fallen warriors at the National Cemetery in Phoenix with a color guard composed of Rob Welch, Bill Roscher, Ron Perkins and Paul Fein and placing a commemorative wreath at the reviewing stand by Jim Cullison and Dan Conway.



**May Member's Spotlight**

**Arlene Day's Iceland Tour Was Ticket to the World**

Arlene Day, LCDR USN, Ret., was a witness to the beginning of the end of the Cold War during a 1985-86 tour of duty in Iceland.

It was during that time that President Reagan and Mikhail Gorbachev of the Soviet Union conducted a summit meeting in Reykjavik, the Iceland capital, to discuss arms control.

Arlene, our chapter arrangements director, was based at Keflavik Naval Air Station, one of the 5,000 military personnel stationed there, when the summit took place in October 1986.

Security was extremely tight, with U.S. Secret Service and Soviet KGB agents everywhere, she recalls.

One of her duties was to approve visitor clearances during the meetings. At one point, a general's aide contacted her to get a clearance for the general to visit. She noted that the general was not on the approved list and advised the aide as such. The aide persisted, so Arlene gave him a phone number to call. It was the number of the Secret Service. She never heard from the aide again, and the general did not make his visit.

A highlight of the time was President Reagan's meeting the troops and a change of command ceremony alongside Air Force One.

During her tour, Arlene and a Navy nurse pooled \$700 and bought an East German auto for transportation, a tiny 2-cylinder Trabant. The slow-moving vehicle ran on a mixture of oil and gas, but it got them where they needed to go.

The average daytime high temperature in summer was 51 degrees and 32 in winter. "But it was better than Great Lakes (Naval Station)," she said, because of the jet stream's warm air flow.

Iceland's population was 250,000 and fishing accounted for 40% of the economy. "They could do things with fish that I've never seen before," Arlene recalled.



*Arlene Day today (above) and with her tiny Trabant in 1986.*

**Personal Affairs Seminar?  
Your Thoughts, Please**

*By Dan Conway  
Personal Affairs Director*

Our last two Personal Affairs Seminars were well received but not well attended. We would like to have another seminar which would appeal to more of our members.

With that goal, I need to know what you would like to have us cover. I would like to include a session on wills and trusts, as well as a session presented by the Attorney General's Office to cover scams, living wills, or elder care abuse. I also would like to include a session on funeral planning to be presented by one of the funeral homes. I will not include a session on "Help Your Survivors Now." I'm open to suggestions for other subjects.

The plan would be a three hour event on a Saturday morning. Please let me know by e-mail of your interest and your subject suggestions at [arizconway@msn.com](mailto:arizconway@msn.com).

**Donations to Scholarship Fund**

- Arizona Chapter \$50**  
In Memory of Judie Rafanelli
- Gene Rafanelli \$20**
- Paul Schnur \$25**
- Dan Germond \$29**
- RADM Ric Cueroni \$20**

**Welcome Our New Member**

**Lee F. Lange, Col, USMC (Ret)**  
And his wife Janet, Anthem

Please meet and greet out new member.

**Start Thinking about Toys**

It's not too early to start thinking about the Toys For Tots program for the coming holiday season. New, unwrapped toys will be collected at the October and November luncheons. Keep that in mind and start shopping.



Bill, above, and Corey, below.



LT Corey Harris, USA (Frm), our new state legislative chairman, was named one of this year's "40 Under 40" winners by the *Phoenix Business Journal*, honoring young professionals who also stand out in community service and involvement.

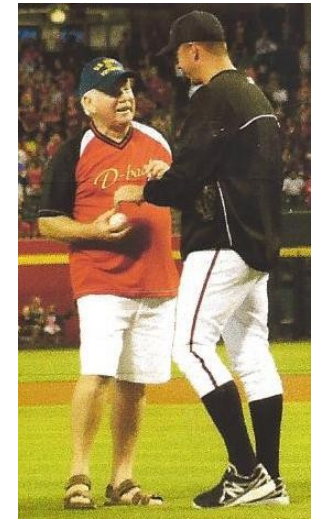
# Summer Fun, Scholarships and Member Accolades

## A Hall of Famer and a 40 Under 40 Winner

COL Bill Roscher, USA (Ret), chapter treasurer was inducted into the Army Officer Candidate School Hall of Fame in Fort Benning, Georgia. The Hall honors OCS graduates who have distinguished themselves in military or civilian pursuits.

## Pitching for Veterans at Chase Field

Frank Hoak threw out the first pitch and got Brad Ziegler of the Diamondbacks, his battery mate, to sign the ball at the Military Appreciation Day game July 5. Prior to the pitch, Frank was joined by members Dick Minor, Ron Green and Lee Lange, below, representing the Navy, Army, Air Force and Marines respectively, in an on-field ceremony honoring veterans.



## Off to College with Scholarships

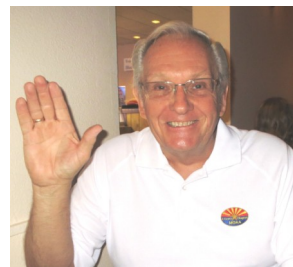
Our 2013 scholarships were presented to four outstanding JROTC seniors at the May meeting.



Bill Roscher, left, awarded Alexis Farnsworth of Sandra Day O'Connor HS, while Park Shaw gave the award to Shelby Gallagher of North HS. Alexis will attend the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy. Shelby has been accepted into the Air Force Academy.



Pat Dale, left, gave the award to Luis Garcia of Sandra Day O'Connor, while Gene Rafanelli presented to Vu Nguyen of North HS. Both will join AFROTC at ASU.



## Music and Pizza

Chuck Schluter gives a smile and a high five at our July outing at Organ Stop Pizza, while Dick Minor makes a point with Mark and Arlene Day. Members and spouses enjoyed fine food and lively music, including a tribute to veterans.





## Legislative Update

by Gary Fredricks, Legislative Chair

### New Member to the Legislative Team

Here we are back from our chapter summer break, and I have at least one piece of good news. Chapter member Corey Harris has agreed to join our chapter legislative team and will now be handling the duties as Arizona state legislative lead while I continue to work the national legislative issues. Corey is actively involved with the military/veteran community in the state, has a strong background in legislative affairs and is highly knowledgeable on the legislative process. Welcome to the team, Corey.

You may or may not hear much from Corey for awhile as the state legislature does not convene until next January. However, I'm sure he would be most interested in your thoughts as to what state level initiatives we might be able to introduce to benefit our Arizona military/veteran community through state-level legislation.

### Got an Idea for Legislation?

As an example, members of our sister MOAA chapter in Green Valley worked with their local state legislators early this year and got a bill drafted that was actually one of the seven affecting the military/veteran community that became law this year. That was HB2076, which gives credit for military education, training or experience in meeting the requirements of a license, certificate or registration issued in Arizona, including driver's licenses and licensed practical nurses. If you have any thoughts on potential new state legislative initiatives that would benefit our Arizona military/veteran community, please contact any one of our chapter officers or board members.

### Lots of Work Awaits Congress

On the national legislative scene, both the House and Senate are on August break, returning to work after Labor Day. As MOAA reports; Congress has a litany of issues requiring immediate attention. These include funding the government in FY 2014 (beginning October 2013), dealing with sequestration, adjusting the debt ceiling and passing a defense authorization bill. A recent article in the *Arizona*

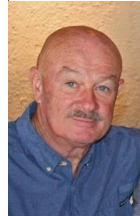
*Republic* attributed a remark by Arizona Senator Flake at a Gilbert breakfast as stating that Congress has to pass a continuing resolution (needed in the absence of FY2014 Appropriations Bills funding the government) by the end of September and added he believes that sequestration will remain in effect. Unfortunately this pretty much mirrors what MOAA national believes will happen.

### Here Comes the 'Squeeze'

An article in a recent MOAA News Exchange had a report by Karen Golden entitled "You're about to be Squeezed." In it, she noted that sequestration's automatic cuts mean that DOD has to cut \$500 billion over the next 10 years. That's dramatic, and will affect military families in many ways unless Congress takes action. She notes: "You are about to be squeezed! Here's how: Increased health care fees, pay caps, more money out of your pocket for housing, potential loss of the commissary, loss of installation level programs, and the list goes on."

### Try to Stay Calm

The next few months are likely to be nerve-racking. Will Congress abandon its haphazard approach to dealing with our nation's debt? Will they work in a bipartisan manner to find a solution to balance the burden of debt reduction across all federal spending and not disproportionately on our nation's military?



Online With The Arizona Chapter

by Rob Welch, Webmaster

Don't forget, our website has a wealth of information about our chapter. Try out the SEARCH feature to find information about yourself and what our chapter is doing, and has done in the past. [www.azmoaa.org](http://www.azmoaa.org).

You might also want to check out the newsroom page. Our members have donated all 2001 *Sentinel* newsletters, and I have scanned some and added them to our web site. I will add the rest shortly, so come back often to read these tidbits from our chapter's past. Check your old files, and if you have any issues dated 2000 and before, please contact me at [webmaster@azmoaa.org](mailto:webmaster@azmoaa.org).



## Personal Affairs

by Dan Conway, Personal Affairs Officer

### The High Cost of Dying

None of us wants to think about it, but traditional funerals cost at least \$6,000, according to the National Funeral Directors Association. Thankfully, there are a variety of ways to manage funeral costs and still meet your family's emotional and financial needs.

**Don't avoid the issue.** Planning a funeral in advance has many benefits, not the least of which is financial. Grief-stricken loved ones often falsely believe the amount spent on a funeral is a reflection of their feelings for the deceased, so they might overspend. Knowing you want to be cremated likely will save your family the cost of a casket or elaborate urn. Do not include your plans in your will (which usually is read after the funeral). Put them in writing and leave them with someone you trust.

**BYOC.** You can save hundreds on caskets and urns by purchasing them through online retailers, specialty stores at your local mall, and even Wal-Mart and Costco. Online retailers offer next-day delivery, usually at no charge, and can ship directly to a funeral home. Funeral providers are required by law to let you bring your own casket and are not allowed to charge a handling fee.

**Prepaid Funeral Plans.** Prepaying for funeral expenses is a thoughtful gesture for those left behind, and it guarantees your wishes, such as location of burial. It can save money by allowing you to lock in today's prices. However, many funeral and financial planners recommend against such plans. Problems include: What happens to the money if the funeral provider goes out of business? What if you move? Can you back out without penalty? What happens if the casket you picked out is discontinued? Who gets the interest income? It's best to have the required funds available. Another option is purchasing funeral insurance, payable to a beneficiary upon death.

**The final salute.** Generally, active and retired members of the armed forces, including the reserve components, are entitled to significant burial benefits:

- gravesite at a VA national or state cemetery,
- opening and closing of the grave,
- perpetual care,
- government headstone or marker, and
- burial flag and presidential memorial certificate.

These benefits also apply to cremation. Burial benefits are extended to a spouse (and in rare

instances, parents and dependents), even if they predecease the veteran. Burial plots cannot be reserved in advance. If a veteran is interred in a private cemetery, only the headstone or marker, flag, and certificate are bestowed; there are no spousal or dependent benefits.

**A guiding hand.** Funeral providers often are trusted, valued members of the community and provide much-needed guidance and comfort during a difficult time. But some take advantage of clients who are vulnerable and feel pressure to make decisions quickly. The Federal Trade Commission's Funeral Rule of 1984 aims to protect consumers from unscrupulous behavior. The rule requires funeral providers to disclose:

1. A general price list in writing before showing you any items. This list spells out the cost of all goods offered, from the plain wooden casket (never on display) to the premier bronze option. In the case of cremation, low-cost alternative containers also must be listed and all service fees must be enumerated.
2. You have the right to choose the goods and services you want, with some exceptions as required by law, which must be explained by the provider. Package discounts can be offered, but all products also must be offered à la carte.
3. The provider cannot refuse or charge a fee to handle a casket you provide.
4. Embalming, with some exceptions, is not required by law.

So how do you find a reputable funeral provider? Make sure your provider is licensed by the state's funeral regulatory board, and check to see whether he or she belongs to a professional organization. Jessica Koth, a spokesperson for the National Funeral Directors Association, says, "Our members abide by a professional code of conduct that goes above and beyond what is legally required."

**Alternatives.** The biggest mistake consumers make is not asking questions, for fear of appearing stingy. Less expensive options outside the traditional full-service funeral, such as direct burial or cremation, are widely available, and caskets even can be rented for a viewing or service. Since you are not legally required to use a funeral provider, one lower-cost alternative is to join the nonprofit [Funeral Consumers Alliance](#), known as the *Consumer Reports* of funerals. It provides funeral planning kits, explains legal requirements, surveys local funeral providers, and sometimes negotiates discounted prices for its members.

An excellent source of information on funerals is [www.funerals.org](http://www.funerals.org).

**New Hall of Famers & We're Seeing Stars**

As *The Sentinel* went to Press, we learned that Gene Rafanelli and Ron Green were selected for the Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame, and the chapter won MOAA's 5-Star of Excellence Award again. More information next month.

**September Luncheon Meeting**

**WHEN:** September 21, 2013  
11:00 a.m. Social Hour  
12:00 Lunch

**WHERE:** McCormick Ranch Golf Club  
Scottsdale, Arizona

**COST:** \$22 Per Person

**DRESS:** Business Casual

**MENU:** Grilled Rosemary Chicken with oven roasted potatoes, seasonal vegetables, tossed salad, bread and butter, strawberry shortcake.

Please contact Arlene Day ([arlenebday@gmail.com](mailto:arlenebday@gmail.com) or [480-353-6400](tel:480-353-6400)) if you have any allergy or dietary restriction issues with the menu.

**PROGRAM:** BG Mike Burke, USA (Ret), director of Boeing's military aircraft business development, will tell us about the business side of Army aviation.

Reservations must be received by 4 p.m. on Tuesday, September 17. Use the reservation form below. Cancellations must be received the same day to receive your money back.

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\*The DoD Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee may set quantity limits on some medications. Other benefit limitations may apply. For more information, go to [www.tricare.osd.mil/pharmacy/am.op.cfm](http://www.tricare.osd.mil/pharmacy/am.op.cfm).

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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: \$** \_\_\_\_\_ **[a 501(c)(3) charitable fund]**

Name of Donor : \_\_\_\_\_ Identify me as a donor in the next newsletter. YES \_\_\_ NO \_\_\_

**MEAL / MEETING RESERVATION FORM**

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ meals for (Name) \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (**\$22.00 per person**) for **September 21, 2013**

Make check payable to: **AZ Chapter MOAA** **Received No Later Than September 17, 2013**

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

## VA Has Health Care Act Answers

The Department of Veterans Affairs has launched an awareness campaign and a new website, [www.va.gov/aca](http://www.va.gov/aca), to let Veterans know what the Affordable Care Act means for them and their families. Veterans receiving health care from the VA will see no change in their benefits or out-of-pocket costs when portions of the Affordable Care Act take effect next year.

## The Arizona Chapter MOAA - 2013 Board of Directors and Committee Chairs

<b>PRESIDENT</b> COL Rob Welch, USA 623-533-3704	<b>NEWSLETTER EDITOR</b> Lt Col Jim Cullison USAF 602-482-3838	<b>AUXILIARY LIAISON</b> COL Nancy Burt USA 480-634-6105
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<b>TREASURER</b> COL Bill Roscher USA 480-948-3609	<b>HISTORIAN / PHOTOGRAPHER</b> Lt Col Jim Cullison USAF 602-482-3838	<b>ARRANGEMENTS</b> LCDR Arlene Day 480-837-1900
<b>IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT</b> COL John Ady USA 480-596-0780	<b>JROTC AWARDS</b> LCDR Terry Tassin USN 623-931-1546	<b>SCHOLARSHIPS</b> COL Rob Welch USA 623-533-3704
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	<b>STATE LEGISLATION</b> Lt Corey Harris USA 480-776-9526	<b>WEBMASTER</b> COL Rob Welch USA 623-533-3704
	<b>MEMBERSHIP</b> Col Dave Fleming USAF 480-248-6012	<b>SHARE A RIDE</b> CDR Jim Draper USN 480-483-7769

Access Arizona Chapter's Internet Web Site at: [www.azmoaa.org](http://www.azmoaa.org)

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



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