



The Sentinel

Arizona's First Chapter



The Arizona Chapter

42420 N. Anthem Creek Drive

Anthem, AZ 85068

JANUARY 2014 CHARTERED 1956

57 YEARS OF SERVICE TO COUNTRY

EDITOR: JIM CULLISON

President's Perspective

by Rob Welch



2013 - A Year of Growth

What an astonishing year, both in the growth of our chapter, and in its accomplishments.

A special thanks to Ron Perkins who nurtured our membership efforts these past several years. Ron has moved on to become the Vice Chair of the Arizona Veterans Advisory Service Commission, the VP of the AZ-MOAA Council of Chapters and the VP of the Arizona Hall of Fame Society. Where does Ron find time to do all this?

Thanks also to Dave Fleming, who accepted one of the chapter's most challenging jobs, filling Ron's shoes as our membership chair. Dave has done so with vigor, finishing up this year with a 10% growth in chapter membership. Absolutely amazing!

This year also brought a very important new position to our chapter, that of a Public Affairs Officer (PAO). Mark Day, a former Navy PAO, volunteered to take on this position.

Mark is establishing procedures and contacts within our community, which will expand our chapter's influence and reach. Already, Mark has been responsible for several local and national news articles heralding our chapter's many activities and accomplishments.

Keying off MOAA's successful role in advocating legislation on veterans issues, we established two new and important programs.

First, we assigned two of our members to act as liaisons to our two U.S. Representatives, John Ady to Rep. David Schweikert and Corey Harris to Rep. Ed Pastor. Never one to sit idle on a challenge, John immersed himself in this assignment and became an important link to Rep. Schweikert's office.

Second, our chapter's legislative liaison duties were split into two efforts, Federal headed by Gary Fredricks and State headed by Corey Harris. While Gary concentrated on his vastly increased responsibilities at the

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 welcome.

Upcoming meetings:

- . January 2
- . February 6

Member Meetings/ Luncheons are held on the third Saturday of the month, Social Hour at 1100, Luncheon at 1200, at McCormick Ranch Golf Club unless noted otherwise..

Upcoming meetings:

- . January 18
- . February 15

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2014 Meritorious Service Awardees

This year's recipients of Chapter Meritorious Service Awards, presented for outstanding support of chapter programs and activities, are, from left, Arlene Day, Leonore Hoak, John Ady, Nancy Burt and JoAnn Roscher.

Continued on page 2

President's Perspective...continued

national level, including becoming the 3rd VP at National MOAA and chairing the Council & Chapters Affairs Committee, Corey established himself as the "go-to" person for veterans' issues here in Arizona.

Developing and nurturing an excellent working relationship with the Arizona Legislature's newly formed Veteran's Caucus, Corey set up the first joint meeting between the Caucus and MOAA, Unified Arizona Veterans and key state-level veteran service providers, including the Arizona Department of Veterans Services.

Another noteworthy accomplishment was winning for the second straight time the coveted "hat trick" of three national communications awards. No other chapter in MOAA national history has accomplished such a feat. Winner's included Jim Cullison's *The Sentinel*; Rob Welch's *AZMOAA.ORG Website*; Dan Conway, Terry Tassin and Rob Welch's *Recruiting Brochure*.

In addition, our chapter was awarded its 10th consecutive Five Star Level of Excellent award.

Like I said, an astonishing year of outstanding accomplishments, and these were only the high points. Thank you all for your own personal efforts. What a team!

2014 – More to Come

The new breed arrives. Longtime chapter and board member Jim Cullison takes over the helm of our chapter on January 18 at our business luncheon. Please come and shake Jim's hand, and offer him the faithful and outstanding support that you have provided me, and other chapter presidents in the past.

Jim, congratulations and we look forward to your leadership during the coming year.

Welcome Our New Members

Bruce Kosaveach, CAPT USN (Ret)

And his wife Sherry, Phoenix

Jerry Greenberg, Capt USAF (Frm)

And his wife Nancy, Chandler

Please meet and greet out new members.

MG Schneider Selected for Induction Into Military Aviation Walk of Honor

Chapter member Carl Schneider, MG USAF (Ret), will be inducted into the Commemorative Air Force (CAF) Arizona Military Aviation Walk of Honor on February 8.

The Walk of Honor, located at the CAF Arizona Aviation Museum at Falcon Field in Mesa, recognizes contributions made by Arizonans to the field of military aviation.

MG Schneider completed advanced pilot training at Williams AFB in 1948 and flew 100 combat missions in Korea. His assignments after that war included gunnery instructor and development of gunnery schools in the 1950s and helping establish the forward air control/air liaison officer program in Vietnam. He also served two tours at Luke AFB during his career. He retired as Chief of Staff, Air Force Logistics Command, in 1978. He also is a member of the Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame.

Inductees are honored with copper plaques along the walkway leading to the museum's entrance.



Donations to Chapter Funds

Scholarship Fund

Robert Lamparter \$100

Rob Welch \$100

In Memory of Nancy Shaw

Jim and Beth Cullison \$100

Dan Germond \$70

In Memory of his parents
Marjorie and Andrew Germond

Joseph Manfreda \$25

Anonymous \$20

General Fund

Bart Barytzal \$20

January Speaker

Naval Aviator, Weapons School Chief, Carrier Commander

Those are just a few assignments RADM James Symonds had during his 35-year Navy career.

As guest speaker at our January luncheon, he will recall highlights of that wide-ranging career, which included command of the aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan.

Admiral Symonds logged 4,000 flight hours in the A-6 Intruder and had more than 1,000 carrier landings during his career and also commanded the Medium Attack Weapons School at Whidbey Island, Washington.

He served as Deputy Director of Operations for Counterdrug Operations in the U.S. Southern Command and as Director of the Chief of Naval Operations Environmental Readiness Division.

His commands include the USS Nashville, an amphibious transport dock, and the USS Ronald Reagan, a nuclear-powered supercarrier with a

crew of more than 3,000.

His last assignment before retiring in 2010 was Commander, Navy Region Northwest.

Uniform Optional: Wear your uniform or medals to the meeting as a sign of solidarity with Admiral Symonds.



Check Out the New Name Tags

Arizona Chapter name tags for members and spouses have been redesigned into a larger and more readable format. They are available now at a bargain price of \$5 each, same as the previous design.

The basic name tag, as shown above right, has space for the shield presented to Meritorious Award recipients, as shown above left. Terry Tassin and Frank Hoak coordinated the redesign. Name tags can be ordered from Treasurer Bill Roscher.

Don't Forget to Renew for 2014

If you haven't renewed your 2014 chapter membership, there's still time. Just fill out the form below and send it with your check — \$20 for a regular member or \$10 for an Auxiliary member — to Bill Roscher at the address shown.

If you have renewed already, thank you.

----- CUT HERE AND MAIL RENEWAL FORM WITH YOUR CHECK -----

[Arizona Chapter 2014 Membership Renewal Form](#)

Member Full Name: _____

Membership Renewal: **\$20** Regular member _____

Membership Renewal: **\$10** Auxiliary member _____ (surviving spouse)

Any Changes in your address, phone number, e-mail, etc:

Make check payable to: **AZ Chapter MOAA**

Mail renewal application and check to:

**AZ Chapter MOAA
C/O Bill Roscher
4337 E. Sands Drive
Phoenix, AZ 85050**



Pearl Harbor Remembrance

The early morning of December 7 was blustery, but Navy veterans Jim Draper and Frank Hoak donned warm clothes as they joined 86 other military groups and placed the Arizona Chapter's commemorative wreath at the Pearl Harbor Day ceremony at Wesley Bolin Plaza in Phoenix. The event included dedication of the new World War II memorial, featuring guns from the battleships Arizona and Missouri.



The guns from the Arizona, on the left, and the Missouri flank two rows of name plates honoring the 1,902 Arizonans who died in the war.



Meet Our Presidents

Bill Toy, Arizona Bushmaster

Another in a series on past Chapter Presidents

LTC William Toy, USA (Ret), was Arizona Chapter president in 1963 following an Army career that took him to a variety of assignments in the Far East, with a White House-related stint in between.

He joined the Arizona National Guard in 1938 and was commissioned a second lieutenant in 1942. He was a proud member of the Arizona Bushmasters Regimental Combat Team that gained fame in World War II.



During that war he served in the China-Burma-India Theater and was on General Joseph (Vinegar Joe) Stillwell's staff as an infantry weapons instructor and liaison officer to the Chinese Army.

After the war, he served as a White House courier for a forerunner to the CIA. In 1950 he was sent to Korea and Japan, attached to General Douglas MacArthur's Allied Translation and Interpretation Unit. Following a tour in the States, he returned to the Far East as an infantry commander with the Military Advisory Group in Taiwan and later served in Okinawa.

LTC Toy worked in state and city government and veterans service organizations after retirement. In addition to serving as Arizona Chapter president, he held a variety of other officer positions.

Bill was elected to the Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame in 2002. He died in 2008. His wife, Angela, is still a member of our Auxiliary.

Coming in February

Air Crash Survivor, Motivational Speaker

Surviving an aircraft crash can change a life, and it did for Air Force Captain George Burke. He became a motivational speaker and will be our guest speaker at the February 15 luncheon.



5 More Stars for Chapter Flag

Immediate Past President John Ady, left, affixes the chapter's newest 5-Star banner to the chapter flag, with assistance from President Rob Welch, at the December luncheon. Our 10th consecutive 5-Star of Excellence Award was presented to Rob at the MOAA annual meeting in October.

Holiday Cheer!

Nearly 80 Chapter members, spouses and guests attended the December luncheon and vied for gifts provided by chapter officers in the Chinese auction. The auction raised nearly \$300 for the Scholarship Fund in raffle ticket sales.



The Dickens Carolers set the mood with seasonal songs during the social hour and lunch.



Arlene Day was Santa for a day as she orchestrated the gift selections. After careful consideration, Chuck McKnight chose a gift to his liking, while at far right, CPO Annamarie Welch, USN (Ret), Rob's guest and daughter, studies her gift closely.



Honored Guests

Auxiliary members were invited to the party free of charge in honor of their support to the chapter. Accepting the invitation were, left to right, Sue Gilbertson, Doris Iacobelli, Clare Gannon and Renate Weidenfeld.



Legislative Update

*by Gary Fredricks
National Legislative Chair*

Some Progress, Some Can-Kicking

Congress is currently enjoying its annual year-end holiday and is not scheduled back to work until the week of January 6. As I am sure you are well aware, Congress managed some progress in some areas and managed to kick the can further down the road in other areas during their short session between the current Christmas break and the preceding Thanksgiving break.

The Good News

As required by the continuing resolution that currently funds the government through January 15, 2014, a bicameral budget committee actually managed to piece together a bipartisan budget for FY2014 before the December 13 deadline. The good news is that they actually did it and it was passed by both houses and approved by the president before the year-end break. It also provided for a three-month delay in the 24% cut in Medicare/TRICARE payments to doctors that was scheduled to phase in on January 1. The new deadline for action to further relieve the payment cut requirement is now April 1 with signs pointing to a way toward permanent relief.

The Bad News

The bad news is that the budget had some serious issues, such as the requirement to limit annual cost of living increases for military retirees who are less than 62-years-old by one percentage point below the annual inflation rate prescribed by law. Supported by almost 200,000 e-mails from MOAA members, MOAA and the Military Coalition fought a good battle to have the requirement removed. In the end, it didn't happen for us, but it remains at the top of our legislative priorities for 2014.

It's also important to note that the budget agreement, while setting funding limits for the fiscal year, is only a first step in the process. The 12 annual appropriations bills, including one for DOD, are still required to appropriate money to the government departments. As it

now stands, either the appropriations bills or an extension to the continuing resolution or some combination of the two is required before the current continuing resolution expires on January 15. That doesn't give much time for Congress to act after their return from the holidays. And, oh by the way, the government is still on track to reach its debt limit sometime in February. That could be the next big congressional battle, especially given the fact that the budget agreement didn't effectively resolve the long term budget conflict.

Won Some, Lost Some

For DOD the other important legislation is the Defense Authorization Bill which provides further fidelity into how DOD can spend the money it is appropriated. Congress also managed to pass that legislation for FY2014 before going on break. However, as has been the case over the last couple of years, the time crunch caused Senate leadership to not consider several amendments that MOAA was advocating for that were actually in the House version of the bill that was passed earlier. So, in the end we won some and we lost some. I think that from our perspective, the biggest win was in avoiding any increases in TRICARE or pharmacy costs to us.

Among the battles left to fight again next year are military pay raises, SBP-DIC offset and remaining concurrent receipt issues. And if next year is anything like this year and the last few, our big effort will surly involve protecting what we have rightly earned.

About Prescriptions

Finally, MOAA reports that, unless you get your medications from the base, the mandatory date for requiring prescriptions for maintenance medications from the TRICARE Home Delivery (mail-order) pharmacy system is now set for February 14, 2014. MOAA reports that if you are affected, TRICARE will be contacting you shortly. Please recall that you can opt out of the program after a one-year trial period. The requirement came from a compromise in the FY2013 Defense Authorization Bill that avoided large across the board TRICARE pharmacy co-pays being proposed by DOD.

Keep Us Informed

Don't miss communications from the chapter. If you change your home or e-mail address, let the membership chairman or any chapter officer know so we can update our records and keep you informed.

December Meeting

WHEN: January 18, 2014
11:00 a.m., Meet & Greet Social
Hour; 12 Noon, Lunch

WHERE: McCormick Ranch Golf Club
Scottsdale

COST: \$22 Per Person

DRESS: Business Casual

MENU: Tossed salad, bread and butter, pan seared salmon filet with herbed butter and steamed new potatoes, seasonal vegetables and fudge brownie sundae.

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

PROGRAM: Rear Admiral James Symonds will recount highlights from his Navy career, which included 1,000 carrier landings and command of the supercarrier USS Ronald Reagan.

Reservations must be received by 4 p.m. on Tuesday, January 14. Use the reservation form below. Cancellations must be received the same day to receive your money back.

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may be the easiest order you ever followed.**

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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 **January 18, 2014**

Make check payable to: **AZ Chapter MOAA** **Received No Later Than January 14, 2014**

Send to: **Bill Roscher, 4337 E. Sands Dr., Phoenix, AZ 85050.** wroscher@cox.net






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