



THE ARIZONA CHAPTER
Military Officers Association of America
Arizona's First Chapter



Minutes of the February 15, 2014 General Meeting, AZ Chapter MOAA

A luncheon meeting of the General Membership was held on Saturday, February 15, 2014 at McCormick Ranch Golf Club in Scottsdale. President Jim Cullison called the meeting to order at 1150 hours opening with the Pledge of Allegiance and an invocation.

Members Present: President Cullison welcomed all members and their guests present; total attendance was 58.

Treasurer's Report: Jim Cullison reports for Treasurer Bill Roscher that the Chapter's current grand total is \$27,373.08; general fund has \$12,055.66; scholarship fund has \$15,217.42; petty cash has \$100.00.

President's Chapter Announcements:

- The annual AZ Stand Down for Homeless Veterans is currently underway – Feb 13-15 at the Veterans Memorial Coliseum, Az State Fairgrounds; several of our members have given their time and talents to help make the Stand Down a success.
- The UAV Patriotic Gala Dinner was held last Wednesday evening, February 12. It was well attended by our members and a good time was had by all. Jim Cullison will send out the information for next year's event as it becomes available so you can get it on your schedule to attend early.

Spotlight Speaker: President Jim Cullison introduced this month's speaker Ron Perkins. As a Captain in the USAF and pilot, Ron was invited to participate in the Navy/Air Force aviator exchange program. Against his (Navy pilot) brother's advice, Ron accepted the offer. He traded flying the Air Force's supersonic F-111 where he had long runways and divert fields to land on, for the challenge of flying the Navy's A-6 and getting to land on rolling/pitching 500' aircraft carrier decks. Captain Ron enjoyed his life in the Navy, got a lot of flight duty, had some outstanding flying experiences, some good vacation time in Singapore with his wife Betty; but after 2 ½ years of Navy duty he was happy to return to his life in the Air Force.

After his talk, Ron was presented with a MOAA Leadership Award by Past President Rob Welch in recognition of his service to the Chapter and the veterans' community.

Introduction of the Guest Speaker: Past President John Ady introduced Captain George Burk, USAF (Ret.) and his remarkable personal story of tragedy and survival. Captain Burk is a 73 year young motivational speaker, Scottsdale resident, new member of our Chapter and the sole survivor of a military transport plane crash in 1970. His tale of surviving the crash of the T29 transport plane with burns over 65% of his body, internal injuries and numerous broken bones; being rescued by a local rancher who just "happened" to be on a remote part of his cattle ranch that day; enduring 36 different operations, skin grafts and reconstructive surgeries; having to re-learn/re-train himself to left brain/right brain thinking after losing his left hand (and being left handed); spending months in a burn unit; George chose to beat the odds and survive. His belief in God, his perseverance, his living with and accepting life's required adjustments have allowed him to overcome immense adversity and become a true inspiration to those lucky enough to hear him.



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George's closing statement was "I'm not lucky I'm blessed"; everyone present must have agreed with him, they gave him a standing ovation!

President Jim Cullison presented Captain Burk with the Chapter's thank you gift of four engraved glasses for sharing his inspirational story with us.

Raffle for Spring Training Tickets: Chapter member Jeff Young donated 4 tickets to the March 26 San Francisco vs Colorado Spring Training Game. John Ady won the tickets with his \$60.00 bid. The money will be donated to the Chapter Scholarship fund.

50/50 Scholarship Fund Raffle: Marie Fredricks reports a total sale of \$160.00 raffle tickets at today's meeting; \$80.00 (2 @ \$40.00 each) was raffled to members and \$80.00 was given to the scholarship fund.

Thursday, May 1 Golf Tournament: Please remember to mark your calendars for the upcoming golf tournament and Chapter fund raising event to be held at the Rio Verde Golf Course in Fountain Hills. We need everyone's support – players, sponsors, workers and people joining the group for lunch – to help make the Chapter's major fund raiser a success. Please see this month's *Sentinel* for full information and registration form. For any additional questions please contact Pat Dale at 480-661-5204.

Donations to the Scholarship Fund: At today's luncheon, Chapter member Dr Paul Schnur celebrated his birthday by donating \$1.00 for every year he is young (we're not allowed to say how many that is!!!) and Carol Culbertson donated \$40.00.

Next General Meeting: Saturday, March 15. Guest Speaker will be USA (Ret.) BG Pete Palmer

Adjournment: 1410 hours