



To ensure that Arizona's veteran community is kept "up to date" on what is happening with the Arizona Department of Veterans' Services (ADVS), we offer this monthly update sent out to our veteran contacts throughout the State of Arizona. Please visit our website at: www.azdvs.gov

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ARIZONA STATE VETERAN HOME-PHOENIX (ASVH-Phoenix)

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November Report

ADVS Director Col. Wanda Wright joins the residents of the Arizona State Veteran Home - Phoenix for a Veterans Day observance on Tuesday, 10 November.





(Above, Below) Residents enjoyed cake, music, a video of the history of the Veteran Home.

(Right) The special float in which some of our veteran residents rode in the Phoenix Veterans Day Parade on 11 November.





ARIZONA STATE VETERAN HOME-TUCSON (ASVH-TUC)

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- Contents submitted by Sam Nanez & Ellen Bittman

November Report

(Below & Right) Salpointe Catholic High School students visited ASVH-Tucson.



The students visited individual residents, served popcorn, escorted residents out to the patio, and assisted in Bingo games.



Pictured below are contestants for the 4th annual Halloween costume contest. The residents chose the winners. The party was sponsored by the Elks Lodge.





(Left, Below) The Elks Lodge provided and served our residents a BBQ luncheon consisting of hamburgers, hot dogs and ribs with baked beans and potato salad and choice of apple or cherry pie.

Approximately 60 of our residents and 20 of our employees enjoyed the BBQ.



Pictured above are the BBQ chefs, also veterans themselves.

At right are the chef's "bosses" (aka their spouses).





James Ross, ASVH-Tucson Administrator, addressed those gathered for our Veterans Day celebration, providing introductions for the guest speakers.



Pictured left is Chuck Outman, Master Sergeant USMC Retired, one of our guest speakers at the event, who in January 2016 will be recognized at a uniform dedication ceremony as one of his Marine Corp uniforms will be put on display.

Below right, one of our WW II veterans, Thomas Rane, sang the National Anthem for those present, assisted by one of our musical performers, Heather O'Day.



Near right are College of Nursing Students who graciously assisted by steadying our flags under strong winds during the Veterans Day celebration (which had lulled at the time this picture was taken).





We celebrated the 240th anniversary/birthday of the United States Marine Corps, in conjunction with our Veterans Day celebration.



At left, Heather O'Day and the EXPRESSION! Jazz Band provided musical entertainment for the Veterans Day celebration.

Pictured below, some of our residents enjoying the brisket and pulled pork, corn on the cob, baked beans, coleslaw, and cake.





Pictured at right are students from the University of Arizona Nutritional program who volunteered in getting the produce out to the customers.



Left, Anna Marie Arenas and Tommie Morrow, ALA volunteers, cashiered the POW-WOW event.

Pictured right are community members picking out their produce, taking home up to 60 pounds for a \$10 donation.





ASVH-Tucson hosted an early Thanksgiving luncheon to accommodate some of our families and residents who will not be present on Thanksgiving Day. Our Dietary staff went above and beyond in providing a wonderful Thanksgiving meal with all of the trimmings.



Residents and visitors alike enjoyed their wonderful Thanksgiving meal.





Left, the buffet line for the early Thanksgiving meal featured turkey, ham, mashed potatoes and gravy, sweet potatoes, green beans, dressing, cranberries, and pumpkin pie.



Above right, partaking of the early Thanksgiving meal was our very own Resident Raymond Lawton, Jr., shown here in a five-generation photo.



Grace Community Church members came out to spread joy and thanks to our veterans by providing goody bags stuffed with fun activities and snacks. They made seven special bags for our female residents.

Pictured above are Grace Community Church members with Residents Jimmy Howle and David Lewis.

Right, resident Robert Ellis with members of Grace Community Church.





ASVH-TUC: Coming in December

- Our residents continue to enjoy their community outings. December outings include: Walmart on December 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd and 30th; Family Dollar on December 1st, 8th, 15th, and 22nd; and Desert Diamond Casino trips on Tuesday, December 1st and Tuesday, December 15th at 1:30 p.m.
- On Tuesday, December 8th, American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) Unit 8 will host Bingo in the Resident Lounge. They will be coming here on a monthly basis to host Bingo in Building 2 in the Recreation Area.
- On Thursday, December 10th from 10:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. in the Lounge, the ALA will host a luncheon in recognition of all ASVH-Tucson employees.
- On Friday, December 11th from 10:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. ASVH-Tucson will host an Open House for residents, families, volunteers and staff.
- On Saturday, December 12, 2015, Produce on Wheels Without Waste (POW-WOW) returns from 8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. along with arts/crafts. For a donation of \$10, you may take up 60 pounds of produce.
- Also on Saturday, December 12, 2015, Disabled American Veterans (DAV) host Bingo in the Chapel/Community Room with cake and ice cream following.
- On Tuesday, December 15th at 1:30 p.m. in the Chapel/Community Room, the VFW/ALA will host the monthly birthdays.
- On Tuesday, December 15th at 5:30 p.m. in the Sports Lounge, we will once again have a Pizza and Beer Party. The residents thoroughly enjoy this evening activity program and have voted it in for the past 4 months.
- On Wednesday, December 16th at 6:00 p.m. in the Chapel/Community Room, the Elks Lodge hosts a Christmas Party for the residents. Gifts will be distributed and Santa will pay a visit. Refreshments will be served.
- On Friday, December 18th at 10:30 a.m., Little Hooves and Big Hearts will return with the miniature therapeutic horses.
- On Saturday, December 19th at 2:00 p.m. in the Chapel/Community Room, the Veterans of Foreign War (VFW) hosts a Christmas Party for the residents. Gifts will be distributed and Santa will pay a visit. Refreshments will be served.
- On Monday, December 21st at 2:00 p.m. in the Chapel/Community Room, the ALA hosts a Christmas Party with refreshments and gifts for all of the residents. Santa will pay a visit.
- On Wednesday, December 23rd and December 30th at 2:30 p.m. in the Chapel/Community Room, the Elks will host Bingo with cash prizes.
- On Thursday, December 24th at 1:00 p.m., the Purple Heart Organization will visit with Santa and pass out gifts to the residents going room to room.
- On Thursday, December 31st at 2:00 p.m. in the Chapel/Community Room, we will have a New Year's Eve Party complete with champagne and party favors. Refreshments will be served.
- Musical entertainment coming in December include:
 - On Friday, December 4th at 2:30 p.m., Georgia Gift of Music performs in the Chapel/Community Room.
 - On Friday, December 11th at 2:30 p.m., Happy hour music provided by the Southern Arizona Art Council in the Chapel/Community Room.
 - On Sunday, December 13th at 2:30 p.m., Over the Hill Vets performs country music/Bluegrass in the Chapel/Community Room.



- On Friday, December 18th at 2:00 p.m., Dr. Lois Wilde performs a piano concert in the Chapel/Community Room.
 - On Sunday, December 20th at 2:30 p.m., The Expression Band, Blues & Jazz performs holiday music in the Chapel/Community Room.
 - On Thursday, December 31st at 2:30 p.m., New Year's Eve there will be live musical entertainment in the Chapel/Community Room.
- Donations recently received by ASVH-Tucson:
- On November 9th, Edith Craig donated six busy aprons valued at \$90.
 - On November 6th, Melissa Joliat, Assistant Principal/Athletic Director of Mammoth-San Manuel Jr./Sr. High School, provided "Thank you" letters to our veterans for their service to our country – valued as "priceless."
 - On November 10th, ALA Oro Valley, Unit 132, donated 25 military newspapers, 11 paperbacks and 3 hardback books valued at \$94.
 - On November 13th, Phyllis D. Noyer in memory of Don Biggs/Alice McPhillips, donated video/audio tapes, DVDs, tape player and DVD player and CDs. valued at \$300.
 - On November 16th, Twenty and Four/Arizona Echelon 35 The Honor Society of Women Legionnaires, donated \$75 to make the holidays brighter for our women veterans.
 - On November 18th, Marty Stout, on behalf of ALA Unit 24, donated a variety of gifts and letters to the veterans valued at \$150.
 - On November 22nd, Grace Community Church members provided goody bags stuffed with fun activities and snacks.
 - The Elks Lodge donated 12 pizzas, 22 pumpkins, and an assortment of candies for the Fall Carnival and Halloween Party. The Halloween Party was hosted by Elks Lodge 385.

Thanks to all for the much needed and much appreciated donations!!!

SOUTHERN ARIZONA VETERANS MEMORIAL CEMETERY - SIERRA VISTA

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New Veteran Cemeteries - Update

- Dedication of Arizona Veterans Memorial Cemetery - Marana is Saturday, March 26th, 2016.
- Dedication of Arizona Veterans Memorial Cemetery - Camp Navajo is Saturday, June 4th, 2016.

Looking Ahead

On Saturday, December 12, at 10am is the annual *Wreaths Across America* ceremony. To donate a holiday wreath for a veteran's gravesite you can go to www.savmcf.org or call 520-458-7144.



ADVS EVENTS

(Right) ADVS Director Col. Wanda Wright on Monday, 9 November 2015, speaking to those attending the Arizona Public Service Veterans Day event honoring the Grand Marshalls of the Phoenix Veterans Day parade.



(Right) ADVS Director Wright is presented with a special paver recognizing her service to our nation by Rear Admiral (Ret.) Ronald Tucker at the Anthem Veterans Memorial prior to Veterans Day observances in Anthem on 11 November.



The Anthem Veterans Memorial is a unique memorial. At 11:11am, on 11 November each year, the sun shines through the perfectly-aligned memorial blocks, illuminating the Great Seal of the United States!



(Right) ADVS Director Wright with Col. Maureen Gagliardi, USMC (Ret.) and Congresswoman Martha McSally at the Women Veterans Luncheon in Tucson on Saturday, 14 November 2015.



(Below Left) ADVS Director Wright joins Tucson Mayor Jonathan Rothschild in proclaiming Tucson a Purple Heart city at the second annual "Hats Off to Heroes" event at Tucson's Reid Park on Saturday, 14 November 2015.



(Right) ADVS Director Col. Wanda Wright speaking to the people gathered to commemorate the 5th Anniversary of MANA (Marines, Army, Navy, Air Force) House in Phoenix and the move of MANA House into the family of the Catholic Charities Community Services on Wednesday, 18 November 2015. MANA House provides transitional housing for homeless veterans.

