



ADVS Monthly Update

October 2015

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 azdvs.gov



ARIZONA STATE VETERAN HOME-PHOENIX (ASVH-Phoenix)

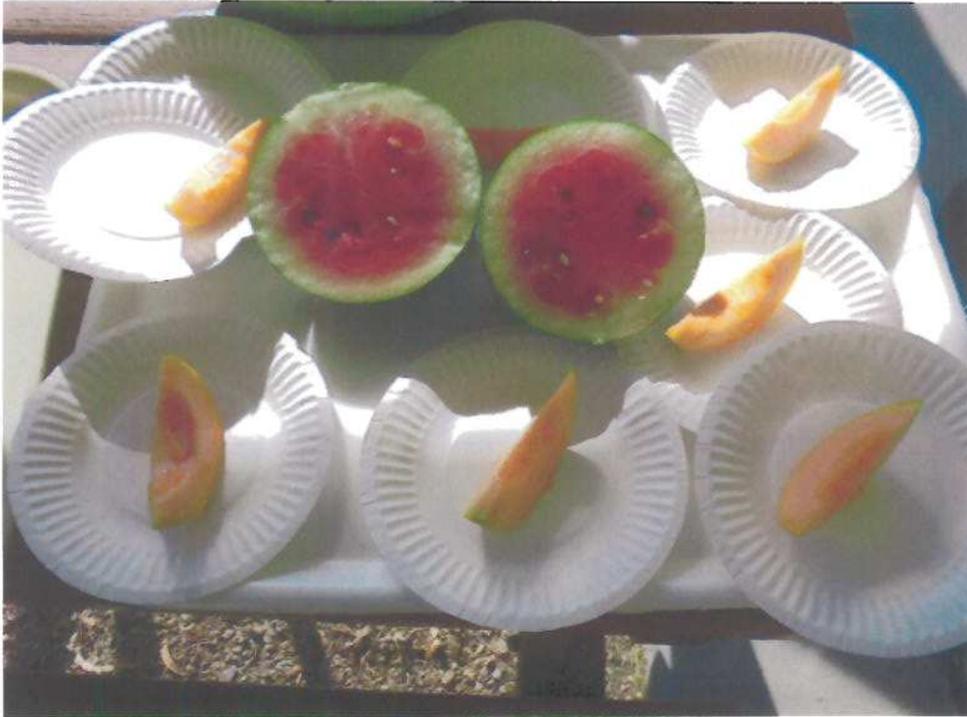
Thanks to Jamie Cussen

September 2015:

(Pictured Below) Throughout the month our Garden Club has been going strong. Our sunflowers have started to bloom and we have begun planting for the fall harvest. Our greenhouse visitors, Rich & Uyen have made it a tradition to bring fresh melon to each Garden Club, so that our veterans can enjoy fresh produce even when there is nothing to pick for the day. It is a great treat to enjoy after a long morning of planting!







On September 6th, we celebrated the football season with our Football Pick and Ice Cream program. Veterans enjoy ice cream while going through stat sheets and selecting who they think will win upcoming games. Veterans then have the choice to place “bets” on these teams and win coupons to our gift shop!

(Pictured Below) On September 8th, we received special visitors – a mini donkey and a baby goat! The baby goat went to each unit and sat on all the laps of the veterans who welcomed her. She was very sweet, and even fell asleep in laps. Our mini donkey was too shy to come inside, so many veterans gathered around him outside on the portico. He was gentle in taking feed from the hands of our veterans, who enjoyed his company! We love receiving our weekly dog visits, but it was fun to see some farm animals at our home!





(Pictured Below) On September 8th, we celebrated the birthday of one of our veterans who likes to be called “Batman”. Since he loves Batman, the ASVH staff dressed up as superheroes to help him celebrate!



On September 9th, Hands On Greater Phoenix hosted a special evening Bingo, in honor of our veterans for Patriot Day. Bingo is our favorite game, so we enjoyed having an extra game scheduled! Thank you for thinking of us and the veteran community!

On September 11th, Operation Marshmallow provided an Honor Service for Patriot Day. This service allowed our veterans to remember those who have passed, and to honor those who are still with us.

On September 19th, the Young Professionals of Tri-City Baptist provided us a social party. Our veterans enjoyed root beer floats while playing board games with our veterans. The Young Professionals also provided a musical performance, which was fantastic! Thank you for spending your Saturday afternoon with our veterans!

On September 21st, one of our volunteers John started a “Reading and Understanding Poetry Class”. John is a Literature professor at a local community college, and we are excited for this new opportunity. John will continue these classes next month.

(Pictured Below) On September 24th, the Veterans Medical Leadership Council gave a check to the ASVH-P for \$28,000. The money will be used to purchase blanket warmers for each unit and our Namaste program, provide an aviary on our Memory Care Unit, renovate the Bistro and create a media center for the Veteran. A BIG thank you to the VMLC for their generous donation and continued support!



(Pictured Below) Twice a month, our veterans enjoy a coffeehouse program. Veterans have live music, while being served coffee and donuts. Below is a photo of volunteer Bernie serving donuts to our veterans.



On September 30th, the Breakfast Club held its last breakfast outing of the season. We want to thank the Patriot Guard Riders for all of their support of the Breakfast Club this summer. Each Wednesday, they provided several volunteers to assist veterans to and from the Home. We would not have been able to hold it without you!

**Next month we look forward to fall-like weather (we'll take what we can get in Phoenix!) and the beginning of outing season. We also have planned pumpkin decorating, a show by Re-creation, and a Halloween party! Also, our Glee Club will be having their first concert. To see more photos and our activity calendar, please "Like" us on Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/asvhphx>**

Follow us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/asvhphx>



ARIZONA STATE VETERAN HOME-TUCSON (ASVH-Tucson)

Submitted by Sam Nanez & Ellen Bittman

September in review:

One of our newest volunteers, Oscar Sura, is leading karaoke three times per week throughout our neighborhoods. Our residents have enjoyed the opportunity to reminisce and have the opportunity to sing some old favorite songs.



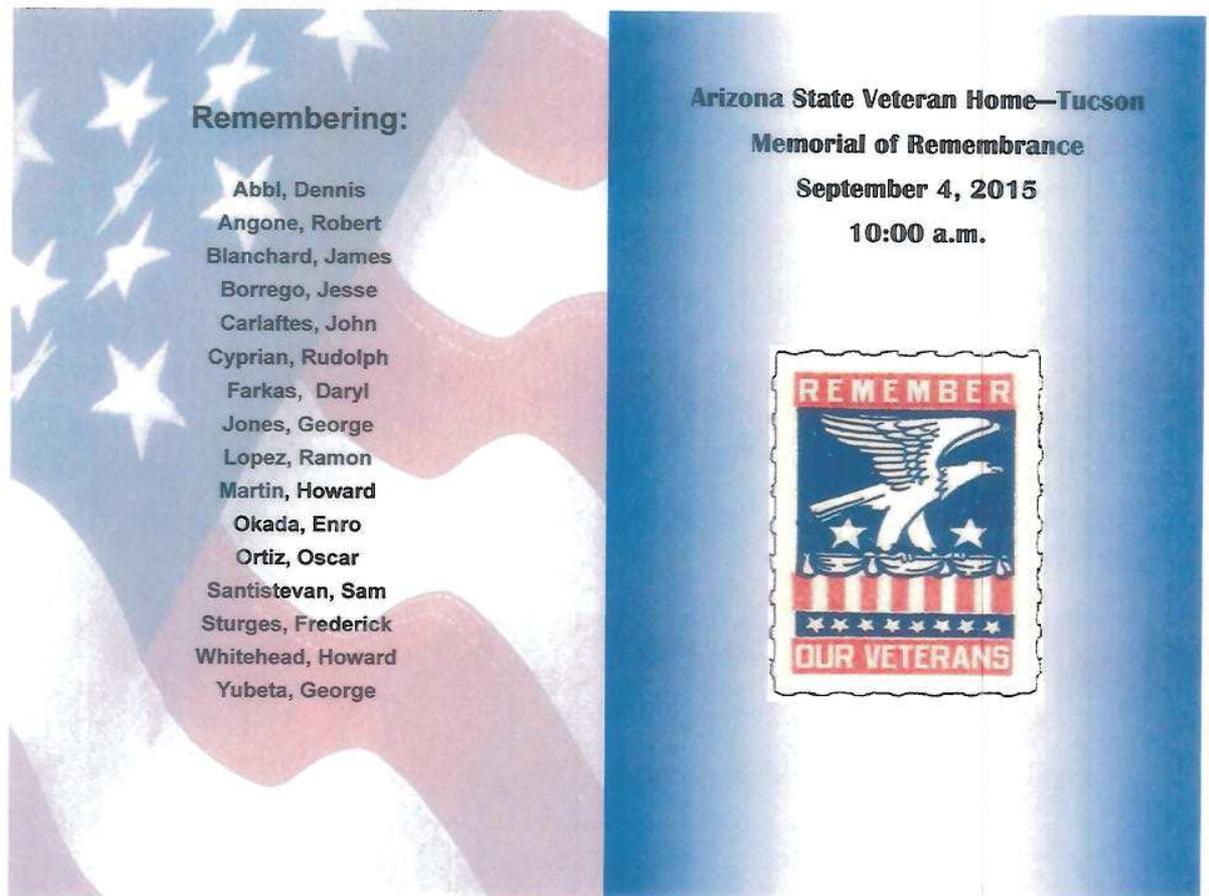


Two of our staff members, Sam Nanez, Therapeutic Program Manager, and Barbara Kasper, Housekeeping Manager, took their turns at the mike for karaoke

On September 4th, ASVH-Tucson began what we call a Memorial of Remembrance.

We will hold Memorial of Remembrance ceremonies quarterly hosted by ASVH-Tucson and VFW 10188 Ritual Team. Memorial of Remembrance recognizes our fallen heroes who we have lost over the past three months.

Special “thank you” to Mike O’Daniels, Resident Council Vice President and former commander of VFW #10188 Ritual Team, who spearheaded the idea of the quarterly memorial. Also a special “thank you” to the VFW #10188 Ritual Team, who has volunteered to provide assistance with these ceremonies.



Pictured above are two pages of the program



Pictured above is Resident Larry "Mike" O'Daniels along with members of the VFW #10188 Ritual Team



Pictured above our chaplain volunteers who assisted with the Memorial of Remembrance ceremony and visit our residents on a weekly basis



VFW #10188 Ritual Team



A member of the VFW #10188 Ritual Team

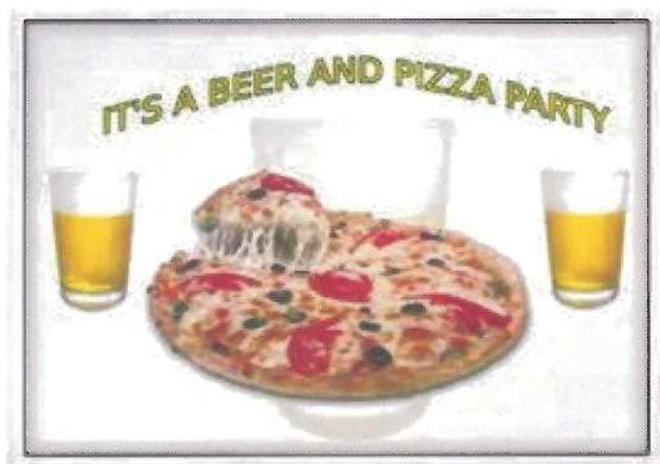
On September 16th, Family Fiesta Night observed the celebration of Mexico's independence with performances by La Paloma Folklorico. Those in attendance enjoyed super nachos, a traditional Mexican rice drink, Margaritas, and an assortment of Mexican pastries.



La Paloma Folklorico. This group accepted invitations to represent the City of Tucson in the Cultural Arts at the Sydney Olympic Games as well as most recently the London Olympic Games. They have already been invited to the Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro in 2016.



Our Pizza & Beer party was a great success on September 22nd. The residents enjoyed a variety of pizza, beers and comradery. They enjoyed it so much they voted to have another pizza and beer party next month!





Residents enjoying pizza, beer and comradery





The Inaugural ASVH-Tucson Dog Show was held on September 25th. Staff, residents, volunteers, and community members brought in their furry four-legged family members to entertain and provide some “pet therapy” to our residents and their families.



At our first dog show, we had approximately twelve dogs, which included, Chihuahuas mixes, Corgi mix, poodle, Jack Russell Min-Pin Mix,

Coyote/Healer mix, Pomeranian, Shepherd mixes, and one of our very own therapy dogs. First, second and third place ribbons were awarded in four categories: youngest; oldest; largest; and smallest. All dogs got participation ribbons. The residents are already asking when the next dog show is going to happen. Note – it will take place in the fall of 2016. Mark your calendars!





On September 27th, The Expression Band, Jazz & Blues, performed for the residents. The residents enjoyed the music, saying that the music was reminiscent of the entertainment that could be heard in New Orleans. We are fortunate to have this entertainment on the fourth Sunday of each month through the end of 2015.



ASVH-Tucson has a new van! Thomas Weaver, ADVS Risk Manager, handed over the keys to Jim Ross, Administrator and Sam Nanez, Therapeutic Program Manager on September 29th. The van is equipped with a lift, space for three wheelchairs and 2 – 3 ambulatory residents.



Picture above left to right - Shawn Morrison, Building Maintenance Technician and Leroy Ellis, Jr., Recreation Therapist II, checked out the new acquisition.



Coming in October:

- **With the popularity of the poker games, we have expanded from two to three games a week. They are now held on Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays at 1:00 p.m. in the Sports Lounge.**
- **Our residents continue to enjoy their community outings. October outings include: Walmart on October 7th, 14th, 21st, and 28th; Family Dollar on October 6th, 13th and 20th; Silver Saddle Steak House lunch outing on Thursday, October 8th at 11:00 a.m.; and Desert Diamond Casino trips on Tuesday, October 6th at 4:30 p.m. and Tuesday, October 27th at 9:00 a.m.).**
- **On Saturday, October 10th at 9:00 a.m. there will be a mystery ride for the residents of Building 5.**
- **On Tuesday, October 13th at 1:30 p.m. in the Chapel/Community Room, the VFW/ALA will host the monthly birthdays.**
- **On Thursday, October 22nd at 2:00 p.m., we will have pumpkin carving/decorating in the Chapel/Community Room. Pumpkin judging will take place at 10:30 a.m. on Friday, October 23rd.**

- **On Friday, October 23rd at 10:30 a.m., Little Hooves and Big Hearts will return with the miniature therapeutic horses.**
- **On Tuesday, October 27nd at 5:30 p.m. in the Sports Lounge, we will have a Pizza and Beer Party because they had so much fun at the last one.**
- **On Friday, October 30th at 2:00 p.m. in the Chapel/Community Room, there will be a Halloween party hosted by ASVH-Tucson and the Elks Organization. We will have a costume competition and the residents and staff not in costume will be the judges.**
- **Musical entertainment coming in October include:**
 - **On Friday, October 2nd at 2:30 p.m., Georgia Gift of Music performs in the Chapel/Community Room.**
 - **On Friday, October 9th at 2:30 p.m., Tommy Tucker and his music performance in the Chapel/Community Room.**
 - **On Friday, October 16th at 2:00 p.m., Dr. Lois Wilde performs a piano concert in the Chapel/Community Room.**
 - **On Sunday, October 18th at 2:30 p.m., Over the Hill Vets performs country music/Bluegrass in the Chapel/Community Room.**
 - **On Friday, October 23rd as part of our fall carnival, we will have multiple musical venues for the evening with Tommy disc jockeying for the cake walk, the Sahara Desert (Belly dancers) performing, and La Paloma Folklorico dancers will have their younger adults performing various dances from Mexico.**
 - **On Sunday, October 25th at 2:30 p.m., The Expression Band, Blues & Jazz performs in the Chapel/Community Room.**
- **Donations recently received by ASVH-Tucson:**
 1. **On July 14, 2015 Phyllis Noyel donated several audio/video cassette tapes (shows)in memory of Alice McPhillips.**
 2. **On September 14, 2015, Mary Tovar from the American Legion Auxiliary Post 109 presented two checks for the Bingo fund each in the amount of \$500 (one from Denise Cady and the other from Denise Mahoney), totaling \$1,000.**



- 3. We are very grateful for the donation by Duane Krause of the flag, authenticity certificate of the flag, and the framed photos of Sgt. Brian Chaffee along with the accompanying story. In brief summary, Sgt. Chaffee was awarded the Bronze Star for meritorious service in Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom. ASVH-Tucson gratefully accepts the memorabilia listed above, which will soon be proudly displayed at ASVH-Tucson.**



Pictured above is Duane Krause presenting to Sam Nanez, who accepted on behalf of ASVH-Tucson.

- 4. On September 17, 2015, John Warth donated books to ASVH-Tucson.**
- 5. On September 18, 2015, Bob Slocum, Judge Advocate, donated on behalf of The Military Order of the Purple Heart**

Chapter 442; a computer table; 12 hardback Tom Clancy books; and 7 DVDs.

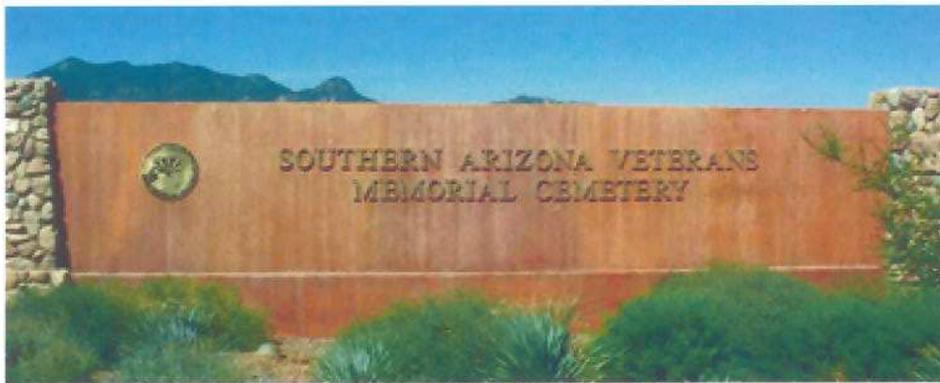
6. On September 21, 2015, American Legion Auxiliary Oro Valley Unit #132, donated 16 hardback books, 30 paperback books, 9 trade paperback books, 6 CDs, 12 DVDs, and 1 VHS.
7. Also on September 21, 2015, the Military Order of the Purple Heart donated an assortment of hardback books and military magazines.

Many thanks to all who donated!!!

NEW VETERAN CEMETERIES UPDATE

Dedication for the Marana cemetery has been rescheduled to Saturday, March 26th, 2016 instead of March 19th.

Dedication for the Northern Arizona Veterans Memorial Cemetery at Camp Navajo is scheduled for Saturday, June 4th, 2016.



SOUTHERN ARIZONA VETERANS' MEMORIAL CEMETERY-SIERRA VISTA

(SAVMC)

The state veteran's cemetery's program is the ultimate final benefit for veterans, their spouses and eligible dependents. Did you know that you can pre-register your military information with the State Veterans cemetery? We will make copies of your military discharge and certificate of marriage and maintain them in our records.

So many of times when veteran families are trying to make arrangements after a veteran's death they are struggling to find those documents. Our veteran cemetery staff will exhaust every effort to help families obtain the military discharge from the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC). There are occasion when NPRC cannot find or verify the veterans status because of destroyed records from a fire incident in 1973.

On July 12, 1973, a disastrous fire at the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) destroyed approximately 16-18 million Official Military Personnel Files (OMPF). The records affected:

Branch	Personnel and Period Affected	Estimated Loss
Army	Personnel discharged November 1, 1912 to January 1, 1960	80%
Air Force	Personnel discharged September 25, 1947 to January 1, 1964 (with names alphabetically after Hubbard, James E.)	75%

Looking Forward

October 24th at 12:00PM is the next Missing in America Project (MIAP) interment of several unclaimed veterans. Currently we have 30 veterans who have been recovered by MIAP.

On Saturday December 12th at 10:00AM 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.

EVENTS



ADVS Director Col. Wanda Wright speaking with Army veteran Craig Hart (blue shirt) who was offered a job with the Arizona Department of Corrections at the Glendale "Stand Up for Veterans" event held at Glendale Community College on Saturday, 26 September 2015.



ADVS Director Col. Wanda Wright and USMC Col. (Ret.) Bill Sahno speaking to Rim Country veterans on KMOG Radio, Payson on Monday, 28 September 2015.



ADVS Director Wright is planning four Women Veterans Expos for Spring 2016 to be held at Glendale Community College on 12 March 2016; the University of Arizona in Tucson, on Saturday, 19 March 2016; ASU in Tempe, on Saturday, 9 April 2016; and NAU in Flagstaff on Saturday, 16 April 2015. Photo shows Col. Wright meeting with her event planning team. We will keep you posted as more details on the Expos develop.