



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

ARIZONA STATE VETERAN HOME-PHOENIX (ASVH-Phoenix)

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- Special Thanks to Jamie Cussen for content!



October Report

Outing season has officially begun! Our veterans have been treated to several outings this past month:

- 10/4/15 – Arizona Diamondbacks Game with the Sun City Elks
- 10/23/15 – Fish Fry at Cooties Pup Tent #11
- 10/27/15 – Lunch at Cracker Barrel for the Sunnyville Neighborhood

Our 10/14/15 and 10/16/15 outings to the Phoenix West Elks had to be cancelled due to inclement weather. We were sad to miss out on these great outings, but had a special carry in meal to replace. We are looking forward to getting back to the Phoenix West Elks next month for their fantastic dinners!

*Special "Thank You!" to the above organizations for providing such wonderful opportunities for our veterans!

(Pictured Below) On October 3rd, the [North Valley Chorale](#) provided a beautiful patriotic concert featuring songs such as the Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy and Strike Up the Band. It was a wonderful performance and we appreciate them sharing their talents with us!



On October 8th, the Phoenix Boys Choir held their first concert of the season. Many of our new veterans were able to attend this concert, and were impressed with the talents of these young men! We would like to thank Express Scripts for providing escorts for this concert, and for the future concerts of this season. We look forward to many more concerts coming up!





(Pictured Right) On October 10th, the American Legion Riders Post 61 held a Ride-In. The front portico was filled with motorcycles and ALR members, who visited with our veterans.



The ALR Post 61 also brought many donated goods for our veterans. We appreciate your friendship and support of the home!



(Pictured Left & Below) On October 10th, the [Arizona School of Dentistry and Oral Health](#) provided an educational presentation on oral health care. They also played a fun game of dental bingo and enjoyed visiting with our veterans.





(Pictured Below) On October 11th, our veterans prepared for fall by painting and decorating pumpkins for the units. Everyone had the opportunity to show their creativity. Check out the great pumpkins our veterans made!



On October 18th, the St. Patrick's Men's club hosted a BBQ meal for our veterans. The volunteers of the St. Patrick's Men's Club provided all of the food, including fresh ground beef, and cooked it to order on the grills. Our veterans all said they loved the delicious lunch! Besides the great food, we enjoyed great companionship as well, as the volunteers visited with our veterans throughout the afternoon.

The B12 Bombshell Group also had pin-up girls attend to serve and visit with the veterans – they were a hit! The St. Patrick's Men's Club put in a significant amount of work to make this happen and we appreciate their dedication to our veterans!

On October 21st, we enjoyed a special performance by Re-Creation! They came early to set up a stage and made several costume changes over the hour. They sang a variety of hits accompanied by choreographed dances.

We especially enjoyed when these young men and women came out to sing and dance with our veterans. It was a fantastic show and we had a full house! Thank you to the Elks and the Bowlers to Veterans Link for making this show possible for several veteran homes around the United States!

Enjoy these photos at right and on the next page!







(Pictured Below) On October 24th, the Korean War Veterans hosted our annual Oktoberfest BBQ and festival. A traditional meal of bratwurst, sauerkraut, potatoes, veggies, and pretzels was served. And of course we had several cases of ice cold (non-alcoholic) beer! To join in the festivities, the Krugenkraut band played polka music while everyone enjoyed the lunch. We would like to thank the Korean War Veterans, Buffalo Soldiers, Krugenkraut Band and the University of Phoenix Alumni Association for making this happen!



On October 29th, Sodexo hosted a special Bingo game. Bingo is a favorite here and is always requested, so we are happy to have an additional fun game. They are also bringing extra coupons, so the veterans will have more opportunities to win tickets in the gift shop. Thank you Sodexo for hosting this!

On October 30th, we held our annual Costume parade. The rec therapy department assists veterans in dressing up in the morning and veterans and staff alike will travel a parade route and show off their costumes.

On October 31st, Girl Scout Troop 37 joined us for a game of bingo. The girls plan to dress in costume and will have Girl Scout Cookies to share with the veterans. We appreciate them thinking of us and we always love to have Girl Scout Cookies!

On October 31st, we had a party with entertainment by Eric Laubach, who will be playing a Halloween themed concert while we enjoy fall snacks.

(Pictured at right) This month our blanket warmers purchased by the Veterans Medical Leadership Council arrived and we were very excited to begin using them. The timing was perfect, as we are starting to get a little bit cooler weather here at the ASVH-P.





Due to an illness, we had to reschedule our Glee Club concert but look forward to hearing them sing next month! We will have several festivities planned with Veteran's Day coming up soon. This will include several special outings, two BBQs, parties, extra games of bingo, the Arizona Veteran Band performance and of course going to see the Veteran's Day parade! We are especially excited, as the home will be celebrating its 20th anniversary on November 11th. We will have a float in the parade to celebrate, so please keep your eye out for us and wave when we go by! We hope everyone has a wonderful Veteran's Day and Thanksgiving!

ARIZONA STATE VETERAN HOME-TUCSON (ASVH-TUC)

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- Contents submitted by Sam Nanez & Ellen Bittman

October Report

Leo Silverstein was honored on October 15, 2015 with a second Purple Heart medal for injuries sustained during World War II. The reason for the delay in the honor was that paperwork documenting his injuries during war was recently found in his footlocker by his daughter. Congresswoman Martha McSally presented Mr. Silverstein with his Purple Heart medal, which he proudly accepted, witnessed by his daughter, grandson, extended family members and our staff.





(Pictured at right) Residents enjoying Bingo on the Memory Care Unit. The Bingo numbers are larger and sometimes fewer in number. Family members and staff oversaw and assisted when needed. Winners garnered candy bars, some multiple times. One of our residents from another building came over to call the Bingo games.



The University of Arizona College of Nursing students assisted in the exercise program on the Memory Care Unit. Fun was had by the students, residents, and staff. The U. of A. Nursing students, while here to further their education, are also learning the psycho-social needs of our residents.



ASVH-TUCSON FALL CARNIVAL!

(Pictured at left) Preparing for the ASVH-Tucson Fall Carnival, our residents bagged more than 800 bags of candies and small toys as prizes for the carnival games.



(Pictured Below) Residents enjoyed themselves as they carved and painted pumpkins for Fall Carnival.





(Pictured Below) Our annual Fall Carnival was a great success. Residents, staff, volunteers, and families contributed to the success of the carnival. A thousand dollars was raised for the event, which funded the bookcase expansion in the resident library to house large print books and the rest will be used for the residents holiday season.



On October 23rd we had our annual pumpkin judging contest. First place went to Robert McCormack, who painted his pumpkin as El Diablo. Second prize went to Arthur Cavigilia, whose pumpkin was put together with mixed mediums (painting, carving, and stickers). Third place was a tie between four residents. Henry Richards, who did a traditional carved pumpkin. Juanita Burgess painted her pumpkin in the theme of Dia de los Muertos (Day of the Dead). Andy Chavez painted a plaid pumpkin. Frank Angarola made his pumpkin a one-eyed Matilda.





Pictured previously and below: Carnival games; costumed children; residents enjoying the evening in the fountain courtyard; La Paloma Folklorico dancers (youth group); the Desert Sahara Dancers (belly dancers); and the jack o' lantern ice sculpture.





(Pictured Below) The cake walk was a success. Here you see the cake walk table with more than 60 cakes and pastries surrounded by the cake walk contenders. The cake walk was designed to accommodate wheelchairs, which the residents enjoyed. Also pictured is the jack o' lantern ice sculpture, donated by Mr. Pat Caffrey. Horse rides were provided by Anna Marie Arenas, which the children thoroughly enjoyed.





Pictured below is our ASVH-Tucson volunteer librarian, Lucille Webb, with two of three new bookcases, which will house our large print collection of books. Our Magni-Sight Explorer Custom Focus machine resides in our Internet Café for further clarification, if needed.



Coming in November:

- Our residents continue to enjoy their community outings. November outings include: Walmart on November 4th, 11th, 18th, and 25th; Family Dollar on November 3rd, 17th and 24th; and Desert Diamond Casino trips on Tuesday, November 3rd and Tuesday, November 17th at 1:30 p.m.
- On Tuesday, November 3rd, United Healthcare will host Bingo in the Resident Lounge.
- On Tuesday, November 10th at 10:30 a.m. we will have the ASVH-Tucson Veterans Day celebration in the courtyard, followed directly by lunch served in the courtyard.
- On Saturday, November 14, 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.
- On Tuesday, November 17th at 1:30 p.m. in the Chapel/Community Room, the VFW/ALA will host the monthly birthdays.
- On Tuesday, November 17th at 5:30 p.m. in the Sports Lounge, we will once again have a Pizza and Beer Party. The residents have truly enjoyed this evening activity program and have voted it in for the past 3 months.
- On Thursday, November 26th ASVH-Tucson will celebrate Thanksgiving with traditional meals served in the dining rooms.
- On Friday, November 27th at 10:30 a.m., Little Hooves and Big Hearts will return with the miniature therapeutic horses.



- Musical entertainment coming in November include:
 - On Friday, November 6th at 2:30 p.m., Georgia Gift of Music performs in the Chapel/Community Room.
 - On Friday, November 13th at 2:30 p.m., Happy hour music provided by the Southern Arizona Art Council in the Chapel/Community Room.
 - On Sunday, November 15th at 2:30 p.m., Over the Hill Vets performs country music/Bluegrass in the Chapel/Community Room.
 - On Friday, November 20th at 2:00 p.m., Dr. Lois Wilde performs a piano concert in the Chapel/Community Room.
 - On Sunday, November 22nd at 2:30 p.m., The Expression Band, Blues & Jazz performs in the Chapel/Community Room.
 - On Friday, November 27th at 2:30 p.m., Happy hour music provided by the Southern Arizona Art Council in the Chapel/Community Room.

- Donations recently received by ASVH-Tucson:
 1. In September, Jim Noonan on behalf of Warner Brothers Home Entertainment and Major John DeMartini donated approximately 30 DVDs.
 2. On September 22nd, Mike Dyer, of MOPH, donated clothing and shoes valued at approximately \$100.
 3. On September 30th, Bob Slocum on behalf of the Military Order of the Purple Heart Chapter 442 donated two computer tables valued at \$92.
 4. On October 1st, ALA Oro Valley Unit 132 donated 37 hardback and paperback books to the library valued at \$50.
 5. On October 19th, Helen Glass, ALA Unit 73, donated 11 handmade tote bags representing all branches of the service in memory of her father (WWI) and her brother (WWII) valued as "priceless."
 6. On October 21st, J.M. Busch, in memory of her father Lt. Col. Robert E. Busch, donated two wheelchairs and 1 three-wheel walker valued at \$1,500.
 7. On October 23rd, Elks Lodge #2065 donated a portable radio and hair irons with an estimated value of \$40.
 8. On October 28th, James M. Devine donated clothing and books.
 9. On October 29th, Tim Nofs, in memory of Sylvester J. Nofs, donated seven latch rug hook kits with tools and one blanket valued at \$200.

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 for the Marana cemetery will be 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.

(Following Photos) October 24th Missing In America interment service of 30 veterans and one spouse.









LOOKING FORWARD

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

Arizona Roadmap to Veteran Employment Recognition Event

ADVS Director Col. Wanda Wright welcomes those who came to join in the recognition of Arizona Veteran Supportive Employers at the Arizona Roadmap to Veteran Employment Recognition Event on Monday, 2 November 2015 at the State Capitol.



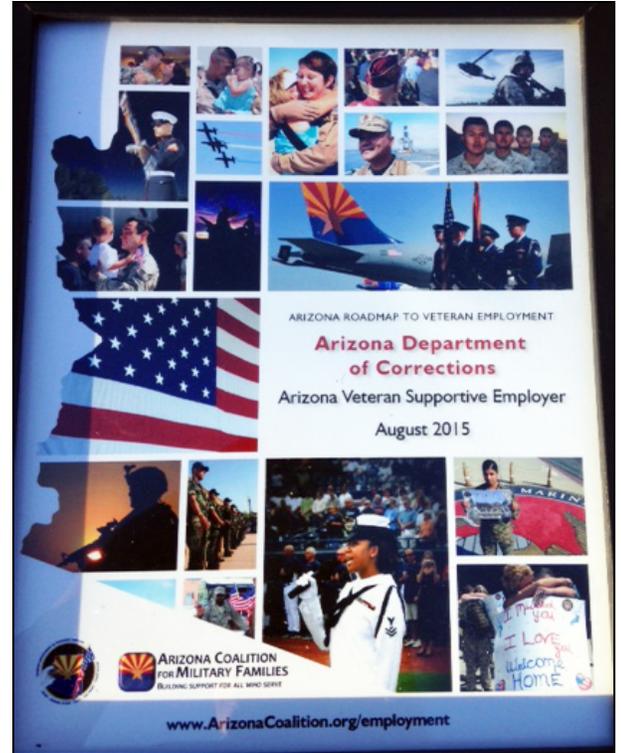
Col. Wright was joined by Arizona Secretary of State Michele Reagan as they presented certificates recognizing Arizona employers who have made a commitment to hiring and recognizing their veteran employees.

Special recognition went to: Alorica; Arizona Corporation Commission; Arizona Culinary Institute; Arizona Department of Corrections; Arizona Department of Economic Security; Arizona Public Service; City of Avondale; City of Mesa; City of Phoenix; City of Tempe; Copper Sun Construction, LLC; Edgeneering, LLC; Empowerment Systems, Inc.; Goodwill of Southern Arizona; INT Technologies; Marc Community

Resources; Mesa Chamber of Commerce; MidFirst Bank; Operation Welcome Home; PROEM Party & Event Rentals; Schreiber Foods; Social Security Administration; Salt River Project; T.E.A. M. Security; Town of Gilbert; TriWest Healthcare Alliance; University of Arizona; Ventana Medical Systems, Inc.; and West Coast Ultrasound Institute.



Below, Thomas Winkel of the Arizona Coalition for Military Families joins Director Wright in presenting a certificate to Arizona Department of Corrections Director Charles Ryan.



Below, Arizona Department of Economic Security Timothy Jefferies receives a certificate on behalf of his agency.





Below, Secretary of State Michelle Reagan addressing those attending the Arizona Roadmap to Veteran Employment Recognition Event





50th Commemoration Vietnam Dinner



ADVS Director Col. Wanda Wright presents special coins to Vietnam veterans at the Annual Vietnam Commemoration Dinner in Scottsdale on Saturday, October 31st, 2015.

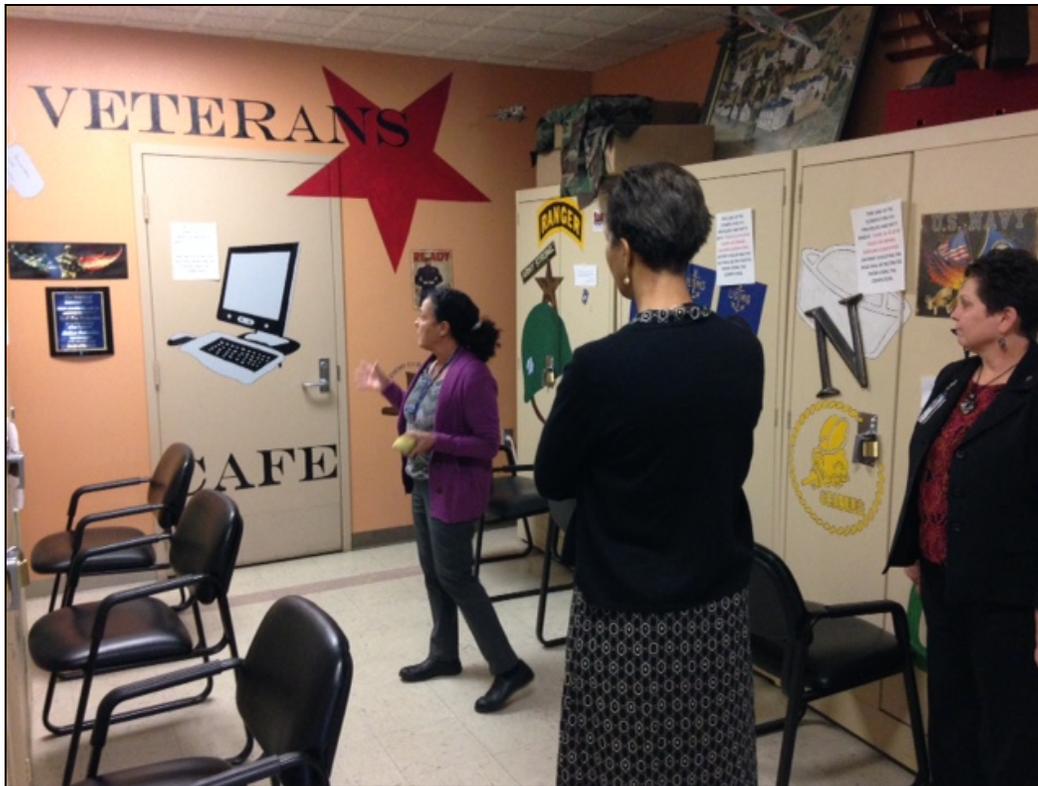
Visit to Prescott VA Medical Center



ADVS Director Col. Wanda Wright met with the Director of the Northern Arizona VA Health Care System Donna Jacobs and staff on a visit to the Prescott VA Medical Center on Wednesday, October 28th, 2015.



Director Wright was given a tour of the Prescott facility located in the beautiful surroundings of the historic Fort Whipple in Prescott.





WALL OF FACES



Mrs. Lee Greco of Mesa shows a photograph of her husband, USAF pilot Lee Greco, to ADVS Director Col. Wanda Wright at the launch of the AZ Wall of Faces Project at Tempe Marketplace on Saturday, October 24th, 2015. Lee Greco was killed in action on a mission over Vietnam in December 1966. He was posthumously promoted to major and received several medals and commendations, including the Purple Heart and Distinguished Flying Cross.

The AZ Wall of Faces Project seeks to locate photographs of all 623 Arizonans killed in the Vietnam War. The photos will become part of a special exhibit in a 7.7 acre The project has opened an exhibit in Suite 1063 just north of Barnes and Noble at the Tempe Marketplace. The exhibit will be open Saturdays from 10 am to 4 pm until December 31st. (Following are photos of the exhibit.)





"Welcome Home Veterans Park" in Gilbert will include an 80% scale version of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall in Washington, D.C.

