



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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December Report

December was a festive and fun-filled month at the Arizona State Veteran Home - Phoenix. The veterans and members enjoyed many holiday visits, performers, and parties. Thanks to all the community members who generously gave their time and talents to our veterans this holiday season!



Jewish War Vets, Scottsdale Post #210 hosted a wonderful Hanukkah Party this year. Our kitchen made potato latkes and the veterans lit an electric menorah.





The Arizona State Veteran Home continued our yearly "Adopt-a-Vet" tradition this year, where each veteran was asked their holiday wish.

The veterans were adopted by community members who purchased and wrapped gifts for them. The Phoenix West Elks gave a gift to every single veteran this year. American Legion Riders Post 27 sponsored two wings, and even threw veterans a special holiday party. Other participants included the West Valley Korean War Vets Chapter, Cooties Pup Tent #14, Dave Hoshaw and the TF Ripper Foundation, and VA Vocational Rehab.



The American Legion Auxiliary also gave each veteran a wrapped Christmas/Hanukkah gift. Thanks to the generosity of the community, each veteran received something for the holidays this year. Other groups donated to our "Wish List", including the Encanterra Veterans Club, the Fountain Hills Elks and USAA.



Above/Top, USAA Donation
Above/Left, Encanterra Veterans Club
At Right, Fountain Hills Elks



Veterans also enjoyed performances from many groups, including the Troubadours, Girl Scout Troop #651, Silver Foxes Tap Dance Troop, Musical Theatre of Anthem, ALA Post 41, Arizona Cameo Club, and ALR Chapter #31. They also received visits from Phoenix First Assembly, Daughters of the American Revolution (who brought Lap Robes), the Military Order of the Purple Heart, the Red Cross, Boy Scouts, the Alliance of Marine Corps Veterans Auxiliary

Finally, December brought us so many opportunities for holiday parties. The VFW Christmas party was on December 19, and the ALR Party was on December 26. A Shells and Bones Lunch was sponsored by Cooties Pup Tent #11. The Harley Davidson Scottsdale Hog Chapter 3160 did a social and motorcycle demonstration outdoors.

Wishing all friends and family a happy and prosperous 2016!



Above, American Legion Riders, Post 61

At left, American Legion Post 81 Juniors



ARIZONA STATE VETERAN HOME-TUCSON (ASVH-TUC)

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- Contents submitted by Sam Nanez & Ellen Bittman



December in Review

The American Legion Auxiliary hosted Christmas shopping at the VA Hospital, their annual Christmas shopping event. A variety of clothing, jewelry, watches, wallets, caps, toys and blankets were available for selection. The ALA organization invited our veterans/residents to do their holiday shopping with them. Approximately 30 of our residents were able to do some holiday shopping wherein they were able to pick one gift for themselves and another gift for someone on their gift list. Our residents were very happy and appreciative to be included in this opportunity extended by the ALA and look forward to doing their holiday shopping again next year.



Our *ladies tea party* was a great success. Our female residents and their guests enjoyed a variety of teas and cakes as well as comradery with their peers. Pictured above is Delene Sabol, Recreation Therapist II, who orchestrated the tea party.



Employee luncheon sponsored by the ALA. This is the third year that the ALA has provided lunch for all ASVH-Tucson employees and volunteers. On the menu this year was build-your-own tostadas, which was a great hit. Pictured below are ALA members and we thank them for their continued support of our facility.



Pictured on the far right in the blue blouse is Nancy Morrow. For the last year, she has been putting in 25 – 30 hours per week helping to run the ASVH-Tucson Gift Shop. The residents appreciate her bubbly, smiling enthusiasm.

ASVH-Tucson hosted their annual Holiday Open House on December 11, 2015. It was a great success. We had ten vendors from the community displaying their wares accompanied by holiday music throughout the day.





During the Holiday Open House, we had a visit with a pony and horse and carriage rides provided by Step Up, therapeutic horses and ponies. Love the antlers!





Our monthly birthday party continues to be a success. It is hosted each month by ALA and VFW. Cake and ice cream are provided along with a festive atmosphere.



Desert Christian School, Grades K – 12, came in on December 9th and provided Christmas caroling and patriotic music which was enjoyed by all.





The Elks Holiday Party was a great success again this year. We had standing room only in the Chapel/Community Room on December 16th. This year we welcomed residents from the VA Blind/Visually Impaired Center. All received a gift from the Elks.



On December 19th, the VFW hosted a holiday party for our residents accompanied by elves and Santa. Each resident received a gift and holiday cheer. (left, and below)



On December 21st, the ALA hosted a holiday party for our residents. We had ALA members from Casa Grande, Oro Valley, Green Valley, and Tucson as well as other surrounding communities. Holiday gifts were passed out to all of our residents. (below)





Pictured below are members of the Green Valley ALA Unit, who were instrumental in getting our clothing bank started three years ago.



The Doubletree Reid Park visited bringing their signature cookies to share with all of the residents, volunteers, and staff. Two hundred cookies were passed out along with holiday cards. They have already indicated they will pay us another visit with cookies in hand for Valentine's Day or St. Patrick's Day.

Pictured at right are three nurses from the VA Hospital who each year make community gift giving a mission. This year they chose some residents of ASVH-Tucson as the recipients. At their request, the Recreation Department gave them names of residents with no families nearby. They came by on Christmas Eve, delivering their gifts and holiday wishes.





Also, on Christmas Eve, the Military Order of the Purple Heart organization passed out gifts with Santa and volunteers. Gifts were personally passed out to each resident and Santa visited the majority of our residents. Purple Heart has been very supportive of our veterans, especially those who have received Purple Hearts. The Purple Heart organization holds meetings here each month.





ASVH-TUC: Coming in January

- Our residents continue to enjoy their community outings. January outings include: Walmart on January 6th, 13th, 20th, and 27th; Family Dollar on January 5th, 12th, 19th, and 26th; and Desert Diamond Casino trips on Tuesday, January 5th and Tuesday, January 19th at 1:30 p.m.; and Rigo's lunch outing at 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, January 14th.
- On Friday, January 1st at 2:00 p.m. in the Chapel/Community Room, ASVH-Tucson Activities hosts a special New Year's Day Cash Bingo.
- On Saturday, January 9, 2016, Produce-on-Wheels Without Waste (POW-WOW) returns from 8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. For a donation of \$10, you may take up 60 pounds of produce.
- Also on Saturday, January 9, 2016, Disabled American Veterans (DAV) host Bingo in the Chapel/Community Room with cake and ice cream following.
- On Tuesday, January 12th at 2:00 p.m., American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) Unit 8 will host Bingo in the Building 2 Recreation Area.
- On Tuesday, January 12th at 1:30 p.m. in the Chapel/Community Room, the VFW/ALA will host the monthly birthdays.
- On Tuesday, January 12th at 5:30 p.m. in the Sports Lounge, we will once again have a Pizza and Beer Party, which is now in the permanent monthly schedule.
- On Friday, January 22nd at 10:30 a.m., Little Hooves and Big Hearts will return with the miniature therapeutic horses.
- Also on Friday, January 22nd at 2:30 p.m. we will have our 4th annual chili cook-off in the Chapel/Community Room.
- On Tuesday, January 26th at 10:00 a.m. in the Chapel/Community Room, we will have a Marine Uniform Dedication Ceremony.
- On Friday, January 29th at 10:00 a.m. in the Chapel/Community Room, ASVH-Tucson and VFW 10188 Ritual Team will host our quarterly Memorial of Remembrance for veterans/residents no longer with us.
- Musical entertainment coming in December include:
 - ❖ On Friday, January 8th at 2:30 p.m., Happy hour music provided by the Southern Arizona Art Council in the Chapel/Community Room.
 - ❖ On Friday, January 15th at 2:00 p.m., Dr. Lois Wilde performs a piano concert in the Chapel/Community Room.
 - ❖ On Sunday, January 17th at 2:30 p.m., Over the Hill Vets performs country music/Bluegrass in the Chapel/Community Room.
 - ❖ On Sunday, January 24th at 2:30 p.m., The Expressions/jazz music performance in the Chapel/Community Room.
 - ❖ On Friday, January 29th at 2:30 p.m., there will be live musical entertainment in the Chapel/Community Room.



➤ Donations recently received by ASVH-Tucson:

1. On November 24th, Dodge Traditional Magnet Middle School provided holiday well wishes from the students for the sacrifice and service our veterans gave for our country. Value: Priceless!
2. On November 9th, Nancy Morrow donated \$50 to purchase more items for the Gift Shop.
3. On November 30th, Ted Anderson donated coats and 10 blankets worth an estimated value of \$50.
4. On December 1st, Marcia Reynolds donated movies and clothing with an estimated value of \$200 in the memory of Douglas Koehler (Air Force).
5. On December 3rd, American Legion Auxiliary Oro Valley Unit 132 donated 12 issue subscription to National Geographic and 56 issue subscription to Sports Illustrated magazines. They also donated 36 copies of military newspapers by branch of service.
6. On December 3rd, Borderlands Food Bank "POW-WOW" for a check in the amount of \$74 for the month of November.
7. On December 8th, American Legion Auxiliary Unit 16 donated \$25 for the recreational fund.
8. On December 11th, Theresa Lee donated toiletries, hats, and scarves worth an estimated value of \$100.
9. On December 16th, Helen Anderson Glass, on behalf of ALA Unit 73, donated five cases of soda, 8 blankets, 1 bible, and Christmas cards valued at \$200.
10. On December 17th, Marcella Gill on behalf of Society of St. Vincent de Paul Saint-Jude Conference, from Pearce, Arizona donated 7 lap blankets valued at \$70.
11. On December 21st, American Legion Auxiliary Oro Valley #132 donated used books – 10 hardbacks and 17 paperbacks valued at \$37.
12. On December 21st, ALA Madera Unit #131 donated cookies, and Christmas cards with \$2 in each card, with a total value of \$241.98.
13. On December 24th, Marcia and Ron Boyd donated 34 crochet fleece blankets valued at \$680 in memory of Earl & Dell Clewley and Norman Boyd.

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 - Dates

- 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.

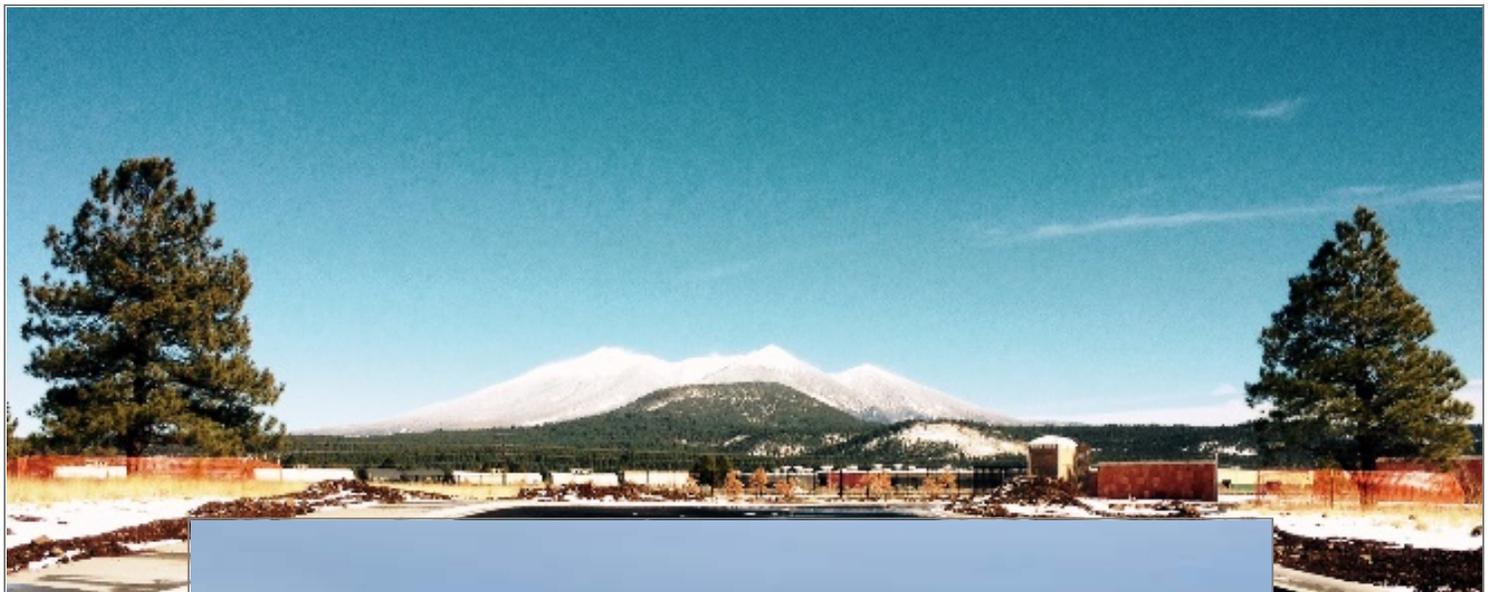
We're pleased to provide a few in-progress photos during wrap-up of the cemeteries' development. We offer these in lieu of your ability to visit the sites at this time. The construction sites are not yet complete, muddy conditions exist, and the access roads (the last parts to be completed!) are not yet ready for visitors. ***Please do not visit the sites until notified by ADVS that it is safe and appropriate to do so.***

AVMC - Marana





AVMC Camp Navajo





December Review

December 12th we had our annual Wreaths Across America ceremony. Volunteers from boy and girl scouts, active duty military, veteran's organizations and families helped place more than 3,000 wreaths on veteran's gravesites.









ADVS Events

Wreaths Across America – December 12



ADVS Director Col. Wanda Wright and daughter Jordyn place a wreath on the grave of an Arizona veteran during the Wreaths Across America event at the Phoenix National Cemetery on Saturday, December 12, 2015.



Pearl Harbor Day – December 7



WWII C-47 flyover during Pearl Harbor Day observance

