



May 2012 Newsletter

Notes from Gene

The end of June will conclude the Territorial Chapter's year for the purpose of documenting our activities with AUSA HQs in Arlington, VA. Here are a few of our accomplishments: Once again we have reached out to our clients in meaningful ways, raising nearly \$20,000 to support all components of the military, plus retirees, veterans, ROTC cadets and families. In February, Chapter members worked on the Veterans' Stand Down which provided assistance to 1,293 homeless veterans. We are currently participating in the annual ROTC and JROTC awards programs. AUSA provides medals for outstanding cadets and presents them to recipients at 22 schools' awards ceremonies. The Chapter has nominated two outstanding Arizona military families as candidates for selection of the AUSA Volunteer Family of the Year. Winners will be announced at the AUSA Annual Meeting in Wash., D.C. in October. Finally, more than 200 JROTC cadets were hosted by the Chapter at our annual Armed Forces Career Officers Day to explore career opportunities from 20 universities and academies that confer commissions in all branches of the Service.

Concurrently, AUSA, in conjunction with other veterans and service organizations, is fighting a critical battle on Capitol Hill to prevent enactment of proposals that break faith with Service Members by significantly raising fees for health care and prescription drugs and reducing earned benefits for future retirees and pay raises for active forces. Other proposals would cut defense budgets by nearly a trillion dollars over ten years, bringing the military back to pre-WWII levels of readiness by some estimates. What can we do to prevent this from happening? First and foremost, maintain your membership in AUSA. When GEN Sullivan "goes to the Hill" to testify, he represents the strength of the organization that's standing behind him. Therefore, he can better serve the Army if AUSA memberships are robust. Secondly, all AUSA communications, i.e., magazines and newsletters, afford members opportunities to correspond with our political leaders to express our concerns. Please use either pre-printed letters or edit them with your own words. If a Congressman gets 20,000 letters, it will influence his support of an issue. I hope to see you all on 10 June at our celebration of the Army's 237th Birthday. We have a great program commemorating Arizona soldiers in the Civil War. The flier and information are attached. See you then.

Visit our web site to sign up for the Army Birthday luncheon.

<http://www3.ausa.org/chapweb/atc/index.html> and click on "EVENTS".

7th Region Conference

The 7th Region, which includes 13 Chapters in So. California, Utah, Colorado, Wyoming, New Mexico and Arizona, held its Annual Meeting in Salt Lake City from 26 – 28 April. Highlights of the meeting included a daylong tour of Dugway Proving Ground, a Mormon Tabernacle Choir

rehearsal, several guest speaker presentations, much good food, awards and an election. With regard to the latter, Ray Boucher received the Soaring Eagle Award at the Saturday banquet. Soaring Eagle is the highest 7th Region recognition and was awarded to Ray for his many years of superior service to AUSA and the AZ Territorial Chapter. Rance Farrell was unanimously elected to the office of 7th Region President, succeeding Dave Booze whose term of office officially expires in June. Rance has already made some appointments, to include designation of former Chapter President Vic Conner to the position of AUSA Arizona State President.

COL (Ret) Jim Morris Honored

Longtime member of the AZ Territorial Chapter and Board of Directors, Jim Morris will be inducted as a Fellow Distinguished Member of the 1st Special Forces Regiment at a ceremony on June 16th at the Special Forces Association Convention in Fayetteville, NC. This constitutes induction into the Regiment's Hall of Fame. During his 39 year career, he made significant contributions to the Regiment's success on the battlefield and as a trainer of new members assigned to the unit. He is a former Commander of the Special Forces School at Ft. Bragg, NC and was Commander, Special Operations Command, United States European Command, Stuttgart, Germany. COL Morris is best known for his service during the Vietnam War, specifically, for his leadership in the daring Son Tay Raid in North Vietnam to free POWs held at that camp. Since activation of the U.S. Army Special Forces in 1952, only 145 officers and NCOs have been selected for induction into the Regiment's Hall of Fame.

AUSA Golf Tournament

The annual Task Force Smith Golf Tournament held on April 6th at Falcon Dunes Golf Course produced a net income of \$11,600.00 (after expenses) from 118 entries and donations. Expenses associated with the tournament came to \$8,000.00. Although considered a successful event, the money raised was less than last year. We wish to thank all of those who assisted with the tournament, including the 17 cadets from Grand Canyon and ASU University, and our Corporate sponsors who supported us with golf fees, Signs, the raffle and ancillary sales.

Where Does Your Money Go?

So far this year, over \$2,500 dollars has been distributed to the following agencies/organizations:

- Army National Guard Emergency Family Relief Fund
- Institute of Land Warfare (ILW)
- National Memorial Cemetery Memorial Day
- Tumbleweed Youth Development Center
- Arizona Standdown for Homeless Veterans
- Madison Street Veterans Association
- United States Veterans Initiatives (US Vets)
- JROTC Medal Awards to students at 22 High Schools throughout Arizona

Although we have been able to contribute to our ROTC cadets, Active, Reserve and National Guard soldiers and their families, there is still more we need to do. We need your support to

continue supporting us through donations and attending our events. You can always donate at any time through our website: <http://www3.ausa.org/chapweb/atc/index.html>

Upcoming Events

Army Birthday/Flag Day Luncheon, 10 June 2012

The celebration of the United States Army's 237th birthday will be held on 10 June at McCormick Ranch. Our guest speaker will be a Picacho Peak Park Ranger discussing the 150th anniversary of the battle of Picacho Pass.

Armed Forces Career Officers' Day Luncheon, 20 November 2012

We were excited about last year's event, which was the biggest and best ever. This year our challenge will be to get even more schools involved and an even bigger turnout. This means we will need even more sponsors! The event will be held once again at McCormick Ranch on the Tuesday before Thanksgiving.

Other Events:

The Arizona Territorial Chapter will participate in the Memorial Day Ceremony at the National Memorial Cemetery of Arizona on 28 May. Members of our chapter will lay a wreath. Attendees should be at the NMCA by 0715 hours.

Statewide Symposium in Support of Service Members, Veterans & Their Families will be held on June 13 & 14 at Desert Willow Conference Center in Phoenix. Additional information is available on the web site: <http://arizonacoalition.org/events/symposium>

The 18th Annual Vietnam Remembrance Day Ceremonies will take place starting at 8:30 a.m. April 29 at the Viet Nam Memorial at Wesley Bolin Plaza across from the Old State House on Washington and Jefferson Streets in Phoenix. The Keynote speaker will be Col Joey Strickland, a Vietnam veteran who served two tours in Vietnam. In conjunction with the Vietnamese community there will be the massing of the colors and flag raising of the U.S. and Vietnamese Flags, displays of historical vehicles, and military memorabilia.