



ARIZONA TERRITORIAL CHAPTER

Charter Granted 17 July 1967

March 2011 NEWSLETTER

Notes from Rance

First let me say thank you to all who participated in our awards luncheon on 13 February. It was successful beyond our expectations. The guest speaker, General (Ret) Gordon Sullivan, current President of AUSA, described our chapter as world class. We would not have earned those comments without the hard work of many of our board members, their wives and other volunteers. We also wish to thank April Manchester who sang the National Anthem and "God Bless the USA." In addition, we thank all of our sponsors who support us and make it possible for us to have such wonderful events.

Recent Events

Awards Luncheon

The Arizona Territorial Chapter hosted its annual awards luncheon on February 13th at McCormick Ranch in Scottsdale, AZ. Former Chief of Staff of the US Army and current President of AUSA, Gen (Ret) Gordon R. Sullivan was guest speaker and presented awards to the top soldiers from the Phoenix Recruiting Bn, the AZARNG and the USAR 301ST MI BN. We also presented awards to the top cadets from the ROTC programs at ASU, NAU and ERAU. A complete list of all awardees is on our Chapter Website - see below. In a special ceremony GEN Sullivan presented long overdue medals to CWO Luis Molinar, a Vietnam War era pilot whose "Ghost Squadron" comrades came from across the country to see him honored. Thus we recognized soldiers from the past, present and our future leaders as embodied by the Recruiters and the ROTC cadets.

Over 250 people attended this great event, including not only AUSA members, awardees, their commanders and families, but many Veteran Service Organizations such as the local chapters of MOAA, MOWW, Korean War Veterans and Vietnam Veterans Associations. Special guests included COL Joey Strickland, Director of Veterans' Services for AZ; Wendy Hepker, Director of VA in Prescott where CWO Molinar was first identified; Dr Randy Groth, Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army for Arizona; COL Jeff Tipton, AZARNG G-3 and President of NGA AZ; and Dave Booze, AUSA 7th Region President. In his very moving and compelling remarks, GEN Sullivan recognized all these attendees from so many different sources and services, including from the USAF, USN, USMC, USCG and regular civilians who wanted to honor our soldiers. He described this group as "the Essence of America" and said it was what made our country great. He concluded by saying how proud he was to be there and complimented our Chapter for putting on such a great event, calling us "a world-class Chapter."

The final awards of the day were presented to CW2 Luis Molinar, of A Company, 158th Aviation Battalion (Air Assault), 101st Airborne Division for service in the Republic of Viet Nam during the spring and summer of 1969. For his heroic actions during this period

in repeatedly flying into hot LZs while rescuing wounded soldiers and resupplying ground troops he was awarded the Silver Star for Valor, the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Air Medal with "V" and the Purple Heart with OLC. Due to his extensive hospitalizations and movements these medals were never presented to him while he served. We were honored to have General Sullivan present these awards to CW2 Molinar at this luncheon. All it was an outstanding day for our soldiers and vets and well appreciated by all who attended. Names and pictures of awardees are on the Chapter web site at: <http://www3.ausa.org/chapweb/atc/index.html>

Upcoming Events

Task Force Smith Golf Tournament

Our annual Task Force Smith Golf Tournament at Luke AFB Falcon Dunes GC is scheduled for Friday, April 15. The registration form is part of this newsletter. We anticipate a sellout of 144 participants. **If you want to play - don't delay - register today!!!** This is our major fund raiser which allows us to support our during the year activities, such as the award ceremony described above.

Army Birthday/Flag Day Luncheon

This event will be held on 12 June at McCormick Ranch. More info on it later. Mark your calendar.

Armed Forces Career Officers' Day Luncheon, 22 November 2011

We are so excited about last year's event, which was the biggest and best ever and we are already planning for this year's event. The challenge will be to get even more schools involved and an even bigger turnout. This means we will need even more sponsors!

Other Events

MILITARY APPRECIATION DAY

Hosted by Wish for Our Heroes and Toby Keith's "I Love This Bar & Grill"

The event is from 2:00 PM until 9:00 PM on Sunday, March 13, 2011. The event is being held at the Toby Keith's restaurant location in the Mesa Arizona Riverview Mall at 1061 North Dobson Road and the Loop 202, Red Mountain Freeway.

Veterans Honoring Arizona Medal of Honor Recipients

A group of mostly Vietnam Veterans has come together to honor 27 Congressional Medal of Honor (CMOH) recipients with Arizona ties. This very special group of 27 heroes include those CMOH recipients who were born in Arizona, went into service from Arizona or lived in Arizona after their military service. Of the twenty-seven, four are living and are expected to attend the event which will be held on Saturday March 19, 2011 at the Silvestre S. Herrera School of Fine Arts and Dual Language Center located at 1350 South 11th Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85034. The event will begin-with reception at 11:00 A.M. with lunch served at noon. Presentation program will commence at 1:00 P.M. Contact is Mary Lou Phillips 623-486-6678. Tickets are \$30 each or 2 for \$50.