



"THE TRAIL BLAZER NEWS"

The Military Order of the World Wars -- MOWW
Colonel Billie L. Stephens Apache Trail Chapter 207
Serving Youth, Community and Nation for 32 Years
<https://www.facebook.com/apachetrails/>

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Commander's Corner

Thanks to LTC Stolze for introducing the chapter's **9th Most Outstanding Cadet AFJROTC Dylan Caldwell 2021**, during our 22 May 2021 chapter ZOOM meeting. C/Lt Col Caldwell's insightful contributions during our last meeting of the Spring season are on Page 5 this issue.

Congratulations to Chapter Chaplain, Mr. Robert Freed, for receiving his diploma from the International Baptist College and Seminary during 2020. He completed his 2-year program in 2019 but due to COVID-19, received his diploma at an In-Person ceremony in May 2021. Bob said he has been working in nursing homes during the past two years spreading the gospel, and they have lost residents to COVID-19. He stated the work is humbling, but he enjoys it very much.

An **Outstanding Service Award Certificate** was mailed to MSgt Jeanne M. Erickson for her **Copper Hills Women's Group** initiative collecting over 20 boxes of items in support of the **Veterans First Ltd Native American Veteran Women, Chinle, AZ**. A **Certificate of Appreciation** on behalf of the chapter, was mailed to MSgt Erickson to present to this Women's Group, Thanking them for their supporting our chapters Veterans First initiative.

Thanks to LTC David Lynch, Chapter Treasurer, for sharing his personal story about his 24- year-old uncle whose remains are considered in "active pursuit." His uncle served in WWII. His aircraft mission was to disrupt Mussolini's planes and destroy his airbases. They destroyed all but three being downed on a mission in June 1944. His plane was ditched 50 miles off the coast of Sicily, a crew of seven is known to have exited the aircraft. His uncle is one of seven crew that is considered under "active pursuit" having a DNA match discovered with Dave in 2019.



Thanks to MSgt Mark Caldwell, Air Science Instructor, C/Lt Col Dylan Caldwell's father, who joined the meeting via ZOOM. He echoed C/Lt Col Caldwell's Thanks to the chapter and said he "would like to take credit of Dylan," but stated "he is just a good kid & works hard."



- ◆ **Silver PH Awards-**
Marcos de Niza HS
- ◆ **22 May 2021**
ZOOM Chapter
Meeting—Recap
- ◆ **Thank You to**
Copper Hills
Church Women's
Group
- ◆ **Memorial Day @**
Salt River
- ◆ **COVID Risks**
- ◆ **Upcoming Events**

ROTC/JROTC Program

Congratulations!

ROTC/JROTC Program Chair
Lew White received a Thank You
postcard from
Marine Corps Cadet Alexis Alvarez,
Casa Grande High School:

“It means so much to receive this
award. I was speechless and honored.
The smile never fails to reach my face
when I see the award.
Thank you so much!”



“Beagle Scout” Humor



Marcos de Niza High School Padres Earn the Silver Patrick Henry Award

By LTC (Ret) Patrick Stolze, USA

On May 5, 2021, two educators received the Silver Patrick Henry Award.



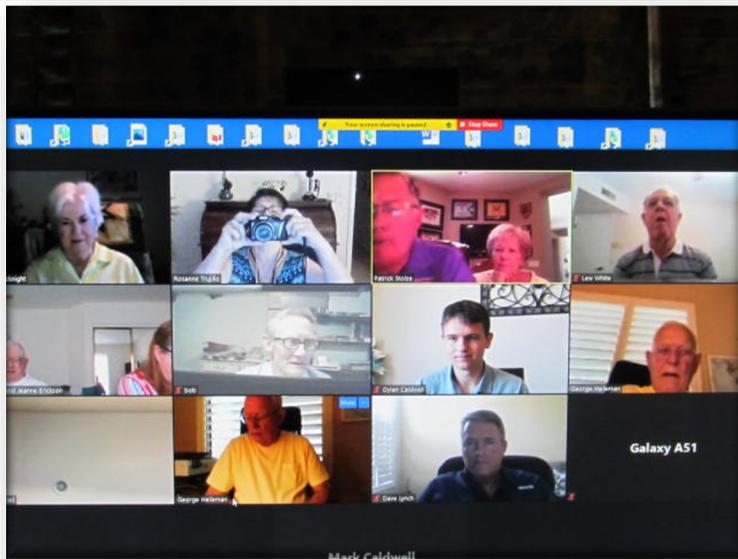
LTC (Ret) Patrick Stolze presenting the S-PHA to Assistant Principal Brian Fleming.

Chapter Past Commander and current Region XIII Commander, LTC (Ret) Patrick Stolze presented **Assistant Principal Brian Fleming** a Silver Patrick Henry Award plaque and Certificate for his administrative and technical support to eight straight annual MOWW Massing of the Colors ceremonies conducted jointly between the COL Billie L. Stephens-Apache Trail Chapter and the Marcos de Niza High School JROTC program in Tempe, AZ. Mr. Fleming was present during the rehearsal the day prior as well as early in advance on the actual ceremony days to ensure all electronics worked perfectly.

At the same Teacher Appreciation Week luncheon on the Marcos de Niza High School campus, LTC (Ret) Stolze presented **Senior Army Instructor, MAJ (Ret) Robert Fore**, his Silver Patrick Henry Award plaque and Certificate for his co-sponsoring five consecutive Massing of the Colors ceremonies. MAJ Fore performed the Master of Ceremonies duties as well. This presentation was presented a year late due to the restrictions of COVID-19, but we finally figured out a day to present both awards so all Administrative, teacher, and Staff peers could witness their contributions to these Patriotic Education activities.

LTC (Ret) Patrick Stolze presenting the S-PHA to MAJ (Ret) Robert Fore.





Patriotic Education & Veteran Outreach Programs

22 May 2021 Chapter ZOOM Monthly Meeting

Recap

Guest Speaker

ADVS Deputy Director
John Scott

Deputy Director Scott presented an ADVS Agency Overview for 13 chapter members in attendance. He stated though COVID-19 closed down or moved a majority of services to virtual, this was not unusual for Arizona rural communities. Recent successes are the increase in **Veteran's Benefits Counselors** to 30 with a potential increase of 6 more. The result last month alone, \$58M in veteran entitlements through claims realized by veterans in rural communities.

The **Family Relief Fund** is now open to pre-911 veterans. If any chapter members know of eligible veterans, he encouraged us to notify them. He said this fund could help with individuals behind on their rent, difficulty finding work and funding is not restricted by era of service.

Deputy Director Scott said of 16 Zip Codes in AZ, 100% of the suicides were veterans. There have been 300 veteran suicides in the past year. Criteria identifying our vulnerable population includes: living in a rural area; access to firearms; history of depression & lack of social contacts. Deputy Director Scott emphasized, "we all have to care and reach out."

There are two new AZ State Veterans homes: Flagstaff and Yuma. He delineated admission requirements. Anyone needing specifics, please contact MAJ Trujillo for a copy of the Director's PP slides.

Guest Speaker

C/Lt Col Dylan Caldwell AFJROTC, Most Outstanding Cadet 2021

LTC Patrick C. Stolze, Most Outstanding Cadet Program Chair, introduced C/Lt Col Dylan Caldwell. Cadet Caldwell thanked chapter members for this award and inviting him to attend our ZOOM meeting. He also thanked his Senior Air Science Instructor Lt Col Brian Walker, for encouraging him to apply for this award. Cadet Caldwell stated everyone has a reason for joining, but his reason for staying in AFJROTC, was for the friendships & camaraderie he enjoys. He especially enjoys the leadership aspect and his experiences attending AZYLC in 2019, had a “deep impact on his high school experience.” Cadet Caldwell plans to join AFROTC in college.

MAJ Trujillo asked C/Lt Col Caldwell to shed light on his generation and their willingness , or not, to serve in their communities. Cadet Caldwell stated there is “less a call to action” by his generation, as was true of WWII veterans & baby boomers. He believes it is “the culture, where youth of my generation are more self-centered, less willing to help others.” He sees it as 50/50 with his generation volunteering for service in their communities.

C/Lt Col Caldwell stated Mesa HS rotated from remote, to hybrid, to all-In-Person back to hybrid teaching during 2020. He is normally a straight A student, and admitted he found it difficult to “stay motivated,” feeling, “isolated, lonely and it did take a mental toll.” The removal from socializing as part of student life during quarantine, was daunting for our youth.

Listen to C/Lt Col Dylan Caldwell’s message: [**Mesa AFJROTC - YouTube**](#)

MSgt Jeanne Erickson shared her **Copper Hills Women’s Group** donation efforts with members. See separate article with pictures on Page 6.

Lt Col Carol McKnight, UAV Director & Chapter Liaison, advised those veterans with 100% serviced connected disabilities , may now get a Free fishing license. Lt Col McKnight is helping MAJ Trujillo craft an email to Representatives Richard Andrade & Representative Walter Blackman in support of SB1331, Veteran Income Tax Exemption, on behalf of the chapter. **Thank You!**

Thanks to Copper Hills Church Women's Group supporting Veterans First for Native American Women Veterans

By MSgt Jeanne Erickson, Girl Scout Program Chair & Chapter Marshall

Each month the **Copper Hills Church Women's Group, Peoria, AZ**, selects a charity to support. I volunteered we support Veterans 1st. About 15 to 20 women contributed. This on-line connection Bible study group met March 24th through May 5, 2021. In addition to collecting the following items, I also did pick-ups from two women who were not participating in the effort, but are members of the group. Donation items from the Copper Hills Church Women, donated them on behalf of the COL Billie L. Stephens Apache Trail Chapter, to support the Veterans First initiative for Native American Women Veterans, Navajo Reservation, Chinle, AZ. Spearheaded through Veterans First, chapter members, COL Christine Mahon & COL Patricia Little Upah were the POC's. They provided a two-page list of needed items was provided for guidance.

Items included: 20 packed boxes of varying sizes, 5 each full rolling suitcases, 3 containers of children's toys & books, & several containers of toilet paper. Clothes for women (various sizes) & children, shoes for same, as well as health & hygiene items for all ages were included. This included household items: sheets, blankets, towels, & cleaning supplies.

A **Certificate of Appreciation** is to be presented on behalf of our chapter, to the Copper Hills Church Women's Group. We appreciate their time & effort on behalf of Native American Veterans struggling with COVID-19. The pandemic over the past year, has taken a significant toll on Native American families under quarantine in the state of Arizona, making it even more difficult for them to receive basic goods and services. Many residents live in vastly remote areas and are dependent on donations for our Arizona communities.
Thank You Copper Hills!





USS ARIZONA Memorial
Gardens at Salt River
7455 North Pima Road,
Scottsdale 85258

Memorial Day 31 May 2021/Monday



To give guests the opportunity to reflect and remember, the Relic Room at the USS Arizona Memorial Gardens will be open to the public on all major military holidays including **Memorial Day, Monday, May 31, 2021 from 10:00 a. m. – 4:00 p. m.**

Beginning at 9:45a. m., the Salt River American Legion Bushmasters Post 114 will be honoring the fallen with a brief ceremony including a 21 gun salute, laying of the wreath and playing of TAPS. We will also be distributing seed packets of poppies to the first 100 guests.



Risk Factors to Consider, Large Gatherings

Surgeon's Corner

“Several factors can contribute to the likelihood of attendees getting and spreading

COVID-19 at large events. In combination, the following factors will create higher or lower amounts of risk:

Number of COVID-19 cases in your community—High or increasing levels of COVID-19 cases in the event location or the locations the attendees are coming from increase the risk of infection and spread among attendees. Relevant data can often be found on the local **health department** website or on CDC's **COVID Data Tracker County View**.

- **Exposure during travel**—Airports, airplanes, bus stations, buses, train stations, trains, public transport, gas stations, and rest stops are all places where physical distancing may be challenging and ventilation may be poor.
- **Setting of the event**—Indoor events, especially in places with poor ventilation, pose more risk than outdoor events.

Length of the event—Events that last longer pose more risk than shorter events. Being within 6 feet of someone who has COVID-19 for a total of 15 minutes or more (over a 24-hour period) greatly increases the risk of becoming infected and requires **quarantine**.

Number and crowding of people at the event – Events with more people increase the likelihood of being exposed. The size of the event should be determined based on whether attendees from different households can stay at least **6 feet (2 arm lengths)** Physical distancing at events can reduce transmission risk—for example, blocking off seats or modifying room layouts.

Behavior of attendees during an event— Events where people engage in behaviors such as interacting with others from outside their own household, singing, shouting, not maintaining physical distancing, or not wearing masks consistently and correctly, can increase risk.

After reviewing this guidance, large event planners, operators, and administrators can use **CDC's Events and Gatherings Readiness and Planning Tool pdf icon** [360 KB, 10 pages] to determine their level of readiness to implement mitigation and safety measures. Organizers should continue to assess, based on current conditions, whether to postpone or cancel large events and gatherings, or significantly reduce the number of attendees for events. If organizers are unable to put safety measures in place during large events and gatherings, they may choose instead to host a virtual event.

Food Service

o Currently, there is no evidence to suggest that handling food or eating is associated with directly spreading COVID-19. However, people sharing utensils and congregating around food service areas can pose a risk. Limit food or beverage service in areas in which people are more likely to congregate as that may encourage unmasked interactions.

If the event includes food service, refer to CDC's COVID-19 considerations for **restaurants and bars**.

Continued Next Page

CDC Risk Factors to Consider, Large Gatherings Food Service—Continued

- o Use touchless payment options as much as possible, if available.
 - o Ask customers and staff to exchange cash or card payments by placing them on a receipt tray or on the counter rather than by hand to avoid direct hand-to-hand contact.
- Clean and disinfect** frequently touched surfaces such as pens, counters, or hard surfaces between use and encourage patrons to use their own pens.
- o Provide physical guides, such as tape on floors or sidewalks and signs on walls, to ensure that people remain at least 6 feet apart when waiting in line to order or pick up.
 - o If a cafeteria or group dining room is used, serve individually plated meals or grab-and-go options, and hold activities in separate areas.
 - o Use disposable food service items including utensils and dishes. If disposable items are not feasible or desirable, ensure that all non-disposable food service items are handled with gloves and washed with dish soap and hot water or in a dishwasher.
- People should **wash their hands** with soap and water for at least 20 seconds after removing their gloves or after directly handling used food service items.

Avoid offering any self-serve food or drink options, such as buffets, salad bars, and drink stations. Consider having pre-packaged boxes or bags for each attendee.”

Considerations for Events and Gatherings | CDC

This underlined item is a hotlink. Click it to read more.



Apache Trail Chapter 207

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MOWW-Dept. of AZ
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Facebook page
<https://www.facebook.com/apachetrails/>
www.moww.org



- ♦ **3 September 2021/Friday, In-Person** Staff Meeting @ **11:00 a.m.**, Goody’s Café, 1862 West Baseline Road Mesa, AZ.
- ♦ **18 June 2021/Friday, AVHOF Patriotic Awards Luncheon.** Register: **2021 Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame Patriotic Awards Luncheon Tickets, Fri, Jun 18, 2021 at 11:00 AM | Eventbrite**
- ♦ **19 June 2021/Saturday:** ZOOM Region XIII & Dept. of AZ Multi-Business Meeting hosted by Commander LTC Patrick C. Stolze.