

IN FLANDERS FIELDS

In Flanders fields, the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly,
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.



NATIONAL MEMORIAL CEMETERY OF ARIZONA MEMORIAL DAY

May 29, 2023 | 8 AM

NATIONAL MEMORIAL CEMETERY OF ARIZONA HISTORY

In 1926, Mr. Ivan Williams a long-time member of the American Legion contacted U.S. Senator Henry F. Ashurst about another National Veterans' Cemetery in Arizona. In the following years hundreds of veterans joined in the effort to accomplish this task, but their efforts were in vain due to the fact that the National Cemetery in Prescott was still open for burials.

In 1970 Department Commanders of the three major Veterans Service Organizations, with the full support of their predecessors and membership, pledged to establish a State Veterans Cemetery to become a National Cemetery.

A corporation was formed to acquire land for this purpose. Phoenix attorney Anthony O. Jones was named the corporation attorney responsible for drafting the petition and guiding it through proper channels. Land Commissioner Andrew L. Bettwy diligently worked with the corporate leaders. A section of land was eventually located in Phoenix at Cave Creek and Pinnacle Peak Roads, deemed acceptable on a lease fee basis.

The commanders presented the information to their organizations. They requested approval for an obligation of the organizations to pay lease fees on the full section of land while seeking a governing authority.

A State Law was passed in 1976 and signed by Governor Raul Castro authorizing the development of up to six hundred forty acres for a Veterans Cemetery with \$50,000 appropriated. Seventeen acres of the leased land were conveyed to the Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES), with twelve and a half acres to be developed initially.

The Arizona Veterans' Memorial Cemetery was dedicated on December 9, 1978, with the first burials occurring on March 14, 1979. A total of \$291,700 was received from the U. S. Veterans' Administration Federal-State Matching Funds Grant Program for construction improvements. The State Legislature created the Arizona Veterans' Service Commission

(AVSC) in 1982, and the cemetery operation was transferred to AVSC from DES.

In 1985, an additional two hundred twelve acres were conveyed to the AVSC, bringing the cemetery acreage to 225 acres. In 1988 the legislature appropriated \$300,000 for capital improvements, and additional modifications were authorized and completed through donated funds from veterans, fraternal, and other service organizations.

The cemetery with burial space available for 200,000 graves was transferred to the Veterans Cemetery Administration on April 1, 1989. The three Department Commanders were: Disabled American Veterans Commander George E. Egel, Veterans of Foreign Wars Commander Charles "Chuck" G. Hastings, and American Legion Commander James J. Murphy.

The National Memorial Cemetery of Arizona will not reach capacity until well after the year 2030. The Department of Veterans Affairs spent over \$13 million on improvements in 1999. The project included three new committal shelters, a maintenance building, a visitor center, a founders plaza, an assembly area, columbaria, and extensive landscaping.

Monuments and Memorials

As of 2003, there were 18 monuments and memorials at the National Memorial Cemetery of Arizona, most arranged along a memorial walkway. Two unique memorials at the cemetery are the Eternal Flame monument, which is pyramidal in shape, and the World War II Submarine Torpedo monument.





Bradley Phillips

NCA – Pacific District, Executive Director Bradley Phillips

Bradley Phillips is the Executive Director for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) National Cemetery Administration-Pacific District in Oakland. He oversees 13 national and 14 satellite cemeteries to ensure dignified burial services for military veterans and eligible family members. Before his appointment, Phillips served as Assistant Director at the Veteran Benefits Administration's Winston-Salem Regional Office.

Phillips enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1976 as a Radio Operator in the 82nd Airborne Division. He attended college, graduated in 1984, and returned to active duty. He was commissioned as an infantry officer in 1989 and was assigned to the Military Intelligence Corps. His essential functions included Company Commander, Battalion Operations Officer, and Battalion Executive Officer. He also served with NATO with deployments to Bosnia and Kosovo.

He retired from the U.S. Army in 2001 with 20 years of service.



Randy Heard

National Memorial Cemetery of Arizona, Director Randy Heard

Randy Heard was named Director of the National Memorial Cemetery of Arizona (NMCA) in Phoenix, Arizona, effective February 28, 2021. As Director, he is responsible for the oversight of all burial, maintenance, and administrative operations at the cemetery. Mr. Heard is also the Director overseeing Prescott National Cemetery operations in Prescott, Arizona.

Before his leadership in Arizona, Heard was the Director of Bakersfield National Cemetery in Arvin, California. He began his career with the National Cemetery Administration (NCA) in February 2009 at Riverside National Cemetery as a Cemetery Caretaker. He was promoted to Cemetery Caretaker Leader in May 2010 and again to Cemetery Caretaker Supervisor in September 2010.

Before joining NCA, Heard retired after serving more than 20 years in the United States Navy. He is a member of Operations Desert Shield, Desert Storm, Enduring Freedom, and Iraqi Freedom. In the Navy, he served as an Aircraft Director/Aircraft Handler, Aircraft Rescue, Firefighting and Salvage Specialist, and Law Enforcement Specialist. He won the Air Department Senior Sailor of the Year aboard the Aircraft Carrier USS Nimitz (CVN68).



Katie Hobbs

Governor Katie Hobbs

Governor Katie Hobbs was elected on November 15, 2022, as Arizona's 24th governor. Before she became an elected official, she served as a social worker running a domestic violence shelter. In this role, she saw firsthand the price Arizonans pay when their elected leaders fail to address the problems people face daily. Frustrated with the lack of leadership, Governor Hobbs decided to run for office as an elected official. She used her experience as a social worker to take on Arizona's toughest challenges.

She worked with both parties in the legislature to expand health care to over 500,000 Arizonans. She worked across the aisle to find new ways to tackle the growing opioid epidemic.

When Governor Hobbs became Secretary of State in 2018, she modernized the office, fixed broken systems, battled misinformation, and navigated the pandemic.

She went through college at Northern Arizona University and graduated from Arizona State University with a master's degree in Social Work. She is a mother to Sam and Hanna and is a native Arizonan, born in Tempe.





**Kerry L.
Muehlenbeck**

Major General Kerry L. Muehlenbeck

Major General Kerry L. Muehlenbeck is the Adjutant General of Arizona and Director of the Arizona Department of Emergency and Military Affairs, responsible for managing the day-to-day activities of Arizona's Army and Air National Guard, Joint Programs, and the Division of Emergency Management. She leads an 8,300-member department, of which 2,400 are fulltime federal military and civilian personnel, and 600 are fulltime state employees. She entered the active duty Air Force as an attorney in the Judge Advocate General Corps in 1992 and has served in various legal and command roles in the Arizona Air National Guard since 1997.

General Muehlenbeck also has a distinguished civilian career as an attorney and an educator, having served as an Assistant Prosecutor in Saginaw County, a Deputy County Attorney at the Pima County Attorney's Office, an Associate Professor at Arizona State University, and fulltime residential faculty at Mesa Community College where she most recently served as the Department Chair for the Administration of Justice Studies Department. General Muehlenbeck earned a B.S. in Education and Social Policy from Northwestern University, a J.D. from Indiana School of Law, an LL.M. in Criminal Law from the University of San Diego School of Law, and a Ph.D. in Justice Studies from Arizona State University. Her military education includes Squadron Officer School, Air Command and Staff College, and Air War College.



R. J. Mitchell

Keynote Speaker, Sergeant R. J. Mitchell

Sergeant R. J. Mitchell enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps and served three deployments as a combat veteran. During his service, he earned one of our nation's highest honors, the Navy Cross, during a significant battle in Iraq.

While on deployment as a Corporal (Cpl.) to Iraq, on November 9, 2004, his unit entered the insurgent-held city of Fallujah, Iraq, as part of Operation Phantom Fury. On November 12, the fourth day of fighting, Cpl. Mitchell was shot in the right triceps' earning him his second Purple Heart. He refused to leave his unit, and on the very next day, heavy fighting continued. Cpl. Mitchell and his unit were engaged in what is now known as the battle of "Hell House." During the fight, he was wounded again by a grenade blast while trying to reach the critically injured and trapped Marines in the area. Disregarding his own injuries Cpl. Mitchell continued with the fight and helped rescue his men. In January 2005, Mitchell was again meritoriously promoted to Sergeant for the second time during combat.

Sgt. Mitchell left active duty on March 12, 2005. He and his wife Sara moved to Phoenix, Arizona. He later attended Arizona State University, graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering and beginning his career at Arizona Public Service. Sgt. Mitchell's Awards include the Navy Cross, the Purple Heart with two gold stars, the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, Combat Action Ribbon, and Good Conduct Medal.





Rick Romley

Master of Ceremonies: Veteran’s Court Judge, Rick Romley

Rick Romley served four elected terms as the Maricopa County Attorney [1989-2004] and was appointed interim Maricopa County Attorney in 2010. He has testified before the United States Senate and the United States House of Representatives on the issues of violent crime, terrorism, drug trafficking, youth violence, public corruption, and victims’ rights. During his stellar career as County Attorney, he earned over 100 awards.

After leaving political office, Romley started his own firm. His clientele included former Secretary for Veterans Affairs, James Nicholson, who asked Romley to come to Washington D.C. as Senior Advisor to oversee the data loss of personal information for over twenty-six million veterans and to enhance the VA’s security protocols and infrastructure.

Romley joined the United States Marine Corps as a combat infantry squad leader in Vietnam until wounded in 1969. He received numerous commendations, including the Purple Heart. In 2001, Romley received two additional National Awards for his service in defense of our country: Life’s Presidential Unsung Hero Award and America’s Outstanding Disabled American Veteran of the Year.

Romley was inducted into the Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame in 2007. Romley and his wife, Carol, live in Scottsdale, Arizona.

The committee wishes to thank AZTV7 and its partners for live broadcasting the Memorial Day Ceremony.



A/C • Plumbing • Electrical



NATIONAL MEMORIAL CEMETERY OF ARIZONA MEMORIAL DAY PROGRAM

“GOD BLESS AMERICA”

CW3 Steve Brining
108th Army National Guard Band

FLY OVER

Kurt Gearhart and the Phoenix Stearman Group

MASTER OF CEREMONIES WELCOME & INTRODUCTION OF DISTINGUISHED GUESTS

Rick Romley – U.S. Marine Corps Veteran –
Vietnam War

PRESENTATION & PARADE OF COLORS

161st Air Refueling Wing Color Guard
Armed Forces Color Guards
Veteran Service Organizations
Community Groups

“THE NATIONAL ANTHEM”

CW3 Steve Brining
108th Army National Guard Band

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Veteran’s Heritage Project Students

INVOCATION

Chaplain John Low
Scottish American Military Society Post 48

DIRECTOR’S GREETING

Randy Heard, Director
National Memorial Cemetery of Arizona

NCA – PACIFIC DISTRICT, REMARKS

Bradley Phillips, Executive Director
National Memorial Cemetery Administration

“GOD BLESS THE USA”

Performed by 108th Army National Guard Band

PLACING OF THE WREATHS

Veteran Service Organizations
Community Groups

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Sgt. RJ Mitchell, U.S. Marine Corps Veteran,
Operation Iraqi Freedom

PRISONER OF WAR/MISSING IN ACTION REMEMBRANCE TABLE CEREMONY

Tammy Pulaski
Arizona American Gold Star Mothers of Arizona
Theresa Koontz
Blue Star Moms of the Southwest Valley

INTRODUCTION OF THE GOVERNOR

Major General Kerry L. Muehlenbeck

READING AND PRESENTATION OF THE PROCLAMATION

Governor Katie Hobbs

ARMED FORCES MEDLEY

108th Army National Guard Band

BENEDICTION

Chaplain John Low
Scottish American Military Society Post 48

RIFLE VOLLEY

AZ Army National Guard Military Funeral Team

TAPS

108th Army National Guard Band

“STARS & STRIPES”

108th Army National Guard Band

*Our thoughts and prayers are also with the families of
the men and women who served or are serving in our
armed forces.*



★ ★ ★ ★ ★
THE U.S. ARMY SONG

Over hill, over dale, we have hit the dusty trail
 And the Army goes rolling along.
 In and out, hear them shout
 Counter march and right about
 And the Army goes rolling along.
 Then it's Hi! Hi! Hey! The Army's on the way
 Sound off your numbers loud and strong.
 For where e'er you go, you will always know
 That the Army goes rolling along.



★ ★ ★ ★ ★
THE AIR FORCE HYMN

Off we go into the wild blue yonder
 Climbing high into the sun;
 Here they come,
 Zooming to meet our thunder
 At 'em boys, give 'er the gun.
 Down we dive,
 Spouting our flame from under
 Off with one hell of a roar!
 We live in fame, or go down in flame,
 Hey! Nothing can stop the U.S. Air Force



★ ★ ★ ★ ★
THE U.S. MARINE CORPS' HYMN

From the halls of Montezuma
 To the shores of Tripoli
 We fight our country's battles,
 In the air, on land, and at sea;
 First to fight for rights and freedom
 And to keep our honor clean
 We are proud to claim the title
 of United States Marine.



★ ★ ★ ★ ★
**HEAVE HO! MY LADS, HEAVE HO!
 MERCHANT MARINES**

Heave Ho! My lads, heave ho!
 It's a long, long way to go,
 It's a long, long pull with our hatches full
 Braving the wind, braving the sea,
 Fighting the treacherous foe,
 Heave Ho! My lads, heave ho!
 Let the sea roll high or low,
 We can cross any ocean
 Sail any river, give us the goods, and we'll deliver
 Damn the submarine! We're the men of
 The Merchant Marine!



★ ★ ★ ★ ★
ANCHORS AWEIGH, U.S. NAVY

Anchors Aweigh my boys,
 Anchors Away
 Farewell to college joys,
 We sail at break of day ay, ay, ay!
 Through our last night on shore,
 Drink through the foam,
 Until we meet once more
 Here's wishing you a happy voyage home.



★ ★ ★ ★ ★
**SEMPER SUPRA, SPACE FORCE HYMN
 (ALWAYS ABOVE)**

We're the mighty watchful eye,
 Guardians beyond the blue,
 The invisible front line,
 Warfighters brave and true.
 Boldly reaching into space, there's no limit to our sky.
 Standing guard both night and day,
 We're the Space Force from on high.



★ ★ ★ ★ ★
SEMPER PARATUS, COAST GUARD

(Always Ready)
 We're always ready for the call,
 We place our trust in thee.
 Through howling gale and shot and shell,
 To win our victory. "Semper Paratus" is our guide,
 Our pledge, our motto too,
 We're "Always Ready" do or die! HEY!
 Coast Guard we fight for you!



*This activity supports the U.S. military and its veterans;
 however, it is not officially connected to or endorsed by
 the U.S. Department of Defense or any of its branches.*



The Memorial Day Committee wishes to recognize the following:

MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENTS from the State of Arizona

- William Alchesay, Indian Wars*
- Oscar Austin, Vietnam War*
- Nicky Bacon, Vietnam War*
- William Croft Barnes, Indian Wars*
- Blanquet, Indian War*
- Benjamin Brown, Buffalo Soldier*
- Trustrim Connell, Civil War*
- Bruce Crandall, Vietnam War
- Chiquito, Indian Wars*
- Kern Dunagan, Vietnam War*
- Elsatsoosh, Indian Wars*
- Fred Ferguson, Vietnam War
- Joe Foss, World War II*
- Raymond Harvey, Korean War*
- Silvestre Herrera, World War II*
- Bernard John Dowling Irwin, Indian Wars*
- Jim, Indian Wars*
- Jose Jimenez, Vietnam War*
- Kelsa, Indian Wars*
- Kosoha, Indian Wars*
- Billy Lauffer, Vietnam War*
- Frank Luke, Jr, World War II*
- Machol, Indian Wars*
- Isaiah Mays, Indian Wars*
- William McBryar, Indian Wars*
- Manuel V. Mendoza, World War II
- Nannasaddie, Indian Wars*
- Nantaje (Nantahe), Indian Wars*
- John Pruitt, World War I*
- Rowdy, Indian Wars*
- Robert S. Scott, Indian Wars*
- Cornelius Smith, Indian Wars*
- Simon Suhler, Indian Wars*
- Max Thompson, World War II*
- Leo Thorsness, Vietnam War*
- Jay Vargas, Vietnam War
- Leonard Wood, Indian Wars*

*Indicates deceased

Special acknowledgment is given to the National Memorial Cemetery of Arizona staff

- Randy Heard – Director
- Anthony Sessions – Assistant Director
- Christopher S. Anderson
- Leilani Ballard
- Paul Blomkvist
- Jaime Carvajal
- James Carter
- Lee M. Casaneda
- Michael J. Castillo
- Tyler Colly
- Marco A. Cortez
- Tammy Diaz
- Ronald Gallagher
- Adrian Garcia
- Charles Hayes.
- Charles W. Holden II
- Daniel J. Humbles
- Robert Jones
- Ricky Jones
- Benjamin E. Kelstrup
- Christopher Linz
- John McAvey III
- Heather Miller-Reynolds
- John Moore
- Valyrie Murray
- Matthew Nelson
- Jerald T. Nowdomski
- Ryan O'Donnell
- Randall S. Petersen
- Michael A. Reavis
- Eric V. Russell
- Arthur L. Schofield
- Cecelio Suguitan
- Tanya Tow
- Christopher White
- Scott Worden
- Gregory A. Yazzie

Sincere appreciation to the following Honor Guards and Ritual Teams that ensure our veterans receive those honors so richly earned:

- Luke Air Force Base Honor Guard
- Marine Corps Honor Guard
- American Legion Ritual Team
- Arizona Army National Guard Honor Guard
- Naval Reserve Honor Guard, and the National Memorial Cemetery Ladies

Special acknowledgment to the following sponsors:

- American Medical Response Ambulance Service
- Benevolent Protective Order of the Elks, State of AZ
- Disabled American Veteran's Auxiliary, Unit 20
- Honoring America's Veterans
- Illustrated Graphics
- Maricopa County Sheriff's Office
- Military Family Support
- Reddy Ice
- Wells Fargo Bank – Volunteer Committee

The committee wishes to thank these special volunteers:

- 161st ARW Color Guard
- General Assistance, Henry Brown, Mike Clemenson, Mary Roberts and Tom Solnit
- Cy and Jackie Bassett
- Nikki Colletti
- John Jackson
- Brenda Johnson
- Pat Kelly
- Ward Triplett
- Mary Williams
- Reggie Yates

National Memorial Cemetery Support Committee of Arizona:

- Mel Brody
- Sue Collier
- Randy Heard
- Theresa Koontz
- Ernest Martinez
- Jerald Nowdomski
- Paula Pedene
- Tammy Pulaski
- Rick Romley
- Kathy Upchurch
- Sue Wudy

Notes:



Parade of colors and/or presentation of wreaths

- 3rd Marine Division of Arizona
- 82nd Airborne Division Association, Joseph P Schwan Chapter
- 92nd BCT(Vietnamese)
- 173rd Airborne Brigade
- 187 Airborne Regimental Team Grand Canyon Chapter
- Airforce Sergeant Association 1260
- American Legion Department of Arizona
- American Legion Auxiliary, Dept. of Arizona
- American Legion Honor Society of Women Legionnaires 20-4 Echelon #35
- American Legion Earl Mitchell Post 29
- American Legion Auxiliary Unit 29
- American Legion Post 64
- American Legion Dwight Eisenhower Post 72
- American Legion Christopher J. Lapka Post 105
- American Legion Christopher J. Lapka Auxiliary, Unit 105
- American Legion Irving B. Selmer Post 107
- American Legion Irving B. Selmer Auxiliary, Unit 107
- American Legion Post 115
- (Sons of the) American Legion, Dept. of Arizona
- American Gold Star Mothers of Arizona
- Arizona Chapter Paralyzed Veterans of America
- Arizona 5 Allied Orders
- Arizona Semper Fi
- Arizona Society of the American Revolution, Barry Goldwater Chapter
- Arizona's Veterans Hall of Fame Society
- Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America
- Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 432
- Association of the United States Army
- Association of the United States Navy
- Blue Star Moms of the Southwest Valley
- Civil Air Patrol Sky Harbor Composite Squadron 301 of the Civil War, 1861-1865
- Daughters of the American Revolution, Anasazi Chapter
- Daughters of the American Revolution, Gov. George WP Hunt Chapter
- (AZ Society) Daughters of the American Revolution, State Vice Regent
- Destroyer Escort Sailors Assoc. John C Butler AZ Chapter
- Disabled American Veterans, Dept. of AZ
- Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary, State of AZ
- Disabled American Veterans Chapter 1
- Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary Unit 1
- Disabled American Veterans Chapter 20
- Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary, Unit 20





- El Zaribah Shriners
- Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve
- Fleet Reserve Branch 163
- Fleet Reserve Ladies Auxiliary Unit 163, Valley of the Sun
- Gold Star Wives of America, Phoenix Chapter
- Grand Army of the Republic
- (Ladies) Grand Army of the Republic
- Honoring America's Veterans
- In-Country Vietnam Veterans
- Iraq & Afghanistan Veterans of America
- Jewish War Veterans, Copper State Post 619
- Jewish War Veterans, Department of Southwest
- Jewish War Veterans, Post 210
- Korean Association of Arizona
- Korean War Veterans Department of Arizona
- Margaret Warner Wood Arizona Tent #1, Daughters of Union Veterans
- Marine Corps League Old Breed Detachment 767
- Merchant Marines - Desert Mariners
- Military Families Support Group
- Military Officers Assoc. of America, Superstition Mountain Chapter
- Military Order of the Purple Heart, Dept of Arizona
- Military Order of the World Wars, Arizona Department
- Military Order of the World Wars, Apache Trail Chapter
- Military Order of the World Wars, Phoenix Chapter
- Military Women Across the Nation, Sonoran Desert Chapter 114
- National Cemetery Support Committee
- National Memorial Cemetery Ladies NMCA
- Navy Seabee Veterans of America, AZ Road Runner Island
- Patriots & VN Veterans : Korean Community
- Pearl Harbor Survivors
- Philippine Nurses Association of Arizona, East Valley Subchapter
- Phoenix Military & Veteran's Commission Foundation
- Phoenix Veterans Affairs Health Care System
- Scottish American Military Society, Post 48
- (Sons) Veterans of the Civil War Camp Picacho
- Sovereign Military Order of the Temple of Jerusalem
- Submarine Veterans of WWII
- Unified Arizona Veterans Association
- Veterans of Foreign Wars 6310
- Veterans of Foreign Wars 9400
- Women Army Corp Veterans





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cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/nmca.asp



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