

National Memorial Cemetery of Arizona

MEMORIAL DAY



May 26, 2025 8:00AM

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.



Used with permission PVA Publication – Diane Doyle

NATIONAL MEMORIAL CEMETERY OF ARIZONA

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 full support of their predecessors and membership, pledged to establish a State Veterans Cemetery with the ultimate goal of becoming a National Cemetery.

A corporation was formed to acquire land for this purpose and 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 was diligent in working with the corporation leaders and a section of land was eventually located in Phoenix at Cave Creek and Pinnacle Peak Roads that was deemed acceptable on a lease fee basis.

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

State Law was passed in 1976 and signed by Governor Raul Castro authorizing development of up to six hundred forty acres for a Veterans Cemetery with \$50,000 being appropriated. Seventeen acres of the leased land was 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 December 9, 1978, with 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 operation of the cemetery was transferred to AVSC from DES.

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

The cemetery with burial space available for 200,000 graves was transferred to the Veterans 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 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 SPACE FORCE HYMN

Semper Supra (Always Above)
We're the mighty watchful eve
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



THE MARINES 'HYMN

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



COAST GUARD

Semper Paratus
(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!



ANCHORS AWEIGH

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



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



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

**RANDY HEARD, DIRECTOR
NATIONAL MEMORIAL CEMETERY OF ARIZONA, PHOENIX**



Randy Heard was named Director of the National Memorial Cemetery of Arizona (NMCA), located 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. Additionally, Mr. Heard is also the Director overseeing operations for Prescott National Cemetery, located in Prescott, Arizona.

From May, 2019, Mr. 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. In addition, he joined the Organizational, Assessment and Improvement (OAI) Program in 2018 and is an active member. Prior to joining NCA, Mr. Heard retired after serving more than 20 years in the United States Navy. He is an OEF/OIF Veteran who served in Desert Shield and Desert Storm. His primary job was as an Aircraft Director/Aircraft Handler. He also performed as an Aircraft Rescue, Firefighting and Salvage Specialist, and Law Enforcement Specialist. He served during multiple deployments and launched and recovered aircraft on board USS Okinawa (LPH3), USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN71), USS John C. Stennis (CVN74), and USS Nimitz (CVN68). He is qualified as an Enlisted Aviation Warfare Specialist and Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialist. He was selected multiple times as the Senior Sailor of the Quarter on the Aircraft Carrier USS Nimitz (CVN68) and won the Air Department Senior Sailor of the Year during the same tour of duty. He earned a Bachelor of Science in Business with a concentration in Management from the University of Phoenix.

GOVERNOR KATIE HOBBS

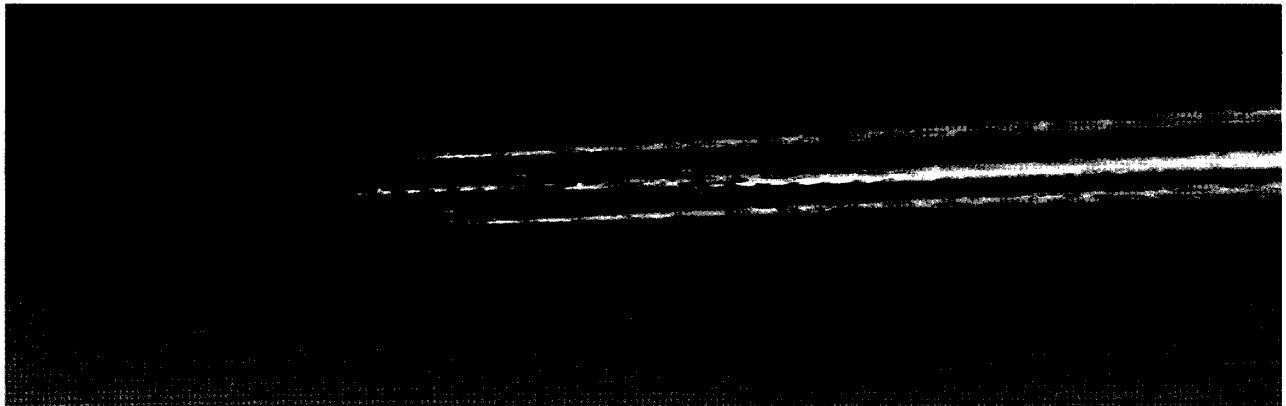


Governor Katie Hobbs was elected on November 15, 2022, as Arizona's 24th governor.

As a social worker and manager of a domestic violence shelter, Governor Hobbs saw firsthand the price Arizonans pay when their elected leaders fail to address the problems people face daily. 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 here in Arizona.

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

She attended 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 native Arizonan, having been born in Tempe.



Memorial Day Program

"GOD BLESS AMERICA"
CW3 STEVE BRINING, vocalist

"GOD BLESS THE USA"
CW3 STEVE BRINING, vocalist
108th Army Band

FLY OVER
THE PHOENIX STEARMAN GUYS

GUEST SPEAKER
ADRIAN FONTES
Secretary of State
Marine Corps

MASTER OF CEREMONIES
RICK ROMLEY
Marine Corps –Vietnam Veteran

13 FOLDS of the FLAG
Patriot Guard of Arizona

DIRECTOR'S GREETING
RANDY HEARD, Director
National Memorial Cemetery of Arizona

ARMED FORCES MEDLEY
108th Army Band
Flags presented by The Patriot Guard

POSTING OF THE COLORS
Luke Air Force Base Honor Guard

"THE NATIONAL ANTHEM"
108th Army Band
Commanded by CW3 STEVEN BRINING

PRESENTATION OF THE PROCLAMATION
GOVERNOR KATIE HOBBS
to
CEMETERY DIRECTOR RANDY HEARD

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
Imprints of Honor
SYDNEY MOORE
Cactus Shadow High School

BENEDICTION
Chaplain DANIAL BUTLER
Phoenix VA Health Care System

INVOCATION
Chaplain DANIAL BUTLER
Phoenix VA Health Care System

RIFLE VOLLEY
Luke Air Force Base Honor Guard

INTRODUCTION OF DISTINGUISHED GUESTS
MASTER OF CEREMONIES
RICK ROMLEY

TAPS
SGT Monique Grijalva
108th Army Band

PARADE OF COLORS
Armed Forces Color Guards
Veteran Service Organizations
JROTC Unit and Community Groups

DISMISSAL
"Stars & Stripes"
108th Army Band

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



Secretary of State ADRIAN FONTES

Secretary Adrian Fontes is a proud Arizona native and has spent a lifetime defending our Democracy. He served in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1992 to 1996 and was nominated for a meritorious commission. His service to our country taught him the importance of dedication, discipline, and sacrifice to forcefully fight for the American dream.

After law school, Secretary Fontes spent 15 years advocating for justice and fighting for the disadvantaged as a prosecutor with the Denver District Attorney, then at the Maricopa County Attorney's office. He later led the International Prosecution Unit at the Arizona Attorney General's Office.

In 2016 he was elected Maricopa County Recorder and in 2022 was elected as Arizona's 21st Secretary of State. Secretary Fontes is committed to preserving integrity in our elections, making voting easier for registered voters, and ensuring that Arizona's business community has a non-partisan partner in the Secretary's office. His the father of two daughters.

RICK ROMLEY Judge of the Veteran's Court



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. He 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, he 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. Mr. Romley also received the Arizona Disabled American Veteran of the Year and was inducted into the Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame in 2007.



The Memorial Day Committee wishes to recognize: MEDAL of HONOR RECIPIENTS from the State of Arizona

William Alchesay, Indian Wars*
William Barnes, Indian Wars*
Chiquito, Indian Wars*
Kern Dunagan, Vietnam War*
Joe Foss, WWII*
Bernard John Dowling Irwin*
Indian Wars
Billy Lauffer, Vietnam War*
Isaiah Mays, Indian Wars*
Nannasaddie, Indian Wars*
Rowdy, Indian Wars*
Simon Suhler, Indian Wars*
Jay Vargas, Vietnam War

Oscar Austin, Vietnam War*
Blanquet, Indian Wars*
Trustim Connell, Civil War*
Elsatsoosh, Indian Wars*
Raymond Harvey, Korean War*
Jim, Indian Wars*
Kelsa, Indian Wars*
Frank Luke, Jr, WWII*
William McBryer, Indian Wars*
Nantaje (Nantahe), Indian Wars*
Robert S Scott, Indian Wars*
Max Thompson, WWII*
Leonard Wood, Indian Wars*

Nicky Bacon, Vietnam War*
Benjamin Brown, Buffalo Soldier*
Bruce Crandall, Vietnam War*
Fred Ferguson, Vietnam War*
Silvestre Herrera, WWII*
Jose Jimenez, Vietnam War*
Kosoha, Indian Wars*
Machol, Indian Wars*
Manuel V. Mendoza*
John Pruitt, WWI*
Cornelius Smith, Indian Wars*
Leo Thorsness, Vietnam War*

* Indicates deceased

**Special acknowledgment is given to the staff of the
National Memorial Cemetery of Arizona
Randy Heard - Director**

Christopher S. Anderson	Jeremy Askegard	Paul Blomkvist	Jaime Carvajal
Lee M. Castaneda	Michael Castillo	Tyler Colly	Michael Crinigan
Andre Duplessis	William Duplessis	Adrian Garcia	Ruben Gomez
Charles C. Hayes	Charles W. Holden II	Daniel J. Humbles	Ricky Jones
Danyale Kerstetter	Jeremy Mattas	John McAvey	Valyrie Murray
Matthew Nelson	Craig Neth	Timothy Newman	Jerald T. Nowdomski
Clay Redfield	Eric V. Russell	Joshua Sisson	Jeremy Spradling
Zachary Stansbury	Ceciio Suguitan	David Tindel	Ed Tsosie
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 AFB 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.

The committee wishes to thank the following named individuals for volunteering their time in support of today's program.

Elks Lodge 335

Stephanie Gunderson
Brian Duchene
Kaeyln Duchene
Becky Simons
Tom Schiavone

Presentations

Nicky Colletti
Brenda Johnson
Kyla Lout
Pat Kelly
Kathy Upchurch

Stage Assistance

Suzy Colier
Ernest Martinez
Mary Roberts
Carol Romley

CORPORATE SPONSORS



Special acknowledgement to the following for their support

**Arizona Patriot Guard
Disabled American Veteran's Auxiliary, Unit 20
Elks Lodge 335
Maricopa County Sheriff's Posse
Wells Fargo+ Bank – Volunteer Committee
Williams Express Printing Company**



The following groups are participating in the parade of colors and/or presentation of wreaths

3rd Marine Division Association of Arizona Chapter
 82nd Airborne Division Association, Joseph P Schwan Chapter
 173rd Airborne Brigade
 187 Airborne Regimental Team Grand Canyon Chapter
 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
 American Legion Pat Tillman Post 117
 (Sons of the) American Legion, Department of Arizona
 Arizona's Veterans Hall of Fame Society
 AZ Society of the Sons of the American Revolution,
 Barry Goldwater Chapter
 Association of the United States Army
 Association of the United States Navy
 Benevolent Protective Order of the Elks Lodge 335
 Benevolent Protective Order of the Elks Lodge 2251
 Benevolent Protective Order of the Elks Lodge 2429
 Blue Star Mothers of the Southwest
 Civil Air Patrol Sky Harbor Composite Squadron 301
 (AZ Society) Daughters of the American Revolution
 State Vice Regent
 Daughters of the American Revolution, Anasazi Chapter
 Daughters of the American Revolution
 Gov. George WP Hunt Chapter
 (Margaret Warner Wood AZ Tent #1) Daughter's of Union Veterans
 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
 (American) Gold Star Mothers, West Phoenix
 Gold Star Spouses of America
 Gold Star Wives of America, Phoenix Chapter
 Honoring America's Veterans
 Imprints of Honor
 In-Country Vietnam Veterans
 Iraq & Afghanistan Veterans of America
 Jewish War Veterans, Department of Southwest
 Jewish War Veterans, Post 210
 Jewish War Veterans, Copper State Post 619
 (Arizona) Korean Association
 (Arizona) Korean Veterans Association
 (Patriots and Vietnam Veterans) Korean Association
 Marine Corps League Old Breed Detachment 767
 Arizona Semper Fi
 Merchant Marines - Desert Mariners
 Military Families Support Group

Military Officers Assoc. of America, Phoenix Chapter
 Military Officers Assoc. of America, Superstition Mountain Chapter
 Military Order of the Purple Heart, Dept of AZ
 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 Ch 114
 (Salt River Unit 155 of) Military Women Across the Nation
 National Cemetery Support Committee
 National Memorial Cemetery Ladies NMCA
 Navy Seabee Veterans of America,
 AZ Road Runner Island X-4
 (Arizona Chapter) Paralyzed Veterans of America
 Pearl Harbor Survivors
 Philippine Nurses Assn of AZ, East Valley Subchapter
 Phoenix Military & Veteran's Commission Foundation
 Phoenix Veterans Administration Health Care System
 Scottish American Military Society, Post 48
 Sovereign Military Order of the Temple of Jerusalem
 Submarine Veterans of WWII
 (United States) Submarine Veterans Perch Base
 Unified Arizona Veterans Association
 United Daughters of the Confederacy, Dixie Ch. 1679
 Veterans of Foreign Wars, Department of Arizona
 Veterans of Foreign Wars, State of Arizona Auxiliary
 Veterans of Foreign Wars Bobby Diaz Lopez Post 6310
 Veterans of Foreign Wars, Joseph F Monfort Post 9400
 Vietnam Veterans of America, Arizona State Council
 (Associates of) Vietnam Veterans of America
 Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 432
 Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 432
 Vietnamese Community of Arizona
 (Vietnamese) 92nd BCT
 Vietnam Veterans Volunteer Team/AZ
 Women's Army Corps Veterans Association, Chapter 68
 Women's Overseas Service League, Phoenix-Cholla Unit
 Woodmen Life, Phoenix Chapter

