



# Superstition Mountain Express

Military Officers Association of America



February 2009

Volume 34, Issue 6

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<http://www.smcmoaa.org/>

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*Please remember to share the newsletter with your spouse!*

### Presidents Comments

We had a good turnout for our January dinner in spite of the Cardinals' ball game, and I thank everyone for participating. Don't forget our picnic February 21 at Kiwanis Park in Tempe. We will have a choice of steak or chicken with potato salad, green salad, chips & dips, beer, wine & soft drinks, all for \$15. We ask that each couple bring dessert for 4 people.

We are soliciting ideas from our members about what kind of programs you would like to see at our dinners, and suggesting any interesting programs that you might know about. We have our March, April, May, and June dinners scheduled at Anzio Landing. While the menus haven't been finalized yet, Susan told us at our last dinner that since they had decided not to be open on Sunday, that they had to bring extra people in to serve us, and that it would be much better for them if we could have our dinners on Saturday instead. We need to know whether it would be better for us to have it on Saturday or to try to find another place for Sunday evening. We would like very much to know how that would affect our attendance. Please send me an email at [traviswil@aol.com](mailto:traviswil@aol.com) if you have a preference, and we will take that into account when planning future events.

I hope to have more information about the ROTC awards dates at the picnic, and I am still looking for someone to help with this year's program with the thought of taking it over in the next couple of years.

See you at the picnic!

*Travis Wilson, President*

Officers	Directors	Committee Chairs
President MAJ Carl Travis Wilson	CWO4 Robert Delker	Program MAJ Travis Wilson
1 <sup>st</sup> VP TBD	LTC Lowell "Ed" Fox	Membership Vacant
2 <sup>nd</sup> VP MAJ Fred Ferguson	LTC Marilyn Holmlund	Personal Affairs 1LT Gregory Moore
VP Auxiliary Ann Ferguson	LTC Kay McBee	Legislative CWO4 Robert Delker
Secretary Ann Gippert	COL Karl Pfitzer	Community Grant Program Vacant
Treasurer MAJ Austin Foote	COL Tom Ralph	Outstanding Member Nom COL Al Page
		JROTC/Scholarship MAJ Travis Wilson
		Newsletter LTC Marilyn Holmlund

## Superstition Mountain Express

### Chapter Member Bob Delker, Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame Society Member

We are very proud of Bob. For those who may not know him, here's a quick look:

Born in Portland, Oregon in 1931, Bob joined the Oregon National Guard in 1947 then entered the U. S. Army in 1949. He served in Korea where he earned the Combat Infantry Badge and Purple Heart. He completed Helicopter Flight School in 1955, and was discharged from active duty in 1958 with the Rank of Chief Warrant Officer. Bob continued service in the California and Alaska National Guard before becoming a full time Guardsman at the Pentagon in 1973, then later served full time in the Arizona National Guard until retirement in 1986 as a CW4.

Qualified as a rotary and fixed wing pilot Bob worked after retirement for 15 years as a Corporate Pilot for Valley National Bank, later Bank One. He received the Arizona Medal of Valor and the Arizona Distinguished Service Medal with "V" for heroism for rescue operations during 1978 Salt River floods. He was awarded three Meritorious Service Medals.

Bob is Past President of Military Officers Association, Arizona Council of Chapters. He continues to be active in legislative efforts for MOAA and United Arizona Veterans. He is also Commander of Military Order of World Wars Apache Trail Chapter and is active in National Guard Family Assistance Program. Bob is a member of Daedalians, American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, National Guard Association, Tempe Rotary Club and Voices Take Flight.



### 2009 Chapter Dues Renewal Form



Annual Dues:           \$25 Regular Members           \$12.50 Auxiliary Members

Please make check payable to **Superstition Mountain Chapter, MOAA**

--- Write *MOAA Chapter Dues* on Memo line of check

Mail to: Austin L. Foote, Treasurer 3554 E. Camino Circle Mesa, AZ 85213-7033

Check enclosed; renew my membership for 2009 My national MOAA number \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

**On Feb. 23, 2009, MOAA will mark its 80th anniversary!**



## Superstition Mountain Express

### Upcoming Meetings

#### Feb. 21 – Annual Picnic

Our annual picnic will be on Feb. 21 at Kiwanis Park in Tempe. Plan to arrive about 11 am for a bit of socializing, and we'll eat about noon. We should be finished by 2 pm. We'll have broasted chicken and we'll barbecue steaks - word has it that one of our new Board members is a talented barbecuer!!!

The cost is \$15 per person. As always, use the form at the end of this newsletter to make your reservations.

We will provide:

- Steak or chicken
- Potato salad
- Salad
- Rolls
- Drinks – beer, wine, soda, water

You bring:

- A desert for four
- Plates and utensils



Our picnic area is off All America Way near Kiwanis Lake, armadas 9, 10, 11 and 12. Parking is near these armadas. You can enter the park from Baseline to Mill Ave to All America Way, or from Guadalupe it's best to take All America Way north. (Yes, we know maps should always have North at the top, but Tempe's map comes out this way!)

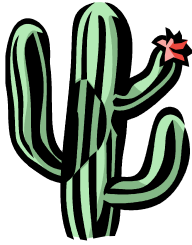
#### March 15 – Dinner Meeting

We'll be back at Anzio Landing with menu choices of Spaghetti & Meatballs, Salmon, Eggplant Parmigiana with dessert.

## Superstition Mountain Express

### Welcome New Member!

Lt Col Gene Martin, USAF (Ret)



### Meeting Schedules

#### Board Meeting – Monday, Feb 9, 2009

The Board will meet at 9 am at Friendship Village in Tempe. As always members are cordially invited to attend these meetings to see how your Board is working for the betterment of the Chapter.

#### Auxiliary Spouses Meeting – Friday, Feb 13, 2009

Meet at Denny's in Gilbert at 11:30. Please contact Ann Ferguson (480-961-9634 or email [vfergusonfnp@cox.net](mailto:vfergusonfnp@cox.net)) for reservations by Thursday of the meeting week.

### Congratulations!

#### Birthdays

##### Members

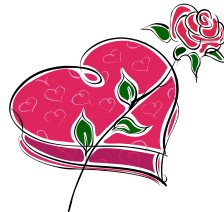
Robert Butler	2
Herbert Turlich Jr.	4
Ralph Jackson	6
Joseph Gilligan	7
Dennis Languell	7
Joseph Brown	10
Karl Pfitzer	12
Ellsworth Humes	13
Tiana Nabity	14
Donavon Bonertz	16
Henry Rawls	21
Robert Wagner	23
A.C. Flanagan	24
Wayne (Tom) Gaylor	27

##### Spouses

Glenda Humes	2
Ann Steltzner	4
Carol Languell	8
Barbara Turlich	10
Lori Sottile	15
Alyce Newland	22
Laverne Holaway	26
Ann Gippert	28

#### Anniversaries

Franklin & Nancy Nickerson	3
Colin & Hazel Ricketts	3
Alex & Pamela Banachowski	9
Stephan & Luanne Mansdoerfer	13
Chris & Georgianne Gahan	14
Thomas & Mary Rempfer	14
William & Kathryn Schminke	28
Carl & Laura Wilson	29



### Raffle Results

#### Thanks to our Auxiliary for hosting!

Industrial Tweezers	Vicki Pfitzer	Motion Frames	Melanie Ralph
Candles	Ruth Ann Van Den Heede	Talking Desk Organizer	
Zigsaw Puzzle	Terry Thorpe		Ruth Ann Van Den Heede
White Zinf w/ Bar Towel	Laura Wilson	Cheese Knife/Napkins in Silver Holder	
Chardonnay	Austin Foote		Maria Costello
Earrings	Maria Costello	Dinner won by:	
Silver Dish	Ann Gippert	Larry Rasmussen	Ralph Jackson
Cosmetics w/ Case	Gerry Copsey	Marilynn Miles	Jeane Jackson
		Dale Copsey	Jim Grayson

## Superstition Mountain Express

### Auxiliary Report – Ann Ferguson

Your Auxiliary is hard at work supporting all chapter activities both behind the scenes and out front. The Auxiliary sponsored the raffle at last month's dinner which was a success and cleared over \$100 for the treasury. We continue to collect, pack and ship items for the Packages from Home Project. Last year we sent out 15 boxes in 7 months, this year we hope to send at least 2 boxes per month. We have one box filled and another partially filled so need a few more donations to keep on track. Remember you can bring donations to any of our chapter functions – board meetings, dinner meetings, or auxiliary meetings. If that doesn't work for you, contact me (call me at 480-961-9634) and I will make arrangements to pick up what you have or if you prefer to give cash I will shop for your items and see that they get shipped.

We have had no further contact from MOAA National regarding the status of spouses of living members. Their last response was that each chapter may treat this issue as they see fit. Our chapter recognizes spouses of living members as associate auxiliary members which means you are welcome to attend and be part of all auxiliary activities but cannot vote as a full member or be counted for the national census of members. You are allowed to be a member of the chapter Board of Directors but cannot hold a National office.

I would like to take this opportunity to Thank all of you who stepped in and helped out last month when I was busy tending my ill spouse. Shirley

Delker led the rescue crew who did a great job of keeping everything going as it should. Fred is home now and I am able to pick up the reins again. All of your support and help is and was greatly appreciated. All of your willingness to step up and help is what makes this organization great and a real pleasure to be a part of, thank you all again.

The Auxiliary will continue to meet monthly at Denny's in Gilbert for luncheon on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of the month at 11:30 am. Last month we had 12 ladies attending including a new member, Florence Griffin, who recently moved to Gilbert from Dallas. Our next meeting is scheduled for **Friday, February 13, 2009**. Please call me at 480-961-9634 to confirm your attendance by Thursday, February 12, 2009. I consider the number 13 to be my lucky number and hope to see you all there this month, for an early Valentine's Day social. Maybe we should have dessert as the first course and go from there?



Wear red and come on over to Denny's at 1368 N. Cooper Road (south of Baseline), Gilbert.

***Don't forget to bring your donations for Packages from Home.***

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Here are a few ideas for Packages from Home donations:

- Star-Kist tuna "Lunches To Go"
- Star-Kist Chicken "Lunches To Go"
- Power bars
- Energy bars
- Breakfast bars
- Canned meat (chicken, turkey...)
- Boxed or canned cookies
- Kellogg® Pop Tarts
- Trail mix
- Chewing gum
- Small manual can openers
- BEEF JERKY IS ALWAYS NEEDED

## Superstition Mountain Express

### More Packages from Home



#### Basha's "Shop & Give" Program

Packages From Home is proud to be associated with Basha's "Shop & Give" (formerly "Thanks a Million") program.

You can help Packages From Home earn up to \$5,000. All you have to do is next time you are shopping at Basha's ask your register person if they can add a charity to your Basha's "Thank You Card." Your checker will ask you for the charity (group) identification number (**24712**) and once they have punched the numbers into the register, you're done! That's it, it's that easy, really! Every time you shop at Basha's Packages From Home receives a donation.

Basha's "Shop & Give" program runs through March 31st, 2009. Help Packages From Home get the word out and send this article to anyone you know who supports our troops! And, that's easy too; just click on the little envelope icon just above this article and presto done.

Just a reminder –all merchandise donated should be NEW and in original manufacturer's packaging, with a few exceptions such as GENTLY used books, CDs, DVDs, DVD players, and laptops. NO alcohol, x-rated material, tobacco/cigarettes, pressurized items or glass containers. Also please avoid larger items such as quart size shampoo or large mouthwash. Plastic containers are best, in sizes up to about 8 " tall.

### Personal Affairs – Greg Moore

#### Do you know where your DD-214 is?

When a retiree passes away, this document is absolutely essential in getting benefits! Please be sure you know where yours is, and ensure your spouse knows. As Chapter Personal Affairs Officer, I will provide a checklist to help you through the difficult time – but you must have your DD-214.

A copy of your DD 214 (Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty) may be obtained from:

National Personnel Records Center  
Military Personnel Records  
9700 Page Ave  
St Louis, Mo 63132-5100

All requests must be in writing - no emails I am told.

Another option is the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA)- <http://vetrecs.archives.gov/> or by fax (314)-801-9195. Include name, service or SS #. Medical treatment records are also available from the NPCP.

**The DD 214 is the third important document for your spouse/family file, along with your marriage/divorce certificate and your birth certificate.**

Each month I will remind you about one more document to add.



## Superstition Mountain Express



### News You Can Use

#### Congressman Mitchell Reappointed to Veterans Affairs Committee

My name is John Tymczyszyn and I currently serve as the Veterans Outreach Coordinator for Congressman Harry E. Mitchell of the 5th District of Arizona. I am pleased to announce that this month Congressman Mitchell was reappointed to serve on the Veterans Affairs Committee and also chair the Sub-Committee on Oversight and Investigations.

I understand that many of your chapter members live in Congressional District 5, which includes Tempe, Scottsdale, Ahwatukee and parts of Mesa and Chandler. With that in mind, I wanted

to make you aware that our office can be a resource to you.

If you know of issues that you feel Congressman Mitchell should be made aware of please do not hesitate to contact me.

John Tymczyszyn  
Veterans Outreach Coordinator  
Rep. Harry Mitchell, AZ-5  
Phone: 480-946-2411  
Fax: 480-946-2446

[John.Tymczyszyn@mail.house.gov](mailto:John.Tymczyszyn@mail.house.gov)

#### 2009 Copper Sword and Copper Shield Presentation and Dinner

Reminder - Come join the Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame on Friday, Feb. 13, 2009, for dinner, drinks (included with price) and tour a fabulous museum as we honor a great Arizonan, Eddie Basha Jr., for his patriotism, humanitarianism and support of veteran initiatives and recognize an outstanding legislator --Senator John Nelson, a veteran and public servant for many years.

The event at the Commemorative Air Force Wing Museum at 2017 N Greenfield Rd., Mesa, AZ. The doors open at 5:00pm, drinks will be available at 5:30pm until 7:00pm, buffet will open at 6:00pm and the formal ceremony will be on /or about 7:15pm.

Questions? Contact Chapter member Doug Shannon at 480-641-1209 or [cub45fan@cox.net](mailto:cub45fan@cox.net).

#### Reservist Retired Pay

The Department of Defense has issued new guidelines for early receipt of retired pay for members of Reserve components. Under interim changes to DOD regulations, they may be able to retire as early as 50 rather than 60. This is based on credit for periods of active duty. Note that health benefits are not available until age 60. For information check with your unit administration.



#### Benefit Concert for Homeless Veterans

Many of you remember Mike Chamberlin, a former TV broadcaster in the Valley. He and the Arizona Trio will be featured Feb. 21 at a concert to benefit homeless veterans. The Foster Odem, a retired officer, and his Trio will also perform. Folk music and classic hits of the 60s are on the program.

The concert is sponsored by Robson Communities and Copper State Post 619 of the Jewish War Veterans. It will be held at 7 pm at the Sun Lakes Country Club – which also has a small dance floor. There will be a cash bar and munchies, and there is both stadium and table seating.

All expenses have been paid so the proceeds will go entirely to homeless veterans programs. Tickets are \$10. For information or tickets please call 480-802-6810.

## Superstition Mountain Express

### Shingles Shots

Most of us had chicken pox as kids. Now we are subject to shingles, a painful condition caused by the varicella zoster virus, the same virus that causes chickenpox. If you know anyone who has had shingles you know how painful it can be!

There is a vaccine that is often recommended for those over 60. It is expensive and often not covered by insurance. And there are some individuals who should not get it. For example if you have a weakened immune system due to cancer treatment (chemo, radiation), if you have certain serious allergies or if you have active tuberculosis you probably should not get it. Talk to you physician if you are interested in learning more.

<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd-vac/should-not-vacc.htm> - shingles



The nonprofit Fisher House Foundation administers the "Hero Miles" program for the Department of Defense in accordance with Public Law 108-110, the FY 05 Defense Authorization Act. The program is comprised of individual airlines whose passengers donate their frequent flyer miles to assist service members and their families. Specifically, Fisher House Foundation provides free airline tickets to military men and women who are undergoing treatment at a military or VA medical center incident to their service in Iraq or Afghanistan, and their families.

There are two categories of eligible recipients:

- Service men and women with an approved leave of five or more days may be given a free round trip airline ticket for a trip from the medical center to their home and return if they are not eligible for government funded air fare.
- Qualifying service men and women may be given free round trip airline tickets to enable their family or close friends to visit them while they are being treated at the medical center.



Details are on the web at <http://www.fisherhouse.org/programs/heroMiles.shtml>

### Military Scholarship

If you have served in our country's Armed Forces or are a spouse of a service member, you may be eligible for a substantial Military Scholarship at Grand Canyon University. The University's web site is <http://www.gcu.edu/>.

For individuals who are interested in attending there are no out of pocket costs to start the admissions process. For information please contact

Mitchell C. Lofgran (Army veteran)  
Military Enrollment Division  
Grand Canyon University  
602.343.4559 - office  
866.920.9907 - toll free  
Email [mlofgran@online.gcu.edu](mailto:mlofgran@online.gcu.edu)



# Superstition Mountain Express

## February Reservations

Make checks payable to  
Superstition Mountain Chapter,  
MOAA, \$15/person

CLIP AND MAIL:  
Travis Wilson  
320 S. Golden Key Drive  
Gilbert AZ 85233-6309

CALL or EMAIL:  
480-813-5987  
[traviswil@aol.com](mailto:traviswil@aol.com)

### Picnic Reservations

Saturday, Feb 21, 2009 – Kiwanis Park  
Social hour 11 am – Picnic 12-2 pm

Name (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

Steak \_\_\_\_\_ Chicken \_\_\_\_\_

\$15 per person --- Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ places

### Chapter Community Grant Donation

Enclosed is our donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for this program

The Chapter MAY \_\_\_ MAY NOT \_\_\_ publish our names in the newsletter

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check payable to **Superstition Mountain Chapter, MOAA**

Mail to Austin L. Foote, Treasurer  
3554 E. Camino Circle Mesa, AZ 85213-7033

### Family Assistance Fund Donation

Enclosed is our tax-deductible donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check payable to **AZ National Guard Family Assistance Fund**

Mail to Austin L. Foote, Treasurer  
3554 E. Camino Circle Mesa, AZ 85213-7033

## **Superstition Mountain Express**

**Superstition Mountain Chapter  
Military Officers Association of  
America  
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Chandler, AZ 85225**

Stamp

Address Label

### **2008 Schedule of Events**

#### **Chapter Meetings**

Saturday Feb 21 Chapter Picnic – Kiwanis Park, Tempe

Sunday March 15 Chapter Dinner Meeting – Anzio Landing Italian Restaurant

#### **Auxiliary Lunch Meetings**

All meetings are on Fridays at 11:30 am. Please notify Ann by the Thursday before the meeting if you plan to attend.

Friday Feb 13 Denny's Restaurant  
1368 N. Cooper Rd, Gilbert

