



To ensure that Arizona's veteran community is kept "up to date" on what is happening with the Arizona Department of Veterans' Services (ADVS), we offer this monthly update sent out to our veteran contacts throughout the State of Arizona. Please visit our website at: www.azdvs.gov

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Women's Expo 2016



For women who have served or are still serving in the military



Women Veterans' Issues

Click to watch video.

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ARIZONA STATE VETERAN HOME-PHOENIX (ASVH-Phoenix)

Follow us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/asvhphx>

- Contents submitted by Kristin Frey



March Report

Veterans at the Arizona State Veteran Home – Phoenix enjoyed many Springtime activities during the month of March. The month opened with a Family Fun Concert and BBQ, featuring local musicians. They celebrated St. Patrick's Day with the Scottish American Military Society's annual lunch of corned beef and cabbage. Veterans also enjoyed a "Spring Fling" and played outdoor games with the University of Phoenix Alumni Association.



Fifteen Veterans celebrated Navy Week by attending the Dedication of the Site for the USS Phoenix Cold War Memorial on March 22.



On March 23, Veterans received an amazing visit from the Tuskegee Airmen Association, including one of the original Tuskegee Airmen! With students from Ishikawa Elementary School, they delivered Easter Baskets and visited with ASVH veterans. Challenge School students did a board game drive for our veterans, and came to visit and play games with them as well.





Veterans continue to enjoy Phoenix Boys Choir Concerts each month. Special thanks to volunteers from the Patriot Guard and Express Scripts for escorting our veterans to these concerts.



Thanks to the Encanterra Veterans Club for their generosity. They donated \$11,000 last summer, which was used to fund a Clavinova Piano, Tone Chimes, Bingo Games, and a room renovation. The D2 Day room has been renovated for our veterans to use.





Our veterans enjoyed a fun Easter weekend, with an old-fashioned Easter Egg hunt in the garden. Great times were had by all!



ASVH – Phoenix is also delighted to welcome our new Administrator, Mr. Jim Dugger. Mr. Dugger is well known to the veterans here, as he completed an Administrator in Training Program at the ASVH from 2012 – 2013. He is a disabled veteran himself, and his vast business experience allows him to assist and serve ASVH residents. Jim received his BS in Health Policy from Arizona State University and MA in Health Administration from Grand Canyon University. He was previously the Administrator of the Apache Junction Health Center, where he facilitated a transition from a 3 star building to a 4 star building and improved profitability.





ARIZONA STATE VETERAN HOME-TUCSON (ASVH-TUC)

- Contents submitted by Sam Nanez & Ellen Bittman



March in Review

On Thursday, February 25th, the ASVH-Tucson residents enjoyed the view of the Tucson Rodeo, Fiesta de Los Vaqueros, celebrating its 91st birthday. The Tucson Rodeo is the largest non-motorized parade in the world.



Following the parade, music and BBQ were provided to residents, families, volunteers, and staff. This year we had a miniature pony plus horse & carriage rides. Live country music provided: Desert Mountain Duo.







Little Hooves, Big Hearts visited with our residents, Nellie Cuestas and Charles Harrison, as part of the therapeutic miniature horses program.



Sam Wheeler posing with one of the miniature horses.



Aurelio Meza with one of the miniature horses.





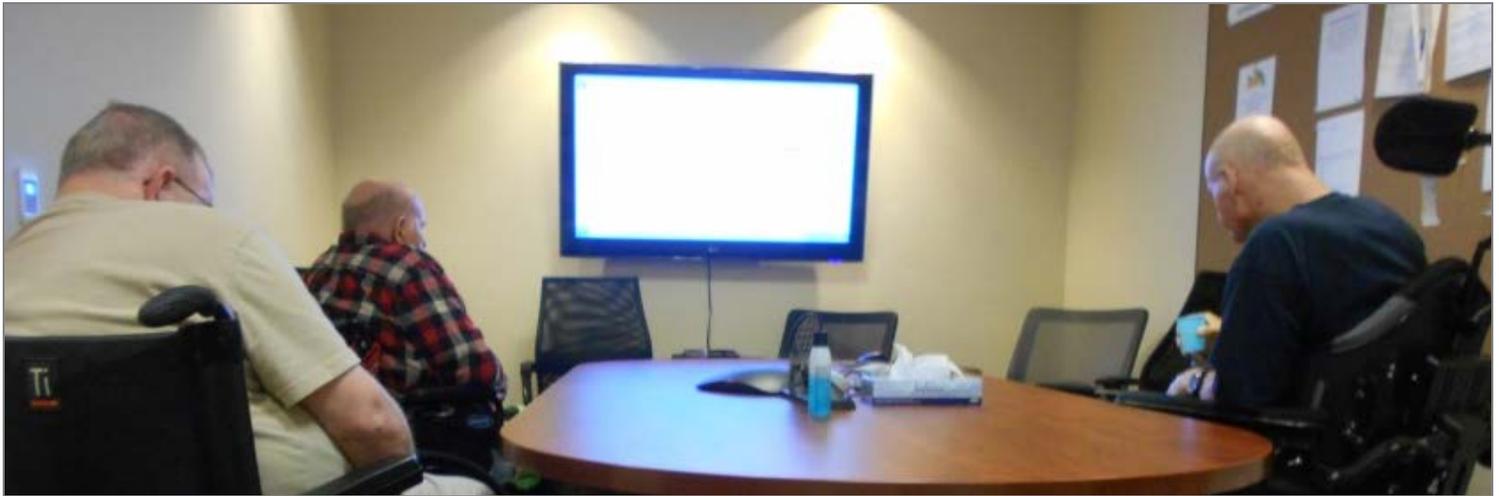
ASVH-Tucson held a Memorial of Remembrance service for Veterans/Residents as we remembered our fourteen residents who are no longer with us.



<p>Remembering:</p> <p>Barnes, Arthur Brennan, Terrance Chavez, Randolph Ford, Charles George, James Koobs, Harold Lawton, Raymond Leon, Ubaldo Letarte, William Mitchell, Leonard Mortensen, Ramona Munoz, Ernest Raybon, Leon Silverstein, Leo</p>	<p>Arizona State Veteran Home—Tucson Memorial of Remembrance February 26, 2016 10:00 a.m.</p> 
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Charlie Esquivel, from the ASVH-Tucson Recreation Department, was instrumental in coordinating ASVH-Tucson's participation as an audience in the General John A. Wickham, Jr. broadcasts a military radio PBS show, during which he discusses current and past events. He is a Four Star General from the Reagan administration and served as Chief of Staff of the United States Army. He is presently serving as Vice Chief of Staff of the United States Army. Several of our residents gathered in one of conference rooms to listen to one of his broadcasts. We will provide the residents access to this program on a monthly basis.



ASVH-Tucson has started a gardening group for spring. We have tomatoes, chili peppers and an assortment of spring flowers. The residents enjoyed being outdoors on the patio, assisting in preparing the soil and pots, and getting them ready for planting.





We just recently had our van wrapped with our logo and logos from each branch of the service. The van was well-received by residents, families and staff. The van windows were also tinted to provide a cooler interior during the hot summer months.





Produce on Wheels WithOut Waste (POW-WOW) continues to thrive at ASVH-Tucson. We had approximately 100 people at the March POW-WOW. A big "Thank You" to all the volunteers who assist with this program on a monthly basis to include the University of Arizona Nutritional Program, ALA, VFW, and ASVH-Tucson volunteers. We will be getting an earlier start during the warmer months starting in April, with the hours for POW-WOW moved an hour earlier to 7:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.



The Mexican Bingo is a continued success providing fun and an educational opportunity with some of our residents learning Spanish words and/or quotes.





Our inter-generational program has been a great success. Desert Christian School (grades K-12) continues to provide visits and music for our residents. This month they played chimes and the theme of the musical songs was focused on the Irish for St. Patrick's Day.





St. Patrick's Day was celebrated with green beer and traditional Irish soda bread and green frosted cookies. Residents and family members enjoyed listening to traditional Celtic Irish music.





Over the Hill Vets (pictured below), one of the first musical groups to perform at ASVH-Tucson, were recognized during their scheduled March appearance. Sue Pennington and Resident Fran Cappadocia hosted a party providing pizza and the cake pictured below to celebrate and thank them for the entertainment they consistently provide to the residents on a monthly basis. The Over the Hill Vets are a regular staple in the musical entertainment enjoyed by our residents.

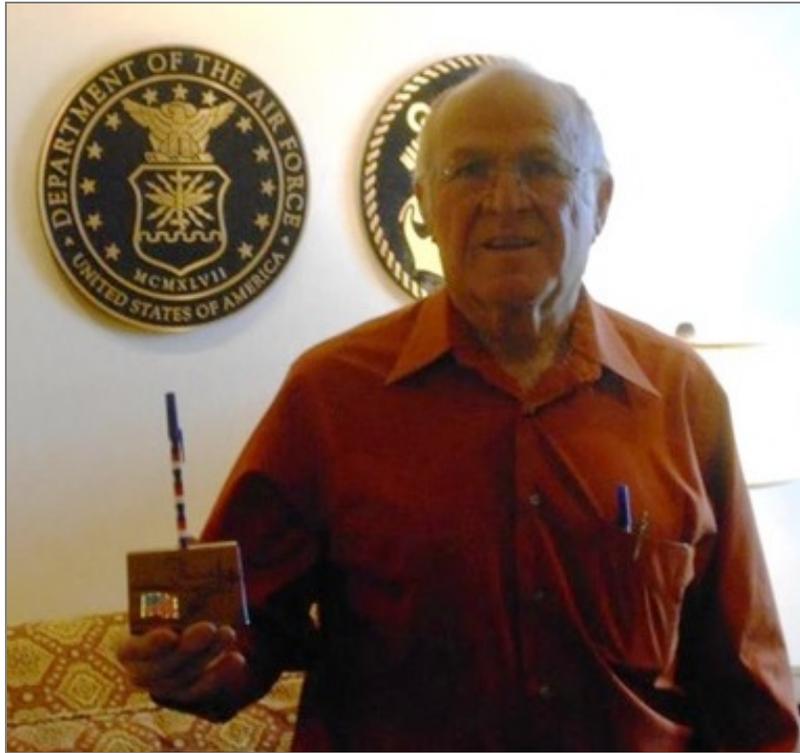


Quilts for Heroes is a continuing community project. The group visited ASVH-Tucson recently to recognize the Memory Care Unit residents. Each resident is presented a beautiful handmade quilt. The quilt presentation was followed by a modern day skit of the 3 little pigs interpreted from the wolf's perspective (the wolf had a bad cold and was just asking for a cup of sugar, which the three little pigs misunderstood as huffing and puffing and blowing down their houses).





Jerry Sorrells is very supportive of our veterans and wanted to thank them individually in a special way. He gives veterans handmade pen holders made out of Arizona mesquite wood and decided to bring this practice to our residents. Starting with the residents in Building 2, he will put the resident's first name on each pen holder prior to delivering them personally to each resident.



ASVH-Tucson had an Easter brunch, which was a great hit with the residents and their families. They enjoyed pancakes, eggs, bacon, hash browns, cinnamon rolls, and biscuits with coffee and orange juice, provided by ASVH-Tucson Dietary Department.





In commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War, eight of our residents were able to participate in the ceremony held at the Southern Arizona VA Health Care System in Tucson (program copy below). Each of them received a certificate and a pin. ASVH-Tucson residents who were unable to make it to the ceremony also received a certificate and pin.

Commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

50th ANNIVERSARY
VIETNAM WAR

SERVICE * VALOR * SACRIFICE

COMMEMORATION

A GRATEFUL NATION THANKS AND HONORS YOU

Southern Arizona VA Health Care System
March 29, 2016
10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
R.E. Lindsey Jr. Auditorium, Building 4

myVA
Putting Veterans First

I CARE
www.Tucson.VA.gov
www.facebook.com/VATucson
Follow us on Twitter @TucsonVA

VA U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Health Administration



Presentation of the Colors
Davis-Monthan Air Force Base
Honor Guard

National Anthem
Delois Pierson
Southern Arizona VA Health Care System (SAVAHCS)

Invocation
Chaplain David Lundell
SAVAHCS

Welcoming Remarks
Jennifer Gutowski
Acting Director, SAVAHCS

Guest Speaker
David Alegria
Military Order of Purple Heart, Vietnam Veteran

Handing Out of Pins



COMMEMORATION OF THE 50th ANNIVERSARY
OF THE VIETNAM WAR

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

A PROCLAMATION

As we observe the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War, we reflect with solemn reverence upon the valor of a generation that served with honor. We pay tribute to the more than 3 million servicemen and women who left their families to serve bravely, a world away from everything they knew and everyone they loved. From Da Nang to Khe Sanh, from Hue to Saigon and countless villages in between, they pushed through jungles and rice paddies, heat and monsoon, fighting heroically to protect the ideals we hold dear as Americans. Through more than a decade of combat, over air, land, and sea, these proud Americans upheld the highest traditions of our Armed Forces.

As a grateful Nation, we honor more than 58,000 patriots—their names etched in black granite—who sacrificed all they had and all they would ever know. We draw inspiration from the heroes who suffered unspeakably as prisoners of war, yet who returned home with their heads held high. We pledge to keep faith with those who were wounded and still carry the scars of war, seen and unseen. With more than 1,000 of our service members still among the missing, we pledge as a Nation to do everything in our power to bring these patriots home. In the reflection of The Wall, we see the military family members and veterans who carry a pain that may never fade. May they find peace in knowing their loved ones endure, not only in medals and memories, but in the hearts of all Americans, who are forever grateful for their service, valor, and sacrifice.

In recognition of a chapter in our Nation's history that must never be forgotten, let us renew our sacred commitment to those who answered our country's call in Vietnam and those who assisted their safe return. Beginning on Memorial Day 2012, the Federal Government will partner with local governments, private organizations, and communities across America to participate in the Commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War—a 12-year program to honor and give thanks to a generation of proud Americans who saw our country through one of the most challenging missions we have ever faced. While no words will ever be fully worthy of their service, our honor truly begins their sacrifice. Let us remember that it is never too late to pay tribute to the men and women who answered the call of duty with courage and valor. Let us renew our commitment to the fullest possible accounting for those who have not returned.

Throughout this Commemoration, let us strive to live up to their example by showing our Vietnam veterans, their families, and all who have served the fullest respect and support of a grateful Nation.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BARACK OBAMA, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim May 28, 2012, through November 11, 2025, as the Commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War. I call upon Federal, State, and local officials to honor our Vietnam veterans, our fallen, our wounded, those unaccounted for, our former prisoners of war, their families, and all who served with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-eighth day of May, in the year of our Lord two thousand twelve, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-sixth.







ASVH-TUC: Coming in April

- Our residents continue to enjoy their community outings. April outings include: Walmart on April 6th, 13th and 20th and 27th; Family Dollar on April 5th, 12th, 19th, and 26th; and Desert Diamond Casino trips on Tuesday, April 12th and Tuesday, April 26th at 1:30 p.m. On Thursday, April 14th at 9:00 a.m., Old Tucson Studios trip. On Wednesday, April 20th at 11:00 a.m. lunch at Hooters. On Thursday, April 21st at 9:00 a.m. an outing to the Pima County Fair.
- On Saturday, April 2nd at 11:00 a.m., the Elks will host a BBQ.
- On Saturday, April 9, 2016, Produce on Wheels Without Waste (POW-WOW) returns from 7:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. For a donation of \$10, you may take up 60 pounds of produce.
- On Tuesday, April 12th at 1:30 p.m. in the Chapel/Community Room, the VFW/ALA will host the monthly birthdays' party.
- On Tuesday, April 12th at 2:00 p.m., American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) Unit 8 will host Bingo in the Building 2 Recreation Area.
- And also on Tuesday, April 12th at 5:30 p.m. in the Sports Lounge, it is time for our Pizza and Beer Party.
- On Friday, April 29th at 10:30 a.m., Little Hooves and Big Hearts will return with the miniature therapeutic horses.

Musical entertainment events coming in April include:

- On Friday, April 1st at 2:30 p.m., Georgia's Gift of Music with musical instruments and song.
- On Friday, April 8th at 2:30 p.m., Mr. & Mrs. Willis perform jazz and Broadway music hosted by SAACA.
- On Tuesday, April 12th at 1:00 p.m., August Johnson performs on the piano.
- On Friday, April 15th at 2:00 p.m., Dr. Lois Wilde performs a piano concert in the Chapel/Community Room.
- On Sunday, April 17th at 2:30 p.m., Over the Hill Vets performs country music/Bluegrass in the Chapel/Community Room.
- On Sunday, April 24th at 2:30 p.m., The Expressions/jazz music performance in the Chapel/Community Room.
- On Friday, April 29th at 2:30 p.m., Spanish Duo guitar and Spanish songs.

Donations recently received by ASVH-Tucson include:

- On February 24, 2016, American Legion Riders, in conjunction with American Legion Pat Tillman Post #117 ALR, donated \$2,000 to ASVH-Tucson.
- On January 29, 2016, Borderland Food Bank "POW-WOW" for a check in the amount of \$114 for January and on February 29, 2016, a check in the amount of \$98 for February.
- On March 2, 2016, ALA Oro Valley Unit 132 donated 45 hardbacks and 2 soft cover books worth an estimated value of \$231.
- On March 4, 2016, Tucson Elks Lodge 385 donated two framed pictures of flying B52s.
- On March 5, 2016, Sierra Vista #2065 Wandering Wapitis provided our residents and their families a wonderful BBQ.
- On February 8, 2016 (with documentation of donation submitted on March 14, 2016), Arizona Elks donated eight patio cushions for chairs worth an estimated value of \$60.



- On March 7, 2016, Wayne A. & Stella Braastad donated a complete karaoke equipment set including approximately 150 disk list of songs plus a set of Bluetooth musical CDs worth an estimated value of \$1,400. Wayne A. Braastad, Lt. Commander is himself a resident at ASVH-Tucson.
- On March 14, 2016, Busy Hands from Voyager RV Park donated seven handmade blankets for lady veterans worth an estimated value of \$95.
- On February 14 and 25, 2016 (with documentation of donation submitted on March 14, 2016), ALA Unit 109 donated valentine candy and beans for the Rodeo BBQ worth an estimated value of \$52 combined.
- On February 7, 2016 (with documentation of donation submitted on March 14, 2016), ALA Unit 109 donated beer, fruit trays, chips, dip, and cookies for the Super Bowl party and pizza night worth an estimated value of \$95.14.
- On February 1 and 4, 2016 (with documentation of donation submitted on March 14, 2016), ALA Legion Post 109 donated seven rechargeable cars along with batteries and chargers worth an estimated value of \$210.
- On March 14, 2016, ALA Unit 109 donated three blankets for the gift shop worth an estimated value of \$40.
- On March 14, 2016, Arizona Elks Lodge donated a Sony Boom Box with CD and cassette worth an estimated value of \$53.91.
- On March 15, 2016, ALA Oro Valley Unit 132 donated 34 military newspapers by branch of service worth an estimated value of \$127.50.
- On March 15, 2016, ALA Oro Valley Unit 132 donated seven 500 piece puzzles worth an estimated value of \$15.
- On March 18, 2016, Arizona Elks Tucson East 2532 provided pizza for the Friday Happy Hour.

Thanks to all for the much needed and much appreciated donations!!!



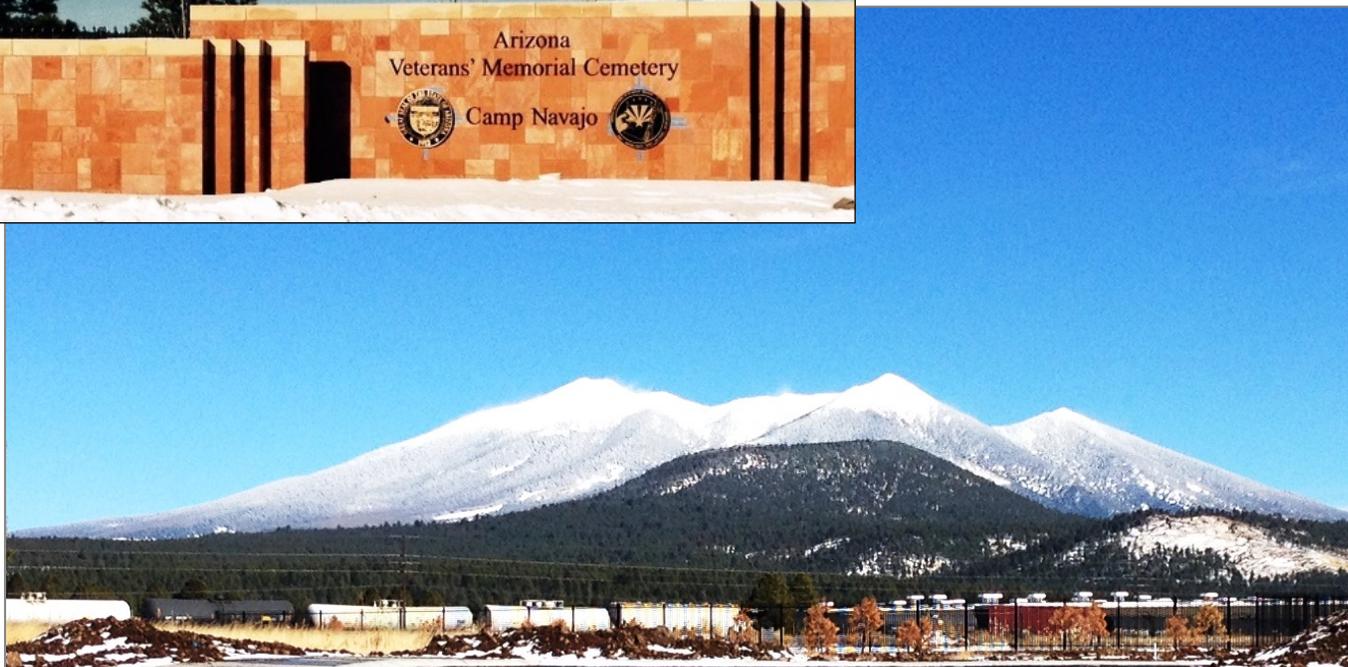
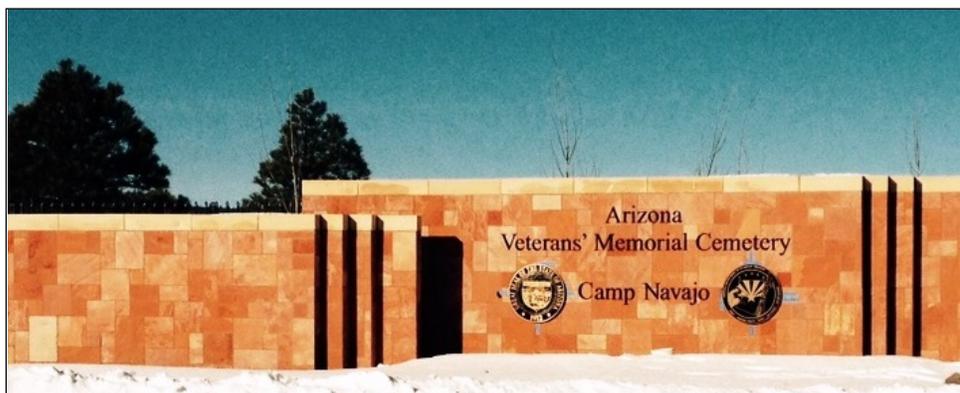
ARIZONA VETERANS MEMORIAL CEMETERIES (AVMC)

- Camp Navajo [Web](#), [Facebook](#)
- Marana [Web](#), [Facebook](#)
- Sierra Vista [Web](#), [Facebook](#)



AVMC – Camp Navajo Dedication is now set for Saturday, June 11, 2016.

April continues our busy time for both new cemeteries, with staff hiring, staff training, furnishings being delivered, and everything being set up just right to best serve our veterans, their families, and visitors.





AVMC - Marana is now open.

The dedication was a wonderful event enjoyed by so many veterans, families, friends, and neighbors. Visit our beautiful memorial facility anytime!





Dedication of AVMC – Marana - Saturday, March 26, 2016

Many photos were taken of our facility dedication. A few are posted here for your review, but the complete, larger set of dedication photos may also be found online [HERE](#), which is inclusive of original groundbreaking photos as well. There are several dense pages of photos at that site.







AVMC – Camp Navajo is almost ready!

AVMC Camp Navajo is not yet open to the public, staff members are in training, putting on finishing touches, and the road has not yet been paved. **Please do not visit AVMC Camp Navajo until notified by ADVS that it is safe and appropriate to do so.** At that time, we will publish official location addresses with directions, and update the associated web pages with everything you need to know. Here are a few recent pictures to show you our progress...





ADVS Events

At right, ADVS Director Col. Wanda Wright speaks to those assembled for the groundbreaking of the U.S.S. Phoenix monument in Steele Indian School Park in midtown Phoenix on Tuesday, March 22, 2016.



Scale model of the [U.S.S. Phoenix, SSN-702](#). The sail and diving planes of the real U.S.S. Phoenix will make up the monument.





Arizona Military Women Veterans Expo Events – March/April 2016

March saw the first two of four Military/Veteran Women's Expos at Glendale Community College in Glendale and the University of Arizona in Tucson. See more photos online [HERE](#) and [HERE](#).

