



ARIZONA AMERICAN INDIAN

VETERANS TOWN HALL AND BENEFITS PRESENTATION



October 12 & 13, 2016 | We-Ko-Pa Resort | Fort McDowell, AZ



State of Arizona
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE ON TRIBAL RELATIONS

DOUGLAS A. DUCEY
GOVERNOR

KRISTINE FIRE THUNDER
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

October 13, 2016

Dear Participants:

The Governor's Office on Tribal Relations (GOTR), in partnership with the Arizona Department of Veterans' Services (ADVS), the Arizona Developmental Disabilities Planning Council and the Arizona Coalition for Military Families, welcomes you to the American Indian Veterans Town Hall and Benefits presentation!

Our goal is to ensure that all veterans and their dependents leave this event with sufficient information to meet immediate needs.

This is a forum to provide an opportunity for American Indian Veterans of all wars to share powerful and important experiences with the community, to air questions and concerns and encourage discussion dependent on questions raised by attendees. The dialogue among the speakers aims to explain how the state is providing services to the tribal community, create awareness on resources available through non-government organizations, discuss and identify barriers to healthy living.

We hope that you will take this opportunity to share your insights to improve the quality of life for American Indian Veterans, caregivers and their dependents.

Again, thank you for joining us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Kristine FireThunder".

Kristine FireThunder
Executive Director

1700 WEST WASHINGTON STREET | SUITE 235 | PHOENIX, AZ 85007
PHONE 602.542.4426 | FAX 602.542.4428

AGENDA

October 13, 2016

- 7:00 – 8:00 **Continental Breakfast – Wassaja Foyer**
- 8:00 – 9:00 **Opening Session**
- Post Colors – Ira H. Hayes Post #84
 - Pledge of Allegiance – Katarena McLevain, Miss Fort McDowell
 - Invocation – The Hon. Raphael Bear, Former President Ft. McDowell Yavapai Nation
 - Welcome Address – The Hon. Bernadine Burnette, President Ft. McDowell Yavapai Nation
 - Keynote Address – Ms. Wanda Wright, Director AZ Dept of Veterans' Services
- 9:00 – 10:00 **Town Hall Discussion**
"Improving the quality of life of American Indian Veterans and their Families"
- 10:00 – 10:30 **Break – Wassaja Foyer**
- 10:30 – 12:00 **Town Hall Discussion (continued)**
"Improving the quality of life of American Indian Veterans and their Families"
- 12:00 – 1:00 **Lunch (on your own)**
- 1:00 – 1:30 **Native American Settlement Fund – Rory Wilson, ADOR**
- 1:30 – 2:15 **VA Compensation - Gary Ochoa, ADVS**
- 2:15 – 3:00 **VA Non Service-Connected Pension and Death benefits - David Mosier, ADVS**
- 3:00 – 3:15 **Break - Wassaja Foyer**
- 3:15 – 4:00 **Overview of additional VA benefits to include: Health Care, Education, Life Insurance, Home Loan Guaranty - David Guerin, ADVS**
- 4:00 – 4:45 **Arizona benefits for veterans - Michelle Sullivan and Bryan Durham, ADVS**
- Military and Family Relief Fund
 - Veterans Donation Fund
 - Homeless Veteran Program
 - Women Veteran Programs
 - Hunting and Fishing Licenses
 - Veteran License Plates and driver's license indicator
 - Tax benefits
 - Employment
 - State Parks
- 4:45 – 5:00 **Closing - Kristine Fire Thunder, Governor's Office on Tribal Relations**

SPEAKERS



Terry Araman is the Director of the Madison Street Veterans Association, one of the nation's first homeless veteran service organizations based on the principle of peer support. Terry worked at the Human Services Campus for the homeless in Phoenix starting in November 2006 in various positions, as a volunteer and employee of the Lodestar Day Resource Center. For the past seven years, Terry has drawn on his 25 years of experience in business, along with his knowledge as an educator, to provide leadership promoting the growth and development of Madison Street Veterans Association (MSVA). In 2009, MSVA opened the Veterans Outreach Center for homeless veterans; in 2010, MSVA opened a transitional living center offering housing, currently for 52 homeless male veterans, MANA House (MANA = Marines, Army, Navy, Air Force). In 2013, MANA House opened a 16 bed transitional living space for 16 women veterans.

Terry's passion for working with homeless veterans stems from his three years as an Army medic, during which he served in Vietnam with the 9th Infantry Division in 1968 and 1969. Terry has also been an adjunct faculty member in the Business Department at Mesa Community College from 2003 through 2012. Terry completed a successful 20 year career at Motorola and Freescale Semiconductor in 2006, in the field of Supply Chain Management. Terry received his Bachelor's Degree from University of California, Santa Barbara in 1973. He was awarded the lifetime designation of Certified Purchasing Manager (C.P.M.) from the Institute for Supply Management in 1999. During his career with Motorola and Freescale Semiconductor, and currently in his role as Director of Madison Street Veterans Association, Terry has participated in numerous training and educational opportunities to enhance and update his skills and awareness in the workforce. Terry is a proponent of life long continuing education and promotes the concept with veterans at MANA House.



Bryan Durham is the Community Programs Coordinator with the Arizona Department of Veterans' Services. As the Coordinator, Bryan oversees the Veteran Supportive Campus initiative, assists with the implementation of the Arizona Roadmap to Veteran Employment and manages various ADVS grant programs with the community. He also provides general outreach services on behalf of the Department. Prior to working for the Department, Bryan was a Research Analyst at the Arizona State Senate. Bryan holds a Master's Degree in Social Work from the University of Southern California with a sub-concentration in military and veterans' services and earned a Bachelor's degree from the University of Arizona.



David R. Guerin is the Central Regional Manager for the Arizona Department of Veterans Services. He served in the U.S. Army from 1980 to 1983 as a Supply Specialist. His late father was a U.S Army veteran from WWII.

David began his career, assisting veterans, fourteen years ago, as a Veterans Service Officer with the AMVETS Department of Michigan. After seven years with the organization, he moved to Wisconsin where he served as the Director of Veterans Services for Adams County. Five years later, he moved to the warmer climate of Arizona to work for the ADVS.

SPEAKERS

He started here as a Veterans Benefit Counselor in Casa Grande. After a few months, he was promoted to the department Training Officer. He became the Central Regional Manager seven months later as the agency began to restructure its leadership team. David currently oversees the daily operations of four offices and 10 employees for the department.



David Mosier, First Sergeant, US Army, Retired. David retired from the US Army in May 2011 after serving 20 years active service. His last duty assignment was 1SG for 996 Area Support Medical Company and Senior Operations NCO for the 198th Regional Support Group. During his service, he was also a flight medic for 13 years, Arizona ARNG Combat Medicine Training Program's Co-Founder, Program Manager and Senior Instructor. David served as Platoon SGT for the Medical Platoon, 158th Infantry Battalion in Afghanistan 2007 - 2008 and spearheaded successful humanitarian missions in Colombia and El Salvador.

David now lives in Prescott AZ and working for the Arizona Department of Veterans Services. As the Northern Region Manager, he manages offices in Prescott, Flagstaff, Show Low, Kingman, Lake Havasu and Bullhead City which provides much needed Veterans' Benefits Counseling for all of Northern AZ.



Gary Ochoa is employed by the Arizona Department of Veterans' Services in Tucson, AZ as the Southern Region Manager and has worked for the department since December, 2008. He is accredited as a Service Officer through the Department of Veterans' Affairs, advocating for veterans and their dependents represented by the Arizona Department of Veterans' Services and the American Legion. His current duties include management of Veterans' Benefits Counselors in Tucson, Sierra Vista, Yuma, and Safford. He graduated from the University of Phoenix with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice Administration and is actively pursuing his master's degree at Liberty University.

Gary honorably served in the United States Marine Corps from 1986 through 2008, retiring as a First Sergeant. He served in support of Operation Desert Shield and Storm while attached to VMA-211 in Quality Control as a Systems Administrator for an AV8B Squadron. During Operation Enduring Freedom he served as a Squadron GySgt attached to HMH-466 a CH-53E Squadron. As a First Sergeant, Gary was attached to Anti-Tank Company leading several deployments of Marines in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He was also attached to Alpha Company, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, serving as a Marine Corps Drill Instructor, Senior Drill Instructor, and Operations Chief from 1997 through 2001 molding young men into U.S. Marines.

SPEAKERS



Michelle H. Sullivan. Michelle joined the Arizona Department of Veteran Services in 2014 and currently serves as the Military Family Relief Fund and Minority Programs Coordinator for the Arizona Department of Veteran Services. She also provides support for various outreach programs to raise public awareness and serve as liaison with military and veteran support groups and other community stakeholders, along with coordinating and executing the Women Veteran Expo's held statewide to identify specific needs of Women Veterans.

Michelle is currently serving in the United States Naval Reserves and holds a Master's degree in Public Administration from Grand Canyon University and earned a Bachelor's degree from Arizona State University in Business and Mass Communications.



Rory Wilson is an Attorney III for the Arizona Department of Revenue. Rory has worked as tax attorney in the Tax Research and Analysis section of the Arizona Department of Revenue for more than 10 years specializing in income tax, both individual and corporate. Rory is currently working on the implementation of House Bill 2708 which established the Native American Veterans Income Tax Settlement Fund.

Education: Northern Arizona University (B.A. 1999), University of Montana (J.D. 2004), University of Washington (LL.M. Taxation 2005), Memberships: Arizona State Bar (2006)



Thomas R. Winkel, M.A., L.P.C., N.C.C., Director, Arizona Coalition for Military Families. Mr. Winkel is the Director of the Arizona Coalition for Military Families. He is a veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps and the Army National Guard. His service included tours in Japan, the Philippines, and Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm during the first Gulf War as a combat infantryman. He is a licensed professional counselor in the State of Arizona and a Nationally Certified Counselor.

Mr. Winkel was part of the team that designed and implemented the Arizona Coalition for Military Families, a nationally recognized public/private partnership dedicated to systems change, strategic planning/partnerships, and training and equipping organizations to better serve the military and veteran population. These efforts center on a "no wrong door, no wrong person" statewide approach and connecting every service member, veteran and family to the right resource at the right time.

SPEAKERS



Wanda Wright. Arizona Department of Veterans' Services Director Wanda Wright is the third generation of her family to serve in the U.S. military. She has three decades of military experience. As a 1985 United States Air Force Academy graduate, Colonel Wright began her military career as Deputy Budget Officer with the Tactical Air Command at Myrtle Beach, South Carolina with a follow-on assignment to Davis-Monthan AFB as the Budget Officer.

Leaving active duty in 1990, Colonel Wright joined the Arizona National Guard. During the next 21 years, she served in various positions including accounting and finance officer, communications officer, executive officer and, finally, as the Director of Staff for the Adjutant General in Phoenix. Among her proudest achievements was to serve as Air Commander of Operation Jump Start from June 2006 – December 2008 during which she commanded more than 4,000 airmen from 52 states and territories on our Southwest border.

Colonel Wright holds a B.S. in Management from the U.S. Air Force Academy, a M.B.A from Webster University in South Carolina, a M.P.A. from the University of Arizona, and is completing her M.A. in Educational Leadership from Arizona State University. Colonel Wright's decorations and awards include the Legion of Merit, the Meritorious Service Medal with oak leaf cluster, and the Air Force Commendation Medal.



Diana "Dede" Yazzie Devine, Native American Connections President/CEO has been working with Native American urban and tribal entities since 1972 and has been employed as the CEO of Native American Connections (NAC) since 1979 – for over 35. NAC is a 501 (c) 3 Native American operated nonprofit corporation that provides comprehensive behavioral health services, affordable housing, and community based economic development opportunities. NAC serves all populations with a targeted mission to serve Native Americans living both in the Phoenix urban area and from tribal communities. NAC offers innovative research-based behavioral

health counseling and substance abuse treatment that is integrated with Native cultural and traditional healing practices. In addition, NAC developed, owns and operates over 600 units of affordable housing for working families and permanent supportive housing for homeless individuals along the light-rail in Central Phoenix. NAC has been a leader in multi-family housing LEED Platinum Certified building.

Ms. Devine has an MBA from Arizona State University and holds International and State licenses in substance abuse counseling. Ms. Devine was inducted into the ASU WP Carey School of Business Hall of Fame (2012). She dedicates her time to local, state and national boards/committees including: Founding board member Native Home Capital; (Current boards) St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center; Maricopa Integrated Health System Audit and Compliance; City of Mesa Housing; Arizona State University Lodestar Center for Philanthropy & Nonprofit Innovation; Federal Home Loan Bank - Affordable Housing Advisory Board; (Past) St. Mary's High School Board President; and Robert Wood Johnson National Mentor for Developing Leadership.



ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' SERVICES

SERVING ARIZONA'S VETERANS
AS THEY HAVE SERVED US

AZ Military Family Relief Fund



The Arizona Military family Relief Fund was established by the Arizona Legislature in 2007 to provide financial assistance to the families of currently deployed Service Members and post-9/11 Military and Veteran Families for hardships caused by the Service Member's deployment to a combat zone. Assistance from the Arizona Military Family Relief Fund is determined by an Advisory Committee, which is comprised of twelve members appointed by the Governor as well as the Director of the Arizona Department of Veterans' Services.



Veterans Benefits Counselors

The ADVS Veterans Services Division provides a network of Veterans Benefits Counselors (VBC's) who give information, counseling and assistance to veterans, their dependents and survivors in matters pertaining to federal and state benefits earned by honorable service in the armed forces of the United States.

Veterans Benefits Counselors will help you:

- process compensation and pension applications
- appeal VA decisions
- file for survivors death benefits
- apply for aid and attendance and housebound benefits
- certification of claim documents
- request for military service records
- upgrade military discharges
- apply for special veteran license plates
- and more

VBC's travel to all fifteen counties of the state. For a schedule of the monthly itinerant travel to your area call 1-800-852-VETS(8387).

Cemeteries



The Arizona State Veterans' Cemetery provides a lasting final benefit in honor of Veterans and their families with a final resting place in appreciation and gratitude for their service and sacrifice to our nation.

- Southern Arizona Veterans' Cemetery: 1300 Buffalo Soldier Trail, Sierra Vista, AZ 85635
- National Memorial Cemetery of AZ: 23029 N. Cave Creek Rd, Phoenix, AZ 85024
- Arizona Veterans' Memorial cemetery at Camp Navajo: 14317 Veterans Dr, Bellemont, AZ 86015
- Arizona Veterans' Memorial Cemetery at Marana: 15950 N Luckett Rd, Marana, AZ 85653

For more information on our services, please visit:

www.dvs.az.gov

Welcome
Arizona American Indian
Veterans Town Hall

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ASU

Arizona Lottery
GIVES BACK

The Arizona Lottery is a proud partner of the Governor's Office on Tribal Relations and today's event. Together, we are improving the quality of life for American Indian Veterans and their families here in Arizona.

Learn more at
ArizonaLottery.com/Giving-Back

f t i y

Thank you, Veterans.
ARIZONA
OFFICE OF TOURISM

Photo: Sue Stokes

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Committed to honoring
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to Safety Open for Business Education Innovative
Innovative Growth & Community Focused Growth &
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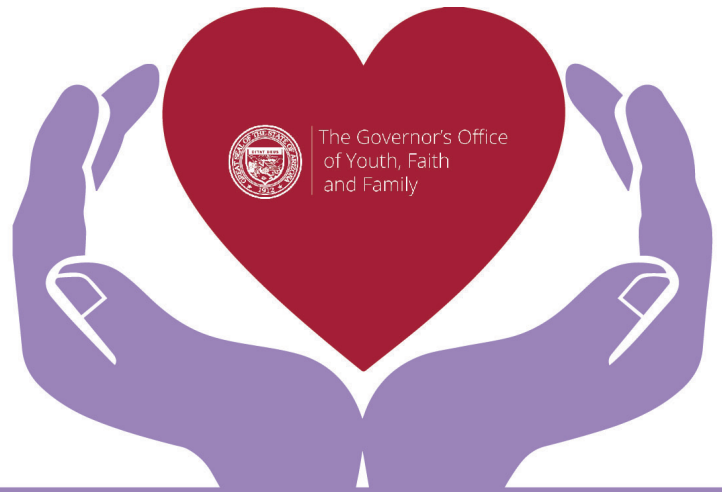
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The Governor's Office
of Youth, Faith
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The Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family (GOYFF) works to create a safe, healthy and bright future for all Arizona as envisioned by Governor Doug Ducey. The office convenes and staffs eight Governor appointed commissions. The staff works directly with funded partners and community stakeholders to leverage assets to improve the lives of all of Arizona's youth and families, thereby creating a great state to raise a family.

Director, Debbie Moak

For more information:

goyff.az.gov

www.facebook.com/goyff



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For more information, please visit:
AZStateParks.com/SHPO

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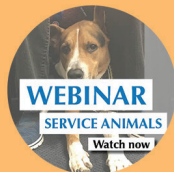
Explore Arizona's unique natural heritage
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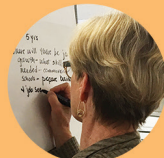
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Check out our resources online:

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NOTES:

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www.nativeconnections.org

Freeport McMoran

Tanayia White
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Email: twhite5@fmi.com
www.freportinmycommunity.com

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www.arizonalottery.com

Pinal County Eagle One Veterans

Jeremy Isom
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Phone: 480-305-3201
Email: Jeremiah.Isom@va.gov

Phoenix VA Medical Center Telehealth Services

Mobile Medical Unit
Bradley Meisenburg
650 E. Indian School Rd
Phoenix, AZ 85012
Phone: 602-277-5551 x6689
Email: bradley.meisenburg@va.gov
www.phoenix.va.gov

Upward Bound Project

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http://vub.asu.edu

Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation

P.O. Box 17779
Fountain Hills, AZ 85269
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www.fmyn.org

Arizona Coalition for Military Families

c/o Technical Assistance Partnership for Arizona
2929 N. Central Avenue, Suite 1550
Phoenix, AZ 85012
Phone: 602-753-8802
Email: info@arizonacoalition.org
www.arizonacoalition.org

If you or someone you know is in crisis,
please contact:

NATIONAL VETERANS CRISIS LINE

1-800.273.8255, Option 1

THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE ON TRIBAL RELATIONS
WOULD LIKE TO THANK OUR SPONSORS. WITHOUT
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