

COMMANDER'S 2009 ANNUAL REPORT

The past year as commander has been full of challenges and interesting responsibilities. Thanks to the continued assistance and advice from Former Commander Cushing and the Association's officers we are reported to have had a very good year.

Memorial and Veterans' Day Programs were well planned and executed. COL Joey Strickland, Director Arizona Department of Veterans Services, was scheduled to be the Memorial Day speaker. Due to unforeseen circumstances the Director could not be at the event. Deputy Director Robert Barnes ably filled in for Director Strickland. Popular veteran speaker Rick Romley, former Maricopa County Attorney, honored us with his inspirational address on Veterans Day. He was presented with a Purple Heart bola contributed by Comrade Bruce MacDonald. The great support of Sunland Memorial Park continues to be the key ingredient of the success of the programs. The Desert Brass Band continues to provide outstanding music. Sharp cadets from Greenway High School JROTC provided the Color Guard. Since there is a change of officers for 2010, changes in program committee assignments are contemplated for next year.

It was announced that Vertis Roberts, Superintendent, Sunland Memorial Park, would retire at the end of March 2010. Members approved presenting a plaque and restaurant gift certificate to him in appreciation of his many years of service in support of the various veteran activities hosted by Sunland. The presentation was made at the Veterans' Day Program.

Proceeding and following Memorial Day our organizations placed and retrieved flags on veteran's graves. The City of Peoria contributed \$1,500 and Peoria Councilman Dave Pearson contributed \$1,000 to the Association. As of the end of November we had income of \$3,680 and expenses of \$2,742. The budget for 2009 was: income-\$1,600; expenses-\$2,975. It is noted that as of this date no 2010 dues have been received.

We continue to appreciate the work and support of Webmaster David Budworth who keeps our very impressive website up-to-date, that is, if we provide him with up-to-date information. Organization Commanders are reminded to submit changes to the Association's Commander as they become effective. You may also post upcoming events by sending them directly to the webmaster.

2010 officers, nominated in November and to be elected in December are: Commander, Harold Stern; Vice Commander, Ron Capek; Adjutant, Bob Madden; Treasurer, Tony Saputo; Judge Advocate, Dennis Grau.

Our financial records were audited and found to be in order and correct. Treasure Harold Stern continues to do a great job in keeping our finances current. Special thanks to George Cushing and Ray Rodes for conducting the annual audit.

Phil Hanson

December 19, 2009