



ARIZONA COMMANDERY

MILITARY ORDER OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES

VOLUME 1 / ISSUE 1

WHERE DO WE START!

To some Chartering a Commandery is a dream but to the Organizing Secretary and the Charter Members of the Arizona Commandery it is now a reality. On Veterans Day November 11, 2019 the newest Commandery within MOFW US was chartered with 16 new Members. Our thanks go out to the men and women who served our nation with distinction not only for America but for the whole world. On Veterans Day we Honor those that served but we are reminded of those that sacrificed so much in war for our us.

Thanks go out to our Leadership.

We are thankful for the outstanding work of the individual members and leaders of the MOFW, Commander-General Herndon, Past C-G's Clark, Russell, Lindenau and S-G Trombetta. The Commanders Staff supported Organizing Secretary Hopkins over the past two years in support of the Charter. As the goal came into reach a date was set and what better date than Veterans Day. This was almost 225 years after MOFW was founded.

CHARTER
LUNCHEON

Guest Speaker

MAJ GERALD
"JERRY"
GUSTAFSON

OATH OF OFFICE



Maj Gerald "Jerry" Gustafson

Deus et Libertas

Commandery Luncheon



The first meeting of the AZ Commandery on November 20, 2019, was a luncheon held at Rudy's BBQ in Chandler, Arizona. The members of the Commandery enjoyed a buffet BBQ, there was time to meet and greet each other a prayer by Chaplain Thomas Mohler for the Commandery and an Honorary Guest speaker before the Charter ceremony.

The guest speaker was MAJ Gerald "Jerry" Gustafson, US Army Veteran of WWII, Korea and Vietnam. He served from 1943 to 1964. His awards and decorations are many and most received as a member of the 442nd Infantry Regiment Combat Team. His speech to us was about his experiences in the 442nd IRCT, in Europe, his memories of life in Hawaii with the dependants of the men he knew in the 442nd and his service in Korea and Vietnam.

Jerry turns 98 the day after Christmas this year but you wouldn't know it. He is as bright and jovial as any young soldier about to go off to duty, not a Veteran who is reminiscing his youth. Jerry is a friendly man who loves his Country, his wives, and the Army. His first line was "I was a lucky guy!". The Commandery was privileged to make MAJ Gustafson an Honorary member and life long member, of the Arizona Commandery.



CHARTER CEREMONY

Members and guests of the Commandery, were then introduced to the Military Order of Foreign Wars as Organizing Secretary Brad Hopkins led the Charter Ceremony.

Dennis Coe, Brad Hopkins,

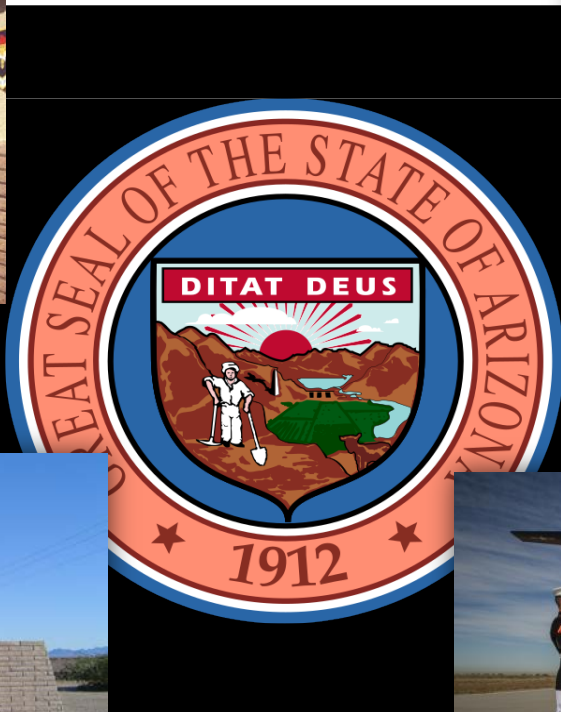
Keith Knotek, Bill Baran, David Bonnett

During the ceremony we covered:

Defining the Order; Purpose; Companionship; History of the Order; Awards Program; and Prominent Companions;

And then the Introduction of the sixteen Charter Companions to the Arizona Commandery:

CW3 David Brad Hopkins	CW5 David Hathaway	COL David Russell
Mr. David N. Hopkins	LTC Albert Guarnieri, Jr.	Mr. Benjamin Russell
Mr. Keith R. Knotek, SAR	Dr. Ricky C. Godbolt, CW2	1Lt Natalie R. Mohler
Col Thomas C. Mohler	Dr. William Baran, SAR	1LT Justin Baty
Mr. David Bonnett, SAR	Mr. David H. Russell, Jr	CPT Dennis Coe
Ms. Lesley Ann Mentch Baran, DAR		





Bill Baran, David Bonnett, Brad Hopkins

The Oath of Office ceremony for the New State Commandery Officers was held;

Commander	Brad Hopkins
Vice-Commander	Dave Hathaway
Chaplain	Thomas Mohler
Secretary	vacant
Treasurer	Bill Baran
Sergeant at Arms	David Bonnett

The position of Secretary remains vacant and the duties will be assumed by the Commander till the next Commandery election.

We had a very nice afternoon and enjoyed MAJ Gustafson's stories. It was a pleasure to share the event of the day with the wives in attendance, Paula Hopkins and Lorraine Coe, who were pleased and proud of their husbands.

There was a Quartermaster display for all to see and the long awaited, planned, checked and rechecked and approved day was over. Now the work begins building a Commandery we can be proud of responsible to and one which many more will join and experience the honor of carrying on the tradition of:

Honoring and perpetuating the names of the brave and loyal men and women

Keep in mind the memory of their marital deeds and the victories which they helped gain

Strengthen the ties of fellowship among the Companions of the Order

Foster the cultivation of military and naval science

Bear true faith and allegiance to the United States of America, based upon a paramount respect for, and fidelity to, the National Constitution and laws

Aid in maintaining national honor, union and independence

Contact us:

AZ MOFW

26205 S. Howard Dr.

Sun Lakes, AZ 85248

401-212-6456

www.mofwus.org



Final word: **Recruiting**

Next Bi-annual National Convention early summer 2020, in the NYC area

The next meeting of the AZ MOFW: TBA





A home-cooked meal. Spending time with loved ones. Tucking in the kids at night.

These are things our troops miss the most.

You can still help our military men and women feel closer to their loved ones and the comforts they long for. **Give now — in time for Thanksgiving** — to provide service members comfort and strength as they defend America and our freedoms daily.

MATCH MY GIFT FOR OUR HEROES >>

Open your heart to our heroes this Thanksgiving by giving them the simplest pleasures. Your gift today will help to provide holiday packages, including Holiday Meals, Welcome a Hero Home and Long Distance Bedtime Stories. **Plus, your gift will be matched, dollar for dollar, thanks to Johnson & Johnson.**