



Army Women United
Women's Army Corps
Veterans' Association

E-NEWS – APRIL 2026

Chapter 68 Saguaro – Army Women United (Women's Army Corps Veterans' Association since 1941)

Did you serve in the military? Don't Be A Footnote in History!
Register your story of service in the Military Women's Memorial National Register.
<https://womensmemorial.org/make-herstory/>

See pg 9 for
Wish List
of items
to donate.



Army Women United
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YOU ARE INVITED TO A BABY SHOWER



Honoring Military Women and Families
in conjunction with Veterans First, Ltd

SATURDAY, APRIL 18TH 2026

11:30

Luke-Greenway American Legion Post 1
364 N 7th Ave, Phx



LUNCH COST – \$18
MEXICAN FOOD BUFFET
(DRINKS ON OWN FROM BAR)



**Baby items and New Mom drive to benefit
Phx & Prescott VA Maternity Care programs
and other veteran families**

HOSTED BY ARMY WOMEN UNITED CHAPTER 68
AND
MILITARY WOMEN ACROSS THE NATION UNIT 155

RSVP by 4/12 to Karen Craig
Zelle: 480.213.5769
Venmo: @Karen-Craig-111

50/50 DRAWING AND GAMES

SHEREE BIGGE, 623-680-3016, SHEREEBIGGE@GMAIL.COM



Phoenix, Arizona

MAY 2, 2026: WOMEN VETERANS ANNUAL TEA PARTY

The May Social will be different from our normal May WACVA Birthday/Anniversary celebration. We have been invited to participate along with West Valley Women Veterans at their Tea Party on

Saturday, May 2, 4 – 6 PM
The Spicery in our 1895 Home
7141 N 59th Ave, Glendale, AZ

There will be individual checks and cost is \$30 each. Stacey Eastman, Chapter 68 member is the host.

This event welcomes members of Chapter 68 Saguaro Army Women United and the West Valley Women Veterans.

UPCOMING CHAPTER 68 SOCIALS

If you are available to host, contact Sheree.

Date	Host (s) / Theme
Apr 18, 2026 See flyer on pg 1	2nd Annual Baby Shower Hosts: Chp 68-Sheree Bigge, MWAN-Martha Alderman Luke-Greenway Am Legion Post #1, 364 N 7th Ave, Phoenix, AZ
May 2, 2026 4 – 6 PM The Spicery	Tea Party with West Valley Women Veterans. Host Stacey Eastwood
June 2026	Host needed
July 5, 2026 4 PM	Host: Sue Wudy, Aunt Chilada's, 7330 N Dreamy Draw Dr, Phoenix

JOIN US – CHAPTER 68 BUSINESS MEETING

EVERYONE WELCOME!



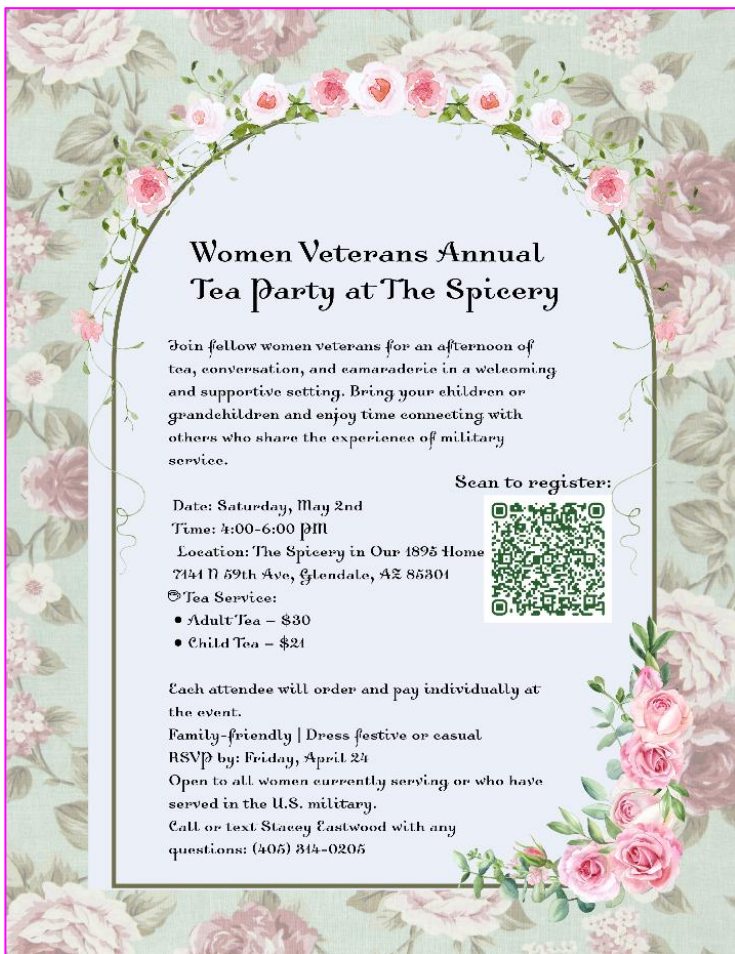
2nd Tues of month / 1:00 PM (AZ time)
Find out more about Chapter 68.

<https://zoom.us/j/98671062738?pwd=NnUwbysvdIZ2YkhGemJ4bWFtT0hOUT09>

Meeting ID: 986 7106 2738
Password: Chap68

Upcoming Chapter 68 Business Mtgs:

- Apr 14, 2026
- May 2, 2026 – Social
- Jun 9, 2026
- July – no meeting
- August – no meeting
- Sept 8, 2026



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – SHEREE BIGGE



Spring has sprung! In our personal lives and within the veteran community there are many activities around the valley. These will generate opportunities to connect with friends and family.

All-Female Honor Flight, April 7: Join me in sharing

our pride for Chapter members **Gena Wilson** and **Joan Sisco** who will participate in the all-female Honor Flight on April 7th sponsored by the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR). Kudos also to the Chapter Color Guard members who will be at Sky Harbor Airport for the official send-off. I know you will represent all women veterans well.

March Social at Guardian Garage: Thanks to **Joy Isban** for hosting the March Social, which was held at the Guardian Garage, a 501c3, in Peoria on Saturday, March 28th. It was a different outing but very informative and interesting. There were several older projects that are in-progress to see, along with a few pieces of art. Plus, the treats Joy provided were yummy. It was a small group, but we all enjoyed and even saw the MG vehicle project that is in progress that had been donated by Norma Joiner. We welcomed a Navy veteran guest and her family.

Chapter Election & Voting: We will vote on the Slate of Officers of Chapter 68 at the April 14 ZOOM meeting. All current Officers have agreed to serve another term. As your President, my ability to serve is dependent on the membership allowing another term as I have extended the term permissible by the Bylaws. The members present on the March Zoom approved another term. We do not have anyone on the Slate for 1st Vice President. This position supports the President, fills in when President is unable, is responsible for speakers and coordinating the two designated meeting/social

(December and May), and is expected to attend all the Membership and Board meetings among other responsibilities. If interested, please contact myself or Sue Wudy, Nominations Chair. The Board term will begin July 1.

2nd Annual Baby Shower, April 18: On April 18th, 11:30 AM at the American Legion Post 1, 364 N 7th Ave, Phoenix. Lunch cost is \$18 for a Mexican food buffet. We are co-hosting with MWAN Unit 155. We will be gathering donated items for Babies and new Moms for the Maternity Outreach and Veteran Families program administered by Veterans First, Ltd. This program benefits both Phoenix and Prescott VA Maternity Care programs as well as other veteran families. See flyer on pg 1 of eNEWS.

RSVP and Zelle prepayment is strongly encouraged by April 12th to Karen Craig, 480-213-5769.

June Social: To be determined.

July Social: July will again be hosted by Sue Wudy at Aunt Chilada's on July 5 at 4:00 PM at the Dreamy Draw location.

Community Service Hours: A reminder that your Community Service hours and monetary donations are to be submitted to **Julie Augeri by May 15**. Please guesstimate your hours/funds through the end of May before submitting. This report is then compiled and presented at the National Convention. Due to the early date of Convention, the report needs to be submitted to National in a timely manner.

Chapter 68 of JROTC: Chapter 68 supports the JROTC program at six local valley High Schools. The Awards Ceremonies at the various high schools are generally in April. Some schools still need a chapter member to make the presentation. If you are able, please contact Sue Wudy. The Minutes of March meeting indicate the high schools we make presentations to.

WACVA-AWU National Convention: For those interested in attending, dates are July 31–August 2, 2026 and location is the Springhill Suites in Chester, VA (\$149 per night). On Saturday afternoon, there will be



a side tour to the US Army Women's Museum located near Ft Lee, VA. Arrange flights into Richmond International Airport. I suggest arriving on Thursday so that you can attend the opening ceremony on Friday. (I will be flying in on Wednesday 7/29). The last event on Sunday, 8/2, is scheduled to finish at 1 PM so a flight home that afternoon is possible. We are allowed 3 delegates and alternates. If you attend as a delegate, you will be asked to attend all business meetings. If planning to join me at Convention, please let me know. Gabe Forsberg is attending and we are on the same flights.

Chapter Transition to 501c3: No update from previous reports. We are waiting to receive notification on status of Articles of Incorporation. Work continues updating the Duties and Procedures manual.

I look forward to seeing you on our virtual Business meeting via Zoom on Tuesday, April 14, 1:00 PM AZ.



MEMBER DUES

A reminder that Member Dues for the upcoming FY2026–2027 year will be due soon. If interested in paying now, all dues received by **15 May** will be entered into a drawing to receive two tickets to tour The Lavender Farm.

Pay via Zelle to Karen Craig (480-213-5769), bring cash/check to Baby Shower on 4/18, OR mail check to Karen (PO Box 26152, Tempe, AZ 85285).

Annual Member dues:
\$45 (Army, ARNG, USAR)

Affiliate dues (non-Army branches): \$30
This covers the period of 1 July 2026 – 30 June 2027.

VA BURIAL & MEMORIAL BENEFITS

VA U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs National Cemetery Administration

PLAN TODAY. HONOR FOREVER.

KNOW YOUR BURIAL BENEFITS AT A VA NATIONAL CEMETERY

If you served in the military, you may be eligible for VA burial benefits. Burial services at VA national cemeteries are provided at no cost, helping you and your family save thousands of dollars.

- Burial site and burial of a casket or urn, perpetual care
- Government headstone or marker
- United States burial flag
- Presidential Memorial Certificates

Give your family peace of mind

If you or your spouse want to be buried in a VA national cemetery, you can apply to find out in advance if you are eligible. Complete VA's pre-need burial eligibility application today, a good starting point in end-of-life planning.

Learn more about your earned VA burial benefits and access the pre-need burial eligibility application.
www.cem.va.gov/veterans-and-families

"This is one thing that I can do for myself that will help my family plan for the future."
Olivia Nunn, U.S. Army Veteran

"It's important to us that even after our passing, our service will be honored and that our children will have a place to go to honor and remember us."
Juanita Pettersen, U.S. Army Veteran

Visit www.cem.va.gov/veterans-and-families to explore your benefits. For questions about your benefits, please call the VA Benefits Hotline at 1-800-827-1000, Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM to 9:00 PM ET.

APRIL 8, 2026: WOMEN WHO LEAD "COACHING AS A LEADERSHIP STYLE"

Sharon Preszler, Board-certified coach with 35+ years of aviation leadership

Women Who
LEAD

Leadership | Education | Assessment | Development
Connecting Women Veterans & Non-Veterans

Wednesday, April 8, 2026

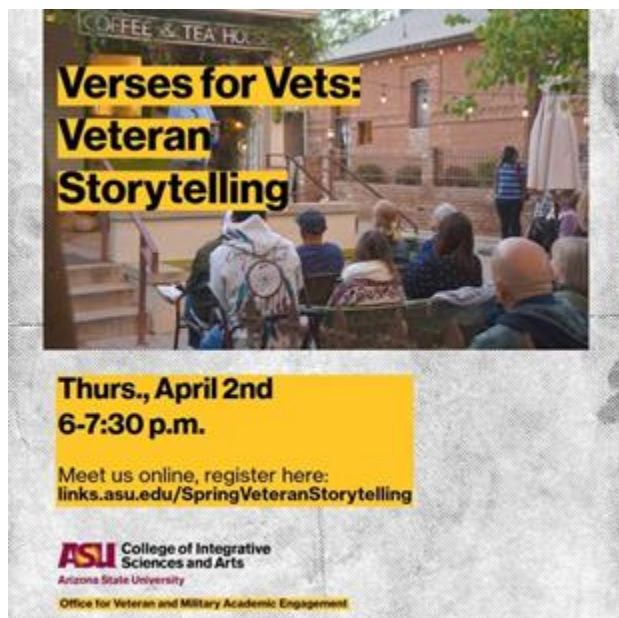
TIMES: 7:30 am PST | 7:30 am AZ MST |
10:30 am EST

Fairway Mortgage
20359 N. 59th Ave. Ste. 100, Glendale, AZ
<https://VanguardVeteran.com>



Phoenix, Arizona

APRIL 2, 2026: VERSES FOR VETERANS: STORYTELLING



APRIL 11, 2026: HEAL HER ART



Women Veterans Art Forum

Woven Watercolor



What
Fun, professionally led art session at no cost to women veterans
No experience needed!

When
Saturday April 11, 2026
10:00 am to 12:15 pm
Please arrive by 9:45 a.m.

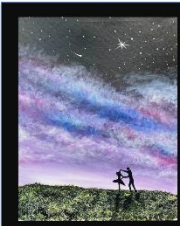
Where
Luke Greenway
American Legion Post 1
364 N. 7th Ave
Phoenix, AZ 85007

FACEBOOK: @HEALHERArt



Pre-registration Requested
On or before April 9th by 5:00 p.m.
Register at 602-314-4250 or seventree@veteransfirsttld.org
This special event is for women veterans only

PLEASE NOTE: NO SESSION IN MAY!!!!



Sneak Peak
I hope you dance
June 13, 2026

APRIL 11, 2026: SURPRISE VET FEST

5 - 8 PM

Surprise Stadium, 15850 N. Bullard Ave.
The City of Surprise is seeking organizations and businesses interested in hosting a table at this year's event, along with sponsors for Vet Fest. Register online or view sponsorship levels at [//surpriseaz.gov/VetFest](https://surpriseaz.gov/VetFest)



APRIL 9-12, 2026: WALL THAT HEALS

The City of Surprise is honored to welcome The Wall That Heals, a three-quarter scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, along with its Mobile Education Center. The exhibit will be open 24 hours a day beginning at 5 AM on April 9 to 2 PM April 12. Free for the public. **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**
thewallthatheals2026.surpriseaz.gov/volunteer



APRIL 22, 2026: MST LUNCHEON

Support for survivors with connections to resources to promote recovery and healing.

MST Luncheon

April 22, 2026 | 11 AM - 2 PM

Our Mission: Honor and support military sexual trauma (MST) survivors and create opportunities for connection.

Please Join Us!

Luke Greenway
American Legion Post 1
364 N. 7th Ave
Phoenix, AZ 85007
7th Ave North of Van Buren

For more information:

Dr. Nadia Alexandrova
MST Coordinator
602-234-7147
Nadejda.Alexandrova@va.gov



CHAPTER 68 HOSTS BINGO AT VA CLC

Chapter 68 volunteers will conduct Bingo at the VA Community Living Center (CLC) Phoenix VA Hospital, 650 E. Indian School Rd on the first Sunday of every month. We meet at 1 PM to set up and the games are held from 1:30 PM until 3 PM.

April 12: BINGO pushed one week so that no interference with Easter plans. Lead Gabe Forsberg. 1 – 2 Volunteers needed.

May 3 & June 7: We are also looking for 2 – 3 volunteers If you want to get on the schedule, please contact Karen Craig.

IN MEMORIAM:

ELDORA M. ENGBRETSON

JAN 18, 1940 – MAR 1, 2026

Eldora loved her country and her fellow veterans. She was a woman of action. If she saw a need, she did her best to fill it, organizing events, connecting family, friends, veterans, and neighbors, and creating a sense of community for many.

Eldora was born on January 18, 1940, to Iver and Lucille

Engbretson in Fargo, ND, the oldest of three children. In 1961, she joined the Women's Army



Corps and began Basic Training at Ft. McClellan in Anniston, AL for dental technician training. She served at Ft. Hood, TX as a lab tech until 1964. After active duty she joined the Army Reserve in TX until 1968. She worked in the aerospace industry and retired as a CAD (computer aided design) Systems Analyst. She shared 48 years with her partner and spouse Joanne until Joanne's death in 2014. Since 1987, Eldora was a driving force in the Women's Army Corps Veterans Association-Army Women United, serving as the national president from 2000–2002 and as a member of the WACVA honor guard since 1988. In 2010, she started WACVA-AWU Chapter 119, Arizona Roadrunners. She was an editor of THE CHANNEL, the WACVA newsletter.

She was nominated to the 2nd class of the Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame.

As Editor of *The Saguaro Sun*, she played a major role in the establishment of the U.S. Vets Program, a transitional housing program for homeless veterans.

She was a member of the Community of Christ and was ordained as a deacon in 2015. RIP sister.



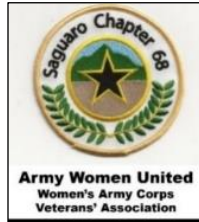
INTERESTED IN JOINING CHAPTER 68, ARMY WOMEN UNITED?

DUES ARE NOW HALF-PRICE FOR JANUARY–JUNE

Membership is open to ALL currently serving and honorably discharged women veterans of ANY branch of service.

Regular \$45: Army, ARNG, ANC, USAR,

Affiliate \$30: USMC, USN, USAF, USSF, USCG



Benefits:

- Fellowship and camaraderie with other women veterans and military members from ALL services.
- Volunteer opportunities within the community.
- Access to general education and programs of civic interest.
- Receipt of the Chapter 68 e-NEWS and *The Channel* (WACVA-AWU National news publication).

CHAPTER 68 ARMY WOMEN UNITED 2025/26 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT	Sheree Bigge
1st VP	OPEN
2nd VP Membership	Shirley Vega
CORRESPONDING SECRETARY	Gabe Forsberg
RECORDING SECRETARY	Jacqueline Jackson
TREASURER	Karen Craig
SERGEANT-AT-ARMS	Nancy Ruiz
CHAPLAIN /e-NEWS Ed	beth Johnson

To contact a board member

CALL: 602-551-7368

EMAIL: AZSaguaro.Chapter68@gmail.com

COMMUNITY SERVICE WITH CHAPTER 68

To volunteer, connect with member listed.

2025/2026 Standing Committees	Contact
Color Guard	Shirley Vega
Community Service	Julie Augeri
Ctr for Development & Civic Engagement (was VAVS Hosp)	Gabe Forsberg
e-News Editor	beth Johnson
Grant Support	Julie Augeri
JROTC Liaison	Sue Wudy
Nominate Comm & Board Elect	Sue Wudy
Outreach	Julie Augeri
Parliamentarian	Gabe Forsberg
Publicity (Facebook)	Gabe Forsberg
Unified Arizona Veterans (UAV)	Nan Molina
Ways & Means Comm	Shirley Vega Julie Augeri LaChella Boson
2025/2026 Special Committees	Contact
Ashley's Place	Gabe Forsberg
Audit	Appointed
Records Retention	Gabe Forsberg

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

"When peace like a river attendeth my way,
when sorrows like sea billows roll;
whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say,
It is well with my soul.
it is well, it is well with my soul."



During an 1873 voyage across the Atlantic Ocean to England, the ship's captain pulled Horatio Spafford aside to show him the spot where his four daughters drown when their ship collided with another vessel weeks earlier. His wife Anna was saved from the same wreck. From this sorrow, he wrote the verses that have become "It Is Well with My Soul," a timeless Christian hymn.

God Bless you sisters!

– beth Johnson, Chp 68 chaplain



CHAPTER 68 MARCH 2026 SOCIAL

Chapter 68 Members met at Guardian Garage in Glendale for the March social hosted by member Joy Isban. Craig Lewis, co-founder of Gaurdian Garage provided a tour of the shop and a run down about current automotove projects. Their vision is to positively influence and enhance the lives of First Responders and Military Veterans along with their families, suffering stressors from service through creative arts and team dynamics. Joy provided home-made sweet treats and drinks. Thanks to Gabe for the photos. A great time all around! <https://www.guardianguarage.org/>





MOVF PROGRAM

Maternity Outreach for Veteran Family's NEEDS LIST

BABY

Baby Bottle Brushes
Baby Body Wash
Baby Lotion/Oil
Baby Shampoo
Burp Clothes
Clothing 0-9, months
Diapers Newborn & Size 1
Diaper Rash Cream or
Petroleum Jelly
Pacifiers
Safety Q tips
Teething Ring
Thermometers Digital

When buying clothes, we are also in need of gender-neutral clothes. Sometimes parents do not want to know the gender before birth. Thank you

MOMS

Bath Pouf
Body Wash "Fragrance Free"
Body Lotion
Shampoo and Conditioner
Deodorant
Hairbrush
Hair Ties
Hand Sanitizer
Maxi Pads (small packages)
Nipple Balm
Nursing Apron
Perineal Cooling Pads
Razors and Shaving Cream
Socks Heavy Sole Ankle
Toothbrush, Toothpaste
Tucks

Amazon Gift Cards are also appreciated; we use them to buy supplies for mom and baby.

Your donations help us ensure that an adequate supply of baby and personal items for mom are provided to expectant veteran families to better assist with their upcoming birth. We collaborate with the Phoenix and Prescott VA Maternity Programs and Social Workers whose families are not engaged with the VA Maternity Programs. We provide the supplies every month for Phoenix and quarterly for Prescott Maternity Programs and on as needed basis for other Veteran Parents not engaged with the VA for Maternity Care.

Thank you for supporting our Maternity Outreach Program for Veteran Families Program. This program helps relieve some of the financial burden of having a new baby by supplying the items needed for a newborn baby and a care bag of supplies that help mom after the birth of their baby.

IN 2025 YOU HELPED US PROVIDE SUPPLIES FOR 243 BABIES AND 239 MOTHERS.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact.

**Joan Sisco • (Cell) 602-487-7022 • jsisco@veteransfirstltd.org or
Program Manager: Jennifer Little • 602-989-7207 • jlittle@veteransfirstltd.org**

Veterans First Ltd. • 8433 N. Black Canyon Hwy • Suite 164 • Phoenix, Arizona 85021
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Serving Arizona Veterans Since 2003

2/26

