



Army Women United
Women's Army Corps
Veterans' Association

E-NEWS – OCTOBER 2026

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

With the creation of the Women's Army Corps, women were officially allowed to join the Army. Read about our history at <https://www.armywomen.org/history>

2026 ARIZONA VETERANS HALL OF FAME INDUCTION CEREMONY

Friday, October 23, 2026

Tickets available now!

Social Hour

10:15–11:25 AM (Beverage Bar)

Program Start Time 11:30 AM

Talking Stick Resort

Salt River Grand Ballroom

9800 E Talking Stick Way, Scottsdale, AZ



Chapter 68 Member

Gabe Forsberg

Selected for

2026 Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame!

Nineteen highly deserving Arizona veterans will be inducted into the Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame this year! Please join us on October 23rd as we welcome the following veterans who will be inducted for their outstanding civic contributions beyond their military service to our great nation.

CONGRATULATIONS AVHOF CLASS OF 2026!

Shawn William Banzaf
Bryan Edward Campbell
Dan Danser
William George DeKemper
Richard Erickson
Gabriel Forsberg
Philip Raymond Goode
Randall Howard Groth
Calvin Thomas Hampton
Victor Elsberry Hardy (Posthumous)
Richard Chad Kreiberg
David Allen Lange
Gary William Larberg
Peter Ronald Roberts
Jessica Christine Roza
Carl James Ulbrich
Eric William Wenzel
Eugene John Wikle
Julian Cameron Wyatt

You Are Invited

**TO THE
2026
ARIZONA VETERANS HALL OF FAME
Induction Ceremony**

The Unified Arizona Veterans (UAV) is proud to present the Induction Ceremony for the Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame (AVHOF) Class of 2026. Please join us as we induct up to 24 highly deserving Arizona veterans into the AVHOF for their outstanding civic contributions beyond their military service to our great nation, and we welcome you to join us.

Inductee tables will be as close to the stage or aisle as possible, followed by sponsor organizations, elected officials, and special invited guests.

All other seating will be assigned "first come, first serve." Register early for the best pricing and seating. Couples purchasing tickets together will be seated together at any available open table.

UAV will not accept seating requests for under table size.
(10 seats)

Groups of individuals wishing to sit together will need to coordinate a table purchase as a single transaction.

Date: October 23, 2026 **Time:** 11:30 AM - 2:30 PM
Location: Talking Stick Resort
9800 E Talking Stick Way Scottsdale, AZ 85256

AZUAV.ORG

For information and tickets, please see the Unified Arizona Veterans website at: www.azuav.org



Phoenix, Arizona

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – SHEREE BIGGE



Welcome to Fall and cooler weather.

Oct 13, 2026, ZOOM business Mtg Speaker: Curious about the changes with your Veteran claims and benefits? **Desiree Sanchez, Chapter 68 Member and VFW Service**

Officer, will be the guest speaker at our October Zoom Business meeting on October 13.

Oct 7 Social: The next Social will be at Haus Murphy in Glendale, hosted by Chapter 68 Member Stacey Eastwood. Flyer on right.

Nov 2026 Social: No social planned, but we encourage you to join many of us at the Vetsgiving (Flyer on pg 4) on Saturday, November 14 at the Phoenix VA.

Chapter 68 will have a table and could use some help staffing.

Dec 8, Holiday Party: Hosts are Chapter 68 Members Julie Augeri and Rosemary Lloyd. Flyer on pg 6.

2027 Socials: We need hosts for socials in January, March, May and June.

Oct 23, 2026, Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony: Our very own long-time Chapter 68 Member Gabe Forsberg has been selected for induction to the 2026 Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame. Many of our Chapter members have been inducted previously, and some are active in the ceremony and planning. I encourage you to attend this ceremony to show support. Flyer on pg 1 for details.

2027 Chapter Social Cruise: Now available for booking. Flyer on pg 7. The dates for this fun social event are **Monday, August 30 – Friday, September 3, 2027**, on the Carnival Radiance, departing from Long Beach, CA with ports in Catalina Island and Ensenada. Please share with other women veterans you may know. If questions, contact me.

Chapter 68 website: Take a moment to browse our new Chapter 68 Army Women United website <https://armywomenaz.org/>. Many thanks to Chapter 68 Karen Craig for getting that operational.

Chapter 68 501c3 Status: When the chapter finalizes our 501c3 status, we will be able to collect dues, donations, ordering of merchandise and more. This has been a very lengthy procedure, but we are getting closer to completion. The final step is in process. Have a great beginning of Fall!

Next virtual Business meeting on Zoom, Tues, October 13, 1:00 PM AZ.



OCTOBER 7, 2026: CHAPTER 68 SOCIAL, HAUS MURPHY

To RSVP, use QR code on flyer (see below) or contact Member Stacey Eastwood at sdeastwo@asu.edu or cell 405-314-0205.

Saguaro Chapter 68 Phoenix
WACVA - Army Women
United

October Social

Enjoy a fun evening of great company, raffle prizes, and a 50/50 drawing. Food and beverages will be available for purchase, and each guest is responsible for their own tab. RSVP by October 5th.

Register by scanning the QR code or type the link in Google:
links.asu.edu/October2026Social

**October 7, 2026
5-7 p.m.**

Haus Murphy

5739 W Glendale Ave, Glendale, AZ 85301

Scan to register:



HYGIENE BAGS – HELPING VETS IN NEED



Submitted by Chapter 68 Member Gabe Forsberg

Chapter 68 has long supported programs to help un-housed and at-risk veterans. Our WWII members routinely held sock drives and collected hygiene for the earliest Maricopa StandDowns

held at Indian School Park in the 90's.

More recently, our band of sisters assembled donated hygiene items into "blessing bags" that were delivered to the VA's Community Resource and Referral Center (or CRRC). Member Dee "Butterfly" Parker re-instituted the program by providing storage and opening her home for members to assemble the "blessing bags," until the effort required more than one volunteer.

At our September business meeting, I proposed Chapter 68 re-establish this tradition. The VA will provide space to store and assemble hygiene items. I'm asking your help and for our chapter to "adopt" the "Hygiene Bag" Program that will assist veterans who come to the CRRC with basic necessities.

PLEASE CONSIDER DONATING

We are asking Chapter 68 Members to donate items for hygiene bags:

- travel size shampoo / conditioner
- body wash
- lotion
- shave cream
- deodorant
- 50 SPF sunscreen
- wide-tooth combs or hair picks
- new nail clippers

We have plenty of razors, toothbrushes and toothpaste. If questions, email gabeforsberg@gmail.com Thank you!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR BINGO!

Chapter 68 needs volunteers & VA-badged members to HELP with the Community Living Center (CLC) Bingo for these dates (Sundays):



- **Oct 4** – Lead: Karen Craig
- **Nov 1** – Lead: Gabe Forsberg, Shirley Vega
- **Dec 6** – Lead: Gabe Forsberg

Request Volunteers show up at the Community Living Center, at Phoenix VA by 1 PM. Bingo will be conducted from 1:30 – 3 PM. Both CLC residents and volunteers really enjoy Bingo. Contact Karen Craig if questions.

What is a VA Community Living Center?

<https://www.va.gov/GERIATRICS/pages/VACommunityLivingCenters.asp>

UPCOMING CHAPTER 68 SOCIALS

If you are available to host, contact Sheree.

Date	Host (s)
Oct 7, 2026 Glendale, AZ	Host: Stacy Eastwood Hau Murphy (Flyer pg 2)
Nov 14, 2026 Phoenix, VA	Participate in VetsGiving at Phx VA (Flyer pg 5)
Dec 8, 2026 Tempe, AZ	Host: Julie Augeri & Rosemary Lloyd (Flyer pg 6)
Jan 2027 ??	Host: ?
Feb 20, 2027 1:00 PM Chandler, AZ	Host: Shirley Vega Guest speaker: Honor Flight Rudy's BBQ
March 2027	Host ??
April 2027 Date/Time TBD	Host: Sheree Bigge Baby Shower for VA Mothers
May 2027	Host ??
June 2027	Host ??



OCT 10, 2026: HEAL HER ART

10:00 am – 12:15 pm

Luke Greenway American Legion Post 1

364 N. 7th Ave, Phoenix, AZ

Pre-registration Requested On or before
October 15 by 5:00 p.m.

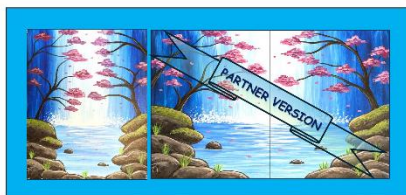
Register at 602-314-4250 or
eventreg@veteransfirstltd.org



Women Veterans Art Forum

"Stillwater Sanctuary"

Optional Partner Event



What

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

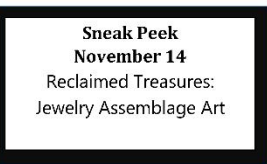
When

Saturday October 10, 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 October 15th by 5:00 p.m.
Register at 602-314-4250 or
eventreg@veteransfirstltd.org

BOTH ATTENDEES NEED TO BE REGISTERED

THIS EVENT IS FOR WOMEN VETERANS, AND
OPTIONALLY, ONE FEMALE GUEST OR
CHILD (Girl or Boy) 8 TO 17 YEAR OF AGE
If the individual is 18 years or older must be
female and will be considered a guest.

Nov 14, 2026: VETSGIVING, PHOENIX VA

Phoenix VA Healthcare System

**November 14, 2026
10 a.m. – 1 p.m.**

Carl T. Hayden VA Medical Center
650 East Indian School Road
Phoenix, AZ 85012

**North Parking Lot
7th St. at VA Medical Center entrance**

**ENTERTAINMENT | FOOD | MUSIC
GAMES | GIVEAWAYS | FAMILY FUN**

Bring Veteran ID, Retired ID or DD-214
to enter Veteran giveaways

VA U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Health Administration
Phoenix VA Health Care System

MILITARY WOMEN'S MEMORIAL

Military Women's Memorial Ambassador for
Arizona and Chapter 68 Member **Beth
Johnson** will table at VetsGiiving.
Stop by to say Hi.

If you have not yet registered your **HERstory**
with the Memorial, please consider doing
so. You can register here:

<https://womensmemorial.org/make-herstory/>

If questions, contact Beth at
wimsa.amb.az1@gmail.com



**MILITARY
WOMEN'S
MEMORIAL**



Phoenix, Arizona

Nov 10, 2026: WOMEN VETERANS MIDLIFE RESOURCE EXPO

9 AM – 2 PM

Call to Pre-Register 602-277-5551 EXT 6764
Phoenix VA 32nd St Clinic

PHOENIX VA HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

WOMEN VETERANS MIDLIFE RESOURCE EXPO

NOVEMBER 10, 2026
9AM-2PM
PHOENIX 32ND ST. VA CLINIC
400 NORTH 32ND STREET PHOENIX, AZ 85008

**FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO PRE-REGISTER,
CALL 602-277-5551 EXT. 6764**

PLEASE LEAVE A VOICEMAIL WITH A CALLBACK NUMBER IF YOUR CALL IS NOT ANSWERED



Seminars | Breakout Classes | Resource Fair
Refreshments Provided

Join us for a day dedicated to Women Veterans navigating midlife transitions. Connect with resources, attend informative seminars and participate in breakout classes from Recreation Therapy – all in one place.

Questions? Call the Women Veterans Program at 602-277-5551 x6764.

VA |  **U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs**
Veterans Health Administration
Phoenix VA Health Care System

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=NnUwbysvdlZ2YkhGemJ4bWFtT0h0UT09>

Meeting ID: 986 7106 2738

Password: Chap68

Upcoming Chapter 68 Business Mtgs:

- Oct 13, 2026
- Nov 10, 2026
- Dec no Mtg – Social only
- Jan 12, 2027



WEST VALLEY WOMEN VETERANS

You Belong Here

Events
Resources
Ways to Get involved



More information:

<https://www.westvalleywomenveterans.org/>

EAST VALLEY WOMEN VETERANS

CONNECT – EMPOWER – THRIVE



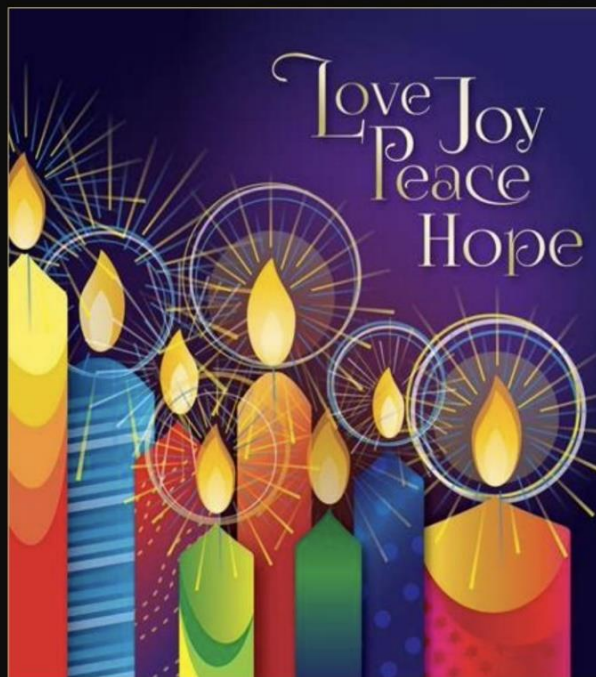
More information:

<https://www.facebook.com/eastvalleywomenveterans/>



Phoenix, Arizona



**DEC 8, 2026: CHAPTER 68 HOLIDAY
PARTY, TEMPE, AZ*****Celebrate the season of light******December 8, 2026
11:00 am – 1:30 pm******WACVA-AWU
Chapter 68******Black Bear Diner
7700 S Priest Drive
Tempe, AZ 85284******RSVP to Julie Augeri*****HAPPY 106TH BIRTHDAY TO CHAPTER 68
MEMBER MAJOR FANNIE**

by Edna Cummings

Happy 106th Birthday to Retired Air Force Major Fannie Griffin McClendon who celebrated this milestone on Sept 22, 2026. During World War II, Maj. McClendon was a First Lieutenant with 6888th Central Postal Battalion (Six Triple Eight). She later joined the Air Force and retired in 1971.

She traveled extensively, played golf, and became an antique dealer.

She is the last known living member of the historic 6888th Battalion...

Learn more about this incredible veteran and the last known living Six Triple Eight member.

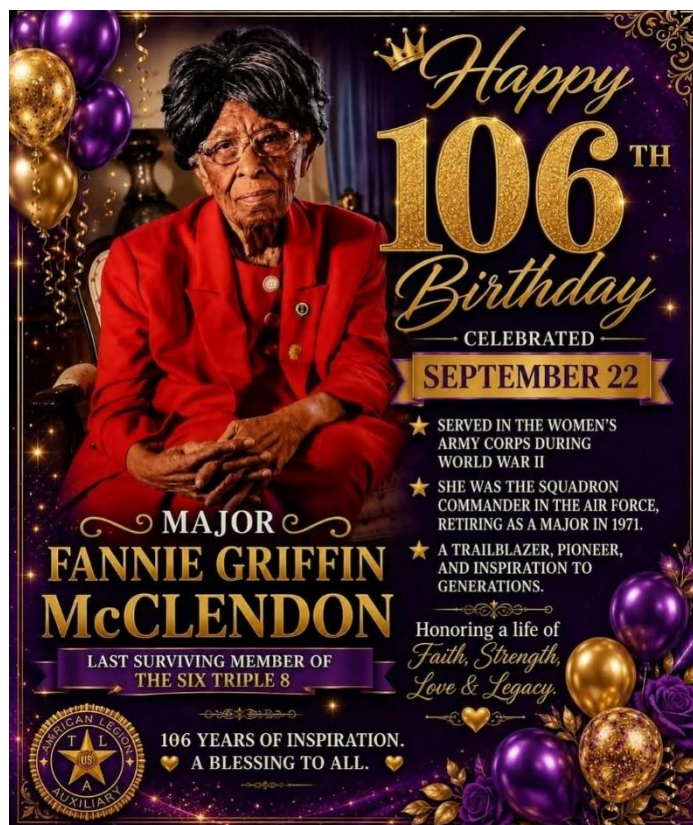
USAF Article: <https://lnkd.in/e23aGBwR>

Library of Congress:

<https://lnkd.in/exjyDEYP>

University of Phoenix (mini documentary):

<https://lnkd.in/eV4b8WJD>



A SOLDIER'S LIFE: A BLACK WOMEN'S RISE

Released 2025! *A Soldier's Life: A Black Woman's Rise from Army Brat to Six Triple Eight Champion*. Inspirational story of retired Army Colonel Edna W. Cummings' journey in the US Army, and her trailblazing efforts to honor the legendary 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion.

<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/220646954-a-soldier-s-life>

DEC 12 & DEC 19, 2026: WOMEN VETERAN EQUINE EXPERIENCE

Work alongside other women veterans while learning how to interact with horses!



REIGNING GRACE RANCH
A ranch of redemption and restoration

THE ARMOR PROJECT
PRESENT

WEST VALLEY WOMEN VETERANS

Women Veteran EQUINE EXPERIENCE

Two One-Day Opportunities

CONNECT • LEARN • GROW • BELONG

A hands-on experience with horses designed for women veterans to build confidence, strengthen communication, and create meaningful connection.

SATURDAY DECEMBER 12, 2026	SATURDAY DECEMBER 19, 2026
12:00 – 2:30 PM	12:00 – 2:30 PM
28614 N 172 Rio Verde, AZ 85263	28614 N 172 Rio Verde, AZ 85263

What You'll Do

- Ground-based handling and leading
- Personal-space and boundary exercises
- Controlled movement and stopping
- Lunging and/or round pen work
- Simple breath and focus techniques

No riding. No pressure to share. No performance expectations.

Why Horses?

Horses are large, sensitive animals that respond to clarity and consistency. They don't react to rank or words alone – they respond to how someone shows up in the moment.

Working with horses on the ground provides an immediate feedback and helps participants practice:

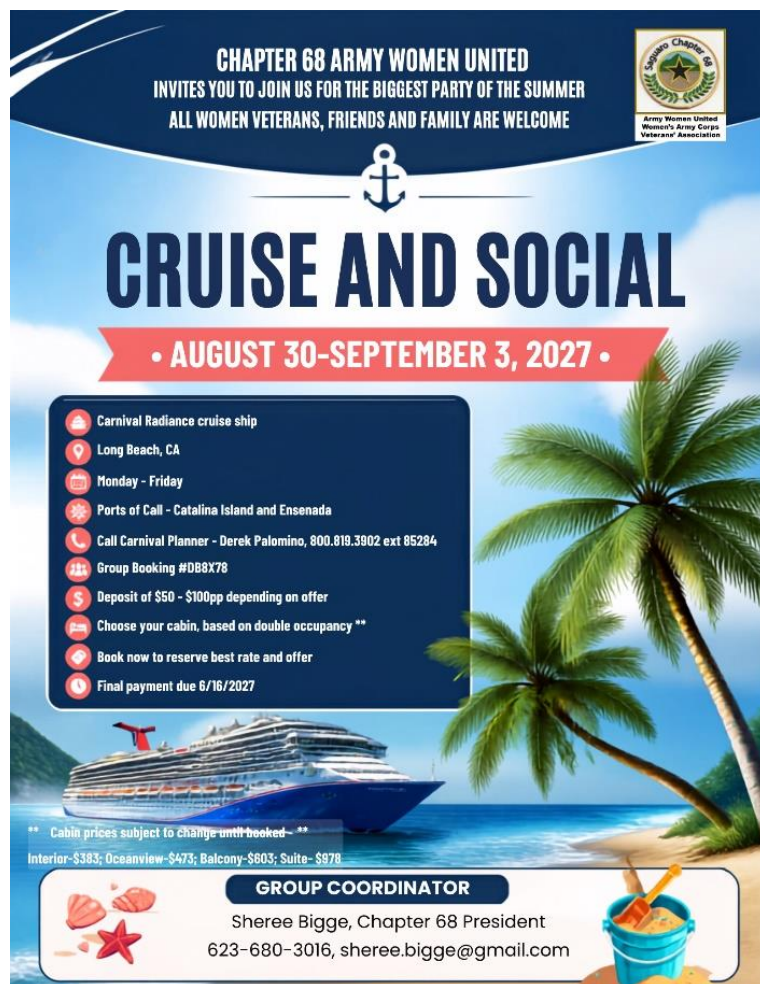
- Staying focused under pressure
- Maintaining clear boundaries
- Adjusting calmly rather than reacting
- Leading with steadiness and intention

REGISTER AT
[westvalleywomenveterans.org/calendar](https://www.westvalleywomenveterans.org/calendar)

Community Connection
Stronger Together

Register with West Valley Women Veterans:
<https://www.westvalleywomenveterans.org/event-details/women-veteran-equine-experience-2026-12-12-12-00>

AUG 30–SEPT 3, 2027: CHAPTER 68 CRUISE & SOCIAL



CHAPTER 68 ARMY WOMEN UNITED
INVITES YOU TO JOIN US FOR THE BIGGEST PARTY OF THE SUMMER
ALL WOMEN VETERANS, FRIENDS AND FAMILY ARE WELCOME

CRUISE AND SOCIAL

• AUGUST 30–SEPTEMBER 3, 2027 •

- Carnival Radiance cruise ship
- Long Beach, CA
- Monday - Friday
- Ports of Call - Catalina Island and Ensenada
- Call Carnival Planner - Derek Palomino, 800.819.3902 ext 85284
- Group Booking #DB8X78
- Deposit of \$50 - \$100pp depending on offer
- Choose your cabin, based on double occupancy **
- Book now to reserve best rate and offer
- Final payment due 6/16/2027

** Cabin prices subject to change until booked **

Interior - \$383; Oceanview - \$473; Balcony - \$603; Suite - \$978

GROUP COORDINATOR
Sheree Bigge, Chapter 68 President
623-680-3016, sheree.bigge@gmail.com

Now available for booking. Monday, August 30 – Friday, September 3, 2027, on the Carnival Radiance, departing from Long Beach, CA, with ports in Catalina Island and Ensenada. Rates include the entire cruise except for gratuities. Rates are based on double occupancy and subject to change until booked. To book your cabin on the cruise, please call **Derek Palomino, Carnival Planner**, 800.819.3902, ext 85284 and reference **Group Booking DB8X78**. Derek will get the best price available for the category you desire.



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

There is a scriptural precedence for celebrating the harvest with a festival. The celebration acknowledges the first fruits of labor sown in the field. Today, we also look forward to the harvest season (Fall) because it signifies the culmination of our annual efforts and it ushers in an extended season of holiday celebration.



With our Chapter service focus, we are given many opportunities to plant seeds of mercy and compassion, reflective of the way our Lord treats us. Just in this past month, a bride was celebrated, widows were visited, disabled members were assisted, and a historical pathfinder was honored. You can be a part of giving just a little bit of your time and talents for the sake of others; it just takes a willing heart.

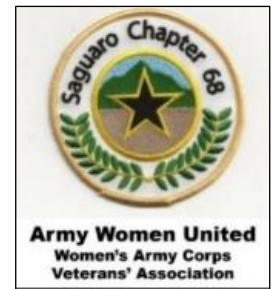
“Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up.” — Ecclesiastes 4:9-10

October Prayer Focus: Ask the Lord of the harvest, to send out workers to share the load of caring for our sister veterans. Feel free to share your prayer needs with me. Wishing you a beautiful month
— Julie Augeri, Chapter 68 Chaplain

INTERESTED IN JOINING CHAPTER 68, ARMY WOMEN UNITED?

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 in the community.
- Access to general education and programs of civic interest.
- Receipt of the Chapter 68 eNEWS and THE CHANNEL (WACVA-AWU National news publication).
- <https://www.armywomen.org/>

CHAPTER 68 ARMY WOMEN UNITED 2026/27 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

To contact a board member

CALL: 602-551-7368

EMAIL: AZSaguaro.Chapter68@gmail.com

PRESIDENT	Sheree Bigge
1st VP	OPEN
2nd VP MEMBERSHIP	Shirley Vega
SECRETARY	Jacqueline Jackson
TREASURER	Karen Craig
SERGEANT-AT-ARMS	LaChella Boson
PUBLICITY & COMMS	Gabe Forsberg
eNEWS Editor	beth Johnson



SEPTEMBER CHAPTER 68 SOCIAL

On September 18th, Chapter 68 celebrated at the Old Spaghetti Factory in Phoenix. Hosted by Gabe Forsberg in honor of Chapter 68 member Ashley Jackson engaged to be married to Greg in November.

