E-NEWS – OCTOBER 2026

Chapter 68 Saguaro – Army Women United

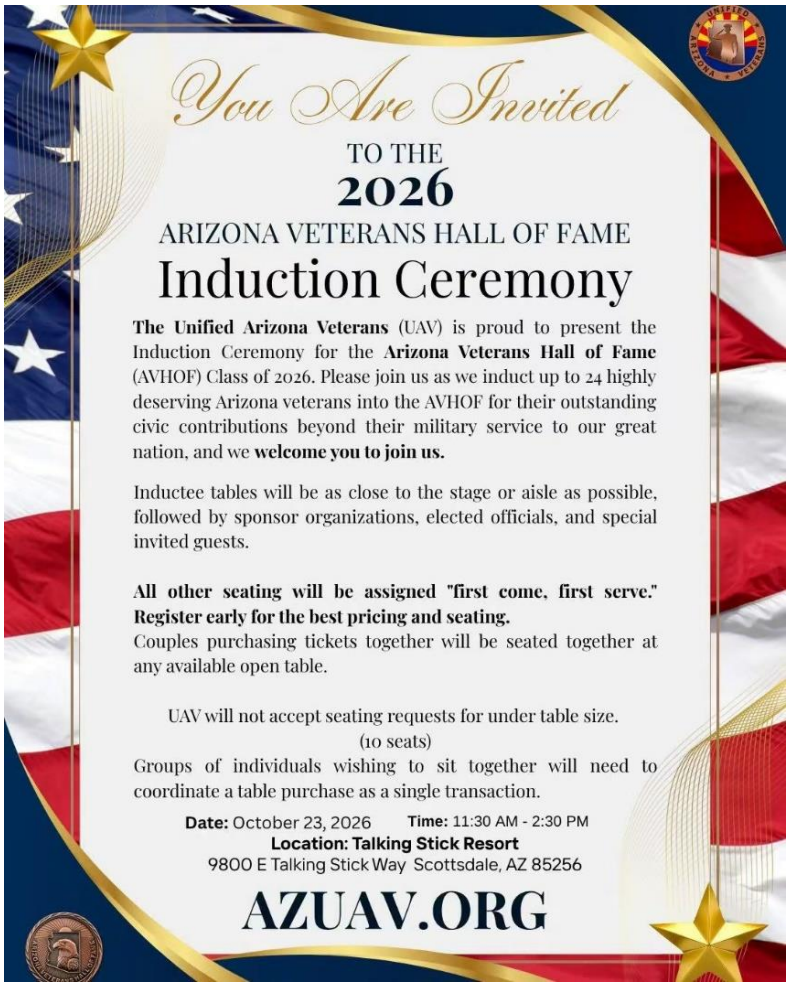
(Women's Army Corps Veterans' Association since 1941)

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

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

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.

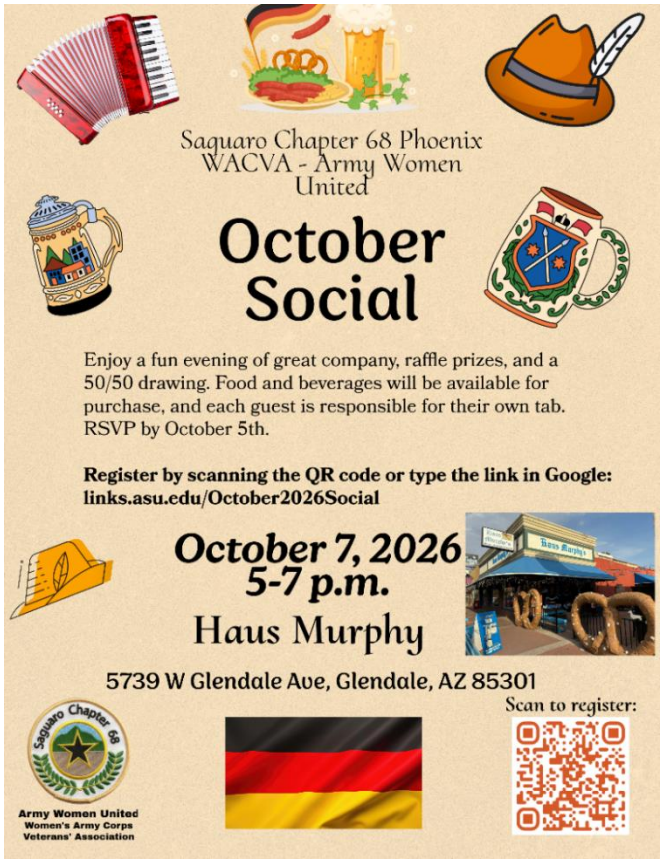
Chapter 68 website: Take a moment to browse our new Chapter 68 Army Women United website **https://armywomenaz.org/** Many thanks to Chapter 68 Karen Craig for getting that operational.

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.



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/VA_Community_Living_Centers.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

NOV 14, 2026: VETSGIVING, PHOENIX VA

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

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

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

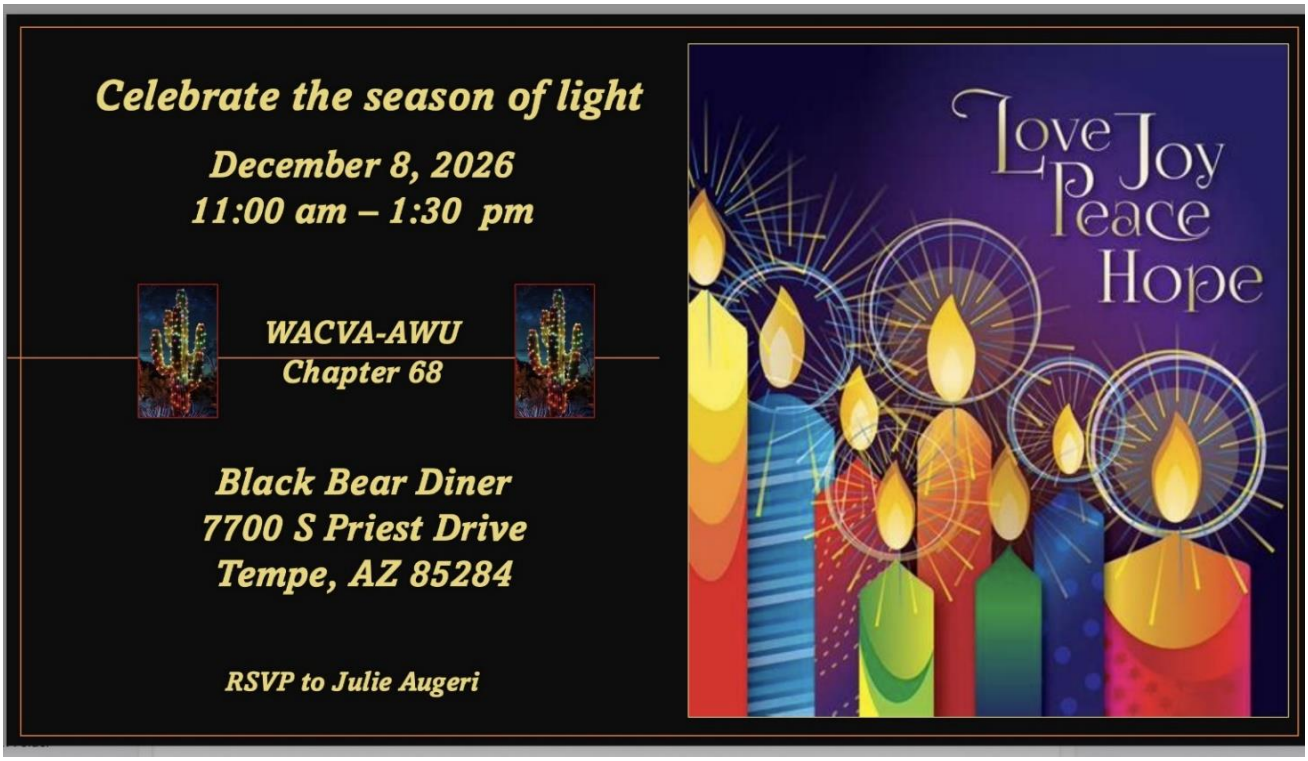
More information:
https://www.westvalleywomenveterans.org/

EAST VALLEY WOMEN VETERANS

CONNECT – EMPOWER – THRIVE

More information:
https://www.facebook.com/eastvalleywomenveterans/

DEC 8, 2026: CHAPTER 68 HOLIDAY PARTY, TEMPE, AZ



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

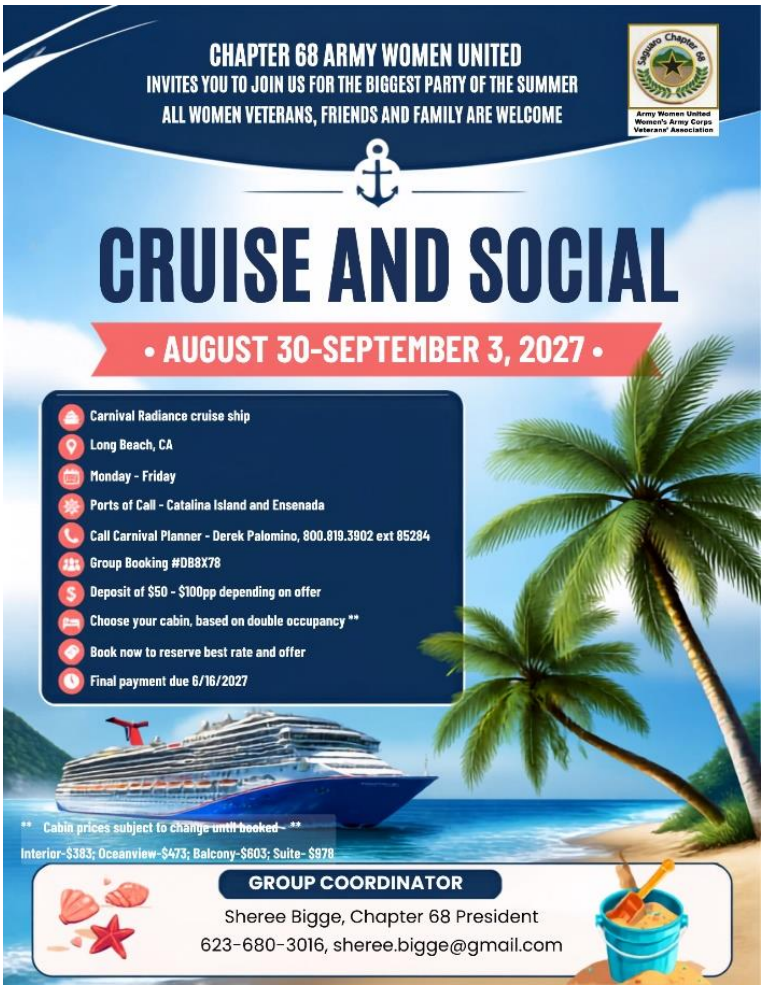
Released 2025! *A Soldier's Life: A Black Woman's Rise from Army Brat to Six Triple Eight Champion*. Inspirational story of retired Army Colonel Edna W. Cummings' journey in the US Army, and her trailblazing efforts to honor the legendary 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion.
https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/220646954-a-soldier-s-life

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

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

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

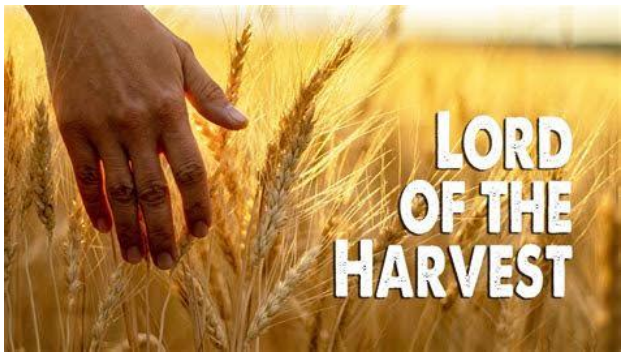
AUG 30–SEPT 3, 2027: CHAPTER 68 CRUISE & SOCIAL



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 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.