



Good Day Everyone!

I hope this e-mail finds you all healthy, safe and cool. There is not much happening with the AFSG Club over the summer, but I wanted you to be aware of some items that are Veteran related.

Over the past two months the AFSG has participated in the City of Surprise Veteran Roundtable meetings. Bob Aiken and Eileen Joy participated in May and Ron Coslett and myself in June. These meeting have been very interesting and informative. Attachments #2 & #3 were shared with the participants:

Attachment #2- City of Surprise Veterans Benefit Councilor

Attachment #3- City of Surprise Veterans Resource Brochure

50th Commemoration of Vietnam War Invitation

Please see attachment #4 for information.

Stay safe everyone and we look forward to seeing you all in the Fall!

AFSG Board



MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS

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<http://www.surpriseaz.gov>

For Immediate Release

West Valley Veteran Success Center adds Veteran Benefits Counselor

Surprise, AZ (June 9, 2022) A dedicated Veteran Benefits Counselor (VBC) will be available two days a week, starting June 14, through the West Valley Veteran Success Center. Veterans, service members and their families can book an appointment with the VBC who is able to work directly with Veterans Affairs to develop and file applications for benefits and claims.

A VBC is a state employee provided by the Arizona Department of Veterans' Services and is dually accredited by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and the American Legion. This provides them more direct access to better advocate for Arizona's service members, veterans and their families in pursuit of their federal and state benefits.

Assistance provided by a VBC includes:

- Education on eligibility requirements for benefits
- Processing VA compensation and pension applications
- Appealing VA decisions
- Representing claimants at VA hearings
- Filing for survivor's benefits
- Applying for discharge upgrades
- Referring claimants to other agencies for potential benefits
- Requesting military service records and certifying DD-214s (discharge paperwork)
- Discussing State Veteran Benefits

At this time, sessions with the VBC are by appointment only and walk-in clients cannot be served. Appointments can be made through the VBC call center at 602.535.1215.

Other services available at the West Valley Veterans Success Center include Veteran resource navigation and connection through the Be Connected network. As well as connectivity to county, federal, and non-profit programming offered through the Surprise Resource Center. These services provide greater opportunities to access the benefits and resources crucial to the well-being of current and former military personnel and their families.

The West Valley Veteran Success Center is a multi-organization partnership dedicated to supporting service members, veterans, and their families. The City of

Surprise is proud to host the center within the Surprise Resource Center, 12425 W. Bell Road, Suite 124, and offer support services in partnership with the Arizona Coalition for Military Families (ACMF), Maricopa Community Colleges Foundation, Northern Arizona University (NAU), and Rio Salado Community College.

Learn more at surpriseaz.gov/veterans



City of Surprise 16000 N. Civic Center Plaza Surprise, AZ 85374 | Phone: 623-222-1000



Veterans Reflection Circle

The Veterans Reflection Circle is an outdoor memorial in honor of late Surprise resident and combat wounded veteran Brian Mancini, who spent his life serving his country and helping other wounded veterans find healing. Located in the Surprise Community Park, 15953 N Bullard Ave.

Veterans Bridge

In January 2019, the Arizona State Board on Geographic and Historic Names voted to approve the naming of the bridge at US 60 (Grand Ave) and Bell Road to Veterans Bridge. The City's busiest roadway now serves as a constant reminder of the service and sacrifice of our veterans.



Army Air Corps Memorial "Vaya Con Dios"

A memorial piece resides in an area of the Surprise Community Park, 15953 N Bullard Ave., that was once Luke Air Force Auxiliary Field #3 – better known as Fighter Field. Thousands of Air Force Pilots were trained here before leaving to serve their nation.

Nick D. Bacon Memorial Monument

A memorial monument in honor of Medal of Honor Recipient Staff Sergeant Nick D. Bacon, who served as Surprise Town Manager from 1986 - 1990, is located in the Surprise City Hall south outdoor courtyard, 16000 N Civic Center Plz. Bacon received his Medal of Honor from President Richard Nixon in 1969 for his heroic efforts in Vietnam and served for several years as president of the Congressional Medal of Honor Society. He passed away in July 2010.

Veterans Day Parade

The city hosts a Veterans Day Parade annually in November to honor all veterans. Check the City's website calendar at surpriseaz.gov/calendar for information as the event approaches each year.

Veterans, Disability, and Human Services Commission



The City of Surprise Veterans, Disability and Human Services Commission is charged with assisting in the development and/or expansion of city programming related to veterans, people with special needs, and those in need of general human services and workforce development.




City of Surprise Veteran Resources



**West Valley Veteran Success Center,
Surprise Resource Center**
12425 W. Bell Road, Suite 124
Surprise, Arizona 85374





The City of Surprise is an "Arizona Veteran Supportive Employer & City," as designated by the Arizona Coalition for Military Families, and aims to honor and support veterans in appreciation of their service to our country. Visit surpriseaz.gov/veterans for a full list of resources.



West Valley Veteran Success Center

The West Valley Veteran Success Center (WVVSC) is a multi-organization partnership dedicated to supporting service members, veterans and their families. Surprise is proud to host the center and offer support services in partnership with the Arizona Coalition for Military Families, Maricopa Community Colleges Foundation, the Arizona Department of Veteran Services, Northern Arizona University, Rio Salado Community College and Community Bridges, Inc.

The WVVSC is located within the Surprise Resource Center at 12425 W. Bell Road, Suite 124.



These are some of the services offered at the WVVSC:

Veteran Benefits Counselor

The Arizona Department of Veterans' Services provides access to Veteran Benefits Counselors through satellite locations throughout the state. These services are available multiple times throughout the week.

For more information, call 623.222.1600 or contact the Veteran Benefits Counselor Call Center at 602.535.1215 to schedule an appointment.

AmeriCorps - Benefits Navigation

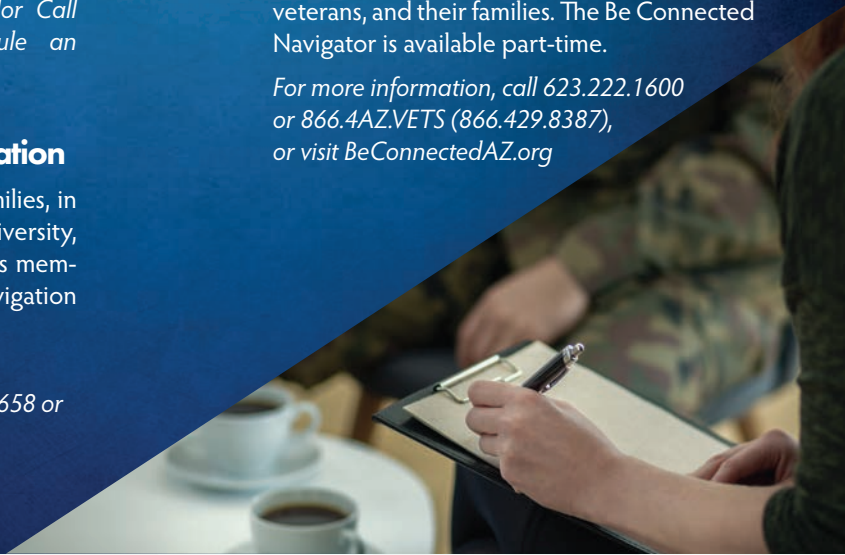
The Arizona Coalition for Military Families, in partnership with Northern Arizona University, offers an on-site, full-time AmeriCorps member specializing in Veteran benefits navigation services.

For more information, contact Allison Wisniewski at 623.222.1658 or Allison.Wisniewski@surpriseaz.gov

Be Connected - Connection to Veteran Resources

Community Bridges, Inc., in partnership with the Arizona Coalition for Military Families, provides a Be Connected Navigator that works to connect veterans to supportive resources that exist across Arizona. The Be Connected program includes a support line, a resource-matching website, and a community-wide network of individuals offering help and support to members of the military, veterans, and their families. The Be Connected Navigator is available part-time.

For more information, call 623.222.1600 or 866.4AZ.VETS (866.429.8387), or visit BeConnectedAZ.org



Veteran Preference Points for Surprise Police & Fire Positions

The Surprise Fire-Medical and Police Departments support the efforts of military veterans and wish to attract individuals who have served in the military to public service. Veteran preference points will be awarded to those individuals who have honorably served in the United States Armed Forces. The preference points program represents a small token of the City's appreciation for a veteran's service in defense of the Nation and of the State, and also serves as a compensatory measure for the sacrifice these veterans have made in the postponement or interruption of civilian careers.

Public Transit

Veterans with proof of eligibility automatically qualify for low-cost regional public transit options provided by the City in partnership with Valley Metro. To verify eligibility and submit an application, contact Neighborhood Services at 623.222.1550 or visit surpriseaz.gov/RideChoice



Vietnam Veterans

are cordially invited to a

50th COMMEMORATION CELEBRATION



Saturday, 23 July 2022

1100 hours to 1400 hours

Luke-Greenway American Legion Post 1

364 North 7th Avenue, Phoenix, Arizona

Sponsored by Vietnam Veterans of America

Chapter 432 Phoenix and Chapter 1011 Mesa

Program will include posting of the colors by a combined Honor Guard, Missing Man Table Ceremony, guest speaker, lunch buffet, awards, commemoration pinning, and service representatives offering info and benefits services.

Please RSVP to Paul Reichenbach at 717-577-3506 or chiefreich911@msn.com
by Saturday, 9 July with number and names of persons attending.

Veterans may bring one guest.

*Funded in part by the Arizona Department of Veterans' Services as made available through
the Arizona Veterans' Donations Fund.*