



Inside

- AF COOL2
- Lightning strikes.....4
- Remembering our
Fallen exhibit.....6
- FCP Foundation events.....8
- Honorary Commander
feature.....10
- Walt Disney inspires
squadron.....14
- ProMusica pays tribute to
military.....20
- Luke AFB blood donors are
special heroes.....22



U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Staci Miller

Night flight

An F-35 Lightning II assigned to the 61st Fighter Squadron at Luke Air Force Base takes off July 29. Since 2010, the F-35 has flown more than 30,000 hours.



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From the Desk of Fighter Country Partnership

AF COOL program accepts tuition assistance for industry recognized credentials

Rio Salado College Offers COOL Testing Services and Credit for Prior Learning Opportunities

Contributed by
JAKE HALL
RIO SALADO COLLEGE
LUKE AIR FORCE BASE
SITE COORDINATOR

The U.S. Air Force Credentialing Opportunities On-Line (AF COOL) program, which is a part of the Air Force Virtual Education Center, is now accepting tuition assistance dollars to help airmen secure industry recognized credentials.

Industry-recognized credentials are a great way for airmen to bolster their Air Force careers and prepare for a transition to civilian employment as they retire or separate from the Air Force.

There are many industries such as information technology, healthcare, and financial services that require credentials or are

preferred by employers. It is not uncommon for these industries to require certifications, regardless of an applicant's post-secondary education level.

Airmen are limited to pursuing credentials that are approved for their Air Force Specialty Codes (AFSCs), when they are using Air Force tuition assistance dollars to pay for their credentials. Airmen are also limited to one credential at a cost of up to \$4,500. The Air Force will pay for recertification for the same credential until the \$4,500 stipend is exhausted.

The cost for credentials varies greatly and Airmen may find that using Air Force COOL funds for the most expensive certification guarantees that they are maximizing their use of this valuable benefit.

Many of the certification exams, which are administered by Pearson VUE, are available through Rio Salado College's Valley-wide testing centers, including Rio Salado's National Testing Center at Luke AFB, in building 1150 (The Block House). Visit www.riosalado.edu/testing/Pages/af-cool.aspx for a complete listing of the certification exams.

Rio Salado College recognizes many credentials as credit for prior learning, which can be applied toward a certificate or degree.

"Credit for prior learning is credit for college level knowledge obtained through certifications, non-traditional schooling and other experience," said Rio Salado Director of Academic Advisement



Photo courtesy Rio Salado College Luke AFB

David Hall. "Credit by Exam is another option in which students can earn credits for prior learning, including our College-Level Examination Program (CLEP)."

There are 33 CLEP exams offered at Rio Salado Testing Centers. CLEP exams assess subject matter proficiency and provide


an opportunity for students to receive college credit with qualifying scores.

Additionally, Rio Salado is a CompTIA Authorized Academy Partner, which allows active students of the Maricopa Community Colleges to purchase CompTIA exam vouchers at a discounted

rate.

Contact the Luke AFB Base Education Center at 623-856-7723 for more information about Rio Salado's AF COOL program, testing services and credit for prior learning. For additional details about AF COOL, visit <https://afvec.langley.af.mil/afvec/Public/COOL>.


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Glendale remains dedicated to continuing the Luke tradition as the base prepares to welcome new generations of pilots for its new F-35 training mission.



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Fighter Country Partnership



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News from the Community Initiatives Team

Lightning strikes and it's a good thing

By **RUSTY MITCHELL**
DIRECTOR
COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

Hard to believe that the Luke Forward campaign is three years in the past. The marshaling of the community for an unprecedented level of support for a military facility on the outskirts of the nation's fifth largest city was truly remarkable. A partnership recognized by the Air Force senior leadership as the "gold standard" of military/community relations.

On reflection, there are many to thank and I am sure I would miss someone if I tried to name individuals, so let me just say that each and every city staff, from across the Valley of the Sun, along with business

leaders and major land owners, and especially the Fighter Country Partnership staff rose to the challenge to ensure the continued long-term mission sustainability of Luke AFB. The mantra "Don't confuse us with Valparaiso and Eglin AFB" echoed throughout the halls of the Pentagon during the numerous trips to speak directly with senior leadership.

The result of all that hard work was two records of decision (ROD) placing 144 F-35 aircraft at Luke AFB while keeping 26 F-16s from the two foreign military sales squadrons, Taiwan and Singapore.

Today at Luke, we have received the first 29 of those 144 F-35s, and many more continue to arrive monthly. We are well on our way ... and

even the possibility to grow further.

You will recall the consternation about noise and the impact that would have on the community. I am confident that if you're reading this newspaper, you will agree that the noise is nowhere near what those in opposition claimed and tried to warn the community of.

As I explained at the time and now have the luxury of looking back and saying "I told you so," the noise impact of the new fighters is not appreciably different than what the West Valley has experienced for the past three decades. Everyone will admit, me included, that the sound of the new fighters is a deeper tone, but not necessarily in volume. Our noise complaints



Rusty Mitchell
Director
Community
Initiatives Team
Luke Air Force Base

have not increased above the average and are still somewhat associated with the time of season when we all open our windows and enjoy the outside patios in the stay-cation months of October-April.

Those of you may recall the ASU professor that Lana Mook, now Mayor Mook, had invited

to talk about noise levels, and that he specifically said he expected those that were bothered by F-16 noise will continue to be bothered by F-35 noise, but those who have grown accustomed to the jet noise and let it filter into "background noise" will do the same with the F-35 noise. I think most of you will agree this has turned out to be the case. Another case of "I told you so"....

Truly, the citizens of the West Valley should take pride in actively participating in a project, EIS (Environmental Impact Statement), which resulted in the continued operations of Luke AFB for decades to come. Not only is training the "World's Greatest F-16 and F-35 fighter pilots" a critical

element of our nation's defense, it continues to be a \$2.17 billion annual economic impact to the state's economy.

However, as Col. Robin Rand, now general and Commander of Global Strike Command, once said when he was the Wing Commander at Luke ... "we collectively cannot, must not take our eye off the ball."

Vigilance is required, not so much from local developers, but from out-of-state investors looking to buy land and develop it without understanding the compatibility issues between the community and the base. The real estate market has thankfully turned, but with it come new agents and investors looking to make a profit without knowledge of, or unfortunately, sometimes without care of the impact their project could have on the flight operations of Luke AFB.

My staff and I are fully engaged to continue to educate the community and prospective developers to the mission requirements of the base. We are blessed with each of the surrounding political subdivisions and their unwavering support of the mission.

On behalf of Brig. Gen. Scott Pleus and the 5,000 Airmen at Luke AFB, we thank you.

As a citizen of Arizona, I am proud how the state has stood up in protecting the men and women that protect you.

The City of Peoria is a champion of Luke Air Force Base and works hard to protect the Base to ensure their mission's viability for years to come.



U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO

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'Remembering our Fallen'

Memorial photo exhibit of Arizona Fallen on display
Nov. 9 through 15



"We must remember these American Heroes and speak their names when we see their family members. We can never forget those who sacrificed everything for our freedom," said Dr. Mary Hawkins, president, Bellevue University. "This exhibit is created in such a way so it can travel throughout Arizona, offering more people an opportunity to remember Arizona's Fallen."

A very emotional exhibit, "Remembering Our Fallen," is a stark reminder of the ultimate sacrifice made by 149 Fallen from Arizona killed in The War on Ter-

ror while wearing our country's uniform in a war zone. The photo exhibit, which includes military and personal photos of each of Arizona's Fallen, is traveling throughout the state and will be coming to Chapel of the Chimes in Glendale.

"Remembering Our Fallen" will be on display 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday, and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday Nov. 9 through 15 at Chapel of the Chimes Mortuary, 7924 N. 59th Ave., Glendale; phone 623-937-9297.

A Veterans Day ceremony will be held 11 a.m. Nov. 11.



Photos courtesy Patriotic Productions

Thanks to Chapel of the Chimes for their financial sponsorship, there is no admission charge.

Exhibits have been completed for 16 states, representing almost half of our country's fallen since 9/11/01, and are created by Patriotic Productions, a non-profit organization headquartered in Omaha, Neb. The goal is to complete an exhibit for every state. For more information, visit RememberingOurFallen.org or PatrioticProductions.org.

Exhibits have been completed for 16 states; if you would like to host the

display or sponsor a display not yet completed, visit the "Get Involved" page at RememberingOurFallen.org.

The financial sponsor of the exhibit is Bellevue University, a private, non-profit University in Bellevue, Nebraska. Founded in 1966, it has been a military-friendly school for 45 years. Bellevue University was an early adopter of distance learning and is now a leader in online education with students in every state and 55 foreign countries, including Afghanistan and Iraq. More information can be found at: Bellevue.edu.

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Supporting the men, women, families and mission of Luke AFB

By **SUSAN LOVELACE**
PROGRAM DIRECTOR
FIGHTER COUNTRY
PARTNERSHIP

As the program director for Fighter Country Partnership (FCP), I am so blessed to be actively involved with several events to enhance the quality of life for our Airmen at Luke AFB. As space is limited for this article, I will only mention a few of the myriad events we have been involved in, but they capture a snapshot of where our heart is.

July 29, FCP sponsored the Base Chapel's "Back to School Bash" at Fowler Park. There were over 700 people in attendance, and 400 backpacks (graciously donated by the USO) were filled with school supplies and given to deserving children, setting them up for success this school year. There were fun rides for the kids, cotton candy, bounce houses, free food, and some wonderful door prizes. The Litchfield Kiwanis Club donated the food and provided volunteers to prepare it. FCP's Blue Blazer Squadron



Susan Lovelace
Program Director,
Fighter Country
Partnership

(alumni Luke Honorary Commanders) assisted with the cooking, cotton candy, and the rides.

This is one small, but very significant example of how we support Luke AFB. Along with the outstanding members of the Base Chapel, it is our goal to make this an annual event.

FCP will again sponsor the 56th Medical Group Health Fair "Launch into Health" Wellness Expo 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Oct. 2 at Club 56. This has become an annual event that has gotten rave reviews in the past.

Anyone with base access (active duty, reserve, retired, or Civil Service employees) is more than welcome to attend. Some of the services provided are blood pressure checks, body fat measurement, skin cancer screenings, breast cancer screenings, relaxation massages, vision checks, dental screenings, and diabetes lab draw screenings - to name a few.

The Medical Group will also offer tips and important information about moving toward a healthier lifestyle. Believe me, you don't want to miss the opportunity to win some of the amazing door prizes that will be offered. Register for this event at: <http://fightercountry.org/56mdghealthfair>.

Fighter Country Partnership looks forward to hosting the Fourth Annual Dorm Dweller's Holiday Party Dec. 9 at Club 56. This incredibly fun (and very important) event is held specifically for the young Airmen in the dorms who might not have the opportunity to get home for the holidays.



Photos courtesy Fighter Country Foundation

Base Chapel's Back to School Bash July 29th. Families checking in and children receiving free backpacks.

We partner with our good friends at Best Buy, and they bring in their volunteer force to host a "video gaming tournament" for the Airmen. FCP provides the food, non-alcoholic beverages, and as usual, some amazing door prizes for the party. Nothing makes us happier than seeing a young Airman win a 42-inch smart TV - and that happens a lot.

Of course, it would be impossible to make these programs and events happen if it weren't for our generous sponsors, grants, and gracious community partners. With that, I'd like

to take the opportunity to inform you the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) is gearing up in October, and we would sincerely appreciate your support to keep these vital programs going. Fighter Country Foundation's CFC number is 22865. We would sincerely appreciate your utmost consideration.

As the spouse of a retired Airman, I assure you each and every thing we do revolves around the families of Luke AFB. Thank you for your continued support of the men, women, families, and mission of Luke Air Force Base.



Patrick McDermott of the Blue Blazer Squadron – the volunteer force that provides the horsepower for Fighter Country Partnership and Foundation.



Mark Hutchins of the Blue Blazer Squadron, with his daughter, Hadyn, making kids happy with cotton candy.



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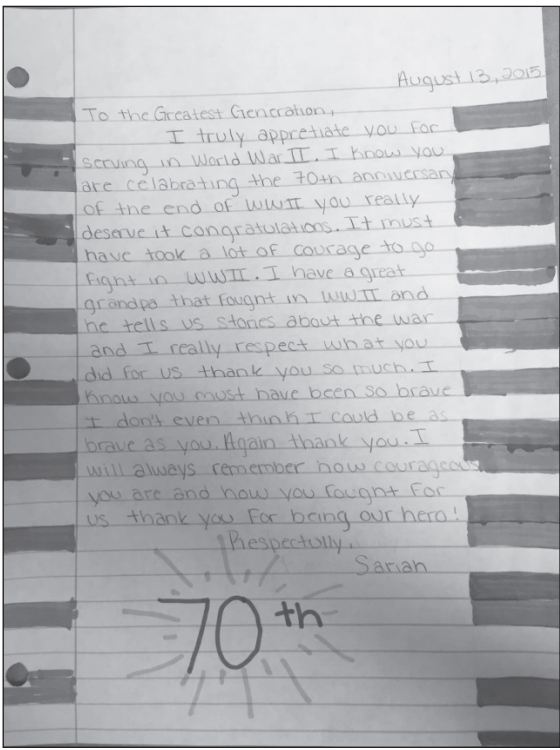
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Benevilla honors vets, celebrates 70th anniversary of end of WW II

Benevilla, the West Valley’s premier human services non-profit, celebrated the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II in August.

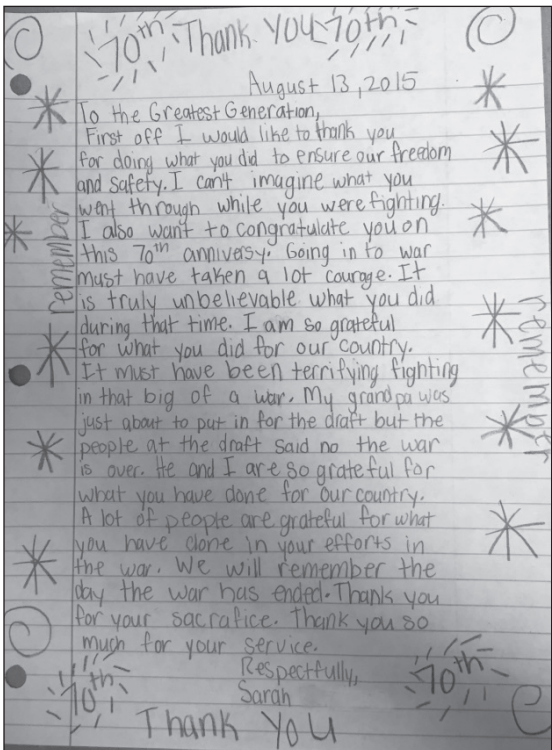
Benevilla celebrated the end of World War II with inter-generational events, patriotic activities and group participation at all Benevilla locations honoring Veterans and Active Duty Service Members. Each of the Benevilla Day Programs took time Aug. 14 to honor World War II Veterans in commemoration of the 70th Anniversary of the end of World War II. Each Life Enrichment Program focused on a particular group of individuals, or incident that was significant during World War II and the impact on all of the people of the United States.

Seventh- and eighth-grade students at Sunset Heights El-



ementary School in Peoria wrote letters of appreciation to all Benevilla veterans of the WWII

era to exemplify a mail call from that time period. The letters were passed out throughout the cel-



ebration to members of Benevilla Life Enrichment Programs, those members receiving home

services, and veterans visiting Birt’s Bistro.

“We are happy to be participating in the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II celebration,” said Michelle Dionisio, Benevilla president and CEO, “It is exciting to involve our entire community in appreciation of all our veterans and active duty service members.”

Birt’s Bistro offered a free meal for all veterans and active duty members.

Started by the community and for the community in 1981, Benevilla is an ever evolving nonprofit, which has been responding to the needs of the local community for the past 34 years.

For more information on Benevilla’s services, call 623-584-4999, or visit www.Benevilla.org.

Copperstate Fly-In next month

The 43rd Annual Copperstate Fly-In and Education Expo will be held 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Oct. 22, 23, and 24 at the Casa Grande Airport. Admission is \$5 Thursday and \$15 each day Friday and Saturday. Those with military ID receive \$2 off Friday and Saturday. Everyone 18 and under are free. Camping is also available.

This year will include the Warbirds,

judging of classics, homebuilts, Light Sport and Ultralights. So, for those interested in aviation, there will be something for everyone.

Along with the annual educational forums, which are held each day, new for this year will be a Drone Dome, where individuals can try their hand at actually flying the latest thing in aviation. Fortunately, these are the

small kind which will allow everyone to get an idea of what is required to fly one.

Displays will include aircraft, aviation-related products and services everyone will be interested in learning about.

There will also be antique, vintage and classic cars pre-1976. There will be judging this year, and if individu-

als want to show their vehicle, email dmclain@copperstate.org and request more information.

Come out and see some of the latest and some of the greatest examples of flying machines. Whether flying in or driving in, look forward to another great day in Arizona.

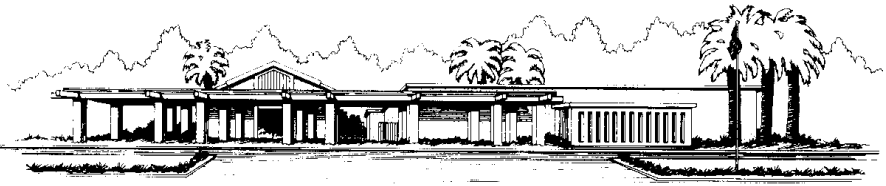
Go to www.copperstate.org for more information.

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Honorary Commander feature: Bill Pupo

Fighter Country Partnership is proud to feature Bill Pupo, adjunct faculty at Rio Salado College in Public and Business Administration. He is an alumni member of the Honorary Commanders Program and currently a member of the Blue Blazer Squadron of Fighter Country Partnership. Pupo was assigned to the 56th Operations Group at Luke Air Force Base from 2000 to 2002.



Bill Pupo

Biography:

- Over 30 years in city management including City Manager of Spokane, Wash., Surprise and Chino Valley, Ariz.
 - Currently adjunct faculty at Rio Salado College in Public and Business Administration
 - Consulting to private business, government and community events
 - Undergraduate degree from Washington State University
 - MBA from Gonzaga University
- Volunteer work:**
- Fighter Country Partnership
 - Blue Blazer Squadron and BBS Life Reserves
 - Yes For Dysart Political Action Committee Chair in Support of the Dysart Override
- Board member and volunteer for:**
- Dysart Education Foundation
 - Surprise Sundancers
 - AZ Cactus League
 - Surprise Regional Chamber of Commerce Board

member

- Participated in the organization of the Blue Blazer Squadron founding committee

From his perspective:

I’ve had the privilege of being an honorary commander at two Air Force bases: Fairchild Air Force Base in the late 1990s in Spokane, Wash., and Luke Air Force Base from 2000 to 2002. I was assigned to the 56th Operations group at Luke Air Force Base.

The experiences and emotions of being an Honorary Commander are many and difficult to put into words. When you see the young Airmen (the word “Airmen” includes both men and women), you note the courage and sacrifice they make of their lives to serve and protect our country. When you see spouses, partners and children of Air Force personnel, you try to understand all they feel and what they experience being in the Air Force.

Being an Honorary Commander provided me first-hand opportunities to observe and support the men, women and families of Luke Air Force Base through volunteerism in Fighter Country Partnership, the Honorary Commanders two-year tour, as an alumnus, and a member of the Blue Blazer Squadron. It provided me a huge opportunity to give back to base personnel and families in a way that allows me to express my grati-



Bill Pupo at the weapons load barn at Luke AFB.



Photos courtesy Fighter Country Partnership

Bill Pupo helping at Luke’s Wingman Day (annual picnic) at Luke AFB serving food to the Airmen.

tude and appreciation for living in the greatest country in the world.

When asked by others what my most memorable time was as an Honorary Commander I can certainly cite visits to other Air Force bases, mission briefings, base events with base personnel, the air show, the Air Force Ball and base award ceremonies. What I do value and will remember most is shaking hands and visiting with base personnel and hearing that person’s service and assignments in the Air Force.

During the Fighter Country Partnership annual meeting, we had an Air Force captain as a guest speaker who talked about living on the edge of life and death in a successful mission to save fellow military comrades in the Afghanistan mountains. These conversations are heartwarming and pointed. These conversations tell me about the Air Force member and their sacrifice and commitment to protecting our nation.

While I could discuss many memorable experiences as an Honorary Commander and Blue Blazer, such as riding in the belly of a KC-10 Extender aircraft at

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COMMANDER: Luke AFB personnel support top of mind, From 10

Fairchild on a refueling mission; site visits to other bases; receiving my call sign “Eagle” during a trip to Nellis AFB, Las Vegas; receiving an F-16 orientation flight; serving food at base holiday functions; soliciting prizes for the Fighter Country Blue Blazer golf tournament fund-raiser; participating in the Fiesta Bowl Parade walking with the inflatable U.S. Flag; observing the “Haboob Havoc” (bombing competition on the Barry M. Goldwater Range); and attending base briefings.

One very fun and memorable event in particular I will never forget was being invited to participate in a

Upon arriving at the hangar where the dining in was taking place, I was asked to assist in checking in the attending Airmen and guests. Much to my surprise, they all checked in wearing military gear that bore resemblance to Halloween or the American Epic movie “Animal House” starring John Belushi. These guests came armed to the hangar with water cannons, water pistols, water balloons and other 5- to 14-year-old age range toys of fun to accommodate water weaponry. Without going into further details – as this event, I believe, was classified “TOP SECRET” – declarations of engagement were made throughout the evening and battle lines drawn as all 500 or more of us deployed throughout the hangar in water warfare. Our bonds in combat and dining were strong throughout the evening with food, drink, minor attempts at speeches of encouragement and tactical exercises.

What I’ve learned through the Honorary Commander and Blue Blazer opportunities is not only the importance of Luke AFB in preparing and training the best F-16 and F-35 combat pilots in the world, but its importance of preserving and protecting freedoms throughout the world. Luke’s engagement in world events is enormous. Through the leadership of the LAFB commanders over my past 15 years of involvement, the base has established a strong presence in our community and around our region.

I’ve been fortunate to be involved in the many activities of FCP and the BBS and we are especially fortunate to have such a strong organization that is a model for other communities in supporting their military installations. I’ve met many fine, quality volunteers passionate about their support of LAFB and its men, women and families. They would agree with me that we have so much more to do to support these base members, the capacity and enhancements of the base. I’m thankful I was asked to become involved and volunteer in support of the men, women and families of LAFB.

Ron Sites, President and Executive Director of Fighter Country Partnership said, “Bill Pupo has been a staple in the West Valley for decades now supporting amazing and important initiatives. The time, energy and passion Bill puts into Luke and the Blue Blazers clearly demonstrates that one of his greatest passions (if not his greatest) in the West Valley is Luke AFB.”



Photos courtesy Fighter Country Partnership

Bill Pupo (front w/red shoes) marches with the Blue Blazers during the Fiesta Bowl Parade carrying the U.S. Flag for Fighter Country Partnership.

“dining in.” A “dining in” is a formal (black tie) military ceremony for members of a unit which includes dinner, drinking and other events to foster camaraderie and esprit de corps. A unit’s dining-in consists of only the members of the unit, with the possible exception of the guest(s) of honor. Some dining in events get very creative.

Prior to this particular “dining in” event, the Command Chief provided me a retired military fatigue uniform.

I asked, “But what about the formal black tie?”

He told me, “this dining in wasn’t that type of dining in.”



Bill Pupo on a tour of Luke AFB flight line.



The Blue Bazers Squadron visit the Barry M. Goldwater Range to view A-10 Warthogs from Davis-Monthan AFB and F-16 Fighting Falcons from Luke AFB drop bombs and strafe. The day began with beautiful sunny skies and quickly turned into semi-haboob status as the wind and dust picked up. In fact visibility was so poor the event was shut down early.

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Walt Disney inspires 62nd Fighter Squadron

By SENIORAIRMAN
MARCY COPELAND
56TH FIGHTER WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Everyone had a role to play during World War II, at home and abroad. For Sgt. Seymour Pine, it was serving in the 62nd Fighter Squadron, assigned to the 56th Fighter Group at Luke Air Force Base as a Stars and Stripes reporter.

He performed many functions as a reporter, to tell the Army Air Corps story. His main job was to interview P-47 pilots within the squadron. He served in England at the Royal Air Force Station Martlesham Heath during World War II reporting the war efforts.

While stationed at Luke, Pine had the unique privilege of accepting the 62nd Fighter Squadron emblem of a boxing bulldog from the artist who drew it--Walt Disney.

"Going through my father's things, I found what I thought were the original photos of Walt Disney presenting my dad with

the squadron emblem," said Richard Pine, Sgt. Pine's son who resides in Georgia. "Disney designed it and presented it to my father. Knowing my father was involved in this moment in history and meeting Disney is just amazing. To know my father accomplished the things he did in England and in the states makes me very proud to be his son."

After the bombing at Pearl Harbor Dec. 7, 1941, fears and rumors spread that California would become another target. According to the Walt Disney Family Museum, Disney's studio manager called him that night to tell him that the Army would be moving in on us." The next day, after war was declared, Disney's studio lot was turned into a military installation to protect a Lockheed aircraft plant that was nearby.

Disney productions had to drop all future projects and begin work on military training films commissioned by the military. Disney's traditional cast

of characters, including Donald Duck, Goofy, and the Seven Dwarfs were featured in many of the shorts used to educate, inform, and incite the public about the war.

Disney himself took on a personal project for the war effort, which was creating unique insignia to not only bring humor to units, but to help boost morale at home and overseas. More and more of Disney's art was used as decals on tanks, trucks, bombs, planes and many different types of military transport and equipment.

Disney created an insignia design unit within Disney Productions Studios. Working with Hank Porter, Roy Williams, Bill Justice, Van Kaufman, Ed Parks, and George Goepper, Disney created more than 1,200 insignia throughout World War II. A valuable war effort by Disney and Disney Studios, he created them free of charge.

Disney himself served during World War I in France through the American Red Cross as an am-



Photo courtesy Sgt. Seymour Pine, Richard Pine

While stationed at Luke, Sgt. Seymour Pine had the unique privilege of accepting the 62nd Fighter Squadron emblem of a boxing bulldog from the artist who drew it — Walt Disney.

balance driver and understood the need to have something close to remind the men of home.

Disney once said "The insignia meant a lot to the men who were fighting. I had to do it. I owed it to them."

The 62nd emblem was completed in April 1943, while the squadron was fighting the Axis Powers in Europe. Disney personally delivered it, with Pine

accepting it on behalf of the squadron. The boxing bulldog is still used as the squadron's emblem and inspires the pilots of today, just as it did 74 years ago.

"It is a privilege to serve in a fighter squadron whose legendary past includes 12 aces, 357 kills, and a patch that was designed by Walt Disney," said Capt Joseph Stenger, 62nd FS A flight commander. "The pictures

we have of the original 'Spike Aces' and squadron patch are a salient reminder we're serving in an organization that was taking the fight to the enemy long before we were born, and will continue to do so long after we're gone. Those P-47 pilots set the bar very high and it's our job to uphold the standard they set and ensure the pilots we train will do so as well."

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Luke Air Force Base sprucing up static displays



Photo courtesy U.S. Air Force/Senior Airman James Hensley
James Bridges and Hayden Yager, civilian contractors, prepare the F-104C Starfighter static display for painting at Luke Air Force Base, Aug. 12. All the static displays in the airpark will be repainted and have maintenance performed by the end of the year.

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Dalton recovers his confidence during day as a Marine

This was the day Dalton had waited for – and now fear and doubt hovered over him. He wasn't feeling his best because of his ongoing struggle with leukemia. Why today, of all days? What if he wasn't up to what awaited him during his wish to be a Marine?

Somehow, though, every concern started to fade when Dalton pulled on his combat utility uniform at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton. It was the first step of a Make-A-Wish experience that had extra meaning because of his uncle and grandfather who served in the military.

“I’ve wanted to be a Marine ever since my uncle got out of the Marine Corps,” Dalton said. “I don’t know what it is; I just love the Marine Corps.”

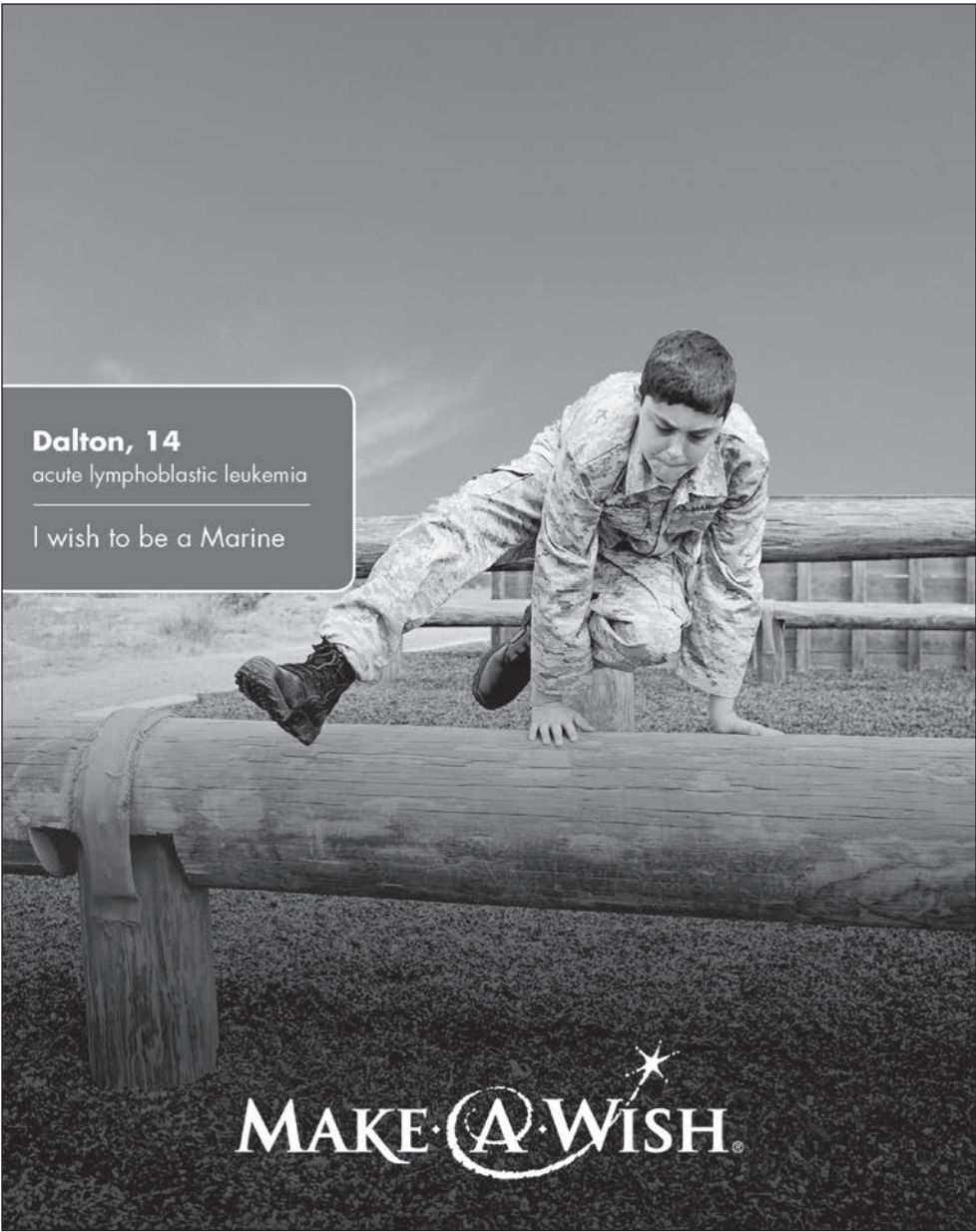
Staff Sgt. Keith C. Becker, chief instructor trainer, Weapons and Field Training Battalion, Edson Range, took charge of Dalton's training. Becker started Dalton with martial arts training. From there, he moved to the obstacle

course, which his Marine hosts call the O Course.

And that's where Becker truly saw the change that he made in Dalton's life. He saw a boy begin the day struggling with fatigue... but as Dalton faced the O Course, he witnessed his metamorphosis into a determined survivor. Every obstacle was a metaphor for Dalton facing leukemia. He overcame everything the O Course put in front of him, even those that he couldn't conquer on the first try. He just went back and tried again until he triumphed.

“He is what the Marine Corps needs,” Becker said. “He has the heart and the drive that I think every Marine should have.”

The rest of the day was a bit more relaxed, with tours of the Indoor Simulated Marksmanship Trainer and the Assault Amphibious School. Dalton received a coveted green shooting jacket embroidered with his name, a jacket which normally only the marksmanship instructors are allowed to wear.



Dalton, 14, running the O Course at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton.

Dalton was in for an extra surprise: The Marines took him aboard an Amphibious Assault Vehicle for a ride – he was in for a wild time as the driver maneuvered the vehicle over all the types of obstacles it's built to handle.

“Riding in the AAV was the thing I liked most about today,” Dalton said. “I didn’t know what to expect coming here today, but I had a lot of fun.”

Every Marine who met Dalton was part of an event that helped shape his life. The confidence he rediscovered on the O Course and the time each Marine made for him could be just what he needs to put leukemia in his past. Today, he is in remission – and thinking often about his day as a Marine.

You can help wish kids, like Dalton, find their strength to overcome obstacles they face every day. Select the Make-A-Wish Foundation of America, CFC #11375, and help us achieve our vision of granting every eligible child’s wish.

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Introducing Webster University's First Responder Program

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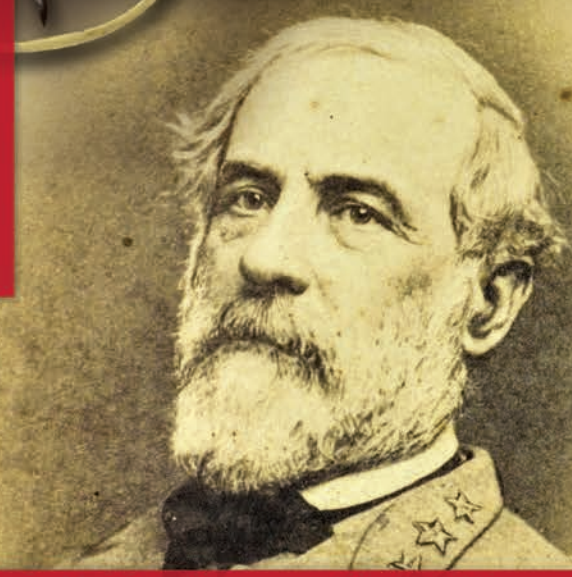
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Teaching children how to manage money

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- When using an ATM, explain that it's not free money, but rather has been earned and saved.
- Track their discretionary (toys, candy) and non-discretionary (school supplies, clothes) expenses.
- Use allowances to teach important life lessons. For example, build in dedicated percentages they must set aside for savings, charity and investments - then involve them in choosing how the money is spent.
- Teach by example. If money is tight and a child has to be denied non-necessary items, give up something as well that they know will be missed.

- If a child constantly breaks or loses expensive items, or runs through their allowance early, don't repeatedly bail them out with no consequences.
- Explain the true cost of using a credit card. If the balance isn't paid off every month, the interest assessed on the account means the payment may be much more than expected for the items purchased.
- Open a 529 Qualified State Tuition Plan or a Youth Certificate of Deposit account to start saving for a children's education – and let them know about it well before the discussion starts for college choices.

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Gov. Ducey recognizes ANG's 150th birthday

Arizona Governor Doug Ducey is recognizing Sept. 2 as Arizona National Guard Day, celebrating the Arizona National Guard's 150th birthday and saluting those who have spent the last century and a half fighting for their state and country.

"Our state supports you, your commitment and your dedication to the service of this great state and great nation," said Governor Ducey. "To all those who serve and have served in the Arizona National Guard, thank you for answering your nation's call and for defending

our freedoms." On Sept. 2, 1865, five companies of more than 350 soldiers and nine officers established the First Infantry Regiment of Arizona. Since then, Arizona National Guard members have fought every major U.S. military operation, from the Spanish-American War, both World Wars and current actions in the Middle East. The near 8,000 soldiers and airmen serving in the Arizona National Guard have provided support through more than 11,000 individual deployments

Our state supports you, your commitment and your dedication to the service of this great state and great nation. To all those who serve and have served in the Arizona National Guard, thank you...

- Gov. Doug Ducey



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ProMusica Arizona returns to North Valley for 2015-16 season – “American Dreams”

First concert to be a patriotic tribute
Oct. 16, 17 and 18



ProMusica Arizona opens its 2015-16 season, entitled “American Dreams”, with a patriotic celebration of American heroes who fought and sacrificed during our nation’s wars and conflicts. With the entire orchestra and chorale presenting patriotic and remembrance music from specific periods in our nation’s history, the concert also includes evocative letters and poetry from these eras. Concertgoers will hear such stirring pieces as “Song for the Unsung Hero”, “Band of Brothers”, “In Flanders Field”, and a rousing tribute to the armed services. Veterans and current members of the armed services in the audience will be honored during the program.

Concert venues for the patriotic celebration are conveniently located in three North Valley locations: 7:30 p.m. Oct. 16 at Christ the Lord Lutheran Church, 9205 E. Cave Creek Road, Carefree; 7:30 p.m. Oct. 17 at at Boulder Creek High School Performing Arts Center, 40404 N. Gavilan

Peak Pkwy., Anthem; and 3 p.m. Oct. 18 at the American Lutheran Church of Sun City, 17200 N. Del Webb Blvd., Sun City.

Tickets to each concert are priced at \$20 for adults, \$17.50 for seniors (60+), and \$12 for students (18 years and younger). Flexible Season Passes—a group of four tickets which can be used at any individual concert—are also available at a 20 percent discount. For more information or to purchase tickets, go to www.pmaz.org, or call 623-326-5172.

Other exciting concerts in this year’s season include “‘Twas the Night before Christmas” (Dec. 4, 5 and 6), “From Broadway to B.B. King” (March 5 and 6) and “Sea to Shining Sea: Celebrating the

100th Anniversary of the National Parks” (April 22, 23, and 24). Updates and detailed information about these concerts, sponsorships and advertising options, audition opportunities and the PMAZ organization are on the website at www.pmaz.org.

About ProMusica Arizona

Since its founding in 2003, PMAZ has become a leader in bringing live music to audiences in the North Phoenix area. With almost 100 singers and instrumentalists ranging in age from late teens to mid-80s, the group has performed over 150 times for nearly 100,000 people. PMAZ is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization.



Photos by Azy Scotten Photography
Top left, Adam Stich conducting a performance. Left and right, singers and orchestra members perform.



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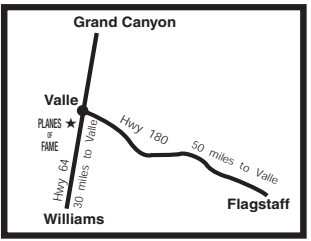
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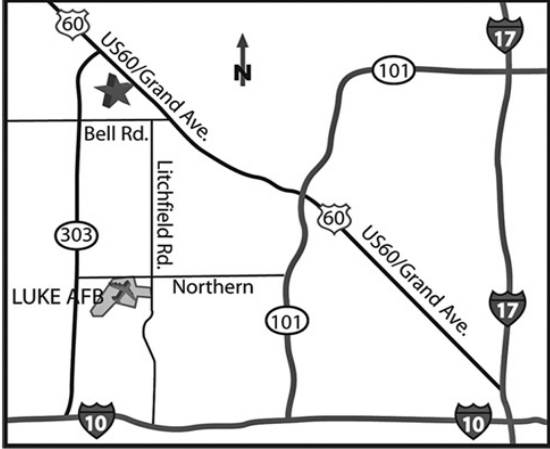
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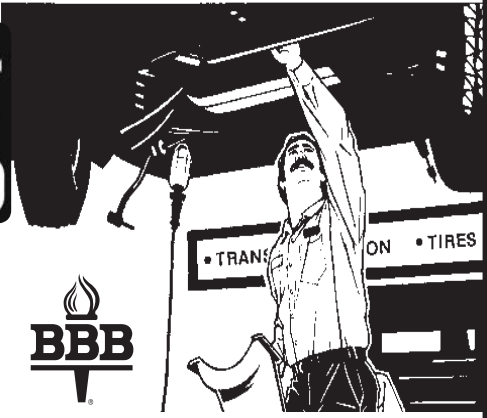
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During Farrah’s time in the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU), she received four blood transfusions.

Finally, after an 85-day stay in the NICU, Farrah was strong enough to go home for the first time.



Photo courtesy United Blood Services
Farrah in the neonatal intensive care unit

“Our family is so blessed by our miracle baby,” Megan expressed in a letter to United Blood Services. “Blood donors are our heroes and we are thankful for them every day.”

United Blood Services is Arizona’s largest non-profit community blood provider that serves 63 hospitals, including Phoenix Children’s Hospital and Cardon Children’s Medical Center.

For a blood donation appointment, visit www.ArizonaHero.org/LukeAFB (Sponsor Code: LAFB) or call 1-877-UBS-HERO (827-4376).



Photo courtesy United Blood Services
Meet Greg Wieking, United Blood Services’ Donor recruitment representative for Luke Air Force Base. If you are interested in coordinating a blood drive for your squadron or would like to volunteer on the LAFB blood drive committee, contact Greg, 602-614-4772 or Captain Sharlott Uriate, 623-856-6869.

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The protection and preservation of Luke’s operative land and air space, as well as the aid, care and support of base personnel and their families are Fighter Country Partnership’s top priorities. Our membership consists of business professionals, elected officials, military retirees and active citizens who collectively support the men and women of Luke and work to insure its future viability in Arizona.

Fighter Country Partnership is actively recruiting individual and business members throughout the state to build one strong voice of support to preserve the mission of Luke Air Force Base and its significant contribution to our national security. If you would like to learn more about Fighter Country Partnership or if you are ready to take an active role in the protection of Luke and its troops, please call Ron Sites, President and CEO at (623) 695-9244, or log on to www.fightercountry.org for more information.

Donate to the men and women of Luke

If you would like to make a tax deductible donation directly to the men and women of Luke Air Force Base, you may contribute to the Fighter Country Foundation. The Fighter Country Foundation is a 501(C)3 organized to honor, serve and support the men and women of Luke Air Force Base with programs designed to aid, educate and integrate them for the duration of their stay in our community. Please make your check payable to Fighter Country Foundation and mail it to Fighter Country Partnership, 500 N. Estrella Parkway, Suite B-2, PMB #479, Goodyear, Arizona 85338.

Fighter Country Partnership

The community support team for Luke Air Force Base

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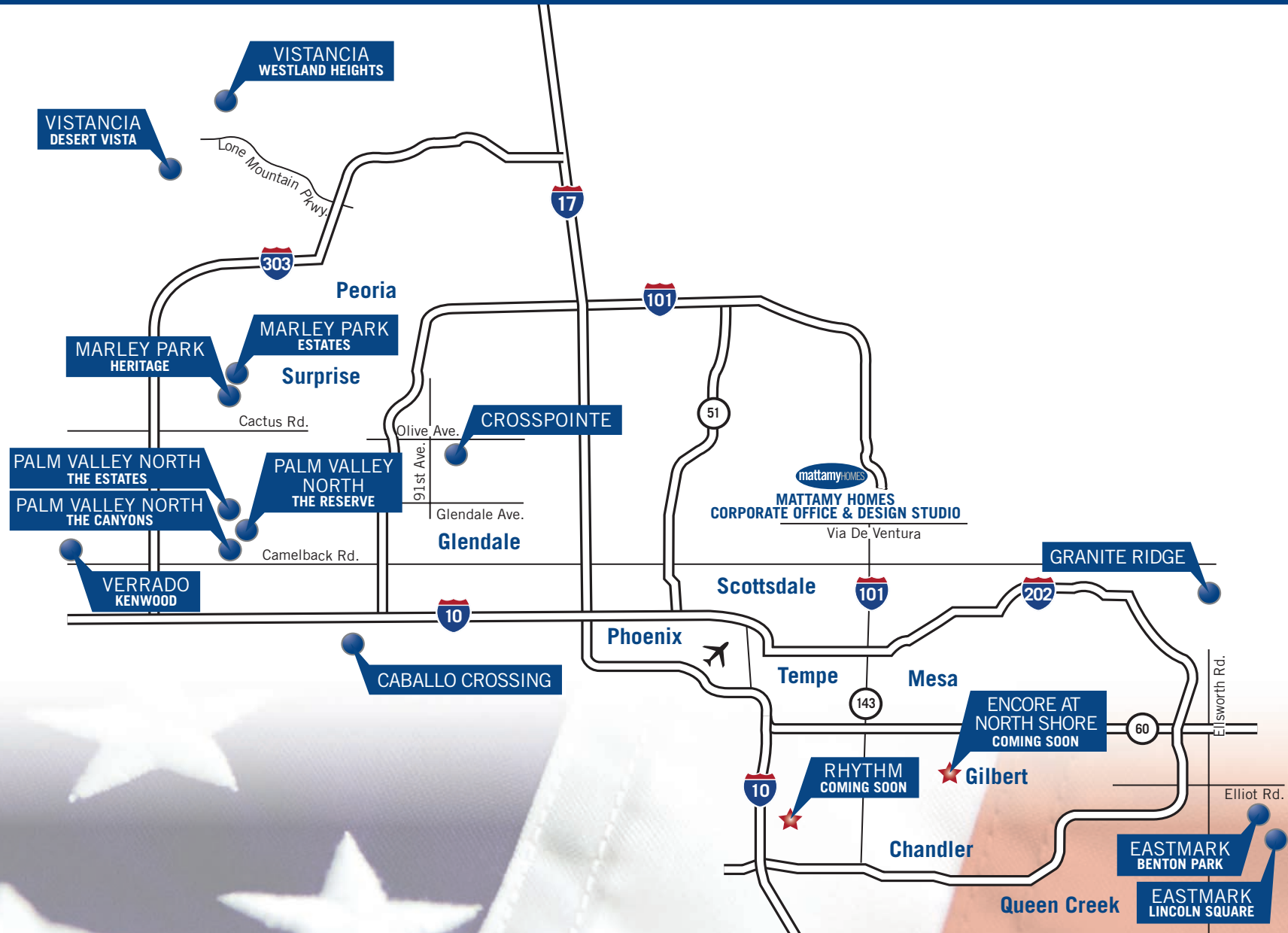
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