

JULY 17th GENERAL MEETING

Sun City Grand Republicans



All Members, Friends, & Guests

We are having record turnouts!

Come early for pastries and coffee, get a good seat, and enjoy our special guest speaker, Patrick J Connell, Commandant, Department of Arizona, Marine Corps League, speaking on his experiences as an immigrant and his work with America's military veterans from all conflicts.

Date and time

Saturday July 17th, 2021

9:00am - Coffee/Pastries

9:30am - Meeting

Location

**Church on the Green
19051 N. R H Johnson Bl
Sun City West, AZ 85375**

**Patrick J Connell
Commandant, Department of Arizona, Marine Corps League**

Born in an orphanage in Dublin, he was adopted and brought to the U.S. at age seven becoming a citizen that same year. Pat graduated from Divine Word Seminary in 1969. After enlisting in the Marine Corps in 1970, Pat received orders to the Pacific. He was part of a Security Company for the 1st Marine Air Wing. Upon completion, he was selected for Sea Duty, and deployed to the Gulf of Tonkin.

After his discharge, Pat enrolled at the University of Nebraska at Omaha where he graduated with a BS in Criminal Justice. He was hired by the Nebraska PD and recruited as a Criminal Investigator for the VA where he was assigned to the Phoenix VA. While working with the VA, he became aware of the treatment of Vietnam Veterans and was himself ostracized on several occasions because of his Vietnam Veteran Status.

Pat committed himself to do everything he could to ensure that Veterans from all conflicts would not be treated like those returning from Vietnam. He made it his goal to take care of those Veterans.

For Pat's dedication to the Veterans over his 30-year career, he was elected to the Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame Class of 2015, and is currently the Department of Arizona Marine Corps League Commandant.

The VA and Me

I was honorably discharged from the U.S. Army in 1964 at age 20, after three years of active duty. In the mid-1960s the G.I. Bill was extended to Cold War veterans. I took advantage of it for educational purposes, but never pursued other veterans benefits that I might have been eligible for. **Fast** forward to 2021: I met with an “Enrollment and Eligibility” person, primarily to get my Covid vaccinations through the VA. To my own surprise, when he called me “brother,” I got a major lump in my throat. And when I mingled with the others at the VA vaccination center, I got this warm feeling that I belonged. **My** younger brother was drafted in 1967 and went straight to Vietnam, after training. He came home with drug and alcohol addictions, hepatitis C and significant PTSD. He got clean from drugs and alcohol and lived that way for the last 20 or so years of his life, but he struggled with hepatitis C and PTSD for the rest of his life. **The** VA was instrumental in helping my brother. He praised and appreciated the way they took care of him during the last decades of his life. A life-long smoker, he died of lung cancer in 2016 at age 69. His disability payments are a significant portion of his widow’s income.

by Tom Zades, Editor



HAPPY HOUR/SOCIAL

Thursday, July 29th from 3:00pm - 5:00pm

@

**Chef Peter's Bistro
17300 N Sun Village Pkwy
Surprise, AZ 85374**

**House Margarita's - \$2.00 ea.
Appetizer Buffet - \$11.00**

Sign up below to attend

[Click here to Register](#)

See you there!

Regards,

Sally Cotten, President
SCG GOP
480-589-8049

[SCG GOP Website](#)

