

St. Michaels Veterans Organization (SMVO) Meeting

Tuesday, December 2, 2025

- I. Meeting Call to Order at 6:00 pm
- II. Invocation: Given by Gabriel Freeman
- III. Review and Adopt Agenda  
1<sup>st</sup> Motion: Herbert Woodman 2nd Motion: Bernice Shortey  
Vote: Yes 11 No: 0 Abstain: 3
- IV. Roll Call of Veteran Official:  
Commander Jeffrey Kirk Present  
Vice Commander Ronnie Peshlakai Present  
Secretary Lita Sam Present
- V. Announcement:
  - a. 12/01/2025 World AIDS Day
  - b. 12/04/2025 – 12/05/2025 Free Pine Firewood Distribution 7:00 am to 2:00 pm at Henry and Eleanor Monroe's Residence milepost 7 on Navajo Route 15, West of Leupp then 1 mile south. Must present DD-214, own vehicle and bring helper/tie down straps.
  - c. 12/07/2025 Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day
  - d. 12/07/2025 84<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor. Honor and reflect at the USS Arizona Memorial Gardens at Salt River. Join to honor the Flag of the USS Arizona BB-39 and the 1,177 crew members aboard the USS Arizona. Presented by the Discover Salt River. From 10:00 am to 11:00 am. Free to attend to pay tribute to fallen soldiers. Join Flag Breathing Ceremony at 10:00 am.
  - e. 12/14-22/2025 Hanukkah
  - f. At the Fort Defiance Agency Office, Talking Circle – Communication, Healing, & Community Connection, 10:00 am to 12:00 pm, free food by the Veteran Facilitator, phone # (928) 871-7307
  - g. 12/21/2025 First Day of Winter
  - h. 12/24/2025 Christmas Eve
  - i. 12/25/2025 Christmas Day
  - j. 12/31/2025 New Year's Eve
  - k. Check and update your registration documents at Fort Defiance Veterans Office. Remind the Veterans on their Registration Form to be done every year.
- VI. Recognition of Guest and Official(s):  
Fallyn Begay - VSO Ft Defiance Veteran Office
- VII. Commander/Vice Commander Report:
  - Kirk announced that Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame Society 2026 Scholarship Program for Arizona Veterans, Veteran Family members and National Guard/Reserve Members, scholarships range from \$5,000 to \$10,000, application opens November 1, 2025, to February 15, 2026. Applicants must be an honorably discharged veteran, currently serving National Guard/Reserve unit member, of the spouse or dependent child of an honorably discharged veteran. Be attending an institution of higher learning within the State of Arizona that is eligible to receive GI Bills funds, to include trade schools and associate degree programs and be a permanent Arizona resident. All Veterans are reminded to be KIND, be respectable while attending the Veteran meeting or visiting the Fort Defiance Veteran Office or any Veteran Offices. Be patient that the financial assistance requests will take about 1 to 2 months to be processed at OOC Account Payable. The Fort Defiance Veteran Office has temporary employees working from Workforce Development Office. If you need gears for example socks, long johns, scarf, weather jacket, gloves, bag, combine sets – these gears go out towards the Veteran's needs. Giving out the turkeys and hams was successful on November 20, 2025, from



3:00 pm to 6:30 at the newly St. Michaels Chapter House. Gave out the sweat jacket hoodie in green and beige colors and if anyone didn't get one, you may see Kirk.

- Fallyn Begay the VSO from the Fort Defiance Agency Office acknowledge and gave congratulation to our newly St Michaels Chapter House. Have been busy doing Veteran events, encourage budge transfer, St Michaels Veteran Organization spend almost all their allocated budget for Hardships, Energy and Self Help. In October and November, we've given out financial assistance to 95 St Michaels Veterans – also including the surviving spouse. 21 financial hardship applicants have been denied due to mistakes on their application. We've called, emailed and left voicemail to make their correction(s). Training is going on for the new ERP system. For Fort Defiance Agency we've processed 1,327 financial assistance forms, of these 905 have been approved for process. 422 were denied due to discrepancies on the financial assistance forms. 74% have been used by the Veteran Trust Fund. We've recognized 8 recipients for the Purple Heart recognition. 6 recipients were from the Fort Defiance Agency. President Nygren proclamation on November 3 to honor the Purple Heart recipients. Recognize under Title 2 016-825. On November 10, 2025, there was a Marine Corps Ball at Route 66 Casino, it was a huge turnout for this event, and it went well. On December 4, there will be for spouse who will make skirt and the men make a medicine bag.

a. No new business.

VIII. Financial Assistance:

- Currently there are no funds for Hardship, Energy and Self Help. There are monies for Traditional in the amount of \$92.00 and Education in the amount for \$500.00 available for Veterans for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter beginning in January 2026. Still have funds for the Officers' stipends in the amount of \$3,000.00.

IX. Adjournment: At 7:11 pm

- a. Next meeting January 6, 2026, Tuesday @ 6:00 pm at St Michaels Chapter House.

Meeting minutes submitted by:

 12/4/2025  
Lita Sam, Secretary

Attachment:

Agenda, General Claim Forms/W9 JKirk, & LSam, Veterans Sign In sheet & Guest Sign In sheet.