



Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge Southern Arizona Chapter #53



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Earl Liston
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Keith Trantow
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Jim McArthur
Director

January 1, 2013

Subject: 2012 Southern Arizona VBOB Chapter 53 Annual Report

Southern Arizona Chapter 53 of the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge, located in Tucson, Arizona, was chartered on November 1, 1997 and membership now stands at 45 members, of which 20 are VBOB and 25 are Associates. We hold meetings on the third Thursday of each month with the exception of summer recess in June, July and August. We meet on December 16th, or as near as possible, to commemorate the beginning of the Battle of the Bulge.

Our monthly meetings are held in a private room in a restaurant in the Tucson area where we have interesting speakers and/or video presentations. This past year we had various military leaders, talks on Veteran Affairs, and Veterans Burial Benefits at National Cemeteries. In May our treasurer, John Swett, along with two of his daughters and grandson traveled to Belgium to participate in the reunion of the 106th Infantry Division. John and his grandson gave a good report and photo presentation of that trip at our September meeting.

We participated in the Massing of the Colors and Service of Remembrance here in Tucson on November 10th and the names of our six VBOB members who passed away in 2012 were read and remembered. We also participated in the Veterans Day parade in Tucson on November 11th accompanied by five WWII jeeps. In December, I spoke to 150 middle school history class eighth graders on WWII and the Battle of the Bulge. They found my talk very interesting and I was asked many questions about the War. Many of the things I and my fellow soldiers experienced are not covered in their history books.

Our 2012/2013 officers are listed on this page and the board members meet on the first Friday of each month. These 10 officers consist of five BOB Veterans and five Associates. Without our Associates we could not operate as efficiently as we do.

During the year we had two more of our Chapter members participate in the World War II Veterans Honor Flight to Washington DC. We will have two or three more attending in 2013. I am now a volunteer with the Honor Flights and assist in sending them on the trip and welcoming them home upon their return. I have also been elected to the Southern Arizona Honor Flight Board of Directors.

Our chapter has a beautiful monument in the El Presidio Park in downtown Tucson where we had a very moving wreath laying ceremony during the 2009 National Annual reunion here in Tucson. The monument can be viewed on the National VBOB Web site.

In my opinion and that of our officers, we feel that we have made every effort and success in achieving the VBOB objectives. We also continue to participate in the community to include school presentations, media interviews, and activities with local veterans groups and fraternal organizations.

Respectfully submitted,



George W. McGee, President
Southern Arizona VBOB Chapter 53

Attachments: Treasurer's Report

cc: Douglas Dillard, National President
John D. Bowen, National Recording Secretary
Ralph Bozorth, National Treasurer
Chapter 53 Board Members