

MOWW slates massing of colors

STAFF REPORT

The 42nd-annual Massing of the Colors and Service Remembrance ceremony sponsored by the Military Order of the World Wars Phoenix chapter will be at 2 p.m. Sunday in Mountain View Recreation in Sun City.

With flags and banners, this event pays tribute to those in the U.S. military and who've served as well.

"At a time when our soldiers are facing difficult situations in many parts of the globe, it's important to honor their services and remember those who have gone before them, particularly those who paid the ultimate price with their lives," said retired Col. Richard Minor, commander of the Phoenix MOWW. "We hope people in the surrounding areas take time join us."

The ceremony has drawn hundreds of spectators and included such participants as patriotic and service organizations along with the Boy Scouts and high school ROTC cadets.

Phoenix MOWW's massing

will begin with the Army band playing at 2 p.m., followed by a blessing of all of the organizations' colors and flags.

The West Valley Pipes and Drum Band will perform as well.

MOWW has been in existence 86 years and has 147 chapters across the nation. The group promotes patriotic education among young people, honors those in the military service and particularly those who served in the world wars, and strives to be a respected voice in national defense issues and local affairs.

Traditionally the MOWW Sun Cities and Phoenix chapters have sponsored the annual Massing of Colors and Service Remembrance in April at the Mountain View Recreation Center.

This year, however, the Sun Cities Chapter 131 chose to have a separate ceremony earlier this year.

Gov. Janet Napolitano also has declared Sunday as "Massing of the Colors and Service Remembrance Day."



PÈTE PALLAGI/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Veteran Don Campbell salutes the flag during the Massing of the Colors and Service Remembrance at Faith Presbyterian Church in Sun City Wednesday.

Ceremony honors area veterans

MITCHELL VANTREASE
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Elden Evans won't forget any of the veterans who have fought and died for America.

"They're our history and freedom, so it's important we recognize them," he said.

The Surprise resident was just one of many who attended the annual Massing of Colors and Service Remembrance Wednesday sponsored by the Military Order of the World Wars Sun Cities chapter at Faith Presbyterian Church.

During the ceremony, people watched as color guards from the Northwest Valley Veterans Organization and local high school Junior ROTC units marched into Illingworth Hall to present the flags. Piper Don Campbell led the procession into the building.

A candle ceremony followed the color guards and paid tribute to veterans who have died. Waters also read the names of the men and women who passed away this

year.

"It's great to give respect to all of those who've given their lives and served us," said Elizabeth Waters, commander of MOWW chapter 131.

Michael Miech, a retired colonel, also talked about the significance of the candles' colors. Red reflects courage, white is moral integrity and blue means loyalty.

"As the stars and moon light up in heaven, so will those candles now for the men and women who've risked their lives," he said.

The MOWW Sun Cities and Phoenix chapters have traditionally sponsored the annual Massing of Colors and Service Remembrance in April at the Mountain View Recreation Center.

This year, however, the Sun Cities Chapter 131 chose to have a separate ceremony to honor those military men and women who've died.

"We just wanted to pay respect to those who've helped us along the way," Waters said.

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Somber ceremony

A massing of the colors and service of remembrance — a patriotic ceremony in memory of the military men and women who have died serving our country — sponsored by the Military Order of the World Wars Chapter 131, Sun Cities, Arizona will be 2 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 8 at Illingworth Hall, Faith Presbyterian Church, 16000 N. Del Webb Blvd. Sun City, Arizona. Free admission and free parking, light refreshments served following ceremony.

Concert kicks off event

Daily News-Sun staff

Color guards bearing the flags of every state and more than 30 patriotic fraternal organizations will participate in the 29th Annual Massing of the Colors Sunday in the Sun Bowl.

The ceremony, sponsored by the Sun Cities and Phoenix chapters of the Military Order of the World Wars, is conducted in memory of U.S. servicemen and servicewomen who gave their lives fighting in America's wars.

"It's quite a colorful event," said Joseph Rogel, one of the ceremony organizers.

Rogel said about 175 people in 80 units would be participating in the event. "That includes everything from the Boy Scouts on through to the various veterans' military organizations."

Color guards representing American Legion and Veterans of Foreign War posts, Jewish War Veterans and Junior ROTC units will carry their organizational colors.

Units from other Military Order of the World Wars chapters in California, Colorado, New Mexico and Utah will also carry flags, Rogel said.

The ceremony will begin with a band concert by the 108th Army band of the Arizona Air National Guard and will include a memorial address by Maj. Gen. Samuel Leffler of Fort Huachuca.

The free event begins at 2 p.m. Sunday in the Sun Bowl, 107th Avenue and Clair Drive in Sun City. Event organizers suggest that spectators bring their own lawn chairs.

5,000 salute colors

Five thousand persons paid tribute to the colors that represent—in the words of Gov. Jack Williams—the “grandest, finest, kindest, and most remarkable” nation in the world Sunday in the Sun Bowl.

Williams, other state and military dignitaries, and the flag bearers of 56 organizations conducted the ninth annual Massing of the Colors and Service of Remembrance sponsored by the Sun City and Phoenix Military Order of the World Wars.

A thundering fly-by of T38 jets from Williams Air Force Base brought Old Glories filing into the bowl from both sides and down center aisle to begin the ceremony.

The governor welcomed the near-capacity crowd after the singing of the national anthem and the pledge of allegiance.

In a memorial chronicling wars fought by Americans, Lt. Gen. Richard Stilwell, 6th Army commanding general, praised their valor.

A moment of silence after the blessing of the colors was broken by a volley of rifle fire.

Taps introduced the benediction, and the flagmen retired.



Lt. Gen. Richard Stilwell and Gov. Jack Williams



Flag bearers of 56 Valley organizations file into Sun Bowl.