



NOVEMBER 2026 NEWSLETTER

Greetings Fellow Daedalians,

Our next gathering will be on November 12th at the Phoenix/Mesa DoubleTree Hotel. The address is 1011 West Holmes Avenue, Mesa, AZ 85210. The social hour will begin at 1700 and the meeting will be called to order at 1800. Dinner will be served after opening remarks and toasts. The meal will be Garden Green Salad with Ranch & Balsamic Dressing, Rolls & Butter, Herb Roasted Chicken, Yukon Gold Mashed Potatoes, Roasted Vegetable Medley, and Dessert.

Our speaker will be Willie Flight 82 member Arlan Allen. Arlan has over 20,000 flight hours, 1,100 hours of combat time and has logged time in over 100 different types of aircraft while serving as an Army helicopter pilot, an airline and corporate pilot, and a long career working for the FAA. His very impressive biography is attached.

Bill Follette will be receiving the Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award at our meeting. This award is the most prestigious award that the FAA issues to pilots. To earn this award, a pilot must have 50 or more years of U.S. civil and military piloting experience. Brian Mehrstens, FAAS Team Program Manager at the Scottsdale FSDO will be presenting the award to Bill.

Captain's Corner: Just a few words for this month. It was great to see everyone at the meeting and it was a very nice turnout. One of the items we are always looking at is guest speakers. If any of you have someone you think would fill the bill, let me know. Also, if any of you think you might have an interesting topic to present, step forward. Let's keep pressing forward and enjoy these monthly meetings. If anyone has anything for the staff that you think would be useful, please let us know. Dave Vangsnes

The day before our meeting is November 11 and it is a very important day for those of us who served our country in the military. It will be Veteran's Day! Or is it Veterans' Day? Or is it Veterans Day? See the next page for my brief history of military days honored throughout the year and the grammatically correct spelling of Veteran??? Day.

Please contact me not later than Sunday, November 8, "yes" or "no" response regarding your attendance. You can send me an e-mail at rickdrown@msn.com, or call or text me at 480-518-7665.

Stay safe and be well, Rick

DAYS HONORING THE MILITARY

Veteran's Day, Veterans' Day or Veterans Day? The grammatically correct answer is Veterans Day. No apostrophe! This was debated by the Department of Veterans Affairs. It was decided not to use the apostrophe because as a grammatical possessive, the day would belong to a single veteran or plural veterans. They wanted the day to be for all veterans to be honored for their service.

Veterans Day is meant to honor all those who have served in the United States armed forces. It was originally known as Armistice Day, marked by the cessation of World War I hostilities. The Armistice was signed in Compiegne, France and took effect at 11:00 AM on the 11th day of the 11th month in 1918. It remained Armistice Day until 1954 when it was renamed Veterans Day. Veterans Day is distinct from Memorial Day which honors those who have died in military service. Memorial Day is observed on the last Monday of May. It was originally called Decoration Day when flowers were put on the graves of the fallen and unofficially started sometime during or after the Civil War. The first national celebration was held at Arlington National Cemetery on 30 May, 1868. At the turn of the century, Decoration Day was designated as Memorial Day.

Other Military Days Observed:

3rd Saturday in May: Armed Forces Day. It is part of Military Appreciation Month and is a national observance honoring active and former members of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Coast Guard and Space Force. It was created in 1949 after the unification of all military branches under the Department of Defense. The first observance was declared by President Harry Truman and held on 20 May 1950. Another reason for the unification was to not have multiple celebrations for the different branches. However, I think each of us knows our branch's birthday. Celebrate! Army-14 Jun 1775, Navy-13 Oct 1775, Marine Corps-10 Nov 1775, Coast Guard-4 Aug 1790, Air Force-18 Sep 1947, Space Force-20 Dec 2019.

29 March: National Vietnam War Veterans Day. The date marks 29 March, 1973 when the last combat troops left Vietnam and the final POWs returned. The date was formally established by the Vietnam War Veterans Recognition Act of 2017.

14 June: Flag Day. Flag Day commemorates the adoption of the Stars and Stripes Flag of The United States on 14 June, 1777 by resolution of the Second Continental Congress. Flag Day itself was first proposed in 1861 to rally support for the Union side of the Civil War, but it wasn't recognized until 1916 when President Woodrow Wilson issued a proclamation that designated 14 June as Flag Day. On 3 August, 1949, National Flag Day was officially established by an Act of Congress. However, Flag Day is not an official federal holiday. 14 Jun 1775 is also when the United States Army was founded and thus celebrates its birthday on Flag Day.

BIOGRAPHY OF ARLAN R. ALLEN

Born to Arlan R. Allen Sr. and Maxine (Carman) Allen, February 24, 1949.

Attended Vaughn Elementary and Vaughn High School, graduated May, 1967.

Attended University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM 1967 – 1969.



Enlisted in the United States Army as a Warrant Officer Candidate, March, 1969. Graduated from the Army Flight School, designated an Army Aviator and appointed as a Warrant Officer 1.

Served as a Combat helicopter pilot in Vietnam and continued serving through Desert Storm, as an IP, SIP, and NVG IP.

Graduate of the following Military courses: Methods of Instruction Course and Instructor Pilot Course; Flight Examiner Course; Aviation Maintenance Officer Course; Graduate Warrant Officer Senior Course, University of Nevada, Reno.

Retired as a Chief Warrant Officer 4 with the following awards and decorations:



Master Army Aviator; Distinguished Flying Cross for Valor; the Bronze Star; 19 Awards of the Air Medal; Army Commendation Medal with 6 Oak Leaf Clusters; Army Achievement Medal with 3 Oak Leaf Clusters; Vietnam Service Ribbon; Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Palm.

A parallel career, as a civilian, flying for Golden West Airlines and, later, a Corporate Pilot flying Lear-Jets followed by ten years with the US Department of Interior as a Natural Resource Pilot, followed by an additional ten year service with the Federal Aviation Administration, serving

as an Aviation Safety Inspector/Aircraft Accident Investigator. Graduated from the Federal Aviation Administration Academy, Oklahoma City, OK; Graduate US Department of Transportation Safety Institute, Aircraft Accident Investigation.

I hold the following Federal Aviation Administration certificates and ratings: Airline Transport Pilot Certificate, Airplane and Helicopter. Type Ratings: Lear Jet; BO105; Boeing 737; Boeing 757; Boeing 767. Certified Flight Instructor, Airplane and Helicopter Including Instruments. I have accumulated 20,000 + hours of flight time, including 1100 hours in Combat, in over 100 different types of aircraft, ranging from 2 place training helicopters and 1938 Piper J-3, to the 300- passenger Boeing 767.



Fully retired in 2009 and started in volunteer work with various Veterans groups and Community projects. Serving as a Veterans Advocate and on the Board of Directors of the Superstition Mountain Chapter, Military Officers Association of America. I have served on the Board of Directors and have held the following positions: Second Vice President and Membership Chair; First Vice President and Program Chair and President During my two year term as President of the Superstition Mountain Chapter, MOAA, the Chapter received a Five Star Level of Excellence Award for both years. In addition to the work with the Board of Directors, I have helped several members with VA Disability claims, plus I have helped many survivors of Chapter members to file for Survivor Benefits and to acquire a new Military ID.

I have served on the Executive Committee for the Order of Daedalians, Willie Flight 82, as the Flight Adjutant.

In 2011 I established the "AR Allen Family Scholarship" in honor of my grandfather who was a WWI Veteran. This scholarship is given yearly to recipients who graduate from my High School alma mater, in Vaughn, NM. I also award a Patriotism Award to those entering the Armed Forces.



In my spare time, flying remains my hobby. My project was the restoration of a 1947 Engineering and Research Corporation, Ercoupe 415CD. This project took me 3 ½ years to complete.

Photos from October Meeting



