

## Sedona Area Veteran & Community Outreach

### SAVCO

SAVCO invites all citizens of Sedona to join them in acts of gratitude and service that lift up all veterans, express pride in country and community, and support future generations.

- **Toys for Tots**  
Help us ensure that all children experience the magic of Christmas every year. This popular holiday campaign assists less fortunate families from Sedona to the Hopi Nation.
- **Direct Veteran Assistance**  
The SAVCO Veteran Assistance Fund provides bill assistance of up to \$500 to veterans or widows/widowers of veterans who reside in Sedona, Village of Oak Creek, or the Sedona Fire District in need of short-term financial assistance owing to unexpected or extraordinary circumstances.
- **Education Scholarships**  
Make a meaningful difference in the life of a young person. Our annual scholarships help fund higher education and the trades for Sedona Red Rock High School graduates who exhibit drive, focus and empathy.
- **89 Flags on 89A & Acts of Remembrance**  
SAVCO's visual representation of patriotism and love of country. Volunteer to put up and take down the flags along 89A on important holidays or help organize other events.



Join & Support SAVCO

# Memorial Day Ceremony

Posse Ground Pavilion

525 Posse Ground Rd. Sedona AZ 86336

May 25, 2026



Thank you to the of the City of Sedona, Parks & Recreation, Maintenance Department, Volunteer Park Rangers, Sedona Police Department, Sedona Fire District, Mountain High Flowers, Verde Valley Senior Squadron 205, Accord Hospice of Sedona and members of the Sedona Area Veteran & Community Outreach (SAVCO) for their support in making this event successful.

**It is an honor to recognize those who made the ultimate sacrifice for each of us and our nation.**

## 2026 Memorial Day Ceremony – Program

0830

**Introduction** – Commander Jack Ross USN Ret

**Fly over** – Thomas McPherson USN

### 2026 Memorial Day Ceremony - Program

**Invocation** – Chaplain LtCol George Ault, US Army Ret

**Welcome** – Commander Jack Ross USN Ret

**Guest Speaker** – Colonel Al Cornell, US Army Ret

**Playing of “To the Colors”** by Ron Wright

**Memorial Flag Folding** SAVCO Flag Team

**Flag presentation** by Veterans Mike Vitek & Frank Wirkus

**Singing of the National Anthem** by Red RockAppella

**Playing of “Taps”** by Ron Wright

**Moment of Silence**

**Closing Prayer** led by Dr. George Ault, US Army Ret.

**“God Bless America”** by Red RockAppella



The tradition of setting a separate table in honor of our prisoners of war and missing comrades has been in place since the end of the Vietnam War. The manner in which this table is decorated is full of special symbols to help us remember our brothers and sisters in arms.

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You are welcome to attend the \$15 Elks Barbecue today, 11:00 to 3:00. Music by Javelina Highway (12-3pm).



Dr. Ron Wright and his wife, Arleen, have lived in Camp Verde, AZ for the past fifty-three years. Dr. Wright practiced dentistry there for forty-seven years retiring in June 2019. Together, they have raised six children and now have twenty-five grandchildren. They are also proud great grandparents of two great grandchildren with a third one on the way.

Dr. Wright is an original member of the Cottonwood Community Band, which was formed back in 1990. As a trumpet player, he continues today in his participation in this fine concert band. Dr. Wright is the official bugler for the American Legion, Post 93 in Camp Verde, and participates in services for deceased veterans, and on official holidays, Memorial Day, Veterans Day, and 911 Memorial.



*Continuing to Serve*



Thomas McPherson is a member of SAVCO, a US Navy veteran, and a real estate entrepreneur. He enjoys working with diverse teams to solve complex challenges. During his Navy service, Thomas earned both Surface Warfare and Fleet Marine Force Warfare designations and completed comprehensive combat medical training

as an FMF Corpsman. The leadership skills he learned in the military he now applies to foster positive change within the communities he lives in and serves. Thomas has been involved with several notable Sedona projects, including the revitalization of The Collective Sedona.

Outside of his professional responsibilities, Thomas values quality time with his wife and two children. His interests include trail running, reading, gardening, SCUBA diving, and aviation. As a licensed pilot, Thomas often provides flights over the Sedona/Grand Canyon area or along the New England coast, where he and his family spend the summer. On Memorial Day 2026, Thomas will pilot a flyover in Sedona, operating his O-2 Skymaster - the same aircraft employed by the US Air Force in Vietnam and other various foreign militaries. For additional information about Thomas, please visit LUKROM at:

[www.Lukrom.com](http://www.Lukrom.com)





In early 1994, after completing 30 years of active duty in the U.S. Army, Al and his spouse retired to Sedona. They immediately joined Friends of the Forest Sedona, a volunteer organization which supports the Red Rock Ranger District of the U.S. Forest Service, in which Al is still active. In 1995, Al also joined Verde Search and Rescue and participated in search and rescue missions and unit training events for 29 years. Al is still active teaching Wilderness Safety in support of the volunteers and rangers of the Red Rock Ranger District as well as the youth of the Yavapai-Apache Nation in Camp Verde.



Red RockAppella was born out of a mutual love of harmony and community service. We perform music that varies from serious to silly, sacred to secular, lighthearted to heartwarming while retaining exceptional a *cappella* vocal quality. You can hear us throughout the Verde Valley as we sing for holidays, weddings, public celebrations, and memorials. We also entertain at retirement homes, churches, and private parties.

## Army Captain Fred Shinn



Fred Shinn June 20, 1937 – April 5, 2026

Fred was a Michigan State University graduate, participating in ROTC and completing Officers Training School at Ft. Riley. He served as an Army Captain in Laos from 1960 to 1964, gaining combat experience. After his time in Vietnam, Fred earned a Master's degree in Finance from Dartmouth College and began a notable career at the Aluminum Company of America (ALCOA), eventually leading its international finance division.

During his years in Florida, Fred founded the Marco Island Yacht Club and helped establish the Marco Island Film Festival and the Marco Island Players. After moving to Sedona in 2005, he remained active in the community, co-founding both the Sedona Police Volunteer Program and the Sedona Police Field Support Unit.

Fred is survived by his beloved partner, Terrie Frankel; his daughter, Debra Shinn; his son, Kurt; and grandsons Maxwell and Mason Shinn. He will be interred at the Sedona Community Cemetery, where he and Terrie contributed to creating a Columbarium to honor Veterans and First Responders.

