

Operation 'Jump Start' Is Topic At Rotary Meeting

Army Major Paul Babeu speaks to Superstition Mountain Rotary

By Jill Jones
The News

Arizona National Guard Major Paul Babeu, Commander of the Operation Jump Start Yuma Task Force was the guest speaker at the June 13, 2007 Superstition Mountain Rotary Club meeting.

Before he began his presentation, Babeu presented Gold Canyon resident Air Force Major Bryan Martyn with a Challenge Coin in appreciation for his help in procuring 50 sets of Night Vision Goggles for Operation Jump Start.

The Challenge Coin or Commander's Coin represents affiliation or patronage to the organization bestowing the coin and is to be carried at all times. Military coins are utilized as a method of recognizing individual achievements and also as a show of appreciation.

Martyn, an Apache Helicopter pilot, will be leaving for the Ukraine in two weeks to train on soviet Mi-17's after which he will be deployed to Afghanistan to train the Afghanisthan military to fly the soviet helicopters.

Babeu provided the Rotarians with an overview of the two-year, four-state Operation Jump Start project that began July 1, 2006 and which deployed National Guard troops to assist in patrolling the U.S.-Mexico border in Arizona, California, New Mexico and Texas, at the request of Homeland Security in an attempt to stem the flow of illegal immigrants entering the U.S.

The President of the United States authorized the use of 6,000 National Guard Soldiers and Airmen along with the hiring of an additional 6,000 new Border Patrol Agents to help "Jump Start" the Customs and Border Patrol operations.

According to Babeu about 40 per-



Major Paul Babeu, Commander of Operation Jump Start Yuma Task Force speaks to Superstition Mountain Rotarians.

cent of the guard troops are assigned to Arizona, providing non-law enforcement support in the areas of Aerial Identification, Entry Identification, Engineering and Station Support. Whether it means helping to man dispatch, working surveillance or even providing mechanics to repair Border Patrol vehicles, the guard is utilizing all their military skills, equipment, expertise and experience to assist Border Patrol in getting agents back on the border.

Babeu said the operation has had a significant impact in the Yuma sector, reducing illegal entries by 74 percent in one year's time and traffic has been reduced in some sectors by as much as 93 percent.

The presence alone creates a line of defense, said Babeu, pointing out that soldiers wielding automatic weapons can be a huge deterrent to drug traffickers and "coyotes". He warns, however, that the death toll of immigrants trying to cross into the U.S. will start to go higher as the coyotes are forced to move their smuggling operations further

to the west and over more desolate and unforgiving terrain.

Babeu provided some statistics of the effect that Operation Jump Start has had in Arizona alone. At the end of the two year period the guard is expected to complete five miles of new road, 49.5 miles of temporary vehicle barriers, 87.6 miles of permanent vehicle barrier, 194 miles of road maintenance, 15 miles of primary fencing, 12 miles of secondary fencing and 12.5 miles high intensity lighting.

"Our presence allows the Border Patrol the needed time to recruit, hire, train and field 6,000 new agents," said Babeu. "As war fighters, we are proud to serve along side Border Patrol Agents and civilians in the Yuma Sector."

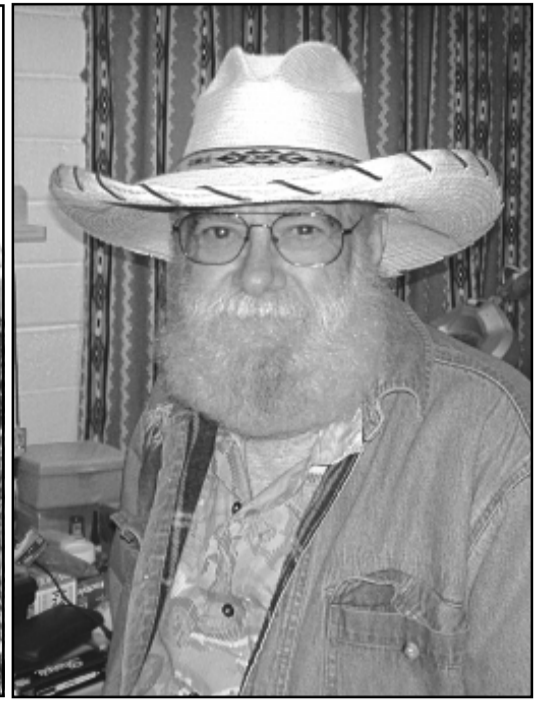
Before relinquishing the floor Babeu introduced Command Master Chief Daniel Lawrence, Arizona Air National Guard, who is in his 38th year of service to his country. "He is an exceptional man," said Babeu, "Army and air don't always play nice together. We do."

Lawrence, who comes from a military family, said he lost his son in Iraq a few years ago, where he was serving with the Marines. His son was killed on the sixth of July and never got to see his daughter that was born just four days later on July 10. Lawrence said his son knew he was having a girl and had discussed the name with his wife. They decided together that her first name would be Cadence, for what Marines do most and that her middle name would be Freedom, what Marines stand for. Lawrence proudly produced a photo of his son and granddaughter.

Picking up on the poignancy of the moment, Superstition Mountain Rotary Club President Tom Puklin then closed the meeting, held just a few days before Father's Day, with a moment of silence for all fathers who have lost a child.

Local Artist's Ashes Ride The Winds O'er Superstitions

Clint Taylor is now one with the mountain



Teton Ken (photo left) on his journey into the mountains to cast artist Clint Taylor's (photo right) ashes to the winds over the Superstitions.

By Jill Jones
The News

His soul now with his creator, his spirit now upon the wind; he lived his life as he drew it, upon a gentle but frail napkin - Teton Ken.

Local artist Clint Taylor will forever be at one with Superstition Mountain thanks to a few faithful friends who made a pilgrimage to spread his ashes in the mountains he loved and which were often depicted in his drawings.

Taylor, who passed away on May 5, 2007 at the age of 70, was a gifted artist and a familiar local figure that frequented various restaurants

around town and would gladly create a pen and ink work of art on a restaurant napkin for those who asked.

Friends Teton Ken, with his donkey Gus and dog Dangit; Ken Moss from Water and Ice in Apache Junction; and author Marilyn Natoli hiked into the Superstition Mountain on Sunday, June 10, 2007 for the purpose of laying Taylor to rest.

With Weaver's Needle as a backdrop, they each took turns sharing their memories of Taylor, which according to Natoli was "followed by a moment of quiet introspective of

a friend that touched their lives both separately and as one".

"Clint shared the blessings of his gifts on his journey through life, knowing no stranger along the way. He touched our hearts," said Natoli who described the release of the ashes. "Affectionately, Teton cast Clint's ashes to the wind so that his soul could live on as his journey on earth came to a close."

"Thank you Clint for the unselfish giving of your gift of art to friends that will embrace your memory forever," wrote Natoli. "Peace be with you through eternity."

Kindergarten Registration Underway

Parents can sign students up now through August 8

Kindergarten registration for all children who will be five years old before September 1, 2007, is currently underway at all of the five elementary schools in the Apache Junction Unified School District. Registrations will be accepted until school starts on Wednesday, August 8, but registering your kindergarten student as soon as possible is requested for scheduling purposes.

The schools include Superstition Mountain Elementary School, Four

from

"The fire board doesn't want to fight the community they're supposed to be protecting," Montgomery summarized.

He and Campbell agreed that, if the board pulls out, the district will continue hunting for an acceptable site in northern Gold Canyon.

"It's very much a goal of ours to be in the area," Campbell said. "One station is not adequate to cover Gold Canyon."

WATER USE IT WISELY

New President For Boys And Girls Club Council

Casa Grande businessman will preside over state council

By Sarah Owen
The News

Casa Grande businessman Bill Bridwell was named charter president of the newly-formed Arizona Area Council of The Boys and Girls Clubs of America in a recent action by the club's board of governors.

Bridwell was a Club KID himself as a teenager and joined the Board of Directors at the Scottsdale Boys Club in 1976. He has been involved in Boys and Girls Clubs in some capacity ever since. He is looking forward to continuing his thirty years of service to the Boys and Girls Club movement in this new

capacity.

The Arizona Area Council replaces the Desert Area Council, which was a coalition of the states of Arizona, Nevada and Utah. The new council is charged with the responsibilities for collaborative growth, recognition, education and training of boards of directors of all Boys and Girls Clubs across the state of Arizona.

Boys and Girls Club programs and services are designed to promote and enhance the development of boys and girls by instilling a sense of competence, usefulness, belonging and influence. They offer a safe place to learn and grow — all



Bill Bridwell, the new charter president of The Boys and Girls Clubs' Council

while having fun. The club is open every weekday during the summer, from 7 a.m. until 6 p.m. Clubs reach out to kids who cannot afford, or may lack access to, other community programs. Dues are low; the Apache Junction club has an annual membership fee of \$20.

For more information about the Apache Junction Boys and Girls Club and its programs, call 480-982-6381. The Apache Junction Boys and Girls Club is located at 1215 S. Winchester Road.

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