



UNITED STATES VETERANS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Phoenix Chapter – Serving All of Arizona



INTRODUCTION

The Phoenix Chapter of the United States Veterans Chamber of Commerce (USVCC) is the first Veterans Chamber of Commerce in Arizona, part of a new initiative across the United States to assist Veterans in economic development. As part of the USVCC, the Phoenix Chapter's mission is *helping veterans develop, manage, and create business opportunities*. Founded this year, the Phoenix Chapter serves all of Arizona.

The Phoenix Chapter does this primarily in three ways. The first is through networking and partnerships, where the Phoenix Chapter actively cultivates relationships within business networks for the benefit of our members and the community. The next is advocacy and education, as the Phoenix Chapter represents a unified voice locally and nationally in business. The third way is through development and training, where members, Veteran businesses and transitioning service members, can find the career tools and business resources they need to achieve economic success.

CASE FOR SUPPORT

Veterans have three basic needs for success: health care, social services and economic services. Developments in the past ten years brought tremendously improved health care and social services for our service members and Veterans. However, among the three basic needs, the economic services need still requires attention. This need for economic services that support Veterans and their business enterprises as they reintegrate into the civilian working environment, is what the Phoenix Chapter of the USVCC addresses.

The Phoenix Chapter serves as a guide, resource and toolkit for Arizona Veterans through the spectrum of success, from the point of transition from service to economically self-sustaining members of society. For some Veterans, this simply means job referrals, for some it means education; for the Veteran entrepreneurs, it means resources for owning and growing a business.

Once established, the Chamber membership and the community will sustain the organization. The Chamber is an inclusive chamber of commerce, extending membership not only to Veterans, but also to Patriot Businesses that market to or support Veterans and their businesses. This inclusive model comes from lessons from the past that for Veterans to be successful, the community must be part of their support network.

LEADERSHIP

The Phoenix Chapter's President is Ray K. Ragan, a service-disabled, business owner and U.S. Army Public Affairs Officer. Ray holds a Master's Degree in Administration from Northern Arizona University and was twice decorated, including the Bronze Star Medal by the Army for his ability to create effective organizations. Ray is a non-compensated volunteer for the Phoenix Chapter. Ray resides with his wife, Helena and their two young girls in Phoenix, Ariz.

POINT OF CONTACT

Please reach the Phoenix Chapter of the U.S. Veterans Chamber of Commerce at (480)273.9261, or by email ray.ragan@usvcc.com. Alternately, contact us by US Postal Service at the address below.