



Military/Veteran Faith-Based Summit ***BeConnected Faith Network Launch***

June 9, 2021 | 9:30 – 12:00

SPEAKERS

Thomas Winkel, MA, LPC, NCC

Director, Arizona Coalition for Military Families



Thomas is the Director of a nationally-recognized collective impact initiative focused on building Arizona's statewide capacity to care for all service members, veterans, their families and communities. He was a principle team member in reducing the deaths by suicide among Arizona National Guard members from the highest level in its history to zero for over three years. He is also a principle leader in the creation and implementation of both Be Connected and the Arizona Roadmap to Veteran Employment.

Mr. Winkel worked on the development of the White House Executive Order - PREVENTS, is on the Governor's Workforce Arizona Council and Commission for Service and Volunteerism, has spoken, nationally, internationally, at the White House and at Congressional Hearings on a range of subjects and has been the

Lead and Co-Lead on Arizona's Governor/Mayor Challenges SAMHSA/VA Team for the past 11 years.

Mr. Winkel is a combat veteran of the United States Marine Corps and served in the Arizona and Oregon Army National Guard. His service in the U.S.M.C. included tours in Japan, the Philippines and Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm during the first Gulf War.

Maria Fuentes

Director, Governor's Office of Youth, Faith & Family



Maria Cristina Fuentes was appointed as Director of the Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family (GOYFF) by Governor Doug Ducey in 2017. Previous to Ms. Fuentes' appointment, she served six years in the Administration of President George W. Bush in the U.S. Department of Labor and the U.S. Department of Justice. Fuentes also served in the White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives, working to help states across the country develop and establish their own faith-based initiatives.

After her time in Washington D.C., Fuentes worked at Casey Family Programs, where she furthered the foundation's mission to safely reduce the number of children in foster care and improve well-being outcomes of children and families.

Col. (ret) Wanda Wright

Director, Arizona Department of Veterans' Services



Arizona Department of Veterans' Services Director, Col. Wanda Wright is the third generation of her family to serve in the U.S. military, and she has three decades of military experience. Col. Wright holds a B.S. in Management from the U.S. Air Force Academy, a M.B.A from Webster University in South Carolina, a M.P.A. from the University of Arizona, and a M.A. in Educational Leadership from Arizona State University. In 2018, Col. Wright was appointed to the VA's Advisory Committee on Women Veterans, an expert national panel that advises the secretary on issues and programs impacting women veterans.

Chaplain Conrad Washington

USMC (ret), Director, VA Center for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships (CFBNP)



Conrad Washington serves as the Director, for the VA Center for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships (CFBNP) within the Office of Public and Intergovernmental Affairs (OPIA). In this capacity, he provides collaborative strategic leadership to develop and cultivate partnerships with faith-based, non-profit, and community organizations. These partnerships assist to increase awareness and enrollment in VA programs and services for Veterans, their families, survivors, caregivers and other beneficiaries.

Previously, Mr. Washington served in the VA Corporate Senior Executive Management Office (CSEMO) supporting CSEMO's mission of delivering an enterprise-wide approach to executive personnel management for the VA's nearly 600 senior executives and equivalents. He also served in the Office of the Secretary supporting senior leadership. Prior to joining the VA, he served as the Information Security Specialist supporting the National Geospatial Intelligence Agency (NGA) in security education. Mr. Washington retired from the United States Marine Corps with 20 years of active duty service to include a combat tour in 2004 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom II (OIF-II). Positions during his military career include; Administrative/Personnel Chief, USMC Senior Drill Instructor, Formal Schools Instructor, and Adjunct Faculty.

Mr. Washington is a licensed Minister actively serving and currently pursuing a Master's Degree in Divinity (MDiv), pastoral studies, with Moody Theological Seminary. He also holds a Master's degree in Business Management from the University of Redlands and a Bachelor's of Science degree in Education from Southern Illinois University-Carbondale. Additionally, he is a graduate of VA's class of 2017 Virtual Aspiring Leaders Program (VaLP).

Chaplain Matthew A. Cassady, M.Div., BCC-MH

Program Manager for Transitional Care & Education, National VA Chaplain Service, Community Clergy Training Program



Chaplain Cassady is entrusted with the sacred honor of developing relationships with rural community clergy partners and providing virtual education for onboarding chaplains. These programs ensure the spiritual well-being of our Nation's Veterans from transition from service through end of life care. Chaplain Cassady received the 2020 Distinguished Service Award from the Military Chaplains Association. Chaplain Cassady co-created both the orientation and advanced virtual chaplain education courses. Matt is an RV'er and avid outdoorsman who enjoys hiking, hunting, and glamping.

Chaplain Chris Melvin, CH (LTC) ARNG

Senior Army Chaplain, JFHQ-AZ, Papago Park Military Reservation



Originally from Michigan, CH Melvin entered the Air Force in early 1990, enlisting as an aircraft armament specialist, stationed in Southern California. Early in his military career, sensing a call to the ministry, he finished his tour at Luke AFB, bringing him to the Valley of the Sun where he completed his Bachelors in Bible & Pastoral Studies at International Baptist College.

A short year and a half back in the Air Force Reserves, again as an aircraft armament specialist, CH Melvin received an offer to pastor a small local church in the East Valley of Phoenix. During this time he also received his Master of Arts in Biblical Studies at the same college. After nearly 4 and a half years of civilian ministry, CH Melvin shifted to further education and joined the Arizona Army National Guard. Serving in a Signal company and an Aviation regiment, CH Melvin achieved the rank of SGT before being selected in 2006 as a Chaplain. Finishing his Masters of Divinity with Phoenix Seminary, CH Melvin was mobilized for deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) from 2007 to mid-2008. After a successful mission in Afghanistan, he has served in various capacities and assignments with the Arizona National Guard, currently as the Brigade Chaplain for the 198 th Regional Support Group. Recently, CH Melvin returned in August 2018 from a 1 year mobilization to the Horn of Africa, working in humanitarian, military, and foreign military environments. Also, he was selected to participate in the fourth cohort of the yearlong VA/DoD Mental Health Integration for Chaplain Services (MHICS) program, finishing July 2019. Most recently, CH Melvin served as the Acting State Chaplain for the Arizona National Guard, coordinating religious support throughout the state during the COVID-19 pandemic.

His awards include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal and the Combat Action Badge.

CH Melvin currently resides in Chandler, AZ with his wife Beth and 3 children – Michael, Hannah and Noah.

Roland Maldonado

Former Tribal Chairperson, Kaibab Paiute Tribe, Sundance Elder



Roland is the former Tribal Chairperson for the Kaibab Band of Paiute Indians. He is a Sundance Elder, dancing in the traditional Lakota style. He currently works with three residential treatment centers for troubled youth, assisting with indigenous culture programs. As Chairman, Roland addressed the audience during an Arizona State Senate joint protocol session. Chairman Maldonado shared his vision by stressing the importance of building upon established partnerships and a strong foundation in order to progress together.

Mike Wold

Regional Coordinator, Arizona, Institute for Healing of Memories – North America,
Casa Veterans Ministry and Franciscan Renewal Center



Mike is the volunteer Arizona Regional Coordinator for the Institute for Healing of Memories, an organization that conducts weekend Healing of Memories Workshops throughout the world, providing healing to people who are suffering psychologically or spiritually from the painful memories of the past. In Arizona Mike has provided this workshop to over 300 veteran and service personnel free of charge. He is a US Navy veteran who is involved in organizations serving veterans and their families including being an active member of the Franciscan Renewal Center Veterans Ministry in Scottsdale, Arizona and co-leader of the Faith Based Initiative Committee for the Arizona Coalition for Military Families. He is a passionate believer in the role that faith communities can play in the lives of veterans and their families and coordinates the Faith and Spirituality Track each year at the annual Arizona Coalition for Military

Families Symposium. In 2019 Mike was inducted into the Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame.

Mike was a successful organizational development consultant, leadership coach, teacher and facilitator for more than 15 years plus 25 years of experience in management and project management in the private and public sector. He is a former Financial Director and Assistant Commissioner for the Minnesota Department of Economic Security where he was responsible for all the financial and administrative functions of the agency. He is also a former Engineering and Program Management Director at Lockheed Martin Corporation where he led large engineering organizations and business units. In addition, he served as a graduate level adjunct instructor at both the University of Minnesota and the Saint Mary's University of Minnesota. He holds an MS Degree in Mathematics from the University of Iowa and an MBA from the Carlson School of the University of Minnesota.

Gary Sanders

Founder & President, Military Missions Network



Gary Sanders, Founder and President of Military Missions Network, also currently serves as the Military Pastor at First Baptist Church of Norfolk, Virginia. He is a graduate of Auburn University, Auburn AL and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth TX. Gary has 36 years of pastoral ministry experience in military community churches. He also served for a short stint as an Army National Guard Chaplain and more than 15 years as Associate or Affiliate Staff with Cru Military (formerly known as the Military Ministry of Campus Crusade for Christ). Gary leads MMN's national, biennial Flagship Church Conference and Collaboration — aimed at those connected to military community churches and ministries that are proactively engaged in missional military ministry and have a desire to provide servant leadership in this domain.

Rev. Sanghoon Yoo, MSW, MDiv

Pastor & Co Founder, The Faithful City, Arizona Trauma Informed Faith Community



Pastor Sanghoon Yoo, the founder of The Faithful City (TFC), has led ministries and social services at Arizona State University (ASU) and the Phoenix metropolitan area for over two decades. He holds Master's degrees in Social Work (MSW) and in theology (MDiv). He also founded "Arizona Trauma Informed Faith Community (AZTIFC)," collaborating with Arizona ACEs (Adverse Childhood Experiences) Consortium that he is serving as a board member. He organizes a statewide conference and mobilizes trauma-informed community movements, working with many organizations across diverse sectors.

With Arizona ACEs Consortium, he contributed to the authorship of training modules for opioid and substance use prevention and created statewide standardized ACEs training of trainers modules. Serving South Mountain WORKS Coalition in Phoenix as vice-chair, he has been training schools and their districts to build a trauma informed school system for the youth, raising resilient servant leaders and forming a safe and healthy living community.

Ron and Marcy Wheat

Affiliate Staff, Cru Military Ministry



Immediately after graduating Arizona State University in 1970, Ron went on active duty with the US Army as an Artillery Officer. After 6 years of service Ron and Marcy moved to the family farm west of Luke Air Force Base, Arizona to raise their two daughters, grow cotton, palm trees and do custom cotton harvesting.

In 1998, they joined Campus Crusade for Christ Religious Missionary, and served with the FamilyLife Marriage Ministry from 2001 to 2007.

Ron and Marcy transferred within Campus Crusade for Christ to the Military Ministry program, now called Cru Military. From 2007 to 2011 they served as Deputy National Directors for Troop and Family Care overseeing the development and launch of the combat trauma ministry called Bridges to Healing. Since then, they have ministered to combat veterans and their families throughout Arizona in three areas:

- assisting commanders and chaplains to provide spiritual care to their troops,
- assisting churches and others to form intentional ministry to the military,
- in small groups and one-on-one.

In addition, they lead the Desert Springs Community Church military ministry in Goodyear, Arizona. Ron and Marcy, married 51 years, have two daughters and four granddaughters.

Kathy Gallowitz, LtCol (Ret), R.N., M.S.N., M.P.A.
Special Projects, Arizona Coalition for Military Families



Kathy Gallowitz has Masters degrees in Nursing and Political Science frame her practice and perspectives. She is new to Arizona and served nearly 30 years in the Air Force as a Public Affairs Officer and Nurse. Her husband, Ed is a retired career active Army combat Veteran. The crowning achievement of Kathy's military career was to design and lead a never-been-done-before outreach office for the Ohio National Guard. In response to 9/11, her mission was to educate and engage civilians in support of troops and their families.

For the last seven years, Gallowitz has helped civilian clergy understand their unique role in spiritual healing of military-connected people and facilitated the creation of volunteer-led Military/Veteran Ministries.

It is her life's calling to equip civilians to become Veteran Champions. She is the author of "Beyond Thank You for Your Service: The Veteran Champion handbook for civilians." While not serving in uniform, Gallowitz established and managed Buckeye Sports and Orthopedic Specialists and was the President of the Pickerington Area Chamber of Commerce.

Linda MacLeish, LPC, E-RYT

Therapist and Educator, Volunteer, Lead Facilitator for Franciscan Renewal Center and Casa Veterans Ministry



Linda MacLeish is a licensed professional therapist and registered yoga teacher. Linda's background includes working with fire, police and military personnel where she was involved in emergency medical systems, fire prevention and control, and public fire safety and burn prevention education through the Delaware State Fire School. When she moved to Arizona in 1979, she founded LMJ Associates, a management and organizational business providing consultation and training to Fortune 500 companies, private sector businesses, governmental entities and nonprofit organizations.

Linda added a Master's of Counseling degree to her resume with a speciality in Employee Assistance programs. She and several others founded EAP Preferred, an employee assistance program in 1991. EAP Preferred grew under her leadership into the second largest, locally based, employee assistance program in The Valley and Arizona. Client companies and organizations included Bashas, Department of Economic Security, Maricopa Community Colleges, City of Phoenix, City of Mesa, City of Glendale, City of Chandler, the top law firms in The Valley as well as many other businesses and governmental entities. Many veterans were served throughout The Valley. At one time, EAP Preferred provided critical incident debriefing training and services to most of the public safety organizations in The Valley.

Due to the number of public safety organizations covered along with many diverse needs among client companies and their employees and families, a strong Trauma Services menu was developed to include: direct trauma counseling services, critical incident debriefing services, trauma consultation and education services.

Linda has a strong commitment to the integration of mind-body-spirit approaches into her trauma work. She has had extensive training and education in these areas. Linda has served in adjunct faculty positions at Grand Canyon University in Bachelor and Master programs for 10 years. She also taught at Phoenix College in the Health Enhancement Program for 10 years.

Chaplain Peter Christian

Prescott VA Medical Center, NAVAHCS Chaplain Services



Holly Figueroa

Tribal Liaison, Health Choice Arizona



Holly Figueroa is a member of the Hopi/Ohkay Owingeh Tribe and is from the Sun Clan. Pronouns, She/Her. Holly is the Tribal Liaison for Health Choice Arizona. Holly was born into a military family. Holly is dedicated to ensuring health equity to under-served and underrepresented populations.

As the Tribal Liaison, she works to strengthen Tribal relations with the 17 tribes in HCA service area, focusing on Access to Care, Crisis Service, Coordination of Care, Nation Building, Training & Education, Reducing Health Disparities and Stigma.

With a Cultural Competency background, Holly works to ensure that culturally appropriate services are delivered to all including HCA members and that providers meet the language and unique cultural needs of those they serve. Holly is a certified Adult, Youth, and Veteran Mental Health First Aid Trainer. Holly is a Northern Arizona Healthcare Foundation Certificate Holder, she serves on the Arizona Rural Health Association Board of Directors, she serves on the Arizona Town Hall Board of Directors as well as a member of the MPOWRD Advisory Board of Directors. Holly is also a OneNTen volunteer and is a dedicated Ally who works to advocate and ensure Safe Spaces for LGBTQ2S communities. Additionally, Holly is pursuing other ways to give back to her community and to be an effective advocate for Native Americans people everywhere.