

National:

Epilepsy Awareness Month

Diabetes Awareness Month

Native American Heritage Month

# Pima County School Retirees' Association

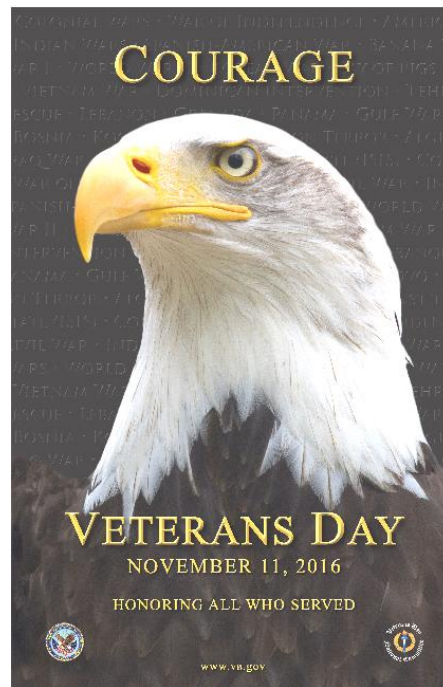
November, 2016

*We welcome all retired school employees*



## President's Desk

~ Ann Reaban



## Honoring Our Heroes on Veterans Day

Veteran's Day is a time for all of us to pay our respects to those who have served. For one day, Veterans are joined by everyone else around the nation to stand united in our respect for their service to our country.

Sebastian Junger, author of Tribe, has said that: "It is a time to let Veterans speak freely about their experience at war. Some will say that war was the best thing that ever happened to them. Others will be so angry that what they say will barely make sense. Still others will be crying so hard that they won't be able to speak at all."

One way to honor these brave men and women is to **THANK THEM FOR THEIR SERVICE TO OUR COUNTRY.**

Each PCSRA Member will be given a beautiful card with the message "Thinking of you on Veterans Day." Please sign it and send to a family member or friend who has served in the military.

If you don't have anyone special, we will have a list of Veterans living right here in Tucson, who would love to receive such a card. Their names will be listed on the Veterans Tri-Fold that we created last year.

Messages such as:

Thank you for your service to our Country!

I am grateful for your sacrifice.

I appreciate your willingness to serve our Country.

May God bless you.

I will keep you in my thoughts and prayers.

Your service will never be forgotten.

Thank you all for helping to make Veterans Day 2016 special for one of our HEROES.



## November Report

PCSRA Membership is currently 215.

AASRA (state) membership is 73.

Scholarship Fund: \$529.50

Scholarship Goal: \$1,500

### December 8<sup>th</sup> Luncheon at Viscount Suites

#### Get in the Spirit of the Season

\$19.00 each Postmark by Dec. 1 to:  
PCSRA Reservations, 4315 E. Seneca St., 85712.

Menu: Turkey, stuffing, cranberry relish,  
mashed potatoes with gravy, iced tea,  
coffee, rolls and butter, and dessert

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Guest \_\_\_\_\_



## Holiday Luncheon to Feature Rincon/University Choraleers

The holiday season is almost upon us . . . that wonderful time filled with decorations, cards & well wishes, familiar songs & carols, beautifully wrapped gifts, and festive get-togethers!

The Rincon/University Choraleers will perform under the direction of Mareena Boosamra Ball.



Check around your house for a **WHITE ELEPHANT** that would look better in someone else's house. Wrap it beautifully, and bring it to the Viscount Suites, 4855 E. Broadway Blvd. for our "White Elephant Gift Exchange."

## There Are Still a Few Openings for the Rosson House Field Trip

PCSRA is hosting a trip to the Rosson House and Heritage Square in Phoenix. Our group tour is set for Tuesday, Nov. 29. We will rent a 15-passenger van and leave Tucson about 8 a.m. (site to be announced) to arrive in Phoenix at 10:15 for a 10:30 a.m. tour. After touring the home and other exhibits on the square, you can choose between the restaurants: Nobou at Teeter House, Pizzeria Bianco, or the pub Rose & Crown. We anticipate returning to Tucson about 4 p.m.

To reserve your place for this tour, mail or give a \$10 deposit to Steve Poe no later than our luncheon on Nov. 10. Steve Poe, 3331 E. Waverly St., 85716.

Depending on the number of those interested, the total cost for the van and admission will be \$20-\$25 range, with lunch on your own.

For more information, contact Steve Poe at 1-623-810-5228 or [sshermanpoe@gmail.com](mailto:sshermanpoe@gmail.com) or check out the website for the Rosson House/Heritage Square in Phoenix. <http://heritagesquarephx.org/visit/the-rosson-house/>

*Let's Get Out of Town!*

## Secret Ticket Event to Benefit a Future Teacher Studying at UA

If you like to win things while also making a difference in someone's life, you'll like how we're planning to raise money for our University of Arizona scholarship! In March and April we are going to have a Secret Ticket Event!

If you have any item that you no longer want or need, but you think someone else might enjoy, then we invite you to donate that item to be redistributed in the Secret Ticket Event.

If you or someone you know creates crafts or art, such as jewelry, sewn items, knitted or crochet gifts, other handcrafts, or paintings, we'd love to have some of them donated. Ask your friends who create things to help support our cause.

Consider sharing your skill with others. One board member has pledged to donate a day of his carpentry skills to building the recipient's project.

All items will be displayed at the March luncheon and you will have the opportunity to purchase tickets: \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00. A labeled paper bag will be displayed with each item. If you desire to own an item, you place one or more of your tickets in the corresponding bag.

At our April luncheon, the items will again be displayed for an additional opportunity for luncheon guests to participate in selecting items they'd like to win with their tickets. Names will be drawn and the winners may take their items home that day.

If you have items to contribute, you may bring them to any meeting prior to March, and give them to Terry Bagwell, Judy Hokett or Paris Rebl.

## It Takes a Village to Get These Newsletters in Your Hands 😊

A big PCSRA THANK YOU to **Velma Stanley!** Velma prepares and mails all of the monthly newsletters. She also mailed all of the directories. She had to do some sleuthing to ferret out address changes for some of our members. This proves to me that she didn't get engrossed in some TV show and just slap the labels on each of the envelopes without thinking! Such a great mailing assistant! ~ Terry Bagwell



## Retirement News

~ Jerry Holmes

### Why Joining AASRA a Must

The Pima County School Retirees Association (PCSRA), then known as Southern Arizona Retired Teachers Association, was formed November 1950 to monitor and advocate for the needs of southern Arizona educators. A year later a similar group was formed in Maricopa County. The common interests between those two groups and from other parts of the state led to the formation of the All Arizona School Retirees Association (AASRA) in 1957. AASRA is now celebrating 60 years of advocacy for retired employees of schools throughout the state.

One of the key roles that AASRA plays for retirees is to monitor what is happening in the state legislature and agencies that could affect our ASRS Retirement Plan. They also monitor state insurance plans offered to retirees and Social Security. The analysis is passed on to AASRA members, along with ideas on how best to advocate for your best interests.

AASRA is associated with AARP, so information about senior health and well-being as well as potential abuse and exploitation issues is distributed to members. AASRA closely follows and keeps retirees apprised of topics that affect education in Arizona.

AASRA members are automatically enrolled in Association Member Benefits Advisors (AMBA). Dining discounts at over 18,000 restaurants across the country are available through AMBA. Discounts are offered on cruises, resorts and escorted tours as well as Road Scholar excursions, rental cars, flowers, and La Quinta Hotels. Apple and Dell products can be purchased at discounts.

Benefits include access to a variety of insurance plans including long term care, Medicare supplements, dental and vision, pet, cancer, final expense whole life, accident expense, heart and stroke, ground and air ambulance transportation, hearing and Met Life Auto and Home.

AASRA membership combined with PCSRA membership is only \$36 annually and can be paid in one check to PCSRA. Considering all of the benefits you receive, it's a bargain at that price.

## PCSRA Scholarship Fundraiser a Real Gas



PCSRA has reserved 52 seats, including seats for the handicapped, at the GASLIGHT THEATRE on Sunday, February 19, 2017 for the 3:00 PM show.

The show is "THE TWO AMIGOS". Please make your reservations early and consider buying tickets for Christmas presents. The price of a ticket is \$25. Net funds will go the PCSRA scholarship fund.

Please call Judy Hokett at 749-4464 or Terry Bagwell at 748-1720 to reserve and buy your tickets. We will accept checks (made out to PCSRA) or cash. Please join us for a fun-filled afternoon.



### "The Border"

*My life has been at boundaries  
Crossed by others but not by me.*

*The boundary between the shore and the sea  
Was crossed by sails, white wings on waves,  
Beyond the surf which stopped me.*

*The boundary between the sky and earth  
Held cries of birds which flew with ease.  
Others flew with them, above the trees,  
Into the clouds, new horizons to see.*

*Oh, I could a passenger be,  
In the sky or on the sea,  
But control was denied to me.  
I was to follow some other's destiny,  
Remaining an earthworm,  
Too insignificant to be  
Allowed to cross a boundary.*

*Poem by Bill Black*

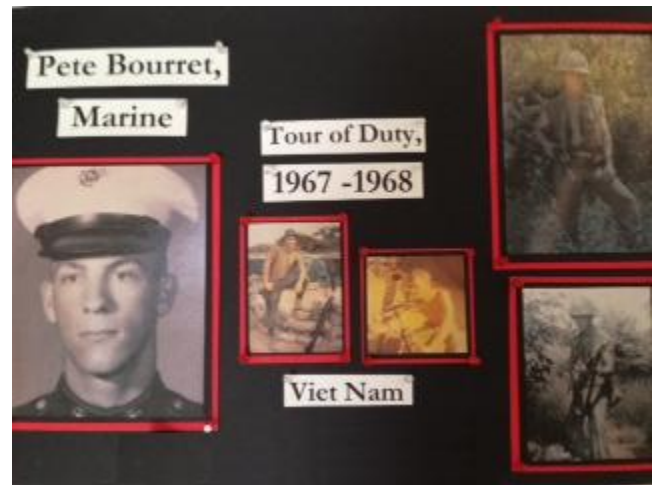
*From Sea Song, his new book of story poems*

# Peter Bourret Brings the War Home...

## Peter Bourret's New Novel Published November 2016

During the Vietnam Conflict, there were 58,220 American deaths; 14,836 were Marines, and of these 5,287 Marines were killed during Pete Bourret's thirteen-month tour of duty in Vietnam.

Most of these Marines fighting for America were very young, just hoping to reach age 21. Pete Bourret had volunteered to serve his country as a Marine. He lived, while many did not. Marine Pete Bourret came home, became a master teacher, humanitarian, and author, using his war experiences as a way to help make the world a better place; the war was Bourret's "crucible."



## Three Joss Sticks In the Rain

Peter M. Bourret taps into his experience as a Marine combat veteran of the Vietnam War, offering the reader a glimpse into the crucible of war in his first novel. *Three Joss Sticks In The Rain* is much more than a war story in the traditional sense. The tragic events of one day during the 1968 Tet Offensive know no boundaries. A gone-wrong ambush profoundly impacts the lives of four major characters: two members of the Viet Cong and two U.S. Marines.

Bourret's novel – a tapestry of cruelty, compassion, selfishness, courage, loss, transformation, hate, acceptance, deceit, brotherhood and redemption – follows the characters on a three-decade search for resolution. Opportunities arise for redemption and healing, but they are not always taken. The human spirit offers hope for a positive transformation but without guarantees. In Bourret's novel, certain characters live a lie or are consumed with anger while others choose Robert Frost's "Road Less Traveled" on their circuitous journeys of healing.

## November's "Centerpiece" Symbolic of War

The "Centerpieces" for the November Luncheon represent and bring together many pieces of an unpopular Vietnamese Conflict, which happened more than fifty years ago but still affects the lives of many, separated by the Pacific Ocean.

- \* The "American Flag," the Marines & Service men and women sent to this far off land to bring some form of justice . . .
- \* The "Lotus Blossom," the purity of body, mind, and spirit of the Vietnamese "...the Lotus, while growing in mud, ... still remains unstained." -- Confucius
- \* The "Incense Sticks," the Three Joss Sticks used for Vietnamese religious cleansing ceremony.
- \* The "Star," the World visible to both countries in the night sky.
- \* The "Red Slashes," the blood & chaos of war.
- \* The "Dirty, Rusted Twisted Barbed Wire", a country of innocent lives torn apart by this conflict.
- \* Finally, "the Lives of these Patriotic Americans," left forever to deal with the horrors of this experience.



# Gives Us Glimpses of the Horror

By Ann Reaban

## Excerpts from Chapter Two of Three Joss Sticks

(The thoughts of Tuan, a Viet Cong soldier, are excerpts from the novel and not the complete text of his thoughts.)

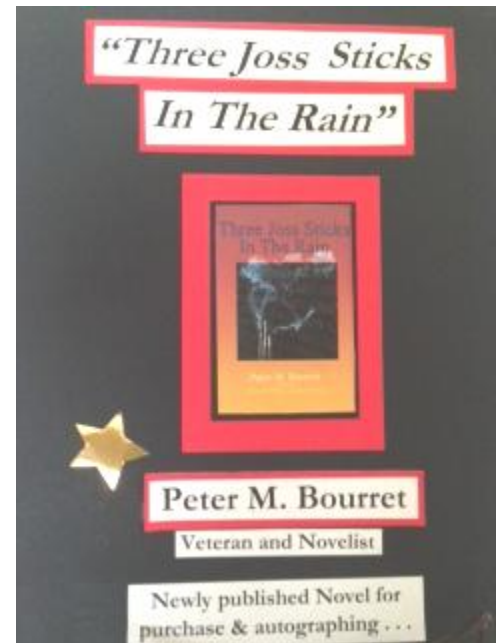
*But today, there will be one shot. In the distance, walking along the rice paddy dike, the Marines look so small. I will wait for the right moment when the after-noon air is calm and certainty is in my mind – the shot will be perfect and my tunnel escape will frustrate the American marines once again.*

*Four hundred meter away and moving closer. Because I am an excellent shot, one of the Marines will go home today. And a mother will shed her tears because her son foolishly decided to come to our land.*

*Three hundred meters away. I must focus and concentrate the hatred that still burns in my heart for the American marines whose artillery killed my father last year.*

*Two hundred meters away – an easy shot for me. The wind is picking up. Be patient. This shot must be perfect. My target will die for our father. Which one will die?*

*One hundred meters away. Gray and cloudy, the afternoon sky is watching. The air is calm. A slight smile crosses my face. I inhale a deep breath. Releasing it slowly, I squeeze the trigger.*



## “The Road Not Taken”

Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,  
And sorry I could not travel both  
And be one traveler, long I stood  
And looked down one as far as I could  
To where it bent in the undergrowth;

Then took the other, as just as fair,  
And having perhaps the better claim,  
Because it was grassy and wanted wear;  
Though as for that the passing there  
Had worn them really about the same,

And both that morning equally lay  
In leaves no step had trodden black.  
Oh, I kept the first for another day!  
Yet knowing how way leads on to way,  
I doubted if I should ever come back.

I shall be telling this with a sigh  
Somewhere ages and ages hence:  
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I –  
I took the one less traveled by,  
And that has made all the difference.

... Robert Frost

## Farewell

**Barbro**, Lois (78) ~ 9/30; ASDB Support Staff

**Birchard**, Dale (89) ~ 10/8; Teacher

**Bosch**, Margaret (96) ~ 10/20; Teacher

**Dehlinger**, Bernice (88) ~ 9/19; Teacher

**Ducsai**, Christine (64) ~ 9/24; Teacher

**Hammond Holmes**, Jessica (51) ~ 8/15; Teacher

**Henley**, Paula (74) ~ 10/24; Elementary Teacher

**Hinkle**, Robert (69) ~ 9/30; Teacher

**Hogate**, Mary (72) ~ 10/4; Teacher

**Howard**, Susan (77) ~ 10/11; Teacher

**Huisinga**, Carmin (94) ~ 6/8; Teacher

**Jurecky**, Maria (88) ~ 9/9; Teacher

**Lease**, Jane Etta (92) ~ 10/20; Teacher

**Milano**, Rosalie (72) ~ 9/14; Teacher

**Montano** Carmen (80) ~ 10/14; TUSD Admin. Asst.

**Owens**, Joan (85) ~ 8/20; Teacher Sunrise Dr. Elem.

**Patton**, Norman (77) ~ 9/14; Teacher & Marana HS Basketball Coach

**Pehlke**, Shirley (89) ~ Teacher at Schumacher

**Perlich**, Margaret "Muggs" (91) ~ 8/19; Teacher

**Price**, John (73) ~ 10/4; Teacher

**Robinson**, Betty (94) ~ 9/2; Tucson High Nurse

**Rockfeld**, Michael (65) ~ 9/13; Educator

**Salazar**, Caroline (65) ~ 9/6; TUSD Teacher

**Sims**, Patricia (89) ~ 10/1; Teacher

**Slocum**, Gary (82) ~ 10/20; Teacher

**Tearney**, Stephen (74) ~ 9/6; Science Teacher

**Telfer**, Eric (54) ~ 10/11; Teacher Nogales HS

**Wiltshire**, Jose (61) ~ 9/15; Teacher

**Zashin**, Joyce (81) ~ 10/21; Teacher

\* PSCRA Member

## PCSRA Directory Updates

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**Clement**, Nicholas ... nicholas.clement@nau.edu

**Fish**, Judy ... jfish4647@gmail.com

**Gable**, Ina ... Died Nov. 13, 2015

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**Poore**, Pat ... Died April 19, 2016

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**Wayne**, Barbara ... bjwayne@comcast.net

If you see other additions or corrections to the new PCSRA directory, please email Terry Bagwell at **tbasketcase@cox.net** or call her at (520)-748-1720 and leave a message.

