

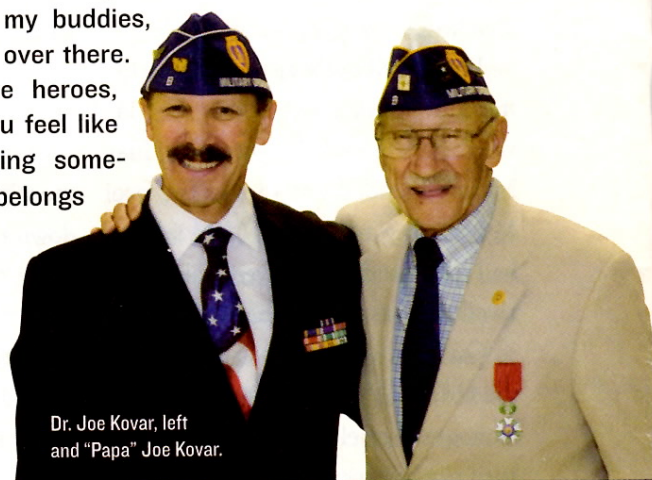
Past Commander Receives Congressional Honor



YUMA CHAPTER 433 Past Commander Michael J. Jones was presented with a Congressional Record from Arizona Congressman Raul Grijalva for his outstanding dedication in completing the Yuma Armed Forces Park.

MOPH LIFE MEMBER “Papa” Joe Kovar, of Chapter 8, Department of Minnesota, received France’s highest honor, the Legion of Honor, for his part in the liberation of France during WWII. The medal was presented by Kovar’s son, MOPH Life Member Dr. Joseph L. Kovar, who was wounded in Vietnam. From September 1944 to December 1945, Joe Kovar fought in northern France, Ardennes, Rhineland and central Europe. During that time Kovar fought in the Battle of the Bulge. Kovar said he saw then Gen. Dwight D. “Ike” Eisenhower twice. “One day Eisenhower went up to a soldier and asked how he was,” Kovar said. “The soldier told him he was cold. You know what, Eisenhower took off his boots and gave them to the soldier. Eisenhower walked back to his car barefoot in the snow. I never forgot that.”

Like so many of our heroes, Kovar showed classic humility after the ceremony. “I feel overwhelmed by the award. You know why? Because I think of the guys I lost. I think of my buddies, my friends over there. They’re the heroes, I’m not. You feel like you’re taking something that belongs to them.”



Dr. Joe Kovar, left and “Papa” Joe Kovar.



LAST NOVEMBER 23, at the Denver VA Medical Center, the “Ben C. Townsend” Chapter 375, Aurora, Colo., held their annual “Feeding The Veterans” tradition, wherein they provided a Thanksgiving feast with all the trimmings to veterans.

L to R: John Toth, Michael Nakashima (volunteer from Sam’s Club), Linda Pickett, Becky Amaya, Sabas Amaya, Tonny Rivera, Dick Huffman, Roy Ray, Barbara Hale-Ray, Greg Johnson, Jack Pickett, Jan Huffman, and Arlen Bornstein.