

Give Veterans the Gift of Your Time

By: Deb Watson



Meet Mike Gasparek, a 2006 Intel retiree who is also a veteran. Not only did Mike serve in the Air Force, but he also continues to serve our veterans by volunteering for the Arizona State Veteran Home, a 200-bed skilled nursing facility under the auspices of the Arizona Department of Veterans' Services (ADVS) in downtown Phoenix.

In Mike's 23-year career at Intel, he worked in Assembly Test Development (ATD) at the Chandler campus. He worked as a process engineer responsible for implementing upgrades to meet requirements of next generation silicon and improving yield on existing processes.

Since retirement, he's found several volunteer opportunities that he's enjoyed. Some are one day or one week events like trail maintenance for the Arizona Trail Association and Wildness Volunteers. These offer the opportunity to spend time in an outdoor setting and meet folks with similar interests.

Mostly, however, he's devoted his time to the Arizona State Veteran Home (ASVH). He's made a personal commitment to spend one a day a week there when he's in town. At the ASVH he works for a volunteer coordinator to help veterans in wheelchairs get to appointments at the medical center, or go to the store. Mike's philosophy is to proudly serve those who have served us.

*"Honor to the soldier
and sailor everywhere,
who bravely bears his
country's cause.
Honor, also, to the
citizen who cares for
his brother in the field
and serves, as best he
can, the same cause."*

-Abraham Lincoln



Mike finds that it is an opportunity to meet people who have interesting stories to tell, including some WWII and Korean War veterans. As an added benefit, the work helps Mike stay healthy and ambulatory.

Not only does his time help the veterans, but Intel matches his hours with a cash grant of \$10/hour under the [Intel Involved Matching Grant Program](#). At the State Home they use the money in the recreation department to provide entertainment and goodies for the residents.



The ASVH volunteer coordinator has other jobs available besides what Mike does, such as distributing coffee and donuts during entertainment events, or working with folks playing games or completing puzzles. The ADVS has produced a short, inspirational [video](#) that details their program.

Not in the Phoenix area? Not a problem. Click [here](#) for a directory of Veterans Administration volunteer opportunities across the United States.

If you are interesting in discussing Mike's volunteering, please feel free to contact him at mike.gasparek@outlook.com.