



Maricopa County Sheriff's Office
Joe Arpaio, Sheriff

NEWSRelease

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CONTACT: Sheriff Joe Arpaio

Sheriff Arpaio orders American flags placed on inmate uniforms

Change will commence on Flag Day, Sheriff's birthday

(Maricopa County, AZ) The black and white striped uniforms worn by inmates in the Maricopa County jails will have a new look starting Flag Day, June 14th: An American Flag will be affixed on all uniforms. Sheriff Arpaio ordered the new look out of respect to our nation's heritage and with the aspiration of adding to the respect each wearer will hold for themselves.

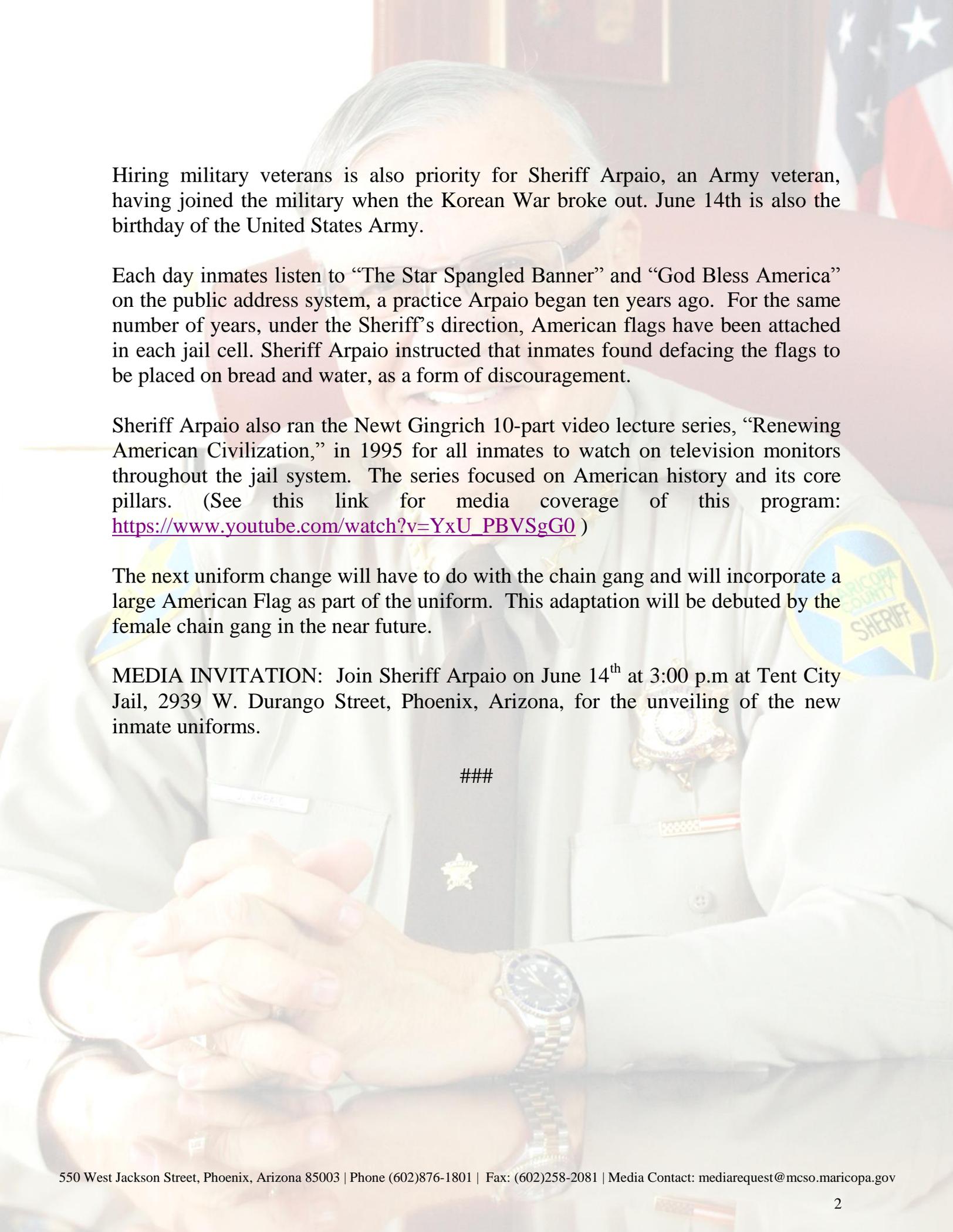
"When our flag is lifted up, we too feel we can rise above our circumstances," Arpaio said. Sheriff Arpaio was born on June 14th and has always had an appreciation of patriotism and pride connected with the date.

"The American flag is a symbol of freedom and liberty," Arpaio continued. "My hope is that incarcerated inmates begin to get a sense of honor when wearing the flag."

It has been the Sheriff's tradition to spend his birthday with military veterans in his jail and this year will be the same. Veteran inmates will join the Sheriff in Tent City Jail for hamburgers, hot dogs & beans and cake, marking a departure from the usual vegetarian food menu. The incarcerated veterans will also hand out the new flag-embazoned uniforms to the inmates.

Patriotism and a respect for veterans is a hallmark of Sheriff Arpaio.

The Maricopa County Sheriff's Office employees over 600 men and women who are veterans representing past service in the U.S Army, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard and Navy. Sheriff Arpaio is proud that his office has hired 120 veterans in the last 2 ½ years. Additionally, the Sheriff has had inmates sign up for Selective Service to the tune of 44,000 since he began the practice in 2004. And Sheriff Arpaio placed inmate-veterans together in their own jail pod so that they could get the help associated with their unique needs, including treatment for PTSD.

A photograph of Sheriff Arpaio in his uniform, smiling, with his hands clasped. He is wearing a light-colored uniform jacket with a badge and a patch that says "MARICOPA COUNTY SHERIFF".

Hiring military veterans is also priority for Sheriff Arpaio, an Army veteran, having joined the military when the Korean War broke out. June 14th is also the birthday of the United States Army.

Each day inmates listen to “The Star Spangled Banner” and “God Bless America” on the public address system, a practice Arpaio began ten years ago. For the same number of years, under the Sheriff’s direction, American flags have been attached in each jail cell. Sheriff Arpaio instructed that inmates found defacing the flags to be placed on bread and water, as a form of discouragement.

Sheriff Arpaio also ran the Newt Gingrich 10-part video lecture series, “Renewing American Civilization,” in 1995 for all inmates to watch on television monitors throughout the jail system. The series focused on American history and its core pillars. (See this link for media coverage of this program: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YxU_PBVSgG0)

The next uniform change will have to do with the chain gang and will incorporate a large American Flag as part of the uniform. This adaptation will be debuted by the female chain gang in the near future.

MEDIA INVITATION: Join Sheriff Arpaio on June 14th at 3:00 p.m at Tent City Jail, 2939 W. Durango Street, Phoenix, Arizona, for the unveiling of the new inmate uniforms.

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