

ARIZONA HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOARD MEMBER



Colonel Joe Abodeely's legal and military careers have been intertwined for over three decades. He received his B.A. in English and commission as a 2nd Lieutenant, Infantry, from the University of Arizona in 1965. In 1968, Lieutenant Abodeely was a combat infantry unit commander with the 1st Air Cavalry Division during the Tet Offensive in the Republic of Viet Nam. He served in the U.S. Army Reserve components from 1969 to 1995. As a Judge Advocate General (JAG) legal officer, he provided legal advice and training on issues relating to terrorism, combating terrorism, the Law of War, and International Law to law enforcement and military personnel in the National Guard, Army Reserve, and as chief legal officer for the MP Operations Agency at the Pentagon.

His decorations include Combat Infantryman Badge, Legion of Merit, Bronze Star, Air Medal, Vietnam Service Medal with Silver Star (5 campaigns), Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Palm, and others.

Colonel Abodeely has headed the award winning Arizona Military Museum, an official Army Museum Activity of the Arizona National Guard, since 1980. He and the museum have been activity involved in community events honoring veterans including Arizona's Vietnam veterans who are the largest group of living veterans. He has hosted events honoring veterans with such dignitaries as General Colin Powell, General Vessey, General Sullivan, General McCaffrey, Lieutenant General Kicklighter, and General Zinni.

Joe Abodeely's civilian career has been varied. He was a Maricopa Deputy County Attorney (state prosecutor) from 1971 to 1985 where he tried various major felony cases and coordinated an intelligence/drug enforcement agency with the County Attorney's Office and other federal and state agencies. He is admitted to practice before the Arizona Supreme Court, various federal courts, the U.S. Supreme Court, and military courts. He has hosted weekly radio talk shows and public access television shows.



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