

NEVADA  
TEST SITE  
RADIATION  
FALL OUT

# Mohave DownWinders

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**May 15, 2004- - -Saturday**

**Noon**

**Katheryn Heidenreich Adult Center**

**E-mail or FAX all the  
US Congress regarding  
Downwinders.**



COME  
SHARE  
OUR  
GOOD  
NEWS

COME  
HEAR  
LATEST

What  
needs  
to be  
done

contact ALL  
legislators  
at  
Federal  
Level



April 18, noon to 3:p.m. Downwinders met at the Katheryn Heidenreich Adult Center. April 18 was not as warm as we hoped it would be, the wind was quite chilly, and many complained about the allergies. Instead, potluck was held at Katheryn Heidenreich Adult Center rather than at Metcalf park... attendees had a grand time. John Steele of the J&M - DJ's provided canned music and also John entertained us with his vocal renditions of favorites.

## ATTENTION:

1. The Downwinders made "An Honoree Placement" with the Make A Difference Day-USA weekend. My theory is that the Kingman Daily Miner actually received an honorable mention award for the journalist reporting of the Downwinders activities.

2. Unable to attend April festivities, Bobbi Arnold Voss and Matt Capably as trustees of the Dr Arnold Charities Trust previously had presented Downwinder Coordinators Eleanore Fanire and Gloria Richhart a check in the amount of \$1,100.00 to be used to continue "Mohave County placement on the RECA map. We shall at a later date have "a pictorial official presentation."

3. **Mark your calendars....May 18, 2004. Downwinders meeting: 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. the National Academy of Scientists, US congressional legislators & those testifying on behalf of downwinders**

**will meet in Window Rock, AZ. At the Navajo Nation Education Center.**

We would like as many downwinders to attend this extremely important meeting and present to the NAS your family Cancer history. The MORE personal history, the MORE personal letters that the NAS and your legislators receive, the GREATER CHANCE OF AMENDING OR ADDITION OF: localities & areas, expansion of cancer types , and the more employment types. Transportation available will be based on the number of downwinders who will attend this very important meeting.

**REMEMBER THIS IS YOUR FIGHT FOR YOUR COMPENSATION FOR RADIATION FALLOUT FROM THE NEVADA TEST SITE. We need to be presented as a community . A vast community united in team effort.**

4. Your Congressman of all 50 states MUST BE made aware of the unity of Downwinders. You as a voter- AS A DOWNWINDER must let your Arizona Senate and House Representative but also ALL THE CONGRESSIONAL LEGISLATORS OF ALL 50 states know about downwinders. Make clear that votes will be for those congressmen giving us support. Votes will be for those legislators who will have empathy for our downwinder plite but who will also vote to compensate our cancer victims. **And VOTE to STOP the bomb testing**

## Are health dangers looming? April 27, 2004 **Heading down the nuclear testing path--again**

*By Jim Matheson. Jim Matheson is a Democratic representative from Utah*

*In the late 1970s, my father, Utah Gov. Scott M. Matheson, puzzled over an alarming number of cancer deaths among our family and friends in southern Utah. Relatives would bring him yellow legal pads filled with the names of relatives who died of cancer and my father searched for an explanation.*

*Tragically, that explanation turned out to be beyond our worst imagination. Today, when some members of Congress support the development of new nuclear weapons and are poised to allow the eventual resumption of nuclear weapons testing, the story of my father and his fellow "downwinders" serves as both a history lesson and a warning.*

*From 1951 until 1992, the U.S. government conducted more than 900 nuclear weapons tests at the Nevada Test Site, 90 miles northwest of Las Vegas.*

*I remember my father telling me how people in southern Utah would gather to watch the sky light up when those tests were being conducted--some of which used bombs larger and more powerful than the one dropped on Hiroshima. These Americans were patriots who supported the nuclear testing program. They trusted their government.*

*It turns out that trust was misplaced. The government had known for some time that nuclear testing could seriously affect human health. Tests were deliberately conducted when the wind blew the fallout in the least populated direction--toward southern Utah.*

*My father died in October 1990 of a type of cancer associated with radioactive fallout. He was 61 years old. Just days after his death, the federal government belatedly acknowledged its deception of the so-called "downwinders."*

*Within the next few years, our government instituted moratoriums on nuclear testing and the research and development of new nuclear weapons.*

*One of these moratoriums stayed in place until last year, when Congress voted to rescind the ban on research and development of new nuclear weapons and approved \$13.5 million for new nuclear weapons studies, including so-called "bunker busters" and low-yield "tactical" bombs.*

*Congress also provided \$25 million in additional funding for nuclear weapons test site readiness. This year's budget requests an additional \$27.6 million for research and seeks to shorten the lead-time for test readiness to just 18 months.*

*Can the resumption of nuclear testing at the Nevada*

*Test Site really be that far behind?*

*Even more troubling is a Congressional Research Service report issued last month, showing at least one of the new nuclear weapons research programs--the bunker-buster--is projected to proceed beyond the study phase and will cost as much as \$485 million over the next five years.*

*America faces significantly different threats in 2004 than the types of threats we encountered back in the early 1990s. It is logical to revisit our decade-old defense policies as we combat terrorism, and I join my colleagues in Congress in supporting the development of innovative weaponry for our soldiers.*

*But we cannot let some of our most shameful history repeat itself. That is why I have introduced the Safety for Americans from Nuclear Weapons Testing Act. The bill requires the government to conduct a full National Environmental Policy Act review to assess health, safety and environmental impacts prior to conducting nuclear weapons testing. It also explicitly requires Congress to authorize any weapons tests.*

*If those hurdles are cleared, the bill requires the Department of Energy and the Environmental Protection Agency to monitor and publicize radiation levels. Finally, the bill creates the National Center for the Study of Radiation and Human Health--a regional consortium of universities that will study the health effects of radiation exposure and radiation-linked illnesses.*

*This legislation takes into account two infallible truths about nuclear weapons testing. The first is that there is no such thing as a completely safe test. Of the 800 underground tests conducted over the years, at least 126 were documented as having released significant radioactive fallout above ground. And that's just since 1970. The infamous Baneberry test was detonated 900 feet below ground, yet it ejected radioactive debris 10,000 feet into the atmosphere.*

*The second truth is that no one in this country is immune to nuclear fallout. The only comprehensive fallout study of a radioactive isotope, by the National Cancer Institute, showed concentrations in every county across America. Some counties in the Midwest, and even as far away as Vermont and upstate New York, had higher concentrations of radiation than several areas directly downwind of the Nevada Test Site.*

*We have paid dearly for accepting government assurances that nuclear testing was safe. Americans still don't have the whole story. Did fallout in the 1950s and 1960s cause cancers in the 1990s? Can future generations be spared the uncertainty of the effects of radiation exposure? I encourage Congress to enact measures to better protect Americans.*