



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **RECORD CROWD ON HAND TO WITNESS ANTHEM VETERANS MEMORIAL**

**Anthem, Ariz.** – The largest crowd in the Anthem Veterans Memorial’s (AVM) existence gathered on Veteran’s Day to pay their respects to the men and women of the Armed Forces and their families. The event was larger in scale than in previous years, in honor of the Veterans Memorial Expansion. The recently expanded AVM was the sight of the highly anticipated Anthem event.

Hundreds of guests and residents enjoyed breakfast organized by a local restaurant owner and retired Marine, Ryan Ladiser from Tennessee Grill. Hand-made “Thank a Veteran” cards, decorated by students from several schools, were passed out to veterans in attendance.

Lt. Col Amber Cargile, United States Air Force (Retired), served as the Mistress of Ceremonies and was accompanied by the Sandra Day O’Connor Jr. Air Force ROTC, at the head of the memorial. Military members retired and active duty, from all five branches, stood to honor combat veterans and their families.

### **Keynote Address and Solar Spotlight**

Chief Warrant Officer Michael Tapp (Retired) delivered the keynote address.

CWO Tapp understands the sacrifice veterans and their families willingly make in the service of our country. His grandfather and father both served in the military.

He said upon reviewing his vast Coast Guard career “Wait a minute. There is only one problem with everything I just said, it was never I, it was WE. We patrolled the Bering Sea, we deployed, we seized illegal narcotics, we saved lives.”

At exactly 11:11 a.m., The Great Seal of the United States was illuminated as the sun shone through the five ellipses of the AVM. Surrounded by an additional 3,000 pavers, due to the expansion, the AVM was the perfect backdrop for Veterans Day this year. A flyover of four F-35 fighter jets during the ceremony was courtesy of Luke Air Force Base.

### **About the Anthem Veterans Memorial**

The award-winning memorial was dedicated Nov. 11, 2011, and received Arizona Historic Landmark status six months later. Fundraising and the sale pavers in the Circle of Honor continue. The Anthem Veterans Memorial Support Team (AVMST), an affiliate group to the Anthem Community Council, is composed of volunteers who assist in fundraising, programming, and community outreach specific to the AVM.

To donate or learn more, visit [OnlineAtAnthem.com/AVM](http://OnlineAtAnthem.com/AVM).

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