

## MORE HONOR FOR OUR VETERANS

## Anthem Veterans Memorial Expansion Set to Begin

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Twice a year, organized gatherings honoring those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country are held at the Anthem Veterans Memorial monument located just outside Anthem Community Park. Thousands more visitors come to pay their respects in private.

The memorial's Circle of Honor was constructed with 2,400 custom engraved pavers commemorating the lives of those who served our country. Soon, an expansion will allow for the placement of an additional 3,000 pavers, along with other improvements through an expansion project approved by Anthem Community Council.

The project is being funded by the Anthem Way Foundation, a nonprofit organization, which supports the memorial and its programming. The estimated cost of \$172,000 will assist with the paver expansion, as well as adding new lighting, adding two sidewalks to facilitate entrance to the memorial, updating flower beds, redirecting water away from the AVM pavers to provide water/dust relief, moving sponsor pavers to a new area, and installing enhancements to the tops of the pillars, according to Anthem Community Council. The veterans commemorative pavers currently in place will not be touched or moved in any way.

Haydon Corp, builders of the original AVM build, was approved to construct the expansion.

In addition, the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) America 250 Patriots Marker will be permanently placed at



The Anthem Veteran's Memorial is set undergo construction improvements funded by area nonprofit organizations, local business and community residents. An additional 3,000 pavers will be placed.

the Anthem Veterans Memorial, commemorating the 250th anniversary of the United States in 2026. This will be the first national marker selected for addition to the AVM. The AVM became an Arizona State Historic Landmark in May, 2012. "Honoring the 250th Revolutionary War anniversary at the Anthem Veterans Memorial brings another important historic element to our Veterans memorial and will help generations to come to learn even more about our military history. We thank the local DAR Ocotillo Chapter for donating to cover the marker expense and look forward to proudly displaying it at the AVM," said Anthem Executive Director Aaron Baker.

Info regarding individual or business tax-deductible donations can be found at [www.onlineanthem.com](http://www.onlineanthem.com).

As of this writing the following donations have been received:

- Rotary Club of Anthem (A \$25,000 matching donation)
- Todd Ninneman, REMAX Fine Properties, Anthem \$6,000 (Garden Sponsor)
- Estes-Comp Family \$5,000 (Sign Sponsor)
- Dave and Marge Newham, North Valley Water Solutions \$3,000 (Lighting Sponsor)
- Rain Man Roofing & The Hughes Family \$3,000 (Friend of Memorial)
- Rear Admiral William (USN, Retired) and Mrs. Jan Putnam \$1,000
- Amy Gilner, Realtor, Realty ONE Group \$1,000
- Musical Theatre of Anthem \$500
- First American Title \$500
- \$555 Ceren Family
- \$111 Bonnie and Robert Smith
- Knights of Columbus Assembly #3438 Anthem plans to donate all proceeds from their food sales at the July 3, Independence Day celebration at Anthem Community Park. 🍌