



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Speaker and Memorial Photos:** [http://www.onlineatanthem.com/press\\_center/index.php](http://www.onlineatanthem.com/press_center/index.php)

## **ANTHEM'S ANNUAL VETERANS DAY CEREMONY, NOVEMBER 11, SALUTES OUR NATION'S HEROES AND HONORS TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF ANTHEM VETERANS MEMORIAL**

**Anthem, Ariz.** – The Anthem Community Council invites the public to attend the annual Veterans Day Ceremony at **10 a.m., Thursday, Nov. 11**, at the Anthem Veterans Memorial. The program will honor the service of all veterans and their families. The ceremony concludes at 11:11 a.m., in honor of Armistice, with the solar illumination of the glass mosaic of the Great Seal of the United States through the five, armed services pillar ellipses (weather permitting).

The ceremony also marks the tenth anniversary of the Anthem Veterans Memorial (AVM), and as such, will come with added fanfare. Dedicated on Veterans Day in 2011, the memorial received Arizona Historic Landmark status in 2012. That same year, the memorial was the recipient of the Arizona Public Works Project of the Year Award and the Grand Award–Best Engineering and Environmental Consulting Project from the American Consulting Engineers Companies. The AVM also is designated as a Vietnam War Commemoration Partner.

### **Ceremony Participants**

- **Admiral Tom Fargo (USN, Retired)** will serve as the keynote speaker. Admiral Fargo's distinguished Naval career culminated with his assignment as commander of the U.S. Pacific Command. As the senior U.S. military commander in East Asia and the Pacific, Fargo led the largest unified command while directing the joint operations of the Army, Marine Corps, Navy, and Air Force. Within 24 hours of the Christmas 2004 tsunami in Southeast Asia, Fargo stood up a multinational task force and directed the ABRAHAM LINCOLN Strike Group from Hong Kong along with expeditionary forces to provide relief and support to the governments of Indonesia, Thailand, and Sri Lanka. His 35 years of Naval service included five commands in the Pacific and Indian Oceans and the Middle East, as well as six tours in Washington. He served as the Executive Officer aboard *Plunger*, and as Commanding Officer of the *Salt Lake City*, upon which he conducted sensitive submarine operations at the height of the Cold War. Interestingly, he hosted aboard several members of the cast of the movie "The Hunt for Red October" as they were researching their roles.

Fargo served as Commander, Submarine Group SEVEN; Commander, Task Force SEVEN FOUR; and Commander, Task Force ONE FIVE SEVEN in the Western Pacific, Indian Ocean and Persian Gulf; and he commanded the United States FIFTH Fleet and Naval Forces of the Central Command during two years of Iraqi contingency operations. He served as the 29th Commander in Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet from October 1999 to May 2002, and also was the Chairman of USAA in his retirement. He has received the Vice Admiral James Bond Stockdale Award for Inspirational Leadership, and is a multiple recipient of the Distinguished Service Medal, Defense Superior Service Medal, and the Legion of Merit.

- **Lt. Col. Mark Clifford (USAF, Retired)** will present the Veteran's Perspective. Lt. Col. Clifford's military career in the United States Air Force is vast. He served as a fuel loader for Air Force One; an Executive Officer in the physical education department and assistant boxing coach at the U.S. Air Force Academy; in special operations deployments to Iraq, Afghanistan, Qatar, Africa and South Korea; and as a Squadron Commander. He managed C-130s at Yokota Air Base in Tokyo, and at his final post, in Daegu, he supervised 800 people handling munitions, bombs, missiles, specialized vehicles, and airways across five bases. Clifford's father served for 30 years in the Air Force as a fighter pilot, retiring as a two-star general and the USAF's fourth African-American general officer/major general. Lt. Col. Clifford serves as the Assistant Dean and Director of Sports Business for the Colangelo School of Business at Grand Canyon University.
- **Dr. Timothy Swindle**, director of the University of Arizona Space Institute and the Arizona Space Grant Consortium, will provide a brief history about the extensive role Arizona has played in the space program prior to the U.S. Space Force dedication into the Memorial. Swindle's personal research involves measurements of the noble gases in extraterrestrial materials, such as lunar samples and meteorites, to study the evolution of the solar system. His research projects have led him to determine the timing of impact events on the Moon and on asteroids and to probe Martian meteorites to understand the history of the Martian atmosphere and its interaction with surface materials. Asteroid 8690 Swindle is named in his honor.

The United States Space Force (USSF), the newest branch of the Department of the Defense, will be dedicated into the Anthem Veterans Memorial with the implementation of the service flag. To commemorate the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the AVM, the original five branch pillars will be rededicated by local veterans including: Major General Lou Prentiss (USA, Ret.); Chuck Hale (Sgt., USMC), SCPO Darlene Gonzales (USN, Ret.), Colonel Tom Kirk (USAF, Ret.), and Lt. Commander Stephen Goodman (USCG, Ret.).

Lt. Colonel Amber Cargile (USAF, Ret.) will serve as Mistress of Ceremonies and the Rev. Mac McElroy will provide the invocation. Rear Admiral Ron Tucker (USN, Ret.), the founder of the AVM, will provide a look back on the last ten years. Musical Theatre of Anthem and ProMusica Arizona, both of which have performed at ceremonies since 2011, will provide special music. The event will conclude with a military flyover (pending final Luke AFB approval) and the solar spotlight at 11:11 a.m.

## **Logistics and Directions to the Ceremony**

- The upper area of Community Park, including the parking lot nearest the AVM, will be closed all day Nov. 10 and will reopen by 8:30 a.m. on Nov. 11. Only speakers and ceremony participants, law enforcement & security, and ADA parking will be available in this lot on Nov. 11. Drive-through drop-offs for ADA visitors will be available.
- Overflow parking will be available in the other two lots of Community Park, at Boulder Creek High School (a short walk away), or at neighboring commercial plazas (please park the furthest distance from store entrances, out of respect for their patrons).
- The ceremony will begin promptly at 10 a.m. and will last approximately 75 minutes. Prior to the ceremony, videos recapping the last 10 years of the AVM and honoring our community's veterans will be shown on the two, two-story LED screens.
- The AVM will be secured and not accessible Nov. 10 or Nov. 11. During the ceremony and solar spotlight, event attendees must remain seated and may not approach the memorial. The AVM will reopen to the public at approximately 11:45 a.m. on Nov. 11.
- Seating is limited; attendees are encouraged to bring lawn chairs. No pop-up tents will be allowed.
- As this will be a large event (even though outdoors), mask wearing is strongly recommended per CDC guidelines, in order to ensure the safest event possible and reduce community spread of COVID-19.

The Anthem Veterans Memorial is located in Anthem Community Park, 41703 N. Gavilan Peak Parkway. Take I-17 to exit 229. Turn east (right) onto Anthem Way, and then turn south (right) onto Gavilan Peak Parkway. The Memorial is on the left at the four-way stop signs and entrance to the park.

## **Veterans Service Award**

The annual Veterans Service Award is presented with deep appreciation at the Veterans Day Ceremony each year to an individual, group, business, or organization that has displayed extraordinary service or selfless dedication to our community's veterans. Previous award winners include: Daisy Mountain Veterans (2013); Ray Norris (2014); Mary Ann Derryberry (2015); Liz Turner (2016); John Simmons and Bob Hackett (2017); Tom Kirk (2018); Ron Tucker (2019); and Youth for Troops (2020). Submit a nomination by Oct. 8 at [OnlineAtAnthem.com/AVM](https://OnlineAtAnthem.com/AVM).

## **Special Thanks**

Special thanks to the Arizona Department of Veterans' Services, the Albertsons-Safeway Foundation, DLC Resources, and GEOST for their generous support of the Veterans Day Ceremony. Additional contributors and in-kind sponsors include Hampton Inn, Associated Asset Management, Sonoran Arts League, Robyn's Arrangements/Askren & Son, EPCOR Water Arizona, and Haydon Building Corp. Several individuals and families also contributed to offset ceremony costs.

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