



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Date:** Friday, March 4, 2016

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**News tips/Keywords:** Memorial Day, Anthem Veterans Memorial, Veterans Perspective, Veterans

**Photos/Logos/Additional Releases:** [OnlineAtAnthem.com/media-kits](http://OnlineAtAnthem.com/media-kits)

## **GUEST SPEAKERS TO SHARE STORIES OF SACRIFICE AT ANNUAL MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY**

**Anthem, Ariz.** – Upon learning of his son’s death in Iraq in December 2006, Dr. William Krissoff honored his son in a very personal way – enlisting in the U.S. Navy at age 61.

Krissoff, who lives in Rancho Santa Fe, California, joined the Navy with hopes of serving on the same front lines as his fallen son, Marine 1st Lt. Nathan Krissoff. The orthopedic surgeon was deployed to Al Taqaddum Air Base in Al Anbar Province, Iraq, where he worked at a Level II surgical facility in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. One year later, he redeployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, helping save lives of U.S. and British Marines, soldiers and sailors, as well as Afghan police, army and civilians.

Upon returning home, Krissoff joined the orthopedics department at the Naval Hospital at Camp Pendleton. In 2011, he deployed to the Guantanamo Bay Naval Base for a two-month surgical assignment. Krissoff’s awards include the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation medal, the Presidential Unit Citation, National Defense Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Service medal, Iraq Campaign Medal and the NATO medal, among others.

Krissoff will deliver the keynote address at the annual Memorial Day ceremony at the Anthem Veterans Memorial (AVM), hosted by the Anthem Community Council, AVM Support Team and Daisy Mountain Veterans. The ceremony begins at 10 a.m. May 30 in Anthem Community Park, 41703 N. Gavilan Peak Pkwy.

The other featured speaker at this year’s ceremony will be Army veteran Chris Heisler, president of the Honor Network, who will present the Veterans Perspective portion of the ceremony. After the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, Heisler put his career on hold and enlisted in the Army. As part of the 101st Airborne Division in Iraq, he

was instrumental in providing U.S. service men and women with invaluable communication tools, such as Internet, telephone communication and secured communication.

In July 2004, while in combat with the 129th Logistics Task Force in LSA Anaconda, Balad, Iraq, Heisler was injured. After undergoing extensive rehabilitation and therapy for the next several years, his military service ended December 2007. As president of the Honor Network, he now orchestrates for the Honor Flag to travel the country and be used for special events, including this year's Memorial Day ceremony at the AVM.

For more information about the AVM or the Memorial Day ceremony, visit [OnlineAtAnthem.com/AVM](http://OnlineAtAnthem.com/AVM).

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***About the Anthem Veterans Memorial***

*The award-winning Anthem Veterans Memorial (AVM), a project of the Anthem Community Council (ACC), is located in the Anthem Community Park. The Memorial was dedicated Nov. 11, 2011 and received Arizona Historic Landmark status six months later. Fundraising efforts and the sale pavers in the Circle of Honor continue as the Memorial approaches its fifth anniversary. To donate or to learn more about the Memorial, visit [OnlineAtAnthem.com/AVM](http://OnlineAtAnthem.com/AVM). 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.*