



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: Friday, November 11, 2016

Source: Kristi Northcutt, Anthem Community Council, 623-742-6065, knorthcutt@anthemcouncil.com; or Elizabeth Turner, AVM Support Team, 623-640-8417, elizabethturnerus@yahoo.com.

News tips/Keywords: Veterans Day, Anthem Veterans Memorial, Veterans, Veteran Families, Fifth Anniversary

Photos: OnlineAtAnthem.com/media-kits (choose Veterans Day)

RECORD CROWD ON HAND TO WITNESS FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF ANTHEM VETERANS MEMORIAL

Anthem, Ariz. – The largest crowd in the Anthem Veterans Memorial’s (AVM) five-year 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 fifth anniversary celebration of the Memorial.

Hundreds of spectators enjoyed a fundraiser pancake breakfast, organized by St. Rose Knights of Columbus. A “Thank a Veteran” card writing station was a popular spot for event-goers; cards were hand made to show appreciation for those who served and were hand-delivered to veterans in attendance.

The ceremony commenced with an historic aircraft flyover and the National Anthem; an Anthem-area youth choir with 300 voices strong was assembled especially for the event. The Veterans Service Award was presented to Liz Turner for her extraordinary work with the AVM. Anthem resident Josh Miller, USMC, spoke about his service in the Gulf War. His “Veteran’s Perspective” provided the audience insight into the life of an American soldier during wartime.

“It was eerily quiet until I heard a pressing, thundering noise overhead,” Miller said. “I looked up and realized I was witnessing history...the air campaign had begun. I send out a special thanks to my family for their service and sacrifice; particularly to those still making this sacrifice.”

Military members, both retired and active duty from all five branches, honored combat veterans and their families from each of the wars in the nation’s history. Lt. Col. John Simmons, United States Air Force (Retired), served as the Master of Ceremonies, and was accompanied by the Sandra Day O’Connor Jr. Air Force ROTC, who stood guard at the Memorial.

--more--

Keynote Address and Solar Spotlight

Admiral Paul David Miller, United States Navy (Retired), delivered the keynote address. Adm. Miller served as the Director of Naval Warfare on the staff of Chief of Naval Operations. He became Commander of the Atlantic Fleet after receiving his fourth star. He served as the NATO Supreme Allied Commander-Atlantic until his retirement.

Adm. Miller understands the sacrifice veterans and their families willingly make in the service of our country. His father and two sons also served in the military, totaling more than 70 chronological years of active service.

He said, "Just as men and women met the conflicts of our time, we are extremely confident that, when led by veteran families, our youth will rally to meet the Armed Forces needs of tomorrow."

At exactly 11:11 a.m., the sun shone through the five ellipses of the AVM and a spotlight was cast on the Great Seal of the United States as a thunderous flyover, provided by the Luke Air Force Base F-16 Fighting Falcons, filled the air. "Stars and Stripes Forever," performed by ProMusica Arizona, rang out across the grounds.

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.

###