



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **ACC, AVMST to honor Mary Ann Derryberry with Veterans Service Award**

**Anthem, Ariz.** – Anthem resident Mary Ann Derryberry will be honored by the Anthem Community Council (ACC) and the Anthem Veterans Memorial Support Team (AVMST) with the 2015 Anthem Veterans Service Award at the Veterans Day Ceremony on Nov. 11.

At the request of the AVMST, the ACC created the Anthem Veterans Service Award in 2013. The award is presented annually to an individual or group to recognize “extraordinary service and selfless dedication is support of our nation’s veterans.”

A plaque with the names of recipients is on display at the Anthem Civic Building. Past winners include Daisy Mountain Veterans in 2013 and Ray Norris in 2014.

Derryberry’s nomination included this quote: “There is not a day in the year when Mary Ann isn’t on the phone comforting a veteran, driving to help a veteran in need, raising funds for women veterans or holding the hand of a woman veteran suffering from PTSD...Mary Ann is a dedicated Marine who has never stopped serving our community. She is a friend of anyone in need and a champion of veterans.”

Derryberry joined the Marines in 1969 and served until 1972. In the years since, she has remained committed to service and honoring fellow veterans. Among her actions and accomplishments:

- Charter member and past commander of American Legion Post 128;
- Founder and 10-year chairwoman of the Daisy Mountain Veterans Parade;
- Supporter and advocate for at-risk and homeless women;
- Volunteer at Veterans First, Ltd.;
- Member of Daisy Mountain Veterans;
- Supporter and advocate for incarcerated veterans; and
- Contributor to various organizations, including Phoenix Stands Down and Toys for Tots, and activities at the Anthem Veterans Memorial.

The award will be presented at the Anthem Veterans Memorial in Anthem Community Park during the Veterans Day Ceremony, beginning at 10 a.m. The event is open to the public.

The AVMST is an affiliate group of the ACC. With the dedication of the Anthem Veterans Memorial on Nov. 11, 2011, the extraordinary vision and efforts of the Veterans Memorial Planning Committee (now known as the AVMST) became a lasting legacy to the nation's veterans.

While core operational responsibilities associated with the maintenance and security of the AVM are managed by the ACC, support activities such as fundraising, programming, community outreach and the Memorial Day and Veterans Day ceremonies are coordinated by the AVMST.

### **Veterans Day Ceremony**

The Nov. 11 Veterans Day Ceremony at the Anthem Veterans Memorial will begin at 10 a.m. USAF Col. Wanda Wright (Retired), Director of Arizona Department of Veterans' Services, will deliver the keynote address paying special tribute to women veterans and medical/hospital personnel. U.S. Navy Senior Chief Petty Officer Darlene Gonzales (Retired) and Jenna Kohl, ACC Community Executive Officer will serve as the Masters of Ceremonies.

Guests are asked to bring a new toy (not gift wrapped) for the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots program. For more information about the Veterans Day Ceremony, visit [OnlineAtAnthem.com/AVM](http://OnlineAtAnthem.com/AVM).

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