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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Veterans Day Ceremony to be held at Anthem Veterans Memorial Charitable Drive to Assist Veterans in Need Added to This Year's Event

Anthem, Arizona. (October 8, 2013). The Anthem Veterans Memorial Support Team (AVMST) announced today retired Admiral Vernon E. Clark will deliver the keynote address at the Veterans Day Ceremony in Anthem. The AVMST also announced a special charity drive to benefit veterans in need has been added to the this year's event. The Veterans Day Ceremony will be held at the Anthem Veterans Memorial, Monday, November 11 at 10:00 a.m. The ceremony will be presented by the Daisy Mountain Veterans, an alliance of the local Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 12031, the American Legion Post 128 and the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 128.

Event Details: The ceremony will begin at 10:00 a.m. In addition to Admiral Clark's address, the ceremony will include live music, a tribute to Korean War veterans and special honors. Following the ceremony, the public is invited to witness how art and science merge when, at 11:11 a.m., the sun's rays will pass through the five marble columns' ellipses to form a perfect circle around a mosaic of The Great Seal of the United States. The Anthem Veterans Memorial is located in the Anthem Community Park on Gavilan Peak Parkway. Handicap parking is available adjacent to the Memorial. Seating is limited, but lawn chairs and blankets are welcome.

Collection Drive: All ceremony attendees are asked to bring new toiletries and canned food to the ceremony to assist veterans and their children in need. The collection drive take place from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. and then following the ceremony until 11:30 a.m. The collected goods will be given to Veterans First, Ltd., a 501 (c)(3) organization, dedicated to solving issues affecting homeless and at-risk women veterans for appropriate distribution. Veterans First collaborates with Federal and State Offices of Veterans Affairs, government agencies, shelters, housing agencies, nonprofits, community and veteran organizations, groups and clubs to provide assistance to assist women veterans.

Veterans First, in collaboration with Community Housing Partnership, opened Mary Ellen's Place in May, 2011 for single women veterans. When opened, a second facility, Sallie's Place, will provide affordable housing to women veterans with children.

Admiral Clark Biography: The keynote address will be delivered by retired Admiral Vernon E. Clark. Admiral Clark completed a distinguished 37-year Navy career in 2005. His Navy experience spans his early days in destroyers, command of a Patrol Gunboat as a Lieutenant and concluded in the halls of the Pentagon as the Chief of Naval Operations and a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. In between, he commanded ships, two destroyer squadrons, the Atlantic Fleet's Anti-Submarine Warfare Training Center, a Carrier Battle Group, the Second Fleet, NATO's Striking Fleet, and the Atlantic Fleet.

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Anthem Veterans Day ceremony continued:

Admiral Clark Biography: As CNO Admiral Clark was the first CNO to be extended in office under the Goldwater-Nichols framework and he became the second longest serving CNO in history. His number one priority was to “win the battle for people,” and leading the Navy toward the development of a 21st century human capital strategy, new training concepts, and the development and assignment processes within the Navy. The result was the best recruiting and retention in history. Finally, he forged an effort to build the Navy into an enterprise which would be able to compete in the 21st century market place leading to billions of dollars in savings for the taxpayers of the nation and the highest operational readiness the Navy had witnessed in decades.

Admiral Clark has received numerous military decorations for his service including four awards of the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, three Navy Distinguished Medals, and three awards of the Legion of Merit. Along with his Navy and Joint awards, he received Distinguished Service Medals received from the United States Army, United States Air Force, the United States Coast Guard, and international awards received from Germany, Italy, France, South Korea, Japan, Portugal, Singapore, and the Netherlands. Since his retirement he has been honored with the Eisenhower Award from the Business Executives of North America, the Distinguished Sea Service Award from the Naval Order of the United States, and the Distinguished Service Medal of the Military Order of the World Wars.

To Visit the Anthem Veterans Memorial:

Take I-17 North to the Anthem Way exit. Turn right and follow Anthem Way to the third traffic light at N. Gavilan Peak Parkway. Turn right. The Memorial will be on the left at the first stop sign. Parking at the Memorial.

About the Anthem Veterans Memorial (AVM) and AVM Support Team (AVMST):

The award-winning Anthem Veterans Memorial (AVM), a project of the Anthem Community Council (ACC), is located in the Anthem Community Park, off N. Gavilan Peak Parkway. The Memorial was dedicated November 11, 2011 and received Arizona Historic Landmark status six months later. The five pillars, symbolizing the five branches of the Armed Forces, are designed with elliptical openings. At 11:11 a.m. on each Veterans Day, November 11, the sun's rays pass through the openings to cast a perfect shadow around a mosaic of The Great Seal of the United States. Fundraising efforts and the sale of veteran, business and organization pavers continue. To donate or to learn more about the Memorial, go to www.onlineat anthem.com/anthem-veterans-memorial. 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.

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