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ANTHEM TO RECOGNIZE RESIDENT VETERAN RAY NORRIS WITH SERVICE AWARD, NOV. 11

Anthem, Ariz. – Anthem resident Ray Norris will be honored by the Anthem Community Council and the Anthem Veterans Memorial Support Team with the 2014 Anthem Veterans Service Award. The award will be conferred at the Veterans Day Ceremony at the Anthem Veterans Memorial on Nov. 11 at 10 a.m.

At the request of the Anthem Veterans Memorial Support Team, the Anthem Community Council created the Anthem Veterans Service Award in 2013. This award is given annually to an individual or group to recognize "extraordinary service and selfless dedication in support of our Nation's veterans."

A plaque with the names of recipients is on display at the Anthem Civic Building. The Daisy Mountain Veterans were nominated and received the 2013 Anthem Veterans Service Award for their longstanding leadership and active support of veterans.

Excerpts from the nomination indicate, "Ray Norris exemplifies the meaning behind this award on a daily basis. In fact, it was reflecting upon all Ray does in this community that prompted the recommendation for such an award. Veterans simply don't stop serving after their duty has ended. When there is a 'call for action,' Ray responds without hesitation. Where there is a need, Ray is there to help. Every person who has had the honor of meeting or working with Ray feels privileged for that opportunity."

Norris served in the U.S. Army for 31 years as a helicopter pilot, flight instructor, National Guard facility commander and Infantry Battalion Executive Officer. He retired as a Lt. Colonel in 1997 with over 12,000 hours of flight time and over 1,200 combat hours. He was the recipient of 28 Air Medals and the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry, plus 13 other medals.

Since moving to Anthem in 2002, Norris has been active in numerous civic and community organizations. A partial list of his volunteer service work includes:

- VFW and American Legion Posts (founding member)
- Daisy Mountain Veterans (Post Chaplain and parade committee)
- Anthem Neighborhood Watch
- Anthem Service and Safety Committee
- Anthem Rotary Club (President)
- Anthem Country Club Safety Committee (Chair)
- Anthem Country Club Board of Directors
- Anthem Community Council Board of Directors
- Pioneer Village Board of Directors
- Dreamchaser Horse Rescue Board of Directors

The Anthem Veterans Memorial Support Team is an affiliate group of the Anthem Community Council (ACC). With the dedication of the Anthem Veterans Memorial (AVM) on November 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 (May) and Veterans Day (Nov.) 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. Prior to the start of the ceremony, at 9:30 a.m., thirteen World War II female veterans will receive pavers to lay at the AVM commemorating their service. Seating is limited; lawn chairs are welcome.

Vietnam combat veterans Tom Francis (U.S. Army Special Operations) and Jim Oliveri (U.S. Army) will deliver the keynote address. The award-winning Diamond Canyon School choir and Mary Sue Hyatt, North Valley Arts Council, will offer special musical performances.

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.

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