



News from the ANTHEM VETERANS MEMORIAL VETERANS DAY! HONOR. SALUTE. SUPPORT.

11/1/2023

TEN DAYS UNTIL VETERANS DAY at the ANTHEM VETERANS MEMORIAL NOVEMBER 11, 2023 FESTIVITIES FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ARE ANSWERED HERE

WILL THE AVM EXPANSION BE COMPLETED? Absolutely! Thanks to the dedication of Haydon Building Corp, the newly-expanded AVM will be on full display and open to the public following the ceremony. Three thousand new pavers have been added to the Circle of Honor! That is 3000 more veterans who may be commemorated there, taking the total to over 5400 commemorative pavers! The finishing touches on the plants and turf and lighting will be completed soon. Our first national marker honoring the Revolutionary War Patriots, donated from the DAR Ocotillo Chapter will be on display for all to see.

WHAT TIME DO THE ACTIVITIES BEGIN?

8:15-10:00 Charity Drive and Breakfast (\$). Youth for Troops will collect new small items for our deployed troops care packages. Eight hundred care packages are scheduled to be mailed the end of November; donations and items needed to remind our deployed troops they remain in our hearts, even when thousands of miles away. Help write thank you cards and decorate the mail boxes with holiday cheer. Bring new gifts for Holiday Helpers that brighten our veteran children during the holiday. Go to Youth4Troops.org.

Breakfast from veteran-owned Tennessee Grill will be available for purchase, including beverages.

9:15 – 9:45 Vietnam War Era and Surviving Spouse Pinning. ANY veteran who served from November 1, 1955 – May 15, 1975 will be honored by the LED screens and receive the 50th Vietnam Era Commemoration pin. Don't be shy! We honor you! Music from Vietnam War veterans and video tributes to accompany pinning.

9:50 Service Branch Wreath Presentation, honoring the fallen, those missing in action and those veterans no longer with us will be presented by veterans and veteran families 9:50 a.m.

WHO WILL BE HONORED DURING THE CEREMONY? All veterans, those men and women now serving the armed forces, military families, members of the national guard, POWs, war era veterans and all military branches will be honored.

Special Tributes Celebrating Military History include the 50th anniversary of women Naval aviators, the 70th anniversary of the armistice to end the Korean War, the 50th anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War, military families and the United States Coast Guard.

WHO WILL BE SPEAKING? A Vietnam era tribute will be presented by Major General Arnold Fields (USMC, Retired). The keynote address will be presented by Chief Warrant Officer Michael Tapp (USCG, Retired). These are two very special address you will not want to miss. Lieutenant Colonel Amber Cargile (USAF, Retired) will serve as Mistress of Ceremonies and Senior Chief Darlene Gonzales (USN, Retired) will host the pre-ceremony tributes. Additional speakers include Captain Carole Litten (USN, Retired), Dennis Salisbury (USA, Vietnam), Petty Officer Machinery Repairman Mary Lou Spicer (USN, Retired) andCarolynn Hiron (Anthem Community Council, Chair).

WILL THERE BE MUSIC and VIDEOS? Live music will be performed by Musical Theatre of Anthem Outreach Group. Songs written with veterans by professional songwriters will be shared by Operation Song, with musical tributes by Jimmie Flynn, Ralph McTell and Dale Ash. Music videos include singer/songwriters Buddy Brown and Rockie Lynn and military video tributes from the United States Navy and U.S. Coast Guard will not disappoint.

WILL THERE BE SEATING? Limited seating (800+ open seating available) will be provided and limited bleacher seating. Two dedicated ADA seating sections are located on the north lawn to the right of the main entrance and south lawn. We encourage lawn chairs/blankets.

WHERE MAY WE PARK? Those with ADA placards may park in the parking lot adjacent to the AVM. This is limited parking, so arrive early. This parking lot is closed to the general public. Guests may be dropped off at the AVM entrance. Additional parking is available south of the AVM in the soccer field parking, across the street from the AVM in the Safeway parking lot, across Anthem Way in the parking lot behind the gas station and at the Community Center. Motorcycle parking will not be provided in the lot adjacent to the AVM. Arrive early, have a bite to eat and enjoy great music and videos as you support our Vietnam War Era veterans.

WILL THERE BE AERIAL SUPPORT? A little "birdie," in talks with Luke AFB has heard the F-35s may again soar over the AVM. More to come next week! Fingers crossed!

WHO COVERS THE COSTS of the CEREMONY? AZ Department of Veterans Services supports the event through a grant. Dr. Anthony and Mrs. Shannon Gleckler donated to help offset the costs of the ceremony as have the Anthem Community Council and the Anthem Way Foundation. If you would like to donate to offset the ceremony costs, please contact Elizabeth Turner at 623-640-8417 or ElizabethTurnerUS@yahoo.com

MAY WE STILL DONATE TO THE EXPANSION? We continue to welcome donations to offset the expansion costs. Contact Elizabeth Turner, ElizabethTurnerUS@yahoo.com. Thank you to those who contributed over \$88,400! Click here for the complete donor list.