

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Source: Chuck Hale, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 12031 Commander, anthemchuck@gmail.com, 623-640-7189;

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REMEMBERING THE FALLEN IN ANTHEM - MAY 27-30

- **VOICE OF DEMOCRACY AND PATRIOT PEN ESSAY CONTEST STUDENT PARTICIPATION CERTIFICATE PRESENTATIONS, ANTHEM VETERANS MEMORIAL, MAY 27, 5:00 P.M.**
- **“BUDDY” POPPY DISTRIBUTION, ANTHEM FRY’S FOOD AND DRUG, MAY 28-29, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**
- **MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY, “A Day of Remembrance,” ANTHEM VETERANS MEMORIAL, May 30, 9:00 A.M.**

Anthem, Ariz. – Memorial Day, originally called Decoration Day, is a day of remembrance for those who gave their lives in service to the United States military. For over a decade, Memorial Day ceremonies have been held at the Anthem Veterans Memorial to honor those Killed in Action. This year, VFW Post 12032, American Legion Post 128 and the Daisy Mountain Veterans invite the public to participate in additional tributes to our fallen heroes.

Student Certificate Presentation. On **Friday, May 27, 5:00 p.m.** at an informal ceremony, the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 12031 will present certificates to the students who participated in the Voice of Democracy and Patriot Pen Essay Contests.

Since 1947, the Voice of Democracy has been the Veterans of Foreign Wars’ premier scholarship program. Each year, nearly 80,000 high school students compete for more than \$2 million in scholarships and incentives. Students compete by writing and recording an audio essay on an annual patriotic theme; “Way is the Veteran Important?” Local resident, Mary Sannapu, won the local VFW Post 12031 Voice of Democracy 2021-2022 contest, and then went on to win the district contest and place third in the state competition. She will recite her audio essay at the Memorial Day ceremony, Anthem Veterans Memorial, on May 30.

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Additionally, local middle school students participate in the Patriot Pen competition. Conducted nationwide, this VFW-sponsored youth essay competition gives students an opportunity to write essays expressing their views on an annual patriotic theme. This year's Patriot Pen theme, "My Pledge to Our Veterans," drew over 84,000 essays.

VFW Post 12031 invites all students to participate in next year's contests. The Voice of Democracy application and the Patriot Pen application be found at <https://www.vfw.org/community/youth-and-education/youth-scholarships> or by contacting local representative, George Walker at gwalker2105@cox.net.

Poppy Distribution. On **Friday, May 28 and May 29**, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 12031 will distribute "Buddy" Poppy(s) at the Frys Food and Drug store located at 39508 W Daisy Mountain Dr, Anthem, AZ 85086. Posts receive their profits from direct sale of the poppies to the public. Donations also are accepted.

The tradition of wearing a red poppy originated in 1915 when a Canadian artillery unit brigade surgeon, Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae, saw bright red poppies blooming on the war-torn fields where so many soldiers had lost their lives. He was moved to write a poem, "In Flanders Fields." The poem was published in a London magazine and later syndicated to publications in other Allied countries. Two separate women, one in France and one in the United States, saw the poem and each was inspired to wear a red poppy in honor of the troops. They each started fundraising campaigns in their respective countries to benefit veterans, their widows and orphans. Their campaigns inspired "Inter-Allied Poppy Day" and started "Poppy Days" worldwide. Today, millions around the world wear poppies on Memorial Day and, in many nations, leading to Veterans Day.

For more information about the VFW poppy distribution and where the funds may be used, visit www.vfw.org.

Memorial Day Ceremony. On **Memorial Day, Monday May 30, 9:00 a.m. at the Anthem Veterans Memorial**, the public is invited to attend the annual Memorial Day Ceremony, "A Day of Remembrance," honoring the service and sacrifice of veterans who have fallen while serving our great nation. The ceremony is hosted by the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 12031, American Legion Post 128 and Daisy Mountain Veterans, with support from the Anthem Community Council.

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The keynote address will be presented by Lieutenant Colonel Tim Pasquarelli (USA, Retired). Lieutenant Colonel Pasquarelli served in the U.S. Army for 24 years. He began his service in 1965 as a Private in the Florida Army National Guard and transferred to active duty in January of 1966. During his career he progressed from enlisted soldier to eventually retire as a Lieutenant Colonel. His service included two tours of duty in Vietnam; one tour of 18 months with the 1st Air Cavalry Division as a Combat Engineer and Infantry officer and a second one-year tour with the 101st Airborne Division as a helicopter pilot. In addition to his foreign duty in Vietnam, Lt. Col. Pasquarelli served in foreign assignments with the 193rd Infantry Brigade in the Panama Canal Zone and as a senior staff officer at a major NATO headquarters in Turkey. He finished his career with duty at the Pentagon and at the State Department as a representative for the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Lt. Col. Pasquarelli is a recipient of several battlefield valor awards and meritorious service awards. His awards also include the Purple Heart for a battlefield wound. He is a recipient of the Combat Infantry Badge, the Parachutist Badge and the Aviators Badge.

After his military service Pasquarelli has worked in the mining, petroleum and heavy construction industries. His work in these industries has taken him to projects in over 25 countries on five continents.

He is a member of several veteran organizations to include: the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the American Legion, the Daisy Mountain Veterans, the Arizona Veterans Forum and other military service organizations.

The Lt. Colonel has been married to his wife Diane for 50 years and has three children, several grandchildren and several great grandchildren. He has a bachelor's degree and two masters' degrees, including a Masters of International Political Economy of Resources from Colorado School of Mines.

Additional ceremony highlights will include the POW/MIA table remembrance ceremony and the Voice of America winning speech by Mary Sannapu. The Musical Theater of Anthem Outreach Group will provide program music. The playing of Taps and ringing of the Memorial Bell honoring those veterans Killed in Action, followed by a moment of silence will close the ceremony.

The ceremony is expected to run approximately 45 minutes. Seating and parking are limited and are intended for veterans; attendees are encouraged to arrive early and bring lawn chairs or blankets. The Anthem Veterans Memorial is located at Anthem Community Park, 41703 N. Gavilan Peak Pkwy.

ABOUT THE VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS POST 12031

Since 2005, the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 12031 has proudly served the communities of Anthem, Desert Hills, New River, and Tramanto. Under the national Veterans of Foreign Wars charter, we strive to foster camaraderie among United States veterans of overseas conflicts; to serve our veterans, the military and our communities and to advocate on behalf of all veterans.

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VFW Post 12031 works to ensure veterans are respected for their service, always receive their earned entitlements, and are recognized for the sacrifices they and their loved ones have made on behalf of this great country. If you would like to learn more about the VFW, please join us at the VFW meetings, which are held at 6:00 PM on the second Thursday of each month at the Anthem Civic Building, Suite 202, 3701 W. Anthem Way, Anthem, AZ 85086.

ABOUT THE ANTHEM VETERANS MEMORIAL

The award-winning Anthem Veterans Memorial (AVM), a project of the Anthem Community Council (ACC), is located in Anthem Community Park. The Memorial was dedicated Nov. 11, 2011, and received Arizona Historic Landmark status six months later. Fundraising efforts and the sale pavers in the Circle of Honor continue. To donate or to learn more about the Memorial, visit OnlineAtAnthem.com.

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