

Memorial Board and Early Supporters provide solid foundation for launch of Fundraising Campaign of the Southern Arizona Veterans and First Responders Living Memorial

As the official fundraising campaign gets underway nearly \$150,000 has already been pledged providing a solid foundation for this inspiring project!

A special place to honor, remember, and memorialize veterans and first responders is the vision producing \$150,000 in pledges for the Southern Arizona Veterans and First Responders Living Memorial from its closest "family" of supporters.

"We are thrilled with the level of support we have seen as we kick-off our campaign for this important memorial," said Board Chair Dick Eggerding. "These pledges are a tremendous show of support. We will continue the effort by reaching out to a new group of supporters we are confident will continue the generosity."

The goal of \$1.9 million will fund the construction of the Living Memorial to be located on 2.5 acres in Naranja Park, allocated by the Town of Oro Valley, in full view of the Catalina Mountains' Pusch Ridge. It will contain art, monuments and landscaping that are symbolic to all branches of the Department of Defense and First Responders. Upon entering the memorial, visitors will walk along the Pathway of Heroes with 15-foot walls representing the branches of the Department of Defense and First Responders. A 24-foot high obelisk at the center will represent the strength and courage of our heroes.



The Changing Paradigm



On 9/11, the role of our nation's First Responders expanded and a new recognition of the importance of their faithful service to the people of the United States in response to terrorism surfaced. While historically we have separated the roles of the military and first responders, it is now appropriate to honor together the two groups of brave defenders of our safety and welfare.

"It is fitting that the Living Memorial honor these two groups who play a critical role in both past and present conflicts in America," said Dr. Richard Carmona, the project's Honorary Chair. "It is time to recognize, honor

and remember living and fallen veterans and first responders together."

Benefits to our Region

Southern Arizona has a population of more than 400,000 (roughly 20%) veterans, active military, and first responders. These men and women, along with their fallen brothers and sisters, play and have played a critical role in both past and present conflicts in America.

The Living Memorial will create a space in which we honor and celebrate our heroes while educating future generations about the meaning of service and sacrifice to our country. Young people can learn that liberty and safety are attained through selfless acts of kindness and valor. They will learn the history of the cost of their freedom. Adults can see a physical representation of the timeless determination it takes to maintain our status as the greatest nation on earth. Families and friends who have suffered loss can visit a solemn place of remembrance.

