



HISTORY ANTHEM VETERANS MEMORIAL

Retired Rear Adm. Ron Tucker began the Anthem Veterans Memorial project early in 2009. It took only a small article about the dedication of a Veterans Memorial in another Arizona location that got Ron thinking, "Why not a Memorial in Anthem?" He spoke with individual directors of the Anthem Community Council to get their opinions, all of whom thought the idea was perfect for Anthem.

Ron knew Renee Palmer-Jones and was familiar with her artistic talents so he asked her to create the design. He then went to other friends, Jim Martin and Steve Rusch who jumped on board and the project began.

When Renee Palmer-Jones received the invitation from Ron Tucker to design the Anthem Veterans Memorial, her first instincts were to design something "entirely unique and yet, 'classical' in structure, while emphasizing the significance of November 11, Veterans Day, each year."

These priorities led Renee to think about ways in which the sun could become an integral part of the design because every day of the year has unique sun angles. She began to sketch various configurations that utilize the sun's specific position at precisely 11:11 a.m. every November 11th, until she came up with the rough outline of what ultimately became (after several modifications) the final configuration of the pillars, elliptical openings and mosaic.

Ron adds, "I wish it were some long-held vision formed while I commanded the USS New Jersey or while in a meeting at the Naval Station at Pearl Harbor, but really, it just wasn't that glamorous. I'm simply fortunate to have the creative talents and support of my friends to make this all happen." Thanks to the creativity, engineering and technical wizardry skills of the entire AVM committee, Ron's idea and Renee's artistic conceptual design became a dynamic reality.

Space in the Anthem Community Park for the Memorial project and start-up funding were provided by the Anthem Community Council. The estimated \$125,000 cost of the project will be paid for primarily by Veteran and Friends, Business or Organization brick paver sales and donations.

Each Veteran paver can be engraved with the name, rank/rate, branch of service, and date of service of the person being honored. They can be purchased for \$150 and will be placed in the Memorial's Circle of Honor. Friends, Business or Organization pavers may be purchased for \$200 and will identify a name, business or organization. These pavers will be placed in locations surrounding the Circle of Honor at the Memorial site. Other donation opportunities and special recognition are available through the Friends of the Memorial program.

Ground breaking is scheduled for November 11, 2010. The Anthem Veterans Memorial will be completed in the fall of 2011, and the Opening Ceremony will be on Veterans Day, November 11, 2011.