



PRESS RELEASE

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Local Veterans Honored at Community Breakfast

(LITCHFIELD, Ariz. – NOV. 9, 2023) More than 200 elected officials, faith-based leaders, and community members from across the West Valley gathered to celebrate and honor Veterans in the region at the Third Annual Veterans Day Community Breakfast hosted by Agua Fria High School District, and ROTC, Avondale Elementary School District, and Litchfield Elementary School District. The Chasse Building Team and ADM Group sponsored the event. Patriotic decorations filled the room, and beautifully assorted bouquets were placed atop each table. Attendees had the opportunity to take home centerpieces with a donation to the ROTC program at Agua Fria High School.

The morning started with the Agua Fria High School Air Force JROTC presenting the colors, followed by “God Bless America” performed by the Litchfield Elementary School District’s L. Thomas Heck Middle School choir. Skylar Brown, Verrado High School president of the Red, White, and Blue Club, led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance. Serenity Meek-Rodriguez, a Senior from Agua Fria High School, created on-the-spot artwork for purchase that was later auctioned off.

Each Veteran was recognized for excellence during the ceremony and stood when their branch’s anthem was played. Veterans were also presented with “Challenge Coins” by the three hosting school Superintendents. As the different Veterans were individually recognized, the room overflowed with applause.

Shortly after the recognition ceremony, the Agua Fria High School Air Force Junior ROTC Honor Guard, led by Esperanza Acuna, commenced the Prisoner of War/Missing in Action remembrance ceremony to honor the Veterans who were no longer with us. Ellesandra Webster explained that the setting on the round table atop the stage included an inverted glass, a slice of lemon, a red ribbon, a pinch of salt, and much more. Each item symbolizes the significant sacrifice made by fallen soldiers.

Governing Board President and Veteran Trey Terry gave the closing speech and spoke about the sacrifices made and will be made by men and women in the past, present, and future. When asked about the importance of the event, Terry responded, “The growing sense of community and having our school districts bringing that community together. Not just a sense of purpose, but it’s our role as community leaders to make sure we are bringing each other together to ensure we honor our Veterans.”

To view photos and videos from recent and past celebrations, visit aguafria.org/veterans.

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Agua Fria Union High School District was established in 1955. Today, the district serves the communities of Avondale, Buckeye, Goodyear, Litchfield Park, Waddell and part of Glendale with its six high schools: Agua Fria, Canyon View, Desert Edge, Millennium, Verrado and Agua Fria Online. Plus the District offers two alternative programs: Coldwater Academy and New Directions. More information can be found at aquafria.org