

Information Brief Anthem Way Foundation Board of Directors



Open Session Agenda Number **5B**

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| CONTACT | Steven Dinkoski, Communications Director |
| MEETING DATE | February 25, 2026 |
| AGENDA ITEM | Anthem Way Foundation 2025 Annual Report |

LINKAGE TO STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

- Operational Excellence - Manage community resources with care and pride.

PREVIOUS BOARD ACTION/ACTIVITY

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| February | Annual Report and Financials |
| August | Reviewed Financials, Veterans Day Plans |

ISSUE SUMMARY/DESCRIPTION

For 2025, the Anthem Veterans Memorial hosted two paver laying ceremonies in the fall. Both paver laying ceremonies had very large crowds in attendance, and over one hundred veteran pavers were laid. One special item to note is the second fall paver laying ceremony honored twenty special operations veterans who died in combat during Operation Red Wing.

The Jim Martin Annual STEM Scholarship was awarded to three outstanding students—Logan Stroot, Benjamin Heiner, and Lennon Hammond. The scholarship is named after Mr. Jim Martin, chief engineer of the Anthem Veterans Memorial, for his mathematical and engineering talents and his dedication to the Anthem Community. The scholarship provides \$1,000 annual scholarships to two graduating high school students who have excelled in mathematics and exemplified service to the community.

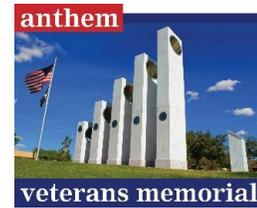
The 2025 Memorial Day Ceremony was held at the AVM. For 2025, it featured a day of silent reflection. The AVM was set up for residents to come and pay respect to those who gave their lives serving our country.

The 2025 Veterans Day Ceremony was particularly memorable. At precisely 11:11 a.m., sunlight illuminated the Great Seal of the United States through the memorial's five ellipses, creating a powerful moment for all attendees.

Key contributors to the ceremony's success included:

- Rear Admiral William Putnam, who delivered the keynote address
- Aaron Baker, who served as Master of Ceremonies
- Ryan Ladiser from Tennessee Grill
- The ACC Special Events Team
- ACC Parks, Facilities, and Construction Team
- U.S. Army Recruiting Battalion Phoenix
- Sandra Day O'Connor High School AFJROTC
- AV Concepts for audio and visual support
- Pro-Em for event rentals

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Special recognition goes to ACC Chair Dino Cotton for presenting the Veterans Service Award to George Walker. The U.S. Army Recruiting Battalion of Phoenix conducted an inspiring swearing-in ceremony for new soldiers.

The event featured strong community participation from sponsors and non-profit organizations, including Tennessee Grill, Youth for Troops, Quilts of Valor, EPCOR, and the Arizona Department of Veteran Services.

Looking ahead to 2026, the Foundation reports strong paver sales and has already begun planning for next year's Veterans Day ceremony.

ATTACHMENTS

- None