

**CITY OF PEORIA, ARIZONA
CITY MANAGER REPORT**

RCM #: 3b

Date Prepared: September 17, 2010

Council Meeting Date: October 19, 2010

TO: Carl Swenson, City Manager

THROUGH: Susan J. Daluddung, Deputy City Manager

FROM: J.P. de la Montaigne, Community Services Director

SUBJECT: Veterans Day Ceremony on November 13, 2010

SUMMARY:

For the past two years, Peoria Community Services Department and the Veterans Memorial Board have been hosting a Veterans Day 5K Run and Fun Walk, typically on the Saturday that precedes Veterans Day. This special activity has included a tribute and ceremony that recognizes the valuable contributions of our veterans.

The 5K race and fun walk are conducted along the New River Trail system at Rio Vista Community Park. The 5K race is contracted to a professional team who administers the entire process. The race continues to grow in popularity and the cost for this event is paid from entry fees by the racers. The contracted provider returns approximately \$5 of every entry fee back to Peoria to be used to offset out-of-pocket expenses for the special event, and any money collected above the costs is directed for youth scholarships. Donations are also received from private businesses, program sponsors, and volunteer groups such as the Peoria Firefighter Charities to offset expenses. The fun walk ensures that the persons who participate in this activity walk past the Veterans Memorial Wall in Rio Vista Park. Persons in the fun walk are greeted by Veterans Board members who communicate information about this memorial.

This year, our attraction to the ceremony is the speakers and we are strongly promoting our message within the veterans' service organizations in the Northwest Valley. The theme of this year's ceremony is ***Breakfast with the Mayor***. Mayor Barrett will facilitate a roundtable discussion with four or five veterans from previous wars. It is intended for people from our community to come and have breakfast with Mayor Barrett and to be able to participate in a question and answer session with any of the panel members about their experiences serving in the military. Our featured speakers are:

Nelson Mitchell	WWII and Pearl Harbor Survivor
Name (TBD)	WWII Tuskegee Airman
Name (TBD)	Korean War Veteran
Mayor Bob Barrett	Vietnam War Veteran
Aunjel Andersen	Gulf War Veteran & Dept. of Veterans Affairs Employee

We are also in process of securing high school students from the four Peoria high schools as part of our entertainment for the ceremony.

Peoria High School	ROTC Color Guard to present the colors
Centennial High School	Band members to play patriotic music and the Star Spangled Banner while raising the flags
Liberty and Sunrise Mtn. High Schools	Choir members to sing patriotic songs

Finally, we also anticipate a few exhibitors to have tables set up inside the recreation center to hand out information about their veterans services as well as the Arizona National Guard display. We have invited Civil War re-enactors to set up a confederate and union encampment. Many of these details are currently in progress, and it should be a wonderful event for the community.

CONTACT: Kirk Haines, Parks Manager 623-773-7120