

The Southern Arizona Veterans and First Responders Living Memorial board spent the summer with first responders sharing the story of the memorial and gathering support.

Golder Ranch Fire District, Cochise County Sheriff Leadership Support Group and the Southern Arizona Law Enforcement Managers offered their interest and support of the effort to raise \$1.9 million to fund the construction of a Living Memorial that is free to everyone who wishes to honor our veterans and first responders.

Board Member Aims to Celebrate Service



For retired U.S. Navy Lieutenant Commander Steve Didio, the Living Memorial is an important way to celebrate the vital contributions of veterans and first responders.

A member of the Southern Arizona Veterans and First Responders Living Memorial board, Didio's more than 35 years of career experience in the U.S. Navy and aerospace industry have all been dedicated to ensuring and furthering the strength of our Armed Forces.

"This memorial is very important to me because our nation's veterans and first responders serve humbly and honorably every day to protect our way of life in the greatest country on earth," he said. "We need to do all that we can to recognize and celebrate their immense contributions."

Presently, Southern Arizona does not have a place to honor veterans and first responders who answered their country's and communities call with service, bravery and honor. Construction of the Living Memorial will provide a place of honor, reflection and education for all people to honor those who served and continue to serve.

Fast Facts About the Living Memorial

- The memorial is entirely funded by donations from citizens and businesses in the region
- The base is a star about 90 feet wide from point to point
- The monument tower is about 24 feet high



- There will be a quiet place for engraved pavers/bricks honoring friends and family
- It will have a covered pavilion for ceremonies and educational events
- It will be heavily shaded with native trees and shrubs
- The site was donated by the Town of Oro Valley, in Naranja Park, overlooking the mountains