

The events of Sept. 11, 2001, clearly showed first responders as defenders of life and freedom. The new Living Memorial represents a unique opportunity to honor these defenders and their military colleagues.

Support of the \$1.9 million fundraising effort to build the Southern Arizona Veterans and First Responders Living Memorial will create a unique and beautiful reflection space that is free to everyone who wishes to learn about and honor our veterans and first responders.

Board Member: Memorial Honors All in Uniform



Alan Dankwerth describes creating a memorial honoring the first responders and veterans of Southern Arizona as a labor of love.

A founding member of the committee to create the Southern Arizona Veterans and First Responders Living Memorial, Dankwerth is putting all the skills and knowledge he acquired in more than 50 years of business management throughout the U.S. and abroad and as a member of an Army Airborne unit to the task of creating a unique memorial that will honor all of America's heroes in uniform.

"The memorial is something most people can relate to as many have served or are related to someone who has served in uniform," he says. "We saw veterans and first responders come together starting with 9/11, and it continues to be that way, coming together for all kinds of emergencies. I think now people need to remember, honor, and educate themselves and their children of what people have done and are doing to protect them and their communities. This memorial will create the opportunity to do that."

Dankwerth and the committee's first task is to raise \$1.9 million for the project. The funds will provide for the construction of the Living Memorial to be located on 2.5 acres in Naranja Park, allocated by the Town of Oro Valley, in full view of the Catalina Mountains' Pusch Ridge. It will contain a large amphitheater for educational programs, along with art, monuments and landscaping that are symbolic to all branches of the Department of Defense and First Responders. Visits to the Memorial will be free to all visitors.



Presently, Southern Arizona does not have a place to honor those Veterans and First Responders who answered their country's and community's call with service, bravery and honor.

The Southern Arizona Veterans and First Responders Living Memorial will provide a unique and beautiful place for such honor.