



ARIZONA COALITION
FOR MILITARY FAMILIES
BUILDING SUPPORT FOR ALL WHO SERVE



2016 Statewide Symposium in Support of Service Members, Veterans & Their Families

EVENT OVERVIEW

April 20 – 21, 2016 – Phoenix, Arizona

*No wrong door and no wrong person
and the right resource at the right time for
Arizona's service members, veterans and their families.*

Special thanks to our 2016 Symposium Event Sponsors for your support of the military/veteran community!

2016 SYMPOSIUM SPONSORS





The Symposium opened with the posting of the colors by the **Arizona State University Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corp (ROTC) Color Guard**, accompanied by the **Phoenix Pipe Band**. The national anthem was sung by **Garland Miller** of **Military OneSource** and the invocation was given by **CH (MAJ) Bradley Walgren** of the **Arizona National Guard**.

““A lot of people talk about veterans and veteran support, but *it's a different world to find people that really take action.*”





The **2016 Symposium** was our seventh annual event and the largest thus far. **Over 450 representatives of military, government and community organizations participated.**

“This was a great event for networking and getting updated information. I thank you for putting it on and look forward to attending similar events in the future.”

“I had a great time! I feel truly blessed to have been a small part of your wonderful event! It was an amazing experience and I can't wait to see what you have in store for next year!”



The Governor's Office of Youth, Faith & Family was recognized for their support and partnership in serving Arizona's military members, veterans & their families. **COL (Ret.) Wanda Wright, Director of the Arizona Department of Veterans' Services**, and **Thomas Winkel, Director of the Arizona Coalition for Military Families** presented **GOYFF Director Debbie Moak** and **Deputy Director Tonya Hamilton** with a recognition frame.

The opening session included a state leadership panel focused on the future of serving Arizona's military, veteran and family population:

- Sean Price, Governor's Office**
- Wanda Wright, Arizona Department of Veterans' Services**
- Tim Jeffries, Arizona Department of Economic Security**
- Tom Betlach, Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System**



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On day 2 we were privileged to welcome **General (Ret.) John Allen, United States Marine Corps**. The Q & A with General Allen was underwritten by **Arizona Public Service**.

His introduction included remarks by **APS Chairman and CEO Don Brandt**. The Q & A was co-moderated by **Rear Admiral (Ret.) Hal Pittman**, Director of External Communications for APS, and **Thomas Winkel**, Director of the Arizona Coalition for Military Families.



General Allen spoke about his experiences in international coalition building and **how we can apply those lessons learned at the state and local level**.

“I could've listened to General Allen all day! Wonderful session – what an honor!”



This year the Symposium included **seven different tracks over two days** with 30 breakout sessions focused on an array of topics that impact service members, veterans & their families.



*“Thank you for giving us this **great opportunity to be better informed and to network.**”*

*“The Symposium **increased my motivation to get involved more.**”*

2016 Breakout Tracks:
Military/Veteran in AZ
Children, Youth & Families
Basic Needs, Benefits & Beyond
Legal & Vet Courts
Veterans in the Workforce
Clinical Practice & Skills
Faith & Spirituality





Thanks to the support of our **Symposium sponsors**, we were able to provide scholarships to **over 60 participants** who would not otherwise have been able to attend the event or who traveled from other parts of the state to attend.

“I want to say THANK YOU for all that your team did to make the symposium last week so awesome! This was my first year to attend and I was totally blown away by it all! **The amount of knowledge I walked away with and the number of contacts I now have is beyond belief!**

I've returned armed and **ready to assist anyone** that comes in my path that says they're a service member, vet or family member!

Again, kudos to all involved! I'm sure this was labor intensive, but the hard work and dedication to the cause truly paid off! Also, **I was able to obtain a scholarship, so I thank all those that made my attendance possible!**

Please keep doing great things for our vets, they deserve it!!!”



40 military, government and community organizations exhibited at the Symposium, with time during breaks and lunch for networking and information sharing.

“I am armed with new tools for my toolbox and I'm ready to be part of the change!”



*“I've added several **new resources** to work closely with and share experiences.”*



There were great **opportunities for interaction** throughout the event, including an amazing display of military memorabilia and a breakout session focused on the military lifecycle.

*“Thank you so much for all of your hard work and efforts coordinating this. **It was a privilege to be a part of this program.** Keep up the great work!!.”*

Attendee surveys **rated the Symposium at 4.74/5.0** and **99%** indicated they would attend a similar event in the future and would recommend the Symposium to their colleagues.



Special thanks to our Symposium planning team and partners!

SYMPOSIUM PLANNING PARTNERS



Join us again next year for the **8th annual Statewide Symposium!**

April 19 & 20, 2017