

community impact

By Kim Tarnopolski & Stephanie Millner

A WOUNDED WARRIOR *Finds His Wings*

CAN YOU IMAGINE BEING A MEDIC IN AN ACTIVE WAR ZONE? IN 2002, DESERT VISTA GRAD ANTHONY "DOC" AMEEN, JOINED THE US NAVY AS A HOSPITAL CORPSMAN. IT WAS HIS JOB TO SERVE ALONGSIDE A MARINE CORPS UNIT TO CARE FOR INJURED SOLDIERS.

In 2008, Anthony's unit was deployed to Afghanistan to fight the Taliban. While setting up for an ambush, all hell broke loose and IEDs and mortars started going off. Doc was called to help save a Marine's life who had sat on an IED. Without considering the danger, he ran to help. After a loud explosion and landing flat on his back, Doc saw his mangled foot and felt the pain.

Doc had stepped on an IED and was now the one who needed saving. He lost the lower half of his left leg and needed reconstructive surgery to his left hand and fingers. Countless operations were performed to save his right leg, along with mental and emotional suffering from post-traumatic stress. "I was very fortunate to live," reflected Doc.

What came next was a daunting journey he did not expect. Doc had to navigate the rough terrain of recovery all the while trying to secure the financial and medical benefits due to him through our government agencies. It was a road filled with a great deal of struggle. This experience was Doc's driving force behind creating Wings for Warriors.

To date, Wings for Warriors has served over 3,800 veterans providing critical health care, financial benefits, and counseling

for active duty and civilian military personnel. They also provide travel assistance to family members during the recovery process. The nonprofit's most recent endeavor is to support military families buying, selling, or refinancing their home. The realtor pledges back a portion of their commission.

Recently, Wings for Warriors received a heartfelt donation from the Ahwatukee members of 100+ Women Who Care Valley of the Sun. Ahwatukee resident Christie Ellis delivered \$11,200 to Wings for Warriors on behalf of their members.

"We want the community to know they can rely on Wings for Warriors to walk veterans through the process of securing the benefits they deserve. It's an honor to have the support of the local community," stated Doc.

www.wingsforwarriors.org
www.100wvcvalleyofthesun.org



100+ Women Who Care's next giving circle is on November 6 at 6:30 pm, Foothills Golf Club. Guests are welcome.



Anthony Ameen's Purple Heart ceremony, recognition of his tremendous sacrifice for our nation and fellow soldiers. Pinning conducted by James F. Amos, former United States Marine Corps officer who served as the 35th Commandant.



American Express employees helping with hands-on volunteerism.



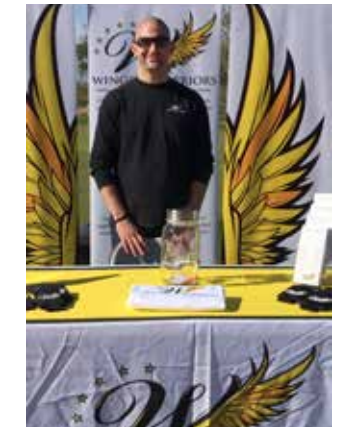
Doc Ameen with "The Blue Dude."



Machine Gunners: Eddie O'Hara, Doc Ameen, and Grant Neal.



2nd Battalion 7th Marines Fox Company 3rd Platoon.



Wings for Warriors at the annual Chandler Rotary Club Golf Tournament.



Doc Ameen with Marines of 2nd Battalion 7th Marines Fox Company.



Donation presentation to Wings for Warriors. From left to right: Stephanie Millner, Anthony Ameen, Christie Ellis and Kim Tarnopolski.



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