

## Veterans of Foreign Wars District 10 Department of Arizona



**For Immediate Release**

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### **Coolidge resident, Ronnie Smith being inducted into the Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame!**

**Casa Grande, AZ—September 4<sup>th</sup>**, VFW District 10 has a rich history in Pinal County, but over the last year their members have really made an impact, and this has been seen not just locally but they have even made an impact across the State.

Ronnie Smith has been an advocate for Veterans in the Pinal County area since 2009. He took up the task of working with others to establish a Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Chapter for the area in 2011. Ronnie has been a Veterans Service Officer for the DAV Chapter and assists over 200 Veterans each year in filing service-connected disability claims. As a commander, he has led by example, never asking anyone to do anything he has not done himself. "That's when you feel like you've got boots to the ground." He is very active with all the moving parts of the Chapter, Service Officer, Fundraising, Outreach Events, and Veterans Assistance. He is a member of the DAV, VFW, Marine Corps League, Vietnam Veterans of America, and Third Reconnaissance Association.

Ronnie approached the City of Coolidge to negotiate a lease on two different run-down vacant buildings. He spent a lot of his time convincing and coordinating with carpenters, roofers, cement workers, heating/cooling specialists, and many DAV members in the renovation of the building for the new DAV Chapter 36 home! They outgrew the first building and moved on to a new, larger building that would better address the needs of the Veteran community. The second renovation took about two years to complete. Once the Chapter moved to the new facility the work began on making the former building the DAV Veterans Museum that is open to all to visit and see different types of military items. Visitors from all around the area and different states have gone to the museum. The museum is a great addition to the community!

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He is involved with the local area Veteran organizations; American Legion, VFW, Honoring/Hiring/ Helping Our Heroes of Pinal County (HOHP), Marine Corps League, and the Coolidge High School MCJROTC. Ronnie also participates on the committees for the planning of Memorial Day, Veterans Day, Pinal County Veterans Stand Down and Wreaths Across America. He does not hesitate to help the other Veteran organizations with whatever is needed for their events. Ronnie works with other Veteran organizations to collaborate on services for a Veteran in need when cost or other support services are needed. The organizations also work together to do two dinners/family fun days for the Arizona National Guard of which Ronnie works to coordinate with DAV members to participate in the event.

In 2017, Ronnie worked to resolve a problem for Veterans in a neighboring City of Eloy, to obtain a van so that Veterans from that community could get to and from medical appointments and presented a check to help kickstart a gas/maintenance.

In 2019, Ronnie started a medical equipment program to keep things on hand for Veterans in need and created a DAV Auxiliary who assists the Chapter and the community.

### **His personal awards include:**

2022 Citizen of the Year, Coolidge Chamber of Commerce, 2019 Chester Puller Award, from 3rd Reconnaissance Association as "Outstanding Recon Marine of the Year" for volunteer hours working with Veterans each year, 2017 Coolidge Nonprofit of the Year, Coolidge Chamber of Commerce, 2017 Grand Marshall, Coolidge Veterans Day Parade, 2016 Certificate of Appreciation from the DAV Department of Arizona for dedication to Veterans and their families, 2016 Arizona DAV Commander of the Year, 1993 Certificate of Appreciation/United States Dept of Agriculture "for his generous contribution of time and labor towards the 3 year development of the Prescott National Forest Recreational Area.", 1993 National Award/United States Dept of Agriculture for the development of 80 acre riding area with 12 miles of trail now named the Bryant Park Recreational Area in honor of Michael Bryant/US Army Veteran, 1985 National Award/United States Dept of Agriculture for the Round Valley Riparian Area

The Veterans of Foreign Wars strives to do good things for deserving people - our veterans, their families, and our community. From local grassroots ideas to national influence, we work every

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day to make a difference. It's our strength as an organization. And, with each individual membership, we only grow stronger.

For more information, visit the official website at: **[www.vfwazdist10.org](http://www.vfwazdist10.org)**.

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