



## *Helping Homeless Veterans*

For Immediate Release

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### **Homeless Valley Veterans Receive a “Hand-Up” at 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Arizona StandDown 3-Day Event at the Veterans Memorial Coliseum Connecting At-Risk Veterans with Services**

More than 1,100 homeless and at-risk military veterans are expected to receive temporary haven and assistance during the 2012 Arizona StandDown, a three-day event beginning Friday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> through Sunday morning, February 5<sup>th</sup> at the Veterans Memorial Coliseum in Phoenix.

StandDown is a military term that refers to a brief period of time for a soldier to leave an active combat area, to rest and regain strength before returning to battle. The Arizona StandDown seeks to offer a hand up to former members of the U.S. Armed Forces in the Valley who now battle with homelessness and life on the streets. The event’s goals are to increase the community’s awareness of the plight of the homeless American veteran. A variety of social service providers are brought together to advise and assist veterans on reintegrating back into our communities via housing and support services. The event includes: a robust Municipal and Superior Court System, full service Motor Vehicle Division office on-site, Social Security Administration office, a myriad services housing programs, medical clinic, and other wellness services including acupuncture and massage.

The event will begin at 7:45 a.m. on Friday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>, with a welcome from Phoenix Mayor Greg Stanton (confirmed), AZ Department Directors Col. Strickland, Traylor and Carter, VA Health Care System Interim Director Robbins and other elected officials and guests (invited).

- Who:** As many as 1,100 homeless and at-risk military veterans are expected during the 3-day event. Door opening welcome featuring Phoenix Mayor Greg Stanton and invited guests will occur at 7:45 a.m. on Friday morning. Elected officials are invited to give back during mealtimes by serving StandDown participants at 12pm lunch and a 5pm dinner service later that day. Media is invited and there will be opportunities for interviews with homeless or at-risk veterans.
- What:** 2012 Arizona StandDown, a 3-day event benefitting homeless and at-risk military veterans.
- Where:** Veterans Memorial Coliseum – 1826 W. McDowell Road in Phoenix – North Exhibit Hall. Enter 17<sup>th</sup> Ave off McDowell Road, park north of the Coliseum and enter through the down staircase. Please check in at volunteer registration table.
- When:** A brief 15-minute StandDown welcome will be held on Friday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:45 am. Elected official and media opportunities to engage with StandDown participants will be during lunch at 12 p.m. and dinner at 5 p.m. on Friday
- Why:** To provide rest and recuperation for homeless veterans and connect them with housing and services to regain independence.

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*Arizona StandDown is a community collaboration of:*



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AZCEH provides limited fiduciary services for the Arizona Veterans StandDown Coalition, an unincorporated association of 30+ member agencies. For more information about the Arizona Coalition to End Homelessness, visit [www.azceh.org](http://www.azceh.org). AZCEH is a 501(c)(3), Non-Profit Tax ID #: 86-0909029

For more information about Arizona StandDown, please visit our website at [www.arizonastanddown.org](http://www.arizonastanddown.org) or find us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/azstanddown](http://www.facebook.com/azstanddown)