



Highlighted Volunteer – 55+ Veterans Group

The Chino Hills 55+ Veterans Group has been selected as the City’s Highlighted Volunteers. This group is made up of veterans who served in the U.S. Armed Forces or are a widow/widower of a veteran. The 55+ Club is a local non-profit organization.

The Veterans Group was formed in 2016 thanks to the instrumental involvement of former member and Chino Hills resident Brett Benson, who sadly passed away in July 2020. Giving back to the community remains the primary goal of the Veterans Group, which has such a great heart for Chino Hills, especially for those who are in service or have served.

“Most of our members lived in Chino Hills before it became a City,” said current member George DeFrank. “Volunteering provides an opportunity for us to help our City continue to be a great place to live and raise a family. It’s also a great way

to help others, directly and indirectly, make new friends, and inspire others to join the effort.”

Since their founding year, they have devoted both time and money back into the community. Early volunteering opportunities for the group involved participating in community events like the Chino Hills Community Foundation Wine Walk, Home Tour, and Concert Series. They also participate in the Chino Valley Fire Department’s Make a Child Smile program and in various high school education programs. Most recently, they donated to the local chapter of the Habitat for Humanity to help fund the construction of two homes for veterans and their families in Chino Hills.

Among their many achievements, they are most proud of their contribution of the Military Service Monument to the community. From vision to fruition, the Veterans Group helped the Chino Hills 55+ Club by

donating \$55,000 dollars towards the construction of the monument. This tremendous donation eventually led to the erection of the monument at the Chino Hills Community Center in January 2020, completing their dream to create a place of solitude and a perpetual tribute dedicated to all who have served or are currently serving in the U.S. Armed Forces. In addition, the Veterans Group continued their fundraising efforts to raise nearly \$11,000 to fund the construction of a flagpole adjacent to the monument. The flagpole is set to be dedicated at the Salute to Service Ceremony on Wednesday, November 10, 2021.

The 55+ Veterans Group meets quarterly on the first Wednesday of the month at the Chino Hills Community Center to review events and programs of interest to veterans and the Chino Hills community. If you are interested in joining, please visit their website at www.chinohills55plusclub.org.