



TUCSON FISHER HOUSE PROJECT UPDATE

10-21-2018

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Greetings SONS!

On behalf of the CHAMP Foundation Board of Directors and the **Southern Arizona VA Health Care System** - Fisher House Manager, I want to thank you for your continued support for the Tucson Fisher House SONS Project.

I would like to update you on the actual project. As you are aware, this project originated as part of my Past Detachment Commanders 2017-2018 Project, Tucson Fisher House, Part II. The original plan was to create a "Reflection Pool", for use by those veterans' family members staying at the house, creating a place for those family members to sit and reflect on their loved one's current medical situation. The plan was put into action and a private contractor from Sierra Vista was identified whom was willing to construct the project. A campaign for funds had begun and you stepped up with your gracious donations from your Squadrons.

The SAVAHCS Fisher House is excited that we have chosen them as a recipient to create an area of rest and relaxation for the families during a very difficult time in their lives and the lives of their inpatient Veteran. I have been actively involved in meeting, not only with Fisher House manager Kelly Laurich, but with the Chief of Facilities Management and his team. During our first few meetings it had been decided that our original plan for a reflection pool might not be the most suitable project. A substantial reason is that in living in a desert climate, conserving water is a high priority for the VA. It was during these meetings that we came up with a different idea. We all felt this new project idea would be greatly beneficial and that could be expanded upon, in distinct future phases, creating more opportunities of enjoyment for our Fisher House families.

As you know the house is located directly on the SAVAHCS campus on South 6th Avenue, which is an urban area. It was decided that we could create an outdoor environment that would be secluded and offer a safe and comfortable space for the families to enjoy. This environment would include a built-in outside fireplace with comfortable seating that would be enclosed by dividers. This fireplace will have the option of producing heat in the cooler months or just providing the aesthetic effect during the summer months. The dividers would include planters, that would not only be filled with beautiful green plants but also leave an area for the guests to take care of a homegrown vegetable garden or flowers of their choice. Eventually the area would be covered with a sunshade, which would protect the garden and increase the enjoyment of the area year-round. This also provides us with future opportunities to meet those families staying at the SAVAHCS Fisher House, we could bring various seasonal plants and spend time gardening or just drinking coffee and visiting in front of the fireplace.



**C.H.A.M.P. Foundation
Charities Helping American Military Patriots
PO Box 750, Cortaro AZ 85652-0750**

The SAVAHCS team is currently developing the drawings, estimating the cost, and developing a time line as to when the project can be completed. As I have been an active participant in this process I can assure you they are working to complete this project in a timely manner. I am in direct contact with Kelly, and she is keeping me updated on the progress weekly.

Again, the CHAMP Foundation appreciates your support and dedication to make this project a reality. Once the project is completed, you will receive an invitation to attend a dedication ceremony and a dedication plaque will be installed as a reminder for all to see that the SONS of The American Legion, Detachment of Arizona support our veterans and that we appreciate their sacrifice and service to our country.

Squadron CMDR. Chris Balsley

SONS of The American Legion, Squadron 91
922 N. Alma School Rd., Chandler AZ 85224-3665
Date Received: 06-23-2018 Cash Contribution: \$4001.00 / Check # 1749

Squadron CMDR. Joe Miller

SONS of The American Legion, Squadron 66
1560 W. DUVAL MINE RD.
GREEN VALLEY AZ 85614
Date Received: 06-23-2018 Cash Contribution: \$1000.00 / CHECK #1504

Squadron CMDR. Noah McMullen

SONS of The American Legion, Squadron 62
9847 West Desert Cove, Peoria AZ 85345
Date Received: 06-23-2018 Cash Contribution: \$1000.00 / Check # 2543

Squadron CMDR. Keith Birkemeyer

SONS of The American Legion Squadron 107
20001 N Cave Creek Rd, Phoenix, AZ 85024
Date Received: 06-23-2018 Cash Contribution: \$1000.00 / Check # 1286

Squadron CMDR. Phillip Kramer

SONS of The American Legion Squadron 26
505 W 2nd Ave, Mesa AZ 85210
Date Received: 06-23-2018 Cash Contribution: \$500.00 / Check # 2350

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matt Griffis".

M. Griffis / President CHAMP Foundation