

LETTERS

A wartime injury inspired me to give back

In 2008, I was serving as a hospital corpsman in Helmand Province, Afghanistan when my unit came under attack. As I rushed to help an injured Marine, I stepped on an IED. And in that split second, my life changed. My left foot was amputated at a military hospital in Afghanistan before I was flown to Germany and ultimately to the Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio, Texas.

While I received medical care, my family lived nearly a thousand miles away and the airline flights quickly piled up. I was lucky. A local church raised more than \$25,000 for what they called "Wings for Anthony" to make sure my parents could be by my side while I underwent more than 30 surgeries and two and a half years of intense physical therapy.

My family was there with me as I grew

stronger, stood up on my own, and eventually walked out of the hospital on my new prosthetic leg.

That experience taught me that for injured veterans, recovering from the trauma of war requires a lot more than surgeries, doctor's appointments, and physical therapy.

It also means reconnecting with the family members who can help us heal. And it inspired me to help other veterans that were struggling to navigate their own recovery.

Less than three years after that terrible day in Afghanistan, I founded Wings for Warriors, an Arizona-based nonprofit to help families to be at their loved ones' sides, as well as to support healthcare benefits and financial counseling.

The need was clear. And I brought the passion and the energy for helping veterans. But it turned out that wasn't enough. We needed some help to connect with veterans and families, find funders, and build partnerships with hospitals

and communities.

Government downsizing and budget cuts are nothing new. Successful nonprofits innovate so they can do more with less. The internet is helping us do that.

That's why we've been so happy to work with companies like Google, which gave us an advertising grant to help put our organization on the map. Internet advertising may not sound like much, but it has enabled us to reach millions of people across the country and connect with donors, sponsors and volunteers.

A high school senior nearly 2,500 miles away from Arizona raised \$3,700 for our organization, and her school has decided to continue her work. She first found and researched our organization through a simple online search.

Google provided nearly \$2.9 billion in economic activity for local businesses, publishers and nonprofits. Tens of thousands of Arizona businesses and nonprofits depend on the internet to find

customers or volunteers and collaborate with partners.

As I struggled through my own long recovery, I never imagined that I would have the opportunity to helping hand to those who have sacrificed so much for our nation. To date, we have served more than 2,500 wounded warriors and 300 military families.

The secret to our success at Wings for Warriors has been the incredible staff, volunteers, veterans and families that we get to work with every day. But the secret to finding and funding all these efforts has been getting online.


When I talk to entrepreneurs, activists, and students across Arizona about what it takes to succeed I tell them the same thing. It's time for our businesses, nonprofit organizations, and schools in Arizona to get online and connect to the world. In today's digital world we simply can't afford to wait.

Information: wingsforwarriors.org.

-Anthony Ameen


Share Your Thoughts: Send your letters on local issues to: pmaryniak@ahwatukee.com

Something to Smile About!



Ironwood Dental Center

- General Dentistry
- Orthodontics - Invisalign
- Teeth Whitening - Zoom
- Implants
- Crown / Bridgework
- Dentures
- Oral Surgery / Extractions



Harvey Arnce, D.D.S.

Implant
\$1,200

Coupon must be presented to receive discount. Offers may not be combined. Exp. 7-31-17.

Exam & X-rays
\$19

Coupon must be presented to receive discount. Offers may not be combined. Exp. 7-31-17.

Crowns
\$700

Coupon must be presented to receive discount. Offers may not be combined. Exp. 7-31-17.

480.704.0701

15425 S. 40th Pl., Phoenix, 85044
40th St. & Chandler Blvd.

www.ironwooddentalcenter.com

Here comes the sun!

Come see why we were voted Ahwatukee's Best!

- Glasses and Sunglasses
- Contact Lenses
- Comprehensive Eye Exams
- Corneal Refractive Therapy
- Vision Therapy



EYE PRIORITY, PC
Complete Vision Care for All Ages Since 1991

Dr. Kelly de Simone Dr. Monica Sawitzke

480-893-2300 www.eyepriority.com

15725 S. 46th St., #112, Phoenix, 85048



Desert Home Cleaning Service, Inc.

CARPET & UPHOLSTERY CLEANING SPECIALISTS

- OWNER OPERATED
- 33 YEARS EXPERIENCE
- TRUCK MOUNTED EQUIPMENT

CARPET CLEANING SPECIAL

5 Rooms Only \$80

Combined living area and/or area over 300 sq.ft. Considered separate rooms

NO HIDDEN CHARGES

480.759.3361

Find Any Hidden Charges and the Cleaning is FREE!

Protector and deodorizer available



LEGEND CLEANERS
Family • Tradition • Quality

FREE 24 hr Drop Off Service & Express Bags for All Customers!

New Customer Special!
50% OFF Your First Drop-Off!

Same Day Service Dry Cleaning or Laundry ~ In by 11, Out by 5 at No Additional Charge!

460-LEGEND (5343)
7am-7pm, Mon-Sat • Closed Sunday

2 Convenient Locations to Serve You

1442 E. Chandler Blvd., #113 Foothills (Behind Chevron) 3902 E. Chandler Blvd. West of KFC

Kathy's Alterations
Local Business Since 1980



Fittings by appointment at
3902 E. Chandler Blvd.
480.704.5887
kathysalterations.biz

Specializing in **BRIDAL & FORMAL WEAR**