

HONORING ALL WHO SERVED

A dramatic sunset scene with silhouettes of people on a hill. In the foreground, a young girl and a boy hold up a small American flag. In the middle ground, a group of people is climbing a rocky slope, with one person helping another up. In the background, a person in a wheelchair is being assisted by another person, and a man stands nearby holding a flag. The sky is filled with vibrant orange and yellow clouds.

GILBERT
VETERANS
DAY CELEBRATION

Town of Gilbert

Gilbert Regional Park • 3005 E Queen Creek Rd • Gilbert, AZ 85298

November 05, 2020

6:00pm Patriotic Music 6:30pm Ceremony Begins



Pre-Registration Required to Attend
GILBERTAZ.GOV/VETERANSDAY



Nikki Stratton is the granddaughter of Donald Stratton (1922-2020), one of the last three Survivors of the iconic USS Arizona (BB39). In February, 2020, following the funeral of her grandfather, Nikki was asked by the (Acting) Secretary of the Navy to be the "Ship's Sponsor" of the newly designated USS Arizona Fast Attack Submarine.

Nikki, a Quality Assurance Manager who studied at Washington State University and currently lives in Denver Colorado. Raised with a Patriot's Heart, Nikki tells us, this was a chance to secure his (Donald Stratton) legacy and the legacy of the 1,177 men who perish aboard the Arizona on December 7, 1941. "The Day which will live in Infamy"

In February of 2020, after my grandfather's funeral, I was asked to become the Sponsor of the newest generation nuclear sub, to be named USS Arizona (SSN 803) by the Acting Secretary of the Navy Thomas Modly. It was a bittersweet moment for me, due to the heavy absence of my grandfather, but it was also a chance to secure his legacy and the legacy of the 1,177 men who perish aboard December 7, 1941. The chance to bring history back into light with a new generation of sailors was something I just couldn't pass up. I am deeply honored by being named sponsor, and cannot wait to ensure a lasting legacy, hope for the future, and bridge to the past with this new submarine with the help of the incredible people of Gilbert Arizona.

While my grandfather is no longer here, his strength and perseverance despite improbable odds will ensure the legacy of both past and present version of the USS Arizona.

He was stationed on the Arizona during the attack on Pearl Harbor and was burned over 65% of his body. He was saved by a sailor named Joe George, along with 5 other men. He spent over a year recovering and decided he was ready to re-enter WWII as a sailor once more. He went through bootcamp a second time (yep you read that right) and was put on the USS Stack and was involved in four additional battles. He started and finished the war at sea. He passed away at home in his sleep surrounded by his wife of 70 years and son, February 15, 2020. And he was my hero.

Nikki Stratton

Ship Sponsor

USS Arizona SSN 803



Town of Gilbert

Veterans Day Celebration

Patriotic Music 6pm-6:30pm	Williams Field High School Symphonic Band Led by Mr. Bob Edgar, Director
Welcome – 6:30pm	Danielle Skranak Disabled Army Veteran & Miss Gilbert 2020
Parade and Post the Colors	Color Guards
National Anthem	Campo Verde HS Advanced Vocal Ensemble Led by Mr. Matthew Flora
Pledge of Allegiance	Dave Rosenfeld, US Army (Ret.)
Rifle Demonstartion	Higley Unified School District AFJROTC
Recognition of Veterans	Veterans, please stand as your service song is played
Introduce Council and Dignitaries	Danielle Skranak Disabled Army Veteran & Miss Gilbert 2020
Introduce Mayor Scott Anderson	Danielle Skranak Disabled Army Veteran & Miss Gilbert 2020
Remarks and Presentation of Veterans Day Proclamation	The Honorable Mayor Scott Anderson
Introduce Keynote Speaker	Bill Spence, US Navy (Ret.)
Keynote Speaker	Nikki Stratton
Retire the Colors & Taps	HUSD JROTC & Vincent Garcia
Conclusion – Thanks	Danielle Skranak Disabled Army Veteran & Miss Gilbert 2020
Pipes and Drums	Gilbert Fire Department Ceremonial Team

Presented By:



GILBERT MEMORIAL PARK
CEMETERY | FUNERAL HOME by *Sunker Family*

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Thank You to Our Food Sponsors

Nothing Bundt Cakes	Joe's Real BBQ	Flancer's Restaurant
Texas Roadhouse	Panda Libre	Sal's Gilbert Pizza
Dragon Wok Fine Chinese Restaurant		

Thank You to Our Event Participants

Color/Honor Guards

American Legion Post 39	Korean War Veterans
Higley Unified School District AFJROTC	Gilbert Fire Department Honor Guard

Information Tables

American Legion Post 39	Gilbert Memorial Park
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Planning Committee

Phil Bobadilla	Ernie Lane	Michelle Reese	Jess Maney	Jim Schorie
Lew Bradley	Mike Leppert	Pamela Rinesmith	Chris Marini	Karl Kohlhoff
Chris Ellis	Jim Lykins	Cliff Jenkins	Peyton Parker	Les Presmyk
Josh Bring	Dave Rosenfeld	Robert Elder	Jeff Carmichael	