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To: All Media, for immediate release:

Community support for the families of fallen heroes makes big difference

Phoenix -- Wednesday's barbeque benefit in response to the deaths of police officer Daryl Raetz and firefighter Bradley Harper raised more than \$100,000 that will go directly to the families of the fallen heroes. The event, organized by community leaders working with Phoenix's police and firefighter unions made that difference just three days after Harper and Raetz died in the line of duty.

"We are all deeply moved by the outpouring of support from the community," said Joe Clure, President of the Phoenix Law Enforcement Association. "The people of Phoenix have our back and knowing that means everything."

"To surround these families with support is what's needed right now," said Pete Gorraiz, President of the United Phoenix Firefighters. "This benefit did that and we thank the people of Phoenix from the bottom of our hearts."

"The people of Phoenix know that every day when first responders say goodbye to their families they're putting themselves in harm's way for us," said Ann Malone, former co-chair of Citizens for Phoenix, the city's umbrella organization of neighborhood groups and one of the event coordinators. "There's no question, we have to be there for those grieving now and our hearts go out to them."

With assistance from Phoenix Mayor Greg Stanton, community leaders, and generous contributions of food, beverages, and equipment from businesses around the Valley ensured that every penny raised at the door will go directly to the families. Special thanks is owed to the Sheraton Crescent at I-17 and Dunlap. They made their space available, helped so generously in the set-up, and even turned their restaurant kitchens into hamburger and hotdog grills when community turnout exceeded all expectations. We also want to thank KNIX, KFYL and their six "sister" radio stations for broadcasting live for more than seven hours and standing outside the Sheraton to collect donations from their listeners. Without the support of Valley media, this event would not have been so successful.

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