



## NEWS RELEASE

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CONTACT: **Matthew Benson**

**602-570-7493**

[mbenson@veridus.com](mailto:mbenson@veridus.com)

### **Sharon Knutson-Felix announces retirement after 14 dedicated years leading 100 Club of Arizona**

*Angela Harrolle takes helm of charity assisting families of firefighters, public safety officers*

The 100 Club of Arizona today announced that its longtime Executive Director, Sharon Knutson-Felix, has retired after serving as the tireless leader of the 100 Club since 2001.

Steve Horrell, President of the Board of Directors of the 100 Club, described Sharon as “the heart and soul of the 100 Club - someone who contributed incredible time, passion, and energy to helping the families of our public safety heroes in their time of dire need.” Horrell also credited Sharon’s family for their sacrifices and support of the mission of the 100 Club. Sharon is a widow of DPS Officer Doug Knutson, who was killed in the line of duty in 1998.

“She channeled her grief by helping others and making the 100 Club what it is today,” Horrell said, “and we all owe her our sincerest gratitude.”

Sharon was instrumental in the group building its membership and donor base, and growing in its ability to provide financial and other assistance to the families of public safety officers and firefighters who are seriously injured or killed in the line of duty. In 2013, Sharon led the 100 Club during its time of greatest challenge and triumph in responding to the Yarnell Hill tragedy. The 100 Club raised and provided more than \$3.5 million in benefits to the families of the 19 fallen wildland firefighters.

“It was the greatest honor to support these families during one of Arizona’s darkest days,” Sharon wrote to the 100 Club Board of Directors in announcing her retirement. “I leave with a full heart. I am looking forward to the next challenge God has in store for me. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for allowing me to represent the 100 Club during some of its most rewarding and challenging days.”

The 100 Club also announced that Angela Harrolle has been named Chief Executive Officer, replacing Sharon, in what will be a seamless transition. Like Sharon, Angela’s husband was a DPS Officer who was

killed in the line of duty during a rescue mission in 2008. Angela herself served as a Special Agent and Special Investigator with the U.S. State Department. She also served on the staff of the 100 Club and as a longtime volunteer providing vital assistance to the families of our public safety members, including those firefighters lost near Yarnell.

“It is truly a blessing to have this opportunity to lead the 100 Club of Arizona in helping families of fallen or injured firefighters and public safety officers during their time of need,” said Angela. “Just as the 100 Club was there for me and my children after the death of my husband, DPS Officer Bruce Harrolle, we are committed to making certain the 100 Club is there so that no family must face that experience alone. I want to commend Sharon on her incredible accomplishments and thank her for serving as a mentor to me over many years. We also have an excellent staff that works night and day to provide dedicated service to the public safety community.”

“Angela is extremely qualified to lead the 100 Club, and we are fortunate to have her lead us forward. She has walked in the shoes of the families that have lost their loved ones, and she knows first-hand the special duty of the 100 Club in ‘standing behind the men and women who stand behind the badge,’” said Horrell. “The 100 Club is an organization that wishes it did not have to exist. But the families of fallen or seriously injured firefighters and police officers are glad we are there.”

The 100 Club is a 501(c)(3) philanthropic group and supports more than 50,000 firefighters, public safety officers, first responders, and their families throughout the State of Arizona. Benefits and support are also extended to officers and firefighters who are called to active military duty while still employed by a qualified public safety agency.

Since being incorporated in 1968, the 100 Club of Arizona has distributed more than \$14 million to benefit Arizona firefighters, police officers, first responders, and their families.

We encourage you to learn more at our website: [www.100club.org](http://www.100club.org) .

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