American Airlines Newsroom

NEWS RELEASE

“People are my passion:” a dedication to serving our nation’s heroes

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Earlier this month at Phoenix’s Sky Harbor International Airport (PHX), American Airlines team members, PHX airport leaders and community partners stood side by side to dedicate gates A1 and A3 to U.S. military veterans and those actively serving our nation.

American’s new “honor gates” at PHX highlight the bravery and sacrifice of our military men and women, including American Customer Service Manager Tracy Dean Curtis, who retired from the U.S. Air Force after 24 years of service.

Tracy spoke during the dedication on behalf of both the airline and our nation’s military veterans.

“People are my passion,” Tracy said. “Whether in the Air Force or with my American Airlines family, my job as a leader is to help others.”

After retiring as a master sergeant, Tracy continues to be an advocate for veterans who are adjusting to civilian life. Today, he actively seeks ways to volunteer and serve his community, country and those in his care. When he heard about American’s new PHX honor gates, he jumped at the opportunity to assist.

While honor gates are a great way to express gratitude to the brave men and women that protect our freedoms, Tracy believes they serve another purpose — to inspire those in the community to volunteer and encourage veterans to share their stories.

“A former commander of mine — Lieutenant Colonel Robert P. MaGee — taught me that everyone has a story,” he

said. “We have to take the time to listen. When I walk through the terminals and see men and women in uniform, I make a point to stop and thank them for their service. But not all heroes are in uniform. Many work with us day after day at the airport.”

American has a long history of supporting our nation’s heroes and their families. With more than 7,000 team members who are veterans or currently serving, the airline places a strong emphasis on military and veterans initiatives through partnerships with the Gary Sinise Foundation, the George W. Bush Institute and other organizations.

Members of American’s Virtual Employee Business Resource Group (VEBRG) and local PHX leaders collaborated on the effort to have these gates created at PHX. VEBRG hopes to have more created across American’s hub airports.

“I am proud to be a part of the American Airlines family and how they support our nation’s heroes,” Tracy said. “I take pride in wearing the American Airlines emblem over my heart, just as I took pride wearing the U.S. Air Force over my heart for over 24 years.”

American Customer Service Manager Tracy Dean Curtis (left) passes the ceremonial ribbon cutting scissors to Mark Quigley (center), president of American’s Virtual Employee Business Resource Group, during a dedication ceremony for PHX’s new honor gates.