

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Aug. 3, 2016
CONTACT: Kimberly Larson, 623-930-3527

GLENDALE SUMMER BAND'S 50TH SEASON ONE TO BE REMEMBERED *State's Longest Running Community Band Held Memorable Celebratory Summer Series*

GLENDALE, Ariz. – The Glendale Summer Band struck the right chord this year, celebrating its 50th anniversary season in style, with a phenomenal original song, fan support and a festive celebration.

This band's milestone was marked by many special moments, including the 50th Anniversary Celebration Concert on June 23, which included dignitaries, former band members and special guests, and the debut of an original piece of music composed especially for the Glendale Summer Band by Andrew Balent, a composer from South Carolina who attended and conducted the song. In addition, the ceremony was highlighted by a dedication and renaming of the Murphy Park Amphitheatre, in honor of the late E. Lowell Rogers, who conducted the Summer Band for 22 years. During this ceremony, Mayor Weiers read special proclamations for both the Summer Band and John Faris, longtime band conductor succeeding Rogers for 19 years. On July 14, the proclamation named Faris "Music Director Emeritus" of the Glendale Summer Band for his years of dedication and leadership.

This year's summer concert series also hit a high note with higher than average attendance. About 4,000 people attended the eight concerts with extra-large crowds at the popular Patriotic Concert, and the Anniversary Concert. In addition, 248 musicians participated throughout the season, with ages ranging from high-school teens to retirees in their seventies. Many participants are teachers that use the summer musical performances to earn continuing education credit.

For the first time in many years, the Glendale Summer Band performed a concert in a locale outside the downtown area this season, as well. The band was invited to perform for Arrowhead Towne Center's summer concert series on June 18.

Summer Band/Add 1.1.1

“Glendale has a very special community tradition in the Glendale Summer Band. 50 years of longevity is a remarkable achievement and that accomplishment is the result of the city of Glendale’s support, fine dedicated conductors and literally thousands of passionate volunteer musicians over the years who feel the excitement in performing for Glendale’s citizens and band fans,” said Special Events Division Manager Martin Dickey. “We are lucky, indeed, to have this combination musical professionals, performers, supporters and fans.”

The 2017 Summer Concert Series will be held Thursday evenings at 8 p.m. beginning June 1 through July 20.

For more information on Glendale’s events and festivals visit www.glendaleaz.com/events.

The Glendale Summer Band concert series was sponsored by the Glendale Civic Pride Ambassadors and the Glendale Rotary.

###