

Salute Gala Honors Women Veterans

You Are Cordially Invited To Salute Gala 2016

ARVets, a statewide nonprofit organization providing innovative programs and services that improve the lives of veterans and their families, is celebrating five years of service with an exciting benefit that gives back to those who served our country.

The annual gala "Salute" will be held on **Friday, November 4, 2016** at the Governor's Mansion. A VIP reception and silent auction will begin at 6:30p.m. A formal dinner and program will begin at 7p.m.

Jerry and Judy Jones are honorary event chairs and the event will be hosted by THV 11's **Craig O'Neill**.

Salute presents awards to organizations, businesses, and people who make a significant impact in the veteran community. The 2016 Salute honoree categories include:

- **Outstanding Female Veteran Award**
- **Outstanding Female Veteran Pioneer Award**
- **Outstanding Veteran Organization Award**
- **Outstanding Veteran Employer Award**
- **Military Family Legacy Award**
- **Outstanding Veteran Supporter Award**

Outstanding Female Veteran Pioneer Colonel (ret.) Anita Deason



Retired Arkansas Army National Guard Col. Anita Deason was inspired to join the military by the camaraderie she experienced during non-military employment as a young typist on Camp Robinson.

The sense of being a part of "something bigger than myself" led her to a career in the National Guard spanning 33 years. During her commission she worked for several years as a secretary to the general staff which entailed service as a congressional liaison.

Ms. Deason retired as a colonel during her final assignment as a human resources officer for the Arkansas National Guard. Shortly thereafter, friends recommended that she would be a great fit for a recent vacancy in the office of Senator John Boozman.

Ms. Deason now works on a variety of projects for the senator's office. She assists veterans with obtaining lost service medals, funeral and burial arrangements, and medical claims and appeals.

She also assists Sen. Boozman with legislation in regards to his position on the Senate's Veteran Affairs Committee. Her favorite responsibilities as a Veterans Affairs liaison are giving presentations on the American flag and participating in the Library of Congress Veterans History Project, which collects personal stories from America's war veterans.