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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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All-female construction crew

(Sept. 22) Glendale, AZ - Charlie Ellis, Founder and CEO of Operation Enduring Gratitude and governing board member for Western Maricopa Education Center (West-MEC) - a public career technical education district - is set to host an all-woman construction crew to lay concrete for a sidewalk and build a wheelchair ramp for a military veteran on Saturday, Oct. 3.

The crew of about ten women will build the ramp and sidewalk for Olivia, the widow of an Air Force veteran, at around 7:30 a.m. at her home in Phoenix.

Ellis's Operation Enduring Gratitude group has provided working sidewalks and wheelchair ramps to nearly 60 homes of veterans and veteran widows, like Olivia, since 2014.

The construction workers and students in this project include high school students at West-MEC, college students and industry professionals. Only this event will be all women, celebrating October as Breast Cancer Awareness Month and women in construction. He hopes the event can become an annual tradition on the first Saturday of October.

"We want to cast an image that women have a place in the construction industry, and it's a way to highlight West-MEC and our partnership with the construction program at ASU," Ellis said.

"With something like this, the industry can show students real-world application of the skills they learn in school."

Event details: Ellis and an all-woman construction crew will build a sidewalk and wheelchair ramp for community member

Location: 8129 West Roma Ave, Phoenix, AZ 85031

Time: 7:30 a.m.

Operation Enduring Gratitude's mission is to rebuild homes and lives for veterans and their families. For more information visit operationenduringgratitude.org.

About West-MEC:

West-MEC is a career technical education public school district that focuses solely on innovative career and technical education (CTE) programs that prepare students to enter the workforce and pursue continuing education. West-MEC CTE programs provide students opportunities to earn college credit and industry credentials. West-MEC serves more than 37,000 students from 48 high schools, across 3,800 square miles in the northern and western cities of the Phoenix Metropolitan area. West-MEC now also offers adult education programs. Visit www.west-mec.edu for more information about West-MEC's career-driven education opportunities or follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

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