

It is my privilege to nominate Peggy Thompson for the **PRIDE OF SAFFORD** award.

Peggy moved to Arizona for health reasons and arrived in Safford in 1945—becoming one of the early ‘movers and shakers’. She was instrumental in getting enough signatures to increase the Safford School Board to 5 members. Her influence ethnically integrated the Cub Scouts and the 4-H programs! She was the first female to obtain a degree in computer programming from EAC—after being advised not to enroll in a “man’s field”.

As she became involved in ARC, she started a small thrift store in the old Gila Valley Laundry. It grew too large for the facility and soon moved to Main Street (recently renamed as a part of the Graham County Rehabilitation Center.) Peggy was then a daily volunteer and received the STATE VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR from ARC.

She was appointed by the governor to the Council For Developmental Disabilities and for 6 years, traveled the state evaluating programs. Her influence was responsible for BLAKE and CPES programming in the Gila Valley. A battle was fought and won which allows a developmental disabled person to opt to move from the family home (where some had been badly abused).

Active in the American Legion and the VFW auxiliaries, she served in many positions, including chaplain of the VFW, and has received multiple awards for her dedication and service. She continues to join with other members every Wednesday to sew lap robes for veterans.

Peggy has been active in her church, teaching Sunday school and serving in the vestry.

In her own words, “don’t ever tell me I CAN’T DO SOMETHING”.