

**Arizona Veterans' Services Advisory Commission**  
1688 W. Adams Street, Phoenix, AZ 85007

**May 22, 2025**

**MINUTES**

**Advisory Commissioners Present**

Philip Cushman, Chair (in-person)  
Charles Byers, Vice Chair (virtual)  
Chris Gibbs, Commissioner (in-person)  
Kathy Gallowitz, Commissioner (virtual)  
Andrew Meshel, Commissioner (virtual)

**AZ Department of Veterans' Services**

Gerardo Ochoa, Deputy Director (in-person)  
Lupita Santellano, Executive Assistant (in-person)  
Gina Simon, Administrative Assistant (virtual)  
Cameron Farr, Administrator (in-person)  
Reghan Stuller, Northern Region Manager (in-person)  
Julia Gusse, Legislative Liaison (virtual)

**Absent**

Gene Crego, Commissioner  
Matthew Kenney, Commissioner

**Guests**

Honorable Judge Mitchell Kalauli, Lake Havasu City Municipal Court (in-person)  
Lee Fernwault, K12 Military Community Liaison, Arizona Department of Education (in-person)  
Rich Lettman, Mohave County Board of Supervisors (in person)  
Jim McCormick, Commander, Arizona VFW Department (in- person)  
Casey Ferrell, Director of Programs, Jerry Ambrose Veterans Council (in-person)

**Call to Order** -The Arizona Veterans' Services Advisory Commission (AVSAC) meeting, via Google Meets: <https://meet.google.com/jgq-vm-sc-uux>; Dial-in: (US) +1 475-222-5532 PIN: 275 244 224#. Chairman Cushman called the meeting to order at 10:03 am.

Chairman Cushman led the commission in the pledge of allegiance followed by guest introductions.

Remarks from Rich Lettman with the Mohave County Board of Supervisors.

Remarks from Jim McCormick, Commander of the Arizona VFW Department.

**Guest Presentations**

The Honorable Judge Mitchell Kalauli from the Lake Havasu City Municipal Court provided a presentation regarding Veteran treatment courts and the programs offered, as well as the Veteran resource team's effectiveness in Lake Havasu City. He also discussed the low recidivism rates in Veteran court, in Lake Havasu City.

Lee Fernwault, K-12 Military Community Liaison with the Arizona Department of Education provided a presentation regarding Arizona Purple Heart Schools. His Power Point presentation may be found [here](#).

Director of Programs, Casey Ferrell, provided a presentation regarding the Jerry Ambrose Veterans Council and the type of services they provide, such as transportation to medical and legal appointments

collaborate with the local prison to help build tiny homes, provide referrals and resources for veterans, and transitional housing. She also provided information regarding a VA inspection of their transitional housing building.

The full video recording of the presentations and the meeting may be found on YouTube: [Arizona Veterans' Services Advisory Commission Meeting Recording 5-22-2025](#)

### **Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Chairman Cushman called for a motion to approve the AVSAC meeting minutes from May 1, 2025. Vice Chair Byers motioned to approve the minutes. Commissioner Gallowitz second the motion. The Commission approved the minutes from May 1, 2025, unanimously with no objections.

### **Agency Announcements and Updates**

**Department Update** – This month, the Arizona Senate confirmed John Scott, as the new Director of the Arizona Department of Veterans' Services. Director Scott received a unanimous vote by the Senate for his confirmation, with nearly a dozen community members testifying in support for Director Scott's confirmation. As Director, his top priorities include addressing Veteran homelessness, delivering resources and support to rural and tribal communities, and traveling the state to highlight the accomplishments of Veterans and Veteran-serving organizations.

The department held a Veteran Benefits Counselor conference for continued training.

The Arizona Memorial Cemetery in Marana and Sierra Vista are going through an expansion.

The Home Depot with hundreds of volunteers and resources came to the Arizona State Veteran Home – Phoenix to update the facility.

**Legislative Update** – Julia Gusse provided a legislative Power Point presentation. See attached presentation, [here](#).

### **Old Business**

**Discussion and Possible Action to Establish a Fact Finding Committee re: The Implications of the Summer Heat on Veteran Housing and Homeless Veterans and their Families-** Chairman Cushman and the Commission agreed to table this topic until all commissioners have a chance to read the Governor's Heat Plan, provided by Director Scott.

**Update re: Commission Meeting Planning for July 10, 2025, in Flagstaff, AZ - Discussion and Possible Action** – The July 10, 2025, Advisory Commission meeting will be held at the Arizona State Veteran Home – Flagstaff, at 10:00 am. The commission will meet at 7:00 am for a Commander's Call at a local veteran service organization. Chairman Cushman suggested the commissioners book their hotel accommodations now. No other updates were provided.

**Advisory Commission Conflict of Interest Forms** – Chairman Cushman reminded all commissioners they must provide a conflict of interest form on an annual basis. The commission is currently missing

Commissioner Meshel's conflict of interest form.

**Community Discussion re: State Veteran Home in Mohave County** - The Arizona Department of Veterans' Services is currently focused on filing the Arizona State Veteran Home – Yuma, as well as admitting twenty veterans at the Arizona State Veteran Home – Flagstaff in order to have VA come in for the first initial survey. The department is not currently focused on opening a facility in Mohave until the Veteran Homes in Yuma is at full census and the Veteran Home in Flagstaff passes its VA survey and is at full census. Deputy Director Ochoa directed questions regarding the Mohave Veteran Home to Director Scott. Members of the Mohave County Community expressed their desires for the home to be built in either Kingman or Lake Havasu City. Deputy Director Ochoa reminded the community that building a Veteran Home takes time and there are many steps to consider, including the donation of land, VA application and approval, a feasibility study, etc.

### **New Business**

**Chair and Vice Chair Nominations and Votes** – Commissioner Gibbs nominated and motioned, Philip Cushman remain the Chair for the Commission. Chairman Cushman accepted the nomination. Commissioner Gallowitz second the motion. The commission unanimously voted for Philip Cushman to remain the Chair for the commission. Commissioner Gibbs nominated and motioned Vice Chairman Byers remain the Vice Chair for the Commission. Commissioner Gallowitz second the motion. The commission unanimously voted for Vice Chair Byers to remain the Vice Chair another year.

### **Commission Updates**

Chairman Cushman provided an outreach report found [here](#).  
Commissioner Gallowitz provided an outreach report found [here](#).  
Commissioner Gibbs did not have anything to report.  
Commissioner Byers provided an outreach report found [here](#).  
Commissioner Meshel had nothing to report.

### **Open Floor for Comments**

### **Adjournment**

Chairman Cushman called for a motion to adjourn the Arizona Veterans' Services Advisory Commission Meeting. Vice Chair Byers motioned to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Gibbs second the motion. The motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 12:31 pm.



***Leveling the Playing Field for  
Highly Mobile, Military-Connected Students***

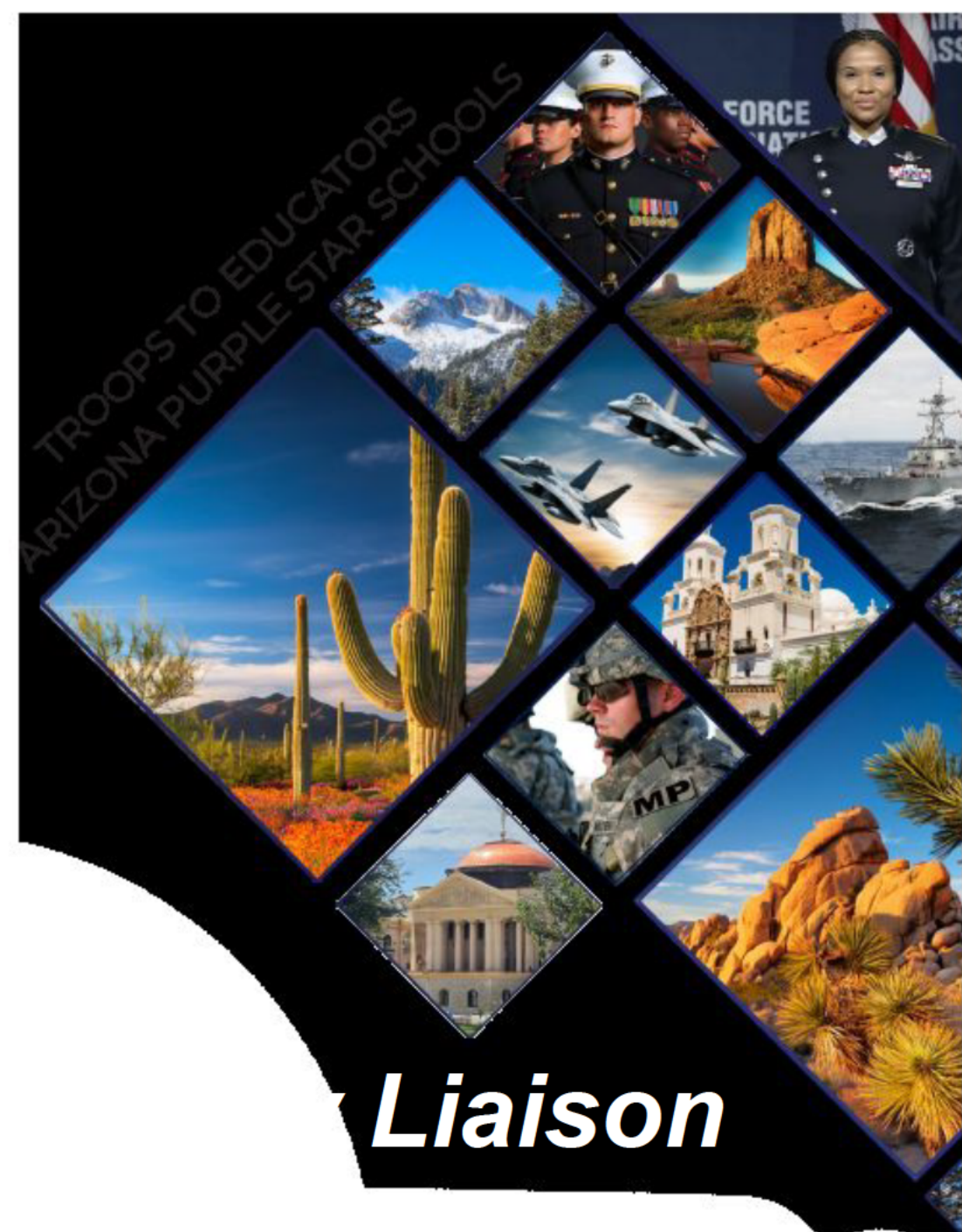




ARIZONA DEPARTMENT  
**EDUCATIO**

# *Welcome*

*Presentation by  
K12 Military C*



*Liaison*



# Your Legacy and Our Future



US Navy Sonar Technician  
6 yrs

Teacher 5<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> Grades  
5.5 yrs

High School Administrator  
6 yrs

K12 Military Community Liaison  
6 yrs

Troops to Educators  
SkillBridge - DoD Internships



## Quotes from Military Families

**"Being a military kid is not just saying goodbye to your parent for a while, it's saying goodbye unaware if they are going to come home or not. It's a sacrifice, and being a military child you don't have a choice. It's not something you chose. It's a choice your parents made to keep you and everyone else safe."**

Anonymous Military Child



**"Educators that understand the difficulties military life and transitions create and their understanding and desire for quality education has helped my children deal with several transitions."**

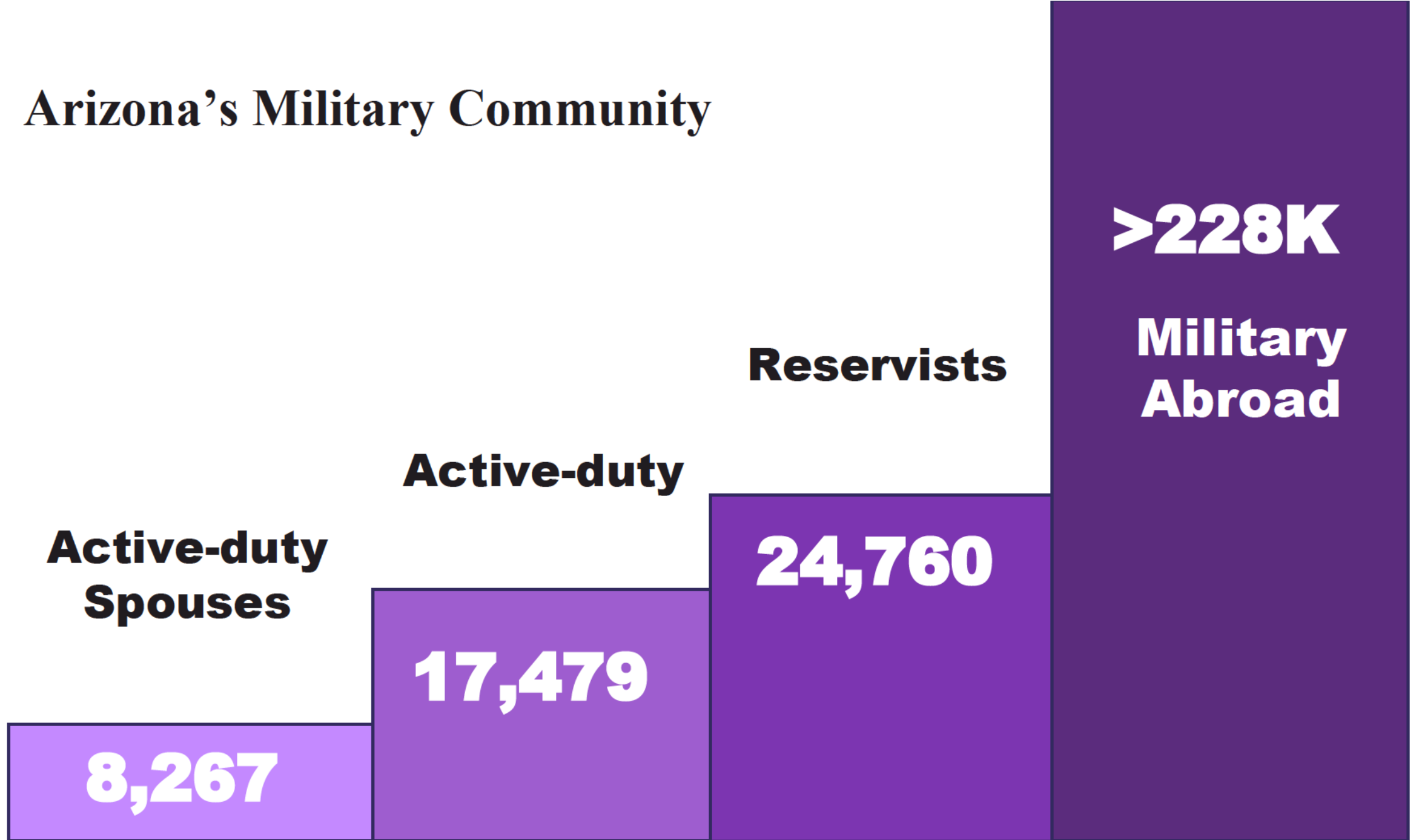


DOE – IDEA, November 2022

# Arizona's Military Community



# Arizona's Military Community





**AZPSS**

**Arizona**

**Purple**

Highly mobile students may also  
include foster, refugee, and  
migrant DOE

**Star  
School**

Developed to support highly  
mobile, military-connected  
students

Highly mobile students typically  
Transfer schools 6 to 9 times  
during their academic career

**Purple Star Schools implement best practices to address the unique challenges students face due to:**

**Transition**

**Deployments**

**Educational Gaps**

**Curriculum**

**Overlaps**

**Varying Graduation Requirements**



## **Center for Public Research & Leadership - Columbia Law**

**77% of Schools reported being a PSS**

**! • had a positive to very positive impact**

**! • Teachers reported 53% of PSS identified students improved academically**





## **Center for Public Research & Leadership - Columbia Law**



**Students who feel understood, statistically show improvement in their academic performance, reinforcing the PSS focus and program requirements**

## **APPLICATION PROCESS**

Schools must complete an application to become a Purple Star School (PSS), designating a primary point of contact (POC).

# **REQUIREMENTS & IMPLEMENTATION**

## **APPLICATION PROCESS**

**Schools must complete an application to become a Purple Star School (PSS), designating a primary point of contact (POC).**

## **PROFESSIONA L DEVELOPMENT**

**Schools must provide professional development to at least 70% of staff, including administration, once per school year.**

## **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

**Schools need a dedicated webpage and community resources to support military-connected students, honoring the military community annually.**

## **PEER SUPPORT PROGRAM**

**Implement a student-led peer-to-peer program to assist highly mobile military-connected students during transitions.**

**Arizona  
Legislature**



**The Arizona Legislature passed the Purple Star School bill in March 2024. Joining 40 other states.**

**Military  
Families**



**Shared their experiences and challenges for their children, shaping the program's framework at the national level.**

**Education  
Bodies**



**Broad spectrum of educators collaborated utilizing research from national studies and organizations to ensure the unique needs of highly mobile students are met.**

**Support  
Organization  
s**



**Military Child Education Coalition (MCEC) and the US Armed Forces advocate for schools to provide an effective and collaborative program across all borders.**



# Future of the Program

## Continuation, Institutionalization, and Funding

- **Founding states initiated the PSS program in 2017. Now, Purple Star College is up and coming.**  
The program draws on years of other state examples, research, and national support organizations.
- **A dedicated K12 Military Community Liaison at ADE supports Schools, LEAs, and the community**
- **Becoming a designated Purple Star School (PSS) requires no additional outlay of funds.**  
Minimal cost for displaying official PSS banners or community outreach initiatives.





# Application Requirements Training & Resources



**Lee E. Fernwault, M.Ed.**

Lee.Fernwault@azed.gov *(Best Option)*

**602-542-5687**

**Questions**

# References and Resources

- **Center for Public Research and Leadership – Columbia Law School. (n.d.-a). Purple Star Schools Program. Retrieved from <https://cpri.law.columbia.edu/content/purple-star-schools-program>**
- Military Child Education Coalition. (2001). US Army secondary education transition study: Executive summary. Arlington, VA: Military Resource Center.**
- Ruff, S. B., & Keim, M. A. (2014). Revolving doors: The impact of multiple school transitions on military children. The Professional Counselor, 4(2), 103–113. <https://doi.org/10.15241/sbr.4.2.103>**
- Issue Paper: Purple Star School Designation Program. Retrieved from <https://militarychild.org/programs-and-initiatives/purple-star-schools/>**
- Arizona Department of Education. (2022). Raise the bar: Strategies to improve student achievement. Retrieved from <https://www.ed.gov/raisethebar/academic-success>**





# **TROOPS TO EDUCATORS + SKILLBRIDGE**

**(FREE D.O.D. INTERNSHIP)**

The U.S. Armed Forces often stand out as remarkable educators, rooted in their strong leadership, unwavering discipline, and commitment to structure and organization. With a wealth of global experience, all branches undergo thorough and continuous training, honing their skills throughout their military careers. This combination of qualities shapes dedicated service members and fosters a rich learning environment that inspires and empowers others. Arizona ranks 8th in the nation for national defense spending and 18th for the total number of active-duty and reserve personnel. The Department is committed to supporting the military community and veterans, who comprise over 7% of Arizona's population.

Arizona appreciates those who have served in our armed forces and understands the benefits of having these veterans contribute to the continued success of all Arizona students. Since the end of the Troops to Teachers program in 2020, the Arizona Department of Education has reimagined this successful program as Troops to Educators, offering information on all careers within the K-12 education system while providing services to a broader military-connected community. Interested participants must still meet eligibility requirements: honorable service with at least three years of active duty or four years of reserve service and proof of active-duty status for spouses.

***Comprehensive support for participants includes:*** Educational Counseling  
Job Referral Assistance  
Certification Recommendation  
SkillBridge<sup>®</sup> Placements

Arizona's Troops to Educators program is dedicated to serving the military community while supporting public and charter schools across the state. This commitment ensures that all educators, regardless of their background, are part of a larger community striving for the success of Arizona students. This array of resources is aimed at ensuring a smooth transition for service members into the education sector, instilling confidence in their career change. For additional information or participation, please visit [www.azed.gov/teach/troops-educators](http://www.azed.gov/teach/troops-educators) or scan the QR code below.

<sup>®</sup> – **SkillBridge** is a Department of Defense (DoD) program for active-duty service members to intern at an approved company or organization at no cost for up to six months. Arizona was the first to offer education-focused internships in 2019. Participants can intern for up to one semester (90 school days) with participating schools/districts. Schools interested in participating in this no-cost, try before you buy approach to help current military members become educators should contact the Department's K12 Military Community Liaison, [Lee.Fernwault@azed.gov](mailto:Lee.Fernwault@azed.gov).

***Be the Solution  
Teach in Arizona!***



*The Department's K12 Military Community Liaison, Lee E. Fernwault visits each of Arizona's five military installations, and numerous LEAs, recruiting and supporting the military community while managing Troops to Educators, SkillBridge (DoD) Internships, and Arizona Purple Star Schools. He is an Arizona native, US Navy veteran, taught 5-12 grade for six years, and served as an Assistant Principal for six years before joining ADE in September 2018.*





# ARIZONA PURPLE STAR SCHOOLS

SUPPORTING HIGHLY MOBILE, MILITARY-CONNECTED STUDENTS

Arizona ranks 8th in the nation for [national defense spending](#) and 18th for the total number of active duty and reservists. The Arizona Department of Education (ADE) is committed to supporting the military community and the roughly 15,000 military-connected students who called Arizona home for now. Highly mobile, military-connected students often follow a distinctive educational path, frequently starting over at a different school, state, or country every three years – three times more often than their peers.<sup>1</sup> Coupled with the frequent moves, parental deployments, multiple friend groups, and experiences. The Purple Star School program was developed to help reduce obstacles that affect even the most resilient and self-sufficient students.

Becoming a Purple Star State requires each state to enact legislation frequently assigning the responsibility to the state's education department. The Arizona Department of Education implemented the Arizona Purple Star School (AZPSS) program in July 2024, joining over 43 other states and numerous Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) global schools with similar laws. Since its inception, over 48 schools have been designated Arizona Purple Star Schools (AZPSS), and over 100 individuals have completed ADE's free AZPSS Point of Contact (POC) training. The free POC training provides participants an overview of what highly mobile, military-connected students encounter daily or when transitioning. This free training is recommended for all educators or anyone interested in helping these students succeed. Research and surveys point to schools with established PSS programs having an improved school culture and climate.

**Arizona Purple Star Schools** implement best practices to address the unique challenges highly mobile, military-connected students undergo due to:

Transitions  
Deployments  
Educational Gaps  
Curriculum Overlaps  
Varying Graduation Requirements

## Why Purple!

Purple includes each color of the U.S. Armed Forces, and represents UNITY.



## Learn More!

Scan QR code to learn how to support highly mobile, military-connected students today.



ADE's K12 Military Community Liaison, Lee E. Fernwault manages Arizona Purple Star Schools, Troops to Educators, and SkillBridge (DoD) Internships. He is an Arizona native, US Navy veteran, taught 5-12 grade for six years, and served as an Assistant Principal for six years before joining ADE in September 2018. Have questions, please contact [Lee.Fernwault@azed.gov](mailto:Lee.Fernwault@azed.gov)

TROOPS TO EDUCATORS  
ARIZONA PURPLE STAR SCHOOLS



MARCH 2025  
K12 MILITARY COMMUNITY LIAISON  
Lee E. Fernwault, M.Ed.





## ADE SUPPORTS THE MILITARY COMMUNITY

Arizona ranks 8th in the nation for [national defense spending](#) and 18th for the total number of active duty and reservists. The Department is committed to supporting the military community and veterans who make up over [7% of Arizona's population](#). The K12 Military Community Liaison can assist you in pursuing a career in education or guide you to a school designated as an Arizona Purple Star School.

Troops to Educators is open to active duty, their spouses, and honorably discharged veterans. The Liaison provides educational counseling, certification recommendations, SkillBridge, and job referrals to schools across the state. (4 years of service is required.)

Arizona Purple Star Schools support active duty families or recently separated service members up to one year. Schools with such a designation have additional supports to help military connected students succeed. Your bases' School Liaison or ADE's K12 Military Community Liaison will be happy to assist you in meeting your student's educational goals.



TROOPS TO  
EDUCATORS



ARIZONA  
PURPLE STAR  
SCHOOLS



ARIZONA COALITION  
FOR MILITARY  
FAMILIES (ACMF)  
SKILLBRIDGE

**"THROUGH EDUCATION  
WE CAN OVERCOME  
ANYTHING AND  
CHANGE THE WORLD"**

*Lee E. Fernwault*

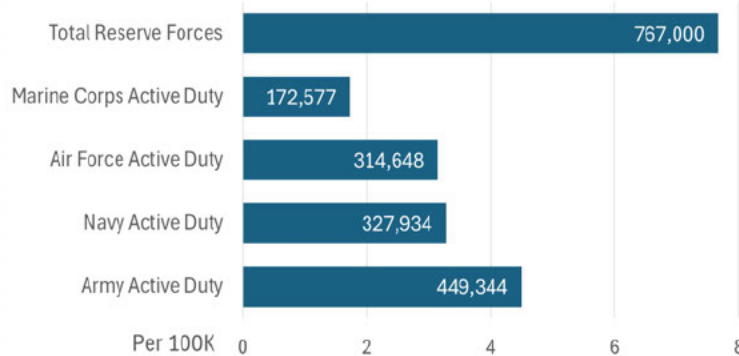
## ARIZONA TROOPS TO EDUCATORS

The U.S. Armed Forces make excellent educators. All branches of the armed forces receive extensive and continuous training during their military careers. As service members progress upward through the ranks, their knowledge, repetitive training, and real-life practice prepare them to be the next field instructors and subject matter experts. Coupled with core values, life experience, and global perspectives, they can help students succeed in today's dynamic world. A career in education can include skilled trades (plumbing, mechanic, HVAC, etc.), nutrition services, transportation, paraprofessionals, and most importantly, teachers. Moreover, Troops to Educators' main purpose is to help the military community enter the classroom.

*Be the solution - Teach in Arizona!*

## MILITARY COMMUNITY COMPARISON

### U.S. Total Active Duty Members



### Arizona Military

Reservists	24,760
Active-duty	17,479
(Active-duty) Spouses	8,267

### Veteran Population

Arizona	454,620
United States	16,200,000

[2023 Military OneSource Demographic Report](#)

## ARIZONA TTE RESULTS

### Arizona TTE Totals 2018-2023

Participants	2,203
Certificates Issued	449
F/T Employed	222

### Arizona TTE 2024

Participants	183
Certificates Issued	56
F/T Employed	30

### Arizona TTE 2025

Participants	67
Certificates Pending	21
Certificates Issued	54
F/T Employed	29

## SKILLBRIDGE

The [Department of Defense \(DOD\) SkillBridge](#) program helps service members gain civilian work experience up to 180 days before leaving active duty. The ADE Military Community Liaison's partnership with the Arizona Coalition for Military Families (ACMF) can be up to one semester (90 school days) and allows interested individuals a 'try before you buy' approach. This valuable opportunity empowers you to make an informed decision about a career in education. Participating schools and districts (LEAs) primarily use their 'Volunteer Application' as LEAs must promise not to pay SkillBridge participants during the internship period. ADE's approved training plan and guide, 'Foundations for Being an Effective Teacher,' provides a brief but broad scope of teaching requirements in today's Educator Preparation Programs.

**ADE SKILLBRIDGE  
INTERNSHIP REQUEST**



### SkillBridge Internships 2025

Internships Requested	4
Active Internships	3
Interns Hired	1







## Go Purple Arizona!

The Purple Star School (PSS) initiative was created to meet highly mobile, military-connected students' unique needs. Students in this group often transition more than six times during their K12 academic career and experience more challenges than their non-connected peers. States seeking PSS recognition must enact legislation frequently assigning the responsibility to the state's education department. In 2024, through the Arizona Department of Education, the Arizona Purple Star School (AZPSS) program became law, joining over 40 other states and numerous Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) global schools. Since its inception, over **51 schools have been designated Arizona Purple Star Schools (AZPSS)**, and over 100 individuals have completed AZPSS Point of Contact (POC) training. POC training offers an overview of what highly mobile, military-connected students encounter daily or when transitioning and is free for everyone. Soon designated AZPSS will be encouraged to offer peer support to all subgroups that meet the definition of highly mobile which also includes foster, refugee, and migrant students. Schools with established PSS and Peer-to-Peer programs have reported an improved school culture, climate, service oriented volunteerism.

### Welcome Arizona Purple Star Schools February & March Designees

Legacy Traditional School - Surprise  
Leona Connected High School - Phoenix  
Huachuca City School - Huachuca City  
Citizens Arizona Academy - Online  
Country Meadows Elementary - Peoria  
Legacy Traditional School - West Surprise

### Why Purple!

Purple represents  
**UNITY** and includes  
each color of the  
U.S. Military.

*You are a STAR!*

Requirements...  
Application...&  
Free Training



Thank you!  
Exceptional Purple Stars

Laura Caucci - Sabino High School, Tucson  
Charlene Hudson, Fort Huachuca Edu. Services





**ARIZONA**

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' SERVICES

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE MAY 2025

JULIA R. GUSSE, LEGISLATIVE LIAISON



# AZDVS Led Legislative Bill



## Veterans Donation Fund Bill Revision – SB1704

- Legislative Bill Proposal; original language to allow 15% of Veteran Donation Fund for AZDVS state homes and an additional budget of not to exceed \$150,000 for two FTE's.
- SB1704 "*Veterans' donations fund, annual transfer*" was introduced on 02/03/2025 sponsored by Senator Gowan.
- Bill has crossed over to the House and currently pending a negotiated amendment removing one FTE.

# SB1704 Continued

- ▶ Fact Sheet Available for any inquiries
- ▶ Senate Appropriations Committee approved unanimously on 02-18-2025.
- ▶ House Federalism, Military Affairs & Elections approved unanimously on 03-12-2024.
- ▶ House Appropriations approved unanimously on 3-19-2025. Pending a meeting between Senator Gowan and Appropriations Chair for an amendment removing 1 FTE.



# Education Related Bills

## ► SB1021 **ROTC cadets; in-state student status**



SUMMARY: Classifies anyone contracted as a cadet that is participating in a Reserve Officer Training Corp Program as an “In-State Student.”

At Arizona State University, the total cost is \$33,270 for in-state students and \$53,412 for out-of-state students.

**SIGNED BY GOVERNOR Hobbs on 04-18-2025**

# HB2030 Impersonation; veteran; armed forces NOW; STRIKE EVERYTHING SB1424



► Introduced by Representative Blackman

Summary: Establishes the criminal classification of impersonating a veteran, which a person commits by knowingly misrepresenting themselves to be a veteran and engaging in specified acts with intent to obtain money, property or any other tangible benefit.

**SIGNED BY GOVERNOR Hobbs on 04-18-2025**

# Tax/Financial Bills

## ► SB1122 Property tax exemptions; inflation adjustment

Requires the Arizona Department of Revenue (ADR) to calculate by December 31 of each year the total allowable exemption amount based on the average annual percentage increase, if any, in the GDP price deflator in the two most recent complete state fiscal years, and, starting in 2025, based on the average annual percentage increase, if any, in the “Federal House Price Index” (defined) for the two most recent complete fiscal years, and the total income limits amount to qualify for an exemption, as defined by law, to be based on the average annual percentage increase, if any, in the GDP price deflator in the two most recent complete state fiscal years.

**Signed by Governor Hobbs on 3/31/2025**



# Tax/Financial

- ▶ HB2009 Vehicle license tax; exemption; military

Summary: Requires an individual to have valid orders and to be within 30 days of deployment to be able to register a vehicle for one year without payment of registration fees and the vehicle license tax. Permits an individual who paid registration fees or vehicle license taxes who qualifies under this provision to apply for a refund of all monies submitted. Makes the changes retroactive to six months before the effective date of this Act.

**SIGNED BY GOVERNOR Hobbs on 04-18-2025**





# AZ Dept of Emergency & Military Affairs

## ► **SB1009; Appropriations; nuclear emergency management fund**

Summary: Appropriates \$2.617 million from the General Fund in FY 2025-2026 and \$2.711 from the Nuclear Emergency Management Fund in 2026-2027 for use by the Arizona Department of Emergency and Military Affairs (ADEM) and the Arizona Department of Agriculture (ADA.) Outlines how the funds shall be used, including funding 8 full-time positions in 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 at the ADEM, to develop emergency response plans by the ADA, and for the appropriate agencies and department in Maricopa County and the City of Buckeye to develop and manage Emergency Response plans. Stipulates that the above mentioned sums be assessed against any consortium of public service or municipal corporations engaged in constructing or operating a commercial nuclear generating state in Arizona. Contains Emergency Clause.

**SIGNED BY GOVERNOR Hobbs on 04-18-2025**

# Veterans Affairs Police



## ► SB1163; Veterans Emergency Admission; transport

Summary: Permits a written application for emergency admission to be made to an evaluation agency telephonically if made by a peace officer or a police officer who is an employee of the United States Department of Veterans Affairs. Stipulates that a copy of the application that contains the applicant's original signature is acceptable, and does not have to be notarized, and may be submitted as the written application, if taken by a police officer who is an employee of the United States Department of Veterans Affairs. Permits an admitting officer based on a review of the application and a conversation with the police officer who is an employee of the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, to advise that officer that sufficient grounds exist to take the person into custody and to transport the person to the evaluation agency. Requires that if such advice is given, a peace officer or the officer from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs shall apprehend and transport the person to the evaluation agency. Requires a peace officer or the police officer who is an employee of the United States Department of Veterans Affairs to take reasonable precautions to safeguard the premises and the property on the premises where the applicant is apprehended, and stipulates that either who makes a good faith effort to follow the requirements of this legislation is not subject to civil liability. Contains an emergency clause.

**SIGNED BY GOVERNOR Hobbs on 04-18-2025**

# Housing/Homeless Veterans Bills



## ► STRIKER BILL SB1151

### NOW; Housing grant program, veterans; fund

Establishes the Housing Grant Program to construct military transitional, veteran, affordable and homeless housing in Arizona to be administered by the Arizona Department of Housing (ADOH). Outlines how grants are to be awarded and the entities that qualify to receive grants. Requires federal monies in the program be designated for military transitional housing by the US federal government and mandates preference be given to veteran-owned and operated organizations for the management of the program and program funds. Details how fund monies are to be spent and requires that funds be allocated for a comprehensive care facility that provides supportive housing services in the facility and via on-site outpatient medical care and behavioral health services for military members who are transitioning into civilian life.

Pending; last update was on 04/02/2025 Passed House Majority/Minority Caucus

# Housing/Homeless Veterans Bills Continued

<u>HB2435</u>	homelessness; data; performance audit (moved to Senate 3/19)	Data collected may report on Veterans experiencing homelessness and drug abuse due to their military experiences. This data may cause further homelessness amongst a small population of veterans.
<u>HB2437</u>	drug-free homeless zones (Failed on 4/29/25 Senate Third)	1. introduces penalties for employees 2. "DRUG-FREE HOMELESS SERVICE ZONE" will continue the cycle of homelessness amongst veterans attempting to refrain from drug use. Housing should take priority and these policies will further criminalize homelessness amongst veterans.
<u>HB2803</u>	mixed hoteling; signage; requirements (Moved to the Senate 3/25/25)	Veterans Utilize HUD-VASH Vouchers, bridging federal dollars and these policies may jeopardize this vital funding source for homeless veterans.



# Justice Involved/Veterans Courts Bills



## ► SB1312 Coordinated reentry; grants; appropriation

An Act amending section 11-392, Arizona Revised Statutes; appropriating monies; relating to coordinated reentry planning services programs.

Summary: Appropriates \$20,000,000 from the Consumer Restitution Subaccount of the Consumer Restitution and Remediation Revolving Fund to the Arizona Attorney General to distribute to grants to counties pursuant to state law, to establish or continue a Coordinated Reentry Planning Services Program (Program). Requires any county that receives funds to create and maintain the Program to submit a report on the Program status, with associated data, based on specific criteria listed in this legislation. Includes a list of the recipients of the report. Stipulates that grants received are on a two year cycle. Prohibits the Arizona Attorney General from allocating more than \$3,000,000 to an individual grant recipient over the two year grant cycle and requires the same to make available up to \$2,000,000 over the two year grant cycle for a statewide database to accommodate additional counties participating in the Program. Defines Program scope and prohibits Maricopa and Pima counties from receiving grants.

Pending; last update was on 03/26/25 Passed House Appropriations

# National Guard



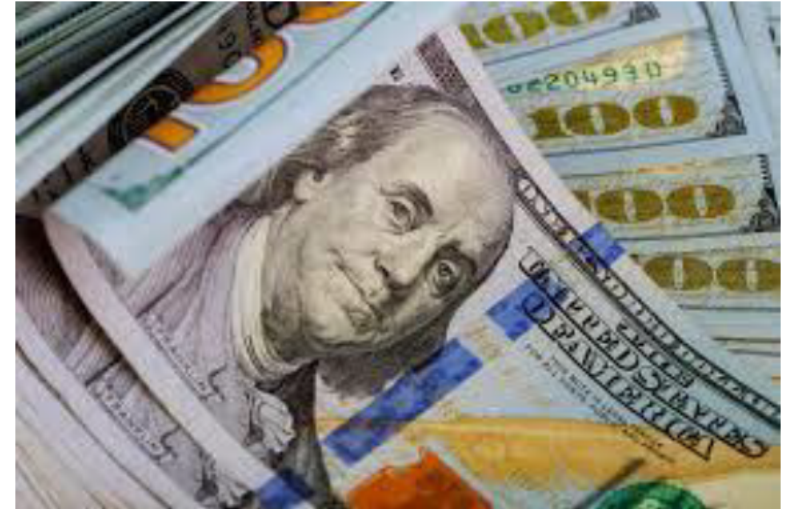
## ► SB1495      **National Guard; active duty; requirements**

Summary: The National Guard of Arizona is prohibited from being released from Arizona into “active duty combat” (defined) unless the U.S. Congress has passed an official declaration of war or has taken an official action pursuant to the U.S. Constitution to explicitly call forth the National Guard of Arizona for the enumerated purposes of executing the laws of the union, repelling an invasion or suppressing an insurrection.

Pending; Last Update -Passed House Majority/Minority Caucus on 04/08/2025

# Tax/Financial Bills

- ▶ SB1155 Income tax; subtraction; uniformed services  
(last update; WM Committee Passed 3/26/25)
- ▶ HB2036 ASRS; temporary personnel service
- ▶ HB2077 ASRS; long-term disability  
(last update; Senate Rep/Dem Caucus on 3/18/25)
- ▶ HB2672 Property tax; exemption; veterans; disabilities  
(last update; Senate Finance Committee Passed 3/17/25)
- ▶ HCR2023 House Concurrent Resolution Property Tax Combat Veterans  
(last update; Senate Finance Committee Passed 3/17/25)



# Programs/Mental Health Bills

- ▶ SB1555 Psilocybin services; regulation; licensure

NOW: Approved medication; rescheduling; controlled substance

- ▶ HB2871; Appropriation; ibogaine; clinical research study

Summary: Appropriates \$5,000,000 from the Arizona State General Fund in FY 2025-2026 to the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) to award a grant to conduct a certified clinical research study on the use of ibogaine for the treatment of neurological diseases, including traumatic brain injury and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. Outlines the eligibility criteria to receive a grant. The appropriation is exempt from lapsing of appropriations provisions.

- ▶ HB2320 Appropriation; veterans' services; mental health (crossed over and approved by Senate Appropriations on 4/01/25)



# Miscellaneous Bills

- ▶ **HCR2010 (House Concurrent Resolution) Gold Star Families**

(last update; 3/18 Senate Rep/Dem Caucus)



- ▶ **HB2933 STRIKER BILL – Appropriation; nonprofit veterans organization**

(last update; moved to Senate Appropriations on 03/25/25)

Summary: Appropriates \$500,000 from the Arizona State General Fund in FY 2025-2026 to the Arizona Department of Veterans Services to award grants pursuant to state law to nonprofit veterans organizations that are physically located in counties with a population of less than 500,000 persons and that assist veteran in securing housing or employment benefits. Exempts the appropriation from lapsing of appropriations provisions through June 30, 2027.

- ▶ **HB2133 Nurses provisional licensure, waives fees for veterans/spouses of active duty**

(last update; Passed Senate Regulatory Affairs and Govt Efficiency on 3/12/25)

# VETOED BILLS

## ► HB2004; Voter registration cards; mailing limitation

Summary: Prohibits the county recorders from providing an initial or updated voter registration card to a person whose mailing address is outside the state of Arizona, except for absent uniformed services voters or overseas voters as defined in the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act, and persons who are residents of Arizona and who are not served by a United States Post Office.

**Vetoed by Governor Hobbs on 04-██-2025**

## Gallowitz Outreach

1 message

Kathy Gallowitz [REDACTED] >  
To: Lupita Santellano [REDACTED] >  
Cc: Phil Cushman [REDACTED] >

Wed, May 21, 2025 at 7:11 PM

Hosted the second annual **Women Who Lead Summit** 7 May for 80 in person at Achieve in Tempe and nearly 30 online women across the nation. At least 30 women Vets attended. Learn more here: <https://vanguardveteran.com/leadership/>

### Events attended:

- Veteran Caucus meetings
- AZ Veteran Hall of Fame Patriotic Award Luncheon
- The Glendale Chamber (PreVeteran) and Phoenix Chambers (USAA) Veteran hiring best practice forums
- Glendale Chamber Military Affairs Committee meetings
- Governor's Press Conference on Vet Homelessness
- ACMF Symposium
- Meeting and referrals to others about the Veteran Community Project
- East Valley Society of Human Resource Management Networking meeting
- National Association of Women in Construction Spring Forum
- Two Women In Manufacturing Events
- The Two Lights Celebration at the Statehouse - the 250th anniversary of Paul Revere's ride
- Arizona National Guard Annual Conference - Professional Development
- ASU W. P. Carey Partner Day: Discover, Connect, and Innovate
- Phoenix Business Journal's Community Belonging in Action
- Arizona Business Leaders Breakfast - ASU Athletic Director spoke
- Mayor of Fountain Hills recognition of the Veteran resident I nominated for his military and post-military service.

### Ongoing monthly facilitation commitments:

SW Veteran Chamber of Commerce Scottsdale Luncheon

Christ Church of Fountain Hills Monthly Military Ministry

Oversee/Coordinate Monthly Women Who Lead leadership discussion in person and online forums

### Other volunteer roles:

- Worked with Paula Pedene to feature the new Glendale Chamber CEO in the Arizona Republic about his work with Veterans
- Working with Paula Pedene to do a story on the First Annual Veteran Treatment Court Conference after my story on it was rejected by the Phoenix Business

Journal (I attended this event March 3)

- Created the Civilian Veteran Champion award for/with the Glendale Chamber of Commerce
- Helped organize Veteran Caucus Board meetings and retreat - at least 5/6 meetings in last few months
- Supporting the Glendale Chamber CEO's planning for the creation of the anticipated Military Talent Workforce Partnership

**Kindly confirm receipt.**

Warm regards,

**Kathy Lowrey Gallowitz, LtCol, U.S.A.F., Retired**

Join the Veteran Champion Movement and Be a Part of the Win.



**Consultant | Trainer | Speaker | Coach | Author**

Cell: [REDACTED]

Website | You Tube | Facebook | Instagram

LinkedIn Profile | LinkedIn Company Page

Book: "Beyond 'Thank You for Your Service:' the Veteran Champion handbook for civilians," click [here](#).

Schedule an appointment with me, [here](#).





## Commissioner Outreach Report

1 message

Philip Cushman >  
To: Lupita Santellano >

Wed, May 21, 2025 at 11:05 PM

Good evening, Lupita,

Attached please find my report.

Best Regards,

Philip Cushman

The following is a summary of outreach to Veterans performed between Commission meetings.

Attended AZDVS Commission Meeting, Phoenix, Arizona (13 March 2025)

Attended meeting with the Arizona Military Museum Society Board (13 March 2025)

Attended meeting with AZDVS Director and Legal Counsel to discuss Open Meeting Law considerations for discussions about the Arizona Military Museum. (18 March 2025)

Attended Veterans' Caucus Meeting (20 March 2025)

Substitute Teaching, Le Pera Elementary School, Poston, Arizona (24-26 March 2025). Inspired the next generation to consider careers in the U.S. Military.

Attended Veteran Advisory Board meeting (28 March 2025)

Attended Veteran Advisory Board meeting (10 April 2025)

Attended Veterans' Advisory Board meeting (15 April 2025)

Attended Veterans' Caucus Meeting (17 April 2025)

Attended Arizona Coalition for Military Families Symposium (17 April 2025)

Substitute Teaching, Le Pera Elementary School, Poston, Arizona (24 April 2025). Inspired the next generation to consider careers in the U.S. Military.

Attended Governor's Press Conference announcing her program to address Veteran homelessness (28 April 2025)

Attended Veterans' Caucus (15 May 2025)

Attended Veterans' Advisory Board Workshop (15 May 2025)