



ARIZONA VETERANS' SERVICES ADVISORY COMMISSION
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September 27, 2023

Katie Hobbs
Governor

Senate President Warren Petersen
Arizona State Senate
1700 West Washington Street
Phoenix, AZ 85007

COMMISSIONERS: Dear Senate President Petersen,

Philip Cushman
Chair
Veterans of Foreign Wars

Matthew Kenny
Vice-Chair
American Legion

Kathy Gallowitz
Veterans of Foreign Wars

Wyn C. Gibbs
American Legion

Andrew Meshel
Air Force Association

Eugene Crego
Unified Arizona Veterans

Michael Noble
Marine Corps League

Charles Byers
Active or Retired Military
Personnel

Governor Hobbs nominated Dana Allmond as Director of your Arizona Department of Veterans' Services in February 2023 and we are still awaiting her confirmation. Dana is a West Point Graduate, a retired U.S. Army Lieutenant Colonel, and an extraordinary advocate for Veterans. She has already served the Veterans of Arizona with distinction as the Chair of the Southern Arizona Veterans Mental Health Advocacy Council and as a member of U.S. Senator Sinema's Veterans Advisory Council. Her participation in grass roots community service organizations further demonstrates her priorities and enthusiasm to serve Veterans. Supporting the Veterans' community is not a change in her routine. She is exactly the right individual this state needs to administer your Arizona Department of Veterans' Services for the next several years.

The confirmation of the Director of your Arizona Department of Veterans' Services which you graciously fund in the budget, concerns service for the 500,000 Veterans distributed across Arizona. The Director is responsible for the administration of the four State Veteran Homes located in Flagstaff, Phoenix, Tucson, and Yuma; the three State Veteran Cemeteries located at Camp Navajo, Marana, and Sierra Vista; the Military Family Relief Fund; and grant distributions from the Arizona Veterans Donation Fund. Perhaps most directly important to the Veteran community is her supervision of over 50 Veteran Benefits Counselors (VBC's) located all over Arizona. VBC's provide the vital direct-contact function ensuring Veterans receive their service-connected benefits from the Veterans Administration. These benefits exceed \$399,000,000 in compensation, pension, education benefits, and medical benefits directly injected into the Arizona economy. We believe you can agree our Veterans deserve these vital services first, last, and always. Without a confirmed Director, the management of these essential functions deteriorates rapidly and creates long-term leadership insecurity.

We ask the Senate, under your leadership, to quickly confirm Dana Allmond. We are prepared to assist you in this matter by either meeting with you in person or testifying to the Director Nominations Committee on her behalf. Thank you very much for considering our perspectives and we look forward to the continued dialogue with you on this very urgent matter.

Very Respectfully,



Philip D. Cushman, Chairman
Veterans' Advisory Commission
Arizona Department of Veterans' Services

Copy to:

President Pro Tempore, Senator Thomas "T.J." Shope Majority Leader, Senator
Sonny Borrelli
Majority Whip, Senator Sine Kerr
Minority Leader, Senator Denise "Mitzi" Epstein Assistant Minority Leader,
Senator Juan Mendez Minority Whip, Senator Eva Burch
Minority Caucus Chair, Lela Alston

Director Nominations Committee Chairman, Senator Jake Hoffman