



# NEWS RELEASE

Arizona House of Representatives

Representative Walt Blackman (R-7)

1700 West Washington • Phoenix, Arizona • 85007

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## State Representative Walt Blackman Introduces Stolen Valor Legislation to Protect Veterans & Uphold Public Trust

**STATE CAPITOL, PHOENIX** – State Representative Walt Blackman has introduced new legislation aimed at combatting fraudulent claims of military service and protecting the integrity of veteran status within Arizona. [HB2030](#) strengthens penalties for impersonating a veteran for personal gain and is the most comprehensive state-level response to stolen valor to date.

**“We cannot allow the honorable service and sacrifice of our military men and women to be undermined by deceitful actors,”** said Representative Blackman, a U.S. Army veteran, and Chairman of the House Committee on Government. **“This legislation sends a clear message that Arizona will not tolerate stolen valor in any form. By holding individuals accountable for misrepresenting their military status for personal, political, or financial gain, we uphold the integrity of our veterans’ contributions and the trust of our citizens.”**

HB2030 creates strong deterrents against impersonating a veteran, targeting fraudulent activities such as:

- Claiming military service or awards to obtain employment, government contracts, or veteran benefits.
- Using false veteran status to gain votes, campaign contributions, or political advantages.
- Falsifying or altering military documents, combat-related badges, or awards.
- Penalties range from a Class 4 felony to a Class 2 felony for offenses involving high-value benefits. The bill also mandates the removal of public officials convicted under the law.

HB2030 builds on the federal Stolen Valor Act of 2013 by addressing gaps in federal law and expanding protections at the state level. It uses Arizona’s authority under the 10th Amendment to focus on fraudulent conduct affecting state programs, elections, and institutions.

### **\*\*\*MEDIA ADVISORY\*\*\***

Representative Blackman will hold a news conference to discuss the bill on **January 15, 2025, at 12:00 PM** at the Capitol Rose Garden. He will be joined by fellow legislators and veterans from across the state and nation. News media is invited to attend and learn more about this important legislation.

*Representative Walt Blackman is a Republican member of the Arizona House of Representatives serving Legislative District 7 and is Chairman of the House Government Committee. Follow him on X at @BlackmanForAZ.*

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