



# NEWS RELEASE

**Arizona House of Representatives**  
**Representative Walt Blackman (R-7)**

1700 West Washington • Phoenix, Arizona • 85007

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Thursday, April 24, 2025

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Arizona House Honors Major General Kerry Muehlenbeck and Sends Support Overseas to Deployed Guard Members

**STATE CAPITOL, PHOENIX** – Republican State Representative Walt Blackman, a U.S. Army combat veteran and Chairman of the House Government Committee, joined colleagues Wednesday in honoring Major General Kerry L. Muehlenbeck on the floor of the Arizona House of Representatives. The bipartisan tribute marked her retirement after more than 30 years of distinguished service as the Commanding General of the Arizona National Guard and Director of the Arizona Department of Emergency and Military Affairs.

**“Major General Muehlenbeck embodies everything we strive for in public service—courage, integrity, and a relentless commitment to those she leads,”** said Representative Blackman. **“We thank her for her service and the legacy she’s leaving behind—a Guard that’s more prepared and more capable than ever.”**

A written tribute signed by Republican and Democrat members of the Arizona House recognized Major General Muehlenbeck as the first woman to command the Arizona National Guard. Members praised her leadership through border security operations, wildfire suppression, and pandemic response, and highlighted her parallel career in legal service and education.

House members also presented her with a large shipment of donated snacks and care items collected for Arizona Guard members serving overseas. The donation drive was led by Representative Teresa Martinez, who coordinated the effort and rallied House members and staff in support.

**“We’re grateful to Representative Martinez for organizing this drive to support our men and women in uniform,”** Representative Blackman added. **“The Guard follows leaders like General Muehlenbeck into some of the toughest assignments. This is one small way for us to send a piece of home to those currently serving abroad.”**

The recognition was signed by Representatives Walt Blackman, Teresa Martinez, Nick Kupper, Dave Marshall, John Gillette, Stacey Travers, Aaron Márquez, and Mae Peshlakai.

A copy of the tribute and photo of members, Major General Muehlenbeck, and the donated care items are attached.

*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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DISTRICT 7

## Arizona House of Representatives

Phoenix, Arizona 85007

April 23, 2025

### In Honor of Major General Kerry L. Muehlenbeck

*Commanding General, Arizona National Guard*

*Director, Arizona Department of Emergency and Military Affairs*

With unwavering respect and profound gratitude, we honor Major General Kerry L. Muehlenbeck on her retirement after more than three decades of distinguished and principled service to the State of Arizona and the United States of America.

Appointed by Governor Doug Ducey, Major General Muehlenbeck made history as the first woman to command the Arizona National Guard. As Adjutant General of Arizona, she led with unwavering clarity, courage, and vision, guiding over 8,000 soldiers, airmen, and emergency professionals through some of the most demanding missions in recent memory.

Under her command, the Arizona National Guard became a more lethal, agile, and mission-ready force—capable of responding swiftly to national crises and defending Arizona's border with strength and resolve. Her leadership was transformational and enduring from pandemic response and wildfire suppression to homeland defense and multi-agency coordination.

Commissioned in 1993, General Muehlenbeck rose as a formidable Judge Advocate General, ultimately becoming a national voice for innovation in military governance. Her intellectual rigor, demonstrated by her Ph.D. in Justice Studies, complemented her operational strength, fostering a culture of principled leadership across the force.

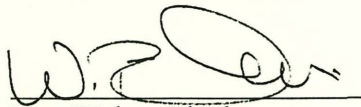
Her influence extended well beyond the military. General Muehlenbeck currently serves as department chair of the Administration of Justice Studies Department at Mesa Community College and has taught at Arizona State University, American Military University, and Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. Her commitment to education and mentorship has shaped countless future leaders in both military and civilian spheres.

Before transitioning to academia, she built a formidable legal foundation as an Assistant Staff Judge Advocate at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base (1993–1997), an Assistant Prosecuting Attorney in Saginaw County, Michigan (1992–1993), and later as a Deputy County Attorney at the Pima County Attorney's Office (1998–2001). These roles forged her reputation as a legal warrior and principled public servant long before she assumed command.

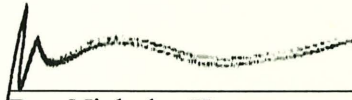
Her service has been recognized with prestigious awards, including the Legion of Merit with Oak Leaf Cluster, Meritorious Service Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters, Air and Space Commendation Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal with Service Star, and the Arizona Exceptionally Long Service Medal, among others. These honors reflect her unwavering commitment, operational brilliance, and the deep trust she earned from all echelons of leadership.

Major General Muehlenbeck leaves behind a Guard that is stronger, more resilient, and better prepared to meet future threats. Her legacy will endure in every institution she fortified, every life she mentored, and every mission made possible through her leadership.

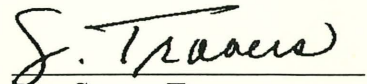
She brings lasting credit to herself, the United States Air Force, and the great State of Arizona. Her name will be remembered with honor, and her legacy will inspire generations to come.



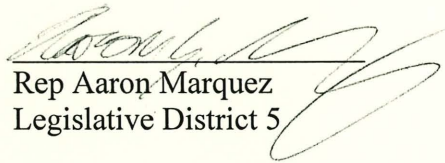
Rep Walter Blackman  
Legislative District 7



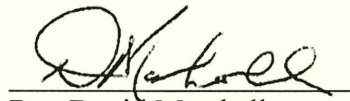
Rep Nicholas Kupper  
Legislative District 25



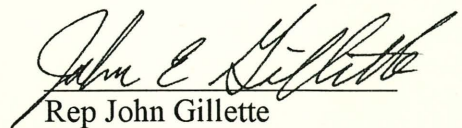
Rep Stacey Travers  
Legislative District 12



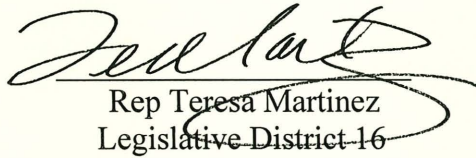
Rep Aaron Marquez  
Legislative District 5



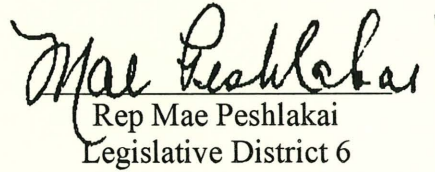
Rep David Marshall  
Legislative District 7



Rep John Gillette  
Legislative District 30

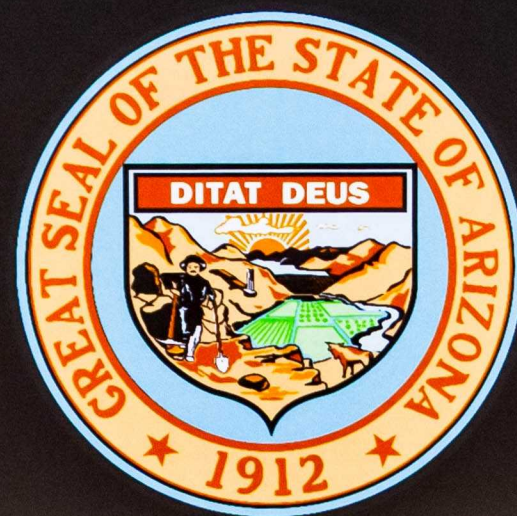


Rep Teresa Martinez  
Legislative District 16



Rep Mae Peshlakai  
Legislative District 6

# Arizona House of Representatives



Senate Is Off The Floor

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