



NEWS RELEASE

Arizona House of Representatives

Representative David Cook (R-8)

1700 West Washington • Phoenix, Arizona • 85007-2844

Thursday, September 27, 2018
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Representative Cook Fights for Veterans in Pinal and Gila Counties

STATE CAPITOL, PHOENIX – Representative David Cook (R-8) sent a letter this week to the Arizona Department of Veterans' Services requesting dedicated veterans benefits counselors in their offices in Casa Grande and Maricopa and a review of services performed and provided in Gila County.

Representative Jay Lawrence (R-23), who chairs the House Military, Veterans & Regulatory Affairs Committee, also signed the letter.

Text of the letter can be found below.

September 26, 2018

*Director Wanda Wright
Arizona Department of Veterans' Services
3839 North 3rd Street
Phoenix, Arizona 85012*

Dear Director Wright:

We would like to bring to your attention a matter that is of concern in Pinal County regarding veterans services. There were two Veterans Benefits Counseling offices; one located in the City of Casa Grande and the other in the City of Maricopa, that at one time each had their own counselor. Today, for some reason, they are splitting a counselor between these two offices. We would like to point out that the City of Casa Grande has a population at or near 55,500 and Maricopa of 48,000. These totals do not include the Gila River Indian Community, which is also in need of these services.

Currently, towns in the state of Arizona such as Prescott (population 42,700) and Sierra Vista (population 50,000) have two full time counselors.

We are writing this letter to you asking that you make the necessary adjustments in the Arizona Department of Veterans' Services to fully fill the positions located in Pinal County. Our veterans both in Pinal County and the Gila Indian River Community are being underserved and seem to be discounted as veterans when looking at a population-based approach throughout our great state.

We are also interested in having your office review the services performed and provided in the veteran's clinic in Globe, as they are part of a satellite facility of the Carl T. Hayden VA Medical Center in Phoenix. Their part time counselor is traveling from Safford (Graham County) on some kind of basis.

Our staff will be reaching out to schedule a meeting at your earliest convenience.

Thank you for your service to the veterans of Arizona.

Our Best Wishes,



*JAY LAWRENCE
Chairman, House Military, Veterans &
Regulatory Affairs Committee
State Representative
Legislative District 23*



*DAVID L. COOK
State Representative
Legislative District 8*

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