



NEWS RELEASE

Arizona House of Representatives

Representative Kelly Townsend (R-16)

1700 West Washington • Phoenix, Arizona • 85007

Friday, January 24, 2020
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Rep. Kelly Townsend Works with Gold Star Families to Honor Fallen Soldiers on the Enduring Freedom Memorial

STATE CAPITOL, PHOENIX – Representative Kelly Townsend (R-16) has been working with Gold Star families and local veterans to help see that the names of loved ones, soldiers who died in service to our nation, are engraved on Arizona’s Enduring Freedom Memorial as promised.

“Last fall, I was contacted by the families and local veterans who told me their stories,” said Representative Townsend. **“It touched me deeply, because the men and women who fought and died for all of us deserve our greatest respect and their families deserve to have loved ones honored on the memorial.”**

The Enduring Freedom Memorial stands in front of the State Capitol, part of the Westley Bolin Memorial Plaza, and honors men and women from Arizona who served in our nation’s armed forces and lost their lives fighting terrorism in Iraq, Afghanistan, and throughout the Southwest Asia theater. Its design symbolizes gratitude and respect for those who have, and continue to protect our families, our friends, and our nation’s freedom in the global war on terrorism. It was dedicated in 2012.

Families paid for a personalized Gold Star state license plate, which was supposed to contribute a portion of the higher associated fee to go toward engraving their loved ones’ names on the memorial. However, for many that never happened.

“Since our initial meeting, I’ve been determined to rectify this injustice and we have worked together to identify a solution. Following an amicable and productive meeting last week, stakeholders reached an important consensus which is moving us in a forward trajectory. Recommended criteria are now in place for the remainder of the names that can fit on the memorial, and I have introduced legislation ([HB 2265](#)) to ensure the soldiers are rightly honored.”

“I wish to give special thanks to my constituents and Vietnam Veteran Dan Eckstein for bringing this to my attention and pushing it forward. They have all worked so hard on behalf of our fallen servicemen and women. It’s everyone’s hope that if all works out, our next announcement will be about a rededication ceremony for the memorial later this year.”



###

CONTACT:
Andrew Wilder
Director of Communications
Republican Majority Caucus
(602) 926-5299
awilder@azleg.gov