



NEWS RELEASE

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

1700 West Washington • Phoenix, Arizona • 85007

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Statement from Representative Walt Blackman on the Loss of Apache Junction Police Officer Gabriel Facio

STATE CAPITOL, PHOENIX – Arizona State Representative Walt Blackman issued the following statement regarding Apache Junction Police Officer Gabriel Facio, who died on Sunday from injuries sustained in the line of duty on June 2:

Our community is grieving the loss of Officer Gabriel Facio, a three-year veteran of the Apache Junction Police Department, who died on Sunday from injuries sustained while bravely serving in the line of duty.

His passing marks the first line-of-duty death in the history of the Apache Junction Police Department—a painful milestone that underscores the risks our officers face each day and the selfless service they provide to keep us safe.

But Gabriel Facio was more than an officer. He was a devoted husband, a proud father, a beloved son and brother, and a trusted friend. His life was defined by his service and commitment to protecting others. Before joining the Apache Junction Police Department, Officer Facio served honorably in law enforcement across Phoenix and the Valley, earning a reputation for professionalism, compassion, and strength.

To the Facio family—please accept my deepest condolences. Words cannot ease your pain, but know that your grief is shared by all of us in Legislative District 7 and across Arizona. We mourn with you, we honor Gabriel's service and sacrifice, and we stand beside you in sorrow and support.

To the officers of the Apache Junction Police Department—you have lost a brother. I share in your grief and thank you for your courage and resolve during this difficult time.

And to the community, thank you for the outpouring of love—through your prayers, your blue ribbons, and countless quiet acts of kindness. The 100 Club of Arizona, city leaders, and residents have come together to honor a true public servant and hero.

Let us never forget Officer Gabriel Facio. May we carry forward his legacy of service, courage, and compassion.

Rest in peace, Officer Facio. You served with honor, and you will not be forgotten.

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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