



NEWS RELEASE

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

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Rep. Walt Blackman Honors Victims, First Responders and Service Members on 25th Anniversary of September 11

*Calls on Americans to remember the courage and unity that followed one of the darkest days in
our nation's history*

STATE CAPITOL, PHOENIX – Arizona State Representative Walt Blackman today released the following statement ahead of the 25th anniversary of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001:

“Some dates are remembered. Others divide history into a before and after. September 11 did both.

“On that morning, I was a young Army tank commander stationed at Fort Hood, Texas. Like millions of Americans, I remember exactly where I was and what I felt as the attacks unfolded.

“None of us knew then how deeply that day would change our nation and the lives of those wearing its uniform.

“We remember the 2,977 innocent people whose lives were taken in New York City, at the Pentagon and near Shanksville, Pennsylvania. We honor the firefighters who climbed the stairs while others were trying to escape, the police officers and emergency personnel who ran toward danger, and the passengers and crew aboard Flight 93 who fought back and sacrificed themselves to save others.

“We also remember the service members and military families who carried the weight of the wars that followed. Many never returned home. Others came home carrying wounds, some visible and others unseen.

“America was politically divided before September 11, just as we are divided today. But when our nation was attacked, Americans came together. We did not ask whether the person standing beside us was a Republican or a Democrat. We stood together as Americans.

“Twenty-five years later, we should remember more than the tragedy. We should remember the courage, compassion, service and unity that followed it.

“We honor those we lost by remembering their names, supporting our first responders and veterans, standing with their families, and refusing to allow political division to outweigh our shared love of country.

“May God bless the families of the fallen, our first responders, our service members and the United States of America.”

Representative Walt Blackman is a retired United States Army combat veteran who served for 21 years, including deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan. He represents Arizona's Legislative District 7 and serves as Chairman of the House Government Committee. Follow him on X at @BlackmanForAZ.

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