

Standing Up for Our Military Community

Southern Arizona has one of the highest percentages of veterans nationwide, and Members of Congress should do everything they can to honor our service to our country. We know that Kirsten Engel is committed to doing precisely that.

During Kirsten's time in the state legislature, she cosponsored legislation that would strengthen veterans' services, including providing funding for more veterans' benefits counselors, establishing veterans' mental health courts, and providing funding to hire veteran service officers in rural tribal communities. We know that she will build on these initiatives in Congress to continue expanding access to veterans' benefits, similar to the recently passed PACT Act. This newly enacted law expands healthcare benefits for 3.5 million Veterans exposed to toxic chemicals - this is life-changing for veterans and their families who were exposed to military burn pits.

Republicans claim they support veterans, yet many refused to vote for this monumental piece of legislation. Instead, they have been using veterans as a political football. They used the PACT Act as leverage, hoping to obstruct President Biden's agenda for their own political gain. This kind of deceit is unacceptable. In Congress, Kirsten will ensure we are guaranteed the rights and benefits we have earned through our service.

Our current Representative, Congresswoman Ann Kirkpatrick, has built strong relationships with our community through her Veterans Advisory Council and by employing veterans in her office. We know Kirsten is committed to following Congresswoman Kirkpatrick's lead and ensuring veteran issues are among her top priorities. She understands that we face unique challenges and knows the only way to truly address them is by engaging with our community and taking our voices to Washington.

Southern Arizona is also home to thousands of active-duty military personnel, multiple military installations, and a robust defense industry. Kirsten knows that serving the military community means supporting our men and women in uniform, as well as veterans. She also knows that military service can come with health risks outside of what would normally be expected, as we've seen with Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) and other pollution around both Davis-Monthan and Fort Huachuca's bases. That's why it was so important when Kirsten introduced legislation in the State Legislature to safeguard our aquifers and water supplies from pollutants like PFAS chemicals to not only protect active-duty personnel but our entire community.

Kirsten understands that supporting veterans and the military community is more than just performative patriotism. It's listening to us, ensuring we're represented in her office, and using policy to improve our lives. We're confident Kirsten will continue to strengthen our healthcare and benefits, look out for our health and well-being, and honor the service we've done for our country.

We strongly encourage you to consider casting your ballot for her in this critical election.

Theresa J. Walsh
COL(Ret.)
US Army

Trisha D. Thompson
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Sylvia Gonzalez Andersh
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