Executive Order 2007-24

Honoring Arizona's Veterans of the Conflicts in Southwest Asia (Supersedes Executive Order 2003-17)

WHEREAS, since 2001, thousands of Arizonans have served their country in Southwest Asia including many who have given their lives, and others who have been injured; and

WHEREAS, the people of Arizona are eternally grateful for the service and sacrifice of their servicemen and women in support of our country; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting and appropriate to remember all Arizonans who served in these conflicts, and in particular those who died or were injured, with a permanent memorial in their honor; and

WHEREAS, under the leadership of the Arizona Department of Veterans' Affairs, key members of Arizona's veterans' community and other Arizonans have volunteered their time and talents to serve on a commission to be charged with designing, funding, and creating appropriate tributes to those who served in these conflicts and those who died or were injured; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order 2003-17 created a volunteer commission to honor specifically those Arizonans who have served in Operation Iraqi Freedom; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate to expand Executive Order 2003-17 to honor all Arizonans who have served in conflicts in Southwest Asia, including specifically those who have served in Afghanistan;

NOW THEREFORE I, Janet Napolitano, Governor of Arizona, by the authority vested in me by the Arizona Constitution and the laws of this state, do hereby order as follows:

1. The Arizona Iraqi War Memorial Commission is hereby re-named the Southwest Asia Veterans Memorial Commission (the "Commission"). The Commission shall be charged with designing, funding and creating a permanent war memorial on state grounds honoring all Arizonans who served in the conflicts in Southwest Asia. The Commission shall also work with the City of Phoenix to recommend an appropriate commemoration for all Arizonans who died in the conflicts in Southwest Asia to be placed on or near Piestewa Peak.

2. The Commission shall have reasonable access to state-owned conference rooms in the Executive Tower and, where feasible, to support staff and facilities of the Governor's Office and/or Department of Veterans' Affairs; provided, however, that all funding necessary for any war memorial recommended by the Commission shall be funded by private donations, which the Commission shall be authorized to solicit.

3. The Commission shall be charged with obtaining input from veterans and military groups, and from the families of all Arizona servicemen and women killed in the conflicts in Southwest Asia, regarding the tributes and memorials it considers and implements.

4. All agencies of state government are directed to cooperate with the Commission in the analysis of potential sites for the permanent memorial, including the use, if appropriate, of Wesley Bolin Plaza.

5. Except as specifically provided below, the Commission members shall be appointed by, and serve without compensation at the pleasure of, the Governor. Although the Governor may add members as she deems appropriate, the Commission shall be comprised of at least 19 members, who shall include:

    a. The Director of the Arizona Department of Veterans' Services, who shall act as Chair;
    b. Up to four members of the Arizona Department of Veterans' Services Advisory Commission;
    c. The State Commander of the American Legion;
    d. The State Commander of the Disabled American Veterans;
    e. The State Commander of the Military Order of the Purple Heart;
    f. The State Commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars;
    g. The State Commandant of the Marine Corps League;
    h. Two representatives of the Arizona House of Representatives, who shall not be of the same political party;
    i. Two representatives of the Arizona Senate, who shall not be of the same political party;
    j. Four representatives from the military appointed by the Director of the Department of Veterans Affairs;
    k. Two representatives of the public, including at least one with experience in fundraising; and
    l. One representative of the Office of the Governor.

6. Members of Commission may, with the Governor's permission, send designees to serve on the Commission, provided, that such designees shall have been delegated by the member with full authority to vote and otherwise act on behalf of the member.

7. The Commission shall coordinate with the Governor's Office on an appropriate ceremony for the dedication of the memorial.

8. This Executive Order supersedes Executive Order 2003-17.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of Arizona.

Janet Napolitano
GOVERNOR

DONE at the Capitol in Phoenix on this 16th day of October in the Year Two Thousand Seven and of the independence of the United States of America the Two Hundred and Thirty-Second.

ATTEST: Janice K. Brewer

SECRETARY OF STATE