Executive Order 2005 -15

Arizona Veterans Task Force

WHEREAS, more than 565,000 veterans reside in the State of Arizona; and

WHEREAS, although precise data are not available, it is estimated that these veterans generate in excess of five billion dollars to the state's economy through Veteran Administration expenditures, disability compensation and pensions, educational benefits, military retiree pay and veteran's employment funding; and

WHEREAS, the economic impacts of these veterans has not been adequately studied at the highest level of state government; and

WHEREAS, state and local business and government leaders should be educated about issues of importance to Arizona veterans; and

NOW THEREFORE, I, Janet Napolitano, Governor of the State of Arizona, by the powers vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the State, do hereby order and direct as follows:

1. The Arizona Veterans Task Force is created to evaluate issues important to Arizona veterans and determine the economic impact of Arizona Veterans.

2. The *Task Force* shall be chaired by the Director of the Arizona Department of Veterans' Services, and in his/her absence, co-chaired by a member of the Veterans Task Force who has been elected to serve in that capacity. The chair and the governor shall each have power to convene the *Task Force*.

3. The *Task Force* shall be comprised of the following 11 members who shall serve without compensation;

    - The Director of the Arizona Department of Veterans' Services

    - Ten members appointed by the governor, including one member from the Governor's Office of Strategic Planning and Budget, one member from the Arizona Department of Revenue and eight members who are qualified and motivated to identify the economic impact of veterans to the state of Arizona

4. The *Task Force* shall analyze and evaluate existing state services and benefits provided to Arizona's veterans.

5. The *Task Force* shall identify and compare Arizona state services and benefits available to veterans who reside in other states.

6. The *Task Force* shall develop a plan to educate Arizona state and local leaders about issues of importance to Arizona veterans.

7. The *Task Force* shall issue recommendations and a final report to the Governor, Senate President and Speaker of the House by the first week of January 2006. Upon submission of the report, the *Task Force* shall cease to exist.

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

GOVERNOR

DONE at the Capitol in Phoenix on this 17th day of June in the Year Two Thousand and Five and of the Independence of the United States of America the Two Hundred and Twenty-Ninth.

ATTEST:

Janice K. Brewer

SECRETARY OF STATE