



Kim Olson Launches First Digital Video in Campaign for TX-24

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Kim Olson, USAF Col. Ret., issues a call to action in the first digital video for her campaign to unseat North Texas Republican Rep. Kenny Marchant.

Kim is a 25-year combat veteran who accomplished many firsts during her career in the Air Force. She was the first woman to go to pilot training at her base and one of the first female flight instructors, flight evaluators, squadron commanders, and Colonels. After nearly three decades serving our country and the state of Texas in uniform, she's running to continue her service as a member of Congress.

In the video, Kim says, "Now I'm running for Congress, because this President is attacking everything we've fought for over the years. We didn't choose this battle, it chose us. But, if you believe it's a battle worth fighting, be a warrior—join us."

Kim's candidacy builds on the movement of women military veterans who ran for office in 2018 and helped change the face of Congress. She faces Rep. Marchant in 2020, whose margin of victory fell from 17 points in 2016 to only 3 in 2018. The campaign plans to spend more than \$10,000 online to boost the new ad in its first week.

View full video here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mzvCrs59xug&feature=youtu.be>

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Full Script:

Kim Olson here. They say warriors rarely pick their battles, they're chosen for them.

When I joined the Air Force, I wanted to fly airplanes. But they said I couldn't go to flight school because I was a woman. That was my first battle. I fought to get the policy changed so I could go to flight school ... and every woman after me.

I deployed all over the world, became an instructor teaching airmen to fly supersonic jets, and became the first woman to command an operational flying squadron. They gave me the call sign "Jet Mom."

During the Kosovo conflict, I was put in charge of coordinating the refueling air space for 80 different types of aircraft from 17 countries in the largest bombing campaign since WWII ... and we did it without a single loss of life.

That earned me a promotion to Colonel and an assignment



to the Pentagon overseeing a \$220 billion dollar budget.

Just when I thought my deployment days were over, 9/11 happened when an airplane exploded into the Pentagon, just around the corner from me.

I was sent to the front lines to rebuild Iraq. And I gotta' tell you ... it was a cluster. There was no reconstruction plan, no political foresight ... our government couldn't even pay the security detail protecting Americans. So that became my battle. I did what I had to do to get the security team paid and save lives. And for that, I was reprimanded. But I take full responsibly, and when it comes to saving lives, it's a decision I'd make again.

I was reassigned to the Pentagon, where another battle awaited me: investigating sexual misconduct in our ranks and modernizing the Air Force's policy on sexual assault. So many of us knew how bad it was.

After twenty-five years I retired honorably as a full-bird Colonel, came home and was recruited to serve in the Texas



State Guard, helping families in need.

But I soon discovered there were Texas veterans in need – so I had another battle to fight. We had opened the door for women to serve in combat, but the doors were still closed when they came home. After multiple deployments and grinding combat, women faced staggering suicide rates, devastating unemployment, and appalling homelessness.

Women who went to war to protect our American streets were now living on them with their children because there was nowhere safe to go and no one to turn to.

So I helped create and lead Grace After Fire, a non-profit that took on the VA and state government to get our veterans and their families the care they deserve. We've helped thousands of veterans get back on their feet.

Our work got me inducted into the Texas women's hall of fame. It was so humbling to see my portrait next to those trailblazers who fought battles of their own.

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