

Nicholas LaSala, Jr.
975 Cranes Creek Road
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February 13th, 2021

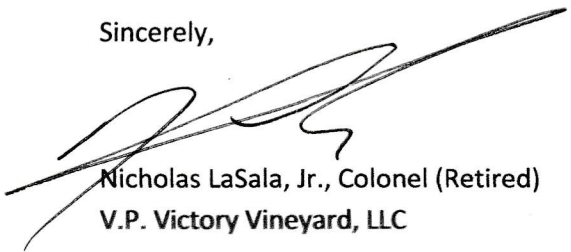
Dear Chairman Brave and Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee :

I am writing to submit written testimony in strong support of House Bill 755, Natural Resources - Complimentary Angler's License - Disabled Veterans.

I support this bill first and foremost as a Service-Disabled Veteran who has devoted his post retirement time and energies into creating an environment where both veterans and civilians alike can take advantage of the proven health benefits of engaging in outdoor activities. Nearly all Veterans experience some sort of trauma. Whether through the extremely high-stress actions of jumping out of airplanes, engaging in live-fire exercises, experiencing the horrors of combat, or the constant relocation and separation from one's family; these traumas build up over a career. Encouraging Veterans to participate in activities like fishing, farming, boating, horseback riding, and hiking are proven ways to enhance resiliency and build the relationships and coping mechanisms necessary for managing accumulated stress and trauma to ensure continued success in life.

Veterans are the last to look for recognition or 'freebees' because of their service. Most of us answered the call to serve our Nation and to support and defend the Constitution with little more than a desire to be a part of something bigger than ourselves, like the great patriots before us. Therefore, it becomes imperative that the representatives of this great citizenry make these gestures on behalf of a grateful nation to recognize that service and sacrifice. Opening the eligibility of a complimentary fishing license to a greater population of Veterans will likely encourage many of them to take advantage of a healing activity they may not have considered before – possibly making a lifesaving difference. I laud your committee for taking on this worthy piece of legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N. LaSala', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Nicholas LaSala, Jr., Colonel (Retired)
V.P. Victory Vineyard, LLC