



MARYLAND MILITARY COALITION

Serving Veterans through Legislative Advocacy

February 22, 2024

The Honorable William C. Smith, Jr.
Chair, Judicial Proceedings Committee
2 East Miller
Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Subject: Request for FAVORABLE Report – SB0584 – Motor Vehicles – Parking – Armed Forces Special Registration Plates

Dear Chair Smith and distinguished members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee,

On behalf of the members of the Maryland Military Coalition (MMC) and as its Legislative Director, I write to recommend a **FAVORABLE report** by the Committee on ***SB0584 – Motor Vehicles – Parking – Armed Forces Special Registration Plates***, sponsored by Senator Bryan W. Simonaire. This legislation prohibits a county or municipal corporation of the State of Maryland from adopting or enforcing an ordinance, regulation, or policy that would require payment of a fee for parking a motor vehicle in a parking space with a parking meter if that vehicle has certain armed forces-related registration plates as defined in the bill.

The MMC endorses the proposal to provide this type of free parking to those honorably discharged veterans who have earned combat-related armed forces medals or individuals who are the recipient of the Department of Defense Gold Star for surviving spouses, parents, and next of kin of members of the armed forces who lost their lives in combat or are disabled veterans with special registration plates. It recognizes the fact that each has either honorably served our nation or, in the case of the Gold Star recipients, had a family member who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country. It is the least we can do for all of them.

The Maryland Military Coalition **strongly supports** SB0584 and asks for a **FAVORABLE** report from the Judicial Proceedings Committee. This bill builds on the Moore Administration's Year of the Military Families, providing another benefit that assists and helps the veterans and their families who have bravely served, fought, and sacrificed for our state and country.

The Maryland Military Coalition is a registered non-profit, non-partisan advocacy organization comprised of 21 prominent Maryland-based veteran and military groups, representing over 150,000 service-connected individuals, including those currently serving, veterans, retirees and their families, caregivers, and survivors.

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We want to thank Senator Bryan Simonaire for sponsoring this legislation and his continued strong support of the veterans community in Maryland.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David L. Dragics".

David L. Dragics
COL USA (Ret)
Legislative Director

Member Organizations, Maryland Military Coalition

James P. Monahan
Air Force Sergeants Association

Step P. May
American Military Society

Elwood R. Raphael Gray
American Minority Veterans Research Project

W. G. G.
Association of the United States Navy

Lynda A. Gask
Commissioned Officers Association of the
US Public Health Service

Wilbur B. Fisher
Disabled American Veterans

Seldon H. Freedberg
Distinguished Flying Cross Association

Phyllis J. Collins
Fleet Reserve Association

Seldon H. Freedberg
Jewish War Veterans of the USA

Steve L. Blocker
Maryland Air National Guard Retirees'
Association

Emmett R. Robert
Maryland Veterans Chamber of Commerce

Robert J. Winton
Military Officers Association of America

Charles E. Galt
Military Order of the Purple Heart

E. J.
Montford Point Marines of America

M. L. Messer
National Association for Black Veterans

Michael P. Hays
Naval Enlisted Reserve Association

Christian Andreasen
NOAA Association of Commissioned Officers

John S.
Reserve Organization of America

Catherine L. McStaw
Society of Military Widows

E. J.
National Active and Retired Federal Employees
Veterans Affairs Directorate, NARFE MD

M. Blackwell
Veterans of Foreign Wars