



Rear Admiral Christian Andreasen, NOAA
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January 23, 2020

Chairwoman Shane E. Pendergrass and Members of the
Health and Government Operations Committee
House Office Building, Room 241
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Chairwoman Pendergrass and Members of the Committee:

The NOAA Association of Commissioned Officers, DC Section, is a service organization representing the interests of locally-assigned active duty officers and local retired NOAA Corps officers. The NOAA Corps is headquartered in Maryland: the smallest of the Nation's uniformed services.

HB12 clarifies the eligibility for access to a Maryland veterans home or homes to all honorably discharged members of the "uniformed services," vice just the "armed forces," and follows the Maryland definition of "veteran" found in the General Provisions of the Maryland Code, Section 1-117.

The Board of Directors and members of the chapter strongly **SUPPORT HOUSE BILL 12**. We ask the Committee to report a **Favorable** recommendation as the bill progresses through the legislative process.

Thank you for supporting Maryland Veterans!

Sincerely yours,

Christian Andreasen

Rear Admiral Christian Andreasen, NOAA (Ret)
On behalf of the NOAA ACO Board of Directors

Cc:
The American Legion Department of Maryland
Delegate Michael J. Rogers (Sponsor)