

MARYLAND MILITARY COALITION

HOUSE BILL 32 - SUPPORT

**General Provisions - Commemorative Days - Welcome Home
Korean War Veterans Day
House Rules and Executive Nominations Committee
February 24, 2020**

Madam Chair Healey and members of the House Rules and Executive Nominations Committee. My name is John May. I am a retired Air Force Chief Master Sergeant and Director of the Maryland Military Coalition.

The Maryland Military Coalition is a **non-profit, all volunteer, Veterans advocacy group** representing the interests of Maryland Veterans, Service Members, their families and survivors. The Coalition is comprised of 17 uniformed services and veterans' organizations, listed on the following page, with over 100,000 members. We represent about one-fourth of Maryland's Veterans, Service Members, and their families.

The Maryland Military Coalition strongly supports HB 32 -- to honor those who fought and died during the Korean War.

The Korean War was relatively short but exceptionally bloody. More than 5.7 million American service members served during the Korean War. More than 36,000 service members, including **531 Marylanders, lost their lives in the war**, and more than 103,000 were wounded. About 7,600 American service members, including **136 Marylanders, remain unaccounted for** from the Korea War.

Many refer to the Korean War as "The Forgotten War." Overshadowed both by the World War II veterans that came before them and the Vietnam veterans that followed, Korean War veterans never received the attention and honor due them. The lack of resolution to the conflict played a large role in that.

At present, there are 38,674 Maryland veterans who served in this tragic war -- and their numbers are dwindling almost daily.

The Maryland Military Coalition strongly believes that it is time to recognize these brave service men and women. We respectfully request a favorable report from this committee.

We applaud Delegate Chang for his dedicated persistence in bringing this issue to prominence.

Respectfully submitted,

John P. May, CMSgt USAF, Retired
Director
Maryland Military Coalition

Member Organizations, Maryland Military Coalition



Air Force Sergeants Association



American Military Society



**Commissioned Officers Association of the
US Public Health Service**



Disabled American Veterans



Distinguished Flying Cross Association



Fleet Reserve Association




Jewish War Veterans of the USA



**Maryland Air National Guard Retirees'
Association**



Military Officers Association of America



Military Order of the Purple Heart



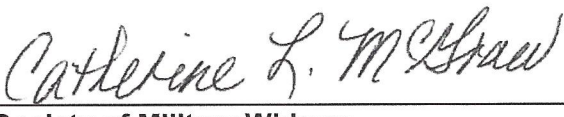
National Association for Black Veterans



Naval Enlisted Reserve Association



NOAA Association of Commissioned Officers



Society of Military Widows



The Retired Enlisted Association



Veterans of Foreign Wars