



MARYLAND MILITARY COALITION

HOUSE BILL 389 - SUPPORT

**House Bill 389 – Income Tax Checkoff – Maryland Veterans Trust Fund
House Ways & Means Committee
February 7, 2020**

The Maryland Military Coalition is a **nonprofit, all volunteer, Veterans advocacy group** representing the interests of Maryland Veterans, Service members, and their Families. Our alliance consists of sixteen 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 **supports House Bill 389.**

As you know, the Chesapeake Bay and Endangered Species Fund, Maryland Cancer Fund, Developmental Disabilities Services and Support Fund, and Fair Campaign Financing Fund are the four current checkoffs on the personal income tax form. As recently as fiscal 2019, taxpayers donated nearly \$1.7 million via income tax checkoffs to these organizations.

This important legislation adds the Maryland Veterans Trust Fund as another option for taxpayer donations. The Maryland Veterans Trust Fund is a nonprofit organization created by Maryland law that provides non-emergency, temporary financial support for rent, mortgage, or utility payments.

The fund currently receives its resources from a portion of the proceeds of sales from instant ticket lottery machines operated by veterans service organizations. **The present level of funding is insufficient to meet the actual needs of our Veterans for assistance.**

Authorizing individual donations via an income tax form checkoff would provide a valuable, additional source of funding, allowing even more of our deserving Veterans to receive assistance.

We do not believe adding this new option will reduce funding to the current programs, rather it will afford a new giving opportunity to Marylanders with a propensity to support Veterans issues!

The Maryland Military Coalition believes that our Veterans and their families deserve not only recognition and acclaim for their service, but also our assistance in their times of great need.

House Bill 389 increases the financial security of our most needy Veterans and their families. It will also help in preventing Veteran homelessness by both keeping Veterans in their homes, and in keeping their homes habitable.

We respectfully request a favorable report for House Bill 389.

For questions or additional information, please feel free to contact me at
BTSmith1184@outlook.com or by calling 703.623.3678

Member Organizations, Maryland Military Coalition

James P. Monahan

Air Force Sergeants Association

Stacy P. May

American Military Society

Lynn A. Nash

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

Wilbert B. Forbes

Disabled American Veterans

Sheldon Goldberg

Distinguished Flying Cross Association

Pleasala J. Collins

Fleet Reserve Association

Evan A. Buttrick

Jewish War Veterans of the USA

Steve L. Bloodgood

**Maryland Air National Guard Retirees'
Association**

Harvey Kaplan

Military Officers Association of America

Charles Egbert

Military Order of the Purple Heart

Mervyn Rice

National Association for Black Veterans

Michael P. Hays

Naval Enlisted Reserve Association

Christian Andreasen

NOAA Association of Commissioned Officers

Catherine L. McGraw

Society of Military Widows

Arthur L. Cooper

The Retired Enlisted Association

Thomas C. Williams

Veterans of Foreign Wars