



## MARYLAND MILITARY COALITION

*Serving Veterans through Legislative Advocacy*

February 15, 2022

Chairwoman Vanessa Atterbeary  
Room 131  
House Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

### **HB 617, Property Tax – Credit for Surviving Spouses of Fallen Service Members – Request a FAVORABLE Report With AMENDMENT**

Dear Chairman Atterbeary and Members of the House Ways and Means Committee:

House Bill, HB 617, Property Tax – Credit for Surviving Spouses of Fallen Service Members, before your committee on February 15, 2022, is a valuable measure to aid and enhance the economic well-being of survivors of fallen service members in Maryland. This measure allows the governing body of a county or municipal corporation to grant a property tax credit for the dwelling of the surviving spouse of a fallen service member who died in the line of duty.

However, as written, this bill only addresses the active duty of the military, naval or air service of the United States—the six military services (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Space Force and Coast Guard and not all of the Uniformed Services. It excludes the active duty of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) as well as my service, the United States Public Health Service, who in the last two years has been continuously deployed to hospitals and clinics around the U.S. fighting COVID. Over 6,000 deployments have taken place (which is essentially all members of the service). Most PHS officers have been rotating 30 days deployed and 30 days at home, since the start of the pandemic. Several officers have been infected while serving in the front lines of the fight against disease. Therefore, I believe that **ALL** Uniformed Services should be included in this bill.

The Maryland Military Coalition, a voluntary, non-partisan organization representing 19 veteran service organizations who, in turn, serve over 150,000 former military men and women throughout our State. The Maryland Military Coalition **strongly supports** and asks for a **FAVORABLE** report on House Bill 617 **with our recommended amendment**. We applaud Delegate Lisanti for her commitment to survivors of our fallen heroes.

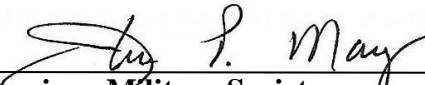
Yours, respectfully


LYNN A. NASH, CAPTAIN USPHS (Ret)  
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## Member Organizations, Maryland Military Coalition

  
Air Force Sergeants Association

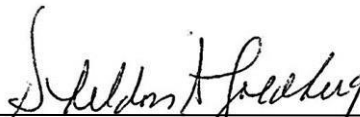
  
American Military Society


  
American Minority Veterans Research Project


  
Association of the United States Navy


  
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

  
Veterans of Foreign Wars