



**International Association of Machinists and
Aerospace Workers
AFL-CIO
PATUXENT RIVER LOCAL #4**



21795 C N. Shangri-La Drive Lexington Park MD 20653 Office (301) 866-0999 Fax (301) 866-0993

Chairman, members of the committee, thank you for allowing me to speak today. My name is Jeremy Leissner. I am the President of Local Lodge 4 with the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAMAW). Our Local Lodge represents over 1400 members across St. Mary's and Calvert Counties. Approximately 85% of our members are veterans. Of that 85%, roughly 60% have a service connected disability rating from the Department of Veteran Affairs (VA). In 2020, it was reported that there were over 94,000 veterans in Maryland receiving compensation benefits.

As a veteran of 6 ½ years in the United States Air Force, I believe that spouses and dependents of veterans sacrifice just as veterans do. They endured and continue to endure the consequences of being a service members' spouse or dependent. Their sacrifices should also be recognized.

The time is now to start adding spouses and dependents to benefits both at the state and federal levels that veterans are entitled to. For many veteran spouses, continuing education begins after the service member exits the military. These benefits should also be extended to surviving spouses and dependents as well.

Jeremy Leissner

President

IAWMA, Local Lodge 4

Proudly serving Southern Maryland since 2007

International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers

