

MMC Testimony in Support of SB 0473 Final.pdf

Uploaded by: Jayson Spiegel

Position: FAV



MARYLAND MILITARY COALITION

Serving Veterans through Legislative Advocacy

Statement of Jayson L. Spiegel
Maryland Military Coalition

SB 0473 – Commission to Establish a Memorial to the Global War on Terror

February 21, 2023

FAVORABLE

Dear Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan and Members of the Education, Energy and Environment Committee:

The Maryland Military Coalition (MMC) **strongly supports SB 0473**, which will establish a commission to study establishing a memorial dedicated to Marylanders who have fought in the Global War on Terror and their families.

The Global War on Terror began in October 2001 and ended almost 20 years later when the final American forces left Afghanistan. Over 7,000 American Service Members lost their lives in combat in Iraq, Afghanistan and other locations in the Central Command area of operations.

There are more than 3.7 million veterans who have served in the Global War on Terror, including tens of thousands who live in Maryland. Many members of the National Guard and Reserve left their Maryland homes to serve.

Significantly, many Maryland leaders are veterans of the Global War on Terror, including Governor Moore, Attorney General Brown, Veterans Affairs Secretary Woods, Housing Secretary Day, and many members of the General Assembly, including Senator Will Smith, Delegate Mike Rogers, and Delegate Nick Allen, among others.

Approximately 43% of veterans of the Global War on Terror have a service-connected disability. The Global War on Terror affected not only the Service Members but also the family members who supported them at home.

Maryland did not dedicate its World War II Memorial until long after the war ended. Our state should honor the veterans of the Global War on Terror now, while veterans and surviving family members can gather and the Memorial and honor those who served.

The Maryland Military Coalition is a non-partisan organization of 19 Veteran organizations representing over 150,000 Maryland uniformed services men and women and their families -- almost half of the 355,000 veterans in the State.

We urge the Committee to favorably report the bill.

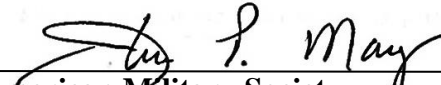
Respectfully,

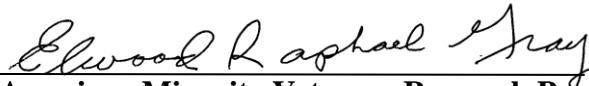
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jayson Spiegel". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jayson" and the last name "Spiegel" clearly distinguishable.

Jayson Spiegel
LTC USAR (Ret)
President


Member Organizations, Maryland Military Coalition


Air Force Sergeants Association

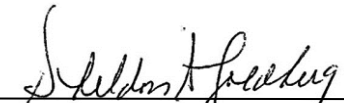

American Military Society



American Minority Veterans Research Project

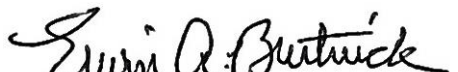

Association of the United States Navy



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



Montford Point Marines of America


National Association for Black Veterans


Naval Enlisted Reserve Association


NOAA Association of Commissioned Officers


Reserve Organization of America


Society of Military Widows


Veterans of Foreign Wars

SB 473_Memorial War on Terror_Klaudmeier_PDF2.pdf

Uploaded by: Patrick Guibao

Position: FAV

Written Statement in Support
For Senate Bill 473
Before the Education, Energy and Environment Committee
February 21, 2023

The nation's longest war known as the Global War on Terrorism had its origins following the heartbreaking, deadly attacks in World Trade Center and at the nearby Pentagon on September 11, 2001 and concluded August 30, 2021. During that 22-year period 1, 537 Maryland residents have served our country, in post 9/11 wars according to Brown University's Watson Institute.

Senate Bill 473 would help memorialize the 128 service men and women, all from Maryland, who gave their lives in that terrible conflict as well as support and recognize those who returned from Iraq, Afghanistan and other battle areas; many who still live with the devastating effects brought on by the War on Terror.

This bill would create a commission to establish a Memorial to these warriors who fought bravely for us and, in turn, should be recognized by us. Like the bill signed into law in the last session to create a commission for creating a suitable Memorial to Women, SB 473 would honor those who voluntarily served our country in a terrible time of crises.

The American Legion Department of Maryland in conjunction with the Fleet Reserve Association—both international veteran service organizations with a membership exceeding 142,000 throughout Maryland—urge the Education, Energy and Environment Committee to offer a favorable report on Senate Bill 473 to honor those who gave a lot and those who gave their all in the Global War on Terrorism. In closing, we wish to thank Senator Klausmeier for his respect to our service community.

Most respectfully,

Patrick Guibao

Patrick J. Guibao
Legislative Director
The American Legion Department of Maryland
Fleet Reserve Association State of Maryland

