



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.

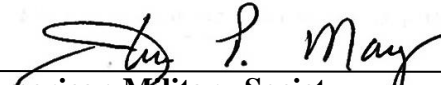
Respectfully,

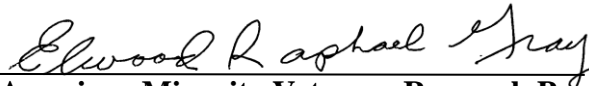
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jayson Spiegel". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jayson" and the last name "Spiegel" clearly distinguishable.

Jayson Spiegel
LTC USAR (Ret)
President


Member Organizations, Maryland Military Coalition


Air Force Sergeants Association


American Military Society



American Minority Veterans Research Project

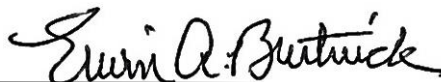

Association of the United States Navy



Commissioned Officers Association of the
US Public Health Service

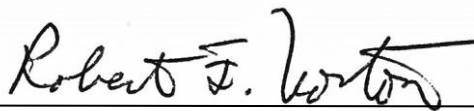

Disabled American Veterans

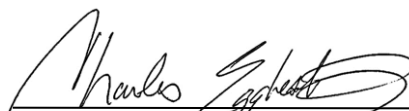

Distinguished Flying Cross Association



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