



MARYLAND MILITARY COALITION

Serving Veterans through Legislative Advocacy

Environment and Transportation Committee

Statement of Mike Moses
Maryland Military Coalition

HB 250 – Vehicle Laws - Disabled Veteran Registration Plates - Issuance
February 9, 2023

FAVORABLE

Good afternoon, Madam Chair, Vice Chair and Honorable Committee Members.

My name is Mike Moses, Director of the Maryland Military Coalition and resident of Charles County, Waldorf, Maryland, and Navy Veteran.

Many Veterans after serving in the Vietnam War, Persian Gulf, and the Iraq and Afghanistan conflict have struggled when they returned home. Transitioning back into civilian life is by far their biggest battle. During the changeover, Veterans worry about bills, food, and other small things on a daily basis.

On countless occasions during the transition, the home population expresses its appreciation with statements of gratitude such as “Thank You For Your Service.” And, there are benefits from federal and state governments, though some are with limitations.

One particular limitation in our state, pertaining to the honoring of our veterans, is the one with the Motor Vehicle Administration that allows ONLY a Veteran, who is 100% disabled, free registration for all license fees.

As a former Southern Maryland Area Veteran Service Officer, I have coached veterans using the **VA** E-Benefit Data Base and VetPro in addressing Veteran Claims. In the state of Maryland there are 38,161 Veterans who have received a rating of at least 50% to 90% disability according to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and these veterans should be given this Veteran preference.

Let us continue to articulate our thanks to our disabled veterans’ service with a positive vote for HB 250 and **lower the free registration to those vehicle owners with military service-related injuries of at least 50%** as designated or classified by the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs.

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The Maryland Military Coalition is a registered non-profit, non-partisan advocacy organization comprised of prominent Maryland-based veteran and military groups, representing over 150,000 service-connected individuals, including those currently serving, veterans, retirees and their families, caregivers, and survivors.

We **strongly support HB 250** and ask for the committee's **favorable support**.

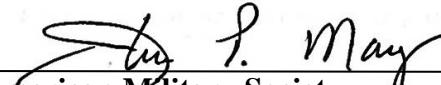
Respectfully,

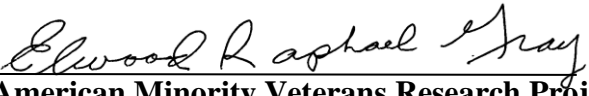
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Moses". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Mike Moses, Director
U.S. Navy Veteran


Member Organizations, Maryland Military Coalition


Air Force Sergeants Association


American Military Society



American Minority Veterans Research Project

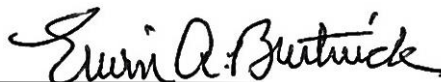

Association of the United States Navy



Commissioned Officers Association of the
US Public Health Service

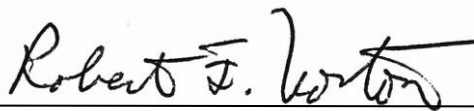

Disabled American Veterans

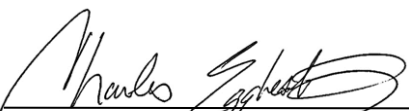

Distinguished Flying Cross Association



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