

Health and Government Operations Committee

**Statement of Mike Moses
Maryland Military Coalition**

**HB 480 – Burial in State Veterans Cemeteries- Spouses and
Dependents
Wednesday, March 01, 2023**

FAVORABLE

Good afternoon, Chair, Vice Chair and Honorable Committee Members

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

Expanding burial coverage to include the spouses and dependents of veterans is a step in the right direction and supports the families of our nation's heroes. Making this policy change not only honors the sacrifices made by veterans but also recognizes the critical role that spouses and dependents have played in supporting their loved one's military service.

Escalating burial attention to embrace the spouses and dependents will also provide peace of mind for veterans and their families. By knowing that their loved ones will be taken care of, veterans can focus on their duties with greater confidence, knowing that their families will be provided for in the event of their passing.

The spouses and dependents of veterans often bear the emotional and financial burden of their loss. Burial expenses can be substantial, and without proper financial, support, many families are left struggling to cover these costs. This can cause added stress and financial strain at an already difficult time. Providing them with burial benefits can, and will, help ease these burdens.

In conclusion, magnifying burial coverage to add in the spouses and dependents of veterans is a compassionate and practical step that will provide much-needed support to the families of our nation's heroes.

I ASK FOR A FAVORABLE RESPONSE