

MMC written testimony_SB 176_Tax-Free Day_Veterans

Uploaded by: Lynn Nash

Position: FAV



MARYLAND MILITARY COALITION

*Serving Veterans through Legislative
Advocacy*

January 24, 2024

Honorable Guy Guzzone
Chair, Budget and Taxation Committee
Maryland Senate
3 West
Miller Senate Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

SB 176 – Sales and Use Tax-Tax-Free Day- Veterans’ Day - Request for Favorable Report

Dear Chairman Guzzone and Honorable Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee

Maryland is home to 34,444 active-duty service members, 14,292 active-duty spouses and 25,642 reservists/national guard members with 28,019 family members¹. In addition, there are 355,787 veteran households² which includes 51,835 DoD-retired, receiving an average retired pay of \$37,962³.

Senate Bill 179, as amended, proposes a tax-free day for all veterans, including those currently serving on active-duty in a uniformed service, reservists of a uniform service and national guardsman, on Veterans’ Day. We recognize the high cost of living here in Maryland, and applaud Senator Brooks for this bill which honors our service.

The Maryland Military Coalition, is a voluntary, non-partisan organization representing 21 veteran service organizations who, in turn, serve over 150,000 Maryland uniformed services men and women and their families. The Coalition **supports** Senate Bill 176 – Tax-Free Day- Veterans’ Day - and asks for your *favorable report*.

Thank you to Senator Brooks for sponsoring this important legislation.

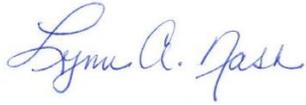
¹ [Military One Source](#), as of December 31, 2022

² [VA Claim Insider](#), August 10, 2023

³ [Office of the Actuary](#), U.S. Department of Defense, as of January 31, 2023

January 24, 2024

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lynn A. Nash". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

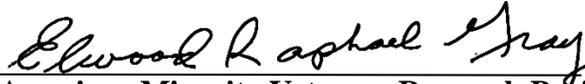
Lynn A. Nash, PhD, RN, PHCNS-BC, FAAN
CAPT (R), U.S. Public Health Service
Communications Director

Maryland Military Coalition Member Organizations Follow

Member Organizations, Maryland Military Coalition

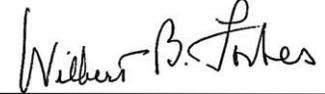

Air Force Sergeants Association

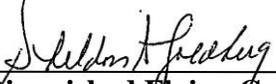

American Military Society


American Minority Veterans Research Project

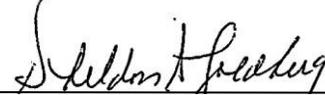

Association of the United States Navy


Commissioned Officers Association of the
US Public Health Service


Disabled American Veterans

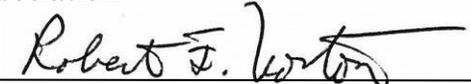

Distinguished Flying Cross Association


Fleet Reserve Association


Jewish War Veterans of the USA


Maryland Air National Guard Retirees'
Association

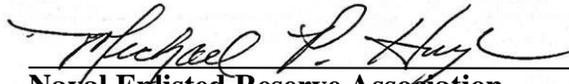

Maryland Veterans Chamber of Commerce

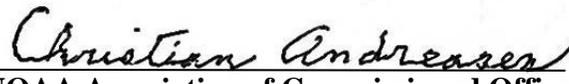

Military Officers Association of America


Military Order of the Purple Heart

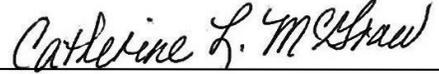

Montford Point Marines of America


National Association for Black Veterans


Naval Enlisted Reserve Association


NOAA Association of Commissioned Officers


Reserve Organization of America


Society of Military Widows


National Active and Retired Federal Employees
Veterans Affairs Directorate, NARFE MD


Veterans of Foreign Wars

TESTIMONY OF RAM - SB 176 - Veterans Sales Tax Hol

Uploaded by: Melvin Thompson

Position: FAV



SENATE BILL 176

Sales and Use Tax - Tax-Free Day - Veterans' Day

January 24, 2024

Position: Favorable

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee:

The *Restaurant Association of Maryland* supports Senate Bill 176 establishing a sales tax-free day for veterans on Veterans' Day of each year.

The restaurant industry proudly recognizes and welcomes our veterans. Our organization partnered with the Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs to promote Operation Green Light to our restaurant members, encouraging them to shine a green light to show support of our veterans and raise awareness during the week of Veterans' Day.

Honoring our veterans is important to restaurants and to the communities we serve. The sales tax exemption for Veterans' Day that this legislation would establish would be an additional way for Maryland to recognize these individuals who have served.

For these reasons, we support this legislation and request a favorable report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Melvin R. Thompson". The signature is written in a cursive style and is followed by a long horizontal line.

Melvin R. Thompson
Senior Vice President
Government Affairs and Public Policy

SB176 Testimony of ABR.pdf

Uploaded by: Albert Randall

Position: FWA

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Admitted in MD

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB176
SALES AND USE TAX - TAX FREE DAY - VETERANS' DAY**

Budget & Taxation Committee
January 24, 2024

Chair Guzzone, Vice-Chair Rosapepe and Members of the Committee,

As a former enlisted soldier in the Maryland Army National Guard, I am writing to express my wholehearted support for SB176, which proposes to designate Veterans' Day as a sales tax-free day for veterans, National Guard, and reserve members in the state of Maryland. This initiative not only serves as a meaningful gesture of gratitude to our veterans but also provides them with a well-deserved economic incentive to help kick off pre-holiday season shopping in Maryland, benefitting our state's retail and hospitality industries.

Given Maryland's rich history of military service, I believe it is crucial to acknowledge the immense sacrifices made by our veterans, National Guard, and reserve members. Veterans' Day serves as a poignant reminder of the courage, dedication, and selflessness displayed by these individuals who have safeguarded our freedoms. Granting them a sales tax-free day is a tangible way to express our gratitude and appreciation for their service.

Many of our veterans struggle, with 5% of Maryland veterans living in poverty and nearly 24% of Maryland veterans having a service-connected disability. This bill would give those in need a chance to enjoy a sales tax-free shopping day that would help them to obtain necessities of daily living while giving other state veterans the chance to participate in early holiday-season shopping and dining. By making Veterans' Day a sales tax-free day, we not only honor our

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veterans but also empower them with a financial incentive to participate in the holiday experience.

This initiative can also stimulate local businesses by encouraging increased foot traffic and sales on Veterans' Day. As veterans, National Guard, and reserve members take advantage of the tax-free day, they contribute to the economic growth of our communities. This mutually beneficial arrangement not only supports our veterans but also fosters a sense of community engagement and solidarity.

Furthermore, creating a sales tax-free day on Veterans' Day aligns with the values of inclusivity and recognition of diverse forms of uniformed service. National Guard and reserve members, who play a crucial role in homeland defense and disaster response, deserve the same acknowledgment and benefits as active-duty military personnel. This legislation reflects a commitment to honoring all those who have served our country.

For these reasons, I request a favorable report on SB176.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Albert B. Randall, Jr.", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Albert B. Randall, Jr.

SB176_Brooks.pdf

Uploaded by: Benjamin Brooks

Position: FWA

BENJAMIN BROOKS
Legislative District 10
Baltimore County

Education, Energy, and the
Environment Committee
Energy Subcommittee

Chair, Joint Electric Universal
Service Program Workgroup



THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

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8419 Liberty Road, Suite B
Windsor Mill, Maryland 21244
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TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENT OF SB176
Sales and Use Tax- Tax Free Day- Veterans' Day

Budget & Taxation Committee
January 24, 2024

Chair Guzzone, Vice-Chair Rosapepe and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you on SB176, Sales and Use Tax - Tax-Free Day - Veterans' Day. The purpose of this bill is to establish a sales tax-free day on Veterans' Day for veterans who have served in the National Guard, active-duty military, or reserve component of the uniformed services.

In his first State of the State address, Governor Moore said: "If we are serious about growing our economy, it begins by making Maryland the best state to be a veteran. They are lifelong contributors, and lifelong taxpayers". Last year, the General Assembly followed through on its commitment to veterans and passed the "Keep Our Heroes Home Act" and the "Healthcare for Heroes Act" which lowered the tax-burden for veteran's retirement income and healthcare expenses.

To make Maryland the best place for veterans to live, work, and raise a family, we should build on this great progress by establishing a tax holiday in honor of those who have bravely served our country and our state. For the nearly 360,000 veterans in our State, a tax-free day on November 11th would not only provide a tangible benefit in the form of financial relief but also serve as a public acknowledgment of their service. It is a small yet powerful way to say 'thank you' to our veterans, letting them know that their sacrifices are recognized and valued.

The concept of a tax-free day is not new to Maryland. Each year, the Comptroller's Office and numerous retailers successfully implement a tax-free week dedicated to supporting parents and teachers during the back-to-school season in August. Similarly, this bill could positively impact the economy by encouraging spending within our state. Veterans, who might otherwise refrain from making certain purchases, would be incentivized to spend more, knowing they are exempt from the sales tax on this day. This increase in spending would not only benefit the veterans but also stimulate local businesses and, by extension, the state's economy.

SB176 represents an opportunity for Maryland to lead by example in showing gratitude to our veterans. It's a practical measure that offers financial relief, stimulates the economy, and most importantly, serves as a symbol of our collective appreciation for those who have served with honor.

For these reasons, I am requesting a favorable report on SB176.

With kindest regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Benjamin T. Brooks".

Benjamin Brooks