



OPERATION RED WINGS FOUNDATION

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EIN # 27-18500918

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Senate Education, Energy and Environment Committee
Chair Brian J. Feldman
Vice Chair Cheryl C. Kagan
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

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

Please let this serve as my wholehearted endorsement for the creation of a task force to study the prospect of establishing the Nation's First State Park Dedicated to Veteran's Care, SB 781.

I am the executive director of Operation Red Wings Foundation, headquartered in Huntsville, Texas. We operate therapeutic retreats at various locations around the country, including Maryland where we've utilized the Military Bowl Foundation's Patriot Point facility. We provide retreats to veterans from all branches of service, male and female. In addition to the veteran retreats, we provide "spouse and significant other" retreats. If a veteran goes through the program as an individual, they then have an opportunity to return and attend a "couples" retreat. All of our retreats are provided at no cost to the veterans and their families. We transport the veterans, house and provide all meals as well as multiple therapies. Operation Red Wings Foundation has been successfully providing retreats since 2011 and have always maintained a waiting list as our retreats have proven to be very successful. Our applications to attend have increased in each of the past 4 years.

If the task force is created and a state park is established honoring our veterans with an emphasis on mental health, we would be pleased and honored to promote and would hope we could utilize the property when it becomes available. If you would like additional information relative to our operations, therapies, testimonials, etc, I would be pleased to address those.

The establishment of a state park dedicated to veteran's care is such a worthwhile endeavor and there is tremendous need for these services. My understanding is that a couple of Governor Moore's primary interests include veterans and mental health. This will be a great step forward in addressing those. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Dale Enderlin
Executive Director
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