



MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY
VETERANS CAUCUS

TO: Chair Joseline Pena-Melnyk
Health and Government Operations Committee
FROM: Maryland Veterans Caucus, House Membership
DATE: February 11th, 2025

Testimony in Favor of HB0455
HB0455 – Braille Flag Memorial Act of 2025

Chair Joseline Pena-Melnyk and members of the Health and Government Operations Committee,

The Maryland Veterans Caucus, House Membership respectfully requests a favorable report on HB HB0455 – Braille Flag Memorial Act of 2025.

This bill was sponsored by Delegate Anne Kaise, with the purpose of requiring the Department of Veterans and Military Families to designate a location for an American braille tactile flag to be placed on the grounds of one or more State veterans' cemeteries.

There are estimated to be 130,000 veterans across the U.S. who are legally blind and over 1 million who have low vision, and those brave Americans deserve to have the same access to the state's veterans' cemeteries. This bill shows respect for those veterans by allowing them a way to appreciate and pay their respects at the state's veterans' cemeteries. Making sure these veterans' are included is an easy way to show our commitment to all of the state's veterans.

The Veterans Caucus mission it to study, develop, and promote legislation designed to improve the quality of life for veterans and families in the State of Maryland in the areas of employment, education, economics, training, and health. And to assist the Department of Veterans and Military Families in achieving its mission and goals, on behalf of the veterans and their families in the State.

The Veterans Caucus House Legislative Review Board offers and recommends support and a favorable report of HB 0455.

Thank you,

Mike Rogers

Delegate Mike Rogers
House Chair, Veterans Caucus

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

To study, develop, and promote legislation designed to improve the quality of life for veterans in the State of Maryland in the areas of benefits, employment, education, economics, training, and health, and to assist the Maryland Department of Veterans and Military Families in achieving its mission and goals, on behalf of all veterans in the State.