



## MARYLAND MILITARY COALITION

*Serving Veterans through Legislative Advocacy*

March 21, 2025

The Honorable Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk  
Chair, Health and Government Operations Committee  
240 Taylor House Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Subject: Request for **FAVORABLE Report** – SB0057 – Funeral Establishments, Crematories, and Reduction Facilities – Disposition of Unclaimed Remains -- Veterans

Dear Chair Pena-Melnyk and distinguished members of the Health and Government Operations Committee:

On behalf of the members of the Maryland Military Coalition (MMC), I write to recommend a **FAVORABLE report** by the Committee on **SB0057 – Funeral Establishments, Crematories, and Reduction Facilities – Disposition of Unclaimed Remains -- Veterans**, sponsored by Senator Bryan Simonaire. Article, Business Regulation §5-803, dated October 1, 2024, provides very basic requirements for the remains disposition of unclaimed veterans but lacks much-needed accountability. SB0057 expands the accountability between the reduction facility and the VSO and establishes an additional level of accountability for the Maryland Department of Veterans and Military Families.

The proper and dignified disposition of veterans' remains is one of our greatest responsibilities. The knowledge that remains of veterans can go unclaimed is unconscionable. Additional accountability for the unclaimed remains of veterans is long overdue.

The Maryland Military Coalition **strongly supports SB0057** and asks for a **FAVORABLE report** from the Health and Government Operations Committee.

The Maryland Military Coalition is a registered non-profit, non-partisan advocacy organization comprised of 22 prominent Maryland-based veteran and military groups. It represents over 150,000 service-connected individuals, including those currently serving, veterans, retirees and their families, caregivers and survivors. Visit our website at <https://mdmilcoalition.org/>.

We want to thank Senator Simonaire for sponsoring this legislation and supporting the uniformed services community in Maryland.

Respectfully,

David L. Dragics  
COL (Ret), U.S. Army  
Legislative Director

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## **Member Organizations of the 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 U.S. Public Health Service

Disabled American Veterans

Fleet Reserve Association of Annapolis

Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A

Maryland Air National Guard Retirees' Association

National Active and Retired Federal Employees, Maryland Veterans

Maryland Veterans Chamber of Commerce

Military Officers Association of America

Military Order of the Purple Heart

Military Order of the World Wars

Montford Point Marines of America

National Association of Black Veterans

National Active and Retired Federal Employees, Maryland Veterans

Naval Enlisted Reserve Association

NOAA Association of Commissioned Officers

Platoon 22

Reserve Organization of America

Society of Military Widows

Veterans of Foreign Wars