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MAJORITY LEADER

Budget and Taxation Committee

*Chair*

Education, Business and  
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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**SPONSOR STATEMENT**

**Senate Bill 289 – Veterans of the Afghanistan and Iraq Conflicts Scholarship –  
Altering Name of Scholarship**

March 23, 2023

Mister Chairman and Members of the Appropriations Committee:

In the 2006 Legislative Session, both chambers unanimously passed legislation that created the Veterans of the Afghanistan and Iraq Conflicts Scholarship. Under the legislation, veterans of the conflicts, active-duty members of the armed forces who served in Afghanistan and Iraq, and members of the reserve or Maryland National Guard who were activated as a result of the conflicts are eligible for the scholarships, as are their children and spouses.

Among those who served in those conflicts was former Senator Douglas J.J. Peters. Peters was as a Captain in the United States Army Reserve from 1988-1998 and served in Operation Desert Storm. His actions during Operation Desert Storm earned him The Bronze Star Medal. The Bronze Star Medal (BSM) is a United States Armed Forces decoration awarded to members of the United States Armed Forces for either heroic achievement, heroic service, meritorious achievement, or meritorious service in a combat zone.

Following his military service, he began life in public service. He was a Bowie City Councilmember from 1998 to 2002 and then served as a Prince George's County Councilmember from 2002 to 2006. He was elected to the Maryland Senate in 2006 and served there until his retirement in 2021. Senator Peters is currently a member of the University Systems of Maryland Board of Regents. Peters also continues as an active member of the Bowie American Legion and VFW post and is a Past Commander.

Senate Bill 289 will alter the name of the Veterans of the Afghanistan and Iraq Conflicts Scholarship to the Douglas J.J. Peters Veterans of the Afghanistan and Iraq Conflicts Scholarship. By adding Senator Peter's name to this scholarship we will honor the years of service that he has given and continues to give, to our state and to our country.

I respectfully request a favorable report on Senate Bill 289.