



# MARYLAND MILITARY COALITION

*Serving Veterans through Legislative Advocacy*

Statement of Jayson L. Spiegel  
Maryland Military Coalition

HB 605 – Commission to Establish a Memorial to the Global War on Terror

March 1, 2023

**FAVORABLE**

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

The Maryland Military Coalition (MMC) **strongly supports SB 0473**, which will establish a commission to study establishing a memorial dedicated to Marylanders who have fought in the Global War on Terror and their families.

The Global War on Terror began in October 2001 and ended almost 20 years later when the final American forces left Afghanistan. Over 7,000 American Service Members lost their lives in combat in Iraq, Afghanistan and other locations in the Central Command area of operations.

There are more than 3.7 million veterans who have served in the Global War on Terror, including tens of thousands who live in Maryland. Many members of the National Guard and Reserve left their Maryland homes to serve.

Significantly, many Maryland leaders are veterans of the Global War on Terror, including Governor Moore, Attorney General Brown, Veterans Affairs Secretary Woods, Housing Secretary Day, and many members of the General Assembly, including Senator Will Smith, Senator Arthur Ellis, Delegate Mike Rogers, and Delegate Nick Allen, among others.

Approximately 43% of veterans of the Global War on Terror have a service-connected disability. The Global War on Terror affected not only the Service Members but also the family members who supported them at home.

Maryland did not dedicate its World War II Memorial until long after the war ended. Our state should honor the veterans of the Global War on Terror now, while veterans and surviving family members can gather and the Memorial and honor those who served.

The Maryland Military Coalition is a non-partisan organization of 19 Veteran organizations representing over 150,000 Maryland uniformed services men and women and their families -- almost half of the 355,000 veterans in the State.

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We urge the Committee to favorably report the bill.


Respectfully,

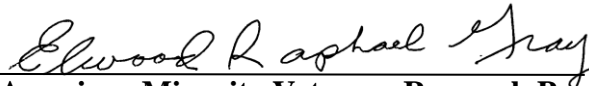
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jayson Spiegel". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jayson" and the last name "Spiegel" clearly distinguishable.

Jayson Spiegel  
LTC USAR (Ret)  
President


## Member Organizations, Maryland Military Coalition

  
Air Force Sergeants Association

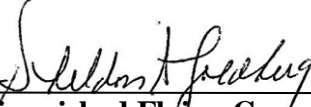
  
American Military Society

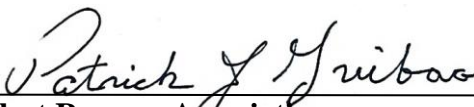
  
American Minority Veterans Research Project

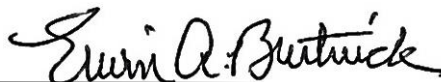
  
Association of the United States Navy


  
Commissioned Officers Association of the  
US Public Health Service

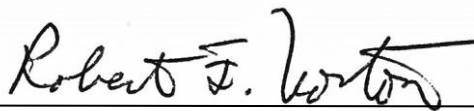
  
Disabled American Veterans

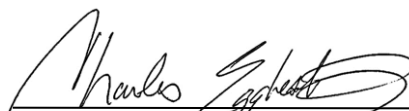
  
Distinguished Flying Cross Association


  
Fleet Reserve Association

  
Jewish War Veterans of the USA

  
Maryland Air National Guard Retirees'  
Association

  
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

  
Veterans of Foreign Wars