

SUPPORTING OUR VETERANS

BACKGROUND:

Maryland has a long and proud military tradition, unmatched by any other state. Today, more than 375,000 Veterans call Maryland home, and they play a critical role in our state and economy. Maryland has more than 50,000 Veteran-owned small businesses, generating more than \$20 million in sales each year and employing thousands. Unfortunately, our Veterans also experience service-related challenges. Nationwide, nearly one in five Veterans lives with a mental health disorder. In Maryland, nearly 80,000 Veterans live with a disability, 60,000 are experiencing a housing issue and 17,000 are living in poverty. We can and must do more as a state for the men and women who have worn the cloth of our country and sacrificed so much to keep us safe and protect our freedoms.

WES' EXPERIENCE:

As a combat Veteran and former Army captain, Wes Moore cares deeply about Maryland's Veterans and will work tirelessly to support them as governor. Wes obtained an Associate's Degree from Valley Forge Military College, and after being inspired by his mentors, enlisted in the Army. He later volunteered to deploy to Afghanistan where he led soldiers in combat as a captain and a paratrooper with the 82nd Airborne division. During that time, Wes was ingrained with a basic principle: leave no one behind. Wes firmly believes that being a Veteran isn't a designation of something done in the past - it's a marker of who a person is. Wes knows Maryland can do better at meeting the needs of our Veterans--and as governor he will honor his pledge to leave no one behind.

WES' VISION:

To better support Veterans, the Moore-Miller administration will:

- Lift up Veteran-owned small businesses by reforming our procurement process to make it easier for these businesses and entrepreneurs to win the state's business, eliminating costly and burdensome regulations, and competing for the billions in federal funds available that will improve access to low or no-interest capital.
- Work with the Department of Veterans Affairs to expand and improve quality of care and expedite claims so Veterans can get access to the care they need.
- Better meet the needs of women Veterans by improving access to specialized health care, breaking down stigma around seeking treatment for Military Sexual Trauma and other care, and ensuring programs supporting the transition to civilian life address the unique needs of women.
- Ensure Maryland delivers the job training and educational resources needed for Veterans to obtain employment and compete in the private sector.
- Close health care gaps by expanding access to telehealth services.
- Support Veterans experiencing mental illness and substance use disorders by increasing funding for community-based behavioral health care, improving partnerships between state and federal agencies, and fighting back against stigma for those seeking care.
- Invest in permanent supportive housing, which connects people with housing and the wraparound services they need to maintain housing stability.
- Ensure spouses and dependents of Maryland Veterans are able to be laid to rest with their loved ones without incurring costs.



“As a combat Veteran and former Army captain, I know firsthand the sacrifices men and women who have worn the cloth of our country make in service to our country. As governor, I will always work to improve the lives of our Veterans and ensure we are treating them with the dignity and respect they have earned by improving access to the care, support and opportunity they need to succeed.” said Wes Moore



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