



# SUPPORTING OUR VETERANS

## Governor Moore's Work



### Expanding Health Care Access And Benefits

Reduced wait times at veterans benefits service locations to no more than 15 days, secured nearly \$134 million in monthly and retroactive federal VA benefits for Maryland's veterans and families—approving more than 95% of claims, made Maryland the first state in the nation to establish a pathway to free health care and dental care for members of the National Guard, helping more than 1,000 soldiers and airmen, and passed the Time to Serve Act, which doubles military leave available to state employees who serve in the National Guard or military reserves.



### Advancing Economic Opportunity For Veterans and Families

Successfully advanced over \$3 billion in procurement awards to certified minority-owned businesses, and approximately \$184 million to certified veteran-owned small businesses, through the Board of Public Works, increased participation goals for veteran-owned businesses, passed legislation to expand job opportunities to military spouses, made Maryland the first state to join the Department of Defense's Military Spouse Employment Partnership, supported the graduation of 222 veterans for apprenticeships and have registered 445 more and has sustained one of the lowest unemployment rates among veterans in the country.



### Strengthening Maryland's Veteran Community

Placed Maryland as the 2nd best state in the nation for military retirees, declared 2024 the "Year of Military Families", became an Elizabeth Dole Foundation Hidden Heroes State to elevate and recognize those who care for our veterans and wounded warriors, established the Department's first dedicated constituent services program to provide resource navigation for Maryland's veterans and military families, helping 1,100 veterans and their families access resources and understand benefits, established the Maryland Commission on Veterans and Military Families and the Maryland Global War on Terrorism Memorial Commission to study and make recommendations to develop and implement a statewide strategic plan to make Maryland the best state for veterans and military families, launched Maryland Joins Forces, a statewide initiative supporting military-connected communities across employment, housing and food security, education, and more — reaching more than 29,000 individuals and building partnerships with 33 organizations, and expanded outreach and engagement statewide, positioning Maryland Joins Forces to drive long-term improvements in well-being, economic stability, and self-sufficiency for veterans, service members, and their families.

