



## COMMON GROUND COMPACT

**1. Purpose.** This compact supersedes the Common Ground compact effective December 7, 2021, and establishes a mutual understanding between the West Virginia Department of Education (WVDE); West Virginia Board of Education (WVBE); Jim Justice, Governor of the State of West Virginia; West Virginia National Guard; 338<sup>th</sup> Recruiting Squadron of Wright Patterson United States Air Force Base; United States Army Recruiting Battalion Richmond; United States Army Recruiting Battalion Columbus; Navy Talent Acquisition Group Pittsburgh; Navy Talent Acquisition Group Ohio River Valley; United States Marine Corps Recruiting Stations in West Virginia; Military Entrance Processing Command Beckley; West Virginia Civil Air Patrol; West Virginia Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. (WVPTA); Prevent Suicide WV; Military Officers Association of America for West Virginia; West Virginia American Legion; West Virginia Veterans of Foreign Wars; West Virginia Task Force Miner (Army ROTC); West Virginia Department of Veterans Assistance; Department of West Virginia Marine Corps League; Office of Veterans' Education and Training Programs at the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission; West Virginia University Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math Technical Assistance Center; and United States Coast Guard Marine Safety Unit Huntington.

**2. Scope.** Whereas all parties recognize the importance of education and the development of leadership skills, life skills, serving the community, character education and the health and well-being of the young men and women of West Virginia and America, the implementation of this Common Ground compact supports the mission of the partner institutions and organizations, to ensure that all students graduate from high school, college and career ready. Our ability to ensure that students receive a high-quality education, impacts our state and our nation's ability to safeguard economic and military security. This compact creates a shared role among all parties as partners in developing our country's youth to become future leaders and humanitarians in their communities, state and nation. Partners commit to work collaboratively through the Common Ground compact to raise awareness about each organization's programs, opportunities, resources and information which may be used to support successful outcomes for students. Through these partnerships and the compact, Common Ground will increase the capacity of our school districts and schools to provide children greater exposure to best practice strategies for addressing critical issues such as the high school dropout rate, substance abuse, bullying and mental health. Additionally, it will inspire students to acquire useful technological and literacy skills; and ensure that communities have a productive, civically active, and well-educated workforce.

Whereas, all parties recognize the value that active participation in the military (during and after high school) offers to students who decide to serve their communities by enlisting. The military provides job skills training in more than 150 career fields, financial incentives, values and leadership training, experiences traveling the world and additional opportunities that students might not experience otherwise. This compact will positively impact our youth as they develop values, acquire leadership skills and grow academically, socially and physically toward participation in postsecondary options including college, vocational, workforce or military training and community service. The additional resources provided to West Virginia students (including knowledge, human, social and financial) made available through Common Ground partners, will have a significant impact on students, families, schools and communities.

Whereas, all parties understand and acknowledge that endorsement of any non-federal entity by any employee or department of the federal government is strictly prohibited. Signature on this document in no way constitutes an endorsement, express or implied, of any interested entity or party by the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Coast Guard, or any other federal entity. Every effort will be made to ensure that there be no appearance of endorsement on the part of any party and that appropriate disclaimers will be given in all circumstances.

**This compact is non-binding, but is intended to establish expectations for cooperation among all parties in the compact as set forth in detail below:**

**A. The West Virginia Department of Education will:**

- Facilitate the coordination of meetings between Common Ground partners and maintain the Common Ground website as part of the WVDE's domain, to promote cooperation between partners, share resources and meet the shared goals of the compact.
- Receive requests for guest speakers of military backgrounds and public service as part of the Common Ground Speaker Series from school teachers, support staff and administrators statewide. Those requests will be forwarded to the appropriate Common Ground partner(s) for the purpose of coordinating guest speaker visits in schools. Topics covered by the Speaker Series include, but are not limited to the following: substance abuse prevention, anti-bullying, drop-out prevention, career exploration, the American flag, promoting literacy and patriotic holidays or events.
- Encourage school district administrators to incorporate a voluntary Student Exit Process that makes available opportunities for personnel of Common Ground partnering organizations to provide guidance about the benefits of graduating from high school to any students considering dropping out of school.

- Encourage school districts to collaborate with personnel of Common Ground partnering organizations whenever possible and hold events in support of meeting the Common Ground partnership and WVBE’s mutual career readiness goals for all students graduating to pursue opportunities for education, employment and/or enlistment (the three E’s).
- Create an updated communications plan to educate students, parents, school faculty, administrators and community members about the intent, purpose and benefits of this Common Ground compact. This communications plan will encourage schools and communities to make available resources and information from Common Ground partners which might have a positive impact on student well-being, their ability to experience success in the classroom and achieve career goals.
- Provide West Virginia school systems and Common Ground partners with information about the Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission (MIC3). The Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children is designed to ensure that qualifying military families of soldiers, such as those on Title 10 active-duty orders, can easily transition their children between public schools in participating states.
- Encourage veterans to begin state approved programs to become teachers, student support staff and educational leaders in West Virginia school systems.
- Encourage meeting the unique needs of military-connected children and their families by recognizing school districts and schools which foster military-friendly school environments by issuing the Purple Star Award. The WVDE will determine award eligibility criteria in consultation with Common Ground Partners and provide information about partner activities, best practices and resources to the network of military family points of contact who focus on providing support to military children, especially during times of deployment and transition. Information about the award is maintained on the Common Ground website at the WVDE.
- Encourage schools to participate in, “Purple-Up Month” activities during April (the Month of the Military Child) each year to recognize the strength and resiliency of military-connected children.
- Encourage school systems to participate in Military Signing Week annually by holding events which recognize and celebrate students who commit to serve the public by enlisting into the military as they are graduating from high school. Facilitate a statewide school registration process which offers schools planning templates,

guidance and support for hosting local events and communicating details of those events to military partners.

- Ensure that West Virginia public schools are made aware of requirements enacted through the Floyd D. Spence National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2001 (with subsequent amendments) and the Every Student Succeeds Act in regard to armed forces recruiter access to students and student recruiting information. West Virginia schools will be encouraged to display partner resources and information about career opportunities in schools (such as military enlistment) as approved by the local school district.

The West Virginia Department of Education understands that the West Virginia National Guard, 338<sup>th</sup> Recruiting Squadron of Wright Patterson United States Air Force Base; United States Army Recruiting Battalion Richmond, United States Army Recruiting Battalion Columbus, Navy Talent Acquisition Group Pittsburgh, Navy Talent Acquisition Group Ohio River Valley, United States Marine Corps Recruiting Stations in West Virginia, Military Entrance Processing Command Beckley, United States Coast Guard Marine Safety Unit Huntington, West Virginia Task Force Miner, and the West Virginia Civil Air Patrol's personnel obligations may include many types of service, including weekend drills, annual training, additional duty training, search and rescue missions and deployments within the United States or to foreign locations that temporarily impede or interrupt services to schools.

**B. The West Virginia National Guard, 338<sup>th</sup> Recruiting Squadron of Wright Patterson United States Air Force Base; United States Army Recruiting Battalion Richmond, United States Army Recruiting Battalion Columbus, Navy Talent Acquisition Group Pittsburgh, Navy Talent Acquisition Group Ohio River Valley, United States Marine Corps Recruiting Stations in West Virginia, United States Coast Guard Marine Safety Unit Huntington, and the Military Entrance Processing Command Beckley will:**

- Provide resources and opportunities to schools in West Virginia such as guest speakers, publicity items, career information and media materials.
- Receive requests made by West Virginia school districts and schools to the WVDE for the Common Ground Speaker Series. Subject to the availability of the organization and personnel select a primary point of contact who will identify guest speakers who are appropriately prepared to address identified series topics which include, but are not limited to the following: substance abuse prevention, anti-bullying, drop-out prevention, career exploration, the American flag, promoting literacy and patriotic holidays or events. Based on current operations and the

availability of personnel, attempts will be made to fulfill requests made by West Virginia school districts and schools to the WVDE for the Common Ground Speaker Series by any personnel who are proficient and knowledgeable in the topic(s) requested by West Virginia school systems. These guest speakers participate in cooperation and under the supervision of school staff, in accordance with federal, state and local policies.

- Coordinate visits with school districts and schools receiving Purple Star Awards for cooperation in related activities and celebratory events. Partners may use their participation in these events as opportunities to plan with school staff for teamwork throughout the course of the three-year award period.
- Coordinate with school staff for participation in events, including the annual West Virginia Military Signing Week which recognizes and celebrates students who commit to serve the public by enlisting into the military before or upon graduation from high school. Partners may be notified when a military guest speaker is needed for these events. Partners providing guest speakers will ensure the individuals selected are adequately prepared to be a speaker at the event and will participate in cooperation and under the supervision of school staff, in accordance with federal, state and local policies.
- Work closely with school counselors, faculty and administrators to assist them in increasing the graduation rates of all students.
- Provide one-on-one or group career counseling services to students in West Virginia schools, with appropriate supervision as approved by the school district and school administrators. Career mentors will counsel students about various careers, provide information about training and educational opportunities associated with that career field, provide information about career exploration programs and the importance of education.
- Foster opportunities to cooperate with schools by providing information and support related to tutoring, physical fitness, and student wellness programs.
- Provide guidance regarding the benefits of graduating from high school and future opportunities available to any student thinking about dropping out of school.
- Provide support to develop and enhance Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC), National Defense Cadet Corps (NDCC), Future Leader Programs (FLP), and Civil Air Patrol programs in West Virginia schools.

- Encourage educators and district personnel to establish military related programs or clubs in selected schools that do not have existing JROTC, NDCC, and FLP programs.
- Provide a variety of free and relatively inexpensive resources for schools to use, like the Career Exploration Program, the March2Success Online Tutoring Program, the Careers in the Military website and other initiatives made available by military organizations of all branches. These programs will give students the prospect of learning about a wide variety of career paths and assistance in improving their academic performance on standardized tests like the SAT, ACT and Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB).
- Provide event opportunities as funds are available that allow school district leaders, school administrators, counselors, educators and/or students an inside look at the training, careers, and educational opportunities available to students who enlist in military service as they are graduating from high school. The WVDE may assist partners in identifying ideal candidates for potential participation in these events.

**C. The West Virginia National Guard One Guard Family Programs will:**

- Help create and enhance existing networks of people, organizations, and other resources to help support military children. This includes collaborating with the WVDE to provide opportunities for school staff to receive training and information about programs which support military-connected children and their families.
- Promote engagement among retired veterans across the state.
- Provide information to military families about provisions of the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children and MIC3.
- Help children better understand and cope with military life, family member deployment(s) and reintegration, as well as the unique challenges facing their families.
- Offer a wide array of recreational, social, and educational programs for military youth living in civilian communities.
- Increase school and community awareness of the impact of the deployment cycle on service members, families, kids, and the community. This includes providing elementary school educators who have a student(s) experiencing a deployment with

care packages upon request and as funds are available, which include best practices and information useful in supporting military-connected children and their families.

**D. The West Virginia Civil Air Patrol will:**

- Provide information to interested schools upon request and appoint a project officer/mentor when appropriate for consistent communication with staff at the school.
- Provide informative communication and recruiting materials to school districts and schools to help gain interest in programs for cadets and school staff. This includes any programs assisting cadets in acquiring a Private Pilot Certificate, opportunities that support educators in enhancing their STEM and/or aerospace education instruction and prospects for participation in Teacher Orientation Flights.
- As part of the Cadet Programs and Aerospace Education missions, provide instructor guides, lesson plans, activity books, Drug Demand Reduction (DDR) materials and other program resources at no cost, as funds are available.
- Provide textbooks, uniforms and additional training materials to student members.
- Conduct a FBI background check at no cost on all adult members.

**E. Beckley Military Entrance Processing Station will:**

- Market the Career Exploration Program to West Virginia school systems to ensure maximum outreach and accessibility to all schools interested in hosting the ASVAB for their students.
- Upon request, provide student testing of the ASVAB to West Virginia schools.
- Provide ASVAB results interpretation services for every student in West Virginia who participates in the ASVAB for the purpose of career assessment, exploration and development.
- Provide professional development and technical assistance to principals, school counselors and teachers about the ASVAB, how to coordinate for and facilitate the assessment at their school, and to understand and communicate the test's benefits to parents and students.

**F. West Virginia Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. will:**

- Provide education and informative resources on the Common Ground compact to its members of students, parents, faculty, administration and community members. Mention positive supports, including career development and tutoring services, available to military personnel through bulletin articles and displays/materials at WVPTA conventions.
- Work as a member of Common Ground to create and support networks of people, organizations, and other resources which assist military children.
- Support efforts to make the ASVAB available to all students in West Virginia.
- Educate parents and teachers about opportunities for their school to apply for a Purple Star Award.
- Educate WVPTA members and increase community awareness of others about the impact of the deployment cycle on service members, families, kids, and the community. Resources supporting military families may be found on the Common Ground Partnership's website.
- Encourage military personnel who are parents to become actively involved in PTA meetings and their community schools as volunteers or mentors.

**G. The West Virginia Governor's Office will:**

- Support partnerships between the institutions and organizations involved in Common Ground.
- Support the mission and efforts of Common Ground through this compact.
- Promote Common Ground by emphasizing the crucial role education plays in developing leadership skills needed in the West Virginia workforce.

**H. Prevent Suicide WV will:**

- Provide train-the-trainer opportunities for associated parties.
- Provide schools with technical assistance regarding suicide prevention initiatives.
- Promote Common Ground in schools and communities throughout the state.
- Provide consultation services for identification and referral of at-risk youth.

**I. The West Virginia Board of Education will:**

- Support partnerships between the institutions and organizations involved in the Common Ground compact and school systems statewide.
  - Support the WVDE in its commitments to the Common Ground compact as its partners support the WVBE's career readiness goals for students to pursue post-secondary education, employment and/or enlistment upon graduation.
  - Encourage West Virginia school systems to recognize the strength and resiliency of military-connected students annually during April, the Month of the Military Child.
  - Provide a WVBE member, when possible, to participate in Common Ground meetings, activities and events.
- J. The Military Officers Association of America for West Virginia, West Virginia American Legion, Department of West Virginia Marine Corps League, and the West Virginia Veterans of Foreign Wars will:**
- Participate in meetings of Common Ground to share information and explore ways in which their organization may contribute to and participate in its activities.
  - Provide information about Common Ground activities to members of the organization to raise awareness of supports for education, military-connected children and their families.
  - Upon request, provide supportive visits from veterans at school and community events. All individuals answering requests participate in cooperation and under the supervision of school staff, in accordance with federal, state, and local policies.
- K. The West Virginia Department of Veterans Assistance will:**
- Ensure West Virginia Department of Veterans Assistance veteran service officers, social workers, and health care workers understand the mission and efforts of Common Ground.
  - Provide students and teachers with information about state and federal veterans' benefits to support military families.
  - Serve as liaison between educational institutions and the veterans within their communities.

- Upon request and as able, provide veterans for guest speaking opportunities and other patriotic events at schools to help students understand the importance of military service in our society.

**L. West Virginia Task Force Miner (Army ROTC) will:**

- Provide one primary point of contact representing the entire Task Force to support the mission and efforts of the Common Ground Partnership.
- Actively participate in meetings of the Common Ground Partnership, sharing information and exploring ways to contribute to its activities.
- Participate in the Common Ground Partnership’s Speaker Series, providing soldiers for guest visits to schools. The soldier(s) selected will be adequately prepared for the event and will participate in cooperation and under the supervision of school staff, in accordance with federal, state and local policies.
- Provide support to JROTC, NDCC, FLP and other programs in schools to support all students in experiencing success.
- Provide mentors as appropriate to inspire students to stay in school and graduate.
- Provide professional development and technical assistance to principals, school counselors, and teachers.
- Provide schools with information about resources, career exploration, benefits, and incentives of the military.
- Inform educators of opportunities for students to serve as leaders in their communities.
- Coordinate visits with school districts and schools for related activities and events. Those who visit schools will do so in cooperation and under the supervision of school staff, in accordance with federal, state and local policies.

**M. The Office of Veterans’ Education and Training Programs at the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission will:**

- Provide high school and career and technical education center counselors with assistance in supporting military-connected students and their families, by identifying post-secondary education and training opportunities.

**N. The West Virginia Retired Military Council will:**

- Communicate information about the Operation Recognition program to military retirees of World War II, the Korean War and Vietnam Conflict.
- Provide information about Common Ground activities to members of the council to raise awareness of supports for education, military-connected children and their families.

**O. The West Virginia University Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math Technical Assistance Center will:**

- Encourage military service members to register for participation in the West Virginia Public Education Collaborative’s K-12 Speakers Bureau.
- Communicate opportunities for West Virginia educators and students to participate in military-based STEAM programs.

**3. Background Checks.** All partnering organizations which participate in the Common Ground Speaker Series will be informed in the notification of a request being made that a background check(s) may be required for any guest or visitor who will have direct contact with students, in accordance with federal, state and local policies. Any organization(s) meeting a Speaker Series request will ensure the individual selected to visit consults with school staff who can determine if a background check(s) is necessary before visiting the school.

**4. Modification.** This compact may only be amended for the purpose of adding partnering organizations. Adding partners requires approval of an addendum document created by the WVDE which confirms agreement to the exact same purpose and scope as identified in this compact document. New partners may only be approved by the WVDE for participation when the WVDE holds a record that a quorum of partnering organizations support the addition of the partnering organization.

**5. Termination.** This compact may be terminated at will by any party by giving at least 30 days’ written notice to the other parties. The compact may also be terminated at any time upon the mutual written consent of the parties.

**6. Transferability.** This compact is not transferable except with the written consent of all parties.

**7. Severability.** This compact is not intended to conflict with current law or regulation. If a term of this compact is inconsistent with such authority, then that term will be invalid to the extent of the inconsistency, but the remaining terms and conditions of this compact shall remain in full force and effect.

**8. Participation.** The Common Ground compact in no way obligates the United States Government or the West Virginia Government to any financial or contractual obligations. This compact and its provisions neither document nor provide for the exchange or obligation of funds or manpower between parties, nor does it make any commitment of funds or resources.

**9. Effective Date.** This compact will become effective on the date after the last party signs and shall continue until termination.

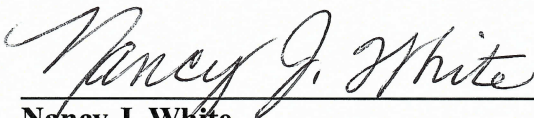
**10. Review.** This compact will be reviewed every three (3) years after the effective date for any necessary amendments or modifications.

**11. Claims.** By executing this compact, each party to the compact agrees to work together for the stated purpose. However, the parties are not legally “partners” to the extent that term encompasses joint and several liability. Each party to this compact is responsible for its own employees, representatives, agents, and officers. As such, any acts or injuries arising from any conduct or negligence on the part of any signature party to this compact will be the responsibility of that respective agency.



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**Jim Justice**  
**Governor, State of West Virginia**



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**Nancy J. White**  
**President, West Virginia Board of Education**



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Michele Blatt (Oct 3, 2024 12:29 EDT)

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**Michele L. Blatt**  
**State Superintendent of Schools, West Virginia Department of Education**

*William Crane*

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**Major General William "Bill" Crane**  
**The Adjutant General, West Virginia National Guard**

and

*Michaëlle M. Munger*

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**Brigadier General Michaëlle Munger**  
**Special Assistant to the Adjutant General, West Virginia National Guard**

*D. Butler-Case*

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**Colonel Debbie Butler-Case**  
**Wing Commander, West Virginia Civil Air Patrol**

*Barri Sky Faucett, MA*

Barri Sky Faucett, MA (Oct 16, 2024 23:42 EDT)

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**Barri Faucett**  
**Director, Prevent Suicide WV**

*Nicholas Kardong*

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**Major Nicholas Kardong**  
**Commander, Beckley Military Entrance Processing Station**

*Rose Rossana*

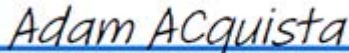
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**Rose Rossana**  
**Acting President, West Virginia Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc.**



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**Colonel Patrick A. Douglas**  
**Brigade Commander, United States Army Recruiting, Richmond, VA**  
**Representing United States Army Recruiting Stations in WV**



Adam ACquista (Oct 16, 2024 08:51 EDT)

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**Captain Adam Acquista**  
**Commanding Officer, United States Marine Corps Recruiting Station, Louisville, KY**  
**Representing United States Marine Corps Recruiting Stations in WV**



Trenton Snody (Oct 4, 2024 08:37 EDT)

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**Major Trenton Snody**  
**Commanding Officer, United States Marine Corps Recruiting Station, Frederick, MD**  
**Representing United States Marine Corps Recruiting Stations in WV**



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**Lieutenant Colonel Harold Watson, Battalion Commander**  
**United States Army Recruiting, Columbus, OH**  
**Representing United States Army Recruiting Stations in WV**

and



Karis G Coe (Oct 17, 2024 08:41 EDT)

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**Captain Karis Coe, Company Commander**  
**United States Army Recruiting, Columbus, OH**  
**Representing United States Army Recruiting Stations in WV**



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**Commander Kristin Shepherd**  
**Commanding Officer, United States Navy**  
**Navy Talent Acquisition Group Pittsburgh, PA**

and



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**Lieutenant Nicholas Sollenberger**  
**Enlisted Programs Officer, United States Navy**  
**Navy Talent Acquisition Group Pittsburgh, PA**



Patrick Henken (Oct 11, 2024 08:15 EDT)

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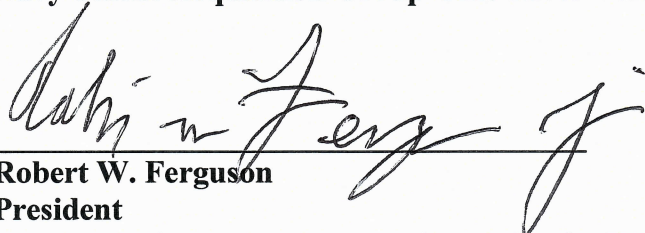
**Commander Patrick Henken**  
**Commanding Officer, United States Navy**  
**Navy Talent Acquisition Group Ohio River Valley**

and



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**Lieutenant Commander Jeff Boutin**  
**Enlisted Programs Officer, United States Navy**  
**Navy Talent Acquisition Group Ohio River Valley**



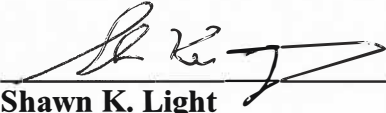
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**Robert W. Ferguson**  
**President**  
**Military Officers Association of America for West Virginia**

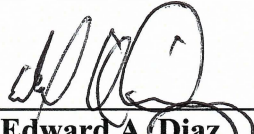
Thomas E Hicks

Thomas E Hicks (Oct 22, 2024 14:08 EDT)

**Thomas Hicks**  
**Adjutant**  
**West Virginia American Legion**



**Shawn K. Light**  
**Adjutant/Quartermaster**  
**West Virginia Veterans of Foreign Wars**

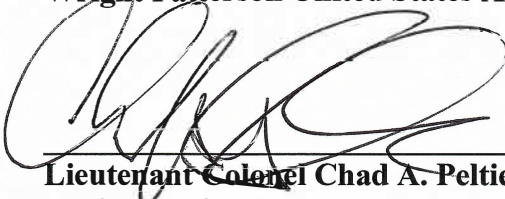


**Edward A. Diaz**  
**Cabinet Secretary**  
**West Virginia Department of Veterans Assistance**

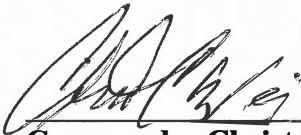


Nicholas R Davis (Oct 3, 2024 14:03 EDT)

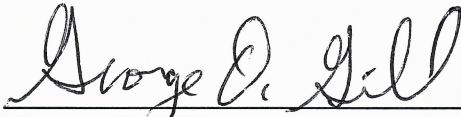
**Master Sergeant Nicholas Davis**  
**Flight Chief, 338<sup>th</sup> Recruiting Squadron**  
**Wright Patterson United States Air Force Base, OH**



**Lieutenant Colonel Chad A. Peltier**  
**Professor of Military Science**  
**West Virginia Task Force Miner**



**Commander Christopher C. Weiser**  
**Commanding Officer, United States Coast Guard**  
**United States Coast Guard Marine Safety Unit Huntington**



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**George O. Gill**  
**Commandant**  
**Department of West Virginia Marine Corps League**



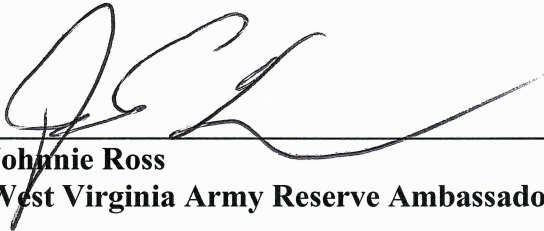
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**Dr. Rikki McCormick**  
**Director**  
**Office of Veterans' Education and Training Programs at the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission**



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**Donna Peduto**  
**Executive Director**  
**West Virginia Public Education Collaborative**



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**Johnnie Ross**  
**West Virginia Army Reserve Ambassador**