

# GOVERNOR GRETCHEN WHITMER

## SUPPORTING MICHIGAN VETERANS



Governor Whitmer has worked to ensure Michigan's veterans, servicemembers, and their families have the opportunities and support they need to succeed. She has announced innovative partnerships to create pathways to professional opportunities, created programs to lower costs of education for servicemembers, and opened new facilities for the Michigan National Guard. For veterans, the governor and her administration have expanded key initiatives and boosted outreach, ensuring veterans and their families have the resources they need to get a good-paying job and pursue their potential in Michigan.

### RECOGNITION

- Declared [Women Veterans Recognition Day](#)
- Proclaimed [Veterans Day in Michigan](#)
- Appointed over 100 active military and veterans to numerous boards and commissions.
- [Appointed by President Biden](#) to the Council of Governors to work with state and federal officials on issues of homeland defense, National Guard, disaster response, and other security issues.

*"Our men and women in uniform serve our state honorably and we have to do everything we can to help them do their jobs effectively and thrive when they return home. I've been focused on establishing programs to expand opportunity, delivering resources, and making changes at the state-level to recognize the sacrifices of our veterans and servicemembers."*

- Governor Gretchen Whitmer



### JOB TRAINING AND CAREER ADVANCEMENT

- Signed [bipartisan bills](#) to help veterans and their families advance in their careers by removing barriers that prevent servicemen, veterans, and dependents from entering a licensed profession.
- [Announced a partnership](#) between the Michigan National Guard and Michigan Helmets to Hardhats, a national program administered by the Center for Military Recruitment, Assessment, and Veterans Employment. Helmets to Hardhats works to connect veterans to skill-training opportunities and career pathways in the construction trades.
- Operates the Michigan National Guard Tuition Assistance Program (MINGSTAP) that provides thousands of Michigan National Guard members full tuition at in-state institutions for associate and baccalaureate degrees and up to \$6,000/year for certificate and master's degree programs each year. In 2021, the Governor [signed legislation](#) to allow service members to transfer their MINGSTAP benefits to their spouses.
- Supported the [Michigan Youth Challenge Academy](#), a program to educate, train, and mentor at-risk youth at no cost to participants, giving young people the skills to become productive and responsible citizens. Since 2019, the Michigan Youth Challenge Academy has had more than 500 individuals graduate.
- Reinvigorated the Michigan [Veteran Friendly Schools Program](#), to highlight Michigan educational institutions that support the needs of military-connected students.
- Hosted the Air Force's largest and longest exercise ensuring readiness to move military personnel and equipment in combat operations, [Mobility Guardian](#), at the Alpena CRTC in May 2021.
- Worked with hundreds of employers to promote veteran-friendly hiring practices to help overcome employment shortages caused by the pandemic.

## WOMEN IN THE MILITARY

- [Proposed \\$105.8 million](#) to modernize women's facilities for Michigan Army National Guard to combat inequities faced by female service members. This historic investment will provide for equitable locker rooms and bathrooms, as well as dedicated lactation rooms for our nearly 1,500 female soldiers.
- Launched "[She is a Veteran](#)" outreach campaign to reach the 47,000 women veterans in Michigan and connect them to their identity as veterans, benefits earned and community.

## COMMUNITY

- Broke ground and began construction on [two new Michigan Veterans Home facilities](#), one replacement facility in Grand Rapids, and a new facility in Chesterfield Township in Macomb County.
- MVAA received the state's fourth [Abraham Lincoln Pillar Award](#) from the US Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA) that recognizes outstanding programs that support Veterans in their states.
- Created [Check on MIVet](#), serving over 500 families requesting a check-in on their veteran from the Michigan Veterans Resource Service Center.
- Partnered with the US Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration and the USDVA to bring the [Governor's Challenge to Prevent Suicide](#) Among Service Members, Veterans, and their Families to our communities across Michigan.

## COVID-19

- [Ensured](#) special vaccination clinics veterans and their spouses/caretakers to ensure they had access to the COVID-19 vaccine.
- Oversaw nearly 3,200 service members from Joint Task Force Michigan conducted over 2,300 coronavirus response missions in all 83 counties.

## DEPLOYMENTS

- A total 6,350 National Guardsman were deployed between for civil support, COVID Support and OCONUS/CONUS missions in Michigan, Wisconsin, Florida, California, Washington DC, Arizona, Florida, Haiti, Southwest Border, CENTCOM, EUCOM, and AFRICOM.
- More than 200 Soldiers and more than 40 specialized vehicles aided following massive flooding in the Midland area resulting from the breach of the Edenville and Sanford Dams and assisted local and state law enforcement and repaired property damage in Grand Rapids and Lansing after extreme weather.
- Assisted local and state law enforcement in response to civil disturbances in Kalamazoo. Ensured the safety of citizens and mitigated property damage in partnership with Michigan State Police and local law enforcement.
- Supported public safety and protected First Amendment right to peaceful assembly in Kenosha, Wisconsin.
- 1,000 members of the MING joined National Guard members from other states to provide additional security and traffic control in and around the U.S. Capitol, National Mall and White House for the inauguration of President Joe Biden and the continuing Capitol Security Mission that followed.

## FACILITIES

- Reorganized Camp Grayling's Joint Maneuver Training Center and the Alpena Combat Readiness Training Center in Northern Michigan as the "[National All-Domain Warfighting Center](#)," recognizing Michigan's integral role as one of the leading providers of solutions to training and readiness needs across the Department of Defense. Successfully hosted approximately 10,000 U.S. military and coalition forces between 2019 and 2021.
- Opened the [Kelly Johnson Joint All Domain Innovation Center](#) to provide opportunities and a location for military members, government, and industry professionals to research, problem solve, and collaborate.