



## I Served. I Am a Veteran.

Campaign for Underserved Veterans  
Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency (MVAA)

### About the Campaign:

*I Am a Veteran* is designed to recognize underserved and underrepresented veterans in Michigan who have served their country in the U.S. Armed Forces. The campaign is focused on highlighting the fact that everyone who served in the military is a veteran—regardless of race, ethnicity, sexual identity, socioeconomic status or other factors—and has a right to access benefits they *earned* through their service.

### Goal:

To ensure the experiences of Michigan's underserved and underrepresented veterans are shared through photos, videos and advertising and to ultimately connect *all* veterans with the benefits and resources they have earned. LGBTQ+ veterans. Houseless or previously houseless veterans. Muslim American veterans. Previously incarcerated veterans. Peacetime-era veterans. ... If you served your country, you have the right to stand tall and say, "*I am a veteran. And I earned these benefits.*" The MVAA wants to help tell your story so other veterans may gain inspiration to identify as veterans, tell *their* story and connect to their earned benefits.

\*Please fill out this form and tell us about you and your story.

First Name:	Last Name:
Age:	City:
Email Address:	County:
Branch of Service:	Period of Service:
Date Separated:	Rank at Separation:

### Instructions:

1. Please fill out form completely.
2. Tell us your story. (Send us a written story, video and/or pictures.) It can be about anything:
  - Why did you join?
  - What is a memorable moment you had as a service member?
  - What was your job in the military?

- Did you experience any adversity? How did you overcome it?
  - What was it like to transition into civilian life? What obstacles did you face?
  - Do you identify as a veteran? Why or why not?
  - If your race, ethnicity, sexual orientation or gender identity plays a part in your story, please tell us how.
  - Have you reached out to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) in an attempt to access benefits or services? If so, what was your experience?
3. Sign publicity consent form if you consent to us using your photo/video/story in our exhibit, on our website, and in any other communications.
  4. Any questions? Please feel free to reach out to Andy Henion, Communications Manager at MVAA, at [heniona@michigan.gov](mailto:heniona@michigan.gov).
  5. Send forms to Andy Henion at above email or by mail: P.O. Box 30104, Lansing, MI 48909

**Publicity Consent:**

I, \_\_\_\_\_ hereby consent to the use, publication, broadcast, telecast, distribution and circulation of my name, photograph, image and/or likeness by the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency (MVAA) in any marketing materials associated with MVAA, including (but not limited to) print publications, video, audio, advertisements and any promotional or educational materials in any medium now known or later developed, including the Internet.

I further understand and agree that this Publicity Consent shall remain in full force and effect unless cancelled in writing and in reasonable advance of publication.

I am an adult, 18 years of age or older, and mentally competent.

I have read the above and fully understand its contents. I am voluntarily signing this “Publicity Consent” as my free and voluntary act.

DATED this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2023

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**Please attach your story on a separate page with this nomination form.**

**\*Note: if you send photos, we will be unable to return them, please send copies.**