



GOVERNOR GRETCHEN WHITMER

STANDING UP FOR SERVICEMEMBERS, VETERANS, AND MILITARY FAMILIES



Governor Whitmer has worked to ensure Michigan's service members, veterans, and their families have the opportunities and support they need to succeed. The administration has boosted outreach to veterans, ensuring they and their families have affordable healthcare, attainable housing, and paths to education and good-paying jobs.

Recognizing Michigan's servicemembers, veterans, and military families

- Appointed over 100 active military and veterans to numerous statewide boards and commissions to ensure their voices are heard.
- [Appointed by President Biden](#) and [reappointed by President Trump](#) to the Council of Governors to work with federal officials on defense, National Guard, disaster response, and other security issues.
- [Signed](#) legislation designating February 1 as "Blue Star Mothers Day"
- [Signed](#) legislation expanding eligibility of the Disabled Veteran registration plate.
- [Created](#) a "woman veteran" special license plate, increasing recognition for women veterans and allowing them to proudly display their service.

Standing up for Selfridge and growing a defense economy

- [Secured](#) game-changing new F15-EX fighter mission for Selfridge Air National Guard Base in Macomb County, protecting jobs, military families, and Michigan's economy.
- [Signed bipartisan legislation](#) delivering \$152 million in funding to upgrade the runways and infrastructure at Selfridge before the June 1 deadline, ensuring the base is ready in time for the new F-15EX fighter jets to arrive by 2028.
- [Secured](#) \$26 million for capital improvements Selfridge Air National Guard Base, bringing the total investments for base improvements since FY23 to over \$60 million, which has been crucial in the state's efforts to secure new aircraft at the base.
- [Secured](#) \$5.9 million to leverage an additional \$30 million in federal funding to bolster cybersecurity protections for military and commercial vehicles at Selfridge Air National Guard Base.
- [Announced](#) Michigan's NADWC was designated by the U.S. Department of War as a National Range for Deep Uncrewed Aerial Systems (UAS) Training.
- Launched the [Uncrewed Triple Challenge](#), a first-of-its-kind competition to drive innovation in autonomous drone technology.
- [Established](#) new Office of Defense and Aerospace Innovation, enhancing Michigan's defense and aerospace ecosystem.
- Announced the release of [Michigan's Defense and Aerospace Strategic Plan](#), which is designed to grow the state's defense and aerospace sectors, strengthen national security, and create high-paying jobs that support Michigan's economy.
- [Announced](#) an innovative partnership between U of M and the Los Alamos national Laboratory to build a computing facility to research national security, cybersecurity, AI, energy, and more.
- [Announced](#) a \$50 million partnership to build Michigan's defense manufacturing workforce.

Securing paths to opportunity and career advancement

- Signed [bipartisan bills](#) to make it easier for military service members, veterans, and their families to receive a professional license within the state.
- [Signed bipartisan bills](#) establishing the Michigan National Guard Benefit Fund, lowering costs for members by helping them afford childcare, health care, and tuition.
- Signed [bipartisan bills](#) expanding the Michigan National Guard State Tuition Assistance Program, lowering the cost of education for military families.
- [Announced a partnership](#) between the Michigan National Guard (MING) and Michigan Helmets to Hardhats, a program connecting veterans to skill-training opportunities and careers in the construction trades.
- Reinvigorated the Michigan [Veteran Friendly Schools Program](#), to highlight Michigan educational institutions that support the needs of military-connected students.

Providing services for veterans, servicemembers, and military families

- Increased funding for [veteran's services organizations](#) and officers.
- [Signed bipartisan budgets](#) consistently investing in suicide prevention outreach for service members, veterans, and their families.
- [Signed bipartisan bills](#) providing full-time police officers and firefighters with at least 26 days of paid military leave each year, ensuring first responders can serve their country without having to use vacation time or lose income.
- Launched the "[She is a Veteran](#)" campaign to reach 47,000 women veterans and created [Check on MIVet](#), serving 500+ families requesting a check-in on their loved ones.



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- Received the state's fourth [Abraham Lincoln Pillar Award](#) from the VA, recognizing outstanding programs that support veterans.
- Signed legislation expanding voting rights for [military members and families](#) serving overseas.
- [Eliminated the fee](#) associated with having a veteran-designated license plate.
- [Lowered](#) costs and property taxes for disabled veterans and their families.
- [Launched](#) the Military Child Care in Your Neighborhood Plus initiative, making it easier for military families in Michigan to access and afford child care in their community.
- [Delivered](#) \$2.5 million in grants to nonprofits reducing veteran homelessness.

Investing in facilities for veterans and servicemembers

- Fully funded the construction of a new veteran's home in Marquette and celebrated the opening of [two new Michigan Veterans Home facilities](#) in Grand Rapids and Chesterfield Township.
- Invested in the modernization of all [Michigan National Guard armories](#) to accommodate [female service members](#).
- Opened the [Kelly Johnson Joint All Domain Innovation Center](#) for military members, government, and industry professionals to research and collaborate.
- Stood up the [National All-Domain Warfighting Center](#) at Camp Grayling and Alpena Combat Readiness Training Center.
- Began the process of establishing a new [state veterans cemetery](#) in the Northern lower peninsula and to evaluate the need for a state veterans cemetery in northern Michigan.