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Secretary of State
Tre Hargett



STATE OF TENNESSEE
EXECUTIVE ORDER
BY THE GOVERNOR

No. 102

AN ORDER RECONSTITUTING THE GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL FOR ARMED FORCES, VETERANS, AND THEIR FAMILIES AS TRI-STARS AND STRIPES: THE GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL FOR SERVICE MEMBERS, VETERANS, AND THEIR FAMILIES

WHEREAS, Tennesseans are proud to support their fellow citizens who have served or are serving our country and state in the United States Armed Forces, Reserves, and National Guard, and their families; and

WHEREAS, this Administration is committed to making Tennessee the best state in the country for service members, veterans, and their families to live, work, and prosper; and

WHEREAS, state and local officials have a shared responsibility for promoting and establishing initiatives that ensure Tennessee is best-in-class for veterans, while sustaining and improving existing collaborations and resources for service members, veterans, and their families; and

WHEREAS, other non-governmental members of our state are integral to the recruitment, retention, support, and prosperity of service members, veterans, and their families, including veterans service and advocacy organizations that strive to support this population; and

WHEREAS, to be "America At Its Best," Tennessee must lead the nation in meeting the needs of service members, veterans, and their families while maximizing their skillsets and experiences for a more prosperous Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, this Administration is committed to alleviating issues facing our service members, veterans, and their families, including veteran transition and employment, workforce development, veteran homelessness, suicide prevention, and justice-involvement.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Bill Lee, Governor of the State of Tennessee, by virtue of the power and authority vested in me by the Tennessee Constitution and the laws of the State of Tennessee, do hereby declare that my Administration is committed to Tennessee citizens and

residents who have served or are serving in the United States Armed Forces, Reserves, and National Guard, and their families. Accordingly, I hereby direct and order the following:

1. The Governor's Council for Armed Forces, Veterans, and Their Families is reconstituted as Tri-Stars and Stripes: The Governor's Council for Service Members, Veterans, and Their Families ("Council").
2. The purpose of the Council is to coordinate among the veteran community and other sectors to enhance the lives of service members, veterans, and their families. To effectuate this purpose, the Council shall:
 - a. By January 1, 2024, develop and submit to the Governor a strategic plan for accomplishing its purpose. The Council shall continually monitor and evaluate the plan's implementation and provide periodic updates and recommendations to the Governor;
 - b. Review, evaluate, and maintain a comprehensive inventory of all programs within the executive branch related to services and benefits for veterans;
 - c. Serve as a coordinating body for all state agencies responsible for programs related to services and benefits for service members, veterans, and their families;
 - d. Increase interoperability and collaboration between public and private programs that benefit service members, veterans, and their families;
 - e. Promote Tennessee as the desired residency location for all service members, veterans, and their families; and
 - f. Pursue initiatives to enhance the quality of life for service members, veterans, and their families.
3. The Council shall consist of thirteen (13) members:
 - a. The Commissioner of Veterans Services or the Commissioner's designee;
 - b. The Adjutant General or the Adjutant General's designee;
 - c. The Commissioner of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services or the Commissioner's designee;
 - d. The Commissioner of Labor and Workforce Development or the Commissioner's designee;
 - e. One (1) member of the House of Representatives, to be appointed by the Speaker of the House;

- f. One (1) member of the Senate, to be appointed by the Speaker of the Senate;
 - g. One (1) family member of a Tennessean who is currently serving in the United States Armed Forces, to be appointed by the Governor;
 - h. One (1) city or county mayor, to be appointed by the Governor;
 - i. Two (2) individuals who represent veterans service organizations or coalitions, to be appointed by the Governor;
 - j. One (1) representative of higher education interests, to be appointed by the Governor; and
 - k. Two (2) representatives of business interests, to be appointed by the Governor.
5. The Governor shall appoint one (1) of the members to serve as Chair of the Council, who shall report to the Governor's Chief Operating Officer.
 6. The Governor shall appoint a chief of staff for the Council, who shall report to the Chair. The chief of staff shall not be a member of the Council.
 7. In the event of a vacancy on the Council, the Chair shall notify the applicable appointing authority, who shall then appoint an eligible person to fill the vacancy for the remainder of the term.
 8. Members of the Council who represent state governmental entities shall serve for the duration of the respective member's term in office. Citizen members shall serve staggered terms of three (3) years. In making the initial appointments of citizen members, however, two (2) members shall be appointed for a term of one (1) year; two (2) members shall be appointed for a term of two (2) years, and three (3) members shall be appointed for a term of three (3) years. Citizen members may be reappointed for subsequent terms.
 9. The Chair shall call all meetings. The Council shall meet at least quarterly. The Chair may establish committees of the Council's members as necessary to ensure effective and efficient Council operations.
 10. The Council shall be attached to the Department of Veterans Services for administrative purposes.
 11. Members of the Council shall not receive any compensation for their service but shall be reimbursed for official travel expenses pursuant to the policies and guidelines promulgated by the Department of Finance and Administration.

12. All state departments and agencies shall cooperate with the Council in carrying out this Order and shall provide support or other assistance as reasonably requested. The Council may consult with other persons and organizations as needed to carry out the purposes of this Order.
13. This Order supersedes and rescinds all other Executive Orders and implementing directives and memoranda concerning the Governor's Council for Armed Services, Veterans, and Their Families.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have subscribed my signature and caused the Great Seal of the State of Tennessee to be affixed this 3rd day of July, 2023.



GOVERNOR

ATTEST:



SECRETARY OF STATE

