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*****PRESS RELEASE*****

**Lt. Governor Molly Gray Joins Vermont National Guard and Veterans Affairs
Legislative Caucus in Renewed Call to Eliminate the Tax on Military Retirement
Pay**

Montpelier, Vt. — Today, Lt. Governor Molly Gray joined the Vermont National Guard and Veterans Affairs Legislative Caucus and military families in renewing the call to eliminate the tax on military retirement pay.

In April of 2021, Lt. Governor Gray and Governor Phil Scott issued a [joint commentary](#) highlighting the importance of eliminating the tax on military retirement pay for growing Vermont's workforce and economy.

"In August, President Biden brought the War in Afghanistan to a close, withdrawing U.S. troops after 21 years in the country. In the early years of the Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts, Vermont had more people serving than any other state per capita. Today, many of those who began serving in 2001, when the U.S. entered Afghanistan, are now eligible for partial retirement. These service members deserve our every support and Vermont should be a welcome home as they begin the next chapters of their careers," said Lt. Governor Gray.

Vermont is home to some 4,000 military retirees and one of only three states in the U.S. that fully tax military pensions. Vermont is also home to more than 36,000 veterans.

Lt. Governor Gray was joined by Vietnam veteran and retired Master Sgt. Bill Bandy of Moretown. Master Sgt. Bandy served over 20 years in the U.S. Army, including three tours in Vietnam, and has been awarded two Air Medals, two Bronze Star Medals, two Meritorious Service Medals, and a Commendation Medal.

"We also need to honor and support those military retirees who continue to choose Vermont as their home, despite other states having more benefits," Lt. Governor Gray said, "As the proud daughter of a Marine First Lieutenant and sister of a Marine Corporal, I know that supporting our military retirees is one step in what must be a larger effort to support those who have served and sacrificed for our state and nation. We must also ensure Vermonters have access to veteran's benefits, we must support veteran owned businesses, and continue to center the voices of Vermont's veterans in our daily work."

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