

Veterans for **BLUNT** GOVERNOR

Governor Blunt believes that there is no group of Missouri men and women more deserving of gratitude, praise, recognition, and support than those who have served in the United States military. Since he took office, he has worked to honor the sacrifices made by our military heroes and their families.

Some of Governor Blunt's efforts on behalf of service members, veterans, and their families include:

- **Meeting veterans' needs** through the Governor's Advisory Council for Veterans Affairs, which identifies needs of different age groups and develops strategies for better services, helping women veterans, and promoting Missouri as a military-friendly state.
- **Banning funeral protests** and picketing before, during, and after a soldier's funeral to honor those who lay their lives down for our freedom and security and to protect families honoring their loved ones.
- **Reinstating the use of live buglers** as a sign of respect for military heroes as part of the Missouri National Guard Military Funeral Honors Program, which provides free military funeral honors, including "Taps."
- **Greater funding for veterans homes** by \$13.7 million, allowing Missouri's veterans homes to go from 90 percent to 97 percent capacity and lowering the number of veterans on the waiting lists to enter the homes.
- **Honoring Vietnam era veterans** through Governor Blunt's Vietnam Era War Medallion Program, a special honor to recognize Missourians who served our country during Vietnam.
- **Remembering the Forgotten War** by designating part of Missouri Highway 63 as the Korean Veterans Association Memorial Highway and enabling veterans of World War II and the Korean War to continue to receive medals honoring their service.
- **Providing for those who serve** through the Missouri Military Family Relief Fund, which provides grants to families and service members of the Missouri National Guard and to members of the Reserve who are called to active duty.
- **Access to rightfully earned benefits**, including help accessing veterans' federal medical benefits and allowing those without permanent homes to access benefits through charitable or religious organizations.
- **Protecting War on Terror veterans** by providing \$1.4 million for the War on Terror Unemployment Program to enhance unemployment benefits for War on Terror veterans who have been dismissed or demoted as a result of being deployed and enacting protections to ensure their jobs, wages and benefits were kept for them during their service.
- **Implementing the Stolen Valor Act** to punish those who impersonate military heroes and increase grants to fund Veterans Service Officers.

GOVERNOR MATT BLUNT



Governor Blunt graduated from the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis and went on to serve as an Engineer Officer aboard the USS JACK WILLIAMS (FFG-24). He later served as the Navigator and Administrative Officer on the USS PETERSON (DD-969). While in the Navy, he participated in Operation Support Democracy, which involved the U.N. blockade of Haiti. He also was involved in the interdiction of Cuban migrants in 1994 as well as drug interdiction missions off the coast of South America.

After the September 11, 2001, attacks on our country Governor Blunt became the first statewide elected official in Missouri history to be called to active duty. He served for six months in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Governor Blunt currently serves in the U.S. Navy Reserve as a Lieutenant Commander. His military awards include the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (4th award) and the Humanitarian Service Medal.

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