



Supporting Our Military

- \$3.2 billion in direct spending, with 57,462 Kentuckians earning a Department of Defense paycheck; 14th in the nation.
- \$10.6 billion in contract spending; 13th in the nation.
- Advocated for the successful selection of Fort Knox as the headquarters for U.S. Army Fifth (V) Corps in February 2020.
- Announced the conversion of the Kentucky Air National Guard from aging C-130H “Hercules” model transport aircraft to the new C-130J aircraft, with conversion completed in 2022.
- Successfully worked with the Department of Defense Office of Military Community and Family Policy to become one of the first states to implement the new Military Child Care in Your Neighborhood-PLUS (MCCYN-PLUS) program in January 2023.
 - ◇ Provides military families a federal (DOD) monthly stipend up to \$1,500 to assist military families with living expenses/challenges and encourage their retention in the armed forces.
 - ◇ Participating vendors must be validated on a monthly basis by the Cabinet for Health and Family Services, which did a tremendous job working with DOD to bring this program to Kentucky.
- Established the Kentucky Purple Star Schools program in the Fall of 2021.
 - ◇ Purple Star Schools endeavor to ensure every military-connected youth in Kentucky receives what they need to succeed and to instill a sense of connection and strengthen resilience within Kentucky’s military-connected youth.
 - ◇ Forty-two Kentucky K-12 schools are participating as of April 2023.
- [Issued videos](#) by the Governor and First Lady supporting the April Month of the Military Child and Purple Up! Day in support of military families and children.
- Successfully worked with the Kentucky General Assembly to join seven Department of Defense occupational licensing compacts
- Created Kentucky military specialty license plates: Distinguished Flying Cross; Air Medal; Combat Action Badge; and Combat Infantry Badge.
- Signed legislation to support life insurance for members of the Kentucky National Guard.
- Signed legislation prohibiting patriot penalties in insurance.
- Signed legislation to raise the amount of available assistance from the Kentucky National Guard Adoption Assistance Program.
- Signed legislation to expand the Military Family Assistance Trust Fund.
- Signed legislation to make it easier for military spouses to obtain occupational licenses.
- Improved leave benefits for state employees who serve in the Military.
- Posthumous honorary promotion of U.S. Army Colonel Charles Young to Brigadier General.