

Good afternoon, Mr Chairman, members of the Senate and fellow Veterans. My name is Sean Foley, Senior Council Representative with Millwright Local 443, and I am joined by my colleague Erick Dickson, Council Representative with the Eastern Atlantic States Regional Council of Carpenters. We both proudly served in the Marine Corps before we joined the Carpenters Union and we are honored to appear before you today to discuss the United Brotherhood of Carpenters' (UBC) unwavering commitment to our nation's veterans.

The UBC has a longstanding tradition of supporting veterans, recognizing the invaluable skills and dedication they bring to the workforce. We have consistently provided preferred hiring status to veterans seeking a second career, ensuring they have access to meaningful and rewarding opportunities within our organization.

In Pennsylvania, our membership comprises approximately 19,000 individuals, with around 300 of them being veterans. Across our council—which includes six states (West Virginia, Virginia, Delaware, New Jersey, Maryland, and Pennsylvania) and Washington, D.C.—we proudly represent about 42,000 members, of which approximately 700 are veterans.

To actively recruit veterans, we utilize several programs tailored to their unique experiences and skills. One such initiative is Helmets to Hardhats, a national, nonprofit program that connects transitioning active-duty military service members, veterans, National Guard, and Reservists with skilled training and quality career opportunities in the construction industry.

[helmetstohardhats.org](https://helmetstohardhats.org)

Additionally, we have established the Military Veteran Program (MVP), an innovative training program that offers veterans a pathway into careers as millwrights, industrial mechanics, pile drivers, or carpenters. This free eight-week program provides hands-on training and direct entry into our apprenticeship programs, allowing veterans to earn while they learn and access jobs in essential industries.

[ubcmvp.org](https://ubcmvp.org)

The MVP was initiated at our international level a few years ago at Fort Cavazos (formerly Fort Hood) in Texas. This program has since expanded to include five additional bases across various states, and we are actively seeking opportunities to further its reach.

Through these initiatives, the UBC not only honors the service of our veterans but also enriches our workforce with individuals who embody discipline, leadership, and a commitment to excellence. We remain dedicated to providing veterans with the support and opportunities they deserve as they transition into civilian careers.

Thank you for the opportunity to address the committee today. We look forward to continuing our work in support of veterans and welcome any questions you may have.