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Kamenetz Announces Hiring Preferences for Veterans, Other Enhancements to HOMEFRONT- Our Turn to Serve Program

(Towson, MD) - Flanked by Maryland military leaders, County Executive Kevin Kamenetz announced today at the National Guard Ruhl Armory in Towson that Baltimore County government is welcoming veterans home from deployment overseas by providing extra support services and offering the potential for a good job with the County.

The County Executive announced that Baltimore County government is implementing hiring preferences for veterans. Veterans who pass the entry level test for County Police, Fire, Sheriff and Corrections departments will receive priority in screening and hiring for potential vacancies. In all other County agencies, when a vacancy occurs and two or more candidates are equally qualified, the veteran will be given priority when filling the position.

"There is no monument we can build, nor words we can offer that are equal to the sacrifice and achievements of our veterans," Kamenetz said. "So as a grateful community, we want to help make their return home not only as easy as possible, but as successful as possible."

In addition to the hiring preference, Kamenetz announced that Baltimore County's Mobile Career Center and Department of Workforce Development staff will

participate in the National Guard's "Yellow Ribbon" Reintegration events, held periodically for returning guard and reserves troops to assist them with shifting back into civilian life. The Department of Workforce Development has three full-time staff members devoted to working with veterans - one at each of the three Baltimore County Workforce Centers, located in Randallstown, Eastpoint and Hunt Valley.

In addition to employment assistance, Baltimore County offers a number of services to returning veterans. Baltimore County's Department of Health and Human Services provides an array of services to all constituents, including veterans and their families. The Department has taught all County agencies how to help people who are affected by post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), traumatic brain injury, and substance abuse access the services they need. The Department has also helped 200 homeless veterans get into their own housing, using special federal housing vouchers. Baltimore County's Department of Corrections provides services to incarcerated veterans in the detention center and as they transition back into the community.

"Today's veterans stand just as tall as any generation of veterans that have gone before," said Maj. Gen. James A. Adkins, the adjutant general of Maryland. "Our country has learned that the war is not over for returning veterans until they are fully integrated back at home, at work or at school and in their community. Baltimore County's Homefront Work Group has led the way in supporting veterans for years and continues to set the benchmark for the coordination of veteran services."

"Our veterans have so much to offer employers; qualities such as teamwork, leadership, initiative, and a focus on getting the job done right," said Maryland Secretary of Veterans Affairs Edward Chow, Jr. "I would like to thank County Executive Kamenetz for his leadership in helping veterans obtain jobs here in Baltimore County."

Photos from today's announcement are available at <http://flic.kr/s/aHsjygW3ga>

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Editor's Note: Please feel free to use the attached HOMEFRONT logo graphic in your news coverage of this announcement.