



MICHIGAN
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
P.O. Box 30014
LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909-7514

**MINUTES OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON MILITARY
AND VETERANS AFFAIRS**

Wednesday, March 23, 2016 10:30 a.m. Room 519 House Office Building, Lansing

Representative Barrett, Chair, called the Meeting of the Standing Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs to order.

Military and Veterans Affairs Committee Members Present: Representatives Barrett, Hughes, Hooker, Outman, Glenn, Whiteford, Talabi, LaGrand.
Absent/Excused: Representative Rutledge.

Representative Hughes made a motion to adopt the minutes of the meeting held on March 17, 2016. No objections being offered, the minutes were accepted as presented.

Representative Talabi made a motion to excuse absent members. No objections being offered, absent members were excused.

Russell Braun, Jeff Sandborn and Gabe Corey, representing the Michigan Corn Growers Association, provided a presentation and reviewed the following topics: Michigan corn use; Ethanol in Michigan, the economic impact on agriculture; fuel standards and Michigan farmers; the Balancing Incentive Program (BIP) grant and BIP impact. Questions and discussion followed.

Adam Ingrao, Executive Director, and Dylan Thomas, President, Farmer Veteran Coalition-Michigan, spoke to the Committee regarding their personal stories and businesses (Two Pines Farm and Bee Wise Farms); characteristics of what makes a veteran and what makes a farmer; a description of the Farmer Veteran Coalition of Michigan; assisting veterans through education, resources, marketing, and funding; the benefits of being a fellow; "Homegrown by Heroes" and promotion of member products; community; partnering with Michigan organizations; and Michigan's opportunity regarding agriculture.

Subsequent to the presentations, Chair Barrett declared the meeting adjourned, the time being 11:54 a.m.

Representative Tom Barrett, Chair

Catherine Petroskey, Committee Clerk (517) 373-8538