



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 2307</b>		DATE: <b>3/4/2026</b>
COMMITTEE: <b>Special Committee on Tourism</b>		
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>ALAN LESLIE COVER LOZANO</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/5/2026 10:57 AM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

I attended this military school. It is an example of good education. Teaching patriotism, leadership, values, respect for veterans and the elderly as well as family values. It has contributed to my good upbringing and I am sure has provided such for other young men. Many alumni have then moved on to serve in the armed forces of the United States. And although I was not born in Missouri it developed in me a love this wonderful state and country.  
Best regards.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>ARNIE C. "HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF-STATE PUBLIC ADVOCAT</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: <b>In-Person</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/6/2026 11:37 PM</b>	
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**I am in Support of this bill, because we currently ONLY have One (1) Military Academy.**



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>ARTEMIO MALDONADO</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/4/2026 11:18 AM</b>

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Missouri Military Academy formed me and two of my family members as well as close friends. The experience for us was invaluable, and it provided us with discipline, principles, and excellent education that we were not afforded in our respective hometowns. Since my graduation, myself and my friends along with many other classmates visit MMA with appreciation for what we learned and experienced in our years as cadets.

I can only say that this institution deserves much more recognition than it receives, and preserving its heritage as one of the oldest institutions is of grand importance for me.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>B. JEFFREY MACLELLAN</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/4/2026 11:25 AM</b>	

**THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.**

My name is Jeff MacLellan, from Columbia, MO. I am a proud graduate of MMA, class of 1966. A bit of background is in order. I was born and raised in Mexico City, Mexico to American parents. My father worked for the Rockefeller Foundation doing agricultural research. My parents wanted me educated in the US and we looked at schools in the Midwest as my grandparents lived in a small farming community in Illinois and my uncle was with State Farm in Columbia. We looked at several boarding and military schools and MMA stood out. We liked it because of its structure and discipline, academic prowess and leadership opportunities. It also offered lots of activities such as athletics, the arts, music, etc.

I thrived as a cadet rising to battalion commander my senior year, was elected to the Legion of Honor, captained the baseball team, the Fusileers our award-winning drill team, and was head of Delta Phi, our honor society.

I learned so many life skills at MMA primarily around structure (time management\_ discipline, and leadership. I learned how to be a good follower first in order to be a good leader. Our lives were structured from 6 am to 10 pm which made later life easier as it was not as demanding.

I ended up in Dallas after serving in the Air Force during Vietnam. I was hired by the biggest bank in Texas and became CEO of one of their banks in Dallas at age 36. I moved to Columbia, MO in 1987 as CEO of First National Bank and remained CEO on the bank holding company until my retirement in 2010. I attribute much of my success in life to the lessons learned early in my life at MMA.

I have been a trustee at the school for 25+ years as a way of giving back to the school with my work, wisdom and wealth.

I learned early on that the person in the mirror was the person responsible for one's life, not the parents or the school. The sooner one takes charge of one's actions, the sooner they can move forward. We need a lot more MMAs in the world that teach character and integrity, academic excellence, social development, in a structured and disciplined environment.

I strongly support making MMA the state Military Academy. I only wish there were more institutions vying for this honor. MMA is a survivor and much needed in today's world.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>BRENTON CHARLES STUEHMER</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>		SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/4/2026 12:40 PM</b>
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I am in support of this bill. I am a graduate of Missouri Military Academy, class of 1997. I wouldn't be the man I am today if it wasn't for this Academy. It was given me so many more opportunities that I wouldn't of had if I didn't attend there. It has one of the best academic standards and it teaches boys how to become men. I am a member of the Alumni board of directors and I also have my son who attends there now. I would be proud to called MMA the official Military Academy of the great State of Missouri.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>BRIAN MENY</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/3/2026 2:40 PM</b>

**THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.**  
**Great Programs. academics and Athletics really strong.**



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>BUD TOTTEN</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/3/2026 10:05 PM</b>
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**My son is a student at Missouri Military Academy. In the time he has attended, he's made improvements to his character and leaderships skills, far beyond my expectations. He loves attending this school and will be here through graduation.**



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>CHUCK RENTSCHLER</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/3/2026 2:41 PM</b>
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The Missouri Military Academy has changed many young men from around the world. The MMA cadets are young men that have experience a military training while in high school. These men are our future leaders of the world. MMA has a number of cadets from across the United States alone with many international cadets. These cadets have learned how each country is capable of sharing experiences and ideas. This is why it is important to have a school with this training.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>DAN HOUX</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/4/2026 12:00 AM</b>	
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>DAVID JAMES KIONKA</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>		SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/3/2026 6:58 PM</b>

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**As an alumnus I know first hand what Missouri Military Academy can do to shape boys into men. The education I received was superior to what I could have received anywhere else.**



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>DAWN SHELLABARGER</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/3/2026 6:09 PM</b>

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My name is Dawn Shellabarger. I am a resident of Audrain County, and the proud mom of a junior cadet at Missouri Military Academy, Cadet Eric Shellabarger. I am honored to submit this statement in strong support of designating Missouri Military Academy as Missouri’s Official Military Academy.

Missouri Military Academy has been part of Mexico for generations, and the people of Mexico and Audrain County have supported the Academy, and in return, MMA has enriched our town in ways that are both visible and deeply meaningful. The Academy is not just in Mexico—it is part of who Mexico is. One of the first things families notice when they come to MMA is the energy and spirit of the Cadets. These young men are polite, respectful, confident—and genuinely fun to be around. They laugh together, support one another, and represent themselves, the Academy, and our town with pride. As a local parent, I regularly hear from community members how much they enjoy seeing cadets around town and how positively they reflect on Mexico and Missouri.

Athletics play a powerful role at MMA. Competitive sports and physical training draw boys from across the United States and around the world to Mexico, Missouri. But what keeps them here is not just winning—it is the brotherhood formed on the field, on the court, and through shared challenge. Cadets learn teamwork, perseverance, accountability, and how to lead and support one another. Those bonds last far beyond the season and often for a lifetime.

The Army JROTC program at Missouri Military Academy is a defining part of the cadet experience and plays a central role in building that brotherhood. Through JROTC, cadets learn leadership by doing—standing inspections, mentoring younger cadets, planning activities, and being accountable not just for themselves, but for others. The program emphasizes discipline, citizenship, teamwork, and service, while giving young men real responsibility at an age when many are rarely trusted with it. Even for cadets who never plan to enter the military, the leadership skills and sense of purpose developed through JROTC stay with them long after graduation.

As a parent, I have seen firsthand how the JROTC experience at Missouri Military Academy shapes young men. Through JROTC, my son has learned what it means to be accountable—not just for himself, but for others who depend on him. I see the confidence that comes from standing tall in uniform, the pride he takes in meeting expectations, and the growth that happens when he is trusted with real responsibility. JROTC has taught him how to lead, how to follow, and how to carry himself with respect and purpose. Even knowing that Eric may never pursue military service, I am grateful for the discipline, structure, and sense of belonging JROTC has given him.

Missouri Military Academy educates young men from across Missouri, the U.S. and the world, and it is remarkable that families from around the world entrust their sons to a school in our Missouri community. The world sends its boys to Mexico so they can return home stronger, more confident, and better prepared for life. That speaks volumes about the Academy—and about Missouri.

An MMA education develops the whole person: academically, physically, socially, and morally. Cadets

are held to high standards and learn responsibility through real expectations. The Cadet Honor Code—"I will not lie, cheat, or steal, nor tolerate those who do"—is not just words; it shapes daily life. At MMA, everything is earned, from uniform brass to leadership roles, teaching young men that effort, integrity, and character matter.

Although many graduates do not pursue military service, every graduate leaves MMA with leadership skills that benefit Missouri and our nation. They know how to work with others, speak respectfully, handle adversity, and carry themselves with confidence. When they head on to college, military service, the skilled trades – they are young men prepared for a world with their own purpose, drive, discipline and sense of community. They carry Mexico and Missouri with them as they go.

As Eric's mom, I have watched my son grow at Missouri Military Academy. I see greater confidence, stronger self discipline, and a genuine sense of belonging. He has learned to work as part of a team, to respect others, and to take pride in doing things the right way—even when it is difficult. Most importantly, he is happy, having earned it all through his work, learning, growth and efforts. He is challenged, supported, and surrounded by young men and adults who expect him to be his best. That is a gift to any parent.

Missouri Military Academy means something special to this community and to families like ours. Designating MMA as Missouri's Official Military Academy would recognize what we already know: this institution represents the very best of Missouri—its values, its people, and its future. Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>ERIC MARTINSON</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/3/2026 6:51 PM</b>	

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I strongly support HB 2307 designating Missouri Military Academy as the Official Military Academy of the State of Missouri.

Missouri Military Academy has shaped young men into principled, confident, and capable leaders since 1889. Through a structured and disciplined environment, MMA has consistently provided a college- and career-focused education that prepares students not only for academic success, but for lives of service, responsibility, and leadership. Its graduates have gone on to serve with distinction in the armed forces, in business, in public service, and in communities across Missouri and the nation.

In a time when many young people face uncertainty and distraction, the Academy’s structured model remains both relevant and necessary. MMA instills accountability, respect, integrity, and perseverance—values that form the foundation of effective leadership. The emphasis on character development alongside academic rigor ensures that students are prepared not just to succeed, but to lead with honor.

Missouri has a proud military-school heritage, and Missouri Military Academy stands as a living embodiment of that tradition. Preserving this legacy is about more than honoring the past—it is about sustaining an institution that continues to serve Missouri families today. Designating MMA as the Official Military Academy recognizes its enduring contribution to our state’s educational and military traditions.

Missouri Military Academy reflects the very best of Missouri values: hard work, discipline, service, faith, community, and love of country. HB 2307 affirms what generations of Missourians already know—that MMA is a cornerstone institution worthy of statewide recognition.

For these reasons, I urge support for HB 2307.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>GENERAL (RETIRED) FRANK GRASS</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:	STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/3/2026 8:56 PM</b>

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As a retired U.S. Army General Officer I have had the distinct opportunity to visit Missouri Military Academy facilities and engage with MMA cadets, leadership, faculty and staff. These engagements affirm MMA is a center of excellence in education which will further excel as a national and international academy once designated as the Official Military Academy of the State of Missouri.

Since its founding in 1889 by the citizens of Mexico and Audrain County, Missouri Military Academy (MMA) has strengthened Missouri, through its commitment to leadership development, military values, and community service, all validated by MMA's accomplished alumni.

The MMA is one of the select remaining military academies in the U.S. and the only one still operating in Missouri following the closures of the state's historic institutions; Kemper Military School and College and Wentworth Military Academy. Recognizing the importance of preserving the heritage of these longtime institutions, MMA has actively partnered with Kemper and Wentworth alumni to ensure their storied traditions, values and contributions endure.

By passing HR 2307 designating Missouri Military Academy as the Official Military Academy of the State of Missouri, the Missouri House of Representatives will affirm the state's commitment to academic excellence, leadership development, patriotic and military values, economic growth, school choice and holistic education. This designation will strengthen a vital institution, preserve a proud Missouri legacy and reinforce the state's dedication to cultivating educational excellence, citizenship, service and exceptional leadership.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>JACOB SHELLABARGER</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:	STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/3/2026 5:50 PM</b>

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**Written Testimony in Support of Designating Missouri Military Academy as Missouri's Official Military Academy**

My name is Jacob Shellabarger. I am a resident of Audrain County, and my son, Eric Shellabarger, is a junior cadet at Missouri Military Academy (MMA). I respectfully submit this statement in strong support of designating Missouri Military Academy as Missouri's Official Military Academy.

Founded in 1889, Missouri Military Academy has served the State of Missouri—and the City of Mexico in particular—for more than 135 years. It is a Missouri institution in every meaningful sense: rooted in this community, supported by generations of Missourians, and reflective of the values our state holds dear. The Academy's long standing mission is simple and enduring: to develop young men who look like soldiers, study like scholars, and act like gentlemen.

Today, Missouri Military Academy educates cadets from at least 29 U.S. states and nine countries.

Families from across the nation—and from around the world—choose to send their sons to Missouri, and specifically to Mexico, Missouri, because MMA provides something increasingly rare: structure, purpose, accountability, and character formation for young men. The world sends its boys to Missouri so they will return home as young men and leaders in their community. They return home with Missouri values instilled by a dedicated faculty, staff, coaches and volunteers..

Cadets at the Academy do not exist apart from the Mexico community - they elevate it with their presence and participation. MMA Cadets perform thousands of hours of community service, walk our streets, support our businesses -- and still do the little things: hold doors, say "sir" and "ma'am," make eye contact and a firm handshake, and represent our State with dignity and pride.

MMA's Corps of Cadets is an Army JROTC Unit of Distinction, recognized for excellence. Yet the Academy's impact extends well beyond military instruction. Through its 360° Education model, MMA intentionally develops mind, body, and spirit. Cadets pursue a rigorous academic curriculum, participate in athletics and physical training, and are immersed daily in leadership development, teamwork, ethical decision making, and service to others.

Central to Cadet life is the Cadet Honor Code: "I will not lie, cheat, or steal, nor tolerate those who do."

This is not symbolic language—it is lived, enforced, and internalized. At MMA, nothing is given; everything is earned. Rank, leadership positions, privileges, respect and trust are all tied to performance, conduct, and responsibility. Cadets learn that their choices matter, that standards exist, and that accountability is not optional.

Although relatively few graduates ultimately serve in the armed forces, every graduate leaves MMA with leadership skills that are invaluable to Missouri and the nation. Alumni become business leaders, engineers, physicians, attorneys, educators, public servants, and entrepreneurs. They carry with them discipline, confidence, communication skills, resilience, and the ability to work through differences—qualities prized in industry, civic life, and public service.

**Missouri Military Academy also instills a profound sense of brotherhood. Young men from different backgrounds, cultures, and countries live and work together, learning respect, courage, cooperation, and responsibility to something larger than themselves. MMA brings young men together, teaching them true unity without sacrificing individuality, and each Cadet is challenged to be involved, engaged and accountable. The MMA structure prepares young men to fully use and treasure their freedom wisely.**

**Each cadet is taught that he is the master of his own fate and the captain of his own soul, but that true success requires commitment to others and to shared standards.**

**Designating Missouri Military Academy as Missouri's Official Military Academy would not create a new role—it would formally recognize what MMA has long been in practice. It would honor a historic Missouri institution that consistently produces young men of character, competence, and leadership. Most importantly, it would affirm that Missouri values and the MMA education model forms disciplined, ethical, and capable citizens - citizens who are needed in this State for its future. This school reflects Missouri's highest values: Love, Honor, and Truth.**

**I am proud to be an MMA parent, and proud of the investments we have made for our son and for the world's sons to come to Audrain County, Missouri. I'm proud that the world knows Mexico, Missouri because of MMA. These Cadets and the Academy that forms them represent the best of what our young men can be.**

**For these reasons, I respectfully urge support for this designation.**



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>JAMES HUMAN</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/3/2026 8:53 PM</b>
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**It is an incredible academy in our great state.**



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>JAMES R. HALLAM</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>		SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/3/2026 10:54 AM</b>
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**Missouri Military Academy as the state of Missouri's official military school. Since it is the last remaining military school in operation due to Kemper and Wentworth closing, MMA is extremely valuable for the State.**



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 2307</b>		DATE: <b>3/4/2026</b>	
COMMITTEE: <b>Special Committee on Tourism</b>			
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>JENNIFER O'DONLEY</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>573-230-4711</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>MISSOURI MILITARY ACADEMY</b>		TITLE: <b>DIRECTOR OF MARKETING</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>204 N GRAND</b>			
CITY: <b>MEXICO</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65265</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/4/2026 12:00 AM</b>	
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 2307</b>		DATE: <b>3/4/2026</b>	
COMMITTEE: <b>Special Committee on Tourism</b>			
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>JOHN MURPHY</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:		SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/4/2026 12:00 AM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
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COMMITTEE: <b>Special Committee on Tourism</b>		
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>KERRI LAMB</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/3/2026 4:31 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

I have two grandsons that attend MMA. They are being taught leadership, responsibility, respect and good morals. They have very strong academics such as robotics and cybersecurity.

This school is preparing them well for adulthood. Missouri should be proud to have a school of this caliber.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
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<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>L. W. KWAKOU CASSELLE</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/4/2026 8:32 AM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

As a 1993 graduate of Missouri Military Academy, veteran and retired senior foreign service officer of the U.S. Department of State, I can attest to the jewel that MMA is in Missouri history. MMA has educated and trained young men to be incredible citizens through strict discipline, high diagonal attainment and athletic excellence. MMA alumni have gone on to international success in education, the arts, corporate America and like me military and government. As the only and longest standing military school in Missouri? MMA has earned this honor for nearly 140 years of maintaining the highest standards consistently.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
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<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>LESLIE MEYER</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>573-473-1567</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>AUDRAIN COUNTY COMMISSION</b>		TITLE: <b>ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER, AUDRAIN COUNTY</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>101 N. JEFFERSON STREET</b>			
CITY: <b>MEXICO</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65265</b>
EMAIL: <b>lmeyer@audraincounty.org</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/3/2026 2:37 PM</b>	

**THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.**

**Missouri Military Academy is an outstanding educational facility in the state. It also provides community support, a wonderful place for employment, and tourism dollars for our county and county seat of Mexico, Mo.**



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
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<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>LORI VANDERCRAKE</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/3/2026 2:49 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

During my nearly four years at Missouri Military Academy, I have had the privilege of watching young men grow in ways they never imagined possible. I have seen cadets discover strengths and abilities they did not know they possessed, develop discipline and leadership, and build lasting confidence. The pride on their faces after completing the Crucible, and the determination they show as they stand tall and earn acceptance into their dream colleges, is powerful and inspiring. Missouri Military Academy does more than educate — we transforms lives.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
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<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>MARY PATRICK SEIGFREID</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/3/2026 11:59 PM</b>	
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			

As a member of the Missouri Military Academy (MMA) Board of Trustees and a resident of Mexico, Missouri, for the past 42 years, I am writing to express my strong support for House Bill 2307.

I have witnessed firsthand how MMA excels in providing an outstanding education to young men from around the world. Our cadets consistently make a positive impact on our community and state through their dedicated service, volunteerism, and leadership.

Furthermore, since the closures of Kemper Military School and College and Wentworth Military Academy, MMA has proactively included their alumni in our events and celebrations. This partnership has fostered a remarkable sense of camaraderie among military school alumni.

I strongly encourage you to pass House Bill 2307. Please let me know if I can provide any further assistance or information regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

Mary Patrick Seigfreid



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
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COMMITTEE: <b>Special Committee on Tourism</b>		
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>MATTHEW GOWIN</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/3/2026 3:38 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

I respectfully ask this body to vote in favor of recognizing Missouri Military Academy, in Mexico, Missouri, as the Official State Military Academy. This institution is an incredible resource for young men in Missouri, the United States of America, and from across the globe. The scholarships these young men receive, year in & year out, are outstanding (millions of dollars each year). MMA is also a valuable employer in the mid-Missouri area. As an economic driver, MMA brings parents, families, and alums to the mid-Missouri area, spending numerous dollars at restaurants, motels, and entertainment establishments. Please support this bill and recognize Missouri Military Academy as the Official State Military Academy. Thank you.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
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<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>MATTHIAS MCCURREN</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/3/2026 3:02 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

Missouri Military Academy has instructed young men with its unique, wholistic educational approach for 137 years, producing graduates of not only high academic caliber, but athletes, leaders and most importantly young men of high character and integrity. The cumulative positive effect of these efforts on the state of Missouri, the United States, and indeed, the whole world is remarkable and incalculable. As such, I voice my support for HB2307. Thank you for your time and consideration.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
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<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>PEGGY REYNARD, BUSINESS/MATH DEPARTMENT CHAIR</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/3/2026 3:18 PM</b>

**THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.**

I have been a faculty member of MMA for over 25 years. I have taught many subjects in Business and Math to many cadets. During my time here at MMA, I have seen countless cadets excel in academics, integrity, confidence, and honor because of the structure and accountability of MMA. Opportunities are numerous for cadets to strive and succeed in academics, athletics, leadership, military drill, Future Business Leaders of America, STEM clubs, Cybersecurity, Rifle team, Fusiliers, etc. Our Honor Code is "I will not lie, cheat, or steal nor tolerate those who do" and our Motto is "Love, Honor, Truth". These are high standards to live by and we help our cadets strive to do so.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>R. STRIBLING KOSTER</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>		SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/3/2026 4:09 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			

I would like to acknowledge my support of the designation of Missouri Military Academy as the Official Military School of the State of Missouri. MMA was established in 1889 and since then has been instrumental in producing a generation of young men of character and integrity and ready to be valuable contributors to the world.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>RICHARD V. GERACI</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>505-977-2665</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>MISSOURI MILITARY ACADEMY</b>		TITLE: <b>PRESIDENT</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>204 NORTH GRAND STREET</b>			
CITY: <b>MEXICO</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65265</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/4/2026 12:00 AM</b>	
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COMMITTEE: <b>Special Committee on Tourism</b>			
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>ROBERT MICHAEL KOONTZ</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/3/2026 4:21 PM</b>	

**THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.**

My name is Michael Koontz, and as the Deputy Director for Enrollment Management, I don't just work at Missouri Military Academy—I live its mission. My connection here is a lifelong family legacy. My father-in-law, Robert Piper (Class of '47), dedicated over 40 years to MMA; his father, George, served for 30. Between my mother-in-law, brother-in-law, and my own decade of service, our family has spent a century watching this school change lives.

I saw the weight of that impact at the last Alumni Weekend that my father-in-law attended. When my father-in-law walked onto campus of almost 300 Alumni, at least half of them rose in eagerness to greet him. To them, he wasn't just an instructor; he was a "Rock Star" who shaped their success.

I carry that same torch today. Starting my career as a barracks mentor, I wasn't just a supervisor—I was a "Dad." I've had cadets call me by that name years after graduation because at MMA, we treat every boy like our own son.

We specialize in the "360-degree education." We take young men who arrive with stagnant grades or a lack of direction and arm them with:

- **Logical Thinking: Decisiveness in the face of challenges.**
- **Time Management: The discipline to thrive in an unstructured world.**
- **Character: A foundation built on Love, Honor, and Truth.**

We don't just graduate students; we forge a caliber of young men that is rare in today's world. I am honored to be part of the MMA Family, helping the next generation find their purpose.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>ROBERT MILLER</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/3/2026 3:38 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

Missouri Military Academy in Mexico Mo has a long history with our state and the Mexico Community. It is a wonderful education institution as well as an important corporate citizen to our state. They provide international exposure to Missouri every year. I highly encourage approval of SB 2307.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>SANDERS ROTH</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/4/2026 1:44 PM</b>	

**THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.**

I am an alumnus of Missouri Military Academy and respectfully submit this testimony in support of HB 2307 designating Missouri Military Academy as the Official Military Academy of the State of Missouri. From a business leadership perspective, the value of Missouri Military Academy lies in its ability to develop qualities that are increasingly difficult to teach later in life: accountability, discipline, time management, and leadership under pressure. During my time at MMA, cadets were expected to take responsibility for outcomes, lead peers, and operate within a structured environment that rewarded performance, integrity, and teamwork. Those expectations closely mirror the realities of the professional world.

In today's workforce, employers consistently seek individuals who can lead teams, adapt to challenges, and execute with consistency. MMA's model intentionally builds those capabilities at an early age. The Academy does not simply prepare students academically; it prepares them to contribute meaningfully to organizations, communities, and the economy through leadership and personal responsibility.

Missouri Military Academy represents a longstanding Missouri institution that develops future business leaders, professionals, and community contributors. Recognizing MMA as the Official Military Academy of Missouri appropriately acknowledges its 135-year legacy of producing disciplined, capable leaders whose impact extends far beyond the campus.

Thank you for your consideration and for supporting educational models that strengthen leadership development within our state.

Respectfully,  
**Sanders Roth**  
 Alumnus, Missouri Military Academy



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
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COMMITTEE: <b>Special Committee on Tourism</b>		
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>STEPHEN WEBSTER</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/3/2026 3:44 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

I strongly support the bill designating Missouri Military Academy (MMA) as Missouri's official state military academy. Since 1889, thousands of young men have come to MMA not just to learn, but to adopt a way of life - one that embraces service, honor and integrity. MMA has been successfully turning young men into leaders for more than 125 years. MMA's military model plays an important role in the education of young men in this state by providing a unique institution dedicated to excellence forged through discipline. Because there are few institutions that focus on developing young men it is critical to preserve those that do. Designating MMA as Missouri's official military academy will help promote and preserve this school so that future generations of Missouri men will have the chance to benefit from its unique approach to education, self-discipline and character development.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>STEVEN MCDAVID</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:	STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/4/2026 4:56 PM</b>

**THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.**

MMA is far more than what meets the eye. From the outside, it may look like a traditional military school—structured, disciplined, and steeped in tradition—but to those who walked the halls, drilled on the parade field, and learned life lessons in and out of the classroom, MMA is a transformational experience that shapes young men into scholars, leaders, and global citizens.

The faculty and staff at MMA are not just employees fulfilling a job. They are deeply invested in the growth and success of every cadet. Unlike many traditional schools where teachers punch the clock, the educators and mentors here live and breathe the mission. They stay after hours, coach teams, lead clubs, and serve as role models, helping cadets realize their full potential. Their commitment extends beyond academics. Everything is about character development, leadership cultivation, and personal accountability.

Yes, the military structure brings discipline, order, and a strong sense of responsibility. However, MMA is first and foremost a college preparatory school. It’s an institution focused on preparing young men for the rigors of college and life beyond. The Class of 2025 achieved a 100% college acceptance rate, collectively earning over \$11 million in scholarships. That’s an average of more than \$220,000 per graduating senior in a class of 49. These numbers are proof of MMA’s ability to deliver results and open doors for its cadets.

Beyond the academics and structure, what truly sets MMA apart is the lifelong brotherhood and the exposure to a diverse world of perspectives. As a young man from southeast Iowa, I came to MMA thinking I understood the world. But it wasn’t until I lived, learned, and led alongside cadets from across the United States and from countries around the globe that I truly began to appreciate other cultures, beliefs, and ways of life. MMA doesn’t just teach cadets about the world but immerses them in it.

Today, as an adult, I feel comfortable traveling anywhere in the world. In the last 20 years I have traveled considerably around the globe for my work. That confidence didn’t come from a textbook but from conversations in the barracks, debates in the classroom, and friendships forged through shared challenge and mutual respect. MMA prepared me not just academically, but emotionally, socially, and professionally.

If you want a young man to be academically prepared, personally accountable, and globally aware, and if you want him to grow into a man of confidence, discipline, and integrity, there is no better place to start that journey than Missouri Military Academy.

Years from now these men will look back on their time at this prestigious institution as a gift, as I do.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
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COMMITTEE: <b>Special Committee on Tourism</b>			
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>SUNGTAE HWANG</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/3/2026 3:29 PM</b>	
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			

Dear Members of the Missouri House of Representatives,

I respectfully submit this testimony in support of HB 2307, the bill proposing to designate Missouri Military Academy (MMA) as the Official Military Academy of the State of Missouri.

I currently serve as an English Language Learning (ELL) instructor and am a former cadet, military officer, and assistant professor at a military academy in Korea. Over the past year and a half, I have had the privilege of witnessing firsthand the growth and development of cadets at Missouri Military Academy. The transformation that takes place over time is both measurable and meaningful. Young men who arrive with uncertainty gradually develop maturity, confidence, and a strong sense of responsibility. They learn not only to fulfill their duties, but also to take accountability for their shortcomings and to grow from them.

MMA’s structured environment—grounded in discipline, accountability, and leadership opportunities—plays a critical role in shaping this development. Cadets are entrusted with real responsibilities and are held to clear standards. Through leadership positions, they learn how to guide their peers, communicate effectively, and respond to challenges with resilience. This process cultivates self-discipline, perseverance, and moral courage—qualities that extend far beyond the classroom.

The Academy’s 360° Education model makes a distinctive difference. By integrating academic rigor, character education, physical development, and leadership training, MMA ensures that cadets grow intellectually, physically, socially, and ethically. This comprehensive approach prepares students not only for college or military service, but for responsible citizenship and lifelong contribution to society.

Missouri Military Academy embodies values that are deeply rooted in Missouri’s identity: service, integrity, accountability, and hard work. At a time when young people face unprecedented distractions and challenges, institutions like MMA provide a structured environment where purpose, discipline, and community are intentionally cultivated. Faculty and staff work diligently each day to reinforce habits of literacy, reflection, respectful dialogue, and personal responsibility—skills that are essential to sustaining a strong civil society.

Furthermore, the impact of MMA extends beyond the borders of Missouri. Its alumni carry the lessons learned at the Academy into communities across the United States and around the world, serving in military, professional, and civic roles. In doing so, they reflect positively on the State of Missouri and

**its commitment to leadership and excellence.**

**For these reasons, I strongly support HB 2307. Designating Missouri Military Academy as the Official Military Academy of the State of Missouri would appropriately recognize its longstanding contributions to character formation, leadership development, and service to both state and nation.**

**Thank you for your consideration.**

**Respectfully submitted,**



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 2307</b>		DATE: <b>3/4/2026</b>
COMMITTEE: <b>Special Committee on Tourism</b>		
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>TAMMY MICHELLE MOTT</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/4/2026 9:28 AM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

In fall 2025, I relocated to the Mexico area with my husband, who serves as the deputy commandant of operations at MMA. With his extensive military background and years of mentoring young men both in the U.S. and abroad, I've witnessed firsthand the positive impact a structured, mission-driven environment like MMA can have. I love watching the transformation that begins on a cadet's very first day — seeing them grow in confidence, respect, and independence is deeply rewarding.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 2307</b>		DATE: <b>3/4/2026</b>	
COMMITTEE: <b>Special Committee on Tourism</b>			
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>VICTORIA SNIDER</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/4/2026 12:50 AM</b>	
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			

My son attended Missouri Military Academy for 2 1/2 years. I selected the academy after carefully evaluating several other academies across the country. The Academy proved to be a great education that also taught character, discipline and core values. It is rare to find an institution so comprehensively equipped to motivate, encourage and support all aspects of a young man's development. MMA achieves this through their state of the art facilities, educated and compassionate faculty and staff, athletics, sophisticated programming and partnership with the parents and community. Their military model holds respect and honor as its cornerstone and is the guiding light for its standards from the board of trustees to all aspects of leadership and decision making. As a parent, I could not be more pleased with the benefits of my son's MMA education. He is now a 26 year old, college educated successful professional living on his own. I am confident his experience at MMA is a part of his success. My willingness to have him move to Missouri when I have the Army Navy Academy a close drive from me in California was completely worth it because of the quality and complete education he received at MMA.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 2307</b>		DATE: <b>3/4/2026</b>
COMMITTEE: <b>Special Committee on Tourism</b>		
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>WAYNE T. WELANDER</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:	STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/3/2026 3:18 PM</b>

**THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.**

To the Honorable Members of the Missouri House of Representatives,  
 My name is MAJ (Ret) Wayne Welander, and I am writing to express my strong support for HB 2307. As a veteran who retired from the U.S. Army nearly two years ago, I intentionally sought a second career where I could continue to make a meaningful difference. I found that purpose at Missouri Military Academy (MMA), where I have served for the past two years.  
 In my time at the Academy, I have witnessed a profound transformation in our cadets. I have seen young men arrive with seemingly no clear path and a dismal outlook for their future. Through MMA's 360° Education model—which integrates rigorous academics with character development and physical fitness—I have watched these same young men transform into successful, disciplined gentlemen. Without the structure and accountability provided here, many of these students would have had little chance to realize their full potential.  
 I am proud to be part of an organization that stands for integrity, selfless service, and hard work. MMA is more than just a school; it is a vital institution that preserves Missouri's military-school legacy and prepares the next generation of leaders. As a veteran, I am also proud to work for an employer where approximately 27% of the staff are veterans or actively serving members of the military.  
 Designating MMA as the Official Military Academy of the State of Missouri is a well-deserved recognition of the professional dedication our faculty and staff bring to cadet development every day. It reinforces Missouri's commitment to military values and ensures that this unique educational choice remains available for families who need it most.  
 I feel fortunate to be part of this mission and respectfully urge you to support HB 2307.  
 Sincerely,  
 MAJ (Ret) Wayne Welander



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 2307</b>		DATE: <b>3/4/2026</b>	
COMMITTEE: <b>Special Committee on Tourism</b>			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>SARAH BERRY</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>3/4/2026 8:26 AM</b>	

**THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.**

HB 2307 proposes to designate the Missouri Military Academy, a private institution located in Mexico, Missouri, as the “official military academy of the State of Missouri.”

This bill presents a fundamental policy and constitutional concern. The Missouri Military Academy is a private, tuition-based educational institution. HB 2307 would grant that single private entity an exclusive official state designation without creating any public function, statewide service obligation, or oversight mechanism tied to that designation.

State designations traditionally recognize public institutions, statewide programs, or symbols serving the entire population of Missouri. HB 2307 instead confers a unique form of state endorsement upon one private school, while no comparable designation exists for other private academies, preparatory schools, or institutions providing military-oriented education in Missouri.

The bill therefore raises concerns under the Missouri Constitution’s prohibition on special laws, which restricts legislation that grants exclusive advantages or distinctions to particular private entities when a general law could apply. See Mo. Const. art. III, §40.

Nothing in HB 2307 establishes objective criteria, a competitive selection process, or a statewide framework through which other institutions could qualify for similar recognition.

Instead, the legislation singles out a specific private entity by name and confers an official state designation unavailable to any other institution.

Even apart from constitutional concerns, the policy implications are clear. The State of Missouri should exercise caution before using statutory authority to elevate a single private institution to official status absent a clear public purpose or statewide governmental role.

Missouri has many institutions that contribute to military leadership development, including ROTC programs, public universities, and service academies that operate under federal authority.

Recognizing one private academy as the “official” military academy of the state risks creating the appearance of state favoritism toward a private entity without corresponding public accountability.

For these reasons, HB 2307 should not be adopted.

**Legislative Notice:**

**HB 2307 designates a single private educational institution as the “official” military academy of the State without establishing neutral eligibility criteria or a general statutory framework applicable to similarly situated institutions.**

**Because the Missouri Constitution prohibits special laws granting particular privileges to specific private entities where a general law could apply (Mo. Const. art. III, §40), legislators should carefully consider whether this bill creates an exclusive statutory distinction that may invite future legal challenge.**

**Official state designations should serve a public function for the people of Missouri—not operate as statutory branding for a single private institution.**