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Pres. Donald J. Trump establishes a Military Spouses Commission to improve quality of life for families and to address challenges

**By Matthew Olay
Dept. of War (DoW)**

August 3, 2026 - President Donald J. Trump signed an executive order in the White House's Oval Office today establishing the President's Military Spouse Commission.

The commission, which is authorized by Executive Order 14415, will provide recommendations for improving the quality of life for military spouses by addressing common challenges, such as housing, employment, healthcare, childcare, education and "just about everything else you can think of," according to the president.

"America cannot have the strongest military in the world without the love and devotion of our remarkable military spouses, who make the extraordinary sacrifices for our country. ... Many military spouses spend months separated from their loved ones, while our heroes are deployed overseas," Trump said while surrounded by numerous military spouses who will serve in the commission.

He noted that military families also endure frequent moves and other unique challenges.

"America cannot have the strongest military in the world without the love and devotion of our remarkable military spouses, who make the extraordinary sacrifices for our country. ... Many military spouses spend months separated from their loved ones, while our heroes are deployed overseas," Trump said while surrounded by numerous military spouses who will serve in the commission.

The commission will be chaired by the spouse of the secretary of war.

During brief remarks, Secretary of War Pete Hegseth, who attended the ceremony along with his wife, Jennifer Hegseth, explained that strong military families make for strong warfighters. "If that warfighter knows that their family is good to go, they will go the extra mile, which is what our nation asks," he said.

The executive order states that the spouses of various senior military leaders will serve as members, including the spouses of all service secretaries and the joint service chiefs.

"This entire group has mountains of experience, and they're raring to go put it to use on behalf of the great Americans who serve our nation. ... This is going to be full speed ahead to address every quality-of-life issue we can," Hegseth added.

Jennifer Hegseth said the members have decades of experience that they'll be bringing to the commission, but in addition to the experience, she said support from the top down is the biggest asset.

"Every time [Secretary Hegseth] travels around to the troops, he tells them that the president has [their] back. And now the families know that you have their back, too, and we are grateful," Jennifer Hegseth told the president.

Air Force Gen. Dan Caine, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, likened military families to the foundation of military readiness, and the backstop of those families is the spouses.

"You think [service members] are strong? American military spouses are 10 times stronger, and the lift that they carry is significant every single day," Caine said.

He went on to thank the new

commission for the work they will be doing to help improve the lives of military families.

"[The family] is a critical enabler for American warfighting capabilities, so to all of you here and [for] all the work that went into putting this commission together, 'thank you,'" Caine said.

Per the executive order, the new commission will be funded by the War Department, which will also provide administrative and technical support to the group, "to the extent permitted by law and as authorized by existing appropriations."

The One Big Beautiful Bill Act, signed into law July 4, 2025, allocated roughly \$9 billion specifically for service member and military family quality-of-life initiatives and programs.

The commission will meet monthly at the White House.

"[The President's Military Spouse Commission is] an order that's long overdue, as far as I'm concerned — like, by decades — and we're going to do a real [good] job with it," Trump said, just prior to signing the executive order.

SAF submits a series of comment letters on ATF multiple proposed rules

BELLEVUE, Wash. — Aug. 4, 2026 — The Second Amendment Foundation (SAF) submitted a series of formal comment letters to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) on multiple proposed rules, urging the agency to modernize regulations in ways that better respect the Second Amendment, gun-owner privacy and the right to interstate travel with firearms.

In late April, SAF Executive Director Adam Kraut was on hand for the announcement of 34 proposed and final rules announced during a press conference and signing by Acting Attorney General Todd Blanche and ATF Director Robert Cekada. At the ceremony, Cekada signed final rules, including the rescission of the "stabilizing brace" and "engaged in the business" rules, and provided summary insights into proposed rules, including updates to Form 4473 for the commercial transfer of firearms, clarifying interstate transportation of firearms under the Gun Control Act, and recordkeeping requirements for Federal Firearms Licensees.

"These comment letters reflect SAF's commitment to ensuring that federal regulations remain consistent with the text, history and tradition of the Second Amendment," said SAF Director of Legal Research and Education Kostas Moros. "The Constitution and our historical tradition demand that ATF get these proposed rules right. Fortunately, for the most part, they have. The proposed rules are, overall, in accord with the Second Amendment. We appreciate the opportunity to participate in this process and urge the agency to finalize rules that

expand, rather than restrict, the rights of peaceable citizens."

Across the letters, SAF supported proposals that would ease outdated barriers to non-over-the-counter firearms transactions, restore reasonable time limits on dealer records retention, clarify and strengthen protections for interstate transportation of firearms under the Gun Control Act and Firearm Owners' Protection Act and reduce unnecessary burdens on the interstate movement of National Firearms Act items. SAF also commented on proposed revisions to Form 4473, the definition of "adjudicated as a mental defective," and rules governing selection of biological sex on ATF forms.

"SAF is actively engaging in the regulatory process because these rules will have real-world consequences for millions of law-abiding gun owners across the nation," Kraut said. "We support reforms that modernize outdated practices, protect privacy and reduce unnecessary barriers to the exercise of Second Amendment rights, while remaining vigilant against any changes that could expand government overreach or create new obstacles for peaceable Americans."

For more information visit SAF.org.

The Second Amendment Foundation (saf.org) is the nation's oldest and largest tax-exempt education, research, publishing and legal action group dedicated to safeguarding and promoting the fundamental rights of individuals enshrined in the Second Amendment of the United States Constitution.

Tennessee's Ewing Minor proves to be major force in second Kayak Series win of 2026

BLOOMSBURG, Pa. , August 2, 2026— Ewing Minor was comfortable from the moment he first fished the Susquehanna River in 2021. And since that maiden voyage a half-decade ago, he's been nothing short of a force on "Susky", a nickname given to the storied waterway.

Minor won the 2026 Newport Bassmaster Kayak Series at Susquehanna River presented by Native Watercraft on Sunday, capping a two-day, smallmouth fishing tutorial in central Pennsylvania. The 24-year-old ace angler took the lead Saturday with a 96.75-inch limit, and followed Sunday with another limit of five bass, this one for 93.75 inches. That gave him 10 smallies for a total of 190.50 inches, enough to capture his second Kayak Series win of the 2026 season.



Tennessee's Ewing Minor has won the Newport Bassmaster Kayak Series at Susquehanna River presented by Native Watercraft with a two-day total of 190.50 inches. (Photo by Mark Cisneros/B.A.S.S.)

Minor won \$9,500 cash with the victory, topping the 184-angler field competing for \$36,800 in prize money. He also won a weather-shortened Bassmaster Kayak Series stop at South Carolina's Santee Cooper in May, and cashed checks at the other two regular-season derbies he's entered this season (finishing sixth on Florida's Kissimmee Chain in February and 13th on lakes Caddo and Bistineau in

Louisiana in April.) Fishing Susquehanna was a gift for a guy who's been successful every time he's fished the river. It reminds him of the James and other smaller rivers he fished as a youngster in Virginia, as well as the dam-controlled tributaries of the Tennessee River near his current

home in Dandridge, Tenn. "You can get in the zone, definitely, and have confidence with every cast," Minor said of his comfort level on the Susquehanna. "But still, I found myself really out of it this morning. I caught a 19-incher right off the bat, maybe 10 minutes into the day. And it came on the same spot I caught that 20.5-inch fish yesterday. So, I was feeling really good.

He went there just to reset." His mental game improved from there, allowing Minor to display the tenacity and ingenuity that's made him one of the best young anglers competing on any bass-fishing circuit today.

In this case, he targeted the plentiful grass islands that dot the Susquehanna and, Minor added, there was nothing easy about getting to them.

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Editorial: The Mid-South Tribune Endorsement of SpaceXAI from sports-Military 2

calling them racists and White supremacists. Of course, Mississippi has had the distinction of forever being "50" in the economy of 50 states, and this delights the rats. But that is all changing to the rats' dismay.

The SPLC is irrelevant. The NAACP is about as relevant in the 21st Century as a cat that has used up its nine lives. The Southern Environment Law Center is incompetent. The Democratic Party has gone back to its roots of segregation under the guise of socialism and sanctuary cities.

For over 30 years we have editorialized against these groups and those in their ilk that seek to put socio-economic politics over capitalism, entrepreneurship, and common sense. In fact, we have watched them strip common

sense naked and run it into the street into the arms of a strait-jacket.

We urge our readers and others to READ the SpaceXAI statement on this page. SpaceXAI has already put in place and will continue to address those issues the opposition has unjustifiably politicized. As with any new scientific endeavor and invention, adjustments are made to improve and move on. Henry Ford did it with the automobile; the Wright Brothers did it with the airplane, George Washington Carver did it with the peanut and the potato.

We endorse the SpaceXAI project.

To the rats, we simply say "Bless your heart" with the nuance that southerners understand.

"But then, I started struggling," he added. "I got in a bad rotation and I spent most of the morning trying to find a productive area." To do that, Minor purposely sought out an area he knew was unlikely to provide the biggest bites.

Puzzling choice, perhaps, but Minor said he needed to "settle down" before swinging big. "I needed a confidence boost," he said. "It had gotten to the point I was getting hung up in trees, just not fishing to my potential. There were a bunch of boats around. Everyone was really respectful, but I didn't want to be watching other boats to see what they were catching. I needed to focus on catching my own fish. So, I went to an area I found in practice that had a bunch of 16- to 17-inch fish. I

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Sen. Blackburn Statement on Senate Judiciary Committee Advancing Blanche Nomination for U.S. Attorney General

WASHINGTON, D.C. — On Tuesday, August 4, U.S. Senator Marsha Blackburn (R-Tenn.) released the following statement after voting in the Senate Judiciary Committee to advance President Trump's nomination of Todd Blanche to serve as U.S. Attorney General:

"As Acting Attorney General, Todd Blanche has already proven he will hold fraudsters accountable for stealing billions of taxpayer dollars, crack down on violent crime in cities like Memphis, and restore a one-tiered system of justice after four years of the Biden DOJ's corruption under Merrick Garland," said Senator Blackburn. "The American people sent President Trump back to the White House to return the DOJ to its core mission of enforcing the rule of law, and I am confident Todd Blanche will continue to deliver on that mandate once he is confirmed as Attorney General."