

## **Women Veterans Business Coalition and Women Veterans Alliance Announce Partnership to Strengthen Advocacy Efforts**

*Women veteran business leaders seek to expand their reach and influence*

WASHINGTON, DC — Today, The [Women Veterans Business Coalition](#) (WVBC) and the [Women Veterans Alliance](#) have announced that they are formally joining forces in 2024 to achieve their shared objectives. The new strategic partnership will amplify the voice of women veterans across the country by strengthening their collective advocacy footprint.

**Laurie Sayles, chair of the Women Veterans Business Coalition, said,** “Today marks a new chapter for female veteran business leaders as we make our voices heard in the halls of Congress and the federal agencies. Our newly forged partnership will better support policies that will strengthen businesses owned by women veterans. The WVBC will work side-by-side with the Women Veterans Alliance to fulfill their mission of creating a community that equips, empowers, and encourages women who served in America’s armed forces to reach their full potential.”

Currently, two million women veterans live in the United States and comprise nearly 20% of serving military personnel and 10% of the veteran population. By 2040, the women veteran population is projected to grow to 18%. As the number of women serving in the military has increased, so has the number of women veterans who start businesses. As of 2012, 400,000 veteran women-owned businesses accounted for 3.9% of all women-owned firms in the U.S.

**Melissa Washington, CEO and Founder of the Women Veterans Alliance, said,** “This alliance will help women veterans across the country. Our work is more important than ever before. We look forward to deepening our relationship with WVBC to fulfill our joint mission of empowering women veterans and supporting their well-being in the business world and beyond. We hope to make more progress in 2024 on behalf of America’s women veterans.”

**The [Women Veterans Business Coalition](#) policy priorities include:**

- Increasing incentives for prime contractors and the Federal Government to award more contracts to women veteran-owned small businesses.
- Changing the restrictive re-marriage eligibility requirement for Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) beneficiaries.
- Allowing veterans to use GI bill benefits to start a business.

You can learn more about the Women Veterans Business Coalition [here](#) and the Women Veterans Alliance [here](#).

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