Michael Joseph Little

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SUMMARY OF QUALIFICATIONS

Combat-Disabled Medically Retired Navy Veteran and Non-Profit Professional with over 18 years of service in the United States Navy and 10 years in congressional analysis, advocacy, and policy development. I blend strong leadership, compassion, and dedication to excel in strategic planning and operational efficiency, driving growth and program success. Skilled in adapting quickly to new concepts, thriving under pressure, and communicating effectively across organizational levels, my approach is results-oriented, focusing on initiative, self-discipline, and analytical rigor. With a proven track record in enhancing non-profit program processes and outcomes through strong numerical and problem-solving skills, I held a Secret clearance for over 18 years, underscoring my commitment to organizational excellence and ethical leadership.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Chief Warrant & Warrant Officers Association, US Coast Guard *2021 – Present*
Chief Executive Officer / Executive Director

- Spearheaded digital transformation, transitioning the organization to a fully virtual platform within 90 days, launching a user-friendly website that enhanced member accessibility and communication.
- Revitalized financial management, optimizing $1.6 million in assets and managing a $300,000 annual budget to generate a first-time surplus of $48,000 annually, while strategically reallocating resources to enhance organizational capacity.
- Enhanced legislative influence through the creation of an internship program in partnership with over 13 colleges, boosting advocacy efforts on Capitol Hill.
- Drove membership growth from 1,807 to 2,389 and expanded governance by adding a board position for active-duty members, significantly improving engagement and representation.
- Reinforced organizational structure by launching six new committees, overhauling operational frameworks, and developing a strategic five-year plan, setting the stage for sustainable growth as the organization approaches its centennial.

Sea Service Family, Consulting *2018 – Present*
Owner / Principal Consultant

- Veteran Advocacy Leader across multiple influential organizations including the American Association for Justice, American Society of Anesthesiologists, bipartisan political campaigns, and various veteran associations, driving substantial policy changes on a national scale.
- Authored an influential amicus brief for the Supreme Court of the United States, cited in the landmark victory of Air and Liquid Systems Corp. v. Roberta G. DeVries, significantly advancing veterans' rights.
- Key advocate for the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019 (PL 116-23), which extended critical benefits to veterans exposed to herbicides in Vietnam, achieving a historic enhancement in veterans' rights.
- Developed and led strategic advocacy campaigns, effectively influencing national policy changes and enhancing support for veterans' issues through well-structured frameworks.

Non-Commissioned Officers Association of the United States *2021 – 2021*
Chief Advocacy Officer

- Revolutionized financial management by identifying and addressing critical deficiencies, leading to the adoption of the organization’s first detailed budget in over 20 years, which significantly enhanced financial transparency and planning.
- Enhanced digital and community engagement through the spearheading of a new website launch and the establishment of a robust internship program, both increasing member interaction and supporting advocacy efforts with fresh talent.

References and Supporting Documentation Furnished Upon Request

- Optimized fiscal operations by overseeing and analyzing financial activities, ensuring strategic planning and the sustainability of future financial needs.
- Led strategic legislative initiatives, crafting and executing comprehensive strategies, including a targeted Congressional engagement plan and delivering impactful testimony to Congress, thereby shaping policy decisions.
- Strengthened organizational leadership and partnerships, mentoring a team of legislative interns, serving as the primary liaison for veteran affairs, and effectively amplifying the Executive Director's vision to expand the organization's influence.

Republican National Committee *2020 – 2021*
Director of Military and Veterans Engagement

- Strategically advised the RNC Political Director, senior RNC officials, and White House staff on military and veterans' affairs, aligning campaign strategies with the needs of the military community.
- Led a national grassroots program that engaged over 250,000 GOP veterans, significantly boosting veteran community involvement and strengthening the party's national network.
- Managed a $980,000 budget, efficiently allocating resources to maximize the effectiveness of campaign efforts and achieve the largest veteran voter turnout in U.S. history, as reported by the Associated Press.
- Developed and executed a comprehensive recruiting plan, enhancing GOP veteran participation nationwide, which led to substantial increases in engagement and volunteerism.
- Oversaw and support volunteer staff across the nation, establishing clear communication and operational standards to ensure consistent and impactful outreach, driving campaign success through strategic leadership and team motivation.

Association of the United States Navy *2014 - 2018*
Director of Legislative Affairs and Government Relations

- Managed a $125,000 budget to maximize advocacy efforts and impact, while championing the passage of 250 legislative measures within the National Defense Authorization Act, enhancing benefits like housing allowances and Tuition Assistance for service members.
- Advocated against cuts to housing allowances for dual-serving military spouses, preserving critical benefits, and authored a significant white paper, backed by a survey of over 300,000 sailors and veterans, to influence Navy policy and legislation.
- Developed strategic organizational plans, leading the formulation of two five-year strategies and overseeing the first comprehensive rewrite of the Bylaws and Operations Manual in 25 years, modernizing governance processes.
- Enhanced organizational legacy and accessibility by managing the donation of the Naval Library to the Pritzker Military Museum & Library, ensuring public access to vital military resources.
- Led legislative strategy and intern mentorship, establishing key Congressional relationships and mentoring a team of legislative interns, thereby boosting the organization's influence and effectiveness on Capitol Hill.

New York State Senate *2013 - 2014*
Veteran Legislation Analyst / Veteran Liaison

- Accredited Veteran Service Officer, expertly assisting veterans and their families in navigating complex benefits systems, significantly enhancing access to critical services.Served as a Court Appointed Advocate at the Veterans Treatment Court under the guidance of the court's founder, Judge Robert Russel, advocating for veteran-specific legal support and rehabilitation programs.
- Managed a comprehensive legislative portfolio for the Senator, covering Veterans Affairs, Homeland Security, and Military Affairs, ensuring informed policy measures and effective resolution of key issues.
- Championed the passage of the In-State Tuition bill, allowing veterans using their GI Bill to access in-state tuition rates at New York colleges, thereby expanding educational opportunities for thousands.
- Initiated and led strategic collaborations, including a working group that enabled joint operations between the New York Naval Militia and the US Coast Guard, boosting maritime security and strengthening state and federal partnerships.

- Developed recognition programs and served as primary liaison, creating the Veteran of the Month and Service Member of the Month programs to honor military service, and fostering robust advocacy links between veterans and the Senator's office.

United States Navy (Retired) *2002 – 2021*
Aviation Boatswain's Mates (Handler) 2nd Class Petty Officer

- Dual-qualified Aviation Boatswain's Mate, Surface and Air Warfare specialist on aircraft carriers and amphibious assault ships, with additional certifications as a prison guard and military police officer.
- Combat-disabled veteran who effectively managed high-stakes military operations, including providing strategic briefings to top military and government officials like Flag Officers, the Pentagon, and U.S. Senate.
- Historically became the youngest Sailor to serve as Chief of The Guard during Iraq deployment, leading a 30-person inter-service team and overseeing a guard force of over 1,200 service members responsible for high-value detainees.
- Historically became the youngest Sailor to serve as Operations Center Battle Captain during Afghanistan, managing crucial operational decisions, movement orders, and disciplinary actions, enhancing operational adaptability under dynamic battlefield conditions.
- Advanced rapidly to work center supervisor as an E-4, showcasing exceptional skills by qualifying as an Aircraft Director and Aviation Fire Fighter, positions typically held by more senior ranks.

EDUCATION

- **U. S. Coast Guard Leadership Development Center -** *US Coast Guard Academy, New London, CT*
  - Chief Warrant Officer Professional Development Course *2023*
- **Western Illinois University -** *Macomb, Illinois*
  - Bachelor of Arts in General Studies *2019*
- **Rend Lake College -** *Ina, Illinois*
  - Associates of Arts *2013*
- **US Department of Labor -** *Office of Apprenticeship*
  - Correction Officer (Government Service) *2009*

BOARD OF DIRECTOR EXPERIENCES

- **US Navy Mustang Association** (National Executive Director)
- **Aviation Boatswain's Mate Association** (National Secretary, Board of Director) *2026 - Present*
- **Hamilton County Veterans** (Chairman of the Board) *2015 - Present*
- **Sea Service Family, Foundation** (Founder & CEO) *2014 - Present*
- **Blue Cross Blue Shield Association** (Uniformed Service Advisory Board) *2021 - 2026*
- **US Navy Chief Petty Officers Association** *(Founder & National Secretary)* *2025 - 2026*
- **Honorable Order of KY Colonels** (Council of Ambassadors, Vice Chairman) *2023 - 2025*
- **Surface Navy Association** *2021 - 2025*
- **Coast Guard Mutual Assistance** (Treasurer) *2018 - 2021*
- **The Quinisim Foundation** *2015 - 2018*

AWARDS & HONORS

- **Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Illinois Patriot of the Year** 2024
- **Honorary USN Chief Petty Officer** 2024
- **Honorary USCG Chief Warrant Officer 4** *2023*
- **Honorary USCG Chief Petty Officer** *2022*
- **Honorable Kentucky Colonel** *2021*
- **American Society of Anesthesiologist Advocate of the Year** *2016*
- **New York State Liberty Medal** *2014*
- **US Army Commendation Medal** *2010*
- **US Navy Achievement Medal** *2010*
- **US Army Achievement Medal** *2009*