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PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Service Disabled Veteran Designation Now Available for SWaM Business Owners

Richmond, VA The Virginia Department of Minority Business Enterprise announced today that small, women- and minority-owned business owners can now obtain designation as a service disabled veteran business under the Commonwealth of Virginia's SWaM Program.

The SWaM Program (Small, Women- and Minority-owned) is the Commonwealth's supplier diversity effort to increase state spending with small, women-owned and minority-owned businesses. "Business owners that are service disabled veterans and who qualify as service disabled veterans can now be identified in our vendor database," said Samuel Hayes III, Director of Department of Minority Business Enterprise. "This designation is important because it helps us to track how service disabled veterans are faring as small, women, or minority business owners."

The Department of Minority Business Enterprise, the agency charged with implementing the SWaM Program, joined with the Department of Veteran Services to roll out the new service. "We are very pleased with this collaboration with the Department of Minority Business Enterprise," said Vince Burgess, Commissioner of the Department of Veteran Services. "Service disabled veterans are now identifiable in the procurement activities of the Commonwealth and we can check on their progress as a group."

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Veterans wishing to apply for service disabled veteran status must first seek eligibility certification from the Department of Veteran Services by calling (540) 857-7101 or visiting the DVS website at www.virginiaforveterans.com. Veterans can apply for small, women- or minority-owned status with the Department of Minority Business Enterprise before or after obtaining eligibility certification from DVS. Both services are available at no charge.

“We are making the business climate more conducive for all small, women- and minority-owned businesses to grow and succeed,” adds Mr. Hayes. “When our businesses grow and succeed, we all win.”

For more information on Commonwealth’s SWaM Program or spending with small, women- and minority-owned businesses, visit the SWaM Dashboard link on the Virginia Department of Minority Business Enterprise’s website at www.DMBE.Virginia.gov.

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