



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

October 30, 2023

Jill and I are honored to join all those across the country commemorating the 10th annual National Veterans Small Business Week.

Service members are the steel spine of our Nation and the heart and soul of our communities. At a moment's notice, they deploy quickly and quietly, risking their own safety to protect all of us and defend the values we hold sacred. When our veterans return home, they often embark on new missions as entrepreneurs. Across America, nearly 2 million veteran-owned businesses provide more than 5 million people with their livelihoods, in addition to producing critical goods and services. As a Nation, it is our duty to ensure that these heroes have the resources they need to succeed while pursuing their vision of the American Dream. And as President, I am committed to fulfilling that obligation.

In June, I was proud to sign an Executive Order on Advancing Economic Security for Military and Veteran Spouses, establishing the most comprehensive set of administrative actions in our Nation's history to support the economic security of military families, veterans' spouses, caregivers, and survivors. Meanwhile, the Small Business Administration (SBA) is working tirelessly to expand opportunities for our veteran business owners. This year alone, the SBA has created six additional Veterans Business Outreach Centers, streamlined the certification process for the Veteran Small Business Certification program, launched the Military Spouse Pathway to Business program, and so much more. And in Fiscal Year 2022, my Administration spent \$28.1 billion on federal contracts with Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Businesses, a new record. My Administration will continue doing everything we can to support veterans and their families, and that means making sure our veteran business owners receive the resources and assistance they deserve.

To America's veteran business owners: Thank you for your service to our Nation—both in our Armed Forces and in our economy as entrepreneurs. You embody the quintessential American spirit of grit, drive, and determination. You are part of the reason why I have never been more optimistic about our Nation's future.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe Biden". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned at the bottom right of the page.