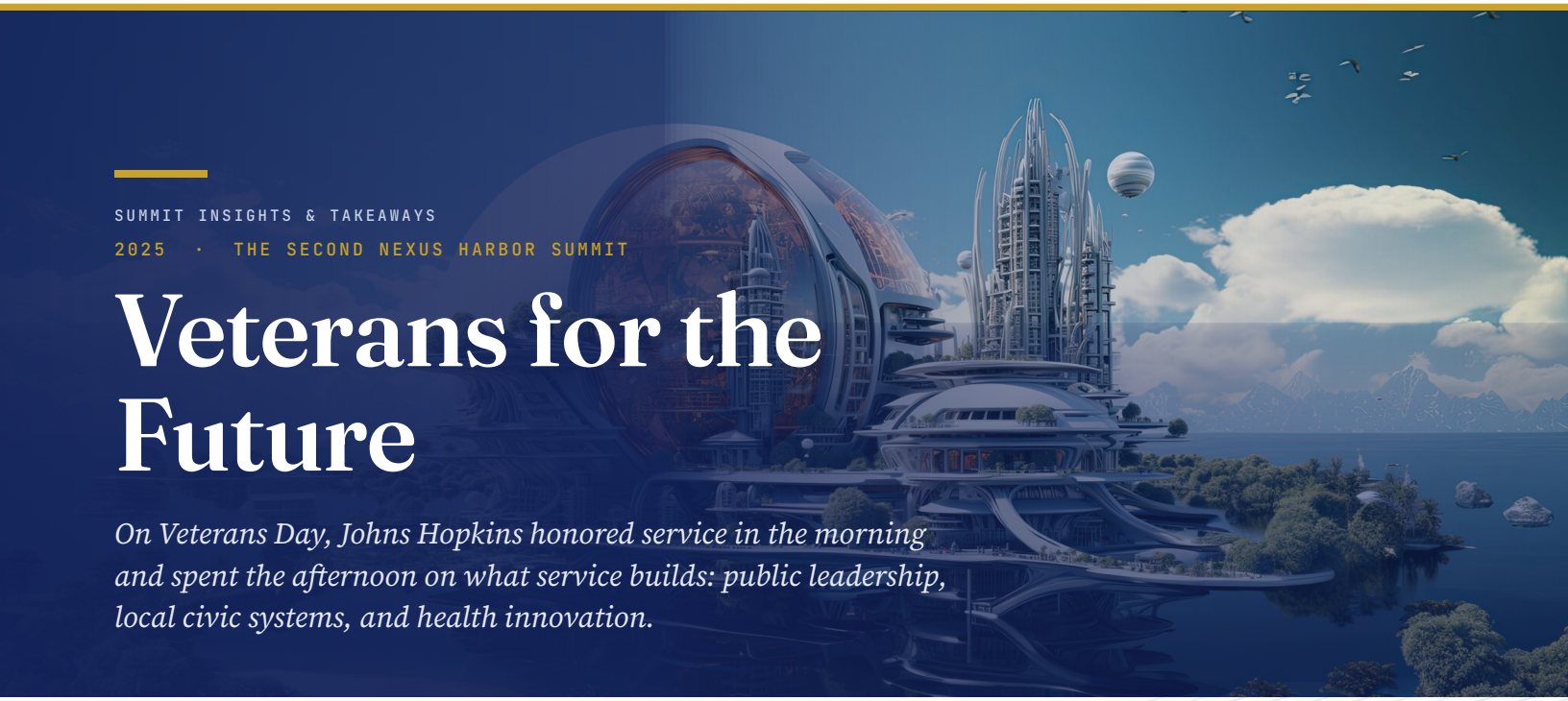


SUMMIT INSIGHTS & TAKEAWAYS

2025 · THE SECOND NEXUS HARBOR SUMMIT

Veterans for the Future

On Veterans Day, Johns Hopkins honored service in the morning and spent the afternoon on what service builds: public leadership, local civic systems, and health innovation.

DATE

November 11, 2025

PLACE

Homewood Campus, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore
Innovation in service of the public good

KEY TAKEAWAYS

01

Service is a public capability.

A fireside chat on veterans in public service opened the afternoon, followed by a talk on how mission execution carries into health technology, clean energy, and civic infrastructure. *Military experience was treated as a skill set public institutions can recruit.*

02

Intermediaries carry the work.

Project MERIT, presented by Morgan State University researchers, linked universities, chambers of commerce, and veteran networks to workforce development and community resilience. *These are the places local needs are first noticed and routed.*

03

Health innovation draws on operations.

The Healthtech Bunker panel brought veteran founders and executives together on digital and behavioral health. *Operational discipline was offered as an asset for care that has to work under pressure.*

04

Financing is a design problem.

A dedicated panel took up funding for dual-use and digital health ventures. *Capital sat on the agenda beside service and civic impact, because veteran-led ventures need routes suited to defense and civilian markets.*

05

Recognition signals priority.

Johns Hopkins framed the day as a sign that veterans matter to its community and that their contribution to innovation is central to civic progress. *The ceremony became an invitation to build.*

IN THE ROOM

Adler Archer
Managing Director, Nexus Harbor
SUMMIT HOST

Gen David H. Berger
38th Commandant, USMC (ret.)
MORNING KEYNOTE

Sen Benjamin T. Brooks, Sr.
Maryland Senate Veterans Caucus
CLOSING REMARKS

Ricardo Garcia
Veterans Entrepreneurship Initiative
THE NEXT MISSION

Emmett Roberts
Maryland Veterans Chamber
VETERANS IN PUBLIC SERVICE

Lilian Myers
CONVX
FROM SERVICE TO SYSTEMS

Jeanne Zucker
Alto Pharmacy
HEALTHTECH BUNKER

Nick Domnisch
EE Solutions
FUNDING THE FUTURE

Matthew Kilbrane
Maryland Veterans Chamber
PROJECT MERIT

> "Veterans bring a mission-driven mindset and deep commitment to public purpose."
>
> ADLER ARCHER, MANAGING DIRECTOR, NEXUS HARBOR. JHU HUB, OCTOBER 2025

200+ at the morning Veterans Day ceremony

6 afternoon sessions

12 sponsors and partners

THROUGH THE 3DG LENS

How the 2025 Summit maps to Nexus Harbor's framework: Detect, Decide, Deliver, with Govern throughout.

DETECT
Shared warning

Veteran networks and civic leaders who see local needs first, from the civic impact panel to veterans health advocacy.

DECIDE
Deciding under scarcity

Leadership in public office, and the financing choices that decide which veteran-led ventures grow.

DELIVER
Care that holds up

Veteran-led ventures, digital and behavioral health, and workforce models linking universities, chambers, and veteran networks.

GOVERN
Trust built in

THROUGHOUT

Legislators, civic commissions, and university leaders placed veterans' work inside the public institutions that sustain it.

WHY IT MATTERS

- **Universities.** Pair commemoration with working sessions so recognition leads to collaboration.
- **Agencies and legislators.** Use veteran organizations and chambers as channels for recruiting and listening.
- **Health systems and funders.** Judge veteran-led ventures on the operational problems they solve.

QUESTIONS CARRIED FORWARD

- [ ] How do public health systems evaluate and adopt veteran-led health innovations?
- [ ] What would sustain a university, chamber, and veteran network partnership beyond one event?
- [ ] Which outcomes of veteran entrepreneurship are worth tracking year to year?

UP NEXT

In 2026 the Summit goes abroad, to Vilnius, Lithuania, convened with Vilnius University.

PARTNERS

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