Kentucky Wing Members Bring CAP to State Leaders

Article by 1st Lt. M. Roberts

Frankfort, Ky. (September 16, 2026) –Civil Air Patrol (CAP) may be one of Kentucky's best-kept secrets, but members from across the Commonwealth met with state legislators to change that. From meetings at local squadrons to visiting legislators in their Frankfort offices, CAP members have been promoting the organization's three program areas and why CAP is important for Kentucky's emerging leaders.

These meetings were aimed at informing legislators about CAP's mission while setting the foundation for strong, long-lasting support for the organization. Additionally, leaders were invited to join the CAP Legislative Squadron, at no cost. This partnership opens doors to more interaction with local squadrons and even provides opportunities for legislative flights in CAP aircraft.

Lawmakers were eager to learn about CAP's value across the Commonwealth but were honored to hear stories from their own constituents about how CAP is working in their districts to help in times of need and develop the next generation of aerospace leaders.

CAP's ACE Plus program was of special interest because it demonstrates the organization's dedication to partnering with local educators and introducing all youth to aerospace concepts. These partnerships are a true force multiplier for both the school systems and CAP by allowing more varied hands-on education to students, leadership opportunities to CAP members, and lesson plans for educators.

Learning about the dedication of cadet and adult members to the safety and service of Kentucky's residents brought 'real-world' CAP value to the leaders. Many KYWG members have experience with natural disasters. Learning how CAP assists in those times of need provided the state leaders with a direct and personal tie to the value of CAP not only in their districts, but to the entire state.

These examples are tied directly to this year's specific ask of the legislative members: support for HB339. This bill is aimed at providing employment protection to CAP members who are called away on official CAP missions. This not only provides peace of mind for members, but also for the Commonwealth—knowing that when CAP is called upon to serve, there will be adequate membership available to respond.

"By demonstrating the direct impact and value we bring to public safety and disaster response, we aim to build relationships with lawmakers and gain the ongoing support needed for CAP's vital work in Kentucky communities," said Kentucky Wing Government Relations Advisor Lt. Col. Milles.

To learn more about the Elkhorn Cadet Squadron in Georgetown, contact 1st Lt Roberts at mroberts@kywg.cap.gov.