

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND COMMISSION ON VETERANS AFFAIRS ANNUAL REPORT 2020

“Advocating for Veterans & Their Families”



Accessible Launch at Riley's Lock

Wayne Miller, LCSW
Chair

Robert Koffman, MD, MPH
Vice-Chair

Marc Elrich
County Executive



LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL



COMMISSION ON VETERANS AFFAIRS

November 17, 2020

Via Letter of Transmittal Electronically to:
The Honorable Marc Elrich, County Executive
The Honorable Sidney Katz, President, County Council
Raymond L. Crowel, Psy.D., Director, Department of Health and Human Services

The Commission on Veterans Affairs is pleased to present a summary of its activities for the past year. On November 3, 2008 the Commission was established to advise and consult with you on issues of concern to the self-reported 38,000 Veterans, and their families, who live in the County. Under your leadership and with your support, the Commission is mandated to research, assemble, analyze and disseminate information that will assist in meeting the needs of Veterans and their families. Please see link to the timeline and major accomplishments of the Commission since it was established -- www.montgomerycountymd.gov/HHS-Program/Resources/Files/A&D%20Docs/CVA/CVATimeline.pdf

We continue to encourage cooperation, coordination and collaboration among all agencies and non-profits that serve Veterans so that our community works together to honor and provide the best services possible to Veterans and their families. As of March 2020, the Office of Human Resource's merit hiring initiatives has led to the County hiring 286 Veterans, including 23 who have a disability. We continue to be pleased with the County's efforts to end homelessness amongst Veterans and to assist in obtaining permanent housing as was highly successful during the Zero:16 campaign. We are considered to be in the top 10 jurisdictions in the country in serving homeless Veterans due to the Council supporting the Commission's request to fund housing for Veterans not eligible for Veterans Assisted Supportive Housing (VASH) vouchers. Montgomery County has been the direct recipient of 98 HUD VASH vouchers and an additional 25 ported HUD VASH vouchers from DC and other states. We are in strong support of Bethesda Cares outreach expansion to Veterans and support the funding of \$647,000 for Veteran housing. This funding will accomplish many County priorities such as the addition of permanent affordable housing for homeless populations and achieving racial equity through sound housing policy.

We wish to recognize and give our personal thanks to all Commissioners, the many community members, and the agency staff who participate in our meetings for their commitment and dedication. We would like to acknowledge DHHS Director Raymond Crowel for his role in meeting with the Boards, Commissions and Committees to keep us informed of important health and human services issues, Betsy Tolbert Luecking, Community Outreach Manager, and Carly Clem, Administrative Specialist, for their support in providing the Commission with the resources needed to carry out our mission. This report is the result of our combined efforts.

It has been a pleasure to work with you and members of the Commission during our term of service. We are confident that you will continue to support the Commission's efforts to enhance the lives of our Veterans. Our meetings are open to the public, and we invite you to join us for any meeting.

Sincerely,



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Wayne Miller".

Wayne Miller, LCSW, Chair

Sincerely,



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert Koffman".

Robert Koffman, MD, MPH, Vice-Chair





From left to right in this photo: Dan Bullis, former Chair of the Commission, the Honorable Marc Elrich, County Executive, and Wayne Miller, current Chair of the Commission

MEMBERSHIP LIST 2019 - 2020

Veterans Representatives

Jonathan Alfaro, Veteran
 James Campbell, Military Officers Association of America
 Elwood Gray, Veteran
 Bob Koffman, Veteran
 Cynthia Macri, Veteran
 Wayne Miller, Disabled American Veterans
 Reggie Mitchell, Veteran
 Scott Schlesinger, Jewish War Veterans Post 360
 Michael Wilson, Veterans of Foreign Wars

Ex-Officio Members

Jameelah Johnson, Dept. of Health & Human Services
 Joanna L. Starling, Montgomery College
 Michael L. Subin, Office of the County Executive

General Public Members

Josephine Bahn
 Dan Bolling
 Hannah Dibonge
 Susan Webman

Non-Voting Congressional Representatives

Austin Morris, Office of Senator Chris Van Hollen

Congressional Attendees

Christa Burton, Office of Congressman Jamie Raskin
 Vikki Garcia, Office of Congressman John Sarbanes
 Ken Reichard, Office of Senator Ben Cardin

Staff

Betsy Luecking, Community Outreach Manager
 Carly Clem, Administrative Specialist I

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MONTGOMERY PARKS COMPLETES FULLY ACCESSIBLE BOAT LAUNCH AT SENECA LANDING

September 2, 2020

Launch improves accessibility and safety for kayaks, canoes and paddleboards

Silver Spring, MD – [Montgomery Parks](#), part of The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, has completed construction of a new floating launch for non-motorized boats improving accessibility and safety for kayakers, canoeists and paddle boarders at Seneca Landing Special Park.

The site, located in Poolesville, is one of the busiest access points to the Potomac River and adjoins the National Park Service's popular C&O Canal. Prior to the new floating launch, motorized and non-motorized boats were sharing the same ramp, causing conflict and safety issues. The ramp was also not ADA accessible presenting numerous challenges for users with disabilities.



Photo Courtesy of Betsy Luecking



Photo Courtesy of Betsy Luecking

“Installation of the new floating boat launch was completed in June and has already proven to be extremely popular,” said Bob Green, Senior ADA Compliance Project Manager, Montgomery Parks. “The floating launch accomplishes several things: it improves safety by separating motorized and non-motorized boats, it creates an accessible access point for disabled and able-bodied individuals, and it enhances the overall enjoyment of one of our area’s beautiful natural resources.” As part of the project, Montgomery Parks also installed an accessible drop-off area and walkway, three accessible parking spaces and a fully accessible picnic area with tables and grills.

The need for an accessible boat launch was initiated by [Team River Runner](#), a non-profit organization that provides adventure and adaptive paddles sports to veterans and their families. They approached the [Montgomery County Commission on Veterans Affairs](#) about the need for an accessible launch and were assisted by the Commission to initiate the project. On Sundays from May to November, the group hosts a kayak program at Seneca Landing with patients from Walter Reed National Military Medical Center. “Having a safe and totally accessible launch for paddle craft is a game changer,” said Joe Morini, Executive Director, Team River Runner. “An all-inclusive site for those with physical challenges grants equal accessibility and affords all the opportunity to find health, healing, and social connections on the beautiful waters of Seneca Creek and the Potomac River.”

A second phase of the project, which will include accessibility upgrades to improve safety, capacity and enhance accessibility of the existing boat ramp for motorized boats is scheduled to begin this winter.

Accessibility

Montgomery Parks, part of The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, encourages and supports the participation of individuals with disabilities. Please contact the Program Access Office at 301-495-2581 (Voice/TTY), MD Relay 7-1-1 or 800-552-7724 or ProgramAccess@MontgomeryParks.org to request a disability modification. Visit www.MontgomeryParks.org/access for more information.

COUNTY COUNCIL VETERANS DAY PROCLAMATION



Proclamation Montgomery County Maryland

- WHEREAS,** this year Veterans Day marks the 102nd anniversary of the Armistice, we again pay tribute to the generations upon generations of Montgomery County residents who have served with courage and loyalty in every major United States military conflict since founded in 1776;
- WHEREAS,** we will never be able to repay the debt we owe the brave men and women who have served in the Uniformed Services of the United States, and we recognize the military service of those who have served in the Armed Forces; and
- WHEREAS,** a grateful County recognizes that service members may have a challenging transition to civilian life, and we, along with the Commission on Veterans Affairs, seek to promote mental health and physical wellness by supporting greater, seamless access to mental health programs, suicide prevention, recreational programs and housing resources for service members and their family members; and
- WHEREAS,** we commend the work of the Commission on Veterans Affairs for its work to have a Vietnam Veterans Memorial dedicated on Memorial Plaza, the establishment of an accessible launch at Seneca Creek at Riley's Lock and also having the Washington DC VA Medical Center establish a Community Based Outpatient Clinic in Gaithersburg, Maryland where veterans now have access to quality primary health care closer to home.

NOW, THEREFORE, DO WE, Marc Eirich, as County Executive, and Sidney Katz, as County Council President of Montgomery County, Maryland, do hereby proclaim November 11th, 2020 as

VETERANS DAY



in Montgomery County, Maryland. We pay tribute to those who have ever worn the uniform, and we call upon all residents to recognize the sacrifice and pay tribute to our thousands of County residents who are veterans, and their families, today, and every day.

Signed this 10th day of November
in the year 2020

MARC ELRICH
County Executive

SIDNEY KATZ
Councilmember

View video of County Council presentation of Veterans Day Proclamation:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VhuvPK_C1w8&feature=youtu.be&t=2368

COMMISSION ON VETERANS AFFAIRS SEEKING ADDITIONS TO ITS VIRTUAL TRIBUTE TO COUNTY VETERANS

For Immediate Release: Friday, November 6, 2020

Montgomery County's Commission on Veterans Affairs is paying tribute to County veterans through a virtual "Tribute to Montgomery County Veterans" website. As Veterans Day approaches on Wednesday, Nov. 11, the commission wants to add tributes to the site.

The website is open to all residents who have served in the U.S. uniformed and armed services.

Many people confuse [Memorial Day](#) and Veterans Day. Memorial Day, which is celebrated at the end of May, honors military personnel who died in service, particularly those who died in battle or as a result of wounds sustained in battle. While those who died are also remembered on [Veterans Day](#), the upcoming holiday is set aside to honor all of those who served honorably in the military—in wartime or peacetime. Veterans Day is largely intended to thank living veterans and acknowledge their contributions to national security.

The Commission is seeking to expand the Tribute to Montgomery County Veterans website by adding information on more veterans whose information is supplied either by the veterans themselves, by family members or by friends.

The tribute to veterans website can be found at www.montgomerycountymd.gov/veteransday. From this site, there is a link to the commission's Fallen Heroes page at www.montgomerycountymd.gov/fallenheroes. To share the story of a Montgomery County veteran, information should be sent via email to Carly.Clem@montgomerycountymd.gov. The following information is needed:

- Servicemember or Veteran's name.
- Name of person submitting information and relationship to the individual.
- Branch of service and rank.
- Years of service.
- Era served (WWI, WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Gulf War, Global War on Terror or peacetime/other).
- Brief narrative of their service.
- Live in or once lived in Montgomery County. If you attended high school here, where did you graduate from?
- Photos (preferably one during their service and one present day).

By sending an e-mail to be included, the sender agrees to have the information shared on the County's website and in the Commission on Veterans Affairs social media.



BLACK HISTORY MONTH VIRTUAL TRIBUTE

Montgomery County Commission on Veterans Affairs Honoring 19 County Heroes During Black History Month with Tributes at Silver Spring Civic Building Throughout February

For Immediate Release: Thursday, February 13, 2020

The Montgomery County Commission on Veterans Affairs is honoring 19 County military service members and veterans with detailed tributes displayed throughout February at Buffalo Soldiers Great Hall at the Silver Spring Civic Building. The Black History Month display is free to view any time the Civic Building is open to the public.

The Silver Spring Civic Building is located at One Veterans Place in Downtown Silver Spring. The main room of the building was dedicated in 2018 as Buffalo Soldiers Great Hall to pay tribute to the Buffalo Soldiers unit that was formed by Congressional legislation in the 1860s that allowed African Americans to enlist in the United States military.

The County service members and veterans featured in the tribute of photos, background information and details of accomplishments during their military careers and afterward include John Chaney, Fred Cherry, Sr., James "Pat" Daugherty, Justin Davis, Lillian Fishburne, Jeremiah Floyd, Charles Frazier, Gloria Gardner, Elwood Gray, Jr., Otto Hamilton, Arthur Holmes, Jr., Isiah Leggett, Charles McGee, Roscoe Nix, Vernon Ricks, Jr., William Smith, Jr., Charles Williams, Waverly "Woody" Woodson, Jr. and William Zeigler.

The display also includes photos of the Buffalo Soldiers Calvary.

"Every veteran who has served in the history of the U.S. military has their own unique story," said Dan Bullis, chair of the County's Commission on Veterans Affairs. "It is the intent of our commission to allow residents to learn more about these remarkable people. The 14 we are honoring during Black History Month all have stories that the people of this County should know."

As part of the Silver Spring celebration of Black History Month, SPARKLE (Senior Programs Aimed at Re-Kindling Lifetime Engagement), which is a collaboration of Silver Spring Town Center, Inc. and the Silver Spring Village, will sponsored a talk with Brigadier General McGee on Feb. 12 at the Buffalo Soldiers Great Hall. Brigadier General McGee, who turned 100 in December and lives in Bethesda, is the oldest living member of the Tuskegee Airmen. He flew 137 combat missions in World War II and went on to fly missions during the Korean War and in Vietnam. Over the past few weeks, he was honored at the Super Bowl in Miami and during the State of the Union presidential address.

View Veteran profiles on our website:

<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/HHS-Program/ADS/VETERANS/BlackHistoryMonth.html>

HONORING VIETNAM WAR AND VIETNAM ERA VETERANS

Montgomery County Commission on Veterans Affairs Honoring 21 Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans with Tributes at Silver Spring Civic Building Now Through May



For Immediate Release: Wednesday, March 4, 2020

The Montgomery County Commission on Veterans Affairs is honoring 21 Montgomery County Vietnam War and Vietnam Era veterans with detailed tributes displayed now through the end of May at Buffalo Soldiers Great Hall at the Silver Spring Civic Building. The displays are free to view any time the Civic Building is open to the public.

The Silver Spring Civic Building is located at One Veterans Place in Downtown Silver Spring. National Vietnam War Veterans Day is observed every year on March 29. The special day recognizes U.S. Armed Forces personnel with active duty service between Nov. 1, 1955 and May 15, 1975, regardless of location of service.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau estimates, there are 42,509 County residents who are veterans. Of that number, 11,272 are Vietnam War or Era veterans. Records show that 130 County residents were killed in Vietnam and their names are on the County's Vietnam Memorial Wall, which was dedicated in 2018 on Memorial Plaza adjacent to the Executive Office Building in Rockville. More information is available about each at www.montgomerycountymd.gov/veterans. Click on the "Fallen Heroes" tab.

The County service members and veterans featured in the tribute of photos, background information and details of accomplishments during their military careers and afterward include Douglas "Lamar" Allen, Jr.; Everett Alvarez, Jr.; Daniel Bullis; Stephen Campanella; Fred Cherry, Sr.; Michael Cronin; Elwood Gray, Jr.; William "Bill" Gray; Otto "Greg" Hamilton; Arthur Holmes, Jr.; John "Jay" Kenney; Isiah Leggett; Jane McCarthy; Charles McGee; Wayne Miller; Thomas Murphy; Bob Norton; Lawrence J. Stark; Michael Subin; Hubert Clifford Walker, Jr. and Michael Walsh. Below are their brief bios. Many more details of their lives are part of the Silver Spring display.

View profiles on our website:

<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/HHS-Program/ADS/VETERANS/Vietnam.html>

HOW TO ENROLL IN VA HEALTHCARE

There are an estimated 37,000 Veterans living in the County and only an estimated 10,000 are enrolled in the VA Healthcare system. Given that the County now has a Community Based Outpatient Clinic located in Gaithersburg, the Commission on Veterans Affairs (www.montgomerycountymd.gov/veterans) is encouraging Veterans to enroll now. The very first step in obtaining access to your VA Health Benefits is to apply for enrollment.

Currently, Veterans who served in a theater of combat operations after November 11, 1998, can complete applications for enrollment in VA health care by telephone without the need for a signed paper application. All other Veterans could apply by phone.

When Veterans choose to enroll, VA offers an enhancement to their enrollment experience through "Welcome to VA" (W2VA). W2VA enhances communication by reaching out to newly enrolled Veterans through personal phone calls upon enrollment, providing assistance with health care inquiries and assisting with their initial appointment at their preferred VA healthcare facility. In addition, VA sends each new enrollee an introductory letter and personalized Veterans Health Benefits Handbook in the mail. For more information about the Veterans Health Benefits Handbook, visit www.va.gov/HEALTHBENEFITS/vhbh/index.asp.

Here are the convenient ways to apply for enrollment:

By Telephone

The telephone application option is a more convenient way to apply for enrollment, and eliminates the need for a signed paper application.

- VA staff members will collect the needed information and process the enrollment application for an enrollment determination.
- To apply, call 1-877-222-VETS (8387), Mon-Fri between 8am and 8pm, EST.

Apply in Person

You may apply in person at your local VA health care facility.

- Complete the healthcare application online.
- For more information about the application process, visit www.va.gov/healthbenefits/apply/application_process.asp.
- You will also receive information about the appeals process, if you do not agree with the enrollment decision.

By Mail

Pick up an application at your local VA or download, print, and fill out the 10-10EZ, Application for Health Care.

Complete the application (be sure to sign it) and mail to:

Health Eligibility Center
2957 Clairmont Road, Suite 200
Atlanta, GA 30329-1647

Apply Online

Fill out the application online and electronically submit it to VA for processing. No need for additional documents to verify military service. If you were recently discharged, we will get your military information for you.

- To complete the healthcare application, visit www.vets.gov/healthcare/apply.
- Once you complete the application, you may submit your application online.
- You will immediately receive a confirmation message notifying you that your application has been received.
- A signature is not required for online registration.
- For more information about the application process, visit www.va.gov/healthbenefits/apply/application_process.asp.
- You will also receive information about the appeals process, if you do not agree with the enrollment decision.

Obtaining an Appointment:

You may request a doctor's appointment when you apply for enrollment by checking 'yes' to the question asking if you want an appointment on the application. An appointment will be made with a VA doctor or provider and you will be notified via mail of the appointment. If you need health care before your scheduled appointment, you may contact the Enrollment Coordinator, Urgent Care Clinic or the Emergency Room at your local VA.

Required Signature

When you apply in person or by mail, you or the person acting as your Power of Attorney must sign and date the form. If your Power of Attorney signs and dates the form you must submit a copy of the Power of Attorney with the form. If you sign with an "X", then two people that you know must witness you as you sign the form. They must also sign and print their names on the form.

ABOUT VA MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES

Approach

For the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), nothing is more important than supporting the health and well-being of the Nation's Veterans and their families. A major part of that support is providing timely access to high-quality, evidence-based mental health care. VA aims to address Veterans' needs, during Service members' reintegration into civilian life and beyond.

The [VA Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Guidebook](#) provides information on the variety of mental health services that VA offers on both a national and local level. These programs and services are rooted in several core values:

Focus on Recovery

Keeping a focus on recovery from mental health challenges or substance use issues empowers Veterans to take charge of their treatment and live a full and meaningful life. This approach focuses on the Veteran's strengths offering respect, honor, and hope to Veterans and the family members who support them.

Evidence-Based Treatments

VA provides treatments that are proven to be effective for mental health concerns. These treatments are time-limited and focus on helping Veterans recover and meet their goals. To learn more about evidence-based mental health treatments, please visit treatmentworksforvets.org. You can also view a video, "Evidence-Based Treatment: What Does It Mean," and other brief videos about evidence-based treatments for Posttraumatic Stress Disorder on the website for the [VA National Center for PTSD](#).

Measurement-Based Care (MBC)

In MBC, the Veteran and their health care provider use information provided by the Veteran to improve mental health care and ensure it is individualized to the Veteran's specific needs and goals. MBC helps Veterans take an active role in their care. VA is working to ensure MBC is part of the care in all its Mental Health programs.

Coordinating Care for the Whole Person

VA health care providers work together to provide safe and effective treatment for the whole person — head to toe, inside and out using a Whole Health approach. Timely medical care, good nutrition, and regular exercise — along with a sense of purpose and supportive family members and friends — are just as important to mental health as to physical health. Veterans take an active role in their care by partnering with their providers to improve their health and well-being.

Whole Health

It all starts with a simple question: What matters most to you? That's the first step in the Whole Health approach which is designed to help Veterans achieve and maintain their best all-around health and well-being. Through a Whole Health approach, VA is committed to empowering, equipping, and treating Veterans according to their preferences and priorities. Learn more about Whole Health and the impact this is having in helping Veterans live their life to the fullest by visiting the [Whole Health for Life website](#).

Round-the-Clock Service

Emergency mental health care is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at VA medical centers. VAMCs that do not have a 24-hour emergency room must provide these services through a local, non-VA hospital. Telephone evaluations at VAMCs and the [Veterans Crisis Line](#) are also available 24/7.

Care Close to Home

VA is moving closer to where Veterans live by adding more rural area and mobile clinics, and working with other health care providers in the community. VA also uses cutting-edge technologies, including [telemental health](#) through video connection, for Veterans to access care from the comfort of their own homes.

VA SILVER SPRING VET CENTER SUPPORT SERVICES



Readjustment Counseling Services

After war, some veterans experience psychological and social distress and difficulties in readjusting to civilian life. In 1979, the Department of Veterans Affairs established Vet Centers to assist Vietnam-era veterans with such problems. Congress later expanded Vet Center services to include combat veterans of other conflicts. These services are available at Vet Centers in all 50 states, Puerto Rico, the US Virgin Islands and Guam.

Services Available

- Individual counseling
- Marital and family counseling
- VA benefits assistance and referral
- Substance abuse counseling and referrals
- Primary health care for basic medical needs
- Pre-employment assistance and employment counseling
- Discharge upgrade information
- Community, social service and medical referrals
- Sexual trauma / harassment counseling (veterans of all eras)

The Vet Center also has a network of federal, state, city and community resources to help you. We will try to address any concerns or problems you bring to us.

At the Vet Center, you can expect help from professional counselors who will treat you with respect and understanding. Many of the counselors are also war veterans, so they understand your problems first hand, and have the training and skills to help solve them.

There is no charge for the assistance you receive at the Vet Center because of your sacrifices and efforts for this country. Veterans applying for assistance are asked to bring a copy of their Military Separation or Military Discharge (DD214) with them. As of September 2016 VA Vet Centers are now able to provide readjustment counseling to Veterans with dishonorable discharges.

Vet Center Combat Call Center
1-877-WAR-VETS (927-8387)

National Suicide Hot Line
1-800-273-8255 (Toll Free)

**Bereavement Counseling for
Surviving Family Members**
202-461-6530 (V)

Location and Hours of Operation

Wayne Miller, Vet Center Director
2900 Linden Lane, Suite 100
Silver Spring, MD 20910
301-589-1073 (V)

E-mail: wayne.miller3@va.gov

Contact Wayne via e-mail or phone
during COVID-19 pandemic.

Services are currently being provided virtually.

Eligibility

War Zone Veterans - All Eras Including:

WWII

Three eligible categories
European-African-Middle
Eastern Campaign Medal
(7 Dec 1941 to 8 Nov 1945)
Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal
(7 Dec 1941 to 2 Mar 1946)
American Campaign Medal
(7 Dec 1941 to 2 Mar 1946)

American Merchant Marines in Oceangoing Service

7 Dec 1941 to 15 August 1945

Korea

27 June 1950 to 27 July 1954
(eligible for the Korean Service Medal)

Vietnam

28 Feb 1961 to 1 May 1975

Lebanon

25 Aug 1982 to 26 Feb 1984

Grenada

23 Oct 1983 to 21 Nov 1983

Panama

20 Dec 1989 to 31 Jan 1990

Persian Gulf

2 Aug 1990 to -

Somalia

17 Sept 1992 to -

Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo, Albania

(former Yugoslavia operations)

Global War on Terrorism/OIF/OEF/OND

11 Sept 2001 -

MONTGOMERY COUNTY VA COMMUNITY-BASED OUTPATIENT CLINIC (CBOC) INFORMATION SHEET



Montgomery County VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC)

5810 Gaither Drive, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20877

Appointments: 202-745-8000, Option 2 (7am - 4:30pm, M - F)

VA Medical Advice: 202-745-8000, Option 3 (24/7)

Administrative Clinic Receptionist: 301-591-5858, Option 8

Hours of Operation

Monday - Friday; 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Closed on Federal Holidays

Services offered at the Montgomery County CBOC

- Primary Care
- Hearing Aid Fittings
- Comprehensive and Preventive Women's Health
- Mental Health (Psychiatry & Psychology)
- Phlebotomy (onsite lab/blood work)
- Nutrition
- Social Work
- Eligibility, enrollments and ID's
- Tele-Health Services including Tele-Retinal

DC VA Medical Center: Ancillary/Specialty Service

50 Irving St., NW; Washington DC 20422 • 202-745-8000

Ancillary/Specialty Care services are provided at the DC VAMC. The Veteran's primary care provider will place consults for medically appropriate services to be rendered and appointments to be made.

- Radiology (X-rays, CT, MRI, Ultrasounds, etc.)
- Specialist/Referrals (Podiatry, Orthopedics, Sleep Studies, etc.)
- Physical Therapy
- Eye Clinic (Does not require a consult) 202-745-8344
- Audiology (Does not require a consult) 202-745-8270

Medication/Medication Refills

- There is no Pharmacy on-site, but there are locations within the community where urgent prescriptions can be obtained
- Veterans should discuss their current medication with their primary care provider to ensure medications are on VA National Formulary
- Routine medication are ordered and delivered via US Postal (mail) from the DC VAMC (Usually 5 - 7 days)
- Veterans may pick up medication from DC VAMC if needed urgently.
- Veterans can contact the Medication Refill Line (202-745-4046) for refill needs or order through My HealthVet

Scheduling Routine Appointments/Follow-up Appointments/Urgent Care Needs

- To schedule a routine or follow-up appointment call the Patient Service Center at 202-745-8000, option 2
- Urgent Care Needs: Veterans should call 911 for any medical emergency
- The Medical Advice Line, 202-745-8247, is available 24 hours/7 days a week. Call to speak with a registered nurse (RN) for medical advice; communicate with primary care provider, or for medication refills assistance.

SERVING TOGETHER

ServingTogether.
Connecting Veterans.

A program of EveryMind.
Affiliated with AmericaServes

ServingTogether was created to coordinate the systems of care for Veterans, service members and their families, so the entire community can better identify those Veterans and direct them to supports that are in place just for them. They have built strong relationships with nonprofits, community Veteran organizations, local businesses and County government, all with a common goal of sharing ongoing support in the many transitions in life beyond the military. Their goal is to get the right person to the right provider in the least amount of time.

ServingTogether serves active duty, National Guard, Reserve Service members as well as Veterans and their families who currently or are seeking to reside in the National Capital Region. They strive to support all individuals who have worn the uniforms of our military - regardless of age, era, branch or discharge status. Though all services may not be available to every member, Veteran Peer Navigators will work diligently to find an appropriate local resource for every need. Veterans can call or sign-up via their website.

Services and care include: housing and shelter; employment; benefits navigation; money management; individual and family support; legal; social enrichment; mental/behavioral health; physical health; substance use; wellness; utilities; education; clothing and household goods; transportation; food assistance; sports and recreation; income support; spiritual enrichment; and entrepreneurship.

This organization is a recipient of a \$150,000 Community Grant from the County.

Website: www.servingtogetherproject.org

Phone: 1-855-738-7176 (Toll Free)

WARRIOR CANINE CONNECTION



Warrior Canine Connection enlists recovering Warriors in a therapeutic mission of learning to train service dogs for their fellow Veterans. Training a service dog for a fellow Veteran provides a valuable opportunity for a Warrior suffering from psychological injuries to reintegrate into civilian life. As part of their training, Warriors have the responsibility to teach the dogs that the world is a safe place. Through that process, they must convince themselves of the same.

Warrior trainers are taught to praise and provide treats to their dogs when they experience a startling event, such as hearing a car backfire. Rather than turning inward to focus on their past trauma, the trainers must get outside of their own heads to focus on the dogs and their mission to help another Veteran. Additionally, dogs offer opportunities for Warrior trainers – who often isolate themselves from society – to experience positive interactions with members of the community. Their training requires emotionally numb Warriors to demonstrate positive emotion in order to successfully teach their dogs.

Warriors participating in the program have reported that using these positive emotions to praise their dogs has significantly improved their family dynamics, as their children are able to experience and respond to this positive parenting strategy.

This organization is a recipient of a \$50,000 Community Grant from the County.

Website: www.warriorcanineconnection.org

E-mail: info@warriorcanineconnection.org

Phone: 301-260-1111 (V)



STEVEN A. COHEN MILITARY FAMILY CLINIC AT EASTERSEALS



Location: 1420 Spring Street, Suite 300, Silver Spring, MD 20910
Phone: 240-847-7500 (V)
E-mail: info.mfc@eseal.org
Hours: Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday, 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.; Wednesday, 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.; Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.; and the 2nd and 4th Saturday of the month, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

The Steven A. Cohen Military Family Clinic at Easterseals opened in September 2017 in Silver Spring, Maryland. The Cohen Clinic at Easterseals provides high-quality and accessible behavioral health care to the veteran, active-duty, and military family community. Services are available to any person who has served in the U.S. Armed Forces, including the National Guard and Reserves, regardless of role or discharge status, and their families as defined by the service member such as: spouses or partners, children, parents, siblings, caregivers, survivors, and other household members.

The Cohen Clinic at Easterseals uses evidence-based practices with a holistic approach to improve the quality of life for veterans and military families. Services are provided by culturally competent, trained, and credentialed staff. Veterans and military family members are able to receive services individually and as a family unit at the same clinic. The Cohen Clinic at Easterseals can also help connect veteran and military families to community resources and services, as necessary. Services are available through telehealth to those in D.C., Maryland, Virginia, and West Virginia.

- Depression
- Stress and anxiety
- Post-traumatic stress
- Substance misuse
- Sleep problems
- Hyper-vigilance (being on high alert)
- Anger
- Grief and loss
- Transitional challenges
- Relationship and family difficulties

Case Management

Focus on meeting your needs to improve the quality of life with brief case management and resource con-

- Caregiver support
- Child care
- Education
- Employment
- Housing
- Legal assistance
- Rehabilitation, occupation and/or physical therapies
- Peer support
- Personal finances
- Recreation
- Smoking cessation
- Transportation
- Wellness, health, nutrition, exercise

Treatments

Brief evidence-based therapies, not intended for long-term treatment. Evidence-based therapies include:

- Cognitive processing therapy
- Cognitive behavioral therapy
- Motivational interviewing
- Integrative behavioral couples therapy
- Problem solving therapy
- Prolonged exposure therapy

Offer a variety of wellness programs, workshops, events, and opportunities to include:

- Arts and Crafts
- Mindfulness and Yoga
- Creative Writing Workshops
- Legal Clinics
- Finance Workshops
- Psychoeducational Classes such as Stress Management, Sleep Enhancement, and Problem-solving
- And more!

Source: <http://www.easterseals.com/DCMDVA/our-programs/cvn-home.html>

COMBAT²COLLEGE

Mentoring and Support for Veterans and Service Members

Combat2College is Montgomery College's veterans transition program, providing student veterans with resources to help them navigate college.

Program Features

- Gathering spaces on each campus for veterans and service members
- Identified counselors for academic advising
- Benefits information and assistance
- Referral/coordination with external agencies and resources
- Dedicated open gym hours, yoga classes, and guided meditation sessions
- Opportunities for financial assistance
- Activities, outings, and special events

To get involved, contact a Combat2College program manager:

Joanna Starling, ACSM EP-C
Veterans Program Manager
240-567-7103 (V)
joanna.starling@montgomerycollege.edu

Jason Franklin, ACSM EP-C
Veterans Program Manager
240-338-2687 (V)
jason.franklin@montgomerycollege.edu

Website:

<https://www.montgomerycollege.edu/veterans-and-military/combat-to-college.html>

Important Campus Locations for Student Veterans and Service Members

Germantown Campus

Veterans Center: Humanities and Social Sciences Building, Room 250A&B

Rockville Campus

Veterans Center: Computer Science Building, Room 107
Center for Women Veterans: Campus Center, Room 002

Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus

Veterans Center: Resource Center, Room 210



Photo Courtesy of Montgomery College Combat2College

KEY CONTACTS FOR THE VA AND OTHER RESOURCES

New Phone Number to Access VA Services: 1-844-MyVA311 (1-844-698-2311) is a go-to source for Veterans and their families who don't know what number to call. More information:
www.blogs.va.gov/VAntage/32858/myva311-one-number-call-reach-va

REQUESTING YOUR DD-214

Whenever a veteran requests benefits and services, a copy of the individual's discharge papers are required to verify eligibility. This includes admission to Charlotte Hall Veterans Home, Maryland's five cemeteries, VA claims and a myriad of other services provided to veterans and their families. Veterans and their next of kin can request a copy of the service member's DD-214, Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty from the National Archives. You can request the DD214 online via their website - www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records. Click on the link "Submit your request online". You can also make a request by sending a letter to **The National Archives & Records Administration** at 8601 Adelphi Road, College Park, MD 20740. For questions, please call 1-866-272-6272 (Toll Free).

BENEFITS ASSISTANCE - MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS (MDVA)

Miguel Sapp, Veterans Benefits Specialist (VBS) 301-987-8412 (V)
E-mail: miguel.sapp@maryland.gov or phone during COVID-19 Pandemic 301-987-8413 (V)
Please leave a message and he will return the call as soon as possible. 301-987-8496 (FAX)

Phil Munley, Director, Veteran Service Program 410-230-4444 x 6457 (V)
E-mail: phillip.munley@va.gov 1-800-446-4926 x 6457 (Toll Free)
www.veterans.maryland.gov

The MDVA Service and Benefits Program provides assistance to the men and women who served in the Uniformed Services of the United States, their dependents, and survivors in obtaining benefits from the U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs, Dept. of Defense, State of Maryland and other programs for veterans and their families.

HOMELESS OUTREACH AT VA COMMUNITY-BASED OUTPATIENT CLINIC (CBOC) - DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL CENTER (VAMC)

15810 Gaither Drive, Gaithersburg, MD 20877

VAMC is providing outreach services to Veterans at the Gaithersburg VA CABOC. VAMC Homeless Outreach Staff are available for both drop in and scheduled visits. The VA will be available to assist Veterans by making referrals and connecting Veterans who are eligible for VA services with the VA healthcare system.

- Aisha Clark, VA HUD VASH Senior Social Worker
E-mail: aisha.clark@va.gov
- Fatmata Kamara, VA Outreach Social Worker
E-mail: fatmata.kamara@va.gov, 202-256-9261 (V)
Office Hours: Wednesday, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- Ken Barnum, VA Outreach Social Worker
E-mail: kenneth.barnum@va.gov
Office Hours: Monday, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

SERVING TOGETHER — WHERE VETERANS FIND LOCAL RESOURCES FOR THE MISSION AHEAD

Erica Fatal, Senior Peer Navigator 301-738-7176 (V)
Alexander Shamis, Peer Navigator 1-855-738-7176 (Toll Free)
E-mail: peernavigator@every-mind.org **Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.**
www.servingtogetherproject.org

Peer navigators work to guide military, veterans and their families through a sometimes complicated and fragmented system of resources and information in Montgomery County, MD. They also work to connect the Montgomery County community with veteran events. You can view the event calendar on their website.

VA COMMUNITY-BASED OUTPATIENT CLINIC (CBOC) - U.S. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

15810 Gaither Drive,
Gaithersburg, MD 20877

Appointments: 202-745-8000, Option 2 (7:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Mon - Fri)
VA Medical Advice: 202-745-8000, Option 3 (24/7)
Administrative Clinic Receptionist: 301-591-5858, Option 8 (V)

www.washingtondc.va.gov/locations/Montgomery_County_Community_Based_Outpatient_Clinic.asp

Operating Hours: 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Monday - Friday. The new VA clinic provides Veterans with primary care, women's health, mental health and social work services, as well as nutrition counseling, pharmacy consultation, audiology device fitting and adjustment, and specialty care via clinical telehealth technology. Free parking. Conveniently located to the Shady Grove Metro Station via Ride On Bus #63 and #63X. Route #63X provides additional service between Gaither Road & Gaither Drive and the Shady Grove Metro Station to augment Route #63 trips on weekdays. Service is available from approximately 6:20 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.

KEY CONTACTS FOR THE VA & OTHER RESOURCES CONT.

SILVER SPRING VET CENTER - READJUSTMENT COUNSELING AND FAMILY SUPPORTS

Wayne Miller, Vet Center Director
2900 Linden Lane
Silver Spring, MD 20910
E-mail: wayne.miller3@va.gov

Contact Wayne via e-mail or phone during COVID-19 pandemic.
Services are currently being provided virtually.

301-589-1073 (V) / 202-273-9116 (Bereavement Counseling)

Open Monday - Thursday, 8 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.;
Friday 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Closed Saturday, Sunday and Holidays

Walk-ins permitted, but appointments are requested. After hours appointments as needed. Veterans must show proof of service. Provides benefits counseling and assistance with navigating the VA and paperwork, as well as employment counseling, counseling on PTSD and sub-PTSD, substance abuse counseling, family and marital counseling, psychological counseling related to readjustment, coordination and referral with doctors, employment related issues, assistance with basic needs such as food, shelter and clothing, medical and legal referrals, homeless assistance and will work with Montgomery County to find shelter placement, sexual trauma counseling, community outreach, bereavement counseling, and more. Services are provided at no cost to veterans and their family.

COMMUNITY RESOURCE AND REFERRAL CENTER (CRRC) - DC VETERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL CENTER

1500 Franklin Street, NE, Washington, DC 20018

202-745-8000 x 53602 (V)

www.washingtondc.va.gov/locations/Community_Resource_and_Referral_Center_CRRC.asp

Operating Hours: 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Offer services to Veterans who are homeless or at-risk of homelessness. Although not a shelter, the CRRC provides services to assist Veterans which include a computer lab, laundry, showers, social work services and a host of community services. Offices located in the CRRC include the DCVAMC's Health Care for Homeless Veterans Program (HCHV), Employment Assistance, Compensated Work Therapy (CWT), HUD/VASH case workers, vocational rehabilitation specialists, mental health professionals, Veterans Supported Employment Program, and Pathways to Housing.

THE STEVEN A. COHEN MILITARY FAMILY CLINIC - EASTERSEALS SERVING DC | MD | VA

The Steven A. Cohen Military Family Clinic
Mallory Lass, Outreach Manager
1420 Spring Street, Suite 300
Silver Spring, MD 20910
E-mail: mlass@eseal.org

240-847-7500 (V)
Hours of Operation: Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.;;
Wednesday, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.;; Friday, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.;; and
the 2nd and 4th Saturday of the month, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The Steven A. Cohen Military Family Clinic at Easterseals provides veterans, active-duty, and the entire military family (as defined by the service member/veteran: spouse, children, partners, household members, caregivers, and survivors) with high-quality and accessible behavioral health care services by culturally competent, trained, and credentialed staff. Counseling options include individuals, child/adolescent (ages 4+), group, couples, and family. To make an appointment, please call 240-847-7500 (V) or email info.mfc@eseal.org.

OPERATION SECOND CHANCE

E-mail: assistance@operationsecondchance.org
<http://operationsecondchance.org/supportandassistance>

301-972-1080 (V)
1-888-672-4838 (Toll Free)

Provide airfare and essential daily assistance. Items that will be considered for assistance:

- Rent/mortgage (must be accompanied by a copy of mortgage statement with account number and billing address. If rental assistance is being requested, a copy of the rental agreement that has the name/address of the rental/lease company, monthly rent amount.
- Utility bills (electric, gas, water, sewer).
- Childcare during illness or surgery.
- Housing and/or airfare for a family member to assist an injured or recovering member.

Please have your service liaison, chain of command, or care provider request an application by email.

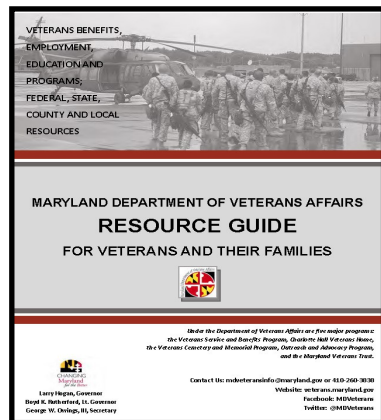
MILITARY ONESOURCE

www.militaryonesource.mil

1-800-342-9647 (24/7 Toll Free)

Information on family and recreation, health and relationships, financial and legal, career and education, military life and deployment, and crisis. Offer three kinds of short-term, non-medical counseling to active-duty, Guard, and Reserve service members and their families. Eligible individuals may receive confidential services at no cost. Participate in online webinars, subscribe to monthly e-newsletters, read expertly prepared articles about issues that concern military families, and order or download free CD's, booklets, and DVDs. Offer online Live Chat assistance. Part of the U.S. Department of Defense's Military OneSource network.

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS RESOURCES



The **Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs (MDVA) Resource Guide for Veterans and their Families** is designed to educate Veterans and their families, as well as those who serve them, on the benefits to which they may be entitled as a result of their military service. This comprehensive guide includes Federal, state, county and local resources on compensation and pension, benefits for Veterans with service-connected disabilities, services for combat Veterans, education, scholarships and grants, employment, housing, Maryland Homefront - The Veterans and Military Family Mortgage Program, VA home loans, homelessness, legal services, State tax exemptions, cemetery benefits, healthcare, and assisted living and nursing home care programs. To view the guide online, please visit: <https://veterans.maryland.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2021/03/2021-MDVA-Quick-Ref-Guide.pdf>

MDVA QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE

The Service and Benefits Program staff provide information and representation to veterans and eligible dependents seeking USDVA benefits. Phone: 800-446-4926, ext. 6450 (see page 20 for office locations)

The Outreach and Advocacy Program informs veterans and the community about benefits and services available from federal, state, and local organizations. (i.e. housing, employment, behavioral health, and healthcare) Phone: 410-260-3842 or 410-260-3840

Charlotte Hall Veterans Home Charlotte Hall Veterans Home is a 444 bed facility offering skilled nursing care, assisted living care, in house rehabilitation, on-site pharmacy and dental for eligible veterans and their spouses. Admissions: 301-884-8171, ext. 409

The Maryland Veterans Trust Fund assists veterans experiencing temporary financial difficulties. Phone: 800-446-4926, ext. 6460

The Cemetery and Memorial Program manages five state veteran cemeteries and four veteran memorials. The program also shares responsibility with the City of Baltimore over a fifth memorial, the War Memorial Building

Rocky Gap Cemetery, Flintstone, MD

301-777-2185

Crownsville Cemetery, Crownsville, MD

410-987-6320

Garrison Forest Cemetery, Owings Mills, MD

410-363-6090

Eastern Shore Cemetery, Hurlock, MD

410-943-3420

Cheltenham Cemetery, Cheltenham, MD

301-372-6398

Memorial Program 410-354-3550

The United States Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA) provides healthcare, benefits and access to national cemeteries to former military personnel and their dependents. The USDVA has responsibility over three administrations. They are: the Veterans Health Administration; the Veterans Benefits Administration; and the National Cemetery Administration.

For VA healthcare enrollment:

Central Maryland/Eastern Shore veterans are seen by the VA Maryland Healthcare System and can call 877-222-8387

Western Maryland veterans are seen by the Martinsburg VA Medical Center and can call 800-817-3807, press 4

Montgomery County/Prince George's County/Southern Maryland veterans are seen by the Washington DC VA Medical Center and can call 202-745-8000, ext 56333

For VA benefits questions:

Federal VA benefits, veterans can call 800-827-1000

Federal VA education benefits, veterans can call 888-GIBILL-1 (888-442-4551), 7am-6pm CT, M-F

Federal VA home loan program, veterans can call 877-827-3702

If a veteran has questions about burial in a National Cemetery, they can call 800-535-1117

If a veteran has questions about Arlington National Cemetery (managed by the Dept of the Army), they can call 877-907-8585

MDVA SERVICE PROGRAM OFFICE LOCATIONS

During the COVID-19 pandemic, most Veteran Benefits Specialists are on full time remote work status and periodically visit offices to collect mail and messages. Please contact your service officer by phone. Service officers will return your call as soon as possible.

Baltimore Regional Office

(Available only by phone, Mon-Fri, 7:30-4:00, no visitors allowed in the Fallon Federal Building)
31 Hopkins Plaza, Room 3020
Baltimore, MD 21201
800-446-4926, ext. 6450

Bel Air

(Available Mon/Wed/Fri 7:30-4:00, by appointment only 8:30-4:00)
Michael Cantrell, Veterans Benefits Specialist II
Taryn Hope, Office Secretary II
Motor Vehicle Administration
Bel Air Service Center
501 W. Macphail Road
Bel Air, MD 21014
410-638-6501 (benefits specialist)
410-638-638-6507 (office secretary)
410-683-6549 (fax)

Camp Springs

(Available Mon/Wed/Fri 7:30-4:00 for phone contact only, no visitors)
Aaron Awkward, Veterans Benefits Specialist II
Mikele Moses-El, Office Secretary II
Harriet Hunter Building, 6420 Allentown Road
Camp Springs, MD 20748
301-248-0463

Veterans Services Program of Carroll County

(Supported by, but not an MDVA service office):
Available by appointment only, office is not regularly staffed
125 Stoner Avenue
Westminster, MD 21157
410-386-3800

Charlotte Hall

(Open Mon/Wed/Fri 7:30-4:00 by appointment only)
Joseph Thornton, Jr., Veterans Benefits Specialist II
29431 Charlotte Hall Rd., Room 211
Charlotte Hall, MD 20622
240-577-7083, 301-884-8036

Glen Burnie

(Open Mon/Wed/Fri 7:30-4:00 by appointment only)
James Wilkes, Veterans Benefits Specialist II
Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA)
Glen Burnie Service Center, Ground Floor
6601 Ritchie Highway
Room 30 (for a benefits specialist)
Room 8A (for mail)
Glen Burnie, MD 21062
410-424-3039, 410-424-3047 (fax)

Laurel

(Available Mon/Wed/Fri 7:30-4:00, phone contact only)
Andrew Rutherford, Veterans Benefits Specialist II
Howard County Multi-Service Center
9900 Washington Blvd., Suite I
Laurel, MD 20723
410-313-0229

Cumberland

(Available Mon/Wed/Fri 7:30-4:00, phone contact only)
Aaron Clark, Veterans Benefits Specialist Advanced
12501 Willowbrook Rd., Room 2-014
Cumberland, MD 21502
301-759-5252

Easton

(Open Mon/Wed/Fri 7:30-4:00 by appointment only)
Janet C. Thomas, Area Supervisor
Catherine (Cathy) Clevenger, Office Secretary II
11 South Harrison Street
Easton, MD 21601 (physical address)
P.O. Box 1148
Easton, MD 21601 (mailing address)
410-690-7181

Frederick

(Open Mon/Wed/Fri 7:30-4:00 by appointment only)
Keri Keefer, Veterans Benefits Specialist II
Andrea Jones, Office Secretary II
Multi-Service Center
100 West Patrick St., Rm 2120
Frederick, MD 21701
301-600-2155

Hagerstown

(Open Mon/Fri 7:30-4:00 by appointment only)
Aaron Clark, Veterans Benefits Specialist II
Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA)
18306 Col. Henry K. Douglas Drive
Hagerstown, MD 21740
240-527-6894
240-527-6893 (fax)

Rockville (CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC)

Miguel Sapp, Veterans Benefits Specialist II
301-987-8412 (V)
301-987-8413 (V)
301-987-8496 (FAX)

Salisbury

(Open Mon/Wed/Fri 7:30-4:00 by appointment only)
Michelle Licata, Veterans Benefits Specialist II
Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration
Salisbury Branch
251 Tilghman Road
Salisbury, MD 21804
410-219-7256
410-219-7257 (fax)

MONTGOMERY COUNTY FALLEN HEROES HISTORY

In June, 2009 family members came to the Commission meeting and requested the help of the Commission in renaming the Rockville Library to Rockville Memorial Library. These family members that attended were Richard and Lee Ann Doerflinger – son Army Specialist Thomas Doerflinger killed in Mosul, Iraq on Veteran’s Day November 11, 2004, Paula Davis – son Private First Class Justin Ray Davis. U.S. Army killed on June 25, 2005 in Afghanistan, Tom and Carol Barbieri - son Army Specialist Thomas Joseph Barbieri II, 82nd Airborne Division, killed on August 23, 2006 south of Baghdad Iraq, and Nikki Bunting, wife of Captain Brian “Bubba” Bunting, U.S. Army, killed on February 24, 2009 in Kandahar, Afghanistan, and her sister Tracey Paul all expressed their strong belief that to honor their family members, they request that the Rockville Library be renamed to the Rockville Memorial Library, to honor fallen soldiers. The Commission took on the mission of getting the Rockville Library renamed to the Rockville Memorial Library. Letters were written to the County Executive and the mission was accomplished in that a formal ceremony marking the official renaming of the Rockville Library to the Rockville Memorial Library was held on Friday, May 28, 2010 at 11 a.m. in the front of the building at 21 Maryland Ave., Rockville. But following the meeting where family members came, the very next day Carly Clem and Betsy Luecking staffers to the Commission sat down to discuss what we as staff could do immediately to honor the fallen so that they would not be forgotten by our community. It was decided they would build a website with photos of the fallen, whatever background could be found. This was not an easy task as there were no lists and much research needed to be done. Research included visiting the National Archives in College Park, reviewing census and military records on Ancestry.com and researching article on newspapers, going to high schools to look at yearbooks, and the lists published by the Department of Defense. As time went on they were able to research those killed in action from the Gulf War, Vietnam War, Korean War, World War II and World War I. This website contents are on digital displays at the Rockville Memorial Library lobby and the Silver Spring Civic Building at Veterans Plaza in the front entry. In tribute to those who served and for the family members, Carly Clem did most of the research, creation of website and digital display in an outstanding way.

We proudly remember and pay tribute to the County’s fallen service members who have died in service to our country. The records show these men and women as enlisting, being originally from, or having at one time lived in Montgomery County.

[Global War on Terror](#) • [Gulf War](#)

[Vietnam War](#) - [Montgomery County Sentinel - Montgomery's War Dead 1963 to 1970](#)

[Korean War](#) • [World War II](#) • [World War I](#)



Proudly Supporting the U.S. Uniformed Services, and their families,
and Recognizing the Military Service of our Armed Forces

STATEMENT ON THE FY21 COUNTY BUDGET

Commission on Veterans Affairs

April 17, 2020

Dan Bullis, Chair Wayne Miller, Vice-Chair

The Commission on Veterans Affairs thanks the County Executive and the County Council for the support you have provided over the past 12 years for funding programs that benefit the quality of life for Veterans and their families. We recognize that the COVID-19 public health emergency is placing difficult and unprecedented pressures on programs and services of the County as well as the rest of the country.

Last fall, we informed you that the Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs was seeking a donation of 25 acres of land to build a Veteran Home like they have at Charlotte Hall. We learned yesterday that the Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs has chosen Sykesville to build the home as they were unsuccessful in locating land in the County. We understand and support their decision and want you to know of this lost opportunity.

Some Veterans may experience post-traumatic stress or thoughts of suicide which could be the result of over-exposure to trauma. The VA has made suicide prevention its top priority. We recommend that the County increase community outreach efforts to make resources and services better known that are available to Veterans and their families. We recommend the funding of the programs that promote mental health and wellness.

We continue to be pleased with the County's efforts to end homelessness amongst Veterans and to assist in obtaining permanent housing as was highly successful during the Zero:16 campaign. Montgomery County has been the direct recipient of 98 HUD VASH vouchers and an additional 25 ported HUD VASH vouchers from DC and other states. We are in strong support of Bethesda Cares expanding their outreach to Veterans and support the additional funding of \$350,000 for this purpose. This funding will accomplish many County priorities such as the addition of permanent affordable housing for homeless populations and achieving racial equity through sound housing policy

Serving Together was created to coordinate the system of care for Veterans, service members and their families so the entire community can better identify those Veterans and direct them to supports that are in place for them. This organization is a recipient of a \$150,000 Community grant from the County and we recommend this continues.

Warrior Canine Connection enlists recovering Warriors in a therapeutic mission of learning to train service dogs for their fellow Veterans. Dogs offer opportunities for Warrior trainers who often isolate themselves from society to experience positive interactions with members of the community. This Organization is a recipient of a \$50,000 Community grant from the County and we recommend that this funding continue.

Team River Runner has a kayaking program at Seneca Creek at Riley's Lock where they meet every Sunday with a picnic put on by the Elks Lodge. With encouragement from the Commission, Montgomery Parks has received a grant from the State to make two accessible boat launches there and the construction has begun. The Council then approved spending of this money for this purpose. One of the accessible launches has been installed. A cement walkway to the launch has been installed with the entire area to become Americans with Disabilities Act compliant. These accessible launches will be used by the public including Veterans. Currently wounded Veterans enter the Potomac River where power boats are launched. Thank you for your continued support of Veterans.

<https://montgomerycountymd.gov/HHS-Program/Resources/Files/A&D%20Docs/CVA/RileysLock.pdf>

COUNTY COUNCIL TESTIMONY - POLICY ISSUES FOR FY22

November 18, 2020

Wayne Miller, Chair - Robert Koffman, Vice-Chair

The Commission on Veterans Affairs is grateful for the support the County has provided for funding programs that benefit the quality of life for Veterans and their families. We recognize that the COVID-19 public health crisis is placing difficult and unprecedented pressures on programs and services of the County. Given our experiences with the COVID-19 pandemic, our priority is to promote and support mental health and physical wellness programs for Veterans and their families, including the spouses and the children of those who have been killed in service to our country. In March, 2019, Executive Order 13861, known as **The President's Roadmap to Empower Veterans and End a National Tragedy of Suicide** (PREVENTS) was signed by the President and this bi-partisan effort calls for the development of a two year comprehensive plan to empower Veterans and end suicide through coordinated suicide prevention, prioritized research, and strengthened collaboration across the public and private sectors. In March, 2020, as many as 20 American Veterans took their life every single day. Collectively, we can improve Suicide Prevention programs by lessening stigma, and changing the culture around suicide through knowing available local resources, caring enough to watch out for one another, and having the courage and conviction to act. By signing the PREVENTS Organization pledge (<https://www.reach.gov/>) you commit to take a stand. Using "Moments to Reach" toolkit the Commission will increase outreach efforts to help thwart this scourge. In recognition of Veteran's Day, we ask that you join us.

We continue to be pleased with the County's efforts to end homelessness amongst Veterans and to assist in obtaining permanent housing as was highly successful during the Zero:16 campaign. We are considered to be in the top 10 jurisdictions in the country in serving homeless Veterans due to the Council supporting the Commission's request to fund housing for Veterans not eligible for Veterans Assisted Supportive Housing (VASH) vouchers. Montgomery County has been the direct recipient of 98 HUD VASH vouchers and an additional 25 ported HUD VASH vouchers from DC and other states. We are in strong support of Bethesda Cares outreach expansion to Veterans and support the funding of \$647,000 for Veteran housing. This funding will accomplish many County priorities such as the addition of permanent affordable housing for homeless populations and achieving racial equity through sound housing policy.

Serving Together was created to coordinate the system of care for Veterans, service members and their families so the entire community can better identify those Veterans and direct them to supports that are in place for them. This organization is a recipient of an annual \$150,000 Community grant from the County and we recommend this continues.

Warrior Canine Connection (WCC) enlists Warriors recovering from the visible and hidden wounds of war in a therapeutic mission of learning to train service dogs for their fellow Veterans. WCC's eighty acres is located in Seneca State Park in Boyds. WCC offers much-needed resources for Veterans within the County. Currently, WCC has 100 dogs in its two-year training pipeline and anticipates doubling the number of Veterans served in 2021. Given the current pandemic and critical need to provide increased mental health care support for our most vulnerable populations, WCC provides a therapeutic activity in a natural, healing environment. With ample space for critically important socialization while ensuring physical distancing, Veterans and Wounded Warriors learn to train Service Dogs for other Veterans and Wounded Warriors. WCC receives an annual Community grant of \$50,000 from the County. An increase in funding will expand WCC's capacity to serve even more county Veterans through collaborative efforts with other county Veteran Service Organizations. Recommend increasing funding.

Team River Runner of Walter Reed has a kayaking program at Seneca Creek at Riley's Lock where they meet every Sunday May through October. With encouragement from the Commission, Montgomery Parks received a grant from the State to fund ADA Accessibility improvements to the existing ramp used by motor boats which will be renovated at Seneca Landing Special Park at Riley's Lock. Montgomery Parks' fully funded and constructed the new accessible floating launch for canoeists and at the park upstream of the existing boat ramp. The accessible launch areas can be used by the public in gaining access to the beautiful Potomac River. One of the accessible launches has been installed and is being used by Team River Runner and the general public. A cement walkway to the launch has been installed with the entire area to become Americans with Disabilities Act compliant. Prior to the installation, wounded Veterans enter the Potomac River where power boats are launched. Thank you for your continued support of Veterans. Photo of Veteran using accessible launch: www.montgomerycountymd.gov/HHS-Program/Resources/Images/Veterans/robhunter6%20gettingonslider6.jpg



The Maryland Military Coalition (MMC) will educate the Maryland Legislature and other elements of State Government about the need to improve the health care, benefits, and quality of life programs of the uniformed services community - including family members. The MMC is modeled on the work of The Military Coalition, a national consortium of military and veterans organizations representing the interests of currently serving members - including the National Guard and Federal Reserves - veterans, survivors, and family members of the seven uniformed services.

Charter Member organizations of the MMC (as of 8 January 2020):

Air Force Sergeants Association; American Military Society (AMS); Commissioned Officers Association of the US Public Health Service; Disabled American Veterans (DAV); Distinguished Flying Cross Association; Fleet Reserve Association; Jewish War Veterans of the USA (JWV); Maryland Air National Guard Retiree's Association; Military Officers Association of America (MOAA); Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH); National Association for Black Veterans (NABVETS); Naval Enlisted Reserve Association; NOAA Commissioned Officer Corps; Society of Military Widows; The Retired Enlisted Association (TREA); Veterans of Foreign Wars Maryland (VFW).

- Support **Veteran mental health & suicide prevention efforts**
- A **full exemption of Uniformed Services federal retired pay** from Maryland state income tax
- Expand the **full Property-Tax Exemption** for service-disabled Veterans rated 100% permanent and total to include a greater number of our most severely disabled Veterans
- Support efforts for a **second Veterans Home** in Maryland
- Support efforts to **end Veteran homelessness**
- Ensure **surviving spouses** are eligible for any benefits afforded their Veterans
- Enhance support for **disabled Veteran family caregivers**
- Support efforts to encourage **Veteran entrepreneurship**
- Authorize **free tuition and fees at Maryland public colleges and universities** to severely disabled
- Veterans and their families, including surviving family members
- Ensure that any state program of benefits, rights, or privileges applicable for Veterans includes
- members of **all seven of the Uniformed Services**
- Ensure for-profit college accountability in serving Veterans using their GI Bill benefits
- Support efforts to increase funding for and/or programs offered by the Veterans Trust Fund, the
- Veterans Service Animal Program, and the Recreational Licenses Donation Program
- Enhance Veterans' ability to receive military service credit as Maryland government employees
- Support measures that honor our Veterans, Service members, and their families
- Support measures to facilitate compliance with Maryland state regulations for current Service
- Members and their Families, especially during lengthy absences while on extended orders

PROJECTED NUMBER OF VETERANS IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MD

The U.S. Census Bureau, 2019 estimates that there are approximately **36,264 veterans living in Montgomery County, Maryland**. According to a 2019 American Community Survey conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau, 6.9% of Americans self-reported as being a veteran. The Census Bureau defines veteran as men and women who have served (even for a short time), but are not currently serving, on active duty in the U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, or the Coast Guard, or who served in the U.S. Merchant Marine during World War II. People who served in the National Guard or Reserves are classified as veterans only if they were ever called or ordered to active duty, not counting the 4 to 6 months for initial training or yearly summer camps. All other civilians are classified as nonveterans.

Veteran Population of Montgomery County, MD

Subject	2018		2019	
	Veterans	Total Population (18 years and over)	Veterans	Total Population (18 years and over)
Civilian Population 18 years and over	42,509 (5.3%)	805,913	36,264 (4.5%)	804,686
Period of Military Service	Veterans	% of 41,863	Veterans	% of 36,264
Gulf War (9/2001 or later), no Gulf War (8/1990 to 8/2001), no Vietnam Era	8,413	19.8%	6,499	17.9%
Gulf War (9/2001 or later) and Gulf War (8/1990 to 8/2001), no Vietnam Era	3,796	9.0%	3,183	8.8%
Gulf War (9/2001 or later) and Gulf War	171	0.4%	46	0.1%
Gulf War (8/1990 to 8/2001), no Vietnam Era	4,878	11.5%	4,734	13.1%
Gulf War (8/1990 to 8/2001), and Vietnam Era	504	1.2%	289	0.8%
Vietnam Era, no Korean War, no World War II	10,098	23.7%	10,084	27.8%
Vietnam Era and Korean War, no World War II	453	1.1%	94	0.3%
Vietnam Era and Korean War and World War II	46	0.1%	0	0%
Korean War, no Vietnam Era, no World War II	3,659	8.6%	1,702	4.7%
Korean War and World War II, no Vietnam Era	93	0.2%	148	0.4%
World War II, no Korean War, no Vietnam Era	2,045	4.8%	1,288	3.5%
Between Gulf War and Vietnam Era only	5,123	12.0%	4,592	12.6%
Between Vietnam Era & Korean War only	2,807	6.6%	3,436	9.5%
Between Korean War & World War II only	423	1.0%	169	0.5%
Pre-World War II only	0	0%	0	0%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2018 & 2019

PROJECTED NUMBER OF VETERANS IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MD

Veteran Population of Montgomery County, MD

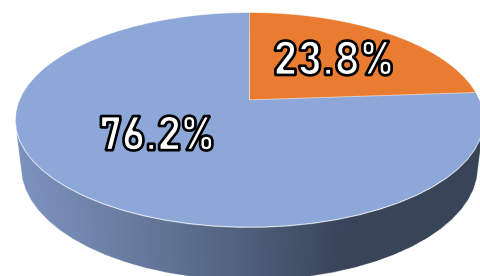
Subject	2018		2019	
	Veterans	Total Population (18 years and over)	Veterans	Total Population (18 years and over)
Civilian Population 18 years and over	42,509 (5.3%)	805,913	36,264 (4.5%)	804,686
Gender	Veterans	% of 42,509	Veterans	% of 36,264
Male	35,030	82.4%	31,268	86.2%
Female	7,479	17.6%	4,996	13.8%
Age	Veterans	% of 42,509	Veterans	% of 36,264
18 to 34 years	4,623	10.9%	3,174	8.8%
35 to 54 years	9,911	23.3%	9,145	25.2%
55 to 64 years	7,035	16.6%	5,509	15.2%
65 to 74 years	8,265	19.4%	8,057	22.2%
75 years and older	12,675	29.8%	10,379	28.6%
Age by Gender	Female	% of 7,479	Female	% of 4,996
18 to 34 years	1,269	17.0%	1,122	22.5%
35 to 54 years	2,451	32.8%	1,783	35.7%
55 to 64 years	1,356	18.1%	1,277	25.5%
65 to 74 years	1,115	14.9%	524	10.5%
75 years and older	1,288	17.2%	290	5.8%
Age by Gender	Male	% of 35,030	Male	% of 31,268
18 to 34 years	3,354	9.6%	2,052	6.6%
35 to 54 years	7,460	21.3%	7,362	23.5%
55 to 64 years	5,679	16.2%	4,232	13.5%
65 to 74 years	7,150	20.4%	7,533	24.1%
75 years and older	11,387	32.5%	10,089	32.3%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2018 & 2019

VA Health Care Coverage Alone Or In Combination Montgomery County, Maryland

TOTAL	9,796
Under 19	1,148
19 to 64	4,642
65 Years and over	4,006
19 Years and over	8,648
Source: U.S. American Community Survey, 2019	

VA Health Care Coverage Alone or In Combination Total Mont. County Veteran Population - 36,624 (Civilian Population 19 years and over)



Enrolled Not Enrolled

PROJECTED NUMBER OF VETERANS IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MD

Montgomery County, MD Veteran Demographics - By City (2014 - 2018)

QuickFacts provides statistics for all states and counties, and for cities and towns with a population of 5,000 or more.

Ashton-Sandy Spring	313
Aspen Hill	1,839
Bethesda	2,654
Burtonsville	392
Chevy Chase	601
Clarksburg	699
Damascus	784
Darnestown	185
Four Corners	392
Gaithersburg	2,524

Germantown	3,140
Glenmont	595
Kemp Mill	464
Layhill	211
Leisure World	1,362
Montgomery Village	1,256
North Bethesda	1,971
North Kensington	350
North Potomac	605

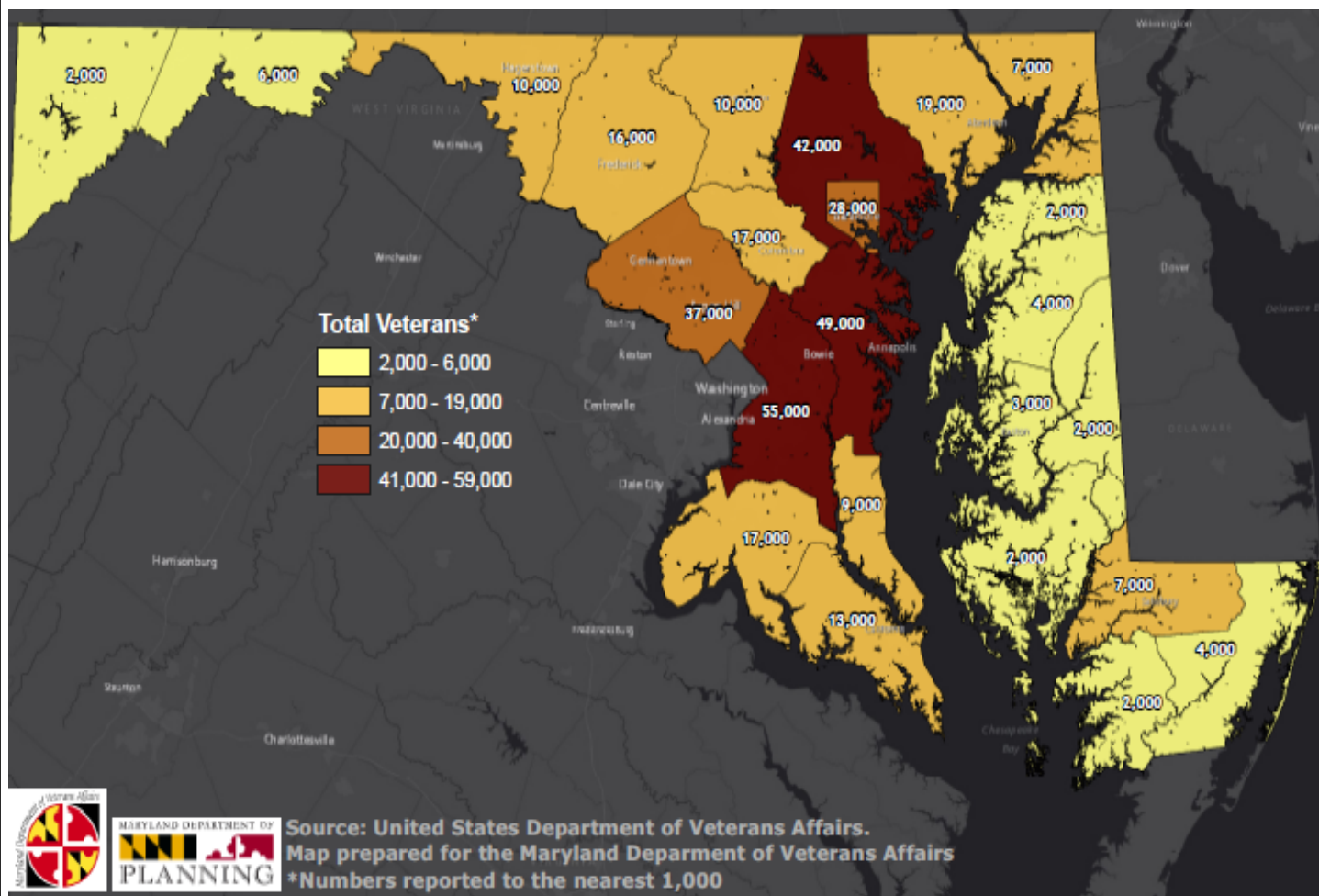
Olney	1,990
Poolesville	325
Potomac	1,980
Rockville	2,431
Silver Spring	2,525
South Kensington	531
Takoma Park	481
Travilah	273
Wheaton	1,570

Source: U.S. Census QuickFacts 2014 - 2018

PROJECTED NUMBER OF VETERANS IN MARYLAND - 2020

Project Number of Veterans in Maryland: 362,000

Projected Number of Veterans in Montgomery County, Maryland: 37,000



MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MD EMPLOYMENT DATA ON HIRING OF VETERANS, DISABLED VETERANS, AND PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

The Commission on Veterans Affairs and Commission on People with Disabilities worked with the County's Office of Human Resources (OHR) to establish employment initiatives which include hiring preferences for veteran, veteran with a disability, and person with a disability and a non-competitive hiring process for persons with disabilities, which was passed into law by Montgomery County voters in 2012.

Karen Hochberg, OHR, has reported that since the hiring preferences and non-competitive hiring process were implemented approximately:

Fiscal Year (FY)	FY20	FY19	FY18	FY17	FY16	FY15	FY14	FY13	FY12	Total
Person with a Disability (PWD)	2	2	3	8	5	5	6	9	4	44
Department non-select PWD	11	15	7	13	4	2	10	13	15	90
Veteran	29	28	9	29	23	45	51	31	18	263
Department non-select VET	30	18	8	28	25	20	35	46	36	246
Veteran with a disability (VWD)	4	1	1	6	4	3	3	1	N/A	23
Department non-select VWD	4	6	3	2	5	0	5	1	N/A	26
Non-Competitive Hire	1	3	4	5	1	7	10	X	N/A	31
Not-Specified Hires	X	X	X	1	1	1	1	X	X	4

(Non-select means that applicant was interviewed but the department did not select them. The non-selection must be based on a objective results from the interview. OHR must approve the non-selection before a department can move forward with additional interviews.)

A Better Bottom Line - Montgomery County Government video regarding the employment of people with disabilities and Veterans. Jonathan Pruziner served in Iraq and Afghanistan and came home to Become hired as a police officer with the Montgomery County Police Department. (YouTube):

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z-2A_PbxrqA (6:27 version)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NWOYNkEWE5s> (11:42 version)



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COMMISSION PRESENTATIONS FOR 2019 - 2020

November, 2019: **Remarks & Discussion – The Honorable Marc Elrich, County Executive**

December, 2019: **Evaluating the Efficacy of a Service Dog Training Program for Military Veterans with PTSD – Dr. Cheryl Krause-Parello, Professor, Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing, Erika Friedmann, PhD, Co-Principal Investigator, and Deb Taber, Research Coordinator, University of Maryland School of Nursing; Rick Yount of Warrior Canine Connection and Cooper the Dog**

January, 2020: **Maryland Military Coalition Legislative Agenda – Colonel Robert Norton, USA (Ret.), President, Maryland Military Coalition**

February, 2020: **Update on Veteran Health Care at Holy Cross Germantown Hospital, Holy Cross Silver Spring Hospital and Holy Cross Health Partners in Kensington – Dr. Norvell “Van” Coots, MD, MSS, Brigadier General, US Army (Ret.), President and CEO, Holy Cross Health and Maryland Region of Trinity Health**

April, 2020: **Update on Second Veterans Home – Betsy Luecking, Staff**

Discussion: Issues Facing Commissioners/Veterans and Their Families

May, 2020: **Discussion: Issues Facing Commissioners/Veterans and Their Families**

June, 2020: **Montgomery County COVID-19 Recovery Planning Framework, Roles and Responsibilities – Odile Brunetto, Chief, Aging and Disability Services**

July, 2020: **Fields 4 Valor – Pete Scott, Farmer and Former Counterintelligence Agent
COVID-19 Self-Care & Reach Campaign – Bob Koffman, M.D., MPH**

September, 2020: **September is National Suicide Prevention Month – Bob Koffman, MD, MPH, Vice-Chair**

Montgomery Parks Completes Fully Accessible Boat Launch at Seneca Landing – Next Steps – Bob Green, Senior ADA Project Manager, Montgomery Parks, M-NCPPC

Veteran’s Experience at Riley’s Lock -Prevention & Wellness – Joe Mornini, Executive Director and Co-Founder, Team River Runner

October, 2020: **Veteran Homelessness Update – John Mendez, Executive Director, Bethesda Cares**

**VA Mission Act Health Care Services – Maureen Ivusic, Creator at “Chocolate and Chi”
Tai Chi for Veterans Certified Instructor and VA**

HOW TO CONTACT YOUR COUNTY ELECTED OFFICIALS



**County Executive
Marc Elrich**

The **County Executive** can be reached at:

Executive Office Building
101 Monroe Street, 2nd Floor
Rockville, MD 20850
240-777-0311 (V)
240-773-3556 (TTY)

CountyExecutiveIQ@montgomerycountymd.gov



Montgomery County Council

The **County Council** can be reached at:

Stella B. Werner Council Office Building
100 Maryland Avenue
Rockville, MD 20850
240-777-7900 (V)
240-777-7914 (TTY)
240-777-7888 (FAX)

County.Council@montgomerycountymd.gov

*Standing: Hans Riemer, Gabe Alborno, Craig Rice, Andrew Friedson, and Tom Hucker.
Seated, left to right: Will Jawando, Sidney Katz, Nancy Navarro and Evan Glass.*

**Marc Elrich, County Executive
Dr. Raymond Crowel, Director
Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services
Commission on Veterans Affairs
401 Hungerford Drive, 4th floor
Rockville, Maryland 20850
240-777-1246 (V) or via MD Relay 711**

**Language translation and alternative formats of this report are available upon request.
For additional information on the Commission, please call the telephone numbers or write to the
address listed above or e-mail via the contact information listed below.**

*Montgomery County does not discriminate on the basis of disability in
employment or in the admission or access to its programs or services.*

2019 - 2020 Annual Report Prepared By:

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