

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND COMMISSION ON VETERANS AFFAIRS ANNUAL REPORT 2018

“Advocating for Veterans & Their Families”



Daniel J. Bullis, *Chairman*
Randy Stone, *Vice-Chairman*
Isiah Leggett, *County Executive*



MEMBERSHIP LIST 2017 - 2018

VETERANS REPRESENTATIVES

Henry Bockman, Veteran
 Daniel Bullis, Disabled American Veterans
 James Campbell, Military Officers Association of America
 Ron Drach, Veteran
 Bob Koffman, Veteran
 Cynthia Macri, Veteran
 Wayne Miller, Disabled American Veterans
 Randy Stone, American Legion

GENERAL PUBLIC MEMBERS

Josephine Bahn
 Dan Bolling
 Denys Symonette
 Susan Webman

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

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

NON-VOTING CONGRESSIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

Austin Morris, Office of Senator Chris Van Hollen

STAFF

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

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LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL



COMMISSION ON VETERANS AFFAIRS

November, 2018

Via Letter of Transmittal Electronically to:

The Honorable Isiah Leggett, Montgomery County Executive

The Honorable Hans Riemer, President, Montgomery County Council

Uma S. Ahluwalia, Director, Montgomery County 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 so this marks 10th year anniversary of advising the County on Veteran related issues. The Commission was established We continue to advise and consult with you on issues of concern to the estimated over 42,000 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.

The Commission is extremely proud to have been granted authorization to proceed with the plans and action to establish a memorial honoring the 130 Montgomery County citizens who were killed while serving in Vietnam War. This Memorial was dedicated on May 21, 2018 with over 400 people in attendance including many family members of those who gave their lives in service to our country.

Since 2011, the Commission had been advocating along with Senator Chris Van Hollen's and Senator Ben Cardin's office to have the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) open a Community-Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC) in the County. The County's CBOC had its ribbon cutting ceremony on September 7, 2018 and we are pleased and proud to see that we are now home to a first class primary health care clinic that serves Veterans. It is located at 15810 Gaither Drive, Gaithersburg, MD.

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. We have established a close relationship with Serving Together which is a resource and referral source for Veterans and their families. The Office of Human Resource's merit hiring initiatives has led to as of June, 2018 the County's hiring of 220 Veterans, including 16 who have a disability.

We are pleased with the County's efforts to end homelessness amongst Veterans and to assist in obtaining permanent housing with 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 working to increase outreach to the general Veteran population regarding programs, services and enrollment in VA Health Benefits.

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 Uma Ahluwalia for her 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 outstanding 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,

Handwritten signature of Daniel J. Bullis in black ink.

Daniel J. Bullis, Chairman



Handwritten signature of Randy Stone in black ink.

Randy Stone, Vice-Chairman

NEW VA COMMUNITY-BASED OUTPATIENT CLINIC IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MD



VA Press Release - Monday, September 17, 2018

Left to right - County Executive Ike Leggett, Senator Ben Cardin, Dr. Raymond Chung, Tanya Curry, RN, Dr. Charles Faselis, Dr. Carolyn Clancy, Dr. Robin Peck, Senator Van Hollen and Gaithersburg Councilmember Mike Sesma

Veterans in and around Montgomery County, Maryland county now have a closer-to-home option for their health care. The new Montgomery County Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC), located on 15810 Gaither Drive in Gaithersburg, Maryland, provides Veterans with primary care, women's health, mental health and social work services, as well as nutrition counseling, pharmacy consultations, audiology device fittings and specialty care via clinical telehealth technology. VA community partners will also be on-site to offer access to community resources.

Vietnam Veteran Wayne Miller who serves as the Silver Spring Vet Center Director attended last week's ribbon cutting and is very happy to see the new clinic near his home. "It's beautiful and I drove straight here in like 12 minutes. I was like, 'No way. Let me go home and make sure I woke up this morning.'"

Mr. Miller is not the only one excited about the new CBOC. According to the Washington DC Veterans Affairs Medical Center's Acting Medical Center Director, Dr. Charles Faselis, the new Montgomery County CBOC is a welcome addition to the DC VA Medical Center's care system. The medical center currently operates community clinics in Southeast D.C.; Ft. Belvoir, VA; Charlotte Hall and Camp Springs, Maryland; as well as the VA Community Resource and Referral Center in Northeast D.C.

Renovations of the 11,600-square foot space began in September 2016 and represents years of planning and community partnership. The CBOC is designed to Leadership in Engineering and Environmental Design (LEED) certification and energy conservation specifications. It is also the first VA CBOC to install DIRTT movable wall partitions, made of recycled and recyclable content, that are easily repositioned without creating construction dust or material waste.

The Montgomery County Department of Transportation (DOT) under Al Roshdieh added Ride On Bus service to the CBOC. In addition, DOT provided multiple street signage to the location.

The new CBOC location offers free, ample parking. Conveniently located to the Shady Grove Metro Station via Ride On Bus #63 and #63X. Route #63X. Provides additional service between Gaither Road and 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.

Veterans who live in the Montgomery County area can schedule an appointment at the new clinic by calling the medical center's Patient Service Center, 202-745-8000, option 2, Monday - Friday, 7:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

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 HealtheVet

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.

HOW TO ENROLL IN VA HEALTHCARE

There are 42,000 Veterans living in the County and only an estimated 8,000 are enrolled in the VA Healthcare system. Given that the County will be having its first Community Based Outpatient Clinic in early 2018, 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 effective July 5, 2016.

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.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY DEDICATES VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL



For Immediate Release: Monday, May 21, 2018

We want to give special thanks and recognition to the Department of General Services (DGS) under David Dise for the design and installation of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. Randall Hawkins, DGS, was the architect of this beautiful wall. Stephen Kirk, DGS, was the supervisor of the project.

Montgomery County Executive Ike Leggett unveiled the Montgomery County Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall at Memorial Plaza in Rockville today.

The Memorial includes the names of [130 service members](#) from Montgomery County who lost their lives or were reported missing in action in Vietnam, during the Vietnam War. There are four Montgomery County residents who remain missing.

Dozens of Vietnam War veterans attended the dedication ceremony, including Everett Alvarez, who was held as a prisoner of war for 8 1/2 years as a prisoner of war.

During the dedication ceremony, Leggett unveiled a Vietnam Era Honor & Gratitude plaque to pay tribute to all the Montgomery County veterans who served our country during 1955-1975.

In 1969, Leggett served as a captain for the U.S. Army in the Vietnam War.

“With the dedication of the Montgomery County Vietnam Veterans Memorial, we give homage to the service and sacrifice of these heroes,” said Leggett. “We acknowledge the 130 service members whose names are engraved on this wall with honor and gratitude. We will ensure they will not be forgotten.”

Also providing remarks and laying a wreath, Hung (Tony) Manh Bui, a Signal Corps Officer and re-education camp survivor. The ceremony concluded with the reading of all 130 inscribed names by three Vietnam veterans (Bill Gray, Jane McCarthy, and Wayne Miller) and U.S. Senator Chris Van Hollen.

The [Commission on Veterans Affairs](#) was formed by Leggett more than nine years ago. The Montgomery County Vietnam Veterans Memorial Planning Committee was formed by the Commission to find a suitable site for the Memorial Wall. Planning committee members include Dan Bullis, Stephen Campenella, Ron Drach, Bill Gray, Bob Koffman, Betsy Luecking (Department of Health and Human Services staff), Jane McCarthy, Wayne Miller, Michael Subin (County Executive Office staff), and Michael Walsh.

“One of the Commission’s first charges was to establish a memorial dedicated to those killed in action and still missing in action,” said Subin. “For many of us, this will be the last chance we have to honor the memories of our fallen brothers and sisters who died in service to their country in Vietnam. And, for many of us, this will be the last chance we have to let them know that for as long as we live, they will live in our hearts and minds.”

Walsh, a member of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Planning Committee, also noted the importance of honoring these fallen heroes.

“It is said that as long as someone speaks your name, you are never truly gone and these names, etched here, will forever be in the minds, in the hearts and on the lips of all those gathered here, and generations yet to come,” Walsh said. “Everyone here has some connection to the names on this Wall, a family member, a loved one, a buddy, a classmate and I hope this memorial serves to grant them some peace and closure, and to these listed the honor and gratitude they so richly deserve.”

For more information about the 130 service members whose names are etched on the Memorial Wall, visit the Commission on Veterans Affairs [website](#). For more photos of the dedication ceremony, visit Montgomery County’s [Flickr page](#). To view a recording of the event, click [here](#) (ceremony starts at minute 17:40).

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 re-named 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

PHOTOS - VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL DEDICATION



Rolling Thunder



Stephen Kirk, Retired Master Sergeant and County Employee who Supervised the Project



County Executive Isiah Leggett shakes the hand of a Vietnam Veteran



Wayne Miller, Vietnam Veteran and Montgomery County Commissioner on Veterans Affairs sings the National Anthem

PHOTOS - VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL DEDICATION



Mike Subin, Special Assistant, Vietnam Veteran, and Commissioner, Montgomery County Commission on Veterans Affairs delivers remarks



Dan Bullis, Chair, Montgomery County Commission on Veterans Affairs delivers remarks



Vietnam Veterans Bill Bennett and Roland Kaufman, Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 641



Vietnamese American Senior Association

PHOTOS - VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL DEDICATION



*Everett Alvarez, CDR, USN (Ret.) Prisoner of War:
August 1964 - February 1973, Vietnam Veteran*



*Hung (Tony) Manh Bui, Signal Corps Officer,
Reduction Camp Survivor
Former Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN)
Veteran, August 1968 - April 1975*



*Arthur Holmes, MG, USA (Ret.), Vietnam Veteran,
January - July 1971*



*County Executive Isiah Leggett, CAPT, USA,
Vietnam Veteran, January - December 1969*

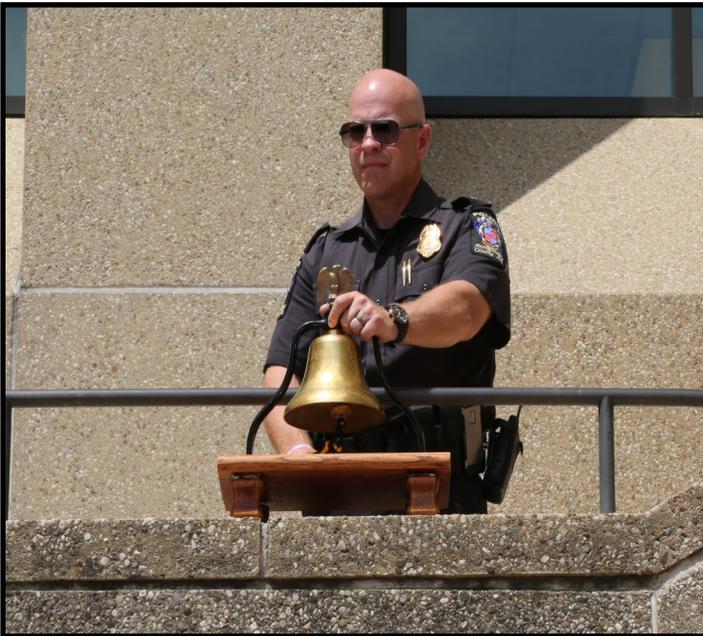
PHOTOS - VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL DEDICATION



Betsy Luecking, Community Outreach Manager, Commission on Veterans Affairs receives flowers from Mike Subin and Lori Lee-Savage



James Carter, SP5, USA, Vietnam Veteran, November 1967 - March 1968 Honor and Remember Wreath



Montgomery County Police Officer rings a bell after every fallen heroes name has been read.



Vietnam Veteran salutes

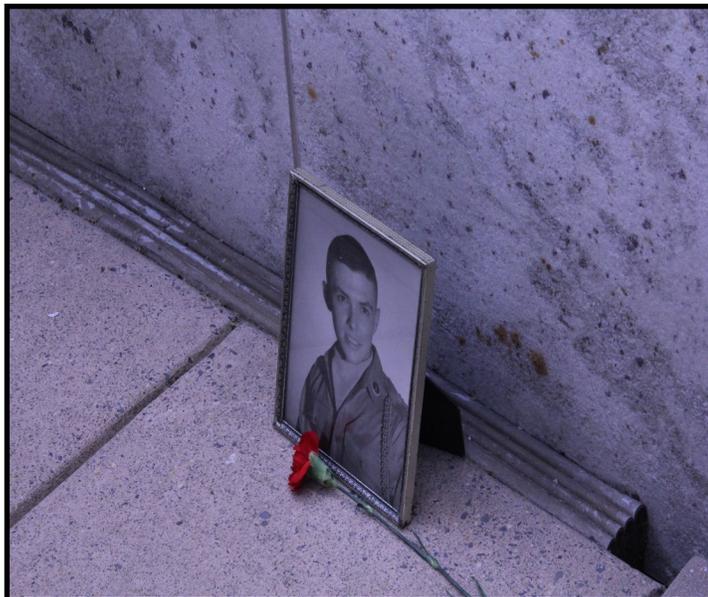
PHOTOS - VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL DEDICATION



The Montgomery County Print Shop designed a banner to cover the wall and staff planted red, yellow and green flowers to match the color scheme of the Vietnam campaign ribbon.



TAPS plays after the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall is unveiled.



A photo of Army SP4 Terry Wintermoyer, who was killed in action in Vietnam, is left at the Vietnam Memorial.



Plaque on the Vietnam Veteran Memorial

RILEY'S LOCK SUPPORT LETTER



Commission on Veterans Affairs
August 2, 2018

Mr. Mike Riley, Director
M-NCPPC Montgomery Parks
Dear Mr. Riley,

via Electronic Facsimile

On behalf of the Commission on Veterans Affairs, I am writing to you in strong support of the installation of an accessible boat launch at Riley's Lock along the Potomac River in Poolesville. We were pleased to learn that your agency was proceeding with this effort.

This park is very heavily used by members of the community from spring through fall including motorized and non-motorized boaters, people with disabilities, military veterans and their families including many from Walter Reed sponsored by Team River Runner. Team River Runner is a national volunteer organization supporting military veterans on kayaking adventures. www.teamriverrunner.org

The proposed project in its entirety focuses on providing a safer, accessible, and inclusive experience for all users. Many conflicts are inherent between motorized boaters entering and exiting the water on the existing ramp. A second launch is needed for canoeists and kayakers. Currently, boaters who have a disability must be physically carried into boats in the water from the streambank. Certainly, this isn't safe for volunteer or kayaker nor does it allow independent use of the water.

It is our understanding that the proposed project will consist of two primary phases: 1.) safety and accessibility improvements to the existing boat ramp to allow motorized boaters to enter and exit Seneca Creek; and 2.) provide an accessible floating launch, drop off area, as well as ADA compliant parking, walkways, and picnic area to allow for use by canoeists and kayakers regardless of a disability.

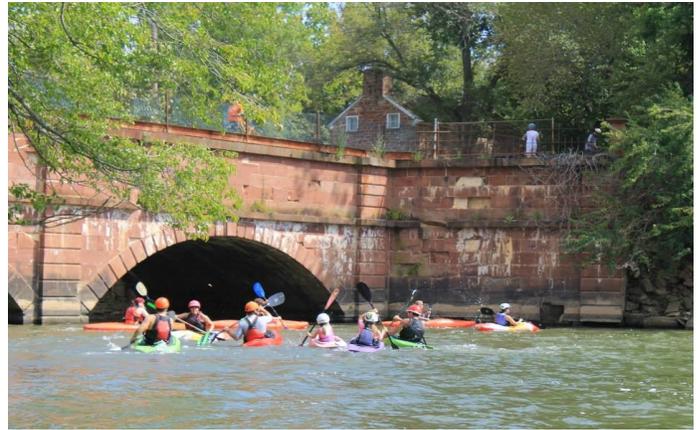
We understand that Riley's Lock Road is a Rustic Road and provides access to National Park Service property along the C&O Canal. The proposed improvements do not, in our opinion, impact the character or use of the road and may in fact reduce the number of vehicles, trailers, etc. which frequently drop off or park along the road and its shoulders by reducing queuing and vehicular conflicts.

Please let us know if the Commission can be of any further assistance. We stand in strong support of this effort that will greatly benefit our wounded Veterans as well as the entire community. Thank you for your agency's efforts on behalf of our Veterans.

Sincerely,

Daniel J. Bullis
Chair

FUNDING FOR ACCESSIBLE LAUNCH AT RILEY'S LOCK



The Commission on Veterans Affairs had a presentation by Joe Mornini, Executive Director of Team River Runner in June, 2016 where he discussed the accessibility challenges of kayaking with patients from Walter Reed at Riley's Lock on the Potomac River in Poolesville. Team River Runner (www.teamriverrunner.org) has a kayaking program with Walter Reed Sunday afternoons, May – November. Kayakers are accessing the river where the power boats are launched and this presents safety issues. That same month, the Commission on People with Disabilities had a presentation from Bob Green, ADA Compliance Manager for Montgomery Parks. The Commission on People with Disabilities advises the County on priorities for funding as a result of the U.S. Department of Justice Project Civic Access Settlement Agreement. Betsy Luecking arranged a meeting with Joe Mornini and Bob Green to see if some accessibility improvements could be done at the launch area as the land where the launch is on Montgomery Parks owns. Bob brought in engineers and architects and a plan was made. 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. A public hearing was held by the County Council on October 30, 2018. Matt Markoff of Calleva (www.calleva.org) and Joe Mornini of Team River Runner testified at the hearing. Both Calleva and Team River Runner are thrilled to have these needed modifications so they can work with the kayakers in a way that benefits all. There was County Council worksession on November 13, 2018 where the Council did approve the project. If all permits are approved, most likely in the Spring of 2019 construction will begin for two accessible launch areas that can be used by the public in gaining access to the beautiful Potomac River. There will also be ADA improvements in the parking lot, drop off area, pathways and accessible port-o-potty for this area. The accessible boat launches will be available to the public.



TEAM RIVER RUNNER
HELPING OUR WOUNDED VETERANS



Calleva, Team River Runner and Elks Lodge #15 come together to offer a unique opportunity for physically disabled children to paddle along side our Wounded Warriors.



COUNTY DEDICATES “THE BUFFALO SOLDIERS GREAT HALL” AT THE SILVER SPRING CIVIC BUILDING



For Immediate Release: Tuesday, February 27, 2018

The Great Hall at the Silver Spring Civic Building at One Veterans Plaza was officially renamed The Buffalo Soldiers Great Hall at a ceremony held Tuesday, February 27, 2018.

“It is an honor to dedicate this Great Hall at the Silver Spring Civic Building after the Buffalo Soldiers as we pay tribute to their important contributions to our nation and recognize the difficulties they faced in service and when they returned home,” said Montgomery County Executive Ike Leggett.

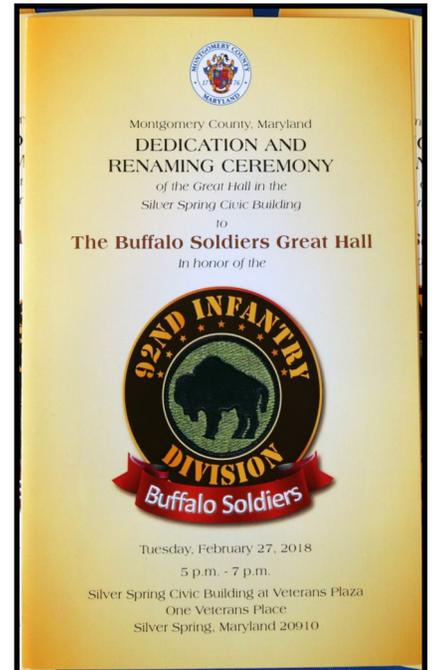
Leggett was joined at the ceremony by other local leaders, including Maryland State Senator William C. Smith Jr., Montgomery County Council President Hans Riemer, County officials and community representatives.

“Despite enduring discrimination and injustice, Buffalo Soldiers served our nation with an incomparable level of bravery and helped establish a path of military service for the next generation of African Americans,” said Riemer. “We hope all who enter this Great Hall will honor and remember this exceptional legacy.”

The Buffalo Soldiers Great Hall was dedicated in honor of the heroic courage and sacrifice of the 92nd Infantry Buffalo Soldiers, a segregated unit of African Americans, during World War II.

James Harden Daugherty, a longtime Silver Spring resident and Buffalo Soldier who passed away in 2015, was also recognized at the dedication ceremony.

Daugherty served in the Army’s 92nd Infantry Division and when he returned home wrote a book about his experiences titled, “The Buffalo Saga.” Daugherty’s book and other memorabilia are now on display at the Silver Spring Civic Building.



LEGGETT HONORED AT COUNTY'S BLACK HISTORY MONTH CELEBRATION

Montgomery County Executive Isiah Leggett was honored at the County's Black History Celebration at the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre in Rockville on February 8, 2018. The theme for this year's celebration was "African Americans in Times of War." The theme commemorates the centennial of the end of the First World War in 1918, and explores the complex meanings and implications of this international struggle and its aftermath. Leggett was a captain in the Army during the Vietnam War where he earned the Bronze Star Medal and the Vietnam Service and Vietnam Campaign Medals.

On behalf of the Commission on Veterans Affairs, Daniel Bullis, Chair, presented County Executive Leggett with an Army plaque. The plaque included the following inscription:

Isiah (Ike) Leggett, County Executive
Captain, US Army
1967 - 1971
2018 Black History Celebration
African Americans in Times of War

With our deepest admiration, respect and gratitude for your unyielding advocacy
for our Veterans and their families
Presented on behalf of County Veterans
Daniel Bullis, Chair
Commission on Veterans Affairs
February 8, 2018



Dan Bullis, Chairman, Commission on Veterans Affairs,
and County Executive Isiah Leggett



Former Commissioner Roland Kauffman, County Executive
Isiah Leggett, and former Commission Chair Bill Gray

COMMISSION TRANSITION PLAN FOR ELECTED OFFICIALS

Name of BCC: COMMISSION ON VETERANS AFFAIRS

Clear statement of the BCC's purpose and charge. In what ways does the BCC bring value to the County?

The Commission on Veterans Affairs was established by County legislation in 2008 at the request of County Executive Isiah Leggett with the goal of the Commission to provide advice to the Executive and Council on the status of programs and services related to the needs of Veterans and their families. Veterans have made an important contribution to the community by their service in the Armed and Commissioned Uniform Services, and Montgomery County is committed to showing its commitment and support to all Veterans and their families. The Commission duties include:

1. research, assemble, analyze and disseminate information and educational materials relating to activities and programs that will assist in meeting the needs of Veterans and their families
2. institute and conduct educational and other programs, meetings and conferences to promote the rights and opportunities for Veterans,
3. advise the County Executive and the Council on the status of programs and services in the State and County related to the needs of Veterans and their families, and
4. assist in planning appropriate public acknowledgement of the contributions made by Veterans and assist in planning commemoration activities recognizing the contributions made by Veterans.

Number and types of members. Also, describe the qualities needed in members and from Department Leadership:

The Commission on Veterans Affairs has 16 voting members (8 Veterans, 4 public, 4 ex-officio and 1 Congressional rep) appointed by the County Executive and confirmed by the County Council.

HHS Department leadership provides staff support to CVA. Department Managers and staff share their expertise and display a willingness to assist CVA in any of our activities, by their own initiative, and/or, as requested. HHS also provides administrative support.

Key issues (please use bullets or a short 2-3 sentence paragraph):

Each year, CPWD selects several issues that we consider our priorities for that year. In general, the priorities fall within these key areas:

- Primary Health Care
- Mental Health Care
- Dedicated Veteran Docket in Court System
- Accessible Housing
- Employment
- Health and Social Services
- Transportation and Mobility
- Accessible Recreation

COMMISSION TRANSITION PLAN FOR ELECTED OFFICIALS CONT.

Name of BCC: COMMISSION ON VETERANS AFFAIRS

Description of current relationship with county government and County Council; relationship with the State, if applicable. Please also note where improvements are recommended, i.e. what would an optimal relationship look like? Is contact with these CE or Council members or State Delegation frequent enough?

CVA enjoys a positive and productive relationship with the County Executive and Departments, County Council, and State Delegation. Examples of our interactions with these offices include:

County Executive and Departments:

- County Executive has been an invited speaker at CVA meetings/Public Recognition Events such as dedication of Vietnam Memorial.
- Department Directors and Managers regularly participate in CVA meetings.
- CVA is often invited to participate in relevant County task forces and other activities including planning of recognition events

Potential Improvements:

- Meet with the County Executive one-on-one at least annually.
- Meet with selected Department Directors one-on-one, as needed.
- Encourage more Department Directors to appoint a liaison to CVA monthly meetings.

County Advocacy:

- CVA comments on budget priorities and bills through letters, written testimony, and oral testimony at hearings.
- CVA members meet one-on-one w/Councilmembers on budget priorities and on other matters pending before a Council committee.
- Councilmembers have been invited speakers at CVA meetings/Public Forums.

Potential Improvements:

- Meet more frequently w/individual Councilmembers.
- More frequent participation of Councilmembers at CVA meetings/Public Forums.
- More frequent interactions with Council Committees' senior legislative assistants.

State Advocacy:

- CPWD if approved by intergovernmental relations on proposed legislation within our priorities through letters, written testimony, and oral testimony at hearings.

Potential Improvements:

- Have more frequent interactions with selected MC State Delegates on specific topics/pending legislation and on matters of CVA interest.
- Seek opportunities for specific delegates to be invited to speak at CVA meetings/Public Forums regarding Veterans issues

Develop a plan to build relationships with newly elected officials:

CVA will be sharing its Annual report with newly elected officials and will be offering to meeting one on one with them. This will provide an opportunity to meet them personally, build a relationship, introduce the key topics, provide additional details, and, to answer any questions.

FY20 POLICY PRIORITIES

Commission on Veterans Affairs



Meeting with the HHS Committee

FY 20 Policy Priorities

October 22, 2018

Dan Bullis, Chair

The Commission on Veterans Affairs is pleased with the progress of the Inter-Agency Commission on Homelessness in having the County reach zero functional homelessness for Veterans. It is our recommendation that the County continue to fund this program that assists Veterans regardless of discharge status to become housed and work with the Veterans on assessing needed resources and attaining any benefits they are eligible from the VA. It is our recommendation that any Veteran regardless of discharge status apply for VA benefits. The MD Department of Veterans Affairs has a designated Veterans Benefits Specialist for Montgomery County and can assist in that process.

We recently became aware of the Elks Club receiving grants to assist Veterans become housed. They have informed us that there are some Veterans that have difficulty obtaining mattresses and beds. We ask the County to assist those non-profits who also serve Veterans to coordinate any needed resources for Veterans. The Commission will continue to reach out to non-profits who serve Veterans and assist them to connect with any County services that may be of benefit to those they are working with.

The Commission is aware that many of the 42,000 Veterans living in the County are not aware of the Commission or of the benefits and services they may be eligible for from the VA, We are continually working on outreach programs such as the County TV show Operation Homefront that Mike Subin hosts. As you are aware the Commission has worked since 2011 to get the DC VA Medical Center to establish the recently opened Community Based Outpatient Clinic in Gaithersburg. It is a beautiful facility and hope you will make a visit. We ask that the County help us in our public outreach campaign to get the word out to Veterans and their families of the programs and services that may benefit them.



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 1 Sept 2018):

Air Force Sergeants Association; American Military Society (AMS); Commissioned Officers Association of the USPHS; Disabled American Veterans (DAV); 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); Military Order of the World Wars (MOWW); National Association for Black Veterans (NABVETS); NOAA Commissioned Officer Corps; The Retired Enlisted Association (TREA); Veterans of Foreign Wars Maryland (VFW).

Currently Serving

- Encourage increased participation by Maryland employers and residents in the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) program. Maryland can visibly demonstrate its support for the Guard and Reserve by ensuring the Maryland ESGR Committee is fully staffed with active participants, so that the vital mission of the ESGR is fulfilled within the State.
- Support interstate reciprocity of licensing and certification requirements in all occupations for uniformed service spouses, and those transitioning from the uniformed services to the civilian sector.

Retiree Benefits

- Work towards full exemption of Uniformed Services retirement income from Maryland income tax.

Surviving Spouses and Family Members

- Insure a process exists so that Surviving Spouses and surviving family members can become aware of and access all Maryland benefits due to them as a result of their loss.

Health Care

- Advocate for establishment of a second State Veterans Home to be operated by the Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs, in a different geographical location from Charlotte Hall.
- Educate family members of elderly, medically fragile veterans to assist them in application for health care benefits and nursing home placement for the eligible veteran.

Suicide Prevention

- Encourage the Maryland Department of Health to undertake an educational program to improve veterans groups' ability to identify and serve veterans suffering a crisis, actions that should be taken to prevent suicide, and how veterans and their family members can obtain mental health care.
- Support development of a comprehensive action plan for veteran suicide prevention, to include increased access to and availability of professional veteran health services to prevent veteran suicide.

COUNTY VETERAN TIMELINE 2008 - 2018

Montgomery County's Commission on Veterans Affairs supports various County initiatives and organizations that support Veterans and their families during their transition to the civilian workforce and beyond. Its accomplishments include:

1. County Executive Isiah Leggett had Bill 23-08, Commission on Veterans Affairs - Establishment introduced before the County Council on June 10, 2008 and it was enacted July 22, 2008. He signed it into law to be effective November 3, 2008. The first Commission meeting took place on March 16, 2009.
2. 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 to 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 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.
3. The County Council passing legislation in 2009 for the County's hiring preference for people with disabilities and Veterans including disabled Veterans. As of November, 2017 the County has hired 220 Veterans including 14 disabled Veterans.
4. The Warrior Canine Connection program of Walter Reed (<http://warriorcanineconnection.org/>) made a presentation to the Commission and at the time they were located in Brookville, but had been told it needed to relocate. Mike Subin assisted the program in accessing DNR property and is now located at 14934 Schaeffer Road, Germantown, MD.
5. The Veterans Education Partnership, which was established by the work of the Commission, and working to increase outreach to the general veteran population regarding programs and services including supporting veterans at the Montgomery College Combat to College Program, Universities at Shady Grove Veterans Services and the University of Maryland Terp Vets.
6. The Commission continues its fight against Veteran homelessness through its support of Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) vouchers and the Zero 16 Campaign to End Veteran Homelessness. As part of the Montgomery County's Fiscal Year 2016 budget, the County Council approved an appropriation in the amount of \$500,000 to provide non-VASH vouchers for housing and supportive services to 10 Veterans who are homeless in the County and not eligible due to discharge status for VA vouchers. The funding is reoccurring every year. The County has received 93 VASH vouchers between the years of 2008-2016, each worth on an average \$1,069 per month or \$12,828 per year or \$1.19M per year in housing subsidies.
7. The Commission supports the important work of the Silver Spring Vet Center. Operated by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Vet Centers provide free readjustment counseling to combat veterans and their families to help with the transition from military to civilian life. Counseling can help with issues such as employment assessment, PTSD, sexual trauma, substance abuse, and screening and referral for medical issues such as traumatic brain injuries and depression. The Silver Spring Vet Center's telephone number is 301-589-1073 and is located at 2900 Linden Lane, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Mike Subin of the Commission worked with the Department of Transportation and CSX to make public transportation and the railroad crossing accessible.

COUNTY VETERAN TIMELINE 2008 - 2018 CONTINUED

8. The Commission supports the work of Serving Together, which is a collection of local community-based resources for veterans, service members and their families. Its goal is to provide clear guidance on how to access the care and support veterans need. This includes support during transition to the civilian world and job placement. (www.servingtogetherproject.org)
9. The County's Office of Human Resources agreed to partner with the Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs when they launched Operation Hire July 1, 2015. The mission of Operation Hire Maryland is to create an ongoing program which supports employers as they develop or expand upon their Veteran hiring and retention initiatives. Through the collaboration and efforts of Operation Hire participants, a veteran friendly business network will be established to share best practices and proven methods for Veteran recruitment, hiring, on boarding, and retention in the civilian work place.
10. In October, 2015 County Cable Montgomery and the Commission launched a new monthly show called "Homefront" that provides information on topics and services for Veterans and their families living in the County. The 15 minute program is hosted by Mike Subin and airs on Comcast/RCN channel 6 and Verizon channel 30 on Sundays at 6:30 pm and 10:45 pm and on Fridays at 10:30 pm. The show is also available for viewing on demand on the County Cable Montgomery website at www.montgomerycountymd.gov/ccm
11. The Commission continually seeks job placement resources for Veterans and their families. It supports Bob Pelletier and the team at Montgomery Works -Partner of the American Job Center Networks and Tony Cancelosi of Columbia Lighthouse for the Blind for their work on Veteran hiring.
12. In observance of Veterans Day, the new Memorial Plaza located on the Government Complex Center Terrace between the new Courthouse annex and the Executive Office Building in Rockville along Route 28 was officially dedicated and the eternal flame unveiled on November 10, 2014. The ceremony was an opportunity for the County to show its appreciation and support for those people who put their lives on the line, domestically and abroad, to ensure our continued safety. Among those participating was retired Navy CDR Everett Alvarez Jr. of Rockville, who dedicated the POW flag. He was the first U.S pilot to be downed and detained during the Vietnam War and spent over eight years in captivity, making him the second longest held American POW, after U.S. Army Colonel Floyd James Thompson. The plaza is part of the Judicial Center Annex construction project that began in 2011 and involved an addition to, and renovation of, the existing Judicial Center, according to a county news release. The plaza and green spaces were redesigned to invite public use of the space. The area features a water fall, an eternal flame, new trees, benches and a Memorial Walkway to receive the plaques that were relocated from the original Memorial Garden to allow for the construction of the annex.
13. MOAA Transition Support to Veterans in Montgomery County Business and Networking Group (BANG) – The Military Officers Association of America Transition Group for Northern VA and Southern MD is concerned that military service members transitioning back into civilian life are unprepared when seeking employment. The Northern Virginia (NOVA) Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) Business and Networking Group (BANG) was created in 1996. BANG is a monthly program that provides business and networking assistance. Each month an employer is invited to speak about their company and offers assistance as well as accepting resumes. In addition, BANG sends out a weekly e-mail broadcast that provides employment opportunities, Veterans' updates, and job fair announcements. The group is open to non-military job seekers and networkers. The Montgomery County Chapter of the MOAA started BANG in Montgomery County and held its first meeting with students at Montgomery College on November 3, 2015. The Commission endorsed and supports this project of the Montgomery County MOAA of creating BANG in the County.
14. To honor our Veterans, the County, at the suggestion of the Commission, installed a digital TV display in the Rockville Memorial Library and a 55 inch digital display between the entry doors at the Silver Spring Civic Building at Veterans Plaza that show photos and names of those County residents from World War II to the present who were killed in action defending our Nation. The Silver Spring display also provides current announcements of Veteran- related activities. The Commission's staff maintains this display. There is also a display at the Rockville Memorial Library.

COUNTY VETERAN TIMELINE 2008 - 2018 CONTINUED

15. The Honor & Gratitude Salute to Vietnam Veterans was held on October 24, 2015 at the Universities of Shady Grove. Over 200 Vietnam Veterans and a crowd of over 800 attended this event that honored the service of Vietnam Veterans and Vietnam Era veterans. The event has been chosen by the City-County Communications Association (3CMA) as one of the top three special events held by local governments in the U.S. over the past year. We will learn in September if it is awarded first, second or third place. 3CMA is the nation's most prestigious organization of government communications officials.
16. The Commission will continue its satellite meeting program whereby the Commission holds monthly meetings at different locations throughout the County. The Commission's November 2015 meeting was held at Leisure World, which will give Leisure World Veterans and their families an opportunity to directly address the Commission and learn more about County and state support.
17. In June, 2016 Joe Mornini, Executive Director, Team River Runner made a presentation on this Walter Reed kayaking program which takes place Sunday afternoons from May through November at Riley's Lock on the Potomac River. He explained how the boat launch area is not accessible and they often use the power boat launch which is not as safe as it should be. Betsy Luecking was able to put them in contact with Bob Green, ADA Compliance Manager for Montgomery Parks as they own some of that land. Drawings have been completed and funding has been applied for to the State. The State approved the funding and the final work session of the County Council will be November 113, 2018. After that, construction will begin.
18. The 10th Veterans Tribute Concert will be held on November 13, 2018 at the Silver Spring Civic Building at Veterans Plaza. Ma. General Arthur Holmes (Ret.) will be the featured speaker and they honored the military service of County Veterans and their families, with special recognition of our Buffalo Soldiers
19. The Commission in its outreach to the County's 44,000 Veterans worked with Finance and the Public Information Office to design a property tax insert that was mailed out in June, 2016 to 42,000 households.
20. Through advocacy with the Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs a Veterans Benefits Specialist was hired by the State to serve Montgomery County Veterans. This person works full time and is primarily housed at Montgomery College.
21. Though the advocacy of the Commission, Senator Chris Van Hollen and Senator Ben Cardin, the DCVA Medical Center is established a Veteran Affairs Community Based Outpatient Clinic which is located at 15810 Gaither Road, Gaithersburg, MD. The lease was awarded on April 11, 2016. The DCVA Medical Center have leased 11,600 square feet making it one of the largest in the State. The goal and hope is to co-locate other programs that serve Veterans and their families. There is 57,000 additional square feet that could be leased by other non-profits and government agencies. The Golden Hammer event took place September 19, 2016 at the location. The ribbon cutting took place on September 7, 2018 and now the County has a first class primary health care clinic for our Veterans.
22. Montgomery County Executive Ike Leggett unveiled the Montgomery County Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall at Memorial Plaza in Rockville on May 21, 2018. The Memorial includes the names of 130 service members from Montgomery County who lost their lives or were reported missing in action in Vietnam, during the Vietnam War. There are four Montgomery County residents who remain missing. Dozens of Vietnam War veterans attended the dedication ceremony, including Everett Alvarez, one of the longest-held prisoners of war, who provided remarks. During the dedication ceremony, Leggett unveiled a Vietnam Era Honor & Gratitude plaque to pay tribute to all the Montgomery County veterans who served our country during 1955-1975. In 1969, Leggett served as a captain for the U.S. Army in the Vietnam War. "With the dedication of the Montgomery County Vietnam Veterans Memorial, we give homage to the service and sacrifice of these heroes," said Leggett. "We acknowledge the 130 service members whose names are engraved on this wall with honor and gratitude. We will ensure they will not be forgotten." Also providing remarks and laying a wreath, Hung (Tony) Manh Bui, a Signal Corps Officer and re-education camp survivor. The ceremony concluded with the reading of all 130 inscribed names by three Vietnam veterans (Bill Gray, Jane McCarthy, and Wayne Miller) and U.S. Senator Chris Van Hollen. The Commission on Veterans Affairs was formed by Leggett more than nine years ago. The Montgomery County Vietnam Veterans Memorial Planning Committee was formed by the

COUNTY VETERAN TIMELINE 2008 - 2018 CONTINUED

23. The Commission hosted an event with Mike Love, founder of the Beach Boys at the American Legion for Veterans on May 31, 2016. Max Cleland contacted the Commission to let us know that his friend Mike Love would be in town for the Concert on the Capitol lawn on Memorial Day, 2016. Mike wanted to meet with Veterans to share his experience with Transcendental Meditation (TM). Mike talked about TM and how it has helped him for the past 45 years with stress and wellness. He took the training in India in 1967 and the Beatles were there as well at the time. It was really an interesting evening as Commissioners Bill Gray and Wayne Miller talked about how they have used TM in their life. We had about 50 people and Montgomery Media there.
24. In June, 2017 the Commission wrote a letter to County Executive Ike Leggett to request support in establishing a Vietnam War Memorial in the existing Wheaton Veterans Park. The Commission formed the Montgomery County Vietnam Veterans Memorial Project, which has developed several recommendations for establishing this memorial for your consideration. We owe this recognition not only to our fallen 131 who died during service in Vietnam, but to our County's Vietnam Veterans and their families. It will demonstrate our determined resolve and support for them. Over the next five years, we hope that the County will recognize all County residents who have been killed in action back to World War I and have memorials also located in the Wheaton Veterans Park for the Global War on Terror, Gulf War, Korea, World War II and World War I. It is the hope that it will be dedicated on Memorial Day 2018. On June 30, 2017 the County Executive approved the preliminary plan.
25. The Steven A. Cohen Military Family Clinic opened in September, 2017, at the Easterseals Harry & Jeannette Weinberg Inter-Generational Center. The Cohen Clinic provides high-quality, accessible, and integrated behavioral health care to veterans and their families or caregivers. Their no or low-cost 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 spouses or partners, children, parents, siblings, family caregivers and others. The Cohen Clinic uses evidence-based practices with a holistic approach to improve the quality of life for veterans and their families. Services are provided by trained and credentialed staff. Veterans and their family members are able to receive services individually and as a family unit at the same place with the same treatment team. The Cohen Clinic can also help connect veteran families to community resources and services, as necessary.
- Location: 1420 Spring Street, Suite 300, Silver Spring, MD 20910
- Hours: Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday, 8:00am to 6:00pm; Wednesday, 8:00am to 8:00pm; Friday, 8:00am to 3:00pm; and the 2nd and 4th Saturday of the month, 9:00am to 1:00pm.
26. There has been established a Mental Health Court and the Commission advocated that a Veterans docket be included. The Commission is very interested in providing support/mentoring to incarcerated Veterans and their families. The Commission recommends that the STEER and Sequential Intercept Model be used in the new Mental Health Court, but it can also functional independently, be used to identify Veterans and refer them to needed services. The goal of the Deflection Model project is to deflect low-risk individuals with substance use disorders (SUDs) away from the criminal justice system and directly into community-based treatment. This deflection model presents an evidence-based approach to providing individuals treatment for substance use and will have many benefits not only for the affected individuals, but also for their families and our communities, as well as Montgomery County's overburdened expensive criminal justice system. We are now working on having the key elements of a Veterans Docket be included in the Mental Health Court.
27. Over the years we have had some very interesting presentations that include presentations on Buffalo Soldiers, Jim Knotts, Vietnam Wall Director, Bikers Against Child Abuse, Elspeth Cameron Ritchie, MD, MPH, COL (ret), Chief, Mental Health, Community-Based Outpatient Clinics, and many others you can read up about in our posted annual reports at: www.montgomerycountymd.gov/cva.

ABOUT VA MENTAL HEALTH

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 [Treatment Works for Vets](#). 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 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.

Location and Hours of Operation

2900 Linden Lane, Suite 100
Silver Spring, MD 20910
301-589-1073 (V)

Monday: 8:00 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday: 8:00 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday: 8:00 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Thursday: 8:00 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Friday: 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Second Saturday every month: 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Sunday: Closed

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 -

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)

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 Executive.

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 Executive.

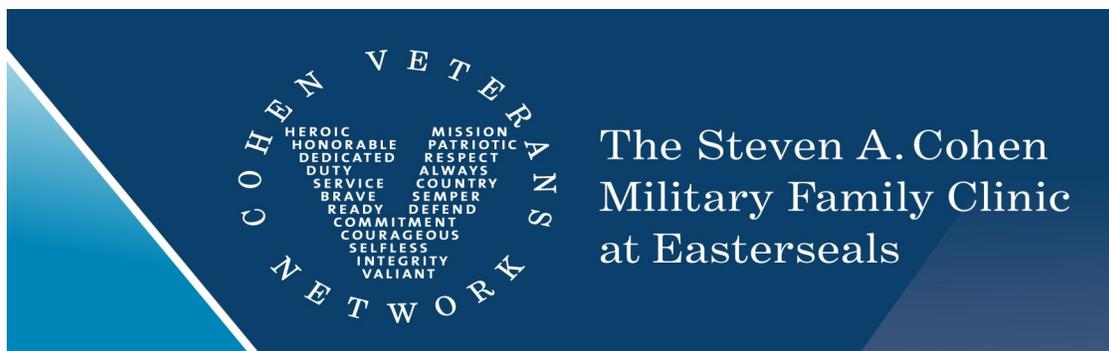
Website: www.warriorcanineconnection.org

E-mail: info@warriorcanineconnection.org

Phone: 301-260-1111 (V)



STEVEN A. COHEN MILITARY FAMILY CLINIC AT EASTERSEALS



The Steven A. Cohen Military Family Clinic opened in September, 2017, at the Easterseals Harry & Jeannette Weinberg Inter-Generational Center. The Cohen Clinic provides high-quality, accessible, and integrated behavioral health care to veterans and their families or caregivers. Their no or low-cost 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 spouses or partners, children, parents, siblings, family caregivers and others.

The Cohen Clinic uses evidence-based practices with a holistic approach to improve the quality of life for veterans and their families. Services are provided by trained and credentialed staff. Veterans and their family members are able to receive services individually and as a family unit at the same place with the same treatment team.

The Cohen Clinic can also help connect veteran families to community resources and services, as necessary.

Location: 1420 Spring Street, Suite 300, Silver Spring, MD 20910

Hours: Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday, 8:00am to 6:00pm; Wednesday, 8:00am to 8:00pm; Friday, 8:00am to 3:00pm; and the 2nd and 4th Saturday of the month, 9:00am to 1:00pm.

What They Do

The highly-skilled clinicians at the Cohen Clinic treat a variety of behavioral health challenges, including:

- 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 connection.

- 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

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

This organization is a recipient of a \$73,000 Community Grant from the County Executive and County Council.

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)

Montgomery College Service Center 240-567-5405 (V)
Nathan Jones, Veterans Benefits Specialist (VBS) 240-567-4361 (FAX)
51 Mannakee Street, Mannakee Building, Room MK251, Rockville, MD 20850
E-mail: nathan.jones@maryland.gov

EFFECTIVE August 2nd, 2018: MDVA is actively recruiting for a full-time VBS for Montgomery County. In the interim, Nathan Jones, VBS, will cover the Montgomery County office on Thursday's from 8am to 4pm and will continue to provide outreach to the Silver Spring Vet Center (2900 Linden Lane, Silver Spring, MD 20910) on the 2nd and 4th Friday of the month from 8am to 4pm. Please note: while walk-ins are accepted at both locations, to ensure you are seen please call ahead to schedule an appointment. Veterans can also contact the Baltimore office at 410-230-4444 x 6450 (V) to make arrangements for assistance until a full-time representative for Montgomery County can be hired.

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 PICCARD - DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL CENTER (VAMC)

1301 Piccard Drive, Room 1005 - Rockville, MD 20850

DCVAMC is providing outreach services to veterans at the County's Crisis Center. DCVAMC 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.

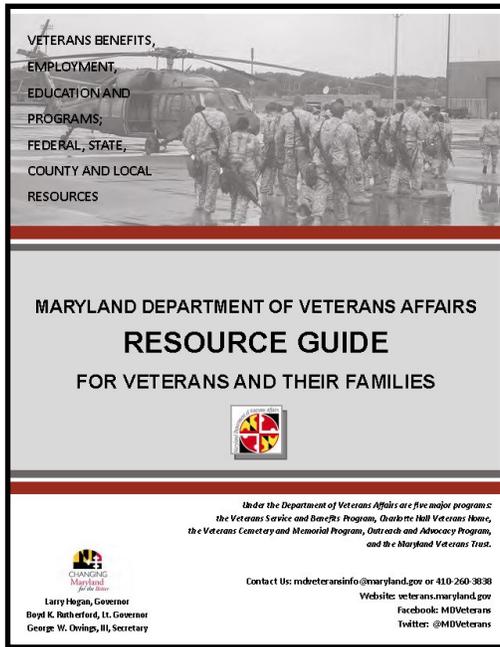
- Fatmata Kamara, VA Outreach Social Worker
E-mail: fatmata.kamara@va.gov, 202-256-9261 (V)
- Aisha Clark, VA HUD VASH Senior Social Worker
E-mail: aisha.clark@va.gov
Office Hours: Wednesday, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- Ken Barnum, VA Outreach Social Worker
E-mail: kenneth.barnum@va.gov
Office Hours: Monday, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

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

Jennifer Watson, Peer Navigator 301-738-7176 (V)
E-mail: peernavigator@servingtogetherproject.org 1-855-738-7176 (Toll Free)
www.servingtogetherproject.org **Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.**

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.

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:

<http://veterans.maryland.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2018/07/7-13-18-Resource-Guide-1.pdf>

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs

Office of the Secretary: 410-260-3838
Service and Benefits Program: 1-800-446-4926 x 6450
Charlotte Hall Veterans Home: 301-884-8171
Cemetery and Memorial Program: 410-923-6981
Outreach and Advocacy Program: 410-260-3842
Maryland Veterans Trust: 410-230-4444

United States Department of Veterans Affairs

Healthcare Eligibility and Enrollment:

Central Maryland/Eastern Shore: 1-800-463-6295 x 7324
Western Maryland: 304-263-0811 x 3758
Southern Maryland/Montgomery/Prince Georges:
202-745-8251

Medical Centers:

Baltimore: 410-605-7000
Perry Point: 410-642-2411
Loch Raven: 410-605-7000
Martinsburg, WVA: 304-263-0811
Washington, DC: 202-745-8000

Hotlines:

The Veterans Crisis Line: 1-800-273-8255, press 1
Call Center for Homeless Veterans: 1-877-424-3838
Call Center for Women Veterans: 1-855-829-6636
Vet Center Combat Call Center: 1-877-WAR-VETS
VA Coaching Into Care: 1-888-823-7458
VA Caregiver Support: 1-855-260-3274
Maryland's Commitment to Veterans: 1-877-770-4801
Maryland Access Point: 1-844-627-5465

Maryland Department of Human Resources:

1-800-332-6347

Maryland Health Connection:

1-855-642-8572

VA Community Resource and Referral Center

Washington, DC: 202-636-7660

Baltimore: 410-637-3246

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:

	August, 2016	June 2017	June, 2018
New employees cumulatively hired	235	277	289
Non-competitive hires	18	23	27
People with disabilities	26	36	37
Veterans with disabilities	9	14	14
Veterans	172	199	206
Not specified	10	3	5

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)



PROJECTED NUMBER OF VETERANS IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MD

The U.S. Census Bureau, 2017 estimates that there are approximately **41,863 veterans living in Montgomery County, Maryland**. According to a 2017 American Community Survey conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau, 7.3% 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				
	2016		2017	
Subject	Veterans	Total Population (18 years and over)	Veterans	Total Population (18 years and over)
Civilian Population 18 years and over	42,811 (5.3%)	795,916	41,863 (5.2%)	809,486
Period of Service	Veterans	% of 42,811	Veterans	% of 41,863
Gulf War II (9/2001 or later) veterans	12,189	28.5%	10,990	26.3%
Gulf War I (8/1990 to 8/2001) veterans	10,562	24.7%	9,849	23.5%
Vietnam era veterans	11,316	26.4%	12,961	31.0%
Korean War veterans	3,189	7.4%	3,398	8.1%
World War II veterans	1,874	4.4%	2,047	4.9%
Not Specific	3,681	8.6%	2,616	6.2%
Gender	Veterans	% of 42,811	Veterans	% of 41,863
Male	36,611	85.5%	35,173	84.0%
Female	6,200	14.5%	6,690	16.0%
Age	Veterans	% of 42,811	Veterans	% of 41,863
18 to 34 years	5,972	14.0%	4,326	10.3%
35 to 54 years	9,977	23.3%	9,661	23.1%
55 to 64 years	7,110	16.6%	7,526	18.0%
65 to 74 years	9,971	23.3%	9,358	22.4%
75 years and older	9,781	22.8%	10,992	26.2%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2016 & 2017

PROJECTED NUMBER OF VETERANS IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MD

Montgomery County, MD Veteran Demographics - By City (2012 - 2016) United States Census QuickFacts only includes data for incorporated places with a population of 5,000 or greater.

Ashton-Sandy Spring	375
Aspen Hill	2,038
Bethesda	2,904
Burtonsville	293
Chevy Chase	665
Clarksburg	609
Damascus	833
Darnestown	247
Four Corners	393
Gaithersburg	2,559

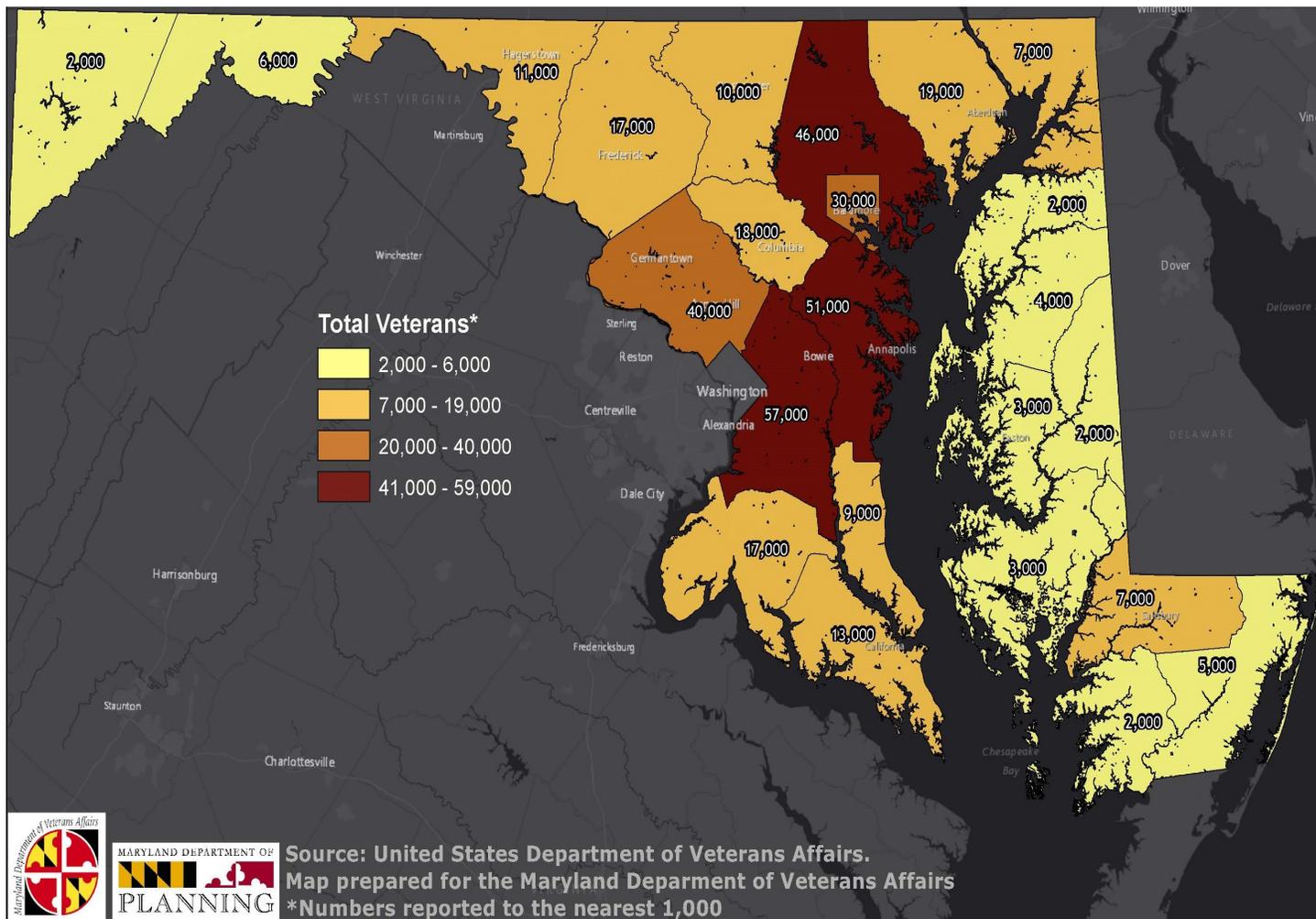
Germantown	2,979
Glenmont	552
Kemp Mill	495
Layhill	238
Leisure World	1,303
Montgomery Village	1,266
North Bethesda	2,218
North Kensington	446
North Potomac	712

Olney	1,704
Poolesville	314
Potomac	2,060
Rockville	2,932
Silver Spring	2,681
South Kensington	541
Takoma Park	516
Travilah	391
Wheaton	1,954

Source: U.S. Census QuickFacts 2012 - 2016

PROJECTED NUMBER OF VETERANS IN MARYLAND - 2018

Project Number of Veterans in Maryland: 380,000



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www.montgomerycountymd.gov/cva



Like us on Facebook! [facebook.com/MCGCVA](https://www.facebook.com/MCGCVA)



Sign up for eSubscribe to receive emails about Veterans information and resources.

www.montgomerycountymd.gov/mcg/esubscribe.html



Sign up for emergency alerts from Alert Montgomery! Alert Montgomery is the official emergency communications service for Montgomery County, MD. During a major crisis, emergency or severe weather event, Montgomery County officials can send event updates, warnings and instructions directly to you on any of your devices. Sign up at <https://alert.montgomerycountymd.gov>.

COMMISSION PRESENTATIONS FOR 2017 - 2018

- November, 2017:** **“Thank A Vet” Social Media Campaign Proposal** - *Josephine Bahn, Commissioner*
- Status of the Community-Based Outpatient Clinic and Vietnam Memorial** - *Mike Subin, Commissioner*
-
- December, 2017:** **Update on the Community-Based Outpatient Clinic** - *Dan Bullis, Chair, Austin Morris of Senator Chris Van Hollen’s Office, and Mike Subin, Commissioner*
- Vietnam War Memorial Update** - *Dan Bullis and Mike Subin*
-
- January, 2018:** **Fisher House Program Overview** - *David Coker, President & CEO, Fisher House Foundation*
- Legislation Briefing** - *Harvey Kaplan, President, Maryland Chapter, Military Officers Association of America (MOAA)*
-
- February, 2018:** **Maryland Veterans Commission Overview** - *Fred Shinbur, Chairperson*
-
- April, 2018:** **Driven to Defend: SAP National Security Services, Inc., SAP N52** - *Laura Carmack, VP, Human Resources SAP National Security Services*
-
- May, 2018:** **Military and Veterans Health Programs of Holy Cross Hospital** - *Gregory Jolissaint, MD, MS CPE, FAAPL, Colonel, US Army, Retired (Soldier for Life), Vice President, Military and Veterans Health Program, Trinity Health (and Holy Cross Health, Maryland), and Norvell V. Coots, MD, MSS, Brigadier General, US Army, Retired, President, Holy Cross Health*
- Internment Camps, US Prisoner of War Camps and How the 442nd Tuskegee Airmen and Other Segregated Units Led the Way for Full Integration of the Military** - *Cynthia Macri, M.D., Capt. MC USN (Ret.), and LTC Al Goshi, USA (Ret.), Army JAG Office, Iraq War Veteran, President of the Japanese American Veterans Association*
-
- June, 2018:** **Overview and Tour of the Steven A. Cohen Military Family Clinic** - *Brenda Campbell, LCWS, Outreach Manager*
- Debriefing of Vietnam Veterans Memorial Dedication** - *Mike Subin, Commissioner*
-
- September, 2018:** **Proclamation for Dan Bullis in Recognition of the Work of the Commission in Establishing the VA Community-Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC)** – *Delegate Jeff Waldstreicher, Maryland House of Delegates*
- Strategic Planning for Upcoming Year** – *Dan Bullis*
-
- October, 2018:** **Update on Programs and Services Associated with Veterans Services** – *Nick Heynen, Veterans Supportive Housing Specialist, and Deborah Taylor, Program Manager, Bethesda Cares*

HOW TO CONTACT YOUR COUNTY ELECTED OFFICIALS



**County Executive
Isiah Leggett**

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)
ocemail@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

*Seated, left to right: Sidney Katz, Craig Rice, Hans Riemer and George Leventhal.
Standing: Marc Elrich, Roger Berliner, Nancy Floreen, Nancy Navarro and Tom Hucker.*

**Isiah Leggett, County Executive
Uma S. Ahluwalia, 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.*

2017 - 2018 Annual Report Prepared By:

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