

COMMISSION ON VETERANS AFFAIRS ANNUAL REPORT 2025



November 17, 2025

Via Letter of Transmittal Electronically to:

The Honorable Marc Elrich, County Executive

The Honorable Kate Stewart, President, County Council

James C. Bridgers, Jr., Ph.D., MBA, 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. 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 County Veterans and their families.

We continue to support coordination and collaboration among federal, state and County agencies, and non-profits that serve Veterans so that our community works together to provide all of the many services and resources possible to Veterans and their families. We work to build an inclusive community and promote social connectiveness for our Veterans and their families. We encourage Veterans and their families to contact ServingTogether as a starting point for any needed services at 301-738-7176 and www.everymind.org/servingtogether/. For benefits and claims assistance, please contact Christina Williams of the MD Department of Veterans Affairs at 301-987-8412. We commend the County for having the goal of functional zero homelessness amongst Veterans in the County. However, at this time, there are 50 homeless Veterans in the County and we will be working to have the County obtain more permanent housing vouchers for our Veterans.

In collaboration with the Commission, Montgomery Parks, part of the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission, constructed and maintains two accessible launches for non-motorized boats at Seneca Landing Special Park. Because the general public and Veterans have benefitted so much from their installation, Parks plans to add accessible launches where they have boat/kayak launches. We thank the Montgomery County Department of Transportation for a Ride on Bus Wrap honoring Operation Green Light and Veterans Day and bus cards for 385 buses with contact information for ServingTogether and the Commission. The Commission's two top priorities for FY'27 include Communication and Outreach Planning to Promote Programs and Services that Benefit Veterans and Their Families and to Recognize the Service of Veterans. This includes working with the District Court to establish a Veterans Treatment Court.

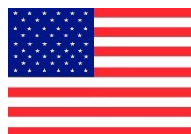
We wish to recognize and give our personal thanks to all Commissioners, the many community members, and the agency staff who participate in our meetings for their commitment and dedication to Veterans and their families. We would like to acknowledge DHHS Director Dr. James Bridgers for his role in meeting 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, Program Specialist II, 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. Please read the [timeline and major accomplishments of the Commission](#) since it was established.

Sincerely,



Michael Wilson, Chair

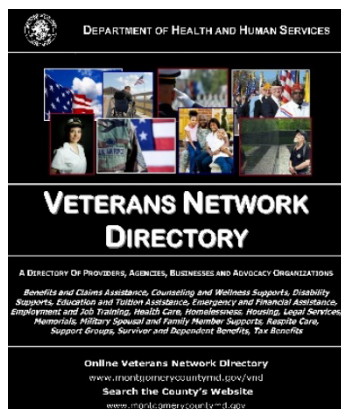


Chris Thomas, Vice-Chair

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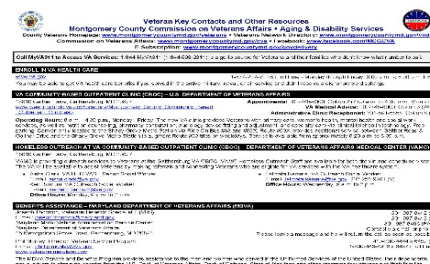
ONLINE VETERANS RESOURCES PROVIDED BY THE COMMISSION



The online **Veterans Network Directory** is a directory of providers, agencies, and advocacy organizations that offer local, state and national resources for Veterans, military service members and their families. Montgomery County does not endorse or assume responsibility for any product, method, service or treatment listed in this resource directory that is not a County program. Visit www.montgomerycountymd.gov/vnd.

Veteran Key Contacts and Other Resources:

Quick resource guide to key programs and resources for veterans and their families.



COMMISSION MEMBERSHIP LIST

Veterans Representatives

Bernard Chesman, Veteran

Drew Garza, Veterans of Foreign Wars

Elwood Gray, Veteran

Miguel Sapp, Veterans of Foreign Wars / American Legion

Scott Schlesinger, Kemp Mill Jewish War Veterans

Christopher Thomas, American Legion / Navy Club

Michael Wilson, Veterans of Foreign Wars

Non-Voting Congressional Representatives

Charlise Richardson, Office of Senator Chris Van Hollen

Congressional Attendees

Joseph Eyong, Office of Congressman Jamie Raskin

General Public Members

Grace Caulfield

Veronica Pei

Ex-Officio Members

Jameelah Johnson, Dept. of Health & Human Services

Joanna L. Starling, Montgomery College

Michael L. Subin, Office of the County Executive

Staff

Betsy Tolbert Luecking, *Community Outreach Manager*

Carly Clem, *Program Specialist II*

COMMISSION PRESENTATIONS FOR 2024 - 2025

Month / Year	Presentation and Presenter (s)
November 2024	Maryland Department of Veterans and Military Families Planning for Efforts to Find Land and Expand its Veteran Home Footprint – <i>Robert Finn, Sr. Advisor to Secretary Woods, Maryland Department of Veterans & Military Families</i> Proposed Veterans Home and Community – <i>Vipin Desai and Scott Wallace, Esq.</i>
December 2024	Process of Renaming the Calvert County Commission for Veterans and Military Families and Challenges/Lessons learned to Consider a Similar Name Change – <i>Dr. Brandon Temple, Chairman Calvert County Commission for Veterans and Military Families</i> "Our Community Salutes" for High School Graduates Enlisting into Military – <i>J. Gregory Jolissaint, MD, J Jolissaint Consulting, LLC, A Service-Disabled, Veteran-Owned Small Business</i>
January 2025	Housing Accessibility Rehabilitation Program (HARP) and Habitat for Humanity Veteran's Programs – <i>Sarah Reddinger, Vice President of Housing & Community Strategies, Habitat for Humanity Metro Maryland</i>
February 2025	Overview of the Dole Act - "Senator Elizabeth Dole 21st Century Veteran Healthcare and Benefits Improvement Act" What happened to Disabled Vets in MD / Brief Update on Veteran Bills in the Maryland General Assembly – <i>Lynn Nash, Communications Director, Maryland Military Coalition, PhD, RN, PHCNS-BC, FAAN</i>
March 2025	Process of Establishing a Veterans Treatment Court – <i>Charley Jay, Chair, Baltimore County Commission on Veterans Affairs, and Justin McNabb, Mentor Coordinator and Data Specialist for the Baltimore City Veterans Treatment Court</i>
April 2025	Platoon 22 Veterans Service Center and Process of Establishing a Veterans Treatment Court in Frederick and Washington Counties – <i>Niki Falzone, Executive Director, Platoon 22</i>
May 2025	Veteran Benefit Services of the Maryland Department of Veterans and Military Families <i>Phil Munley, Director, Veteran Service and Benefits Program</i>
June 2025	Veterans Treatment Court Planning – <i>Commissioner Grace Caulfield, LCPC, LPC (DC & VA), CAC-AD, Director, The Steven A. Cohen Military Family Clinic and Vice President at Easterseals DC/MD/VA</i>
August 2025	Strategic Planning Meeting
September 2025	Veteran Homelessness – <i>John Mendez, Executive Director and former Commissioner, Bethesda Cares</i>
October 2025	Discussion on Homeless Veteran Reintegration Program - <i>Nico Feemster, Partnerships & Outreach Manager for the Homeless Veteran Reintegration Program through EasterSeals</i>

ABOUT THE COMMISSION

HISTORY

The Montgomery County Commission on Veterans Affairs was established by County legislation in 2008 with the goal of the Commission to provide advice to the County Executive and County Council on the status of programs and services related to the needs of Veterans. Veterans have made an important contribution to the community by their service in the Armed and Uniformed Services of this Nation, and Montgomery County is committed to showing its commitment and support for all veterans and their families.

MISSION

The Commission will 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; institute and conduct educational and other programs, meetings, and conferences to promote the rights and opportunities for veterans; advise the 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 assist in planning appropriate public acknowledgement of the contributions made by veterans, and assist in planning commemoration activities recognizing the contributions made by veterans. The Commission does not provide services. The Commission maintains a Veterans Directory online that includes all the services offered by the federal state and local government and non-profit agencies - www.montgomerycountymd.gov/vnd.

MEMBERSHIP

The Commission on People with Disabilities is composed of 16 voting members who serve in a volunteer capacity. Members are appointed by the County Executive and confirmed by the County Council.

The Commission includes:

- ▶ 9 Veterans,
- ▶ 4 members representing the general public, and
- ▶ 3 ex-officio members representing the Director of the Department of Health and Human Services; the County Executive; and the Director of Montgomery College.

The Executive must invite a representative of the County's Congressional delegation who is either a member of the delegation or an individual designated to represent the delegation to be a non-voting member of the Commission. The Executive must also appoint a member from the Commission on People with Disabilities to be a non-voting member of the Commission.

MEETINGS

All Commission and Committee meetings are open to the public. The Commission welcomes visitors to join us as we serve the County and its residents. Meetings are subject to change without advance notice. Please call to confirm day and time of meetings and to request any special accommodations. As possible, we adjust meeting dates in order to accommodate days of major religious observances. You can view the Commission meeting minutes or check meeting schedules times online at:

www.montgomerycountymd.gov/cva.

MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2025 - 2026

Full Commission Meeting

3rd Tuesday of the month,
except for July and August
meet virtually via Zoom
6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

elected officials about their needs for programs and services. Go to the Office of Governmental Relations website for information on how to contact your elected officials: www.montgomerycountymd.gov/OIR.

Visit us on the web! Read Commission agendas, meeting minutes, annual reports, testimony, and more! www.montgomerycountymd.gov/cva

Like us on Facebook!

www.facebook.com/MCGCVA

Sign up for eSubscribe to receive emails about Veterans information and resources:
www.montgomerycountymd.gov/govdelivery

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>.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY TO PARTICIPATE IN 'OPERATION GREEN LIGHT' TO HONOR VETERANS

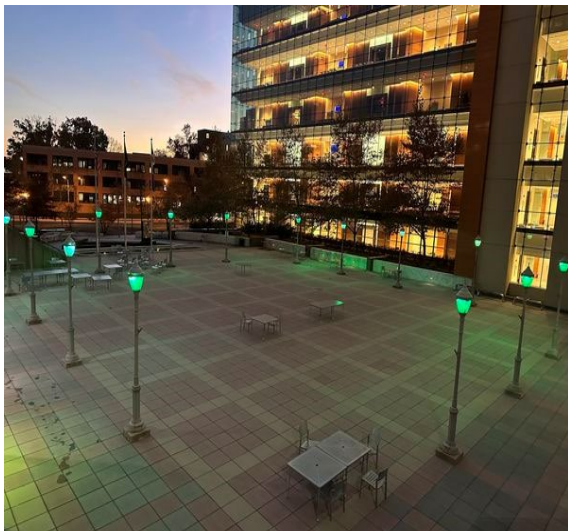
For Immediate Release: Monday, October 27, 2025

A Week of Activities Planned Leading Up to Veterans Day

Montgomery County Government will join the national "Operation Green Light" initiative to honor veterans and raise awareness of resources available to those who have served. Leading up to Veterans Day, observed on Tuesday, Nov. 11, the County will host a series of events, light up public spaces in green, and promote services for veterans and their families in our community.

Montgomery County Executive Marc Elrich and the County Council encourage residents, businesses, and community organizations to participate by displaying green lights and attending local ceremonies that honor the contributions and sacrifices of veterans.

"We are proud to participate in 'Operation Green Light' to recognize and thank the veterans who have served our country," said County Executive Elrich. "Veterans are an important part of our community, and this initiative is a reminder of our continued commitment to honoring their service and supporting them throughout the year. I encourage everyone in Montgomery County to participate by lighting your home green, attending one of the ceremonies, or learning more about the resources and benefits to veterans and military families. This is a simple but powerful way to show appreciation and ensure every veteran feels seen, valued, and supported."



Joint Proclamation and County Participation in "Operation Green Light"

On Tuesday, Nov. 4, County Executive Elrich and County Council President Kate Stewart will issue a joint proclamation in support of Operation Green Light, a national effort led by the National Association of Counties, encouraging displays of green lights in homes and businesses from Nov. 4-11.

- Veterans Day/ "Operation Green Light" Joint Proclamation: 9:30 a.m., Montgomery County Council Hearing Room, 3rd Floor, 100 Maryland Ave., Rockville.
- County Building Lighting: 4-11 p.m., Montgomery County's Memorial Plaza, adjacent to the Leggett Executive Office Building, 101 Monroe St., Rockville, will be illuminated with green lighting to honor veterans.



Ride On Bus Tribute

On Monday, Nov. 10, from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m., the Montgomery County Department of Transportation will hold a press event at Memorial Plaza (101 Monroe Street, Rockville) to unveil a special "Operation Green Light" Ride On bus wrap in tribute to veterans. In addition, 385 Ride On buses will display informational cards with contact information for veterans' services and support resources.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY TO PARTICIPATE IN 'OPERATION GREEN LIGHT' TO HONOR VETERANS CONTINUED

Veterans Day Ceremonies and Community Events

Residents are invited to attend the following ceremonies and events honoring veterans across the County:

- Friday, Nov 7, 6-9 p.m. Silver Spring Town Center's 17th Annual Tribute to America's Veterans, American Legion Post 41, 905 Sligo Ave., Silver Spring. Featuring David Cole & Main Street Blues Band. Free event. Military attire encouraged. RSVP to lisa@silverspringtowncenter.com.
- Sunday, Nov. 9, 2:30 p.m. Tenth Annual Veterans Day Program - Jewish War Veterans Post 692. American Jewish Veterans Memorial, Bender Jewish Community Center, 6125 Montrose Road, Rockville. Keynote speaker will be Lt. Col. Sheldon Goldberg (USAF Retd), PhD. For more information, contact Joel Poznansky at joelpoz@hotmail.com or Chuck Miller at chuckmiller4@yahoo.com.
- Tuesday, Nov. 11. 10:45 a.m. Bethesda Veterans Day Observance, Veterans Park, located at the corner of Norfolk and Woodmont Avenues in Bethesda. For more information, contact brandan.stuckey@montgomerycountymd.gov.
- Tuesday, Nov. 11, 11 a.m. Rockville Veterans Day Ceremony, Veterans Park, located at the intersection of MD Route 28 and Rockville Pike in Rockville. Hosted by the City of Rockville and American Legion Post 86. Free parking at [Sandy Spring Bank](#), 611 Rockville Pike.
- Tuesday, Nov. 11, 11 a.m. City of Gaithersburg's annual Veterans Day Observance, [City Hall Concert Pavilion](#), 31 S. Summit Ave., Gaithersburg. For more information, call 301-258-6350 or email parksrec@gaithersburgmd.gov.
- Tuesday, Nov. 11, 11 a.m. Wheaton Veterans Day Ceremony, Wheaton Veterans Park, 11200 Amherst Ave., Wheaton. Hosted by VFW Post 2562 and American Legion Post 268. Keynote speaker: Cynthia Macri, M.D., CAPT MC USN (Ret). Light refreshments will be served after the ceremony at the [VFW Post, located at 2562 at 11316 Fern Street](#).

Expanding the Virtual Tribute to County Veterans

The Montgomery County Commission on Veterans Affairs is actively collecting submissions for its online "[Tribute to Montgomery County Veterans](#)," a permanent virtual recognition of local veterans who have served honorably.

- Submit a Story: Veterans, family members, or friends may share a veteran's story by completing a submission using the Commission's [Google form](#) or its downloadable [PDF form](#). Questions can be directed to MCCVA@montgomerycountymd.gov.
- Display Cases: Veterans tributes will be featured throughout November at the Rockville Memorial Library and the Silver Spring Civic Building at Veterans Plaza.
- Website: The tribute website can be found at montgomerycountymd.gov/veteransday.

Veterans Resources and Support

The Montgomery County Commission on Veterans Affairs encourages veterans and their families to explore available resources, services, and benefits:

- [Maryland Department of Veterans and Military Families](#): Benefits Assistance Office at the Motor Vehicle Administration, 15 Metropolitan Grove Office, Gaithersburg. Call 301-987-8412 for more information.
- [ServingTogether](#), a program of EveryMind, connects veterans, service members, and their families to services and support resources. Access these offerings on the organization's website or call 855-738-7176.
- [DC VA Medical Community-Based Outpatient Clinic](#) is a primary health care clinic located at 15810 Gaither Road, Suite 130, Gaithersburg. For appointments, call 202-745-8000, Option 2.
- County Commission Resources: The Montgomery County Commission on Veterans Affairs has a [Veterans Network Directory](#) and a [Veterans website](#) with comprehensive information.

TOP POLICY PRIORITIES FOR FY27

Commission on Veterans Affairs

Meeting with HHS Committee of County Council on Priorities for FY27

Michael Wilson, Chair - Chris Thomas, Vice-Chair

October 22, 2025

1) **Communication and Outreach Planning to Promote Programs and Services that Benefit Veterans and Their Families**

Greater Community Outreach and Education on Veteran Issues - The Commission will develop a plan to increase communication with the public and other organizations that serve Veterans. There is a need for more face-to-face and real-time and non-real-time virtual interaction. Commission members will be encouraged to visit veteran service organizations such as local American Legions (AL), Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), AMVETS, Disabled American Veterans, Vietnam Veterans of America, Paralyzed Veterans to share information about the work of the Commission and learn from these organizations about what they believe are unmet needs of Veterans and their families.

Provide Support to the Office of Problem-Solving Courts as they Plan and Implement a Veterans Treatment Court in Montgomery County - The Commission is working in collaboration with the Maryland Military Coalition and the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) to provide support as requested from Judge Koch and the Office of Problem-Solving Courts to establish a Veterans Treatment Court in Montgomery County. We would greatly appreciate the Council's support for this important initiative.

Permanent Supportive Housing Vouchers for Homeless Veterans Including those with Families - We recommend the County make greater investment in permanent supportive housing which includes case management for homeless Veterans. This includes seeking additional HUD-VASH vouchers from the federal government. HUD-VASH is a collaborative program which pairs HUD's Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) rental assistance with VA case management and supportive services for homeless Veterans. Veterans who have case management along with a voucher have greater success with permanent housing in the community. At this time, there are an estimated 50 homeless Veterans in the county and too often they are placed in emergency shelters. We recommend less investment in emergency shelter response. We ask the Council to continue needed funding for vouchers for Veterans not eligible for Veterans Administration benefits including HUD-VASH vouchers.

2) **Commission was Established to Recognize the Service of Veterans**

Planning for Operation Green Light / Veterans Day and Memorial Day - Commission will plan and participate in Veterans Day and Memorial Day recognition events.

Websites and Digital Displays to Honor Veterans - On www.montgomerycountymd.gov/veterans there are websites created by staff honoring County Veterans for Hometown Fallen Heroes going back to World War I, Vietnam Era Veterans, Women Veterans, Recognition for Veterans for Black History Month, and Thank You to County Veterans for Veterans Day.

Speakers Bureau - Commission will develop a speaker's bureau to volunteer to speak at schools about Veteran issues and the meaning of Veterans Day and Memorial Day. The Commission publishes an annual report that includes information on the Commission's work and includes extensive data on Veterans. Go to www.montgomerycountymd.gov/cva.

Lastly, it is critical for Boards, Committees and Commissions (BCC) to have commissioners appointed in a timely manner so that they can be most effective and also respect the volunteer service of community members who serve. We ask that the County ensure proper staffing for the County Executive's Office for timely recruitment and appointment of BCC members.

LETTER OF SUPPORT TO COUNTY EXECUTIVE FOR ESTABLISHING A VETERANS TREATMENT COURT



The Honorable Marc Elrich, Montgomery County Executive
The Honorable Kate Stewart, President, Montgomery County Council

Via: Electronic Facsimile

Dear County Executive Elrich and Council President Stewart:

The Montgomery County Commission on Veterans Affairs writes to express its strong support for the establishment of a Veterans Treatment Court (VTC).

A VTC is a court supervised, comprehensive and voluntary treatment program for justice system-involved Veterans charged with (primarily) non-violent misdemeanors in a Maryland District Court. U.S. military veterans – whether eligible for VA benefits or not – are eligible for a VTC. The Commission has met and discussed this issue and received briefings on it in recent months. Veterans and veterans groups are of one mind in supporting it.

Since 2008, over 1000 VTCs have been created across the nation. Why? Research has shown that justice-involved veterans who complete the program have a lower recidivism rate than Veterans who go before traditional or other problem-solving courts. All of our neighboring Maryland Counties have either their own VTC – Anne Arundel, Frederick / Washington, and Prince George's – or are participating in the (Central) Maryland Regional VTC: Carroll and Howard Counties. With over 36,000 veterans, Montgomery County has the fourth largest veterans population in the State, which suggests that the smaller Carroll, Howard, Frederick / Washington Counties will have a significantly smaller demographic of veteran offenders.

The need, resources and judicial engagement are available to support this important project. First, the need. Veteran-offender caseloads in our County are comparable to neighboring jurisdictions. The Office of Problem Solving Courts, Annapolis, reported 15 veteran cases – 6 month total -- before the Montgomery Circuit and District Courts and noted that a “defendant has to identify themselves as a veteran so this may not capture everyone that is a veteran.” (Special report produced at the request of Maryland Delegate Charlotte Crutchfield, District 19, July 2024) Prince George's had 19 veteran clients and Anne Arundel, 42 clients as of end-year 2024; i.e., 12-month totals. No data is available for the recently created VTC in Washington / Frederick Counties (November 2024), nor Carroll and Howard Counties.

State grants, non-profit organizations and veteran service organizations are available to support the work of a County VTC. A formal estimate of cost and supporting resources is part of the formal application process required by the State.

We are pleased to note that District Administrative Judge Sherri Koch has expressed interest in submitting an application to the State Office of Problem-Solving Courts to establish a Veterans Treatment Court in Montgomery County.

We are concerned that our County may be leaving behind its justice-involved veterans. The Montgomery County Commission on Veterans Affairs strongly recommends and requests your endorsement of the establishment of a Veterans Treatment Court as soon as possible.

On behalf of the Commission on Veterans Affairs,

Michael Wilson, Chair

Christopher Thomas, Vice Chair

C: Honorable Sherri D. Koch, District Court of Maryland

PROCLAMATION – OPERATION GREEN LIGHT FOR VETERANS

WHEREAS, residents of Montgomery County, Maryland have served with courage and loyalty in every major military conflict since 1776; and

WHEREAS, those that have given their lives defending the principles of freedom during these conflicts are and forever will be deserving of the highest gratitude and honor by the people of Montgomery County; and

WHEREAS, Montgomery County, as a Green Light for Veterans County, seeks to honor individuals who have made countless sacrifices for freedom by placing themselves in harm's way for the good of all; and

WHEREAS, over 36,000 county veterans continue to serve our community in the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Commission on Veterans Affairs, religious groups, civil service, and by functioning as County Veterans Service Officers in 29 states to help fellow former service members access more than \$52 billion in federal health, disability and compensation benefits each year; and

WHEREAS, Montgomery County appreciates the sacrifices of our Armed and Uniformed Services personnel and believes specific recognition should be granted.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Marc Elrich, County Executive, Kate Stewart, Council President, and the entire Montgomery County Council hereby declare November 4th through Veteran's Day on November 11th, 2025 as:

Operation Green Light for Veterans

which is a time to salute and honor the service and sacrifices of our men and women in uniform transitioning from active service. Montgomery County, in observance of Operation Green Light, encourages its residents to recognize the importance of honoring all those who made immeasurable sacrifices to preserve freedom by displaying green lights in a window of their place of business or residence from November 4th through the 11th, 2025.



On November 4, 2025, Council President Kate Stewart and Dr. Earl Stoddard, assistant chief administrative officer, on behalf of County Executive Marc Elrich, present a proclamation recognizing Veterans Day and Operation Greenlight for Veterans.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY EXECUTIVE MARC ELRICH AND COUNTY COUNCIL PRESIDENT KATE STEWART TO HONOR VETERANS WITH OPERATION GREEN LIGHT RIDE ON BUS ON MONDAY, NOV. 10

For Immediate Release: Friday, November 7, 2025

Montgomery County Executive Marc Elrich and County Council President Kate Stewart were joined by members of the Council, Montgomery County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) Director Chris Conklin, and community leaders for the launch of the County's Operation Green Light Initiative and the unveiling of the Ride On "Operation Green Light" themed bus at a ceremony to honor veterans.

Speakers and community leaders arrived in MCDOT's #OperationGreenLight Ride On bus, which is wrapped in a design depicting the U.S. flag, an outline of veterans, and highlighting Operation Green Light, a campaign honoring Veterans. The Montgomery County Veterans Affairs website and resource line is printed on the back of the bus. Internal bus cards on nearly 400 MCDOT Ride On buses will share resources with veterans throughout November.

The ceremony commenced with the singing of the national anthem by Richard Montgomery High School students Nala Ashe-Moncet and Alexa Thompson.

Dr. Lolita Weedon, U.S. Army (Ret.), with the Montgomery County Office of Human Resources served as Master of Ceremonies.



This morning Montgomery County Department of Transportation sponsored a press event regarding them wrapping a Ride On Bus in tribute to County Veterans who count as nearly 37,000 people. From left to right: Commission on Veterans Affairs Chair Michael Wilson, County Executive Marc Elrich, Commission Staff Liaison Betsy Luecking, Commission Vice- Chair Chris Thomas Commander (Ret.) and Bill Gray Chair Emeritus.



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 Avenue, 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 websites 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**

RECOGNITION AND TRIBUTES TO OUR HOMETOWN HEROES



BLACK HISTORY MONTH - FEBRUARY

During Black History Month, the Commission on Veterans Affairs recognizes the service and sacrifices of Black veterans who served in such heroic units as the Buffalo Soldiers, the Harlem Hellfighters and the Tuskegee Airmen. Montgomery County also honors the County's Black men and women veterans who continue to serve the nation with honor and distinction. [Visit the Veteran's Black History Month tribute website.](#)



VIETNAM WAR VETERANS DAY – MARCH 29

The County Commission on Veterans Affairs joins the national celebration of “National Vietnam Veterans Day” on March 29. The Commission honors more than 80 Montgomery County Vietnam War Era veterans with detailed tributes displayed on a special website created by the Commission. “National Vietnam War Veterans Day” is observed every year on March 29. The special day recognizes the nine million U.S. Armed Forces and Uniformed Services personnel with active-duty service between November 1, 1955, and May 15, 1975, regardless of location of service. [Visit the Vietnam War Veterans Day tribute website.](#)



WOMEN VETERANS DAY – JUNE 12

The Commission on Veterans Affairs joins in the Maryland celebration of Women Veterans Day on June 12. Women Veterans Day is celebrated on June 12th in the United States to commemorate the anniversary of the Women's Armed Services Integration Act of 1948. On this day, President Harry S. Truman signed the act, which allowed women to serve as permanent members of the military. The day's goal is to honor the service and sacrifices of women veterans, as well as the unique challenges they face. [Visit the Women Veterans Day tribute website.](#)



VETERANS DAY – NOVEMBER 11

The Commission on Veterans Affairs pay tribute to County veterans through a virtual “Tribute to Montgomery County Veterans” website. The website is open to all residents who have served in military service. In addition, there are Montgomery County veterans’ tributes during the month of November in the display cases at the Rockville Memorial Library and the Silver Spring Civic Building at Veterans Plaza. [Visit the Veterans Day tribute website.](#)

RETIRED NAVY COMMANDER EVERETT ALVAREZ, JR. PROCLAMATION MARCH 2025



Photo from left to right: Council President Kate Stewart, Vietnam Veteran and former Chair Bill Gray, Councilmember Sidney Katz, Commander Everett Alvarez, Jr., and Dale Tibbetts, Special Assistant to the County Executive

Retired Navy Cmdr. Everett Alvarez Jr., a distinguished Vietnam War veteran and former Prisoner of War has been selected to receive the prestigious Congressional Gold Medal in recognition of his exceptional service to the United States. This highly coveted award is one of the highest civilian honors in the U.S., presented to individuals whose contributions to the nation have been extraordinary. Alvarez is one of only 184 individuals in history to receive this honor, highlighting his remarkable sacrifice, leadership, and long-lasting impact. In addition, Secretary of the Navy Carlos Del Toro recently announced that he is naming a future guided missile frigate after Everett Alvarez, Jr.

CDR Alvarez was the first American aviator taken captive in Vietnam after being shot down in 1964 near Hanoi. He became the second longest-held U.S. prisoner of war (POW) in U.S. history. He spent eight years and seven months as a prisoner of war. His capture and time in captivity became emblematic of the sacrifices made by POWs, and his perseverance and courage in the face of adversity continue to inspire veterans and civilians alike. He holds numerous military decorations including the Silver Star, two Legions of Merit, the Distinguished Flying Cross, two Bronzes Stars, and two Purple Hearts. He went on to serve as Deputy Director of the Peace Corps, Deputy Administrator of the Veterans Administration (now known as Department of Veterans Affairs) where he helped pioneer the VET centers for combat veterans and we have one here in Silver Spring, vice president for government services with the Hospital Corporation of America and is a former member and chair of the [Uniformed Services University](#) (USU) Board of Regents.

In recognition of his lifetime achievements, the U.S. Congress named a post office in Rockville, Maryland, in his honor in 2000. Additionally, in 2008, Alvarez was named one of the “25 Greatest Public Servants of the Past 25 Years” by the Council for Excellence in Government. He and his wife Tammy have made Rockville Md their home since 1976.

[Watch the proclamation on YouTube](#)

[View additional photos on Flickr](#)

MONTGOMERY COUNTY EXECUTIVE MARC ELRICH JOINS TRIBUTE HONORING TUSKEGEE AIRMAN AND WWII VETERAN BRIGADIER GENERAL CHARLES E. MCGEE - MEMORIAL UNVEILING

For Immediate Release: Friday, December 6, 2024

County Executive Marc Elrich, County Councilmembers and other state and federal elected officials joined the Distinguished Flying Cross Society ([DFCS](#)) on Thursday, Dec. 5, for a ceremony to unveil a memorial honoring the late combat veteran Brigadier General Charles E. McGee. The event took place at the Brigadier General Charles E. McGee branch of the Montgomery County Public Libraries in Silver Spring. Brigadier General McGee, a proud resident of Montgomery County who passed away in 2022, is being remembered just days before what would have been his 104th birthday on Saturday, Dec. 7.

"Brigadier General Charles McGee's extraordinary service and leadership continue to inspire us all," said County Executive Elrich. "We are honored to celebrate his legacy here in Montgomery County, a place he proudly called home, and to recognize his lasting impact on our nation's history and the future of young leaders who continue to look up to him. It is fitting that this memorial is in the library and in a place where it will be seen by many so that his contributions are remembered by children and adults who may not know this history."



More than 50 individuals attended the ceremony, including representatives from the Eastern Region of the Tuskegee Airmen, the Boy Scouts of America and the Montgomery County Commission on Veteran Affairs. The Young Marines served as the event's color guard.

"As a famed Tuskegee Airman who flew over 400 combat missions, Charles McGee didn't just break records – he broke barriers. That is why I worked to honor his heroism by authorizing his honorary promotion to the rank of Brigadier General. This memorial will help serve as a reminder of his life's work: defending our country and demanding that it live up to its full promise," said U.S. Senator Chris Van Hollen (D-Md.).

During the ceremony, a monument commissioned by the DFCS was unveiled. Military leaders, including General Ronald Fogleman and Lewis Watt, a Vietnam War veteran and Distinguished Flying Cross recipient, participated.

"The Distinguished Flying Cross Society thanks the officials of Montgomery County for allowing our representatives to host the dedication of a National Distinguished Flying Cross Memorial at the McGee Library, in honor of the legacy of Brigadier General Charles McGee," said J. Bruce Huffman, chairman emeritus of the DFC Society. "This dignified event is in keeping with our mission to 'honor, preserve and teach' the legacy of our members who are recipients of the Distinguished Flying Cross."

BRIGADIER GENERAL CHARLES E. MCGEE MEMORIAL UNVEILING CONTINUED

Brigadier General McGee, a trailblazer in American military history, was a member of the Tuskegee Airmen, the first all-Black combat aviator group in the United States Army Air Forces. Throughout his distinguished career, he flew 409 combat missions across three wars—World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War. His exceptional service earned him numerous honors, including two Legion of Merits, three Distinguished Flying Crosses, a Bronze Star, 26 Air Medals and the Congressional Gold Medal.

“As the Councilmember representing Silver Spring, I am proud to have our local library named after Brigadier General Charles McGee,” said Montgomery County Council President Kate Stewart. “We are delighted to see the new memorial for General McGee installed and appreciate the work of the Distinguished Flyers Cross Society in honoring his service.”

Beyond his military accomplishments, Brigadier General McGee continued to lead after retirement. He served as director of the Kansas City International Airport and worked to preserve and promote the legacy of the Tuskegee Airmen through public education and the entertainment industry. His personal mantra, “Perceive, Prepare, Perform and Persevere,” remains a source of inspiration for future generations.

“The Brigadier General Charles E. McGee Memorial is about more than honoring a hero—it is about sharing a story of resilience, bravery and service with our community,” said County Council Vice President Will Jawando. “For years to come, every person who uses the Library in Silver Spring will have the opportunity to learn about a true American hero. His life reminds us that with courage and integrity, we can overcome any challenge and make the world a better place.”

In February 2022, shortly after Brigadier General McGee’s death at 102, [Montgomery County renamed the Silver Spring Library in his honor.](#)

“Brigadier General Charles McGee embodied the value of lifelong learning that drives the mission of our Montgomery County Public Libraries today,” said District 5 County Councilmember Kristin Mink. “In Montgomery County, we honor General McGee every day by joining in the important work of teaching the complex and sometimes uncomfortable history of our County and country and by supporting our public libraries in their vision of supporting lifelong learning for all of our residents of every background and origin.”

The memorial is on the third floor of the Brigadier General Charles E. McGee Library, located at 900 Wayne Ave. in Silver Spring.

[View edited video segments from the event.](#)

[View the Flickr photo gallery.](#)



MONTGOMERY PARKS ADDS ACCESSIBLE BOAT LAUNCH AT BLACK HILL REGIONAL PARK IN CLARKSBURG

[Black Hills Regional Park](#) in Clarksburg now features a new ADA-compliant dock and launch system, making it easier for people with limited mobility to launch both canoes and adaptive kayaks on and off the 505-acre Little Seneca Lake. A grant from the Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation enabled Montgomery Parks to install the new launch.

Photo courtesy of Montgomery Parks



MONTGOMERY PARKS ADAPTIVE PADDLING AT SENECA LANDING SPECIAL PARK (RILEYS LOCK) & BLACK HILL REGIONAL PARK



Photo courtesy of Montgomery Parks

Through a partnership with Team River Runner, Montgomery Parks offers adaptive kayaking equipment such as transfer benches, hand and wrist supports, stabilizing outriggers, and supportive seating systems. Program Access' trained staff and volunteers ensure a safe and enjoyable experience on calm, flat water.

Each registered participant may bring one guest to share in the adventure. Participants are contacted prior to the program to discuss any necessary modifications to ensure success on the water. Essential gear, including PFDs and paddles, is always provided.

Programming will resume in Spring 2026.

MONTGOMERY PARKS ROLLS OUT NEW GRIT FREEDOM CHAIR



Montgomery Parks has invested in a new GRIT Freedom Chair for public use. The GRIT Freedom Chair is a cross between a manual wheelchair and a mountain bike designed for use on natural surface and paved trails.

The chair is available free of charge by advance reservation at Brookside Nature Center, which connects to a series of paths at the nature center, Brookside Gardens, and Wheaton Regional Park. The chair can be borrowed for up to two hours at a time.

For more information and to learn more about the adaptive equipment available for free, please visit MoCoParks.org/AdaptiveEquipment

Photo from Montgomery Parks

OUTDOORS FOR ALL: ADAPTIVE MOUNTAIN BIKING PROGRAMS OFFERED BY MONTGOMERY PARKS



Montgomery Parks offers a variety of Adaptive Mountain Biking opportunities throughout the year. Programming options include individual lessons by certified instructors, clinics, inclusive group ride opportunities with Montgomery Parks' Roots-to-Rocks program and dedicated adaptive mountain biking group rides coming soon! Our two e-assist adaptive mountain bikes: a Lasher recumbent all-terrain handcycle and a TerraTrike all-terrain foot pedal bike are available for use at lessons and group rides. Through our partnership with Catalyst Sports we have a variety of bikes available during our adaptive mountain biking clinics.

The Adaptive Mountain Biking Program is organized with Montgomery Parks Program Access and Natural Surface Trails teams and Catalyst Sports.

From [Source of the Spring online publication](#)

PROJECTED NUMBER OF VETERANS IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MD

The U.S. Census Bureau 2024 American Community Survey estimates that there are approximately **37,628 veterans living in Montgomery County, Maryland**. That is an **increase of 1,039 veterans** since last year's census. According to the American Community Survey, 5.9% of all 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, Maryland

Subject	Veterans	Total Population
Population 18 years and over	36,589	816,002

Period of Military Service	Veterans	% of 36,589
Gulf War (9/2001 or later), no Gulf War (8/1990 to 8/2001), no Vietnam Era	9,586	26.3%
Gulf War (9/2001 or later) and Gulf War (8/1990 to 8/2001), no Vietnam Era	4,365	11.9%
Gulf War (9/2001 or later) and Gulf War (8/1990 to 8/2001) and Vietnam Era	71	0.2%
Gulf War (8/1990 to 8/2001), no Vietnam Era	3,946	10.7%
Gulf War (8/1990 to 8/2001), and Vietnam Era	513	1.4%
Vietnam Era, no Korean War, no World War II	9,435	25.7%
Vietnam Era and Korean War, no World War II	201	0.5%
Vietnam Era and Korean War and World War II	0	0%
Korean War, no Vietnam Era, no World War II	1,170	3.2%
Korean War and World War II, no Vietnam Era	142	0.4%
World War II, no Korean War, no Vietnam Era	735	2.0%
Between Gulf War and Vietnam Era only	5,353	14.6%
Between Vietnam Era and Korean War only	1,072	2.9%
Between Korean War and World War II only	0	0%
Pre-World War II only	0	0%

Gender	Veterans	% of 36,589
Male	31,962	87.4%
Female	4,627	12.6%

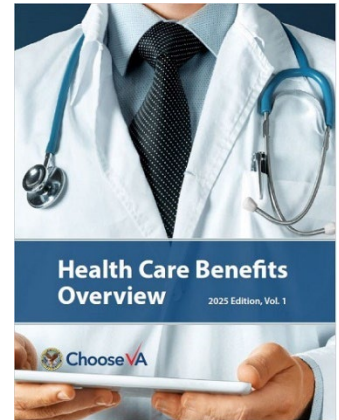
Age	Veterans	% of 36,589
18 to 34 years	3,376	9.2%
35 to 54 years	10,199	27.9%
55 to 64 years	6,354	17.4%
65 to 74 years	5,706	15.6%
75 years and older	10,954	29.9%

Race and Hispanic or Latino Origin	Veterans	% of 36,589
White alone	21,022	57.5%
Black or African American alone	7,535	20.6%
Asian alone	2,101	5.7%
Some other race alone	1,074	2.9%
Two or more races	4,350	11.9%
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	3,638	9.9%
White alone, not Hispanic or Latino	20,919	57.2%

HOW TO ENROLL IN VA HEALTHCARE

There are an estimated 37,628 Veterans living in the County and only an estimated 11,731 are enrolled in the VA Healthcare system. Given that the County has a Community Based Outpatient Clinic located in Gaithersburg, the Commission on Veterans Affairs is encouraging Veterans to enroll now. The very first step in obtaining access to your VA Health Benefits is to apply for enrollment.

Once enrolled, you can begin enjoying your VA health care benefits. New enrollees will receive a Welcome to VA telephone call from VA staff and a personalized Veterans Health Benefits Handbook in the mail. During that call, we can answer many of your initial questions, provide information regarding your health benefits and other services provided through VA and schedule your initial VA health care appointment. The handbook will detail your VA health care benefits information, based on your specific eligibility factors, in an organized, easy-to-read format. It also includes information on your preferred facility, copayment responsibilities, how to schedule appointments, ways to communicate treatment needs and more. For more information view the [Veterans Health Benefits Handbook](#).



YOU CAN APPLY IN ANY OF THESE 4 WAYS

Option 1: Apply by phone

Call the toll-free hotline at [877-222-8387](tel:877-222-8387) to get help with your application Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. ET.

Option 2: Apply by mail

Fill out an [Application for Health Benefits \(VA Form 10-10EZ\)](#).

You or someone acting as your power of attorney must sign and date the form. And:

- If you're using a power of attorney, you'll need to submit a copy of the Power of Attorney form along with your application.
- If you sign with an "X," 2 people you know must witness your signature. They'll also need to sign and print their names on the form.

Send your completed application here:

Health Eligibility Center
PO Box 5207
Janesville, WI 53547-5207

OPTION 3: APPLY IN PERSON

Fill out an [Application for Health Benefits \(VA Form 10-10EZ\)](#).

You or someone acting as your power of attorney must sign and date the form. And:

- If you're using a power of attorney, you'll need to submit a copy of the Power of Attorney form along with your application.
- If you sign with an "X," 2 people you know must witness your signature. They'll also need to sign and print their names on the form.

Go to your nearest VA medical center or clinic. Bring a signed Application for Health Benefits (VA Form 10-10EZ) with you - [Find a VA medical center or clinic near you](#)

Or get help through your state's Department of Veterans Affairs - [Find your state's Department of Veterans Affairs](#)

OPTION 4: APPLY WITH THE HELP OF A TRAINED PROFESSIONAL

You can work with an accredited attorney, claims agent, or Veterans Service Organization (VSO) representative to get help applying for health care benefits. [Get help filling out an application](#)

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

Whether a Veteran is facing a [mental health](#) concern, [substance misuse](#), the effects of [military sexual trauma](#), or any of life's challenges, focusing on healing and recovery empowers them to take charge and live a fuller and more meaningful life. This approach builds on a Veteran's strengths and offers respect, honor, and hope - to both the Veteran and the family members who support them.

EVIDENCE-BASED TREATMENTS

Evidence-based treatments are those that have proved effective for a particular mental health condition. These scientifically tested courses of treatment include a range of therapies and medications. At VA, evidence-based treatments are tailored to each Veteran's needs, priorities, values, preferences, and goals. Many may work quickly, sometimes within a few weeks or months, depending on the nature or severity of symptoms. To learn more:

- Watch "'Evidence-Based' Treatment: What Does It Mean?" and other helpful videos at the [National Center for PTSD](#).
- Explore the different types of [evidence-based treatments](#) available at VA.
- Talk with your VA health care provider to choose the treatment options that work best for you.

MEASUREMENT-BASED CARE (MBC)

[Measurement-based care](#) (MBC) provides Veterans the opportunity to take an active role in their mental health care. In MBC, the Veteran is part of their own treatment team, working with their providers to set recovery goals, develop treatment plans, establish benchmarks, and monitor progress. The treatment is tailored to the individual Veteran's specific needs, and the metrics gathered along the way are used to determine whether treatment is working as planned or needs to be adjusted. VA is working to ensure that MBC is part of every one of its mental health programs.

COORDINATING CARE FOR THE WHOLE PERSON

Timely medical care, good nutrition, regular exercise, a sense of purpose, and supportive family members and friends are just as important to mental health as they are to physical health. That's why VA health care professionals work together to provide safe and effective treatment for the whole person - head to toe, inside and out - using what's known as a "whole health" approach. Through VA [Whole Health](#), Veterans take an active role in their care by partnering with their providers to achieve and maintain their optimal health and well-being. It all starts with answering a simple question: What matters most to you?

ROUND-THE-CLOCK SERVICE

Emergency mental health care is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, at VA medical centers (VAMCs). Facilities that don't have a 24-hour emergency room provide these services through a local, non-VA hospital. Telephone evaluations at VAMCs and the [Veterans Crisis Line](#) are also available around the clock every day.

VA residential rehabilitation treatment, sometimes referred to as inpatient residential or domiciliary care, provides comprehensive treatment and rehabilitation services to Veterans with mental health conditions like PTSD, depression, and substance use disorder. The programs take a whole health approach to address challenges these Veterans may experience, including medical concerns and social needs such as employment and housing. [Learn more about residential rehabilitation and how to apply.](#)

ABOUT VA MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES CONTINUED

PEER SPECIALISTS

Peer specialists are trained and certified in offering mental health support. As Veterans themselves with personal experience of recovery from mental health conditions, they help other Veterans identify and achieve specific recovery and wellness goals. Peer specialists are found in many types of VHA settings and can provide support in several ways, including:

- Serving as role models by sharing their recovery stories.
- Collaborating with health care professionals to support Veterans' goals.
- Helping Veterans develop and enhance problem-solving skills.
- Helping Veterans identify their strengths, their skills and the resources needed to achieve their goals.
- Coaching Veterans on developing self-help skills to independently manage their health conditions.
- Empowering Veterans to speak up about their mental health concerns.
- Informing Veterans about available VA and community resources.
- Inspiring Veterans to see their own potential and believe that they can achieve wellness and their personal goals.

Veterans who want to work with a peer specialist can obtain a referral from their current VA health care provider.

CARE CLOSE TO HOME

To improve Veterans' access to care, VA is adding more rural and mobile clinics and working with health care providers in smaller communities. VA also uses cutting-edge technologies – including [mental health care by phone or secure video](#), self-directed [apps](#) for smartphones, and text-based support - to deliver care to Veterans when they need it, wherever they are, even in the comfort of their own homes.



Share the new
Veterans Crisis Line number
with your Veteran loved ones.
Dial 988 then Press 1



**Veterans
Crisis Line**
DIAL 988 then **PRESS 1**

VA SILVER SPRING VET CENTER SUPPORT SERVICES



Location and Hours of Operation

Lillian Varieur, Ph.D., Acting Vet Center Director
2900 Linden Lane, Suite 100, Silver Spring, MD 20910
301-589-1073 (V) - Ask for a counselor

Email: lillian.varieur@va.gov

www.va.gov/silver-spring-vet-center

Hours: Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Services are currently being provided virtually as well as in person by appointment.

The closest bus stops are at Seminary Road and Forest Glen Road, bus number 5.

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

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

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 firsthand, 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. VA Vet Centers provide readjustment counseling to Veterans with dishonorable discharges.

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 28 February 1991

Somalia

17 Sept 1992 to - Present

Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo, Albania

(former Yugoslavia operations)

Global War on Terrorism/OIF/OEF/OND

11 Sept 2001 - Present

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)

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



Montgomery County VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC)

15810 Gaither Drive, Suite 130, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20877

Appointments: 202-745-8000, Option 2 (7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday - Friday)

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

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

Montgomery County CBOC Eligibility: 202-745-8000 ext. 51316 (Naz Brown)

www.va.gov/washington-dc-health-care/locations/montgomery-county-va-clinic

HOURS OF OPERATION

Monday to Friday 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Closed on Saturday, Sunday and Federal Holidays

SERVICES OFFERED AT THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY CBOC

- Primary care
- Hearing aid fittings
- Comprehensive and preventive women's health
- Behavioral health (psychiatry & psychology)
- Phlebotomy (onsite lab/blood work)
- Nutrition
- Social work
- Eligibility, enrollments and ID's
- Telehealth services including mental health, retinal care (eye), bariatric surgery (before and after operation), dermatology, rehabilitation, and primary care.

DC VA Medical Center (DCVAMC): Ancillary/Specialty Service

50 Irving St, NW; Washington DC 20422 • 202-745-8000 • www.va.gov/washington-dc-health-care

Ancillary/Specialty Care services are provided at the DCVAMC. 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 DCVAMC (usually 5 to 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 (www.myhealth.va.gov/mhv-portal-web/home).

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.

STEVEN A. COHEN MILITARY FAMILY CLINIC AT EASTERSEALS



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

Phone: 240-847-7500 (V)

Email: info.mfc@eseal.org

Hours: Monday thru Thursday 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.; and Friday, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

www.easterseals.com/DCMDVA/our-programs/cvn-home.html

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 veterans, active-duty, and military families. 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 unmarried partners, children aged 4 and older, 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 can receive services individually or as a family unit at the same clinic. We offer individual, couples and family therapy. In addition, the Cohen Clinic at Easterseals can also help connect veteran and military families to community resources and services, as necessary. Services are available to those in D.C., Maryland, Virginia and West Virginia (in person, or Telehealth), as well as in PA, NJ and DE (all via Telehealth).

A few examples of what the Cohen Clinic treats are as follows:

- 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

Provides assistance with unmet needs and connecting to resources such as:

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

TREATMENTS

Therapy is goal focused with an average treatment window of about 4 months. Evidence-based therapies include:

- Cognitive processing therapy
- Cognitive behavioral therapy
- Motivational interviewing
- Cognitive behavioral therapy for children
- Integrative couples and family therapy
- Problem solving therapy
- Prolonged exposure therapy
- Written exposure therapy

TELEHEALTH

Telehealth provides high-quality, confidential care through secure video conference when you are unable to visit your therapist at the clinic.

It's **Easy**. Get access to care from the comfort of your own home. All you need is a smartphone, tablet, or computer with internet and video capabilities.

It's **Accessible**. Continue to receive treatment if you are unable to visit the clinic due to distance, lack of transportation, work schedule, health problems, or other reasons.

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!

MONTGOMERY COLLEGE COMBAT2COLLEGE

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

Important Campus Locations for Student Veterans and Service Members

Germantown Campus

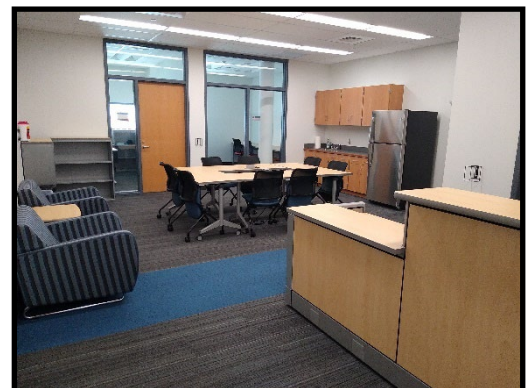
Veterans Center: Humanities and Social Sciences Building,
Room 250A&B

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



For assistance with Admissions and VA Education Benefits, contact

VA@montgomerycollege.edu or visit www.montgomerycollege.edu/veterans-and-military/va-education-benefits/steps-to-process.html

For assistance with Academic Advising visit: www.montgomerycollege.edu/counseling-and-advising/meet-with-a-counselor-advisor.html. Please identify yourself as a Veteran or Service Member.

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AND MILITARY FAMILIES

QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE

Main Phone: 410-260-3838 • Toll Free: 1-866-793-1577 • Fax: 410-216-7928
Hours: 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

<https://veterans.maryland.gov/Pages/default.aspx>

When you call our main phone number, you'll hear a recorded greeting with several options. Please listen carefully and select the number that best matches your need to be routed to the appropriate team member.

The Maryland Department of Veterans and Military Families (DVMF) was created by the State Legislature in 1999 as an executive agency with the mission of *leading veterans, service members, and their families through life's transitions*. The Department's origin follows the history of the Maryland Veterans Commission back to 1924, when the Soldiers' Relief Fund Commission was formed to administer a State relief fund for disabled veterans of World War I.

Under the Department of Veterans and Military Families are five major programs:

- The **Service and Benefits Program** provides assistance to veterans, their dependents, and survivors in obtaining benefits from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Department of Defense, State of Maryland and other programs for veterans and their families. DVMF Veterans Benefit Specialists (VBS) are located statewide to provide benefits information and assistance to veterans and family members. For best results, DVMF encourages veterans and family members seeking information or assistance to work with an accredited DVMF VBS. [Visit the service program](#) or call 1-800-446-4926 ext. 6450 for information on benefits and service office locations.
- The **Charlotte Hall Veterans Home** offers a 168-bed assisted living program, 286-bed skilled nursing program, and memory care in secure units.
- The **Cemetery and Memorial Program** offers our honored veterans and their eligible dependents a final resting place at one of five state veterans cemeteries located throughout Maryland.
- The **Communications, Outreach, & Advocacy Program** works closely with multiple local, state and federal agencies and non-profit organizations to coordinate efforts to locate and inform Maryland's veterans as well as to expand benefits and services available to Maryland veterans.
- The **Maryland Veterans Trust Fund** makes grants, funded by donations and contributions, to veterans and their family members who are in dire financial situations or to private organizations that help veterans.

Constituent Resource Coordinator

A dedicated DVMF constituent services coordinator can help veterans and military families find the support they need by responding to questions and concerns about benefits. The coordinator works closely with federal, state, and local agencies to ensure constituents receive timely resolutions and access to resources. To submit a question or comment to our constituent services team, please complete the [DVMF Constituent Inquiry Form](#). (For privacy reasons, please do not transmit personal identifying information via email, including date of birth and social security number.)

HOW TO CONTACT YOUR 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)
County.ExecutiveEQ@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)
MD Relay 711 (TTY)
240-777-7989 (FAX)
county.council@montgomerycountymd.gov

Standing, left to right: Sidney Katz, Laurie-Anne Sayles, Andrew Friedson, Natali Fani-González, and Gabe Albornoz. Seated, left to right: Will Jawando (Vice-President), Kristin Mink, Marilyn Balcombe, Evan Glass, Dawn Luedtke, and Kate Stewart (President)

Marc Elrich, County Executive
James C. Bridgers, Jr., Ph.D., MBA, Director
Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services
Patrice L. McGhee, DPA, Chief, Aging and Disability Services
Commission on People with Disabilities
401 Hungerford Drive, 4th Floor
Rockville, Maryland 20850
240-777-1252 (V) • via MD Relay at 711
MCCPWD@montgomerycountymd.gov

Language translation and alternative formats of this report are available upon request.
For additional information on the Commission,
please call the telephone numbers or email via the contact information listed above.

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

2025 Annual Report Prepared By:
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Carly Clem, *Program Specialist II*