



## **Commission on Veterans Affairs**

**March 17, 2026**

**6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.**

Michael Wilson, Chair  
Chris Thomas, Vice-Chair

### **Virtual Meeting Via Zoom**

[Zoom Meeting Link](#)

### **AGENDA**

**Join by telephone:** *If you want to call into the meeting, call 301-715-8592, use Meeting ID 739 001 7153 followed by #. Those calling into the meeting can press \*6 to mute and unmute their phone. If an attendee would like to speak during the meeting, they must use the “hand raise” function. If connecting via a smart phone, tablet or computer, please click on the Zoom link to be able to access all functions, including raising your hand. If you are calling by phone, press \*9 to raise your hand.*

- 6:00 Call to Order, Welcome, Pledge of Allegiance, Moment of Silence & POW/MIA, Approval of February 2026 Minutes – Michael Wilson, Chair**
- 6:05 Upcoming Montgomery Parks Programs for Veterans: Fishing, Gardening, etc. – Jennene Blakely, Program Access Manager, Montgomery Parks | The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission**
- 6:15 Veteran Support at Rockville MISSION BBQ – Jessica Durden, Community Ambassador Rockville MISSION BBQ**
- 6:25 Getting to Know Each Other – Members introduce themselves and share information about themselves – Michael Wilson**
- 6:40 Commission’s Community Outreach and Education Plan – Chris Thomas will show PowerPoint and Mike Subin will share what topics were covered and to what groups by past Commission members, Commissioners identify topics they could speak on and Volunteer to be a speaker**
- 7:05 Chair & Vice Chair Updates – Michael Wilson and Chris Thomas**
- 7:15 FY 27 Priorities Progress – Updates on Veterans Treatment Court, Community Outreach and Education Plan, etc. See Next Page for FY 27 Priorities**
- 7:20 Public Comments**
- 7:25 Next Meeting Topic**
- 7:30 Adjourn**

**ADA Meeting Accessibility Notice:** Sign language interpreter services and other auxiliary aids or services will be provided upon request with as much advance notice as possible, preferably at least five (5) full business days before the meeting/event. In all situations, a good faith effort (up until the time of the event) will be made to provide accommodations. To request the above or any other reasonable accommodation, please contact Carly Clem at 202- 853-1109 (V) or via MD Relay at 711 or send a request to [Carly.Clem@MontgomeryCountyymd.gov](mailto:Carly.Clem@MontgomeryCountyymd.gov).



## **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](http://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](http://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.