

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND COMMISSION ON VETERANS AFFAIRS ANNUAL REPORT 2021

"Advocating for Veterans & Their Families"

HONORING THE SERVICE OF OUR COUNTY VETERANS



Wayne Miller, LCSW, Chair - Robert Koffman, MD, MPH, Vice-Chair
Marc Elrich, County Executive



LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL



COMMISSION ON VETERANS AFFAIRS

November 19, 2021

Via Letter of Transmittal Electronically to:

The Honorable Marc Elrich, County Executive

The Honorable Thomas Hucker, President, County Council

Raymond L. Crowel, Psy.D., Director, Department of Health and Human Services

The Commission on Veterans Affairs is pleased to present a summary of its activities for the past year. Under your leadership and with your support, the Commission is mandated to research, assemble, analyze and disseminate information that will assist in meeting the needs of Veterans and their families. Please see link to the timeline and major accomplishments of the Commission since it was established --

www.montgomerycountymd.gov/HHS-Program/Resources/Files/A&D%20Docs/CVA/CVATimeline.pdf

We continue to encourage cooperation, coordination and collaboration among all agencies and non-profits that serve Veterans so that our community works together to honor and provide the best services possible to Veterans and their families. We continue to be pleased with the County's efforts to end homelessness amongst Veterans and to assist in obtaining permanent housing. In collaboration with the Commission, Montgomery Parks, part of the Maryland National Capital park and Planning Commission has completed construction of a new floating launch for non-motorized boats, improving accessibility and safety for kayakers, canoeists and paddle boarders at Seneca Landing Special Park. A second phase of the project, which will include accessibility upgrades to improve safety, capacity and enhance accessibility of the existing boat ramp for motorized boats is still to be completed. We recommend if any additional funds be required that they be funded. Team River Runner facilitates two important treatment modalities: exercise and nature. It is highly used by Veterans and the entire community.

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

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

Sincerely,



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

Wayne Miller, LCSW, Chair



Sincerely,



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

Robert Koffman, MD, MPH, Vice-Chair

MEMBERSHIP LIST 2020 - 2021

Veterans Representatives

Elwood Gray, Veteran
 Bob Koffman, Veteran
 Cynthia Macri, Veteran
 Wayne Miller, Disabled American Veterans
 Reggie Mitchell, Veteran
 Scott Schlesinger, Jewish War Veterans Post 360
 Anneke Vandenbroek, Veteran
 Steve Willis, Veteran
 Michael Wilson, Veterans of Foreign Wars

Ex-Officio Members

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

General Public Members

Josephine Bahn
 Lisa Schuster
 Susan Webman

Non-Voting Congressional Representatives

Austin Morris, Office of Senator Chris Van Hollen

Congressional Attendees

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

Staff

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

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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 include 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 2021 - 2022

Full Commission Meeting

3rd Tuesday of the month,
except for July and August
via Zoom

6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.



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>.

MENTAL AND PHYSICAL WELLNESS SERVICES FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY VETERANS IS FOCUS OF NEWEST EDITION OF COUNTY CABLE MONTGOMERY SHOW 'HOMEFRONT'

For Immediate Release: Wednesday, December 2, 2020

Mental and physical wellness services available for Montgomery County veterans is the focus of the most recent edition of the County Cable Montgomery (CCM) show "Homefront," which is now available for viewing. The show featured four experts whose operations offer a variety of services for veterans.

The long-running Homefront series provides an inside look at the lives of Montgomery County veterans and their families. It also looks at the services the County and various agencies make available to them.

The 15-minute show can be viewed at <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/CCM/homefront.html>.

The show also will run at various times in the upcoming weeks on the County cable station. The station is viewable to County residents with cable service on Comcast (Channels 6 and 996 HD); RCN (Channels 6 and 1056 HD); and Verizon (Channel 30).

The show on available mental health services for veterans is hosted by Mike Subin, a Vietnam era veteran who serves on the County's Commission on Veterans Affairs. The guests are Norvell Coats, president and CEO of Holy Cross Health; Charles Faselis, chief of staff of the DC Veterans Administration Medical Center; Shea Lott, lead clinician of the Silver Spring-based Steven A. Cohen Military Family Clinic at Easter Seals; and Vietnam veteran Wayne Miller, director of the Silver Spring Vet Center and chair of the County Commission on Veterans Affairs.

One theme of the show is that the holiday season can be particularly difficult for some veterans based on their military experiences. The show talks about how veterans can seek help for themselves and how friends and family can look for signs of a veteran experiencing depression and/or anxiety and how they can share information with them on what programs and services are available.

The Homefront discussion also addresses that the mental health services available are not just for veterans. Families members, including the spouses and the children of those who have been killed in service, can also take advantage of the services.

The Veterans Network Directory of available services. can be found at www.montgomerycountymd.gov/vnd.

Information about the County Commission on Veterans Affairs and the services for veterans that it works with can be found at <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/HHS-Program/ADS/CVA/CVAIndex.html>

MONTGOMERY COUNTY COMMISSION ON VETERANS AFFAIRS, DURING BLACK HISTORY MONTH, ESTABLISHES VIRTUAL TRIBUTE TO HONOR 29 COUNTY RESIDENTS WHO SERVED COUNTRY

For Immediate Release: Monday, February 1, 2021

The Montgomery County Commission on Veterans Affairs is honoring 29 County military service members and veterans with detailed virtual tributes displayed on the County's website to mark Black History Month. February is recognized as Black History Month.

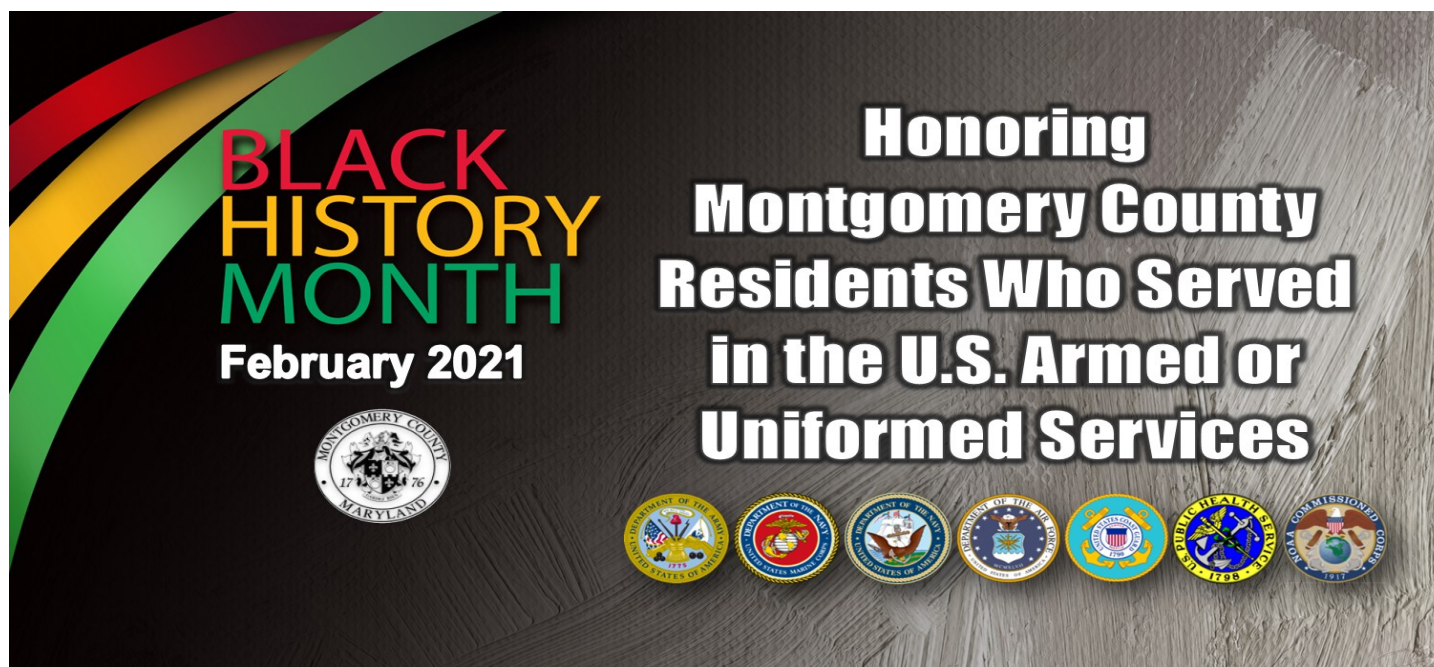
The tributes of County service members and veterans featured include photos, background information and details of accomplishments during their military careers and afterward. In past years, the tributes were displayed at the Silver Spring Civic Building. Due to the COVID-19 health crisis, this year the Black History Month tribute is being displayed online at <https://tinyurl.com/y2cn8h24>.

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

The veterans honored in the tribute include John Henry Chaney, Fred Cherry, Sr., Veronica Childers, James "Pat" Daugherty, Justin Davis, Lillian Fishburne, Jeremiah Floyd, Charles Frazier, Gloria White Gardner, Ella May Gray, Elwood Gray, Jr., Otto "Greg" Hamilton, Arthur Holmes, Jr., Preston Jamison, Isiah Leggett, Charles McGee, Roscoe Nix, LaMont Nowlin, Jonathan Powell, Vernon Ricks, Jr., William Smith, Jr., Joyce Tabb, Willie Vaughn, Ernest Walker, Charles Williams, Michael Wilson, Glen Barry Wolff, Waverly "Woody" Woodson, Jr., and William Zeigler.

The Montgomery County Commission on Veterans Affairs is accepting virtual tributes of veterans who have served in the U.S. uniformed and armed services currently living in or from Montgomery County to be shared on its website for Black History Month. To share your story or the story of a friend or family member, email Carly.Clem@montgomerycountymd.gov and provide the following

Montgomery County Executive Marc Elrich's thoughts on helping veterans, photos and bios of those honored and to learn more about the County Commission on Veterans Affairs, go to <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/veterans>.



MONTGOMERY COUNTY COMMISSION ON VETERANS AFFAIRS HONORS COUNTY'S FALLEN HEROES FROM MILITARY ACTION DATING BACK TO WORLD WAR I WITH ONLINE TRIBUTES OF BIOS AND PHOTOS

For Immediate Release: Tuesday, May 25, 2021

The Montgomery County Commission on Veterans Affairs is honoring many “Fallen Heroes” with County connections dating back to World War I with detailed tributes displayed on a special website created by the commission. The tribute is especially notable as the County prepares to commemorate Memorial Day on Monday, May 31.

The Commission on Veterans Affairs Fallen Heroes website honors veterans who were killed in action in World War I, World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Gulf War and the Global War on Terrorism (including [Operation Iraqi Freedom / Operation Enduring Freedom / Operation Inherent Resolve / Operation Freedom's Sentinel / Operation New Dawn](#)). The website includes photos and military histories of Fallen Heroes who were either originally from the County or who lived in Montgomery County after their service.

The site can be viewed at <https://tinyurl.com/bfvt9fk>.

“It seems that every day we are reminded of how our freedom is so special, and throughout the history of our nation, some special men and women have given their lives to protect that freedom,” said Wayne Miller, a Vietnam veteran who now chairs the County Commission on Veterans Affairs. “The Commission on Veterans Affairs wanted residents of all ages to know more about these people and our Fallen Heroes website is a great way to learn their fascinating and heroic stories.”

County Executive Marc Elrich said residents should take time to recognize the people who sacrificed their lives while serving the nation.

“The COVID-19 health crisis has highlighted for us how precious life is—and how quickly it can end,” said County Executive Elrich. “For many County residents who served in the military, their lives ended while serving our country. The Fallen Heroes website shows how ordinary people, when asked to serve their country, answered that call—and sacrificed their lives for others.”

To learn more about the Montgomery Commission on Veterans Affairs, go to <https://tinyurl.com/yxyfdoc>.



MONTGOMERY COMMISSION ON VETERANS AFFAIRS HONORS VIETNAM WAR AND VIETNAM ERA VETERANS WITH TRIBUTES AS VIETNAM VETERANS DAY IS CELEBRATED MONDAY, MARCH 29

For Immediate Release: Monday, March 29, 2021

The Montgomery County Commission on Veterans Affairs is honoring dozens of Montgomery County Vietnam War and Vietnam Era veterans with detailed tributes displayed on a special website created by the commission. The tribute honors the veterans leading up to today's annual celebration of National Vietnam War Veterans Day.

The special day is observed every year on March 29. It recognizes U.S. Armed Forces and Uniformed Services personnel with active duty service between Nov. 1, 1955 and May 15, 1975, regardless of location of service.

The Montgomery Commission on Veterans Affairs website includes photos, military histories and later personal updates of Vietnam veterans who are either originally from the County or who lived in Montgomery after their service. The site can be viewed at www.montgomerycountymd.gov/vietnamvetday.

"A special day has been created to honor the veterans who served in Vietnam and during the Vietnam era," said Wayne Miller, a Vietnam veteran who now chairs the County Commission on Veterans Affairs. "However, the people who served in that difficult period of our nation's history should be honored every day. This website enables people of our current generation to learn more about the Americans who served during the Vietnam War. The website provides details on how the war influenced the rest of their lives. It also pays tribute to those who gave their lives when asked to serve their country."

According to the latest available U.S. Census Bureau estimates, there are 36,264 County residents who are veterans. Of that number, 10,467 are Vietnam War or Era veterans.

Records show that 130 County residents were killed in Vietnam and their names are on the County's Vietnam Memorial Wall, which was dedicated in 2018 on Memorial Plaza adjacent to the Executive Office Building in Rockville. A video summary of the memorial dedication can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T6QwL-Z81Uk>.

The Vietnam Veterans site also provides access the County's tribute to "Fallen Heroes." That site pays tribute to the County's fallen service members who died in service to the country since World War I. The records show the men and women honored as enlisting, being originally from or having at one time lived in Montgomery County. That site can be accessed directly at <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/HHS-Program/ADS/VETERANS/FallenHeroes.html>.

Montgomery County Executive Marc Elrich's thoughts on helping veterans can be found at <https://tinyurl.com/rayyavu>.

To learn more about the Montgomery Commission on Veterans Affairs, go to <https://tinyurl.com/yxyfdcoc>.



MONTGOMERY COUNTY'S COMMISSION ON VETERANS AFFAIRS SEEKING ADDITIONS TO ITS VIRTUAL TRIBUTE TO COUNTY VETERANS AS VETERANS DAY APPROACHES ON NOV. 11

For Immediate Release: Wednesday, October 27, 2021

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

The website is open to all residents who have served in military service. In addition, there will be 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.

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

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

The tribute to veterans website can be found at www.montgomerycountymd.gov/veteransday. From this site, there is a link to the commission's Fallen Heroes page at www.montgomerycountymd.gov/fallenheroes.

A veteran can share their story, or someone can share the story of a friend or family member, by filling out the Commission's [Google form](#) or filling out its [PDF form](#). Questions can be directed to Carly.Clem@montgomerycountymd.gov or Betsy.Luecking@montgomerycountymd.gov.

To learn more about the Montgomery Commission on Veterans Affairs, go to <https://tinyurl.com/yxyfdcoc>.



MONTGOMERY COUNTY'S COMMISSION ON VETERANS AFFAIRS VETERANS DAY DISPLAY CASES AT ROCKVILLE MEMORIAL LIBRARY AND SILVER SPRING CIVIC BUILDING

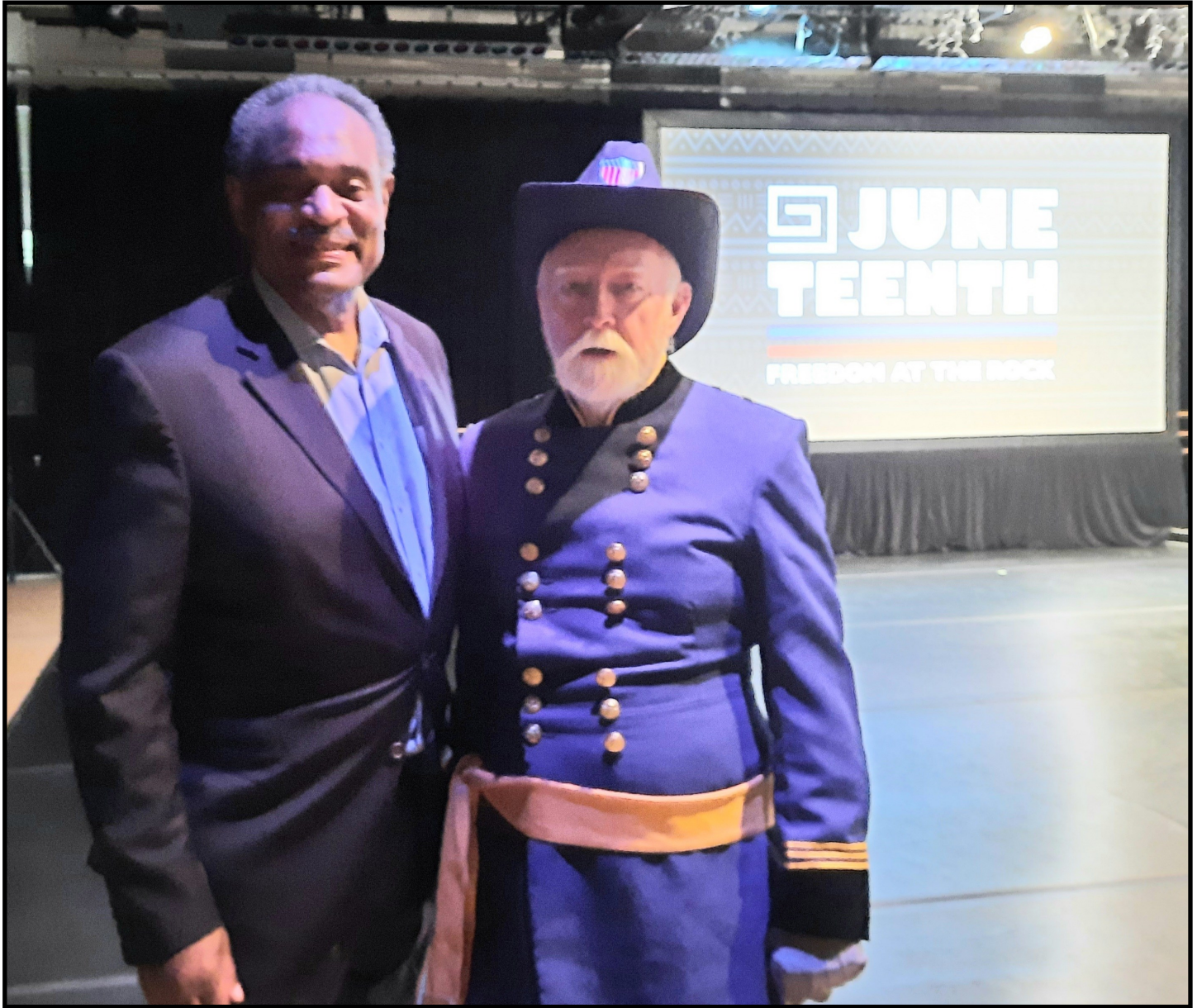


Former Commission Chair Bill Gray, Vietnam Veteran, in front of the Veterans Day display cases at the Silver Spring Civic Building.



Commissioner Michael Wilson, Global War on Terror Veteran, in front of the Veterans Day display cases at the Rockville Memorial Library

JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION - OFFICE OF HUMAN RIGHTS



From left to right: Jim Stowe, Director, Office of Human Rights; with Bill Gray, who portrayed Major General Gordon Granger during the Living Legends presentation at the Black Rock Center for the Arts in Germantown. Bill served as the first Chair of the Commission on Veteran Affairs and served as a 1LT in the US Army during the Vietnam War. This event was sponsored by the Office of Human Rights and took place on June 19, 2021. Major General Granger issued General Order No. 3 on June 19, 1865, in Galveston, Texas, further informing residents of, and enforcing, Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation which set all Confederate states' slaves free on January 1, 1863

General Order No. 3

The people of Texas are informed that, in accordance with a Proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free. This involves an absolute equality of personal rights and rights of property between former masters and slaves, and the connection heretofore existing between them, becomes that between employer and hired labor. The Freedmen are advised to remain at their present homes, and work for wages. They are informed that they will not be allowed to collect at military posts; and that they will not be supported in idleness either there or elsewhere.

FY23 OPERATING BUDGET PRIORITIES

**Commission on Veterans Affairs
Statement on FY 23 Operating Budget Priorities
Before the HHS Committee of the County Council
October, 2021
Wayne Miller, Chair Robert Koffman, Vice-Chair**

The Commission on Veterans Affairs thanks the County Executive and the County Council for the support you have provided over the past 13 years for funding programs that benefit the quality of life for Veterans and their families. We recognize that the COVID-19 public health emergency is placing difficult and unprecedented pressures on programs and services of the County as well as the rest of the country.

Some Veterans may experience mental health issues or thoughts of suicide which could be the result of exposure to trauma. Among COVID sufferers, about a third of individuals with protracted disease will go on to develop either a neurological impairment, or psychiatric conditions such as depression and anxiety disorders. Veterans already experience suicide rates one and half times the general population. The VA has made suicide prevention its top priority, as has the County. We recommend that the County increase community outreach efforts to make resources and services better known to Veterans and their families. (1-800-273-8255 – PRESS 1) We recommend continuing to fund programs that promote mental health and wellness. The Commission is actively involved in suicide prevention efforts. Commissioners Dr. Robert Koffman and Dr. Cynthia Macri serve on national, state and local suicide prevention efforts. Wayne Miller, Chair, is the Director of the Silver Spring Vet Center that provides readjustment counseling and family supports at no cost to Veterans and their families, Dr. Vandenbroek directs the Cohen Clinic at Easterseals. Mike Subin has hosted the Montgomery County Cable program Homefront that has addressed suicide prevention efforts. The Commission has posted on its website information on mental health and wellness: www.montgomerycountymd.gov/veterans. We have heard from the providers they are receiving many calls for mental health and wellness services.

We continue to be pleased with the County's efforts to end homelessness amongst Veterans and to assist in obtaining permanent housing. The program was highly successful during the Zero:16 campaign. Montgomery County has been the direct recipient of 98 HUD VASH vouchers and an additional 25 ported HUD VASH vouchers from DC and other states. We are in strong support of Bethesda Cares expansion of their outreach to Veterans. We commend the County making a priority of the addition of permanent affordable housing for homeless populations and working to achieve racial and social equity through sound housing policy.

Serving Together was created to coordinate the system of care for Veterans, service members and their families so the entire community can better identify those Veterans and direct them to supports that are in place for them. This organization is a recipient of funding from the County, and we recommend this funding continue. The Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) provides funding for Serving Together programming through a Behavioral Health & Crisis Services (BHCS) General Funds/based budget contract. Contractual services were originally funded, in FY11, by Community Grant award, and last year, FY21, Contract Funding switch from Community Grant to DHHS/BHCS Based Budget. \$150,000.00 was originally encumbered for FY22, and Behavioral Health is in the process of adding a 3% Inflationary Adjustment of \$4,500.00 per County Resolution. This increase in funding will change the Contract's funding total from \$150,000.00 to a \$154,500.00 in FY22.

Warrior Canine Connection enlists wounded, ill, and injured Warriors in a therapeutic mission of learning to train service dogs for their fellow Veterans. To train a service dog, an otherwise isolated Warrior must necessarily re-enter society, experiencing positive interactions with members of the community. The demand for trained service dogs has created wait lists years long. Many Veterans report that after working at training service dogs they are recovered to the point that they no longer need a service dog of their own. This novel approach and one-of-kind therapy merits WCC for approval of a \$50,000 Community grant and is included as part of the Capital Budget within the cost sharing. We recommend that this funding continue.

Montgomery Parks, part of the Maryland National Capital park and Planning Commission has completed construction of a new floating launch for non-motorized boats, improving accessibility and safety for kayakers, canoeists and paddle boarders at Seneca Landing Special Park. A second phase of the project, which will include accessibility upgrades to improve safety, capacity and enhance accessibility of the existing boat ramp for motorized boats is still to be completed. We recommend if any additional funds be required that they be funded. Team River Runner facilitates two important treatment modalities: exercise and nature.

STATEMENT ON THE FY22 COUNTY BUDGET

April 8, 2021

Wayne Miller, Chair Robert Koffman, Vice-Chair

The Commission on Veterans Affairs thanks the County Executive and the County Council for the support you have provided over the past 13 years for funding programs that benefit the quality of life for Veterans and their families. We recognize that the COVID-19 public health emergency is placing difficult and unprecedented pressures on programs and services of the County as well as the rest of the country.

Some Veterans may experience mental health issues or thoughts of suicide which could be the result of overexposure to trauma. Among COVID sufferers about a third of individuals with protracted disease will go on to develop either a neurological impairment, or a psychiatric condition such as Major Depression or an Anxiety Disorder. Veterans already experience suicide rates one and half time the general population. The VA has made suicide prevention its top priority, as has the Montgomery County Behavioral Health service area. We recommend that the County increase community outreach efforts to make resources and services better known to Veterans and their families. (1-800-273-8255 – PRESS 1) We recommend continuing to fund programs that promote mental health and wellness. The Commission is actively involved in suicide prevention efforts. Commissioners Dr. Robert Koffman and Dr. Cynthia Macri serve on national, state and local suicide prevention efforts. Wayne Miller, Chair, is the director of the Silver Spring Vet Center that provides readjustment counseling and family supports. Services are provided at no cost to Veterans and their family. Mike Subin has hosted the Montgomery County Cable program Homefront that has addressed suicide prevention efforts.

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Warrior Canine Connection enlists wounded, ill, and injured Warriors in a therapeutic mission of learning to train service dogs for their fellow Veterans. To train a Service Dog with public access, an otherwise isolated Warrior must necessarily re-enter society, reexperiencing positive interactions with members of the community. The need for trained Service Dogs has created wait lists years long. Deriving the benefits of working with and training the dogs for other Veterans, many Veterans feel sufficiently recovered and confident in public to no longer require their own Service Dog. This novel approach and one-of-kind therapy, merits WCC for approval of a \$50,000 Community grant and is included as part of the Capital Budget within the cost sharing. We recommend that this funding continue.

Montgomery Parks, part of the Maryland National Capital park and Planning Commission has completed construction of a new floating launch for non-motorized boats improving accessibility and safety for kayakers, canoeists and paddle boarders at Seneca Landing Special Park. The need for an accessible boat launch was initiated by [Team River Runner](#), a non-profit organization that provides adventure and adaptive paddles sports to veterans and their families. They approached the [Montgomery County Commission on Veterans Affairs](#) about the need for an accessible launch and were assisted by the Commission to initiate the project. A second phase of the project, which will include accessibility upgrades to improve safety, capacity and enhance accessibility of the existing boat ramp for motorized boats is still to be completed. We recommend if any additional funds be required that they be funded. Team River Runner facilitates two important treatment modalities: exercise and nature.

HOW TO ENROLL IN VA HEALTHCARE

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

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

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

Here are the convenient ways to apply for enrollment:

By Telephone

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

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

Apply in Person

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

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

By Mail

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

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

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

Apply Online

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

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

Obtaining an Appointment:

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

Required Signature

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

ABOUT VA MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES

Approach

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

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

Focus on Recovery

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

Evidence-Based Treatments

VA provides treatments that are proven to be effective for mental health concerns. These treatments are time-limited and focus on helping Veterans recover and meet their goals. To learn more about evidence-based mental health treatments, please visit [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 SUPPORT SERVICES



Readjustment Counseling Services

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

Services Available

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

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

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

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

Location and Hours of Operation

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

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

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)

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.

SERVINGTOGETHER

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 \$154,500 Community Grant from the County.

Website: www.servingtogetherproject.org

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

WARRIOR CANINE CONNECTION



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

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

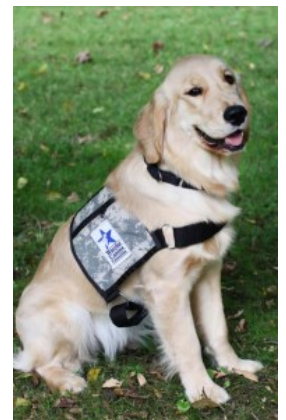
Warriors participating in the program have reported that using these positive emotions to praise their dogs has significantly improved their family dynamics, as their children are able to experience and respond to this positive parenting strategy.

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

Website: www.warriorcanineconnection.org

E-mail: info@warriorcanineconnection.org

Phone: 301-260-1111 (V)



STEVEN A. COHEN MILITARY FAMILY CLINIC AT EASTERSEALS



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

Phone: 240-847-7500 (V)

E-mail: info.mfc@eseal.org

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

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 veteran, active-duty, and military family community. Services are available to any person who has served in the U.S. Armed Forces, including the National Guard and Reserves, regardless of role or discharge status, and their families as defined by the service member such as: spouses or unmarried partners, children age 4 and up, parents, siblings, caregivers, survivors, and other household members.

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

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

Case Management

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

- 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

Therapy is evidence-based and goal focused with a typical treatment window of about 4 months. Evidence-based therapies include:

- Cognitive processing therapy
- Cognitive behavioral therapy
- Motivational interviewing
- Integrative couples and family therapy
- Problem solving therapy
- Prolonged 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!

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



Photo Courtesy of Montgomery College Combat2College

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: Student Services (SV), Room 204

Center for Women Veterans: Campus Center, Room 002

Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus

Veterans Center: Resource Center, Room 210



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.

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)

David Skisano, Veterans Benefits Specialist II (VBS) 301-987-8412 (V)
E-mail: davidj.skisano@maryland.gov 301-987-8496 (FAX)
Gaithersburg Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration Service Center
Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs
15 Metropolitan Grove Road, Gaithersburg, MD 20878
By appointment only. Contact via email or phone.
Please leave a message and he will return the call as soon as possible.

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

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

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

15810 Gaither Drive, Gaithersburg, MD 20877

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

****Homeless Outreach Walk-In Hours Temporarily Suspended Due to COVID-19****

- Aisha Clark, VA HUD VASH Senior Social Worker
E-mail: aisha.clark@va.gov
- Fatmata Kamara, VA Outreach Social Worker
E-mail: fatmata.kamara@va.gov, 202-256-9261 (V)
Office Hours: Wednesday, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- Imani Colbert, VA HUD VASH Senior Social Worker
E-mail: imani.colbert@va.gov, 202-714-9362 (V)
Office Hours: Monday, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

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

Erica Fatal, Senior Peer Navigator, peernavigator@every-mind.org 301-738-7176 (V)
Alexander Shamis, Peer Navigator, peernavigator@every-mind.org 1-855-738-7176 (Toll Free)
Jason Marshall, Program Manager, jmarshall@every-mind.org
Christy Kenady, Director, ckenady@every-mind.org
www.servingtogetherproject.org **Monday through Friday, 9 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.

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

15810 Gaither Drive,
Gaithersburg, MD 20877

Appointments: 202-745-8000, Option 2 (7:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Mon - Fri)

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

Administrative Clinic Receptionist: 301-591-5858, Option 8 (V)

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

Operating Hours: 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Monday - Friday. The new VA clinic provides Veterans with primary care, women's health, mental health and social work services, as well as nutrition counseling, pharmacy consultation, audiology device fitting and adjustment, and specialty care via clinical telehealth technology. Free parking.

KEY CONTACTS FOR THE VA & OTHER RESOURCES CONT.

SILVER SPRING VET CENTER - READJUSTMENT COUNSELING AND FAMILY SUPPORTS

Wayne Miller, Vet Center Director
2900 Linden Lane
Silver Spring, MD 20910
Services are currently being provided virtually as well as in person by appointment.

301-589-1073 (V)
Ask for a counselor.
202-273-9116 (Bereavement Counseling)
Open Monday - Thursday, 8 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.;
Friday 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Closed Saturday, Sunday and Holidays

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

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

1500 Franklin Street, NE, Washington, DC 20018

202-745-8000 x 53602 (V)

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

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

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

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

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

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

OPERATION SECOND CHANCE

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

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

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

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

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

MILITARY ONESOURCE

www.militaryonesource.mil

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

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

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE

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

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

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

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

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

Rocky Gap Cemetery, Flintstone, MD
301-777-2185

Crownsville Cemetery, Crownsville, MD
410-987-6320

Garrison Forest Cemetery, Owings Mills, MD
410-363-6090

Eastern Shore Cemetery, Hurlock, MD
410-943-3420

Cheltenham Cemetery, Cheltenham, MD
301-372-6398

Memorial Program 410-354-3550

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

For VA healthcare enrollment:

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

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

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

For VA benefits questions:

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

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

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

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

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

MDVA SERVICE PROGRAM OFFICE LOCATIONS

Unless otherwise noted, all MDVA Service Program offices are open Monday through Friday, 8am to 4pm by appointment only. Please call an office near you to schedule an appointment in advance of visiting.

Baltimore Regional Office

Phil Munley, Director
Debra Hynes, Deputy Director
Gerry Taylor, Chief, Veterans Appeals
Cardell Bass, Western Area Supervisor
Garry Brown, Veterans Benefit Specialist Advanced
Stacy Travers, Veterans Benefits Specialist Advanced
Katherine Perkins, Office Secretary II
31 Hopkins Plaza, Room 3020
Baltimore, MD 21201
1-800-446-4926, ext. 6450 (follow prompts for transfer to appropriate staff person)

Bel Air

Michael Cantrell, Veterans Benefits Specialist II
Taryn Hope, Office Secretary II
Motor Vehicle Administration
Bel Air Service Center
501 W. Macphail Road
Bel Air, MD 21014
410-638-6501 (benefits specialist)
410-638-638-6507 (office secretary)
410-683-6549 (fax)

Camp Springs

(Hours: Monday through Friday, 8am to 4pm, Per Prince George's County/Harriet Hunter Building, no in person appointments)
Joseph Thornton, Veterans Benefits Specialist II
(temporarily assigned to Gaithersburg)
Aaron Awkward, Veterans Benefits Specialist II
Mikele Moses-El, Office Secretary II
Harriet Hunter Building, 6420 Allentown Road
Camp Springs, MD 20748
301-248-0463

Veterans Services Program of Carroll County

(Supported by, but not an MDVA service office):
Call for information on hours
125 Stoner Avenue
Westminster, MD 21157
410-386-3800

Charlotte Hall

Willie Borden, Jr., Veterans Benefits Specialist II
29431 Charlotte Hall Rd., Room 211
Charlotte Hall, MD 20622
240-577-7083, 301-884-8036

Glen Burnie

James Wilkes, Veterans Benefits Specialist II
Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA)
Glen Burnie Service Center, Ground Floor
6601 Ritchie Highway
Room 30 (for a benefits specialist)
Room 8A (for mail)
Glen Burnie, MD 21062
410-424-3039, 410-424-3047 (fax)

Laurel

(Hours: Monday through Friday, 8am to 4pm, in person appointments starting July 12)
Andrew Rutherford, Veterans Benefits Specialist II
Howard County Multi-Service Center
9900 Washington Blvd., Suite I
Laurel, MD 20723
410-313-0229

Cumberland

Aaron Clark, Veterans Benefits Specialist Advanced
12501 Willowbrook Rd., Room 2-014
Cumberland, MD 21502
301-759-5252

Easton

Janet C. Thomas, Area Supervisor
Catherine (Cathy) Clevenger, Office Secretary II
11 South Harrison Street
Easton, MD 21601 (physical address)
P.O. Box 1148
Easton, MD 21601 (mailing address)
410-690-7181

Frederick

Keri Keefer, Veterans Benefits Specialist II
Andrea Jones, Office Secretary II
Multi-Service Center
100 West Patrick St., Rm 2120
Frederick, MD 21701
301-600-2155

Gaithersburg

David Skisano, Veterans Benefits Specialist II
Gaithersburg Motor Vehicle Administration Service Center
15 Metropolitan Grove Road
Gaithersburg, MD 20878
301-987-8412

Hagerstown

Andrea Jones, Veterans Benefits Specialist II
Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration Service Center
18306 Col. Henry K. Douglas Drive
Hagerstown, MD 21740
240-527-6894

Salisbury

Michelle Licata, Veterans Benefits Specialist II
Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration
Salisbury Branch
251 Tilghman Road
Salisbury, MD 21804
410-219-7256
410-219-7257 (fax)

MONTGOMERY COUNTY FALLEN HEROES HISTORY

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

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

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

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

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



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

PROJECTED NUMBER OF VETERANS IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MD

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

Veteran Population of Montgomery County, MD

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

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

PROJECTED NUMBER OF VETERANS IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MD

Veteran Population of Montgomery County, MD

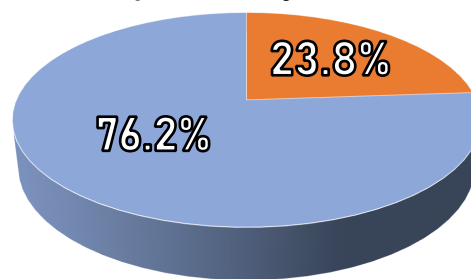
	2018		2019	
Subject	Veterans	Total Population (18 years and over)	Veterans	Total Population (18 years and over)
Civilian Population 18 years and over	42,509 (5.3%)	805,913	36,264 (4.5%)	804,686
Gender	Veterans	% of 42,509	Veterans	% of 36,264
Male	35,030	82.4%	31,268	86.2%
Female	7,479	17.6%	4,996	13.8%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

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

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

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

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



Enrolled Not Enrolled

PROJECTED NUMBER OF VETERANS IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MD

Montgomery County, MD Veteran Demographics - By City (2015 - 2019)

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

Ashton-Sandy Spring	257
Aspen Hill	1,727
Bethesda	2,723
Burtonsville	367
Chevy Chase	620
Clarksburg	774
Damascus	716
Darnestown	197
Four Corners	369
Gaithersburg	2,407

Germantown	2,978
Glenmont	622
Kemp Mill	534
Layhill	221
Leisure World	1,198
Montgomery Village	1,166
North Bethesda	2,015
North Kensington	337
North Potomac	546

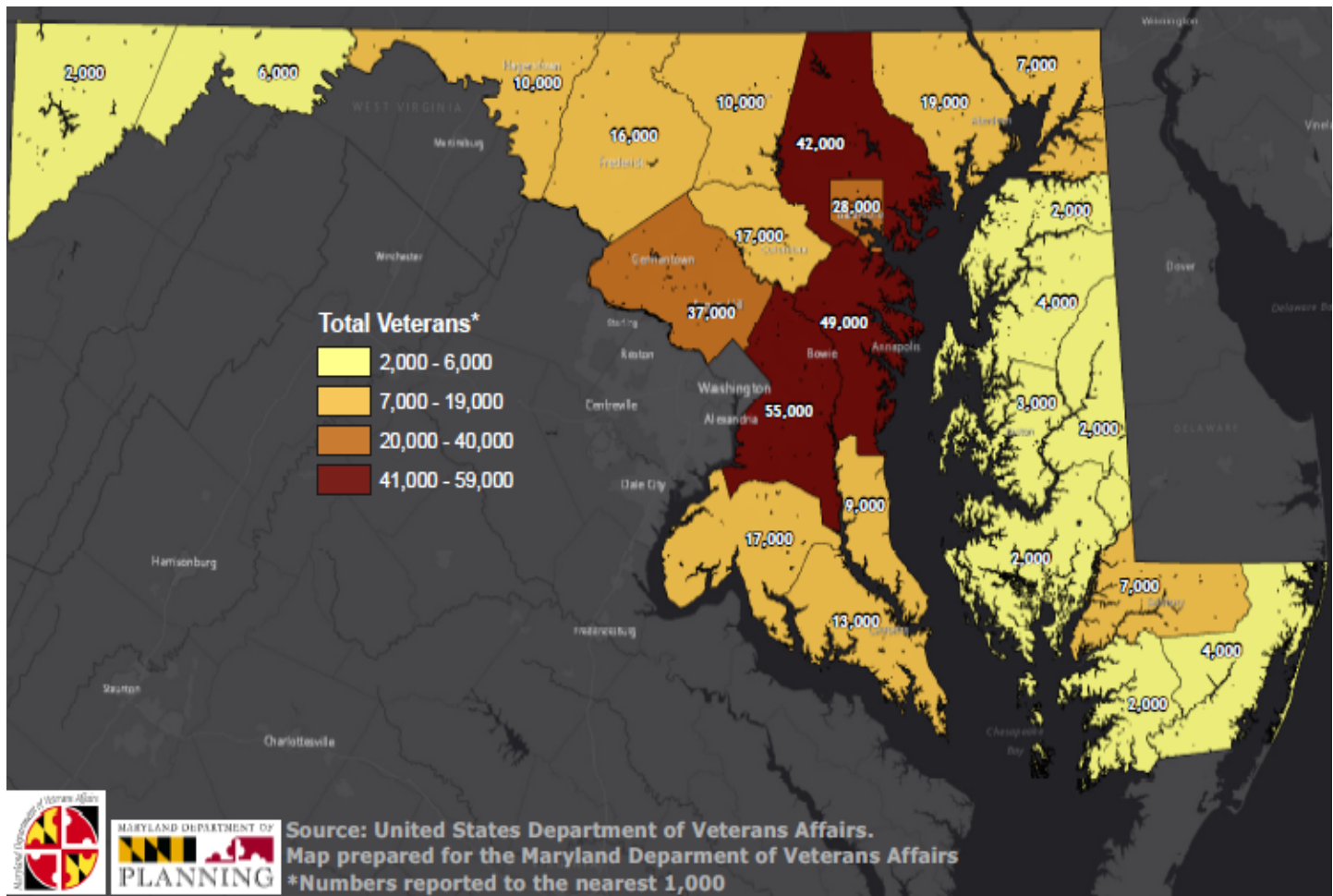
Olney	1,976
Poolesville	310
Potomac	1,929
Rockville	2,369
Silver Spring	2,158
South Kensington	486
Takoma Park	574
Travilah	279
Wheaton	1,407

Source: U.S. Census QuickFacts 2015 - 2019

PROJECTED NUMBER OF VETERANS IN MARYLAND - 2020

Projected Number of Veterans in Maryland: 362,000

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



COMMISSION PRESENTATIONS FOR 2020 - 2021

November 2020:	<p>Veteran Institute for Procurement – Barbara Ashe, Executive Vice-President, Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce and Director & Founder at Veteran Institute for Procurement</p> <p>Promoting Mental and Physical Wellness – Mike Subin - Homefront Cable TV; Bob Koffman - President's Roadmap to Empower Veterans and End a National Tragedy of Suicide (PREVENTS); and Jonathan Alfaro - Fentanyl Epidemic</p>
December 2020:	<p>Caring for Caregivers of Veterans/Families – Melissa Comeau, Director, Military and Veteran Caregiver Network Service to the Armed Forces, American Red Cross</p>
January 2021:	<p>I AM ALS VETERANS AFFAIRS TEAM – Michael Lecker, Gaillermo Garcia, Mandi Bailey, Pat Metcalf, Roger Brannon, and Jay Kenney</p> <p>Maryland Military Coalition (MMC) 2021 Legislative Update – Bob Norton, President, MMC</p>
February 2021:	<p>Serving Together – Melissa Barber, Program Manager, Western Maryland</p> <p>The Steven A. Cohen Military Family Clinic at Easter Seals – Mallery Lass, USAF Ret, Outreach Manager, The Steven A. Cohen Military Family Clinic at Easterseals</p> <p>Marine for Life Network-MD Area Representative – Gary Deitch, U.S. Marine Major, Marine for Life Representative for Western Maryland</p>
March 2021:	<p>Veteran Eviction Prevention – John Mendez, Executive Director, Bethesda Cares</p> <p>COVID-19 Vaccinations for Veterans and related info – Cynthia Izuno Macri, M.D., FACS, FACOG, CAPT MC USN (Ret.)</p> <p>The American Minorities Veterans Research Project (AMVRP) – Dr. Elwood Gray</p>
April 2021	<p>Audubon Naturalist Woodend Accessible Trail – Alison Pearce, Director of Restoration, Audubon Naturalist Society</p>
May 2021:	<p>Warrior Canine Connection and Service Animals: Roles, Access and Reasonable Accommodations – Rick Yount, Executive Director, Warrior Canine Connection, Boyds, MD and Robert Koffman</p>
September 2021:	<p>Honoring Women Veterans – Kate Watson, Founder, YourNexStage Inc.</p> <p>Veterans Resources - Completion of Withdrawal from Afghanistan – Wayne Miller and Bob Koffman (Video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hKpsMG9YBA8)</p>
October 2021:	<p>inTransition Program Overview: Psychological Center of Excellence – Brenda Campbell LICSW, Contractor, Magellan, supporting inTransition Program and Resource Center, Psychological Health Center of Excellence (PHCoE) Research & Development Division (J-9), Defense health Agency</p>

HOW TO CONTACT YOUR COUNTY ELECTED OFFICIALS



**County Executive
Marc Elrich**

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

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

CountyExecutiveIQ@montgomerycountymd.gov



Montgomery County Council

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

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

County.Council@montgomerycountymd.gov

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

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

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

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

2020 - 2021 Annual Report Prepared By:

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